

Memorial Day



A Special Publication of the Addison Independent • Thursday, May 22, 2025



Memorial Day Specials!



All While Supplies Last!

Remembering and honoring those who made sacrifices for our freedom



Our Greenhouse is BURSTING at the SEAMS!

ALL FRUIT TREES AND BERRY BUSHES 20% OFF

ALL PERENNIALS BUY 3 GET 4TH FREE!

Free/Discounted item must be equal or lesser value. Can not be combined with any other offer.



Harris 30% Vinegar Concentrate
Reg. \$29.99 GALLON
sale price \$21.99



20% OFF

GLAZED PATIO POTTERY, AND BIRDBATHS



25% OFF

ALL TOMATO CAGES AND VEGGIE TRELLISES



20% OFF

your clothing purchase

In-stock Merchandise only and cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Valid at Middlebury Agway only. Expires 5/31/25

AGWAY — Middlebury Agway Coupon —

NURSERY CUSTOMER BUCKS

The more you buy, the more you SAVE!

\$5 off |
 \$15 off |
 \$25 off

any \$50 Nursery Purchase any \$100 Nursery Purchase any \$150 Nursery Purchase
Combined nursery purchases include Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Herbs.

In-stock items only only — while supplies last. Expires May 31, 2025.
 Not valid w/any other offer or on items already on clearance.

Look for Sales – Flyer Specials & More at Agway!

Great Deals on these Dog Treats, Potting Mix, Mulches and More! Ends 5/31/25



MIRACLE GRO
Garden Soil
2 cf bag at
2 for \$18



Green Mtn. Red, Black & Cedar Mulch
reg \$6.99
\$5.99 Sale Price
after 10 bags!



Scotts Topsoil
reg. \$3.99
\$2.99 Sale Price
after 10 bags!



MIRACLE GRO
Moisture Potting
2 cf bag
\$5 off
(reg 21.99)



BIL-JACS TREATS
PBranas
20% off



Hummingbird Feeders
20% off



INABA POP'N SERVE
2 for \$6



MIRACLE GRO
Potting Mix 2 cf bag
2 for \$26



HALF PRICE
Summer Bulbs and Onion Sets/Bags

Open Memorial Day 8-3

AGWAY

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY FARM & GARDEN Open 7 days a week

338 Exchange St., Midd., VT • 802-388-4937

Monday - Friday 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4

YOUR YARD, GARDEN and PET PLACE™ www.MiddleburyAgway.com



LINCOLN BODETTE, LEFT, and Martin Gee, fifth graders at Vergennes Union Elementary School, place flags at St. Peter's Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day. Learning communities around the county are planning to commemorate the upcoming holiday in several ways.

Photo courtesy of VUES

Local students honor Memorial Day

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — From visiting local cemeteries to hosting student-led ceremonies, there are multiple ways schools around Addison County are planning to commemorate Memorial Day this year.

Some learning communities will continue to observe decades-old traditions, while others are preparing for newer events to honor those who have died while serving in the line of duty.

At Bristol Elementary School, principal Aaron Boynton is organizing a student-led Memorial Day ceremony slated for Friday, May 23, at 9 a.m. He noted the school used to hold a Memorial Day ceremony, and now in his second year at the school, he's looking to bring back a newer iteration of the event.

"I think it's important for children and students to know and understand what Memorial Day is about, and why we have it," he told the *Independent*. "I try to help

them recognize that it's not just a long weekend at the end of May; it's not just a day off, an unofficial start of summer. It has a real and important meaning. To have them understand and recognize the meaning of it is important to me."

Boynton said there are upwards of 20 students in grades 3-6 taking part in this year's ceremony. Pupils will read poems and speeches, a group of students will perform "Taps," and third graders will sing a song.

He noted that students volunteered to take part in the ceremony.

"I looked for students that wanted to not only be part of this, but also students that we knew would take this seriously," he said.

The Bristol American Legion's Color Guard will attend to present the colors, and Boynton will play the bagpipes toward the end of the event.

He noted the ceremony is open to all Bristol Elementary parents and families.

(See Students, Page 3)

"This is what really makes Memorial Day and its meaning personal."

— Vergennes fifth-grade teacher Josh Brooks



On the cover

Vergennes Union Elementary School fifth grader Paige Chamberlin earlier this month places an American flag at the grave of a departed veteran of the U.S. military in St. Peter's Cemetery in the Little City. This is a good occasion to learn about sacrifice for the community.

Photo courtesy of Vergennes Union Elementary School

Students

(Continued from Page 2)

LINCOLN AND OTHERS

At the nearby Lincoln Community School, students are expected to continue the tradition of honoring Memorial Day with a march to Maple Cemetery. In previous years, students have heard remarks from the school principal and United Church of Lincoln minister.

