



Feedbag

Foodaroo brings street food and music to downtown Middlebury for the 10th year. See Arts + Leisure.



State champs!

The Addison County 9-11-year-old Little League All Star team won the Vt. crown. Page 1B.



Field Days!

The county fair arrives next week — earlier than usual. See the official program inside.

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Amid Medicaid turmoil, CSAC sees some hope

Agency pivots to new staffing, funding model

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — While many area health care providers are bracing for the impacts of looming cuts to the federal Medicaid program, the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) could ironically see its Medicaid reimbursement rise.

The Counseling Service is looking to become a Vermont Certified Community-Based integrated Health Center, or CCBHC. That's a community-based mental health and substance-use disorder treatment provider that offers a wide range of services, including 24/7 crisis care, outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment, primary care screening and monitoring, and peer support services.

In short, achieving federal CCBHC status would allow CSAC to more accurately reflect

and collect — through Medicaid reimbursement — the resources it needs to meet the demand and true cost of providing mental health services in Addison County.

"It turns on its head how we get paid, which is potentially a really

good thing," said Cheryl Huntley, CSAC's special projects coordinator.

She's leading the agency through a lengthy CCBHC approval process that only two of the state's 10 designated mental health agencies have completed thus far: Clara Martin Center in Randolph, and Rutland Mental Health Services.

"Quite frankly, we're glad we're not up first," Huntley said. "There's a lot of kinks in the system; they're still working out the payment, still working out some of the details. We're glad to have the time to engage with the community, to do the needs assessment really

(See CSAC, Page 10A)



CHERYL HUNTLEY



THREE MALT CAMPERS run through the woods to save an "injured traveler" as part of their performance on Friday, July 18, and are greeted with applause and high-fives along the way.

Independent photo/Bee Eckels

Youths explore conservation and nature through theater arts

By BEE ECKELS

WEYBRIDGE — "Loose and lovely."

This was how an audience member summed up the outdoor production of "The Haunted Forest," an original play written and performed by close to 30 Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) summer

program campers on the Trail Around Middlebury this past Friday.

Any hiker hoping to enjoy a leisurely afternoon stroll in the Weybridge woods on Friday, July 18, would have been in for quite a shock when they stumbled upon

(See Theater arts, Page 14A)

Local option tax explored for Bristol

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol officials are exploring what a local option tax could look like for the town, an idea the Bristol selectboard is expected to continue discussing at future meetings.

Local option taxes help municipalities generate additional revenue. Municipalities can choose to levy the added 1% charge on meals, sales, rooms and alcoholic beverages.

Several Vermont municipalities have established local option taxes, including Middlebury, which launched the tax in 2008 to help pay off debt on the Cross Street Bridge project. Vergennes is also in

(See Bristol, Page 16A)



GREEN TRIANGLE BIKE Loop signs like this one mark the 40-mile route connecting the communities of Middlebury, Bristol, Vergennes and New Haven to offer cyclists convenient directions for bike-friendly routes.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Bike loop connects county's central hubs

By MARIA BARR

ADDISON COUNTY — Local residents might have noticed shiny green signs cropping up along county roads this spring. These signs indicate the roads that are part of the Triangle Bike Loop, a new cycling route that connects the communities of Middlebury, Vergennes, and Bristol in a roughly 40-mile circuit.

The Triangle Bike Loop is more than just a scenic ride. It is the product of years of advocacy, planning and community

(See Bike loop, Page 16A)

Upcoming talks could resolve city-Panton boundary

Starting-point proposal unveiled at joint meeting

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON/VERGENNES — Officials from Vergennes and Panton last week unveiled three options to pin down the uncertain boundaries between the two municipalities, which have been debated for more than 30 years ago.

The arguably most notable option put forward and discussed at a July 17 informational meeting at Panton Town Hall was a draft proposal for a negotiated settlement created by Vergennes City Manager Ron Redmond and Panton Town Clerk Kyle Rowe. They got help from surveyor Tim Cowan and many other experts.

They called their proposal — which suggests moving 178 acres, almost all residential property, from Vergennes into Panton — a starting point to

(See Vergennes-Panton, Page 15A)



By the way

Bristol's Have-A-Heart Food Shelf will gratefully accept any excess produce from your gardens this summer. If you're able to help, please drop off the produce between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 25, outside

(See By the way, Page 14A)

Successful head of city library to step down

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Before she became the director of the Bixby Free Memorial Library in April 2020, Catharine Hays held government and corporate jobs in Washington, D.C., and New Jersey and influential positions in the nonprofit and academic worlds in New York and Philadelphia.

Now, after five years of success in Vergennes, Hays will soon leave the Bixby due to positive personal reasons. Her two daughters recently became engaged, and she has put off planned work on her Panton home for too long due to dedication to the library.

"I'm planning weddings, and I moved here to try to work on this family place we have, and ... I

(See Bixby director, Page 17A)



High octane

MIDDLEBURY NATIVES MARK Daly, middle left, and Jer Coons, middle right, front the rockin' jam band Madaila during a well-received performance at Friday's Festival on the Green in Middlebury. See more photos on Pages 4A, 11A and 10B.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

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County towns grapple with extreme weather

By MARIN HOWELL
ADDISON COUNTY — From heat waves to intense storms resulting in deluges, Addison County has seen its fair share of extreme weather events in recent years.

Such events are nothing new, but they’re becoming more frequent due to climate change. Municipalities around Addison County are working to address damage caused by recent extreme weather and prepare for more in the future.

They face some challenges in doing so, such as the costs associated with making repairs or preparations and navigating the “weather whiplash” of swings between different weather conditions.

“The challenge on the ground is how do towns prepare for that, how do towns work with that,” Vermont state climatologist Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux said. “I think that’s one of the essential questions here, because town budgets are not huge a lot of the time, and so there has to be this decision with, ‘where are we going to put our resources?’ And so how do you use the best information possible to try to plan as flexibly and as proactively as possible?”

“I think that’s where we are right now in having those really, really hard conversations,” she concluded.

CHANGING CONDITIONS

Dupigny-Giroux noted that climate variability — fluctuations in aspects of climate like temperature

and precipitation — is a dimension of climate change.

“The Northeast has always had this characteristic of having variable conditions, and so what we’re seeing is that continued variability increasing,” she explained. “Variability doesn’t always mean temperature extremes, it doesn’t always mean moisture extremes, it can also mean changes in how much moisture we have in the air and how sticky it feels.”

Dupigny-Giroux pointed to recent temperatures, which have had Vermonters cranking up the AC and waking up to temperatures in the 50s within a two-week stretch, and she recommended to keep a flexible point of view.

“Variability is one thing that has characterized us as Vermonters and Northeasters, and it’s something we need to remember, because it’s also a dimension of our changing

climate,” she said.

The National Weather Service maintains records for Vermont going back to the 1800s, and Dupigny-Giroux said it’s important to look at the full picture those records paint, because many changes can be seen over time.

In the past couple of summers in particular, Vermont has seen a lot of rain in July and June, but then a drop-off. Dupigny-Giroux also points to regional differences.

“The falls are actually getting a little bit drier,” Dupigny-Giroux said. “When we think about how climate change affects us, that’s why I like to look at it on a month-by-month basis, a county-level basis, because the story is different in the Northeast Kingdom than it is in Windsor County, than it is in Addison County.”

Dupigny-Giroux noted that a lot of the variance has to do with the state’s geography, how storm systems move and whether the ground has already received a lot of moisture. For example, storms that inundated parts of the state in July 2023 were less destructive in Addison County, while heavy rainfall in August 2023 and July 2024 hit local towns much harder.

MAKING REPAIRS

Area municipalities are still dealing with the aftermath of those storms. In Bristol, Briggs Hill Road remains closed indefinitely after the road was badly damaged by heavy storms over the past two summers.

“The town hasn’t decided to permanently discontinue use of that road, but that was a place where there was a partial slope failure and the road is not viable in its current state and would take a significant amount of resources to repair,” said Michael Leyden, Bristol’s Emergency Management Director.

Town officials ultimately decided to turn back Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for repairs to the road, as those were expected to cost over \$2 million and Bristol would’ve needed to have at least some of the money upfront due to the reimbursement nature of the FEMA grant, which would be a challenge with other ongoing projects in town.

Leyden pointed to recent changes within FEMA, which earlier this year cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities



“The Northeast has always had this characteristic of having variable conditions, and so what we’re seeing is that continued variability increasing.”
— Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux

Ripton school survey, meeting set

By JOHN FLOWERS
RIPTON — An ad hoc committee brainstorming potential new uses for the former Ripton Elementary School building is now seeking input from stakeholders, through a survey and an Aug. 20 community meeting.

The outreach comes from the eight-person Ripton School Building Working Group, comprised of Addison Central School District officials and Ripton residents. The ACSD formed the panel last month following closure of Ripton Elementary, due to declining student numbers. Ripton’s K-5 children will attend Salisbury Community School beginning this fall.

ACSD is committed to running some training and programming in the Ripton Elementary building for the coming academic year. It will also be open to varied Ripton community uses. The working

group is looking beyond next year, while potentially answering the questions of whether the district should continue to maintain the building for educational purposes, or sell it back to the town of Ripton for \$1.

David Hohenschau of the consulting group Community Workshop LLC is leading the working group’s brainstorming sessions. He’s invited Ripton school stakeholders to weigh in with their thoughts on possible uses for the building in a survey that can be found online at tinyurl.com/riptonnextchapter.

Paper copies are also available at the Ripton town office and at the ACSD central office at 49 Charles Ave. in Middlebury.

Survey respondents are asked to identify their connection to the school, and invited to answer several opinion-based questions, each offering a menu of potential

preferences — or non-starters — depending on the respondent’s point of view. For example, one question asks respondents to weigh in on a series of potential town uses for the building, including as a senior/community center, new Ripton town offices, or as a wellness center.

Another question asks how the respondent would feel about ACSD potentially using the building as a school that any ACSD student could attend, or as an alternative education school.

Organizers have set an Aug. 8 deadline for folks to take the survey.

Hohenschau and the working group will continue to meet publicly and will invite additional feedback at a public forum slated for Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Ripton Elementary.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Exchange Street sidewalk closer to reality

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Each year, the Middlebury Department of Public Works coordinates, oversees and/or performs multiple road, sidewalk, culvert and other infrastructure projects at a cost of well into the seven figures. Those projects are prioritized based on need and are shaped with input from citizens and the selectboard.

With that kind of buy-in and a capable DPW staff, one would think that laying a 2,730-foot, concrete-and-asphalt pathway along the west side of Exchange Street would be relative child’s play.

Nope.

Due to an arduous right-of-way process, the COVID pandemic, inflation and a other factors, Middlebury’s effort to install a 0.52-mile sidewalk and shared-use path on Exchange Street — from Elm Street to Catamount Park — has been in a holding pattern for 13 years.

So what’s the big deal?

In addition to providing safe passage to pedestrians and cyclists

along a busy road, fronting the town’s industrial park and several high-profile businesses, the new amenity is envisioned as the start of a grander plan for a shared use path spanning the length of Exchange Street, ultimately dovetailing with a roundabout at Route 7.

The good news is a runway is finally being cleared for the first phase, which calls for construction of 980 feet of curbed sidewalk beginning at intersection of Exchange, Elm and Seymour streets. From there, the route would transition into a 10-foot-wide shared-use path for 2,650 feet north to Catamount Park.

One of the biggest obstacles — negotiating rights-of-way with affected landowners along the pathway — is done. It was a lengthy process, according to Emmalee Cherington, director of engineering for the Middlebury DPW.

“In my experience with these kinds of projects, the right-of-way process can be a major hangup, but it’s usually a six- to 18-month hindrance, not seven or eight years.

This was more complex,” she said.

The next piece that must fall into place is funding. Middlebury in 2018 successfully secured two separate grants totaling the then-anticipated budget of around \$460,000 to complete the project.

But the lengthier-than-expected right-of-way process and the pandemic — which threw the construction industry into a temporary tailspin — delayed progress on the project. And time is money. The new estimate for completing the path from Elm Street to Catamount Park more than doubled to \$1,001,788.

With that in mind, Middlebury has applied for another \$625,000 through the Vermont Agency of Transportation’s Bicycle/Pedestrian Program to cover the shortfall.

“These supplemental resources are critical to bridge the current budget gap and deliver a high-quality, accessible transportation facility that will serve the community for years to come,” reads the grant application.

(See Sidewalk, Page 8A)

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Annie belts out an eclectic mix of Soul, Rock & Funk

Friday August 15th / 5:30-7:30

Scarlet Annie with Tom Obomsawin

Annie returns for a 2nd show and continues to belt out an eclectic mix of Soul, Rock & Funk

Friday August 29th / 5:30-7:30

Mark Van Nostrand

Mark returns to play & sing another eclectic set of acoustic Folk & Pop covers with originals

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Bird Boombox

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What's happening at Chipman Inn this summer?

CHIPMANINN.COM

Kids gobble up free summer meals

By MARIA BARR
ADDISON COUNTY — As summer unfolds, so do the statewide free meal programs that help keep Vermont children nourished, healthy and supported. Operated in partnership with Hunger Free Vermont and local school districts, these programs offer free meals to all children 18 and under — no registration or paperwork required.

“It’s a pretty robust program this summer, which is really great for us, really great for our staff to be able to have work over the summer and do what they love to do: feed kids,” said Kathy Alexander, the school nutrition and food services director for Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts.

“We’re doing approximately 500 meal kits for kids per week. And that’s breakfast and lunch. So 500 breakfasts and 500 lunches through those meal kits.”

The program also supports children enrolled in summer camps and school-run enrichment programs. Both the Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham school districts operate summer initiatives staffed by food service teams who prepare meals onsite.

Students attending Beeman Elementary School and camps like Common Ground also receive daily meals throughout their sessions. Altogether, Alexander estimates that around 450 students are being fed daily through these various efforts.

Designed with flexibility and child independence in mind, the kits allow kids to engage with their food choices.

“We’ve heard good feedback that kids are really enjoying the food there. In the food boxes, we try to create a menu that a child could pretty much, given other skills, put together by themselves,” Alexander shared. “And we’ve heard feedback from families that they’re taking the menus and kids are planning them out and trying to get that food to last for the seven days and figure out how to use it for breakfast and lunch.”

Each Meal Kit for Kids contains seven days’ worth of breakfasts and lunches for one child, and they are distributed weekly at several locations throughout Addison County. A few Alexander mentioned:

- Vergennes American

Legion — Wednesdays, 8–9 a.m.

- Monkton Central School — Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Robinson Elementary School (Starksboro) — Thursdays, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
- New Haven Community Library — Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Additionally, Vergennes Elementary School offers daily drop-in meals for the entire family between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Statewide, Hunger Free Vermont plays a key role in ensuring these programs are accessible and well-publicized. Their online meal locator, available at hungerfreevt.org/summer-meals, lists 167 active distribution sites spared across all the state’s counties.

These programs provide more than just nutrition. They help weave the social and economic fabric of the communities they serve, according to Alexander.

“I think when you start to look at the programs that exist, federal programs that federal funding is going towards, what you have to understand is that there’s a way in which communities are being

(See Hunger, Page 8A)

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Steve Terry: Journalist & citizen

By KEVIN O’CONNOR, VTDigger.org

MIDDLEBURY — Steve Terry was a University of Vermont student on Nov. 6, 1962, when he stood in a Winooski election night crowd and saw Philip Hoff crowned — literally, with a tin-foil coronet tossed by a spectator — the first modern Democratic governor of the Green Mountain State after more than a century of Republican rule.

“I was an eyewitness, just a young, awestruck college student,” Terry recalled to this reporter 30 years later. “It was one of the defining moments of the 20th century history of Vermont.”

Terry didn’t know he’d go on to chronicle six decades of equally headline-grabbing events as a Vermont journalist and historian. Even with his recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, the Middlebury retiree stayed on top of the news — right up to his death Saturday, July 19, at his home at age 82, his family announced in an email to friends.

“Nowadays, if it’s not on social media, it doesn’t exist,” Terry, a former *Rutland Herald* reporter and editor, said in a 2023 interview. “There seems to be an absence of memory of events that happened a week earlier, let alone years earlier. Maybe this is just my age, but we don’t seem to have deep introspection as to the roots of what’s happening today. History doesn’t seem to be in our culture anymore.”

Putting current events into context was an essential part of Terry’s life. Born in Windsor on Oct. 2, 1942, he was a high schooler when he began reporting on local sports for the weekly *Vermont Journal* and a University of Vermont student when he interviewed his peers for articles the school distributed to their hometown newspapers.

Terry had just started college in 1960 when he saw John F. Kennedy campaign in Burlington the day before the politician became the youngest person ever elected U.S. president.

“Like all students, I suppose, I

was certainly enamored by JFK,” he recalled.

But Terry didn’t realize he was on the edge of a seismic shift. When Kennedy spoke at Burlington’s airport on Nov. 7, 1960, Vermont was anything but a Democratic stronghold. Instead, it was the only state in the nation to have supported the top of every Republican ticket since the GOP’s founding in 1854.

Attracting a tarmac crowd of 10,000 people, Kennedy nonetheless lost Vermont to Richard Nixon. But two years later, Terry saw Hoff claim a historic Democratic victory, sowing the seeds of the Republicans’ eventual loss of their legislative majority when Democrats won the state Senate in 1984 and the House in 1986.

“It was the tangible beginning of the new Vermont,” Terry recalled. “A lot of what we know about Vermont now had its beginnings there.”

The transition would prove to be turbulent. Terry was a University of Vermont senior when Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

“I remember, like almost all people, exactly what I was doing when I heard the news that the president had been shot,” Terry recalled on the 60th anniversary. “I was at the library interviewing a student leader, then rushed back to my fraternity house. Minutes later, I saw that famous TV picture of Walter Cronkite announcing to the world that JFK was dead.”

Decades before cellphones, personal computers and cable TV, Vermonters relied on radios, television antennas and newspapers. Graduating college in 1964, Terry interned for six months at the *Providence Journal* in Rhode Island before covering Hoff’s second and third terms as a capitol reporter for the *Rutland Herald* and *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus*, two of the state’s then-largest and most respected news outlets.

Terry joined the sister papers’ shared Vermont Press Bureau on the eve of the 1965 reapportionment of the state Legislature — ending

the practice of giving every municipality its own House representative, regardless of population — and headed the office when it sent reporters to the 1968 presidential conventions.

“I drew the straw to cover the Republicans in Miami,” Terry recalled in a 2024 interview.

Terry reported on the GOP’s nomination of Nixon. A colleague traveled to Chicago to follow Democratic challenger Hubert Humphrey amid explosive protests against the Vietnam War, only to drop his press duties and demonstrate himself.

That created a challenge for Terry who, in Montpelier, suddenly had to cover what was happening inside the Democratic convention hall nearly 1,000 miles away. Turning to a television and landline telephone, he soon was investigating the fact that Hoff was being floated as an anti-war alternative for vice president.

“I certainly did wish I was on the scene in Chicago,” Terry recalled. “It had to be, from a journalistic perspective, one of the most amazing historic events.”

Terry wrote a retrospective on Hoff upon the governor’s exit in 1969, leading Terry’s college history professor, Samuel Hand, to assign it as required reading. The former student and teacher later teamed with friend and *Newsday* managing editor Anthony Marro to turn the retrospective into the 2011 book, “Philip Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State.”

“In the years before Hoff, Vermont had been seen as a small and sleepy rural state where change came about only slowly and grudgingly,” Terry wrote in the book. “In the years during and after Hoff’s time as governor, Vermont became known for social ferment and rapid change.”

As a fledgling reporter, Terry dialed up another legendary Vermont figure — Republican U.S. Sen. George Aiken, who served from the beginning of World War II to the end of Nixon’s Watergate scandal — and discovered the politician who chose green for the color of the state’s license plates and coined the term “Northeast Kingdom” was willing to talk any time from early morning to late at night.

“I was learning on the job,” Terry recalled, “but he was never in a hurry to get off the phone.”

Terry made the first of several career transitions to join Aiken’s Washington, D.C., staff in 1969. (See Terry, Page 8A)



STEVE TERRY, FAR left, poses with fellow staff members of U.S. Sen. George Aiken, R-Vermont, in 1971. Photo from the book “Aiken: Senate Diary.”



GROWING UP MILKING cows in Plainfield, Vt., Steve Terry kept these beloved Belted Galloway cows on a Middlebury farm.



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Editorial

Stephen Terry: A Vermont statesman for the ages

As the headline in the *Vermont Digger* story said so well, Stephen Terry was an “eyewitness” to the fundamental changes that swept Vermont from the early 1960s until his death this past Saturday from pancreatic cancer. He died in his Middlebury home with his wife, Faith, and son, Will, by his side. He was 82.

A renown reporter and managing editor, legislative assistant to Sen. George Aiken from 1969-75, businessman, college teacher, author, public servant to five governors and numerous state and local boards and nonprofits, Mr. Terry was not only a keen observer of all things Vermont, but also became a respected political advisor and consultant.

A Vermont statesman at heart, he honed his skills through six decades as a journalist, businessman and political insider, and with one clear objective: doing what’s best for Vermont.

It was a lifetime of putting the state’s common good at the forefront that earned him statewide accolades.

When Mr. Terry became the 51st person to earn the Vermont Chamber’s Citizen of the Year award in 2014, more than 20 of those who knew him well shared why they held him in such esteem.

“I have had the privilege of seeing Vermont through the eyes of Stephen C. Terry. Those eyes see Vermont not only for what it is, but what it can be,” said Mary Powell, at the time CEO of Green Mountain Power, where Terry worked for 29 years, retiring as its communications executive in 2014.

“Steve’s hand and voice can be found in every issue important to Vermont, but most notably always at the critical intersection of the environment and the economy,” Powell continued. “Steve is a passionate guardian of the natural environment in Vermont, while always willing to deal with the polarity created by being equally concerned about the socio-economic wellbeing of the state and fostering a robust and meaningful economy and agricultural sector.

“But whatever the issue, Steve’s North Star is what is best for Vermont.”

Ever the newshound, Mr. Terry read constantly, listened intently and pursued with boundless curiosity the stories of his day. The consummate “newspaperman,” a term he preferred to “journalist” he confided to me at a visit the previous Monday because, well, “it seems more mysterious, all-encompassing,” even as the goal is the same: “seeking to explain to readers what the government did and was doing and to hold government accountable.”

That role used to create public trust in the media, he said, then lamented that trust has largely been lost on the national level, though still held true within smaller community newspapers and throughout much of Vermont.

In recent years, he bemoaned the forces that helped social media fracture news consumption as well as a common understanding of community and common purpose. “Nowadays, if it’s not on social media, it doesn’t exist,” he told reporter Kevin O’Connor in a 2023 interview, which O’Connor shares in a wonderful story on Mr. Terry that’s published on Page 3A in today’s *Addison Independent*. “There seems to be an absence of memory of events that happened a week earlier, let alone years earlier. Maybe this is just my age, but we don’t seem to have deep introspection as to the roots of what’s happening today. History doesn’t seem to be in our culture anymore.”

Mr. Terry would know. A rapt student of Vermont history, he co-wrote the 2011 book “Philip Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State,” and wrote 2019’s “Say We Won and Get Out: George D. Aiken and the Vietnam War.” And throughout the past several years, he has continued to write about and be involved in the pressing issues facing Vermont, occasionally as a contributor to the *Addison Independent* and *VT Digger*, of which he was a founding member of the Vermont Journalism Trust.

Not enough can be said about public servants who put the welfare of the common good ahead of their own and serve relentlessly to make the state and our communities better places to live. It is the epitome of being a good citizen, a good neighbor, and in Stephen’s case, a Vermont statesman for the ages — even though he never ran for public office.

His statesmanship was aptly noted when he was awarded the Vermont Citizen of the Year in 2014 by many of Vermont’s leaders and those who knew him well:

- **Sen. Peter Welch:** “It’s hard to comprehend the breadth and depth of Steve’s service to our state. From nonprofit and corporate boardrooms to legislative and congressional hearing rooms, to newsrooms across the state, Steve has served with distinction. His commitment to public service is unshakable, his knowledge of the political landscape is unmatched, and his sage advice is unassailable. He is a shrewd businessman, a wise counselor, a skillful politician, and a good friend.”
- **Former Governor Madeline Kunin:** “Steve is, in the true sense of the word, a public citizen. When giving advice, Steve places the best interests of the State of Vermont foremost. He knows the state well and understands the various economic and social currents that run through it... His quiet, often behind the scenes contributions, have made an impact on leadership in the state.”
- **David Moats, former Editorial Page Editor, Rutland Herald:** “I would guess that the single thread tying together his work on all those boards and in all his positions is his persistent dedication to Vermont, the community, a place he loves. Vermont will remain a place we love only if people like Steve remain loyal to the idea of Vermont, a community where individuals make a difference.”
- **Emily Morrow, Esq., Executive Consultant:** “(Stephen) typifies the true spirit of service and self-sacrifice in representing the finest ideals of Vermont Citizenship. Born and raised in Vermont, Stephen is the best of Vermont.”
- **Bill Schubart, Author and Management Consultant:** “Would that we had more Vermonters willing to commit such a substantial part of their life to civil society and enhancement!”

A mentor of mine from when I first bought the *Addison Independent* in 1984, the example he set at the *Rutland Herald* (it was named one of the top 25 best small dailies in the country during his tenure) was something we have tried to emulate at the *Addison Independent* for the past 40-plus years. I’m left thinking of his comments during our recent visit about newspapers like the Addy Indy: “We don’t have a lot of organs of trust left in our society... Trusted information that forms a unified understanding of the issues facing our communities is the central role of the newspaper, and it’s the glue of democracy.”

Working toward that objective will continue to be our top mission, with Steve’s voice always in our minds.

Angelo Lynn



Festival standout

GRAMMY-WINNING SINGER, dancer and percussionist Dobet Gnahoré from the African nation of Ivory Coast slows down briefly during her energy-filled performance at last Thursday’s Festival on the Green to sing one of the many unique compositions.

Independent photo/Steve James

‘Ticked’ off by climate change

That sounds like something between a couple of kids in the back seat of the car, but I’m thinking of another meaning for bug. They’ve been bothering me more this year. It’s not the mosquitos or flies. Not even the deer flies, although they are a significant annoyance as I hike through the woods. It’s the ticks.

Perhaps they annoy me more because they used to be rare here. I knew about ticks and had even encountered a couple over the course of my life. Now it’s not simply one or two. Currently we have the brief, mid-summer reprieve in their activity, but I know it won’t last long. Our pets get their medications. I do tick checks and have clothing treated with permethrin, which helps. Hiking with long sleeves and pants on a hot day is less comfortable, but it surely beats finding an attached critter later on.

Worse than the ticks themselves is the reason they are now so prevalent in our countryside: climate change. The warming of our world didn’t seem so bad when it meant I could actually get ripe tomatoes before the first frost here on the mountain. Now it’s clear it means much more. It means ticks, it means flash flooding, it means landslides and cratered roads. Less visible, it means diseased trees, questionable syrup production and unpredictable ski seasons. These consequences become economic for individuals, towns, and our state. It’s uncomfortable in our region where many homes or buildings lack air conditioning, where people must labor outdoors in heavy heat.

It seemed we were gradually starting to get a handle on this issue. Federal programs were supporting

renewable energy and efficiencies, regulating carbon producers, incentivizing electric vehicles and heat pumps. Vermont enacted legislation to push us into a making more improvements locally. Yes, we were late. The environmental changes were already happening, but at least we were gaining some momentum to hopefully avoid the worst.

What now? Big, bad bills and simply recklessness and greed at the federal level are defunding and dismantling environmental protections while supporting environmental devastation. In Vermont, we have backed away from the necessary changes and progress we need to make, that we promised to make, just a few years ago. Too expensive is easy to say, but the costs will only compound at a rate we cannot even envision. We’re just a small state, so what good can we do? That’s also easy to say, but perhaps what we would have done is act as a model for others.

Now, faced with the federal changes, it begins to feel insurmountable. The ticks are an annoyance and a reminder. In truth, if they merely attached themselves, taking a bit of my blood, I could handle it. However, they bring diseases that can be uncomfortable, debilitating, and even fatal. That also is true with the climate change we are experiencing as a whole. Uncomfortable on a stretch of hot, humid days. Debilitating to many communities as roads, bridges, and homes wash out. Fatal to those swept away in the flood waters, the tornados, the wild fires.

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



As I was racking my brain trying to find something to keep Ruby entertained, that’s when I stumbled, literally, upon a dusty roll of butcher paper I’d unceremoniously shoved in a corner months ago after my husband, Bill, brought it home from a kind woman at Ripton Community Trash Day. Bingo!

We rolled it out, cut it to size, and I attempted to shoo away Finn, our behemoth Golden Irish, who insisted that the paper was, in fact, for him. Then I traced my squirmy, giggling 4-year-old into a vaguely human shape. Then Ruby went to work. Her creation? An adorable, colorful fox. Complete with pointy ears, tattoos that read “Ruby,” “Mama,” and my personal favorite — “Amam.” The pièce de résistance? A stickered-on cheek tattoo from her

(See Clippings, Page 5A)

Clippings

By Jenna Hunsinger



We’d read all the books. Every Yoto story had been played — and replayed — to the brink of madness. Ruby, our budding artist, was tired of her coloring books. We were so over the usual board games and puzzles. Playing “restaurant” loses its sparkle when eating most food is painful, although the sheer number of cold, bland snacks consumed was becoming alarming. We’d devoured every game on the PBS Kids app and watched far too much PBS Kids TV (but hey, support public media, right?!).

As I was racking my brain trying to find something to keep Ruby entertained, that’s when I stumbled, literally, upon a dusty roll of butcher paper I’d unceremoniously shoved in a corner months ago after my husband, Bill, brought it home from a kind woman at Ripton Community Trash Day. Bingo!

We rolled it out, cut it to size, and I attempted to shoo away Finn, our behemoth Golden Irish, who insisted that the paper was, in fact, for him. Then I traced my squirmy, giggling 4-year-old into a vaguely human shape. Then Ruby went to work. Her creation? An adorable, colorful fox. Complete with pointy ears, tattoos that read “Ruby,” “Mama,” and my personal favorite — “Amam.” The pièce de résistance? A stickered-on cheek tattoo from her

(See Clippings, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Senator shares reason for vote

Some people have asked — or even demanded — why I voted NO on Senate Resolution 13 (S.R.13). My reason is simple: the resolution did not go through proper Due Process. It came out of the Judiciary Committee without any fact-finding or public testimony. As Senators, it is our duty to consider all sides of an issue. In this case, that did not happen.

What troubles me most is when politics interfere with the process. That’s what I believe happened here — both at the federal level and now in our own state.

I have answered the question “Why did you vote NO?” in emails, in conversations, and even directly with the editor of this paper. What I’ve noticed is that if my answer doesn’t fit a particular narrative, it’s often ignored. That is disappointing.

So, I ask you: Do you want your Senators to follow the constitutional process our country and state were founded on? Or should we bypass that process in order to make political statements?

In my short time in the Senate, I’ve seen this happen more than once. I will continue to do my best to follow the system the way our Founding Fathers intended — not to use my position to score political points.

Steven Hefferan
State Senator, Addison

Editor’s note: Here is the wording of S.R. 13, which was adopted on April 30:

“Senate resolution strongly objecting to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocating that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention.”

Judges weigh in on Trump suits

Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against the Trump administration. Is it a waste of taxpayer dollars, defending against these? Is it a witch hunt? What do judges appointed by Republicans think of all it all? What do they say during the hearings?

Here are quotes about the Trump administration, by judges appointed by Ronald Reagan:

“I’ve been on the bench for over four decades. I can’t remember another case where the question presented is as clear as this one. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.” — John C. Coughenour

“This is a path of perfect lawlessness, one that courts cannot condone.” — J. Harvie Wilkinson III

Here are quotes about the Trump administration, by judges appointed by George W. Bush:

“It punishes and seeks to silence speech at the very center of the First Amendment.” — John D. Bates

“There is no doubt this retaliatory action chills speech and legal advocacy, or that it qualifies as a constitutional harm.” — Richard J. Leon

“We are confronted again with the efforts of the executive branch to set aside the rule of law in pursuit of its goals.” — Roger L. Gregory

“The executive order contradicts the text of the 14th Amendment and the century-old untouched precedent that interprets it.” — Joseph N. Laplante

“To hold otherwise would be to bless the president’s obvious attempt to exercise power beyond that granted to him by the Constitution.” — Reggie B. Walton

Here are quotes about the Trump administration, by judges appointed by Donald Trump:

“Defendants have provided no evidence, or even any specific allegations, as to how Christian, or any other class member, poses a threat to public safety.” — Stephanie A. Gallagher

“That argument is nonsensical.” — Lewis J. Liman

(See Haviva letter, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Global warming still not being taken seriously

As I write this letter, the death toll from the Guadalupe River floods in Texas this month has reached 134. Dozens more, young and old, are missing and presumed dead. At the same time, NBC News informed us on July 10 that four “1,000-year” floods had just occurred across the U.S. in less than a week. Today the air quality level in Burlington for small particulate matter is “5.5 times the World Health Organization annual guideline value.” We are all breathing air that carries contaminants from the 200-plus fires that have burned for weeks in Canadian provinces north and west of us, air worse than any I have breathed since moving to Vermont in 1973. Several recent articles declare that we can expect those fires to continue burning well into the fall. Is this worrying you? It should be! Because unless a very concerted effort is made very soon, events like these are on course to get much, much worse, month by month, year by year.

Our planet is very sick. We the people are the agents of the disease, but we are also the doctors. We have the means to cure the patient, but alas we are not doing so, because it will cost us. In the short term, life will be harder: we may have to restrict our vacation travel, have less spending money, live in cooler homes in winter, etc. And of course, while there are measures we the people can take, we

certainly cannot fix this alone. We have to persuade the powers that be to act, the ones that determine if our energy comes from coal plants or solar arrays, that set and enforce vehicle emission standards, that ensure there are sufficient charging stations to support more electric vehicles, and on and on.

Unfortunately, we have ample evidence now, decades into this slow-moving apocalypse, that the powers that be are not going to act sufficiently without some form of powerful motivation. What could that motivation look like? How about assuring them that unless they act, they will soon be out of office, out of power. How about letting them know that global warming is *by far* the most serious development of our time and we need to change course *immediately* to begin the healing of the planet? How about a nation/worldwide shutdown of Business-As-Usual by us the people — a worldwide strike — until they listen?!

But we are reluctant to even entertain such a scenario — why, it’s not so bad we say; heck, I’m enjoying these milder winters here in Vermont; much of the time the seasons feel as they always have. True enough — and so far, those whose homes, communities, and way of life have been *obliterated*, whose loved ones have been lost in fires, floods, heat eruptions, are a small, and often distant minority. Here in Vermont, for

instance, we’re not afraid of killer tornadoes (oh, but wait, I drive daily past the site near Middlebury where a tornado destroyed a house not long ago); wildfires are far away (but their smoke affects us every day); hurricanes are all down south (oh, except where walls of rock line our rivers and streams from the effects of Irene in 2011).

The point is, while it is still possible (but harder all the time) to look the other way, it takes very little to imagine the consequences of inaction 5, 10, 20 years down the line. And if we don’t *act now* those consequences *will* be devastating and *will* be killing our children, our grandchildren. People please - *wake up and speak up!* If you agree with any of this, make your voices heard — write letters to your local news outlets, let political candidates know how you feel, stage hunger strikes, walkouts — anything except Business As Usual! Those of you who remember the days of World War II perhaps recall how the nation was put on a wartime footing. Sacrifices were made, gas was rationed, people left their ordinary lives to work in munitions factories, the entire nation came together to help defeat an extraordinary menace. I contend that the menace we are facing now is even greater, the consequences of insufficient action even more dire.

David Gusakov
Bristol

Weather

(Continued from Page 2A)

(BRIC) program that helped towns take on hazard mitigation projects.

“Every change that comes down in that lane of funding, potentially has an outsized impact on a place like Vermont,” he said.

“We tend to have a history of utilizing a fair bit of federal dollars related to disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and as one of the smallest ... population states we just don’t have a lot of cushion to work with,” he continued. “We don’t have a significant tax base, and yet geographically and climatologically, we’re in a bit of a vulnerable place when it comes to especially things like these intense precipitation events.”

Town officials elsewhere acknowledged the funding hurdles that come with responding to and preparing for extreme weather.

“We don’t have a significant tax base, and yet geographically and climatologically, we’re in a bit of a vulnerable place when it comes to especially things like these intense precipitation events.”

— Michael Leyden

“The most significant challenge is the funding aspect of it because they’re all unpredicted costs,” said Emmalee Cherington, Middlebury Public Works Director of Engineering. “FEMA is a reimbursement program, and right now they’re not reimbursing, so we still haven’t seen all the reimbursement for what we’ve put out for those (past) flooding events ... that puts a huge burden on the town to carry those costs until reimbursement does come through.”

Cherington said she’s applied for grants wherever possible to help the town move ahead with repair efforts.

TRYING TO PREPARE

Andrew L’Roe is the emergency management planner at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). He pointed to other obstacles that come with readying for extreme weather events.

“Some notable challenges that come up when preparing for those events are having the local personnel to respond to sudden events, since most of our Fire and EMS departments are heavily dependent on volunteers, and of course funding for response equipment and more resilient infrastructure, which will be increasingly difficult due to federal funding cuts,” he said.

Vergennes Public Works Supervisor Jim Larrow said the city has fared well in recent summer storms. When it comes to preparing for future ones, city officials’ hands are somewhat tied.

“It’s not possible for Vergennes, and probably many towns, to

prepare because we don’t have the money to prepare,” he said. “I’m behind in culvert replacement, and anytime I am able to repair a culvert I have it engineered through VTrans so I make sure I put the right size in, but until that culvert gets replaced we have to work with what we have.”

Other municipalities are also trying to work with what they have and explore options for upgrades where possible.

“We continue to assess the infrastructure of the town and (are) strategically thinking ahead about what upgrades may be needed to things like stormwater runoff management systems when it comes to those heavy precipitation events,” Leyden said of work in Bristol.

He noted the town is wrapping up work on its local hazard mitigation plan, a process that takes place every five years.

“Looking at our hazards profiles, the associated risks and then really trying to think about them ... in a way that perhaps doesn’t rely as much on the collective past experiences of the community,” he said.

“There have been floods in this community, historically, since people have lived here, and the nature and character of those floods does appear to be changing,” Leyden continued. “Thinking about it that the odds are sort of stacked against us now in new ways; that our historical perspectives may not be as useful in informing that.”

Town officials in other parts of the county are also updating plans. Ferrisburgh has been working on its local emergency management plan, which was recently approved by Vermont Emergency Management.

Local towns have some support in those efforts. L’Roe said the ACRPC serves as a liaison between state agencies like Vermont Emergency Management and local municipalities as they prepare annual plans, local hazard mitigation plans and mutual aid agreements.

“The RPC also works with municipalities on things that incorporate disaster resilience more broadly, including zoning, transportation planning, and municipal plans,” he said. “Those all incorporate budget priorities and risk-maps and recommendations for development restrictions in known-risk areas to try to keep folks out of harm’s way and reduce expensive damage to infrastructure.”

He highlighted some of the action communities and individuals can take to prepare for future events.

“Communities can help by thinking through their response systems and maintaining their resources,” L’Roe said. “Probably the most important thing that individuals can do is to keep themselves and their families safe and prepared, so that first responders don’t have as many people to get to, and then to maintain networks to check up on and support their neighbors and community members, especially during extended events like power outages, heat waves or cold snaps, illness outbreaks, etc.”

He noted the ACRPC will have a display at Addison County Fair & Field Days with more information on the topic.

Dupigny-Giroux encouraged residents sign up for VT-Alert and FEMA alerts.

“If folks have a smartphone and have the ability to receive alerts, that’s a proactive way of knowing what’s going on,” she said.

Dupigny-Giroux also offered some steps that Vermont municipalities can take to prepare.

“We don’t have to do it alone, there are a lot of structures and a lot of frameworks that would allow us to tap into not only existing resources but existing plans,” she said.

For example, Dupigny-Giroux noted that municipalities can explore potential overlap in town planning documents and review the State Hazard Mitigation Plan to help inform local hazard mitigation planning efforts.

“I think it’s little pieces like that that would be helpful because you’ve got limited monetary resources, we’ve also got limited personnel resources, and so it’s a question of being strategic in how all of those are being used,” she said.

The Independent will explore how local towns are preparing for other extreme weather events like heat waves in a future edition.



Clippings

(Continued from Page 4A)

1001 Animal Stickers book that said: “Hello, I’m purrfect.”

It was, honestly, the best 15 minutes of the day. And when that was done? Well... we turned

PBS Kids back on.

Jenna Hunsinger is co-director of sales and digital manager at the Addison Independent. Do you have a story to share with

Minibury about life with young kids in Addison County? We’d love to hear from you! Email hello@minibury.com.

Haviva letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

“The government asks the court to overlook the simplest, most logical explanation for what happened. The court declines.” — Mary S. McElroy

These quotes are from *The New York Times*. The Times doesn’t cover everything I think they should, and their opinions

section leans left, but their facts are accurate according to ratings by a balanced panel.

These quotes prove that Republican judges have found Trump’s actions unconstitutional, illegal, against even the freedoms guaranteed in the First Amendment.

How many of these judges

have been overruled by the Supreme Court on any ruling they have made since January 20? Zero.

