



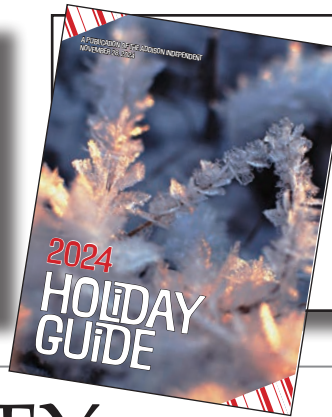
Showtime!

The Vergennes Opera House will host its annual Broadway Direct revue soon. Arts + Leisure.



Lucky seven!

The Panther field hockey team won its seventh straight NCAA title. Read how on Page 1B.



Holidays!

There's a ton going on between now and New Year's. See what's on tap in our Holiday Guide.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 78 No. 48

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, November 28, 2024 ♦ 82 Pages

\$1.50



Turkey Day already!

SHOREHAM ELEMENTARY FIRST-GRADER Abby Trudo looks pleased to get a good-size portion of gravy on her turkey at her school's annual early Thanksgiving luncheon this past Thursday. Shoreham kids, many accompanied by their parents (including Abby), enjoyed a traditional feast in a laidback atmosphere. Local schools are closed this week for the holiday.

Independent photo/Steve James

ANWSD wary as it works on budget

Unknowns complicate projections

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES

The Addison Northwest School District Board recently looked at a draft budget for next year that would bump up spending 1.9% and see average school taxes rise roughly 5%. Officials called the tax estimate highly preliminary at this point.

"There's a lot of swirling around in Montpelier," Superintendent Sheila Soule told board members on Nov. 18, when she discussed this first budget draft.

The budget sets 2025-2026



SOULE

(FY26) spending at about \$27,787 million — up \$537,000.

The preliminary estimates say average ANWSD tax rates could rise 10.85 cents, or roughly 5% to \$2.1736 per \$100 of assessed property value.

That estimate figures in the impact of Common Levels of Appraisal (CLAs) and a new state law

that inserts an average of statewide CLAs into the calculation of local school tax rates, adding another unknown into the process.

On the plus side for taxpayers, (See ANWSD, Page 12A)

Trash disposal costs are going up — a bit

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY

Addison County residents can expect to pay a little bit more to get rid of their trash next year — a very little bit.

Solid Waste Management District officials say their just-approved budget will likely mean a household in 2025 can expect to pay around

\$11.96 more per year for trash disposal if the household generates one bag of garbage per week.

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board on

Nov. 21 approved a 2025 spending plan of \$5,048,702, reflecting a 6.99% increase due to the rising

(See Trash costs, Page 11A)

ACSD families embrace Universal Pre-K

Hundreds of kids get early start in school

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — There are now nearly 400 Addison County children enrolled in Universal Pre-K (UPK) programs — 158 of those from the Middlebury area alone. This is a number that could grow significantly next year even as the number of Addison County

children continues to decline.

That was one of the takeaways from a presentation that Addison County UPK coordinator Ashley Bessette delivered at a recent Addison Central School District Board meeting. Bessette provided the board with an overview of Act 166, the state's eight-year-old Universal PreK law, and described how area parents were using it for its intended purpose:

Getting children into educational

settings sooner to lay a more solid foundation for their studies through high school and beyond.

Bessette began her universal PreK coordinator duties this past July. Prior to that, she served for 11 years as program coordinator for Evergreen Preschool in Vergennes — one of 400 UPK partners statewide. Bessette currently oversees UPK services for the Addison Central, Addison (See Universal Pre-K, Page 16A)



By the way

Pikachus, Charizards and Bulbasaur will again fill Middlebury College's McCordell Bicentennial Hall for this year's Pokémon Pop-Up Museum on Dec. 7, from 1-4 p.m. The event is open to community members of all ages and will feature exhibits prepared by Middlebury College biology students, in collaboration with Cosplay for Science, showcasing the connections between wildlife and well-loved Pokémon. Attendees can play games, ask questions, and collect prizes by (See By the way, Page 15A)

Middle school getting creative to fill positions

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary School is getting creative with its staffing to mitigate the impacts of a major, ongoing shortage of paraeducators.

Mary Hogan Principal Jen Kravitz announced on Nov. 21 that the school has been unable to fill 12 paraeducator vacancies. Paraeducators are among a school's unsung heroes, typically working closely with teachers to

help manage classroom activities, providing one-on-one support to students and in group settings. Paraeducators can also be called upon to assist with lesson planning and perform administrative tasks.

Having a dozen paras missing from the Mary Hogan equation has understandably made it tougher on existing staff, according to school officials.

"The paraeducator shortage (See Mary Hogan, Page 15A)

This holiday tradition doesn't involve food; it's craft fair time

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

BRIDPORT — For going on five decades, the approach of Thanksgiving means something different for Barb Wagner than it means for most people. During this period when many relax and enjoy some quiet time with family before they dive into the holiday shopping season, Wagner finds herself very busy getting that shopping season going.

She plans, stages and runs the



BARB WAGNER

annual Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport, which is held the weekend after Thanksgiving.

"It's a lot of work, and it costs me \$75 a day for five days to rent the space," the Bridport resident said.

All in all, though, she's happy to do it.

And Wagner is hardly the only one setting up craft shows this weekend and the ones that follow. The New Haven Town Hall will host the Holiday Shoppe and (See Craft fairs, Page 12A)



LINCOLN'S LORENZO ATOCHA, then a Mount Abraham junior, shows strength and endurance during the 2024 state championship Nordic ski race at Rikert Outdoor Center. Now is the time to get your body ready for a better Nordic skiing season.

Independent file photo/Steve James

What to do in Stick Season?

For many it is time to prepare for Nordic skiing

By WILLIAM HAIG

Stick season — it's too cold to bike and too warm to ski — but it doesn't have to be a wasted season. The effort you put in now to get in shape for skiing will pay off when Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton gets groomed, and the trails are open.

FOCUS ON ENDURANCE

Building endurance is the key to preparing for Nordic skiing. While strength is important, your best bang for your buck is endurance training, though incorporating some balance exercises also will help.

Endurance training is most effective when done at an easy pace. Whether you're running, cycling on an exercise bike, or using an elliptical, avoid going too hard — it can actually hinder your body's ability to produce mitochondria, the tiny engines that power your muscles. Easy

Ski racing

isn't like

running a

steady 5K.

It involves

repeated

bursts of hard

effort followed

by recovery.

Training

should reflect

this.

means EASY. You should be able to breathe through your nose or hold a conversation while exercising. Think of it as hiking with friends and chatting along the way.

While going easy is most important, it's also important to occasionally go pretty darn hard — but controlled. Here are some things to keep in mind for the strenuous part of training:

1. Warm up thoroughly.
2. Do 6 minutes of intervals alternating between 30 seconds hard (but not maximal) and 30 seconds easy.
3. Rest for 3 minutes.
4. Repeat another 6 minutes of 30/30

intervals.

If you want, follow this with some slower endurance work, but don't go hard again. Limit this type of interval workout to one or two times (See Ski season, Page 9A)

Index

Obituaries.....6A-8A
 Classifieds.....8B-9B
 Service Directory.....6B-7B
 Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure
 Community Calendar.....4B
 Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure
 Sports.....1B-3B



7 18122 07300 9



THE OLD WAINWRIGHT Mill Dam has been removed from its Salisbury location, allowing Tributary 10 of the Otter Creek to pass freely through its channel for the first time in 219 years.

Photo courtesy of VMRC

Removal of old dam seen as ecological plus

SALISBURY — The Wainwright Mill Dam in Salisbury has been removed, allowing Tributary 10 to pass freely through its channel for the first time in 219 years, according to the Vermont Natural Resources Council, which spearheaded the \$400,000 project.

The Wainwright Dam was located just above Tributary 10's confluence with Halnon Brook and downstream from the Salisbury Fish Hatchery. It was right off the busy thoroughfare of Route 7, and ran parallel to Lake Dunmore Road, according to VNRC officials.

The dam in question was a nonfunctional concrete structure built in 1805 to power a sawmill and later was used to impound an ice pond. The dam's removal last month was part of a plan to restore the stream

channel, floodplain and habitat features, and to reconnect the headwaters of Tributary 10 to the Otter Creek and Lake Champlain, according to VNRC Project Manager Karina Dailey.

Upon removing the concrete dam structure, VNRC and workers from Pittsford's Markowski Excavating built eight habitat features (beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log jams) along the restored floodplain. They then planted native trees and shrubs transplanted from the adjacent riparian habitat and spread a local wetland seed mix. Tree planting is planned for next year and will be coordinated by Trout Unlimited, Dailey said.

"When we reconnect a river, then the river can begin to heal itself. We are proud that this

project has restored passage for native brook trout and other wildlife, restored natural sediment and nutrient transport, reduced flood elevations in the project vicinity and vegetated the natural floodplain," Dailey noted.

Funding for design, permitting, and construction for the project was provided by VNRC, Vermont Emergency Management's Flood Resilience Communities Fund, and NEIWPCC (a regional commission that helps the Northeastern states preserve and advance water quality) in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

To learn more about dam removal work in Vermont, go to FreeVTRivers.org.

— John Flowers

Giving Fridge opts for course change

Leader refocuses charity's operation

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — It was late 2020, and newly minted Addison County resident Bethanie Farrell was looking for a way to help her adopted community during a tumultuous time marked by the COVID pandemic and a much-needed (but very disruptive) downtown Middlebury rail tunnel project.

Knowing many of her new neighbors had recently lost their jobs through COVID-related layoffs, Farrell decided to do something that would allow her to fill empty plates, while demonstrating her talent for beautifying homes and businesses with lovely plants & décor.

Thus was born Everything Nice (plants & home décor) and the Giving Fridge (food). Giving Fridge early on found a key partner in Vermont's Everyone Eats program, a pandemic-relief effort through which funds were

provided to nonprofits to work with local restaurants and farms in assembling nutritious meals for individuals and families in need. The meals have been free to low-income individuals, with a cost of \$10 for those able to pay.

Everything Nice became an additional funding arm for Giving Fridge. The two entities, under Farrell's leadership, were first based in what is now Little Seed Coffee Roasters, at 24 Merchants Row. Farrell in 2022 moved her headquarters to the former Diner restaurant (now the site of the Town Hall Theater expansion), and finally — last year — to 51 Main St., a spot shared with Crooked Ladle Catering.

Sadly, Giving Fridge and Everything Nice will be leaving 51 Main St. by the end of this year. Farrell cited her need to deal with some health issues. After helping so many other people during the past four years, Farrell is understandably taking some time to help herself.

"As our lease comes up for renewal at the end of the year, I realized I need to pump the breaks and focus on regaining my health in a real way," she said through an email exchange. "Four years ago, when I started Giving Fridge and Everything Nice, I was just starting to recover from being very ill for several years and probably dove too quickly into those endeavors ... I hadn't realized that they would scale in the way that they did. My passion for the concept and the difference we were making in our community was what drove its day-to-day operations, but it was always despite my health, which really became unsustainable."

Though she won't be as visible, Farrell will remain as active as she can. She'll operate Everything

Nice from her home, and promised to find a new permanent spot for the venture "once I'm physically able to realistically invest that sort of time and energy. In the meantime, I will continue to focus our efforts on our landscaping and design services."

What about Giving Fridge? It, too, will live on — albeit in a different way. You'll find a more substantial assortment of automated meal dispensing machines that Giving Fridge has already set up at Middlebury Commons and John Graham Shelter. Those meals are meant for residents of each location and are accessible with a code that's been assigned to each participant.

A third automated Giving Fridge is at 51 Main, and anyone can come in and purchase meals or snacks from it, with \$2 of each sale going to the Giving Fridge meal fund.

"We plan to install two more (machines) in 2025 — one in a health care environment and another in an education environment," Farrell said, promising more details as they become available.

"We will be focusing our efforts on making medically tailored meals," she added. "We all need clean, nutritious food that accommodates our specific and unique needs and even better if it can be sourced locally, and Giving Fridge checks all of those boxes."

As she regains her health, Farrell can look back on a job well done.

"We are immensely grateful to have been able to provide more than 48,000 healthy, locally sourced, and prepared meals to our Addison County community since December 2020, and we look forward to continuing to make medically tailored meals accessible to those facing acute and chronic illnesses," she said.

Farrell gave a shout-out to Crooked Ladle — which will continue to be the mainstay at 51 Main and offer ongoing ways for its customers to support the Giving Fridge effort.

"Over the past two years, Crooked Ladle has helped us raise more than \$10,000 (equivalent to 1,000 meals) for the Giving Fridge, through dining and bar incentives.

"We want to keep that momentum going. We'll continue offering our styled tabletop plants for sale when you dine with Crooked Ladle and will plan to host scheduled plant workshops at 51 Main," Farrell said.

While she'll soon take a breather, Farrell will keep putting her all into Everything Nice and Giving Fridge through December. She wants to sell enough plants to be able to gift 200 nutritious, prepared holiday meals to families and individuals in the community.

Farrell is having a moving sale to (See Giving Fridge, Page 3A)

ACEDC director to step away in June

Search beginning for new leader

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) has launched its search for a new executive director, in anticipation of the June 2025 exit of the nonprofit's current top administrator, Fred Kenney.

It was in November of 2017 that Kenney began his role at the ACEDC, succeeding Robin Scheu, who had retired to run (successfully) for the Vermont House.

ACEDC, according to its website, is "dedicated to helping all businesses, regardless of background, size, sector, or stage of growth to retain and create good-paying jobs in Addison County."

Kenney arrived at the ACEDC



FRED KENNEY

with plenty of experience in entrepreneurship, public policy (See Kenney, Page 3A)

CORRECTION: The deer report in this past Thursday's edition included inaccurate details for the buck that Jonathan Hescock bagged in Shoreham; it was 163 pounds and 9 points.

\$3.00 OFF
ANY LOCAL BAKING PRODUCT

(excludes alcohol)
(minimum purchase \$3.00)
(Expires Wednesday, 12/5/24)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276
middlebury.coop

CO-OP WEEKLY SALE 11/29-12/4

LOCAL

\$13.49 ~~\$21.49~~
Local Organic Shaker Mountain Farm Maple Syrup
1 Qt

Co-op basics

\$1.19/lb
Co-op Basics Bulk Rolled Oatmeal

Co-op deals

\$3.79 ~~\$4.99~~
Greek Gods Greek Yogurt
24 oz, select varieties

Scan the QR code or see in-store flyer to stock up on holiday essentials!

CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

Nov 29 - Dec 4



Happy Thanksgiving!

CHILDREN AND ADULTS alike got an early taste — literally — of Thanksgiving at Shoreham Elementary School this past Thursday. That's when the school invited the community in to enjoy a luncheon of turkey, taters, stuffing, gravy and apple crisp. Diners and servers that day included, clockwise from top left, Tosha Pope with fifth-grade daughter Ella and third-grade son Case, Principal Lashawn Whitmore-Sells, fifth-grader Sutton Chittenden, school cook Kali Tubbs dishes out mashed spuds as school nurse Danielle Girard offers sweet potatoes, kindergartener Kaylee Moulton, and Sam Trudo with his daughter first-grader Abby.

Independent photos/Steve James



Kenney

(Continued from Page 2A) and economic development. After running an inn, restaurant and pub and working in real estate and construction in the Sugarbush area for several years, Kenney took a job on the staff of U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., for 13 years. He then moved his family back to Vermont and provided constituent services in Leahy's Burlington office, including in the areas of business, economic development, housing and transportation.

In 2001, Kenney was appointed executive director of the Vermont

Economic Progress Council.

The ACEDC executive director serves as the organization's chief executive officer, reporting to the board of trustees. The director is responsible for overseeing the ACEDC's strategy, tactics and day-to-day operations, including administration, personnel, programs and services to ensure the consistent and sustained achievement of its mission, goals and objectives.

ACEDC at one point thought it saw Kenney's heir apparent in Karen Duguay, whom the

organization hired in late 2023 to become its first-ever assistant director. But Duguay — also the former longtime director of the Better Middlebury Partnership — took a job as senior director of programming for the Vermont Chamber of Commerce this past August.

Candidates interested in the ACEDC's top spot should submit a cover letter and a résumé to Kenney at fkenney@addisoncountyedc.org by Dec. 20, 2024.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Giving Fridge

(Continued from Page 2A) support that initiative. Through November, she's offering discounts of 15-40% on a variety of plants and décor. Everything Nice Hours are Friday & Saturday,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Monday, noon to 7 p.m.

You can donate to the Giving Fridge by visiting givingfridge.org/give.

Crooked Ladle is open

Wednesday through Saturday, 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

SOCK SALE

Buy 3 • Get 1 FREE

November 22nd - December 1st

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

Editorial

Finding thanks can be hard

Being thankful isn't always easy. That's the realization many Vermonters may have post-election with a man unfit for the presidency in so many ways assuming power again, supported by a political party ever-more adjoined to him.

And yet the task we face is to embrace the battles ahead with confidence, courage and even optimism — not in a Pollyannaish way but supported by the nation's history and its age-old battles for equity and justice.

In a column this Tuesday, *New York Times* journalist Jamelle Bouie captured well the sentiment of famed African-American statesman Frederick Douglass in one of his last great speeches titled "Lessons of the Hour." In it, Douglass, who had witnessed the freedom from slavery post-Civil War, then watched as the country regressed with the rise of the Jim Crow era toward the end of Reconstruction. In the 1894 speech, Douglass confronts his deep disappointment in the nation:

"I have sometimes thought that the American people are too great to be small, too just and magnanimous to oppress the weak, too brave to yield up the right to the strong and too grateful for public services ever to forget them or fail to reward them. I have fondly hoped that this estimate of American character would soon cease to be contradicted or put in doubt. But the favor with which this cowardly proposition of disfranchisement has been received by public men, white and black, by Republicans as well as Democrats, has shaken my faith in the nobility of the nation. I hope and trust all will come out right in the end, but the immediate future looks dark and troubled. I cannot shut my eyes to the ugly facts before me..."

"Strange things have happened of late and are still happening. Some of these tend to dim the luster of the American name and chill the hopes once entertained for the cause of American liberty. He is a wiser man than I am who can tell how low the moral sentiment of this republic may yet fall. When the moral sense of a nation begins to decline and the wheel of progress to roll backward, there is no telling how low the one will fall or where the other may stop."

"But could I be heard by this great nation, I would call to mind the sublime and glorious truths with which, at its birth, it saluted a listening world. Its voice then was as the trumpet of an archangel, summoning hoary forms of oppression and time-honored tyranny, to judgment. Crowned heads heard it and shrieked. Toiling millions heard it and clapped their hands for joy. It announced the advent of a nation, based upon human brotherhood and the self-evident truths of liberty and equality. Its mission was the redemption of the world from the bondage of ages."

Today, as the nation faces new trials from within, it's important to remember the path toward justice and equity isn't always a smooth arc. The fight can be torturous. Progress can backslide. It can be hugely disappointing. Yet, the nation's guiding star has always been the self-evident truths of liberty and equality.

This election also teaches a more practical lesson — that our democracy is not just an idea, but that it has to benefit most Americans. Here's a conclusion from a *Washington Post* editorial that encourages Democrats to start rebuilding first by making Blue States work better. "With the best of intentions, Democratic-run state governments have allowed burdensome regulations and bureaucratic inertia to stifle growth and allowed special interests to stymie construction of housing, infrastructure and other necessary projects... More and more drastic reform is needed, not just for the sake of the Democratic Party but for the sake of the cities and states where it dominates local politics. The residents of these places deserve cost-effective government. If they don't get it, they'll continue voting with their feet."

Vermont Democrats would also do well to heed that advice.

And Bouie quotes J. Jacob Calhoun for *Time* with this post-election missive: "The political obstacles facing Democrats are dire, but it is the very existence of these threats that renders political engagement so important in the first place. Those disappointed by this month's result should strive to emulate America's first Black voters and allow the immense challenges ahead to instill in them 'better encouragement and ambition.'"

EASY TO BE THANKFUL AT HOME

While it can be a struggle to find thanks on the national or global scene, it's far easier closer to home. In Middlebury and Addison County the assets to treasure are clear:

- Middlebury College is vital in so many ways to so much of community life, it's hard to imagine the town without its college. From casual student-town interactions to formal internships and volunteerism, athletics and the arts, public college events and lectures, the college helps create a vibrancy unmatched by towns our size.
 - The county sits in the midst of an outdoor recreational paradise. In winter, the Middlebury Snowbowl and Rikert Outdoor Center are a family oasis. There's hiking on hundreds of miles of trails throughout the county, mountain biking, road riding and numerous runs, triathlons, bike races and other events to keep the most ambitious challenged. For boaters it's hard to beat Lake Champlain's 100-miles of scenic beauty or the cozy beauty of Lake Dunmore. Inside, we have two fitness centers, a tennis center, skating rink, town recreation and more.
 - In the arts, Middlebury's Town Hall Theater is host to over 200 events per year, including of the Opera Company of Middlebury, and is a partner with the decade-old Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. The College's Mahaney Arts Center, the Vergennes Opera House and Holley Hall also feature great shows throughout the year.
 - As editor, here's a call-out to town and school boards who work selfishly to govern with transparency and honesty, doing hard work with little thanks; and for a state government that also serves without undue partisanship and without corruption and (for the most part) scandal.
 - Addison County wouldn't be who we are with the 25-plus social service agencies who help those in need, and of the many nonprofits who enrich our lives, such as the United Way of Addison County, ACORN, Middlebury Music Center, Rotary, Lions, VFW, American Legion, MALT, the county Chamber, Middlebury Better Partnership, Vergennes Partnership, Moosalomoo Association and so many others.
- More personally, family and friends are the true treasures of any home, and at the *Addison Independent*, we extend our thanks to all of our correspondents, columnists, letter writers and supporters who help keep the paper vibrant and encourage us to be the best we can be.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Angelo Lynn



Super fan

CLADA KAYE is bundled up for harsh New England weather on the sidelines of Saturday's Middlebury College men's soccer game. Thankfully the umbrella was more useful than snow boots that day. The mother of Panther junior Daniel Kaye, of Santiago, Chile, she may find the venue for Middlebury's next game a little warmer — the Panthers play in Las Vegas on Dec. 5 in the NCAA Division III Final Four.

Independent photo/Steve James

My way of keeping 'Kosher'

For centuries, Jews have been following strict dietary rules known as keeping kosher. Animals must be slaughtered humanely by a trained person, dairy and meat cannot be cooked or eaten together, some foods are forbidden, and all packaged foods must have a kosher seal of approval.

My parents grew up in kosher homes, but didn't continue that when I was growing up. I thought the kosher rules were silly, though I would never have said that to my grandparents or favorite uncle. They were traditional Jews who believed in the power of mitzvot, defined as both commandments and good deeds.

I was also taught that the mitzvot served to remind us, at all times in our daily life, of the presence of God. I'm agnostic about God, and don't believe in running my life according to religious law and tradition. But there is something powerful about imbuing the ordinary actions and tasks of daily life with something beyond routine. In the twenty-first century we might call it mindfulness.

I've always loved cooking, and many joyful parts of my adult life have revolved around cooking for, and eating with, family, friends and the wider community. Even cooking daily meals when my three children were young was more than just routine to me.

It was probably thirty years ago that I first read about factory egg farming and began buying only free-range eggs. A few years later a friend and I began

buying meat in bulk from farmers we knew raised their animals as humanely as possible. As much as I can, I buy organic produce from farmers nearby, raise some of my own fruit and vegetables, and buy the smaller amount of meat we now eat from farmers I meet and get to know. By buying local and organic I am using my little bit of economic power to support healthier local food systems and the environment.

I also enjoy preparing food for people in need of support. Every month I join with a few members of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church to cook for the Charter House. I bake cookies for the Congregational Church's Community Supper, which offers a meal to food insecure families and individuals. And several times a month I bring a homemade casserole over to Gather for people to share. For the last few years I've cooked monthly for Abolition Kitchen, which supports Black women activists. And of course I join every meal train I'm invited to.

When I buy the ingredients for Charter House or Gather, I am buying larger quantities than what I need at home, where there are just two of us. But (and because I can afford it) I buy the same quality and kind of ingredients I would buy for us, out of respect for the people I am cooking for.

This is my way of keeping kosher. Food is not just fuel; cooking is not always just domestic labor. Being mindful of the source of our food, whether from the

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

Ways of Seeing

By Michele Lowy



One simple trick for holiday decor

I had a revelation this week: I've been doing Christmas decorating all wrong.

My entire hoard of Christmas décor fits in three totes. One is reserved for ornaments. The other two contain a jumble of miscellaneous items — among them three or four strands of lights that don't work, a Father Christmas figurine with a head injury and a faux garland with a bad case of mange. (I need to do some purging one of these years.)

Every year, I randomly set out what's left on any available surface, like I'm getting ready to hold a holiday tag sale. When I'm finished, I have a vaguely festive home, one that looks like it belongs to a family that lost most of their Christmas stuff in a cross-country move and never bothered to get more.

This year, I want to do better. I want to lean so hard into holiday decorating that arriving guests break into spontaneous wassailing.

I have no interior design skills, however, so I turned to the internet for inspiration. Why did I wait?

The Christmas decorations I do have are a recurring array of items that I like, that have sentimental value, or that I haven't had the heart to throw away. (Not coincidentally, this is the cheapest way to decorate.)

But I learned online that I'm supposed to choose a theme, like "coastal Christmas" or "Scandinavian

Christmas." Color themes are also popular — anything but red and green; they're too on the nose.

I could go with "blue Christmas," for instance, with a sapphire-colored flocked tree and cool-white LED lights that cause hypothermia on sight. Or "beige Christmas," a neutral trend that says, "What we need at the darkest time of year is even less color."

One website suggested going with the Pantone Color of the Year. For 2024, that's Peach Fuzz. I'm sorry, but a Santa doll in a peach-colored suit is going to look like a jolly nudist. Not only does that not strike me as right for Christmas, it also might be inappropriate for children.

I needed more than a color theme; I needed a new way to think about holiday decorating.

Then I landed on a magazine website that, with one photograph, revealed the secret to a beautiful Christmas home. It had never occurred to me, yet it was so obvious.

The image showed a mudroom with a "pastel Christmas" theme, which I guess is for people who think what's missing from Christmas is Easter. But the theme is irrelevant.

The mudroom had a built-in bench with five open cubbies above and below. In each upper cubby hung

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond



Letters to the Editor

New postal ads policy needed

Blanket bombing postal customers and hoping for the best with unsolicited advertisements filling mailboxes has long been an outdated, inefficient and costly endeavor. The consumer ultimately bears the fiscal burden with increased cost of products and services as a result of this spectacularly inefficient style of marketing. The environmental cost is also massive and largely preventable with a very easy and proven system that is brilliant in its simplicity.

In Sweden, by law, all one needs to do is post "no advertisement" clearly on the mailbox door and delivery of any nonspecific advertising correspondence to that mailbox is prohibited. The postal customer is in complete control and can change their mind one way or another simply by affixing or removing the message to the carrier. As such, Sweden has easily and efficiently decreased the fiscal and environmental burden of unwanted mail with two simple words.

Vermont should consider similar voluntary and reversible control by postal customers over the endless flow of wasteful and anachronistic spending which has tangible fiscal and environmental impacts to all.

Vermont has a chance to lead the country yet again with common sense.

Anders Holm Ferrisburgh

We have elected a major bully

I was born with a moderate physical disability called Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita. Basically, the muscles in my legs never developed correctly. Therefore, I am quite skinny looking and have a particular walking gate.

When I was in grammar school, I was subject to a fair amount of bullying. Both verbal and physical abuse. This caused a good amount of stress. I had to figure out how to fight back with tools at my disposal.

What this did for me was to make me mentally strong. I developed a strong voice and a quick wit. Stronger than their degrading words. Stronger than their pushing and shoving. This turned out to be far superior tools against bullies.

We have just elected the biggest bully in the neighborhood. Most bullies grow up to realize their youthful errors. Our future president never matured. A 78-year-old man with the mentality of a 10-year-old. Imagine that. Disrespectful comments towards people with disabilities is the least of his moral shortcomings.

Visualize for a few minutes being part of a minority group. Be it physically disabled, developmentally disabled, transgender, a person of color, etc. Turn off your device, turn off the lights and honestly reflect how you would feel to have Trump's seething comments and behavior turned toward you. What would you think of this man? What would you feel inside? How would you make yourself strong? What tools would you use against this hate?

A president is supposed to set a positive example for our nation. It is clear that he has nothing positive to say or to present to our country.

In the end, bullies are neither respected nor remembered.

Steve Koch Brandon

Stay hydrated for good health

The sixth-grade class at the Vergennes Union Middle School is wrapping up their unit on the nervous system. This piece is on how we can take care of our nervous system. We think it's important for everyone to know how to keep their nervous system healthy.