Last year, students heard from retired pastor David Wood, as well as Lincoln resident Brian Frazier and his two sons, Ian and Mason — both of whom are LCS alums. Frazier’s family has a long history of service in the U.S. military, and he is a member of several military and civil fraternal organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Major General James A. Garfield Camp 62, which is headquartered in Lincoln.

This year’s visit to Maple Cemetery was scheduled for the morning of Thursday, May 22.

Meanwhile, a couple local elementary schools have some commemorative events on and just after Memorial Day.

First-grade girls at Neshobe Elementary in Brandon have the option to lay flowers at the Monument after the Memorial Day Parade in Brandon.

The next day, May 27, students and staff at New Haven’s Beeman Elementary will hold their annual Memorial Day walk to the Evergreen Cemetery on Town Hill Road. There they will place flags and/or



MICHAEL DAVIS OF the Sons of the American Legion in Vergennes passes out flags for Vergennes Union Elementary School students to place in St. Peter’s Cemetery. Each year, the students recognize Memorial Day by placing the flags and putting together a VUES Memorial Wall honoring those who have served and since died.

Photo courtesy of Josh Brooks

flowers on service members’ graves.

That same day, students at Otter Creek Academy (the former Leicester Central School) will walk to the cemetery to perform a small Memorial Day ceremony.

VERGENNES

Over the past several years, students at Vergennes Union Elementary School have observed Memorial Day in a couple of different ways.

Each year, the learning community sets up an annual “VUES Memorial Wall” to remember friends and family members who died while serving their country, as well as those who served in the armed forces and have since died.

Josh Brooks teaches fifth grade at VUES. He said members of the school community were invited to send in photos of their loved ones beginning in early May.

“We post those photos on our VUES Memorial Wall, along with their name, rank, details of their service, and the names of children and staff at VUES they are connected to,” he said. “After talking about the meaning of the word ‘solemn,’ we have a short ceremony where students take turns placing photos on the wall and reading the person’s name. This is what really makes Memorial Day and its meaning personal.”

He said the wall is kept up through the

end of the school year so members of the community can visit, and the school posts an online link to the memorial wall in its weekly newsletter.

For the past several years, sixth graders at VUES have placed flags at the St. Peter’s Cemetery, located off South Maple Street in Vergennes. Fifth graders at the elementary school are carrying on that tradition this year, as sixth graders now attend Vergennes Union Middle School.

This year, pupils also placed flags at the Vergennes Burying Ground, which is at the corner of School Street and Mountain View Lane.

(See Honoring, Page 4)



We Join our Entire Community in Celebrating Memorial Day



70 Court Street, Midd., VT
802-989-7522
ChamplainValleyProperty.net





Nancy Foster
802-989-2772
cvpropnf@gmail.com



January Stearns
802-236-4424
cvpropjs@gmail.com



John Snyder-White
802-989-1066
cvpropjsw@gmail.com



Heather Foster-Provencher
802-989-2770
cvprophfp@gmail.com



Kellie Moore Peters
(207) 380-7735
kellie.peters5@gmail.com



Lisa Sargent
(802) 349-8880
lisasargentcvprop@gmail.com



Amy Young
(802) 345-8490
amycvprop@gmail.com



Liz Marino
(802) 989-1043
lizcvprop@gmail.com



LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL students and staff in May 2024 continued the school's decades-long tradition of honoring Memorial Day with a walk to Maple Cemetery. Students last year were joined by, from right, retired pastor David Wood and Lincoln resident Brian Frazier, whose family has a long line of service in the U.S. military.

Photo courtesy of Tory Riley

Honoring

(Continued from Page 3)

Brooks noted that ahead of placing flags, students take part in a short overview of Memorial Day, how it started and why it is celebrated in a different way than Veterans Day.

“Michael Davis of the Sons of the American Legion in Vergennes meets us at the cemetery and gives the kids a quick lesson in flag etiquette and the role the Legion and its members play in the city’s Memorial Day commemoration. He

also brings new flags for the students to place,” he said.

Students place flags about two to three weeks before Memorial Day, Brooks said, since community members are getting ready to visit and clean up family gravesites as spring gets underway. Typically, about 30 to 40 students take part in placing flags.

Brooks acknowledged that while history is about big events and their impacts, it’s also about people.