What are we going to do about a president who thinks he doesn’t have to follow the Constitution?

Clove Haviva
Bristol

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

If only it was simply those kids in the car, squabbling, until a parent says, “Stop it!” or pulls over to sort things out. Can we do that? Can we firmly say, “STOP IT!” and get it sorted? This is impacting all but the most elite in our country. Can’t we all come together and realize that? It’s not going to go away just because we choose to ignore it, choose to not pay the costs now before it is totally too late. I know fuel bills are expensive, but they are not going to decrease when we not only need to heat our homes all winter but also pay to cool them in summer. I know taxes can seem high, but how much more will they be when our roads and bridges and homes continue to wash downstream?

While it will take time to reverse the horrendous changes happening at the federal level, we can make the uncomfortable decisions in Vermont to do what we can. Those who have more resources can help to cover the costs (pay higher taxes) to shore up the ability of all of our residents and our communities to weather not just the occasional and unpredictable storm, but all the storms on the horizon that now are highly predictable. It impacts all of us. We can stand up to the biggest bloodsuckers in our nation, whether politicians, corporate owners, or pundits, and say “Stop! I’m pulling you off, getting rid of you and the damage, disease and despair for which you

are responsible.” We all have a right to enjoy our woods, our fields, our country, our world without fear. Pray that the worst we have to deal with are the bugs.

Laurie Cox is a retired school

counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.

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Readers and moviegoers alike often debate whether the book is better than the film from which it comes or vice versa. Transforming one art form into another can be a tricky business as the integrity of both is at stake. Through critical, historical, and social lenses, we will first consider Truman Capote’s novella

RON MONROE

Breakfast at Tiffany’s and then examine the film by the same name.

With a degree in Psychology from Bates College, **Ron Monroe** spent most of his 44-year career teaching American and English literature and film at the Kingswood Oxford School in Connecticut. Recently retired, he lives in Middlebury.

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Marsha Alice (Miner) Hesse, 70, of Brandon

BRANDON — It is with heavy hearts and deep sadness that we announce the passing of our mom, Marsha Alice (Miner) Hesse, 70, of Brandon, Vt., on July 11, 2025.

Marsha was born in Middlebury, Vt., on March 11, 1955, and raised on the Thelee Farm on the Arnold District Road in Brandon. Marsha was the daughter of the late Thelma (Hathaway) and Leo Miner. She attended Otter Valley Union High School and graduated with the Class of 1973. In 2016, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, David Hesse, and carried his memory with her always.



MARSHA ALICE (MINER) HESSE

Marsha is survived by her two daughters, Sarah Pelkey (Adam Pelkey) of West Rutland and Melissa Lynch (Shaun Tulley) of Brandon; and her four treasured grandchildren, Max, Dylan, and Emma Derby, and Elaina Pelkey, who knew her simply and lovingly as “Granny.” To them, she was everything. Her presence in their lives was constant, grounding, and full of joy. The bond they shared was deep and unmatched. She is also survived by her sister, Marie Perry of South Burlington, Vt.; three brothers, Ernie Miner (Debbie) of Leicester, Vt., James Miner (Kim) and Edward Miner (Lynn), both of Brandon, Vt.; her aunt Gertrude Hathway of Benson, Vt.; and the many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family who knew her love and generosity. In recent years, she’d developed a special loving bond with her niece, Emily Rose Miner.

Marsha wore many hats throughout her life — daughter, sister, mother, wife, grandmother, friend, confidante — but above all, she was a caregiver and protector. She raised her daughters faithfully with fierce devotion and grace, earning them the shared nickname

“Marsha and the girls.” Her daughters mourn the loss of their mother, their rock, and their greatest cheerleader.

She had an undeniable sense of style — designing her own clothes as a teenager — and a sharp wit paired with a warm heart. She was beautiful, cool, maternal, funny, and generous with what she had.

Marsha was also a dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Marble Chapter No. 80 in Brandon, for over 30 years. Her commitment to community and tradition was a quiet but steady part of her life.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 26, at 1 p.m., at the Brandon Congregational Church. All who loved her are welcome.

Marsha lived a life defined by care, laughter, and strength. She leaves behind a family knit tightly with her love, and a legacy that will live on through every memory, every story, and every heart she touched.

The family asks that donations in her memory be made to Shriner’s Hospital for Children, St. Jude Children’s Hospital, or similar charitable organizations supporting children in need or charities benefiting homeless dogs. ♦

Jane Eddy celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — The Eddy family invites you to an Open House dedicated to celebrating Jane’s life and art in her home and gardens. Please join us anytime between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 95 Main Street in Middlebury. We encourage you to park on the street or in the municipal parking lots, as there is limited space in the driveway.



JANE EDDY



ERIC NELSON

Eric Nelson memorial service

MIDDLEBURY — A memorial service for Eric Nelson, who died June 20, 2025, will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Church, 2 Duane Court, in Middlebury. A reception will follow immediately in the church basement. All are welcome. There will not be a reception at the college from 3-5 p.m. ♦

Barbara J. Kolysko, 79, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — Barbara “Bobbie” J. Kolysko passed away gently and peacefully in South Starksboro with her best friend and life partner, Betsy Cartland, her caregiver, Lisa Ward, her faithful hound, Raleigh and dog buddy, Calvin, by her side.

Barbara also leaves her brothers Jim and Gregg Kolysko and her uncle John Gonyea of Ticonderoga, N.Y.

Gary D. Smith, 68, of Ripton

RIPTON — Gary D. Smith passed peacefully at his home July 20, 2025, surrounded by his family and animals. He was the son of Nola and Kenneth Smith formerly of Ripton.

He is survived by his daughters, Stacy and Gary Brown of Salisbury and Roxanne and John Calden of Florida; the mother of his daughters, Debbie Goodrich; grandchildren Riley, Kegan, Kaitlyn and McKenna; great-grandkids Payson and Tynsleigh; sisters Bonnie Swan and Cindy Savage; brothers Chris and Doug Smith; special niece Nola Bogue and special nephew Treavor Supernaw, who didn’t leave his side once he got home; niece Jasmine Egan for her help and guidance keeping him comfortable, and many other nieces and nephews.

Gary was predeceased by his parents and brothers Kenny and Carl Smith.



GARY D. SMITH

Gary was predeceased by his parents and brothers Kenny and Carl Smith.

Margaret Clifford, 102, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — With love and gratitude, we announce the peaceful passing of Margaret Catherine Clifford, known to her family and friends as Kate. A beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, and cherished friend, she passed away on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at the age of 102.

Born Sept. 23, 1922, in Wyandot County, Ohio, Kate lived a long life marked by strength, compassion, and unwavering dedication to her family. She was the proud and loving mother of eight children, raising them with grace, patience, and deep devotion. Married twice, Kate experienced both the joy of love and the resilience of a heart that endured. Her home was always a welcoming place, filled with warmth, laughter, and the aroma of Sunday dinners. It was where



MARGARET CLIFFORD

generations gathered and countless memories were made.

Known for her wit, storytelling, and quiet strength, Kate’s hands were rarely still. They held babies, baked pies, stitched clothes, and

Charles William Fleming, 80, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Charles William Fleming, 80, passed away Friday, July 18, 2025, at University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born on April 9, 1945, in Lincoln, the son of Leonard and Rena Martell Fleming.

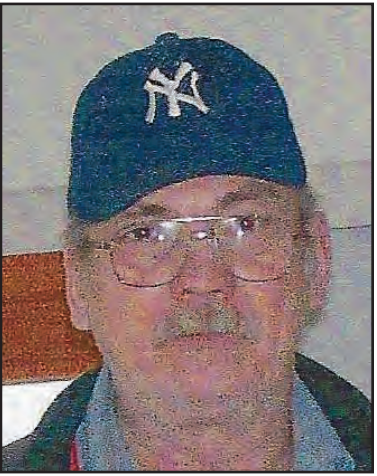
He enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, and watching Westerns and wrestling on television.

Charles is survived by his wife, Dale Fleming; his children Tausha Stalcup and David Fleming; four grandchildren Josh and Jeffery Tanner, Richard and Jasmine Stalcup; three great-grandchildren, Magnus Tanner,

Weston Stalcup and Owen Vicenzi; two sisters, Lois Grace and Joyce Fleming; two brothers, Leon Fleming and Harold Fleming; a half-brother, Harold Martell; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by several brothers and a sister.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com. ♦



CHARLES WILLIAM FLEMING

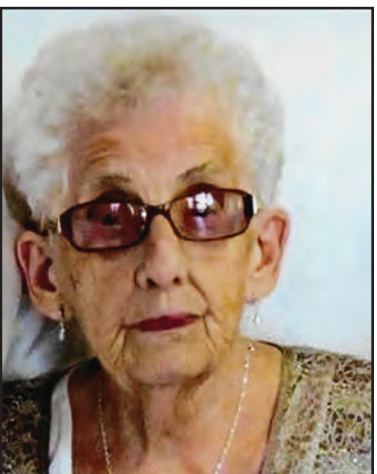
Evelyn G. Smith, 96, of Monkton

MONKTON — Evelyn G. Smith, 96, of Monkton, Vt., passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 19, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born July 30, 1928, in Fayston, Vt., the daughter of Harold and Almira Griffith. Evelyn had a lifelong love for learning and a deep passion for teaching. She began her career by opening a kindergarten class in her home and later taught at Bristol Elementary School for 25 years, where she made a lasting impact on generations of students.

Evelyn found joy in the simple pleasures of life, especially watching tennis and golf — she was known for her warmth, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to her family. She was a devoted wife, a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose kindness and presence will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her three children: Michael and his wife Cathy Smith of Bristol, Vt.; Craig Smith of Mineville, N.Y.; and Gary



EVELYN G. SMITH

and his wife Kimberly Smith of Bristol, Vt. She also leaves behind four grandchildren; Cameron; Dana and her husband Nick and their son Max; Ryan; and Danielle, her husband Alex and their children Karlie and Kolby.

Evelyn was predeceased by her beloved husband, William Smith, and her daughter Linda Shepard.

Visiting hours will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol. Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. on Wednesday August 6, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol. Interment will be in Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in her memory to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753. To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com. ♦

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Stephen C. Terry, 82, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Stephen C. Terry of Middlebury, a lifelong, iconic Vermonter, died on July 19, 2025, in his 1799 home, surrounded by his beloved family and his library and memorabilia from the many Vermont organizations that he helped lead over the years. A longtime reporter, editor and executive at Green Mountain Power, Stephen was a valued political adviser to many Vermont politicians.

In 2014 he was named Vermont Citizen of the Year by the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce.

He was 82 when he died of cancer.

During his lifetime, Stephen loved and was loved by three exceptional women and their children: his first wife, Sandra Wells, and their children, Megan and Joshua; his second wife, the late Sally West Johnson, and their son, Will; and, last, his wife, Faith Terry, who was by his side during his later years.

Stephen came from rural, blue-collar roots. Born in Windsor, Vt., on October 2, 1942, to Charles and Patricia Terry, he was the eldest of his four siblings, John, Ellen, Tom and Margaret. Growing up, Stephen worked on his uncle's dairy farm in Plainfield, Vt., where he learned to milk cows by hand.

In high school he played on the football team while also reporting on sports for a local weekly, *The Vermont Journal*, an experience that sparked his lifelong interest in journalism. As a philosophy student at the University of Vermont, Stephen invented a reporting job for himself; he interviewed students of interest and then drafted articles about them which UVM distributed to the students' hometown newspaper.

It was also at UVM that he dated his first wife, Sandy, who became a longtime reading teacher for elementary school students. Upon graduation in 1964, they were married, and Stephen interned with *The Providence Journal* in Rhode Island.

Returning to Vermont, he was hired by *The Rutland Herald* and *Barre-Montpelier Times Argus* for their Vermont Press Bureau, where he covered the legislature and state

politics. He wrote about the 1965 reapportionment of the Vermont legislature, the influx of many new residents into the state during the 1960s, and, later, the presidential election of 1968.

He also covered the tenure of Governor Phil Hoff, widely credited with initiating changes that set the state on a more liberal path. "Phil Hoff forever changed the State of Vermont," Stephen told the *New York Times* in 2018. "His influence in the 1960s has molded and created the Vermont many of us know today." In their 2011 book *Phil Hoff: How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State*, Stephen and his co-authors, Samuel Hand and Anthony Marro, describe the significant political changes put in motion under the Hoff administration.

In addition to the political upheaval, 1968 saw significant personal changes for Stephen. He and Sandy's daughter and first child, Megan, was born in April. A year later, Stephen took a detour from journalism into politics when Senator George D. Aiken (R-VT) recruited him to work for six years as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate. While living in Washington, their family continued to grow with their second child, Joshua, in September of 1972.

Stephen became the lead staffer for both the Senate Foreign Relations and Senate Agriculture committees. Senator Aiken quickly came to rely on him to read the pulse of politics and media coverage back home in Vermont. He was in Washington during a time of political and social upheaval, marked by the Vietnam War, the ongoing Civil Rights movement and the Watergate scandal. Years later, he authored the book *Say We Won and Get Out*, which details how Aiken, one of the most senior Republican U.S. Senators at the time, became a leading critic of the Vietnam War.

After returning home from D.C., he and Sandy moved onto a 100-acre farm they had purchased in Plainfield. Stephen opened the Burlington Bureau of *The Rutland Herald* and *Times-Argus* newspapers and then became the founding editor of their newly



STEPHEN C. TERRY



created Sunday Edition. In 1977 he was named the Managing Editor of *The Rutland Herald*, which he ran until 1985. *The Rutland Herald* thrived during that period and went on to be recognized as one of the best small-city dailies in the country.

The reporting he oversaw included extensive coverage of the state legislature, shifting politics driven by younger people moving in from out of state, and the growing environmental movement. As managing editor, he worked to keep the newspaper publishing throughout its nearly year-long labor strike beginning in 1980.

Upon Stephen's departure from the paper, Robert Mitchell, the publisher, penned an editorial lauding his management. "Under his leadership, the Herald expanded its news coverage of the state in concert with its sister paper, the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus," Mitchell wrote. "The Herald became the newspaper that state officials, politicians and civic leaders turned to for information about state affairs."

In 1980, he met Sally W. Johnson, a promising young journalist, who went on to become a longtime reporter and editor herself. They moved in together in Middlebury, has their son, Will, and eventually got married in the Chapel at Middlebury College. Living together Stephen and Sally always shared stories about journalism and politics over dinner.

Many years later, in 2010, after their 30-year relationship together,

Sally passed away from liver disease. Before her death, she wrote a story for the *Boston Sunday Globe* detailing her experience with the illness, its emergence as a societal health concern, and ongoing advancement in treatment.

Back in 1985, Steve taught a course on the media at Middlebury College. He then joined the leadership of Green Mountain Power, managing government relations and external affairs. During his time at GMP, he facilitated the importation of hydroelectric power from Quebec, managed the response of the Great Ice Storm of 1998, championed the state's very first commercial wind farm in Lowell, and successfully advanced GMP's acquisition of Central Vermont Public Service in 2012.

"I learned early on that Steve is motivated by spearheading actions that benefit Vermont," said Dotty Schnure, his longtime colleague and from GMP. "For example, one of the first things he did at GMP was convince management that increasing the water flow through the dams in the Winooski River would be the right thing to do. It meant less electric generation, but he helped them understand that a healthy river meant a healthy Vermont."

After leaving GMP, Stephen continued to work as a consultant for energy projects and for a manufacturer of dairy products.

During all these years, Stephen was actively engaged in community leadership. He served on many

statewide boards, including the Vermont Community Foundation, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, UVM's Center for Research on Vermont, the Snelling Center for Government, the Vermont Press Association, the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Journalism Trust, the Vermont Food Bank, and the Aiken Lecture Series.

He served on the selection committee of the Vermont Writer's Prize, which he created in 1989 and is sponsored by GMP and Vermont Magazine. He also became active locally, joining the Middlebury Planning Commission and becoming Chair of the Board of Trustees for Porter Hospital and Porter Medical Center, leading negotiations as they joined the UVM Health Network.

Following his wife Sally's passing Stephen continued his community service.

Through his civic engagement, years earlier, he had first met Terry Faith Weihs. Faith, a champion of the arts and the creative economy, and her late husband, Gerald, an attorney, lived in downtown Vergennes and were proactive in guiding the town's revitalization.

Stephen and Faith reconnected and entered upon a loving relationship that continued until his passing. He proposed to her on a petrified bluff overlooking the Tasman Sea in New Zealand. Just prior to their wedding, Faith bought Stephen a Belted Galloway cow, a heritage Scottish breed that eventually turned into a small, beloved herd of cows that he would visit each morning to check their water and to feed them.

Together they transformed their home and verdant gardens into a tranquil, welcoming and creative sanctuary. The past fifteen years held rich and meaningful life experiences and were considered an unanticipated gift.

When he was nominated Vermont Citizen of the Year, friends and colleagues sent in innumerable letters of recommendation. The Pulitzer Prize-winning editor from *The Rutland Herald*, David Moats, wrote the following: "It was Steve's great quality as a citizen of Vermont

that, no matter whom he was representing, the good of the state was always the backdrop of our conversations."

"Steve has served as an able staffer, editor, chronicler and advisor to Vermont Governors for nearly 50 years," wrote former Governor Howard Dean. "His knowledge of Vermont is extraordinary, as is his dedication to the people of the state of Vermont."

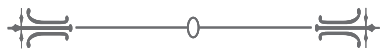
In retirement, in addition to looking after his cows, Stephen wrote extensively about Vermont history and politics. When election days would approach, he could be found on WCAX, speaking as a Democratic political analyst alongside his Republican counterpart, Mike Smith.

In his final year, Stephen never lost his love of reading and remained a voracious consumer of local and national news. As his days grew shorter, he turned to audiobooks. Just as curious as when he first began as a reporter in high school, always wanting to learn more, he would listen round the clock, throughout the day, and late into the evenings as he drifted to sleep.

Stephen will be greatly missed by his family, his friends, his many colleagues from Vermont journalism, business and politics, and by the countless community members who volunteered alongside him on those many community boards over the years.

Stephen's love for his home state was evident and foremost in nearly everything he did. His energy, time and focus proved effective. He leaves Vermont a better place, the result of his political savvy and intuition, his hard work ethic, and his devotion to the place where he was born and built a fulfilling and meaningful life.

Stephen will be buried in the West Cemetery in Middlebury. Contributions in his memory may be made in support of journalism and a free and independent press to the Addison County Independent weekly newspaper at www.addisonindependent.com and/or to the Vermont Journalism Trust, a nonprofit organization which he helped create. It supports the digital news publication VTDigger. ♦



Kim Stephen Schroeder, 64, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Kim Stephen Schroeder, 64, of Salisbury, Vt., passed away on July 16, 2025, at UVM Medical Center after a brief illness, surrounded by his family.

Kim was a kind and gentle soul with a huge heart. He loved animals of all kinds, especially dogs and horses. He had many Golden Retrievers over the years, and he could always be found with at least one at his heels. He was a good neighbor, son, brother, uncle and friend. He was always lending a hand to anyone whether you needed it or not. If you pulled into his driveway to say hello, he would start washing your car as he chatted away.

He loved nature and all of the seasons brought wonder to him, but fall was particularly his favorite. He loved hiking with his dogs, taking his nephews and their friends hunting, and making them breakfast after. He loved fishing, and anything that had to do with being outdoors.

Kim had many different jobs throughout his life, including working for the town of Salisbury. He was a jack of all trades and loved working with his hands. Almost anyone who knew him has something Kim made.



KIM STEPHEN SCHROEDER

There are many kids (now grown up) around the lake who remember Kim for his wintertime fun, making sure they all had skates to go out once the lake was frozen, teaching them how to ice fish, and giving rides on his snowmobile.

He loved his Salisbury community and took extreme pride in taking care of and looking after all of the cemeteries, always placing American flags for all the Veterans on the appropriate holidays. He was a lifelong fan of his favorite baseball team, the New York Mets.

Kim is survived by his mother,

Beverly Schroeder of Middlebury; his sisters Lisa Schroeder Ryan (Willem Jaring) of Pantton, Teresa Schroeder of Middlebury, Allyson Bull of California, and Julie Schroeder of Middlebury; and his brother, Greg Schroeder of Brandon. He has many nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts and Uncles, and friends who miss his gentle soul. Kim leaves behind his beloved Golden Retriever, Sadie May, who has found her new forever home with Kim's lifelong friend, Gail Mannigan. He is also survived by his good friend, Robin Meacham Vose, who he met daily so the dogs could all take their runs together.

He was predeceased by his father, Jerry Schroeder; his sisters LeAnne Daly Schroeder and Dianne Schroeder; and his nephew Justin Schroeder, who died unexpectedly two days prior to Kim's passing.

There will be a celebration of life on Sept. 13 at the Vergennes Legion from 2-4 p.m. Please bring your memories and stories to share. We know there are many!

Kim loved animals. If anyone wishes to make a contribution in his memory, they may do so to the Addison County Humane Society/Homeward Bound. ♦

Justin Ryan Schroeder, 44, of Fair Haven

FAIR HAVEN — Justin Ryan Schroeder, 44, of Fair Haven, Vt., passed away unexpectedly July 13, 2025.

Justin was born in Middlebury, Vt., May 14, 1981, to Dianne Lynn Schroeder and Stephen Hughes Curavoo.

Justin grew up in Middlebury, and as a boy he loved school and never wanted to miss a day. He loved nature and being outdoors and would often collect souvenirs from nature or leave behind sculptures made by things he found in the woods. He absolutely loved animals and leaves behind two beloved feline companions. Justin was truly a sweet spirit, with a kind and gentle heart. He loved, and was dearly loved by his many cousins, and he especially adored his younger sister Emmalee.

Justin thought the world of his mother Dianne and considered her to be his rock. Though his father, Steve, lived across the country, Justin loved him and always wished they were able to spend more time together. If there was one thing that he was very good at, it was letting the people he cared about know that he loved



JUSTIN RYAN SCHROEDER

them.

Justin enjoyed music, especially the 90s music he grew up with, and enjoyed sharing music videos from the era with his cousins. He also became interested in Rap music, and made a few videos where he rapped about life, which he also shared. His family holds close the memories they have of Justin, whether just hanging out after school, playing basketball, rollerblading — both inside of the house and out — heading to the snack bar to get a bite to eat, or

jump-scaring his Gramma Bev.

As an adult Justin went through many struggles, but with all he went through, he never let it darken his light. He remained the same sweet, loving person right to the very end.

Justin is survived by his father, Stephen Curavoo of California; his younger sister, Emmalee Schroeder-Smith of Salisbury, Vt.; grandmother, Beverly Schroeder of Middlebury, Vt.; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Justin was predeceased by his mother, Dianne Schroeder; his stepfather, Paul Smith; grandfather Jerry Schroeder; and aunts LeAnne Daly Schroeder and Lori (Stevens) Schroeder. Justin's uncle, Kim Schroeder, joined him in Heaven just three days after his own passing.

There will be a celebration of life on Sept. 13 at the Vergennes Legion from 2 to 4 p.m. Please bring your memories and stories to share.

Justin loved animals. If anyone wishes to make a contribution in his memory, they may do so to the Addison County Humane Society. ♦

Obituaries are on pages 6A, 7A and 8A

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ADDISON
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Obituaries

Vivian Moisan Desmarais, 95, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Vivian Moisan Desmarais, of Middlebury, Vt., beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2025, at the age of 95. Her final days were filled with love and surrounded by those who cherished her most.

Vivian leaves behind a legacy of tireless work ethic, unwavering kindness, deep family pride, and remarkable strength, grit, and determination.

Born on April 23, 1930, in Lowell, Mass., Vivian was the daughter of William and Irene (Sawyer) Moisan, and sister to the late Donald, Albert, and Carl. She was raised in Lowell, where she met the love of her life, Silvio Raymond “Ray” Desmarais, her husband of 61 years. Together, they raised their family in Nashua, N.H., and spent countless joyful summers at their cottages in Hampton Beach, N.H. After retiring, Ray and Vivian moved



VIVIAN MOISAN
DESMARAIS

to Cape Cod, Mass., where they enjoyed an active life filled with hobbies, social gatherings, and charitable work.

Vivian was the proud mother of three children: Edward W.

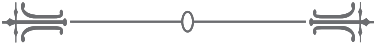
Desmarais (Kathleen) of Exeter, N.H.; Mark Raymond Desmarais (Pamela) of Punta Gorda, Fla., and Harwich, Mass; and Paula Louise Roeloffs (Chris) of New Haven, Vt. She was a devoted grandmother to nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, each of whom held a special place in her heart.

She was known for her green thumb and deep love of gardening, and her competitive spirit at the bridge table was second to none. Vivian will be remembered for her grace, her quiet strength, and her enduring devotion to her faith.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the staff at Eastview at Middlebury and Addison Home Health and Hospice for their compassionate care.

Private services will be held at a later date. ◊



Frederick H. Wells Jr., 75, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — Frederick H. Wells Jr., affectionately known as Cubby, passed away peacefully at the age of 66 late on Thursday, July 11, with his partner Robin by his side.

Born in Burlington, Vt. and raised in Lincoln, Vt., he was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting and exploring the outdoors. He was a skilled stonemason who built beautiful custom chimneys, stone walls and fireplaces. He loved cooking up a storm, whether it be in his own kitchen or at a friend’s back yard pig roast. He was an adventurous eater and would try almost anything, though he drew the line at opossum. He loved music, playing his drums, harmonica and singing. He was creative and able to imagine and build just about anything. He loved life, being adventurous and traveling. He knew how to take the time to appreciate the small things.



FREDERICK H. WELLS JR.

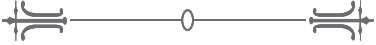
He was the best at telling stories about his experiences in life, often about things that could really only happen to him, and he had such a good sense of humor he could make himself laugh.

He was predeceased by his father, Frederick H. Wells Sr. and

his mother, Anna E. (James) Wells. He is survived by his partner, Robin Dufault; his daughter, Mikko R. Wells; his son, Frederick (Freddy) H. Wells III; Robin’s daughters, Jaiden and Alexis; Robin’s niece, Cassandra; sisters Leath Meunier, Ellen Rotax and Husband Jay, Gay Truax and Kathleen Wells; as well as his much-loved nieces and nephews.

Honoring his wishes there will be a true Cubby fashion celebration of life on Saturday Sept. 27. For more details please visit his page, Cubby Wells on Facebook. We encourage family and friends to connect on this page and share memories, photos and stories.

Cubby was the most loving father to his children, a loving brother, a loyal life-long friend and a uniquely kind man. There will truly never be another person like him, and he will be missed enormously by everyone who had the honor of knowing him. ◊



David Allen Hentschel, 74, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBRUGH — David Allen Hentschel died Sunday, July 20, 2025, after a swift illness. He was born June 12, 1951, in Claremont, N.H. to Wallace F and Marion (Hart) Hentschel of Claremont.

He was predeceased by his parents and siblings William Hentschel (Sally) and Bethann Hentschel (Pickett). He was the loving husband of Bonnie Bullock for 35 years. He was a caring father, grandfather and great-grandfather to his children Amy Mahoney (Todd), Sonya Duff (Gene), Derrick Hentschel, April Hentschel and Forrest Hentschel;

his grandchildren Micheal Mahoney, Daemon Hentschel and Maelyn Hentschel; and great-grandchild Owen Mahoney. Many cousins, nieces and nephews and his lifelong best friend Barry Paquette also survive him.

David had a long resume of jobs, from line cook to textile mills to snowboard manufacturing, with most of his career being in machine maintenance. He became the stay-at-home dad and handyman of every wife’s dreams after a snowmobile accident and chronic illness forced his early retirement. David loved going

to his land in Newfoundland, Canada, and maintaining his yard, which he called “The Ponderosa.” David had quite the green thumb, growing many house plants to massive sizes and growing robust vegetable gardens in times of better health.

The family would like to give their heartfelt thanks to the Vergennes Area Rescue squad for their compassionate service in our time of need.

A celebration of our beloved David’s life will be held at noon, Friday, July 25, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. ◊

Obituaries are on pages 6A, 7A and 8A

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.



JAMES EMILO JR.

James Emilo Jr., 76, of East Middlebury

EAST MIDDLEBURY — James Emilo Jr., 76, of East Middlebury, decorated Vietnam Veteran of the the U.S. Army, passed away July 21, 2025.

He is survived by his son, Toby (Jeannine); his siblings, Pam, John, Deb, Brian and Eddie; and many nieces and nephews.

James was an animal lover, especially his beloved granddog, Lottie.

Honoring James wishes, no services will be held. Donations may be made to the American Legion Post 14 in Vergennes. ◊

Terry

(Continued from Page 3A)

He worked as a lead aide for the Senate Foreign Relations and Agriculture Committees until his boss’ retirement in 1975.

“I often took notes on the events I witnessed,” Terry recalled. “I had always aspired to do a book.”

Terry compiled the senator’s most important speeches in 2004’s “The Essential Aiken: A Life in Public Service.” He later wrote 2019’s “Say We Won and Get Out: George D. Aiken and the Vietnam War,” a biography centered on the senator’s oft-misquoted 1966 thoughts on U.S. involvement in Asia.

Terry filled the latter book with personal memories. He started by confirming other historians’ assertions that Kennedy was secretly planning to pull out of Vietnam after his anticipated reelection campaign in 1964.

“Aiken told me when I was on his staff that it was told to him in confidence,” Terry said in a 2019 interview. “Was Aiken right about Kennedy’s resolve to get out of Vietnam after the 1964 elections? We will never emphatically know the answer.”

Terry also remembered the time an 80-year-old Aiken was contemplating retirement in 1973 when a 31-year-old freelance writer convinced the

Hunger

(Continued from Page 2A)

supported, not just by the program and what it does,” Alexander said. “It’s bringing people together ... it’s giving employment to certain numbers of people that are in our communities. And I think once we start to diminish those opportunities, there’s going to be a lot of fallout. There’s going to be other things that will happen, not just unemployment and kids who are hungry, but also communities not coming together in ways that they’re coming together now.”

While funding for summer 2025 is secure, the long-term future of these programs remains uncertain. Recent changes in federal food policy, especially those tied to the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” have raised concerns. The legislation has tightened work requirements and shifted certain SNAP (known as 3SquaresVT in Vermont) costs to states, potentially affecting millions of families.

“We are very concerned about the priorities of the current administration, and that feeding children and helping families does not seem to be a priority,” Alexander said. “We’re very happy that we were able to run this program this year, but we are entirely aware that

we may not be able to do this going forward. And that’s a lot of people who would suffer if these programs went away.”

Because SNAP enrollment often qualifies children for school-year and summer meal support, policy changes could lead to a cascading loss of food access for many families. Analysts at the Urban Institute, a nonpartisan policy research group, estimate up to 22 million households may be affected nationwide.

For now, though, Alexander and her team remain grateful for what they can provide.

“We have the federal dollars available this summer. So we are happy, happy that we can take advantage of that and that families can get these resources through our program. And we are employing staff over the summer, which is really great for them. And they’re doing something they really care about in their community. So it’s really a win-win all the way around. And I think that’s important to emphasize.”

Free summer meals will continue into mid-to-late August, with end dates varying by location. Full details and updates can be found at hungerfreevt.org/summer-meals.

elder statesman to sit for an interview. The aspiring scribe’s name: Bernie Sanders.

“My job as Aiken’s aide,” Terry recalled, “was to take the very long-haired Bernie to lunch in the ornate U.S. Senate dining room.”

Terry said the contrast between Sanders and Aiken was striking: A young Brooklyn-born revolutionary conversing with a lifelong Republican tagged by his congressional colleagues as “the wise old owl.” But the resulting story in *Vermont Life* magazine’s spring 1973 issue showed a surprising degree of consensus between two men now considered among the state’s most legendary U.S. senators.

Terry returned to journalism upon Aiken’s retirement to work as founding editor of the *Sunday Herald* and *Times Argus* in 1975 and managing editor of the daily *Herald* from 1977 to 1985. He then moved to a corporate career as a communications executive at Green Mountain Power from 1985 to 2014. At the same time, he helped found the nonprofit Vermont Journalism Trust that oversees VTDigger.

Growing up milking cows by hand at his grandfather and uncle’s dairy farm, Terry retired to raise a small herd of Belted Galloway beef cattle. He left full-time work after

receiving the Vermont Chamber of Commerce’s 2014 Citizen of the Year award at a ceremony that featured written testimonials from prominent peers.

“Steve is, in the true sense of the word, a public citizen,” former Gov. Madeleine Kunin said in her statement. “While he has been employed full-time in the private sector, he has had an impact on public life in Vermont.”

Friends ranging from former Gov. Howard Dean to *The New Yorker* staff writer Jane Mayer (who got her start as Terry’s first *Herald* hire) recently contacted Terry to express their own appreciation after learning of his declining health. Many were encouraged by Terry’s wife Faith, who noted “his mind is ever active and engaged.”

Christopher Graff, former head of the Associated Press Vermont bureau, said Terry was the rare person who could juggle jobs in the press, politics and power industry.

“They said of Aiken he was neither hawk nor dove but a wise owl,” Graff said. “That’s the role Steve played for decades, helping reporters, governors and CEOs work through tough times and decisions. Steve really was one of the last links to those huge personalities and to those history-making times.”

Sidewalk

(Continued from Page 2A)

Cherington is optimistic about Middlebury’s chances of winning the grant, but it’s not a done deal. She noted Middlebury last year won a \$1 million grant through the same Bicycle/Pedestrian Program to help fund pedestrian safety-related sidewalk and road improvements in the Buttolph, Seminary Street and Rogers Road areas.

“I don’t know if it will help us or hurt us,” Cherington said.

If Middlebury doesn’t score a VTrans grant this year, the town will reapply next year, which would add another delay to a project first envisioned in 2012.

Cherington expects a September decision from VTrans on Middlebury’s grant ask. Among folks eager to see the new path installed:

Clients and staff at the Counseling Service of Addison County, which has a growing campus in Catamount Park. Some CSAC stakeholders travel to and from the campus by foot or use public transportation.

Future grants will be essential in pursuing the more ambitious vision: a roundabout serving the intersection of Exchange Street, Route 7 and Happy Valley Road.

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CSAC pitches building project for Catamount Park

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) is seeking permission to build a new, 12,000-square-foot office building in Middlebury’s Catamount Park off Exchange St., a site where the nonprofit already runs programming out of two structures. If permitted, the new two-story building would further solidify Catamount Park as CSAC’s mental health services hub and advance the Counseling Service’s effort to expand its offerings as a Vermont Certified Community-Based Integrated Health Center (see related story).

“What we’re trying to do is be proactive at this point, preparing and planning for the future,” said CSAC Chief Financial Officer Bill Claessens. “We’ve reconfigured the space in our two current (Catamount Park) buildings over and over again. We’re seeing the need for more meeting space and that type of thing.”

The Counseling Service currently runs programming out of buildings at 67 and 109 Catamount

Park, a stone’s throw away from the land on which it proposes to construct the new structure. Redstone Commercial Group owns the land in question, a parcel just large enough on which to site the proposed CSAC building, according to Claessens.

It should be noted that CSAC — the county’s largest provider of mental health and developmental services — also runs programming at several sites outside of Catamount Park, including at 89 Main St. and 17 Court St., as well as residential care homes for folks with profound needs.

Future growth in Catamount Park is in part governed by a planned unit development document that considers the character of the site and its surroundings, as well as Middlebury’s municipal plan and town bylaws.

“The building will ... support on-going programming, treatment and administration of this essential social services organization,” reads the permit application, filed on behalf of CSAC by Otter Creek Engineering’s Brent Rakowski.

Plans call for the building

to accommodate 24-40 CSAC employees serving 14-30 clients each day in a variety of offices and meeting rooms, according to the application.

Middlebury’s Development Review Board (DRB) on July 14 conducted its first review of CSAC’s building application, which reflects, among other things:

- Frontage along Exchange Street, though the building would be accessed off Catamount Park Road. The building would be set back from Exchange Street to accommodate Middlebury’s plans for a shared use path (see related story).
- Aesthetics to match the architectural context of other buildings within the park. The building would be wood-framed

with clapboard or wood-composite siding. The structure would meet “high-performance” standards per Efficiency Vermont and will strive to be all electric-heated and cooled with heat pump technology, and well-ventilated with energy/heat recovery technology,” according to the application.

- Trees that would shade and screen a new parking area with 31 spaces. Rakowski acknowledges in the application that the town requires one parking space for every 250 square feet of building, a formula that would prescribe 48 spaces for the new CSAC structure.

The Counseling Service has requested a waiver for 17 spaces, arguing “many of CSAC’s staff

travel with clients and/or use public transportation. There is also an opportunity for staff and visitors to utilize parking internal to the park adjacent to CSAC’s other buildings.”

A pedestrian boardwalk/walkway is planned to connect the building with CSAC’s other buildings within the park and would access other spaces within the park should overflow parking be needed, according to the application.

- Plantings and landscaping to beautify and shield the development.
- Maintenance of a 50-foot buffer between an adjacent wetland.

While there are no wetlands in the proposed construction zone, the application acknowledges the site is within “summer range” of the Indiana Bat, a protected endangered species.

The application also reads, “coordination with the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife will be required to coordinate the removal of any trees, vegetation etc. The state biologist has been contacted and has been updated

with project planning and timeline.”

Members of the DRB on July 14 raised concerns about possible impacts on the nearby wetlands, the need to remove trees on the proposed building site, and the requested parking waiver. The board asked CSAC and Rakowski to address those concerns at a follow-up DRB meeting.

So when might we see the new CSAC office building erected?

That remains to be seen, according to Claessens.

If the DRB gives its consent, CSAC would likely move to acquire the property by early this fall. Then Counseling Service officials must consider the organization’s aforementioned pivot to Certified Community-Based Integrated Health Center, the prospect of hiring folks to fill new and vacant positions, and the resources required to take on a building project.

“There’s no specific timeline for the new construction,” Claessens said.

John Flowers is at johnf[at]addisonindependent.com.

“What we’re trying to do is be proactive at this point, preparing and planning for the future. We’ve reconfigured the space in our two current (Catamount Park) buildings over and over again. We’re seeing the need for more meeting space and that type of thing.”

— CSAC Chief Financial Officer Bill Claessens

CSAC mission

(Continued from Page 1A)

thoughtfully, think about potential impacts and where we want to put any additional resources we can obtain through this.”

CCBHCs were created through a national program to improve local mental health and addiction services. The feds in 2024 picked Vermont as an official “CCBHC Demonstration State,” promising extra Medicaid funding to expand mental health services and establish closer working relationships with other health care partners.

Mental health agencies seeking CCBHC status must commit to providing nine core services:

- Crisis mental health services, including mobile crisis teams and

- emergency stabilization.
- Screening, assessment, and diagnosis of mental health and substance-use conditions.
- Personalized treatment planning, with crisis and risk management.
- Outpatient mental health and substance-use treatment.
- Primary care screenings and monitoring of key health indicators.
- Targeted case management to support client goals.
- Psychiatric rehabilitation to help people live independently.
- Peer support, counseling and family support services.
- Intensive community-based

mental health care for active-duty military and veterans.

CSAC already provides many of the services on this list, but the agency has faced major headwinds in meeting consumer demands for a variety of reasons, including limited state funding, a shallow labor pool and a burgeoning number of clients seeking mental health counseling (which became acute during COVID). The agency last year provided 800,578 service hours to Addison County residents of all ages, according to its 2024 annual report.

The Counseling Service, now in its 65th year, had a \$29.6 million budget last year, of which 85.59%

was derived from Medicaid fees.

As it stands, CSAC and its nine counterparts must haggle with lawmakers and the governor on a yearly allocation for the state’s mental health system.

“You build your staffing based on your financial allocation,” Huntley said.

But the CCBHC system, she noted, “turns (the funding process) upside down; you start with a community needs assessment, and the federal government

“If there are federal cuts and fewer people are Medicaid-eligible, that will be different. That’s a variable we don’t have any way to assess at this point.”

— Cheryl Huntley

TWO NEW SERVICES

The Counseling Service currently doesn’t offer two of the nine mandated CCBHC services, including primary care screenings. This would require CSAC to hire a nurse to screen mental health clients for any physical ailments that might require medical attention.

Also not on CSAC’s current list: Intensive community-based mental health care for active-duty military and veterans. This would set up a new collaboration with area veterans’ organizations.

So how is CSAC proceeding with its quest to become a CCBHC?

It’s poring over the federal criteria and is performing a first-ever community needs assessment that’s included focus groups, individual interviews and surveys. Folks have until July 31 to complete a related community assessment survey, at tinyurl.com/mwzxyntp. Huntley said CSAC will send off its CCBHC application this fall.

“We’ve really appreciated the community response,” Huntley said. “People are giving us great feedback.”

It’s clear the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMS) wants to

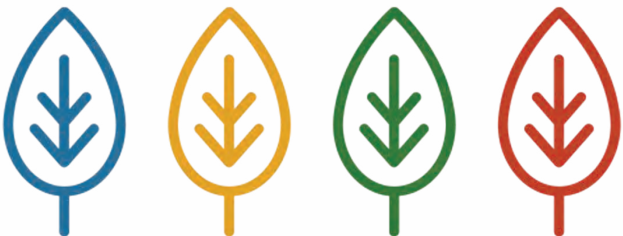
see all 10 designated mental health agencies achieve CCBHC status. Earlier this year, DMS chose four more agencies to go through the review, including Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services, which serves Windsor and Windham counties; Howard Center in Chittenden County; Northeast Kingdom Human Services for Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties; and Northwestern Counseling and Support Services, which serves Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

DMS Commissioner Emily Hawes, in a press release announcing those four candidates, said “The CCBHC model is designed to break down barriers to care for Vermonters. Coordinating multiple appointments is one of the biggest hurdles folks face when trying to access care. Bringing services together under one roof, within the community, can truly change lives.”