Do you want a healthier nervous system for a healthier life? Did you know that you can be healthier by

(See *Montgomery letter*, Page 4A)

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

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

Real leaders bridge differences

Governor Phil Scott pulled off a trifecta win in the latest election. The “most popular” governor in the country, a non-MAGA, conservative Republican in a liberal state, was easily reelected to a fifth term. And by investing much of his own campaign war chest in defeating liberal legislative leaders in their own districts put an end to the “veto-proof” Democratic legislature. The results sent a powerful message to legislative leaders and voters regarding Gov. Scott’s frequent messaging on “affordability.”

But like so many slide-off-the-tongue buzzwords, “affordability” can mean anything to anyone and offers no explanation of cause or ideas for solutions. Some Vermonters can’t afford weekly groceries, others college, others the car they want or need, still others a house or safe shelter.

A recent report by the State Auditor’s Office, however, gives us a clear picture as to what is driving the affordability crisis in Vermont. It’s not “tax and spend” liberal legislators.

“According to the Vermont Education Health Initiative, through which most teachers receive their health benefit, the plan’s costs grew from \$194 million in FY10 to approximately \$266 million in FY23. FY24 costs are expected to exceed \$300 million, and that does not include the state’s share of most retired teachers’ health benefits.”

The recent Oliver Wyman Report commissioned by the Legislature and the Green Mountain Care Board made detailed recommendations for saving some \$400M in the next five years.

The GMCB’s recent rate decision with regard to UVM Medical Center set off a tsunami of public relations releases from the UVM Health Network, most of which the Vermont media simply went with. The one powerful exception was SevenDaysVT’s Colin Flanders who did a deep dive report on what is in fact driving the affordability crisis in Vermont.

The PR blitz and lobbying effort by the medical establishment underlines the vital importance of serious investigative journalism in Vermont and the modern world. The incisive reporting raised the question of where our esteemed governor is on the subject of healthcare in his state and how he plans to lead us to “affordability.” In 2020 Vermonters spent \$6.3B on healthcare. The Vermont State budget is \$8.6B. The budget of our largest of 14 hospitals, UVM Medical Center, is \$1.9B with patient revenues of \$2,004,174,791. “Vermont hospitals account

for almost half of the state’s total health care expenditures. In FY24, spending at Vermont hospitals is expected to be \$3.6 billion. Collectively, hospitals’ budget submissions reflect a 48% increase over pre-pandemic actuals, an increase of \$1.6 billion since FY19. Nonetheless, health care access is unacceptably low, and hospital utilization and patient acuity are increasing.”

The Vermont Silver plan for a family is now the most expensive healthcare insurance plan in the United States.

More than ever, we need leadership that gives credit where credit is due while helping us understand the underlying cause of the “affordability” crisis and supporting those working to rein it in.

Governor Scott, after redesigning the legislature to better suit his agenda, will now benefit from the good work that the prior legislature did during the 2023-2024 term.

His veto of Act 76, the childcare bill, was overridden by the Legislature and became law in June of 2023, while provisions of the law only went into effect in October of this year in spite of his vocal opposition. Governor Scott opposed the bill as “a \$120M payroll tax.” Meanwhile, some 7,000 Vermont families now benefit from greater access and affordability, childcare providers are more financially stable, and early educators earn a livable wage.

The Global Warming Solutions Act was designed to align Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals with the Paris Climate Accords. When Trump pulled the U.S.A. out of Paris during his first administration, Gov. Scott declared that Vermont, on its own, would stay in. Since that performative act, he has vetoed the Global Warming Solutions Act and every bill advanced by the Legislature to try and conform with the Paris Accords.

It’s been routine for former governors to propose and legislatures to pass the “fee bill” to ensure that state agencies keep up with inflation. Governor Scott again chose to scold the Legislature for raising Motor Vehicle fees after 12 years so the State could access additional federal transportation funds.

On the personal side, we are on our fourth Nissan Leaf (Leaves?), getting the gas equivalent of about \$1.50 a gallon.

Meanwhile, according to the Department of Public Service gasoline and home heating fuel prices have come down in the last year. And according to Gas Buddy, Vermont gas prices are at a low of \$2.90, down from \$3.45 in

December of 2023.

It is indeed clear that healthcare, housing, and higher ed constitute “affordability” challenges, but encouraging work is being done on all fronts. Despite PR and lobbying efforts to the contrary by many of the State’s hospitals and its trade association, VAHHS, the GMCB is now seriously regulating growth in healthcare infrastructure costs and charges.

On the housing front, serious scientific research is being done at The Leahy Center on how and where to locate new manufactured housing that looks beyond our obsession with local control.

The world of higher ed is changing rapidly and our own Community College of Vermont offers a new model that meets learners where they are and is affordable to many. In another indication of healthcare’s broader impacts, UVM attributes its recent tuition cost increases to its healthcare costs.

Just as the good economic work done by Obama accrued to ex-President Trump, and the good economic work done by President Biden, which received little recognition during his presidency, will also accrue to President-elect Trump, this phenomenon of “lag-time impacts” often accrues to those who opposed them.

In Vermont, will the many good initiatives of the past legislative session inure to the reputation of the man who opposed them?

In my many years getting to know legislators, I’ve met committed Vermonters of all political stripes working for peanuts, without benefits or adequate resources needed to understand and solve the problems besetting their neighbors. Blaming a spendthrift legislature is easy political posturing but contributes nothing to solutions.

True leadership doesn’t amplify political differences; it bridges them, with the goal of bringing diverse people and ideas together to understand and solve problems.

Blaming and purging those bearing the wrong party label is not leadership.

Montgomery letter

(Continued from Page 4A) doing two simple things? Drinking water and exercising!

A couple tips for hydrating properly are:

- Trying to drink around eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day, though it may vary per person.
- Eat some foods with water in them like watermelon, cucumber, oranges, tomatoes etc.
- Stay away or minimize intake of alcohol and drinks with caffeine in them.
- Drink things with electrolytes especially if you are engaging in physical activity.
- If you are outside and it’s hot, take a break. Drink some water, sit in the shade.

Now I’m going to talk about the downsides of dehydration.

- Nerve transmission: Every neuron in your body needs sodium and potassium. These electrolytes dissolve in water, so the more water you drink the more electrolytes are in your blood. So, dehydration and lack

of electrolytes can lead to muscle cramps, spasms or numbness.

- Cognitive function: Our brain, which is the boss of our nervous system, is about 75% water. Studies have shown that being even a little dehydrated can affect your mood, memory and concentration. Staying hydrated can increase your mental clarity and efficiency.
- Protective barrier: Water also helps the formation of the myelin sheath. The myelin sheath makes sure that nerve impulses (messages) are safely transmitted. Chronic dehydration can weaken the protective barrier and possibly lead to future nerve damage.

You can also be healthier by exercising regularly. Look below for some tips:

- Try some aerobic exercises like running, swimming, biking, dancing, etc.
- Do some strength training like push-ups, squats, weightlifting, planks, etc.
- You could also try flexibility

training like active stretching, yoga, Pilates, etc.

- Try to do vigorous exercises for around 15 minutes for three days a week or moderate exercise for 30 minutes for five days a week.

Some benefits to exercising are:

- Circulation: Exercise improves blood circulation, which means more blood with nutrients and oxygen make it to your brain.
- Synaptic plasticity: Exercise improves your brain’s ability to improve the connections happening inside your head and it helps your ability to remember and learn.
- Neurogenesis: Is the creation of new neurons in your brain. They help us sort information, avoid confusion, and handle stress and emotion.

I hope this article has convinced you to make or improve your habits for a healthier life!

Ansley Montgomery
VUES sixth grader
Addison

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) a single faded stocking. On the bench lay a smattering of artfully arranged gifts in shades of after-dinner mints. And in each lower cubby stood a single pair of brand new, pastel-colored mud boots. It was, from an aesthetic standpoint, lovely.

But the caption held the key. It read, “Swap out the kids’ backpacks and coats for this clever alternative to hanging stockings from the mantel.”

Ingenious! Sure, I was confused at first. I mean, where do the backpacks

and parkas go? Anyone who has a family understands the tons of clothing and athletic gear and footwear that pile up in the winter months. Add Christmas guests and their coats and scarves and hats and boots, and you’d need a storage unit to hold all the belongings that would have to be off-loaded to create room for a tableau like this.

But that was just it! All these years, my creativity has been hampered by one shortcoming: my crippling practicality. It’s not just that I don’t want to spend tons of money on decorations, it’s that I didn’t know that Christmas décor

needed its own dedicated space.

Until I saw that mudroom photo, I had assumed that we could both decorate the house for Christmas and live in it — at the same time.

I’m such a dope. This year, I’m going to do it right: I’ll go all out on some theme, put our belongings in storage and book us a hotel room for December.

It won’t be the messy, homey, low-budget kind of holiday season we’re used to, but for once the house is going to look like a perfectly curated magazine spread.

In the end, isn’t that what Christmas is all about?

Letters to the editor

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

debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

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

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) earth, our fellow creatures, the community of farmers and food workers, or our own hands, is spiritual, a source of reverence and love. I try to keep in my mind and heart the people I am cooking for, whether it’s for my family and friends, the activists of the Abolition Kitchen, or the marginalized and temporarily unhoused who come to Charter House and Gather. I try to imbue my labor with a sense of reverence and blessing.

I keep trying, in my own way, to keep my kind of kosher, and be a mindful Jewish mother to as many members of the community as my pots and spoons can reach. I may not be following the mitzvot that are religious commandments of how to cook and eat, but I’m attempting to do the mitzvot that can help heal the broken world.

Michele Lowy is a retired teacher living in Middlebury. She published her first novel, “A Small Door,” in 2023 and is working on a second one.

“Coming to Project Independence is the best part of my day...”

Fun Activities • New Friendships • Delicious Meals
Transportation Provided • Flexible Schedules

We invite you to call to schedule a visit and tour!

Call Eileen at 802-388-3983

THE ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED CANNABIS STORE IN MIDDLEBURY

FLORA CANNABIS

BLACK FRIDAY KICKOFF SALE

Addison County’s Largest Selection of Premium Vermont Cannabis

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE ALL FLORA-BRANDED SINGLE PRE-ROLLS ALL UPSTATE GUMMIES + BUY ANY TWO 3.5G JARS, GET A SELECT 3.5G JAR FREE + 20% OFF VERMONT BLISS + 50% OFF ALL GLASS & GRINDERS

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

2 PARK STREET | MIDDLEBURY | WWW.FLORAVT.COM

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

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

D. Philip Pokrinchak, 63, of Bristol

BRISTOL — D. Philip Pokrinchak, 63, of Bristol, Vt., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, Vt., following a stroke.

He was born June 3, 1961, in Ideal Hospital, in Endicott, N.Y., to Philip Pokrinchak, who passed away on April 19, 2013, and Jacqueline Mosko Pokrinchak, who passed away on January 5th, 2017.

In addition to his parents, Philip was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Col. (retired) Mark A. Riccio on Feb. 1, 2021. Philip is survived by his siblings, Janine Pokrinchak Dubik and husband Mark, (Monroe Township, Wyoming County, Pa.), Marlene Pokrinchak Riccio, (Yorktown, Va.), and Stephen Philip Pokrinchak and wife, Wai Ling Lee, (Owego, N.Y.); nephews, Alexander Riccio and his wife, Jes Zulawski-Riccio



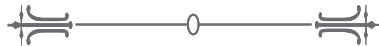
D. PHILIP POKRINCHAK

(Yorktown, Va.), Taylor Riccio and wife, Sophie Schneider, (New York, N.Y.), and Marcus Riccio, (Yorktown, Va.); grandniece, Cassandra Scout Zulawski-Riccio, (Yorktown, Va.); and dear friends, Miles and Jennifer Hubert, (Bristol, Vt.).

Philip graduated from Owego Free Academy in 1979. He attended Rochester Institute of Technology then graduated in 1987 from Wilkes College (now Wilkes University). He worked at Sugarbush Resort, Warren, Vt., IBM-Burlington, and Global Foundries in Essex Junction, Vt.

After retiring at 55 in 2016, he enjoyed metal work. He appreciated music of all genres from classical and jazz to pop; in high school, he played trumpet with the OFA bands. Throughout his life Phil enjoyed many things, such as skiing/snowboarding, motorcycles, and skateboarding as a teen; but most importantly he enjoyed spending time with those he loved most.

A celebration of life will be announced when completed. Condolences can be made to Philip's family at emfaheyfuneralhome.com.



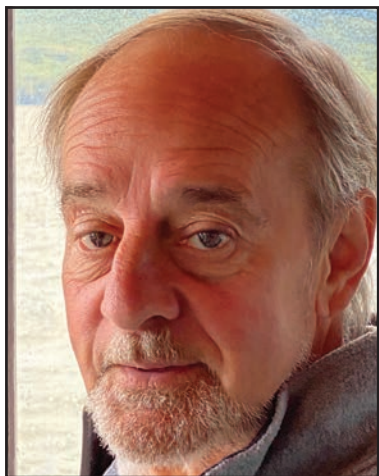
Steven A. Germain, 64, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Steven "Steve" Germain passed peacefully at his home on Nov. 15, 2024. He was born June 15, 1960, to parents Audrey (Gorton) and Raymond Germain.

Steve enjoyed a creative and adventurous youth, which fostered an intense love for the great outdoors. This appreciation for nature, combined with his independent spirit, led Steve to become a self-employed carpenter. He spent most of his adult life building and creating beautiful things. Working with his hands was both his gift and his passion, and the amazing results can be seen throughout Addison County and the surrounding areas.

He had an outgoing and competitive personality and loved spending time with his buddies in local competitions, particularly during the years he played horseshoes and cornhole. From his earliest memories, fishing and hunting were an integral part of his life, and he was able to enjoy those endeavors to the very end.

Steve's creative mind helped turn a dilapidated shack located in Barnard into a warm and inviting deer camp, which became a favored



STEVEN A. GERMAIN

getaway for family and friends for over ten years. He then relocated his summer camp to Stockbridge, situated along the banks of the White River.

After meeting his wife, Becky, in 2017, along with her help he again lovingly transformed a savage piece of land along the New Haven River in Bristol into a cozy summer retreat, complete with a guest cabin for family and friends. Most days during the summer months, when Steve was not working, he could be found at his Stockbridge camp, or at the newly created Bristol retreat.

Both places became popular gatherings for any, and all, who needed sanctuary from their daily stresses. Days at either camp were filled with lawn games, lounging in the river soaking up the sun, and the best camp food imaginable. Nights were enjoyed around a peaceful campfire, sharing memories, stories, jokes, and the occasional fireworks display. All, of course, included a couple of adult beverages.

When his body finally told him it was time to slow down, he was able to fully relax and enjoy the places he lovingly helped design and create.

Steve is survived by his wife, Rebecca (Becky) Mashak; his sons, Steven Clark (Tammy) and Andrew Germain; and his four brothers, Raymond Germain (Laurie), Kevin Haskins (Wanda), Roland (Buzz) Haskins (Donna), and Scott Haskins (Tina). Also surviving him are seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Preceding him are his parents and his sister, Vicky.

A celebration of remembrance will be held at the Community Church of Huntington in the spring.

Betty Iola (Ramsey) Goyette, 88, of New Haven

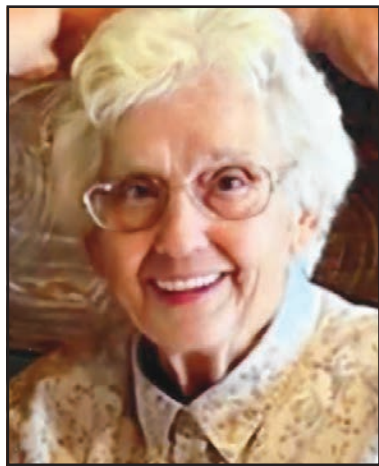
NEW HAVEN — Betty Iola (Ramsey) Goyette, 88, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

She was born Aug. 29, 1936, in Lincoln, Vt., the daughter of George and Florence Ramsey.

She worked several years as a seamstress at VanRaalte. Also, she worked at Simmonds Precision, Geiger, and Vermont Teddy Bear Factory, where she retired at the age of 75.

She enjoyed flowers. She loved spending time with her family. She enjoyed sewing, had a love for animals and working in her flower beds.

She was predeceased by her grandson Michael Lathrop, granddaughter Kristy Greene, and



BETTY IOLA (RAMSEY) GOYETTE

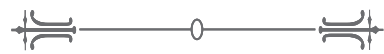
several brothers and sisters.

Betty is survived by her six children, Juanita Sheldon of

Shoreham, Jeannie Greene of New Haven, Abraham Goyette and wife Kathleen of Tunbridge, Timothy Goyette of New Haven, Jacqueline McCoy and her husband Kristofer of Texas, Jeannette Sleeper and husband Jeff of Vergennes; 16 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and step-grandchildren; sister Caroline Cutter and brother Harold Ramsey.

Special thanks to UVM Medical Center Nurses and Staff on McClure Floor for the wonderful care they provided for Betty.

A graveside service will be held 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Maple Cemetery in Lincoln. To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmclayfuneralhomes.com.



Megan Marie Thomas, 40, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Megan Marie Thomas, age 40, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 20 at her home in Bristol.

Megan enjoyed aspirational quotes and would frequently post them on her Facebook page. Several weeks ago, she posted this foretelling comment: "What do you think one should do before one dies? Live."

Megan was in a very active period of pursuing a better life. In recent months, she was seen smiling more than she had in years. Numerous people in the community and at work commented on the return of the smile that we all loved.

A lifelong resident of Bristol, she always worked in public-facing jobs. For over a decade she worked at the Bobcat Café. After she had her twins, she started working at the Lawrence Memorial Library for the next decade, where she became familiar to many local children and their parents. Recently, she made many new friends at Smoke and Lola's café where she worked as a barista, balancing two jobs while taking care of her kids.

As a child, Megan was an avid reader, and she frequently had her



MEGAN MARIE THOMAS

nose in a book or her hand on an art pencil. She was a gifted artist who could easily capture the spirit of someone's face or a family pet quickly. She was also a free spirit who never cared much about money or things. She always had her own sense of style.

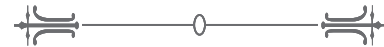
In her late twenties, Megan was diagnosed with MS. Many people never even realized she had the disease. She was strong and tough. She was also very brave, and, in fact, she had a tattoo that spelled out BrAvery. This tattoo had dual

meanings: It was a combination of the twins' names, Brayden and Avery, and it symbolized her perseverance throughout her struggle with MS.

Megan was very devoted to her children and could frequently be seen walking with them throughout Bristol.

Megan is survived by her thirteen-year-old twins, Brayden and Avery; her mother, Sue Folino, and her "Pa," Dave Folino; her brother Dustin and his fiancée, Amna; and her sister Tasha, and her fiancé, Willie and their daughter Harlow. In addition, she is survived by her paternal grandmother, Norma Thomas, and her maternal grandfather David Lutton and his wife Shari. She was predeceased by her father, Michael Thomas.

A celebration of life will be held on Dec. 8, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Lawrence Memorial Library in Bristol. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in memoriam to the Lawrence Memorial Library. We also ask that you look out for the twins. They will need a village, and from the outpouring of support we have witnessed, we know that village is Bristol.



Katherine Sophia (Martin) Reynolds, 88, formerly of Ferrisburgh

BURLINGTON — With family and friends by her side, Katherine Sophia (Martin) Reynolds went into a deep sleep losing her battle with Alzheimer's.

Katherine was the only Daughter of Dorwin and Beatrice Martin. She graduated from Hinesburg High School in 1953, closing that chapter in her book of life. Then she started the next chapter, marrying Frederick J. Reynolds on Jan. 2, 1954. They traveled the world together as Fred was posted to various military assignments. She loved learning the culture and history of each new place.

As their children arrived, Fred and Katherine included them in each new adventure.

It was at Fred's last post in Hawaii where Katherine's love of history and the Bible changed the lives of their family. Jehovah's Witnesses showed her in her own family Bible that God's name is Jehovah, found at Psalm 83:18. Katherine zealously continued



KATHERINE SOPHIA (MARTIN) REYNOLDS

learning Bible truths and sharing them with family and friends. On returning to Vermont from Hawaii in 1968, the family became part of the Middlebury congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. Her love of travel continued taking her family to different states and countries for

summer Bible conventions.

When not preaching, teaching, and traveling, she enjoyed reading, canning, knitting afghans, playing the organ, drawing, and helping others.

Katherine was predeceased by her husband, Fred, her parents, and her youngest brother Harry.

Left behind are her children: Kathie (Kerry) Jones of Burlington, Vt.; Marquita (David) Crowell of Green Valley, Ariz.; Carl (Karen) Reynolds of Middlebury, Vt.; and Esther (Isaac) Cushman of Clinton, S.C.; 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great granddaughter.

It is with deep gratitude we thank her caregivers on the memory unit at Birchwood Terrace and at Bayada for their patience and compassion.

A memorial service will be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 610 Main St., Colchester, Vt., at 4 p.m., Dec. 14, 2024.



Planning

*Planning for Your Funeral,
the Smart Thing to Do...*

Many people are planning for their funeral in advance in a sincere effort to ease the stress loved ones will face at an emotional time. It takes only a little time and can be handled in the privacy of your home or at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

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

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.

**Phonak Audeo Sphere™
Infinio Hearing Aids**

BEING IN THE MOMENT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER.

- Dedicated AI Chip
- Universal connectivity
- ON-THE-GO CHARGING
- 53x more processing power

PHONAK

life is on



Audeo Sphere Infinio is powered by not one, but two chips; Phoak ERA™ a proprietary ultra-responsive chip, and, for the first time in the hearing industry, Phonak is applying AI/DNN to sound processing using a dedicated AI chip, DEEPSONIC™. Deep Sound Optimized Neural Integrated Chip is an absolute game changer, expanding the listening range from all directions delivering unparalleled speech clarity by separating speech from noise.

Ready to Experience Infinio Hearing Aids? Call Bernie!

802-253-2345

Hearing Aid Sales & Service

TESTING • CLEANING • PROGRAMMING • BATTERIES

63 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 (in the Marble Works)

advancedhearingofvermont@comcast.net

www.advancedhearingofvermont.com

Wishing everyone a
Healthy and Happy
Thanksgiving.
Blessings to all!

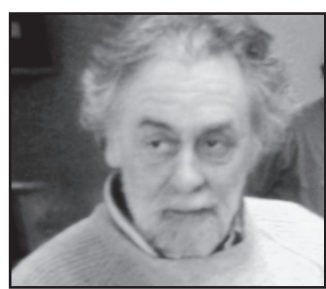


Office: 173 Court St.
Middlebury, VT 05753
Office: (802) 388-4440

ADDISON COUNTY School News

In Loving Memory of

David H. Coffin



Eleven years ago on
November 26, 2013,
David passed away.
He is loved and missed dearly
by Wife Jane, Mother Sylvia
Coffin, Twin sister Debbie,
Sister Nancy, and
Granddaughter Grace.

All his friends & family
miss him very much.

Julia Reitz of Ferrisburgh has enrolled at the University of Albany and began her studies in Business Administration this fall. Reitz is among 5,430 new students at the university.

Spencer White of Vergennes has been named to the dean's list for the October 2024 session in the College of Applied Technologies at the University of Northwestern Ohio.



BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES

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

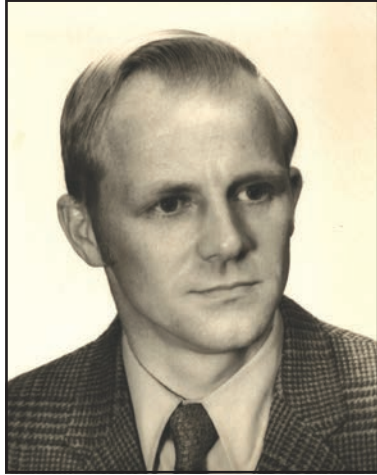
Richard Edward Sherman, 89, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Richard Edward Sherman, 89, passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on Nov. 23, 2024.

Born at home in New Haven, Vt., on Maplewood Farm in October 1935, Richard maintained a deep connection to his dairy farming roots and loved to reminisce about the good old days by sharing stories about his younger years on the farm. Though the connection ran deep, one thing was for sure, he did not miss working the seven days a week required by dairy farmers.

Richie, as he was known in his younger years, participated in 4-H and was a member of the Jolly Rascals 4-H club, where he showed cattle at the Champlain Valley Fair, the Rutland State Fair and Eastern States Expo in Massachusetts. He was a member of FFA, the basketball team at Beeman Academy, was even prom king of his senior class, and more recently a member of the American Legion in Bristol.

Richard graduated from Beeman Academy's, Class of 1953, and the Vermont School of Agriculture (VSA and later VTC) in Randolph in 1954. After graduating from VSA, he returned home to work on the family farm. In 1957, after an Ag deferment, he volunteered for the draft and completed his basic training at Fort Benning in Georgia. Assigned to Germany for the remainder of his tour, Richard was



RICHARD EDWARD SHERMAN

able to meet and spend time with an aunt, uncle, and their families from the Sherman side.

After his stint in the Army, again Richard returned home to work on the family farm until 1963, when he left to work as a Herdsman for John Heins in Williston and later for Conant's Riverside Farms in Richmond. In 1969, he left dairy farming for good, moved his family to Bristol and attended Champlain College, graduating in 1972 with an associate's degree in accounting. After pursuing a career in accounting, Richard retired from the A. Johnson Company in 1998.

A very social person, Richard had a big heart and was the first one to drop everything to help his family or a friend in need. He was the one

that kept family connected and a few dubbed him their favorite uncle or cousin. An unofficial history buff, Richard could remember events down to the day and date it occurred. Sometimes we teased, "what day was that Richard, a Monday or a Tuesday?" In his spare time, he loved to be on his boat on Lake Champlain or traveling and camping with his wife Susan.

Richard leaves a daughter, Lisa; son-in-law, Rob; his grandchildren, Paige Wener and Kevin Booth of Sudbury and Ethan Wener of Starksboro; his great grandchild Ira Edward; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was predeceased by his wife of 34 years, Susan Simard Sherman; his parents, Edward and Martha Kandzior Sherman; his sisters, Trudy (Gertrude) Parkhill and, Nancy Daer; and his brothers, Arthur and Arnold Sherman.

Special thanks to all the nurses, staff and doctors at Addison County Home Health & Hospice, UVM Medical Center, the Bristol Rescue Squad and family and friends that supported us through this difficult time.

A celebration of Richard's life is planned for late spring or early summer 2025. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753 or online at www.achhh.org.



TAWNIA QUESNEL

Tawnya Quesnel, 51, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — We are heartbroken to announce the death of Tawnya Quesnel, 51, beloved husband and father, who passed away on Sunday, Nov. 24, at his home in Shoreham after an unexpected medical event.

A full obituary with memorial information will be published at a later date. ◊

Timothy E. Smith, 58, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Timothy E. Smith of Shoreham passed away on Nov. 19, 2024.

Born on Nov. 5, 1966, he was the son of Richard and Irene (Gove) Smith. He is survived by his son, Christopher of Syracuse, N.Y.; his beloved siblings Sally Forbes, Richard (Donna), Angie Smith, Susan (Don) Landers, and Ilene Trudeau, and was predeceased by his brother David, sister Shirley, and parents. Tim is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and extended family Janice, Heather (Chris) and Stephanie, and so many additional loved ones.

Tim was a long-time employee of BCI Construction in Orwell and was known by all as an avid lover of all four-legged creatures, but most importantly his horses.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to Merrymack Horse



TIMOTHY E. SMITH

Sanctuary in Charlotte, Vt. Arrangements are made by Sanderson Funeral home in Middlebury, Vt.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. ◊

NEWS?

Email it to: news@addisonindependent.com

Martha May Hill, 93, of Whiting

WEBSTER, Mass. — Martha May (Barnes) Hill died after a long illness, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, at her daughter's home.

She was born May 31, 1931, in Whiting, Vt., daughter of Clair and Irene (Porter) Barnes. She moved to Webster, Mass., in 2022 to be with her family.

In earlier years, Mrs. Hill worked as a seamstress at Van Raalte Shirt Company in Middlebury. She spent many years working on a dairy farm in Whiting, and later worked at Nexus Custom Electronics in Brandon, manufacturing circuit boards. She enjoyed travel, yard sales, exercise and quilting with her friends, and she was a skilled artist.

Survivors include her daughter, Lisa Daniels; her grandson Charles Daniels; and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Hill was predeceased by her husband, Charles Hill in 1985; her son, Larry Hill in 2002; her granddaughter, Olivia Daniels in 1999; her sister Mary Charbonneau in 2017; and her sister Florence McIntyre in 2018.