“All year long, we look for ways to make a personal connection with the past. It makes history real, but it also plants a seed — that the impact of history is all around us, especially in our own

community,” he explained. “This is a way for 5th graders to connect the past, present, and future, as well as giving them an opportunity to serve their community in their own way”

Dr. Robert Austin,
Optometrist



Peak View

EYE CARE

REMEMBER & HONOR

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

EMERGENCY & ROUTINE EYE EXAMS • FASHIONABLE EYEWEAR • CONTACT LENSES

Open 8-4:30 every other Monday and 8-4:30 Tuesday-Friday

27 Main Street, Vergennes (802) 877-2422



A TRIO OF Vergennes Union Elementary fifth graders — Kolby Bell, Nathan Clark and Elias Hekkers — take a moment for a discussion about the flag placing activity they are doing in preparation for Memorial Day.

Photo courtesy of Josh Brooks

WE'RE MOVING!

After decades at 205 Main Street, we are moving to 1 Main Street in Vergennes.

Many of you will recognize this location as the former Vergennes Building Supply or DR factory store. We hope this new location provides improved access to our office for customers, vendors, and staff.

We will close our existing office on Thursday, May 29th for the transition and plan to be fully operational on Friday May 30th in our new space. During the move we will remain open for all scheduled service and deliveries. Our phones will remain open for emergency calls.

Please share the news! We look forward to serving you at our new location!



JACKMAN FUELS

PROPANE • ULTRA LOW SULFUR FUEL OIL • KEROSENE
 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES
 SERVICE & INSTALLATION OF HEAT PUMPS
 HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT & WATER HEATERS

802-877-2661

1 Main St., Vergennes • www.JackmanFuels.com • Family-owned Local Business

All gave some - some gave all



Seymour Street
1943



Exchange Street
TODAY

MacIntyre
SERVICES, LLC

"Making friends warm is our business!"

213 Exchange Street, Middlebury • 802-388-9260 • 802-388-3014

Owned and Operated by the MacIntyre family since 1943



NORWICH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT Gen. John Broadmeadow will be the featured speaker on the city green during festivities at the end of the Vergennes Memorial Day Parade this coming Monday morning.

Medenwald

(Continued from Page 5)

amphibious assault into Afghanistan in 2001 immediately following the attacks of 9/11. He then served multiple tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, including as the lead advisor to the 7th Iraqi Infantry Division in 2009 and culminating with leading the drawdown and retrograde of equipment from Helmand Province in 2013. He's also experienced with Humanitarian Operations, having led forces in both Somalia for Operation

Restore Hope and in Japan following the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant damage that devastated the coast north of Tokyo.

A 1983 graduate of Norwich, Broadmeadow earned a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Master of Arts in Business Administration and Computer Resources Management from Webster University.

**HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE,
TODAY & EVERYDAY.
WE THANK YOU.**

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY EQUIPMENT

Middlebury | St. Albans | Colchester | Derby | Berlin

(802) 388-4967

CHAMPLAINVALLEYEQUIPMENT.COM



Ron LaRose on Memorial Day

Bristol's Ron LaRose knows a thing or two about service to his country. The 78-year-old enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 2, 1966, in B Battery 86th Field Artillery in Vergennes, beginning as a private and attaining the rank of staff sergeant. During most of his enlisted time, he served as a Howitzer Gun Chief.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant on June 24, 1976, in the Field Artillery. During his commission years, he served in many positions to include Commander of an Artillery Battery, Executive Officer of an Artillery Battalion, Range Manager and Director of Logistics at Ethan Allen Training Site, Director of Personnel and State Safety Manager at State Headquarters, and Assistant Chief of Staff.

LaRose was one of the first National Guard Officers in the country to serve in an assignment outside the continental United States, being selected to the "Captains to Europe Program," where he served for three years with the 40th Field Artillery, 3rd Armored Division, Hanau, Federal Republic of Germany. During this tour, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

LaRose attained the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring on June 30, 2005, from the Army and the Vermont Army National Guard with 39 years of total



LT. COL. RONALD L. LaROSE

service, 10 years enlisted and 29 years commissioned service. For many years he has been a leader at Bristol's Post 19 of the American Legion.

In 2020, when he was Commander of the Vermont Department of the American Legion, LaRose wrote down his thoughts on the most somber of American holidays.

Read his speech on Page 8

A special Thank You to those who have served and those who continue to serve.

Addison County Commission Sales, Inc.

Thomas G. Wisnowski & Sons
Rt. 125, East Middlebury, VT 05740
www.accscattle.com
1-800-339-2697
ACCS: 802-388-2661



RESPECT. HONOR. SACRIFICE

Thank you to all of our Veterans!



