



Music montage

Opera Co. of Middlebury highlighted the many sides of Leonard Bernstein. See Arts + Leisure.



Net pluses

A seasoned MUHS volleyball team bested scrappy first-year Mount Abe. See Sports, Page 1B.



Kiss the cow

Bristol Elementary students got a special treat when their principals puckered up. See Page 15A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Local averts deportation after ICE check-in

De La Cruz's plight draws major support

By JOHN FLOWERS

PANTON — The many supporters of Pantón's Juan De La Cruz knew he'd be entering the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in St. Albans for a check-in on Tuesday morning.

They just weren't sure if he'd be coming out.

But when he did — a sign he wouldn't be detained and/or deported to his native Mexico after a 20-year U.S. tenure that had produced a marriage to a local woman, two children and employment — a crowd of around 100 of his supporters erupted in cheers.

"He's very relieved and thankful that everything went well, that we had so many people praying for us at home and coming to support us," his wife (and Pantón selectperson) Kirsten De La Cruz said Wednesday.

"He's grateful."

Tuesday's ICE check-in yielded news that De La Cruz would be allowed to remain in Pantón for at least another six months, when another mandated check-in will occur. Additional six-month check-ins will ensue, with an "application for withholding of removal" hearing scheduled for federal court in Boston in December of 2026, according to family members.

De La Cruz was deported in 2005 after having crossed into



SIGN-HOLDING SUPPORTERS of Pantón's Juan De La Cruz showed up in force at the St. Albans ICE headquarters on Tuesday to urge federal authorities to allow the Mexican national to remain in the U.S. De La Cruz is employed, has lived in the U.S. for 20 years, and is married to a local woman with whom he has two children.

Photo courtesy of Helena Van Voorst

the U.S. from Mexico — a fact that has complicated his efforts to gain permanent legal residency in this country.

He has no criminal record. He's

been working as a stonemason and meat cutter.

De La Cruz was detained by ICE in 2017, but was able to remain stateside thanks to intervention by

his lawyers and the office of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

During his years in Pantón, De La Cruz has made many friends (See ICE, Page 9A)

Changes coming to Medicare in Vt.

'Advantage' plans being canceled

By IAN CURRY

ADDISON COUNTY — County residents on Medicare Advantage individual plans will all lose their current health insurance for 2026, unless they act soon.

That's because only three private companies provide Medicare Advantage to Vermonters — and two of them will stop offering the insurance and the third doesn't sell it in Addison County.

"A quarter of Vermont is on Medicare, a third of that is on Medicare Advantage plans," said Sam Carleton, the director of the State Health Insurance Assistance Program at Age Well. "It's going to be very, very challenging for us this year."

Medicare is the federal program

that provides medical insurance for older Americans. Medicare Advantage consists of programs run by private companies intended to be less costly alternatives to Medicare.

The private companies that run Medicare Advantage plans take set fees from the federal government then provide care — hopefully more efficiently — that allows them to offer things like better dental and vision care.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) and UnitedHealthcare will be dropping coverage of Medicare Advantage individual plans next year, as recently reported by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (See Medicare, Page 12A)

New cheese aiding farmworker justice

Marks growth of 'Milk with Dignity'

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Maribel can point to several ways Migrant Justice's Milk with Dignity Program has helped improve her experience as a dairy worker.

"One of the things I was most excited about to come was knowing that once my farm came into the program I would start to get, and my coworkers would start to get, a higher wage, the Vermont minimum, because prior to that we were making below minimum wage," she said through an interpreter. "We started to get other benefits as well; five paid vacation days, five paid sick days and improvements to our housing on the farm."

Maribel is a dairy worker on a farm enrolled in the Milk with Dignity program and serves on the Farmworker Coordinating Committee for Migrant Justice, a human rights organization founded and led by immigrant farmworkers. The organization in 2017 established Milk with Dignity, which works to improve conditions and enforce human rights in the dairy industry.

The Milk with Dignity program is now expanding through a new partnership Vermont Way Foods, an initiative of The Vermont Food Hub Collaborative established to "support Vermont farmers (See Dignity, Page 10A)



By the way

Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas will be meeting with folks in New Haven on Tuesday, Oct. 14, to discuss her office's first ever "Civic Health Index" — a report that looks at the state's civic life, revealing strengths and areas of potential growth, according to Hanzas. The report looks at six key domains of civic health: volunteerism and donating, political engagement, social and community context, cultural access and engagement, media trust and access, and government trust and access. Since the report's release, the secretary of state's office has been holding community conversations around the state to share and discuss the results of the report and gather feedback and ideas for the next steps to continue improving Vermont's civic health. The Oct. 14 (See By the way, Page 9A)

Latourelle carves a path through grief

Cardinals project aimed at cancer

By JOHN FLOWERS

SHOREHAM — Norton Latourelle and his wife Marlene Ann Thornton were often visited by delightfully curious crimson cardinals during their 35 years together at their beloved Shoreham home and workshop, where Norton — a renowned contemporary American folk artist — has transformed nondescript wooden blocks into thousands of charming dogs, cats, fish, insects, humans and just about anything you can imagine.

But the cardinal has been Latourelle's almost singular focus this year, as the bird has come to symbolize the love of his life and a fierce battle against the deadly foe that took her from him. Marlene died on March 12 after a courageous battle with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer.

Under the nurturing gaze of a Shoreham community that has cocooned him in love as he navigates this period of immense grief, Latourelle, 76, and a small band of dedicated helpers have methodically and painstakingly carved, sanded and painted 1,000 cardinals that are being offered — each for a \$100 donation — to seed a new fund at UVM Medical Center to aid victims of, and to do research on, glioblastoma.

Why cardinals?

In addition to being gorgeous



RENOUNDED FOLK ARTIST Norton Latourelle is using his tools of the trade and help from Shoreham neighbors to carve scores of wooden cardinals as a tribute to his late wife, Marlene, and as a fundraiser for those dealing with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer that took her life.

Independent photo/John Flowers

birds, they've come to symbolize hope, love, spiritual connection, or a message from a loved one who has passed away.

Norton found all those qualities in Marlene, whom he met in 1989 at a bar in Newburyport, Mass.

"I was taking a friend of mine — a starving artist — out to dinner,"

Norton recalled.

His spied Marlene across the barroom and knew she was special. The starving artist ate while the pair of new acquaintances enjoyed conversation that came easily and begged for a second chapter.

"We met on Friday the 13th and got married a year later, on

Saturday the 13th, (in 1990)," Norton said.

Norton had been raised in Hartford, N.Y., and wanted to recapture that rural lifestyle with Marlene at his side.

"We wanted to have farm animals — beef cattle, sheep, chickens, the (See Latourelle, Page 17A)

City rec head: Back club for local youths in long term

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Recreation Department's takeover on March 31 of the function provided for 25 years by the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes has gone well, Recreation Coordinator Martha DeGraaf told the Vergennes City Council at its most recent meeting.

More youths are coming now to 20 Armory Lane to what is now the Commodore Club than did this past spring — an average of 15," DeGraaf said. And on Sept. 19 a total of 35 showed up.

Over the summer, the club partnered with the school district to offer lunch and breakfast and opened between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Numbers varied, DeGraaf said, but often two dozen kids came.

Volunteers and other help has been critical in providing what she called a vital service, DeGraaf said.

"The program is powered by community generosity, with donations of afterschool snacks, homework help, cleaning, lawn mowing and financial support and other essential support," she said. "We have a safe place to go. It is vital for our community. It provides structure, enrichment and security while supporting working families."

(See Commodore Club, Page 10A)

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Advocates push for access to small-scale, plug-in solar

By MARIN HOWELL
VERMONT — Vermont lawmakers and environmental advocates are pushing for legislation that would allow for access to small-scale, portable solar systems in the state.

A campaign launched last month is centered around passing legislation enabling plug-in solar in Vermont. Plug-in solar — also called “portable” or “balcony” solar — are panels that can be plugged into a standard wall outlet, generating electricity that flows into homes. The systems can cost around \$2,000 and sit on various flat surfaces, such as a balcony or backyard. The proposed legislation would make it easier for Vermonters to install those solar systems, addressing regulatory barriers currently in place.

Supporters of the effort say the proposed legislation would allow more Vermonters to access affordable solar options.

“Plug-in solar makes it easier and more affordable for households across the state to generate their own power — especially those

who have had the hardest time going solar to date, like renters. That’s why we’re joining this campaign to enable it in law,” Ben Edgerly Walsh, Climate & Energy Program Director at the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, said in a press release announcing the campaign.

“Plug-in solar makes it easier and more affordable for households across the state to generate their own power — especially those who have had the hardest time going solar to date, like renters.”

— Ben Edgerly Walsh
VPIRG

State Sen. Anne Watson, D/P-Washington, chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Energy, announced last month that she plans to introduce legislation enabling plug-in solar during the upcoming legislative session. Joining Watson in the campaign are the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Vermont Natural Resources Council and Bright Saver, a nonprofit that advocates for plug-in solar.

Supporters of the campaign are calling for legislation that would update regulations in Vermont, enabling access to plug-in solar for residents. Organizers noted Vermont’s current process for connecting to the grid was designed for larger rooftop and backyard arrays.

The proposed legislation would, according to the press release, establish a “Right to Plug In” that allows residents to connect certified solar systems without having to submit applications or pay fees. The legislation would also require clear safety standards and provide “simple, transparent rules for residents, landlords and utilities.”

“Step by step, we need to make it easier for Vermonters to save money by switching to clean energy,” State Rep. Kathleen James, Bennington-4, said in the release. “Quite a few constituents have reached out to me about plug-in solar. They’re excited about this new technology and hope Vermont will take some simple steps to help make it happen here.”

Similar legislation was passed earlier this year in Utah, where a plug-in solar bill received unanimous bipartisan support. Lawmakers in Pennsylvania and New Hampshire could consider similar legislation in the coming months.

Use of plug-in solar systems is much more widespread in Europe. A report by SolarPower Europe estimates that up to 4 million such units could be in use in Germany, and other European countries are seeing increased adoption of the systems.

Steve Maier chairs the board of directors for the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison

County, a nonprofit working to support a healthy local economy while achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Maier said the organization is supportive of the plug-in solar effort.

“I would think that people would be very interested in this as an option for no other reason than it’s cheap, and it’s easy, and those are two issues that can be a problem in other community solar projects,” he told the *Independent*. “They’re not available to people at times because they’re complicated to get done and they can be expensive to buy into; having a low-cost option available to many other folks will, I think, really help people who are looking for a way to reduce their energy costs and also support renewable energy and energy from the sun.”

Maier also pointed to how enabling plug-in solar in Vermont could support local and statewide climate goals.

“Our power utility is pretty clean compared to most around the country, so we benefit from that as a state and a region,” he said. “As we look to transition off fossil fuels and address climate change, we’re going to increase our demand for electricity with heat pumps and electric vehicles and other ways we’re electrifying our energy use, so having and supporting locally-generated clean, renewable (energy) is a good way to support climate goals.”



ANDREW OESTRINGER SHOWS off his (unofficial) record catch at Lower Symes Pond in Ryegate.

Photo courtesy of the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife

Big fish in a little pond

Unofficial record made a nice meal

By GRETA SOLSAA
VTDigger

Vermont fisherman Andrew Oestringer wrangled in a nearly 2-foot smallmouth bass on Lower Symes Pond in Ryegate in August. Weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces, the catch could have broken the official Department of Fish & Wildlife state record by a long shot.

Oestringer — not realizing the catch he had — filleted the fish before weighing it on a certified scale, which would have landed him a spot in the annals of state angler history.

Shawn Good, a fish biologist and administrator of the department’s State Record Fish Program, said that Fish & Wildlife can only accept fish weighed on a certified scale for the program but said the “new ‘unofficial record’ is one heck of a fish story.”

The bass’s uncertified weight is 10 ounces heavier than the official record-holder catch back in 2003, Good said.

“It’s a dream come true for me,” said Oestringer, according to a department press release. “There is no better place to fish than Vermont.”

While Vermont and particularly Lake Champlain is known for bass fishing, it is noteworthy Oestringer reeled in an unofficial record-breaking fish kayaking on a pond in the Northeast Kingdom, said Good.

“We have an incredible diversity of fishing opportunities across the state,” Good said in an interview. “We have this resource in our backyard of small ponds, mid-sized lakes, rivers and streams that offer phenomenal fishing that are kind of unknown and overlooked.”

The State Record Fish Program was established in 1969 to recognize the most sizable catches of each fish species in the state based on weight, Good said.

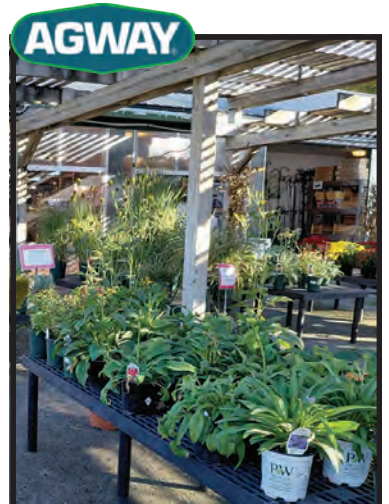
In 2010, Good launched and now runs another effort, the Master Angler Program, to increase incentives and participation in fishing across the state, he said. In the past 15 years, there have been 13,174 entries, and only one person has caught all 34 fish species accepted by the state in the program, according to Good.

Unlike the State Record Fish Program, the state measures fish in the Master Angler Program based on length rather than weight. For adult anglers, the catch must be in the 5% length percentile of the fish species to submit to the program, whereas youth anglers can submit catches that fall within the 10% length percentile.

At Lake Bomoseen, another inland water body in Rutland County, a Fair Haven Middle & High School student, James Lenox, 14, pulled in a 22-inch, 7-pound largemouth bass. The fish is the largest youth entry to the Master Angler Program and third-heaviest largemouth bass catch this year.

Michael Lenox, the young angler’s father and coach of the school’s varsity bass fishing team, said his son has participated in the Master Angler Program from a young age. James pulled in the largemouth bass on the south shore of the lake Sept. 14 and said it was the most exciting thing he has ever done, according to Michael.

“He has been fishing ever since he could hold a rod,” Lenox said. “Lake Bomoseen is a great place to fish.”



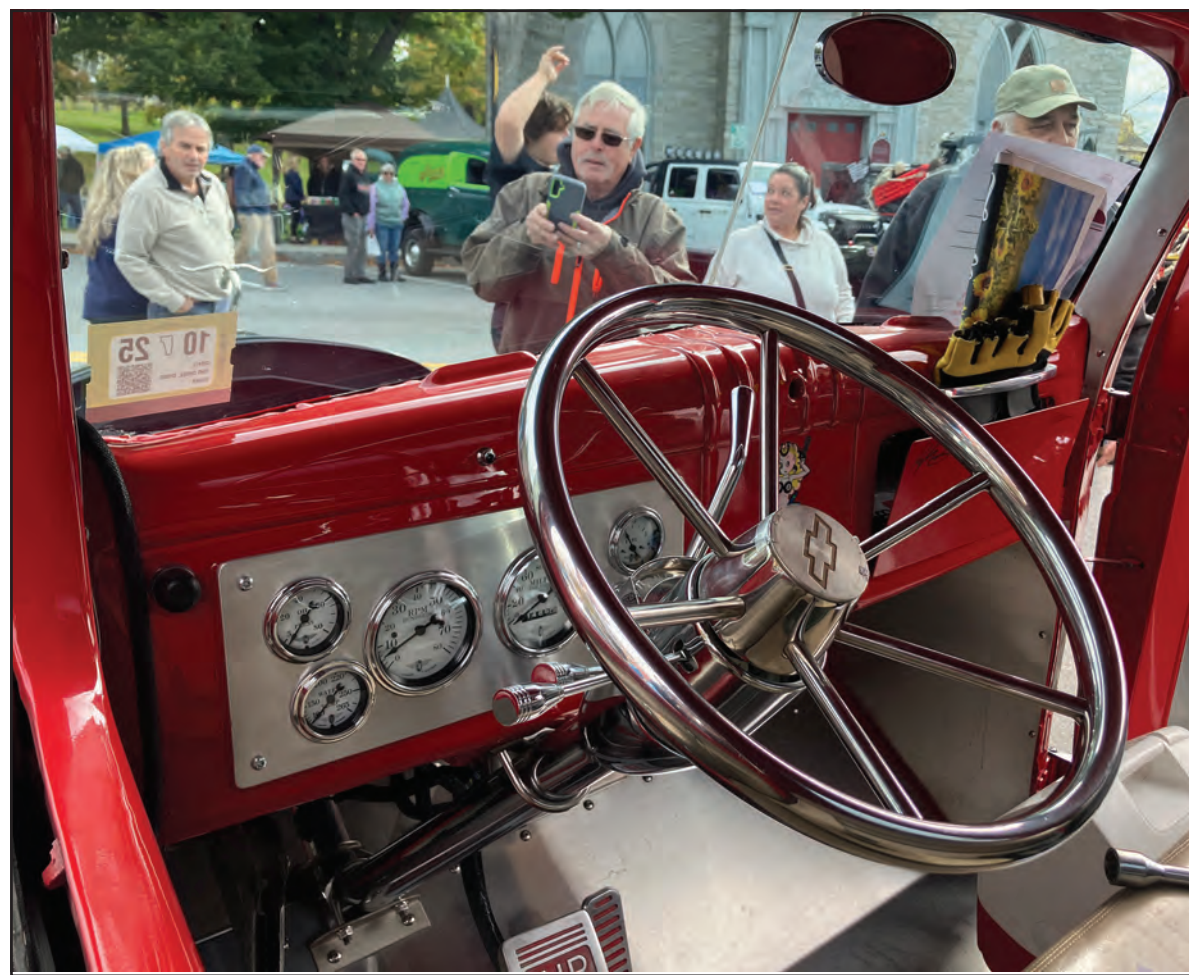
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CHECK OUT THE scores of vintage and unusual vehicles that will be on display on Middlebury’s Main Street this coming Oct. 12.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

Car Show & Fall Festival coming up Oct. 12

MIDDLEBURY — Main Street and half of Merchants row will be closed in downtown Middlebury on Sunday, Oct. 12, for the 4th Annual Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival. The event, which is free to attend, is a celebration for the community to be enjoyed by all ages. Last year’s event attracted more than 3,000 attendees.

The festival runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Middlebury Green and

Main Street, which will be closed to traffic. Over 75 antique and classic cars will be on display with music from WVTM, over 30 craft and food vendors and activities for children. For a complete schedule visit addisoncounty.com/middleburycarfest.

The weekend’s activities are hosted by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and The Better Middlebury Partnership, presented by Stone Motors and

sponsored by multiple area businesses, including Painting with Purpose, IPJ Real Estate, Silver Maple Construction, County Tire, Champlain Valley Equipment, UVM Health Porter Medical Center, Casella, the Addison County Independent, National Bank of Middlebury, 92.1 WVTM, Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Addison County Alignment and Repair and Bin There Dump That.

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ORGANIC VALLEY

Oct 8 - Oct 14

City rec director: Look at future

Council told due to demand dep't needs more help, funds

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The city's expanding recreation department needs more investment to maintain its infrastructure and programming, Vergennes Recreation Coordinator Martha DeGraaf told the city council at its most recent meeting.

"Over the past several years, Vergennes has experienced tremendous growth and expansion in recreational opportunities. This progress would not have been possible without the dedicated support of the community, city council, Recreation Committee, and volunteers," DeGraaf said in a prepared statement at the Sept. 23 council meeting. "While this growth is a sign of strong community engagement, it has also revealed significant growing pains."

DeGraaf began in her post as a part-time employee, but since then has gone fulltime. Most recently, this past spring she added operating the Commodore Club, the city's replacement for the shuttered Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes, to her list of duties. (See related story.)

Her job description already included overseeing the operations of the city pool and the rest of Veterans Park off East Street. The city's main recreation area, Veterans Park also includes a skatepark, basketball and tennis courts and a wintertime skating rink, which is sited on the future home of a covered pavilion for which there is an ongoing fundraising campaign.

Although recent upgrades to the skatepark have been done, the tennis and basketball courts and the rink warming hut, also an all-season storage shed, need work, DeGraaf reported.

DeGraaf and one half-time worker also are tasked with oversight of several other city parks, trail systems, and a disk golf course; creating and overseeing programming; and managing the department budget. The city's Parks and Recreation Committee in turn works with them.

"It is time for the council to determine how they envision the future of recreation in Vergennes," DeGraaf read from her statement.

"The current level of growth and management is no

longer feasible under a single recreation director. The director is responsible for a wide range of duties, including managing day-to-day operations, planning and executing programming, conducting daily checks of parks and facilities, overseeing budgeting and (performing) light maintenance, serving as a liaison between the community and City of Vergennes employees,

"It is time for the council to determine how they envision the future of recreation in Vergennes. The current level of growth and management is no longer feasible under a single recreation director."

— Martha DeGraaf

and ensuring compliance with codes, safety, regulatory standards, behaviors, and more."

She acknowledged the addition of the second department employee "has helped alleviate some of the daily workload by providing onsite representation for programs, the overall scope of responsibilities still exceeds what one fulltime director and a part-time assistant can sustain long term."

As far as infrastructure, she focused on Veterans Park, where she reported an estimate to fix the city's popular — but in her words "in terrible condition" — tennis courts came in at \$200,000. Also, DeGraaf said one basketball backboard is cracked, and the warming hut next to the skating rink, "is in disrepair, and ... the fascia has rotted above the shed, and it appears animals are eating the side of the building."

At the meeting, City Manager Ron Redmond also said a contractor estimated a new roof for the Commodore Club building on Armory Lane, formerly the Boys and Girls Club headquarters but now under city control via a lease with an option to purchase, could cost \$50,000, and new windows came in at \$22,000.

In a later interview with the *Independent*, Mayor Chris Bearor was generally supportive of the city's recreation initiatives, including the Commodore Club.

"Realistically, if we take the Commodore Club over, we need to find funding for another, probably a fulltime, person to run the club," he said.

He was not sure, however,

about paying \$200,000 for a complete overhaul of the tennis courts, although he pointed out the Veterans Park master plan that is in the pipeline might have some suggestions for funding that and other work.

"I don't know where the money would come from," he said. "With everything that's happening in the government system, the grants are not as abundant as they were a couple years ago. But I know that Martha is trying to get a master plan."

DeGraaf also addressed several recent citizens' concerns expressed to her department and city officials

- Outdoor fitness equipment purchased with a Community Schools Grant and the park's toddler playground equipment will not have permanent homes until the Veterans Park master plan is complete late next year. In the meantime, that equipment will continue to be taken out during the day and put in locked storage onsite when not in use.

- A children's Story Walk to be installed along Vergennes Connector Trail behind city schools in cooperation with the Bixby Library was delayed due to staffing changes at Bixby and to the need for state approval for making improvements to the wetlands in the area, which has now been granted, DeGraaf said. Installation is being planned for the spring.

- The city pool's finances are not as troubling as they appear, DeGraaf said. The issue is the pool's financial season does not run in the same time frame as the city's fiscal year.

"The city is not violating any accounting standards. The issue lies in how fiscal year reporting (July 1-June 30) does not align with the pool's seasonal operations (May-August)," DeGraaf wrote in her report.

She did acknowledge expenses were running over budget, in part because the hot summer made the pool popular, requiring more lifeguards to be on duty for safety reasons.

DeGraaf said she would provide a seasonal report to the council in the future, and the department would do its best to "keep affordability a top priority to ensure residents are not priced out of using the pool."

"The City remains committed (See *City rec* Page 18A)

"Realistically, if we take the Commodore Club over, we need to find funding for another, probably a fulltime, person to run the club."

— Mayor Chris Bearor



PORTER MEDICAL CENTER

Porter to host ribbon-cutting

MIDDLEBURY — As University of Vermont Health-Porter Medical Center celebrates 100 years of caring for Addison County and the surrounding communities, members of the public are invited to attend a ribbon-cutting event on Friday, Oct. 17, in the Middlebury hospital's main lobby.

The event, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the hospital's main lobby, will include remarks from hospital and health system leaders and the unveiling of the Porter Centennial Exhibit — a 42-and-a-half-foot-long art installation spanning the hallway that connects the hospital's main entrance and North Wing, which houses Porter's Surgical Services and Birthing Center.

The hospital will also unveil a time capsule that will be installed behind a wall within the building and will be opened in 2075 — 50 years from now.

"Porter's impact on families across Addison County and our growth to meet the changing needs of our patient, has always been fueled by passion and generosity," said Bob Ortmyer, president of Porter Medical Center. "As Porter enters its second century of caring for our community, our focus remains on strengthening care close to home and honoring the area that has sustained our hospital for the last hundred years."

Members of the public attending the event should enter through the hospital's main

entrance.

BIRTH AND GROWTH

In 1925, Porter Memorial Hospital was founded through the support of William Henry Porter, a trustee of Middlebury College who in 1914 pledged \$50,000 to build a hospital that would serve the college and the wider community. After delays caused by World War I and inflation, the hospital opened its doors on June 15, 1925, on the land where Porter's family farm once stood. A year later, the Addison Hospital Association was formed to ensure the hospital's future as a community-led institution.

Over the decades, Porter has grown to meet the region's needs — building new facilities, adding services and embracing innovations to improve care. Milestones include the opening of Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing in the 1970s and the adoption of technologic advances that transformed bedside care.

That expansion and development was often fueled by generous donations from the Porter Auxiliary and countless community members, whose contributions helped fund expansions, modern facilities and programs that support patients and families every day.

In 2017, the hospital joined University of Vermont Health Network — adding access to specialists while preserving its identity as a community-based Critical Access Hospital.

(See *Porter*, Page 18A)



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Fall 2025 Community Education Series

October 28:

Advanced Care Planning

A presentation and Q&A session with Vermont Ethics Network Advance Care Planning Program Manager, Taylor Murray. Find out more about how the Vermont Advance Directive process works, get free forms and informational brochures and ask your questions about how to get started with your advance directive including:

- Having advance care planning conversations with your loved ones and clinicians.
- Available tools to plan for your healthcare (advance directives, DNR/COLST, disease-specific addendums).
- How to complete your advance directive and other health planning documents.
- What decisions can we make in advance directives?
- How to use advance directives to make a plan for serious illness or end-of-life circumstances.

Presented by: Taylor Murray, Vermont Ethics Network Advance Care Planning Program Manager
Tuesday, October 28: 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

November 4:

Know the 10 Early Warning Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's and Dementia

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. Come to this program to learn more about how to identify and respond to these warning signs.

Presented by: Jordan Cotto, Vermont Chapter/ Alzheimer's Association
Tuesday, November 4: 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

November 5:

Aging with Enjoyment and Meaning

Positive Psychology offers good ideas to help us in our later years. We'll discuss meaning, savoring, adapting, and brain re-training. Amidst problems and worries we face in aging, can we also feel peace and enjoyment?

Presented by: Joanne Corbett, Center for Positive Aging
Wednesday November 5: 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

November 12:

Combating Fraud in the Digital Age

Learn how to protect yourself from the growing threats of fraud targeting older adults. This session will cover current computer, telephone, and mail scams, including impersonation fraud, check fraud, phishing and more. Learn how to recognize common fraud tactics and discover practical steps to safeguard your personal information, bank accounts, and businesses. We'll provide easy to understand tips on protecting yourself from identity theft, securing your digital banking, and avoiding falling victim to fraudsters.

Presented by: Erin Small, M&T Bank
Thursday October 30: 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

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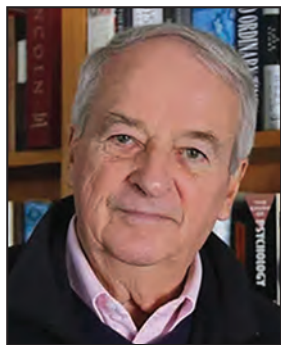


Elderly Services Inc. ESI College

With a Song in His Heart: The Double Miracle of Richard Rodgers' Contribution to American Song

Tuesday, October 14, 1:30 - 3:00 PM
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

This class explores the forces that shaped the American Song Book, focusing on Richard Rodgers' two great collaborations. With lyricist Lorenz Hart, he created classics such as Manhattan, My Funny Valentine, Blue Moon, Where or When and many more. After Hart's death, Rodgers partnered with Oscar Hammerstein II for two decades, producing Broadway treasures including Oklahoma, South Pacific, Carousel, The King and I and The Sound of Music. Historical background will be paired with a piano tour of these works. **Richard Hawley, Ph.D.**, is a lifelong teacher, writer, and musician, and has published 30 books and dozens of articles, stories and poems. Also a lifelong piano player, he has performed in venues across the country including his regular Friday night gig at East Middlebury's Waybury Inn.



A Reporter's 35-year Journey through Addison County

Thursday, October 23, 1:30-3:00 PM
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

Join veteran Addison Independent scribe John Flowers as he recounts his experiences covering the people, places and things of Addison County. How does a reporter come up with story ideas? How does one build a rapport with sources? How has journalism changed during the past four decades? The senior reporter of the county's local paper will also share some of the biggest, most touching and most riveting stories he's covered since joining the *Independent* in 1990.



John Flowers is a graduate of the Northeastern University School of Journalism. He is past president of the Vermont Press Association and has served on the VPA executive board for 15 years. He has testified before the Vermont Legislature on behalf of the VPA in defense of the Open Meeting Law and government transparency.



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Editorials

Why the nonprofit, and why get involved?

Last week we introduced the launch of a parallel 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Addison Independent Trust Ltd. We reported the mission of the nonprofit was twofold: first, to sustain and boost local news coverage throughout Addison County, and second, to promote civic education and civic engagement. We also said we'd offer ways to get involved.

But first, why.

Why the nonprofit and why get involved?

Creating a parallel nonprofit to the Addy Indy is a first step to meet tomorrow's challenges. Community newspapers have long been sustained by local advertising, and to a lesser extent by circulation. Two trends have changed our industry's economics: digital technology, in particular Google's dominance in online marketing, as well as the rise in marketing via Instagram and TikTok; and the loss of local retail stores to online distributors like Amazon. While advertising is still our primary source of revenue at the Addy Indy, and we're a competitive vehicle to reach the Addison County market, times change and so must we.

What we know at the Addy Indy is that thorough news coverage that informs our collective whole — towns, school districts, churches, sports, ag, college, business, our amazing nonprofits and more — is our core product. The answer is not, as too many other newspaper chains have done, to cut expenses from the newsroom.

Rather, our challenge is to continue building our news coverage and new ways to reach readers, and find new ways to pay for it.

One of the ways, as other viable newspapers are also doing — is to get a higher percentage of revenue from readers and donors. That's why we created the Addy ALL-STARS program two years ago, which generates about \$50,000 each year from supporters who want to help sustain our work. That fund goes directly to the Addison Independent, which is not tax exempt, and we greatly appreciate the more than 250 donors who regularly contribute.

But when it costs \$250 to \$400 to cover a single selectboard meeting, a night sports game, or a school or community play, that adds up quickly. As previously noted, we spend about \$35,000 or more to produce a single issue, each week of the year.

With the formation of the nonprofit, larger donors and foundations will now have a way to sustain local news, help protect free speech, boost civic engagement and strengthen our communities. We'll seek to create an app, develop local podcasts, build a network of town correspondents, organize forums to help residents understand complicated issues like changes in Medicaid and Medicare, education reform and the redistricting set to happen in the upcoming year.

At the end of the day, it's all about trying our best to inform Addison County residents of the issues that most affect their lives. We can do this through the newspaper via reporting, but we can also combine that with in-person discussions to reach county residents one-on-one.

Over the next couple of months, we'll occasionally create an ad hoc committee of community volunteers to take on specific tasks to fulfill this part of our mission. Watch for these announcements, or if you're interested today, give us a call at 802-388-4944 or email frontdesk@addisonindependent.com to ask questions or tell us your area of interest. Thanks, in advance, for your willingness to sustain local news and free speech, and to help build strong and resilient communities.