Now CSAC takes its place in the CCBHC queue. Huntley was unsure exactly when the agency would begin its new CCBHC role.

Huntley cautioned that while CSAC could get improved Medicaid compensation by being a CCBHC, it could have fewer Medicaid patients on its list. The federal budget reconciliation legislation signed by President Donald Trump on July 4 cuts Medicaid by around \$1 trillion over the next decade. It

(See Services, Page 13A)



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Festival fun for all

THE CURTAIN HAS come down on this year's Festival on the Green, but the memories made during the seven-day entertainment extravaganza will endure. Clockwise from top left photo: Mathieu Gerhardt and Gaëlle Hispard of the Mathis Anderson Trio get folksy; 11-year-old Mari Voorhees of Middlebury (on right) is astonished to see the puppet show while her friend August is simply impressed; Barbara Paulson and Dan Baginski of No Strings Marionettes pull the strings during a puppet performance; Lincoln magician Tom Verner mesmerizes 7-year-old Louva Baker-Medard with string tricks; Ali McGuirk belts out a tune; members of the dynamic Americana band Buffalo Rose harmonize; and Madaila founder Mark Daly crouches during a guitar solo.

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright





THE PURINTON FAMILY gathers for its annual reunion in 2003, one century after the unveiling of this monument honoring their predecessor Chase Purinton. Chase first settled in Lincoln in 1803, and many of his descendants still live in the area.

Photo courtesy of Jim and Beverly Brown



FOUR GENERATIONS OF Purinton family members sit in front of the 1903 monument honoring Chase Purinton, who settled in Lincoln in 1803. Many of Chase's direct descendants still live in the Bristol 5-town area and gather with other relatives each year for the long-running Purinton family reunion. Beverly Brown, front center, has been attending the reunion for most of her life.

Photo courtesy of Jim and Beverly Brown

Purinton family gathers for 149th reunion

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — When Chase Purinton first arrived in Lincoln in 1803, he might not have imagined his descendants would continue to gather annually in that same corner of Addison County over two centuries later.

But that's exactly what has happened.

Members of the Purinton family met at Starksboro's Cota Field this past Saturday for their 149th consecutive family reunion, an event filled with lots of food and fellowship. Many of those in attendance were direct descendants of Chase, continuing a family reunion tradition that's been passed down through the generations.

A portion of the event was spent discussing how best to carry on that tradition, with family members exploring ways

to attract more attendees to next year's 150th gathering and get younger relatives involved in the event.

"The challenge more now than ever is, similar to churches, is to keep it going, to have the young ones come," Heather Purinton told the *Independent*.

She acknowledged there are many things vying for people's attention these days, and relationship-based events like the family reunion might not make the top of the list.

"I think it's kind of like giving blood, no one really looks forward to it, but once they do they feel good inside," Heather said. "That's what this reunion does; it's kind of like effort to get here, but man, you're so glad you did when the day's done. It's hard to transfer that feeling to people who've never been."

FAMILY HISTORY

As Saturday's gathering got underway, family genealogist Linda Purinton Cousino unpacked several large binders filled with the names of Purinton relatives. The family members are listed alphabetically by last name, with each entry noting the individual's spouse and children. The records are updated each year, with newly-married relatives getting their own page added to the binder.

Those who think they might be related to the Purinton family and want to learn more can email Linda at lcousino@gmail.com.

The Purinton family has meticulously-kept records, including meeting minutes from past reunions and a published book detailing the family's history.

That history can be traced back several hundred years to Tiverton, England, the town from which Purinton predecessors immigrated to Maine in the 1600s. Back then the family name was Puddington, which later became Purington and ultimately Purinton.

Members of the Purinton family eventually settled in New Hampshire, where Chase Purinton was born. Chase was told by his father to "search until he found a good source of water," and left New Hampshire with his family, four oxen, six cows and two horses.

After settling in Lincoln, he became the town's first blacksmith. In 1806, he built the town's first gristmill, which ground locally grown feed and grain. Millstones from the mill were used to create a monument honoring Chase that was unveiled in 1903 and is still sited and maintained on Quaker Street.

Chase is buried in Friends Cemetery, or Old Quaker Cemetery, and a Purinton family hair book (it's like a scrap book that includes

locks of hair from a number of family members) including a lock of Chase Purinton's hair can be found at the Lincoln Historical Society.

Addison County residents are likely familiar with members of the family and their contributions to the area, which include Huntington's Purinton Maple and Maple Landmark in Middlebury. Several of Chase's direct descendants still live in the Bristol 5-town area, though members of the family are spread across the country.

Family reunions have been held in places like New York and Canada, though the event has been hosted in Vermont for the past 25 years.

Beverly Brown has been attending the Purinton family reunion for most of her life. She noted that the basic format of the reunion has stayed the same, including a business meeting and meal. Other aspects of the tradition have changed over the years, such as the dishes served at the event.

"When I was first going, they had chicken pie; that was the standard dinner," Brown recalled. "As time went on, more members came from a distance, and one year people got sick and they decided it was because they didn't have the proper way to transport the chicken in a safe way... (Chicken pie) was changed to salads and things like that that people could bring."

Past family reunions have featured a pork roast and corn cooked by farmers in the family.

"We've never gone away hungry," Brown said.

She noted the family used to have dishes dedicated to the event, including enamel cups and metal dishes that were pulled out specifically for the gathering each year. Those gatherings were for many years held at Burnham Hall in Lincoln, Brown said.

What has Brown enjoyed most about attending the family reunion?

"Seeing people you don't see any other time," she said, adding that some family members from out of state have faithfully attended the event each year.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Purinton family reunion has carried on uninterrupted for

the past 149 years, meeting throughout world wars and on computers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peter Purinton noted that some past reunions have seen a higher turnout, with around 140 family members attending the 125th gathering. Typically, attendance hovers around 30-50 people, he said.

Family members are hoping to attract more relatives to future gatherings, particularly those seemingly reluctant younger members of the family.

"I think a key to help us have this go forth is, even though we meet once a year, is there a way to weave it and tie it so there is a sense of relationship-building for us throughout the year?" Heather Purinton said. "We've had people's ideas to extend it beyond the day, where we have those chit-chat activities."

Next year's 150th reunion will take place over a few days, with the main event located at the Waterhouses campground in Salisbury on Saturday, July 18. Plans are also in the works for other activities around the region that weekend.

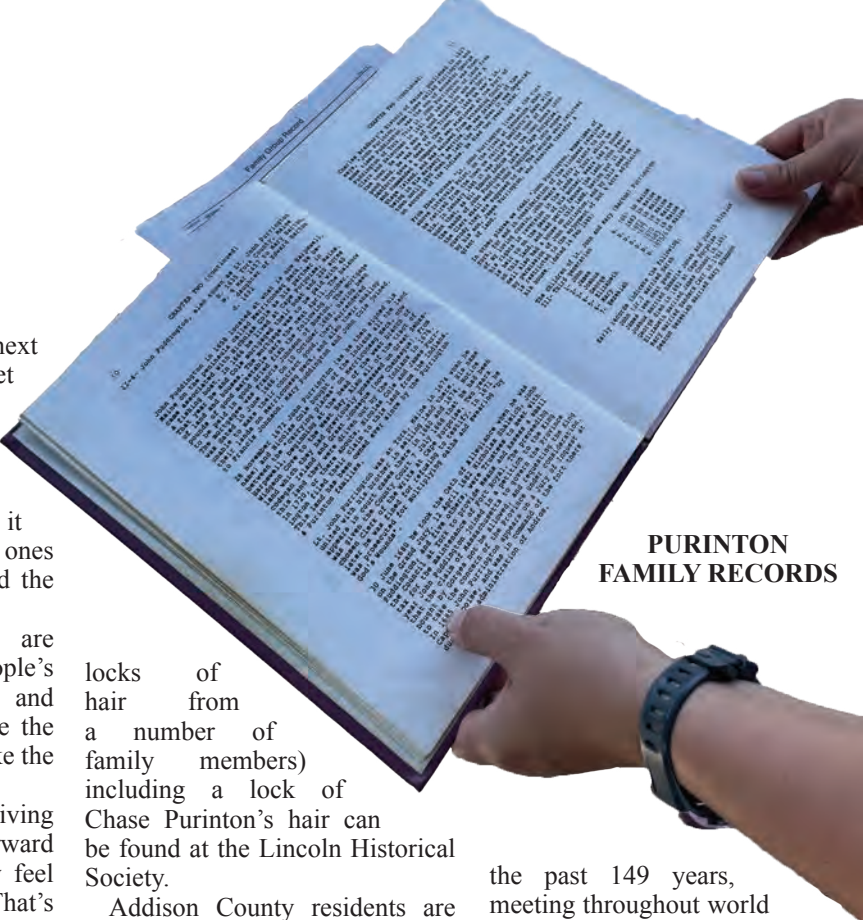
Those in attendance on Saturday discussed ideas for the milestone reunion during the event's business meeting portion. Attendees also shared suggestions for attracting more people to future events, such as sharing information through social media and sending out mailers.

Purinton relatives acknowledged the challenges they face in drawing younger people into the tradition are similar to those being weathered by other families.

"It's probably something every family is going through. It's not unique to us," Peter Purinton said.

Despite those obstacles, the family is determined to see the tradition continue.

"We're committed to fighting it; to keep it going," Heather Purinton said. "It all comes down to prioritization of time and of value, and we are fighting the odds."



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MEMBERS OF THE Purinton family gather for the business meeting portion of Saturday's family reunion, the 149th consecutive gathering held by the family. Attendees on Saturday discussed plans for next year's milestone gathering, as well as ideas for drawing younger family members into the event.

Independent photo/Marin Howell



FRIENDS CHRISTY LYNN and Meg Howard end in a tie at Saturday's Vermont Sun Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury and celebrate the result as they cross the finish line. Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

All smiles!

KRISTEN HISLOP OF Clifton Park, N.Y., and Middlebury's Obie Porteous were stride for stride for a while at Saturday's Vermont Sun Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury. Hislop won the age 61-65 women's group, and Porteous was second in the men's 40-45 group.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



Services

(Continued from Page 10A) does this, in part, by new eligibility requirements.

"If there are federal cuts and fewer people are Medicaid-eligible, that will be different. That's a variable we don't have any way to assess at this point. That would affect us whether we become a CCBHC, or not," Huntley said.

It should also be noted that Vermont must put up a financial match for each newly created mental health position, according to Huntley.

"If every agency requests more

(staffing) than Vermont has the capacity to fund, that isn't going to work," she said.

Then there's the question of how to fill newly created positions.

CSAC currently employs around 350 full- and part-time workers. A perusal of the agency's website on Wednesday revealed 19 job openings, ranging from school-based clinical to executive director. Current Executive Director Rachel Lee has led the agency since 2019.

Addison County's jobless rate last month was 2.2% — tied for

the lowest in the state. Employers are having a tough time attracting workers, given the paucity of affordable housing.

"Are (applicants) out there in Vermont? (CCBHC) isn't a panacea for how to resolve some of the needs of mental health services in Vermont. But it seems like it offers more funding stability, the potential for some expansion," Huntley said. "It seems like it will help us move forward as a system. We're hoping it works."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Housing

(Continued from Page 1A)

inflation and rising rents.

Federal housing voucher programs allow households that wouldn't be able to afford market-rate rents to access housing. Under the program, voucher recipients put a third of their income toward rent, while a local agency such as the VSHA covers the rest.

The funding loss means the VSHA will cut 489 vouchers from its rolls, or 12% of the 3,897 vouchers it currently oversees. This comes despite a great need for rental assistance in Vermont. The waitlist for VSHA rental assistance vouchers, which was closed in January in anticipation of federal funding cuts, currently stands at 3,379 applicants — almost matching the number of households that already receive vouchers.

Affordable housing in Vermont has slipped out of reach for many in recent years, but especially in Addison County. According to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, 43% of renters in Addison County are cost-burdened by housing, meaning that these households spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs such as rent. This leaves households little income to pay for other necessities such as food, medicine, transportation and school supplies, while putting them at greater risk of eviction and homelessness.

Addison Housing Works (AHW) is one of the county's largest affordable housing providers, managing hundreds of apartments, condos, homes and manufactured housing communities. AHW provides housing support to 750 households — that's 1 in 20 households in Addison County.

AHW Executive Director Elise Shanbacker told the *Independent* that she's worried about the loss of Section-8 vouchers.

According to Shanbacker, the market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Addison County is \$1,410 a month. Thus, a household living on Vermont's \$14.01 per hour minimum wage would have to spend about 63% of their pre-tax income on paying rent. Shanbacker says that without the voucher program, it would be impossible for renters to bridge this gap.

"Overall, about half of our apartment residents, over 150 households, rely on rental assistance to make ends meet... Those residents worked hard to stabilize their living situation and do everything required of them to make it to the top of the VSHA waitlist, only to have the rug pulled out from under them at the last minute," Shanbacker said.

Shanbacker emphasized that the VSHA cuts will not only freeze applications for new vouchers but will cut existing ones as well. The VSHA has previously said that it will cut vouchers primarily through attrition, but Shanbacker worries this would still affect those in need of vouchers.

"We're concerned that we may start to see people actively lose their vouchers for infractions like failing to complete paperwork on time," she said.

Rental vouchers are a vital tool for making housing affordable, but they only work when there are homes available to rent; something that Shanbacker says is severely lacking in Addison County.

AHW has a waitlist of 250 households — a third of the 750 households they already support. With an average turnover of 40-50 units a year, it can take a family five years to finally make it to the top of the list.

Shanbacker points to high construction costs and a lack of available sites with access to municipal infrastructure like water and septic systems. This creates a gap between what low- and moderate-income households can afford to pay and what it costs to provide safe, decent housing. Without government subsidies like grants or rental vouchers, it becomes impossible to incentivize the construction of more permanently affordable housing.

"Without the government to make up the gap, it's extremely difficult constructing and managing properties that can cover their expenses and stay well-maintained... it is increasingly difficult to bring future projects to fruition," Shanbacker said.

AHW is hopeful that the new Stonecrop housing development being built in Middlebury will bring some much-needed affordable housing stock to Addison County. Funding grants that went into the new development's construction

required Stonecrop to commit some homes to perpetual affordability for low- and moderate-income households. Shanbacker said that AHW is applying for state grants that could further subsidize these homes for households earning about \$65,000 a year.

However, the challenges remain formidable, and Shanbacker worries that cuts to the state's rental voucher system may only be the start. The Trump administration's recent spending law gutted funding for social welfare programs like SNAP and Medicaid, and Shanbacker worries that we could soon be seeing more cuts to HUD and other housing programs.

"As it becomes harder for people to afford food and healthcare, it will have ripple effects throughout our whole economy, including potentially destabilizing affordable housing communities that are pillars and of our streetscapes and neighborhoods," she said.

When housing is scarce and unaffordable, wages must rise if workers are to afford to live here, Shanbacker says. This drives up costs for local businesses and consumers, contributing to already rising inflation.

"We're not going to make meaningful progress on education, healthcare or economic development unless we address housing first," Shanbacker said.

"Housing is foundational to everything we care about as a community."

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Camp

(Continued from Page 1A)

colorful monsters, werewolves, creepy vampire-beings and unicorn princesses roaming around the TAM off Morgan Horse Farm Road with the usual forest critters. These magical creatures, costumed kids ages 8-12, took center stage at the base of the Otter Creek Gorge Northern Trailhead as part of a long-time-coming collaboration between MALT and Middlebury's Town Hall Theater (THT).

It was an effort to help children explore themes of nature and conservation through the lens of performative art.

"I think that art and nature really can go hand in hand," said Rachel Klatzker, MALT education manager. "It just seemed like a very natural, easy partnership."

Every summer, MALT runs 10 sessions of week-long outdoor summer programming, offering a variety of themes ranging from treasure hunting to hiking to forest spirits. Klatzker said MALT tries to add one to two new themes every summer in an attempt to "reach all types of kiddos." This year, they decided to explore how theater could showcase the beautiful Vermont landscape, while also helping kids learn how to connect with and respect their natural surroundings.

Keziah Wilde, THT assistant director of the Center for Learning and Engagement, explained the process of putting the show together last week.

"We started with the idea that the stories we would make would be pre-existing stories, like fairy tales that the kids knew," Wilde said. "On day one, we were pretty immediately like, 'The kids' ideas are just so much more original and personal and creative than these fairy tales that everybody knows.' So, we pivoted on day one and had them start devising their own creations



A SWARM OF Middlebury Area Land Trust campers lifts one of their fellow campers in the air as they magically revive his character during a production of "The Haunted Forest" on Friday, July 18. Independent photo/Bee Eckels

out here in the woods." Klatzker agreed.

"The kids' ideas are just so much more original and personal and creative than these fairy tales that everybody knows."

— Keziah Wilde

Wednesday at the THT theater in town, staff members gave the children different acting and improvising exercises to practice, worked on character building and development and helping them

devise their stories. The goal in mind was to equip the campers with the skills they needed to be able to perform in an adaptable and flexible way on their natural stage.

"We did a lot of acting training that would allow them to have the capacity to improvise and to be able to be adaptable, especially when using a space like the woods where things are constantly changing," Wilde said.

Klatzker added, "I think we did a really good job of dividing the week up between outdoor education and theater-type techniques and skills...It's really just a very harmonious divide between theater and outdoor education."

With a large focus on adaptability, both on stage and in nature, the unique structure of the

performance helped support this mission.

Gathered at the head of the trail, the large group of supporters, made up of parents, guardians, caretakers, siblings and other relatives, was split into two separate groups. Each group was guided along the wooded path, starting five minutes apart from each other, by a set of counselors who narrated, prompted and interacted with the actors they met along the way. This allowed for the campers to be able to put on two different performances.

"With an audience structure like this, the shows are going to be different every time they run them," Wilde said. "So, we were trying to get them to a point where they could act in a way that was flexible and that they could adapt to the environment and think about using the woods to the best of its ability."

Both Klatzker and Wilde were very proud of the creativity that the kids brought to camp this past week, and were extremely happy that the campers played such an active role in the production of their play.

"This week was super awesome," Klatzker said. "MALT Camp has this sort of magic that is created every summer. It's definitely a culture."

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

the side door at St Ambrose Catholic Church. Please note that Have-A-Heart will also conduct food shelf distributions on the following Fridays, which could also benefit from your surplus produce: Aug. 22 and Sept. 26.

Addison County's unemployment rate in June was 2.2%, up four tenths of one percent compared to the prior month, according to information supplied by the Vermont Department of Labor. The county's June jobless rate still ranked — along with Windsor County — as the lowest in the state, which logged an overall unemployment rate of 2.6% last month, according to the DOL. Orleans County, at 2.9%, logged the highest jobless rate last month. June saw Vermont's civilian labor force decrease by 591 from the prior month's revised estimate, while the number of employed persons decreased by 434 and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 157. "Preliminary data from June shows that Vermont's labor force has declined for the fifth consecutive month. While the decrease is less than 1%, it reflects a broader trend across Vermont and the nation: an aging workforce," noted Kendal Smith, interim commissioner of the DOL. The national jobless rate for June was 4.1%, a decrease of one-tenth of one percentage point from the revised May estimate.

The Bixby Library is looking for volunteers of all ages to participate in an upcoming exhibit reflecting on the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. The project, titled "Bixby Library's Five Towns – a Hotbed of Democracy," aims to foster civic engagement and document local voices from northern Addison County. You can participate in short, 5-10-minute audio interviews, sharing thoughts on community, democracy, and change. Organizers will pair you up with another volunteer to interview and record each other, encouraging meaningful conversation and shared reflection. And, of course, you'll be featured in a special 2025-2026 exhibit at the Bixby. To get involved, email info@bixbylibrary.org. This project is generously supported

by Vermont Covered and administered by the Vermont Historical Society as part of the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission.

Do you enjoy the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area (MNRA) and want a voice in making it even better? Stewards of the MNRA have drafted a survey and are looking for your input. Your responses will help the property's custodians better understand who now uses the area, what it's used for, how the area could be improved, and what would make people want to use the area more. Your responses to this survey will directly influence the master plan for the MNRA that will make the property more useful, exciting and accessible to all groups of people. The survey can be found at tinyurl.com/2kvu45y4. All responses to this survey will be anonymous, except for the option to enter an email address for an MNRA raffle. Questions or comments? Contact Liam Reynolds or Sam McGarahan of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission at moosalamoo@acrpc.org.

Reminder: The Addison County Solid Waste Management District transfer station at 1223 Route 7 south in Middlebury accepts — for free — textiles, such as used clothing and shoes for special recycling. Drop-off is open year-round to the public. Examples of some acceptable items include adult and children's clothing, footwear and accessories. Items can be in any condition, if they are clean, dry and odorless. Please make sure items are in a closed plastic bag before placing them in the collection bin. This helps to keep the transfer station running efficiently and protects clothing from bugs and weather events. Please note: Pillows, blankets, comforters, scrap fabric, quilts and stuffed animals are not accepted in this program. See the A-Z guide on the ACSWMD website (addisoncountyclecycling.org/guide/clothing-textiles) for a full list of accepted items and other areas in the county to drop off textiles. Questions? Contact Emily Johnston at emily@acswmd.org or call the district at (802) 388-2333.

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Vergennes - Panton

(Continued from Page 1A)
lay groundwork for discussion between the Panton selectboard and Vergennes City Council. Rowe and Redmond said reaching a friendly agreement would be the most productive and efficient way to create defined boundaries.

The other two options presented would be to use the city’s existing tax map, which would allow the city to keep its 1,600 acres, 400 more acres than were originally chartered in 1788, or to revert to its originally chartered 1,200 acres, the borders of which Cowan said he has identified.

Elected officials in both Vergennes and Panton earlier this year gave Redmond and Rowe the green light to work with Cowan and others to research the boundary question and make recommendation like the one presented at the meeting. And they came up with what they called in a meeting handout “a potential path forward for discussion.”

“We tried very hard to gather opinions while forming no judgments or opinions of our own,” Rowe said at the meeting. “It was fact-finding ... The idea was it was a starting place.”

Their starting-point proposal would move 14 homes in western and southern Vergennes, plus a third of a vacant lot in a mixed-use zone along Panton Road, into Panton jurisdiction.

It would keep the Otter Creek Mobile Home Park, a cemetery off Route 22A, and all businesses, including Collins Aerospace, in Vergennes; 14 properties in all would remain in Vergennes under the draft proposal.

The city’s borders with Waltham and Ferrisburgh have similar issues, Cowan said during a presentation that opened the July 17 informational meeting, which was attended by four Panton selectboard members, two city councilors and about a dozen-and-a-half residents of the two communities; another two dozen people watched the meeting online.

Cowan retold the story of how amateur Ferrisburgh historian Robert Mitchell discovering the discrepancies in the city’s boundaries in 1993, which Cowan has since confirmed.

The Ferrisburgh selectboard for a time pursued the issue of ownership of some of Vergennes. In the mid-1990s, the *Independent* reported that the selectboards of Panton and Waltham had no interest in acquiring part of Vergennes due to the way school taxes were assessed at that point.

Essentially, the more children from those communities that attended union schools in Vergennes, the higher the sending towns’ tax burdens would become. Thus, expanded borders were not in the towns’ financial interest. Eventually the Ferrisburgh selectboard reached the same conclusion, and the issue faded

away without the boundaries being identified.

More recently, the possibility of a long-discussed truck bypass around downtown Vergennes appeared more likely. When one route was described as going solely through northern and western Vergennes — while also triggering economic development — selectboard members’ ears perked up in Panton and Ferrisburgh it became clear that route would run through disputed territory.

Thus, Panton is just the first step. Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor told the *Independent* the day after the meeting that city officials hope to talk soon with their counterparts in Ferrisburgh and Waltham.

“My goal is realistically to get Panton dealt with, and then

“My goal is realistically to get Panton dealt with, and then either go to Waltham or Ferrisburgh, just get one done at a time, so we can put it to the state that the Vergennes boundary dispute is over with.”

— Chris Bearor

either go to Waltham or Ferrisburgh, just getting one done at a time, so we can put it to the state that the Vergennes boundary dispute is over with,” Bearor said. “I asked Tim Cowan last night to send me whatever information he has on Waltham and Ferrisburgh, so I can go to a meeting with them to show them what we’ve got and start the process.”

CHARTERS & BORDERS

Municipalities need approval from the state legislature to

change their charters, and charters must accurately describe their boundaries.

As Rowe said at the meeting, “The state legislature has indicated their hesitation to allow charter changes to be passed by communities without knowing to whom those charter changes will apply.”

And both communities have pending charter charges.

Panton voters earlier this year approved a charter change that provides a way for citizens to recall elected officials, and Vergennes has been sitting on a draft of a new charter for at least five years.

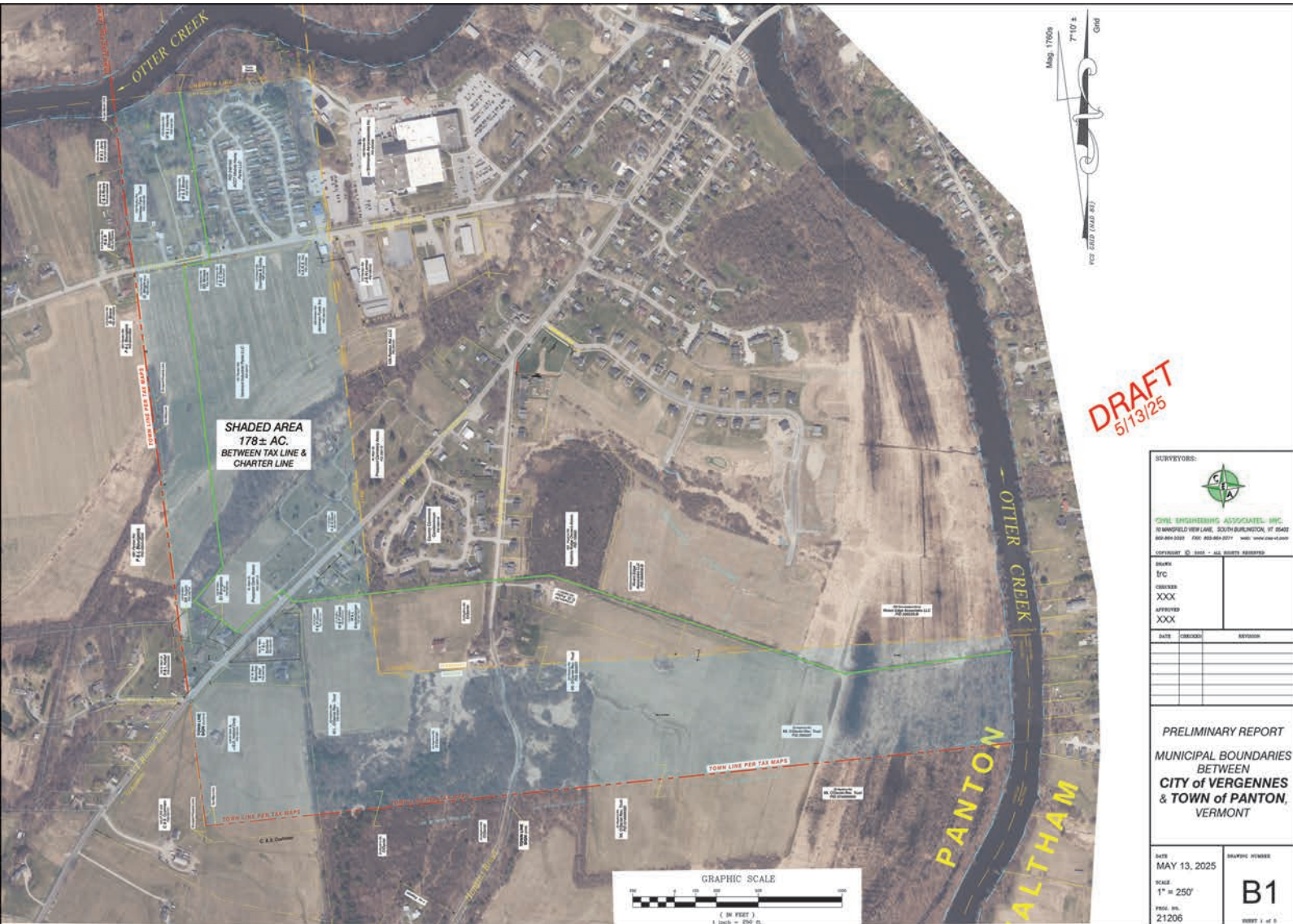
That draft charter would expand voting hours and change city council terms from two to three years, among other provisions. Officials in both communities also pointed out other charter changes that might future charter changes cannot be made without settled borders.

Rowe said a negotiated settlement — and not necessarily his and Redmond’s starting point proposal — is the best way to

resolve the question, adding he and Redmond hoped an agreement could be reached in time for it to be approved before the end of the next legislative session.

The process would include preliminary hearings before the Panton selectboard (one has already been scheduled for shortly after 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 13) and the Vergennes City Council (the council will set a time at its next meeting), and then further hearings if the two sides reach an agreement.

“We have an opportunity here, and we have clear historical



THIS MAP DEPICTS three options to establish the now unknown boundaries between Vergennes and Panton that were discussed on July 17: use the original chartered lines, use the Vergennes tax map, or reach a negotiated settlement. The blue shaded area represents the acreage in Vergennes that the historic record shows is actually in Panton. The yellow line indicates the 1,200 acres originally granted to form the city. The red line identifies the city limit in the Vergennes tax map. The green line is a draft proposal created by Panton Town Clerk Kyle Rowe and City Manager Ron Redmond with expert help.

evidence to be able to provide guidelines, as well as two excellent municipal legislative bodies to participate in these studies.” Rowe said.

He explained the process if civic officials strike a deal.

“The process is relatively simple. A survey is drawn up. The survey language is codified into words,” Rowe said. “The words are put into charters. The charters are sent to the state legislature. And the state legislature will approve them.”

PROS AND CONS

Cowan said a benefit of an agreement would be that his work, which was paid for with a \$20,000 grant from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, is substantially complete because it relied on existing surveys of properties. It could be easily completed to present to the legislature along with the details of a negotiated settlement, he said.

He made it clear the variance between the chartered and currently understood boundaries are not minor and total 178 acres.

“This is a significant difference, both in acreage and in dimensions,” Cowan said, also citing a 1,200-foot distance between the city’s chartered line and its tax-map line along Panton Road.

Cowan also hinted a negotiated settlement might be in both parties’ best interest because neither party might be happy with the alternatives, including an imposed outcome, plus the legal and fees involved if new surveys were required.

Nor would it necessarily be in Panton’s interest to seek all of what could be argued should belong to their town.

For example, at the meeting Rowe and Redmond said they put the large Panton Road mobile home park in Vergennes under the starting-point plan because it contains so many residents that it would pose, as an FAQ handout stated “an administrative burden” on Panton.

Redmond pointed out the park also contains a pump station for

the Vergennes sewer system that would be expensive for Panton to maintain. And Rowe acknowledged later that the park’s occasional tendency to require city police presence could be problematic for Panton.

Rowe also fielded questions about the value of taxable property that would shift to Panton under their proposed plan, or a switch to the original chartered boundaries based on the original land grant.

He estimated the 14-plus properties that would shift to Panton under the starting-point plan would have value of about \$6 million.

Rowe said while the calculations were “trickier” with the original-charter plan were because those properties would have to be reassessed, but that he and Redmond estimated their grand list value between \$10 million and \$12 million.

Essentially, Rowe said the starting-point plan would mean for Panton that “Everyone pays a slightly lower amount of taxes.”

“It would be a slight tax decrease ... if your budget doesn’t go up,” Vergennes Councilor Mark Koenig clarified. “On the converse, Vergennes would see a slightly higher rate of taxes.”

OPTIONS A & B

Redmond and Rowe addressed in their FAQ handout what they see as potential drawbacks in adopting the chartered or tax map lines. (A full FAQ may be found here: tinyurl.com/46ryz387)

“Establishing the tax map lines as the official boundary ignores more than 240 years of an on-going boundary issue. It potentially deprives Panton tax revenue that it would otherwise receive, and discounts the best historical methodology to establish such a line.

“Establishing the Charter Line as the official boundary would likewise present problems. Vergennes could lose ownership to critical infrastructure. It could be difficult for Panton to provide the appropriate level of services

to all the residents in the area concerned. It would divide subdivided properties further, and make future development onerous and difficult. While it would eliminate the need for many of the stipulations on the part of the municipalities, it could make the entire situation a much tougher sell to those involved.

“Rather than serve as an example of goodwill and intermunicipal cooperation, it might instead become a process fraught with conflict, ill feelings and significant financial cost.

“It is unfortunate that a clear boundary was never established, as development in this concerned area has continued outside of the historical charter line, and will likely continue as regional concerns grow and change.”

Among other issues to be reconciled, according to the FAQ, included:

- How the border change could affect zoning and tax rates for the property owners.
- How changes in billing for city services such as sewer rates, fire protection and recreation activities should be handled for people now longer living in Vergennes.



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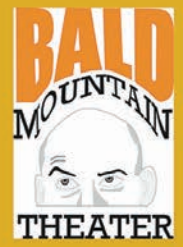
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Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)
the discussion phase of exploring the option.

Bristol selectboard member Jessica Teets updated town officials on the effort at a July 14 meeting, noting that a Middlebury College student has been working with Assistant Town Clerk & Assistant Treasurer Kris Perlee to gather information on local option taxes.

She said the student is working to collect more information on lodging in town, after which town officials would have a sense of how much revenue a local option tax could generate, depending on what the town chooses to levy it on.

Teets said she'd prefer the town not tax sales through the local option charge.

"You make a lot more, but if you think about who you're taxing, it's just another tax on your own citizens," she said. "What we were hoping with the local option tax is that it would be a tax on tourists and people coming here to eat at restaurants."

Selectboard members noted the town could choose to levy a

local option tax on just rooms, meals and alcohol. Teets said the town could raise an estimated \$50,000-100,000 annually through such a tax.

Teets said the Middlebury College student is also exploring how other Vermont municipalities use the local option charge, such as putting the revenue toward capital projects or back into the town's general fund.

Selectboard members briefly discussed some aspects to consider when it comes to the charge and what it's levied on, including how Bristol residents would be affected by the tax.

In a Front Porch Forum post summarizing the July 14 meeting, Teets noted the selectboard will continue to discuss the topic at future meetings.

"There are lots of things to consider with this tax, and this topic will remain on our agenda with open meetings held in the future to collect feedback from local businesses and residents," she wrote.

In other activity at the July 14 meeting, Bristol selectboard members:

- Discussed options for a pedestrian safety project at the intersection of North and Pleasant streets. Town officials noted that the project would install a rectangular rapid-flashing beacon at the intersection, which is a main intersection on the path many youths use on the way to school. Selectboard members will continue the discussion at their July 28 meeting.
- Heard an update from Bristol Grant Administrator Freeda Powers, who reported the town has closed out a 2023 event with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and recently passed a significant state review for the ongoing Basin Street project. The multi-year project is aimed at addressing safety and stormwater drainage improvements on Basin Street.



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ERIK REMSEN AND Laura Asermily promote Middlebury's free e-bike loan program at the 2022 VT Walk/Bike Summit, showcasing how e-bikes extend access to hub towns linked by the 40-mile Triangle Bike Loop. Asermily chairs the Walk-Bike Council of Addison County; Remsen manages its website.

Photo courtesy of Laura Asermily

Bike loop

(Continued from Page 1A)
collaboration to promote safer, more accessible human-powered transportation by the Walk-Bike Council of Addison County, a citizen advisory group focused on improving infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists.

The idea for the triangle loop emerged in 2018 when three Middlebury College students — Connor Pisano, Hunter Cole and Maria Celestina Abragan — conducted a research project on biking accessibility and safety in the region. Their findings helped the Council identify ideal commuting corridors linking the county's hub towns.

"The bike loop came about from Middlebury College students ... They had the idea and brought it to us to see if we could help push it along," said Tim Clark, a longtime cyclist and Walk-Bike Council member. "They're all long graduated, and we continued with the project."

The loop also grew out of tragedy

that sparked action.

"Addison County saw several biking fatalities, including Middlebury College's Kelly Boe in 2015," said Laura Asermily, chair of the Walk-Bike Council. "We wanted to prevent that by forming the Walk-Bike Council of Addison County."

The students' work — including infrastructure mapping, community interviews and GIS analysis — was instrumental in helping the Council and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) secure grant funding. A \$35,000 state consortium grant helped jumpstart planning, particularly for signage and outreach. Towns involved in the project included Middlebury, New Haven, Vergennes, Bristol, Ferrisburgh and Waltham.

As the Council's efforts grew, so did the route. The Triangle Bike Loop forms a continuous circuit between Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol, with spurs reaching into Weybridge, Ferrisburgh and

New Haven. Maps and cue sheets available at walkbikeaddison.org allow riders to plan custom segments. For a description of the main loop, see below.

But aesthetics weren't the only consideration. Asermily noted that some roads were chosen not only for their efficiency, but also for their gentle grades, visibility and/or lower traffic volumes. "It was a balancing act weighing beauty, safety and directness," she said.

Clark echoed that sentiment: "The most direct way is not necessarily the safest or the nicest way to ride your bike. So we had lots of compromises along the way."

While Council members played a major role in shaping and testing the route, all pointed to the ACRPC as an essential partner.

"They know how to write the grant requests and get them filled out," said Doug McKain, the Council's New Haven representative, who helped draft an initial route plot. "We got basically all the signs, and it didn't really cost us anything."

The grant's local match was fulfilled through town labor, making the project budget-friendly.

"The towns were very cooperative," McKain said. "They put up all the signs."

New Haven played an important role, despite being the least visible of the loop's hub towns.

"Little New Haven was hardly mentioned, but when you think of the Triangle, it's in the middle," Clark said. "They took on a lot of responsibility for being a lead on that grant."

COVID-19, disruptive in many respects, actually accelerated interest in outdoor recreation.

"More people were out biking and hiking during COVID and eager for guidance on preferred routes for safety and beauty," Asermily said. "We kept planning, testing and signing the route and inviting people to try it."

Now, with signs in the ground and guides in circulation, the council hopes the route will inspire long-term infrastructure improvements. "Our hope is that when the various towns go to improve the roads that the route travels over," said Erik Remsen, a council member who helped publicize the project, "they take cyclist safety and comfort in mind — maybe increase the shoulder width or add bike lanes."

Clark emphasized that this kind of visible infrastructure can influence local policy. In Vergennes, for example, the route was intentionally placed on Monkton Road, which connects the high school and shopping district. "Putting that road on the map gives the town more of a reason to make it safe for biking and walking," he said. "There's tons of room there to put in a multi-use path ... it could be perfect for students riding to school or families running errands."

The Triangle Bike Loop is as much about shifting culture as it is about putting up signage. "I'm not a long-distance recreation bike rider as much as a daily bike commuter within Middlebury," Asermily said. "I notice a growing appetite for long-distance bike commuting to and from our hub towns, made increasingly possible by e-bikes, with more families becoming single-car owners and preferring biking for its benefits in improving individual and planetary health. I love that the loop is a way of promoting and

celebrating this."

MAIN ROUTES

The main routes from community to community in the triangle are as follows:

From Middlebury to Vergennes (about 11.5 miles), the route begins at the intersection of Seymour and Elm streets at the four-way stop on Seymour Street. From there, it passes through the railroad underpass and continues straight through the Pulp Mill Bridge.

The route then bears right onto Morgan Horse Farm Road and continues onto New Haven's Pearson Road, crosses Route 17, continues on Green Street into Vergennes and ends at the city green.

From Vergennes to Bristol (about 12 miles), the route begins at the city green and heads north on Main Street. At the first traffic light, the route heads right onto Monkton Road and crosses Route 7. After a short distance, the route turns right onto South Middlebrook Road, and then left at a stop sign onto Plank Road. The route remains on Plank Road until it reaches Sawyer Road, where it turns left.

At the next stop sign, it turns right onto Lower Hardscrabble Road, and then right again onto Hardscrabble Road. The route continues with a final right onto Monkton Road, which continues toward North Street and ends at Bristol's Town Green.

From Bristol back to Middlebury (about 15 miles), the route heads north on North Street and turns left onto Hardscrabble Road and left again onto Lower Hardscrabble Road and goes straight through the four-way stop at Sawyer Road. The route continues along Sawyer Road until reaching Route 17, where the route turns right and then quickly left onto East Street.

At the next stop sign, the route heads left onto River Road, followed by a right turn onto Munger Street and onto Painter Road and a final stretch along Washington Street Extension into Middlebury village.

Cyclists looking to explore beyond the triangle can add a scenic loop through New Haven Village, with two access points. The southern option begins by riding north on Halpin Road from Painter Road, covering about two miles of gravel before turning right onto River Road. After reaching South Street, riders turn left and eventually cross VT Route 17 at a stop sign to continue onto North Street, which leads back to Plank Road.

The northern option runs this route in reverse, beginning at Plank Road and heading south through New Haven toward Painter Road.