Mon.-Fri. 7am - 3pm

802-388-2296 24/7 Pager Service

1786 Route 7 South • Middlebury, VT

MEMORIAL DAY 2025



LEGION.ORG



The American Legion - Middlebury Post 27

REMEMBER THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

What Memorial Day means to you and me

What does Memorial Day mean to you? Most of you probably know you will have a three-day weekend — no school or work on Monday. Some of you might be going camping with your families over the long weekend. You might have watched the parade in Middlebury or Vergennes (in most years). Maybe you will have a family barbeque or go to the lake. Many people use the extra day to get their gardens planted or do other outside work. Nearly everyone enjoys having the extra day off from work or school. BUT, do you understand why we recognize and celebrate Memorial Day — why it is a National holiday?

Memorial Day is also often confused with Veterans Day. Many adults, young and old alike, confuse the meanings of the two holidays.

Veterans Day is intended to thank all veterans for their service to their country. It is not intended to recognize only those who served during wartime, but rather a time to “acknowledge that veterans contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served — not only those who died— have sacrificed and done their duty.”

The work of honoring dead soldiers goes back as far as our earliest civilizations. As the United States was just coming

through the Civil War, Americans found themselves grieving as deeply as any of their ancient ancestors. Having expected a short skirmish, our nation instead fought a four-year war that remains the single most deadly in American history. Historians estimate that 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, a number that surpasses US losses in World War I (115,000 dead) and World War II (318,000) combined.



Memorial Day honors the sacrifices of each and every one of the more than 1.2 million men and women who have died in service to their country.

These losses were all the more heartbreaking because it was not uncommon for families to have sons or cousins fighting on opposite sides. And when they did fall on the battlefield, it could take weeks and months to locate the dead and bury them properly. And so, wrote General John A. Logan in 1868, by the end of the war, soldiers had been buried “in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land.” How would the nation grieve properly, and heal? A powerful custom

arose among women and families across the country: honoring the graves of the fallen. On April 25, 1866 in Columbus, Mississippi, for example, women visited a Confederate cemetery to place flowers on the graves of soldiers who had died in the Battle of Shiloh. While there, they noticed unkempt graves of Northern soldiers — and the women decorated those graves as well, in respect. Similar commemorations

happened across states, both North and South, with celebrations first known as “decoration days.” With his “Order Number 11,” issued in June of 1868, General John A. Logan made the first official national proclamation of a day “designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country”. Let “no ravages of time testify,” he wrote, “to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

In 1971, our National Holiday Act declared Memorial Day a federal holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. This is an official day off from work, but it is also a time of official ceremony. At Arlington Cemetery, for example, which began in 1864 and today holds more than 260,000 military graves, over a thousand 3rd US Army Infantry troops will place American flags on more than 260,000 graves, and will maintain a 24-hour honor patrol through the long weekend.

Their work will be echoed across the country. Since 1951, to name an example, Boy Scouts in St. Louis, Missouri, have decorated military graves at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. More than 15,000 military are marked at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, again thanks to the efforts of local scouts. Bringing an example closer to home, Bristol Boy Scout Troop 543 scouts replace tattered and faded small American flags with new flags on the graves on nearly 700 veterans in our

five-town school district cemeteries every year just before Memorial Day.

What would be some other ways you and your families might recognize the meaning of Memorial Day and honor those who died in combat? You might consider just visiting a local cemetery and look out over all the flags at the graves. You could attend a local service held on Memorial Day to honor the fallen, or maybe visit a veteran in your area. Maybe just do some research on the history of Memorial Day to learn more about the meaning behind this day.

No matter what, remember the weight of this day. In the words of Thomas Sherlock, Arlington National Cemetery Historian, “The most important thing parents can tell their children is that we, as Americans, are able to enjoy the freedoms we do because there have been men and women willing to sacrifice their lives so that we can be free. We should all stop and remember this on Memorial Day.”

Memorial Day honors the sacrifices of each and every one of the more than 1.2 million men and women who have died in service to their country. They died to preserve the freedoms all Americans enjoy. These young men and women sacrificed birthdays, weddings, children and grandchildren and so much more. They gave all of their tomorrows so that you might have yours. This sacrifice should never be forgotten. Find a way to honor those who gave so much for you.