Angelo Lynn

Trump's crisis of the week

Ten months into Trump's second presidency, his operational pattern is well established: create so many mini crises the news establishment, political opposition, and the American public moves from outrage to outrage with minimum impact. It's worked because Trump captured the Republican Party so completely it's too scared to stand up for the country's democracy or any sense of justice.

In many ways Trump's actions mean Americans are living more under an authoritarian government than a democracy.

Most seriously, he is ordering national guard troops from willing states (like Texas) to invade other states and cities against the wishes of those governors and mayors. For any Vermonter who believes the propaganda Trump, Fox News and rightwing podcasters spread about uncontrolled chaos and violence in "blue" cities, please tune in to other sources of news. The facts are that crime is mostly down in those cities and they are far from "out of control." Furthermore, local and state law enforcement have pleaded with the Trump administration not to make things worse by bringing in out-of-state National Guard units.

But Trump's objective is to provoke violence, not quell it.

This argument is well reported in a piece by *New York Times* columnist Thomas Edsall this Tuesday headlined "Trump is not afraid of Civil War. Neither is Stephen Miller." He asks political scientist Barbara Walter, who is the author of "How Civil Wars Start," if Trump and company want to provoke violence by sending troops into cities led by Democrats.

Yes, she responded, then explained. "The quickest way to piss people off is to send soldiers into their neighborhoods especially when there's no reason for them to be there. It's inherently provocative, and Trump and his team understand this... Once citizens begin to view their own government's security forces as an occupying army, violence becomes inevitable.... In fact, that's the point. They are not trying to restore order; they're trying to trigger the very unrest that would justify further crackdowns... violence serves their ultimate end: They want to create the illusion of disorder so they can tighten control and stay in power indefinitely."

Edsall's [piece](#) is fascinating, well-reported and, at times, frightening. Here's Trump's right-hand man, Stephen Miller, after Charlie Kirk's memorial service describing his vision for America: "For those trying to incite violence against us, those trying to foment hatred against us: What do you have? You have nothing. You are nothing. You are wickedness, you are jealousy! You are envy! You are hatred! ...We are the ones who build. We are the ones who create. We are the ones who lift up humanity."

Of course, the reason Trump and company are pressing so fast on so many fronts is because they know they're losing public support fast ahead of the 2026 elections.

As Walter explained: "In a functioning democracy, citizens can still vote their leaders out of office... That's why autocrats-in-waiting often look for ways to get rid of these constraints. They can rig elections, suppress opposition or, as history shows, manufacture a crisis that justifies emergency powers. Provoking violence is a common way to do this."

Angelo Lynn

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Why they call it fall

GOSH, WE SAW some beautiful autumn foliage this year, despite the drought, which seemed to tone things down. There are still leaves in the trees, but a lot of them are ending up down here.
Independent photo/John S. McCright

Crosswalk color sparks downtown

It's lovely to live in Middlebury with its quaint downtown, where the buildings are only two or three stories high and made of brick. Very solid. During COVID Middlebury went through a huge transformation, rebuilding the bridges for the railroad, stores going out of business, and many of the downtown roads closed. Townspeople wondered if Middlebury would ever return as a busy little town. I could envision it coming back stronger than ever, because just as a person might have good bones, the structure of Middlebury has good bones. Solid and strong.

Slowly our town has become active again. Most of the storefronts have open shops and walking downtown is a pleasure. We have a new municipal building, an addition on the Town Hall Theater, and an Ilsley Library project in process. The roundabout seems to effectively control traffic, with an only occasional wait for everyone to funnel one way or the other around it and over the bridge.

For two nights this summer there was a notice: town streets will be closed for "line painting." I envisioned white lines and rust colored sidewalks. But the next day driving home from swimming at the pool I saw first a brilliant, purple-orchid crosswalk, then others in turquoise and red and yellow. At once, Middlebury became a place of joy for me. Not so serious. A place where you could feel a different personality. More modern, expansive and fun.

I looked forward to exploring the streets and stores and galleries with my sister-in-law Pat visiting

from Westport, Conn. I looked forward to seeing the newness and feeling the energy of brightness, happiness and health. Of course, the solidness of the buildings matches the solidness of the many people I know, having lived in Addison County for over half a century. Now we have a whole new picture — bright colors, bringing a freshness to town.

I wondered how Middlebury came up with this fabulous idea of color. I don't know if it's been done in many other places, but these bright colors on our crosswalks brought something light to the seriousness of our academic setting. Something special to Middlebury.

The crosswalks reminded me of the first time I walked with my friend Kathleen to our traditional Mongolian medicine classes in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. That day we discovered that drivers do not stop for pedestrians. In fact, we heard screeching brakes, looked

up, and saw an older man who had been hit and was lying in the street. One of his shoes had flown off and his sock had a hole in it. The young driver retrieved the shoe and helped the man to the sidewalk. From that day, we learned that Mongolians drive like they're riding horses. For 70 years, during the Soviet period, only rich people got to drive cars, and they were more important than walkers. Plus, it was only five years previous that regular people could get a license. Not only did they drive like riding a horse, nearly everyone was a new driver. There were no crossings, traffic lights or stop signs, no rules about passing on

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

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



Open meetings a civic opportunity

In a 2023 case involving a contested speech restriction during government meetings, the highest court in Massachusetts reminded us about our protected right to assemble in town halls throughout the region.

Quoting John Adams, the court wrote in *Barron v. Kolenda* that the right to assembly is "a most important principle and institute of self-government." It allows everyone the opportunity to speak their "sentiments of public affairs." Or, as the court pulled from Alexis de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America": "town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and to how to enjoy it."

Yet a study by the Pew Research Center in 2018 found that less than a third of Americans are attending local government meetings. It seems many of us are unwilling or unable to participate in what the court, citing Adams in *Barron v. Kolenda*, called "the critical role of the right of assembly in the towns" to cultivate "the spirit and practice of self-government."

This right we inherited may resonate more if you consider our role in determining how tax dollars are spent where we live, who our schools employ to teach our children, what tools we provide our law enforcement and how local businesses are regulated, among many other topics that are listed on meeting

Community Forum

This week's writer is Justin Silverman, executive director of the New England First Amendment Coalition, which advocates for First Amendment freedoms and open government.

agendas in towns across New England.

We all have a profound stake in local governance. But maybe you are one of the two-thirds of Americans who sit out this process and now you want to make your voice heard. Where to start?

While each New England state has its own open meeting law, many requirements regarding the posting of agenda items, public access and commentary, and meeting minutes are similar. New Hampshire has the right-to-know law (RSA 91-A). Here's a cheat sheet for those in the state who may be new to local government meetings:

- First, remember that not all meetings of government officials — and not every part of an otherwise public meeting — is open to you. There must be a quorum of public body members present for it to be an official meeting, and discussions on certain topics such as legal matters can be conducted in secret. When there is a meeting, the law requires a physical location. Remote access is not guaranteed.

- Notice of any meeting open to the public must be posted at least 24 hours in advance and include the time and location of the meeting. Typically, these notices are posted on the town's website or at the meeting location itself. They may also be printed in a local newspaper. While not required under the law, an agenda for the meeting can typically be found

(See *Silverman*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Input sought on town buildings

It was wonderful that so many members of the Weybridge community joined last week's conversation to discuss the future of the historic town hall and library. For those of you who weren't able to attend, we missed you. We received excellent and constructive feedback on our preliminary strategies. To review notes from the meeting, as well as a previously recorded presentation from our architects, please visit the Weybridge town website: townofweybridge.org/villagebuildings.

Going forward, our architects are working to incorporate your feedback into two, more refined concepts. There will be additional opportunities for you to contribute your feedback in the coming months. If you have questions or immediate ideas to share, please feel free to leave a note at the town clerk's office or email Kelly Flynn at kflynn@townofweybridge.org.

Kelly Flynn, Gwen Nagy-Benson, Bill Mayers, Dan DaPolito and Bill Roper
Weybridge town buildings working group

Birong seen as finding facts

I am very upset with the emails berating State Rep. Matt Birong for traveling to Israel on a fact-finding mission. It is becoming both exhausting and frustrating to continually read the one-sided views of what's happening in Israel and Gaza. I will not defend all the actions of the Netanyahu right-wing government (as I can't defend Trump's right-wing government) and I also condemn the Israeli settler's violence in the Judea and Samaria (West Bank).

Israel is a strong ally of the United States, perhaps a democracy with flaws, as is ours, but one of the few in the Middle East. It's important that our representatives educate themselves about anything that may relate to what they may have to deal with at home especially with the barrage of anti-Israel resolutions that are floating around Vermont. Our news feeds and social media "news" are so blatantly one sided and hardly tell the whole story, especially from a post October 7th Israeli point of view.

I want the war to end, yes, I want Hamas to accept the proposed ceasefire ASAP. I would love to see people here and around the world flooding the streets and universities with protests demanding that Hamas accept the ceasefire, return the hostages, disarm and never be in the next government. After all, haven't people been clamoring for a ceasefire for two years?

It is so easy for us in Vermont to criticize how the Israeli government and citizens are acting but we also we should try to put ourselves in their shoes. Many years of indiscriminate missiles from Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, and Iran (the worst) has made sirens and bomb shelters all too familiar for the average Israeli.

Lastly, there was criticism about the Israeli government paying for his trip. Would you have had the same criticism if the trip was paid by the Palestinian Authority or a different pro-Palestinian group? I also think that Matt's staying there for a few days and meeting with everyday folks says a lot about his desire to educate himself about what life is like for those people living there.

Dr. Marv Greenberg
Middlebury

Israel junket ill-advised at best

I am a Jewish Vermonter and first I want to say Shana Tova—Happy New Year. At Rosh Hashana we dip apples in honey and wish each other a sweet new year.

But I don't have the words to express my horror and outrage that five Vermont

(See *Colwell* letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Is 'industrial agriculture' sustainable for the planet?

Bill Schubart certainly set off a firestorm of claims from proponents of industrial agriculture (*Addison Independent*, Aug. 21). I have a question. For decades, when the corn goes in followed by rain, the entire lake turns brown. Lake frontage, which was well suited for boating, with a simple board dock, has now become mud flats. The question is, "Does this filling in of Lake Champlain with some of our most valuable topsoil constitute sustainable agriculture?"

I'll go on to talk about some even more serious erosion. Middlebury's hero, John Deere, did us no favor with his invention of "the plow which broke the Great Plains." That soil which ran as much as nine or more feet deep, was some of the richest in the world — equaled only by other grasslands that had been occupied for millennia by multiple species. It was very rich, but highly wind-erosive, as evidenced by the dust bowl days, when much of it blew away. It has continued to blow away, due to tillage for row crops, such as corn, canola and soy — largely for animal

feed. Clearly, grazing animals evolved eating grass, not grain and beans. While these crops may increase production, they result in digestive distress and milk containing toxic components. Hauling feed to cattle generates much more of this pollution than letting cows graze. Is this sort of destruction sustainable agriculture?

The indigenous people considered the well-being of the next seven generations in making their decisions. It worked for them for the thousands of years previous to the European invaders bringing their greedy destruction. We are losing our farmland to investors such as Bill Gates and the Chinese. Development is also taking a large toll. Our topsoil is being depleted rapidly. Where are our resources, for future generations' sustenance going to come from? If you say, "hydroponics," you are misguided.

There are many considerations that are being overlooked. Truly healthy soil is becoming increasingly scarce, due to chemicals and other assaults.

Healthy soil contains organisms that get blown into the upper atmosphere to combine with airborne dust, creating precipitation. Drought is encouraged by many bad farming practices. Bill Schubart's tone is right on, even if he got some details wrong.

I could write a book refuting what the industrial farming proponents claim. I started learning agriculture in 1944 from my very intelligent and well-educated uncle who ran the family farm and practiced sustainable dairying. Today, I get grass-fed, healthy A2 milk from a farmer who does much the same.

Regrettably, the original bloodline of the Guernseys we had has been crossbred out of existence in this country, prompted by the great bogus fat scare. They are no longer hardy enough to survive Vermont winters on grass and hay alone. They originally produced the richest A2 milk, with the best flavor, of any dairy breed. We have lost much with our myopathy.

Joe Gleason
Bridport

Sheldon exhibit on women farmers 'exceptional'

No antiques or dusty relics in this new photographic exhibit just opening at the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History. "Vermont Female Farmers" is a unique and exceptional story of some 38 women farmers contributing to the vitality of Vermont's agricultural community with specialty herbal and wellness products along with organic and

regenerative farming techniques in raising essential crops and farm animals. This exceptional display of photos with personal comments from the women expressing their reasons for farming is made possible by the enlightened and creative camera work of Juan Carlos Gonzalez, a Vermont resident who spent a couple of

years developing these materials for publication. His effort brings a little known story into the light of day as a significant aspect of Vermont's farming community. How special that is for the Sheldon Museum to be a real and vital community partner that we can all benefit from.

David S. Benedict
Middlebury

Silverman

(Continued from Page 4A)
with the notice.

- Upon arriving at a public meeting, you should first request an agenda from the chairperson of the government body in case any revisions have been made since first posted. While state law permits you to record the meeting by video or audio, there may be reasonable recording policies imposed to prevent disruption of the meeting. Consider speaking with a representative of the government body to make sure no restrictions are in place, though you are not required to do so.

- It's important to review the agenda ahead of the meeting. There may not be an opportunity provided to speak on topics other than those listed. If there is an open forum during a meeting, know that the First Amendment prevents any restriction that is unreasonable or based on your opinion alone.

- Minutes for each meeting must be available within five business days and can often be found on your respective town's website. They must include, among other things, the names of officials attending the meeting and a description of all final decisions and objections.

- Know that just because you have these rights does not mean those rights will always be recognized. If you believe that the open meeting law has been violated, you can file a complaint in Superior Court or with the state's right-to-know ombudsman, though the latter's office is now vacant, and it's unclear how, if at all, the office will operate in the future. In lieu of these options, you may want to contact advocacy organizations, such as the New England First Amendment Coalition or your local American Civil Liberties Union.

The open meeting law is not

perfect and can be abused by those in government. Secrecy often seeps into meetings where sunlight should shine. Even well-intended officials don't always convene meetings in ways accommodating the challenges faced by the elderly, working parents or those lacking transportation. But these meetings are still one of the best ways we have to engage with government, to express ourselves on timely political issues and to hold our representatives accountable.

As the preamble to New Hampshire's right-to-know law states, "Openness in the conduct of public business is essential to a democratic society." These open doors, however, are only useful if we decide to go through them.

Colwell letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
legislators thought it was ethical and appropriate to take an all-expense paid junket to Israel while Israel is committing a live streamed genocide that has stolen the lives of more than 60,000 human beings, and created more child amputees than any act of military aggression in world history.

Right here in our own community Rep. Birong, who was on this trip to Israel, is

the lead sponsor of H.310, a bill that claims to be about protecting Jewish Vermonters from antisemitism but seems to classify speaking out for Palestine as hate speech.

Nothing is harming the standing of Jews the world over more than Israel's unchecked violence. The truth is that our safety as Jews and the safety of Palestinians have always been, and will always be, intertwined. People with caring

hearts all over the world can see that any nation starving and bombing children is being led by war criminals who should be tried in international court for crimes against humanity. These legislators have committed terrible harm by lending legitimacy to the Israeli government, and deserve to be roundly criticized.

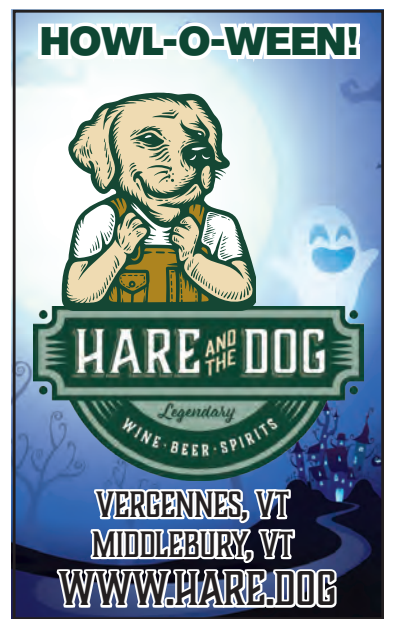
Joanna Colwell
Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
a breakdown lane or doubling up at a curve. After that first day, we always hesitated when we had to cross a street.

Coming home to a place where there are crosswalks and people actually stop for pedestrians felt safe and reassuring. I wonder if the fun of the brilliant colors might also make it safer for us to cross.

Sas Carey has written two books, "Reindeer Herders in My Heart" and "Marrying Mongolia," available at Vermont Bookshop, and directed four feature documentaries about nomadic life in Mongolia. Movie screening links and books may be found at nomadicare.org under books & films.



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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Karen Bourdon Gorin, 72, Middlebury native

DELTAVILLE, Va. — Karen Bourdon Gorin, 72, of Delta, Va., passed away peacefully Sept. 22, 2025.

She was born on March 17, 1953, in Middlebury, Vt., to J. Andre and Elizabeth Bourdon. Growing up in Middlebury on a dairy farm she shared an unbreakable bond with her siblings, Andy Jr., Cheryl, Bruce, Kevin and Susan. She will be remembered for her infectious smile, generous spirit, and unwavering kindness.

Karen pursued her passions throughout her life. After graduating from the University of Vermont as a registered nurse, she had a successful career as a neonatal nurse caring for those she called her babies. Beyond her successful career at both University of Vermont Medical Center and Fairfax Hospital in Virginia, she found immense joy in the game of golf, sailing, skiing, reading and spending winters on the keys of the Florida coast. She and her



KAREN BOURDON GORIN

husband were members of Christ Church in Saluda, Va., where she spent countless hours attending, volunteering, and making lifelong friends.

She is survived by her mother Elizabeth (Conley) Bourdon; her siblings, Cheryl (Rick) Pickreign and children, Matthew and

Andrew; Kevin (Sue) Bourdon and children, Chris, Mark, Scott and Alison; Susan (Randy) Bourdon-Lafraimboise and children, Megan and Jack; nephew Timothy Bruce Wright; and sister-in-law, Joanna Cronin and son, Eric.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Gorin; father, J. Andre Bourdon; and siblings Andy Jr. and Bruce.

She had numerous friends (too many to count), and there was not a person in the universe that did not instantly fall in love with her. It took twice as long to go anywhere with her as she had to stop and say hello to both friends and strangers alike. Generous and kind, she will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in both Saluda, Va., and her eternal home, Evergreen Cemetery, Cornwall, Vt.

Faulkner Funeral Homes, Bristow-Faulkner Chapel, Saluda is assisting the family. ♦

Barbara Fee Dickason, 93, of Shelburne

SHELburne — Barbara Fee Dickason, 93, of Shelburne, Vt., passed away Sept. 23, 2025.

Bobbie was born Nov. 9, 1931, in Mount Vernon, N.Y. She married the love of her life, John H. Dickason, on June 30, 1953, and together they shared 62 years of marriage until his passing on Feb. 2, 2016.

Shortly after their marriage, Bobbie worked at the Dartmouth College Library Rare Books Department. She was an avid and gifted artist whose paintings grace the homes of her family. Each year Bobbie designed and painted original watercolor Christmas cards, which were then printed and sent to her wide circle of friends and family.

From 1958 to 1985 Bobbie and John lived in Springfield, Ill., where they raised two children, John and Kathryn. During those years, Bobbie was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, serving on the Vestry, chairing the Episcopal Church Women group and singing in the choir.

Deeply committed to her community, she contributed her time and talents to the Springfield Art Association, the Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair and the Junior League of Springfield.



BARBARA DICKASON

Bobbie's civic contributions included her involvement in the 1967 Walquist Comprehensive Master Plan, which guided the revitalization of the historic four-block area surrounding Abraham Lincoln's home. Drawing on her artistic talent, Bobbie was commissioned to create a large pictorial map of New Salem, the pioneer village where Lincoln once lived.

In 1985 Bobbie and John moved to Coral Gables, Fla., where she became an active member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church,

serving as both senior warden and junior warden on the Vestry. She continued her love of the arts serving as a docent at the Miami Art Museum and as a member of the Riviera Country Club's Art Show Committee. Together, Bobbie and John enjoyed playing tennis and golf and travelling the world, always making lifelong friends.

After John's passing, Bobbie relocated to Shelburne, Vt., where her son John and his family reside. She became a beloved member of the Wake Robin Retirement Community. She spent many hours painting in the Community's art studio, loved walking the beautiful grounds and formed wonderful relationships with staff and fellow residents.

Bobbie is survived by her children, John Dickason (Cherrie Namy) and Kathryn Dickason Sweeney (Kevin Sweeney); her sister, Marjorie Neff, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church in Shelburne, Vt., or to The St. Philip's Foundation for the John H. Dickason Outreach Endowment Fund, St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Coral Gables, Fla. ♦

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Mark W. Brace, 63, of Panton

PANTON — Mark W. Brace, 63, passed away Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, at his home in Panton.

He was born Sept. 17, 1962, in Middlebury, the son of Richard and Sandra Burnette Brace Sr.

He was a farmer most of his life. He enjoyed fishing, camping and tinkering with his cars.

Mark is survived by his sister, Pauline and her husband Norman of Vergennes; his mother, Sandra Brace of Panton; a stepdaughter, Angel Dunham Ross and her daughter Chyenne; eight nieces and nephews; a niece Tammy Shaw Cutting and her four children and two grandchildren; and a nephew Chris Perkins and his three children and two grandchildren.

There will be no funeral services. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com. ♦

Charlene Marie Kelton, 66, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Charlene Marie Kelton passed away Sept. 28, 2025, following complications related to cancer.

Char was born Nov. 8, 1958, in Lebanon, N.H., to parents Raymond Carroll (Bud) Kelton and Joan (Grenon) Kelton. Early in childhood the family moved to Middlebury, where they laid firm roots and connected deeply with a community that Char cherished being a part of.

Char graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 1976 with her friends, many of whom she maintained close relationships with throughout her life. In 1978 she had a brief adventure in Aspen, where she lived, worked, and explored before returning to Middlebury, which was very much her home.

In 1981 Char married local rascal Paul Lengyel. In 1985 and 1991 they welcomed their children Abbi and Ross at Porter Hospital.

In 1991 Char initiated a career with the Counseling Service of Addison County, where she started as a Community Integration Specialist before becoming a Residential Support Staff and eventually an Employment Representative. She thrived there, building many close friendships with coworkers and developing strong rapport with clients. This work kept her out and about in the community where she would delight in seeing familiar faces



CHARLENE MARIE KELTON

and loved to catch up on the latest goings on. After over thirty years of service, she retired in December of 2023 and maintained many close connections with clients and coworkers in her retirement.

Char was a person who thrived in seeing the glass as always half full. She cared deeply about traditions and especially enjoyed the holidays as well as hosting frequent dinners. An avid cook, she loved to scour the weekly flyers and to prepare food in plenty for friends and family. Time spent around her dining room table partaking in her specialty of homemade garlic bread is a shared memory amongst her nearest and dearest.

A go-to phrase of Char's was "groovy" and that was the rhythm for much of her take on life. She

loved knickknacks and hanging photographs of people in her life around her home. She loved anything that sparkled, if it was red all the better. Char was independent and faithfully cut her tree across the street, proud to always haul it home herself, which she did through her final Christmas season.

She was predeceased by both of her parents as well as her sister-in-law, Cathy Forbes, who was a source of great joy and inspiration.

She is survived by her daughter, Abbi Lengyel and her partner Caydon Sieverding; her son, Ross Lengyel, his wife Lydia and their children Leni and Rocco Lengyel; as well as her former husband, Paul Lengyel, all of Middlebury.

Char was the oldest of an incredible sibling network who all survive her here in Vermont: Kelly Kelton (Bonnie Shaw), Kyle Kelton, Tanna Kelton (Danny Pflaster), Kammy Kelton (Bob Butler) and Kris Kelton. She is survived by her uncle and aunt, Howard and Linda Kelton of Middlebury, and her aunt and uncle Nancy and Jack Lebrun of Lebanon, N.H. She also leaves six nieces and nephews, three great nieces and two great nephews as well as many beloved and devoted friends.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, at the American Legion, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury, VT 05753 from 12:00-3:30. ♦

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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.

Geraldine 'Deeny' Marshall, 90, of Panton

PANTON — On Aug. 31, 2025, Geraldine "Deeny" Marshall went home to be with our Lord and Savior. She was met there by her husband of 52 years, Robert Marshall, along with her two sons, Robert Jr. and David, and the rest of her family that preceded her.

Deeny was born in Smyrna Mills, Maine, on March 22, 1935. She moved at age 5 to Connecticut, where she grew up with her parents and sisters. At the age of 28, Deeny and husband Bob moved to Vermont with their four children before having their fifth.

While raising their family, Deeny was an active member of the Panton Baptist Church. She worked for Dr. Melvin

Simmons for over 20 years and was a member of the planning and zoning board for the town of Panton.

Deeny is survived by her two daughters, Joanie Marshall of Hampshire, Ill., and Nancy Husk of Vergennes, Vt.; and her son Christopher Marshall of Vergennes Vt. She had 18 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Deeny spent her final years surrounded by family while residing at a memory clinic in Lawton Mich.

Her family will hold funeral services at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Panton Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Prospect Cemetery. ♦



GERALDINE 'DEENY' MARSHALL

Stories from the Heart

Honoring the Spirits of Those Who Have Left This World

Saturday, October 25, 2025
6:30pm-8pm/ Doors open at 6:00pm
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
3 Main Street, Middlebury

Join us for this Moth-style storytelling event where five brave community members stand up and tell their story of grief and loss.

Join us immediately following the event for a luminary walk down Main Street to Sheldon Museum.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT HEALTH NETWORK

Porter Medical Center

PALLIATIVE CARE DEPARTMENT
Louella Richer, Palliative Support Services Mgr.
Phone: (802) 388-4744
E-Mail: lricher@portermedical.org

[UVMHealth.org/PMC](https://www.uvmhealth.org)

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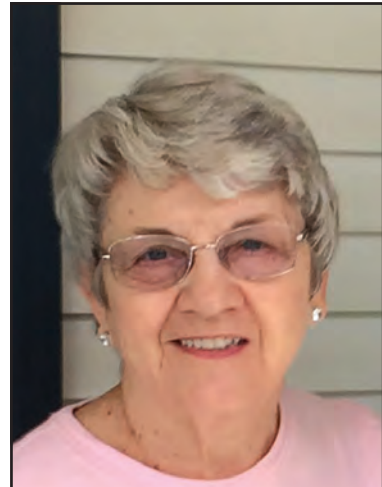
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Pet of the week

Send us your pet!
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Frances Aldinger, 83, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beautiful beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and cousin, Frances “Fran” Aldinger, who left this earth on Monday, Oct. 6, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.



FRANCES ALDINGER

Fran was born on May 15, 1942, in Rutland, Vt., daughter of Louis R. and Frances “Betty” (Grace) Cizmada. She graduated from Rutland High School in 1960 and Castleton State College in 1964, with a Teaching degree in Elementary Education.

While studying at Castleton, Fran met the love of her life, Barry Aldinger, whom she married on Aug. 15, 1964. Fran and Barry were hired together as teachers at Ferrisburgh Elementary and settled in Vergennes, Vt. After giving birth to their first child, Fran took time off to raise their family. When her children were of school age, she started a private pre-school, taught at Vergennes Elementary and then landed back at Ferrisburgh Elementary where she taught until her retirement in 1990. When she and Barry became snow birds in Lady Lake, Fla., Fran enjoyed shopping and sightseeing throughout Florida.

Fran brought caring, kindness and humor into the lives of all who

knew her. She loved children and is remembered fondly by all students nurtured in her care. Fran was an avid flower gardener, spending hours beautifying her yard. She enjoyed solving crosswords and the Jumble, tea and laughter with friends and time spent with her cats. Fran was blessed with a great sense of humor and she loved a good joke. Fran loved her *People* magazine, the Oscars, and the Emmys, keeping up with her favorite celebrities. She made a wonderful apple pie, a tasty pot of chicken and dumplings, and chocolate eclairs, which were her husband’s favorite. But nothing brought her more joy than spending

time with the people she loved; she always made sure they knew how much she loved them.

Fran is survived by her devoted husband, Barry, of Vergennes; her daughter, Jackie Hayes (Kevin) of Vergennes; son, Darin Aldinger (Genny) of Lexington, S.C.; her brother Jody of Bokeelia, Fla; her grandchildren, Graham Aldinger (Claire), Jon Aldinger, Devin Hayes and Liam Hayes; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Martha Fredette and her brother David Cizmada.

Fran’s family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the caring and compassionate staff at Eastview at Middlebury Senior Retirement Community, who treated Fran with love and kindness over the last four years. The family would also like to thank Addison Home Health & Hospice for their care and support.

There will be a memorial gathering in Fran’s honor on Friday, Oct. 17, from 5-7 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. All are welcome.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers can be made in Fran’s memory to Eastview at Middlebury Retirement Community Endowment Fund, 100 East View Terrace, Middlebury VT 05753. ♡

Lauren Lee Morrill, 63, of North Ferrisburgh

NORTH FERRISBURGH — Lauren Lee Morrill, 63, died tragically on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. Born on Aug. 14, 1962, in Framingham, Mass., Lauren was the daughter of Lindalee Hutchinson, Robert Doss and Alfred Parsons.



LAUREN LEE MORRILL

She is survived by her loving husband of 38 years, Norman Morrill Jr.; her parents, Robert Doss and Alfred Parsons; her in-laws Norman and Sue Morrill; and her brother, Thomas Parsons. She is also survived by her children, Joshua Berg (with wife Jodi), Jessica Sparkes (with husband Andrew), Jeremy Morrill (with wife Kelly), Christina LaRose (with husband Jim), Sara Morrill (with partner Nate), Elisabeth DuPont (with husband Matt), and Autumn Morrill (with husband Dan). Lauren left behind ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren with whom she took every chance she had to spend time with — Toni, Alisae, Kaleb, Isaiah, Sashie, Abby, Gabe, Natalia, Jaxon, Elijah, Liam, and Vayla, who were the joy of her life.

Lauren was predeceased by her mother, Lindalee Doss and her mother-in-law, Linda Murray.

Lauren had the most incredible

faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and dedicated her life to learning His Word and being an amazing example of God’s love. Lauren spent the majority of her life building her wonderful family with Norman by her side and took much pride in the family and life they built together.

Lauren also had a natural ability and talent when it came to photography and loved the Vermont foliage season. You would often find her taking day trips to capture the beauty of God’s wonderful

creation with friends and family. Lauren spent much of her time with her grandchildren and always had something fun planned, whether it was board games, sunny beach days, shopping trips, or a creemee just because.

Lauren was a faithful servant to her Lord, pursuing Him at all costs, and while she walked by faith when she was with us, she now walks by sight, resting at the feet of Jesus Christ. She entered into eternity hearing the words, “Well done, my good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” She will be greatly missed by so many, but we take comfort in knowing we will see her again in Heaven.

Funeral Services will be held at Brown McClay Funeral Home Saturday, Oct. 11, at 11 a.m., at 48 South Maple Street, Vergennes, Vt.

A celebration of life will follow at the Ferrisburgh Grange Hall, 3279 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, Vt.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the first responders that assisted during this tragedy. ♡

Letters to the Editor

The Not-So-Secret Real Deep State is Project 2025

I guesstimate 25 percent of Republican voters have been pickling in the fictional brine of the “Deep State” conspiracy for at least 10 years. Devotees intractably believe that an unelected network of powerful, radical left, individuals and institutions secretly controls our government. Their world view pictures a small number of entrenched bureaucrats, intelligence agencies, military leaders, wealthy elites, and corporations manipulating elected officials like puppets and controlling spending priorities and other major policy decisions.

Those who pander this “Deep State,” conspiracy gain adherents and increase their power by spreading lies aimed at demeaning disbelievers and their enemies; dominating the narrative in social media; suppressing dissidents; taking advantage of crises to disseminate disinformation and control the masses; and falsely claiming that “Deep State” radical left leaders and followers are corrupt, morally bankrupt and engaged in coverups of crimes, financial fraud, and the betrayal of national security.