Mrs. Hill will be buried in Cornwall, Vt. at Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Memorial Contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the Addison County Humane Society, 234 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, or to the Brandon Area



MARTHA MAY HILL

Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733. ◊

Addison County
Solid Waste Management District
1223 Rte 7 South Middlebury, VT
(802) 388-2333 - AddisonCountyRecycles.org - acswwmd@acswwmd.org

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open without appointment for free from residents of member towns.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable including things like paint, automotive chemicals, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, home improvement supplies and more.

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.

Not accepted: laboratory chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fireworks, flares, explosives, ammunition, and radioactive waste.

HazWaste Center Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri, 8 AM to 2 PM, and Sat, 8 AM to 1 PM



We care about your job as much as you do

Business you can trust, and quality you can count on!

Come experience the difference



DISTINCTIVE PAINT AND INTERIORS

802-388-2500 | M-F 7:30-5, Sat. 8-1

1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT

distinctivepaintandinteriors.com • Located next to 7 South Sandwich Company

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Margaret Wallace Fox, 78, of Salisbury

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. ♦



HANNAH MAGOUN

SALISBURY — Margaret Wallace Fox was a pioneer. She was the first president of the Women's Lawyer Association of St. Louis, Mo., before following her myriad passions to reinvent herself as many times as she wanted.

Margaret spent her final years in Salisbury, Vt., where she relocated in 2017, tending to her gardens, pond, beloved animals, and pottery.

She died at Barnes Jewish Hospital surrounded by family.

The daughter of Herbert S. Fox and Margaret (Moser) Fox of Hastings, N.Y., Margaret is survived by her husband, Gary Sarachan; daughter, Sydney Fox Sarachan; and brothers, Tom Fox and James Fox.

A private ceremony was held. In lieu of flowers or gifts,



MARGARET WALLACE FOX

donations will be appreciated in her honor to the following organizations: Glioblastoma Research Fund; Magnolia Mother's Trust; Middlebury Studio School; and Stray Rescue St. Louis. ♦

REACH THE COUNTY, PLACE YOUR AD HERE. CALL 388-4944

SWEET HILL FARM
New Haven, Vermont

Thank You Customers!
We appreciate your business throughout the season.
Chris and Dianne Bingham
802-453-7751 | sweetcorn@gmavt.net

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.



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



www.woodwarevt.com

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

802-388-6297



FINE FURNITURE

Letters to the Editor

Science-based work saves forests

Vermont forests are under threat. This includes the plants and animals who call our forests home, as well as our communities that rely on healthy forests for clean drinking water, recreational opportunities, wood for our homes, and protection from future floods.

An estimated 12,000 acres of forestland are lost every year to development, while the proliferation of forest disease and non-native species are on the rise. Our forests are becoming increasingly fragmented, and a changing climate is forcing species to move 11 miles northward and 36 feet upslope each decade.

To overcome this broad and complex range of challenges, we need science-based strategies to preserve the health of our forests and help our species and communities thrive. We need to follow best practices, using diverse approaches to managing our forests that blend both passive and active management. And we need to deploy these strategies across a landscape to maintain forest health, control for disease, and manage non-native species. This approach includes allowing for select, ecological harvesting in appropriate areas while allowing other areas to develop under natural processes where harvesting and other uses are restricted.

The recently completed Worcester Range Management Unit Long-Range Management Plan exemplifies this approach across 18,000 acres of Vermont's publicly owned forests. Running adjacent to the spine of the Green Mountains in north-central Vermont, the Worcester range is a stunning fixture in our landscape. It includes a regionally significant wildlife corridor, many headwater streams, and noteworthy climate resilient features. This large, complex forest block provides irreplaceable space for species to adapt to climate change, and opportunities for forest managers to make meaningful contributions to enhance the ecological health and climate resilience of the forests in our region.

The Agency of Natural Resources' (ANR's) diverse approach to forest management in the plan over the next 20 years is one that prioritizes forest resilience. This is especially important in Vermont, given our history of heavy land clearing in the 1800s and subsequent regrowth. Today, many of our forests are still recovering; they do not have the diversity of tree species or the complex forest structure that would be present in older forests. Diverse and strategic management can help our forests transition to a healthier state, improving our collective resilience to climate change.

The Worcester plan balances a wide range of uses and functions

that are consistent with statewide planning tools and goals for biodiversity protection. For example, it doubles the amount of acreage to remain in a natural state — ensuring that over half of the Worcester Range has the ability to generate old growth forest characteristics and enhance forest resilience.

The plan also offers an opportunity to showcase best practices in ecological forestry. Harvesting would be limited to only 10% of the 18,000 acres. The remaining lands, which were identified as suitable for harvesting, will not be touched in this 20-year plan period, meaning 90% of the area will be off limits to harvesting.

For the small amount of land that will be harvested, the plan focuses on strategies that will help accelerate conditions that would normally be found in older forests and that benefit biodiversity. While the final plan does not include all the strategies that we recommended, it does shift away from harvesting practices primarily focused on timber production and offers opportunities to showcase progressive, climate-informed forestry.

We appreciate the hard work of the ecologists, wildlife biologists, foresters, and planners with the Agency of Natural Resources who crafted this plan. More specifically, we appreciate their collaborative approach — giving time and attention to the public comments, and willingness to use stakeholder input to enhance the plan.

It is clear that forests matter a great deal to Vermonters — ecologically, societally and economically. The Worcester plan balances the multiple values, uses and needs that our forests support — marking a meaningful turning point in state-driven forest management as we adapt to an uncertain and climate-impacted future.

As members of the Forest Partnership, a collaboration of Vermont conservation organizations dedicated to advancing forest health, we applaud this plan and the long-term value it will provide.

Lauren Oates
Submitted on behalf of the Forest Partnership, whose member organizations include:
Audubon Vermont
Northeast Wilderness Trust
The Nature Conservancy in Vermont
Trust for Public Land
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermont Land Trust
Vermont Natural Resources Council
The Nature Conservancy in Vermont

Voter turnout only a minor factor

As a project for a government class, I decided to take a closer look at voter turnout in Cornwall in the last three presidential election cycles to see if it had any effect on state Senate races. Accordingly, I worked at the Cornwall polling center the day before election day helping to count absentee ballots (in full compliance with election regulations). This was a great experience and gave me valuable information about the measures taken to prevent voter fraud as well. Cornwall Town Clerk Laura Fetterolf was extremely helpful in my process of obtaining the data on past state senate elections, as well as the results for 2024 once they were available.

According to the data that Mrs. Fetterolf provided, the total voter turnout this year was highest of any of the years researched, but only by four voters over 2020. Similarly, the percentage of registered voters who voted was only half a percentage point higher in 2020 than in this year. In other words, turnout numbers were very similar between 2020 and 2024, although both were lower in 2016. Where things really got interesting was in the Senate race results. Republican state Senate candidates received 30% of the vote in Cornwall this year, which was the highest of any of

the years surveyed, and almost 10 percentage points higher than in 2020. This was consistent with trends that emerged around the state in legislative elections this year.

As most people probably already know, 2024 was the best year for Vermont Republicans in quite a long time. In the Addison County Senate race that I was focusing on, Democratic incumbent Ruth Hardy, and Republican newcomer Steven Heffernan won a four-way race against Democratic incumbent Chris Bray and Republican challenger Landel Cochran. If the data from Cornwall is any indication, the fact that the turnout numbers were basically the same in 2024, (which was the best year for Republicans of the years examined) and in 2020, (which was the best year for Democrats) the data suggests that rather than a group of mobilized voters turning out and boosting numbers, the outlook of the voters changed. This is contrary to what I expected. I thought that for a Republican to have any chance of winning, mobilizing new voters would be vital, but voter turnout differences actually appear to have had very little to do with the differences in result.

Ben Fuller
Middlebury

Skiing

(Continued from Page 1A)

per week, keeping your other days slow, easy and long.

CORE AND BALANCE WORK

Core endurance is essential for Nordic skiing. Static exercises like planks aren't enough for this dynamic sport. Instead, try these exercises:

- **Heel Touches:** Lie on your back and, bending side-to-side, reach your hand to touch your heel, alternating sides.

- **V-Sits:** Sit with your arms and legs off the ground. Aim for endurance, not strength — work up to 5–10 minutes with breaks as needed. Do as many and as often as you want.

To improve balance, stand on one leg and swing your arms and the opposite leg as if you're skiing. For more challenge, try this:

- Rest your right foot behind you on a chair.
- Use your left foot to hop in a star pattern (forward, backward, left, right).
- Switch legs and repeat.

THE ROLE OF STRETCHING

Stretching isn't as crucial as you might think. Research shows it doesn't significantly improve performance or prevent injuries. However, if you feel too stiff to achieve typical skiing positions, gentle stretching at the end of a workout can help. Hold a stretch for 30 seconds, slightly tighten the muscle, and then stretch again.

FOR COMPETITIVE ATHLETES

For high-performance athletes aiming for regional or national competitions, pre-season training builds on the basics but adds more specific intensity work.

Ski racing isn't like running a steady 5K. It involves repeated bursts of hard effort followed by recovery. Training should reflect this.

What's important is individualization. Two people with similar race times can achieve that with markedly different contributions of aerobic and anaerobic energy. Different



WILLIAM HAIG, WHO recently returned to the area after coaching of skiers in Australia, this fall and winter is sharing his training techniques with the Middlebury Union High School Nordic team. Show at this past winter's state meet are Tigers Ava Schneider, top left, and Baxter Harrington, above, as well as Mount Abe racer June Yates-Rusch, top right.

Independent file photos/Steve James

athletes have different strengths. Some excel in short bursts (anaerobic capacity), while others are good at sustained effort over time (aerobic capacity). Tailor your training to address this:

- **If you're explosive but lack endurance,** focus on slightly longer, less intense intervals (e.g., 1 minute on, 1 minute off for 6–10 minutes).

- **If you can go forever but lack explosiveness,** shorter, harder intervals like the 6-minute 30/30s mentioned above can help.



WILLIAM HAIG

For the 8 weeks leading up to your target race, intensity sessions should mimic the demands of that event:

- **For 5–10K races:** Focus on shorter efforts like 3 minutes

at near-maximum effort with 1 minute of recovery. Do 20–30 minutes total, followed by an easy ski.

- **For marathons:** Use longer intervals, such as 10 minutes with the first minute hard and the rest at a sustainable pace. Repeat with enough recovery, adjusting the number of intervals and intensity based on the race distance.

MAKING NORDIC SKIING

ACCESSIBLE

One of my goals in returning to Middlebury is ensuring every kid interested in Nordic skiing has the chance to participate. But in our town, it's still a sport for those who can afford it. In contrast to our other high school sports, neither the equipment nor the training space is paid for by the school. Unfortunately, the sport remains expensive, with new skiers needing to rent equipment (\$300) and purchase trail passes (\$100).

I'm hopeful the community will support efforts to make skiing more equitable. Donations to Middlebury Union High School's Nordic ski program can go a long way toward helping all kids enjoy this fantastic sport.

Stick season is the perfect time to lay the foundation for a great winter. Whether you're skiing for fun or aiming for the podium, the work you do now will make all the difference.

An All-American skier for Stratton Mountain School, William Haig coaches Middlebury Union High School's state champion Nordic ski team. He recently returned from an Australian winter, where he helped coach members of the Aussies' national Nordic team.

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — On Nov. 19, Vergennes police cited a Monkton man for lewd and lascivious conduct with a child and aggravated sexual assault.

Cited was Adam Terry, 31, of Monkton. According to the police media log, Terry was arrested and then cited and released following an investigation that focused on a Vergennes address.

In other actions between Nov. 18–24, Vergennes police conducted 14 patrols by cruiser, nine traffic stops, one VIN inspection and one property watch; responded to one 911 hangup call; processed nine pre-employment fingerprint requests; and also:

On Nov. 18:

- Took a report from a city business of an unauthorized entry during the previous night. Police said there were no signs of forced entry, but that staff noticed several irregularities, including money missing from a bank bag. The business owner, according to police, said he wanted to inform them of the incident in case there were similar incidents in the vicinity

- Took more phone messages from a Hillside Acres resident with known mental health issues.

- Responded to a minor two-car accident at the intersection of Monkton Road and Walker Avenue,

- Handled a complaint of vandalism to a car tire with damage done only to a valve.

On Nov. 19:

- Assisted Vermont State Police at a domestic dispute on Route 7.

- Conducted a background check on behalf of the military.

- Heard a complaint from a Second Street resident about a violation of a restraining order, an allegation that is under investigation.

On Nov. 20:

- Provided a courtesy ride to a man who was stumbling on the sidewalk on West Main Street. Police took him to a Hillside Acres apartment.

- At a Route 7 traffic stop, helped VSP evaluate a driver for possibly being under the influence of drugs. Police ultimately determined the person was impaired by a substance other than alcohol.

- On behalf of VSP, checked the welfare of a High Manor Park resident in Waltham and determined the individual was fine.

- Took a complaint that the male neighbor of a Monkton Road resident "frequently deposits empty alcohol containers on the edge of the complainant's property," an allegation supported by a video. Police said they will reach out to the individual in question.

On Nov. 21, tried to serve an abuse prevention order at a Main Street residence and learned the subject had moved to Ludlow; city police alerted police there.

On Nov. 22:

- Were told a Maple Manor resident had received a threatening letter in the mail. Police said they were investigating.

- Took a report that concerning statements had been made to the Department for Children & Families by a Booth Woods resident, but after looking into the facts, determined the comments were interpreted incorrectly.

On Nov. 23:

- On behalf of a Walker Avenue resident, informed another individual that they were not welcome in the person's apartment.

- Conducted a background check on a potential department applicant.

- Helped St. Albans police identify an assailant involved in an incident at Champlain Farms in Vergennes.

Cross-country skiing dryland training available

Lisa Bernardin, a Middlebury resident and masters Nordic skier (those individuals who are over the age of 30), has recently begun spending time working on skills needed for a favorite pastime — cross-country skiing.

Bernardin traveled to Stowe early last month to participate in a bit of "dryland training" with the Stowe Masters Nordic Group. About 40 enthusiastic masters skiers gather each Monday afternoon at Trapp Family Lodge. The dryland training focus was on using classic ski poles (poles to the armpit) to mimic time on snow by walking, striding, bounding and double poling on flatter terrain. For the Stowe group, an important aspect of meeting weekly since mid-September is to strengthen their arms without skis on their feet. Arm muscles, both biceps and triceps, appreciate this extra training before the snow flies, when skiers need their arm strength to get them up a hill and to double- pole on the flats.

An employee of Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton, Bernardin is starting up a Rikert Masters Ski Group and doing exactly what the Stowe masters do for their workouts. Her staff responsibilities when the season begins involve spending time in the shop and teaching lessons to all ages and abilities, both classic and skating.

However, before the snow flies, Bernardin is excited to engage in

some dryland training with youth or folks interested in meeting up at Rikert.

The next meeting of the Rikert Masters Nordic Group will be Sunday, Dec. 1.

Any Nordic skiers interested in participating in an organized bit of dryland training (ski walking, bounding and double poling) with Bernardin can do this from 9:30–11 a.m. Just remember to wear brightly colored workout clothes, running shoes and to bring your classic poles.

All ages and skill levels welcome. Please call with questions: 802-388-2720.



TO... SANTA

KIDS!

Send us your letter to Santa and we'll print it in our paper so Santa himself can see!

Be sure to include a return address or email and send your letter to:

**SANTA,
C/O ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 MAPLE ST.,
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753**

You can also email your letter to news@addisonindependent.com, submit it on our website, or deliver it to our office in the Marble Works, Middlebury.

Letters received by Monday, December 16th, may be published with names in our December 19th edition.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



AMERICAN FLATBREAD
Middlebury Hearth

Celebrate your holidays with us!

LUNCH!
Wed-Saturday 11-2
fireside seating available

Dinner:
Tues-Thur 5-9 & Fri-Sat 4:30-10

SPECIAL EVENTS PACKAGES
TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS
• see our website for details •

americanflatbread.com 802-388-3300
@ f marble works, middlebury

Woman cited for embezzlement

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Samantha Selby, 35, of Middlebury for embezzlement and possession of cocaine after investigating a Nov. 24 report from the Subway restaurant on Court Street about a worker allegedly stealing money and merchandise.

During the arrest, officers said they established probable cause that Selby was in possession of illicit drugs, which were seized during a consent search of her property, according to police. Selby is scheduled to answer to the embezzlement and cocaine possession charges on Feb. 10 in Addison Superior Court, Criminal Division, police said.

In addition to conducting daily foot patrols downtown to monitor members of the local houseless community and enforcing the town's overnight winter parking ban downtown most nights last week, Middlebury police last week:

- Were informed on Nov. 18 that someone had rummaged through two unlocked vehicles parked off Weybridge Street. Police said items were reported stolen from both vehicles.
- Were informed on Nov. 18 that someone had rummaged through an unlocked vehicle parked off Morningside Drive.
- Responded to a report of a man stumbling in and out of traffic near the intersection of

Middlebury Police Log

North Pleasant and High streets on Nov. 18.

- Responded to a reported car-versus-deer accident on Foote Street on Nov. 18.

- Received a report on Nov. 19 that an unlocked vehicle in the Chipman Park area had been entered and rummaged through.

- Responded to a reported two-vehicle accident on Cross Street on Nov. 19.

- Responded to a report of a man and woman arguing at the side of Painter Road on Nov. 19.

- Were informed on Nov. 19 that the Addison County Unit for Special Investigations (ACUSI) had opened an investigation based on an alleged sexual offense at a Lake Street location.

- Assisted Vermont State Police on Nov. 19 in locating an impaired driver who had fled the scene of a drunken driving-related crash at the intersection of Route 125 and Old Town Road in Ripton. State police ended up citing the man for refusing a driving under the influence test, second offense.

- Responded to a possible attempted burglary at the Middlebury Cooperative Nursery School on East Main Street on

Nov. 20.

- Disposed of two nicotine vapes at Middlebury Union Middle School.

- Assisted with a juvenile issue at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Nov. 20.

- Helped a person who was stuck in the elevator of a Main Street building on Nov. 20.

- Assisted a person who had been made uncomfortable by a note someone had left on the windshield of their car while it was parked off Court Street Extension on Nov. 20.

- Responded to a report of a suspicious package received at Porter Medical Center on Nov. 21. Police said the package didn't include anything dangerous.

- Were informed that Porter Hospital security officials had discovered evidence of illicit drugs while conducting a routine search of a visitor's bag on Nov. 21.

- Assisted the ACUSI with a case stemming from an investigation in the Macdonough Drive area of Vergennes on Nov. 21.

- Assisted with a custody dispute at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Nov. 21.

- Received a report that a counterfeit bill had been passed at a Washington Street business on Nov. 21.

- Investigated a juvenile problem in the Seminary Street



Gone to Kentucky

ADDISON COUNTY WAS well-represented at the 2024 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup, held Nov. 8 and 9 in Louisville, Ky. Among Vermont's 12 delegates were (left to right) Shyanne Wedge and Hannah Gendreau, both from Shoreham, and Bella Shimel, Bridport.

Photo by Mary Fay

Police investigating attempted break-ins

Vt. State Police Log

Extension area on Nov. 21.

- Received a report of an ACUSI case stemming from a patient who had been examined at Porter Hospital on Nov. 21.

- Spoke with a local resident who had reported a fraudulent charge on their company credit card on Nov. 21.

- Responded to minor car accidents on Court Street and at the intersection of North Pleasant and Elm streets on Nov. 21.

- Checked on the welfare of an elderly South Village Green resident on Nov. 21.

- Spoke with a local woman who had been receiving unwanted text messages on Nov. 22.

- Responded to a two-car crash on South Pleasant Street on Nov. 22.

- Spoke with a local person on Nov. 22 who had allegedly been victimized in an online blackmail scam.

- Looked into a report of an elderly woman screaming in her South Village Green apartment on Nov. 22.

- Assisted with a juvenile problem in the North Pleasant Street area on Nov. 23.

- Responded to a report of a drunken driver on Route 7 South on Nov. 23. Police reported no arrests in this case.

- Responded, with Middlebury firefighters, to the scene of a shed fire off Case Street on Nov. 24. Police said Salisbury firefighters also responded to the scene.

- Assisted Middlebury College Public Safety with a person being acting suspiciously on one of the college's South Street properties on Nov. 24.

- Received information about possible drug activity in the Creek Road area on Nov. 24.

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police are looking for help from the public in finding out who attempted to break into three local businesses last week.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, troopers learned that late the previous night a thief had broken the front door of the Wag On Inn kennel on Route 7 in Waltham and took a cash register.

Then early on Thursday, Nov. 21, state police began investigation into the burglary of the Jolley convenience store on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh early that morning. So far, police know that at least three individuals arrived at 4:15 a.m. in a grey sedan and white minivan before breaking the glass at the front entrance. They unsuccessfully attempted to steal an ATM, and ultimately left with at least 50 cartons of cigarettes valued at \$5,000, police report.

The same morning troopers looked into an attempted burglary at the Lincoln General Store. Even though someone was in the store that morning, at least three people — also driving a white minivan and expected to be the same suspects — broke the glass at the front entrance and quickly left after realizing the store was occupied.

Anyone with information on any of these crimes is asked to contact the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919, or leave an anonymous tip online at vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipsubmit.

In other recent activity, locally stationed state police dealt with three separate automobile crashes.

The first crash took place shortly before 11 p.m. on Nov. 19 on Route 125 near Old Town Road in Ripton. Police report that Skylar Many, 35, of Middlebury was driving a 2006 Subaru Forrester when it left the road and struck a tree, damaging the car's front end, hood and windshield.

While speaking with Many, troopers detected indicators of

impairment, screened him and cited him for refusing evidentiary testing for drunken driving.

Middlebury police assisted on this case.

The second was also a one-car crash attributed to impaired driving. Police said that shortly before 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 22,

Jordan Dario Sierra, 20, of Albany, N.Y., was piloting a 2011 Chevy Cruze on Route 22A in Orwell when he lost control, left the roadway and got stuck in the ditch near Mutton Square Road. The road was wet. After deciding that Sierra was probably impaired, state police took him to the New Haven barracks for processing. The cited Sierra for driving under the influence and negligent driving.

The third crash took place the same day at 5:15 p.m. on Route 116 in Bristol.

State police said that a 2003 Kia Sportage and a 2020 Buick ECR crashed near Drake Woods Road on a rainy, foggy and wet evening.

Police said that 73-year-old Steven B. Bliss of Burlington was driving the Kia southbound when he attempted to turn left, however due to weather conditions missed the turn and stopped so he could turn around. At that point, the northbound Buick, driven by 74-year-old Peggy E. Adams of Starksboro, collided with the Kia in the northbound lane.

A passenger in Bliss's car was taken to UVM Medical Center for treatment of a moderate injury.

This crash is under investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed it is asked to contact Trooper Schrauf of the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919.

WINTER WONDERLAND SALE!



2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
XLE AWD, V6, 3rd row seat, 116k miles
\$21,995



2017 HONDA PILOT
Elite AWD, Leather, 3rd row, loaded, 89k miles
\$22,995



WIMETT TRADING COMPANY
USED CARS AND TRUCKS
802 465 4688



2015 FORD F150
Crew Cab, 4x4 Lariat, V6 Turbo, 126k miles
\$22,995



2011 HYUNDAI SONATA
GLS, 4 Cyl, Auto, Loaded, 112k miles
\$7,995



2016 TOYOTA COROLLA
S, Auto, Loaded, FWD, 108k miles
\$13,995

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

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.



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



THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP



SKIDA



goodr



DARN TOUGH VERMONT

MiddleburyShop.com

Formerly FORTH & N GOAL
68 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-3444

Shop Locally
this Holiday Season

Trash costs

(Continued from Page 1A)
costs of disposing trash in the state's last remaining lined landfill, in Coventry.

The ACSWMD is largely fueled by fees and not by property tax assessments, so county residents will help cover the district's 2025 budget hike through increased trash disposal rates that will be passed along by their chosen haulers.

Teresa Kuczynski — who in February will retire after 22 years as district manager — said the budget surge should translate into a 23-cent increase in the amount charged per bag of residential trash left at the ACSWMD transfer station off Route 7 South in Middlebury. But the actual increase could vary based on what individual haulers elect to charge their customers for pickup of their trash and recyclables, district officials noted.

Kuczynski said the district has no plans for a 2025 increase in the per-bag fee for recyclables.

Drafting a 2025 budget was a little trickier than usual for ACSWMD owing to some tight deadlines. The district board tries to get its budgeting done by early November in order to give ample notice to the towns it serves.

The district board prepared an initial spending plan of \$4,943,546, reflecting a 4.77% increase. But soon thereafter, Casella Waste Management — whose previous contract with ACSWMD ended in September — submitted a new three-year proposal that featured a higher per-ton disposal rate for mixed solid waste and construction/demolition debris than district officials had forecasted.

Essentially, the ACSWMD board had anticipated a \$4-per-ton increase in the costs of transporting and disposing of the county's trash in Coventry. But Casella's proposed new contract called for an additional \$4 beyond that district forecast — meaning an \$8 per ton increase.

Kuczynski stressed that Casella's larger-than-anticipated 2025 increase merely reflects the higher disposal rates at Coventry.

"And it's not just our district, it's pretty much throughout the state," she said of the tipping fee jump. "I think it's a pretty good deal. The price increase hurts ... but I think it's understandable in some ways."

It currently costs \$148 per ton to dispose of the district's trash in Coventry. So the \$8 increase will bring the 2025 tipping fee to \$156 per ton. It should be noted that \$35 of the total tipping fee goes to the district to defray its costs of processing the trash that comes into the ACSWMD transfer station.

SPECIAL TRASH

In addition to the increase in the per-bag fee for trash, ACSWMD in 2025 will charge more for certain special categories of waste and recyclables taken to the transfer station.

For example, expect to pay \$12 per large truck tire, up \$1. Maple sap tubing will set you back \$20 per cubic yard, double the current \$10. Large (100-pound) propane tank cylinders will cost \$15 to drop off, up from \$5.

It will also cost you \$78 to purchase a compost bin (up from the current \$68), and \$8 for a 5-gallon pail with lid (up from \$5). Do you simply need a lid for your pail? That will cost \$2.

Not everything is going up, however; the district's current residential fee of \$2 per gallon for used, uncontaminated motor oil will go down to \$1.50 in 2025.

Drew Pettis, ACSWMD business manager, explained the district is simply trying to "match our increases with our costs."

Looking ahead, district officials will need to be nimble adjusting to outside forces — such as the outcome of the 2024 general election — that could affect solid waste disposal and recycling, Kuczynski said.

"With the change in leadership, no one knows what's going to happen to fuel prices. Being a transfer station, we're very dependent on fuel prices," she said. "The good thing is the Casella contract is for three years, not just one. That will help us budget a little better than we normally would."

KUCZYNSKI RETIRING

But for Kuczynski, ACSWMD budgeting will soon become a thing of the past. She decided around a year ago she wouldn't seek renewal of her district manager contract when it expires this coming February. The district board in September voted to promote longtime ACSWMD Program Manager Don Maglienti to succeed her.

The ACSWMD has grown significantly since Kuczynski took over in 2002 — both in facilities and programming. For example, it was under her leadership that the district in 2014 completed a \$1.2 million expansion of its transfer station, a project that included a new "special waste" building, a new tip wall to prepare for future growth in organics collection, and an addition to its administrative building.

The district adopted a 10-year capital budgeting process and added a new drop-off center in New Haven since Kuczynski has been in charge.

Kuczynski and Maglienti have also dutifully responded to a variety of recycling/composting laws that the Legislature has handed down during the past two decades.

"When I first arrived here, we were short on funds and running out of space at the transfer station," Kuczynski said. "We had aging equipment and needed more of it, with (an increase of trash) tonnage coming in."

Maglienti will be able to hit the ground running in his new leadership role. His duties as program manager for the past 21 years have included designing and implementing education, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, pollution prevention and special waste diversion programs to help individuals and businesses effectively reduce and manage waste.



TERESA KUCZYNSKI, RIGHT, has presided over her final budgeting process as manager of the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. In February, she'll turn over the reins to the district's longtime program manager, Don Maglienti.

Independent photo/John Flowers

He's also managed ACSWMD's HazWaste Center, served as onsite safety officer, and ensured district programs' compliance with state and federal laws.

Little did Kuczynski know 22 years ago that her "top accomplishments" list would include something basic she did soon after she'd started her job.

"I'm glad I hired Don," she said. Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

CRAVING AUTHENTIC LATIN FLAVORS?

Get tacos, tamales, and more delivered from Viva el Sabor! Fresh, authentic, and bursting with flavor — straight to your door.

www.vivaelsabor.com
info@vivaelsabor.org

Try an N/A beer!