Ron LaRose Department of VT American Legion Commander



Thank You to All Those Who Served

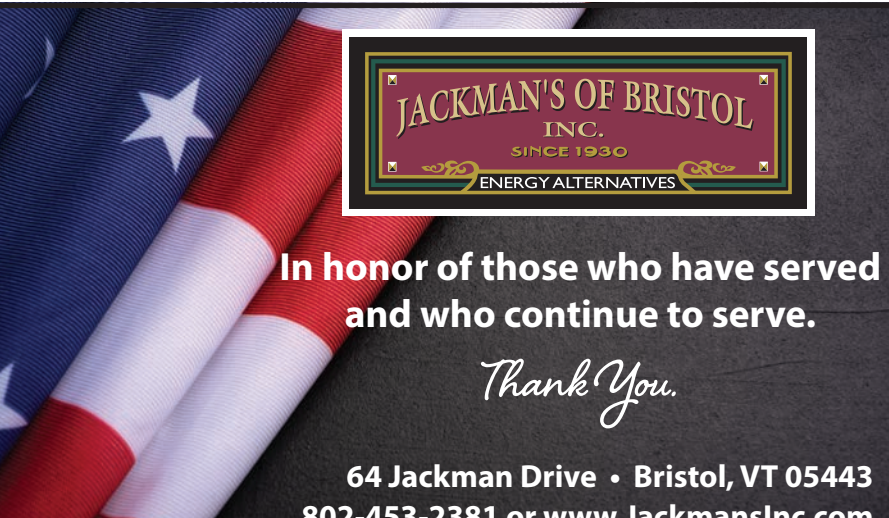
Be a MEMBER, Not Just a NUMBER
At Co-op, we're member owned and member committed. Since 1915 we've been providing protection for individuals, families, farms and businesses with our large network of local agents, fast and fair claims service, loss control expertise, and affordable rates.



CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

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

MEMBER OWNED. MEMBER COMMITTED.



Jackman's of Bristol Inc. SINCE 1930 ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

In honor of those who have served and who continue to serve.

Thank You.

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-2381 or www.JackmansInc.com



Our Firm Remembers Those Who Gave the Ultimate Sacrifice.

Land Surveying, Topographic Surveying, Land Planning, Septic Design and State & Local Permitting

“We will assist you through the permitting process.”

25 West Street, PO Box 388, Bristol, VT 05443
802-453-3818 • www.larosesurveys.com

Get ready for county parades!



ADDISON COUNTY — Towns all over Addison County — and Brandon — this coming weekend will honor the memories of those who gave their lives in service of their country. Highlights will include not only parades, but also post-parade ceremonies. Those Memorial Day ceremonies may include traditional readings such as “In Flanders Fields” and President Abraham Lincoln’s stirring Gettysburg Address; music provided by school groups, bagpipe bands and fife-and-drum corps; prayers; and guest speakers who offer historical context and meaning for the day of memory.

ORWELL EVENTS

But, yes, there *are* parades. Before Memorial Day itself officially arrives on Monday, Orwell will honor the memory of those who served with its traditional Sunday afternoon parade. The town’s 50th annual Memorial Day Parade will line up at 12:30 p.m. on North Orwell Road and step off at 1:30 p.m.

As more than one veteran or survivor of a military casualty will remind you, Memorial Day is more than a parade. It is an occasion to remember those who served our country with their lives, and it is a constant reminder that the freedom we enjoy has come at a cost and that we must be vigilant to protect our freedom in the future. It is a small way to honor and remember.

“For the 50th Orwell Memorial Day Parade, our Grand Marshal will be ALL VETERANS!” parade organizer George Macedo announced on Facebook. “We honor you and the veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Veterans will be at the front of the parade this year, please join us!”

The Catamount Pipe Band has confirmed its appearance in the parade lineup, as well as the Cast Off 8’s Square Dance Club and the local Girl Scouts. The 45-minute parade also typically features American Legion color guards, local Shriners, the Fair Haven Union
(See Parades, Page 10)



THE VERGENNES MEMORIAL Day Parade is a mix of levity and solemnity. At last year’s parade, members of the Middlebury Union High School marching band, top left, share a few smiles and laughs as they prepare for the 1.5-mile walk through the city performing for big crowds. At left, Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase leads a serious group of firefighters through Vergennes in 2024.

Photos by Glenn Russell/VTDigger and Steve James/Addison Independent

We salute all military personnel for the sacrifices they have made for our freedom.

Post 19 meets at 7pm the 4th Wednesday of every month

Brick forms for the Memorial are still available.

US NAVY RET WV2 KOREA WEFMAN 30-04-43 TO 92-02-72	US NAVY BROTHERS DONALD BEDARD ROBERT BEDARD MICHAEL BEDARD BRADLEY BEDARD DAVID BEDARD	PTC RALPH W US ARN WV1
STEWART B FARLEY JR SGT USMC KOREA 47-52 "YOUR LOVING FAMILY"	ROBERT G PERFECT 17001 1954	

Bristol American Legion, Inc. Post 19

56 Airport Drive, Bristol, VT 05443 • (802)453-2951

Parades

(Continued from Page 9)

High School band, plenty of old and new classic cars, and veterans from many service branches.

And don't forget the antique tractors.