Ironically, the above interconnected web of beliefs was and is the underlying premise for the not-so-secret, radical right, real Deep State...Project 2025! Although Trump distanced himself from Project 2025 during the 2024 presidential campaign, his appointment of Russel Vought, a principal architect of Project 2025, as Director of the Office of Budget and Management tells a different story. Trump appointed other Project 2025 contributors to help guide his second term including Stephen Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff; Brendan Carr Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; John Ratcliffe, Director of the CIA; and Tom Homan, “Border Czar.” We know the nefarious actions they’ve embarked upon

since being appointed. The great hypocrisy is that Trump and his sycophants have turned our country into the real Deep State they claim to oppose! The only difference between the fiction and the radical right real Deep State is that Trump isn’t hiding anything! He proudly boasts about what he and his cronies have been doing! We are up to our waists in their projection of minority rule as mapped out by Project 2025. Miller and company are unelected but command sweeping power. The Justice, Intelligence, and Defense (“War”) Departments and FBI have gutted career employees who are in any way contrary to the pursuits of the Administration and replaced them with Trump loyalists. Military leaders at the Pentagon deemed “Woke,” have been purged; and corporate billionaires motivated by avarice and their desire for influence clamor to kiss Trump’s ring.

We are keenly aware that Trump and his sycophants’ implementation of the real Deep State (i.e., Project 2025) is driven by many factors in their desire for absolute power...narcissism, racism, misogyny, greed, and a thirst for violence and cruelty. These factors are manifested in illegal acts of retribution against the media, law firms, political opponents, detractors, and colleges and universities. They are revealed in Trump’s false claims of an immigrant invasion led by rapists and violent gangs of drug traffickers (terrorists). They show themselves in the ordering of ICE and our military to occupy major American cities and conduct mass arrests. They are evidenced by the economic crisis experienced by millions of Americans due to Trump’s inflationary tariffs, passage of his Big Beautiful (budget) Bill, and directing Congress to shut down the government. And these are only a few examples of the

actions Trump has taken to create fear, helplessness, indifference, and ultimately, dictatorship.

Fear, helplessness, and indifference are necessary to transform democracy into the Deep State autocratic dystopia of Project 2025, but they aren’t sufficient. The equally important and insidious ingredient is the fostering of trauma, such intense feelings of distress that we are overwhelmed, unable to extricate ourselves from the source of our trauma. The mass firings of thousands of Federal employees prior to and since the government shutdown is only one of many instances of how the Trump administration creates trauma. As one recently fired government worker said, “I don’t know how I’m going to feed my kids or pay my mortgage.”

It is in this way, along with the abdication of Congress and rulings of the Supreme Court, that Trump and his administration seek to consolidate their power. The realization of a real Deep State as reflected by Project 2025 will be complete when the vast majority of those occupying positions of power and authority in our nation swear allegiance to a despot like Trump rather than our Constitution. It’s up to us to prevent that from happening.

Ron Rubin
Middlebury

ADDISON — John J. Starvish Jr. passed from this world into the next on Oct. 6, 2025.

He was born in Boston on July 11, 1941, to John and Tessie (Bartosiak) Starvish. John grew up in Hampton Falls, N.H., graduated from Exeter High School and Doane College. After working and raising his family in Chester and Concord, N.H., he retired to Addison, Vt.

John was a committed husband of 55 years, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Mary (McQuaid); children, Margaret, John III (Shelley Vanderweil), and Anne Murphy (Liam); and grandchildren, Clare, Rolf, and Fritz Starvish, and Jasui and Jake Murphy. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Chester.



JOHN J. STARVISH JR.

John had many occupations in his life, but his true vocation was one of service. First, as an early Peace Corps volunteer, he spent two years in the Peruvian Andes.

Later, as a Friend of Bill’s, he mentored many men and women in New Hampshire and then Vermont.

His passing leaves a huge hole in the lives of his family, and his many friends in Vermont, New Hampshire and beyond.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury, Vt., Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. Burial will be at a later date in Deerfield, New Hampshire.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Hwy, New Haven, Vt. 05472

“I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith.”

— 2 Timothy 4: 7-8 ♡

Locals gearing up for No Kings Day 2 on October 18

Our nation is in the middle of a Five Alarm Fire! This is not an extreme statement, but the reality in which we find ourselves politically. Our president and his administration are using National Guard troops to invade cities without the invitation of local officials, loosening vaccine protocols (which threatens public health), insulting our top military generals (with decades of experience) and also the nations of the world (they are all “going to hell” to quote the president.) And the Government is shut down and the president threatens to not pay furloughed workers.

This president’s method of operation is to bully, intimidate and insult to get what he wants. Anyone who disagrees with him

is “the enemy” and he has made clear that he hates his enemies. He has abandoned science (no climate change...) and truth. He makes up the facts and figures that suit the reality he wants (American cities are hellholes and burning to the ground...) If the actual facts are not to his liking, he fires the professionals who deliver the facts. In any other job or position, from bank president to teacher to car mechanic, this president would be considered unstable, unreliable and unhinged. He is leading us to his desired authoritarian state.

Millions of patriotic American citizens, who want to preserve democracy, will be gathering on Saturday, October 18, to demonstrate their anger and concern on No Kings Day 2.

In Middlebury, there will be a gathering from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the lower Green to make visible our discontent and opposition to the policies and direction of this administration. All are welcome to join us, with signs, bells (we will ring out for freedom at noontime) especially young families and young folks, thinking about the kind of country they want to live in in the coming years. These are not normal times....

Heidi Willis
Salisbury

OPINION?

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Giant pumpkin squashes past record at Vt. weigh-off

By MAX HANDELMAN
UVM Community News Service
COLCHESTER — Attendees at Sam Mazza's Farm scurried out of the way as a forklift trudged to an awaiting crane — metal and gears groaning as the lift struggled beneath the weight of its freight. The crane lugged the load to a massive red scale, the audience waiting to hear the judge's official measurement. The cargo: James Beane's 1,814-pound giant pumpkin — a record-breaking fruit that took first

prize at Sam Mazza's annual giant pumpkin weigh-off. The Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers have been hosting the weigh-off at the Colchester farm for 19 years, inviting growers to battle for the title of heavyweight fruit champion. "You can cut the tension with a knife because people are so excited," said Ron Wallace, a three-time world champion grower who was the first person to grow pumpkins over 1,500 and 2,000 pounds.

"This is years and years of effort for a lot of people, so it's great to see everybody because they're excited to look at pumpkins and talk about pumpkins. It's Christmas Day for a pumpkin grower," he said. The weigh-off follows the rules ordained by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, the international governing body on all things giant plants. All entries must be free of rot and any holes or cavities greater than three inches. If the pumpkin has more than two damaged areas, the plant is automatically disqualified. Sam Mazza's weigh-off is the only GPC-attended event in Vermont, and many growers said that just having a pumpkin worthy of judging is an accomplishment. "It's a big deal to even get one here," said Lisa Gates, who's been growing for seven years. "A lot of people aren't so lucky, happy to just get one to the scale even if it's not the biggest."

The Commonwealth also determines what counts as a pumpkin based on color. The crops at this year's competition ranged from deep green, cream mottled with white and classic orange. By Commonwealth rule, entries with traces of orange were entered as pumpkins, and any whose full colors were green, gray or blue were entered as giant squash to be judged separately. In addition to size, the pumpkin with the roundest shape, brightest orange color and overall best aesthetic is bestowed the Howard Dill award. Michael and Tracy Cole's 940-pound pumpkin took that prize this year. The award's namesake pioneered growing giant pumpkins back in the 1980s in Nova Scotia, Canada. Dill bred and patented seeds for the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin — the most commonly used seed in competitions. Wallace said that the 80s were a trial-and-error period for early growers. Though Dill made seeds more accessible, growers were still "in the dark," he said. Wallace's family started growing in 1989 and originally gave it up after a year of little success. "The hobby was a lot different pre-internet," he said. "We had some pumpkins, but they weren't big, just a few hundred pounds. There were so many things that we didn't know we were doing wrong."

The door was opened when Don Langevin published the first edition of his book, "How-to-Grow World Class Giant Pumpkins," in 1993. Wallace said that the 80s were a trial-and-error period for early growers. Though Dill made seeds more accessible, growers were still "in the dark," he said. Wallace's family started growing in 1989 and originally gave it up after a year of little success. "The hobby was a lot different pre-internet," he said. "We had some pumpkins, but they weren't big, just a few hundred pounds. There were so many things that we didn't know we were doing wrong."

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IT TAKES A forklift to hoist this winning pumpkin grown by James Beane. It weighed in at 1,814 pounds. Photo by Annalisa Madonia

How big are your pumpkins?
Send us a photo and we'll put it in the paper. Email: News@addisonindependent.com



ALTHOUGH IT MAY look like this fellow is trying to lift this giant pumpkin, actually he is just holding the tape measure so a compatriot from the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers so he can get the girth of this beast. Photo by Annalisa Madonia

The book is hailed as the all-encompassing codex for pumpkins, teaching backyard gardeners how to compete with world-class growers. Many Sam Mazza attendees attributed part of their success to Software Engineers Ken Desrosiers and John Deary started growing pumpkins in 1998 and were immediately hooked. The two would scour the internet for growing tips but would come up empty-handed. In 1999, they combined their passions and developed the website BigPumpkins.com — an online forum with live discussion rooms, grower diary entries and updated weigh-off data. "Don's book was the early going and then BigPumpkins.com took it mainstream," Wallace said. "Now the Facebook groups are quite popular, and so now we have the gathering of information and the networking that wasn't available in the early days."

Many consider growing a giant pumpkin nerve-wracking, hard work. The plant needs approximately 600 gallons of water every day, and appropriate fertilizers vary depending on soil types. Adverse weather conditions, crop disease and pest infestation threaten to ruin a season, too.

"Trying to keep them watered so they keep growing is the challenge," Gates said. "This season has been super dry with the drought, and I was very lucky to have a very good well."

Barry LeBlanc, a champion pumpkin grower from New Hampshire, said that a giant pumpkin plant can put on 50 pounds and a foot of length every day at peak growth, a crucial time for a pumpkin's success. "That peak growth period is most likely for a pumpkin to split," he said. "The blossom tends to be the thinnest part of the structure, and if you get a lot of rainfall or the pumpkin's growing too fast, it'll split right at the cavity there."

To avoid this, pumpkin growers prune the plant — snipping excess vines that might hinder growth. Growers create a Christmas tree pattern, chopping off tertiary vines completely and trimming the secondary vines sprouting from the left and right of the main stem. This helps the pumpkin root deeper

into the ground and grow more symmetrically.

"Most of us have big, long pruners on the end of a pole so that we don't have to walk in there and step all over the plant," LeBlanc said. "You don't allow any of that extra growth to occur, and that's really the trick to grow with these plants."

More growers are seeing numbers close to three thousand pounds — the world record being Travis Gienger's 2,749-pound pumpkin, "Michael Jordan."

Many growers said that the hope of going bigger than the year before is one thing that keeps them coming back.

Another is the sense of community. At Sam Mazza's, growers from states like New York, Connecticut and New Hampshire journeyed to Vermont to meet with old friends. Many of them said they're planning on travelling to Saratoga, New York to support their friends there, too.

"It's just a really tight knit group of people," said Jenna Baird, president of the Vermont Giant Pumpkin Growers. "It's not just about growing. It's about getting to know a lot of really great people."

Max Handelman reported this story on assignment from the Community News Service, a program in which University of Vermont students work with professional editors to provide content for local news outlets at no cost.

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12 8am-4pm Sunday
13 9am-5pm Monday

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ICE

(Continued from Page 1A)

and become part of the community. That was evident on Tuesday in St. Albans, where dozens of family, friends and immigration activists held vigil and waved signs during de la Cruz's check-in.

The *Independent* asked Kirsten de la Cruz if she was surprised by the turnout.

She wasn't. "We had people representing us from every angle of belief, and everyone marched together," she said.

"It felt patriotic." Among those present were several members of the Mount Abraham-Vergennes (MAV) cooperative football team. Kirsten and Juan's oldest son, also named Juan, is a Vergennes Union High School junior and key member of the team. His teammates sought to show their support.

Finn Yarbrough was among those present outside Tuesday's check-in at St. Albans. He described the crowd as "generally quiet and apprehensive" during the roughly 30 minutes that de la Cruz was inside the ICE building. Some of the signs spotted at the rally read, "We've got 99 problems but Juan ain't one," and, "All for Juan and Juan for all."

Yarbrough said the crowd broke into loud cheers when De La Cruz exited ICE headquarters, whereupon members of the MAV football team mobbed him.

"It was very moving and remarkable," said Yarbrough, whose children attend VUHS with the De La Cruz children.

What prompted Yarbrough to make the 100-mile round-trip from Vergennes to St. Albans on Tuesday morning?

Respect for De La Cruz and concern about the Trump Administration's immigration policy. ICE had deported almost 200,000 people during the first seven months of his second administration, according to recent reporting by CNN. Some of those detainees have been sent to third-country detention centers, such as in El Salvador.

While polling continues to show



MORE THAN 100 people, most of them from Addison County, converged on the St. Albans ICE headquarters on Tuesday morning to urge that Mexican national Juan De La Cruz be allowed to remain with his family in Pantton.

Photo courtesy of Helena Van Voorst

support for having strong U.S. borders, a recent Gallup poll found American views relaxing their views on immigration. The Gallup poll found 30% of Americans want immigration decreased (down from 55% a year ago); a "record-high" 79% consider immigration good for the country; and that "support is down for (a U.S.-Mexico) border wall, mass deportation."

Addison County farms collectively employ hundreds of Latin American migrant workers, some of whom who have entered the U.S. without following proper protocols. These workers are performing chores that citizens appear unwilling to take on, in a state with 2.5% unemployment.

Planned mass deportations by the Trump administration are forecasted to reduce the U.S.'s Gross Domestic Product (a measure of the overall economy) by more than 7% during in the next three years, according to the National Immigration Law Center, an organization "dedicated to advancing and defending the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their loved ones, according to the group's website, nilc.org.

Yarbrough wanted his trip to St. Albans to serve the dual purpose of supporting De La Cruz and registering his displeasure with a current U.S. immigration policy he believes is "purposefully confusing" and "a government overreach."

"If this isn't an opportunity to take a stand... then when will we ever?" he said.

Also present in St. Albans on Tuesday was Kareena Freidin, De La Cruz's stepdaughter. She was heartened by the swell of fellow supporters that included aunts, uncles, Pantton community members, and some of her past employers and high school coaches.

"It was extremely touching to see the support in the flesh," she said. "We have a loving and special community."

She was relieved to see her stepdad get at least another six-month extension to his Pantton residency.

"Today, in general, has been a big relief," Freidin said. "The worst thing did not happen today."

De La Cruz was facing three scenarios prior to his check-in, according to his lawyers:

1. Self-deportation to Mexico, setting himself up for a potential 10-year ban from re-entering the U.S. because he has what lawyer Rob Kolken called "a 9C problem."

Section 212(a)(9)(C) of U.S. immigration law states that "if you were previously ordered removed from the U.S. and then again entered without inspection after having been removed, you are inadmissible to the U.S. for 10 years; you have to serve that 10 years outside of the country," Kolken, one of De La Cruz's attorneys, told the *Independent*.

De La Cruz was deported in 2005 after having crossed into the U.S. from Mexico. He was detained by ICE in 2017, but was able to remain stateside.

2. Showing up at the check-



PANTON SELECTBOARD MEMBER Kirsten De La Cruz sits with her husband Juan, a Mexican national who was ordered to check in with ICE in St. Albans on Tuesday. Much to the family's relief, De La Cruz was not detained or deported; he was asked to check back in in six months.

Photo courtesy of the de la Cruz family

in, with potential detention and forcible deportation resulting.

"(Check-in) could be fairly routine; it could be that ICE says, 'OK, go ahead, we'll see you again (for another check-in) in six months or a year,'" Kolken told the

Independent on Monday. "He has been found by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Asylum Office to have a 'reasonable fear of torture' in Mexico."

3) Release after check-in, which is the way things turned out.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

gathering will be held at the New Haven Community Library from 5:30- 7 p.m. The full Civic Health Index report can be accessed at tinyurl.com/2jm9kdh8.

It's been a busier than usual week in the Addison Central School District. The ACSD on Oct. 6-8 hosted visitors from both the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the International Baccalaureate (IB). These guests were educators from across the nation — and indeed the globe — who observed classroom activities throughout the district. It was a simultaneous review that made the ACSD the first U.S. public school district to pursue a joint accreditation with both organizations. This district-wide accreditation process will support a cohesive, PreK-12 approach to learning, according to ACSD officials. If you'd like to learn more about Addison Central's NEASC and IB accreditation process, visit tinyurl.com/y2bpk84e.

Stroke Awareness Vermont invites the community to join its third Annual Middlebury Walk for Stroke Awareness on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m. in the shire town's Triangle Park. The event coincides with World Stroke Day. The Middlebury Walk promises to be an uplifting community event that will honor and celebrate stroke survivors, provide valuable educational materials, and create opportunities for survivors and caregivers to connect with one another. Stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability worldwide. Every 40 seconds, someone experiences a stroke—making awareness, education, and support more important than ever. "We want to raise visibility for stroke and let people know that no one has to face recovery alone," said Nikki Juvan, stroke caregiver (to her husband and former *Independent* photographer Trent Campbell) and co-founder of Stroke Awareness Vermont. Participants will receive

(See BTWs, Page 12A)

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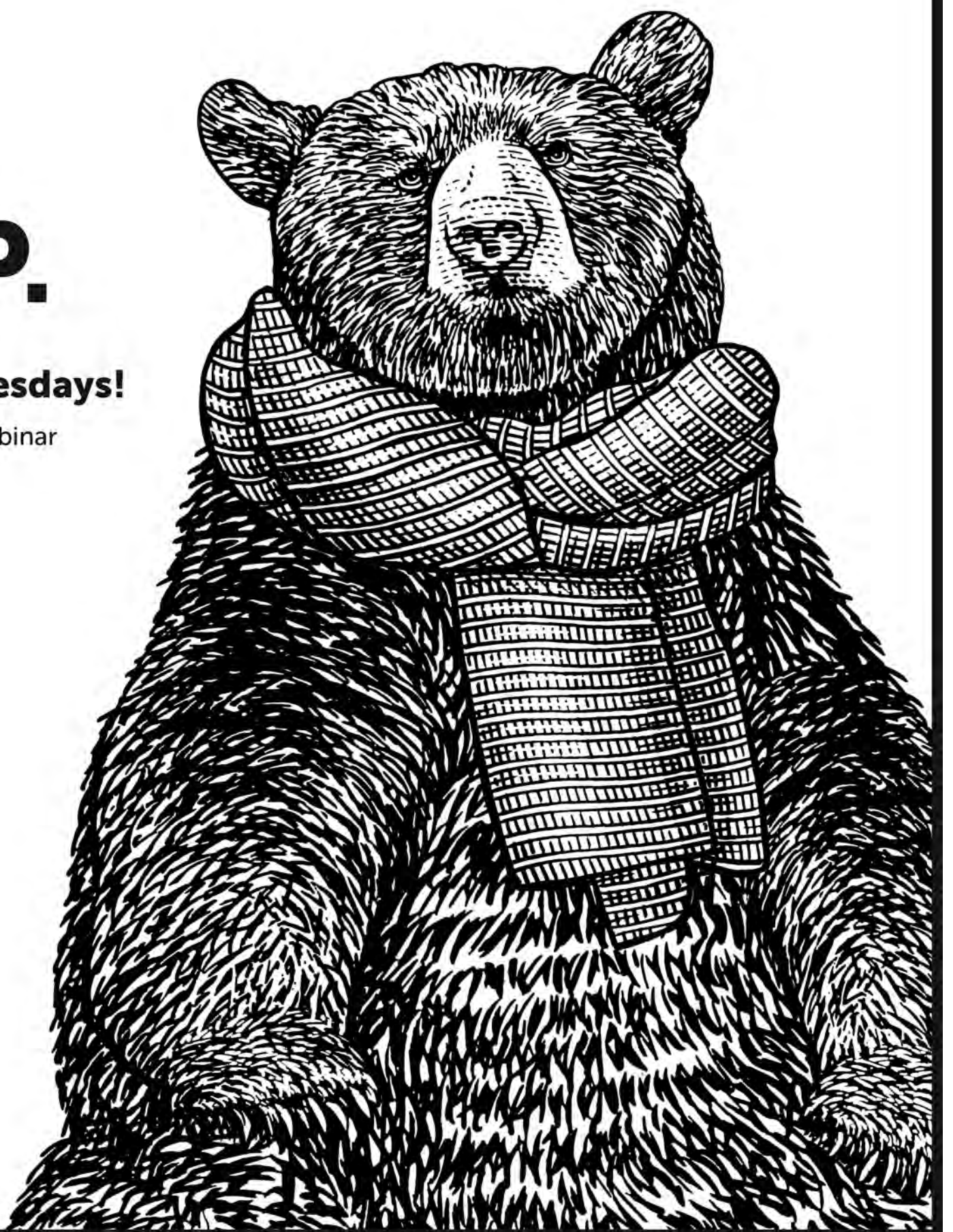


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Dignity

(Continued from Page 1A)
communities.”

Through the agreement, Vermont Way Foods will offer a new cheese made with Addison County milk and sold at stores throughout the region. Over 50 people gathered at the ACORN Food Hub in Middlebury this past Friday for a product tasting and celebration announcing the partnership.

“This is so important because this represents the first expansion of Milk with Dignity into the organic world, and this is a company taking the initiative that from day one their product is going to be on the shelves as a Milk with Dignity product,” said Olga Cruz, a dairy worker and leader with Migrant Justice.

MILK WITH DIGNITY

Maribel and Cruz were among a handful of speakers to share remarks at the Oct. 3 event, which corresponded with the eighth anniversary of Milk with Dignity.

The program was launched after an initial agreement with Ben & Jerry’s. Companies that enter the



MIGRANT JUSTICE LEADER and dairy worker Olga Cruz, standing with Will Lambek, speaks at a press conference held at the ACORN Food Hub in Middlebury this past Friday. The event celebrated a new partnership between Migrant Justice’s Milk with Dignity Program and Vermont Way Foods that will offer a new organic cheese in stores across the region.
Independent photo/Marin Howell

“We’ve spent millions of dollars, which we believe is our role as the buyer ... to invest in those premiums through the farmers to the farmworkers, because as we are all connected this prosperity has to flow.”

— Ben & Jerry’s official Cheryl Pinto

I’ve seen both sides of the coin,” Cruz said. “I’ve worked on a farm in the Milk with Dignity Program and right now, I’m working on a farm that doesn’t have the protections of the program. I can tell you how difficult it is to be a dairy worker, especially as a woman.”

A survey conducted by Migrant Justice in 2024 asked Spanish-speaking immigrant dairy workers about labor and housing conditions on Vermont farms. The survey illuminated the experiences of workers on farms outside Milk with Dignity, finding that 87% of respondents made less than minimum wage and 77% had experienced an accident or injury.

Ninety-five percent of workers surveyed said they work six to seven days per week. The survey

also found that the conditions of employer-provided housing were inadequate and unsafe for the vast majority of workers, and that about half of workers reported experiencing some kind of discrimination.

“I’m here fighting so that one day my husband and I will be on a farm that has the protections of Milk with Dignity,” Cruz said.

Maribel spoke of her experience as a dairy worker in the program.

“Now that my farm is in the program, this is the second year in a row where I’ve been able to take a vacation, and also when I’ve gotten sick, I’ve been able to take the days off,” she said. “The program also ensures that all workers receive respectful treatment on the farm, and that there aren’t any violations of our rights by our employers or the managers.”

Also speaking Friday was Cheryl Pinto, Global Head of Values Led Sourcing at Ben & Jerry’s.

“Over eight years we’ve spent millions of dollars, which we believe is our role as the buyer, as the company, to invest in those

premiums through the farmers to the farmworkers, because as we are all connected this prosperity has to flow,” Pinto said. “Otherwise, we’re not going to have these dairy farms working in Vermont; we’re not going to have this community here supporting us.”

EXPANDING WITH CHEESE

Other speakers on Oct. 3 included Catherine Cusak, co-founder of Vermont Way Foods. Cusak acknowledged those behind the partnership and new Vermont Way Foods organic, farmer cheese.

Carleton Yoder of Middlebury’s Champlain Valley Creamery developed an herb blend for Vermont Way Foods, homing in on the quality and taste of the cheese. Chelsea’s Free Verse Farm is growing herbs for the cheese and Cornwall dairy farmer Nate

Severy will provide organic milk for the product.

“Nate and his farm will work closely with the Milk with Dignity Standards Council to promote workers’ rights, safety and wellbeing,” Cusak said.

She said Vermont Way Foods plans to offer two varieties of herbed cheese — an Italian blend and a Mexican blend.

“We still have some final details to work out before the product hits the market, but we are getting close and looking forward to celebrating again at that time,” Cusak said.

Will Lambek of Migrant Justice told the *Independent* retailing agreements are still underway, but plans call for the product to be sold at stores around the region sometime soon. Interested retailers

are encouraged to connect with Vermont Way Foods.

The cheese will be the first product to bear the “Milk with Dignity” label, though organizers are hopeful there will be more to come.

“This is a great start, and we hope that it will succeed in the market and that we will be expanding,” Lambek said.

Cruz encouraged more companies to join the Milk with Dignity program and for fellow dairy workers to continue advocating for change and the expansion of the program.

“It’s important to recognize that immigrants do not just suffer, we are here fighting for change and bringing the solutions that are going to transform our lives,” she said.

Commodore Club

(Continued from Page 1A)

DeGraaf said that when she started running the club in the spring, attendance averaged around 14 a day among a group of regulars that included 15 Vergennes residents, nine from Pantton, 11 from Ferrisburgh, four from Addison and three from Waltham.

“That does not include the kids who just come play basketball and don’t come in the building, or just come in and grab a water and leave,” she said. “It’s kind of a stopping point for some people, too, between practice or jobs, or things like that.”

The question becomes how to make the Commodore Club a permanent fixture, DeGraaf told the council on Sept. 23, with the city probably needing to play a long-term role.

And there is a clock ticking for a decision by the council and Vergennes citizens to decide on the club’s future.

When DeGraaf created the Commodore Club to replace the

Boys & Girls Club at least on a short-term basis, the city and the Boys & Girls Club signed a “Facility Use Agreement.” It is essentially a one-year contract to allow the city to occupy the 3,400-square-foot, one-story building on 1.87 acres through March 3, 2026, which is Town Meeting Day.

Vergennes also has an option to purchase the building from the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes Board, subject to voter approval, that expires on that day. Mayor Chris Bearor told the *Independent* in all likelihood the transfer would be for the nominal cost of \$1, but only if the building would continue to be used to serve area youth as it does now.

Like any other real estate sale, Vergennes citizens would have to back it in a city-wide vote. Thus, ultimately a decision on the Commodore Club’s fate could rest in the hands of the city’s voters.

DeGraaf acknowledged it’s not necessarily an easy decision, but said it could be an easier one with a solid plan in place.

“We do have some challenges. Long-term sustainability is clarifying what support the city of Vergennes can supply,” she said. “While the city has expressed support for the acquisition if it does not create a new tax burden, I think it’s important that we recognize every public building requires ongoing investment (and) routine maintenance ... and it must be consistently planned and funded.”

City support is crucial for another reason, and one that could help with deal with that financial burden, DeGraaf added. She said a council and community commitment will help her pursue “multi-year grants” and funding from private foundations and individual donors, adding the Commodore Club has arranged a partnership with the United Way of Addison County.

“We have donors waiting. They’re waiting to see what the city is going to do. So we are looking for some direction as to what the city wants to do,” she said. “Once we know where you’re at, we’ll move to step two.”

EMERGENCY SHELTER?

She added the building has other potential uses in addition to serving city youth: It can be used as an emergency warming shelter in the winter and cooling center in the summer, as well as for other recreation purposes, including multi-generational activities and other programs in cooperation with surrounding towns. DeGraaf suggested a strategic plan could

incorporate all of these elements.

She also recommended seeking support from the other Addison Northwest School District towns.

“If we’re going to continue this afterschool program, we’re going to have to reach out to these other towns and say, hey, we have this afterschool program, and we have this many of your kids coming,” DeGraaf said.

Bearor acknowledged there is private support for the club, and agreed with her about the region’s towns chipping in.

“There’s definitely a lot of backers now that are just waiting to see what’s going to happen,” he said. “But why are we doing it ourselves? Why aren’t we having the other four towns help figure this out? They used to pay the Boys and Girls Club a certain amount every year through appropriations.”

DeGraaf said volunteer commitment will also be crucial.

“In addition, the success of this initiative will require ongoing volunteer involvement to support programs, events and community engagement. If all that is done ... it is possible this building can evolve from a stopgap solution into a cornerstone of community life in Vergennes,” she said.

Bearor said the next step should probably be a joint recommendation from DeGraaf and the city’s Parks and Recreation Committee upon which it can act.

“She really needs to go to the recreation committee and get a game plan for the Commodore Club,” Bearor said. “We as a council need to find the funding for her, or figure out a plan, but ultimately we don’t know what the recreation side of things wants with the Commodore Club.”

Bearor hopes it can work out regardless of the source of the funding.

“I don’t care where the kids are coming from. If the kids are utilizing it and having a good time, and they’re staying out of trouble, and it’s good for everybody, it’s worth every penny in my eyes to see that happen,” he said. “That’s what counts. We should work together on this project.”

DeGraaf had a confession to make to the council. She admitted she at first felt skeptical about whether a separate afterschool program was necessary, but the kids who have attended convinced her it is.

“They have tugged at my heart strings,” DeGraaf told the council. “It is a place that is needed.”

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Sheriff's Log

ADDISON COUNTY — On Sept. 29, a deputy in the Addison County Sheriff's Department stopped a vehicle in New Haven; it was driven by Tallon Real, 23, of Middlebury.

Sheriff Mike Elmore reports that Real gave a false name in an attempt to avoid the deputy discovering that he was not supposed to drive. The deputy cited Real for driving with a criminally suspended license and for giving false information to a police officer.

Between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 79 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted 14 people for background check. In addition, a deputy assisted with instructing the Level 3 class at the police academy during Firearms Week

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

- On Sept. 28 assisted with traffic control for the Hope in Motion 5K in Middlebury.
- On Sept. 29 collected bail from a person arrested by Middlebury police on a warrant.
- On Sept. 29 discovered a broken tree stand dumped in the McCuen Slang access in Addison. The Sheriff offered a reminder that dumping trash can result in fines of up to \$800 and a revocation of hunting licenses. Please responsibly discard items you no longer need.
- On Sept. 29 watched as a red Mustang convertible with a torn white top flee from a traffic stop in Monkton at approximately 6:30 p.m. on Bristol Road headed north. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sheriff's Department

at 802-388-2981.

- On Sept. 29 provided a courtesy ride to Orwell for an individual that needed help with transportation
- On Sept. 30 assisted a person with a broken-down vehicle on Route 22A in Shoreham.
- On Sept. 30 provided a transport from Porter Hospital to Brattleboro Retreat.
- On Oct. 1 assisted with a transport of a person from Porter Hospital to UVM Medical Center.
- On Oct. 2 assisted with medical calls in Starksboro and Middlebury.
- On Oct.3 helped a person with a broken-down vehicle in Shoreham on Route 22A.
- On Oct. 4 provided traffic control for a college football game.
- On Oct. 4 assisted with pedestrian traffic control for the college Autumn Harvest Festival.