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury • Vergennes
www.Hare.dog



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

ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A) board members in December will consider whether to use some or almost all of a \$1.5 million surplus from the past fiscal year to offset tax increases.

While board members and school officials acknowledge the uncertainty about goings-on in Montpelier, Soule said the draft budget would avoid a penalty for high per-pupil spending while meeting district students' needs.

"In summary, this draft is below the state spending threshold. It maintains all academic program offerings for our students. It maintains all co-curriculars, athletics and activities for students. It continues to prioritize student services," Soule said. "And it continues to maintain high levels

of staff support for professional learning to help us fulfill our goals in our continuous improvement plan."

After discussion, board Chair John Stroup asked administrators to bring to the board's Dec. 9 meeting tax estimates assuming the use of \$500,000, \$1 million, and almost all of the surplus to offset taxes. Much of the surplus was due to the district's ability to meet the needs of special education students without expensive out-placements.

UNKNOWNNS

Among the uncertainty around tax impact is that the numbers take into consideration the effect of estimated averages of both local CLAs and a statewide CLA. State officials will insert that latter number, an average of all

local CLAs, into a complicated new formula that local officials are understandably not looking forward to trying to explain to voters.

CLAs are used by state officials to measure how close towns' grand lists are to fair market value, with the goal of taxing all towns fairly.

If a town's property valuations are low, its CLA, expressed as a percentage, is used to increase school taxes by that percentage. If a town's assessments are high, CLAs lower school tax rates by that percentage.

But neither local nor state CLA numbers are much better than guesses at this point. Director of Finance and Operations Elizabeth Jennings talked to the board about the statewide CLA that will factor

into creating local tax rates, noting it will hinge on where communities stand in their reappraisal efforts. In ANWSD, for example, only Pantons' CLA will be up to date when tax rates are set, she said.

"(The local school tax rate) could change based on the total average based on what everyone else is coming in at," Jennings said.

Stroup also focused on the CLA issue, hoping for the best in the ANWSD, where real estate prices have been rising, but may not as quickly as in the previous few years.

"The CLAs are a big unknown," he said. "If they keep dropping, that's a big increase in taxes."

Jennings noted the statewide working committee on education, on which she serves along with a few other education professionals as well as legislators, could also make recommendations that might change the school funding landscape.

And, she added, the Agency of Education is shorthanded, so information boards typically rely on while making budget projections will probably arrive later than usual.

Those include a letter from the Secretary of Education with a preliminary estimate on the statewide tax rate that is usually released on Dec. 1, and information on pupil counts (Long Term Average Weighted Daily Membership, or LTWADM, in the latest lingo) usually made available by mid-month. Pupil counts matter because state-dispersed revenues follow students.

"Considering how early it is in the budget cycle, we do not have any information from the Agency of Education, Jennings wrote in her report to the board. "So all information used to formulate this draft is based on our own research and estimating."

Among other unknowns, some of which have placeholders in the draft budget, are the final tuition for students attending the Hannaford Career Center, the threshold for penalizing districts for high per-pupil spending (its currently just over \$16,000, and the ANWSD draft pegs its number at \$15,788), and the statewide tax rate and what revenue it will yield.

FIRST DRAFT BUDGET

Within the draft ANWSD budget, factors pushing spending 1.97% higher include:

- A projected 11.9% increase in the cost of providing health insurance.
- An expected 8% cost in workers' compensation.
- Contracted teachers' raises averaging about 5%. The combined line-item increases for instruction services and student support services top \$600,000. The increase in part reflects the expansion of a preschool program from Ferrisburgh Central School into Vergennes Union Elementary School, Soule said.

- Contracted support staff raises of \$1 per hour.
- \$150,000 to move the central office into the Vergennes Union High School building. This could be funded by the district's capital reserve fund, as recommended by several board members. The board could also opt to continue to pay about \$65,000 annually in rent, thus preserving space at VUHS for future student use, as Stroup noted.
- \$88,000 more in administration costs.
- An estimated 10% increase in Hannaford Career Center tuition.
- Anticipated higher power and heating costs.

The district estimates it will receive about \$218,000 less in revenue due to a lower student count.

There are also decreases in

the draft budget, including about \$46,600 less for operations and maintenance and \$18,500 less for debt service, and three other smaller cuts ranging from about \$10,000 to \$14,000.

Stroup outlined where things stood in his written message to the board before the meeting began:

"This will be our first discussion about the FY26 budget. We need not make choices (at the first discussion), but we should provide some broad goals to the administration as they begin to build a budget and confirm a timeline for our work. What are the top line numbers to target? Or we can say that we generally like where we are and let's see what we learn between now and December meetings."

Board member Michael Kane said a projected spending increase of less than 2% and a tax increase of around 5% "seems pretty good."

Soule was more wary after two budget defeats this past spring, however. She noted many cuts had been made by looking at actual spending compared to budgeted spending in the past budgets and then adjusting downward, and "Consequently there's not a lot of room to cut any deeper."

But, she added, "I think our taxpayers are going to struggle with that increase. We have some more work to do."

That's when discussion turned to using the district's healthy capital funds to pay for a potential central office move, and eventually to Stroup's suggestion to consider applying different levels of the surplus to offset taxes and evaluate the numbers in December.

Stroup said it was also critical to remain under the penalty threshold, thus avoiding a possibly crippling penalty.

"We don't want to lose programs," he said.



Come meet wood sculptor
Charles Herrmann
Saturday, December 7th from 10-4

Chuck will be happy to talk about his art and wood in general, the medium from which he creates his unique work.




802-388-6297

www.woodwarevt.com

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

FINE FURNITURE

into creating local tax rates, noting it will hinge on where communities stand in their reappraisal efforts. In ANWSD, for example, only Pantons' CLA will be up to date when tax rates are set, she said.

"(The local school tax rate) could change based on the total average based on what everyone else is coming in at," Jennings said.

Stroup also focused on the CLA issue, hoping for the best in the ANWSD, where real estate prices have been rising, but may not as quickly as in the previous few years.

"The CLAs are a big unknown," he said. "If they keep dropping, that's a big increase in taxes."

Jennings noted the statewide working committee on education, on which she serves along with a few other education professionals as well as legislators, could also make recommendations that might change the school funding landscape.

And, she added, the Agency of Education is shorthanded, so information boards typically rely on while making budget projections will probably arrive later than usual.

Those include a letter from the Secretary of Education with a preliminary estimate on the statewide tax rate that is usually released on Dec. 1, and information on pupil counts (Long Term Average Weighted Daily Membership, or LTWADM, in the latest lingo) usually made available by mid-month. Pupil counts matter because state-dispersed revenues follow students.

"Considering how early it is in the budget cycle, we do not have any information from the Agency of Education, Jennings wrote in her report to the board. "So all information used to formulate this draft is based on our own research and estimating."

There are also decreases in

Craft fairs

(Continued from Page 1A) Craft Fair this Saturday, the same day that Bristol's Holley Hall will see the Holley Jolly Holiday Market. The Bridport craft fair will be held both Friday and Saturday.

Other craft fairs scheduled locally for the coming weeks include Brandon's Outdoor Winter Village (20 vendors) on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m. in Central Park; an Artisan Market at the National Bank of Middlebury in downtown Middlebury during the Midd Night Stroll on Dec. 5 and 12, 5-8 p.m.; the Gnome for Christmas Bazaar at St. Ambrose Parish Hall in Bristol on Dec. 6 and 7 (Silver Tea on Friday at 2:30 p.m.); and the Order of the Eastern Star Craft Fair at the Masonic Lodge in Vergennes on Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. (stop by for lunch).

They all showcase curated selections of high-end, handmade goods, usually created by talented vendors from Addison County and beyond. Thus, they satisfy local residents' desires to cross items off their holiday shopping lists while keeping the local economy humming and giving local crafters and artisans a market for their wares.



THEY MAY BE a small part of the local economy, but local craft fairs and bazaars — like the one this weekend in New Haven — are a traditional part of the holiday shopping scene in Addison County. Independent photo/John S. McCright

Last week, Wagner predicted she'd have 30 to 50 crafters lined up for the 48th annual Bridport fair at the Masonic Hall on Middle Road in the village. She has them set up on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving so the fair is ready to

go Friday morning. Vendors leave up their displays on Friday and Saturday, and leave it to Wagner and helpers to collect money from sales. Wagner notes this leaves the artisans free to attend other craft fairs.

"It's cheap, it's economical, and people love it," she said.


It's a lot of work. Wagner and her daughter and granddaughter, Sarah and Samantha Davis, set up the tables in the space, help shoppers find things — or direct them to items if they seem to want help — collect money from sales, pay off the crafters when they come to pick up any unsold items on Sunday, and clean up the Masonic Hall room so it's ready for the next event.

She hopes a lot of what is sold ends up under the Christmas tree or in Christmas stockings.

"I think most people are looking for gifts," Wagner said.


The wares on sale in Bridport run the gamut from knit items, lap rugs, quilts, sweaters, pottery, honey, maple syrup and a whole lot more. And, like the other craft fairs, Wagner is picky about who sells there.

"I try to keep it local," she said.



Dear Reader,


Due to a production mishap at the printer of the New England Independent Booksellers Association's annual holiday catalog, you may have found one (apparently) from Phoenix Books in your copy of the *Addison Independent* last week. Please know that the good people at Phoenix Books—which has stores in Essex, Burlington, and Rutland—would never try to elbow-in on our local market. If you find yourself in one of their stores, we at VBS encourage you to support them with a purchase, but we sincerely hope that if you see something you want in the holiday catalog you will buy it from us!



With gratitude to our NEIBA colleagues and to the publishers of the *Addison Independent*,

the booksellers of VBS

Shop the catalog on our new & improved website here



Give the Gift of Books

vermontbookshop.com 802.388.2061



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



THE THANKSGIVING TURKEYS on our tables this holiday originated from native wild turkeys whose populations have been restored across much of North America thanks to scientific wildlife management by state fish and wildlife agencies.

VTF&W photo by John Hall

Car show was a wonderful event

On September 22, the 3rd Annual Snake Mountain Car Show had beautiful weather for the largest show in Addison County, and 300 beautiful vehicles attended our event. Our spectator attendance was twice as much as the previous year, and we thank all the attendees! We were so lucky to be the first event in Vermont for the Batmobile, and we thank James Cawley for bringing the Batmobile and also for the donation of the ticket for the William Shatner Event. Thank you to those who donated to the show expense and the raffles, and in our promotion of the event.

John Flowers - Addison Independent - great pictures.
 Yunier Martinez - WPTZ - wonderful coverage on air.
 Rockin' the Redline - DJ best music ever
 James Cawley - Star Trek Museum, Ticonderoga
 Addison County Fair and Field Days for all your help...
 In Addition: McGee Chevrolet, Ravenworks Tattoo, G. Stone Motors, Stone Motors LLC, Sargent Concrete and Construction, Accurate Appraisals, Brian and Jenn Morin, County Tire, Dave's Foster Care Auto, Desabrais Glass, Junction Subaru, LaBerge Insurance, New Reflections Salon, Road Ready, RPM, Speedi Lube and Car Wash, Tim Whitford, Tim's Garage, R&L Rubbish, Med47 Foundation, 7 South Deli, Advanced Auto,

Agway, BJ's Farm Supply, Bobcat Cafe, Cubbers, Dakin Farms, Jane and Patrick Cyn, Kim and Darwin Cousino, Maple Landmark, Middlebury Inn, Olsen's Ice Cream, Packard of VT, Robin and Tom Herbick, Rodney Cyr, Cooperative Insurance, Garry and Cindy Cousino and all the crafters that donated to the raffle table.

Notes of appreciation

The Snake Mountain Cruisers are able to donate over \$5,000 to the Med 47 Foundation and \$500 to the New Haven Food Closet, in addition to the food gathered the day of the show.

The show next year will be held on 9/21/25. Thank you to all.

Robin Herbic
 Snake Mountain Cruisers president and car show organizer.

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

Wild turkey populations have soared in recent years

One of our native wildlife species historically played an important role on Thanksgiving Day. North America's native wild turkeys were the ancestors of the Thanksgiving turkey on our dinner table nowadays.

Originally found only in the wild, turkeys now exist as meat-producing domesticated varieties — the broad breasted white, broad breasted bronze, white Holland, bourbon red, and a host of other breeds — all of them descended from our native wild turkey.

More than 140,000 servings of Vermont wild turkeys are harvested each year — that's 140,000 servings of free-ranging, wild and sustainably harvested protein.

Wild turkeys exist throughout Vermont today, but that was not always the case. Wild turkeys disappeared from Vermont in the mid-to-late 1800s due to habitat destruction, when land was cleared for farming and only 25% of the state was covered by forest.

The wild turkeys we see in Vermont today originated from just 31 wild turkeys stocked in Southwestern Vermont by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department in 1969 and 1970. By the time, Vermont's forest habitat was once again capable of supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont's population of turkeys is estimated at close to 50,000.

This is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2024. Funding for Vermont's wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.

supporting turkeys. State wildlife biologists moved groups of these birds northward, and today Vermont's population of turkeys is estimated at close to 50,000.

This is just one of many wildlife restoration success stories we can be thankful for in 2024. Funding for Vermont's wild turkey restoration was derived from the sale of hunting licenses and a federal tax on hunting equipment.



Festive Holiday Sweater Coloring & Decorating Contest

Let's spread some holiday cheer together! Help us decorate the Addy Indy office by designing your own festive holiday sweaters. **Here's how:**

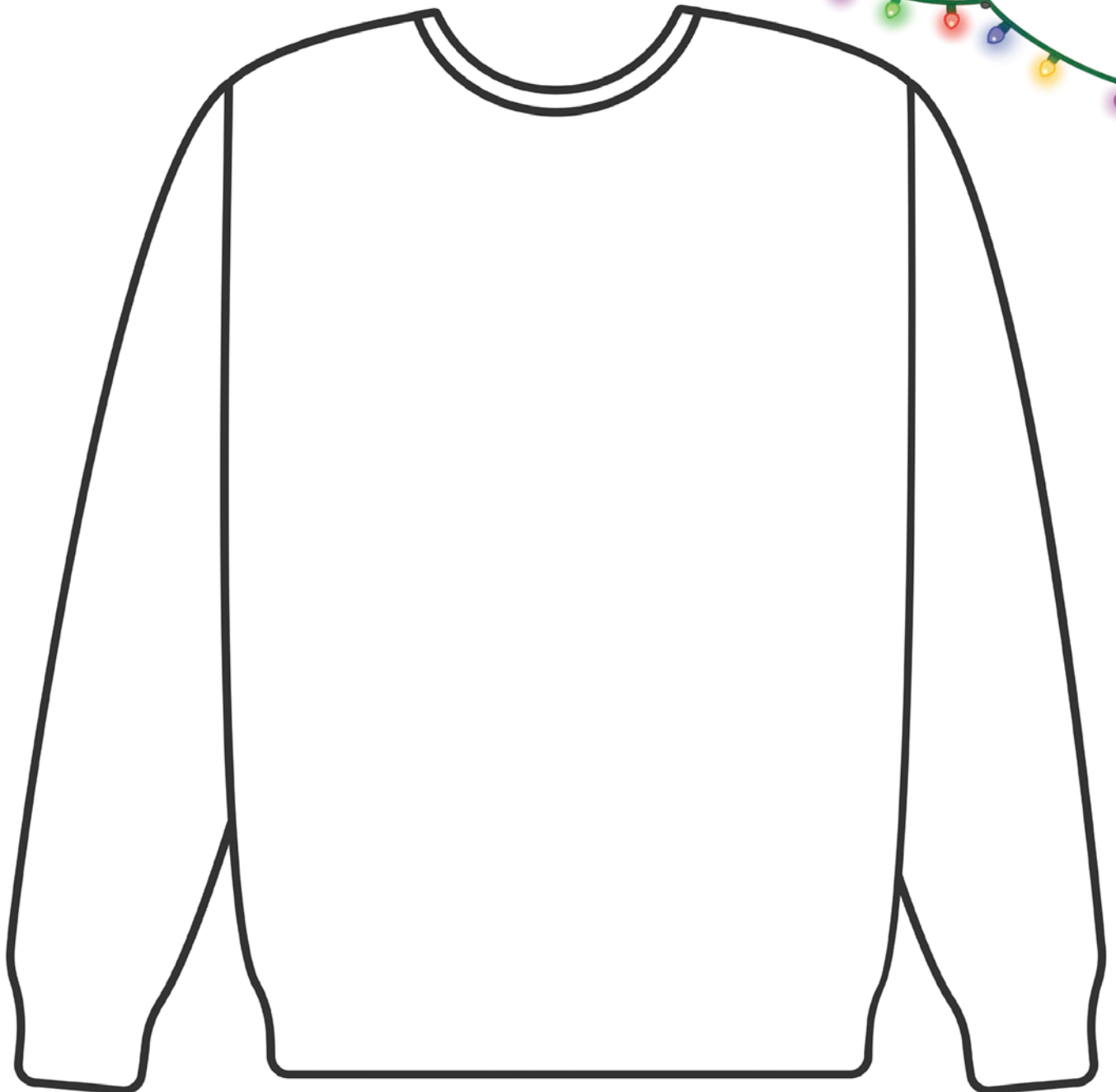
GET STARTED: Cut out the sweater template printed here or download a printable version to cut out at addisonindependent.com/contests.

MAKE SOME MAGIC: Decorate your sweater with all the holiday flair you can imagine! Glitter, markers, stickers, jingle bells,

SUBMIT YOUR MASTERPIECE: Drop off or mail your decorated sweater to 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 by **Friday, January 3rd.**

WIN BIG: Our judges will select three winners to receive an amazing prize from our contest sponsors. Winners will be announced in the January 8th edition of the Addison Independent.

SHOWCASE YOUR WORK: We'll post all entries on our social media pages for everyone to admire!



Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

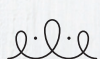
Email: _____

Age Group: under 5 5-6 7-8 9-11 12-15 16-Adult

Let's make this the jolliest contest of the season!



Shop Locally this Holiday Season



Spotlight on Vergennes

Holiday cookie sale to be held Dec. 14

VERGENNES — The 30th annual Christmas Cookie Sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (or until sold out) at the Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church on Church Street

in the southeast corner of Vergennes. Sale organizers promise a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale. Choose and package your favorites.

Enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop. Their tagline is, “We do the baking for you so you won’t have to.”

For more information, call Julia at 802-759-3311.



Deciding When the Time Is Right for Senior Living

We’ve invited amazing local experts to help you or your loved ones navigate the challenges of planning for the future. **Join us on 12/10 at 1 PM at St. Peter's Parish Hall** to gain insights, ask questions, and connect with experts ready to guide you in making confident decisions.

Meet Our Panel of Experts

Eileen Lawson	Alex Traxler	Mary Scarborough	Elizabeth Ratta
Social Worker and Certified Dementia Care Coach, Elderly Services, Middlebury	Care and Service Coordination Supervisor, Age Well	RN, BSN, LTCCC Dept. of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL)	MPH, MSW, LICSW, CCM Care Manager, Vergennes Primary Care

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, AT 1 PM

St. Peter's Parish Hall
85 S Maple St, Vergennes, VT



Scan to RSVP or Learn More

(802) 877-3562 | VERGENNESGRAND.COM
34 NORTH STREET, VERGENNES, VT

Hey Vergennes

Do you want to advertise on the Vergennes Page?
Contact the Addy Indy at 802-388-4944

Set it.
Forget it.
Love it.

Stay comfy with a centrally ducted heat pump.

vgsvt.com/heatpumps



Reference gifts

VERGENNES LIONS GARY Russell and Harry Curth delivered brand new dictionaries to third graders in ANWSD (Vergennes Elementary, above) and the Champlain Valley Christian School (below). This decades old tradition puts the power of words in the hands of young children. Photos courtesy of Cookie Steponaitis



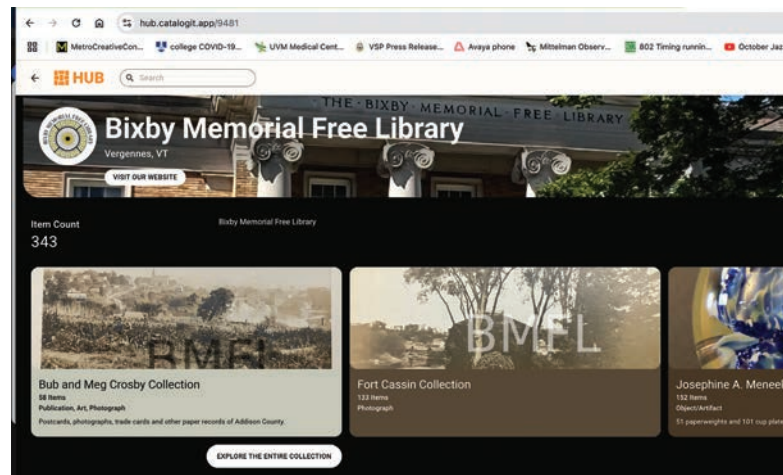
Grants enliven Bixby archives

VERGENNES — Bixby Memorial Free Library has announced that it has been awarded two Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership (CVNHP) grants in 2024 totaling \$16,934.

The grants build on past CVNHP support to care for and bring to life the library’s notable museum and archival collections by celebrating the significance of the Bixby’s five-town footprint in the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere. One grant will help the library make those collections more accessible online and in person, and the other will help pay for an intern to connect the collections with educators and youth in the greater community the Bixby serves.

“The Bixby Library is proud of the historical collections entrusted to us over the past century, a tradition many Vermont libraries share,” explains Catharine Findiesen Hays, the library’s director. “These generous and impactful CVNHP grants recognize this role and augment the resources we receive from residents of our five towns to do more with these collections and make them accessible and relevant to our lives today.”

Hays added, “These grants will help community members explore how our five-town community (Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton and Waltham as well as Vergennes) is connected to the larger Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere. We’ll bring our shared ecosystem to life



HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATE Kelly Bartlett was hired by the Bixby Memorial Library to create browsable finding aids on the Vergennes library’s website.

to remind and reconnect us, as we care for and more fully appreciate them. We are especially excited to foster and strengthen partnerships with experts, educators, students and community organizations this year.”

Hayes also noted the Bixby was selected by the CVNHP as one of a very few grant recipients in New York and Vermont for a United Nations UNESCO visitor site visit on Nov. 1. **‘BIOSPHERE LENS’**

To curate the locally provenanced archives and artifact collections, the Bixby recruited an accomplished Historical Collections Associate, Kelly Bartlett, to create browsable finding aids and a captivating history exhibit titled “Biosphere in Your Backyard.”

The function of these finding aids is to expound upon the contents and significance of each collection, while the exhibit ties together common themes under the umbrella of the Champlain Adirondack Biosphere Network.

The support of CVNHP enables the library to fulfill its belonging, sustainability, and literacy

strategic goals by making more information available online for researchers, educators, students, historians and those who just love learning more about the richness of our local history. These updated findings aids are online and can be reviewed in the Historical Collections section of the Bixby website (bixbylibrary.org).

“These grants will help community members explore how our five-town community is connected to the larger Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere. We’ll bring our shared ecosystem to life to remind and reconnect us.”

— Bixby Director Catharine Findiesen Hays

One of the grants, inspired by CVNHP’s 2024 theme, celebrating the Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere, enables the Bixby to continue engaging Bartlett, the Historical Collections Associate. Bartlett will partner with area educators to connect the youth of our five-town community with young people in the libraries and schools across the lake, in the communities that we view from our shores. Through a series of field trips, hosted programs, and educational kits using the Bixby’s object, artifact and archive collections, this project will enlighten and empower students and their educators as stewards of the Biosphere.

The Bixby community is deeply grateful to CVNHP for its generosity in funding these important projects. They invite community members to join in this undertaking by volunteering, providing insights into local history and waterways, and offering suggestions for making these programs as meaningful as possible for as many as possible. To share your input, contact the Bixby Library at info@bixbylibrary.org.



VERGENNES Service Directory

PLUMBING & HEATING

J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Plumbing & Heating
Serving the Champlain Valley Since 1887
877-3118
Timothy C. Ryan P.E. Main St., Vergennes



To advertise in the **Vergennes Service Directory** call the Addy Indy 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com

ADDISON COUNTY **INDEPENDENT**

SIDING

CLOVER STATE Window & Siding Co., Inc.
Replacement Windows • Vinyl siding • Garages • Roofs • Additions
Phone: 802-877-2102 • Toll Free: 888-433-0962

BTW

(Continued from Page 1A)
talking with student experts.
Costumes are welcome.

Please join the Commission on the Future of Public Education as it convenes in Middlebury on Monday, Dec. 2, from 5-7 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School Library at 73 Charles Ave. The committee's legislative charge: "Study Vermont's public education system and make recommendations to ensure all students are afforded quality educational opportunities in an efficient, sustainable and equitable education system that will enable students to achieve the highest academic outcome." The Dec. 2 gathering will allow Addison Central School District residents to meet with commission members and convey their thoughts on the strengths and challenges of the current education system, and how it should be financed. Read more about the commission at tinyurl.com/bdfacn3. If you can't attend in person, do so virtually via Microsoft Teams. Go to tinyurl.com/uh7vtrum, or call in to 1-802-828-7667, Conference ID: 758 636 780#.

Simon Says at 12 Main St. in Bristol is collecting toys again for the Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE) Holiday Shop. Simon Says will be collecting toys until Dec. 23. When the store's toy box gets full, store officials will take them to HOPE headquarters in Middlebury. Also in Bristol, the Bobcat Café and Brewery will support the Holiday Shop effort by donating 20% of its Dec. 4 food sales (including takeout) to the cause. The HOPE shop opens on Dec. 3.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have risen 0.5 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.10, according to GasBuddy. Prices are 6.6 cents lower than a month ago and 34.6 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest

Mary Hogan

(Continued from Page 1A)
 impacts us in a number of ways," Kravitz said through a recent email exchange. "This year, we don't currently have any paraeducators connected to classrooms all day, beyond kindergarten. In the past, they were the constant for students between the classroom, lunchroom and recess. They supported students during less structured times of lunch and recess in a substantive way because they knew them so well."

Mary Hogan is also down one special education position and several unfilled Speech Language Pathologist posts at the Addison Central School District level.

Kravitz praised other staff members for filling in, but it's not an ideal situation.

"Currently, we have people supporting lunch and recess, though with less consistency of the same person there each day. And the people on duty may or may not know the students as well," she explained. "Paraeducators also provided proactive breaks for students who need more movement for regulation. They helped support students during small group rotations, such as students playing math games, reviewing literacy instruction, and more. There are many more ways that the shortage impacts us, but these are some examples."

Attracting paras — and support staff in general — has been a serious challenge for schools statewide since the COVID pandemic. The *Independent* first described the scope of the problem in 2022, and the situation hasn't improved much since then.

Knowing the school can't depend on filling all its para-

station was \$2.79; the most expensive \$3.29. The national average price of gasoline fell 1.4 cents to \$3. The national average is down 11.2 cents from a month ago and 23.7 cents from a year ago.

vacancies through the Addison Central School District's help-wanted webpage, Mary Hogan officials will try what ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker called a "budget-neutral approach" that calls for converting two of the paraeducator vacancies into:

- A "multi-team teacher." This will be a licensed educator who, among other things, will help grades 1-2 by co-teaching lessons, thereby reducing the total number of students in a lesson.

"This position would be of support to a grade or two at a time and ... help stabilize and support students and classes," Kravitz said.

- A Community Assistant. This position will help with lunch and recess duty coverage during the middle of the day — 11 a.m.-1.30 p.m., or 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — and could be less than 5 days a week.

"The position would allow a person to work part-time to support students at lunch and recess, which would alleviate this pinch-point for

coverage in the day," Kravitz said.

Both positions are currently posted on the ACSD's help-wanted webpage, as are several one-on-one paraeducator posts.

Baker hopes to see a good response to the new and older job listings. The district has tried to make its jobs more financially attractive, through a new support-staff contract. There's also a \$300 referral bonus offered to current ACSD employees who successfully refer candidates to

address ongoing vacancies in paraeducator positions, she noted.

District officials will closely monitor the success of the new multi-team teacher and community assistant.

"If successful, we may consider expanding this model district-wide as part of our efforts to improve staffing and better serve students," Baker said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

BORN FOR WINTER



PURE SAFETY
PURE WINTER GRIP
PURE DRIVING COMFORT
PURE CONFIDENCE

NOKIAN TYRES





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

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](http://VISIT.NOKIANTIRES.COM/WINTERLEGEND)

HOPPY HOLIDAYS!



Hop on in! **Your one hop shop!**

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

• www.addisonindependent.com •



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 *Desabra's Glass*

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE IS DECEMBER 13.