The parade route runs east on Main Street from North Orwell Road before turning onto Church Street, circling Roberts Avenue, and bending back west onto Main Street. The parade concludes with a ceremony on the town green.

MIDDLEBURY PARADE

The annual Memorial Day parade in Middlebury will, of course, be held this coming Monday, May 26. American Legion Post 27, the town of Middlebury and the large number of guests attending will honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War.

The parade, which will include its usual accompaniment of military color guard, fire trucks, bands, civic groups and cute kids. They will assemble in the college's Middlebury Arts Center parking lots at 8:30 a.m. and commence at 9 a.m. Marchers will proceed from Porter Field Road north on South Main Street, through the traffic circle, around the green and end at Court Square.

MCTV will have a stationary camera set up at the town offices, with live video and commentary streamed online.

There will be a ceremony following the



NO ONE APPRECIATES good weather on Memorial Day more than the people who march in the parades. These folks in the Mountain View 4-H Club are clearly enjoying their interactions with the crowd along Middlebury's Main Street in 2024.

Independent file photo/Steve James

parade at the Soldier's Monument in front of the Town Hall Theater.

There is still time for those wanting

to participate. Contact the Middlebury American Legion Post 27 at 802-388-9311 and speak with the bartender on duty or email middleburypost27@outlook.com indicating the name of the group or organization, the number and nature of participation (walkers, vehicle, float, etc.), and a contact name and telephone number.

BRANDON ON MONDAY

The Brandon Memorial Day parade will have a slight change in its traditional route. Participants will muster at 9:30 a.m. on Park Street Extension, and the parade steps off at 10 a.m. Marchers will start from the corner of High Street and Marble Street and parade down Park Street to the Civil War monument and gazebo in Central Park for Flower Girls and Memorial Exercises.

The Legion Post Color Guard and other veterans will march, and joining them will be the Otter Valley Union High and

Neshobe Elementary school bands, who will both also play at the ceremony after the parade. Neshobe second-graders will lay flowers on the monument during the ceremony, and Neshobe students will read traditional selections.

"All are politely reminded that Memorial Day is not the same thing as the Fourth of July. It is a solemn observance of sacrifice rather than an occasion of entertainment and frivolity," Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins said in a social media post. "There will be time for fun together on July 5th at Brandon's Independence Day Celebration with festivities and fireworks."

CITY PARADE

In Vergennes American Legion Post 14 organizes Vermont's largest Memorial Day parade every year.

This year's theme is "Honoring, Courage & Sacrifice," and retired Lt. Col.

(See Vergennes parade, Page 11)

THE University of Vermont HEALTH NETWORK
Porter Medical Center

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!

- **STUDENTS** home on summer break, we will work with your schedule.
- **INDIVIDUALS** looking to engage in your community, we will find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests.
- **SEWERS/KNITTERS**, we always have something that needs your skill set.

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

Supporting Elderly Veterans and Their Families Since 1981

Elderly Services

112 Exchange St., Middlebury

388-3983 • www.elderlyservices.org

Reed's Equipment

Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!

Supporting Agriculture in Addison County & Beyond Since 1988

759-2562
4373 Rt 17 West
Addison, Vermont

GEA Engineering for a better world.

Vergennes parade

(Continued from Page 10)

John Medenwald will be Parade Marshal. The parade honors all the men and women who have served our country during times of conflict and gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is designed to appeal to both Veterans and our community as a whole.

As always, the parade starts at Vergennes Union High School at 11 a.m. and winds its way along Monkton Road and Main, South Maple, Victory and Green streets until it reaches the city green, where the post-parade ceremony will be held. The parade will include an even larger mix than Middlebury's of floats, farm equipment, classic cars, fire trucks, bands, Shriners, politicians and more.

The ceremony will feature guest speaker John Broadmeadow, president of Norwich University and a retired three-star Marine Corps general.

Parade participation is free along the 1.5-mile route through downtown Vergennes.

All participants are required to prominently display patriotic-style decorations in keeping with the purpose and theme of the parade: Honoring, Courage & Sacrifice.

Following the parade and the remembrance ceremony in the park, the American Legion Post 14 will host a Chicken BBQ at the Post, located at 100

Armory Lane.

Whether you're marching, riding a float, driving a classic car, or representing a community group, the Legion would love to have you be part of this meaningful tradition, and you can do so by signing up here: tinyurl.com/Vparade2025.

For questions, please contact Martha DeGraaf at marsulli75@gmail.com.

BRISTOL WRAPS IT UP

You can end your Memorial Day festivities on a note that is appropriately somber. Bristol's American Legion Post 19 will host its 2025 Memorial Day Ceremony on the village green at 1 p.m. on May 26.