Police say drunk man wanted to fight

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Mark K. Kennedy, 38, of Weybridge for simple assault, after investigating a report of "an intoxicated man trying to fight people" in the Court Street area on Oct. 4.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Spoke on Sept. 29 with a local elderly woman who had been approached by a scammer.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a Porter Hospital patient who had been discharged during the evening of Sept. 29 and had no way to get home.
- Received a report on Sept. 29 about an alleged homeless encampment on private property off Maple Street.
- Cited Sarah J. Bolsta, 42, of Middlebury for having an active warrant out for her arrest. Police said Bolsta was able to post \$200 bail and was released pending her arraignment.
- Conducted downtown foot patrols on Sept. 29 and Oct. 6.
- Responded to a stolen-vehicle report on Main Street on Sept. 30.
- Investigated a threatening complaint on Gorham Lane on Sept. 30.
- Helped a person who was having mental health problems on Water Street on Sept. 30.
- Deployed police dog Guinness to Route 7 on Sept. 30 to help Vermont State Police determine if a vehicle they'd stopped contained illegal drugs. Police said Guinness alerted on the vehicle.
- Responded to a report of a youth hitting rocks with a baseball bat in the Mary Hogan Elementary School parking lot on Oct. 1.
- Responded to a report of a disturbance in the Bakery Lane area on Oct. 1. Police said the area was calm upon their arrival.
- Were informed of the theft of

Middlebury Police Log

plants from Desabrais Laundry on Exchange Street on Oct. 1

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) with a man found unresponsive off Mary Hogan Drive on Oct. 2. Police said the man was taken to UVM Medical Center.
- Received a call about young, unsupervised children playing in the Valley View Drive neighborhood on Oct. 2.
- In collaboration with school administrators, police officers used drones on Oct. 2 to capture photographs and video of Middlebury Union Middle School grounds that will inform evacuation planning and visual aids for students.
- Received a report about a pile of trash someone has left in the woods off School House Hill Road on Oct. 2.
- Responded to a report of a person driving a truck erratically on Route 7 on Oct. 2.
- Received, into evidence, drug paraphernalia found at a Court Street store on Oct. 2.
- Checked the welfare of a Charter House Emergency Shelter guest on Oct. 2. Police said the man was taken to Porter Hospital.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a Porter Hospital patient who had been discharged at 3 a.m. on Oct. 2 and had no way to get home.
- Helped state police troopers with a DUI screening at Middlebury police headquarters on Oct. 3.
- Assisted MREMS officials with a mental health-related call on Oct. 3.
- Responded to a report of a

suspicious man in the Seymour Street area on Oct. 4.

- Responded to a noise complaint in the South Street Extension area on Oct. 4.
- Helped a local man who had allegedly texted suicidal comments to 911 on Oct. 4.
- Assisted a woman in the Route 7 North area who had been experiencing a mental health crisis on Oct. 4.
- Investigated the report of unlawful mischief at a Duane Court food pantry on Oct. 4.
- Assisted MREMS on an Oct. 4 medical call.
- Helped a driver with a flat tire on Case Street on Oct. 4.
- Served a temporary restraining order on a person in the Case Street area on Oct. 5.
- Helped find shelter for a man who had been turned away from the Charter Housing Emergency Shelter on Oct. 5.
- Gave help to two people in the Quarry Road area who needed shelter and water on Oct. 5.
- Investigated an individual for an alleged violation of a court order on Oct. 5.
- Arrested Beth Gay, 44, of Middlebury on an active warrant on Oct. 5.
- Responded to a reported domestic dispute in the Case Street area on Oct. 5.
- Received a report about a group of students allegedly waving down traffic on Route 7 South on Oct. 5.

Man cited for public lewdness

VERGENNES — City police on Sept. 30 cited a Green Street resident into court to answer charges of Prohibited Conduct and Disorderly Conduct that stemmed from a visible display of lewd behavior, according to the Vergennes Police Department's weekly press release.

Police filed the charges against Brian Dolan, 60, of Vergennes. Police wrote they "responded to a report of an individual masturbating themselves in front of an open window so they were visible to others outside."

Police added, "in the course of the investigation it was determined that the same individual threatened to hit one of the witnesses the evening prior with a coffee pot."

Between Sept. 29 and Oct. 5, Vergennes police also conducted 13 traffic stops, five cruiser patrols and a property watch; processed seven fingerprint requests; responded to three false alarms; and:

- On Sept. 29:
 - Calmed a noisy after-midnight dispute between Green Street neighbors.
 - Helped the elementary school with a juvenile problem.
 - Dealt with a minor two-vehicle rear-end crash at the intersection of Main Street and Monkton Road.
 - Were told by a student at Northlands Job Corps of threatening and harassing text messages from several individuals. The student told police that staff at Northlands had been notified, the

Vergennes Police Log

phone numbers had been blocked, and a no-contact plan was being put in place. The student declined to pursue criminal charges, and told police that the matter was being addressed internally by Northlands; thus police took no immediate action.

- On Sept. 30:
 - At the station conducted a background investigation for a candidate's potential employment at a correctional facility.
 - Received a late online report regarding a vehicle break-in that occurred earlier in the month. Its windshield had been smashed, but nothing appeared to be stolen. Police supplied a case number for insurance purposes.
 - Responded to a 911 call from a resident concerned about the whereabouts of a caretaker. Upon arrival, officers confirmed the caretaker was present and assisting the resident. Police connected both with appropriate support services.
- On Oct. 1:
 - Helped Vermont State Police by telling an individual trespassing at the Amtrak station in Ferrisburgh to move along.
 - Conducted a welfare check on a Walker Avenue resident.
 - After responding to a report of a disabled vehicle at the junction of New Haven Road and Route 7

learned the driver's Connecticut license was suspended, and the vehicle was not registered or insured. Police issued the operator three tickets and had the car towed from the scene.

- Heard at the station a report of suspicious text messages from a complainant who wanted them documented without enforcement action.
- Along with city Department of Public Works personnel, helped an elderly man who was at Falls Park and had gone over the river bank onto a sand bar, but could not climb back up the bank. They were able to pull the man up the bank, and he was transported to Porter Hospital for medical evaluation.
- Calmed a late-night roommate dispute at a Green Street address.
- On Oct. 2:
 - Went to the intersection of Armory Lane and Monkton Road to calm a dispute between a motorist and a paving crew. Police said the motorist was confused by the work zone markings.
 - Helped an elderly woman at the station obtain services from area agencies.
 - Searched unsuccessfully for a driver reported to have gone through the drive-up window at Kinney Drug Store while drinking alcohol.
 - Responded to a motor vehicle complaint at the Kinney Drug Store.
- On Oct. 3:
 - Looked into a motor vehicle

complaint at the intersection of School and South Maple streets.

- Tried unsuccessfully to find a missing purse in Falls Park.
- On Oct. 5:
 - Following a traffic stop on Hopkins Road cited Daniel Sabourin, 48, of Middlebury for driving with a suspended license. City police said they also cited Sabourin for an unrelated incident on behalf of state police.
 - Cited Alicia Marshall, 49, who police described as homeless, for possession of suspected crack cocaine following an interaction at Falls Park.
 - Following a complaint of

vehicles speeding on Route 22A near Addison Four Corners looked for them unsuccessfully.

Oversaw the towing of a disabled vehicle from the intersection of Main and South Water streets.

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Medicare

(Continued from Page 1A)
 Services. A third insurer, Humana, will continue offering their Medicare Advantage plans in only six Vermont counties — not including Addison County. Large employers may still offer their retirees coverage.
 Currently, there are 51,600 Vermont seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans.

BCBSVT serves 26,000 of those people while UnitedHealthcare serves 7,800.
 According to Age Well's Carleton, those are big numbers.

Age Well is an advocate for seniors operating in Northwestern Vermont. Its State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides Vermonters with free, confidential health insurance counseling and helps people assess their eligibility for Medicare. Each year, SHIP programs provide health insurance assistance to more than 6,000 Vermonters. However, Carleton said that following such a substantial disruption to the system, he believes the number of individuals seeking health insurance will skyrocket beyond the capacity of SHIP's team.

"We will do the best we can, but unfortunately it won't be enough with the need that will be there this year," he told the *Independent*. "Unfortunately...we just don't have the staffing."

Medicare Advantage plans, also known as Medicare Part C, provide Medicare benefits through private insurance companies that receive subsidies from the federal government. For years, private insurers marketed lower prices and more extensive benefits compared to traditional Medicare. Currently, half of eligible Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans nationwide.

But profit margins have shrunk for insurers providing Medicare Advantage plans. What's happening in Vermont is part of a nationwide exodus from the Medicare Advantage market. UnitedHealthcare alone is dropping Medicare Advantage coverage for 180,000 people in 109 predominantly rural counties around the country, citing rising healthcare costs and increased utilization rates.

Medicare Advantage plans bundle Medicare Part A and B coverage, which are both provided by traditional Medicare. Part A covers 80% of inpatient care, hospice care and home health care costs, while Part B covers 80% of

costs associated with outpatient care and services from doctors. Unlike traditional Medicare, many Medicare Advantage plans also provide Medicare Part D, which covers prescription drugs.

According to Carleton, it is vital that people losing their coverage look out for two letters that they should hold onto. The first letter comes from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services stating that the plan will not be available in 2026.

The second is a notice of withdrawal from the insurance provider themselves (Blue Cross or United Healthcare).

"There's a deluge of mail people get at this time of year. It can be easy to miss those two pieces of mail," Carleton said.

DEADLINES COMING UP

According to a press release from the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR), those seeking to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan must do so during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period running from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. But, again, there are no Medicare Advantage plans being offered to residents of Addison County.

However, those losing their Medicare Advantage coverage are guaranteed 63 days of open enrollment in any plan on the Vermont Medicare Supplement market after their Medicare Advantage coverage ends. This means that if your coverage ends on Dec. 31, 2025, your period to enroll in a Medicare Supplement plan, also known as Medigap, lasts until March 4, 2026.

Both Carleton and the Department of Financial Regulation emphasize that it's important to hold onto the insurance company's notice of withdrawal, as this serves as proof of eligibility for the 63-day enrollment period.

Medigap is a supplement to traditional Medicare provided by private insurance companies that

helps cover out-of-pocket costs like copayments, deductibles and coinsurance. However, according to the DFR, the average cost of Medigap premiums in Vermont sits at around \$245 a month, a cost that Carleton says is simply too high for many Vermonters.

"The changes we've seen in the past few years in terms of the plan landscape is either less plans or higher premiums. Those are the consistent things we've seen year in year out. That's a challenge for folks," Carleton said.

As a result, Carleton worries that many Vermont seniors will end up uninsured.

"When there's a giant change like this, I worry about people falling through the cracks," he said.

HOME HEALTH CARE

Those concerns are shared by health professionals like Deborah Wesley, the CEO of New Haven's Addison County Home Health and Hospice (ACHHH), which provides clinical care that includes nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

"We are concerned about patients who have moved or have difficulty in understanding the meaning of these communications," Wesley told the *Independent*.

She said that for seniors in our area, cost and understanding the available options and what they cover remain consistent challenges. She noted that insurers who offer Medicare Advantage plans thrive on volume, and in rural areas like Addison County, they struggle to accumulate enough patients to be profitable. This means that Medicare Advantage plans were often more particular about what they were and were not willing to cover.

"In comparison to Medicare Advantage plans... (traditional Medicare) does not require frequent re-authorizations from physicians. In the past, Medicare Advantage plans were known for only authorizing a small number of visits at a time," Wesley said.

But the cancellation of most Vermont's Medicare Advantage plans comes at a challenging time for rural home health agencies like ACHHH, which provides important medical services in an aging state with an already beleaguered healthcare system. In 2024, BCBSVT, Vermont's largest insurer and one of the insurers withdrawing from the Medicare Advantage market, posted a record annual deficit of \$62.1 million. Earlier this year, five of Vermont's 14 hospitals also reported multi-million-dollar losses.

"Our anticipation is that the revenue lost through the cancellation of Medicare Advantage plans will be offset by reimbursements earned by us through traditional Medicare. In some cases, traditional Medicare is a better payer source for us," Wesley told the *Independent*.

However, Wesley is deeply concerned that a projected 9% cut to Medicare home care reimbursements could undermine ACHHH's ability to recover from the loss of Medicare Advantage plans. The 9% cut would take effect in the calendar year of 2026 and follows a two-year period in which ACHHH's Medicare reimbursements were cut by 6.815%.

"Medicare reimbursements comprise 62% of our agency's total revenue and this amount of revenue is difficult to replace," Wesley said.

In the meantime, Carleton and the team at SHIP will continue helping seniors navigate the challenges of remaining insured. He said it's important that individuals with questions call their local SHIP office as soon as possible. Vermont's Agencies on Aging are increasing the number of SHIP volunteers and interns, and SHIP counselors will schedule as many appointments as possible before the Medicare open enrollment period ends.

Carleton emphasized that those unable to be accommodated by their local SHIP office can get 24/7 help and individual health insurance counselling at 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) or at Medicare.gov.

BTWs

(Continued from Page 9A)
information on stroke prevention and recovery, enjoy fellowship with others impacted by stroke, and help shine a light on this critical health issue. The event is free and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend, walk in solidarity, and show support for stroke survivors and their families. For more information, visit www.strokeawarenessvermont.org or email strokeawarenessvermont@gmail.com.

Gov. Phil Scott recently announced a range of appointments to various state boards and commissions, effective the third quarter of 2025. Among them were Margaret Connor of Middlebury to the Board of Public Accountancy; Mary Beth Davis of Shoreham to the State Program Standing Committee for Developmental Services, and Amanda Van Eps of Brandon to the Vermont Commission on Women. Scott also named Irene Poole of Ripton as a justice of the peace. The governor's office is currently soliciting applications to fill vacancies and upcoming term expirations. All those interested in serving on a board or commission should visit the governor's website at tinyurl.com/2sjrdbc4 to apply.

The Vermont Department of Labor reminds us that the state's minimum wage will increase from \$14.01 to \$14.42 per hour, beginning on Jan. 1. That's an increase of 41 cents per hour. This annual adjustment also impacts the minimum wage for tipped employees. The "Basic Tipped Wage Rate" for service, or "tipped employees," equals 50% of the full minimum wage. On Jan. 1, 2026, the tipped minimum wage will increase from \$7.01 to \$7.21 per hour. The State's tipped minimum wage law allows employers to pay a lower hourly rate, as long as the employee receives tips equal to, or greater than, the standard minimum wage during a given shift. The minimum wage and tipped minimum wage are adjusted annually.



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Humstone honored with Arthur Gibb Award

Every year, in honor of the late Arthur Gibb and his legacy of commitment to safeguarding Vermont's environment and communities, the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) recognizes an individual whose leadership has brought about positive and lasting change by building healthy, equitable and sustainable communities.

Gibb dedicated much of his life to ensuring that Vermont was a better place for future generations. Beginning his public service in his adopted hometown of Weybridge, he served his community and state in countless ways until his death in 2005 at the age of 97.

We remember Gibb as a state representative, state senator and principal architect of Vermont's landmark land use law Act 250. Following his retirement, Gibb spent 12 years on the Vermont State Environmental Board.

This year, as a part of VNRC's annual celebration, the Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership was presented to Beth Humstone, who has dedicated her career, volunteer time, and financial support to enhance Vermont's communities through smart growth planning and protecting natural resources.

Humstone was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., (coincidentally like Gibb himself) but moved to the Green Mountain State to pursue her career in community planning after receiving a master's degree in city planning from Harvard University. While living in Vermont, she has worked as an urban planning consultant for 47 years and throughout this time has held roles as a land use planner for the state, member of the Burlington Planning Commission, co-



VHCB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Gus Seelig, and VNRC Executive Director Lauren Hierl, right, congratulate Arthur Gibb Award recipient Beth Humstone at a recent ceremony.

founder of the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, and President of Smart Growth Vermont to name a few.

In addition to her expansive work in community planning, Humstone also helped develop the Small Grants for Smart Growth grant program in conjunction with VNRC and her son, Chris Gignoux. These grants fund community-led initiatives that promote sustainable and well-planned development and help catalyze change at the local level.

In his nomination letter in support of Humstone, former VNRC Executive Director Brian Shupe noted, "Beth has been a tireless advocate for Vermont's sustainable communities since she first started working in 1973. She dedicated her career, volunteer time, and financial support to protect and enhance the fabric of Vermont's communities for almost 50 years."

Humstone was tickled to see her work recognized.

"It was an honor to receive the Art Gibb award from VNRC amongst so many friends and colleagues," she said. "Art Gibb's commitment to public service and his integrity are values that I have always admired. VNRC holds a special place in my heart and I am grateful for all the organization's

work to protect Vermont's unique character and sense of community."

Each year, a recipient for the Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership is chosen based on the following criteria:

- Leadership and the ability to motivate others around shared goals related to community planning, economic well-being, and the enhancement of Vermont's natural resources and unique sense of place.
- Commitment to Public Service, including a willingness to enthusiastically volunteer to better their community.
- Vision to recognize the challenges facing Vermont's environment, landscape and communities now and in the future, and understand how those challenges can best be addressed through public policy and personal initiative.
- Creativity in crafting innovative solutions, policies and programs that strengthen Vermont's community life and unique sense of place.
- Collaboration through the proactive and dedicated engagement of community members from a diversity of perspectives and lived experiences.
- The ability to balance competing interests in order to

forge consensus and build bridges between those holding opposing views.

- Integrity and steadfastness in public service that earns the respect of colleagues, neighbors and diverse interest groups.
- Humility, expressed through respect for others, including those holding opposing viewpoints, and a willingness to work cooperatively and share recognition for accomplishments.

"Out of the many inspiring nominations received for this year's Arthur Gibb Award for Sustainable Community Leadership, Beth Humstone truly stood out," said Kati Gallagher, Sustainable Communities Program Director at VNRC. "Her dedication to and impact on the whole state of Vermont spans decades, including leading the smart growth and anti-sprawl policies and programs that have been instrumental in supporting and revitalizing Vermont's downtowns and village centers. Beth's pioneering work helped these critical areas hold on to their defining characteristics at a time when much of the country was losing theirs to strip malls, big box stores, and scattered development — along with the social, economic and environmental benefits those places provide."

Cusack receives Vermont Coverts 2025 award

VERGENNES — Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife marked its 40th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21, at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield. The event brought together more than 100 landowners, foresters, wildlife enthusiasts and community members to honor the organization's four decades of connecting people to the land, wildlife and each other.

The day featured a variety of walks, talks and conversations led by biologists, foresters and landowners all focused on the importance of healthy forests and wildlife stewardship. Attendees enjoyed keynote remarks from Tom Rogers, Executive Director of Stowe Land Trust, and a community gathering that underscored the peer-to-peer network at the heart of Vermont Coverts' mission.

Two awards were presented to recognize outstanding contributions to stewardship and outreach. Tim Stout, of Chittenden County, received the David Clarkson Award given to a Coverts Cooperator who demonstrates extraordinary leadership in forest and wildlife stewardship within their community. Tim has cared for his family forest, Jockey Hill Farm, located in Rutland County, working to improve forest health and resilience while improving habitats for wildlife. He hosts walks on his property and is eager to share his love of Vermont's woodlands.

The James Engle Award for promoting Coverts values in the public arena was presented to Caitlin Cusack, a forester with the Vermont Land Trust and Addison County resident. Caitlin brings an engaging and welcoming spirit to every role she takes on, as an educator, advocate, land manager and landowner. She was recognized for her leadership in ecological forestry, women landowner outreach, and her work as a land steward, bird-friendly forester and maple sugarmaker.

More than 930 people have graduated from the three-day

Coverts training. "Vermont Coverts has always been about building a network of landowners who share their knowledge, passion, and commitment to stewardship," said Lisa Sausville, Executive Director. "We are proud of the more than 900 landowners who have completed our training and the ripple effect they have had across Vermont's forests and communities. This celebration was not just about looking back — it was about the exciting opportunities ahead."

Landowners interested in the stewardship of their land and the future of wildlife are invited to attend Vermont Coverts three-day cooperator training, offered in the spring and fall of each year. Each workshop gathers those interested in acting on their own land and beyond through a peer-to-peer network. They are introduced to the concepts of forestry, the needs of wildlife, making management choices, and how to share this information with others.

Graduates leave the workshop with energetic plans for their own land and a commitment to share what they have learned, a practical, ecological vision for their land and beyond. Cooperators' visions have materialized in land management plans, involvement in municipal and regional planning, land conservation projects large and small, watershed and water quality efforts, land use policy discussions and various levels of government and non-profit agencies. Some of their greatest effects come about simply through conversation with neighbors that stop by, at the local Rotary, at town meeting, the library, the store, and community events.

The 2026 Trainings have been scheduled; April 24-26 at Potash Hill in Marlboro and August 28-30 at Kehoe Conservation Camp in Castleton. Space is limited. Applications can be downloaded from the Coverts website www.vtcoverts.org. Call the Coverts office with any questions (802) 877-2777.

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NIKKI JUVAN, CO-FOUNDER of Stroke Awareness Vermont, leads folks in a walk around downtown Middlebury in the first Walk for Stroke Awareness two years ago. The third annual walk will start at Triangle Park at Main Street and Merchants Row on Oct. 25 at 11 a.m.

Walk raises stroke awareness

MIDDLEBURY — Stroke Awareness Vermont invites the community to join the 3rd Annual Middlebury Walk for Stroke Awareness on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m. in Triangle Park, Middlebury. It will take place in recognition of World Stroke Day.

This uplifting community event will honor and celebrate stroke survivors, provide valuable educational materials, and create opportunities for survivors and caregivers to connect with one another.

Stroke is a leading cause of long-term disability worldwide. Every 40 seconds, someone experiences a stroke — making awareness, education, and support more important than ever.

“We want to raise visibility for stroke and let people know that no one has to face recovery alone,” said Middlebury resident Nikki Juvan, a stroke caregiver and co-founder of Stroke Awareness Vermont. “This walk is a celebration of resilience, community, and the importance of

- Event Details:**
- What: 3rd Annual Middlebury Walk for Stroke Awareness
 - When: Saturday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m.
 - Where: Triangle Park, Middlebury
 - Who: Hosted by Stroke Awareness Vermont
 - Why: In recognition of World Stroke Day

knowing the signs of stroke.”

Participants will receive information on stroke prevention and recovery, enjoy fellowship with others impacted by stroke, and help shine a light on this critical health issue. The event is free and open to the public.

Everyone is encouraged to attend, walk in solidarity, and show support for stroke survivors and their families.

For more information, visit www.strokeawarenessvermont.org or email strokeawarenessvermont@gmail.com.



Please help in our search!

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON MISSING FAIR HAVEN WOMAN, ASHLEY GOODRICH

Ashley Goodrich has been missing since October 17, 2021. Despite extensive search efforts and ongoing investigations over the past four years, Ashley's case remains unresolved. We believe that her disappearance is linked to foul play, and we are determined to bring her home. In addition to offering a reward, the family is actively coordinating organized searches in areas of interest and is seeking assistance from the community. Your participation could be vital in covering large areas and helping to find Ashley.

A coordinated search will take place, October 19th, at 9:30AM-3:00PM, Route 30 to Monument Hill Rd. Participants in the search are asked to dress appropriately for

the weather. Supplies such as bug spray, water and snacks are encouraged. Please make sure your cell phones are fully charged. Volunteers will be required to sign in & sign out. Everyone will be briefed on the search areas before heading out. We ask that everyone be respectful to the property owners. Directions: 1248 Monument Hill Road, turn onto Military Road (Private), 1st driveway on the left.

The reward amount for credible information leading to Ashley's recovery and the prosecution of those involved has been increased to **\$25,000**. If you have any information regarding Ashley's case or are unable to attend the search but want to assist in other ways, please contact Fair Haven Police Department at 802-265-7839/802-265-8293 or William.humphries@vermont.gov.

Thank you for your support! • #FindingAshleyGoodrich

Pieciak takes aim at Trump's media co.

By SHAUN ROBINSON
VTDigger

Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak and five of his counterparts in other states are challenging the inclusion of President Donald Trump's media company in one of the country's major indexes that's used to guide investments in the stock market.

Pieciak was the lead signatory on a letter this week to the head of the Russell 3000 Index, which tracks the performance of 3,000 of the country's largest companies. The letter asks why the company that manages the listing, London-based FTSE Russell, decided last year to make Trump Media & Technology Group a part of its index.

In addition to Pieciak, the letter was signed by state fiscal leaders from New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maryland, as well as the comptroller of New York City.

Trump Media & Technology's most prominent brand is Truth Social, the social media network Trump launched in 2022 after he was banned from what was then



VERMONT STATE TREASURER MIKE PIECIAK

Twitter. The president's company, which trades under the symbol DJT, also operates Truth+, a streaming service, and earlier this year launched a financial technology platform.

Pieciak and the other state treasurers and comptrollers wrote that the inclusion of Trump's company in the Russell 3000 Index “undermines” the index's credibility. That's because the company has lost more than half of its value since it debuted on the stock market in March 2024, they wrote, while at the same time, generating “negligible revenues.”

Other Trump-related ventures, they added, have been similarly volatile for investors, including a meme cryptocurrency coin and non-fungible token trading cards, which “surged briefly before collapsing, leaving many investors with heavy losses.”

“The continued presence of TMTG in the index raises troubling questions on both financial and governance grounds, as well as on the integrity of the benchmark itself.”

“The continued presence of TMTG in the index raises troubling questions on both financial and governance grounds, as well as on the integrity of the benchmark itself,” Pieciak and the other state leaders wrote in the letter, which was sent Sept. 29.

Pieciak and Vermont's other Democratic statewide officials have repeatedly taken aim at Trump and actions taken by his administration since the president took office for a second term.

Attorney General Charity Clark has joined other states to sue the Trump administration more than two dozen times since January, while Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas has pushed back on efforts by Trump's Department of Justice to obtain sensitive voter data.

Gov. Phil Scott, who has urged state leaders to be less confrontational in what he's said

is an effort to protect Vermont's existing federal funding and benefits.

To be sure, Scott rejected two requests over the summer from the White House to use Vermont's national guard to aid federal immigration enforcement and crack down on crime in Washington, D.C. But he also drew sharp criticism for complying with a request to share data on nutritional benefit recipients.

Pieciak said in an interview Thursday that more than \$10.6 trillion in assets flow through the Russell 3000, which includes retirement accounts, college saving plans and some state pension funds. Vermont's public pension plans are not invested using the Russell index, he said.

But he noted that it's likely many Vermonters are invested in funds that automatically buy whatever shares are part of the Russell index. That means many people likely own a

piece, albeit small, of Trump's media company, even if they don't realize it.

The treasurer said Trump's media company is unique among the companies in the index because its value is largely based around the political capital of a single — albeit extremely powerful — person, rather than its own underlying financial success.

The letter asks FTSE Russell for “a clear explanation of the criteria and methodology used to include” Trump's company in the Russell 3000, as well as “an assessment of how FTSE Russell has accounted for TMTG's financial instability” and what safeguards the index will use to ensure future additions “reflect sound market fundamentals.”

“In some ways, it is the first of its kind,” Pieciak said.



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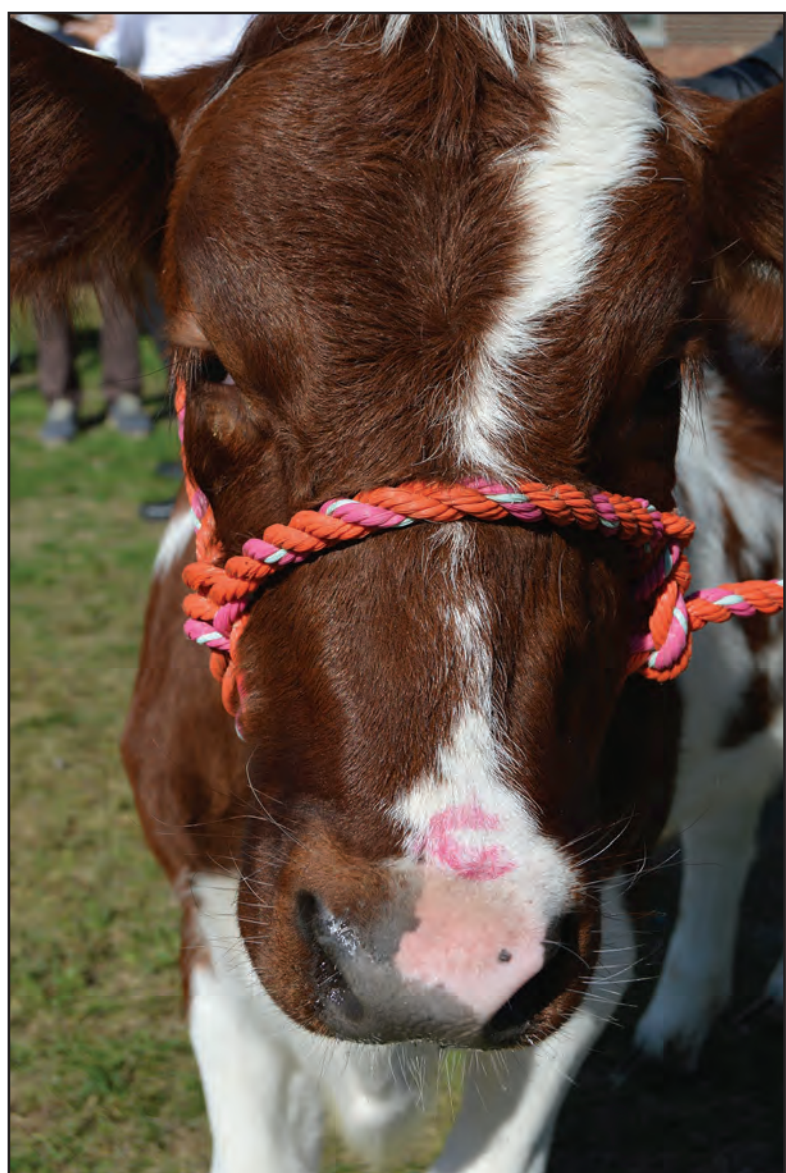
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BRISTOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Principal Aaron Boynton gets ready to “Kiss the Cow” during a principal’s challenge at the school this past Wednesday. MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen and his family’s cow Whiskey joined in on the festivities, which were intended to celebrate students’ good behavior.

Photos by Nicole Heffernan

Bristol principals ‘Kiss the Cow’

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Students at Bristol Elementary School welcomed a special guest to the learning community this past Wednesday — Whiskey the cow.

The cow, which belongs to the family of MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen, was there to take part in a “Kiss the Cow” Principal’s Challenge at the elementary school. Such events are intended to celebrate good student behavior and consist of the school’s administration team completing

“I just thought it would be a nice way to have a celebration with another member of the school community being a part of it.”

— Bristol Elementary School Principal Aaron Boynton

Students and staff at the school gathered outside toward the end of the day for the challenge. Reen first

an activity that’s silly, slightly embarrassing or challenging in some way.

Bristol Elementary School Principal Aaron Boynton noted the Oct. 1 challenge offered an opportunity to include more of the Bristol-area schools community in the event with Reen joining in.

“I just thought it would be a nice way to have a celebration with another member of the school community being a part of it,” he

spoke with students about Whiskey the cow and related facts, and then it was showtime. One by one school administrators — Boynton and Assistant Principals Bill Huggett and Anne McKinney — took turns planting a kiss on the cow.

Judging from the expression on Whiskey’s face, she was not impressed.

Boynton said some students made signs for the occasion, and parents were invited to join in on the fun. He expressed gratitude to Reen and his wife, BES Special Educator Kristina Reen, for taking part in the challenge.

“(It was a) really nice, impactful event, and just reinforces that we do these cool things for students working hard, making good choices,” he told the *Independent*.



BRISTOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL administrators were tasked with planting a kiss on Whiskey the cow as part of a “Kiss the Cow” challenge held at the school last week. Among those to take part were Assistant Principal Anne McKinney, above, and Principal Aaron Boynton, below.