NAME	NAME
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



FLEXSTEEL®

BLACK FRIDAY

SALE

SAVE ON ALL FLEXSTEEL® PRODUCTS



www.woodwarevt.com

802-388-6297

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

- **FREE** Delivery
- **FREE** Set-up
- **FREE** Removal

Universal pre-K

(Continued from Page 1A)
Northwest and Mount Abraham school districts.
"I've learned a lot, and I'm excited to share," Bessette said during her presentation to ACSD officials.
Act 166 mandates funding for

10 hours of universal pre-K for all 3- to 5-year-olds in Vermont in a prequalified program for 35 weeks during the school year — regardless of parental income or circumstance.
If a parent chooses to enroll their prekindergarten child in a

prequalified program operated by their home school district, the cost of the program is paid from the voter-approved district budget.

If a parent chooses to enroll their child in a prequalified public or private program other than one operated by their home school district, the law sets a specific amount their district will pay for the first 10 hours (per week) of prekindergarten education. This tuition, which will amount to \$3,884 per child for the 2024-25 academic year, is paid from the voter-approved district budget.

Here in Addison County, 393 children are receiving UPK services. Ninety-three of those children reside in the ANWSD, while 142 live in the MAUSD and 158 in the ACSD.

According to Bessette, around 37% of the ACSD's UPK children attend programming at public schools, and thus bear no out-of-pocket expense (other than their yearly education property taxes); 48% of them attend private programs, and the remaining 4% attend Head Start, a federally funded early education program.

Mary Johnson Children's Center has the most UPK enrollees this year, with 30. Other state-approved UPK centers serving ACSD kids include Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary School, Bridport Central School, Addison County Parent-Child Center, the Bridge School, Evergreen, Otter Creek Child Center, Quarry Hill School and Wren's Nest.

Salisbury and Ripton elementary schools at one point had PreK programs, but they were shuttered in 2020.

It's clear that Middlebury-area parents are seeking out PreK services for their children. All but two of the ACSD's current 91 kindergartners attended a PreK program last year.

Around 22% of the ACSD's UPK children are attending programs outside their district, according to Bessette.

Current enrollees are mostly 3- and 4-year-olds, with a few 5-year-olds. Bessette explained that some of the older participants are on Individualized Education Program



ASHLEY BESSETTE

plans, extended to students needing extra help.

ACSD delivers PreK-12 public education to children in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge. Bessette said 55 Middlebury children are currently attending private UPK options.

While Bessette is generally pleased by local participation in UPK, she noted some challenges on the horizon. They include finding and maintaining high-quality teaching staff in a shallow labor pool, finding substitute teachers, delivering special education services to children attending UPK outside of district lines, transportation (especially for the unhoused and migrant population), supporting children with "challenging behaviors," prioritizing staff breaks and sufficient planning time, and extending educators "high quality and affordable professional development — including coaching and mentoring."

SHRINKING ENROLLMENT
Bessette added UPK programming is facing some of the

same enrollment challenges that public schools are experiencing. There were around 180 Addison Central children attending UPK programs during the 2016-17 academic year, compared to the 158 this year.

"Populations have been shrinking over time," she said, adding UPK numbers "didn't bounce back from COVID."

Bessette was asked how many eligible ACSD households aren't taking advantage of UPK, and why that might be.

"For some of those families, it's a choice they make — they just don't want to do PreK," Bessette said, noting out-of-pocket costs can pose an obstacle for some families who are partial to private PreK programs.

But she acknowledged there are considerable subsidies available to parents struggling with UPK expenses.

Bessette and ACSD board member Ellen Whelan-Wuest pointed to last year's Act 76, which created a 0.44% payroll tax that greatly expanded scholarship availability and upped worker

Local children enrolled in Universal PreKindergarten programs	
Addison Northwest	93
Mount Abe Unified	142
Addison Central	158
Total	393

wages at Vermont childcare centers.

Starting last month, families earning up to 575% of Federal Poverty Line — up to \$179,400 — were eligible for childcare tuition assistance under Act 76.

"It's reshaping early education," Whelan-Wuest said.

Bessette said she and other childcare officials typically help families search for the resources they need to make UPK possible for their children.

"I feel the program directors are very well-versed in the supports that are out there; when something comes up, they're on it," she said. "There's definitely money out there for families who don't get into a free program, to help offset costs."

GOOD CHILDCARE NEWS
Challenges aside, Bessette noted some good childcare news on the horizon.

A major expansion is underway at the Otter Creek Child Center (OCCC) at 150 Weybridge St. in Middlebury, a project designed to create 77 new childcare slots (for a total of 139) and 28 related new jobs in our area by next spring/summer. The expansion will allow OCCC to create 16 additional PreK spots for 2025-26, and as many as 48 in the not-too-distant future, according to Bessette.

She also pointed to the recent opening of the Salisbury Family Center at 25 Schoolhouse Road, offering 16 much-needed childcare slots for kids six weeks to 5 years old. The center's capacity could swell to 30 within before year's end.

In addition, organizers are working to open a PreK program in the town of Addison's former elementary school building in the ANWSD.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Trees & Wreaths

Emerald Acres Christmas Tree Farm
Choose & Cut Trees!
Balsam, Canaan & Frasier Fir
Look for our signs on Route 22A & 74W
Open Friday-Sunday 9-4, or by appointment.
Call: 802-558-7122
142 Hemenway Hill Road, Orwell

SINCLAIR FAMILY TREE FARM
Ripton, Vermont
PRE-CUT OR YOU CHOOSE & CUT
6 - 8ft. Trees \$28-\$62
Open Fri., Sat. and Sun. 9-4 from Nov. 29 until sold out.
Details at sinclairfamilytreefarm.com
367 Selden Mill Road, Ripton 802-388-5499

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

AGWAY Black Friday & Small Business Saturday Deals

NOVEMBER 29 - NOVEMBER 30

BIRDSEED BLOWOUT

Finch Delight **\$25.99** (reg. price \$35.99) 16 lb.
Birdsnack **\$4.99** (reg. price \$8.99) 5 lb.
While supplies last

20% OFF All Plants
Excludes Xmas trees, wreaths & greens.
Black Friday & Small Business Saturday ONLY 11/29-11/30

30% OFF Xmas Lights & Decor

30% OFF All Pet Collars, Leashes, Harnesses, Pet Beds and Pet Treats
Black Friday & Small Business Saturday ONLY 11/29-11/30

KRINGLE DAYLIGHT CANDLES
BUY 1 GET 2ND **50% OFF**
Discounted item must be equal or lesser value
Black Friday & Small Business Saturday ONLY 11/29-11/30

\$2 off ANY SIZED WREATH
Black Friday & Small Business Saturday ONLY 11/29-11/30

Rounders Holiday Treats \$6.99 each
Black Friday & Small Business Saturday ONLY 11/29-11/30

Santa's coming Sunday December 8th from 12-2pm
Bring your own phone or camera and take your picture with Santa.
Children and Pets are both welcome!

Save \$7 on any \$50 or more clothing purchase

Save \$15 on any \$100 or more clothing purchase

Sale on in-stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Sale ends 12/8/24

COUPON \$20 off \$100 OR MORE COMBINED PET FOOD & ACCESSORIES PURCHASE
Excludes bagged livestock feed.
\$100 purchase level determined after all other applicable discounts.
One coupon per customer.
MIDDLEBURY AGWAY COUPON
Valid through 12/8/24

Save \$25 on any \$150 or more clothing purchase

Save \$50 on any \$250 or more clothing purchase

COUPON \$5 off any one of our FRESH CUT STANDARD OR LARGER CHRISTMAS TREES!
While supplies last. Can't be combined with any other offer or coupon.
One coupon per customer
MIDDLEBURY AGWAY COUPON
Valid through 12/8/24

MasterCard, VISA, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY FARM & GARDEN
338 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT • 802-388-4937
M-F 8-6, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-4

AGWAY

OPEN 7 Days

YOUR YARD, GARDEN and PET PLACE™

Closed Thanksgiving Day

SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs



MEMBERS OF THE Panther field hockey team celebrate after winning the NCAA Division III title on Sunday. Photo by Keith Lucas-Sideline Media

Panther field hockey claims 7th straight NCAA title

By ANDY KIRKALDY
 LEXINGTON, Va. — The Middlebury College field hockey team on Sunday in Lexington, Va., claimed its seventh straight NCAA Division III title with a 2-1 victory over NESCAC rival Tufts, a team that defeated the Panthers on its home field during the regular season.

Middlebury got goals in the third period from Caroline Segal and in the fourth period from Georgianne DeFeo before surrendering a late goal. The Panthers improved to 19-2, and Tufts finished at 19-3. Tufts defeated fellow conference foe Williams, 1-0 in overtime, in one NCAA semifinal two days earlier, when also the Panthers defeated Salisbury, 2-1. To put the Panthers seven-season NCAA title streak in perspective, Salisbury owns the second-longest NCAA D-III title streak at three. Middlebury Coach Katharine

DeLorenzo said in the postgame press conference No. 7 didn't come easily on Sunday. "This was the best opponent we faced all year, and we ramped it up to the best performance our team was able to put together," DeLorenzo said. DeLorenzo added, while declining to provide details, that she and her staff had designed a specific game plan to attack Tufts. Last week, after the Panthers

rolled through the regional tournament, she had praised her team's intelligence and ability to adapt to new concepts. "Tufts is a brilliant, brilliant defensive team, and we had to prepare ourselves to take more risks than we've taken all year, to set up a little differently," DeLorenzo said. "We really had to trust the concept was something important for today and carry (See Field hockey, Page 3B)

Volleyball makes run

HUNTINGDON, Penn. — The Middlebury College volleyball team won two NCAA Division III matches in a regional hosted by Juniata College in Pennsylvania late last week before falling to their top-ranked hosts in the third round, 3-0. Middlebury finished its season at 18-11. That record included a NESCAC playoff championship, the program's eighth appearance in the NCAA tournament — the third in the past four seasons — and their first appearance in a regional final since 2011. Juniata, the two-time defending NCAA champion, improved to 32-0 by defeating Middlebury.

In the Panthers' opening match on Nov. 21, they knocked off Salisbury, 3-1 (25-14, 15-25, 25-17, 25-14). Salisbury wrapped up its season at 24-4.

Middlebury took control in the first set with a 5-0 run, highlighted by two Caroline Byrne aces, to take a 9-5 lead. Middlebury stretched that advantage to 19-10 on a Lillian Caldwell kill and soon afterward netted the winning point on a Devin McCormack kill.

Salisbury scored the first five points of the second set, and the Gulls added a 5-1 run after the Panthers pulled to within 12-9. Salisbury cruised from there to its only set victory.

In the third set, the teams were tied at 17-17 before the Panthers closed out with an 8-0 run. That surge began with three straight kills from Molly Harrison, and Ava Tuccio capped the set with a kill.

The teams were tied at 4-4 in the decisive fourth set when the Panthers went a 7-2 run highlighted by a pair of kills from Caldwell and two service aces by Gabby Pribisch.

Salisbury pulled to within 13-10, but the Panthers answered with a 9-2 run, sparked by three Harrison kills. Before long, a McCormack kill on

match point gave Middlebury the victory.

In the win, Harrison posted a match-best 17 kills and 14 digs.

Gabbie O'Toole handed out 34 assists, in the process surpassing 20 or more assists in a match for the 100th time in her career. Her one service ace put her into third place in the Panther career record books with 147.

On Friday, Nov. 22, Middlebury followed that first-round success with a 3-1 victory over Gettysburg, 25-20, 25-23, 21-25, 25-23. Gettysburg went home with a 24-6 final record.

The first set was deadlocked at 17-17 before kills by McCormack and Harrison sparked a 5-0 run that made it 22-17. The teams traded points before a Caldwell kill sealed the 25-20 victory.

The Bullets took an 11-7 lead in the seasaw second set, but the Panthers clawed back and eventually took a 16-14 edge on a kill from Caldwell. Gettysburg posted four of the next six points before a block from Ava Tuccio moved Middlebury ahead by 19-18. Caldwell struck again with the Panthers up, 24-23, giving them the clinching set point with a kill down the line.

In the clinching fourth set, Middlebury jumped out to a 9-4 lead after a Caroline Byrne service run. Gettysburg cut the lead to 13-10, but Harrison's three kills in a 9-0 run helped Middlebury take charge, and the Panthers closed out the match win with kills from Caldwell, Harrison and Pribisch to move onto the Round of 16 vs. Juniata.

Harrison recorded her 21st double-double of the season with 23 kills and 15 digs. O'Toole handed out 48 assists.

No. 1 Juniata took a quick 6-1 lead in Saturday's opening set, but the Panthers twice cut the lead to two at 11-9 and 14-12. The host (See Volleyball, Page 3B)

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer
NCAA Sectional at Midd
 11/23 Midd vs Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 1-0
 11/22 Babson vs Trinity (Tx).....2-0
 11/24 Midd vs Babson 0-0 (Midd Advances on Penalty Kicks, 4-3)
Field Hockey
NCAA Final Four In VA
 11/22 Midd vs Salisbury2-1
 11/22 Tufts vs Williams.....1-0 (OT)
 11/24 Midd vs Tufts2-1

Volleyball
NCAA Regional In Huntingdon, Pa.
 11/21 Midd vs Salisbury3-1
 11/22 Midd vs Gettysburg3-1
 11/23 Juniata vs Midd3-0

Men's Basketball
 11/20 Midd vs Clark.....75-68
 11/23 Midd vs Stevens.....76-65
 11/25 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....90-60

Women's Basketball
 11/20 Midd vs Skidmore.....56-43
 11/23 Midd vs Union.....72-47
 11/26 Castleton at Midd.....Late

Women's Hockey
 11/22 Midd vs Wesleyan.....2-1 OT
 11/23 Midd vs Wesleyan.....7-0
 11/26 Castleton at Midd.....Late

Men's Hockey
 11/22 Tufts vs Midd.....7-3
 11/23 Conn vs Midd.....2-1

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' basketball
 12/13 Proctor at OV 7 PM
 12/14 Fairfax at VUHS 2:30 PM

Boys' basketball
 12/13 OV at MSJ..... 7 PM
 12/13 MUHS at St. Albans 7:30 PM
 12/13 Danville at VUHS 7 PM

Boys' Hockey
 12/7 MUHS at Hartford..... 2 PM
 12/11 MUHS at Mt Mansfield 7:30 PM

Girls' Hockey
 12/14 Hartford at MUHS 5 PM

Wrestling
 12/14 VUHS at ConVal Tournament
 12/14 Mt Abe/OV at NAC Tournament

Indoor Track
 12/14 VUHS/Mt Abe at UVM

(See Schedule, Page 3B)

Men's soccer wins nailbiters, heading to Las Vegas for NCAA Final Four

By ANDY KIRKALDY
 MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's soccer team is heading to Las Vegas on Dec. 5 to 7, but not to catch Shania Twain's residency. No, Las Vegas is the home of the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Final Four, and this past weekend the Panthers hosted and won an NCAA Sectional, and now they're one of the four teams left in the 64-school tournament. Advancing wasn't easy. Middlebury defeated Babson (17-1-7) on penalty kicks in Sunday's sectional final, 4-3, after the teams battled to a 0-0 deadlock. In Saturday's semifinal, the Panthers got past Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, 1-0, on a goal by freshman Keagan Harder, set up by senior Kyle Nilsson.

It will be Middlebury's first trip to the final four since 2007, when Panther Coach Alex Elias was the midfield engine of a team that won the program's only NCAA title. Elias said after Sunday's tense penalty-kick win that he was just happy to see his team advance. "These guys love their road trips, so I assume they're going to enjoy this one quite a bit," he said. In one semifinal Middlebury (17-1-4) will take on league foe Amherst (14-2-4) at 5:30 p.m. EST on Dec. 5. NESCAC's Conn College (13-2-7) will meet Washington & Lee (15-3-6) at 9 p.m. that day. The final will be played at 3 p.m. on Dec. 7. After Sunday's penalty kicks, the Panthers said they were confident moving forward because of the faith they have in each other.

"I think this is the group that is going to get it done," said junior goalie Joey Waterman, who capped a strong weekend with a penalty kick save. "We have an entire team that believes the same thing." Sophomore forward Will Sawin, who drilled home the clinching penalty kick, agreed. "We've shown we can grit out wins. We've got guys who will run through a brick wall for each other," Sawin said. "We're going to have some more battles, but I think we can get it done." Elias agreed about the chemistry, and added another element or two. "These guys have worked hard. They're fit. They're resilient. We've won in all kinds of different ways. They love playing together," the coach said. "It's a special group, as most people can see. And

we have a lot of quality. We have a lot of different guys who can win us games." **SECTIONAL FINAL** Sunday's game between the Panthers and Beavers was an even match. Babson had a 16-15 edge in shots at goal. Each team put five shots on target. Middlebury had a 6-5 advantage in corner kicks. Middlebury earned two corners and a free kick during the opening minutes, but didn't create chances. The Panthers' best chance of the first half came on a long Ari Klayman throw-in in 14th minute that Sawin flicked on goal. But Babson goalie Walker White was there to take the ball off his chest. The Beavers' best chance of the half came in the 25th minute. Samuel Kalishman sprinted from midfield, eluded a Panther defender

and fired at the lower left corner, but Waterman dove to deny the bid. In the seventh minute of the second half, Waterman came up big again. Center back Luke Madden blocked a Tyler Fidrych shot, but the ball popped to Babson's James Donaldson just inside the top of the box. Donaldson ripped a volley toward the left side of the goal, but Waterman dove to snare the ball. Middlebury had three chances in a scramble in the 62nd minute. Colin Dugan sent a cross from the right corner that Shane Farrell flicked on net. White took the ball off his chest, but could not control it. The Panthers followed up with back-to-back bids from Dugan and Sawin, but defenders blocked both shots. The Panthers threatened again with roughly 20 minutes to go in regulation. Madden sent a long ball up the right sideline, but White just beat Hugo Horwitz to the ball. Horwitz nearly scored in the 77th minute, but his bid on a loose ball, pressured by Babson defender Marco Cerezo, slid inches wide of the left post. With less than a minute remaining, Sawin won a 50-50 ball at the top of the 18, and touched the ball to the left past the charging White. But the Panther sophomore, heading hard to his left, couldn't pull his shot back inside the left post, and it drifted a couple feet wide of the empty net. Babson had the best attempt during the first overtime. In the 98th minute, Madden blocked Lyndon Way's free kick from 35 yards out, and Donaldson fired the rebound just wide left. The Beavers also had the best chance during the second overtime on another free kick. Kento Abe sent the ball into the box, and Way headed it from the left post toward the far corner, but Waterman got his left hand on the ball on the far corner to punch it away. Babson won the coin toss and chose to shoot first. The strategy to take the lead and put the pressure on the Panthers failed when White sailed his opening bid high. Jay Hoke and Tyler Payne then both converted into the left side for



THE MIDDLEBURY MEN'S soccer team celebrates its victory over visiting Babson on Sunday, a result that means the Panthers will head to the NCAA Division III Final Four in Las Vegas from Dec. 5-7. Independent photo/Steve James

(See Mens' soccer, Page 2B)



PANTHER GOALIE JOEY Waterman made this key save during the penalty-kick shootout that decided Sunday's NCAA sectional final between the Middlebury and Babson men's soccer teams, won by the Panthers, 4-3, after the teams battled to a scoreless tie.

Independent photo/Steve James

Men's soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

Middlebury, sandwiched around Beaver Marco Cerezo bullet down the middle, and the Panthers led.

Waterman next dove left to deny Donaldson, and White went to his right to stop Harder, and the Panthers were up, 2-1.

Babson tied it up with a shot tucked under the crossbar from Way, followed by conversions from Middlebury's Dugan (upper left) and Babson's Fidrych (upper right) to set the score at 3-3.

Sawin walked up to the stripe with a chance to clinch. He had been visibly frustrated earlier by failing to find the open net late in regulation. But he showed no hesitation in burying the ball into the upper left corner to send the Panthers to the final four.

He talked afterward about his frame of mind stepping up to the penalty stripe.

"It's completely mental," Sawin said. "You have so much on the line, and when I walked over, I knew I was going to win it. I had missed a chance, so I was just asking, praying for one more chance to send my team through. And I was lucky enough it came to me, and I had no doubt I was going to score."

The Panther goalie shared that confidence.

"I told my guys I'll get them one save. You put the rest in," Waterman said. "Five guys stepped up. I was confident in them. I felt good the whole time."

Their coach said he wasn't surprised.

"I'm proud of them," he said. "We expect them to step up and take their pens well, and they did."

SECTIONAL SEMIFINALS
To get to Sunday, the Panthers had to turn back a challenge in their

1-0 sectional semifinal win over visiting Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, which came out from California for the game. Middlebury snapped the scoreless tie with 6:15 remaining in regulation when Harder walked in Nilsson's driven cross from the right side into the CMS goal's open left side.

Nilsson had worked hard to win the ball on the flank and then whip the cross through a crowd to Harder, who somewhat awkwardly won and handled the hard serve, which appeared to hit both his legs before crossing the goal line.

But style points don't matter, and his team-high 10th goal couldn't have been more timely, as it sent the visitors back to the West Coast with a 16-4-3 record.

The Panthers were on the front foot for the game's first 20 minutes, but their best chances, from Tyler Payne and Ari Klayman in goalfight scrambles, both sailed high.

The Stags began to gain traction during the ensuing 25 minutes. Twenty minutes in, Waterman had to make a point-blank, right-foot kick save on Rafael Otero's deflected shot, and later in the half Waterman was positioned to stop a Heiko Schultz flick of a Shaan Malik cross.

In the second half, the Panthers regrouped with the strong wind at their back and began to bottle up the Stags in their own end, although CMS countered well a few times against the pressure.

Middlebury had a good chance in the 49th minute. Sawin worked past two defenders near the end line, but Stag goalkeeper Miles Demarest deflected his bid out of play.

The Stags counterattacked in the 58th minute, when Otero set up John Laidlaw just inside the box. But Waterman stepped up and took his bid off his chest.

Middlebury outshot the Stags, 12-7, and had a 6-3 edge in corner kicks, but each team had four shots on target. Waterman stopped all four for Middlebury, and Demarest made three saves for CMS.

Les Streeter was the Skimeister!

Some time ago, at a Reunion event at Middlebury College, I saw an older fellow sitting by himself. His badge said he was in the class of 1957. I had a question I wanted to pose to him. I introduced myself and asked, "Who was the most prominent athlete on campus when you were here?"

This was a concern of mine for reasons other than mere curiosity. Middlebury had just established an Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014 and I found myself quite happily on the selection committee formed to identify worthy honorees.

I worried from the outset that we might neglect those athletes from a time when there were few or no people around to bear witness to their greatness.

"That's easy," this fellow told me, "Les Streeter."

Les Streeter: I had never heard the name. I thought over time I had developed a pretty keen sense of Middlebury sports history and had met or certainly heard of the legendary sports figures.

I went to the college archives and researched Les Streeter and discovered a most remarkable man.

No doubt the reason Les Streeter was not someone more readily identified in Middlebury sports lore was because he died at 52 in 1986 in a plane crash in Wyoming. This tragic accident took the lives of six other people, including his son Gerald ("Jake"), with whom he had recently formed a real estate partnership.

In death, he was remembered by Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm and former President Gerald Ford. "He was one of those people who made friends by being a friend," said Lamm, and Ford commended him for his "community involvement" and devotion to "charitable causes."

As a young man, Streeter was a skier of extraordinary accomplishment, selected for the 1956 United States Olympic team to compete in the Alpine events. At Middlebury, he also competed in Nordic events: cross country skiing and jumping. The best four-event skier in the Winter Carnivals and other big competitions was designated the "Skimeister."

In his senior year, 1955, Les was Skimeister at the Eastern Championships (held at the Snow Bowl), winning the Alpine combined and coming in 7th in the x-country. At the NAAs the next week, he was again Skimeister: finishing 3rd in the slalom, 5th in the downhill and 7th in the jump.

He was described in a leading newspaper as "the best all-round collegiate skier in America." In his four years at Middlebury, he missed winning the Skimeister award only once (and he won it eight times!). He was the ski team captain both his junior and senior years.

At the '56 Olympics in Cortina, Italy, he was injured in a training run, fracturing his shoulder and unable to compete in the Games.

Upon graduation, after a stint in the military, Les founded a chain of ski shops in the eastern United States and Canada. He continued to ski for the rest of his life, competing in Legends ski events and N A S T A R races.



Sports (Mostly) KARL LINDHOLM

Les Streeter was extraordinary in other aspects of college life too: he was a chemistry major, a

member of the Blue Key Men's Honor society, the Judicial Board, and the Dissipated Eight (the *cappella* men's octet, still performing today). He was elected the 1955 Winter Carnival King, when that kind of thing was big deal indeed, attesting to his popularity and the respect with which he was held: he was more than a "prominent athlete."

Streeter was one of eight new honorees inducted into this year's Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame class. At the induction ceremony earlier this month, he was represented by two of his sons, Les Jr. and George.

George is the youngest of Les's five children. He gave a brief but moving speech in accepting the honor on behalf of his dad. He was only two when his dad died, but he explained that he's had the "privilege of learning about him from family and friends and the hundreds of news clippings I've gathered over the years."

"(My dad) had a natural warmth and charisma that drew people to



LES STREETER, MIDDLEBURY College class of 1955, was an Olympian in 1956 and was inducted into the Middlebury Hall of Fame this month.

Photo courtesy of Middlebury College Archives

him, making friends wherever he went. His genuine kindness and open-hearted nature left a lasting impression, not just as an athlete, but as a friend.

"He was a true ambassador for the sport and the ski industry we know today. He dedicated his life to sharing his joy of the outdoors, inspiring countless others to embrace the mountains and the lifestyle that comes with it."

Serenity:

In the week before I was to present Les Streeter at the Hall of Fame ceremony, I spent 90 minutes speaking by phone with Bob Gallagher, Les Streeter's childhood friend in Northfield, Vt., and his roommate during his junior and senior years at Middlebury.

Bob is 91. He regaled me with tales. He said they were "best (See Lindholm, Page 3B)"



MIDDLEBURY SKIMEISTER LES Streeter, above, competes for the Panthers in 1954. He was the best all-around skier eight times at Middlebury.

Photo credit: Middlebury Campus

There's no place like home for the holidays.

86 Main Street Vergennes VT 802-877-2134

32 Merchants Row Middlebury VT 802-388-9836

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | **VERMONT REALTY GROUP**

www.vtregroup.com

Salisbury, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

We had Bristol Electronics install three heat pump systems for us in November of 2023. One system covers our bedroom. The other two systems cover the front side of our home.

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

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

We have saved money and we feel more comfortable. During our first winter, our heating bill went down by \$200 - \$300 per month while our electricity costs only went up by \$100 per month, saving us \$100 - \$200 per month.

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

During our first summer, we sold the three window air conditioners we had been using. We can see out the windows and won't have to put the a/c units in and out when the seasons change. The heat pumps have only needed to be on "low" to keep the temperatures comfortable. We notice we can hear each other better and we don't have to turn the television up to get over the loud air conditioners like we did before. These systems are so quiet.

The heat pumps have provided more consistent heating and cooling than our old heating and cooling equipment. We are saving money, are more comfortable, can hear each other and can see out of our windows.

Wayne & Diane Smith, Salisbury, VT

BRISTOL ELECTRONICS

802-453-2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

802.453.2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

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

GREG'S Market & Deli

Save **\$3.00**

A. J. Neri Fruit & Vegetable Wash

Greg's Market
3 Elm St., Middlebury.

Limit one coupon per bottle.

Field hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)

that out in combination with the basic grit you have to bring to any championship.”

DeLorenzo was also pleased with the Panthers' assertion.

“We played in a way that forced them to chase us, adjust to us, not the other way around,” she said.

The game stats show the Panthers' superiority. Middlebury outshot the Jumbos, 13-4, and earned a 10-2 edge in penalty corners.

Senior midfielder Lilly Branka, named the final four MVP after her stellar midfield play in both games, including an assist in each, said the team's nine seniors were determined to finish their careers strong.

“We were talking about this being the last game of the year, no matter what, and we were nine seniors out there who knew this was our last game regardless,” Branka said. “We went into the game knowing we had to leave it all out there, and I think that's exactly what we did.”

NOV. 22 SEMIFINAL

Before the final, the Panthers had had to get past Salisbury two days earlier, also in Lexington. Middlebury dominated Salisbury (17-3) statistically, but needed to rally in the second half to prevail, 2-1, on goals from Segal and Amy Griffin, with Griffin's proving to be the game-winner.

The Panthers outshot the Gulls, 15-1, with Salisbury scoring in the second period on its only shot at goal. Middlebury amassed a 7-0 advantage on penalty corners.