The ceremony will be emceed by Post Commander Ron LaRose, who will supervise the laying of a wreath on the Veterans Memorial in the park. He expects to have a guest speaker from the Vermont National Guard, but as of press time he hadn't finalized the details.

LaRose, who has led Post 19 for years, served in the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard for 39 years. He retired in 2005 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He will offer his thoughts on the meaning and importance of Memorial Day, as well.

The entire ceremony is expected to last 30-45 minutes. There will be no parade in Bristol this year.

All are welcome at Bristol's Memorial Day Ceremony.



A LEADER OF Union cavalry blows his horn to alert his contingent of U.S. Civil War re-enactors during the 2024 Vergennes Memorial Day Parade. The Union soldiers are always a big hit at local parades.

Independent file photo/Steve James



BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

**Thanks to our Veterans for Keeping us
Connected to our Freedoms.**
Telecommunications Sales & Service

Data Cabling • Wireless • Fiber Optics • Security Surveillance Systems

802-388-8999 • John and Jim Fitzgerald
www.bts-vt.com



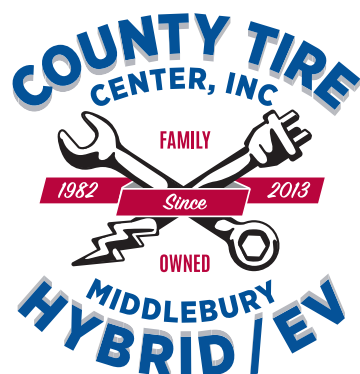
**We proudly
honor our
country's heroes
on Memorial Day**

Family operated since 1982

33 Seymour Street
Middlebury, VT
802-388-7620

www.countytirecenter.com
info@countytirecenter.com

Mon – Fri 8am-5pm





**To our men and
women in uniform,
Thank You for
Your Service!**

40+ years of combined industry experience



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

Fort Ti to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers

TICONDEROGA, N.Y. — Fort Ticonderoga, one of the first places that United States armed forces took part in battle, will pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives during the American Revolution.

It will host the Real Time Revolution event over Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday and Sunday May 24-25. Experience all aspects of the life for American citizen-soldiers in 1775, from their weapons to their rations, and learn about what they believed would come from their sacrifice in the name of liberty. Special living history programs and demonstrations will be presented throughout the weekend.

“Join a hive of activity as newly drafted American soldiers ply their civilian trades and help rebuild this military outpost,” said Stuart Lillie, Fort Ticonderoga vice president of Public History. “Throughout the weekend, visitors will witness the labor of liberty as Fort Ticonderoga staff portraying New England militia bring to life this defining story through military drill, weapon demonstrations, historic trades, hauling timber with oxen and repairing the fort they just arrived at.”

Enjoy narrated boat tours aboard



JOIN FORT TICONDEROGA on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25, 2025, to remember the armed forces of the United States on the very grounds where so many American soldiers paid the ultimate price for freedom.

the *Carillon* and cruise along the same shores of Lake Champlain that American soldiers and sailors sailed in 1775.

Activities and programs offered throughout the weekend include daily tours within the fort, King’s Garden, and museum exhibition spaces; historic trades programs; ongoing living history programs; thrilling

weapons demonstrations; fife and drum performances; the Mount Defiance experience; and the Carillon Battlefield hiking trail. A full schedule can be found at www.fortticonderoga.org.

The fort will feature a special service on Sunday, May 25. At the 11 a.m. memorial service, join the procession of an American soldier’s funeral and see him

laid to his final resting place. Pay respect to the numerous soldiers who did not receive a proper burial at Ticonderoga in 1775 and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice they made to secure our liberty today.

A 10% general admissions discount will be given to military members with proof of service for this special weekend-long event.

Remembering
those who
served.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



IT TOOK BOTH individual effort (Shyloh Bernard is in the photo above) and teamwork (to the right, Damon Mullen holds the flags while Ben Emerson places them near the graves) for Vergennes Union Elementary School fifth graders to cover the St. Peter's Cemetery with flags this month in honor and remembrance of the sacrifices that veterans made — including the ultimate sacrifice.

Photos courtesy of VUES

What families can do to honor fallen vets

The freedoms people living in the United States are afforded would not have been possible to provide if not for the brave efforts and undying commitment of the many individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces. American military personnel have played vital roles in securing freedoms for their fellow citizens as well as individuals overseas.

Each year on the final Monday in May, the United States commemorates military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces. Those individuals made the ultimate sacrifice, and Memorial Day is a way to honor them and thank their families for their selfless acts. This Memorial Day, families can embrace various measures to honor fallen veterans.