Photo by Nicole Heffernan



STUDENTS AT BRISTOL Elementary School made signs to encourage school administrators as they completed a “Kiss the Cow” challenge last week.

Photo by Nicole Heffernan

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BRISTOL AMERICAN LEGION Post 19 members Ron LaRose, left, and Jeremy Revell were recently elected to serve in national positions. LaRose will serve as American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region, and Revell was elected to serve in the same role for the Sons of the American Legion.

Photo courtesy of Ron LaRose

Bristol Legionnaires elected to U.S. posts

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Two longtime members of the American Legion Post 19 in Bristol have been elected to serve in national positions.

During the 106th annual American Legion National Convention held in Tampa, Fla., last month, Post Commander Ron LaRose was elected as the American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region, and Jeremy Revell was elected as the Sons of the American Legion National Vice Commander for the Northeast Region.

LaRose noted it's unusual for two individuals from the same post to simultaneously serve in the two positions.

"Occasionally, you will have two individuals from the same state elected to national positions, but this is unheard of with both men coming from the same American Legion Post to serve in the same position representing the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion," LaRose told the *Independent*. "Post 19 could not be more proud of this achievement."

LaRose is a retired lieutenant colonel who served in the U.S. Army and Vermont Army National Guard for a total of 39 years. He

enlisted in 1966 in B Battery 86th Field Artillery in Vergennes, starting out as a Private and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. Throughout his commission years, LaRose served in several positions with the VT Army National Guard, including Commander of an Artillery Battery and Director of Personnel and State Safety Manager at State Headquarters.

"Occasionally, you will have two individuals from the same state elected to national positions, but this is unheard of with both men coming from the same American Legion Post to serve in the same position representing the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion."

— Ron LaRose

Upon his retirement from the military, LaRose was awarded the Legion of Merit. He has been a continuous member of the American Legion since 1969, serving in several positions, including Post Commander for 21 years. He's held various positions for the Department of Vermont, including as Addison County Commander for three years, Department Commander for two years and on the National Executive

Committee for two years.

Revell, a Lincoln resident, has been a member of The Sons of The American Legion for 24 years. He is eligible for membership through his great-grandfather Alexander H. Revell II, who served in the U.S. Army during World War I. That legacy of service continued through Revell's grandfathers — Alexander H. Revell III, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Lorin Leuthold, who served in the U.S. Navy. Both of Revell's grandfathers served in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

During his years in The Sons of The American Legion, Revell has taken on multiple leadership roles at every level. He's served as Finance Officer, Adjutant and Commander for 11 years at the squadron level. Additionally, he's held numerous roles at the detachment level and chaired or served as a member on several committees.

At the national level, Revell served on the Finance Commission and as the Northeast Region Chairman of the Membership and Squadron Activities Committee. Outside of his service in the SAL, Revell serves on the board of directors for The Dodge House, a transitional residence for homeless veterans in Rutland.

NATIONAL POSTS

Revell and LaRose were among several national vice commanders elected to their positions during last month's national convention. They will serve in the posts for one year.

LaRose explained that as national vice commanders, he and Revell serve as a liaison between the national commanders of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion, respectively, and the Northeast Region.

"We promote the priorities, objectives of the commanders," he said. "We work with our various states and membership; raising money, helping them survive and do the best they can."

LaRose said another requirement of their positions is to travel to each of the states in the northeast region, which includes 11 states and Washington D.C.

Bristol Beat

Input sought on future of local schools

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District is looking to hear from community members about the future of education delivery in the district that could result in school closings.

District officials are currently exploring several options for educational delivery in the district, including maintaining the status quo with staffing rules and a few possibilities for grade banding. The MAUSD Community Engagement Committee has put together a survey seeking residents' input to inform that ongoing work.

The survey will remain open through Oct. 12 and can be filled out at tinyurl.com/mausdsurvey.

In an introduction to the survey, district officials noted Bristol-area is exploring the options in an effort to reduce costs for the upcoming school year and beyond. Those explorations are separate from ongoing discussions at the state level regarding the future of Vermont's public education system.

"Based on the information currently available, we face significant tax increases if we maintain the same programming and extracurricular activities

while operating 5 schools with the same grade configurations," MAUSD officials wrote.

District officials noted projected increases in health insurance are once again a major driver in the cost increase.

"Most of the options being considered by MAUSD involve closing 2 elementary schools and reconfiguring grade levels in the remaining schools," they wrote.

The survey is anonymous, though all responses will be made available to the public. District officials noted no names or contact information will be collected as part of the survey.

Borrow a trail camera from the library

NEW HAVEN — People in New Haven now have the opportunity to borrow a trail camera from the local library and find out what wildlife is walking through their property thanks to the New Haven Conservation Commission.

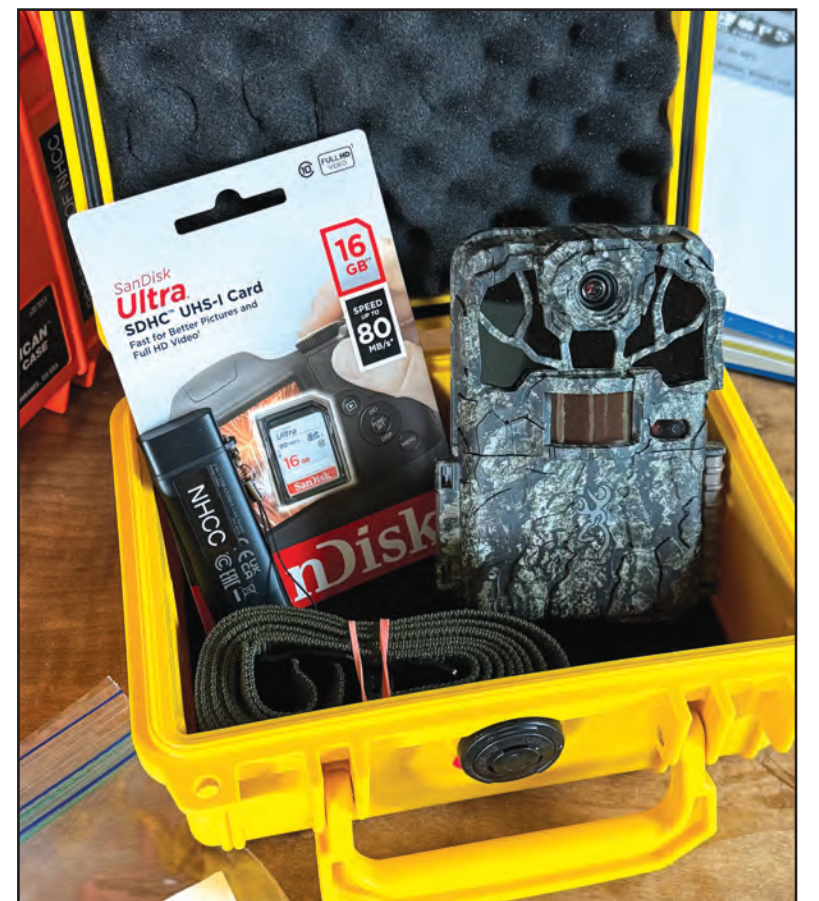
The commission recently received a \$500 grant from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commission (AVCC) to purchase trail cameras and accessories for the "Library of Things" at the New Haven Community Library. Librarian Ruth Shattuck Bernstein is excited to offer this to library patrons.

Cameras go out for a three-week lending period. Each camera comes complete with written and video instructions.

On Aug. 30, the New Haven Conservation Commission delivered two Pelican cases with camera and accessories to the New Haven Community Library.

The New Haven Conservation Commission was among eight volunteer groups across Vermont to receive funds through the AVCC's Tiny Grants program. Through the initiative, seed money or matching funds was awarded to commissions to support projects in areas like land conservation or education and outreach.

Starksboro and Monkton conservation commissions also received funds through this



THIS IS ONE of two trail cameras that can be borrowed from the New Haven Community Library for use over three week-periods to view wildlife on local properties.

program.

The New Haven commission is working on a two-year project documenting wildlife travel corridors in New Haven. Local wildlife rely on such corridors

to survive and reproduce in areas broken up by human activities and development. The pathways link habitat areas that allow animals to move around and find resources to meet their basic needs.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The 18th Annual Fill-the-Firehouse Food Drive will be held Saturday, Oct. 18. Each year the five town fire departments collect thousands of pounds of food for our neighbors in need. The Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company will be accepting donations from 9 a.m. to noon. Non-perishable items most needed are diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, canned black beans, canned kidney beans, baked beans, soup, canned chicken, tuna, peanut

butter, rice, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, canned chili, pasta, ketchup and mayo. Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, unscented bar soap and toilet paper are also welcomed.

Please note that expired products cannot be accepted. Checks made payable to the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf are also welcomed and appreciated.

Did you purchase travel guides

for a big trip this summer? Consider donating your gently used and current guides to the library so others can benefit from your valuable research!

SAVE THE DATE: There will be an afternoon craft session with Wendy and Jacqueline at the library on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Until next time ... Make Each Day Your Masterpiece. Courage Starts By Showing Up And Letting Ourselves Be Seen.

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Latourelle

(Continued from Page 1A) whole works. But we quickly gave that up," he said with a smile.

Minus the livestock, they found a perfect setting at a 40-acre property off Route 73 in Shoreham. There, Norton would focus on sculpting and carving, while Marlene would handle the business side of things.

They made the perfect team. Latourelle spent long days gleefully laboring over his varied carvings, ranging from insects just a couple inches tall, to giraffes more than 11 feet tall. Elephants, turtles, vegetables, flowers, cupcakes and dogs.

Oh, the dogs. Customers would come from miles away to get a Latourelle-carved dog, which he'd fashion according to the buyer's favorite breed or personal pet, subtly capturing its lovable idiosyncrasies.

Latourelle and Thornton also had a special place in their hearts for cats. Norton made a point of fashioning likenesses of any strays that showed up at their door — if they would just sit still for a minute.

But it was birds that really captured the couple's collective imagination. Finding rapture in raptors, the duo were avid birdwatchers, which inevitably hatched flocks of Latourelle bird carvings. Some flew off the shelves; others would hang out for a while and keep the couple company. All were comforting.

Norton's Gallery, under Marlene's stewardship, grew from

a small artisanal operation based largely on word-of-mouth, to a well-marketed enterprise offering walk-in and wholesale purchasing. Norton, with a half century of carving under his belt and regular exhibits in galleries across the country, was becoming an even hotter commodity — ironically at a point in life when one starts to slow down.

No, advancing age wouldn't take the saw and chisel out of Norton's hands. It was the discovery of cancer in Marlene's brain during the spring of 2024.

SOMETHING WRONG

Norton recalled the first signs that something was awry. The pair had decided to carpool for their respective appointments one day in early March. Marlene, always meticulous, suddenly couldn't figure out a plan for the day. And when she returned to Middlebury Indoor Tennis to pick up Norton later that afternoon, Marlene was unable to have a basic conversation with a mutual friend.

"We've got to get you to the doctor," Norton advised Marlene.

They did, which led to a trip for an MRI at UVM Medical Center. Physicians confirmed Marlene had a tumor in the left side of her brain, which among other things controls speech and balance.

She was officially diagnosed with glioblastoma on March 6, 2024.

"She knew exactly what it was," Norton said of the devastating news. "I can still see her crying."

It would be a crushing prognosis for anyone, but even more so for a person who appeared to be doing all the right things. Marlene and Norton ate healthy foods. Marlene exercised diligently and had taught bone builders to fellow seniors for many years.

Marlene's physicians scheduled surgery within a week and were candid about what lay ahead. The survival rate for adults with glioblastoma is 14.6 months, according to the Glioblastoma Research Organization. Marlene would undergo energy sapping radiation and chemotherapy treatments while searching for experimental therapies they hoped might rescue her from a fast-moving disease for which there's no known cure.

In order to stay laser focused on Marlene's health, the pair decided to close Norton's Gallery last October. They busily looked for homes for as many of Norton's unsold carvings as possible before closing their doors.

Sadly, Marlene's condition deteriorated quickly. Walking became a chore, leading to a transition to a wheelchair. Norton became his wife's primary caretaker. He installed a hospital bed in the house and tended to her needs as long as he could.

Marlene would spend the final few weeks of her life in one of Porter Hospital's Addison Respite Care Home suites, where Norton said she received excellent care.

She passed away a year and one week after her glioblastoma diagnosis.

"It was a nightmare," Norton said of his wife's ordeal, her death and the gaping void that her passing has left in his heart.

Between waves of grief, he thought about putting his idle hands to use again, and in a way that would pay homage to Marlene while also helping glioblastoma patients and their families. He decided in April that he'd carve out bunches of cardinals, selling them as a fundraiser. Alissa Thomas, M.D. — part of the UVMCC team that treated Marlene — gave her thumbs up to the partnership to generate funds for glioblastoma research and patient needs.

Shoreham folks who checked in on Norton were pleased to see him back at work. Several, including Shoreham Post Office Clerk Mike McGuire, offered to help.

"Norton is someone I've known since I've been at the post office (10 years)," McGuire said. "He's a friendly guy and it's been a tough time for him. I thought I'd do what I could to help him out."

And there's a little more to it than



NORTON AND MARLENE Latourelle stand in front of the Shoreham barn where he has created and shown his eclectic collection of animals and other wood carvings. Marlene's death this past March prompted Norton to carve cardinals, one of the couple's favorite birds, as a tribute and a fundraiser.

Photo courtesy of Anthony Thornton Photography

that. McGuire's family has also been affected by glioblastoma. His spouse is a physician. So McGuire has firsthand knowledge of the disease and its impact on patients and survivors.

He asked Norton if he could join what was initially a cardinal carving club of one. While Norton would continue to saw out the cardinal forms, he agreed to farm out some of the sanding and painting chores.

"I don't use rulers or rules," Norton said of his well-earned facility with carving. "I don't make templates; I threw away the level. I'm all by eye, feel, and years and years of doing this."

The "Marlene's Cardinals" team eventually grew to around 10, including friends and at least one firefighter. The sounds of sanding, sawing and conversation were a balm for Norton's aching soul.

"I've learned more about (Norton) during the past few

months than I'd learned about him in the (previous) 10 years," McGuire said. "I would go down at lunchtime to work for around an hour, and sometimes after work."

The bird sanding and painting can be mundane work, "but it allows you to talk to people," McGuire noted.

Norton and his team met their 1,000-cardinal goal, and they became available on Aug. 9, which coincided with a celebration of Marlene's life. Around 300 of the birds have flown to permanent homes, each leaving a \$100 donation in their wake. Norton is already prepping for a second flock of Marlene's Cardinals. And this time, Norton will train McGuire to use the bandsaw.

As the weather gets colder, Norton expects to see more cardinals around his workshop. They'll lift his spirits, remind him of Marlene, and get him cranking up the bandsaw.

"I think (Marlene) would approve," he said solemnly.

To order a cardinal, or to find out more about Norton's Gallery, go online to nortonsgallery.com.



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Collins Aerospace honored for safety

VERGENNES — Collins Aerospace's Vergennes facility was recognized in a recent ceremony in Montpelier with an award that, according to Vermont Department of Labor officials, places the Panton Road plant "among a select group of workplaces nationwide that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to employee safety and health."

Collins Aerospace was honored as a "Star Site" in Vermont's Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program. According to a DOL press release, being named a Star Site is the highest level of achievement in the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program.

The Voluntary Protection Program, or VPP, is a cooperative initiative among management, employees, and OSHA that is designed to promote worksite safety and health systems. To earn Star Site status, a company must meet rigorous, performance-based criteria, undergo a detailed application process, and complete an intensive onsite evaluation by Vermont OSHA experts.

"Safety is not only a cornerstone of a strong and healthy workforce, but also essential to building trust between employers and employees," Vermont Labor Commissioner Kendal Smith said. "Collins Aerospace has set a powerful example of what that looks like in action. Achieving this level reflects your commitment to compliance and creating a culture where every worker feels safe, respected, and heard."

Ryan Bartlett, Collins Aerospace general manager, explained the

company's commitment to safety.

"Our team's focus on safety is embedded in everything we do," Bartlett said. "Being recognized as a VPP Star Site affirms that our people-driven safety culture is working, and that every employee's voice and vigilance matter."

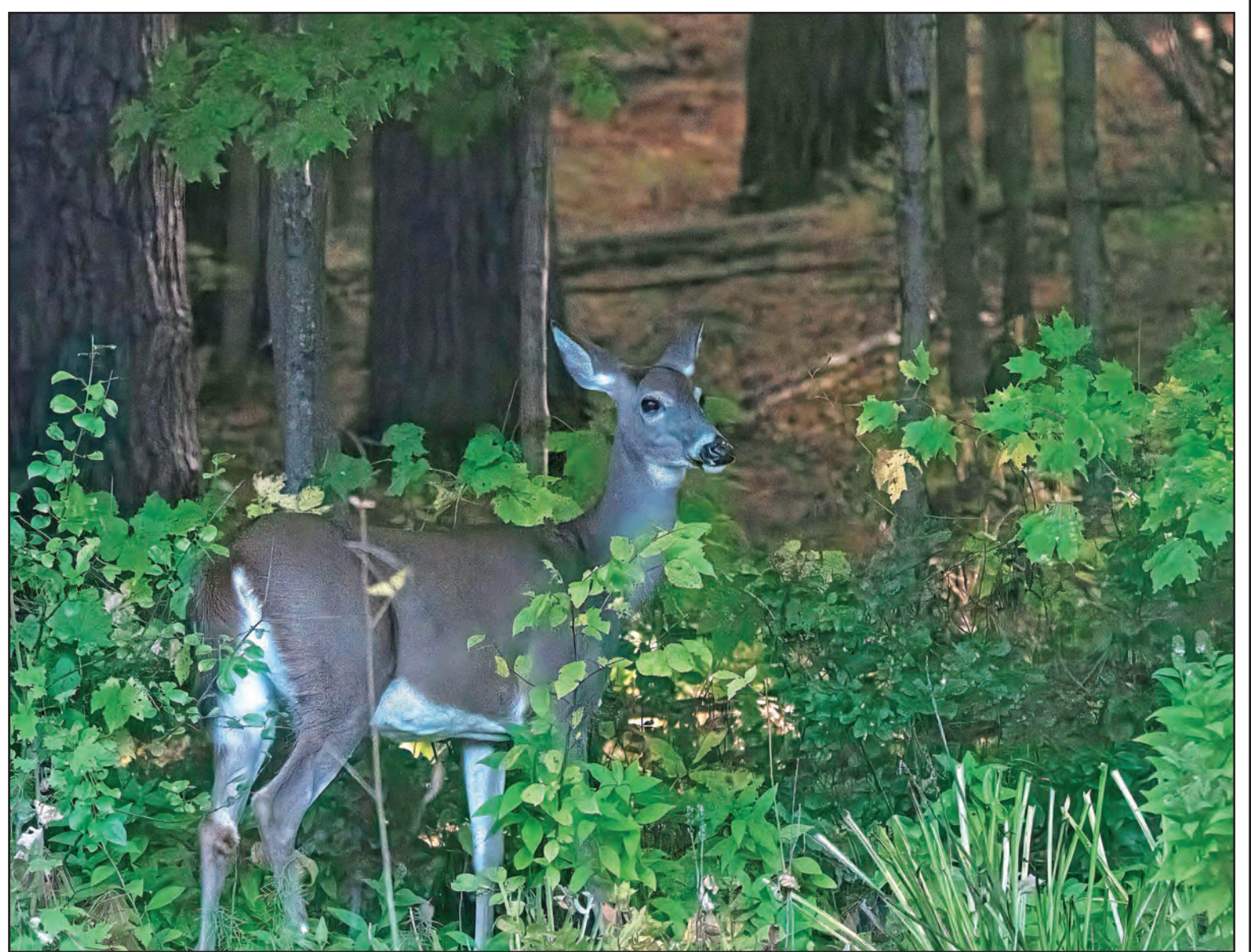
Collins Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) Senior Manager Thomas Murphy added his thoughts.

"Safety First? No, it's Safety Always," Murphy said. "This achievement isn't for our EH&S department; it's for our site's safety culture."

During the ceremony, representatives from Vermont OSHA presented Collins Aerospace with the newly rebranded Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program flag and plaque, marking the company as the fifth active Star Site in Vermont. Other Star Sites include Ben & Jerry's, GlobalFoundries, Vermont Electric Co-op, and Atlas.

"Collins Aerospace is helping to set the standard, not just for safety compliance, but for culture," said Anna Hill, Vermont OSHA Program Director. "The culture of safety excellence in Vermont has a bright future, and it's because of companies like Collins Aerospace that we're on the path toward that future."

In July, the American aerospace firm TransDigm Group purchased the Simmonds Precision Products (a Vergennes unit of Collins Aerospace) from RTX Corp. for approximately \$765 million. The Vergennes facility employs around 700 people.



Nature comes to town

A MIDDLEBURY WOMAN was so excited to see this beautiful deer in the Battell Woods right behind her house last week that she quickly grabbed her camera and took a picture from her window. What beautiful eyes!

Photo by Dottie Nelson

City rec

(Continued from Page 3A)

to ensuring Veterans Park is safe, accessible, and welcoming for all residents," she concluded.

DeGraaf summed up for the council on Sept. 23.

"As we move into the upcoming budgeting season, I encourage the Council to consider two important issues: How are you going to financially support repairing and enhancing existing facilities; and second, investment in staffing capacity, ensuring that employees are supported and the department can continue to meet the needs of a growing community. This forward-looking thinking will ensure that Vergennes not only sustains its recreational assets, but also builds a strong foundation for the

future.

"Investments in recreation will attract visitors, generate tourism revenue, create jobs, support small businesses, increase property values ... Outdoor recreation also strengthens community identity and fosters pride in being an active, family-friendly place to live, work, and visit."

Bearor told the *Independent* that he and the council look forward to more details

"I'm going to be supportive of the rec department and of what Martha brings to us if it's a good plan, and it's benefitting the community," Bearor said. "It's got to support Vergennes and the kids."

Porter

(Continued from Page 3A)

Most recently, the hospital has focused on expanding local access to services — adding more than 1,000 new patients to its primary care practices since September of 2023, increasing partnerships with UVM Health Network-Elizabethtown Community Hospital across Lake Champlain, for greater efficiency and to give patients greater access to care, like adding additional capacity to its orthopedics practice, which welcomed Orthopedic Surgeon Devon Anderson, MD, earlier this year.

UVM Extension takes an early look at corn harvest

WEYBRIDGE — The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition and UVM Extension's Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team co-hosted a farmer event on Strategies for the 2025 Corn Harvest. The group of 13 farmers, three technical service providers, and five staff hosts met in Weybridge at Monument Farms Dairy.

The event focused on how the exceptionally wet spring and dry summer had led to uneven corn growth and maturity, and created challenges for harvest timing, forage quality and storage logistics.

Tom Eaton, Crop Consultant and Nutrient Management Planner from Agricultural Consulting Services, led a discussion on what this harvest season will look like for farmers, and shared advice for prioritizing which fields to harvest first. He covered the impacts of uneven maturity on feed quality

and inventory planning, and silage preservation strategies for when crops come off in small batches. He also touched on soil health concerns, and fertility adjustments for looking ahead to 2026.

In addition, Eaton calculated dry matter percentages live in the field with corn samples that attendees had brought to the event.

Here are some of the important messages he gave to Addison County farmers.

KEY HARVEST TAKEAWAYS

1. Frost is the cutoff: After a killing frost, plants stop turning sugars into starches, so farmers need to get that crop off as soon as possible. The longer the plants stay in the field, the more mycotoxins they will collect.

2. Small batches are OK: This year, it may be necessary to harvest in small batches. Use Ag Bags or smaller bunk silos so partial harvests can be sealed properly.

Small harvest windows can be disruptive, so line up trucking, packing, and covering crews in advance, even for a day's worth of chopping.

3. Check dry matter percentage: Target 30-40% whole-plant dry matter for good fermentation, especially with short or green corn. It is recommended to take whole plant dry matter measurements before you chop it to make sure that it will ferment properly.

4. Don't assume poor yield will result in poor feed: While the growing season and corn crops were disappointing this year, in many cases, the feed itself is actually decent, based on tests that farmers and nutritionists are seeing.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

When it comes to planning for next year, farmers should take notes on how each field responded to the exceptionally wet spring and

dry summer pattern.

Population matters: More plants per acre isn't always better — focus on spacing and singulation for yield. By increasing plants per acre, the plants will experience an increase in pressure. Great yields can be more difficult at 15-inch rows.

Nitrogen timing: Timing of nitrogen application is critical. If liquid and dry nitrogen are similarly priced, consider that liquid nitrogen is immediately plant available, and usually better for the crop. Always use urease inhibitors to prevent volatilization and leaching.

Build soil health: Finally, consider soil health practices like cover cropping and reduced tillage to implement after harvest and rebuild resilience for 2026. These practices improve soil health and erosion control through the winter.

Lake Champlain Basin Program seeks pre-proposals

GRAND ISLE — The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program, in partnership with NEIWPCC, seeks pre-proposals for research projects that will address the complex challenges facing Lake Champlain and its watershed. A subset of applicants will be asked to submit a more detailed full proposal for further consideration.

Research pre-proposals should support Clean Water or Healthy Ecosystems goals outlined in LCBP's management plan, Opportunities for Action. For this request, the LCBP is particularly interested in funding research projects that:

- Assess the bioavailability of phosphorus from understudied sources or that replicate previous mercury studies in Lake Champlain.
- Support population monitoring

for priority species, assess the impact of cyanobacteria blooms on lake biota, investigate the impact of environmental change on native species, or advance understanding of aquatic habitat restoration techniques.

- Assess the impacts of established aquatic invasive species, or investigate best practices for containment of hemlock woolly adelgid to preserve riparian habitat.
- Assess best practices for dam removal, including riparian restoration, invasive species spread prevention, and minimizing impacts on threatened and endangered species.

- Identify opportunities to enhance public recreation access or improve understanding of water use conflicts at recreation access points.
- Develop best practices for riparian forest management.

grant guidelines and applications, is available on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's website at lcbp.org/grants.

Please see the Request for Pre-proposals for full details on research priorities. Requests up to \$400,000 will be considered, with all awards subject to available funding.

Selected projects will be supported by funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, or in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Proposals must support work within the Lake Champlain watershed.

Proposals are due at 5 p.m. EST, Nov. 7. An informational webinar will be offered on Oct. 14, at 1 p.m. (register for the Zoom webinar at this link). Awarded research projects are targeted to begin work in January 2027.

More information, including

The Lake Champlain Basin Program coordinates and funds efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. The program works in partnership with federal agencies, state and provincial agencies from New York, Vermont, and Québec, local communities, businesses, and citizen groups. NEIWPCC—a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality—serves as the primary program administrator of LCBP at the request of the Lake Champlain Steering Committee and administers the program's personnel, finances, and contracts. NEIWPCC is a program partner of LCBP. For further information, contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program, 54 West Shore Road, Grand Isle, VT at (802) 372-3213 / (800) 468-5227 or visit <https://www.lcbp.org/>.



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OCAS offers classroom grants for environmental education

ADDISON COUNTY —Otter Creek Audubon Society is offering Environmental Education Grants to Addison County educators. Teachers of all age levels are encouraged to develop proposals for up to \$900 to support the OCAS mission of encouraging a culture of conservation. Applications are due by Monday, Oct. 27. Funds will become available Jan. 1 for use during 2026.

Last year Environmental Education Grants supported outdoor learning for students in 13 schools. Funds were used to help defer such costs as field

trip transportation, equipment, admission fees and outside presentations.

In 2025, 14 such proposals were funded. For example, partnering with Master Naturalists, Bridge School's grant paid for two bus trips to Otter Creek Gorge to compare seasonal changes there and learn about human impacts on watersheds.

Bridport Central developed an Artist in Residence program, where artist Kate Gridley led several outdoor as well as in-school sessions in nature drawing. Renowned naturalist Susan Morse

will lead onsite training in tracking, habitats and signs for Hannaford Career Center students in the Natural Regional Management course. A homeschool group had a six-session outdoor Botany unit taught by four guest leaders. Along with plant IDs, they practiced nature journaling and foraged for natural pigments. A new outdoor classroom and learning space will be available to Middlebury Union High School students soon. Design, wood milling and construction will be by Hannaford Career Center students.

At the Quarry Hill School,

preschoolers will learn to care for and enjoy the benefits of their 4 new fruiting trees. Grade 3/4 students at Salisbury Community School learned about Native American culture and perspective as they constructed a wigwam with Chief Don Stevens. Starksboro's Robinson School now has a new butterfly garden built by 1st graders. They are taking action to help butterflies with their environmental challenges. At Willowell's Wren's Nest Forest Preschool, rain gear for all the children makes possible their almost fully outdoors curriculum. During an all-school field trip to Wright Park, New Haven's Beeman Elementary students hiked the river and meadow trails to enrich their wetland and water filtration studies.

Three classes from Mary Hogan Elementary benefitted from these OCAS grants. A preschool teacher invited a VINS naturalist to bring her live raptor outreach program entitled "Build a Bird of Prey." Another naturalist from VINS brought other live birds to visit the first grade for a program on how raptors are adapted for survival. Finally, the 5th graders hosted their kindergarten "buddies" on a field trip to Huntington and the Birds of Vermont Museum.

OCAS wants to support Addison County educators and looks forward to hearing what teachers need as they strive to provide



ALL BRIDGE SCHOOL students had 2 trips to Otter Creek Gorge Preserve, working with Master Naturalists to study plants, animals and human impacts on watersheds.

Photo by Jen Grilly



SALISBURY COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S grade 3/4 built a wigwam in their forest classroom under the direction of Chief Don Stevens. They learned about Native American culture, games, stories, perspectives and traditions.

Photo by Amy Clapp



ROBINSON SCHOOL (STARKSBORO) 1st graders planted a pollinator garden and learned about the environmental challenges that butterflies face.

Photo by Beth Sands

ICE to boost social media surveillance using Vt. hub

By SHAWN ROBINSON
VTDigger

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to use a hub in Vermont to bolster its digital surveillance capabilities as the agency ramps up operations across the country at the direction of leaders in President Donald Trump's administration.

According to federal contracting records, which were first reported by the technology magazine *Wired*, ICE plans to hire at least a dozen contracted workers for the effort at its National Criminal Analysis and Targeting Center, which is located in an unassuming business park in Williston. In addition, the agency would hire at least 16 contracted workers at a similar intelligence-gathering facility in Santa Ana, Calif.

The Vermont center is off Industrial Avenue, located a short drive from Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport. It is largely unmarked from the outside and, according to *Wired*, handles investigations from across the eastern part of the country.

Workers there already generate leads for ICE's Office of Enforcement and Removal

Operations, according to agency documents, compiling information field agents can then use to locate people ICE is targeting for deportation and other enforcement.

Draft plans published last week state, however, that ICE has had "limited success" using social media platforms and other information that's available on the open web — which includes sites accessible to the public via search engines — for enforcement. The plans refer to an existing contractor though do not provide any specifics about it.

Under the latest plans, a contractor would use sites such as Facebook, Instagram and X — and could, in addition, use powerful online commercial, law enforcement and federal government databases — to generate leads about "individuals who pose a danger to national security, risk public safety or otherwise meet ICE enforcement priorities."

Details collected could include people's social media posts and the locations tagged in them, according to the plans. The contractor could also be asked to find information about targeted people's "associates," including

family members and coworkers, for the purpose of determining someone's whereabouts, the plans from last week state.

The documents are a Request for Information, meaning the government is looking for details on the feasibility of its plan but is not yet actively soliciting contractors. Work on the plan could begin in May 2026, per the records.

ICE's media relations office did not immediately respond to a request for comment or additional information about its plans for contracted work at the Industrial Avenue office.

That location is just one of several ICE facilities in Vermont. They include another one close by in Williston, next to the Maple Tree Place shopping center, called its Law Enforcement Support Center. That office is ICE's national hub for coordinating with other law enforcement agencies and also houses the infrastructure for a major tip line.