Middlebury had a great chance on its first penalty corner, but a Gull defender deflected defender Grace Keefe's blast wide left. It was the Panthers' only shot of the period.

The Gulls only shot came 38 seconds into the second period and it went in: Arden Huntman's bid bounced off a Panther stick and into the bottom left corner.

Two minutes later, Salisbury goalie Abbey McIlvain kicked away a Griffin shot, and the Panthers had



MIDDLEBURY FORWARD CAROLINE Segal chases down the ball in the Tufts circle during Sunday's NCAA Division III final.

Photo by Keith Lucas-Sideline Media

three shots on goal in the scramble that followed. McIlvain blocked two of them, and defender Hannah Johnson made a defensive save.

Middlebury continued pressing, but McIlvain denied back-to-back bids from Segal and Megan Fuqua in the 22nd minute.

Middlebury finally tied the score in the second minute after halftime. Segal collected a pass from Branka and fired a reverse-stick shot that deflected in off a Seagull defender.

Griffin broke the tie with 4:54 left in the game. Griffin took the ball off a restart, broke toward the shooting circle, eluded two defenders, and fired a reverse sweep that flew through McIlvain's legs.

It was the second straight year in which Griffin scored the game-winner in an NCAA semifinal. The goal was her 11th of the season and 56th as a Panther. Her career point total rose to 161, tying her for third all-time with 2022 graduate Erin Nicholas. The win was Middlebury's 56th in a row over a non-conference opponent.

Final

In Sunday's final, the Panthers scored twice in the second half to take the lead. Tufts answered after the second Panther goal, which came from Defeo in the fourth quarter, but the Panthers slammed the door defensively after that strike on the way to this historic title.

The Panthers had a great chance in the sixth minute on the first of their corners, but Tufts goalie Lydia Eastburn swatted away a Keefe blast that was ticketed for the upper right corner.

The Jumbos countered in the ninth minute with one of their two shots on goal. Claire Gavin picked up an errant bounce off a Panther stick and shot toward the left side of the cage, but Middlebury goalie Madeline DiLemme blocked Gavin's backhanded sweep.

The Panthers had two final chances in the opening quarter off penalty corners, but Tufts defenders blocked shots by Emily Stone in the 10th minute and Fuqua in the 15th minute.

In the first minute of the second period, the Panthers kept pressing,

but Eastburn stopped Defeo at the left post. Two minutes later, Branka beat two defenders along the right end line, but Eastburn denied her at the left post.

Middlebury broke through with 2:10 to go in the third period, when Branka and Segal teamed up. Branka attacked along the end line to the left of the Tufts goal and fed Segal cutting to the center of the net. Segal dove to meet the pass and in one motion lifted the ball into the far side of the goal. In the postgame press conference Branka offered Segal's all-out dive as an example of Middlebury's grit.

The Panthers made it 2-0 in the sixth minute of the fourth quarter on a counterattack. Sophomore midfielder Claire McMichael bolted into open space on the right side and found Defeo breaking alone into the scoring circle. Eastburn came out to cut down the shooting angle, but Defeo, racing forward near the penalty stripe, flicked the ball over the sprawling goalie and into the right side of the cage.

Defeo credited McMichael. “She gave me that goal,” Defeo said. “It was a beautiful, beautiful feed.”

Tufts responded with its only goal 22 seconds later on a penalty corner. Kylie Rosenquest, on the right side of the circle, found the upper left corner after a feed from Lainie

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

Lindholm

(Continued from Page 2B)

friends from grade school through college.”

There was a third member of their Northfield gang, Tom Lamson, also Middlebury '55. They all lived nearby the Norwich University ski area, which had a ski tow and a 35-meter jump: “Anyone could use it. There were no lawyers then. Les's dad drove us all over to the various ski areas. His mother was like my second mom.”

Les and Tom Lamson went off to Gould Academy in Maine to ski. Like Les, Tom was an outstanding skier, both at Gould and then on the team at Middlebury. Les is in the Hall of Fame at Gould.

Of his best friend, Bob Gallagher said: “Les was a really good student, very disciplined, with a good sense of humor. He was easy to like, just

a great guy. We did a few crazy things, now and then.

“He had a wonderful voice and he loved to sing. He was a great fan of the tenor Mario Lanza. He got up every morning at 5:00 and took a shower (in the bathroom in the middle of the hall) and sang at the top of his voice. He woke everyone up on the second floor of Gifford!”

Les Streeter: Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.

Karl Lindholm can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 29:
 9:00 - 10:45 AM Public Skating
 3:30 - 5:00 PM Stick & Puck

Saturday, November 30:
 12:45 - 2:15 PM Public Skating

Tuesday, December 3:
 9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Thursday, December 5:
 9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Tuesday, December 10:
 9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Thursday, December 12:
 9:00 - 11:00 AM 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

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer

NCAA Final Four in Las Vegas
 12/5 Midd vs Amherst..... 5:30 PM
 12/5 Conn vs Washington & Lee..... 9 PM
 12/7 Final 3 PM

Men's Basketball

12/1 Midd at Endicott 2 PM
 12/4 NEC at Midd 5 PM
 12/7 Midd vs Emery (Pitt) 2 PM
 12/8 Midd vs Carn. Mellon (Pitt) 11 AM

Women's Basketball

12/1 Midd vs Conn (Albany)..... 2 PM
 12/6 Midd vs Keene (Norwich)..... 7 PM
 12/7 Midd vs TBD (Norwich)TBD

Women's Hockey

11/30 Midd vs Endicott (@ Platt)..... 6 PM
 12/1 TBD at Plattsburgh..... 2/5 PM
 12/4 Utica at Midd 4 PM

Men's Hockey

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
 12/6 Midd at Amherst 7 PM
 12/7 Midd at Hamilton 3 PM

Hale GROVES

SAVE OVER 42%

Holiday Fruit Assortment

REG. \$39.99-

NOW \$27.99
 +\$5.99 SHIPPING

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

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

~ Delicious ~
RADIO
 ~ fresh brewed ~

the Wake Up Crew
 with **Ted Richards**
 weekday mornings
 from 5 to 10

92.1 WVTK
 Addison County's Radio Station

921wvtk.com

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

ALL OF THE OTTER REINDEER

Hand-crafted deli sandwiches, soups and salads made to order. Eat in or take out!

WANT TO WELCOME YOU FOR LUNCH!

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

Struggling to find the right color?
Let us help guide you through the decision process.

California PAINTS

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

Today's Students ... Tomorrow's Reporters

Up to \$2,000 scholarships available to high school seniors and college students pursuing a career in journalism.

JOURNALISM EDUCATION FOUNDATION of New England

Applications: nenpa.com
Questions: students@nenpa.com
Deadline to apply March 14, 2025

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

Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

"The Addy Indy is the best!
It is the only newspaper in Vermont."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

nov 29 FRIDAY

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. 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 O27 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.

nov 30 SATURDAY

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.

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.

dec 1 SUNDAY

Memory Tree lighting in Brandon. Sunday, Dec. 1, 3:30 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Remember to get your list of names together and drop them off at Carr's Gifts — \$1/name (Checks to BACC) or mail them to: BACC, PO Box 267, Brandon, VT 05733. You have until Saturday, Nov. 30, or bring them to Bernie on the day of the tree lighting.

dec 4 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.

Winter Market in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 4-Sunday, Dec. 8, Green Park. Four signature green booths and various vendors selling lots of cool crafts and gifts.

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.

dec 5 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., Isley 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.

dec 6 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



Very Merry wagon ride

MIDDLEBURY'S VERY MERRY festivities kick off on Saturday, Dec. 7. Bring the family to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, take a free horse and wagon ride, sample some hot cocoa, carol on the steps of the Congregational Church, look at trains at the Sheldon Museum, make holiday crafts at Isley Library, and more.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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.

dec 7 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.

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar in Orwell. Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Orwell Town Hall, Main St. Local artists and craftspeople showcase their wares in a festive atmosphere featuring beautiful handmade gifts, crafts, decorations, ornaments, wreaths, quilt raffle, basket raffle, silent auction, flea market, baked goods, lunch and refreshments. Something for everyone! More info 802-948-2049.

(or over easy if you ask us to flip them), bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, home fries, pancakes, blueberry pancakes, French toast, all with Vermont maple syrup and Cabot butter, assorted juices, apple bread pudding and coffee. Cost \$9 adult/\$5 children under 12. All profits are donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area.

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.

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.

dec 10 TUESDAY

Middlebury Community Music Center benefit bake in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m., American Flatbread, Marble Works. The restaurant will donate a portion of every flatbread sold that night to MCMC, which is marking its 10th anniversary year.

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.

dec 12 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.

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.

dec 13 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.

Friends of Isley book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., lower level Middlebury United Methodist Church, 43 N. Pleasant St. Entrance is at the back of the church. For this sale, children's books will all be free, and there are a lot of large print and coffee table books. No January sale, so this one will be a good time to stock up on books for January.

Pokémon pop-up museum at Middlebury College. Saturday, Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m., Bicentennial Hall, 276 Bicentennial Way. Come visit a Pokémon-inspired research center and museum. Middlebury students are creating an immersive community outreach and engagement experience for Vermonters of all ages who love learning about wildlife and the world of Pokémon. Touch specimens, ask questions, play games, and collect prizes by speaking with student experts on insects, mammals and more. Costumes are welcome.

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.

dec 14 SATURDAY

Takeout only chicken and biscuit supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 14, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, (across from the Vergennes Opera House). Chicken and gravy, over biscuits, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. To order call 802-877-3150.

Winter Solstice Celebration with Low Lily in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. American Roots band Low Lily celebrates the Solstice. This high-energy show will feature instrumentals alongside impeccably arranged songs to honor the season. Between them, the musicians play mandolins, guitars, fiddle and banjo and sing in three-part vocal harmonies. Tickets \$30 table seating/\$20 general admission, available at townhalltheater.org.

dec 20 FRIDAY

Last Minute Fa La La in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Get those last-minute gifts when your favorite Bristol shops will stay open until late to help you check off everyone on your list. There's more than just shopping to enjoy. 5 Town Friends of the Arts will offer free gift-wrapping station.

Winter Solstice Celebration with Low Lily in Middlebury. Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. American Roots band Low Lily celebrates the Solstice. This high-energy show will feature instrumentals alongside impeccably arranged songs to honor the season. Between them, the musicians play mandolins, guitars, fiddle and banjo and sing in three-part vocal harmonies. Tickets \$30 table seating/\$20 general admission, available at townhalltheater.org.

dec 8 SUNDAY

Charity Fundraising Breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets. Menu includes sausage gravy with homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR
CALENDAR ONLINE
addisonindependent.com

Around TOWN

Ho-ho-hold the holiday waste

The holiday season can be a tricky time to reduce waste. On average, households create 25% more waste during the holidays, but what can be done? Here are a few tips that can help you make a difference.

When wrapping presents, try using reusable or repurposed options such as cloth or newspapers. If you are using wrapping paper, look for options that don't have any kind of coating (metallic, glitter, plastic) so it may be recycled in your blue bin as paper. Reusing your bows, bags, and ribbons can also help reduce waste while saving money.

When shopping for gifts, think about what people will use or need, rather than items that may go to waste, be returned, or be thrown away. Giving experiences

When wrapping presents, try using reusable or repurposed options such as cloth or newspapers.

or food can help to reduce waste and oftentimes can be more meaningful. When gift shopping, try to buy locally, avoid shopping online, remember your reusable bag, and choose items with less packaging. This can help to cut down on excess waste as well as carbon emissions from transporting those goods to stores or to your home.

Dispose of your Christmas tree properly this holiday season. The District Transfer Station in Middlebury offers free disposal of Christmas Trees throughout January. Additionally, some farmers collect trees to feed goats, and some towns have clubs that collect Christmas trees curbside after the holidays. Be on the lookout for updates on Christmas Tree collection on the ACSWMD

website or its social media.

Hosting people for the holidays can also generate lots of waste. When cooking, plan out your meals so that you prepare only what you will need. If you do end up with leftovers, give them to friends or family to take home, create new dishes, freeze the leftovers for later, or compost your food scraps. The holidays are also a great time to donate any canned or boxed nonperishables that meet donation guidelines to your local food shelter.

Using reusable dishware instead of single use items like paper plates, paper and plastic cups, plastic cutlery, and disposable napkins can also help you avoid unnecessary waste. Of course, there will still probably be some waste that comes out of any gathering, so be sure you're disposing of it properly.

This story was provided by Sarah Bialas of the Addison County Solid Waste Management District.



Snack time

TAKING A BREAK from burying supplies for the winter, a Middlebury squirrel nibbles on a maple seed.

Photo by Dottie Nelson

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Everyone is welcome to participate in an evening of Advent wreath making, crafts and the annual tree lighting ceremony downstairs in the United Church of Lincoln on Sunday, Dec. 1. This fun, family event begins at 5 p.m. with wreath making and crafts. Please bring pruning shears and a wreath ring if you have them. At 6 p.m. everyone will gather around the tree, sing some carols and watch the tree as it is being lit. Bring a friend if you wish.

The community is invited to Lincoln Community School's whole school assembly on Thursday, Dec. 5 at 8:10 a.m. This assembly is particularly special as the students have worked together to come up with a name for one of the town plows. The plow truck will be on site and the name will be revealed. A group photo will also be taken with the plow truck. The hard-working road crew and some members from the town clerk's office will be there as well.

FROM LINCOLN SPORTS

Have you noticed some activity at the bottom of the sledding hill? A parking lot is going in to create a safe parking option and access to the upgraded trails that are coming to the Lincoln Sports hillside. Check out this grant funded project at www.lincolnsports.org/trails. If you are interested in attending a Lincoln Sports meeting, they are held at Burnham Hall on the first Wednesday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m.

A.R.T. to present pantomimes

MIDDLEBURY — The U.K. has a long-standing tradition of offering up pantomimes around the holidays — a form of musical comedy theatrical production created to entertain families. Honoring that tradition, Addison Repertory Theatre at the Hannaford Career Center will present “The

Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon,” Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, at 7 p.m., at Hannaford Career Center's Black Box Theater at 51 Charles Ave.

This is the third year ART has put on a pantomime for the holidays. The performance, a fast-paced farce, will be filled with family-

friendly dances and musical acts, jokes, slapstick, and other physical or situational comedy.

This also marks ART's 30th year; founded in 1994 by Steve Small and Candace Burkle, ART is the state's sole Theater program at a Career and Technical Education Center.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Ryan Cross

Mt. Abraham Union High School has selected Ryan Cross as our student of the week. Ryan lives in Monkton with his Mom, Dad and younger brother, Tanner. Ryan has achieved academic high honors or honors each semester of his high school career.

Throughout high school, he has appreciated the flexibility to explore topics of interest. In particular, science classes have been most enjoyable for Ryan because there is so much to learn and explore. Ryan notes his favorite teacher is Mr. Beckwith because “he pushes you but in a fun way.”

Ryan is very involved in the Mt. Abraham community. He has participated in Track and Field all four years of high school and serves as the treasurer for the Community Council. Ryan is also a music department officer and a member of the Eagle Leadership Society. In addition, he was selected to represent Mt. Abraham at Green Mountain Boys' State.

In the summer, Ryan works as a swim instructor and works as a lifeguard throughout the rest of the year. He enjoys watching his swim students succeed, especially when they demonstrate a skill he has taught them.

In his spare time, Ryan likes being outside, riding his bike, baking and creating new dishes. When asked what advice he would give current students, Ryan said, “I have learned that getting involved in many different groups is very important. This also correlates with trying new things. I have tried a lot of new things and now I look back and am glad I tried all of the new things. I would say get involved, even if it is something that you are unsure about.”

After high school, Ryan plans on attending college to pursue engineering and architecture.

We wish Ryan all the best in his future endeavors.



Ryan Cross
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Jackson Marks

Jackson Marks is Otter Valley Union High School's latest Student of the Week. He lives in Brandon with his parents, a younger brother and three pets. He also has an older brother in college. Jackson spent the first half of his life living in the South and is incredibly grateful to be part of the Brandon Community, where he is truly treated as one of their own.

Jackson strives to do the best he can and earn high grades. Beyond that, he focuses on enjoying high school, savoring every moment. History or Social Studies vie for his favorite subject. He feels both are essential to understanding the basis of society today. Jackson has received the Clarkson Scholarship of Leadership, among many other athletic/academic honors both in and outside school. He has also served as the class vice president for two years and will captain the Otter lacrosse team this coming spring. Jackson makes every effort to be as well rounded as possible. Excelling academically; participating in baseball, cross country, wrestling and lacrosse; as well as several theater productions, student council and other school community activities.

He also works at his family's business, Morningside Bakery, as both a barista and a pizza cook. He enjoys constantly engaging with people and being exposed to new perspectives. He has also found a passion in performing landscaping and handiwork duties for people in the surrounding area. Jackson has also been part of a mission trip to South America. In his spare time, you can find him hanging out with friends, playing the piano, engaging in sports, skiing when he can, scuba diving, spending time with family, traveling as often as possible, and visiting his dad in Florida.

Jackson says school has taught him that it isn't just about learning useless facts — it prepares student to have the capacity to think for themselves. “Opinions and thoughts often develop with experience,” he says. “Fortunately, high school provides a deep wealth of experience, therefore, providing the students with historical, mathematical and philosophical perspectives, so the students may develop their own thoughts.”

Jackson is looking at Princeton, University of Florida, University South Carolina, and American University for his next step. He hopes to major in Agricultural Tech, Global Policy or Finance. He also plans on joining the Peace Corps after college. All of us at Otter Valley wish him the best.



Jackson Marks
OVUHS

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

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

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,
Ryan & Jackson**

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • Jackmansinc.com

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

Keep up the great work,
Ryan and Jackson

802-877-3118
Vergennes, VT

**Great work,
students!**

BLUE SEAL
Farm & Home

57 Alta Wood, Brandon, VT 05733
802-247-9599

Congratulations,
Ryan and Jackson

Rainbow Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, 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

Cheers to the Students of the Week!

Bristol Beverage
& REDEMPTION

Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 7pm
Sunday 9am-5pm
Redemption Closes 1 Hour Prior
21 Prince Lane, Bristol • 453-3990

Thursday & service Business & service 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 Hescocock
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

CLEANING SERVICES


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!

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

This ad space could be yours!



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



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

BRISTOL ELECTRONICS
802.453.2500
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

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

Northern Taconic Arboriculture
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

- Tree Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Storm Damage Clean up
- Stump Grinding

Serving all of Addison County
Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

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

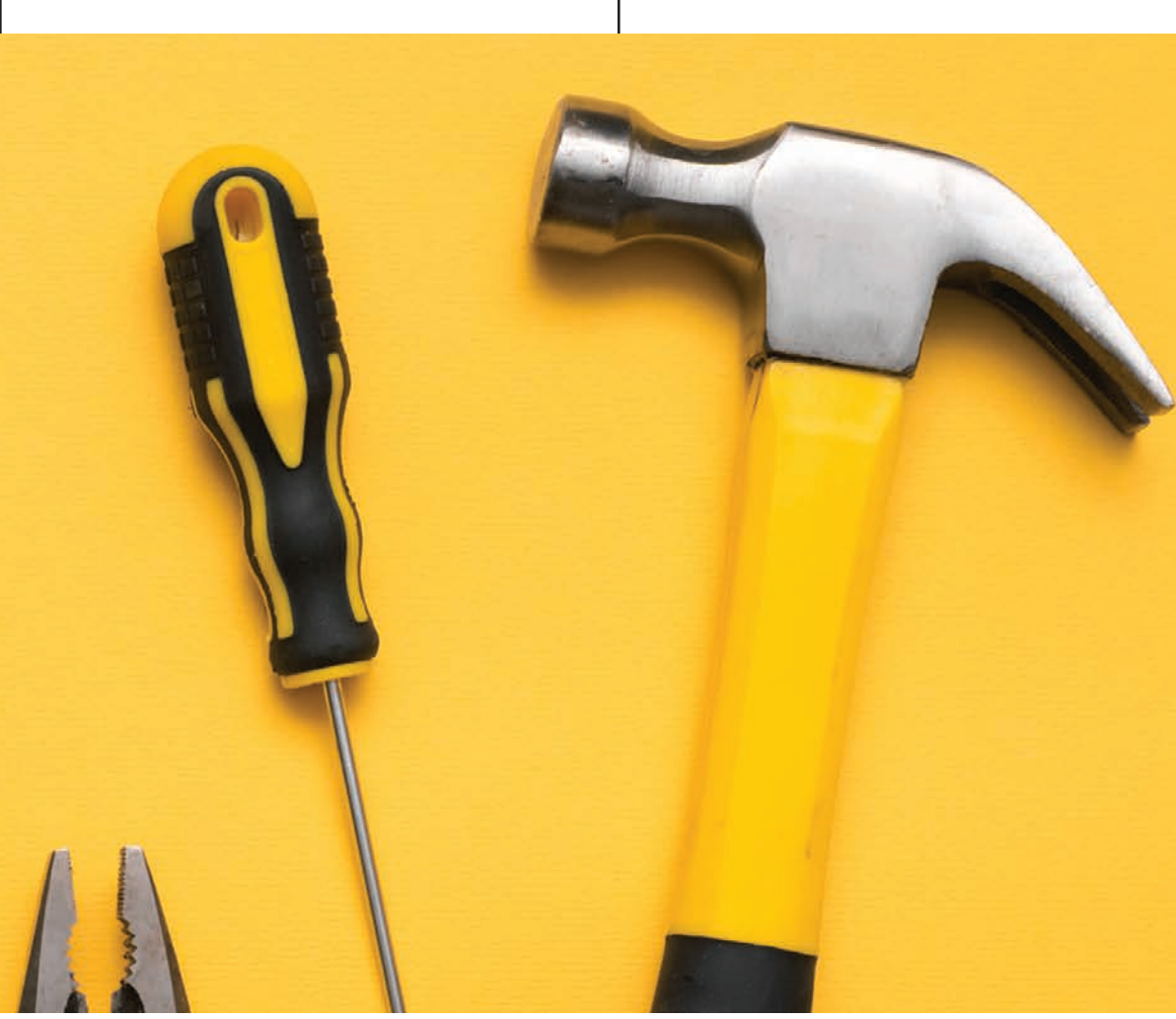
WINDOW TREATMENTS

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
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://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting [Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com](mailto:vergennefreethinkers@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

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.

Help Wanted

ZONING ADMIN WANTED The Town of Addison is seeking a Zoning Administrator. Key responsibilities for this role include issuing building permits and assisting with conditional use applications. The ZA works in conjunction with the Selectboard to enforce zoning regulations. This is an hourly paid position, and

Help Wanted

a thorough knowledge of the Addison Town Zoning Regulations is required. However, you need not be a resident of Addison to apply. If interested, please contact Jennifer Barrett, Town of Addison Planning Commission, at jenniferdutoitbarrett@gmail.com

Help Wanted



Help Wanted

Nino's is looking for a Pizza Pie-Rate.

A first rate pizza maker, with the spirit of a pirate.

The main purpose of a pizza maker is to create tasty pizzas to fulfill customers' expectations. At Nino's our pizza makers are also multitaskers who set the tone and the tempo for the team. Like a captain of a pirate ship (arrrrgh), they navigate the course, call the shots and make decisions on the fly.

Are you experienced working in a fast-paced restaurant or bakery?
Are you someone who shakes their fist at the storm and roars,
"Is that all you've got?"

Can you walk on fire without getting burned? Do you have the adventurous soul of a pirate? Then you might just be the person we are looking for! If you happen to know any pizza pie-rates send them our way!

Call or text Nino's employment line, (802) 391-0555 or visit our website: ninosmiddlebury.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

New Haven
VERMONT

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:

newhavenclerk@gmavt.net or
New Haven Town Clerk, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472

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

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

Addison County Solid Waste Management District

Program Manager
Full-Time Exempt Position

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is seeking a motivated and experienced individual to join our team in Middlebury, VT as Program Manager. Basic function: To design and implement education, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, pollution prevention and special waste diversion programs to help individuals and businesses in member municipalities effectively reduce and manage waste. To manage the HazWaste Center. To promote District facility and program compliance with state and federal laws. To coordinate the health & safety training of staff and assist the District Manager in developing policies and procedures that promote safe facility operation. To collaborate with other professionals on special projects and subcommittees.

Office hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., with flexibility to work occasional nights and weekends as programs and projects require.

The ideal candidate is detail-oriented, analytical and versatile.
Desired skills and experience:

- Education -Bachelor's degree or higher in a biological-life or physical science, engineering, planning, sustainability, social science, data science, or an environmental or natural resources field;
- High degree of motivation, creativity, and persistence in developing and implementing new ideas and in finding solutions to problems.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse audiences (staff, haulers, local and state officials, facility managers, and general public).
- Ability to obtain 24-hour HAZWOPER training, RCRA training and DOT training, including ability to be respirator fit-tested. Ability to read and understand hazardous waste rules and regulations and to apply them to daily practice.
- A valid VT Driver's license or ability to obtain one within the first month of employment, and a reliable personal vehicle to be used for attending events, inspecting facilities and delivering materials.

We offer **competitive compensation** (salary starts at \$59,000) and a full **benefits package**, including health insurance, employer-paid HRA, Dental, Eye, Life, and STD/LTD insurance. **Generous sick and vacation leave, training and retirement contribution match are offered.**

Please submit a letter of interest and résumé to **Teresa Kuczynski** via email at teri@acswmd.org. OR apply on Indeed.com. For a copy of the job description, go to www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org. Open until filled. E.O.E.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Teen Center Volunteers

The Teen Center is always in need of volunteers. As a volunteer, you'll be spending time with teens, whether playing pool or basketball, painting or cooking, or just sitting and chatting. Your role is to be a positive adult presence in youths' lives.

To learn more, reach out to lindsey@teencentervt.org.

the TEEN CENTER

United Way of Addison County

Addison Independent

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

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

RATES

• 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 Sale

2022 CARGO TRAILER look, V-Nose, 6x12, Rear + Mandoor. \$3,500 cash. Reach at (850)-520-0941.

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!

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

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.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMBUS 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.

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, DRY ROUND bales, 4x5, \$55.00 each. 2nd + 3rd cut balage, 4x4 round bales. \$75.00 Round bales for bedding \$35.00 Quantity discounts available. 802-989-0187.

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

HAY FOR SALE Over 1500 square bales of 1st cut hay for sale. \$4 per bale. Also 300+/- bales of 2nd cut hay on tarped wagons - \$4 per bale. Located at 864 Smead Rd, Salisbury, VT. First come, first serve. Call 802-352-4686.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted




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



\$1,000 SIGNING BONUS

Fleet Maintenance Technician

Are you interested in doing valuable work that supports our community and environment?

Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) has been providing critical transportation needs for community members for more than 25 years. The essential function of the position is to ensure TVT vehicles are mechanically sound, safe, and clean.

Position Requires:

- Basic Maintenance Technician skills
- Experience with tires, brakes, exhaust, and other preventative maintenance
- CDL Class C with Passenger Endorsement, Onsite CDL training available for the right candidate
- Ability to lift 50lbs & push/pull 75lbs
- Willingness to learn new skills
- A high level of professionalism, attitude matters!
- Attention to detail
- Must have a good selection of automotive tools, specialty tools will be provided
- Bus detailing

We offer an excellent compensation and benefits package, including:

- Minimum starting rate of \$25 per hour
- 25 paid days off to start (Holidays & PTO)
- Low-cost health insurance with NO copayments or coinsurance
 - 100 % employer paid premium for employee, 35% towards spouse and/or dependents
 - 75% deductible reimbursement through an HRA plan for employee portion
- Retirement plan with employer match
- Long & short-term disability insurance
- \$25,000 Life Insurance
- Access to low-cost dental and vision insurance with a 50% Employer premium match
- Employee Assistance Program

Please visit <https://www.trivalleytransit.org/job-openings/> for more details and to complete our application in addition to submitting your resume for consideration of employment. Submit resume via email to: kirstie@trivalleytransit.org.

Employment is contingent upon passing required background checks and pre-employment drug testing.
TVT is an AA/EEO Employer

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on December 16, 2024, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2024-51 by the City of Vergennes to install lighting at the Property located at 0 Main St. (City Green) Reviews will consider Article VII, Article XIV Section 1403 (6.), and Article XVI Section 1608.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.