"You're up on a ridge," Clark said of the New Haven portion, which he names as one of his favorites. "You can see the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains at the same time. It's a really pretty road — small farms, well-kept properties, and very little traffic. It's kind of a gem."

To learn more about the Walk-Bike Council's ongoing efforts to promote safe, sustainable transportation in Addison County, visit walkbikeaddison.org or reach out via email at walkbikeacvt@gmail.com.

Additional resources for cyclists and active transportation advocates include localmotion.org, vbikesolutions.org, connectingcommuters.org and vtccc.w3.uvm.edu/walk-to-shop-program.



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Bixby director

(Continued from Page 1A)
haven't really had the chance," Hays said. "So I just felt like for a whole host of reasons it came to be the right time."

How has Hays's tenure gone?
Bixby Board of Trustees Chair Erin Roche described Hays's leadership as the "dawning of a new era."

"She has brought such a professional approach, and at the same time such a thoughtful and caring approach, to everything that she has done," Roche said.

Hays will stay on until September to give the Bixby's board time to find a new director. She believes the Bixby is ready to move forward without her. In part, that's because she cited hiring the right people as the most important accomplishment of her tenure.

Hays said that process started after turnover that followed the COVID pandemic. First she brought aboard Bixby Assistant Director Amber Lay, whom Hays calls her "first, best hire."

"She's the rock of the place. She's put into place so many of the policies or the procedures, the ways of operating the library, which have just been really helpful," Hays said, adding Lay has also excelled as the Bixby's Adult Librarian.

Circulation Manager Martha Sanborn came to the library soon after Lay.

"She is the face of the library when you come to the circulation desk. She has just been so welcoming to so many, and she has continuously taken on so many more responsibilities," Hays said, also citing Sanborn's work creating craft kits and running family craft sessions.

Adding Cedar Winslow for the new position of Community Engagement Manager was also a coup, Hays said. Winslow recently left and has been replaced by Miranda Degreenia, of whom Hays

also spoke highly.
Hays said Winslow thrived in an important position and "took it to heights I couldn't even imagine."

Some of what Winslow successfully publicized in Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Addison, Panton and Waltham, Hays said, was programming the new team created that allows "people to feel like there was something for them at all times."

Finally, Hays said, new children's librarian Shelby Gagne has just "taken it (that job) by storm."

STARTING WITH COVID

Roche said she was impressed by Hays's "grace under pressure" as she and the mostly new staff took over mid-pandemic and jumped "right into practices and policies to keep the building safe" and then reopen the library.

The team worked "really hard to make positive changes, and changes I believe the community has responded incredibly well to," Roche said, including longer hours, more digital equipment and new books, and enhanced programming.

Measurables prove that point.

Circulation of physical adult books dropped to about half of pre-COVID levels in the Bixby's fiscal year 2021-2022. Now, Hays said, "We've been steadily building back and are happy that we are now consistently above pre-pandemic levels."

The Bixby's circulation of audio books almost doubled in the same time frame.

New offerings have also fared well. For example, in FY 2021-2022 Bixby added its "Library of Things," which allows patrons to check out items from categories that include arts & crafts, games, cooking, musical instruments, tech and tools.

Since then, Hays said, "We've grown to an average of 35 check-



THE BIXBY LIBRARY'S key staff gather around its circulation desk in the main lobby. On the left, Assistant Director Amber Lay talks with Circulation Manager Martha Sanborn. On the right, Executive Director Catharine Hays, rear, talks with former Community Engagement Manager Cedar Winslow, who recently stepped away and has been replaced by Miranda Degreenia.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

outs a month."

Roche summed up: "I can't say enough about how she made enormous change in so many small ways."

HISTORIC COLLECTIONS

Hays has also overseen the evaluation of historic objects, artifacts and collections, many of which had been locked away in the upstairs space dubbed the Museum Room after a theft a number of years ago, according to Hays. Grants from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership have helped that process.

Bixby Objects and Artifacts Steward Patricia Reid and grants associate Kelly Bartlett and a volunteer committee have sorted through those mostly donated collections and determined which items should be returned to indigenous peoples, and which

could be displayed or catalogued and kept to tell Vermont's history, Hays said, including in kits for classroom teachers and online finding aids to help researchers and interested members of the public track them down if desired.

Hays credits the success of this project and so much else that happens at Bixby to the dedication of the library's roughly 75 volunteers.

"We could not do what we do without the volunteers," she said. "It's a strong and mighty group, and we're grateful for them," she said.

MONEY & REGRETS

Balancing the books and funding programs come with Hays's job description, and libraries are not always flush with cash. That's especially true in Vermont, which she said has more libraries per capita than any other U.S. state.

"A big part of my job is managing the budget and the finances, and I feel very good about that," Hays said. "We've grown the budget

since I've been there through increased fundraising through the annual appeal, thanks to all the people who love the library and donate."

The annual spring Bixby Gala has also grown. Hays said volunteers have taken the event "to the next level" as it bounced back from COVID cancellation.

Hays said she has also been able to boost the annual budget by pursuing grants, including some that have allowed the Bixby to assess its accessibility issues and make a few targeted improvements. Bixby has also studied the larger issue of creating full accessibility from its basement up to the second floor via elevator tower, a project that has been on the drawing board since before Hays arrived.

But the board had to prioritize a new heating system over that project, Hays said.

"Sometimes when the pipes burst you don't have much choice on what comes first," she said.

As for another regret, Roche is not happy to see Hays leave, but has reached the acceptance stage and said applications are already arriving.

"We are optimistic that she has readied the Bixby and the Bixby board of trustees for what's next. While I am personally sad, I recognize she has left us in as good a position as we can be."

Asked what she would miss most, Hays fought back a few tears as she told an anecdote about leading young elementary school students on a tour of the building and reading them a book at its end and seeing "all those beautiful, eager faces."

Still, Hays said she knows it's time.

"Most of all I wanted to leave the library in good shape and people feeling good about the library. I feel that's been accomplished," she said.

"So I'm ready for the next chapter."



BIXBY LIBRARY EXECUTIVE Director Catharine Hays walks into the library's central lobby from the western wing. Hays will step down in September after a productive tenure of more than five years.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

Orwell historic talk to be held July 27

ORWELL — Mount Independence State Historic Site's long-time site interpreter Paul Andrisin will talk about his new work of historic fiction, "The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall,

Soldier of the Revolution, 1776-1777," on Sunday, July 27, at the Historic Site. The book follows the daily activities of a soldier serving with the Northern Army from his enlistment to being

stationed at Mt. Independence and involvement in the 1777 battles of Saratoga. The program begins at 1 p.m. and is included in regular admission. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

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Fair - Time Coloring and Decorating Contest

The fair is almost here — and the excitement is building!

We received dozens of colorful, creative entries for our Fair-Time Coloring & Decorating Contest. A big thank you to everyone who entered, and to our generous sponsors, Addison County Sugarmakers and Little Pressroom.

Addison County
Fair & Field Days
starts Tuesday, July 29th!

Congratulations to the following winners:



Ruby Hunsinger
Age 4 - Ripton



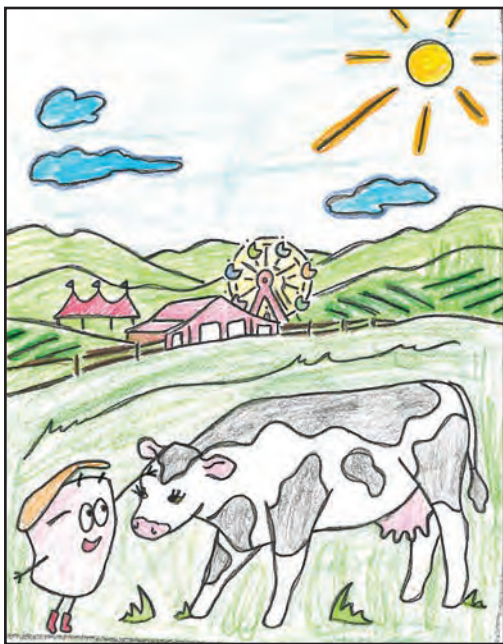
Shea Zeno
Age 4 - Starksboro



Elwood Ostrow-Lynn
Age 6 - Middlebury



Sam Highter
Age 6 - Middlebury



Karmen Perkins
Age 8 - Brandon



Owen Cash
Age 8 - Ripton



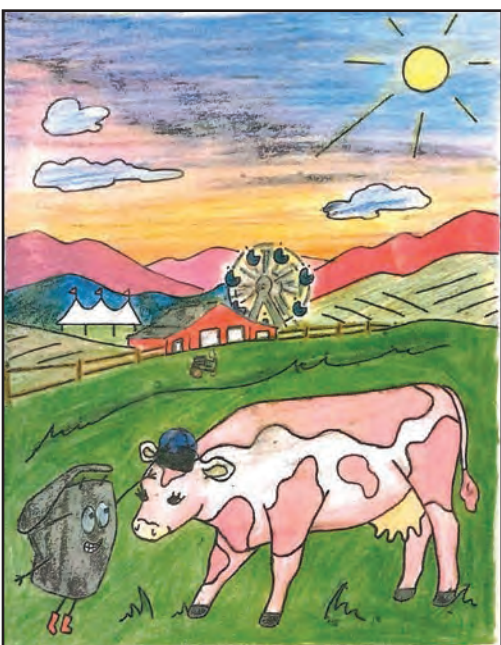
Evette Wilson
Age 9 - Bridport



Kinliegh
Age 10 - Addison



Sam Kervick
Age 12 - Cornwall



Ila Corrigan
Age 14 - Bristol



Deanna Willenbaker
Adult - Vergennes



Michelle Norris-Smith
Adult - Vergennes

Winners will get two passes to the fair and a gift certificate to the fairgrounds sugarhouse.
Prizes can be picked up at the Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury.

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VERMONT GREEN FORWARD Arnaud Tattevin kicks the ball into the Hudson Hammers' box during stoppage time in the first half of Friday's game. The Frenchman had an impressive game, scoring a hat-trick for the Green in the Vermont victory.

Photo by Patrick McCormack



VERMONT GREEN FANS celebrate a goal against the Hudson Hammers in their match in Burlington last Friday. Fans travel from all over the state to see the Green play opponents from across the country at Virtue Field.

Independent photo/Ian Curry

VT Green on playoff run

Soccer team has local fans excited

By IAN CURRY

University of Vermont's Virtue Field in Burlington will host the USL League 2 Eastern Conference Final this Friday, July 25, after the Vermont Green Football Club made a stunning comeback against FC Motown on Sunday — the Green scored three straight goals bringing the final score to 3-2.

This came after the Green cruised to a 4-1 victory when Arnaud Tattevin scored a hat-trick for Vermont Green FC during last Friday's Round of 32 game against the Hudson Hammers.

"As someone trying to promote soccer in Addison County, it's amazing to see," said Jeremy Palmer, a Middlebury resident deeply involved in local soccer teams.

Vermont Green FC is the state's biggest soccer team and has seen meteoric growth in popularity since kicking off its inaugural season in May 2022. The club regularly attracts sold-out crowds, with last Friday's tickets selling out within four minutes of release. The team's most dedicated fans, a group known as the Green (See Green, Page 2B)

Legion Baseball team takes four

Addison County nine heads to postseason on a roll

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County American Legion baseball team finished the regular season with a 14-4 record after winning its final four games in the final week heading into the playoffs.

AC entered the state tournament on Wednesday with as the No. 3 ranked team from the Northern Division behind No. 1 Essex (15-3) and No. 2 St. Johnsbury (14-4). St. J. took two out of three games from AC in the regular season to earn the tiebreaker. Franklin County (8-10) earned the No. 4 seed from the North.

Tournament games will be played in White River Junction and at Norwich University.

The Southern Division seeds are 1. White River Junction (13-5), 2. Brattleboro (12-6), 3. Ludlow (10-8), 4. Bellows Falls (10-8).

The Legion tournament has a different format this year. Instead of a double elimination format, it will use a pool play format.

The eight teams have been divided into two pools, with White River Junction, St. Johnsbury, Ludlow and Franklin in one pool, and Essex, Brattleboro, Addison and Bellows Falls in the other.

Teams will play the other three teams in their pool from Wednesday to Friday, and the top two teams from each pool will advance to semifinals on Saturday in White River Junction.

Saturday's winners will square off in the state final on Sunday, also in White River Junction. The winner of that game will go to the New England Regional Tournament from Aug. 6-10 in Shrewsbury, Mass.

AC's tournament schedule is: Wednesday: Brattleboro vs AC, 1 p.m. in Norwich.

Thursday: Essex vs AC, 7 p.m. in White River Junction.

Friday: AC vs Bellows Falls, 1 p.m. in Norwich.

Saturday: semifinals, 1 and 4 p.m. in White River Junction.

Sunday: final, 1 p.m. in White River Junction.

REGULAR SEASON

In AC's final four regular (See Legion, Page 3B)

Champs swim to two wins

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Champs easily swept their final two meets heading into this weekend's Champlain Valley Swim League meet, which the Middlebury Marlins will host at the Middlebury town pool on Friday and Saturday.

On Thursday, July 17, the Champs breezed past host Burlington Country Club, 293-135, and on Tuesday they defeated host Essex by an even larger margin, 356-107, in a meet postponed from earlier this season.

The Vermont Swim Association's annual summer championship meet will be held at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in Hartford next weekend.

CHAMPS TOP BCC

Against the smaller Burlington Country Club team, the Champs ruled the relays, winning 13 of 15 completed events.

Four Vergennes swimmers won three individual events: Zoey Kress, Riker Cooley, Jordan Hutchins and Will Clark.

Another three Champs were double winners: Juliet Kennedy, Ezra Norwood and Brantley Cooke. Picking up one victory apiece were Khanlen Ouimette, Rhett Cooke, Savannah Wallace, Scarlett Giroux, Allie Curtis, Raleigh Woods, Gretchen Hill and Camron Curtis.

Champs scoring points for their teams with top-three finishes were:

- BUTTERFLY
- U-8 girls: 1. J. Kennedy, 31.25.
- U-8 boys: 1. E. Norwood, 26.33.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 15.29. 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 16.56; 3. R. Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 3. S. Giroux.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 37.68; 3. Keegan Cooley.
- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 32.37; 2. Lauren Husk.
- U-18 boys: 1. K. Ouimette, 26.48.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 1. J. Kennedy, 25.9; 2. Lydia Court.
- U-8 boys: 1. E. Norwood, 24.03.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 17.69. 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooke, 20.12.
- U-12 girls: 2. Juliet Angier.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 41.07; 2. C. Curtis.
- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 30.75; 2. L. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 3. E. Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 27.03; 2. K. Ouimette.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 2. J. Kennedy.
- U-8 boys: 2. E. Norwood; 3. Declan Husk.
- U-10 girls: 1. S. Wallace; 2. Margaret (See Champs, Page 3B)



RIPTON'S JORGEN PIRRUNG, 15, finished second in the men's 15-19 age group at Saturday's Vermont Sun Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

Triathlon draws 200 racers

SALISBURY — On this past Saturday at Branbury State Park, Tim Russell of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., won the men's Vermont Sun Triathlon in 1:00:30, and the women's winner was Shannon Sweeney of Tampa, Fla., in 1:13:41. The weather conditions were perfect for the more than 200 athletes racing — 75 degrees and sunny with light wind.

Emma Duffany of Worcester, Vt., was on Sweeney's heels in the women's event, finishing second in 1:14:09.

In the men's race, Kris Freeman of Campton, N.H., finished second, half a minute behind Russell, in 1:01:04.

Russell holds the course record in the Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon with a 58:29 finish in 2022. He has entered 11 triathlons in the series since 1985 and has won all 11. Russell trailed Freeman by 11 seconds after the 600-yard swim. At mile two on the 14-mile bike ride Russell caught, but could not pass, Freeman. The two entered the transition from bike to the 3.1-mile run together. Russell took just 33 seconds to get

out onto the 3.1 mile, run putting time between him and Freeman. Freeman ran at a 5:52 minute per mile pace but Russell ran just a bit faster, a 5:46 pace, to pull away.

Waterbury's Lance Parker, winner of several Vermont Sun series races, was only 1:10 further back from Freeman to take third. Middlebury's Kyle Friis, often a top-three finisher, was seventh at 1:06:39, also a time good enough to win the 35-39 age group.

Salisbury's Jeff Schumann, 69, won the 65 to 69 age group in 1:14:26, good for 15th overall. Middlebury's Steve Hare was third in the group with a time of 1:21:31.

Also among local competitors, Jorgen Pirrung of Ripton placed second in the 15 to 19 group with a 1:17:16 finish, and Paul Molzon of Bristol was third in men's 40 to 44, in 1:32:56.

In the women's triathlon, Duffany out-swam Sweeney by 1:48. But on the bikes Sweeney out-rode Duffany by 1:51 to take a slim lead. Duffany responded with a quicker transition and (See Triathlon, Page 3B)



The AGE 11 and under Vermont state champion Addison County All Stars celebrate their recent victory. Pictured, left to right, are, front row, Ben McDonough, Grady Leonard, Jude Heyns and Cooper Butler; middle row, Wyatt Hill, Elias Urang, Bryce Wood, Boone Ringey, Wylie Shepard, Owen Ashley-Selleck, Brady Simpson and Mason Johnson; and back row, coaches Dean Butler, Jamie Simpson and Garrett Heyns.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Ringey

AC All Stars take state Little League title

VERMONT — The Addison County All Stars baseball team battled their way through the losing bracket to take the District 1 Title earlier this month. The ages 9-11 All Stars then advanced to the state tournament and came out on top this past weekend, claiming the 2025 State Champion Title for 11U.

Addison County All Stars

is comprised of players from all across Addison County and coached by Dean Butler, Jamie Simpson and Garrett Heyns. This team has worked together to overcome all odds and have earned their spot at the Eastern Regional Tournament, which will be played in Beverly, Mass., this coming week. Facing teams from several East Coast states, the AC

club hopes to make state history.

"The Addison County All Stars are proud to represent that state of Vermont at the tournament," a team spokesperson said.

Game 1 in the Eastern Regional tourney for Vermont will be Monday, July 28, at 2:30 p.m. against the New Jersey state champ, followed by game 2 vs. (See Little League, Page 2B)

Marlins swim to a big victory

By BEE ECKELS
ST. ALBANS — The Middlebury Marlins Swim Team fell to St. Albans, 285-147, on Tuesday in the final dual meet of the Champlain Valley Swim League season.
With the regular season coming to a close, the Marlins are gearing up to host the league championships this coming weekend with sessions starting at 4 p.m. on Friday and at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday.
The Marlins and other Champlain Valley Swim League teams will head to Hartford's Upper Valley Aquatic Center the following weekend for the Vermont Swim Association's summer championship meet.
Host St. Albans held a 12-4 edge in relays, but despite it being a late night filled with tough competition, the visiting Marlins put up a good fight with many swimmers taking multiple wins.
Jorgen Pirrung claimed four individual wins, earning first in

every event he swam and scoring 20 points for his team.
Enea Ancarani and Elise Almstrand both had strong performances, each touching the final wall first three times.
Constantin Bellmann earned two first-place finishes in the Boys 13-14 50-yd butterfly and breaststroke.
Additionally, Felix Poduschnick, Nicola Power, Henry Cadoret and Selma Citarella all touched the final wall once.
Marlins scoring points for their team with top-three finishes in individual races were:
BUTTERFLY
• U-10 boys: 1. Enea Ancarani, 16.81; 3. Patrick Martin.
• U-12 boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 33.02; 3. Porter Mackey.
• U-14 girls: 1. Nicola Power, 38.94.
• U-14 boys: 1. Constantin Bellmann, 33.53.
• U-18 girls: 2. Sadie Chance; 3. Abigail Hamilton.
• U-18 boys: 1. Jorgen Pirrung, 31.07.
BACKSTROKE

• U-10 boys: 2. Keegan Landon.
• U-12 girls: 3. Maxine King.
• U-12 boys: 3. Ben Phinney.
• U-14 girls: 1. Elise Almstrand, 37.32.
• U-14 boys: 2. Henry Cadoret.
• U-18 girls: 3. S. Chance.
• U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 38.91.
BREASTSTROKE
• U-10 girls: 3. Rose Phinney.
• U-10 boys: 1. E. Ancarani, 20.85.
• U-12 boys: 2. F. Poduschnick; 3. B. Phinney.
• U-14 girls: 1. E. Almstrand, 39.59.
• U-14 boys: 1. Co. Bellmann, 37.75; 3. H. Cadoret.
• U-18 girls: 1. Selma Citarella, 33.92; 2. S. Chance.
• U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 36.75.
FREESTYLE
• U-10 boys: 1. E. Ancarani, 15.02.
• U-12 boys: 2. F. Poduschnick.
• U-14 girls: 1. E. Almstrand, 29.20; 3. N. Power.
• U-14 boys: 1. H. Cadoret, 28.20; 3. Co. Bellmann.
• U-18 girls: 2. A. Hamilton; 3. S. Citarella.
• U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 26.87.

Green

(Continued from Page 1B)
Mountain Boys, keep up the energy in the stands, chanting and dancing the team to victory and welcoming any newcomers. The Vermont Green play in USL League 2, which features 144 clubs from across the United States and Canada in a 14-match season that runs from early May to mid-July, with playoffs taking place in late-July. The league regularly sees talents who later go on to play in some of the world's most competitive soccer leagues.
The Vermont Green is a semi-professional team, which means most of their players, who are university athletes, can continue playing soccer for their schools during the academic year while competing with the Green during the summer. Many aspire to play for professional teams. As of 2024, seven former Vermont Green players have been chosen by teams in Major League Soccer (MLS), the highest level of soccer in the United States.
The Vermont Green plays soccer with a mission. They see soccer as a catalyst for environmental change. The club has pledged to reach net-zero emissions while donating 1% of their annual sales to nonprofits doing environmental work. Players and fans wear jerseys made from recycled fabric, volunteers collect and sort recycling at the end of each game and Ben and Jerry's doles out free ice-cream from an electric truck.
The Vermont Green has already made history. Their undefeated regular season run has seen the team make it to the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time. This puts the club two wins away from

the Aug. 2 championship match, something that has Addison County soccer fans like Palmer excited.
Along with playing the sport himself, Palmer helps organize soccer programs in Addison County for people of all ages and skill levels, including Athletico Middlebury, a youth development team for children between the ages of 6 and 14. He said he's impressed by the enthusiasm Addison County kids are showing for soccer, and that its being reflected in the growing number of opportunities they have to play soccer locally.
"Kids now are way better players than before," Palmer said, reflecting on the years he played soccer in middle and high school.
Palmer's sons Hayden, 13, and Calvin, 10, are also avid soccer players. Hayden said that soccer was the first sport he ever played, and that having a team of people his own age to play with had him fall in love with the game. Speaking to the *Independent* on the way to the Vermont Green's playoff game last Friday, Hayden and Calvin said it was amazing to be able to root for a local team and see them play live in their own community.
Leon Brody, a goalie for both the Vermont Green and Middlebury College's varsity soccer team, echoed those sentiments. He had previously played for a different USL League 2 team, but after watching a game against the Vermont Green from the bench, he said he just knew he had to play for the club. The Montréal native said it feels amazing to represent

Middlebury College and Addison County on a professional level alongside fellow Middlebury College teammate and Vermont Green forward Will Savin.
"It's what I love to do," he said.
The Green have a very high standard of play, Brody said, which serves them well in a competitive league full of dedicated teams. But he added that he feels totally in his place on the team, and that the skills he's developing will definitely help him when playing for Middlebury College in upcoming soccer seasons.
Brody also pointed to the Vermont Green's international squad, which hosts players from as far afield as Portugal, Libya, Senegal and Japan. Brody said the club's efforts to sign people from around the world is putting Vermont on the map for professional soccer.
"It's super cool when you can gather people to play for a team like the Vermont Green," he said.
Brody said that he's proud to be strengthening the community's relationship with the team, noting that the Green are also dedicated to fostering young talent in Vermont and run workshops with local youth teams like Addison United and Athletico Middlebury.
The rising sophomore at Middlebury College hopes more local kids can get into soccer, saying he was really impressed by the sports infrastructure available to Vermont kids and that the resources for those wanting to get into the sport are at their best.
"If there's a time to play soccer in Vermont, it's now," he said.

Neshobe hosts N.E. golf amateur

By MARIA BARR
BRANDON — In a tournament held last week at the Neshobe Golf Club on July 17, Brunswick (Maine) Golf Club's Elliott Spaulding claimed the New England Amateur title with a score of 14-under in the 54-hole tournament. Spaulding also secured his second straight Maine Amateur title two weeks ago.
Ralph Myhre Golf Course's Lucas Politano finished fourth at 11 under after starting his final round with two bogeys through six holes.
Politano, who is familiar with the Neshobe course from playing competitively for Otter Valley Union High School, made a run at the lead with a birdie on the eighth hole and then five more birdies on the back nine before falling just short.
Neshobe's Walker Allen also had a strong tournament, finishing in a tie for 10th at 6 under par.
Two strokes behind Spaulding in a tie for second place were Matt Parziale from Massachusetts' Thorny Lea Golf Club and Alex Elia from Connecticut's Silver Spring Country Club.
MORE GOLF RESULTS

Ralph Myhre club members had exciting play both on and off their home course last week. At the VSWGGA State Day event at Enosburg Falls Country Club on July 15, Susan Rand placed eighth in net in Flight 1.
Also on July 15, Ralph Myhre's Nicole Laberge and Eva Mastalos placed first gross in Flights 3 and 4 respectively in the VSWGGA State Day tournament at the Golf Club at Equinox. Other competing club members included Giselle Lafleche, who tied for second gross in Flight 5, and Jean Goodwin, who tied for fifth net score in Flight 4.
Thursday Men's Golf at Ralph Myhre on July 17 saw the foursome of Mike Adams, Steve Maier, Stan Pratt and George Ramsayer place first.
The team of Robert Cameron, John Myhre, Thomas Anderson and Gary Wright came in second, with Anderson's score of 69 earning him low net honors. Third went to Eric Bergland, John Davis, David Zarowin and Vince Paradis.
In Friday's Mixer, quartet Bryon Emilo, Julia Emilo, Lauren Emilo and Jen Heath won with a score of

28. Craig Miner, Susan Miner, Fred Lichtenfels and Sheri Lichtenfels came in second, and Dale White, Jill White, Garvi Jesso-White and Garrett Troumbley took third.
Ralph Myhre also hosted the 2025 Alumni Golf Weekend from July 18 to July 20. Middlebury College Panthers returned to compete in flighted competition with gross and net scores. The results in each flight:
YOUNGMAN FLIGHT GROSS
1. Jack Gould and Grayson Ahl (151); 2. Frank Purritano and Charles Midgley (153); 3. Mark Altmeyer and Ned Denney (170).
KENYON FLIGHT GROSS
1. Allen Fitzpatrick and Bill Burchfield (163); 2. Sean Fallon and Doug Fallon (177); 3. Al Fiacre and Grace Fiacre (184).
YOUNGMAN FLIGHT NET
1. Thomas Burns and Matthew Burns (134); 2. Luke Peterson and Max Stamler (143); 3 Peter Cullinan and Frank Cooper (144).
KENYON FLIGHT NET
1. Alexander Winch and Reid Smith (142); 2. David Buzby and Jeff Legro (154); 3. Ian Arthur and Hilal Dahleh (161).



COACH DEAN BUTLER celebrates the big win with his Addison County All Stars Little League team, which won the right to play in a regional tournament in Massachusetts. Below, pitcher Brady Simpson was on the mark for his AC team.

Photos courtesy of Lauren Ringey

All Stars

(Continued from Page 1B)
Maryland's elite squad.
To offset the travel, lodging and meals costs for the weekend tournament, the AC team has started a Go Fund Me campaign.
"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these young athletes. It's the result of countless hours of practice, perseverance, sportsmanship, and teamwork — and now, they've earned the incredible opportunity to compete against the best from across the East Coast," the Go Fund Me organizer wrote.
Donations will be gratefully accepted online at www.gofundme.com/t/help-addison-county-ll-get-to-the-regional-tournament-in-ma.



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Walgreen's

NEW HAVEN:
Jiffy Mart
Village Green Market

N. FERRISBURGH:
N. Ferrisburgh Short Stop
Russell Memorial Library

ORWELL:
Orwell Free Library

RIPTON:
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SALISBURY:
Kampersville Store (seasonal)

SHOREHAM:
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SATURDAY’S VERMONT SUN Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury began with a mass start for the swimming leg before the 14-mile bike ride and 3.1-mile run that followed.
Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

Triathlon

(Continued from Page 1B)

moved into first as the run began. Sweeney, however, ran a 6:45 minute-per-mile pace to Duffany’s 6:52 to claim her 28-second victory. Charlotte’s Nelly Jennings was a minute further back in third in 1:15:09.

Stephanie Bandoski of Brandon claimed fourth place in the women’s event in 1:16:39. Bristol’s 71-year-old Wendy Puls easily won her age group in 1:36:54. Cindy Quackenbush of Salisbury, 78, won the 75 to 79 group in

1:51:50, and Middlebury’s Obie Porteous was second in the men’s 40-45 age group.

Friends Christy Lynn of Middlebury and Meg Howard of Weybridge finished together in 1:26:28. They ended the swim together, and then Howard rode her bike 44 seconds faster. Lynn caught Howard during the run, and they crossed the finish line together.

The Branbury Classic Triathlon, also run on Saturday, featured a 1.5-mile paddle instead of a swim.

Del Guilmette of Bristol won over Eric Foote of Brandon 1:30:39 to 1:31:22. Joy McManaman of Schenectady, N.Y., was third overall and the women’s winner in 1:38:55.

Complete results of both races can be found on vermontsun.com.

The final event in this year’s Vermont Sun Triathlon Series will be held on Sunday, Aug. 17, with another running of a Vermont Sun Triathlon sprint and a Lake Dunmore Olympic distance Triathlon.

Legion

(Continued from Page 1B)

season games, the local nine defeated Champlain Valley, 12-1, on Thursday, July 17; swept a doubleheader from host Montpelier on Saturday, 10-6 and 19-4; and won by forfeit on Monday on a game rescheduled from Sunday due to poor weather.

St. Johnsbury forfeited on Monday when the team did not want to visit AC for a game that had no impact on the standings and was just two days before the playoffs opened. Officially, the team said it lacked enough players to make the trip.

AC, 12-1

The July 17 game was shortened to five innings when AC took a big lead. Tucker Morter earned the win, allowing one earned run on four hits and two walks while striking out five.

AC amassed its 12 runs on six hits and 12 walks. Offensive contributors included Brady Barnard (two hits, two walks, two RBIs), Carter Paquette (two hits, two walks, RBI, two runs), Tucker Wright (two walks, three runs), and Ryan Brouillard (two hits, including an RBI double, three RBIs).

That victory clinched a playoff

berth for AC.

AC SWEEPS

AC needed to win one game on this past Saturday to lock down the No. 3 seed, and did so easily by sweeping host Montpelier. The first game completed one suspended earlier in Middlebury due to rain with Montpelier leading, 4-0.

Montpelier scored those four runs in the first inning off winning pitcher Jackson Jennings, who also surrendered two runs in the sixth after the game resumed. But by that time AC had taken a 7-4 lead.

AC scored three times in the third inning to pull within a run, and then added four more runs in the fourth inning on an RBI single by Cole Warren, an RBI double by Aricin Griffin, and a two-run single by Carter Paquette, who led AC with four hits on the day. After Montpelier cut the lead to 7-6, Wright launched a three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth to create the final score.

Jennings went 6.1 innings, giving up six earned runs on six hits and eight walks, striking out four. Tyler Kimball came on to get the final two outs and nail down the win.

Griffin finished with two hits and scored twice, Paquette drove in three runs, and Wright finished with four RBIs. Brouillard also poked a pair of hits.

In the second game AC scored its 19 runs on 13 hits, 11 walks and eight stolen bases. Tembruell, Paquette, Brouillard, and Wright poked two hits, and Paquette and Brouillard each drove in three runs, and Mike Dunbar drew three walks.

AC had two big innings, scoring six times in the fifth and eight in the seventh.

In the fifth inning, Paquette singled, Brouillard and Owen Butterfield stroked RBI singles and Trevor Wright hit an RBI triple.

In the eighth Paquette hit a sacrifice fly to score one run and doubled two plate two more, Tembruell and Kimball hit RBI singles and Dunbar and Jennings drew bases-loaded walks.

Barnard earned the pitching win on four allowed runs, all unearned, and surrendered four hits over four and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking three. Tembruell threw two and one-third innings of scoreless relief.

Champs

(Continued from Page 1B)

Smits.

- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 23.54.
- U-12 girls: 1. S. Giroux, 41.44; 2. G. Hill.
- U-12 boys: 2. C. Curtis; 3. Enli Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 39.75; 2. Cecilia Neffinger.
- U-18 girls: 2. Ellie Eckels; 3. Sophia Johnson.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 30.28.

FREESTYLE

- U-8 girls: 1. A. Curtis, 21.28;
- U-8 boys: 1. R. Woods, 19.84; 2. D. Husk.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 15.19; 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 14.87; 2. R. Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 1. G. Hill, 34.56; 2. Lydia Bearor.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Camron, 33.06; 2. B. Cooke.
- U-14 girls: 3. L. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 2. Adrienne Smits; 3. E. Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 23.07; 2. K. Ouimette.

CHAMPS Tattle TEST

The Champs also showed up at the Town of Essex Swim Team (TEST) pool with almost twice as many swimmers as their host, and the 356-107 final score reflected those numbers.

Vergennes won 16 out of the 19 contested relays and 35 individual races.

Kress led the way with four individual wins, and Riker Cooley, Connor Husk and Will Clark won

three races apiece.

Brantley Cooke, Adrienne Smits, Jordan Hutchins, Juliet Kennedy, Juliette Angier, Annika Smits and Camron Curtis were double winners, and Lydia Bearor, Khanlen Ouimette, Declan Husk, Ellie Brooks, Evan Angier, Scarlet Giroux, Ella Bearor, Allie Curtis and Raleigh Woods each won once.

Champs scoring points for their teams with top-three finishes were:

BUTTERFLY

- U-8 girls: 3. J. Kennedy.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 16.07. 2. Savannah. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 18.79; 2. R. Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 1. L. Bearor, 45.31; 3. Noelle Jipner.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 40.41; 2. Enli Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 2. J. Hutchins
- U-18 girls: 1. Ad. Smits, 29.90; 2. E. Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 1. K. Ouimette, 26.37; 2. Noah Smits.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 1. J. Kennedy, 24.20; 3. Skylar Buckley.
- U-8 boys: 1. D. Husk, 27.74; 2. R. Woods.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 17.43. 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 19.49; 2. R. Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Angier, 41.10; 2. Sophee Shepard.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 41.31; 2. C. Curtis.

- U-14 girls: 1. An. Smits, 34.12; 2. Reese Matton.
- U-14 boys: 1. C. Husk, 35.29; 3. Skylar James.
- U-18 girls: 1. E. Brooks, 34.45.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 26.97; 2. N. Smits.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 2. J. Kennedy.
- U-8 boys: 2. Wyatt Sealey.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 19.91; 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. E. Angier, 26.09; 3. Bennett Blacklock.
- U-12 girls: 1. S. Giroux, 42.87; 2. J. Angier.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Curtis, 46.78; 2. K. Cooley.
- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 39.42; 3. C. Neffinger.
- U-18 girls: 1. E. Bearor, 42.07.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 30.05.

FREESTYLE

- U-8 girls: 1. A. Curtis, 23.35.
- U-8 boys: 1. R. Woods, 21.00; 2. D. Husk.
- U-10 girls: 1. Z. Kress, 15.31; 2. S. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 16.07; 2. R. Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Angier, 34.60; 2. L. Bearor.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Camron, 34.05; 2. E. Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 2. J. Hutchins; 2. An. Smits.
- U-14 boys: 1. C. Husk, 28.07.
- U-18 girls: 1. Ad. Smits, 26.97; 2. E. Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 23.24; 2. K. Ouimette.

Devil’s Bowl: LaDuc, Provencher, Friend earn wins

WEST HAVEN — Orwell’s Tim LaDuc, won for the first time this season in the Devil’s Bowl Speedway’s top Sportsman Modified series to highlight the action on Saturday night.

LaDuc used a new engine and rolled to victory in the 30-lap feature. Brandon’s Vince Quenneville took fifth, Bridport’s Troy Audet was sixth.

Mother and daughter Bobbi Hults and Katrina LeClaire ran 1-2 in the first of two 20-lap Limited Sportsman races. Leicester’s Derrick Counter was third, New Haven’s Alex Layn was fourth,

and Whiting’s Logan Denis was sixth. In the second Limited Sportsman race Hartland’s Tyler Travis cruised to the win. Whiting’s Logan Denis took fourth.

In the 20-lap Novice Sportsman Feature, Rutland’s Mark McGinniss won. Bristol’s Aiden Benoure was third and East Middlebury’s Chris Sumner wasv fifth.

Bridport’s Gage Provencher took his fourth win in his last five starts in a 15-lap 500cc Mini Sprint race. Orwell’s Ray Hanson was fourth.

In the Mini Stock Division, father and son Jeremy Brownell and Jeremy Brownell Jr. each won one

of the 15-lap races.

Middlebury’s Jake Barrows took second in the first race, In the second race, Vergennes driver Kaleb Shepard was second, and Coornwalll’s Blake took third.

Middlebury’s Eric Friend won his fifth 15-lap Crown Vic feature of the season. Friend had to repel a stiff challenge from West Haven driver TJ Knight. In a back-and-forth duel, Friend used an aggressive late pass to prevail

Finally, Maine driver Jason Porter started last but still won the 50-lap Enduro. Ripton’s Chandler Sumner was fourth.

GET READY TO RUN

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

SUNDAY / OCTOBER 19

5K / 10K / HALF MARATHON

MIDDLEBURY, VT

VERMONT’S “SWEETEST” HALF MARATHON

MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN 2025

WHAT MAKES IT SO SWEET?

- BEAUTIFUL, scenic routes with views of the Green Mountains & Adirondacks.
- A mix of TRAIL, PAVED and DIRT ROADS for all events!
- USATF-CERTIFIED COURSE that is well supported, with rolling hills & foliage views.
- Well Organized, Great Swag, Well-Stocked AID STATIONS.
- Post-Race BREAKFAST
- Top Finishers Receive VERMONT MAPLE SYRUP!

REGISTER TODAY!

MIDDLEBURYMAPLERUN.COM

Brought to you by ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Half-zip performance shirts available when you register!

HOPE IN MOTION

5K OR 1K WALK/RUN & WELLNESS FAIR

Presented by the Turning Point Center of Addison County

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9 AM – 2 PM • 55 Collins Drive, Middlebury, VT

Get Moving for a Great Cause! Join us for a day of community, connection, and wellness as we raise awareness and support for recovery, mental health, and holistic well-being in Addison County. Whether you’re a seasoned runner, a casual walker, or bringing the whole family, there’s something for everyone!

REGISTER TODAY!

- 5K Entry: \$25 (includes T-shirt*)
- 1K Entry: \$5 (includes T-shirt*)
- Online Run Registration: scan the code or go to runsignup.com/Race/VT/Middlebury/TPCAChopeinmotion
- Same-day registration begins at 8:00 AM

*T-shirts guaranteed for 5K participants who register by Sept 15, 2025

Register Here!

Turning Point Center of Addison County

Contact us: (802) 388-4249 info@tpvt.org tpvt.org

It's MHS, MUHS Hall of Fame nominations time

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury High School Middlebury Union High School Alumni Association is requesting nominations for induction into the Hall of Fame at Homecoming on Saturday, Sept. 27. The Hall of Fame honors graduates of MHS and MUHS for contributions that have been made to the communities where the alumnus resides.

The first Hall of Fame inductions took place in 1986, when 12 alumni were inducted. Since then, 139 alumni have been honored and welcomed into the Hall of Fame. There have also been 10 honorary recipients.

If you know someone who you believe deserves consideration for the MHS/MUHS Hall of Fame, please review the following criteria and submit a letter of recommendation as indicated below.

- Graduate from Middlebury High School.
- Graduate from Middlebury Union High School at least 25 years prior to consideration.
- Excellence in scholarship, athletics, trades or artistic fields.
- Citizenship during school and following graduation.

For consideration by the Hall of Fame committee, it is important to detail what your nominee has done to benefit their communities after High School.

All Nominations should be submitted to the MHS/MUHS Alumni Association, PO Box 1034, Middlebury, Vermont 05753, or email to wjcunningham12@gmail.com or mjqrq@hotmail.com.

Nominations should be submitted with a postmark or received by Friday, Aug. 22. A committee of Hall of Fame members will meet to select the 2025 Hall of Fame class.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Makenna Gatchett of Brandon has received a \$1,000 Career and Technical Education scholarship from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Gatchett is one of 14 students in New England to receive the

scholarship. She is a graduate of Otter Valley Union High School and attended Stafford Technical Center. She plans to study Nursing at Vermont State University.



MIDDLEBURY LIONS CLUB CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

July 2025

Tad Fyles, Barbara Stearns, Joe Swahn, Walter Ducharme, Cathay A. Jerome, Mark Pruhenski, Jackie Tynan, Calvin Deppman, Ron Counter, Joyce Ledoux, Brian Huizenga, Barb Reed, JJ Blanchard, Josh Mohan, Kirk Fiske, Paul Clapper, Dean Richmond, David DiBiase, Samantha Elwood, Elaine Mitcham, Steve Bryant, Geoff Conrad, Saul Nurok, Myrdith McKinley, Lisa Bristol, Susan Wry, Patricia Ganson, Elisha Bagley, Karin Hanta & Darien Davis, Mike Jackman, Cody & Chelsea Broughton

Check winning amounts at MiddleburyLions.org!