ICE also has a field office in St. Albans where it holds mandatory meetings with people it is monitoring and, in at least one recent high-profile case, held someone the agency had previously arrested overnight.

The plans are not the first time ICE has sought contracts to bolster its surveillance operations. Earlier this year, for instance, the agency inked an agreement with Palantir Technologies, the firm co-founded by the billionaire Peter Thiel, to build software aimed at streamlining the process of identifying and deporting people the agency is targeting. The plan has faced sharp criticism from privacy and immigrant rights advocates.

James Duff Lyall, head of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, said in an emailed statement Monday that the plans for the Williston office warranted greater scrutiny to ensure they would not undermine people's privacy.

"Any increase in ICE presence or activity must be scrutinized, given the agency's long history of abuse, lack of accountability, and disregard for our constitutional rights," Lyall said. "That includes its reported expansion of digital surveillance efforts, a project which will be staffed in our own backyard and will involve surveilling the online activity of large swaths of the general public."

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Not so bird-brained:

Avians really use tools

By WILLIAM VON HERFF

On an otherwise unremarkable day in 2023, Jason Love and his colleagues were gathering in a parking lot when they saw something that, as far as we know, no one had ever seen before.

Love, the associate director of the Highlands Biological Station in North Carolina, and his colleagues were at a trailhead in the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee when he spotted a male northern cardinal attacking its reflection in a nearby car's side mirror. Male cardinals are known to engage in this mirror-attacking behavior, thinking their reflection is an aggressive rival that needs to be driven off. As the group watched the cardinal

The Outside Story

fight its imagined opponent, it did something unusual: it flew down to the ground, grabbed a piece of gravel, flew back up, and slammed it into the mirror.

The one-sided fight continued for several minutes. The bird appeared to be using the rock as a weapon — a behavior never before documented in northern cardinals.

When Love's team published this observation in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, they added cardinals to the ever-growing canon of birds that are known to use tools. The idea that a wide variety of birds can use tools is a relatively new one; in Jane Goodall's 1971 global review of animal tool use, "Tool-Using in Primates and Other Vertebrates,"

she only cited a handful of bird species as being capable of tool use. Now, a little more than 50 years later, dozens of bird species are known to use tools.

Perhaps the most adept tool-users among birds are corvids: jays, crows, ravens, and their relatives. Blue jays and American crows have both been recorded using pieces of wood to dig insects out of their holes. Common ravens throw pinecones and rocks at humans near their nests, cover their caches with grass to hide them, and even stab owls with sticks.

But bird tool use goes far beyond corvids. For instance, green herons use twigs, feathers, insects, or even bread to bait fish. The heron tosses its chosen lure onto the surface of a pond and, as soon as an unsuspecting fish approaches, it plunges its beak into the water and



Herff

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spears its meal.

Double-crested cormorants have also been recorded using tools. In 1972, Andrew Meyerriecks, a professor at University of South Florida, published an article in *The Wilson Bulletin* that described another previously unseen bird behavior. Cormorants preen by craning their snake-like heads to extract oil from their preen glands, which are located at the base of the tail, and applying it to their feathers with their beaks. As he watched the cormorants, one picked up a fallen feather and stretched back to dip it in preen oil before brushing it onto its wing feathers — turning the feather into, effectively, a makeup brush.

One step below tool use is a behavior where birds use "fixed

One step below tool use is a behavior where birds use "fixed devices," or stationary objects, to complete a task. Technically, since the bird does not manipulate the object, it is not considered tool use, but it is similarly a mark of intelligence.

devices," or stationary objects, to complete a task. Technically, since the bird does not manipulate the object, it is not considered tool use, but it is similarly a mark of intelligence. Northern shrikes, carnivorous winter visitors to the Northeast, are well-known for this behavior: they impale their prey on thorns and barbed-wire fences. Ring-billed and herring gulls use rocky ground and parking lots as fixed devices by dropping clams and mussels onto them to break them open. Even red-tailed hawks have used boulders to finish off their prey. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists published a 1993 article in *Journal of Raptor Research* recounting a hawk repeatedly smacking a snake against rocks to kill it.

A lot of these "fixed device" and tool use behaviors are based on fairly recent observations, from the 1970s and on. Despite the lack of published accounts, there's reason to think that other northeastern birds may be using tools as well. Mountain chickadees, a western relative of the black-capped chickadee, have been observed using splinters of wood to probe for insects in a tree crevice, and brown-headed nuthatches, a southern relative of red- and white-breasted nuthatches, regularly use flakes of bark to pry other bark off branches. Who's to say that, when we aren't looking, these birds' northeastern relatives aren't using tools too?

William von Herff is a Washington, D.C.-based science journalist specializing in the environment, conservation and climate change. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

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SPORTS

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- School News, Classifieds, Legal Notices, Police Logs



TIGER SENIOR RUNNING back Logan McNulty runs wide left against Hartford during Friday night's game at Doc Collins Field.

Independent photo/John S. McGrirt

Tiger volleyball tops scrappy Eagles

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The host first-year varsity Mount Abraham battled visiting Middlebury...

Coach Bethany Morrissey's Tigers improved to 10-1, 10-0 against D-II competition...

The Tigers unofficially won 19 points on outright aces and service winners in the course of the match.

Morrissey pointed out service points are typical for the Tigers, with three players...

"I think our service game is pretty strong, which is really helping us a lot," Morrissey said.

It took a while for the Tigers to get going against an Eagle team that appeared to be fired up for the local match.

despite two kills from Tiger junior Kate Kozak Mount Abe still led, 10-7, a little later.

Then after an Eagle service error came a pivotal 9-0 service run by Tiger senior Grace Ritter.

The Eagles made a late surge to 24-20 when Guilbeault nailed back-to-back aces, but the rally ended there, and MUHS claimed the first set.

(See Volleyball, Page 3B)



TIGER JUNIOR KATE Kozak sends the ball toward the Mount Abe side of the net against the defense of Eagle sophomore Charlotte Desilets during the volleyball match at Mount Abraham on Monday night.

Photo by Mark Bouvier Photography

Hurricanes topple Tiger football

Punishing defense and rushing attack rule the game

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — In a highly anticipated battle of the unbeaten, visiting Division II Hartford used a punishing defense and rushing attack to knock off Middlebury on Friday night, 28-13.

Statistics can be misleading, but not this time. Hartford (5-0) rushed the ball 46 times for 289 yards, or just shy of 6.3 yards per carry.

Meanwhile, the Tigers, who had been running the ball effectively in their previous four games, all victories, managed only 111 yards on 29 attempts, or about 3.8 yards per rush.

Both their touchdowns were scored through the air, one on a 24-yard toss from quarterback Brady Lloyd to tight end Cooke Riney late in the first half, and one on a 59-yard bomb to tight

end/wideout Marshall Eddy with 5:18 to go in the fourth quarter. That play created the final score.

Tiger Coach Jed Malcolm credited Hartford for coming in with a sound game plan and executing it well.

"That's a good football team. They don't have a ton of depth, like we don't. But their first 11 are beasts. They pushed us around. And we were in basically our goal-line defense most of the first half, and we were still getting rolled," Malcolm said.

That said, Malcolm said he also felt it wasn't his team's best effort.

"There are a few things we can adjust, but we need to focus a little more in practice, and we need to come back and work a little bit harder than we worked this week," he said.

To be fair to the Tigers, they

were unable to practice twice in the days leading up to Friday's game due to county-wide in-service days for local schools' educators, making it difficult to prepare to stop a team that has a unique offensive system.

Malcolm was not happy with the lost prep time, but didn't use it as an excuse against a Hartford team that could have asked to play in Division I, but unlike the Tiger program chose not to.

"Anytime you're trying to create a scheme against the toughest team to coach against in the state, it's tough to lose practice time," Malcolm said.

"We did throw the ball well when we needed to. Some of (See Tigers toppled, Page 5B)

Score BOARD

Table listing football, field hockey, girls' and boys' soccer, and volleyball scores for various teams and dates.

COLLEGE SPORTS

Table listing men's and women's soccer scores between Bowdoin and Middlebury.

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Table listing football games for MUHS and MAV with dates and times.

(See Schedule, Page 4B)



THE THIRD-PLACE MUHS varsity bass fishing team shows off its catch after competing in the state championship tournament off Grand Isle on Saturday. Pictured, from left, are Coach Jack Fitzpatrick and juniors Taylor Altemose and Nate Cook Yoder.

Photo courtesy of MUHS

Tigers take 3rd in state fishing tourney

By ANDY KIRKALDY

GRAND ISLE — The Middlebury Union High School bass fishing team at Saturday's VPA Bass Fishing Championship off Grand Isle finished third behind winner

White River Valley and second place Burr & Burton.

Out in the boat earning bronze with Coach Jack Fitzgerald were two three-year team veterans, Taylor Altemose and Nate Cook Yoder, both juniors. On a

sunny day in good conditions, their haul of fish totaled 18.48 pounds, short of White River Valley's winning total of 21.18 pounds and Burr & Burton's 20.48 pounds.

(See Fishing, Page 4B)

Boys' soccer teams earn victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Mount Abraham topped Middlebury in Bristol to highlight local high school boys' soccer action in the past week.

EAGLES-TIGERS

On Oct. 3 the Eagles topped the visiting Tigers, 2-0, on goals from James Graziadei, with an

assist from Wayden Cherington, and Abe Camara, unassisted.

Evan Audy made two saves for the Eagles in their only outing between Oct. 1 and 7, and Lyle Carey blocked four shots for the Tigers.

The Eagles carried a 9-1-1 record into a game scheduled at Missisquoi on Wednesday after the Independent's deadline. Next up for the Eagles is a visit from Winooski on this coming

Tuesday.

TIGERS

The Tigers got a tie-breaking second-half goal to defeat visiting Rice on Monday, 2-1. Judah Matovu scored the game-winner with an assist from Ben Longman in transition in the 60th minute.

Earlier in the game the Tigers' Theo Fallis and the Green Knights' Joseph Alexander traded (See Victories, Page 4B)

OV golfers claim third in D-II

By ANDY KIRKALDY

DORSET — The Otter Valley Union High School boys' golf team on Tuesday at the Dorset Field Club course came up short of claiming what would have been the program's fourth Division II title in five years.

The Otters shot a 343, good for third in the six-team D-II field behind winner Harwood (326) and runner-up Lyndon (340).

Stowe (355), Hartford (357) and U-32 (361) rounded out the field.

U-32's Bubba Chamberlain fired a 73 to become the D-II medalist.

OV's Jackson Howe shot a 77 and qualified to compete in the upcoming New England championship tournament.

Also competing for the OV team on Tuesday were Jacob Warrell 86, Connor Denis 87, Max Eugair 93, and Zac Dragon 106.

MAV football suffers its first loss

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — Visiting Division II Rice on Saturday dealt the D-III Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative football team its first loss of the season, 20-10.

The Eagles took a 10-0 lead in the first quarter on an 8-yard touchdown pass from Rhett Lathrop to Ryan Wright and then Lincoln Painter's 34-yard field goal.

But turnovers hurt MAV, as Rice recovered two Eagle fumbles and intercepted a pass during the course of the game.

The Green Knights scored on Jack Tyson TD passes to Isaias Lagasse and Holden Mulvey and a Griffin Mulvey rushing touchdown as they improved to 3-2.

MAV (4-1) dropped from second place in the D-III standings to third behind Bellows Falls (5-0) and Woodstock (also 4-1, but against a tougher schedule).

The Eagles' next two games are against D-II teams that currently have 2-3 records: at Milton this Friday at 7 p.m. and at home on the following Saturday, Oct. 18, vs. Spaulding at 1 p.m.

Eagles roll; Tigers drop two

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The Mount Abraham Union High School field hockey team kept up its winning ways in the past week with a pair of successful outings, while the Middlebury Union High School squad came up short in a pair of home contests.

On Saturday the Eagles edged visiting Harwood, 1-0. Maris LaPerle scored for Mount Abe, with an assist from Addison Wright. The Eagles controlled much of the play, earning 15 penalty corners, and Harwood goalie Camille Edgecomb was credited with 17 saves.

On Monday Eleanor Hurlburt scored twice, both times with assists from LaPerle, as the

Eagles topped host Milton, 2-0. Mount Abe goalie Jillian Cousino worked a four-save shutout.

With Monday's victory the Eagles improved to 7-4 and have prevailed in six of their past seven games. They will look to keep rolling when they host Lyndon on Thursday at 4 p.m. and visit Spaulding this coming Wednesday.

(See Field hockey, Page 5B)

FIELD HOCKEY Wrap-Up

Mark Twain and Bill Lee want their stuff back!

There he was, Bill Lee, in his baby blue and red Burlington Cardinals baseball uniform, in front of the 3 Squares Café in Vergennes on a beautiful day last May. He had just finished playing a Vermont Senior Baseball League game against the Chelsea Bat Company, a 3-1 win.

We exchanged a light fist bump and he handed me a poster of a sort, an 8 x 11 color photo of his Savannah Bananas baseball card on which he had scrawled with a blue sharpie these words:

At the top "Reward \$200.00 Worth Glove" ("Worth" is a brand of baseball glove) with an arrow pointing to the glove — and at the bottom "\$500.00 for corpse of the boy that stole it!!!" "Get it?" he asked.

"Yeah, I guess," I said. "Someone stole your glove and

you want it back."

"It's from Mark Twain!" he responded and gleefully explained to me, the literature teacher and purported baseball scholar, the historical reference, a famous Twain anecdote, though unknown to me, alas.

This exchange has prompted me to consider Mark Twain and baseball.

Twain in fact was an avid baseball fan, a "crank" in the slang of the day. He lived in Connecticut from 1874 to 1891 — there he wrote and published both "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (1876) and its sequel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (1884). He frequented games at the Hartford

Ball Grounds, a 2,000-seat stadium, and was an investor in the Hartford Dark Blues base ball team.

In his passion for baseball, Samuel Clemens proved to be a man of his time. Baseball evolved from the English games of cricket and rounders (the Abner Doubleday/Cooperstown myth was thoroughly debunked decades ago). Though there are references to "base ball" (two words at the outset) in the 18th century, the first actual games were played in the 1840s, mainly in and around the environs of New York City.

The first team of entirely professional "ballists" were the Cincinnati Red Stockings who



Sports (Mostly) **KARL LINDHOLM**



CRAFTSBURY'S BILL LEE, a member of the Red Sox Hall of Fame, dines outside 3 Squares Café in Vergennes after a Vermont Senior League game last spring.

toured the country in 1869 from Boston to San Francisco, playing all comers, and winning every game, 57 wins and no losses. Led by the Wright brothers, Harry and George, former cricket stars, the Cincinnati Red Stockings took their talents east two years later and became the Boston Red Stockings (later, the Red Sox).

On May 18, 1875, Samuel Clemens attended a game between his beloved Dark Blues, whose record stood at 12-0, and the best team in the game, those Boston Red Stockings (16-0), both teams in the National Association, the precursor to the National League (the "senior circuit," organized in 1876).

It seems that Twain's umbrella was swiped at this game (won 10-5 by Boston), so he took out this ad a few days later in the *Hartford Courant*:

"TWO HUNDRED AND FIVE DOLLARS REWARD — At the great baseball match on Tuesday, as I engaged in hurrahing, a small boy walked off with an English-made brown silk UMBRELLA belonging to me and forgot to bring it back.

"I will pay \$5 for the return of the umbrella . . . I do not want the boy (in an active state) but will pay two hundred dollars for his remains. Samuel L. Clemens."

I assumed Twain knew baseball because, some time ago, I read "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." Published in 1889, it's a tale about a time traveler, Hank Morgan, who is transported back in time from the 1880s to the sixth century of King Arthur and Merlin the Magician and the Knights of the Round Table.

Hank is an engineer, full of Yankee ingenuity. Armed with contemporary knowledge and skills, he is able to perform the miraculous, which places him in direct conflict with Merlin. He has other challenges and problems — what to do with those pesky Knights, for example:

"It was a project of mine to replace the tournament with something which might furnish an escape for the extra steam of the chivalry, keep those bucks entertained and out of mischief . . .

"The experiment was baseball." Twain's account of their intramural base ball games reads well, still funny. Hank divides the Knights into teams but couldn't get the players to "leave off their armor." Any ball that struck a player "would bound a hundred and fifty yards sometimes."

And they actually did kill the umpires.

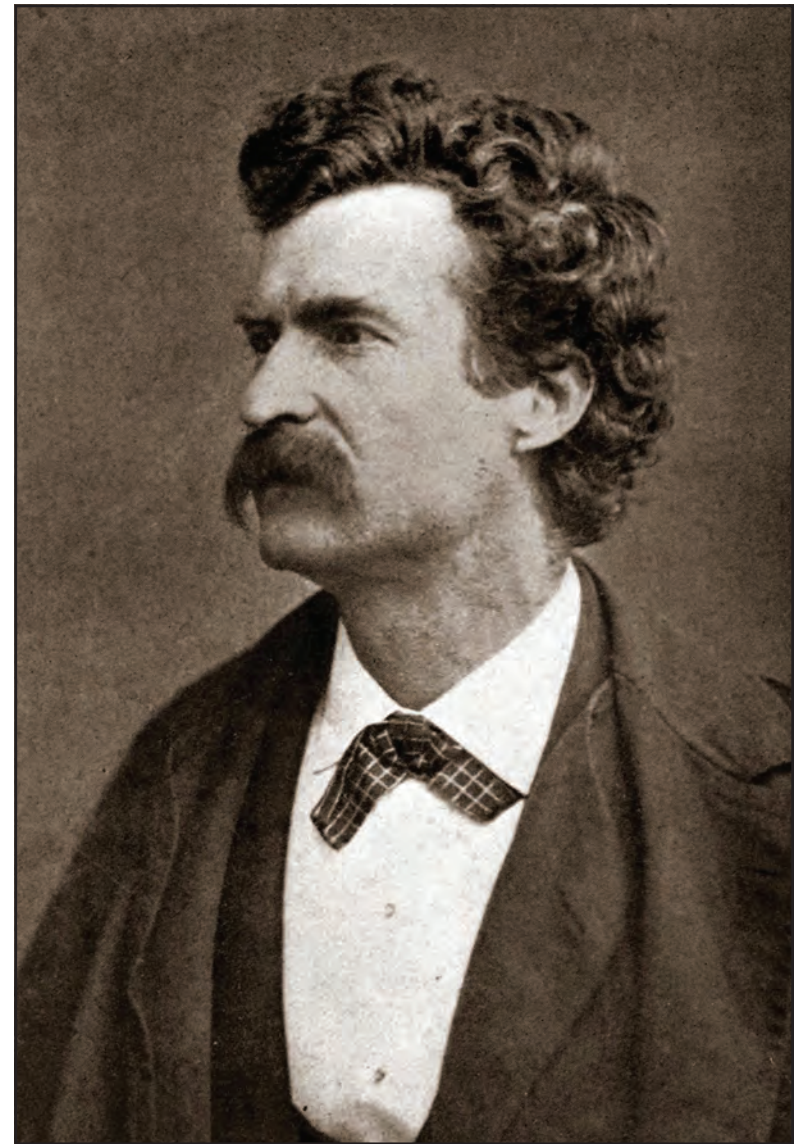
In April the same year that "A Connecticut Yankee" was published (1889), Twain gave a rousing speech at Delmonico's Restaurant in New York, a grand event celebrating the return of Albert Spalding and the ballplayers who participated in their "Tour around the World" from October 1888 to April 1889, playing exhibitions from Hawaii to Australia, South Asia, and Europe.

In his speech, Twain connected baseball to the American spirit, calling the game "The very symbol, the outward and visible expression of the drive and push, and rush and struggle of the raging, tearing, booming nineteenth century!"

This discussion of Twain and time travel and baseball brings to mind the writing of a more contemporary novelist, Darryl Brock. In his "If I Never Get Back" (1990), Brock's 31-year-old protagonist Sam Fowler ("Samuel Clemens" Fowler: he was named by his grandfather, a Twain aficionado)



FORMER RED SOX pitcher Bill Lee, playing for the Savannah Bananas, got his glove swiped at a game last year. Borrowing from Mark Twain, he offered a reward for its return.



SAMUEL CLEMENS (MARK TWAIN) lived in Hartford, Conn., from 1874 to 1891, where he wrote many of his most famous novels — and attended as well many of the base ball games of the home team, the Hartford Dark Blues of the National Association. He is pictured here in 1872.

is disillusioned and depressed by setbacks in his life. After a night of drunken excess, he awakes in the 19th century, 1869, and soon enough hooks up with Cincinnati Red Stockings as they cut a swath through National Association teams in the East and eventually west to San Francisco.

Early in the novel, Sam finds himself on a train with the actual Samuel Clemens, and they hatch a plan that sets the plot in motion. Twain recedes from the action, but wonderful adventures ensue. Brock is a master of historical detail in "If I Never Get Back," and in its sequel, "Two in the Field" (2002), where Twain also makes an appearance.

"Mixing fantasy with historical detail," wrote Peter Carino in his

review of "If I Never Get Back," "this episodic plot generates a panorama of an America in flux."

It appears that Twain never got his umbrella back, nor has Bill Lee's favorite glove been returned.

I like to imagine Mark Twain and Bill Lee together. I think they would hit it off.

Karl Lindholm taught two baseball courses in the American Studies Program at Middlebury College: "Baseball, Literature, and American Culture" and "Segregation in America: Baseball and Race." He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

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EAGLE SOPHOMORE AMELIA Desilets stretches for a dig as senior captain Paige Guilbeault, right, looks on during Mount Abe's home match vs. MUHS on Monday night.

Photo by Mark Bouvier Photography

Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)

Her team's scrappiness was not lost on LaRose.

"I was really happy with the way we kept up with Middlebury tonight," LaRose said. "I felt we had some good rallies."

The Eagles also hung with the Tigers for much of the second set. A block by Guilbeault and sophomore Amelia Desilets' service winner helped the Eagles to an 11-10 lead before the Tigers began to assert themselves.

Kills by sophomores Abby Hamilton and Willow Heywood helped the Tigers in a 4-0 run, and then Lenti served an ace and a winner in a 5-0 run that made it 19-12 and put the set effectively out of the Eagles' reach.

The Tigers took control of the

third set early as Adeline Ritter opened it with a 7-0 service run that included an ace and five service winners. Kills by Wolosinski and Adeline Ritter made it 11-4 before two Guilbeault kills — she totaled seven for the match — cut the lead to five. But that was as close as the Eagles came, as the Tigers wrapped the match win up with the 25-11 final set.

It's been a tough stretch for Mount Abe, which has played and lost three-set matches to three of the top four teams in Division II in its past three games, Hartford and Harwood as well as the Tigers. LaRose acknowledged the recent setbacks have been tough for team morale.

But the Eagles played hard and stayed positive in Monday's

match, in part because LaRose said they talked it over beforehand.

"We'd gotten really down, and so it was one of our team goals is to not give up, play to the end and to keep working all the way through all the difficulty," LaRose said. "I feel like there was a lot more positive energy on the floor."

The Eagles started their season with two wins and have improved since then, but haven't been rewarded with victories.

"It feels like a bit of a memory," LaRose said. "We're ready for another win. I think we're getting there."

The 10-1 Tigers were set to take on second-place Harwood (9-1), in a key match on Wednesday after deadline for this issue. Enosburg (9-2) is in third place, and Hartford (7-2) in fourth. No other D-II team

had fewer than four losses as of Wednesday.

While Morrissey is confident in her team, if anything she would like to see Tigers be more consistent in finishing off points.

"We can put the ball away now. We can hit the ball hard," she said. "Sometimes we're trying to find that balance between hitting the ball hard and keeping the ball on the court. We've had more blocks than we've ever had."

Working in their favor is team chemistry, she said.

"They like to play the game. They play in the offseason. A lot of them play in camps together," Morrissey said. "People just keep sending me nice kids, so it makes it easy. They support each other."

EARLIER MATCHES

Earlier, on this past Saturday morning the Tigers won a pivotal match at home, edging Hartford, 3-2, with a 16-14 fifth-set tiebreaker. The Hurricanes are 7-2 and in fourth place as of Tuesday. At the same time, second-place Harwood blanked the Eagles, 3-0 (25-14, 25-9, 25-20).

Next up for the Tigers is a Saturday date at Montpelier.

The Eagles, in 10th place in the 12-team division, were set to visit ninth-place Lyndon on Wednesday, and their next match is at home on Friday at 6 p.m. vs 6th-place Randolph.



MUHS SENIOR MARILYN Perez, a key defender for her team, sends to ball up to the MUHS front line during the Tigers' volleyball match at Mount Abraham on Monday night.

Photo by Mark Bouvier Photography

Girls' soccer: Tigers, Eagles tie; Commodores at 10-0

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Middlebury and Mount Abraham battled to a tie, and Vergennes remained unbeaten in recent high school girls' soccer action.

Tigers-Eagles

On Oct. 3 the visiting Tigers scored early against the Eagles, but Mount Abe rebounded to tie the game in the second half as the teams battled to a 1-1 tie.

Josephine Ives converted an Anni Broderson assist to give the Tigers the lead in the seventh minute. The Eagles equalized on a Sophie Underwood penalty kick in the second half's 12 minute. Both teams' goalies, Marley Lambert for MUHS and Brooklyn Ryersbach for Mt. Abe, made seven saves.

EAGLES

On Tuesday host Rice got goals from Reese Billings and Bayleigh Clark and five saves from Peyton Borick in a 2-0 win over the Eagles. Ryersbach made 11 saves.

Mount Abe dropped to 4-5-2 heading into two home games: vs. St. Albans on Friday and the Commodores on Monday, both at 4 p.m.

TIGERS

Visiting Milton defeated the Tigers on Tuesday, 2-0, getting goals from Savannah Monahan and Grace Dowling and two saves from Lily Daunais.

Lambert (two saves) and Ellie Orten (three saves) shared time in the MUHS goal.

The 1-8-1 Tigers will try to knock off host Commodores on Saturday at 11 a.m.

COMMODORES

On this past Saturday the Commodores scored twice in the second half's final 25 minutes to edge host Winooski, 2-1. Sophia James and Libby Ringer found the net for VUHS, both assisted by Ava Francis, before the Spartans scored a late goal.





Andy Kirkaldy Matthew Dickerson Karl Lindholm

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Schedule

(Continued from Page 4B)

Field Hockey	
10/9 MUHS at Spaulding.....	4 PM
10/9 Lyndon at Mt Abe	4 PM
10/14 Stowe at MUHS.....	4:30 PM
10/15 Mt Abe at Spaulding.....	4 PM
10/17 North Country at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/17 MUHS at Montpelier.....	4 PM
Girls' Soccer	
10/10 St Albans at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/11 MUHS at VUHS.....	11 AM
10/13 VUHS at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/15 Missisquoi at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/15 MUHS at Rice.....	4 PM
10/18 St Albans at MUHS.....	10 AM
10/18 VUHS at Blue Mt.....	11 AM
10/18 Milton at Mt Abe.....	10 AM
Boys' Soccer	
10/9 VUHS at GMVS.....	4 PM
10/11 MUHS at St Albans.....	10 AM
10/11 Paine Mt at VUHS.....	2 PM
10/14 Fairfax at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/14 Winooski at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/14 Milton at MUHS.....	4 PM
10/17 Milton at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/17 Richford at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/18 MUHS at Rice.....	10 AM
Volleyball	
10/10 Randolph at Mt Abe.....	6 PM
10/11 MUHS at Montpelier.....	12:30 PM
10/15 Lyndon at MUHS.....	6 PM
10/15 Mt Abe at Montpelier.....	6 PM
10/17 Mt Abe at Missisquoi.....	6 PM
Cross Country	
10/11.....	NVAC Meet at Swanton
10/25.....	State Meet at Thetford

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer	
10/11 Midd at Colby.....	2 PM
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	Noon
Field Hockey	
10/11 Midd at Colby.....	11 AM
10/12 Wesleyan at Midd.....	Noon
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	Noon
Women's Soccer	
10/11 Midd at Colby.....	11 AM
10/12 Midd at S. Maine.....	12:30 PM
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	11 AM
Football	
10/11 Midd at Williams.....	2 PM
10/18 Midd at Trinity.....	1 PM

High school games are subject to last-minute schedule changes, and reporting of changes is not always timely for our deadline. Fans are advised to consult school websites for event dates and times



MIDDLEBURY AND VERGENNES girls runners get up to speed at the start of the No. 3 Seed Race at the Thetford Trails Run this past Saturday.

Photo by Joe McVeigh



MUHS SOPHOMORE JORGEN Pirrung flies down a steep hill near the end of the Thetford Trails Run course on Saturday. He was the top Tiger finisher in the race.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

Runners compete in Thetford

By ANDY KIRKALDY

THETFORD — Mount Abraham freshman Del Guilmette and Middlebury Union High School sophomore Louisa Orten were the top local male and female cross country runners, respectively, at Saturday's annual Thetford Trails Run. It was a major meet that drew more than 1,200 athletes from all over New England.

Guilmette's time of 19:29.11 as he finished 144th out of 714 male runners meant he was the only runner from an Addison County school to break 20 minutes on the hilly, 5,020-meter Thetford course.

Meanwhile, Orten's time of 22:10.72 was about nine seconds faster than that of senior teammate Mary Harrington, who posted easily the next-best time among all local female runners at 22:19.82. They finished 47th and 52nd out of 500 competitors overall.

The Tiger girls had the best team finish, 21st out of 40 scoring teams.

The Eagle boys were 45th out of 53 scoring teams to edge MUHS in 48th. The Tigers were without top senior runner Kaden Hammond on Saturday and were led by Jorgen Pirrung in 266th (20:53.55).

Vergennes sent only four runners

and did not score. Carter McGuire was 255th in 20:47.01 to post the Commodores' best result.

Lauren Hill led three Commodore girls who competed by taking 236th in 26:15.81.

Merissa Gordon finished 439th in 31:44.88 to lead three Eagle girls who competed.

In the boys' race, the finishers and times for the Eagles, Tiger scorers and Commodores were:

Eagles: 144. Guilmette, 19:29.11; 360. Oliver Zelonis, 22:04.86; 500. Matthew Steele, 23:45.26; 571. James Mount, 25:10.18; 61. Elias Bennett Abernathy, 26:23.84.

Tigers: 266. Jorgen Pirrung, 20:53.55; 302. Jase Kozak, 21:19.04; 498. Blake Davidson, 23:40.25; 499. George Cammack, 21:31.39; 552. Truth Fetteroff, 24:35.52.

Commodores: 255. Carter McGuire, 20:47.01; 389. Chance Koenig, 22:25.17; 414. Quin DuBois, 22:38.05; 539. David Coburn, 24:21.85.

In the girls' race, the finishers and times for the Tiger scorers, Commodores and Eagles were:

Tigers: 47. Orten, 22:10.72; 52. Harrington, 22:19.82; Annika Bruning, 24:37.16; 226. Meredith Carr-Perlow, 26:10.64; 338. Fiona Mackey, 28:26.17.

Commodores: 236. Lauren Hill, 26:15.81; Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs, 26:16.40; 269. Georgia Kunkel, 26:44.33.

Eagles: 439. Merissa Gordon, 31:44.88; 465. Eloise Newman, 34:05.83; 483. Sadie Nezin, 36:47.35.



MUHS SOPHOMORE LOUISA Orten was the top Tiger female finisher at this past weekend's Thetford Trails Run. She earned 47th place out of about 500 female runners.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

TETON GRAVITY RESEARCH PRESENTS THE SKI AND SNOWBOARD FILM, PRESSURE DROP

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Dana Auditorium at Middlebury College

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Victories

(Continued from Page 1B)

unassisted strikes. Carey made nine saves for the Tigers, and Lucien Kelleher made five saves for Rice.

The Tigers have won three of their past five games to improve to 4-6. They were set to host Winooski on Wednesday, and next up is a visit to St. Albans on Saturday.