• **Visit a local veterans cemetery.** The United Service Organization notes that most states have national veterans cemeteries. Though some veterans cemeteries are open only to family members of service personnel, others are open to the general public. Visiting a veterans cemetery is a great way to honor fallen military members and ensure the memory of their service and sacrifice is not

forgotten on Memorial Day.

• **Celebrate veterans over Memorial Day weekend.** Memorial Day weekend is now synonymous with getaways and backyard barbecues. By taking time out during the weekend to honor fallen veterans, families can ensure the meaning behind the holiday is not lost in the midst of celebrations with family and friends. Take time out during a family barbecue to discuss a family member who served or, if traveling, make an effort to visit a veterans memorial along your travel route.

• **Help raise funds for veterans organizations.** Fun runs or community Memorial Day walks may benefit local veterans organizations that help service members in need. Many service members may need help dealing with the deaths of friends or family members who died while serving in the armed forces, and veterans organizations may provide such help or direct funds to groups that do. That makes participation in events that benefit veterans organizations a great way to honor current military personnel and those who have served in the past, including those who died in service of their country.

• **Teach youngsters about the role of**

the armed forces. There's a lot competing for the attention of today's young people, and that can make it easy to overlook the very freedoms that make the United States such a unique country throughout world history. Parents and guardians can emphasize the role the armed forces play in procuring and protecting freedoms in the United States and emphasize the

significance of the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to ensure a higher quality of life for all U.S. residents.

Memorial Day commemorates military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. There is much families can do to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten or taken for granted.

— Metro Creative

**We support, honor,
and thank the men
and women who have
served our country.**



Nino's Pizza

21 Macintyre Ln., Middlebury, VT / (802) 388-7755 / ninomiddlebury.com
Hours: Monday - Saturday 11:00 - 8:00
Closed Sundays

**Thank you for your
dedication and service.**



Roofing & Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication 802-388-2903

8 ways to honor veterans

Millions of people make considerable sacrifices to protect the freedoms of their fellow citizens. Memorial Day is the time we set aside to remember and thank those who lost their lives. And it is also a time to honor the living.

According to the Pew Research Center and data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently more than 18 million living veterans in the United States.

The term “veteran” refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled

veteran, recently separated veteran, active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year long, and Americans can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

1. Attend events. Organize or participate in local Memorial Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

2. Get involved with veterans’ affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veteran’s groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

3. Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops or other groups

and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these men and women made can heighten individuals’ appreciation for veterans.

4. Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans’ families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions.

Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

5. Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn’t a charity that fits with your vision, begin one.

6. Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can

be challenging to re-enter the workforce after service, so make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

7. Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

8. Don’t forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

— Metro Creative



Stars & stripes forever

COLORFUL SHIRTS MAY not be everyone’s cup of tea, but no one would argue over the patriotic intent of this parade-goer’s attire. Plus, he’s giving a lift to the next generation.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Thank you to those who have served

Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!



Route 7 South • Middlebury, VT • 802-388-6297
woodwarevt.com



We remember and honor those who have given their lives defending our freedom and democracy.

Affordable Cremation & Burial Plans

The only on-site crematory in Addison County. Locally owned and operated by Walter Ducharme.

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

J.D. FULLER

PLUMBING & HEATING INC

802-388-2019 - MIDDLEBURY • VT

*We remember . . .
With gratitude and respect.*

John Fuller, Master Plumber • 802-388-2019

Serving Addison County since 1989



CONTACT GOV. PHIL SCOTT

1-800-649-6825 (toll-free in Vt. only) • 802-828-3333
109 State Street, Pavillion, Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101
www.vermont.gov/governor



Always a lot to see

WHILE PULLING THE Battell Hose Company antique firefighting rig in the 2024 Middlebury Memorial Day Parade, above, these horses appear to be heading for a chat with spectators before they are reined in. Right, a very short Scout keeps pace during a very long parade in Vergennes last year.

Independent file photos/Steve James



Goodro Lumber Company, Inc.
in East Middlebury, VT
salutes every veteran, past,
present and future.

Thank you for making and
keeping America free.



Remembering those who courageously
gave their lives in order for our nation
to stand proud.

Honor our heroes.



34 MAIN STREET
downtown MIDDLEBURY, VT
info@ipjrealestate.com
802.388.4242

IPJREALESTATE.COM



BRADFORD KITCHEN & BATH, LLC



- KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN
- TUBS, TOILETS, FAUCETS, ETC

- OUTDOOR KITCHENS

- CABINETS & COUNTERTOPS
- HARDWARE & MORE!

MON-FRI 8-5, SAT 8-12 OR BY APPOINTMENT | 18 CREEK RD | MIDDLEBURY, VT | (802) 458-8999

BradfordKitchenAndBath.com