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



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking classroom aides to assist in educational settings throughout Addison and Rutland Counties for the 2025-2026 school year. Participants receive travel reimbursement, fifty paid vacation/sick days, and a tax-free hourly stipend if they are income eligible.

Please contact FGP at 802-468-7056 to learn more.

**AmeriCorps Seniors**

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber writes:

"Love the paper!
So fun and informative for us 5-town folk."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

JULY 24 THURSDAY

Green Mountain Club stargazing in Addison County. Thursday, July 24, 9 p.m., location TBD. Navigate the summer night sky and learn to identify bright stars, asterisms and constellations; enjoy looking for Perseid meteors. Weather dependent. (new moon July 24) & peak of Perseid meteor shower on Aug. 12. Check www.gmcbreadloaf.org/calendar for updates. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

Creative play storyline in Shoreham. Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 0-5 and their parents or caregivers.

Birding with Kids and Vermont Audubon in Starksboro. Thursday, July 24, 11 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. An Audubon educator will visit the library for a morning of birds, crafts and science. This is a drop-in program for kids of all ages. Join us for a second date (can do just one or the other or both!) Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. All towns welcome.

"From Earth to Earth: The Lost Art of Dying in America" on screen in Middlebury. Thursday, July 24, 3 p.m., EastView at Middlebury, 100 EastView Ter. This short, award-winning documentary describes natural burial and its benefits through stories from the people who worked to make it legal in Vermont, and the stories of people whose experiences have shown the ways it can help come to terms with the loss of a loved one and with one's own mortality. A Q&A session led by Jim Hogle, president and communications and outreach coordinator of the Vermont Forest Cemetery, will follow.

Graphic novel book discussion: "Botticelli's Apprentice" in Shoreham. Thursday, July 24, 5-6 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St.

Carnival in Brandon. Thursday, July 24, 5-10 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. Brandon's popular annual fast, fun, foody, fanciful carnival is back. A fun, positive and inexpensive event for families in our communities. We have the safe, clean rides, amazing entertainment, cool vendors, and yummy food. Free admission, free parking, free entertainment, and discount coupons for rides. Ride bracelets are \$27 for each 5-hour session, or \$25 with a discount coupon. Proceeds benefit the Brandon Area Toy Project. Continues Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"A Dramatic Constitution" presentation in Bristol. Thursday, July 24, 6:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. In this presentation, Meg Mott considers how the U.S. Constitution both forces and frames our disagreements. In the first two centuries, citizens regularly debated public matters, drawing on the Constitution as a shared authority. What does it mean for our republic when only legal professionals take the stage? A Vermont Humanities event.

JULY 25 FRIDAY

41st Annual Native American Elders and Youth Gathering in Lincoln. Friday, July 25, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. Learn the ancestral wisdom of Indigenous elders and youth, as well as other cross-cultural offerings. Events include daily wisdom teachings, circle of women's moon-time teachings from an Abenaki perspective, art and music activities for children and Monday workshops (separate cost). Healing celebration Saturday night. Camping and food available for purchase. Abundant volunteer opportunities. This is a drug and alcohol-free event. All are welcome. Come in-person or on zoom. More info and registration at sunray.org/eldersgathering.

American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury. Friday, July 25, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Middlebury EMS Building, 55 Collins Dr. All blood types are needed. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Carnival in Brandon. Friday, July 25, 5-10 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 24 listing.

JULY 26 SATURDAY

41st Annual Native American Elders and Youth Gathering in Lincoln. Saturday, July 26, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. See July 25 listing.

Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Sale in Vergennes. Saturday, July 26, downtown Vergennes. Clearance deals and must-have treasures up, down and all around Main Street. Bring your friends and plot your course — the bargains will be there for you on the sidewalks,

in the shops and even on the street.

MALT Mid-Summer Volunteer Day in Middlebury. Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Help MALT during the TAM's busiest season. Enjoy the dog days of summer on the beautiful TAM in a fulfilling and impactful way. MALT's Lands and Trails Manager, Liam, will be meeting volunteers, providing tools and instructions for volunteer groups. Bring work gloves, water and snacks. More info and registration at www.maltvt.org/events.

Midd Summer Market in Middlebury. Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park, corner of Main Street and Merchants Row. Cheer on the Middlebury Marlins at their home Swim Meet. On the way, see what's on offer from Vermont artists, craftspeople and purveyors of fine Vermont products and prepared food. Shoppers can expect beautiful handmade items perfect for gifts, mementos, or staples for everyday use. Rain or shine. Learn more at ExperienceMiddlebury.com/midd-markets!

Collections Corner: Shipwreck Simulator in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, July 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Try your hand at being an archaeologist! Visitors will experience an archaeological excavation firsthand in our shipwreck simulator. Staff will teach the basics of archaeological documentation and demonstrate how artifacts now in the collection were recovered. The public will learn about the importance of context in both archaeological investigation and Museum interpretation through this program, as well as get a chance to make their own observations. Free. More info at info@lcmmm.org.

Carnival in Brandon. Saturday, July 26, noon-10 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 24 listing.

Drop-in tie dye bandanas for Field Days in Shoreham. Saturday, July 26, 1-3 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. This program is a drop-in, so you can come at any time and leave when you're done.

Dance to Joe & Jackie in Middlebury. Saturday, July 26, 4-7 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Come dance with us. Joe and Jackie play a mix of rock 'n' roll, Country and some oldies. We have some line dances for those who love to line dance as well. The kitchen will be open from 4 to 6 p.m., so come hungry. Free and open to the public. Proceeds benefit veterans' programs.

JULY 27 SUNDAY

41st Annual Native American Elders and Youth Gathering in Lincoln. Sunday, July 27, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. See July 25 listing.

Sizzling Summer Sidewalk Sale in Vergennes. Sunday, July 27, downtown Vergennes. See July 26 listing.

Carnival in Brandon. Sunday, July 27, noon-5 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 24 listing.

The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall, Soldier of the Revolution, 1776-1777 in Orwell. Sunday, July 27, 1-2 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Paul Andrisin, long-time site interpreter and retired history professor, will talk about his new book of historic fiction, "The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall, Soldier of the Revolution, 1776-1777," which follows the daily activities of a soldier serving with the Northern Army from his enlistment to being stationed at Mt. Independence and involvement in the 1777 battles of Saratoga.

"The Great Bennington Battle and Vermont" in Brandon. Sunday, July 27, 1-3 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Historian Howard Coffin discusses the history-changing Burgoyne campaign, focusing on the dramatic battle of "Great Bennington," which was a Vermont battle as well as a New York battle. Free.

JULY 28 MONDAY

"Most Well-Read Dog" contest in Middlebury. Begins July 28, Mini Ilsley Public Library, 30 Main St. From July 28-Aug. 1 submit a photo of your dog(s) showing us they are the most well-read dog in Middlebury. Vote for your favorite Aug. 2-22, and look forward to a doggy parade, awards and story time on Aug. 23.

Cardboard build challenge in Shoreham. Monday, July 28, 2-3 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes. Monday, July 28, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, July 28, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm Streets. Come see what all the fun is about.

JULY 29 TUESDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Tuesday, July 29, Field Days Rd. First day of the popular annual fair, which runs through Saturday, Aug. 2. Don't miss it! More info at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com.

JULY 30 WEDNESDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Wednesday, July 30, Field Days Rd. The popular annual fair runs through Saturday, Aug. 2. Don't miss it! More info at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com.

Political luncheon series in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 30, 12:30 p.m., EastView at Middlebury, 100 EastView Ter. Join Professor Matt Dickinson for a discussion of current political events, every other week all summer. Bagels are served. Call 802-989-7501 for Zoom link or you are welcome to attend in-person.

Jackson Pollock painting with Ms. Kim in Shoreham. Wednesday, July 30, 3-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

Bristol Town Band in Bristol. Wednesday, July 30, 7-8:30 p.m., town green. Bristol Town Band will be holding their 155th season of weekly summer band concerts. Rain location will be Holley Hall. All are welcome to join the band. More information at 802-281-2315.

JULY 31 THURSDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Thursday, July 31, Field Days Rd. The popular annual fair runs through Saturday, Aug. 2. Don't miss it! More info at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com.

Rainbow Storytime in Shoreham. Thursday, July 31, 10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 0-5 and their parents or caregivers.

Storytime in Starksboro. Thursday, July 31, 10:30 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. Songs, stories and fun! All towns welcome.

AUG 1 FRIDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Friday, Aug. 1, Field Days Rd. The popular annual fair runs through Saturday, Aug. 2. Don't miss it! More info at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com.

AUG 2 SATURDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Saturday, Aug. 2, Field Days Rd. Final day of the popular annual fair. You're not too late! More info at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com.

Yard sale day in Brandon. Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m., locations around town. Day-long event. Rain or Shine. Official yard sales make it on the master list which will be available the morning of Aug. 6 at the Brandon Museum and Visitor Center (4 Grove St., Route 7 next to the church at the intersection with Route 73 West).

Book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, 43 N. Pleasant St. Held by The Friends of Ilsley Library. We have summer reading for the whole family at great prices and are located just a hop, skip and a jump from your Saturday errands in town. Proceeds fund Ilsley Library programs for all ages as well as staff development opportunities. Come check us out!

Free Tour Day at the John Strong Mansion/ Museum in Addison. Saturday, Aug. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., John Strong Mansion/Museum, 6656 Route 17. More info at DARJohnStrongMansion@gmail.com.

Find Waldo celebration in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 2, 11:30 a.m., Henry Sheldon Museum Tent, 1 Park St. Vermont Book Shop will host an end-of-search celebration under the tent in the Henry Sheldon Museum garden. A grand-prize drawing will be held, cupcakes and refreshing beverages will be served, and merriment will ensue. There might even be a real-life Waldo sighting.

"Education, Values, Creativity: Samplers of Post-revolutionary War Vermont" in Addison. Saturday, Aug. 2, 1 p.m., John Strong Mansion/ Museum, 6656 Route 17. Ellen Thompson, the manager of the Vermont Sampler Initiative, will talk on the project to identify American schoolgirl samplers made before 1900. Thompson's talk will focus on how these important historical "documents" help to inform us about our past. Free and open to the public. Bring a chair, if possible.

CALENDAR ONLINE
addisonindependent.com



It's all happening at the fair
ADDISON COUNTY FAIR and Field Days kicks off its 2025 run this coming Tuesday, July 29. Head on up to New Haven for all this county fair has to offer.

Independent file photo/Steve James

MUHS honor roll

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union High School has released its honor roll for the final quarter of the 2024-25 academic year. Those named to the roll include:

GRADE 9
High Honors: Killian Barry, Mira Biancosino, Bug Bloom, Maxwell Breckenridge, Annika Broderson, Annika Bruning, Christopher Bunt, McMillan Caldwell, Jonathan Carpenter, Meredith Carr Perlow, Sadie Chance, Selma Citarella, Eleanor Conklin, Ella Cram, Beatrice Deering, Finleigh Drake, Raine Evans Nash, Willow Heywood, Maya Jacobs, Sara Jette, Henry Kervick, Elle MacIntyre, Fiona Mackey, Eve Menguc, Edie Newhouse-Rigling, Evan Northrup, Eleanor Orten, Louisa Orten, Jorgen Pirrung, Theodora Porter, Virginia Riney, Adeline Ritter, Kiera Sell, Adelaide Taylor and Beatrice Whitmarsh.

Honors: Gwendalyn Bergeron, Paras Biancosino, Ty Bierman, Thea Boglioli, Nova Bojanowski, Havyn Brush, Carly Delabruere, Connor Desabrais, Ben Dutton, Gabriel Duval, Orion Foss, Jocelyn Foster, Maverick Gardner-Wacker, Miles Goetz, Abby Hamilton, Fiona Harrington, Harper Hendy, Abrina Ho, Jackson Jacobs, Marcus Jenne, Preston Kean, Alayna LaFlam, Akirah Lalumiere, Marley Lambert, Mary Landwehr, Adam LaRose and Jackson Lind.

Also Taylen Maynard, Porter McDonnell, Wyatt McKee, Benjamin Napoleon, Maeve Newton, Lillian Paquette, Natayah Paquette, Colvin Pike, Case Pitner, Daniel Power, Meredith Prouty, Kennedy Renninger, Finn Roark, Rebecca Seeley, Alden Sherry, Sophie Simpson, Penelope Stattel, Wesley Terrien, Leah Warner, Nora Warren, Duncan Wedge, McKenna Whitney, Leah Williams and Emily Zenteno Sanchez

Honorable Mention: Alex Andersson, Jeremiah Bougor, Randy Cameron, George Cammack, Talen Champion-Veilleux, Tanner English, Leif Hardt, Priscilla Husk, Addalynn Ketcham, Cameron Lussier, Holden McDowell, David Odell, Gage Payne, Adrian Rhodes, Mckenzie Richard, Vivian Sanz, Maddox Slater, Logan Sunhawk and Ava Whelan.

GRADE 10
High Honors: Lily Allen, Ida Blackwell, Cora Bliven, Julia Connolly, Leah Duguay, Caitlin Gillett, Lila Hescocock, Alice Livesay, Henry McDonnell, Isabel Quinn, Jason Sperry, Isla Weaver, Adelen Young and Graeham Zieger.

Honors: Taylor Altemose, Violet Anderson, Abigail Andres, Gaby Araujo, Max Ayer, Toby Baker-

Rouse, Ryan Brouillard, Taryn Burns, Norah Burrell, Sedona Carrara, Ezra Choudhury, Nate Cook Yoder, Caden Cousino, Morgan Cram, Hayden Dunakin, Annan Duquette-Hoffman, Allen Durkee Cram, Truth Fetterolf, Charlotte Gates, Miles Gemignani, Noah Gillespie, Conner Gordon, Kayla Haugan, James Hellyer, Jack Hoyler, Thea Jackson, Nataly Johnson, Jase Kozak and Kate Kozak.

Also Timothy Laframboise, Try MacTavish, Rowdy Malcolm, Sawyer Malzac, Raphael Mitchell, Julia Morrissey, Maggie Morter, Colton Murray, Sophia Nicolai, Sabastian ORourke, Ellington Patterson, Gabriel Quesnel, Ruby Reed, Charlie Reiderer, Isaiah Robinson, Heaven Ross, Jordyn Rushton, Ana Sansone, Evelyn Schoelzel, Wylie St Clair, Greta Suter, Logan Taylor, Nason Watson, Alexis Whipple, Odin Wilhelm, Sophia Wright, Tucker Wright and Charles Young.

Honorable Mention: Emilia Bullock, Parker Carl, Colin Chicoine, Joshua Ekroos, Landon Hunt, Adeline Hyjek, Brady Lloyd, Adalaide Markowski, Reaney McKinley, Benjamin Nop, Ariberto Santiago, Samuel Sherman, Connor Swan and Chloe Thow.

GRADE 11
High Honors: Esra Anzali, Kirin Biancosino, Solstice Binder, Gunnar Boe, Maya Breckenridge, Kenyon Connors, Quinn Doria, Theodore Fallis, Navah Glikman, Maxwell Goodfellow, Kaden Hammond, Grace Ritter and Anna Wolosinski.

Honors: Alexander Almeida-Perez, Mattisen Austin, Alyza Bagley, Hex Bingham, Linc Bonner, Cara Bougor, Katelyn Busby, Owen Butterfield, Lia Calzini, Cooper Cannon, Lyle Carey, Ariel Caron, Nick Carpenter, Spencer Coland, Levi DAVignon, Kisung Davis, Ben DeBisschop, Jonathan Deering, Oscar Drake, Logan Edmonds-Beattie, McKenzie Forbes, Brianna Foss, Austin Gero, Claude Godard, Finch Goetz, Berkeley Graham-Gurland, Gabriel Hamel, Ireland Hanley, Mary Harrington, Avery Hohenschau, Emily Johnson, Jonathan Kafumbe, Olivia Kearley, Jonathan Kehoe, Lola Kimball and Rainie Kuebler Raymond.

Also John Lafountain, Alyssa LaRose, Kendall Leno, Oprea Littlefield, Benjamin Longman, Quinn Mackey, Kendra Mahler, Adrien Malhotra, Theodore Manning-Lonczak, Callan McDowell, Sole Pareja, Rearden Riney, Sutton Rubright, Madison Selleck, Maren Shubert, Nathan Stefani, Laila Sunderland, Makyliah Tellier, Molly Thalen,

Julian Vukoder, Cody Warner, Alyssa Warren, Alixis Williams and Sawyer Witscher.

Honorable Mention: Wesley Audet, Candace Bloom, Skyler Choiniere, Peter Conklin, Noah Drake, Marshall Eddy, Josie Gaiotti, Ivy Gates, Mason Harrington, Ripken Johnson, Steven Lackard, Madelyn LaDuke, Logan McNulty, Milla Raley, Kameron Raymond, Emery Richards-Lindeke, Mercedes Sheldrick, Matthew Whelan and Jordan Wood.

GRADE 12
High Honors: Eva Andrews, Sarah Benz, Keil Broderson, Avery Carl, Addison Dunakin, Indy Fetterolf, Lucas Flinner, Natalie Gillett, Ruby Harrison-Irwin, Helen Hooper, Sara Kent, Sophia Lawton, Aislynnne McGill, Elizabeth McIntosh, Baker Nelson, Haakon Olsen, Margaret Orten, Lucy Poduschnick, Gabriel Schmitt, Ethan Spritzer, Penelope Stein, Ada Weaver, Avigail Wheeler and Erin Whipple.

Honors: Riley Amerio, Kylie Bean, Kayleigh Beane, Matthew Berg, Merisa Bergeron, Joseph Bergevin, Michael Betourney, Angus Blackwell, Jessie Bodette, Chase Boudreau, Callan Boulanger, Elsa Burrows, Aaron Carr-Perlow, Clara Chant, Grace Charbonneau, Michaela Charbonneau, Keenan Chicoine, Peter Chiles, Oliver Choudhury, Quinn Collins, Lila Cook Yoder, Jordan Couture, Joey Cross, Lily Dame, India Danyow, Greyson Dennison, George Devlin, Jillian Dragon, Piper Farnsworth, Monse Garcia Ramirez, Austin Gendron and Christopher Gile.

Also Avery Hamilton, Anika Heppell, Meredith Horne, Juliette Hunsdorfer, Jazmyn Hurley, Joshua Kafumbe, Subia Khan, Georgie Kiel, Margaret Klingensmith, Dylan Kolesnik, Ella Kozak, Vance Larocque, William Maheu, Emma Morrissey, Elijah Munson, Marguerite Noble, Luke Nuceder, Meela Pollard, Cooper Quinn, Silas Quinn, Mckenna Raymond, Theseus Roark, Addison Schnoor, Pelagia Slater, Logan Smith, Jacques Snell, Alex Sperry, Leila Stillman-Utterback, Grace Thomas, Mackenzie Thompson, Jackson Trump, Camden Whitlock, Alexis Whitney, Holly Whitney, Ronan Young, Alexxis Zeno and Nachuan Zhang.

Honorable Mention: Alina Arias, Beck Besser-Jones, Thomas Bishop, Cassidy Brown, Xavier Fuentes-George, Ruby Hubbell, Dominic Jones, Gavin Jones, Landon Kean, Tassilo Luksch, Thomas McGarry, Jelde Meyer, Tucker Morter, Jackson Murray, Ian Sinclair and Kyle Stearns.



MEMBERS OF EASTVIEW'S Facilities team roll a Lotus racecar into the lobby under the watchful eye of its owner, EastView resident Peter Beckett.

Racecar featured at EastView art show

MIDDLEBURY — It is rare to walk into the lobby of a retirement community and be greeted by a racecar. But that is exactly what you will find if you head to EastView over the next few weeks.

EastView's current art show, "On the Move" features a Lotus 7 Series 1 racecar. The show was the brainchild of EastView resident Peter Beckett, who is a member of the Resident Art Committee and owner of the car.

Hand built in England in 1957 by Colin Chapman, the car was successfully raced in Canada for 25 years. Visitors are encouraged to stop by EastView to view the show, which is expected to run until mid-August.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The library is offering technology help on Monday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 10:30. to 11:30 a.m. Paul Webb will be available to troubleshoot issues or help answer any questions you may have about your phones, tablets and computers.

FROM LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT

One of the key responsibilities of the Lincoln School Board is to establish and continuously review district policies. The board uses model policies provided by the Vermont School Boards Association to guide its development of policies. This process involves careful examination and discussion during public meetings. The superintendent is then responsible for creating procedures for each policy that requires them. You can find all adopted district policies, as well as those currently under review, on the district's website at [lincolnsd.org](#).

We welcome your questions and feedback! If you have any questions or comments regarding policies or procedures, please reach out to Superintendent Amy Cole (acole@lincolnsd.org), Board Chair Jeanne Albert (jalbert@lincolnsd.org) or any of the board members.

FROM TOWN MEETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Lincoln Town Meeting Advisory Committee has been meeting weekly since mid May. The following information was shared with the Lincoln Selectboard on July 15. We have convened a range of Lincoln residents to serve on the committee and narrowed our focus to Town business only.

We have educated ourselves and each other on approaches to Town Meeting that other Vermont communities have explored and/or implemented. We have also spoken with Mark Houle from the Secretary of State's office on legal requirements for Town Meetings, explored surveys with Michael Moser an associate of UVM's

Center for Rural Development, and deliberated and discussed several approaches to improving opportunities for Lincoln voters to participate in Town Meeting decisions.

As a result of our collective work, we now are preparing a proposal to recommend to the selectboard. With details to come, a framework is developing which includes public outreach/awareness during September followed in November by the selectboard calling a Special Town Meeting (possibly a Saturday morning), to vote on a Hybrid Town Meeting to commence March 2026.

The committee welcomes all to our meetings each Monday at 7 p.m. at the town offices and on zoom. Agendas and minutes can be found at [lincolnvermont.org/tmacommittee](#).

Until next time ... You Can't Go Back And Change The Beginning, But You Can Start Where You Are And Change The Ending.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Max Ettinghausen of Panton graduated with a degree in Economics (BA) from Tufts University during its ceremony commemorating the accomplishments of the Class of 2025.

Sawyer Garthaffner a rising senior at Vergennes Union High School will represent Vermont at the 79th session of American Legion Boys Nation, July 18-25, at Marymount University, in Arlington, Va.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

2025 Addy Indy Garden Game

Did you hear the joke about the peach?

It's pit-iful!

Oh man. No more jokes please...

I sure hope we get some new Garden Game entries to fill up this space soon!

Play the Garden Game!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the listed categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we'll measure it and snap a photo. Each week, we'll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

SPONSORED BY MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

Asparagus (length x circumference) - Pat Martin, 36" x 2.25"

Beet (circumference)

Broccoli (diameter)

Cabbage (circumference)

Cantaloupe (circumference)

Carrot (length x circumference)

Cauliflower (diameter)

Corn (length x circumference)

Cucumber (length x circumference)

Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 16.25" x 8"

Eggplant (circumference x circumference)

Fennel (length x circumference)

Green Bean (length)

Kohlrabi (circumference)

Leek (length x circumference)

Melon (circumference)

Onion (circumference)

Parsnip (circumference)

Pepper (circumference x circumference)

Potato (length x circumference)

Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)

Radish (circumference) - Bob Poirier, 7"

Rhubarb (length)

Rutabaga (circumference)

Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Elsie Lynn Parini, 5.5" x 14"

Sunflower (diameter)

Tomato (circumference)

Turnip (circumference)

Winter Squash (length x circumference)

Zucchini (length x circumference)

*PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.

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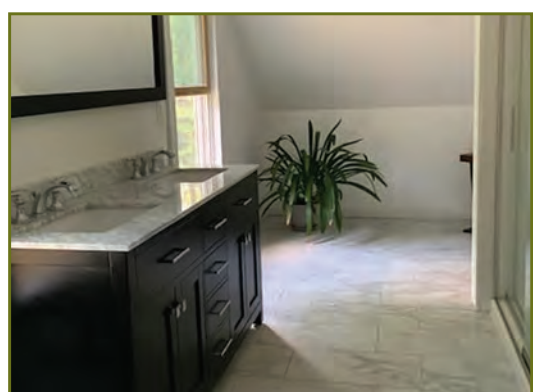
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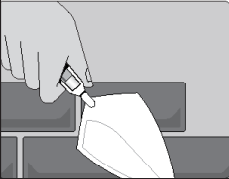
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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennes-freethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Help Wanted

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Help Wanted

Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, 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.

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1980'S TIME CAPSULE You are invited to open a time capsule of stories from the early 1980s. Free to all at www.ne-farmer.com

Help Wanted

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Garage Sales

ANNUAL SALE IN THE BARN, 613 West St., Cornwall, July 26th, 8am-1pm. Rain or shine. Artwork, folk art, decorative items, Bennington Pottery dinner plates and other china, handmade pottery, kitchenware, small appliances, Kenmore canister vacuum, Sawzall, belt sander and other tools, John Deere mower deck and blades, garden items and LOTS MORE! No clothing or children's items.

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

OFFICE ASSISTANT FSA is looking for temporary office assistance to help deliver "The American Relief Act of 2025," which was signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024 and provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture with more than \$30 billion to deliver disaster recovery assistance for farmers and livestock producers. This position will help support the implementation

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program which will provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses due to weather-related events in 2023 and 2024. Resumes can be submitted by email to gabriela.gasparakis@usda.gov.

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Help Wanted



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Join the Parent/Child Center Team

CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

Strong candidates must have knowledge of **child development, family systems**, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Salary range \$50,200 to \$59,500 depending on degree.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org



Energy Navigator Community Organizer

The nonprofit Climate Economy Action Center seeks a passionate **Community Organizer & Outreach Coordinator** to help build a movement for home energy action across Addison County, VT and surrounding regions. This is a full-time position for someone who thrives in local communities and online — listening, building trust, identifying natural leaders, and turning interest into sustained action.

You'll represent the growing Energy Navigators community-based energy coaching program (<https://www.energynavigators.org/>), and your job is to connect with local champions and support them in spreading the word and helping neighbors access free, personalized energy guidance. This position blends grassroots organizing, strategic outreach, and creative communication. Additional duties include some administration work and conducting one-on-one Energy Navigations with residents when needed.

Immediate opening.
Please submit applications by email to jobs@energynavigators.org.

Applications should include a cover letter, resume, three references, and several work samples.

More details are available at: <https://www.ceacac.org/community-organizer>.

Preschool Teacher Associate

Interested in making a difference in the lives of young children and their families?

Head Start has an opening for a Preschool Teacher Associate serving Addison County Early Learning Center starting in August 2025! Head Start is a federally funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families.

As a Head Start Preschool Teacher Associate, you will work in an outcomes-oriented, team environment, and assist the classroom team in planning and implementing a developmentally appropriate environment and experiences for preschool children. Motivated Head Start educators improve the trajectory of children's lives, including children's learning outcomes, living standards, and later academic and professional success. If you want to make a difference in the lives of young children and their families, consider joining the Head Start community

This is full time 40 hours/week position with summer layoff.
Pay range: \$22.08-\$24.07/hour, depending on qualifications.
Health plan and excellent benefits.

Interested in working with us?

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume with your application to <https://www.cvoeo.org/careers>. CVOEO is interested in candidates who can contribute to our organizational and community inclusion. Applicants are encouraged to include information about how they will further the goal of inclusion at the organizational and community level. Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until suitable applicants are found.

We're one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont!
Join us to find out why!



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In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

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

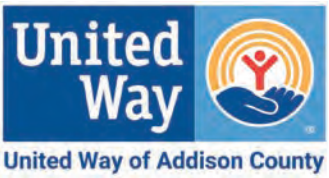


Food Shelf Volunteers

Volunteer with Have-A-Heart Food Shelf in Bristol!

Volunteers will help with restocking shelves, picking up orders and donations, organizing distribution days, and more.

Contact haveaheartvt@gmail.com or call Allison at 802-233-3561 to learn more.



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
• 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

☐ Notices	☐ Work Wanted	☐ Att. Farmers
☐ Card of Thanks	☐ Help Wanted	☐ Motorcycles
☐ Personals	☐ For Sale	☐ Cars
☐ Services	☐ Public Meetings**	☐ Trucks
☐ Free**	☐ For Rent	☐ SUVs
☐ Lost 'N Found**	☐ Want to Rent	☐ Snowmobiles
☐ Garage Sales	☐ Wood Heat	☐ Boats
☐ Lawn & Garden	☐ Real Estate	☐ Wanted
☐ Opportunities	☐ Animals	☐ Real Estate Wanted
☐ Adoption		☐ Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: \$ _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: \$ _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

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

2005 HONDA GOLDWING
Trike for sale. 65k miles, Excellent condition. \$9,500. Call Jennifer, 802-236-6947

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

ENCORE WOOD STOVE
porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

WASHER DRYER Whirlpool Heavy Duty Washer, old but works good. \$50. LG Dryer (Sensory Dry, Energy Star, Smart Thinq). Only used for 2 years at most. \$300. Monkton. Email jennemorton@gmail.com or call 802-877-3742.

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAM-PLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999, weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft – Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury – 802-558-6092

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.

LAKE DUNMORE HOME
Private/Modern 1.5 BR house, Lake Dunmore waterfront, garage parking, 12 miles to Middlebury College/Porter. \$1700/month, short term lease (2 months minimum). \$1,500/month for year lease. No pets. No Smoking. Utilities included. Sleeps 4. Contact at aaron@balleriq.com

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

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.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS Is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www. SummitPMG.com.

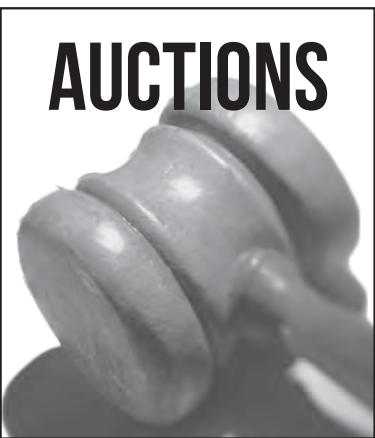
Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.



MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY				
COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 7/17/25 & 7/21/25				
COST				
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Nop Bros	2305	1.72	\$3964.60	
Deer Valley	1890	1.65	\$2984.00	
P. Livingston	1775	1.65	\$2928.75	
Goslign	1685	1.60	\$2696.00	
Westminster	1450	1.52	\$2204.00	
Vorstveld	1750	1.50	\$2625.00	
COST				
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
A. Brisson	89	14.00	\$1246.00	
Barnes Bros	82	14.00	\$1148.00	
Wilcon Farm	82	13.00	\$1066.00	
Vorstveld	77	13.00	\$1001.00	
Sunderland	89	12.00	\$1068.00	
Total Beef - 134		Total Calves - 173		
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.				
call 1-802-388-2661				

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
CASE NO.: 25-PR-04349
IN RE ESTATE OF: MICHAEL CONNOR
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Michael Connor, late of Shoreham, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim **must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 07/17/25

Tabitha Gillim
% Kathleen M. Boe, Esq.
Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
64 Court St., Middlebury, VT 05753
kboe@64court.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Dates: 07/24/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

AN EVENT?

Email it to:
news@addisonindependent.com

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
Addison Unit

CIVIL DIVISION
DOCKET NO: 22-CV-00857

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2020-RP2
PLAINTIFF

VS.

VICTOR R. GITTENS AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 128 MAPLE RUN RD, LEICESTER, VT 05733

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered on August 12, 2024, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Victor R. Gittens and Joan A. Cameron O'Neil to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First National Bank of Arizona, dated April 8, 2005, and recorded in Book 60, at Page 437 and re-recorded in Book 91, at Page 361, of the Town of Leicester Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First National Bank of Arizona to Aurora Loan Services LLC recorded in Book 64, at Page 58, (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Aurora Loan Services LLC to Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2 recorded in Book 85, at Page 320 and (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2 to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2 recorded in Book 86, at Page 404, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **August 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM at 128 Maple Run Rd, Leicester, VT 05733** all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Joan A. Cameron O'Neil and Victor R. Gittens by Warranty Deed of Joan A. Cameron O'Neil dated December 6, 2002 and recorded December 19, 2002 in Book 56, at Page 557 of the Town of Leicester Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2

Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

Local cited for domestic assault

Middlebury Police Log

on the Green events on July 15.

- Found an abandoned homeless camp on town property off Buttolph Drive on July 15.
- Connected with some campers in the Bakery Lane area on July 16 and reminded them of the town's encampment ordinance that restricts camping on municipal property.
- Helped a person whose vehicle had broken down on Court Street on July 16.
- Responded to a dog complaint on Valley View Drive on July 16.
- Conducted foot patrols downtown on July 16, 19 and 21.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with a welfare check on a person in Terrace Heights in Weybridge on July 17.
- Helped Bristol police serve a no-trespass order on a person on Route 7 on July 17.
- Responded to a report of people allegedly drinking alcohol in the Hannaford supermarket parking lot on July 17.
- Helped a driver whose car had been hit by a falling tree on East Main Street on July 17.
- Sorted out a dispute between a couple of people in an Exchange Street building on July 17.
- Conducted welfare checks at a Halladay Road residence and at a Court Street business on July 17.
- Investigated a report of a homeless encampment on a Creek Road property on July 17.
- Responded to a complaint about an intoxicated man in the Jayne Court area on July 18.
- Responded to a dispute between

some Danyow Drive neighbors on July 18.

- Were informed on July 18 of a theft from Hannaford supermarket.
- Were informed of the theft of a bike from the Creek Road area on July 18.
- On July 18, herded loose cattle back into the pasture from which they had escaped in the Quarry Road/Rolling Acres area.
- Investigated a report of a suspected drunken driver on Court Street during the evening of July 19. Police said the driver wasn't under the influence.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity on Lower Plains Road on July 19.
- Responded to a car-versus-motorcycle crash at the intersection of Court and Monroe streets on July 19. Police reported no injuries.
- On July 19, spoke with a local man who said he felt threatened by his boss because he had yelled at him.
- Investigated a trespassing complaint at Shaw's Supermarket on July 19.
- Responded to a report of a suspicious man in the Gardiner Close area on July 19.
- Responded — along with Middlebury Regional EMS, Middlebury Heavy Rescue and the Middlebury Fire Department — to a single vehicle crash in the VFW parking lot off Exchange Street on July 20. Police said the driver was taken to UVM Medical Center for treatment.
- Assisted Vermont State Police at the scene of a vehicle crash off Crown Point Road in Bridport on July 20. Police said the driver suffered serious injuries.
- Responded to a report of an unruly patient at Porter Hospital on July 20.

Police investigate home improvement fraud case

VERGENNES — Vergennes police are looking into what they are calling a home improvement fraud case in which a city homeowner said \$7,200 is at stake.

Police said the Main Street resident alleged to police on July 16 that he paid an individual that much up front a year ago to install a “mini split air system,” but the work has not been done. Police described an investigation into the case as ongoing.

Between July 14 and 20, city police also conducted nine patrols by cruiser and two on foot, four VIN inspections and three traffic stops; processed 19 requests for fingerprints; responded to one 911 hangup call and one false alarm; and:

On July 14 were told by one driver that a vehicle being driven into Vergennes on Pantton Road swerved across the center line and forced the caller to drive off the road. Police said they are following up with both parties.

On July 15 found an unlocked door at Town & Country Self Storage on Pantton Road, but determined there was no problem.

On July 16:

- Took a report of a potential burglary at the city pool. Police found the door was left unlocked by an employee, but that nothing had been stolen.
- Honored a request for a report for insurance purposes of an earlier car accident on Main Street.

On July 17 Provided mental

health services to a Hillside Drive resident after receiving multiple phone calls from the resident indicating a mental health crisis.

On July 19:

- Went to Comfort Hill to help Vergennes Area Rescue Squad personnel with a man undergoing a mental health crisis. Officers spoke to the man, who agreed to be taken to Porter Hospital for an evaluation.

- Interacted twice with a man from Waltham experiencing a mental health crisis who was reported to be walking to Vergennes. There was no reported threat to the individual or public, and officers stood by in the area to prevent him from becoming agitated further. Police were later notified by VARS that he became aggressive with his parents at their home in Vergennes. Officers responded and helped calm him, and he agreed to go with VARS to Porter Hospital

On July 2 were told by a Vergennes resident about a noise disturbance earlier that morning involving two people arguing outside. Officers were told that one of the two people was probably intoxicated and drove away. Officers are actively investigating the incident.

TOWN OF SALISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a Public Hearing in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, to consider the following:

Application 2025-05

An application from Property Owner, Max Stiles/Applicant, Black Diamond Builders, (Parcel ID #1353097-A-1), for a Conditional Use Review, in connection with a proposed permit to raze a 900 sq. ft residential structure and reconstruct/replace it with a 3,800 sq. ft. residential structure, located at 65 Mountain Road, in Lake Shore District 2, (LS2), in which the proposed reconstruction requires review under 3.4.2 of the Unified Zoning Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.4.2, §3.4.6, 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 August 19, 2025. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours and on the Town Website at townofsalisbury.org.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 9B and 10B.**

Addison Northwest School District (1)

Cornwall (1)

Leicester (1)

Middlebury (1)

Monkton (1)

Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center (1)

Salisbury (1)

TOWN OF CORNWALL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Cornwall seeks proposals from qualified firms or individuals to provide general accounting, financial consulting and advisory services. These services will support the Town's Treasurer and Selectboard in managing municipal finances in compliance with Vermont statutes, municipal policies, and best practices.

Proposals must be submitted by end of day 08/01/25. Late submissions will not be considered.

Submit Proposals To:

Tanya Byker
Town of Cornwall
2629 RT 30 Cornwall, VT 05753
Email: TBykercornwal@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in providing financial services to the Town of Cornwall. We look forward to your proposal.

TOWN OF MONKTON NOTICE OF HEARING

On Discontinuation of Morse Road TH13

The Selectboard of the Town of Monkton hereby gives notice to the persons named below as owners or persons interested in lands and rights that may be affected by a decision of said Selectboard, regarding discontinuation of Morse Road TH 13. The board and any member of the public will meet at 100 Rosco Road at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, for a site inspection of the highway to be discontinued, and then meet at the Monkton Town Hall at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, to conduct a hearing on the question of discontinuation of Morse Road TH13. An informational meeting will be held 15 minutes prior to the hearing. The informational meeting and the hearing will be available via Zoom with the following connection information:

Zoom Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 Passcode: 1762

Attend by Phone: 646 558 8656

As required by law, notice of this site inspection and hearing is being provided by certified mail to each of persons owning or interested in lands through which the highways pass, listed below, as well as the municipal Planning Commission. A copy is to be posted in the office of the Town Clerk, and published in the Addison Independent, a local newspaper of general circulation in the area, not less than 10 days before the time set for the hearing. Pertinent information relating to the proposed highway is available for public inspection and copying in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Monkton during business hours. An Agency of Transportation map showing the roads is also available for review and copying at the Town Office. The following persons have been notified of the public hearing:

Barton & Susan Merle-Smith
Luanne Rotax
Patrick J Aken & Alana P. Oren
Nature Conservancy
Wendy Sue Harper (Planning Commission)
Marilyn Cargill (Planning Commission)
Signature of Selectboard member giving notice:
/s/ Jessica Demeritt, Chair, Monkton Selectboard



Wired for sound

MIDDLEBURY NATIVE JER Coons and the band Madaila give a powerful performance during the Friday, July 18, session of the Festival on the Green in downtown Middlebury. Crowds filled the tent next to St. Stephen’s Church and much of the surrounding town green.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Man pleads innocent to assault

ADDISON COUNTY — After a Vermont State Police investigation, a Panton farmworker on Friday, July 18, pleaded innocent to felony and misdemeanor assault charges arising from a stabbing at a Panton farm the evening of July 17.

Jose Armando Lopez Moreno, 22, of Panton made the plea to charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a felony, and simple assault, a misdemeanor, when he was arraigned in Vermont Superior Court, Addison Criminal Division. Judge Robert Katims ordered Lopez Moreno held on \$5,000 bail in addition to setting conditions of release that restrict his access to deadly weapons, any contact with the victim, and prohibited him from returning to

Vt. State Police Log

the residence. Troopers got a report that one farmworker had stabbed another at a farm at 4312 Jersey St. in Panton around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 17. Police said a Marcos Diaz Lopez, 23, of Panton sustained “serious but non-life-threatening injuries” after a fellow farmworker, Lopez Moreno, allegedly stabbed and slashed him with a broken bottle. Police said the stabbing victim was flown to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington for

treatment. Authorities at the scene found another person believed to have been involved in the incident who reported a head injury. That person was taken to UVMMC for evaluation, according to state police. Members of VSP’s Bureau of Criminal Investigations, Field Force Division and Victim Services Unit are investigating. All parties connected to this incident are believed to be accounted for, and there’s no known threat to the public. Detectives ask anyone with information about this incident to call the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919 or leave an anonymous tip online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit.

State police working out of the New Haven barracks last week also dealt with a car crash in Monkton on July 19. Troopers were called to the one-car crash on Bristol Road south of Monkton Road shortly after 2 p.m. on Saturday. Police report that Joanne Harrington, 65, of Charlotte was driving a 2007 Kia Rio southbound when she fell asleep, her car left the road and it struck a tree head-on. No injuries were reported. Police issued Harrington a ticket for bad driving, which carries a fine of \$220 and two points on her license. Separately, state police on July 15 at a quarter to 7 p.m. cited Alyssa Hutchins, 25, of Leicester for driving with a criminally suspended license.