COMMODORES

On Oct. 3 the Commodores blitzed visiting Blue Mountain, 10-0. Garret Wood and Jude Bragg each scored twice, and

Ryker Mosehauer added a goal and three assists. Also contributing to the attack were Andrew Houghton and Rowan Neffinger (goal and an assist apiece); and Tiegen Buskey, Elliot Cosgrove and Aiden Fuller with a goal apiece. Goalie Colton Reed stopped the only shot on the VUHS net. Blue Mountain goalie Brody Scott made 10 saves.

On Monday visiting Enosburg scored three times in the final 18 minutes to rally past the Commodores, 3-2. VUHS took a 2-0 lead on goals by Buskey in

the first half and Joey Maneen in the second half, both assisted by Mosehauer. But Enosburg responded with one goal from Benson Alexander and two from Sawyer Bentley for the win. Hornet goalie Daniel Murphy made nine saves, and Reed blocked six shots for VUHS.

The Commodores are 6-4 heading into a game at Green Mountain Valley this Thursday. They have home games next vs. Paine Mountain at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Fairfax at 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

Fishing

(Continued from Page 1B)

In all the Tigers, like Burr & Burton, caught six smallmouth bass, while White River hooked five largemouth and one smallmouth.

Defending champion Mount Abraham (15.4 pounds caught by returning champs Hailey and

Isayah Isham) and Vergennes (6.19 pounds caught by the tandem of senior Harmony Stearns and junior Liam McGuire) both finished back in the pack. Eighteen schools competed in the varsity tournament.

The Tigers' JV boat also had a good day on Saturday, as the single-person team of junior Wyatt Bigelow finished second with 16.40 pounds behind Burr & Burton (21.96).

The Commodores JV boat also did well, finishing fourth. Ryan

Johnson partnered with Wilder Jacobson in the morning, and Johnson caught the biggest fish by anyone all day, a 5.35-pound largemouth lunker. Martin Jewell and Carson Manley went out in the VUHS JV boat in the afternoon, and the quartet pulled in a total of 14.57 pounds.

White River became the first school in the history of the eight-year competition to win a second title. MUHS (2022) as well as Mount Abe were aiming for that distinction on Saturday.

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MUHS SENIOR QUARTERBACK Brady Lloyd gets ready to toss a pass against Hartford during Friday night's game at Doc Collins Field. Lloyd threw two touchdown passes.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



TIGER SENIOR RUNNING Back Ben DeBisschop looks for running room against the Hurricanes on Friday.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Tigers toppled

(Continued from Page 1B)

that was just how heavy they were adjusting to stop our run. They read really well. Our misdirection stuff was totally ineffective tonight," he said. "I got outcoached tonight. Our guys fought tonight. I think we can improve a little bit on the fundamental stuff, but we've got to come up with a better scheme than we did."

The Tigers also as the game wore on made it more difficult for the Hurricanes to move the ball.

"We didn't give up much in the second half," Malcolm said.

But the first half was problematic. After the Tigers gained one yard on three plays on the game's opening possession, Hartford back Rex Banning broke a 51-yard touchdown run on the Hurricanes' first play from scrimmage.

After both teams next went three and out, the Tigers took over on the Hartford 38 after a short punt. Two running plays got a first down, but the Hurricanes blew up a flat pass to Eddy for a seven-yard loss, and the drive stalled on the Hurricane 25.

The Hurricanes took over with

3:40 to go in the first period and marched down the field behind the running of senior back Noa Danieli, who capped a 13-play drive with a six-yard TD run at 7:47 of the second quarter. One key play on the drive, was a 13-yard completion from quarterback Owen Mock to Banning on third and eight from the Tiger 28-yard line.

The Tigers managed a first down on their ensuing possession, but Hartford's Joey Gardner picked off a Lloyd pass at the Hurricane at midfield, and Hartford was back in business at the Tiger 49. Danieli rushed twice for a total of 40 yards, and Matt Nubin ran wide right to cover the last nine untouched to make it 21-0 at 4:49.

A 40-yard Tucker Wright kickoff return put the Tigers at the 50-yard line, and then they cashed in on the short field. Runs by McNulty and Ben DeBisschop produced two first downs and put the ball on the Hartford 24, and from there Lloyd found Riney cutting right-to-left behind the Hartford defenders and he pranced untouched into the end zone for the touchdown at 1:08. Owen Butterfield's extra point made it 21-7 at the half.

The Tigers held the Hurricanes to two first downs and one late touchdown in the second half as they began to slow the Hartford running game. That touchdown came at 5:55 of the fourth quarter on a fourth-and-eight play with the Tigers expecting a run. But Danieli snuck behind the defense instead and went in untouched with a toss from Mock from 28 yards out.

The Tigers also moved the ball more effectively, but still managed only four first downs

and one touchdown at 5:18 of the fourth quarter. McNulty returned the Hurricanes kickoff from their touchdown to the Tiger 41. From there on third down, Lloyd hit Eddy in stride down the right sideline for the TD. A bobbled snap on the point-after left the score at 28-13, and when Hartford recovered the Tigers' onside kick and made a first down, time ran out on the Tigers.

Danieli (20 rushes, 115 yards), Banning (five attempts, 86 yards) and Nubin (16 carries, 75 yards) all had good days carrying the ball. Mock finished three for four passing for 40 yards.

Middlebury's McNulty (nine carries, 35 yards), Jason Sperry (eight carries, 29 yards), and DeBisschop (six carries, 26 yards), led the MUHS ground game. Lloyd finished three for eight for 76 yards.

Malcolm outlined what he expects will improve, and he mentioned a couple more pluses.

"We've got to not hang our heads so much. We've got to pick each other up. So it's a good learning experience for these guys. We haven't had this yet, so it's not always a bad thing to have a little bit of a wake-up call," Malcolm said. "We've got a good team. We still stayed healthy, which is a huge piece for us. Our goal is to get better every day. We did not get better today. So we've got to get back on track on that front."



MUHS SENIOR RECEIVER Marshall Eddy hauls in a 59-yard touchdown pass against Hartford during Friday night's game in Middlebury.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



TIGER SENIOR DEFENSIVE end Cooke Riney tackles Hartford running back Matt Nubin during Friday night's game at Doc Collins Field.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Field hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)

On Oct. 3 visiting Missisquoi topped the Tigers, 2-0. Rowan Gregory and Emerson Morse scored for MVU. **Heaven Ross** made nine saves for MUHS.

On Tuesday Division II title contender U-32 outscored the Tigers, 5-1. Arianna Conti sparked the Raiders with two goals and three assists, **Elle MacIntyre** scored for MUHS,

with an assist from **Ivy Gates**. The Tigers will look to improve on their 2-7 record when they visit Spaulding on Thursday and host Stowe this coming Tuesday.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT 2025 Addy Indy Garden Game

We received four new entries this week plus one funky favorite. **Heather Zelonis** started things off with two giant entries, a 13.75" C beet and 45" C kohlrabi. Her beet doesn't beat the current record holder but the kohlrabi is the first of its kind this year and takes the top spot.

Next up, was a gorgeous gourd grown by **Ida and Massimo Parini**. Their plump pumpkin, dubbed "Big Max" and grown from Golden Russet Farm starts was a whopping 55" C x 48" C. The young gardeners are in the star position!

Peter Hubbard toted in a lovely 8" L x 18.5" C butternut squash. It's not quite large enough to take the top spot but will certainly make some delicious soup.

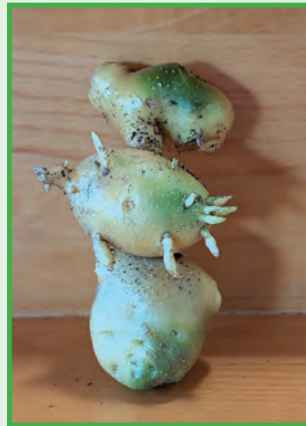
Lastly, we received a fun entry from Ripton gardener, **Susan Hanson**. Susan's amorphous spud is a sight to behold!

Once a hard frost hits, we say farewell to the Garden Game until the next growing season so get those final entries in!



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.



CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Pat Martin, 36" x 2.25"
- Beet (circumference) - Shirley Pomainville, 16"
- Broccoli (diameter) - Barbara Pelton, 12"
- Cabbage (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 39"
- Cantaloupe (circumference)
- Carrot (length x circumference) - Gary Miller, 19" x 5.75"
- Cauliflower (diameter) - Barbara Pelton, 12"
- Corn (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 16" x 8"
- Cucumber (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 22" x 10"
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 16.25" x 8"
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Barbara Brosnan, 21.5" x 25.5"
- Fennel (length x circumference) - Susan Hanson, 6.5" x 13"
- Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 40.25"
- Kohlrabi (circumference) - Heather Zelonis, 45"
- Leek (length x circumference) - Jane Spencer, 17" x 9"
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 15.25"
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 13.5" x 11.5"
- Potato (length x circumference) - Mike Shannon, 21" x 15"
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference) - Ida & Massimo Parini, 55" x 48"
- Radish (circumference) - Joan Derry, 8.25"
- Rhubarb (length) - Martha Baldwin, 42"
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Elsie Lynn Parini, 7.75" x 20.25"
- Sunflower (diameter) - Ellen Cronan, 8.25"
- Tomato (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk & Peter Demong (tie), 16"
- Turnip (circumference) - Wayne Zeno, 29.5"
- Winter Squash (length x circumference) - Wayne Zeno, 14" x 17.5
- Zucchini (length x circumference) - Julie Lonergan, 24" x 19"



SPONSORED BY MIDDLEBURY AGWAY



*PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.

Addison County to host Early Childhood Summit

MIDDLEBURY — Families, educators, child care providers, and community leaders are invited to the Addison County Early Childhood Summit on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Middlebury Town Hall Theater.



"This summit is a powerful opportunity to come together and shape a brighter future for our children by strengthening the early childhood systems in Addison County."

— Darla Senecal

This one-day summit aims to bring the community together in support of early childhood development and lifelong success. Themed "Strong Starts Begin with Smooth Transitions," the event emphasizes the importance of thoughtful and supported transitions from prenatal care through school-age years.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Visit high-quality child care programs in Addison County
- Join in the community forum
- Participate in a workshop with Scott Noyes of Empowering Programs
- Gain insights from leading

professionals

- Make valuable new connections

The summit will highlight innovative strategies, local resources, and community collaborations designed to support every step of a child's development. "This summit is a powerful opportunity to come together and shape a brighter future for our children by strengthening the early childhood systems in Addison County," Darla Senecal, Addison County's Regional Manager for Building Bright Futures.

Mark your calendars and join us in building strong beginnings for all children.

This event is sponsored by The Addison County BBF Early Childhood Council, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC) & the Addison County Early Childhood Education Network. For more information, please contact Darla Senecal at dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org or Ashley Bessette at abessette@acsdvt.org.

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- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

Helping Young Families Get The Right Start

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Weybridge writes:

"You do a wonderful job covering the news. It creates 'community' for Addison County."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



oct 9 THURSDAY

Book donation day in Vergennes. Thursday, Oct. 9, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St., back parking lot. Donate books for the Friends of the Bixby Library's used book sale. Fiction should be published after 2014 or be by a popular author; nonfiction should be current and saleable. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

oct 10 FRIDAY

RNESU Coffee Talk with Superintendent Sanchez in Brandon. Friday, Oct. 10, 7:45-9:45 a.m., Morningside Bakery, 37 Center St. Families and community members are invited to meet with Superintendent Rene Sanchez to ask questions, learn what's going on and share ideas about Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union schools. Free. More info at mesu.org/events.

oct 11 SATURDAY

Fall into Art in Brandon. Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 1 Carver St. Autumn art show featuring paintings, drawings, theater posters, photography, sculpture, woodworking, dolls, glass, bereavement boxes and more.

Used Book Sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, Otter Creek Room, 258 Main St. Enter from the back parking lot. Browse a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction and children's books, including recent donations. Sponsored by the Friends of the Bixby Library. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

"Quilting in the Land of Milk & Honey" in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. 200 quilts made by local quilters, along with a special travel exhibit, "Quilts of Valor," raffles, homemade items, vendors and much more. Admission \$7/under 12 free.

Brandon Farmers Market Harvest Fair in Brandon. Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., Central Park, Franklin St. & Union St. More than 20 vendors will offer fall vegetables, maple syrup, honey, goat milk products, handcrafts, canned goods and more. Food and live music, too.

Middlebury Pride market in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park, corner of Main and Merchants Row. Celebrate PRIDE during the Pride Parade down Main Street and peruse the pop-up market. Learn more at ExperienceMiddlebury.com/middle-markets.

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 11, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Middlebury Pride Celebration in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 11, 1-4 p.m., downtown Middlebury. All-ages pride festival presented by the Teen Center and Ilsley Public Library Teens. Parade at 1 p.m. More info at middpride.org.

Cuss and Cut Block Printing in Brandon. Saturday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Learn linoleum block printing and let the profanities fly as you create. Ages 18 and up, no experience necessary. Spots are limited, please email info@brandonpubliclibrary.org to register.

Dance to Joe & Jackie in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 11, 4-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Come dance to a mix of rock 'n' roll, country and oldies. Enjoy line dancing too! Kitchen open 4-6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Takeout turkey supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 11, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, 129 Main St. Roast turkey with mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll, and dessert. Takeout preorder only; orders due by 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9. Adults \$12. Call 802-877-3150 to order.

Barn Dance in Weybridge. Saturday, Oct. 11, 5:30-8 p.m., Weybridge Elementary School, 210 Quaker Village Rd. Family-friendly barn dance with live music. Pasta, chili, beverages and desserts for sale. Admission by donation. Proceeds will benefit John Graham Shelter.

Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 11, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit restoration of the church bell tower.

Contra dance in Cornwall. Saturday, Oct. 11, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30. Special guest fiddler Cedar Stanstreet performs with Red Dog Riley. Don Stratton will call. All dances taught; no experience necessary. \$5-\$10 or pay what you can.

Freedom & Unity Town Hall in Bristol. Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30-11 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Moderated town hall discussion on local and national issues, followed by music/stand-up/open mic. Open to all. To participate in the panel discussion call or text Tom at 802-349-2289. To sign up for open mic, arrive by 7 p.m.

oct 12 SUNDAY

Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Downtown. Main Street will be closed to vehicle traffic so we can welcome 75 classic cars and trucks. Food trucks, 30+ vendors, music, kids' activities and more. Free for spectators. Don't



Be proud, be you

CELEBRATE PRIDE THIS weekend at the 4th annual MiddPride parade on Saturday. Presented by the Teen Center and Ilsley Public Library Teens, the all-ages festival will feature live music, drag performances, food, lawn games and rainbows. Parade starts at 1 p.m. at College Park.

Independent file photo/Steve James

miss this fun, family-friendly event brought to you by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and the Better Middlebury Partnership.

Middlebury Market in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park. In conjunction with the Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival, check out some great cars and stroll through the market to see what they have on offer. Learn more at ExperienceMiddlebury.com/middle-markets.

"Quilting in the Land of Milk & Honey" in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. See Oct. 11 listing.

oct 13 MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, Oct. 13, and weekly on Mondays, 6 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. \$1,000 jackpot. Proceeds benefit veterans programs. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Open to the public.

oct 14 TUESDAY

Bixby Book Club in Vergennes. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. October's selection is "The Maid" by Nita Prose. All readers are welcome, whether you've finished the book or just started. Copies available at the circulation desk or by emailing martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org. Free.

Cider & Doughnuts Concert in Bristol. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m., Mt. Abe Performing Arts Center, 220 Airport Drive. Join the Mt. Abe music department for a lively evening of cider, doughnuts and performances by the school's vocal and instrumental ensembles.

oct 15 WEDNESDAY

Brush Hour in Brandon. Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Relax with paint-by-numbers; materials provided. Free.

oct 16 THURSDAY

Cookbook Club in Brandon. Thursday, Oct. 16, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month's cookbook. Free.

oct 17 FRIDAY

Addison County Early Childhood Summit in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. A countywide, one-day summit bringing families, educators, child care providers and community leaders together to support early childhood development. Sponsored by the Addison County BBF Early Childhood Council, Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children and the Addison County Early Childhood Education Network. For more information, please contact dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org or abessette@acsdvt.org.

VFW Fish Fry in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. On the menu: haddock, butterfly shrimp, baked potato, french fries and coleslaw. Eat in or takeout; takeout starts at 5 p.m. Proceeds benefit veterans' programs. Open to the public. \$16 per person. More info at 802-388-9468.

Rhythms of Resilience in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 17, 6-9 p.m., Notte, 86 Main St. A fundraiser supporting Atria's free, confidential services for survivors of domestic violence in Addison County. Enjoy live music by Bad Fits, pizza and community. \$10 entry, cash bar. Event and raffle tickets available at eventbrite.com/e/rhythms-of-resilience-tickets-1669113185469?aff=oddtcreator.

oct 18 SATURDAY

Mountains to Mouth: An Exploration of the Watershed in Monkton. Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. A day-long celebration of the natural history of Monkton and the Lewis Creek watershed. More info at lewiscreek.org or kate@lewiscreek.org.

Quaddball Classic Festival at Middlebury College. Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m., Battell Beach, Middlebury College. Collegiate quaddball tournament based on Quidditch from "Harry Potter." Free family activities including arts and crafts, a quaddball museum and a photo booth. Activities/vendors begin 11 a.m.; Kidditch (quaddball for kids) 12:30-1 p.m. More info at go.middlebury.edu/quaddballclassicfestival.

Kicks and Crafts in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Middlebury Recreation Center gym, 154 Creek Road. Watch students of TaeKwonDo KICKS demonstrate forms, sparring and board breaking. Browse holiday crafts by multi-talented student vendors. Free. More info at tkdtkicks101@yahoo.com.

Craft Fair in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Craft vendors, bake sale, luncheon and raffle. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Cemetery Association.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon in Shoreham. Saturday, Oct. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Road. Enjoy four kinds of soup, build-your-own sandwiches, beverages and homemade desserts while supporting the Church Restoration Fund. \$10 per person, \$30 per family.

Textile Talk in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 18, 2-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. What is the fabric you are wearing? What is the difference between weaves? Summer Lee Jack and guests will look closely at fibers under a microscope and talk about their origins. Come learn more about the textiles you see and use every day. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

oct 19 SUNDAY

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in Addison. Sunday, Oct. 19, 7-11 a.m., Addison Fire Station, junction of Routes 17 & 22A. Benefit for the Addison Volunteer Fire Department. Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes with Vermont maple syrup, sausage, bacon, home fries, coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice. \$10 adults, \$7 under 12. More info at 802-759-2237.

Jerusalem Cemetery cleanup in Starksboro. Sunday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-noon, Jerusalem Schoolhouse, 397 Jerusalem Rd. Help clear overgrown brush along the boundaries of this historic cemetery. Bring your own tools, dress for the weather and thick vegetation. More info at ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com, 802-453-8447.

Tour Beers Cemetery in Monkton. Sunday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m., Beers Cemetery, 3984 Bristol Rd., across from the Layn Farm corn maze. Guided walk of one of Monkton's smallest cemeteries. Learn about the people buried at Beers Cemetery, gravestone styles and how to safely clean older stones. Wear sturdy shoes.

oct 20 MONDAY

Addison County Democratic Committee meeting in Middlebury. Monday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m., Founder Room, The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Guest speaker May Hanlon, executive director of the Vermont Democratic Party, will kick off county reorganization to nominate and elect county officers and state delegates and alternates.



DURING A WORKSHOP with Bridport Blooms last month, local elementary students add shredded bark mulch to the chokeberry they just planted.



TWO STUDENTS at Bridport Central School work together to find seeds in the giant sunflower seed head late last month.



Salisbury Library moving to the church during renovation

SALISBURY — The long-awaited major renovation of the Salisbury Free Public Library and the Town Hall that hosts the institution is just about here.

To make way for the workers who will make the upgrades to the 1869 Town Hall, the library needs to vacate the building and will move operations to the basement of Salisbury Congregational Church, just 350 feet away at 918 Maple St. The last day of normal library service will be Thursday, Oct. 9.

After that patrons can still pick up and order inter-library loans (ILL) and choose books — but don't expect much choice because the books will be disappearing into packing boxes, library officials said.

The move to the new location will take place during the week of Oct. 19-25 and normal library services will resume there on Oct. 28.

Pickup of veggies and ILL orders will be available during the move; please come at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

The library said that Friday, Oct. 24., and Saturday, Oct. 25, will be moving days.

"Please come help if you have time — there will be awesome snacks!" they said on their website.

Library staff hope to be open at the Meeting House and resume normal hours on Oct. 28.

"This is a temporary move, but

we may be in the church for a year and a half. We just don't know yet!" Librarian Alissa Shethar told the *Independent*.

\$1+ MILLION IN GRANTS

The renovations come thanks to a couple of major grants — which together total more than \$1.1 million — and

dedicated community volunteers, a more-than-20-year effort to renovate Salisbury's historic 1869 Town Hall building at 918 Maple St. In addition to improving the library space, the renovations will improve the rest of the town hall. It will greatly enhance the community's overall use of a building that's thus far been limited by accessibility issues and

the absence of onsite water and septic systems.

Use of the town hall's second floor is limited to 50 people, based on the lack of a second egress.

A year ago, Salisbury won a \$978,807 grant that the state awarded to the Salisbury town hall/library project last month. That federally sourced money — paired with a \$200,000 historic preservation grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board — will together cover a town hall renovation plan that will make both floors of the building available and comfortable for all.

For more information on the temporary library move, email the library at Salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Bridport students get hands-on learning

BRIDPORT — While children see spiders as part of the spooky Halloween holiday, Bridport Central School students recently were introduced to the notion that spiders are a vital part of a garden community. Principal Jenny Urban invited Jill Vickers, a member of Bridport Blooms that maintains the school flower bed, to the all-school community meeting Sept. 12. There she shared photos of the orb weaver garden spiders currently in the school flower bed using plant stems to anchor their webs.

On Sept. 19, two of the Bridport School mixed-grade groups, K-5, joined Bridport Blooms volunteers Nancy McDonald, Paula Fleisher and Vickers to plant the garden's first shrub, a native black chokeberry donated by Bridport Blooms volunteer David Basque. Students in pairs volunteered to take a part. Using shovel, trowels, wheelbarrow, garden gloves, soil amendment and lots of water hauled from the school in cans, the students, with the help of staff members, had the shrub in place with plant marker in 30 minutes. Mixed-grade groups are perfect for garden

projects.

After that meeting, first-grader Ezra along with his grandfather Bill Taylor, a para-professional at the school, found an orb weaver spider on the playground. Ezra said it was on a short, dead milkweed. He recognized it and knew it belonged in the garden. His grandfather Bill took it there out of harm's way. Ezra noticed it a few days later with a grasshopper wrapped in its web.

On Sept. 26, two other mixed grade groups with volunteers Dinah Bain, McDonald and Vickers created two new flower beds by the playground. Students plucked seeds from sunflower heads donated by Bridport Blooms volunteer Karan Cutler, who had inspired the project. Students then grabbed newspapers from a box, piled them on the soil, covered them with cardboard from Pratt's Store shed and added mulch and some garden soil. The beds will be planted in the spring. Team spirit was high, and no one held back in the bright sunlight and cool air of two perfect September mornings.

Editor's note: This story was provided by Jill Vickers.



BRIDPORT SCHOOL STUDENTS work together packing down the newly-added shredded bark mulch on a bed for sunflowers.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Amelia Giroux

Amelia Giroux is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. She lives in Panton with her parents, Jen and Bryan; her siblings, Sebastian and Scarlett; and their two cats. Her sister Madelyn is a sophomore at UVM. Amelia also co-leases a horse boarded at a neighbor's barn.

At VUHS, Amelia has excelled in a wide range of subjects. She cites AP Biology with Sarah Thompson and AP Calculus with Lynn Kayhart among her favorite classes, noting how academically engaging both were. She's also loved studying German with Frau Kepes, participating in the German exchange program, and was honored with the Student Sage Award from Russell Sage College during her junior year.

Amelia is deeply involved in her school community. She's played soccer and basketball for VUHS, and outside of school she shows draft horses. A member of several student organizations, she serves as Vice President of the National Honor Society and as Secretary for the Class of 2026, helping plan events like prom and school fundraisers. Amelia is also part of the environmental Green Team, SPACE Club (a collaboration with Atria Collective), and Math Team, where she enjoys the challenge of math meets (and the cookies afterward!).

Her involvement extends beyond school as well. Amelia is active in the Vergennes LEOs Club, reading to young students in the community. She's also held summer jobs at Basin Harbor's Harbor Store and in the office at the Champlain Bridge Marina. She has taken advantage of enrichment opportunities like the Governor's Institute for Health and Medicine and represented VUHS at Girls' State, where she was elected as her town's attorney and had the opportunity to visit the Vermont Supreme Court.

In her free time, Amelia enjoys riding horses, spending time with family and friends, and traveling, with memorable trips to Mexico and Canada among her favorites.

Reflecting on her time at VUHS, Amelia says one of the most important lessons she's learned is the power of advocacy. "The most important experiences I've had are the opportunities to speak up for myself and for my class's needs," she says. "To underclassmen, don't let those moments pass by. Your voice really matters, and you can make an impact."

After graduation, Amelia plans to attend a four-year university, where she looks forward to exploring new places and becoming part of a new community. We wish Amelia all the best!



Amelia Giroux
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Mattisen Austin

Mattisen Austin, the daughter of Tammy and Bill Austin, is Middlebury Union High School's latest student of the week. Matty lives with her parents and younger brother, Parker, who is a ninth-grader at MUHS. The family resides in East Middlebury with their dog, Neila, and cat, Pumpkin.

Matty has enjoyed her time as a student at MUHS, saying that she appreciates the sense of community and the multiple different pathways available to different students. She is a candidate for the full diploma as part of the International Baccalaureate program, and as part of her studies, has taken a special interest in her biology and physics courses. She appreciated the two teachers in those courses, Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Harrington, and specifically noted that they allowed her and other students to explore areas of specific interest within the curriculum. This sort of personalization allowed Matty to develop a fuller understanding of the subjects, she said.

Matty's teachers noted specifically that she is a kind and inclusive leader in the school community. She was awarded the Clarkson University Leadership and Achievement Award during her junior year, and has also won a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), and an MUHS Community Service Award. Matty is currently a peer leader, working with ninth-graders as they settle into their places at MUHS this fall. Additionally, she is a member of the Student Coalition on Human Rights and participated in the group's service trip to Puerto Rico during her sophomore year.

Outside of school, Matty does a significant amount of volunteer work, especially as a coach with the Middlebury Figure Skating Club. She works with young figure skaters in the community throughout the fall and winter as the members prepare for the annual ice show at Middlebury College's Winter Carnival. In Matty's spare time, she participates in lacrosse and soccer at MUHS as well as in non-scholastic club settings. She has been playing these sports since she was a ninth-grader. When not toiling on schoolwork, volunteering, or playing sports, Matty enjoys spending time outside and dogsits locally.

When asked for her advice for younger students at MUHS, Matty encouraged them to "take everything one step at a time," and remarked that "perfectionism is overrated." Matty is planning on continuing her studies next year at a college somewhere in the Northeast, where she is hoping to study pre-medicine in order to eventually become a doctor. We at MUHS wish Matty the best for the rest of her senior year and the years to come.



Mattisen Austin
MUHS

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Help Wanted

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discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

Help Wanted



Director of the Bristol Hub Teen Center and Skatepark

The Town of Bristol is seeking a qualified and enthusiastic individual to step into the role of Director of the Bristol Hub Teen Center and Skatepark.

The Bristol Hub is a drop-in teen center owned and operated by the Town of Bristol Recreation Department. It primarily serves youth ages 12-19 during afterschool hours, providing a space to connect, grow, and relax. The Director works closely with the Hub and Recreation staff to oversee drop-in hours, develop programming, support youth, and enhance the overall quality of life for Bristol residents.

This role is highly adaptable, frequently shifting to meet the needs of youth and the community. It also provides the opportunity for a qualified candidate to build on their own interests and passions. The Hub has served youth in Addison County for 26 years, and it continues to evolve to meet the needs of future generations.

We are seeking someone who is enthusiastic about working with youth, understands the importance of third spaces in our society, and is committed to supporting the Hub as it grows and changes.

Position Details:

- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Pay range: \$20-\$24/hour, based on experience
- Benefits include: paid sick leave, two weeks of paid vacation, health insurance, and pension

Start Date: Early January 2026

Find the full job description at bristolvt.myrec.com

Please submit a cover letter, résumé, and three references to hubdirector@bristolvt.org and recdirector@bristolvt.org by November 3rd, 2025

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



SKATEPARK VOLUNTEERS

The Middlebury Skatepark Project is looking for volunteers to help offer instruction and positive mentorship at the Middlebury Mini ramp.

To learn more, contact middleburyskatepark@gmail.com




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

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DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

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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.



Going big

MANY NOTICED THIS huge wooden sculpture that went up in Middlebury's Riverfront Park just south of the Marble Works last week. The big message of optimism — 7 feet tall and 25 feet long — is the work of Jericho Center artist Chris Cleary. This sculpture, and others like it that say "LOVE," "JOY" and "BE KIND," are making stops around Vermont. It's expected to stay for a couple weeks before being moved to a new spot. Check it out while you can.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

State police aim to keep our roads safe

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police reported criminal citations in three incidents in Addison County in the past week; all of them involved driving.

In the first incident, a trooper saw a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh at around 4:20 p.m. on Sept. 29, and she pulled the car over. The officer ended up arresting Daniel J. Sabourin, 48, of Middlebury and citing him for possession of cocaine and driving with criminally suspended license.

Troopers were assisted by Middlebury police.

Separately, the trooper again observed a motor vehicle violation, this time at nearly 1:30 a.m. on Sept. 30 on Greenbush Road near Stage Road in Ferrisburgh, and stopped the driver and cited Anthony R. Booska, 45, of Vergennes for possession of cocaine. Additionally, Booska was cited for driving under the influence of drugs, fifth offense; driving with

Vt. State Police Log

a criminally suspended license; and driving without a required ignition interlock device.

Middlebury police again assisted the state police officer.

The third incident was a car crash on Oct. 3 shortly before 11:30 p.m. on Route 17 near Otter Creek Road in Addison.

Police report that 21-year-old Nathanael S. Pegues of Ticonderoga, N.Y., was driving a 2012 Audi A4 on Route 17 when the car left the road and crashed. Pegues wasn't injured, but his car sustained front-end damage. Police cited Pegues for driving under the influence and driving without his required ignition interlock device.

Troopers were assisted by Middlebury police, Addison Fire Department, and MiddState Towing.

Monkton

Have a news tip? Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — Layn Farms continues with fun activities, including their corn maze, visiting the farm animals, and much more. Events run both Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October. The cost is \$10 for adults. Kids up to 10 years old pay their age for admission. Watch for info on their Harvest Festival on Oct. 26 as the date nears. For more information call 802-355-0178.

Coming on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 1 p.m., the Monkton Museum and Historical Society will host a walk around Beers Cemetery (also known as the Smith-Layn Cemetery) on Bristol Road, directly across from the Layn Farm corn maze at 3984 Bristol Road. This is one of Monkton's smallest cemeteries, having just 45 known burials, the earliest being from the early 1800s. You will be able to study the style of some of the stones and learn how to safely clean older stones such as those in Beers Cemetery. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes as the cemetery is on

a side hill. For more information contact Lauren at laurenparren@gmail.com or call 802-233-1397.

The Monkton Museum and Historical Society will host a talk about Tory Rocks on Monday, Oct. 20. In May of 1777, the local American militia tracked a small party of loyalist troops to their campsite at the base of a large rocky hill. They captured the loyalists—or 'Tories'—without any bloodshed, taking them as prisoners of war to Neshobe, now Brandon, Vt., and eventually Fort Ticonderoga. This action gave this site the name 'Tory Rocks.'