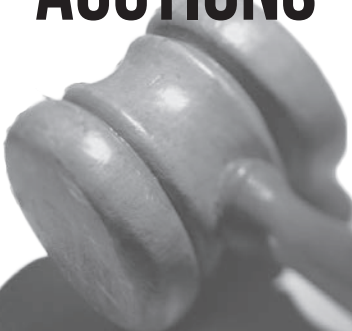
Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.
11/21/2024
David Austin,
Zoning Administrator

AUCTIONS



MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/21/24 & 11/25/24

		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Wilson	1350	1.30	\$1755.00	
Monument	1825	1.26	\$2299.50	
Defreest	1505	1.19	\$1790.95	
Blue Spruce	1995	1.17	\$2287.35	
Woodnotch	1610	1.12	\$1803.20	

		COST		
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Sunderland	91	9.50	\$864.50	
Gilead Brook	88	9.00	\$792.00	
UVM Cream	93	8.50	\$790.50	
Barnes B&W	101	8.40	\$848.40	
Conants	101	5.80 (H)	\$585.80	

Total Beef - 155 Total Calves - 219

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 9B and 10B.

- Addison (1)
- Addison County Courthouse (1)
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)
- Addison County Solid Waste Management District (1)
- Addison Northwest School District (1)
- Ferrisburgh (1)
- Hancock (1)
- Monkton (1)
- Salisbury (1)
- Stewart Construction (1)
- Tri-Town Water (1)
- Vergennes (1)
- Vergennes Pantown Water District (1)
- Waltham (1)

REQUEST FOR BIDS TOWN OF HANCOCK

Seeking bids for ledge removal, ditch work, and culvert replacement. Bidding information available at hancockvt.org.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE ADDISON COUNTY PRELIMINARY PROPOSED BUDGET MEETING

The Assistant Judges of Addison County invite the public to a meeting to discuss the proposed county budget for FY 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026).

The meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Clerk's office at the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury.

Any questions or for a copy of the proposed budget, please contact the County Clerk at addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com or 802-388-1966.
Patricia Ross, Assistant Judge
Nicole Wilkerson, Assistant Judge

TOWN OF MONKTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

The Monkton Selectboard will hold a hybrid in-person and Zoom Public Hearing at 6:30 pm, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at the Monkton Town Hall (92 Monkton Ridge) to take public testimony on the proposed Town Plan for the Town of Monkton.

The Selectboard will discuss and vote on any proposed changes directly after this Public Hearing.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of a town plan is to provide a vision for orderly development within the town. It is essentially a "picture in time" that uses existing conditions to guide zoning and development decisions for the eight-year period covered by the next Town Plan.

Our new town plan is a partial revision of the plan adopted in 2020. The proposed Town Plan affects all the land within the Town of Monkton. It updates sections that use US Census data to current 2020 data and adds information from the natural resources inventory conducted for the town in 2022-2023.

The Selectboard believes the following are the significant changes offered by the plan:

The following sections have had data updated: Population, Housing, Education and Childcare, and Economic Development.

The Utilities and Facilities section had information updated to be current on the New Town Hall, Library, and the Recreation & Cultural Resources sections. The Natural Resource sections on Forests and Water Resources have had information added from the natural resources inventory, including new maps. The Forests section has a new sub-section on Forest Integrity that identifies core forest blocks and habitat connectors, which allows the town to meet Act 171 State Law requirements. Water Resources section had buffers better defined.

The Plan Implementation section was reorganized and updated.

Town Plan Index	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	4
PURPOSE	6
INTRODUCTION	8
GUIDING PRINCIPLES	10
TOWN HISTORY	11
POPULATION	12
HOUSING	16
EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE	23
UTILITIES AND FACILITIES	28
TRANSPORTATION	40
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	46
NATURAL RESOURCES	52
LAND USE	92
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	103
COMPATIBILITY	106
APPENDIX A ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN	108

While the Town Plan sets forth the community goals and objectives, the policies and other means of achieving those ends are set forth in the town zoning and subdivision regulations. A town plan should not be a prescriptive document. This version of the Monkton Town Plan mostly adheres to this principle.

Copies of the Town Plan are available for review or obtained at the Town Offices, 92 Monkton Ridge during normal business hours. They may also be viewed on the town website at: <http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/selectboard/>

Written testimony will be accepted by the Selectboard if received by Thursday, December 19, 2024 at selectboard@monktonvt.com, or the Selectboard's mailbox at the Town Hall (before close of business on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 1 pm).

Zoom Meeting Information:
Link to join a Zoom meeting by computer video: <https://zoom.us/join>
Monkton's Zoom meeting ID: 802-453-3800
Monkton's Zoom Password: 1762
Telephone Number to attend meeting by phone: 646-558-8656

For more information please contact: Stephan Pilcher (802) 598-1931 at spilcher@monktonvt.com, or Sharon Gomez, Town Clerk, at (802) 453-3800.

Please note: There will be an informational session from 6:00 to 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the Town Hall prior to the public hearing.
Stephan Pilcher, Chair
Monkton Selectboard

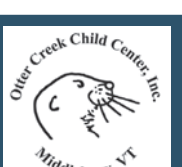
Help Wanted



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

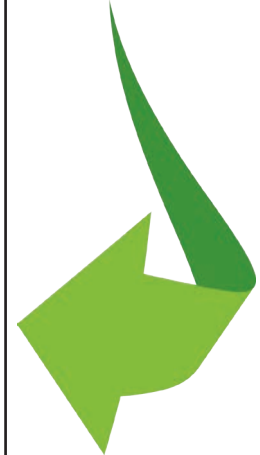


Early Childhood Teacher

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



More Help Wanted ads can be found on Page 8B.

Help Wanted

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 9B and 10B.

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 ADDISON
 PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM.

1. Open the meeting.
2. Roll call given.
3. Plan for Katie Raycroft-Meyer for presentation on Chapters: 6 & 7 revisions for Town Plan—revisions on Chap. 6 on Population & Housing, Chap. 7 Economy & Economic Development at 6:20PM & if time allows for reviewing & start Chap. 8 on Energy & Chap. 9 in the Town Plan.
4. Approve the meeting minutes for November 18, 2024 & continue the business meeting.
5. Public Comment time allowed (beginning & end if deemed necessary).
6. Review the progress with the Town Survey, open until Town Meeting 2025.
7. Discussion with progress filling the open Zoning Administrator's position.
8. If time, we may decide to work on the comments from the Town Survey & Zoning Regulations.

If needed, allow public comment time at the end.
 *Deliberative Session if needed - after the meeting.

Jeff Kauffman Jr., Chair
 Starr Phillips, Secretary
 Addison Planning Commission

**ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES
 FOR DECEMBER 2024**

Wednesday, Dec 4	5:30 PM (dinner)	CEC Event - "Your Voice, Your Schools - Join the Budget Conversation" VUMHS
	6:00 PM (discussion)	
Monday, Dec 9	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	4:50 PM	Facilities & Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Monday, Dec 16	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Dec 18	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual

**TOWN OF SALISBURY
 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, to consider the following:

Application 2024-12
 This proceeding involves review of an application for a Conditional Use/Site Plan Review submitted by Property Owner and Applicant, Dale Dingler, Dingler Holdings, (Parcel ID #13XP143-B), located at 249 Pine Lane, in connection with a proposed permit to construct a 10ft x 22ft front porch, a 2ft x 12ft to the back wall, construct a 10ft x 40ft side porch addition, and lift the cottage 36" off the ground, to a residential structure located on a pre-existing, non-conforming lot, at the above-referenced location. This property is located within the Lake Shore District 1 (LS1) District. This application requires DRB approval under §2.4.4E of the Salisbury Uniform Development Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.4E, §3.1.3 (3), §3.4-§3.48, §3.8.4, and §4.0.5, of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on December 17, 2024. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck
 DRB Clerk

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 WALTHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
 WALTHAM TOWN PLAN UPDATE**

The Waltham Planning Commission will hold an in-person public hearing on December 16, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Waltham Town Office, 2053 Maple Street, Waltham, Vermont, with a virtual option. This hearing is held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4441. This notice is issued pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4444(b). At this meeting, the ACRPC will also conduct a consultation with the municipality regarding its planning efforts. ACRPC's Local Government Committee shall review Waltham's Town Plan to determine whether the Plan:

- (1) is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. §4302;
- (2) is compatible with its regional plan;
- (3) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region;
- (4) contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. §4382;

The following list highlights the sections and other topics substantially amended in the proposed document. Other minor changes were also proposed.

- (1) Integrating the Plan's Goals and Objectives into each chapter,
- (2) Inclusion of a **Vision for Waltham** chapter based on a town-wide survey,
- (3) The addition of a Flood Resiliency element,
- (4) The addition of Forest Block and Habitat Connectivity data and maps,
- (5) Substantial updates to the Housing, Economy, and Public Facilities chapters.

Copies of the Waltham Town Plan can be viewed at the Waltham Town Office, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office, located at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury or on Waltham's website: <https://walthamvt.org>

Join Meeting Virtually:
<https://meet.google.com/uj-jayo-kst>
 Phone: (US)+1 772-675-0784 Pin: 381 102 294 #

Questions, please call either:
 Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner
 Addison County Regional Planning Commission 802 388-3141
 or
 Cookie Steponitas, Asst. Zoning Administrator
 Town of Waltham, zoning@walthamvt.org 802 877-3641

Monkton Boy Scouts are selling Christmas trees

MONKTON — BSA Troop 525 is once again selling Christmas trees and wreaths at 265 Mountain Road. Self-service, for your convenience on the honor system to pay, will begin on Nov. 30 with someone there every weekend if you need help from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. Christmas trees range at \$60 for a large and \$55 for all others. The beautiful hand-made wreaths cost the same as last year; \$25 for a regular and \$30 for a large. Deliveries can be available upon request. If you want a special wreath made, it can be done upon request with possibly a slight change in price. Stop in, enjoy shopping locally and meet and support some of your town's scouts! Call 802-989-3993 for questions or requests.

Lisa Boeckman, Monkton's Russell Memorial librarian advises

Monkton

Have a news tip?
 Contact Liz Pecor at
rascal0406@gmavt.net



**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 noticed 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

**ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE
 MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
 NOTICE OF ADOPTED 2025 RATE CHANGES**

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors adopted its 2025 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for Calendar Year 2025 on November 21, 2024. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

The rate changes at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury are:

- (1) \$156/ton for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) & Construction/Demo Debris (C&D);
- (2) Large Truck Tires – Per Piece Recycling Fee: \$12 each;
- (3) Composting Supplies: \$78 ea. for a compost bin; \$8 ea. for a 5-Gallon Pail with Lid; \$2 ea. for a 5-Gallon Pail Lid Only;
- (4) Motor Oil: \$1.50/gallon of Residential >10 gallons, uncontaminated only;
- (5) Film Plastic (Commercial Loads), including Blue Wrap: \$20/CY;
- (6) Maple Sap Tubing: \$20/CY;
- (7) Cylinders > 20 lbs (resident or business): \$15/ea.

For a copy of the 2024 Annual Report and/or CY2025 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at acswwmd@acswwmd.org. Both are also available on the District's website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

**TOWN OF WALTHAM
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION
 AMENDMENT PERMIT**

Application: #24-204 Application submitted by Cheryl J. Langeway, Parcel 0000022004, Span-684-217-10129 to amend a previously approved subdivision and to add a 50-foot wide right-of-way to provide access from Plank Road, South Middlebrook Road, from Lot 9 (30.64) acre parcel to her adjoining Lot 4 (6.07) acre parcel.

The Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on this application on Monday, December 16, 2024 at the Waltham Town Hall, 2053 Maple Street. The meeting opens at 5:30PM, and the hearing is scheduled on the docket at 6:15 PM.

A copy of the application is available at Waltham Town Offices during regular business hours of 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464 (a)(1)(C) and 4471 (a) participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
 NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 18th at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

Application Number 24-105: Two-Lot Subdivision Applicant(s): Michele L. Racine; 399 Quaker Street; Rural Residential (RR-2) District; tax id no. 05/01/48. Hearing continuance.

Application Number 24-113: Amendment to a Subdivision. Applicant(s): Mark Franceschetti; Old Hollow Road/US Route 7; Highway Mixed Use (HMU2) District; tax id no. 18/20/71 & 18/20/71B0. Boundary adjustment and two-lot subdivision.

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

**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

that you can now pick up the *Addison Independent* from the Monkton Town Hall for \$1.50 each. (cash please.) The newspapers are located in a basket near the Town Clerk's desk. Papers are dropped off around 11 a.m. on Thursdays. You are welcome to pick up a paper when the town hall or library is open.

Town Hall Hours: Monday, 8 a.m. -1 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m -1 p.m., 4-7 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. -1 p.m., 4-7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. -1 p.m.

Library Hours: Tuesday, 3-7 p.m.; Thursday, 3-7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

From the desk of Stephen Pilcher, Monkton Select Board Chair:

The Town of Monkton purchased 450 acres from A. Johnson LLC on Friday, Nov. 22, to establish a Monkton Town Forest. The property has significant conservation values and opportunities for access to nature, outdoor recreation, sustainable forestry practices, protection of a large block of intact wildlife habitat, water quality protection, and outdoor

education. It is also adjacent to the nearly 1,000 conserved acres of the Watershed Center in Bristol. The parcel has uncommon natural communities and species, multiple beaver ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, and headwater streams for the Pond Brook and Little Otter Creek watersheds. There are existing woods roads and a variety of topography (map of the property).

The Monkton Town Forest will be conserved through an easement held by the Vermont Land Trust. The Town Forest Committee is developing a Management Plan by engaging the community in a series of workshops and focus group meetings.

The Management Plan describes the land, its ecology, and the community's priorities for it in the context of what uses are protected, permitted, or restricted by the Conservation Easement. It is the guiding document for how the land will change (or not) as it becomes a community forest and how the uses the community values can be integrated and balanced.

More information will be forthcoming.



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

LOST LANTERN
 11 Main Street
 Vergennes, VT
lostlanternwhiskey.com

Fraturdays & Saturdays 1-7pm

Holiday Special!

Select Models
 20% off until
 December 8th!

Miele

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

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

**OTTER
 CREEK
 USED
 BOOKS**

ottercreekusedbooks.com

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

VBS
 vermontbookshop.com
 38 main street middlebury

Since 1949

SHOP LOCAL
 and help keep us here
 another 75 years!

*Shop local,
 give unique!*

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

**SPARROW
 ART SUPPLY**
 MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

Give the Gift of
Tea

**Stone Leaf
 Tea**

Mon-Sat 11am-5pm
stoneleaftea.com

Midnight Stroll
 DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY

**THURSDAY 12.5
 THURSDAY 12.12
 FROM 5-8PM**

Sales, specials,
 pop-ups, tastings
 & more!

Experience
MIDDLEBURY
 VERMONT

EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM

The *Independent*

November 28, 2024

Elisa VanDuyne and Bill Carmichael Walsh will once again lead the annual holiday singing and dancing review "Broadway Direct" for the 19th year at the Vergennes Opera House. This year the holiday favorite will feature two performances on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., and again on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Big city talent performs on Little City stage

The annual Broadway Direct show at the Vergennes Opera House is just around the corner, and it's always a must-see for live-theater lovers. This year, the magic is doubling up with two performances: Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., and a matinee on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m. If you're looking to soak in some Broadway-level talent right here in Vermont, this is your chance.

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

"The programming team (decided) to go to two shows," said Gerianne Smart, president of the all-volunteer Friends of the Vergennes Opera House (FVOH) team. "The second show gives folks a chance to enjoy the production on an afternoon and make it easier for some to attend

when they have to come from farther away."

For years, FVOH has teamed up with St. Michael's Playhouse to present Broadway Direct. Traditionally, the show opened at the Opera House and then moved to St. Mike's for the rest of the weekend. But with the closure of St. Michael's Playhouse last year, the FVOH took the opportunity to expand its local offering, keeping this beloved production close to home.

A STAR-STUDED CAST

At the helm of Broadway Direct is Bill Carmichael Walsh — Broadway veteran, founder of the production, and proud Waltham resident (he's also on the FVOH board). For the show's 19th year, Walsh has curated an incredible lineup of performers.

"I'm really excited about the team of performers we have joining me on stage in this year's 'Broadway Direct' production," Walsh said. "We have Brian Golub and Sarah Ellis coming from the New York City area, and they will be joined by crowd favorite Elisa VanDuyne."

Yes, VanDuyne will oblige to at least a couple tap-dance routines. "But of course!" she exclaimed half-jokingly in an interview last week. "It's the only reason they hire me."

Accompanying the performers is pianist Ronnie Romano, a musical powerhouse who wears many hats, including directing the Middlebury College Community Chorus, the Wellspring Hospice Singers, and director of music at Congregational Church of

SEE STAGE ON PAGE 3

New song cycle soars in Dec. 7 Vermont premiere

Sky was Possible — a song cycle for soprano, flute, and piano — will premiere in Vermont at the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. 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. *Sky was Possible* consists of four poems from Patton's books "Fire's Goal: Poems from a Hindu Year" and "House Crossing," taking listeners on a journey through love, love lost, and love passing.

Soprano Kristen Watson and pianist John McDonald will start the evening with J.S. Bach's *Süßer Trost, mein Jesus kömmt*, BWV 151, which will be followed by selected works for flute and piano by Tan and McDonald. After *Sky was Possible's* stunning close to the program, the audience is invited to celebrate the artists at a post-concert reception.

This program is free with no tickets required. Approximate running time: 60 minutes, no intermission. The concert will also be streamed for free at the Robison Hall YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS-our9Wlxxn14q_f9OaPcg. For more info visit middlebury.edu/events.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

John McDonald

Boston-based pianist and composer John McDonald has earned international acclaim. His compositions have been performed on four continents, and his work is frequently featured in the U.S. by such ensembles as Alea III, Arden Quartet, Boston Composers String Quartet, Hartt Contemporary Players, Marimolin, Rivers Trio, A Far Cry, and Duo 101. His recordings appear on the Albany, Archetype, Boston, Bridge, Neuma, New Ariel, Arsis, and New World labels. McDonald is Professor of Music at Tufts University, and was recently on leave as Valentine Visiting Professor of Music at Amherst College (2016–2017). He has served as Chair of the Music Department at Tufts, and Director of Graduate Music Studies. He was an Artistic Ambassador to Asia, and is on the advisory board of Worldwide Concurrent Premieres, Inc. and several other cultural and academic organizations.

Laurie L. Patton

Laurie L. Patton is Professor of Religion at Middlebury and its 17th president. She is the author or editor of nine books in South Asian religions, two books of poetry, and over 50 articles. She has also translated the

Bhagavad Gita for the Penguin Classics Series. Her newest monograph, "Who Owns Religion? Scholars and Their Publics in the Late 20th Century," is forthcoming from University of Chicago Press. Her third book of poems, "HouseCycle," will be coming out from Station Hill Press in 2017. She is now working on a new monograph: "Grandmother Language: Women, Sanskrit and Identity in Postcolonial India."



Su Lian Tan

Su Lian Tan is a much sought-after flutist and composer. Her music has been described as "the stunner of the evening," (*Washington Post*) and "...music that demands to be heard...masterpiece.." (*Fanfare Magazine*). Making her first recordings at the age of 14, she has also been featured in *Flute Talk* and *American Record Guide*. Tan has been commissioned by groups such as the Grammy-winning Takács String Quartet, Da Capo Chamber Players, and the Vermont Symphony. Recordings of her music including Grand

SEE SKY ON PAGE 14

COMMUNITY DANCE EVENTS



SCAN FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE

Discover the art of movement: A week of dance at Middlebury College

Join the Middlebury College Dance Program for an inspiring trio of events showcasing the creativity, talent, and collaborative spirit of students and faculty. Whether you're drawn to the spontaneity of improvisation, the expressive depth of Butoh, or the artistry of original choreography, there's something for everyone during this celebration of movement and performance at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3, 5-6 P.M.

Explore improvisational movement and live music in the Dance 261 Class Showing, guided

by Professor Lida Winfield, and musicians Ron Rost and Deborah Felmeth. Lighting will be improvised by Bert Crosby. Free and open to the public.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4, 5-6 P.M.

Witness the evocative beauty of Butoh and dynamic student choreography in the Dance 260 & Butoh Class Showing, led by Professors Meshi Chavez and Lida Winfield. Musical accompaniment by Ron Rost and Deborah Felmeth. Lighting design by Bert Crosby. Free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5 & FRIDAY, DEC. 6, 7-9 P.M.

Experience the culminating creativity of advanced students in the Sift, Shift, and Step Out Fall Dance Concert, featuring original works by Dance 460 student choreographers Leigha Francis, Brys Peralta, and Lief Temple. Tickets: \$15 for the general public, \$10 for Middlebury College faculty, staff, and alumni, \$8 for youth (ages 6–18), and \$5 for Middlebury College students.

Tickets and more info can be found online at middlebury.edu/arts or at the Mahaney Arts Center box office.

STAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middlebury. This will be Romano's debut on the Vergennes Opera House stage.

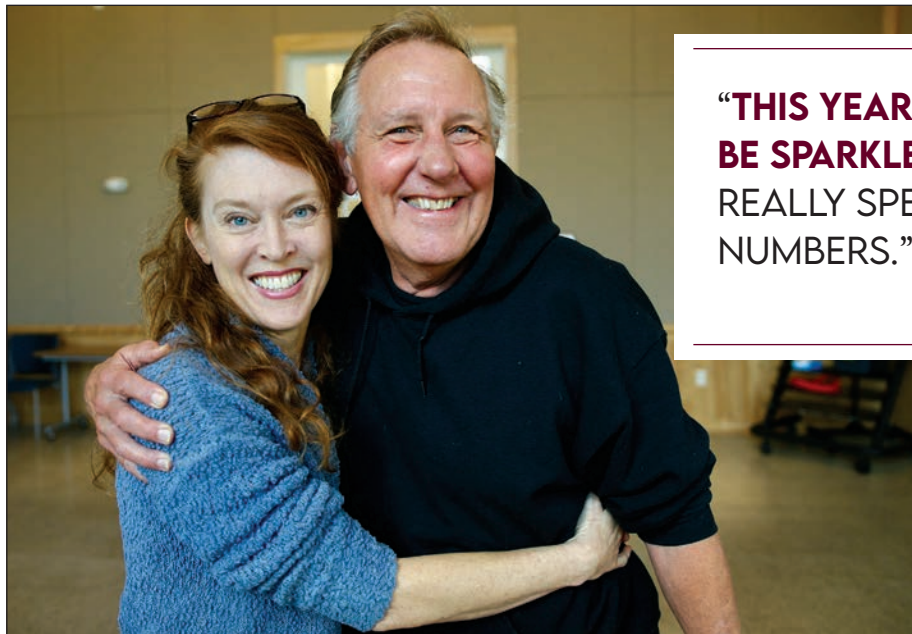
But that's not all — two talented local high school students will also take the spotlight. Ella Kozak (Middlebury Union High School) and Lila Brightman (Mount Abraham Union High School) will join the professional cast. Both are standout performers at their schools and part of the Youth Opera Company of Middlebury.

"We always strive to have a mix of show tunes — some that are familiar and some more obscure numbers — that will hopefully appeal to a lot of people," said VanDuyne, highlighting a number from "Something Rotten!" as well as the closing number "Keep Marching" from "Suffs" — the new Broadway musical about the Suffragists written by Waitsfield, Vt., native Shaina Taub.

"And of course, this year's show will be sparkled with some really special Christmas numbers, as well," chimed in Walsh.

All in all, another one for the books folks! If you love song and dance, this is a great chance to see incredible local talent in two showings on the magical Vergennes Opera House stage.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and just \$10 for students age 18 and under, and are available at VergennesOperaHouse.org or at the door (general seating). Doors open an hour before showtime. Every ticket sold helps the all-volunteer team at the Vergennes Opera House continue their work preserving the 126-year-old historic theater. This year, proceeds will support



Elisa VanDuyne and Bill Carmichael Walsh rehearse at the Congregational Church in Middlebury with pianist Ronnie Romano (not pictured). The annual spectacular will take the stage at the Vergennes Opera House on Dec. 6 and 7.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES



the All Access Project, an initiative to install elevators and lifts, making the theater accessible to everyone. For questions, email info@vergennesoperahouse.org or call 802-877-6737.

"THIS YEAR'S SHOW WILL BE SPARKLED WITH SOME REALLY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NUMBERS."

— Bill Carmichael Walsh

DEBORAH HOLMES WATERCOLORS



Please come to a **Holiday Sale** at the studio and home of **DEBORAH HOLMES** **December 7 & 8, 2024** **Saturday & Sunday 10-5** **24 Garfield St., Bristol, VT**

Watercolor & acrylagouache paintings, cards, calendars and ornaments ... featuring new watercolors of winter in Vermont.

REFRESHMENTS! **Open December 14 & 21, 10-5 for Holiday Shopping**

802.453.8511
deborahholmesart@gmail.com
DEBORAHHOLMESART.COM



MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
FALL 2024 SEASON

December 4 ▪ 7:30 PM
BRIA SKONBERG
JAZZ QUINTET
\$25/20/10/5

Tickets on sale now
go.middlebury.edu/pas

Enjoy 8 weeks of local tulips this January with **Four Blooms Farm CSA!**

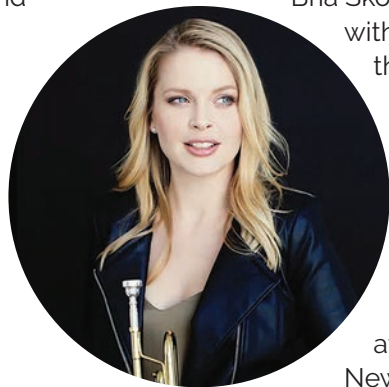
Pickup locations:
Bristol: Four Blooms Farmstand
Bristol: Vermont HoneyLights
Middlebury: Champlain Valley Fuels
Panton: BJ's Farm Supply

Learn more at fourbloomsfarm.com
"Promo code TULIPS for \$5 off"

UPCOMING MUSIC

Fiery trumpeter & vocalist leads her quintet

New York based, Canadian born musician Bria Skonberg stormed onto the jazz scene with her smoky vocals, blistering trumpet, and compelling compositions and arrangements. She's been described as one of the "most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" by the *Wall Street Journal* and the "shining hope of hot jazz" by the *New York Times*. Skonberg sold out the Mahaney Arts Center almost a decade ago, and she returns to Middlebury with her quintet on Wednesday, Dec. 4, just in time for the holidays with a new program entitled "Jingle Bell Swing." The concert will feature Skonberg's take on seasonal favorites, including her Louis Armstrong-inspired cover of "All I Want For Christmas is You," currently



clocking 1.5 million streams on Spotify.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bria Skonberg is a Juno Award winner with an astounding range: she sang the music of Aretha Franklin alongside Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child, played with U2 at the iconic Apollo Theater, sat in with the Dave Matthews Band, was a featured guest with Jon Batiste, and performed the National Anthem at Madison Square Garden for a New York Rangers game.

Born in British Columbia and now residing in New York City, Bria has been a featured artist at hundreds of festivals and stages the world over, including New Orleans Jazz & Heritage, Kobe, Monterey, Breda, Newport, and

MORE TUNES

A week of captivating student concerts

The Mahaney Arts Center invites you to experience an extraordinary week of musical performances, showcasing the creativity and talent of Middlebury's composers, musicians, and vocalists. These free events bring together students, faculty, and community members for an unforgettable celebration of sound and song in the Olin C. Robison Concert Hall.

MONDAY, DEC. 2, 7:30-9:30 P.M.
Discover innovative sounds at the Composers in Concert evening, featuring exciting new works by student composers from Music 209. Free and open to the public. Livestream available at youtube.com/@robisonhall.

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 11

Montreal Jazz Festivals. She has performed hundreds of educational concerts and workshops for students of all ages, has led an ensemble for Jazz at Lincoln Center's "Jazz for Young People" outreach program and is an

SEE TRUMPET ON PAGE 11



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 STEWART LN.
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753
802-388-9925
@SWIFTHOUSEINN

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 CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 16



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, your energy is impressive and contagious this week. You can put it to use tackling tasks that you have been putting off. A surprise message could brighten your weekend.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, review your budget and consider a new investment opportunity. This week brings a chance to reconnect with someone special. Don't avoid vulnerability, as it could enhance things.

GEMINI: May 22/ June 21. You might find yourself in discussions that lead to exciting new projects, Gemini. Be open to collaboration and work on improving your communication skills. Time for fun comes later.

CANCER: June 22/ July 22. This week is all about self-care, Cancer. Take some time to focus on your emotional well-being and nurture it as much as you can. A midweek work opportunity could arise.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, dive into artistic pursuits or share ideas with others this week, as your creativity will be shining brightly. A social engagement may bring new connections that lead to exciting prospects.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Get down to business and organize your workspace or tackle a project that has been pushed aside, Virgo. If you feel overwhelmed, be sure to ask for some help from those you trust.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, it's all about balance this week, something you know a lot about as the scales sign. Make time for both work and play so you can make the most of every opportunity.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Intensity and passion might define your week, Scorpio. Delve into a project that excites you. By the middle of the week, news reaches your ears and it could be very exciting.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. This is the week for exploring new ideas or planning a trip, Sagittarius. It's only a matter of time before you realize that adventure awaits. Get started on what awaits.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/ Jan. 20. Capricorn, try focusing on your long-term goals this week. Strategic planning will pay off in the long run. If you need help, seek a mentor who can offer advice.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. A surprise opportunity might arise for you midweek, Aquarius. Don't hesitate to snatch it up quickly, as others also might be interested. Leave weekend plans open for now.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, if you feel your emotions are running high this week, try to channel your feelings into a creative project that will use them in a smart way. A friend may call asking for advice.