New VSP commander sought

By JOHN FLOWERS

NEW HAVEN — Vermont State Police (VSP) are in the market for a new commander for their New Haven barracks, in wake of the recent retirement of Lt. Tom Mozzer.

It was around two months ago that Mozzer retired from the VSP after almost 26 years of service. Sgt. Neil Carey filled the leadership breach until recently, when Sgt. Brittani Barone was named acting station commander. The New Haven barracks is home base to VSP personnel serving Addison County.

Sgt. Barone joined VSP in January 2012 and began her career as a trooper assigned to the Williston Barracks, where she worked for nine years. She transferred to New Haven in May 2021 and was formally promoted to sergeant/patrol commander a year later.

Sgt. Carey has been with VSP since January 2014. His first assignment was as a trooper at the Williston Barracks. In 2016, he transferred to the Narcotics Investigation Unit, where he served until 2020. That year he worked stints as a trooper at the St. Albans, Middlesex and New Haven barracks. He was promoted to sergeant/patrol commander in



SGT. BRITTANI BARONE

June of 2021.

Adam Silverman, public information officer for the VSP, said the process for selecting a full-time replacement for Lt. Mozzer is underway. Silverman said he expects a replacement to happen “sooner rather than later.”

The *Independent* in July of 2023 reported on Mozzer’s appointment as New Haven barracks commander.

Mozzer grew up in Connecticut and joined the VSP after having spent seven years in the U.S. Army — a couple of them with the 101st Airborne.

Upon completing his VSP training in 2000, Mozzer was assigned to the state police’s Rutland barracks. He was promoted to sergeant/patrol commander of those same barracks in March of 2008. In 2014, he became a detective sergeant with the Narcotics Investigation Unit, still based in Rutland. Mozzer was promoted to lieutenant in 2017, when was given the reins of the Shaftsbury barracks. In October of 2021, Mozzer transferred to director of recruiting and training at the VSP’s Office of Professional Development, before returning to the field force in June 2023, as leader of the New Haven barracks.

In addition to being down a permanent commander, the New Haven barracks has no K-9 team right now. Silverman said there are currently no K-9s in basic certification school.

“Troopers will continue to rely on assistance from local departments (that have police dogs) to ensure there are no gaps in service when K-9 needs arise,” Silverman said.

Middlebury Police K-9 Guinness and his handler, Officer Aidan Alnwick, have provided numerous assists to VSP in recent months. Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Sheriff’s Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Officers in the Addison County Sheriff’s Department on July 17 arrested Shawn Sartelle, 39, of Bolton for driving in Cornwall with a suspended license.

Between July 14 and 19, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 67 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted six people for background checks. Between July 16 and 21, sheriff’s deputies (under contract) provided special patrols in Goshen to deal with speeding complaints.

During that period, deputies provided transport of prisoners on behalf of the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Department on July 15

and 18, and on behalf of the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department on July 16.

In other recent activity, Sheriff Michael Elmore and his deputies also:

- On July 14 completed a background investigation.
- On July 14 assisted Vermont State Police and the Vergennes Fire Department with a motor vehicle crash on Route 17 in Waltham. The road was closed for several hours while the driver was extracted from the vehicle and power lines were cleaned out of the roadway.
- On July 15 completed a VIN verification for a Monkton resident.
- On July 15 assisted state police with a motorcycle crash on

Monkton Road in Monkton.

- On July 16 inspected installation of a new car seat for a family in Middlebury.
- On July 17 assisted a landlord with an eviction in Bristol.
- On July 17 completed a VIN verification for a New Haven resident.
- On July 17 assisted state police with a call on Shackett Road in Leicester.
- On July 17 checked the welfare of a resident of Fern Lake Road in Leicester.
- On July 19 set up a table to meet people who came to the street dance on the last night of the Festival on the Green in Middlebury.

Police ask that disabled vehicle be towed

BRISTOL — Bristol police responded to a couple of incidents involving vehicles over the past week.

On July 15 police responded to a call on Basin Street reporting a suspicious vehicle that was disabled. Police said the owner was instructed to have the vehicle towed.

The next day, police assisted someone on South Street with a motor vehicle complaint. Police found there was no damage to the vehicle.

Between July 13 and 19 Bristol police completed six foot patrols, conducted eight traffic stops and checked security six times each

Bristol Police Log

at Mount Abraham Union High School, Bristol Elementary School and at local businesses.

Police also processed five fingerprint requests and conducted one welfare check.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On July 14 Bristol’s community resource specialist received a delayed report of a car crash.
- On July 14 removed a traffic hazard from the roadway on 116

north of the village.

- On July 15 received a late report of a crash.
- On July 16 responded to a report of a theft on Main Street. An investigation is ongoing.
- On July 17 served court paperwork on someone on Morgan Horse Lane.
- On July 17 Bristol’s community resource specialist reached out to a resident for a regular check-in.
- On July 17 helped with trespass notices for a Basin Street property.
- On July 18 assisted the Bristol Rescue Squad with a medical call.
- On July 19 assisted Vermont State Police on Bristol Road.

Embroiderer, history buff to speak in Addison Aug. 2

ADDISON — The DAR John Strong Mansion/Museum in Addison will host a talk by Ellen Thompson Saturday, Aug. 2, at 1 p.m. Thompson’s presentation, “Education, values, creativity: Samplers of Post-revolutionary War Vermont,” will focus on how these important historical “documents” help to inform us about our past.

Thompson is the manager of the Vermont Sampler Initiative, a project to identify American schoolgirl samplers made before 1900. For a number of years now, there has been a nationwide hunt for made-in-America samplers — needlework made by American school girls.

Thomspon is a long-time embroiderer and history buff, and the Sampler Initiative has allowed her to enjoy both. She is a member of the Green Mountain Chapter of the Embroiderer’s Guild of America.

The program is free and open to the public. If you can, bring your own chair.

In addition, tours of the John Strong Mansion/Museum will be free that day. Tours are offered between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For inquiries email DARJohnStrongMansion@gmail.com. The John Strong Mansion/Museum is located at 6656 VT-17, Addison, VT 05491

Find Us On:



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Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 9B and 10B.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing(s) at the Middlebury Municipal Offices, Large Conference Room, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT on Monday, August 11th, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following application(s). The hearing will be available to participants via a Zoom video link. The Zoom link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town’s website.

1. Application (file #2025-008:107.000-SD) is a request by Foster Brothers Farm Inc. for a final plan approval for a proposed 2-lot subdivision of their 869.5-acre parcel located at 53 Lower Foote Street and identified as parcel number #008107.000 in the Agricultural Rural zoning district.

The applications will be heard in the order listed. Plans and additional information may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100, Ext 226. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal as an “interested person(s)”. Interested persons wishing to participate in this hearing may do so by contacting J.R. Christ at 388-8100, Ext 226 or email to jrchrist@townofmiddlebury.org.

J.R. Christ
DRB Coordinator, AZA

ADDISON NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 763.93 {g} {4}) requires that written notification be given that the following schools have Asbestos Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in their buildings. The Asbestos Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative office of the school as well as the Superintendent’s office.

Vergennes Union Middle & High School	50 Monkton Rd., Vergennes, VT 877-2938
Vergennes Union Elem. School	43 East St., Vergennes, VT 877-3761
Ferrisburgh Central School	56 Little Chicago Rd., Ferrisburgh, VT 877-3463
Addison Northwest SD	11 Main St., Ste. B100, Vergennes, VT 877-3332

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following applications:

(15-25 DRB), Application 15-25 DRB of Kelly & Ben Small, 231 Winding Way, Leicester, VT 05733, Parcel #202010 for a Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback for the construction and installation of an 8’ x 4’ storage shed adjacent to the north property line.

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
July 21, 2025

TOWN OF SHOREHAM NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of lands in the Town of Shoreham, in the County of Addison, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that taxes assessed by such town for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such town, to wit:

Sharon Bortell: Delinquent 2022, 2023 and 2024 Property Taxes

Being 2.25 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 263 Doolittle Road, Shoreham, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Sharon Bortell in a Final Decree of Distribution in the Estate of Pauline G. Warner dated April 8, 2019, and recorded in Book 89 at Page 77 of the Shoreham Land Records. (Parcel I.D. #02-01-05.002).

Matthew and Jessica Friend: Delinquent 2023 and 2024 Wastewater

Being .57 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all other improvements thereon, located at 107 Firehouse Road, Shoreham, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Matthew M. Friend and Jessica Friend in a Warranty Deed from Hannah K. Zeno dated August 20, 2021, and recorded in Book 94 at Page 53 of the Shoreham Land Records. (Parcel I.D. #09-01-64.000).

And so much of such lands will be sold at public auction at the Shoreham Town Clerk’s office, a public place in such Town on the 4th day of September, 2025 at 9:00 o’clock a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Shoreham do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the title to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable forms of bid payment at the day of tax sale are is bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted.

Dated at Shoreham, Vermont this 15th day of July, 2025.
Carol Murphy,
Town of Shoreham Delinquent Tax Collector

PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD CAREER CENTER NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center is seeking sealed proposals for:

- Two (2) 12–14 Passenger School Buses
- Type II School Bus – Vermont Compliant
- Delivery by September 5, 2025

Bid documents available upon request.

Submission Deadline: August 1, 2025 at 12:00 PM

Contact: David Roberts,
Director of Operations
Email: droberts@pahcc.org
Phone: 802-382-1012

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 24, 2025



The 10th annual Foodaroo will come to River Front Park in Middlebury's Marble Works on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 4-8 p.m. Tons of delicious food, entertainment and a cupcake contest will round out the evening.

PHOTO / FEATHERWIND PHOTOGRAPHY

Middlebury's Foodaroo festival will celebrate 10 years at the Marble Works River Front Park in Middlebury on Sunday, Aug. 3, 4-8 p.m. Look for a world of cuisines, Zach Nugent's Dead Set, an adult beverage garden and street performers plus two King Arthur Flour baking competitions starring birthday cupcakes.

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

That's right — cupcakes.

If you're remembering pies, you're not wrong. For the past several years, the King Arthur Flour baking competition has featured pies, but this year it's cupcakes. Oh yeah!

"At Foodaroo 2018, we had a King Arthur Flour cupcake competition for kids," explained Lisa Mitchell, co-founder of Middlebury Underground (MUD) — the 501(c)(3) multidisciplinary arts and event production organization that has produced this foodie festival for the past decade. "It was hotly contested — with the biggest kids' engagement we'd ever seen."



Her Majesty's Secret Circus will perform at Foodaroo 10 on Sunday, Aug. 3.

COURTESY PHOTO

That year Greta Sutor won. Mitchell remembers it well...

"Greta had been planning her cupcake for weeks — even drawing dreamy diagrams mapping out flavors! When the King Arthur Flour judges announced Greta Sutor's Maple-Elvis Cupcake (aka Nutterfluffin') won first place, I heard one of the most euphoric screams, probably in all of Middlebury history. Simultaneously, Greta vaulted herself into the air. The audience members' grins cascaded around her. Greta's joy was gorgeous!"

So, Foodaroo 10 is bringing the kids' cupcake baking challenge back, and a few locals are very excited.

Oliver Kitchens, a 10-year-old from Weybridge, is planning to make a "mango passionfruit cake with guava buttercream."

"Tropical flavors are really popular right now," Kitchens said. "Passionfruit is everywhere."

Kitchens won first place in the baking competition (for kids) the past two years in a row.

"I spent a lot of time making food with my parents," Kitchens explained, crediting his dad, James, and mom, Shavonne, for teaching him how to bake. "I'm really excited for the baking competition this year! I'm looking forward to see what other people make."

Another contender in the kids' cupcake competition is Billie Isla Bowdish of Middlebury. Bowdish was the winner in 2022 (at 5 and a half) with a chocolate-pumpkin swirl pie.

This now 8- (almost 9) year-old says she

SEE FOODAROO ON PAGE 4



Lincoln residents Steve and Judith Harris took their annual trip south in their Airstream last winter. They stopped in St. Augustine, Fla., for the New Year. Pictured here is a prescribed burn in a protected forest they visited.

PHOTOS / STEVE & JUDITH HARRIS

F
BY STEVE
HARRIS

For the second year in a row, we decided to camp on St. Augustine Beach for the week of New Years. Our campground is a 50-year-old KOA that has gone from the edge of the urban experience to surrounded by the residential growth of this barrier island just-east of the Old City. St. Augustine, as it once was, is drowning in the attention of visitors and growing beyond all remnants of what it must have

once been. Imagine a charming and beautiful port city connected across innumerable channels by bridges and imbued with miles of waterfront, both oceanic and sheltered-the Venice of Florida.

Judith and I avoid the beaten path when possible and resist becoming obsessed with what we are missing. Sizing up St. Augustine, Florida's oldest settlement, is like approaching a disturbed ant hill and wishing to avoid getting bitten. My friend Don Stewart related his impressions of the place absorbed during his own visit years ago by describing everyone he met there being at least 100 years old. When I told him that the newest gated neighborhoods in the outskirts were full of fit looking 50-year-olds driving expensive rolling stock and mobbing the pickleball courts at 8:30 a.m., on New Year's Day, he responded



Coastal tribal housing in St. Augustine, Fla.

PHOTO / STEVE & JUDITH HARRIS

with a three-word e-mail, "Not my tribe."

That caused me to wonder who my tribe is, what they look like and where to find them. I believe I came across the last remnants of their previous territory in an old "beach-bum, working class" neighborhood clinging to a small strip of residential blocks wedged between a frightfully busy route A1A and the channel of sparkling waterfront of the Matanzas River outfall.

Almost at the foot of the Bridge of Lions and surrounding the leeward side of the prominent St. Augustine lighthouse, it is a settlement

devoid of the regimented and rule-dominated, gated "community" model of the last few generations. It is happily subsumed by the rampant vegetation native to these shores in modest houses of great charm and good repair. Here the residents persist, remaining immune to the pressures of exploding value and developers' lust. Built too close together without the dubious contributions of master planning and architectural excess, these cottages and bungalows (see the attached photos) whisper of relationships and values that have since fallen from fashion. It is impossible for me to not want to live here, feels as if my soul has come home.

What a person yearns for says a great deal about the nature of his character. I found that as a working person, my unmet desires were quite general. I was literally too busy to give the subject of my motivation the attention it deserved. Having survived the structured panic of my "career," I find my current yearning is far more specific. I recognize the desire, feel it less intensely and understand it better. There is nothing in the conventionally manicured lawns of the gated community that appeals to me. These houses speak of lives lived in appreciation of a beautifully unique place peopled by residents with similar outlooks and affection for their neighbors.

SEE TRAVEL ON PAGE 8

What's with all the tie dye?

If it seems you're seeing a bit more tie dye around town over the next couple of weeks, it's not your imagination.

Fans of the Grateful Dead can usually be spotted by the colorful clothing, even 30 years after band leader Jerry Garcia's passing in 1995, and they are especially visible in the first 10 days of August.

BY **TOM VAN SANT**



The period between Garcia's birthday, Aug. 1, and the day of his passing, Aug. 9, is colloquially known as The Days Between, after a haunting, late-period Grateful Dead ballad. Some "Deadheads" even refer to this period as their High Holy Days. Interpret that how you wish.

While two surviving members of the Dead, Bob Weir and Mickey Hart, will perform in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park with their band Dead and Company Aug. 1, 2 and 3, numerous Green Mountain State musicians will be celebrating, too.

Best-known among them is guitarist Zach Nugent. The Royalton native grew up immersed in Grateful Dead music and toured for three years with Garcia's organist Melvin Seals before taking his Burlington band, Dead Set, nationwide. Despite never having seen Garcia perform in person, Nugent channels his guitar sound and vocal style with uncanny accuracy and immense passion.

What's is the attraction? "It's the most relatable music of all time," Nugent said. "The melodies are so simple and so sweet, it's just addicting."

But why is Vermont such fertile ground for the proliferation of Dead music?

"I see a lot of similarities between Deadhead culture and Vermont," Nugent explained. "We have a lot of weirdos in Vermont and a lot of weirdos love the Dead, and we're all welcome here. There are lot of Dead bands in Vermont and the music belongs to all of us."

"It's our hippie spirit," concurs Lisa Mitchell, Executive and Artistic Director of Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, who booked Nugent and Dead Set to

SEE THE DEAD ON PAGE 4

**MNFF11
PREVIEW**

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THE DEAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

perform at the 10th annual Foodaroo festival in Middlebury's Marble Works, Aug. 3 (see story on page 1). "There is a real appetite for the Dead here, and we figured, if we couldn't be at Golden

Gate Park, why not do something here?"

Even Middlebury's own Clint Bierman, leader of the more dance/pop-flavored band The Grift, dips his toes into the grateful waters occasionally, performing as The Grift-ful Dead. "They're one of my biggest influences, and the catalog is so deep, it's a launchpad for improvisation. Playing them really gets me off."

Those who want to see what the fuss is about will have ample opportunity hear the music in early August, with at least 19 performances scheduled around Vermont. The full line up is listed online (addisonindependent.com); here are the local events:

Sunday, Aug. 3:

Zach Nugent's Dead Set: Foodaroo, Middlebury, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 7:

The Morning Dudes, American Flatbread, Middlebury, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 9:

Zach Nugent's Dead Set, Solarfest, Brandon, 9 p.m.

Tom Van Sant is a Lincoln resident, musician and ad salesperson at The Addison Independent.

FOODAROO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learned to bake by watching her mom (Nikki Bowdish) "bake cakes for her work."

(Nikki started her home-based bakery, Thistle and Honey Baking in 2019.)

Bowdish is planning to make a "raspberry citrus cupcake, with vanilla frosting," she said.

What makes her cupcake special?

"The colors!" Of course. "Raspberries are a fun red color," Bowdish said. Plus, she likes "making the batter, because cracking the eggs is so fun."

There will be three judges for this year's King Arthur Flour baking contests: Anne Haynie Collins, and local "celebrity judges," Claire Ayer and Megan James.

Head judge Collins, author of "Vintage Pies," has been at the judging table for all 10 years and will be looking for "something delicious," the Cornwall resident said. "It can be either traditional or novel. As judges, we consider appearance, but for me personally, the taste's the thing."

Collins has been baking (never professionally) for her family since she was nine or 10 — that totals about 60 years — and has a sourdough starter that's 35 years old. Experience? Check.

She and Mitchell connected on the Porter Auxiliary board when Foodaroo launched in 2015. Mitchell asked and Collins agreed to sit at the judges table.

Collins encourages all the bakers to "make what appeals to you, don't worry too much about rules. Baking is a craft; it, and the stories that accompany it, can be handed down in a family, as it was in mine."

Former State Senator Claire Ayer of Addison agrees; her priorities for baking are "always creativity and uniqueness," the Addison resident wrote. "Taste and texture of course, [too.]"

BEYOND CAKES

It's true, there is more to Foodaroo 10 than the dulce delectables!

Foodaroo 10 will feature all-time festival favorite food trucks and brick and mortar food and beverage businesses, as well as newcomers. In addition to the food, there will also be performances. In honor of the 60-year anniversary of the Grateful Dead, Foodaroo 10 will feature Zach Nugent's Dead Set (see story on page 3). This year's festival also welcomes the hilarious duo Her Majesty's Secret Circus, and the YOYO SHOW. Hip-Hop DJ sensation Serena Kim (who DJ'd the Yankees' third World Series victory party and co-owns the Swift House Inn) will kick off the festival. Foodaroo will close the festivities with fire dancing and the Green Mountain Samul Nori drummers.

The cover for Sunday's festivities is \$5 (cash). Kids 12 and under free. Food and beverages available for purchase. A portion of proceeds from Foodaroo 10 will be donated to The Giving Fridge, a community organization dedicated to offering free and subsidized farm-fresh meals purchased from local restaurants. For a full list of vendors and more info visit middunderground.org/foodaroo.



Friday, July 11
Middlebury Town Hall Theater,
Constance Holden Memorial Concert

Friday, July 25th:
Salisbury Congregational Church

Friday, August 8th: Salisbury Congregational Church
Thursday, August 21st: Salisbury Congregational Church
Sat., August 30th: CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

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ART ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Pastoral Impressions," featuring the landscapes of local artist Joe Bolger. Bolger's paintings are characterized by his commitment to plein air painting, a practice that allows him to observe and depict the transient effects of light in real-time. On view June 7-July 27.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Above Vermont: Photographs by Caleb Kenna."

Come see Kenna's bird's-eye view drone photographs capturing breathtaking views of Vermont in all its glorious seasons. . On view June 27-Aug. 31.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Series Without Limits: Photographs, Prints, and Film by Andy Warhol" presents Andy Warhol's artistic legacy through a selection of prints, photographs, and film to illuminate the complex tensions animated within his artistic practice. Warhol investigates how images function as currency within society. The selection of screenprint portraits on view reveal Warhol's fascination with fame and celebrity culture. On view May 23-Aug. 10.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Color + Space." Showcases how color not only enhances composition but also influences depth, perspective, and perception. Whether vibrant or restrained, structured or organic, let color guide the viewer's experience of space. Juror Ann Jastrab selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view July 3-July 25.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Inspired by Nature: The Women Artists of Rokeby,"

shares a small portion of the work made by Ann Stevens Robinson and her daughters Rachael Robinson Elmer and Mary Robinson Perkins. On view May 10-Oct. 12.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Artists in the House: An Exhibit & Silent Auction

Fundraiser" brings together contemporary artists in Addison County in this 50/50 fundraiser and summer

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. You're on fire this week, Aries. Ideas are sparking left and right. Don't forget to slow down before you burn out. You want to showcase energy without creating chaos.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. This week is ideal for treating yourself to something great, Taurus. Money and love are both flowing in a way that is to your liking. The universe delivers for you right now.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, your words have power this week, so use them wisely or go wild. It's a great time to network, flirt or finally send that romantic text you've been thinking about.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. It's not a bad thing to have so many emotions flowing right now, Cancer. This week is ideal for reconnecting with your intuition or redecorating your space.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Get ready to shine again, Leo. You could be the center of attention and those around you love the show. You may also enjoy some career wins this week.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you're crushing your to-do list this week while others seem to be snoozing. Midweek brings you a curveball, but you can handle it with signature grace and organization.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Your charm is turned up to 100 percent right now, Libra. A chance encounter could ignite something sweet this

week. Weigh your options regarding which path to pursue.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, this week you're serving up mysterious mastermind energy. People want your attention, but you are playing it really cool. Money or career secrets may come to light.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Adventure doesn't have to translate to a far-off trip, Sagittarius. It could mean a new idea or even a flirty conversation. If you're in the mood to explore, bring someone along.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, you might be plotting your next power move, and this week the stars are backing you. You could be giving off boss energy, but don't forget to take care of yourself, too.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. You're cool, quirky and full of surprises this week, Aquarius. Others are finally catching on to your appeal instead of trying to go up against

you. A collaboration could spark genius.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Listen closely to your dreams this week, Pisces. They are trying to tell you something. A creative streak could hit hard and it might lead to something truly magical.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 25 — Rita Marley, singer (79)

JULY 26 — Andy Goldsworthy, sculptor and photographer (69)

JULY 27 — Maya Rudolph, actor & comedian (53)

JULY 28 — Marcel Duchamp, artist (d)

JULY 29 — Ken Burns, filmmaker (62)

JULY 30 — Emily Bronte, novelist (d)

JULY 31 — J.K. Rowling, author (59)

CALENDAR

JULY 24-AUG. 1
2025



THURSDAY, JULY 24

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB STARGAZING IN ADDISON COUNTY. Thursday, July 24, 9 a.m., location TBD. Navigate the summer night sky and learn to identify bright stars, asterisms and constellations; enjoy looking for Perseid meteors. Weather dependent. (new moon July 24) & peak of Perseid meteor shower on Aug. 12. Check gmcbreadloaf.org/calendar for updates. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SHIPWRECK TOUR IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, July 24, 10 a.m.-noon, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Dive into Lake Champlain's underwater history without getting wet! This scenic boat tour will take you to the sites of some famous local shipwrecks as Museum experts recount their dramatic stories. Tickets \$25 kids/\$45 adults. More info at LCMM.org.

BIRDING WITH KIDS AND VERMONT AUDUBON IN STARKSBORO. Thursday, July 24, 11 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. An Audubon educator will visit the library for a morning of birds, crafts and science.

This is a drop-in program for kids of all ages. Join us for a second date (can do just one or the other or both!) Aug. 7 at 11 a.m. All towns welcome.

FINDING HOPE WITHIN ARTISTS AND CURATORS PANEL IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 23, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Cerf Gallery, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Panel discussion with the artists and curators of Finding Hope Within exhibit followed by a gallery tour.

GRANVILLE DAZE; HASSETT AND HART IN HANCOCK. Thursday, July 24, 6:30-8 p.m., on the green. At all outdoor concerts, food will be available from the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department and the Hancock Recreational Committee. Bring a chair and enter your name in a weekly free raffle for gift certificates from Heart of Hancock and Hubbard's Store. Rain site: Hancock Town Hall.

FRIDAY, JULY 25

41ST ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS AND YOUTH GATHERING IN LINCOLN. Friday, July 25, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. Learn the ancestral wisdom of Indigenous elders and youth, as well as other cross-cultural offerings. Events include daily wisdom teachings,

circle of women's moon-time teachings from an Abenaki perspective, art and music activities for children and Monday workshops (separate cost). Healing celebration Saturday night. Camping and food available for purchase. Abundant volunteer opportunities. More info and registration at sunray.org/eldersgathering.

ATLANTIC CROSSING IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, July 25, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free live music at the vineyard featuring local musicians and food trucks. Bring a blanket and a friend. Food by La Chapina and wine available for purchase.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 25, 7 p.m., Main stage, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. THT's Young Company — 28 young actors, singers and dancers — will appear in Joseph, a sung-through musical with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, based on the character of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. This family-friendly retelling of the ancient story is full of catchy songs, big dances and a lot of humor. Tickets: \$10-\$25, available at townhalltheater.org.

"THERE ONCE WAS ..." ON STAGE IN ROCHESTER. Friday, July 25, 7:30 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 South Main St. Bald Mountain Theater's annual emersion into the world of folk and fairy tales will explore Greek Myths this year. A company of five actors, director and a musician work for a week, with all the creative theatrical styles and concoct a fascinating and colorful pageant of story. Tickets \$15, available in advance at baldmountaintickets@ludus.com and at the door.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN THE ADIRONDACKS. Saturday, July 26, Treadway Mountain. Treadway Mt. is a gem. Enjoy this 7.9-mile out-and-back trail near Ticonderoga, N.Y. Generally considered a moderately challenging route with an elevation gain of 1,340 ft. The summit is open with great views. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact Barry Francis at barryfrancis@gmavt.net, for further details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN STARKSBORO. Saturday, July 26, Mount Ellen. Hike the Jerusalem Trail to Long Trail South to Mt Ellen. Strenuous hike with 2,881 feet elevation gain over about 8 miles. Leashed dog friendly.

Limited to 6. Contact Samara Anderson at anderson_samara@yahoo.com for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

41ST ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERS AND YOUTH GATHERING IN LINCOLN. Saturday, July 26, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. See July 25 listing.

MOOSALAMOO ULTRA RACE IN GOSHEN. Saturday, July 26, Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Ripton-Goshen Rd. This race has become a classic Vermont trail run. A rugged course on beautiful trails, deep in the heart of the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. Race distances of 14 or 36 miles. More info and registration at ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=122271.

MALT MID-SUMMER VOLUNTEER DAY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Help MALT during the TAM's busiest season. Enjoy the dog days of summer on the beautiful TAM in a fulfilling and impactful way. MALT's Lands and Trails Manager, Liam, will be meeting volunteers, providing tools and instructions for volunteer groups. Bring work gloves, water and snacks.

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 802-388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Through the Night and in-between: Public Affairs, Bulletin Board Friday, July 25 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 9 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Democracy Now Saturday, July 26 5 a.m. Democracy Now 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 9 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, July 27 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass	11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Church 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 9 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, July 28 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 7:30 p.m. Democracy Now Tuesday, July 29 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Democracy Now Wednesday, July 30 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service	9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week Thursday, July 31 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Selectboard Channel 1091 7/25/2025 Friday, July 25 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Festival On the Green 2025 12 p.m. Sharpe Takes 6 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 8 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 Saturday, July 26 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga	6 a.m. Festival On the Green '25 12 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 4 p.m. Book Talk 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 9 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 Sunday, July 27 5 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:15 a.m. Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Festival On the Green '25 12 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 7 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 10 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 Monday, July 28 5 a.m. Book Talk 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. Tai Chi 12:30 p.m. Chair Yoga 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 6 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 8 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 Tuesday, July 29 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi	6 a.m. Yoga 12 p.m. Sharpe Takes 5 p.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 8 p.m. Mary Hogan Kindergarten Orientation 9 p.m. Book Talk Wednesday, July 30 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Mary Hogan Kindergarten 12 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Book Talk 6 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 Thursday, July 31 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Festival On the Green '25 4 p.m. Book Talk 6 p.m. Festival On the Green '25 8 p.m. Festival On the Green '25	

More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

COLLECTIONS CORNER: SHIPWRECK SIMULATOR IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, July 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Experience an archaeological excavation firsthand in the shipwreck simulator. Staff will teach the basics of archaeological documentation and demonstrate how artifacts now in the collection were recovered. The public will learn about the importance of context in both archaeological investigation and Museum interpretation through this program, as well as get a chance to make their own observations. Free. More info at info@lcmm.org.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 26, 2 p.m., Main stage, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. See July 25 listing.

BIRD JONES AND MARSHALL HIGHEST BOOK SIGNING IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 26, 4:30 p.m., Vermont Book Shop, 38 Main St. The duo will be on hand to sign "The Washashore" and greet fans personally.

THE TRAVELING MIDDLEBURYS IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 26, 5:30-7 p.m., Maloney Outdoor Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Four long-time musicians join forces to reproduce the acoustic vibe and vocal harmonies of some timeless songs from the '60s, '70s and '80s. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org.

"THERE ONCE WAS ..." ON STAGE IN ROCHESTER. Saturday, July 26, 7:30 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 South Main St. See July 25 listing.

SUNDAY, JULY 27
41ST ANNUAL NATIVE

AMERICAN ELDERS AND YOUTH GATHERING IN LINCOLN. Sunday, July 27, Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. See July 25 listing.

SUNDAY SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July 27, 1 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. An afternoon of live music with Vermont-based acoustic duo The Morning Dudes. Free and open to the public.

"THERE ONCE WAS ..." ON STAGE IN ROCHESTER. Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 South Main St. See July 25 listing.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m., Main stage, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. See July 25 listing.

MONDAY, JULY 28

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, July 28, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

SACRAL CHAKRA DRUM CIRCLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, July 29, 6:30 p.m., 54 Main St., Unit B. Brought to you by Breanna Elaine music and Love Play Grow Wellness. \$10 suggested donation.

TINYUSSMALLUS IN NEW HAVEN. Tuesday, July 29, 7 p.m., bandstand, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Field Days Rd.

SANCTUARY IN NEW HAVEN. Tuesday, July 29, 7 p.m., show tent, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Field Days Rd.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

GALLERY TALK IN FERRISBURGH. Wednesday, July 30, 12:20 p.m., Gallery, Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Rokeby Museum Interim Director Joan Gorman leads this talk centering on a

museum curator's role and how Rokeby constructed its exhibit "Inspired by Nature: The Women Artists of Rokeby."

PAT MELVIN AND CHRIS BELL IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 30, 5-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 North 116 Rd. Music is free. Food and beverages for purchase.

BLUES WITHOUT BORDERS IN BRANDON. Wednesday, July 30, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Come hear the Champlain Valley's Premier Blues Band. Rain location: Brandon Town Hall.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 30, 7-8:30 p.m., town green. Bristol Town Band will be holding their 155th season of weekly summer band concerts. Rain location will be Holley Hall. All are welcome to join the band. More info at 802-281-2315.

THE VT BLUEGRASS PIONEERS IN NEW HAVEN. Wednesday, July 30, 7 p.m., bandstand, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Field Days Rd.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

SHIPWRECK TOUR IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, July 31, 10 a.m.-noon, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. This scenic boat tour will take you to the sites of some famous local shipwrecks as Museum experts recount their dramatic

stories. Tickets \$25 kids/\$45 adults. More info at LCMM.org.

THE TAP SAPPERS (WITH FREEMAN COREY) IN HANCOCK. Thursday, July 31, 6:30-8 p.m., on the green. At all outdoor concerts, food will be available from the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department and the Hancock Recreational Committee. Bring a chair and enter your names in a weekly free raffle for gift certificates from Heart of Hancock and Hubbard's Store. Rain site: Hancock Town Hall.

LTD (LIVING THE DREAM) IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, July 31, 7 p.m., bandstand, Addison County Fair and Field Days, Field Days Rd.

FRIDAY, AUG. 1

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 1, 4-7 p.m., Photoplace Gallery, 3 Park St. Opening for "Travel: People, Places, Things," a juried photography exhibition exploring the spirit of discovery through images that capture movement, culture and curiosity. Tastings provided by Golden Rule Mead. On view Aug. 1-29.

ELENA SADINA, CARILLONNEUR, IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 1, 6 p.m., the lawns around Middlebury Chapel. In the 40th annual Middlebury College Carillon Series,

musicians from around the world come to Middlebury to perform in the Middlebury Chapel's bell tower, soaring high above the college campus. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to enjoy the music from the lawns surrounding the chapel. Rain or shine. Free and open to all.

ATOM & THE ORBITS IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 1, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free live music at the vineyard featuring local musicians and food trucks. Bring a blanket and a friend. Food by La Chapina and wine available for purchase.

BLUES & BEYOND IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 1, 7 p.m., Addison County Fair and Field Days, Field Days Rd. An electrifying blend of blues, jazz and soul, driven by deep grooves and dynamic live energy. The band features Timothy James (guitar, vocals), Danny Roda (bass, vocals) and Taylor Starbird (drums). Their sets combine classic sounds with bold improvisation — bringing vibrant rhythm and raw intensity to every performance.

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Traveling
Middleburys



Friday August 1st, 5-8 PM

TRAVEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

In another week, we plunged into Florida's heartland, between the St. Johns River and Gainesville. Some of Florida's oldest State Parks are here

and were built by Roosevelt's CCC almost 100 years ago. Four out of every five Floridians live south of Orlando, making the rural interior of her northern real estate as underpopulated as any you might come across in the continental United States. Residing herein are 107 of Florida's 172 State Parks, suggesting that if you like small crowds and abundantly available public facilities, the State Parks of northern central Florida are just what you seek. At least in January...

Our first morning stroll at The Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park presented us with five deer and a great variety of wild birds mingling with masonry picnic tables and durable, well-considered buildings of timber and stone. Within its 1,600 acres are carefully engineered roads and trails, well-maintained picnic grounds and scenic overlooks, where we enjoyed solitude in the context of large tracts of preserved Long-Leaf Pine forest. The profound silence of landscapes devoid of people is a tonic for senses battered by modern life.

This whole region includes areas known scientifically as **karsts**. The definition of this term would fit perfectly in a Hollywood science fiction saga full of bad acting and lurid, alien landscapes. A karst (according to Wikipedia) is "a type of landscape where the dissolving of the bedrock has created sinkholes, sinking streams, caves, springs, and other characteristic features." In most cases worldwide, the sand and clay have all worn away and the eroded rock is in clear view. In Florida, it is still subterranean and hidden. Floridians here have learned to look at the soil under their feet with a little respect and suspicion. About 50 miles inland from the overcrowded Atlantic beaches, the nearest town of Keystone Heights (Population, 1,236) resides where the Florida coastline was some 120,000 years ago (during the last inter-ice age). Roughly 8,000 years ago (during the last Ice Age), the ocean's edge had moved dramatically eastward.

The (CCC) was established and empowered by Franklin Roosevelt's Federal Government for two reasons: to restore abandoned and abused natural resources for everyone to enjoy, and to provide employment for 3 million young people left jobless by the Great Depression. Both objectives were achieved and the impact on this Florida State Park remains profound. Many of their projects remain as completed, serving as evidence



Sandhill Cranes attending a bird-barbeque on recently scorched earth in St. Augustine, Fla.

PHOTO / STEVE & JUDITH HARRIS

of what young people can accomplish when provided with meaningful tasks.

Over a four-year effort to create this park, the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) built over three miles of paved roads, 74 campsites and 16 cabins, along with elaborate picnic shelters, toilet facilities and group activity areas. Nationwide, in nine short years, the CCC created 800 similar parks and made almost 4,000 historically important landmarks permanent. Today, landscape preservation, education and recreation are the primary objectives at this state park, and much of the effort has been focused upon making sure that the longleaf pines forests that once represented 9 million acres of coastal Florida are maintained. Down to 3% of their original domain, these forest remnants are threatened by development, encroachment, and invasive species. Creating conditions as close to authentic as possible has required proscriptive burns to sanitize the ground of smothering competition, and mimic what nature used to provide on its own.

On a still evening, the three of us walked along one path upwind of an intentional fire that was still smoldering from the previous day. We saw (and sniffed) how underground roots and surface limbs remain alight long after the surface brush and grasses have been consumed. Stumps were especially interesting as some were producing active flames in a cauldron at grade, while others were acting like chimneys and belching smoke three to six feet above ground.

The net result of these efforts provides a unique landscape of longleaf pine trees with

scorched bark within eight feet of the ground, separated by clumps of wiregrass, and little else. Therein, select wildlife thrives; deer, tortoise, fox squirrel and a variety of snakes and small mammals that share the burrows of the tortoise. Periodic fires create a sustainable rolling prairie of evocative tranquility, allowing the pines to grow to a ripe old age. Some of these elegant trees are approaching their 300th birthday, long enough to have born witness to the best and worst of human behavior.

Within the State Park, there are multiple sink hole lakes of varying size, and one small creek at the bottom of a 70-foot deep ravine. There, a trickle of clear spring water (Gold Head Branch) appears and meanders for a mile or two before contributing to bucolic Little and Big Lake Johnson. The diagonal sides of these ravines are choked with vegetation and bird life that the more arid surfaces at grade cannot support.

During our visit, a flock of 75 sandhill cranes flew into the recently scorched acreage at the edge of Little Lake Johnson and spent the next couple of days with their heads and beaks down searching out toasted versions of their usual diet of insects and seeds. These enormously tall birds that share your eye level are seriously protected in Florida with fines for "intentional taking" of up to \$50,000 and potential jail time of up to one year in prison. The sounds of these cherished and social birds creating a concert about the day's events made the prevalent silence of the park even more memorable — campers of a different feather.

— sbh

Steve and Judith Harris met on a construction site in Burlington 38 years ago. They were married in Lincoln, Vt., nine years later and have lived on 15 acres alongside the New Haven River ever since. They are the principals in a two-person consultancy (Harris and Harris Consulting, LLC) that represents owners through the design, permitting, contracting and construction of commercial and municipal projects nationally. When not on job sites, the bulk of their efforts are conducted from their home office or Airstream travel trailer through the evolving technologies (ha ha) associated with remote work. Well into their 70s, their retirement has become a long transition with some lingering professional engagements too much fun to resist. Steve originally wrote two pieces on Jan. 7 and 14, 2025. They have been edited and abridged to fit.

TRAVEL

LOOK FOR WEEKLY TRAVEL STORIES NOW THROUGH AUG. 14

ARTS+LEISURE

WITH JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS

WINTER ADVENTURES IN AN AIRSTREAM

BRISTOL CORE Presents!

POCOCK ROCKS

MAIN STREET



BRISTOL, VT

MUSIC
FESTIVAL
AND
STREET
FAIR

SAT.
AUG.
16TH

FROM
2:00 PM
UNTIL
7:00 PM

MUSICAL GUESTS

WEST STAGE

ANDRIANA
(& THE BANANAS) 6:00 PM

—
BLUES FOR BREAKFAST 4:15 PM

—
HUDOST 3:00 PM

EAST STAGE

OPEN SWIM 5:15 PM

—
TEDDY MEDDLE 3:45 PM

—
HOLDING NAPOLEON 2:30 PM

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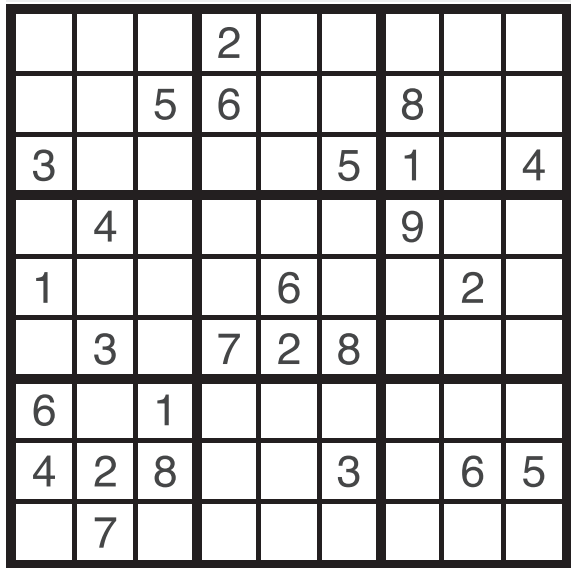
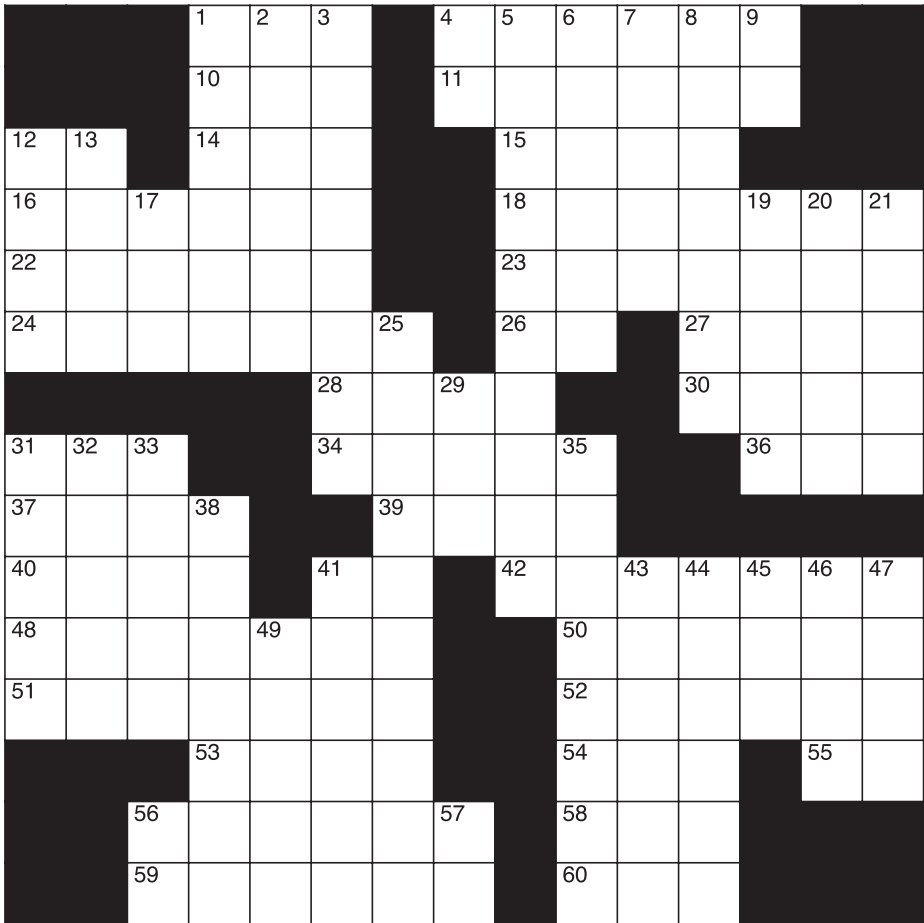
1. Pacific Standard Time
4. Extracts through heating and melting
10. Express delight
11. More curvy
12. Expression of uncertainty
14. Indicates before
15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
16. Southwestern CA city
18. Unified
22. Less attractive
23. Base of jellies
24. A large and noisy party

26. He was traded for Luka
27. Wolverine genus
28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
30. Root of taro plant
31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
34. Silk garments
36. Unique power
37. Ray Liotta cop film
39. Leak slowly through
40. Notion
41. Atomic #55
42. Fixed in one

- place
48. About heat
50. Type of baseball pitch
51. Seedless raisin
52. Large wading birds
53. Similar
54. Time zone
55. Atomic #34
56. Program
58. Old world, new
59. Contrary belief
60. "To the __ degree"

DOWN

1. Plain-woven fabric



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

2. Classed
3. Suppositions
4. Midway between south and west
5. Tropical American trees
6. Leveled
7. Published false statement
8. Adolescent
9. Junior's father
12. Aurochs
13. Not low
17. Boxing's GOAT
19. Short musical composition
20. Small immature herrings
21. Eavesdropper
25. Parcels of land
29. Anger
31. Irritations
32. Hindu holy man
33. Wicker basket for fish
35. Natural object
38. Transporting in a vehicle
41. A dog is one
43. Smaller portion
44. Sew
45. Belonging to a thing
46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
47. Scottish language
49. Producer
56. Exclamation of surprise
57. Russian river

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.



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Bird Jones, left, and Marshall Highet, right, in Weybridge have a laugh. The duo recently released their fourth book "The Washashore." They'll be in Middlebury signing copies at The Vermont Book Shop on July 26, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

Writers co-author Prohibition-era thriller

Award-winning authors Marshall Highet and Bird Jones transport readers to a world of speakeasies, storm-tossed shorelines, and deadly secrets with their latest novel, "The Washashore." A mesmerizing blend of historical fiction and classic whodunit, this Prohibition-era mystery unfolds on the rugged coast of Martha's Vineyard, where an outsider finds herself at the center of a chilling disappearance.

When Emily Cartwright is uprooted from Nebraska to live with her formidable Aunt Isabel, she expects a culture shock — but not a murder. On the night Emily arrives, island matriarch Ann Simpson vanishes into the stormy sea, her boat disappearing without a trace. As whispers of foul play circulate, Aunt Isabel enlists Emily as her undercover investigator at Ann's funeral. But before Emily can uncover the truth, danger comes knocking — first in the form of a notorious rumrunner, then in a warning delivered by two menacing strangers.

As Isabel takes matters into her own hands and

disappears, Emily must race against time to find her—and unmask a killer lurking in the shadows of The Atlantis, a floating speakeasy where fortunes are won, lives are lost, and every dancer hides a secret.

With its richly drawn characters and evocative setting, "The Washashore" immerses readers in a time when Prohibition fueled underground empires and the line between friend and foe was as unpredictable as the tides.

Highet and Jones will be at The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury for a signing on July 26, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MARSHALL HIGHET is a graduate of Bread Loaf, a professor, and a novelist whose works include "Spare Parts," a YA sci-fi novel, "Hold Fast," a swashbuckling historical adventure, and "Blue-Eyed Slave," both co-written with Bird Jones. Currently residing in Baltimore, she has an enduring passion for historical fiction, storytelling and the mysteries of the past.

BIRD STASZ JONES is a professor emerita, ethnographer, and Fulbright scholar whose research has taken her from Appalachian communities to the remote schools of Central Asia. A dedicated storyteller, she weaves real historical events into compelling narratives, and resides in Newport, R.I., and Weybridge.

DID YOU KNOW?

BIRD JONES AND MARSHALL HIGHET MET IN A PILATES CLASS AT VERMONT SUN IN MIDDLEBURY. THEY'LL BE IN MIDDLEBURY TO SIGN COPIES AT THE VERMONT BOOK SHOP ON JULY 26.

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Eagle

Eagle is a beautiful tortie gal who we believe is a young adult. She is chatty, affectionate, and loves treats. Eagle has lived with cats and dogs and has been indoor-only.



Ingrid

Ingrid is a sweet, senior gal who was found as a stray. She is looking for a calm home to live out her golden years where she can get lots of snuggles and treats. Ingrid seems to tolerate other cats, but we are unsure about dogs. She does have a growth on her face that does not affect her quality-of-life.



Rollins

Rollins is a handsome 2-year-old boy. He is playful, affectionate, and loves wet food. Rollins has lived with other cats before but has no experience with dogs.



Stork

Stork is a petite girl we believe to be a young adult. She is shy at first, but when she warms up, she is very affectionate and playful. Stork has lived with other cats and dogs and has been indoor-only.



Baci

Hi! I'm **Baci**! I came to the shelter as a stray. I'm only around 8 months old, so I have a bit growing to do still. If you want to bring in a lovely, wiggly girl to your home, I'd love to be the one! My history with dogs and cats is unknown, but I seem to like the other dogs here at the shelter. I love people and to learn new things.



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Addison County's Humane Society



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THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Classic New England farmhouse just for you

Renovated with style and charm, this 1806 center hall Cape is tucked privately on .65 acre in an idyllic Vermont village. The cook's kitchen equipped with SS appliances is centered by a handsome, wide soapstone-topped island which houses a gas range. Living flows seamlessly from kitchen to open dining room to gracious living room, where a cozy fireplace beckons, dressed in Verdi antique stone and flanked by stained glass windows. Wood floors run throughout with a tile-floored bath up and down, as well as pretty pumpkin pine upstairs. Three generous-sized bedrooms, including the first-floor primary, display delightful character. Numerous closets, walk-in pantry, first-floor laundry, and attached large shed leading to a one car garage provide tons of storage. Another detached garage contains one bay open to a spacious workshop. Even the chicken coop and vintage smokehouse display New England style. A fieldstone patio overlooks gorgeous lush flower gardens while the front porch offers peeks of the distant mountain view. The house has been fully insulated according to Efficiency Vermont guidelines — home sweet home!



SOLD!

FERRISBURGH

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

Ferrisburgh has been one of the most active local real estate markets in recent years, and 2024 and the first six months of 2025 appear to be no exception.

Among sales of note are building lots, a major farm sale, a number of homes and commercial properties changing hands along Route 7, and a half-dozen lakefront property sales — two for more than \$1million and one for more than \$2 million.

The following is a list of sales from the past 18 months (some were omitted if they were not considered representative of the market, including foreclosures, in-family sales, or divided interests in properties):

4/18/24: Hunter Robare to Jack Turvey, 2.49 acres at 44 Spencer Farm Road, \$195,000.

4/30/24: Nichole Nimblett to Melissa Flanagan, home on 10.10 acres at 863 Monkton Road, \$518,000.

5/7/24: Martin Thompson to Helena Attebury, home on 1.3 acres at 6826 Route 7, \$300,000.

5/10/24: Bank of NY to Brendan Pierce, home on

14.22 acres at 555 Plank Road, \$420,000.

5/21/24: Melissa Stockholm to Donald Lancaster, home on 12.1 acres at 4832 Route 7, \$660,000.

5/22/24: William Guyer to Joseph Ask, 2 acres of land on Echo Road, \$2,000.

6/3/24: G. Stickney Trust to Glen Macri, seasonal home on 0.5 acre at 242 Spencer Farm Road, \$542,000.

6/13/24: Gracefield LLC to Clary Revocable Trust, home on 166.87 acres at 256 Fuller Mountain Road, \$3.6 million.

6/21/24: John DeVos III to State of Vermont, 256.08 acres off Ashley Road, \$275,543.

6/27/24: Matthew Watkins to Abigail Harkins, home on 12.89 acres at 600 Botsford Road, \$920,000.

7/1/24: Vermont House Trust to Degucz-Huber Trust, home on 1.8 acres at 1093 and 1095 Kimball Dock Road, \$1.65 million.

7/2/24: John DeVos III to Roland Ayer Jr., home on 67 acres at 525 Ashley Road, \$566,000.

7/9/24: Barry Tracy to Jack Bodington, home on 2 acres at 1853 Greenbush Road, \$389,000.

7/11/24: Jeffrey Sherwin to Matthew Couture, multi-use property on 0.5 acre at 401 Long Point Road, \$250,000.

7/12/24: Alicia Moyer to Christopher Ruggiero, home on 0.5 acre at 520 Little Chicago Road, \$337,500.

7/31/24: Evan Masseau to Michael Hibbin, home on 10.1 acres at 99 Mountain View Road, \$680,000.

SEE PROPERTY ON PAGE 15



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New Haven
1349 Lime Kiln Road
3.3 Acres

Beautiful open meadow with country views, state WW permit for 3 BD home. Well-located to Middlebury, Vergennes, Burlington.

\$245,000

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BRANDON, VERMONT
\$299,000

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640 ORCHARD DRIVE, BRIDPORT

Charming 1888 farmhouse with Adirondack views, rolling fields, and modern updates. Renovated 3-bed home features a sunny kitchen with custom oak cabinets. Enjoy original hardwood floors, an electric fireplace, an office, and spacious laundry. Outside: a stunning patio with pavilion, perennial gardens, and a spring-fed pond. The property has a history as a working farm and includes a heated 48' x 78' building with office, wash bay, and 1-bed suite. Zoned Commercial & Residential—endless possibilities!



MLS# 5022374
\$1,499,000



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IPJ Real Estate



CORNWALL **NEW PRICING** 394 CIDER MILL ROAD

MLS #5040200 | \$775,000
3 BD | 2 BA | 1944 SF | 5.60 AC

Green Mountain views from this well-maintained home just 3 miles from Middlebury. Hardwood floor and plenty of natural light. Many new windows installed and insulation added in 2018.



MIDDLEBURY **NEW PRICING** 719 WASHINGTON STREET EXT.

MLS #5041770 | \$679,000
4 BD | 3 BA | 2930 SF | 3.00 ACRES

Historic home offers space for everyone, inside and out. A freshly painted exterior, updated kitchen, hardwood flrs, two porches, three-bay detached garage, and lovely acreage! Additional land available.



WHITING **NEW PRICING** 358 SOUTH MAIN STREET

MLS #5043998 | \$669,000
5 BD | 2 BA | 2496 SF | 2.00 ACRES

Green Mountain views from lovely Shady Acres! Vintage-styling in the renovated kitchen w/custom cabinetry, granite countertops and pantry. Enjoy hardwood floors, a wood stove, and great natural light.



MIDDLEBURY **NEW PRICING** 427 EAST MAIN STREET

MLS #5044041 | \$549,000
5 BD | 2 BA | 2963 SF | 0.53 ACRES

C. 1800 farmhouse on a corner lot. Sizeable kitchen and a breakfast nook, and a recently renovated utility room and bathroom with walk-in steam shower. Detached 2-car garage and a heated workshop.



BRISTOL 38 NORTH STREET

MLS #5044881 | \$375,000
MULTI-FAMILY DUPLEX
1894 SF | 0.14 ACRES

Great downtown Bristol location and an excellent investment. A two-bedroom unit is downstairs and a one bedroom unit is on the 2nd floor. Off street parking and a garden area!

ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Spotlight @ Sparrow: Mira Veikley Cabrera." This month's exhibit will feature a collection of limited edition, hand-embellished fine art prints — each uniquely finished with the botanical pigments that inspired the originals, including flowers, berries, and leaves. Find more about Mira on Sparrow's website. On view through July.

SEE MORE EXHIBIT LISTINGS ONLINE!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ART-EXHIBITS

House at the Bend



Spacious 1,576 sq. ft. home features 3 BRs and 2 Bs. A sunny, bright eat-in kitchen with pantry. Additionally, there is an 1,000 sq. ft. barn incl. 500± sq. ft. on each floor. The barn offers workshop, storage, & studio areas, all equipped w/hot water baseboard heating. Separate entrance to the studio area from the parking area. Barn connects to the house through a heated breezeway/storage area. Enjoy outdoors from open side & front porches. \$250,000



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

Charming Brandon Village Cape



FRESHLY PAINTED & READY TO MOVE IN. Charming cape-style home located in the village. Features include hardwood and softwood flooring, a wood burning fireplace in the living room, a 22'x11' deck with a 11.5'x13' foot patio area adjacent. The spacious backyard offers ample gardening space, while the oversized one-car garage provides plenty of storage. Ideally situated in the village center, close to shopping, the library, restaurants, & churches. \$330,000



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PROPERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

8/23/24: Dennis Trust to Gabriel Danyow, seasonal home at 94 South St., \$425,000.

8/23/24: James Gallant, trustee, to Jacob Lee, mobile home on 2.26 acres at 2629 Sand Road, \$175,000.

8/26/24: Peter Markowski to RPM of VT Real Estate Holdings LLC, 10 acres and car restoration business with barn at 302 Monkton Road, \$700,000.

9/16/24: Guy Miller to Rachel Snider, home on 5.1 acres at 1341 Little Chicago Road, \$381,500.

9/27/24: Genevieve Williamson to Molly Kramer, home on 10.99 acres at 6393 Route 7, \$455,000.

9/27/24: David Bowles to Steve Williams, machine shop at 445 Long Point Road on 1.5 acres, \$339,500.

9/30/24: Douglas Oosterman to Brad Jerger, home on 3 acres at 464 Greenbush Road, \$480,000.

10/3/24: Robert Recupero to Eric Sleeper, seasonal home at 395 North Road, \$415,000.

10/7/24: James Blandino to Dylan Friedman, home at 49 Nuthatch Lane, \$585,000.

10/7/24: Lizbeth Ryan, trustee, to Pamela Cary, seasonal home at 1035 Kimball Dock Road on 1 acre, \$1.2 million.

10/7/24: Trevor Matton to Maple Dragon Range LLC, home on 0.5 acre at 34 Middlebrook Road, \$301,000.

10/10/24: Karen Sweeney to Joshua Pagliuca, home on 2 acres at 529 Stage Road, \$415,000.

10/10/24: Michael Isikow to Barry Lasala, seasonal home on 10.10 acres at 230 Spencer Farm Road, \$2.5 million.

10/30/24: Brent Truchon to Bunker Trust, seasonal home at 82 North Road, \$680,000.

11/11/24: Town of Ferrisburgh to Blue Moon Property Group LLC, former church at 3323 Route 7, \$100,000.

11/12/24: Riley Houser to Jehbabu LLC, home on 10.1 acres at 1491 Fuller Mountain Road, \$290,000.

11/13/24: Clifford Harris to Clark Hinsdale III, 112.5 acres of land at Route 7 and Greenbush Road, \$325,000.

11/22/24: Scott Jacobs to Richard Brown, home on 15.3 acres at 85 Evergreen Lane, \$925,000.

12/5/24: Gerd-Rudiger Krahn to Paine and Dalton Trust, 5.4 acres at 261 Four Winds Road, \$380,000.

12/16/24: Jolley Associates LLC to Stewart's Shops Corp., commercial building and gas pumps on 1.01 acre at 6973 Route 7, \$2,414,626.43.

12/16/24: Jolley Associates LLC to Stewart's Shops Corp., dwelling, motel and camp on 2 acres at 6990 Route 7, \$400,000.

2/13/25: Michael and Jill Castillo to Sean LaFlam, 97.9 acres on Plank Road, \$165,000.

2/20/25: Reynolds Trust to Carlos Aponte, 5.01 acres at 358 Pea Ridge Road, \$175,000.

2/21/25: David Baldwin to 492 Mile Point Road LLC, home on 11.5 acres at 14.66 Kellogg Bay Road, \$440,000.

3/17/25: Ian Hand to Mark Smith, home on 1.6 acres at 1499 Sand Road, \$559,000.

3/22/25: Laura Marcelle to Jeremy Lattrell, mobile home on 1 acre at 407

Webster Road, \$312,000.

3/28/25: Stacey Thompson to Sasha Toker, home on 13.05 acres at 1221 Monkton Road, \$400,000.

4/21/25: Alfred Myers to Jacob Tropp, 13.5 acres on Matthews Meadow, \$294,000.

5/7/25: Irene Pierce to Vermont Toy Storage LLC, 12.07 acres subdivided into two lots on Route 7, \$250,000.

5/7/25: Irene Pierce to Clark Hinsdale, 59-acre lot on Route 7, \$250,000.

5/15/25: Jeffrey Goulette to Classic Restoration LLC, 1.01 acres at 430 Old Hollow Road, \$115,000.

5/22/25: Alexander Brace to B Danyow Farm LLC, 26.42 acres on Tupper's Crossing, \$120,000.

5/22/25: Lotta VU Farm LLC to B Danyow Farm LLC, operating farm including 353.25 acres at 1610 Little Chicago Road, \$1.63 million.

5/30/25: Peter McNichol to Stanley Carroll, home on 2 acres at 510 Round Barn Farm Road, \$711,000.

6/13/25: Tina Bach to Eric Dion, home on 1.8 acres at 3647 Sand Road, \$350,000.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS
JULY 24, 2025

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6	5	1	8	7	2	4	3	9
4	2	8	1	9	3	7	6	5
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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.

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60 South Maple Street, Vergennes

Well-maintained 3-bed, 2 bath "Little City" home just blocks from Main Street. Featuring gleaming wood floors, a flexible layout, a sunny kitchen with maple cabinets, granite counters, and pellet stove. Relax on the deck or tend to the landscaped gardens with raised beds, perennials, and mature trees.

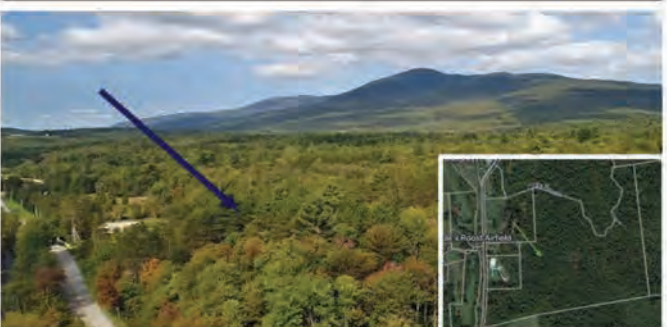
MLS No. 5050540 | \$ 450,000



548 Watch Point Rd, Shoreham

This beautifully maintained Queen Anne Victorian seamlessly blends distinctive period architecture, modern systems, mature landscaping, and pastoral views. With five bedrooms, two baths, multiple porches and a finished attic bonus space this lovingly cared for home offers warmth and character and plenty of space all situated on a park like 2.7 acre lot with pond.

MLS No. 5047185 | \$ 725,000



TBD South Lincoln Rd, Lincoln

62.3-acre wooded parcel with western view potential and Cota Brook along its northern edge, featuring waterfalls and swimming holes. Ideal for recreation or future development. Close to the New Haven River, hiking, skiing, and a vibrant community. This special land offers natural beauty with long-term potential.

MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000

for more information, contact our office:



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*A Special Publication of
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ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS

TUESDAY, JULY 29 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025



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Welcome

The Addison County Fair & Field Days Board extends a cordial invitation to you, and your friends and family to come see what's happening at this year's Addison County Fair & Field Days on July 29, 30, 31 and August 1, 2, 2025. It is our pleasure to present the opportunity for area citizens to see what's going on in the agricultural world, enjoy the quality products and crafts that their neighbors have produced, and just have a grand time at the fair.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have attended in previous years, exhibited in the past, and look forward to seeing new, as well as past visitors, during our 2025 fair.

Addison County Fair & Field Days, Inc.

1790 Field Days Rd, Vergennes, VT 05491

802-545-2557 (phone) • 802-329-2133 (fax)

Visit us at AddisonCountyFieldDays.com

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Antique equipment.....	30





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About this Field Days Program

Addison County Fair and Field Days draws folks from around the county and around the state to the fairgrounds in New Haven every summer. The fair draws more people than any other event in Addison County, and for good reason. The best farmers, sugarmakers, cooks and bakers compete for bragging rights — as do those brave men and women who get behind the wheel in the demolition derby and the tractor pull (not to mention the folks who work with the powerful draft horses and oxen). More often than not, the winners turn out to be our neighbors, or the folks down the road whom we see at the grocery store and at our kids' school concerts.

Kids with cows, calves, sheep, lambs — livestock of all kinds — work for weeks and months leading up to the fair, grooming their animals and running them through their paces for show-ring competition. Adults compete for the coveted Leona Thompson Bowl. Younger crafters try to earn the

Frances Monroe Youth Award.

Contestants young and old — and every age between — gather fruits and vegetables from the garden and sugar and spices from the pantry; then whip them up into a smorgasbord of jams, pickles, cakes and cookies for competitions in the Food Department.

There are exhibits, pulls (tractor, truck, horse, oxen and pedal-tractor), animal judging, horse shows, carnival food by the ton and plenty of fun and scary rides on the midway.

This booklet, which is filled with Addison Independent photographs from last year's fair, is designed to serve as a guide to Field Days. A complete schedule of events can be found as well as profiles of this year's entertainers.

Entertainment at the fair comes not just in the form of bands, dancers and a popular magician, but also includes the ever-popular armwrestling on Friday night. The popular karaoke contest returns, as does the Vermont Products Dinner.

There is plenty to see and do over the five days of the fair — July 29-Aug. 2. Don't miss any of it!

Message to Superintendents

The *Addison Independent* will publish the results of many Field Days competitions. Event superintendents should take their results to the Field Days office immediately after the events. Field Days staff will make copies and the *Independent* will publish the information as quickly as possible.

Thank you!



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In-stock items only. While supplies last.
Sale ends 8/17/25*



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New Fall carhartt Styles Arriving Soon

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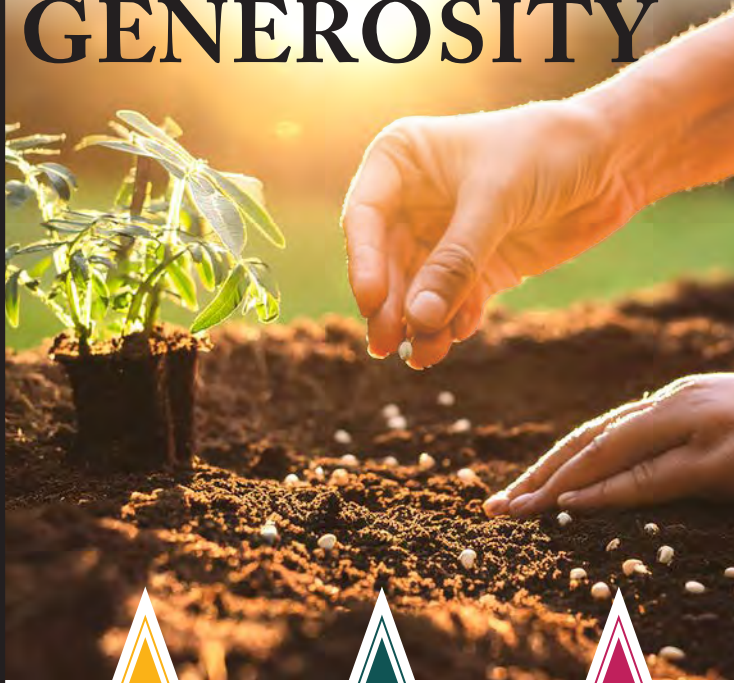
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2025 Admission

Your ticket price includes parking, gate admission, re-admission, grandstands, all Field Days shows & exhibits. Ticket office opens at 7:30 am.

ADULTS (ages 12 and over)

Tuesday – Friday Daily Admission \$15.00
Saturday Daily Admission..... \$20.00
SEASON PASS \$60.00
SENIOR DISCOUNT Free on Tuesday with Green Mountain Passport

(Green Mtn Passports can be purchased
at your local Town Clerk's office)

CHILDREN (ages 6-11)

Daily Admission \$5.00
SEASON PASS \$20.00

CHILDREN (5 years and under) FREE all days.

RIDE BRACELETS – Good for ALL day \$25

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2025 Dedication



John Zecher

This year the Board of Directors is dedicating our handbook to a past director and dear friend, John Zecher. John passed away this winter, but his work growing the Children's Barnyard at Addison County Fair and Field Days lives on to the delight of the many children who visit this special place every year at the Fair.

John served over ten years as a director of our fair and was always in charge of the Children's Barnyard. John contacted the owners of chickens, goats, pigs, calves, ducks, geese, rabbits, and miniature horses and donkeys. His efforts encouraged these animal owners to bring their critters to the Fair to exhibit in this favorite place for children. Petting areas were created, eggs were hatched, animals were fed, and pens cleaned, making this a space where kids could touch live farm animals and enjoy watching them up close and personal.

Even after John was no longer on the board, he could be found in the Children's Barnyard talking to the kids and parents and enjoying the animals himself. He also delivered Field Days posters and flyers to all the stores in Addison County, making sure that there would be plenty of people at the Fair to enjoy the animals.

John, we will miss your smile and your love of the Fair. Thank you for making the Children's Barnyard the favorite place it will always be.



**Tickets
Sell Out!**

"The Taste of Vermont"

**at Addison County Fair & Field Days
Dining Hall • Tuesday, July 29th
Sittings at 5:15, 6:00 and 6:45
Adults: \$15 Children 10 & under: \$8**

Tickets available now at:

Middlebury Inn in Middlebury, Pratt's Store in
Bridport, the Field Days office
or at fielddays@gmavt.net.

Beginning July 27th,
tickets will only be available
at the Field Days office.

Call 545-2557



Green Mountain
Passport Day

Opening Day Parade
6:00PM

Sanctuary Band
7:00PM

Bracelet Rides – ALL DAY for \$25

Rides and Midway by Dreamland Amusements



Join Us in building the future of Addison County Fair & Field Days



Join us in reaching our goal of \$500,000!

\$500,000

\$400,000

\$300,000

\$200,000

\$100,000

\$50,000

Field Days is more than an agricultural fair; it is a hub for our community. Thousands of visitors attend each year to discover and celebrate the agricultural identity of Addison County. Your support in this capital campaign will ensure that Field Days remains a vibrant space for all.

Checks should be made payable to:
Addison County Fair & Field Days
1790 Field Days Rd, Vergennes, VT 05491

Please make a tax deductible donation today to our 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



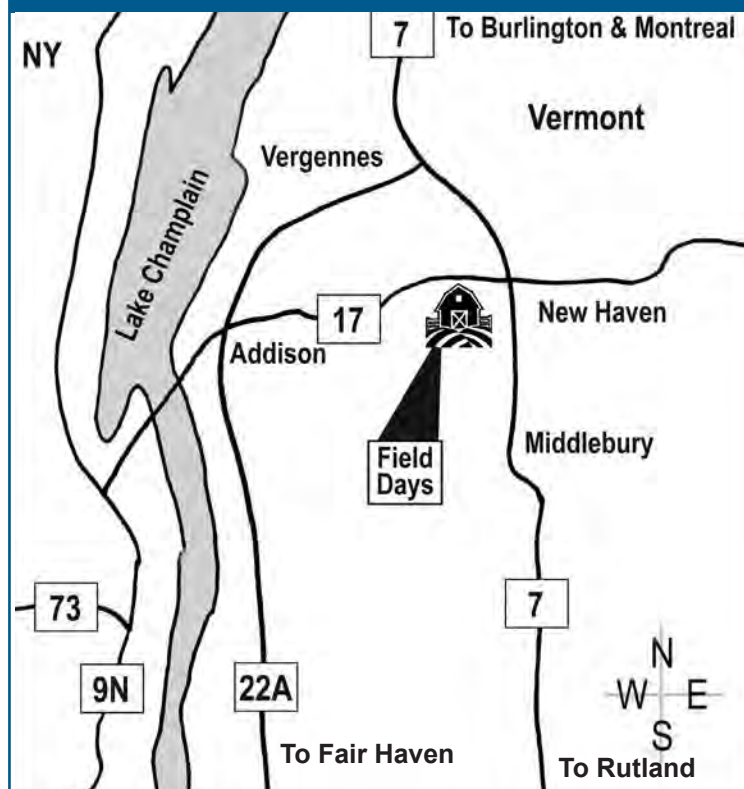


2025 Daily Activities

Please Note: Most exhibits will be removed on Saturday night at 10:00.

- 10am - 10pm Children's Barnyard Open
- 10am - 10pm 4-H & Youth Building Open
- 10am - 10pm Antique Equipment Building Open
- 9am - 9pm Maple Sugar House Open
- 10am - 6pm Twist O' Wool Guild Demos
(Twist O'Wool Guild tent)
- 10am - 10pm Forest Festival Exhibits & Demonstrations
(forestry building)
- 10am - 10pm Home & Garden Building Open with
Continuous Craft Demos
- 10am - 10pm Lucien Paquette Exhibit Building Open
- 10am - 6pm NEW Chain Saw Artist Demonstrations
- 11am - 8pm NEW Free Mini Golf
Daily Maple Products Demo (maple sugarhouse)
- 12pm - 12am Midway Open (approximately)
- 1pm - 4pm Milking Parlor Demonstrations

How to get to Field Days



Old & young alike appear in hand-mowing competition

By CAROLINE JIAO

Nearly every year since the late 1960s, the young and the old with a special loyalty to hand tools gather to show their skills at the Addison County Fair and Field Days hand-mowing competition.

On every “ready, set, mow!” a contestant lifts their scythe and ventures into the tall grass, and just minutes later, a strip of the field is left with clean stubs and freshly mowed hay.

Judd Markowski, one of the co-organizers for the past six years, performs as a lively and humorous emcee who uses his commentary to attract passing fairgoers to join the audience.

One may wonder about the use of these labor-intensive hand tools in modern days with various electric or fuel-powered machines — what’s the point of hand-mowing when a tractor can

perform the job so much faster?

Pau Schwartzkopf, a skilled contestant and a volunteer judge, has an answer.

“When my first-born son was a baby, I’d start the gas mower and it would wake him up. So I didn’t have time to mow because I was a new parent. When I did have time, he was napping, and I’d wake him up,” he explained his dilemma. “So I would play around with the scythe more and more when he was sleeping. Then I got pretty good at it. He’d be sleeping in the garden, and I could mow right around him and not wake him up.”

This was a dozen years ago, and now he only uses scythes to mow his property. The baby who enjoyed that serenity of hand-mowing rhythms competed for the first time this past summer.

Schwartzkopf is not the only one who brought his children



HANDMOWING VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER Judd Markowski shows how the craft is done while competitor Finn Yarborough waits his turn with scythe in hand at the Field Days Handmowing competition.

Independent file photo/Caroline Jiao

in 2024. Finn Yarborough of Ferrisburgh lined up with his three sons for their turns.

“The contest is a very supportive

place, and it’s a really fun place to learn,” Yarborough said.

His hand-mowing experience
(See Handmowing, Page 21)



Schedule of Events

TUESDAY

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------|--|
| 8:30..... | Western Only 4-H and Open Youth Junior Horse Show (Horse Arena) | 3:00..... | Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent) |
| 9:00..... | 4-H Dairy Conformation Classes (animal show arena) | 3:00..... | Antique Equipment Demos (Antique equipment area) |
| 10:30..... | Antique Equipment Demos (Antique Equipment Area) | 3:00..... | The Silver Circus Show (Entertainment Show Area) |
| 11:00-8:00 | **NEW This Year** Mini Golf - FREE | 3:00..... | Wheels of Ag Game Show (Dairy Area) |
| 12:00 | Dig for Treasure! (Youth Activity Area - FREE) | 4:30..... | Buffalo Barfield Unherd- of- Entertainment |
| 12:0..... | Wheels of Ag Game Show (Dairy Area) | 5:00..... | Gymkhana (Horse Area) |
| 12:00..... | Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent) | 5:15 | Vermont Products Dinner 1st setting dining hall) |
| 1:00..... | Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets | 5:30..... | Wheels of Ag Game Show (dairy area) |
| 1:00..... | Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand) | 5:30..... | Slate Valley Raceway RC Dirt race cars (Butterfield Arena) |
| 1:00..... | Circus Adventure (Entertainment Show Area) | 6 p.m. | Vermont Products Dinner - 2nd setting (dining hall) |
| 1:00-5:00 | Children's Activities (Child's barn yard) - Free | 6:00..... | The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area) |
| 1:30..... | Antique Equipment Demos (Antique equipment area) | 6:00..... | Field Days Opening Parade |
| 1:30..... | 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building) | 6:30..... | Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show |
| 1:30..... | Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment | 7:00..... | G. Stone Motors Demo Derby (Tractor Pad) |
| 2:00..... | Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep show tent) | | <i>(See Schedule of Events on page 13)</i> |



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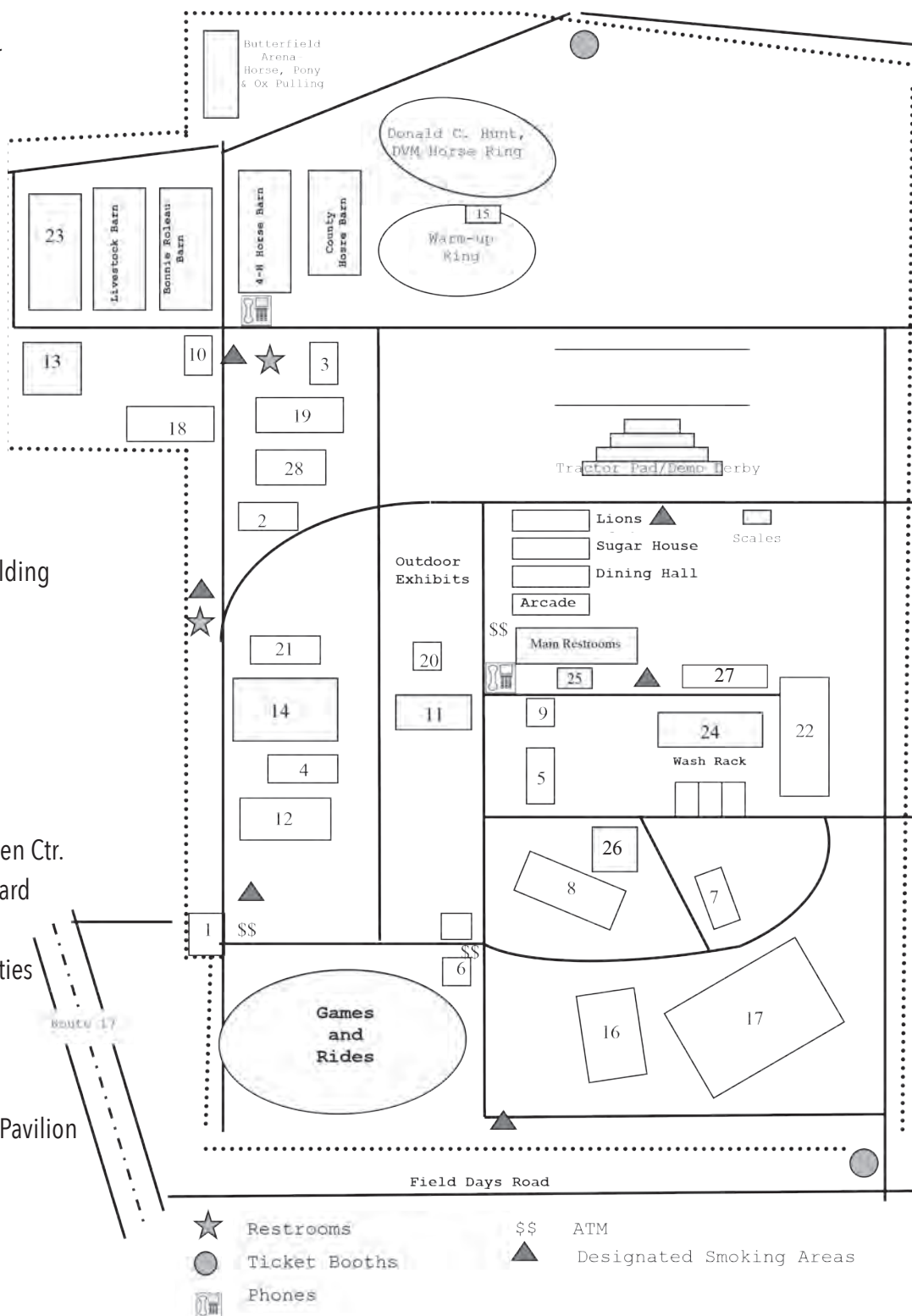


* Based on EDA/UCC Data from 01/01/2018 - 12/31/2022 for sales of new compact tractors 0-200 Hp in states defined by the US Census as New England. (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.) *Based on EDA tractor sales data of under 40 horsepower models from 2018 to 2022. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2024. Your Kubota Limited warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state. Kubota Tractor Corporation does not authorize any person to create for KTC any obligation or liability other than that stated in the limited warranty. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety and product and incentive offer information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the Owner's Warranty Information Guide for the Kubota limited warranty on all products. Visit KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers for more information.



Field Days Grounds Map

1. Jim Foster, Jr Welcome Center
2. Public Safety Building
3. Dusty Chuck 4-H Food Booth
4. 4-H Exhibit Building
5. Youth Food Booth
6. Field Days Main Office
7. Milking Parlor & Dairy Bar
8. Dairy Palace Arena
9. Bandstand
10. Twist O Wool Guild Tent
11. Picnic Pavilion
12. Show Tent
13. Handmowing Area
14. Lucien D. Paquette Exhibit Building
15. Horse Area Manager's Booth
16. 4-H Dairy Barn
17. Open Dairy/Beef Barn
18. Tractor Barn
19. Antique Equipment Building
20. Entertainment Show Area
21. Frances Monroe Home & Garden Ctr.
22. Sara McCarty Children's Barnyard
23. Sheep Tents
24. Pony Rides & Free Youth Activities
25. Infant Comfort Station
26. Addison County Toy Barn
27. Poultry Barn
28. Kelly James Natural Resource Pavilion





Schedule of Events

Continued from page 10

7:00.....Local Band- tinyusmallus (bandstand)

7:00.....Local Band- Sanctuary (show tent)

WEDNESDAY

8:30.....English Only 4-H and Open Youth Jr.
& Sr. Horse Show (horse area)

9:00.....Open Dairy Show-Holsteins, Ayrshires,
Milking Shorthorns (animal show arena)

9:30.....Ox Pulling (Butterfield Arena)

10:00-12:00 ...Children's Activities
(children's barnyard area) - FREE

10:30.....Antique Equipment Demos (antique
equipment area)

10:30.....Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show

11:00.....Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

12:00.....Midway Opens \$25 all day ride bracelets

12:00.....Pirate Man Dan (show tent)

12:00.....Dig for Treasure!
(Youth activity area) - FREE

12:00.....Goat Show (sheep show tent)

12:00 Wheels of Agriculture Game
Show (dairy area)

1:00.....Ladies Iron Skillet Toss (tractor pad)

1:00.....The Silver Circus Show
(Entertainment Show Area)

1:30.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

1:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop
4-H exhibit building)

1:30.....Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment

2:00-5:00Children's Activities
(children's barnyard area) - FREE

2:00.....Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration
(sheep show tent)

2:00.....Juggling Workshop w/Silver Circus
(entertainment show area)

2:30.....Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

(See Schedule of Events on page 14)



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Schedule of Events

Continued from page 13

3:00.....Wheels of Agriculture Game Show
(dairy area)

3:00.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

3:00.....Pirate man Dan (Show tent)

3:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop
(4-H exhibit building)

3:30.....The Silver Circus Show
(Entertainment Show Area)

4:30 Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-
Entertainment (show tent)

5:00.....Youth Beef Clipping & Fitting
Demonstration (animal show arena)

5:30.....Wheels of Agriculture Game Show
(dairy area)

6:00.....The Silver Circus Show
(entertainment show area)

6:30.....Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show

7:00.....Karaoke Talent Night with DJ Amanda

Rock (signup at 6:30) (show tent)

7:00.....G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby
(tractor pad)

7:00.....The VT Bluegrass Pioneers (bandstand)

THURSDAY

8:00.....Annual ACFFD Open Horse Show
(horse area)

9:00.....4-H Dairy Fitting & Showmanship
Classes (animal show arena)

9:00.....4-H & Other Youth Sheep Show
(sheep show tent)

10:00.....Hand Mowing Contest
(antique equipment demo area)

10:00.....VTPA-Antique & Enhanced Antique
Tractor Pulls

10:30.....Pony Pulling (Butterfield Arena)

10:30.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

(See Schedule of Events on page 15)



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Schedule of Events

Continued from page 15

10:30.....Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show

11:00.....Pedal Tractor Pull (show tent)

(sign-ups at 10:00)

11:30.....Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

12:00.....Midway Opens (approximately)

\$25 all day ride bracelets

12:00.....Dig for Treasure!