Stop by for Small Business Saturday

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

We're Ready to Help You Celebrate the Holiday Season!

Wreaths & Poinsettias are here!

Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 So., Middlebury
388-2800 • www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com

FESTIVE Flash Sale

Black Friday & Small Biz Saturday

All fabric buy 1 yard get 1 at 40% off
Friday, 11/29 and Saturday, 11/30 • Closed 11/28

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

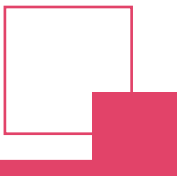
FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 29 — Billy Strayhorn, jazz musician (d)
NOV. 30 — Ridley Scott, filmmaker (87)
DEC. 1 — Zoë Kravitz, actor (36)

DEC. 2 — Gianni Versace, fashion designer (d)
DEC. 3 — Jean-Luc Godard, filmmaker (d)
DEC. 4 — Jeff Bridges, actor (75)
DEC. 5 — Margaret Cho, actor & comedian (56)

CALENDAR

NOV. 28-DEC. 6
2024



FRIDAY, NOV. 29

ROLLING DOWN THE TRACKS: HOLIDAY TRAINS! opening day in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual tradition, delighting all ages. The assemblage stands three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel 027 gauge trains, and an upper track running HO trains. Exhibit will run every day the museum is open from Nov. 29, through Jan. 4, 2025. More info at www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/holidaytrains or call 802-388-2117.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

CLINT TURNS 50! IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Legendary local musician Clint Bierman is turning 50, and Vermont music all stars are honoring him in an epic concert. Featuring past and present members of The Grift, alongside other Vermont Music All-Stars, including Peter Day, Ben Lively, Ryan Clawson, Neil Matthews, Rian Alfiero, TV's Josh Panda,

Mihali (from Twiddle), Evan Jennison, Matt Schrag, Ty Bierman, Instagram's Sam Bierman and Rhonda Jean. All are welcome, and the show is free, but reservations are required. More info at townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

"THE POLAR EXPRESS" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join us at Town Hall Theater for a matinee screening of the classic film about a boy and a train. Pajamas are encouraged, and there will be a build-your-own hot chocolate bar. Tickets \$10 adult/\$5 children 12 and under. More info at townhalltheater.org.

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.

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.

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.

SIFT, SHIFT, AND STEP OUT: FALL DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. The Middlebury College Fall Dance Concert will feature original student choreography. Tickets \$15/10/8/5 available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets. Open to the public.

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

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	Channel 1091	Channel 1071	Channel 1091
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	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	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	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
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 11 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	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	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	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
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	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	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	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
		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	

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,

TOP PICK

Middlebury College will present "A Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas" on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 4 and 7 p.m., at the Middlebury Chapel. Led by Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life Mark R. Orten, and Middlebury College Choir Musical Director Jeffrey Buettner. Donations will be accepted for local charities. Large print programs available. American Sign Language interpretation at the 4 p.m. service only.



"Asylum, 2019," by Katie Runde Sanchez oil on panel, 12"x9".

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.

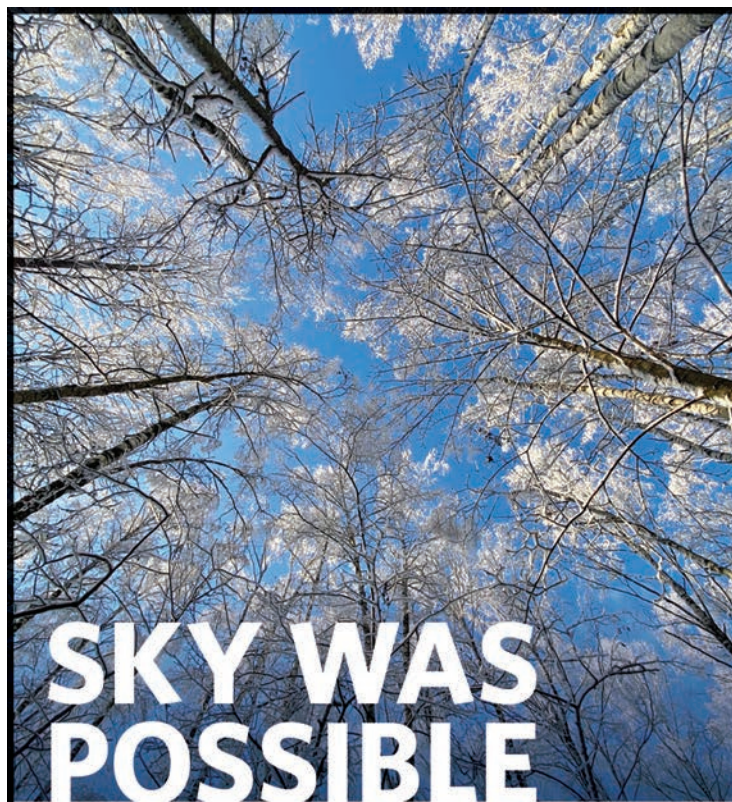
BRIAN MCCARTHY JAZZ ORCHESTRA IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. THT presents Brian McCarthy Jazz Orchestra featuring Ray Vega. This 18-piece jazz orchestra features a guest artist and all new arrangements. The orchestra brings together Vermont's local talent 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.

SIFT, SHIFT, AND STEP OUT: FALL DANCE CONCERT AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Dec. 5 listing.



SKY WAS POSSIBLE

NEW! A song cycle for soprano, flute, and piano composed by Su Lian Tan, with texts by Laurie Patton. Vermont premiere. Also featuring John McDonald, piano, and Kristen Watson, soprano.



Laurie Patton



Su Lian Tan



Kristen Watson



John McDonald

Saturday, December 7, 2024 • 7:30 PM

Mahaney Arts Center
Olin C. Robison Concert Hall

FREE, no tickets required.
Reception to follow.





PINE GROVE ORGANICS

Craft Cannabis Store
Anniversary Celebration
12/3-12/8

Check pinegroveorganics.org
each day for daily deals,
in-store vendors, and
online menu!

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and 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 of 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 judgment. 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 1-800-222-1222.

335 Grove St., Brandon

Tue-Sat, 9am-8pm | Sun, 9am-5pm



Adagio Chocolates

New England's Largest Selection of Chocolates

Bars, Bulk & Gifts

Open 5-8 during the Midd Night Strolls!

52 Main St, Middlebury VT
adagiochocolates.com



THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP

SKIDA

5-8pm MIDD NIGHT STROLL SPECIALS

Dec 5th & 12th

JOIN US FOR FUN...! STOREWIDE DISCOUNTS SAVE MORE WITH MIDDLEBURY MONEY!

Formerly MiddleburyShop.com

68 Main St., Middlebury, Vt • 802-388-3444

Wreaths, Amaryllis, Gifts, and Seasonal Decor



TOAD HALL FLOWERS

48 Main Street, Middlebury, VT

Open 7 days a week during the holidays
9am - 5pm 802-989-0083

Holiday Shoppers, we have just what she wants.



Autumn Gold
Fine Jewelry & Gifts

Complimentary champagne and cookies while you shop on Dec. 5th & 12th

Midd Night Stroll

OVER 40 MERCHANTS

WILL BE OFFERING EXTENDED EVENING SHOPPING, SPECIAL DEALS AND PROMOTIONS FROM 5-8P.M. ON **THURSDAY, DEC. 5 AND 12.** ENJOY MYSTERY DISCOUNTS, POP-UP VENDORS, HOLIDAY OFFERS AND FREE GIFT WRAPPING!

Midd Kid Night on Dec. 5th

Welcome Middlebury College students! Middlebury College a'capella groups the D8 and Mamajamas will perform at Fountain Park.

On behalf of our stores and restaurants, the Better Middlebury Partnership would like to thank Middlebury College for providing students with Middlebury Money this evening. Thank you for your investment into Middlebury businesses!

POPCORN, COOKIES, SNACKS, BEER, WINE, CIDER, HOLIDAY DRINKS, AND OTHER SAMPLES!

Find updated info about the strolls and other Very Merry Middlebury happenings at

EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM

DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY

VISIT THESE SHOPS ON DEC. 5TH & 12TH

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ADAGIO CHOCOLATES
52 Main St
adagiochocolates.com | HONEY WAX
48 Main St.
honeywaxbarmiddlebury.com | SABAI SABAI THAI CUISINE
22 Merchants Row
sabaisabaithai.com |
| AMERICAN FLATBREAD
137 Maple St
americanflatbread.com | IPJ REAL ESTATE
34 Main St
middvermontrealestate.com | SHELDON MUSEUM
1 Park St
henrysheldonmuseum.org |
| ARCADIAN/HAYMAKER BUNS
(12/12 only)
7 Bakery Ln
haymakerbuns.com | JUICE AMOUR
16 Merchant's Row
juiceamour.com | SHIRETOWN
54 College St
shiretownmarketplace.com |
| AUTUMN GOLD
61 Main St
Facebook @autumngold | LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS
24 Merchants Row
littleseed.coffee | SPARROW ART SUPPLY
52 Main St
sparrowartsupply.com |
| BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES VERMONT REALTY GROUP
32 Merchants Row
vtregroup.com | MAC THE BARBER
Merchants Row | STONE LEAF TEA
111 Maple St
stoneleaftea.com |
| BUY AGAIN ALLEY
60 Main St
Facebook @buyagainalley | MIDDLEBURY MARQUIS
65 Main St
middleburymarquis.com | SWEET CECILY
42 Main St
sweetcecily.com |
| CROOKED LADLE / 51 MAIN THE GIVING FRIDGE
51 Main St
51mainvt.com | MIDDLETON
66 Main St
middletonvermont.com | TASTE OF INDIA
1 Bakery Ln
tasteofindiavt.com |
| DANFORTH PEWTER
46 Main St
danforthpewter.com | MORGAN'S TAVERN
14 Court Sq
middleburyinn.com/home/morgans-tavern | THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP (FORTH N GOAL)
68 Main St
middleburyshop.com |
| EDGEWATER GALLERY
6 Merchants Row
edgewatermiddlebury.co | MR UPS
25 Bakery Ln
misterupsvt.com | THE STONE MILL PUBLIC MARKET
3 Mill St
stonemillvt.com |
| FIRE AND ICE
26 Seymour St
fireandicerestaurant.com | MY KIM
73 Main St | THE VERMONT BOOK SHOP
38 Main St
vermontbookshop.com |
| FLORA CANNABIS
2 Park St
floravt.com | NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLEBURY MIDDLEBURY STUDIO SCHOOL ARTISAN MARKET
30 Main St
nbmvt.com | TINKER AND SMITHY
72 Main St
tinkerandsmithy.square.site |
| FROG HOLLOW BIKES
74 Main St
froghollowbikes.com | OTTER CREEK BAKERY
14 College St
ottercreekbakery.com | TOAD HALL
48 Main St
fourpillarsfarmstead.com |
| GREEN MOUNTAIN ADVENTURES (MIDDLEBURY MOUNTAINEER)
56 Main St
middleburymountaineer.com | OTTER CREEK USED BOOKS
99 Maple St #12
ottercreekusedbooks.com | TWO BROTHERS TAVERN
86 Main St
twobrotherstavern.com |
| | PARLOUR
57 Main St
parlourvt.com | VERMONT'S OWN GIFTS AND GOODS
64 Main St
vermontsowngiftsandgoods.com |

Enter our raffle for a chance to win a

\$100 Gift Card to Sparrow Art Supply!

Spend \$50+ for 1 entry
Spend \$100+ for 5 entries


RAFFLE ENTRIES APPLY TO IN-STORE AND ONLINE PURCHASES UNTIL **DECEMBER 15!**
(YES, WE SHIP!)

44 Main Street sparrowartsupply.com
(802) 989-7225 **Now open Sundays in December!**

crowd averse? we see you. save us both!

shop our website and use promo code **STROLL24**

after noon on Dec 5 for 20% OFF*
*some restrictions apply



vermontbookshop.com



Fresh and Sumptuous Thai Cuisine

dinner • take-out • gift certificates
appetizers • soups • thai salads • stir-fries
curries • noodles • daily specials
no msg added • vegetarian options • gluten free

Midd Night Stroll Special 5% OFF
All Menu Items
(Beverages not included, eat-in only, not valid with any other offer)

22 Merchants Row • Middlebury • 802-989-7376



Better Middlebury Partnership

Midd Winters Night
— 2024 Chocolate Bar —

Milk Chocolate with Sea Salt

TRUMPET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Educational Advisor to the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens. In 2018 Lincoln Center sought out her leadership for a tribute to the first integrated all female big band, the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, which launched her acclaimed group Sisterhood of Swing.

The past few years have brought major life changes for Skonberg — she not only met the challenges of surviving as a professional musician during the pandemic, but she also experienced the joy of parenthood for the first time.

Together, these two life-altering events have inspired her with a renewed sense of freedom in music making. Skonberg's 2024 release "What It Means" forges a way forward, in particular by returning to what inspired her in the first place: the sounds of New Orleans jazz.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Bria Skonberg's jazz quintet will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students, available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets. Further discounts are available through the Community Access Tickets program (go.middlebury.edu/tixforall). For tickets or information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

of classical and Broadway selections in the December Vocal Concert, performed by voice students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck. Free and open to the public. Livestream available at youtube.com/@robisonhall.

MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

THURSDAY, DEC. 5, 7:30-9 P.M.

Welcome the holidays with the Middlebury Wind Ensemble Concert, 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 the Vermont premieres of a work composed by Shedd and one arranged by fellow Midd Winder Jack Clay, with the program culminating in a beloved holiday classic. The cornerstone of the program is Aaron Copland's stirring homage to Abraham Lincoln and the American principles for which he stood during a challenging period of American history. We will also present the world premier of a work written in memory of Lindi Bortney. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6, 7:30-9 P.M.

Enjoy a delightful evening

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 | addisoncountyyvet.com



Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital

Q: My dog is urinating blood.

What do I do next?

A: First thing, don't panic. I would recommend calling your veterinarian for an exam and further workup. Problems to consider are a urinary tract infection, urinary stones, low platelet count, etc. depending on how old your dog is. The veterinarian would likely recommend running a urinalysis to check for more obvious causes, but also recommend bloodwork and x-rays to look at function of organs and for urinary stones.



Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <https://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



1174 VT ROUTE 17, STARKSBORO
\$699,000

THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

Are you ready for your perfect escape?

This charming 4-bedroom home in Starksboro, Vermont, could be the one for you! The property spans over 9.6 sub-dividable acres, including the Baldwin Creek that flows year-round into the New Haven River. Imagine picking fresh fruit, cozying up by the woodstove, or heading down to the cabin - ideal for an art studio, writer's retreat, or a quiet escape by the stream. With natural wood finishes throughout, every room feels warm and welcoming. The spacious breezeway not only connects the house and garage but adds valuable storage space too. The kitchen is a chef's dream, complete with a large imperial stove and beautiful wood countertops. Upstairs, you'll find four bedrooms and a full bath. The primary bedroom is a serene retreat with abundant natural light, private balcony, and full bathroom - the perfect place to relax. Plus, you're just minutes away from outdoor adventures like hiking the Long Trail, skiing at Mad River Glen or Sugarbush, and mountain biking. With a location only 10 minutes from the charming town of Bristol and a 30-minute commute to Middlebury or Burlington, this home offers the perfect balance of country living and convenience. All this and solar panels as well. Your Vermont retreat awaits! Schedule a showing today!



COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

This home is listed by Michael Johnston of Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. Please call 802-846-9518 for details.



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

*Giving thanks for all you've given us!
This Thanksgiving,
we're thankful for you.*



*Our clients, our colleagues, and of course our agents, for continuing to remind us, why we do what we do.
Here's to a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.*








Sean Dye,
802-338-0136

Nancy Larrow,
802-989-9653

Susan Burdick
802-989-9058

Cory Foote
802-349-7101

Galina Mencilr
802-353-5370

Genevieve Smyth
802-497-7374

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | **VERMONT REALTY GROUP**

802-877-2134 • www.REVT4U.COM

YOUR FOREVER REALTORS,
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE HOME AT A TIME!

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



creative real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®

COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

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.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

NOV. 28, 2024

ADD YOUR PIECE!
BE THE NEXT SPONSOR OF THE PUZZLE PAGE.
EMAIL CHRISTY@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM TO FIND OUT HOW.



B	E	A	M	T	A	B	E	S	T	A	T	E
A	L	L	O	A	B	A	M	P	A	G	E	D
T	E	G	U	T	I	N	E	A	B	R	A	D
T	A	A	L	S	D	A	R	T	I	A	R	A
				D	A	T	E	L	I	N	E	S
T	A	B	T	A	R	T	A	E	T	P	A	
O	R	A	T	E	D	T	U	B	M	A	I	L
T	O	R	U	S	M	A	S	S	A	C	C	O
A	M	E	N	P	O	I	M	A	C	H	O	S
L	A	D	T	E	D	R	A	G	E	T	A	
				S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S
T	A	B	L	A	R	E	C	S	A	B	E	R
O	L	E	A	T	A	P	E	D	B	A	R	I
M	O	A	B	S	T	O	M	A	I	B	I	S
E	E	L	S	P	O	S	E	D	N	E	C	K

7	6	5	4	1	2	3	9	8
2	4	8	3	9	6	5	1	7
3	1	9	7	8	5	2	4	6
8	9	3	5	7	4	1	6	2
4	5	6	1	2	3	8	7	9
1	7	2	8	6	9	4	3	5
5	3	7	6	4	8	9	2	1
6	2	4	9	5	1	7	8	3
9	8	1	2	3	7	6	5	4



**CORNWALL
ROUTE 74**

**MLS #4988325 | \$275,000
4.28 ACRES**

Minutes to Middlebury. This lot is surrounded on three sides by land trusted acreage, with a building site poised for fantastic southern exposure. State permitted for a 4-bedroom mound septic system.



**CORNWALL
NORTH BINGHAM STREET**

**MLS #5005260 | \$325,000
19.46 ACRES**

Nestle your dream home in an apple orchard! Septic permit allows for a four-bedroom home. Trails for hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing and nordic skiing could be out your back door! Just 10 mins to Middlebury.



**CORNWALL
VT ROUTE 30**

**MLS #5007275 | \$180,000
4.14 ACRES**

This parcel offers meadowland with some woods as well as mountain views. Close to the center of Middlebury and less than two miles from Middlebury College. Septic permit in place for a 3-bdrm home.



**SALISBURY
765 SMEAD ROAD**

**MLS #5015528 | \$469,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 2621 SF | 1.50 ACRES**

Single-level living with a finished basement and oversized detached garage. Enjoy gardening in the raised beds and a soak in the hot tub. Heated/cooled with heat pumps and a new septic going in before closing!



**WHITING
68 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

**MLS #5020007 | \$249,000
2 BD | 1 BA | 1100 SF | 0.33 ACRES**

Easy to maintain one-level with a new bath, kitchen, freshly refinished floors, and insulation in the crawl space. Two bedrooms, a den, and a spacious living area. Just 15 minutes to Middlebury!

ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242

SKY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Theft and other Felonies and Revelations have been received with great acclaim. Her multimedia chamber opera, Lotus Lives, received similar praise. Her commissions include Legends of

Kintamani, a concerto for cellist Darrett Adkins, (recording Oberlin/Naxos) and a piccolo concerto for Nicola Mazzanti. Her music is published by ECS Publishing and Theodore Presser. Also a dedicated teacher, Tan is Professor of Music at Middlebury College. She holds degrees from the Trinity College, London (F.T.C.L.), Bennington College (B.A.), The Juilliard School (M.M.), and Princeton University (Ph.D.).

Kristen Watson

Soprano Kristen Watson, hailed by critics for her "blithe and silvery" tone (*Boston Globe*) and "striking poise" (*Opera News*) has made solo appearances with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Classical Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Group, Handel & Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, and A Far Cry at such venues as Walt Disney Concert Hall, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Boston's Symphony Hall. Ms. Watson has received particular acclaim for her interpretations of Baroque repertoire, performing as soloist for the San Francisco Early Music Society, Trinity Wall Street, North Carolina Symphony, Sarasa, Aston Magna Festival, and Boston Early Music Festival. "...keen musicianship, agility and seamless control" (*San Antonio Express*).



**PRINT OR DIGITAL
READ THE ADDY INDY**

Join your community's conversation!

SUBSCRIBE

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Make the dream of home ownership a reality. **We can help. Contact us today or apply online.**
Lindi Quesnel | Community Lender | NMLS #968279



Member **EOE FDIC** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
nbmvt.com • 1-877-508-8455
Bank NMLS #403372

Ferrisburgh percussionist featured in OrchestraPalooza

Each year, the young musicians of Vermont Youth Orchestra Association fill the Flynn stage with music in a festival performance that celebrates the lifelong journey of music, and it's back again. Musicians as young as 9 years old join their peers for uplifting performances of music, culminating in an immersive performance of "Sleigh Ride" on Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. Featured this year will be Vergennes Union High School senior Megan Mentzer on percussion.

Vermont Youth Strings opens the concert, led by conductor Ace Ali and featuring young musicians as young as third grade. They'll perform repertoire from Handel, Schubert, and Pokofiev in this year's OrchestraPalooza.

Vermont Youth Philharmonia follows, led by Dr. Yutaka Kono. With the addition of winds and brass players, the opportunities for orchestral repertoire expand, and this ensemble offers many young musicians their first experience playing in a full symphony orchestra. They prepare challenging repertoire that is relevant to their lives, including contemporary, diverse composers and exciting selections from movies and other media. In this concert, they'll perform works by Brahms, Doris Gazda, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Joe Hisaishi.

Each year, senior soloists are chosen from the Vermont Youth Orchestra to represent the VYOA's dedication to artistic excellence. Percussionist Mentzer from Ferrisburgh, will perform the first movement from Darius Milhaud's Concerto for Marimba and Vibraphone, op. 278, with the Vermont Youth Orchestra. Mentzer is a senior at Vergennes Union High School, and completing her senior year at Vermont State University's Castleton Campus through Vermont's Early College program. She selected the Milhaud concerto because of its musical significance — as one of the first concertos written for percussion, some of the techniques used were very experimental at the time.

"I've been playing since fifth grade, when I joined the percussion section of my elementary school band," said Mentzer. "Being a percussionist is great because, unlike a violinist, flautist, or any other member in the orchestra, I could go through an entire concert without playing the same instrument twice. I love the diverse range of percussion, from jazz drum kit, to orchestral timpani, and even solo marimba. There's always something new to learn!

"I'm excited to perform the concerto I've been



Ferrisburgh percussionist Megan Mentzer will solo in this year's VYOA OrchestraPalooza on Dec. 15 in Burlington.

preparing for over a year," she continued. "There's a lot of pressure to get every moment right, and I hope that everything goes as I've practiced it! I'm also excited to hear all of the ensembles perform, and to spend time with my family after."

Finally, Vermont Youth Orchestra will perform "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker and Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 2. Led by Dr. Mark Alpizar, Vermont Youth Orchestra members represent nearly 25 schools in counties across the state. In the VYOA's newest tradition, the performance of "Pomp and Circumstance" will involve a member of the audience who wins the annual Baton Auction.

Tickets cost \$20-\$23 and are available through flynnvt.org.



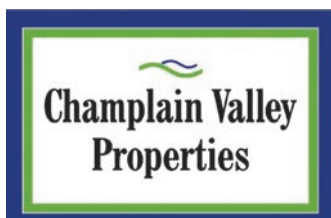
HAPPY THANKSGIVING



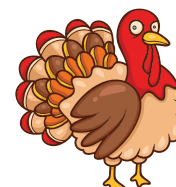
1857 TOWN FARM RD., BRANDON VT 05733
MLS #5022851 - \$360,000
 Come check out this lovely cape that has been well cared for by the same owners for almost 37 years. This 3-bedroom home has a first-floor bedroom as well as two bedrooms on the second floor. The Hearthstone wood stove makes the living space nice and cozy. There is an extra studio off of one of the second floor bedrooms. Outside you will find space for gardening, relaxing and enjoying nature. The location is ideal for either commuting to Brandon, Middlebury or Rutland.



2207 GAP RD., GOSHEN, VT 05733
MLS # 5022964 - \$290,000
 Are you looking for a getaway? This rustic, year round, one bedroom camp is sited on 15.1 acres. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Green Mountains, this property also features apple trees, blueberry bushes, a pond and the Neshobe River which runs through it. This property offers plenty of space for outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing or snowmobiling or simply enjoying nature. This property would serve as a great retreat for those seeking both recreation and solitude. Centrally located between Middlebury and Rutland and close to VAST trails and the Long trail.



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net



ART ON EXHIBIT

Process & Presence opens at Vergennes gallery

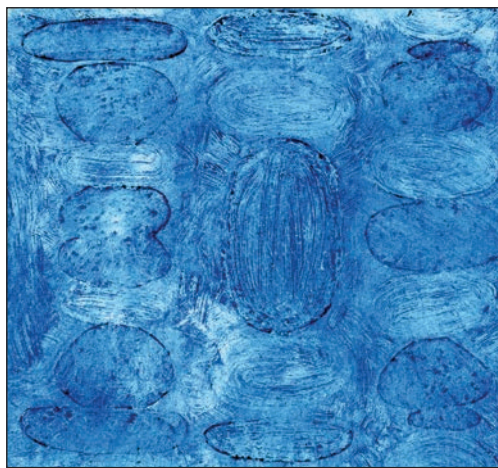
Opening this December, the third exhibition at K. Grant Fine Art unites two Vermont-based women whose practices merge art and design, highlighting the dynamic interplay of form and functionality, material and space, process, and presence. "Process & Presence" will open Dec. 7, and be on view through January, 2025.

Through their respective practices, Jasmine Parsia and Viscaya Wagner explore how art inhabits space and functions in our daily lives, creating a dialogue that reveals the tension and balance between form, materiality, and space. Wagner's spatial design, bespoke furniture, and functional objects find their counterpart in Parsia's work, which spans printmaking, design, and curated installations. Their collaboration invites audiences into a reflective, process-driven experience, underscoring the grounding power of being fully present in the act of making.

In her work, Wagner approaches design holistically, using process to create objects and spaces that are more than functional — they are portals into mindfulness, tactility, and warmth. Each piece is shaped by a conceptual framework that allows for discovery and familiarity to coexist. Wagner's practice is a meditative exercise in letting go, emphasizing presence and intentionality over outcome, from concept development to the final form.

Parsia's work embodies a "collaging" of processes, where translation between materials and techniques yields abstract compositions that evoke the familiar and unexpected alike. Her monotypes, indigo-dyed prints, and embossed forms layer imagery and texture to create moments that pause and reflect. Seen through her eyes, design is both process and product — a language to merge art's tactile qualities with its functional, everyday presence. Parsia's works emphasize circulation and transformation, combining disciplines in an approach that defies categorization and highlights the fluidity of form.

Parsia is an Iranian-American



artist based in Burlington. For her, this collection of monotypes, paper weavings, and drawings consider themes of language and communication, materiality, transference, and chance. Created through a ritual of repetition, imagery and symbols are translated from one process to another, accumulating new meaning, understanding, and memory as they echo across each piece.

Wagner operates her design studio, also in Burlington, and combines artistry with strategic design to craft spaces and pieces that invite both familiarity and discovery. Her new body of work featured in 'Process & Presence' at K. Grant Fine Art, alongside new works by Jasmine Parsia, represent an ongoing exercise in letting go of the outcome; necessary when working in interior and furniture design, and playing with shape as a meditative act.

Visitors are encouraged to view these works as a dialogue between material and space, where art and design coexist as mindful practices that reveal the beauty in the act of making.

K. Grant Fine Art will host an opening celebration for "Process & Presence" on Dec. 7., from 6-9 p.m. The exhibition will be open to the public through January, Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. K. Grant Fine Art is located at 37 Green Street in the downtown district of Vergennes. For more information, visit kgrantfineart.com, follow @kgrantfineart on Instagram, or contact Kristen at kristen@kgrantfineart.com.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes
For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Process & Presence," an exhibition featuring new works by two

Burlington-based multidisciplinary artists, Jasmine Parsia and Viscaya Wagner. An opening reception will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, from 6-9 p.m. On view Dec. 7-Jan. 31, 2025.

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.