(Youth activity area) - FREE

12:00.....Wheels of Agriculture Game Show

(dairy area)

1:00-5:00Children's Activities

(children's barnyard area) - FREE

1:00.....The Silver Circus Show

(Entertainment Show Area)

1:30.....Antique Equipment Demos

(antique equipment area)

1:30.....Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment

(show tent)

1:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop

(4-H exhibit building)

2:30 Tom Joyce, The Magic Man

(bandstand)

3:00.....Antique Equipment Demos

(antique equipment area)

3:00.....Wheels of Agriculture Game Show

(dairy area)

3:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop

(4-H exhibit building)

3:30.....The Silver Circus Show

(Entertainment Show Area)

4:00.....Beef Showmanship/Fitting Show

(Senior, Intermediate, Junior, & Novice)

& Market Classes (animal show arena)

4:30.....Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment

(show tent)

5:30.....Wheels of Agriculture Game Show

(dairy area)

5:30.....Miniature Horse Team Hitching

(See Schedule of Events on page 16)

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Schedule of Events

Continued from page 15

- Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 6:00..... The Silver Circus Show
 (Entertainment Show Area)
 6:00..... Animal Costume Class
 (animal show arena)
 6:30..... Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show
 7:00..... LTD (Living the Dream) (bandstand)
 7:00..... G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby
 (tractor pad) (tractor pad)
 7:00-9:00 Good-Time Line Dancing demo/
 instruction (Show Tent)

FRIDAY

- 8:30..... Exhibitors' Breakfast (dining hall)
 9:00..... Open Sheep Show (sheep show tent)
 9:00..... VTPA- Garden Division- Youth, Adult
 Stock, Sport, Stock, ATV, Super Stock
 Open, Pro Diesel, 4 Cyl Mods (tractor pad)
 9:30..... Draft Horse Show (horse area)
 10:00-12:00 ... Children's Activities
 (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 10:00..... Open Sheep Show (sheep show tent)
 10:00..... Working Steer & Ox Show
 (Animal Show Arena)
 10:00..... Horse Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
 10:30 Antique Equipment Demos
 (antique equipment area)
 10:30..... Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show
 12:00..... Dig for Treasure!
 (Youth activity area) - FREE
 12:00..... Midway Opens
 \$25 all day ride bracelets
 12:00 Wheels of Agriculture Game
 Show (dairy area)
 12:00..... PeeWee Dairy Showmanship
 (animal show arena)
 12:15..... Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment
 (Show Tent)
 1:00..... Tractor Trivia - Strolling Game Show
 1:00..... Tom Joyce, Magician (bandstand)
 1:00..... 4 Abreast, Show Division (horse area)
 1:00..... The Silver Circus Show (Entertainment
 Show Area)

- 1:30..... Antique Equipment Demos
 (antique equipment area)
 1:30..... 4-H Hands on Workshop
 (4-H exhibit building)
 2:00-5:00 Children's Activities
 (children's barnyard area) – FREE
 2:00..... Magic Workshop w/Silver Circus
 (entertainment show area)
 2:45..... Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment
 (Show Tent)
 3:00..... Future Showmanship/Fitting Class & Beef
 Conformation & Group Classes
 (animal show arena)
 3:00..... Wheels of Agriculture Game Show
 (dairy area)
 3:00..... Antique Equipment Demos
 (antique equipment area)
 3:30..... 4-H Hands on Workshop
 (4-H exhibit building)
 3:30..... The Silver Circus Show
 (Entertainment Show Area)
 4:00..... Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 5:00..... Arm-wrestling-Kids 16 & under
 (sign up at 4:00) (show tent)
 5:30..... Wheels of Agriculture Game Show
 (dairy area)
 5:30..... Miniature Horse Team Hitching
 Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 6:00..... The Silver Circus Show
 (Entertainment Show Area)
 6:00..... VTPA- Street Stock, Mod Trucks, 2WD
 trucks, Hot Farm & Altered Farm
 7:00..... Arm-wrestling-Adults (weigh-ins 5:00pm)
 (show tent)
 7:00..... Blues and Beyond Band (bandstand)

SATURDAY

- 9:00..... Open Dairy Show- Jersey, Brown Swiss
 & Guernsey
 9:30..... Draft Horse Show (horse area)
 9:00..... VTPA-Farmstock, Open 4WD, Hot Farm,
 SS 4x4, Altered Farm, St Legal Semi,
 Single Engine Mod Pulls (tractor pad)
 (See Schedule of Events on page 18)



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Schedule of Events

Continued from page 16

10:00-12:00 ...Children's Activities
(children's barnyard area) - FREE

10:30.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

10:00.....Youth and Other 4-H Sheep Show

12:00.....Midway Opens (approximately)
\$25 all day ride bracelets

12:00.....Baked Bean Contest & Samples
(picnic pavilion)

12:00.....NYTPA = SS, 4x4, 4.1 Tractors & Super
Farm and Limited ProTractor pulls
(tractor pad)

12:30.....Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

1:00.....Backwoods Gun & Tackle Sling Shot
Competition (sign up at 12:00)
(Butterfield Arena)

1:00.....Six Horse Hitch, North American Classic
Six Qualifier (horse area)

1:00.....The Silver Circus Show

(Entertainment Show Area)

1:30.....Youth Poultry Show (Bandstand)

1:30.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

1:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop
(4-H exhibit building)

1:30.....Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
(Show Tent)

2:00-5:00Children's Activities
(children's barnyard area) - FREE

2:00.....Clown Workshop w/Silver Circus
(entertainment show area)

2:30.....Backwoods Gun & Tackle Turkey Calling
Contest (Butterfield Arena)

3:00.....4H & Other Youth Poultry Showmanship
Children's Barnyard area)

3:00.....Antique Equipment Demos
(antique equipment area)

3:30.....Backwoods Gun & Tackle Duck & Goose
(See Schedule of Events on page 19)

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Vermont Book Shop
Vermont's Own
Village Depot
Walgreen's

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Village Green Market

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Schedule of Events

Continued from page 18

- Calling Contest (sign up at 2:30)
(Butterfield Arena)
- 3:30.....Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
Presentation (home & garden building)
- 3:30.....4-H Hands on Workshop
(4-H exhibit building)
- 3:30.....The Silver Circus Show
(Entertainment Show Area)
- 4:00.....4H & Open Youth Rabbit Show
(Dairy Palace Arena)
- 4:30.....Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
(show tent)
- 5:00.....Home & Garden Awards
& Leona Thompson Bowl
- 5:30.....Miniature Horse Team Hitching
Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
- 6:00.....The Silver Circus Show
(Entertainment Show Area)
- 6:00.....NYTPA = SS, 4x4, 4.1 Tractors & Super

Farm and Limited ProTractor pulls
(tractor pad)

- 7:00.....Dance Party w/ DJ Jamman (bandstand)
- 7:00.....Vermont's own 40th Army band
-IRON SIGHTS- rock band (show tent)
- 7:00.....NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm &
Limited ProTractor Pulls (tractor pad)
- 9:15.....Farm Credit East Closing Fireworks
Display (set off east of horse area)



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Family embraces the tradition of horses and Gymkhana

By CAROLINE JIAO

On the first evening of Addison County Fair and Field Days, horses are quickly lined up behind the warm-up ring gate, ready to gallop.

Loyal horse-lovers eagerly fill the seats, waiting for the once-per-year Gymkhana, which is an equestrian competition of timed speed pattern racing that includes racing around barrels, pole bending and much more.

For the past 13 years, Lori Brown, a rider who grew up in Ferrisburgh and lives in Middlebury, has been staging this event at the county fair, and it now attracts over 40 participants.

The competition is usually divided into age groups of children below 10 years old, juniors between ages 11 and 17, and adults. The day saw several youngsters, one of them a preschooler, giddy up in the ring, circling around barrels with agility and lightning speed.

"I really love that it's for all ages and levels. The whole family could do it," Brown said.

Brown was a toddler herself when she was first taught to ride. Now she has over 30 years of equestrian experience.

Relationships with horses now reach the fourth generation in the family. Lori was quick to admit that her passion has passed



A FAMILY OF riders at Field Days continues to uphold the tradition of Gymkhana, riding competitions consisting of speed pattern racing and timed games. They all have been riding their whole lives and look forward to future competitions in barrel racing. From left are Emma, Lori and Kassidy Brown with their horses Toby, Faith and Jet.

Independent file photo/Caroline Jiao

onto her two daughters, Emma and Kassidy Brown, who were also fierce contestants both at the event on opening night last year and at the National Barrel Horse Association. In fact, they had enjoyed a recent trip to a big competition in Syracuse, N.Y.

"My highlight is being able to compete with my girls, like going to places together," Lori said.

Emma Brown, 19 at the time of this interview, has been working in barrel racing since she was 14, at which age she won the Vermont NBHA title, which was not com-

mon at all at that time. Two years later, she won again in the New York NBHA.

"That was pretty fun," she said.

Her sister Kassidy, 17, also started riding at a young age.

"I started riding before I could sit up," she said. "I've been riding my whole life."

She was 10 when she first got her horse, Jet, who was three years old at the time. The intimate bond that developed through years of training is one of the highlights of Kassidy's riding career.

"I had to train him, learn to trust

him, let him do what he's doing," she said.

Emma shares her sentiment.

"I would say, it's a love-hate relationship," she said, petting her horse buddy Toby. "He's a great horse. I've learned a lot from him."

Lori is glad to have made Gymkhana a tradition at the fair. The story will continue.

"I just remember riding on one of my grandfather's friend's horses, and it was just an instant reaction ... like it was in my blood," she said.

Good Luck to all Participants!

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Handmowing

(Continued from, Page 9)

started with a friendship with the Markowski family when he and his wife moved to Ferrisburgh 15 years ago. He has been honing his skills since.

There are not only young faces but also familiar elderly ones. According to Markowski, “They just keep showing up, year after year.”

Marc Shattuck was one of the two competing in the senior category. He zoomed through his field in less than two minutes. With more than 40 years of practice, he made it look so easy.

“I’m 70. I used to be faster,” he told a young reporter.

If a person not familiar with the history of the county fair looks closely at a sign-up sheet for the mowing contest, they’d discover Shattuck’s father’s name, Rodger Shattuck — the seniors category for people age 80 and older is

named after the elder Shattuck.

“My father was a professor, so I grew up around all these professors, which was great, because they had all these ideas, but I couldn’t figure it out when I was young,” Shattuck recalled. “I just want to work with my hands.”

And that he did. Now a skilled welder, Shattuck had built his scythe with metal, which is deceptively light. The snath is made of steel, and he uses an aluminum weld to sharpen the blade.

Why does he go to all the work?

“Because I can,” he said proudly.

Markowski confirmed that the individual mower’s scythe is supposed to suit their body.

“Everybody has their completely own way of doing it,” he said.

For many, scything brings them closer to the natural environment and the land, providing a sense of inner peace that they seek.

Michaela Stickney, co-organizer

with Markowski, is one who finds the soothing power of handmowing inspiring.

“It’s very meditative, it’s very peaceful. I feel good having a hand tool and using it instead of using electricity or gas,” she said. “The grass is my teacher. I like to connect with the earth. I like to get up early in the morning to feel the grass between my toes. It’s honoring the planet. It’s also great exercise.”

Schwartzkopf feels similarly. Apart from the quietness, it’s the bond with the land that brings him to his scythe.

“It brings a greater connection to the land because as I’m mowing, I’ll see things like volunteer plants I want to keep. like I’ll hit a patch of wild strawberries and I’ll just mow around it,” he said.

The entire contest lasted six hours. People continued to clap and cheer for each contestant as if it was their turn. At the end

of the day, it was less about the competition, and more about the mutual learning between the young and the old.

Last summer, Stickney taught two workshops, one at the Bread and Puppet Theater, and another at the Middlebury College organic garden (The Knoll). The four Knoll summer interns also made it out to the field and competed last year, each taking a badge home.

“Maybe we just want to keep things alive for whatever reason,” Markowski said. “Maybe that’s what the whole fair is dedicated to.”

Many agree with this observation.

“It’s one of those lost arts that isn’t actually lost,” Yarbrough said. “It’s a special opportunity to be part of something very, very old.”

Or, to put it simply as Schwartzkopf did, “For anybody who hasn’t tried it, they should try it!”

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Smash! Bang! Cars get banged up – on purpose – at the fair

By ANDY KIRKALDY

When the members of the Vergennes Fire Department reacted quickly to put out the second engine fire in Chance Mahoney's battered dark sedan, that left only one vehicle running out of the 25 that started the action-packed, deafening and rain-soaked finale on the third and final night of the G. Stone Motors Demo Derby at the 2024 Addison County Fair and Field Days.

That gray sedan, topped off with a "Tinker Tierney" sign, belonged to Brandon Tierney. And he walked away with \$3,500 for dishing out and taking bone-jarring blows in two heats leading up to the finale.

Drivers qualified for the compact car finale by managing to survive heats on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as one of the final two drivers running, or by being named the "Mad Dog" driver by announcer Kylie Martell. To earn that honor a driver must be the most aggressive behind the wheel in the first two minutes of a heat.

The Field Days Demo Derby last August also offered heats for V-8s, minivans and pickups, but those larger rides weren't allowed to compete for the big bucks in the compact final.

Before the finale began, organizers called for a front-loader to scrape mud and water off the surface of the track, a move that gave the cars more traction than the almost helpless minivans in the heat that came just before it.

As a result, despite the crowded and still slippery arena, the 25 drivers got after each other.

Among those who were notable for aggressive driving behind the wheel — at least to an observer trying to keep track of the mayhem through the smoke and steam — were Mahoney, who as well as finishing second



BRANDON TIERNEY, DRIVING with a Tinker Tierney sign, earned \$3,500 by winning the compact car feature at the Field Days Demo Derby. He dodged this dust-up in a qualifying heat, but drove aggressively in that heat and in the finale.

Independent file photo/Steve James

earned the Mad Dog award; Tyler Hebert, whose car announced, "It's a girl"; Alexis Whitney; Trey Daniels; Aiden Putnam, aka "Ice Cold"; Nick Ouellette; Kyle Bianchi and Carter Markwell.

Other competitors couldn't be identified by cross-checking car numbers with names provided by organizers, but we saw you, drivers of 26, 48X and 98X — you all showed up to dance.

One driver was too aggressive and was disqualified for violating the rules (yes, there really are rules, especially limiting special preparation of the cars). His violation was hitting drivers' doors, a dangerous move, once too often. The driver, whose name is omitted here to protect the guilty, protested, and on the way out during the stoppage in the action he exchanged gestures and pleasantries with derby fans behind the fence.

In the demo enclosure, one by one the cars broke axles, suffered from overheated engine, or had wheels fall off, and they lay

dead in the mud, leaving just three cars running: Ouellette's, Mahoney's and Tierney's. Also running regularly were Vergennes firefighters. The fourth car running was 98X, and action stopped while firefighters ran to snuff the blaze, and then there were three.

Ouellette's white sedan gave up the ghost shortly after that, and that left Mahoney's dark sedan and Tierney's gray sedan to duel for the big payday. Mahoney gave Tierney's ride a couple shots, and then they met head-to-head, but not too hard, up against the concrete blocks on the far side from the grandstand.

Flames shot up from Mahoney's hood. Firefighters sprang back into action and put it out. But when the two cars clashed again, another fire started in Mahoney's engine. Back came the firefighters: The battle was over, and the trophy was Tierney's. The two drivers popped out of their cars and embraced as rain

continued to fall.

EARLY HEATS

The Demo Derby ran three preliminary heats before the big compact car finale. In an active Compact Heat One, Kyle Bianchi and Bubba McPhee drove hard and qualified for the finale as the drivers of the last two cars running, while Trey Daniels earned the Mad Dog nod.

Also making impacts in the heat were Ross Whitney, Landon Lathrop and Chuck Haven.

Ten competitors squared off for the Compact Heat Two. Bridget Sheppard and Logan Boyer qualified for the finale as the last running, while Logan Many was named the Mad Dog driver.

Also delivering crowd-pleasing thumps were Reid Lumbr, Chance Mahoney, "Bad Dog" Dylan Mason, and Ricky Stalup, whose car claimed, "If you ain't first, your last." Sadly, according to that logic Ricky joined another seven heat drivers in last.

The card also ran a five-vehicle (See Demo Derby, Page 24)



Shearing sheep is a workout, takes years to develop skills

By CAROLINE JIAO

As the clock hit on the first day of the Addison County Fair & Field Days this past summer, kids and adults alike rush to the sheep tent in the northeast corner at the Fairgrounds.

Soon, the human voices quiet down, and all attention is directed toward one black sheep who, stubbornly baaing, is gently led to the center of the tent.

A moment later, added to the symphony of sheep's bleating is the buzzing sound of a shearer.

Siri Swanson, a professional shearer based in Bridport who's holding the hissing electric contraption, assures her audience that this practice is completely safe, and perfectly necessary, for domesticated sheep breeds.

Swanson tells her audience that shearing is essential to removing potential bacteria and diseases from domestic sheep. Indeed, through the thousand years of human animal husbandry, sheep

have been bred precisely to not shed as much hair as their wild counterparts, so their wool can be transformed into sweaters, scarves and socks.

Shearing requires a deep knowledge of the animal's anatomy because male and female animals require slightly different approaches. Swanson explains to the audience that getting the sheep into a sitting position helps it to calm down, and it makes shaving its belly much easier.

It took Swanson a long moment to run the sheers across all of the sheep's belly. Due to last year's wet weather, the wool that's often in contact with the ground when sheep lie down becomes more clotted and difficult to shear, and dampness in general reduces wool quality.

"Wool doesn't love moisture, so if it gets really damp all the time, it never gets to dry out so that's hard," she said. "It could (See Sheep shearing, Page 25)

Demo Derby

(Continued from, Page 23)

minivan heat that was as exciting as listening to a pitch for investing in Bitcoin. It wasn't the drivers' fault, but a hard rain struck just before the heat was set to begin, and the minivans might have well been novices on ice skates.

Despite the drivers' best intentions, rain drops were hitting the minivans harder than they were hitting each other. It was an open question if the vans would run out of gas before they could do enough damage to knock each other out of commission. One couldn't even move in the mud, and another, actually a rainbow-colored SUV, made it about 50 feet to the right before getting

bogged down next to the concrete blocks.

Given the pouring rain and lack of both action and shelter, most fans headed for dryer places on the fairgrounds while the minivans churned in the mud.

Finally a third van stopped running, and after a few more harmless love taps organizers persuaded the last two drivers, Nick Ouellette and Josh Kennett, to split the winner's share. Ouellette won the Mild Dog, er, Mad Dog award.

Look for the G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 29-31, starting at 7 p.m.



Each summer the Addy Indy and Agway partner to present the Garden Game, awarding prizes for the largest entries in each of the fruit and veggie categories below:

Asparagus (length x circumference)	Melon (circumference)
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Broccoli (diameter)	Parsnip (circumference)
Cabbage (circumference)	Pepper (circumference x circumference)
Cantaloupe (circumference)	Potato (length x circumference)
Carrot (length x circumference)	Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
Cauliflower (diameter)	Radish (circumference)
Corn (length x circumference)	Rhubarb (length)
Cucumber (length x circumference)	Rutabaga (circumference)
Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only)	Summer Squash (length x circumference)
Eggplant (circumference x circumference)	Sunflower (diameter)
Fennel (length x circumference)	Tomato (circumference)
Green Bean (length)	Turnip (circumference)
Kohlrabi (circumference)	Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Leek (length x circumference)	Zucchini (length x circumference)



How do you play the Garden Game?

Just bring in any of the above fruits/veggies to our office at 58 Maple Street, Middlebury to be officially measured. Weekly front runners will be posted online and listed in the newspaper. Entries must be home-grown in the greater Addison County area. One winner per category. One prize per person. Winners will be announced after the first local frost.

Visit addisonindependent.com/contests for more info.

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Sheep shearing

(Continued from, Page 24)

affect the sheep's health too. The wet environment changes their feet quality and increases pest issues."

Swanson's passion for shearing traces back to Field Days itself. She attended its 4-H sheep and goat camp, and later she went to the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill for animal science. Those efforts manifested years later into a professional occupation. She now shears sheep around New England, New York and the Midwest.



"I got to know other shearers and everyone in the industry," she said. "There happens to be a big demand for shearers, so I just found my way to it."

Swanson said she enjoys her work deeply, feeling a genuine sense of connection with the land and the people, and of course, the sheep.

During the busy shearing season, mostly lasting from March to June, she starts the day at around four or five a.m., packs up all the gear, and gets on the road. She stops at anywhere from two to seven farms a day and shears 20 to a hundred sheep.

"Just farm after farm shearing," she said with a smile.

One might wonder why, if the bulk of shearing season is in the spring, there are still quite a few furry buddies lined up to get their hair cut at the summer county fair.

Well, the one sheep shorn at last year's fair was born just a few months earlier.

"He would've been a baby-baby during shearing season," Swanson explained. "You can shear them when they're seven or eight months old. It depends if you want the fleece off of it."

According to Swanson, spring and fall are generally the busiest seasons, and different shearing plans also arise depending on the animal's production schedule — when the sheep are lambing:

"There's so many different



PROFESSIONAL SHEARER SIRI Swanson, based in Bridport, demonstrates sheep shearing at the sheep tents during the 2024 Field Days. Her passion for working intimately with farm animals can be traced to her 4-H sheep and goat camp. A six-month-old black sheep here experiences her skillful haircut.

Independent file photos/Caroline Jiao

reasons to decide when to shear."

For Swanson, one of the biggest challenges for her work is about the muscles.

"It's so physical. That's hard starting off; and sustaining yourself. You have to seriously take care of your body, nutrition, all that."

It was also a challenge at first to learn and recite all the details about her gears.

"There's not a lot of sheep shearer repairmen around, so

I have to know all my gear backwards and forwards, to be able to do repairs on the road, all that stuff," she said.

As more audience members trickled in for a second round of demonstration, Swanson quickly got herself, and the sheep, prepared. She is glad that her work brings her in contact with the local farming community.

"I get to meet all kinds of people and see farms all over the place, which is amazing," she said.

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

In some sense, Field Days is nothing but entertaining. With engaging agricultural shows and displays, competitions and routine events that fairgoers look forward to and practice for all year, thrilling rides, people to meet, food to sample and animals to admire, Field Days offers amusement for almost everyone.

For those who want to be entertained from the stands rather than in the

ring, this year's fair will certainly not disappoint. The lineup is packed with classic favorites ranging from the annual opening parade to karaoke, clowns and magicians, Rosie's racing pigs and closing fireworks. Musicians will perform '90s rock, classic rock, blues, bluegrass and more. Plus there will be line dancing in which everyone is invited to join in.

There are several acts sprinkled around the fairgrounds that repeat multiple times this week, so if you miss the first one, come back the second or third time.

What follows is a review of some of these acts and short profiles of entertainers that you'll want to check out at this year's fair.

One act returning from last year that you should make time to see is the **Silver Circus**, starring variety artist Andrew Silver. The act features a unique blend of magic, juggling and physical comedy. You'll be delighted by his humorous, high-spirited showmanship, mystified by his astonishing magic, and his dexterity is guaranteed to take your breath away. He's doing more than a dozen shows during the week, including a juggling workshop on Wednesday afternoon and a clowning workshop on Saturday afternoons. Check out the schedule for the performances in the entertainment show area.

On the musical front, Field Days will fea-



TINYUSSMALLUS

ture six Vermont bands, and a couple of those are new to the fair.

The first of the newbies is **TinyusSmallus** on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the bandstand. Loud, proud and stuck in the '90s, you can bust out your flannel and crank up the dial for this Burlington band, which promises to bring back the best decade in rock with a wild, high-energy show that'll have you jumping like it's 1999. Think of crunchy guitars, big choruses and enough nostalgic vibes to make your Walkman jealous. Whether you're reliving your glory days or discovering the magic of 1990s rock for the first time, TinyusSmallus guarantees a good time and a loud time with absolutely no apologies!

That same night and time in the show tent will see the return of **Sanctuary**, which was well received at Field Days last year. This quartet featuring Lori Towle, Tom Lawson, Jerry Cloutier and Mark Steffenhagen will entertain you with rock and more from the '80s. You want dance covers — they've got 'em.

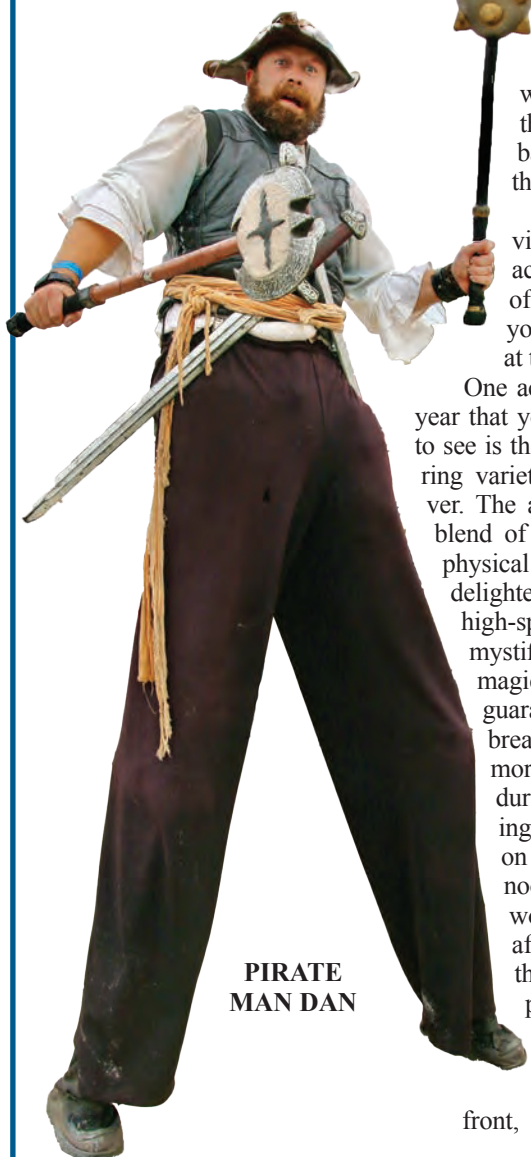
Wednesday evenings musical centerpiece will be the **VT Bluegrass Pioneers** performing at the

bandstand at 7 p.m. It will feature the band's signature hard-driving style of bluegrass music, with a dynamic mix of old and new songs. The Pioneers formed in 2016 when four veteran Vermont performers joined forces to blend their considerable instrumental and vocal talents into a cohesive, polished and thoroughly enjoyable ensemble. Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner, founding members of Banjo Dan and the Mid-Nite Plowboys, got together with Danny Coane, celebrated lead singer for the Starline Rhythm Boys and a long-time bluegrass man, to form a band dedicated to restoring authentic traditional bluegrass to the Vermont scene. Former Plowboy Sam Blagden joined to play bass and sing tenor. The quartet has been performing for nearly a decade, winning fans wherever they play.

"I lived in Addison County for several years and still make it a point to come back for the Fair every year," Dan Lindner said. "It will be a real treat for me and my boys to take the stage at my favorite Vermont fair this year."

Whenever The VT Bluegrass Pioneers take the stage you can

(Continued on, Page 28)



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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

count on a lively show full of fun and great bluegrass music.

Another band new to Field Days will take the stage in the bandstand tent at 7 p.m. on Thursday. **Living the Dream**, known as **LTD**, is a Champlain Valley band, and their message is simple: Get ready to rewind, relive and rock out! LTD isn't just another cover band; they're a time machine fueled by infectious energy and incredible playlists. They specialize in delivering a set packed with the greatest hits from the '80s all the way to today. Songs you heard on the radio last week, followed by that

one hit you completely forgot existed but instantly brings you back to a specific memory. The songs that defined eras, the ones you cranked up in your car, and the ones you danced to until the early hours. LTD will play songs that have the amazing power to unlock forgotten memories!

If you're looking to get moving in a different way on Thursday night, head to the Show Tent for **Good Time Line Dancing** from 7-9 p.m. Instructor Andrea Warren has been getting people up and dancing for a decade. She starts with a warm-up dance (maybe the Cupid Shuffle).



IRON SIGHTS



Then she teaches a beginners dance, and reviews a little more complicated dances. During an "open dance floor" she leads a variety of dances, sometimes very beginner and sometimes more advanced — it depends on the group. In any case — you will move.

Also back for a second year at Field Days will be **Blues and Beyond**, which takes the bandstand stage at 7 p.m. on Friday. Led by Danny Roda in South Royalton, Blues and Beyond brings positive energy and great songs to the stage, infusing blues, jazz, soul, and dance rock favorites.

You'll have another chance to dance on Saturday evening,

when DJ Jamman hosts a dance party at the **Dance Party** at the bandstand at 7 p.m.

The final band to take the stage at the fair will be Vermont's own **40th Army band, Iron Sights**, which will be in the show tent at 7 p.m. This dynamic rock band is comprised of seven soldiers from Vermont's own 40th Army Band. Touring throughout the state, Iron Sights delivers a performance featuring a high energy blend of classic '80s and '90s rock, infused with elements of R&B for a unique sound. The soldiers proudly represent the Vermont Army National Guard through their music and will offer a show that resonates with
(Continued on, Page 29)

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

audiences of all ages.

If you're looking for new entertainment options that don't play guitars, Field Days 2025 has got 'em.

One is a farm-based trivia show called **Wheels of Agriculture**. It is an audience interactive game show that takes place on a stage. The format is trivia-based game play in which the person who can answer a randomly selected question gains points. The questions are primarily agricultural-based and include topics such as: Local Agriculture, Animals, Plants, Food Groups, Farm and barnyard, music and other sounds. Look for the show times in our schedule of events. And they are bringing along a strolling tractor with **Tractor Trivia**, which is also in the schedule.

Another fun new addition to Field days is the **Portable Mini Golf Company**. This is a nine-hole mini-golf course that has been set up at hundreds of events across New England and New York.

And **Northwoods Chainsaw Sculptures** will set up near the sawmill and will have various demos each day throughout the

week. You've got to see the artistry they create with a chainsaw.

Just about everywhere you turn there will be some sort of entertainment act going on.

Here are some special things to look for:

- The **Field Days Opening Parade** steps off from near the tractor pad at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. This year's theme is "Country Pride, Country Wide." All entrants are asked to assemble 45 minutes before the parade start time on the east side of the tractor pad on the road to the north of the parking area. There will be prizes for the winning entries. Contact Benj Deppman at 724-1381 or any Field Days director if you plan to participate. Maybe you should march in the parade: Ribbons for the top three winning entries.

- Head to the Show Tent on Wednesday at 7 p.m. when Addison County DJ Amanda Rock will lead the ever-popular **Karaoke Talent Night**. Amada will help get the energy flowing so you all can let your inner performer come out on stage. Sign up for a spot in the show beginning at 6:30 p.m. You will

probably find a few diamonds in the rough among your Addison County neighbors when it comes to singing.

- If you like the thrill of motorsport competition there will be more of it for you this year as the G. Stone Demolition Derby, which is offering *three* nights of smashing action. Look for it at the Tractor pad on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

But not everything is new.

On Thursday at 11 a.m. head to the Show Tent, where girls and boys ages 4-10 will compete in the **Pedal Tractor Pull**. This is the youngsters' version of the real thing. Come on down and watch the fun and cheer for your favorite puller. Pulling tractor and sled is provided by Field Days.

Sign-ups start at 10.

Another old favorite comes along at 9:15 p.m. on Saturday evening when Field Days entertainment draws to a close with a classic — the **Farm Credit East Closing Fireworks Display**, which will be set off east of the horse area but viewable throughout the grounds.

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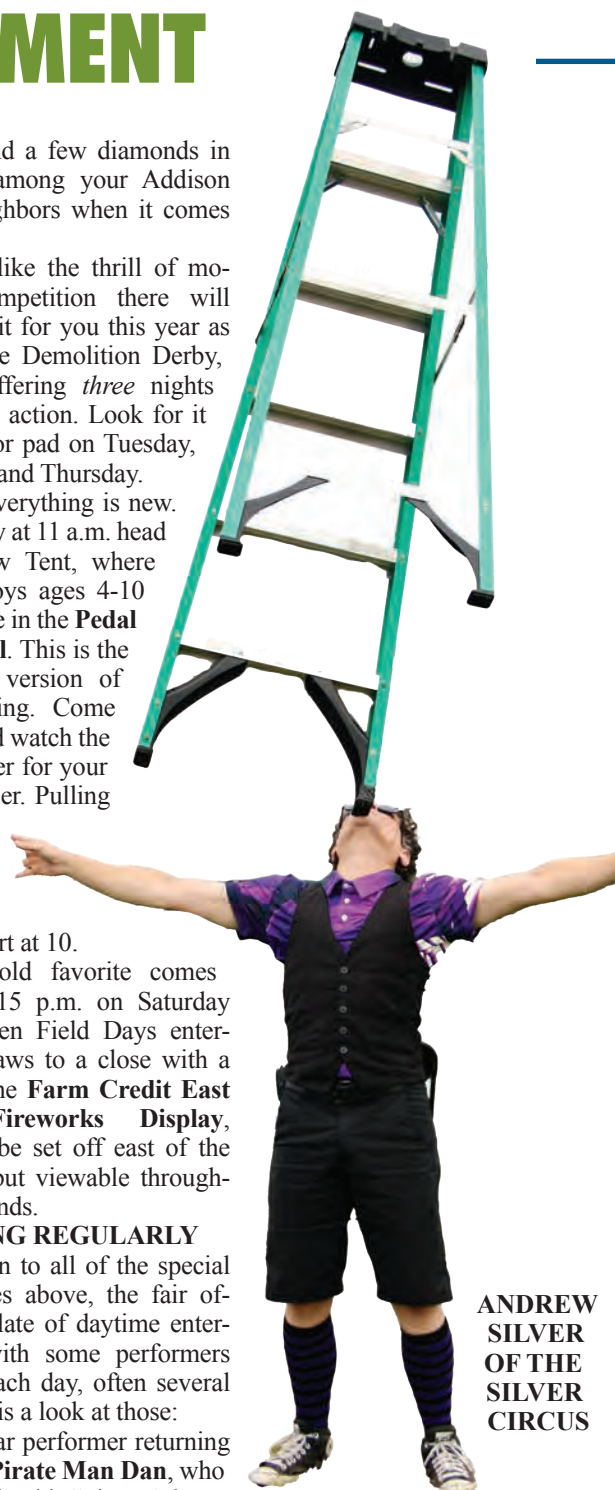
In addition to all of the special performances above, the fair offers a full slate of daytime entertainment, with some performers appearing each day, often several times. Here is a look at those:

- A popular performer returning this year is **Pirate Man Dan**, who will be offering his "Pirate Adventure Experience" twice a day at the Show Tent. Dan Jolley of Groton, an experienced clown, will offer a fun show for all ages — he says, "even teenagers." The friendly pirate's act includes balloons, magic,

unicycling, stilts and bubbles. One reviewer said Pirate Man Dan "put on a great show. Not only did all the kids in the room
(Continued on, Page 30)



FIELD DAYS OPENING PARADE



ANDREW SILVER OF THE SILVER CIRCUS



FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

enjoy him, but he had the adults all laughing at his jokes.”

• Look for **Buffalo Barfield’s “Unherd of Entertainment”** to tickle your funny bone in the show tent at various times each day. Gregg “Buffalo” Barfield and his wife, Michele, have created a unique and entertaining comedy and variety music show. The South Carolina-based act’s unique blend of music and comedy has been described as “Jeff Foxworthy meets Jimmy Buffett.”

The show is a blend of Americana, country, blues and oldies rock ‘n’ roll music with a touch of down home “clean” comedy. This one is good for the young kids.

• **Tom Joyce, the Magic Man**, will appear twice a day at the bandstand. Check the schedule to see when he is performing. He’s absolutely fabulous with the kids, but grown-ups will enjoy the show, too. He’s funny, but that doesn’t take anything away from his magic,

which is actually mysterious — it’s the best of both worlds

• Also in the audience participation category is the **Ladies’ Cast Iron Skillet Toss** at 1 p.m. on Wednesday (ladies throw skillets for distance and accuracy). Head to the tractor pad for this fun.

• Another contest of brute strength that is also a lot of fun to watch is the **arm-wrestling** competition at the Show Tent on Friday evening. The kiddos will start it off with youths 16 and

younger squaring off in real, head-to-head competitions at 5 p.m. (get on the sign-up sheet at 4 p.m.). After the learners have warmed up the audience, the big boys and girls take their turn facing off against competitors in their weight classes. Adult arm-wrestling starts at 7 p.m. (weigh-ins at 5 p.m.) with bouts in left- and right-hand. The tension is palpable; the excitement is real; the payoff is tremendous. You’ve got to see it — or take part in it!

Antique equipment tell us stories from the past

By CAROLINE JIAO

For a lot of fairgoers, the Addison County Fair and Field Days is about eating street food, enjoying the rides and watching cars crash into each other.

For some, on the other hand, the fair is about treasure-hunting the old memories on a farm through the antique equipment displays, working with all kinds of animals and tools before electricity was a thing — it’s about living that way of life.

Sudbury’s Ted Russell, 65, could be found operating various horse-pulled apparatus across a demonstration field near the horse barns. He feels proud about his work.

Being a fifth-generation farmer, Russell had been mixing draft horses with tractors to operate his farm for 45 years.

“The forever reason is I love horses,” he said. “My first-grade picture, I was wearing a sweater my mother knit for me, that I picked the pattern, and I had horses on it.”

Love is an understatement. Six years ago, driving home from the county fair, Russell saved two of his draft horses from a truck fire by

almost sacrificing his life.

Now he is still actively doing farming demonstrations. He happily explained to a reporter about a peculiar hay tedder called “a chicken scratch tedder.” It’s a horse-powered cart with pitchforks attached at the back that can scrape up cut grass and rye like large, running chicken feet. He believes this specific one can be dated to the late 1800s.

He recalls the first gasoline shortage in the 1970s when prices for fuel skyrocketed. Regardless, Russell stayed positive.

“Here’s my excuse to use horses!” he jokingly recalled.

Russell also exhibited draft horses and taught many classes on halting and hitching horses. He has made teaching these skills to the new generation his life-long work through the Green Mountain Draft Horse Association, which hosts annual beginner courses at Shelburne Farms.

“Now, it has to do with keeping these methods, these skills, alive for the future, in case they’re needed,” he said.

Alan Clark, 76 of Bristol who helps run the nearby antique en-



ALAN CLARK, A long-time volunteer at the engine shed in the antique equipment area, shows his teddy bear Ferris wheel that attracts visitors’ attention. He wants to visualize in a livelier way how a generator and motor worked to power equipment before electricity was available on farms.

Independent file photo/Caroline Jiao

gines display, was not unfamiliar with farm life where horses used to be the main power source. When he was a boy on a farm in Addison, he remembered standing on top of a combine harvester, putting hay into bags.

Now, his hobby has become noisier farm companions — gasoline engines — many of which at the fair he owns. To put it in Clark’s own words — if it ain’t noisy, it ain’t the fair!

Clark has witnessed the Antique

Area at Field Days grow exponentially since he started volunteering 30 years ago. It expanded from one barn to having also a forestry building, an iron shop and an engine shed. There is talk about building a house of yesteryear to display all the household items so the audience could have a taste of real farm life a few hundred years ago.

“Once you start (volunteering), you can’t leave,” he said. “I was brought up on a farm. It’s just in your blood.”



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and for making us your preferred
solar and heat pump installation team.*

***When you're ready for a solar or heat pump
installation, we are here for you!***

In 1972, Dave Cobb started Bristol Electronics
as a Main Street storefront.

Today, Bristol Electronics is a four generation
installation business celebrating 53 years!

*We are honored to have been chosen
to be a part of the improvements
to the Elderly Services property.*



We'll be at the fair! Swing by our booth if you'll be there.