Join Monkton Historical Society vice president and local living historian Ian Gramling as he describes the ambush, the legacy of the Tory Rocks, and plans to commemorate it. The talk is offered as we enter the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

The event will be held at the Monkton Town Hall Community Room at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20. Come in person or view it on Zoom.

Man arrested for violating conditons of release

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Sept. 23 arrested Christopher Roy, 31, of Bristol for violation of conditions of release after investigating a family fight on Main Street.

Between Sept. 21 and 27 Bristol police completed 24 foot patrols, conducted four traffic stops and checked security at

Bristol Police Log

Mount Abraham Union High School six times, at Bristol Elementary School six times and at local businesses five times.

Police also processed 17 fingerprint requests, verified two vehicle identification numbers and conducted one welfare check.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Sept. 21 responded to a motor vehicle crash on N 116 Road.
• On Sept. 22 received a dog found on Boro Hill Road in Monkton and returned the dog to its owner.
• On Sept. 22 responded to a report of lude behavior on Mountain Street. Police did not find any evidence to support the report.
• On Sept. 23 assisted Vermont State Police on Lower Notch Road with a motor vehicle crash.
• On Sept. 23 helped someone

with getting information for social services.

- On Sept. 24 assisted in the service of court paperwork.
• On Sept. 24 assisted in the retrieval of property on Main Street in accordance with a court order.
• On Sept. 26 issued a ticket to someone under the age of 21 for possession of tobacco.
• On Sept. 26 responded to Garfield Street for a report of suspicious activity. Police determined two people were delivering magazines or newspapers.
• On Sept. 26 responded to Prince Lane for a complaint of someone being recorded. Police found no criminal action had occurred.

Public Notices

can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 11B and 12B.

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO: 25-PR-00536 IN RE ESTATE OF: CAROLYN WYNNE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of: Carolyn Wynne, late of Middlebury, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 10/01/25

Executor/Administrator: Margaret Reed 4493 VT RT 17W, Addison, VT 05491 802-759-2359 stitchesetc@gmavt.net

Publication: Addison Independent Publication Date: 10/09/25 Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following application:

- 1. (19-25 DRB), Application 19-25 DRB of Jason & Heather Disorda, 132 Lake Dunmore Road, Leicester, VT 05733, Parcel #070058 for a Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback for the construction of a 12' x 14' kitchen addition and a 12' x 22' deck on the south side of existing building. Existing building is 48' from the south property line and this addition will reduce the south setback to 36'. (The zoning district standard is 50'.)

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 October 2, 2025

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 27th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street, to consider the following application(s).

- 1. Application (file #2025-025167.000-SD) is a request by Virginia Logan for a final plan/plat approval for a 2-lot subdivision of the 0.5-acre parcel located at 32 High Street, pursuant to the Middlebury Zoning and Subdivision Regulations (MZR). The applicant proposes subdividing the property into two (2) 0.25-acre parcels. Proposed Lot-1 contains an existing single-family residence. Proposed Lot-2 is proposed to contain a new single-family residence. The property is identified as parcel number #025167.000 in the R-4 zoning district.
2. Application (file #2025-008177.000-SD) is a request by David Guliani for a Final Plan/Plat Approval review of a proposed 3-lot subdivision of the 6.39-acre parcel located at 115 Deerfield Lane, pursuant to the Middlebury Zoning and Subdivision Regulations (MZR). The applicant proposes subdividing the property into three (3) parcels of 1.59ac, 0.65ac, and 4.30ac. Proposed Lot-1 contains an existing single-family residence. Proposed Lots 2 and 3 do not have any proposed development. The property is identified as parcel #008177.000 in the R-20 zoning district.
3. Application (file #2025-009070.018/022-A) being an appeal by Judy Wiger-Grohs of the administrative decision by the Middlebury Planning and Zoning Department to approve the zoning permits numbered 2025-088 and 2025-089. The permit applications were approved for the requested driveway and site preparation of Lot-16 and Lot-17 of the Forest Ridge subdivision located on Fred Johnson Circle by owner Kevin Elnicki. Lot-16 and Lot-17 located on Fred Johnson Circle are in the R-2 zoning district. They are identified by parcel numbers 009070.022 and #009070.018, respectively.

The hearing will also be available to participants via Zoom video link. The link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Towns website. Plans and additional information regarding these applications 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.

J.R. Christ Interim Zoning Administrator

Table with ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR OCTOBER 2025. Columns include Date, Time, Meeting Name, and Location.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN INVITATION TO BID BIDS FOR: A RAMP ACCESS INTO THE NEW HAVEN RIVER

The Town of New Haven is accepting bids for the construction of a ramp access into the New Haven River located off Halpin Road, adjacent to Nash Bridge. The Town has acquired all necessary state permits. Full scope of work available upon request at the New Haven Town Offices, 78 North St., New Haven, VT 05472. All bids will be due on October 14, 2025, by 3:00 pm.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO EXERCISE WAREHOUSEMAN'S LIEN BY AUCTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Chipman Point Marina, LLC, of 68 Chipman Point Road, in Orwell, Vermont, will be conducting a public auction at Noon on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the office of the Marina, of property of Danny, Ruth and Adam Revell, Saratoga Springs, New York, namely a 2002 Bayliner Cierra serial ID# USDAIOSUF102 to collect the unpaid balance of \$1,560.00 as of August 27, 2025, for storage and related fees.

Chipman Point Marina, LLC also asserts a lien against the above-described property in the amount owed, as per 9A V.S.A. §7-209, and if payment arrangements are not made within 10 days of this Notice, will seek to enforce their lien and sell the property to satisfy the debt, as per 9A V.S.A. §7-210.

David C. Venman, Esq. Behrens Venman & Sussman, PLLC PO Box 183 Vergennes, Vermont 05491 (802) 877-2973

Antlerless deer permits are still available

MONTPELIER — After the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department held its annual permit lottery for muzzleloader antlerless deer permits on Sept. 9, there are still unallocated muzzleloader antlerless deer permits available. The hunting tags are for use in the antlerless-only Oct. 30-Nov. 2 muzzleloader season and the Dec. 6-14 muzzleloader season.

These permits can be purchased on Fish and Wildlife's website at tinyurl.com/VTdeerNOantlers or at any local license agent on a

first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents.

Here are the Wildlife Management Units that still had muzzleloader antlerless permits available online and at local license agents statewide as of Oct. 6: A, B, F1, F2, G, J1, J2, K, N, O, and Q.

A person may only hold one antlerless permit at a time. After taking an antlerless deer with their permit, they may purchase an additional unallocated permit if they are still available.

Town of Middlebury Selectboard Meeting Room 116 - Large Conference Room. Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 7:00 P.M. Agenda items listed from 7:00 to 8:20.

NEWS?

Email it to: news@addisonindependent.com

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

October 9, 2025



BERNSTEIN FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS COMPOSER'S VERSATILITY

Olga Perez Flora performs as Dinah in the Opera Company of Middlebury's production of Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti" at Town Hall Theater last week.

PHOTO / DAVE DEVINE

Three cheers to the Opera Company of Middlebury, whose recently closed "Bernstein Festival" reminded us — with skill and style and Doug Anderson's charming evangelism — how valuable Leonard Bernstein is to our cultural landscape.

BY CHRISTOPHER ROSS In conceiving the two-week festival, which closed this past Sunday, Anderson, who co-founded OCM and serves as its Artistic Director, first had to contend with the legendary conductor's wide range of talents.

"His biggest legacy, I think, is that he liked all kinds of music," Anderson said in a recent video essay promoting the festival. "He kind of eliminated distinctions between 'high' and 'low,' between classical and popular music."

Not only was Bernstein one of the most important conductors of all time, but he was also a critically acclaimed composer of Broadway musicals, popular songs, symphonies, a Mass, and more.

Igor Stravinsky called him a "musical

"HIS BIGGEST LEGACY, I THINK, IS THAT HE LIKED ALL KINDS OF MUSIC."

— Doug Anderson

department store," Anderson said.

Which is why OCM decided his work warranted an entire festival.

"He's so incredibly versatile that ... one piece doesn't quite tell the whole story."

THE SETUP

The festival opened on Sept. 24 with a free screening of the 1993 documentary film about Bernstein, "The Gift of Music," with an introductory talk by Maestro Filippo Ciabatti.

"We're showing this video to remind you all of just how explosively (Bernstein) came onto the American scene," Anderson said in the video essay.

The following evening, Sept. 25, OCM

presented what Anderson called "the best transfer of a Broadway musical to film," "West Side Story" (1961).

Directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins, the film adapts the legendary 1957 stage production of the same name, created by Bernstein (music), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Arthur Laurentis (book), and Robbins (choreography), which is itself an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

"West Side Story" is "one of the five greatest musicals ever written" and "the musical that changed everything," Anderson said in the video essay. The original Broadway production won two Tony Awards, and the film adaptation won 10 Academy Awards, including Best Motion Picture.

A week later, on Oct. 2, OCM screened its own, internationally acclaimed, 2021 video production of the operetta "Candide" (1956, rev. 1974; music by Bernstein, lyrics by Richard Wilbur, libretto by Lillian Hellman), featuring Opera Company of Middlebury alumni and narration by former Vermont governor Jim Douglas.

SEE OPERA ON PAGE 8

UPCOMING MUSIC

Mathis Picard performs in the round for first House of Jazz evening in Middlebury

On Saturday, Oct. 18, Jazz Middlebury and Town Hall Theater present An Evening with Mathis Picard, of Jazz at Lincoln Center touring band fame. This first performance of the 2025-2026 House of Jazz season will be a solo performance to remember, with the audience in the round in the new, magnificent Anderson Studio. Expect to hear original compositions from Mathis and interpretations of solo piano classics, ranging from the pen of Duke Ellington to Thelonious Monk & J.S. Bach to Chopin and Ravel. Picard will also present the world premiere of selections from his new book of preludes and fugues.

Picard is a pianist, composer, and producer



Mathis Picard will be the first musician of the 2025-2026 House of Jazz concerts held at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

on the international music scene. Based in New York City and from France and Madagascar, Picard honors his multi-cultural background by merging musical influences and elevating sonic synchronicity. Named a "rising star," Picard is an ASCAP Next Generation of Songwriters Recipient, a member of the Montreux Jazz Foundation, and a Juilliard Alumni under the mentorship of Kenny Barron.

Picard has shared the stage with artists such as Christian McBride, Braxton Cook, Ron Carter, Lillias White, Lee Ritenour, Wynton Marsalis, Veronica Swift, Etienne Charles and others. Rooted in the tradition of live acoustic performance and deemed as "one to watch"

SEE JAZZ ON PAGE 15

New collaboration brings P.M. Sundays concert series to Middlebury stage

Following many years of success in Richmond with the P.M. Sundays' concert series, Valley Stage Productions, and its founder Don Sheldon of Weybridge, has partnered with Town Hall Theater to bring premier performers to Middlebury. Featuring both established and emerging folk artists, P.M. Sundays offers a series in four parts from October through April.

JENNA NICHOLLS WITH JON LADEAU

Sunday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m.
Anderson Studio

Nicholls releases her new album, "The Commuter," produced by multiple Grammy-award winner Larry Campbell. The



See Jenna Nicholls perform with Jon LaDeau at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 4 p.m.

music created for "The Commuter" is a cinematic trip that takes the listener to 1930s Parisian cafes, New Orleans juke joints, Tennessee hills and the wide-open vistas of Texas and Oklahoma; even the weekly commute from Manhattan to the Hudson Valley home Nicholls created with her husband makes an appearance. All of Nicholls albums show a love of vintage music — anything from classic music films like "Singin' in the Rain" to Bessie Smith.

BEN GARNETT TRIO WITH BRITTANY HAAS

Sunday, Nov. 16, 4 p.m.
Anderson Studio

SEE P.M. SUNDAYS ON PAGE 9

MORE TUNES

5-Town Friends hosts 3rd annual World Singing Day

World Singing Day is a global sing-along held annually on the third weekend in October. As a catalyst for positive human connection, this one day each year serves as an opportunity to celebrate our global family through the international language of music. 5-Town Friends of the Arts will host its third annual World Singing Day on Oct. 19, at Holley Hall in Bristol from 1-4:30 p.m.

Founded in 2012 by Colorado (USA) musician Scott Johnson, World Singing Day brings people together in their communities all around the world through the simple act of singing together.

World Singing Day is not religious or political, and encourages people to put aside their differences and celebrate what we all share as human beings. World Singing Day is for everyone, regardless of your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, singing ability, and age.

SEE SING ON PAGE 15

PARTICIPANTS:

- Mount Abe Chorus
- Cameron and Rodrigo
- Ali Gibson and the middle school group
- Mount Abe Alum Acapella group
- Tim McKenzie
- Maiden Vermont
- Bill Ellis
- Lynda and Jack Malzac
- Mark Gibson leading the ending sing-a-long

Hildegard Reanimated

A musical meditation with the Pandora Consort comes to town

This fall, Vermont Public Classical and the Otter Creek Music Festival will present "Hildegard Reanimated," an immersive concert by the Pandora Consort, celebrating the visionary music and life of Hildegard von Bingen — a 12th-century mystic, nun, composer, healer, and artist. The concert will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 6-8:30 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Middlebury.

Set against the backdrop of autumn's turning leaves, this unique event blends live performance with evocative animations inspired by Hildegard's own visionary artwork, offering a deeply moving and contemplative experience that transcends time.

Enjoy a pre-concert talk where audience members can learn more about the remarkable life and influence of Hildegard von Bingen. A reception with hot mulled cider and a modern rendition of Hildegard's famed "Cookies of Joy" will follow the performance.

Admission is \$20.

Family magician opens doors to free show at the Bixby Library in Vergennes

Tom Joyce will bring his unique blend of comedy and family fun to his magic shows and to Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes on Oct. 18, at noon. The performance is geared toward families and is free and open to all.

Joyce's fun and funny magic show is full of laughs, tons of audience participation and amazing magic. Joyce is the former magician at the world-famous F.A.O Schwarz Toy Store in New York City, which was featured in the popular movie "Big," starring Tom Hanks. He was also known as the Magical Bartender at TGI Friday's in the Upper East side of Manhattan and has been performing magic in some way shape or form since he was just eight years old.

Local folks will remember his familiar magical antics from the 20+ years he has performed as the magician at the Addison County Fair and Field Days. Joyce's magic is for all ages but best suited for ages 4 and up.



Tom Joyce will bring his magic to Vergennes for a family-friendly, free show on Oct. 18 at noon.

COURTESY PHOTO

Spirits of Rokeby explores Spiritualist history with an... unexpected guest...

Aime to get inspired by the Spiritualist history of Rokeby Museum. The annual Spirits of Rokeby will take place again this year at the Ferrisburgh historic site, Oct. 17-18 and Oct. 24-25.

Ticket holders will gather for a drink and a short talk on Victorian Spiritualism before entering the Historic Home, where actors will guide them through participatory dramatization, recreating séances based on Rokeby records and other historical accounts. This year's production imagines a visit by an unexpected guest...

The program lasts approximately one hour and will be limited to 15 seats per time slot. Tours will begin at 5, 5:45, 7, 7:45 and 8:30 p.m. each evening.

Split Spirits Distillery will serve specialty cocktails before the performance to those 21 and older. A selection of tastings from the distillery will also be available. For a non-alcoholic option, there will be hot cider available before the performance.

Timed tickets must be purchased in advance; \$20 for Rokeby members and \$25 for non-members. More info and ticket reservations are available at rokeby.org.

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highrowsvineyards.com

Tastings and bottle sales at the winery
SATURDAYS
October 11 through November 29
1:00-4:30 pm.

@ Highrows on Instagram

388 Lincoln Rd., Ripton, VT 05766 | www.highrowsvineyards.com

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Fall decor:
Beautiful ornamental cabbage & kale • colorful millet • graceful grasses • blooming fall perennials

30% off all trees, bushes & perennials

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Virgil AND Constance

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Tim and Mary Shields, owners

FILM SCREENING

Granfilm Festival features an evening with Vermont filmmakers

A man on an obsessive mission, a beautiful painter haunted by tragedy, Vermonters grappling with one of society's most divisive issues. These diverse topics have one common denominator: all are part of the Granfilm Festival, a one-night only celebration of Vermont filmmaking at the Corner School Resource Center of Granville (CSRC), on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 7-9 p.m.

Over the past year, CSRC has been sponsoring free community movie nights and filmmaking workshops in its beautifully renovated, historic one-room schoolhouse.

"Featuring films by Vermont filmmakers seemed like a logical next step," said board president Roger Stauss.

SEE GRANFILM ON PAGE 11



Granville filmmaker Melissa Kosmaczewski's film "Feed Them" features local actors Dawn Kearan, Monica Callan and Keryn Nightengale. The film will be screened along with many others during the Granfilm Festival on Sunday, Oct. 12.

COURTESY PHOTO

MIXOLOGIST LAURA FENN AND DJ SERENA
 INVITE YOU TO
**FANCY FRIDAY:
 HALLOWEEN EDITION**
 7 TO 10 P.M. ON OCT 31, 2025
 JESSICA'S AT SWIFT HOUSE INN
 25 STEWART LN. MIDDLEBURY
 DINE TO A LIVE DJ, DRESS CODE: GHOULISH OR GOTH!

Great Art Wednesdays

FILMS RETURN TO TOWN HALL THEATER

Back by popular demand, Great Art Wednesday returns to Middlebury's Town Hall Theater — featuring filmed tours of major art exhibitions around the world. The 2025-2026 six-film series launches on Oct. 15 and continues through May.

"This series has been a really enjoyable part of our educational mission," said THT Executive and Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell. "The films are absolutely gorgeous, and the camera moves in to give you close-up views of the art, the kind of thing you'd never get in a crowded museum."

GREAT ART WEDNESDAY LINE UP

Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 11 a.m.

"The Impressionists & the Man Who Made Them"
 Anderson Studio

Uncover the story of art's greatest revolutionaries — figures like Monet, Cezanne, Degas, Renoir — collectively known as the Impressionists. Today their works fetch tens of millions of dollars around the globe. But who were they and what lies behind their enduring appeal? Here's the remarkable story of a movement told through the collector who made it happen.

Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 11 a.m.

"Caravaggio"
 Anderson Studio

Five years in production, this is the most extensive film ever made about one of the greatest artists of all time — Caravaggio. Featuring masterpiece after masterpiece and with first-hand testimony from the artist himself on the eve of his mysterious disappearance, this beautiful new film reveals Caravaggio as never before.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 11 a.m.

"Goya: Visions of Flesh and Blood"
 Anderson Studio

Heir to Velázquez, a hero to Picasso. Discover Spain's celebrated artist with this cinematic tour de force based on the National Gallery's must-see exhibition "Goya: The Portraits." Francisco Goya is Spain's most celebrated artist and considered the father of modern art. Not only a brilliant observer of everyday life and Spain's troubled past, he is also a gifted portrait painter and social commentator par excellence.

Wednesday, March 11, at 11 a.m.

"Turner and Constable"
 Anderson Studio

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of their births, this unmissable new documentary explores Turner and Constable's intertwined lives and legacies alongside the groundbreaking Tate exhibition.

SEE WEDNESDAY ON PAGE 14

ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Call 802-453-4032, email aom@gmavt.net or visit artonmainvt.com for more info.

"Portals: Here and There" features the work of Anne Majusiak and Kendra Schpok. Step beyond the threshold and discover what lies just out of reach. On view through Oct. 15.

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit

brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"Artist of the Month: Jeannie Podolak." North Chittenden printmaker Jeannie Podolak is this month's featured artist at Brandon Artists Guild. On view through October.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Earthen Gestures" is a duo exhibition featuring the abstract paintings of Sara Katz and the ceramic vessels of Nicholas Bernard. On view Sept. 12-Nov. 1.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Reclaimed" brings together photographer Jim Westphalen and mixed-media artist Duncan Johnson in a duo exhibition exploring the resonance of renewal. On view through Nov. 15.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call

802-382-9222 for more info.

"Conjunctions," is an exhibit highlighting the textile art by Westport, N.Y., artist Cynthia Schira. Her aim is to produce abstract and "referential" designs that are integrated into the woven fabric in a dialog between art and structure. On view Sept. 19-Nov. 1.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Finding Hope Within" features art that has emerged through the carceral system in Vermont. A recent addition to the exhibit is a series of broadsides created in collaboration between "inside" and "outside" artists, including one on paper made by hand from their discarded clothing and bedding and letterpress printed by the inmates at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, Vt. Regular open hours are daily from 1-7 p.m. On view through Nov. 14.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 9

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. You are seeing things more clearly this week, Aries. Conversations that felt stuck a little while ago are now moving along more smoothly. A bold decision comes up midweek.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, you are craving stability, both financially and emotionally. Use midweek to reevaluate your spending or a relationship that may be ready to be taken to the next level.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, you are in your element this week. Communication flows easily, especially by Thursday. A short trip or spontaneous plan could spark something bigger than expected.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, a quieter energy surrounds you right now. You are being called to pause and reflect. It's a good time to tend to your emotional needs and reflect on what's ahead.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. The spotlight is on you right now and you are glowing, Leo. You may attract attention and admiration without even putting in extra effort. Use this week to push forward on personal goals.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This week is all about you, Virgo. Focus on personal goals and self-improvement. Set strong goals for the year ahead.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, this is a great week to get things done. You're focused, detail-oriented and motivated. Use every burst of energy to sort through the clutter in your life.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, your social life is buzzing right now, but don't lose sight of bigger goals. A fresh connection or idea could lead to a long-term opportunity if you stay focused.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You may feel pushed to take a risk or explore new ideas this week, Sagittarius. Trust your curiosity to take you where you need to be to find satisfaction.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, even if no one sees you doing all of the hard work, you know how much effort you have been putting in. The effort will pay off soon enough when results are there for all to see.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. This week asks you to look at how you are showing up and helping others, Aquarius. An old friend or partner resurfaces and a current

connection could deepen.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Your mind-body connection is strong this week, Pisces. If you have been ignoring rest or intuition, now is the time to focus on your priorities again.



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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 11 — Jerome Robbins, choreographer (d)
OCT. 12 — Ralph Vaighn Williams, composer (d)
OCT. 13 — Art Tatum, Jazz Musician (d)

OCT. 14 — Hannah Arendt, political theorist (d)
OCT. 15 — Penny Marshall, actor and director (d)
OCT. 16 — Oscar Wilde, playwright (d)
OCT. 17 — Arthur Miller, playwright (d)

CALENDAR

OCT. 9-17
2025



THURSDAY, OCT. 9

"MILDRED PIERCE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Middlebury Classic Film Club's latest offering features this 1945 film in which Joan Crawford is a spurned housewife struggling to care for her two daughters: a lovable tomboy and a scheming, social-climbing teen who almost drives her to ruin. The film, an adaptation of James M. Cain's novel, was nominated for Best Picture.

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m., Mini Ilesley Library, 30 Main St. Paper Ghosts: The Ozarks Season 4. It is summer 1989. In the heart of the Ozarks, a young woman goes missing before a body is found, not far from the Missouri border. Soon, a second body is discovered nearby. The hunt for a possible serial killer heats up as investigator M. William Phelps arrives on the scene to reinvestigate a once-cold case. Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. For 18+. Listen to the podcast wherever you get your podcasts or ask Renee for assistance.

MILTON BUSTER & THE GRIM WORK IN MONKTON.

Thursday, Oct. 9, 4-7 p.m.,

Stine Orchard, 1823 Monkton Rd. As the orchard glows with autumn colors, enjoy an evening of music, food, drinks and community connection.

FRIDAY, OCT. 10

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MT. ABE, LINCOLN.

Friday, Oct. 10. Mt. Abe via the Battell Trail in Lincoln: the primo hike of Addison County. 6.4 mile, moderately strenuous hike with about 2,500 feet of elevation gain. Some scrambling over rocks. Dogs welcome on leash only. Contact Morris Earle at earle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

PRINE NUMBERS: A NIGHT OF JOHN PRINE TUNES IN BRISTOL. Friday, Oct. 10, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North St. Remember Baker and Friends perform an evening of John Prine's music.

ATLANTIC CROSSING IN SHOREHAM. Friday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m., Shoreham Inn, 51 Inn Road. Atlantic Crossing makes their umpteenth Otter Creek Music Festival appearance with a relaxed, pub-style jam of Celtic and Québécois tunes. Free; no tickets required. Attendees are encouraged to purchase food and beverages to support the Shoreham Inn.

"BLITHE" SPIRIT IN

WAITSFIELD. Friday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. (Route 100). The Valley Players present Noël Coward's classic comedy reimagined in black and white, styled after 1940s cinema. Tickets at valleyplayers.com.

BLUEGRASS WITH FLYNN COHEN AND LAURA ORSHAW WITH MATT FLINNER IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Oct. 10, 7:30-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Traditional and contemporary bluegrass on guitar, fiddle and mandolin. Grammy-nominated banjo and mandolin player Matt Flinner of Ripton will play a set and join in on several songs. Tickets \$15-\$25. More info at addisonarts.org/event/flynn-cohen-and-laura-orshaw-featuring-matt-flinner.

SATURDAY, OCT. 11

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 11, 8-10 a.m., Otter View Park, intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Road. Survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland with Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Free. More info at 802-388-6019.

"QUILTING IN THE LAND

OF MILK & HONEY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. 200 quilts made by local quilters, along with a special travel exhibit, "Quilts of Valor," raffles, homemade items, vendors and much more. Admission \$7/under 12 free.

NATIVE SEED WORKSHOP IN WEYBRIDGE. Saturday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m., location provided upon registration. Identify and collect native pollinator seeds to take home. Registration limited to 20, requested donation \$5. Register by emailing franputnam24@gmail.com. For more information, email pollinatorpathway.addisoncty@gmail.com.

MIDDLEBURY PRIDE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 11, 1-4 p.m., downtown including Triangle Park. Celebrate PRIDE kicking off at 1 p.m. with the Pride Parade down Main Street and then peruse the pop-up market. Learn more at midpride.org or at ExperienceMiddlebury.com/midd-markets.

"HILDEGARD REANIMATED" WITH THE PANDORA CONSORT IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 11, 6-8:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Otter Creek Music Festival

and Vermont Public present an immersive concert by Pandora Consort, celebrating 12th-century nun and composer Hildegard von Bingen. \$20. More info at vermontpublic.org/events.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN WAITSFIELD. Saturday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St.. See Oct. 10 listing.

CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: "THE MAGIC FLUTE" & ARC BENDER CIRCUS IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. The Philharmonic plays Mozart's "The Magic Flute" with Arc Bender Circus Opera of Brattleboro bringing acrobatics and a singing aerialist to the stage. Tickets \$5-\$15. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-magic-flute-arc-bender-circus.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

"QUILTING IN THE LAND OF MILK & HONEY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. See Oct. 11 listing.

MIDDLEBURY CAR SHOW AND FALL FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Triangle

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, October 3 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. The Talk 10 p.m. Democracy Now Saturday, October 4 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 8:15 p.m. The Talk Sunday, October 5 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes	9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 3 p.m. Sharpe Takes 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. The Talk 11 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, October 6 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4:15 p.m. Public Affairs 9 p.m. Sharpe Takes 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Tuesday, October 7 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now	4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. Selectboard Wednesday, October 8 5 a.m. The Talk 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Democracy Now Thursday, October 9 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Press Conferences 9:30 p.m. Eckankar Channel 1091 Friday, October 3 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi	6 a.m. Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meetings 4 p.m. At the Ilesley 6 p.m. Local Sports Saturday, October 4 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Science & Art Programs 9:00 a.m. State Board of Education 1 p.m. Local Sports 9:30 p.m. At the Ilesley Sunday, October 5 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga & 6:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Science & Art Programs 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. State Board of Education Monday, October 6 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors 2 p.m. State Board of Education	6 p.m. At the Ilesley 8 p.m. La Boheme at THT Tuesday, October 7 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4 p.m. Yoga for Kids & 4:30 p.m. Yoga for Everyone 5:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 10 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors Wednesday, October 8 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Yestermorrow 8 p.m. Carmen from OCM Thursday, October 9 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 12 p.m. Yestermorrow 3 p.m. Artists, Poets and Authors	

TOP PICK

Find Melissa Mae at Triangle Park in Middlebury on Oct. 11, where she will offer **MASSAGE BY DONATION AT MIDDPRIDE**, from 1-4 p.m. There will be crystals and stickers by donation, a drum to play, and a raffle.



Park/Main St. Main Street will be closed so we can welcome 75 classic cars and trucks. Food trucks, 30+ vendors, music, kids' activities and more. Free for spectators. Don't miss this fun, family-friendly event brought to you by the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and the Better Middlebury Partnership.

RIPTON RIDGE RUN IN RIPTON. Sunday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m., Ripton. Annual 10K, 5K and fun walk through Ripton and the Green Mountain National Forest. Proceeds benefit Friends of Ripton Students. Register at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Ripton/RiptonRidgeRun.

CAL HUMBERTO IN CORNWALL. Sunday, Oct. 12, noon-2 p.m., Sunrise Orchards, 1287 N. Bingham St. Live music in the orchard from Cal Humberto, a Burlington-based singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose original songs blend pop, jazz and R&B.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN WAITSFIELD. Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. See Oct. 10 listing.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: THE PENFIELD POND LOOP IN CROWN POINT, N.Y. Sunday, Oct. 12. An easy mid-afternoon hike on the Penfield Pond history trail. Arrive early to enjoy the Annual Applefest at the Penfield Museum, then join us for a 2-mile hike following signs describing sites of the former ironworks village. Contact Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

GRANFILM FESTIVAL IN GRANVILLE. Sunday, Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Corner School Resource Center of Granville, 75 Post Office Hill Rd. An evening of short films celebrating Vermont

filmmakers, followed by snacks and conversation. All ages. Free.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14

CIDER & DOUGHNUTS CONCERT IN BRISTOL. Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m., Mt. Abe Performing Arts Center, 220 Airport Drive. Join the Mt. Abe Music Department for a lively evening of performances by the school's vocal and instrumental ensembles — plus cider and doughnuts.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15

"THE IMPRESSIONISTS AND THE MAN WHO MADE THEM" IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Oct. 15, 11 a.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of the Great Art Wednesday Film Series, this documentary by Phil Grabsky explores the life of Paul Durand-Ruel, the 19th-century Parisian collector credited with introducing Impressionism to America. Tickets \$15. More info at [addisonarts.org/](https://addisonarts.org/event/the-spitfire-grill)

event/the-impressionists-the-man-who-made-them.

DIDI JACKSON READING IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6 p.m., Vermont Book Shop, 38 Main St. Poet Didi Jackson will read from her new collection, "My Infinity." A part-time Vermonter and Dean's Faculty Fellow at Vanderbilt University, Jackson's work has appeared in Best American Poetry and The New Yorker. Free. More info at vermontbookshop.com.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16

PIRANESI'S PRINTS: PAPER, PROCESS, AND PRESERVATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Oct. 16, 4:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Room 125. Lecture by Theresa Fairbanks Harris, Yale University Art Museums, on conservation of paper and Piranesi's printmaking. Free. Info: middlebury.edu/museum/events.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Community Players stage a musical that tells the story of Percy Talbott, a young woman seeking a fresh start in the small town of Gilead, Wis. Tickets \$15-\$40. More info at [addisonarts.org/](https://addisonarts.org/event/the-spitfire-grill)

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB STARGAZING IN ADDISON.

Thursday, Oct. 16. Learn some of the major stars, asterisms, constellations, and deep sky objects for dates near the new moon. In the event of poor observing conditions, the outing will be rescheduled for the next Thursday, Oct. 23. Group limit is 8. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

SPIRITS OF ROKEBY IN FERRISBURGH. Friday, Oct. 17, 5-9:30 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh. "An Unexpected Visitor" is a night of immersive theater inspired by Rokeby's Spiritualist history. Enjoy a drink and a talk on Victorian Spiritualism before entering the historic home for a participatory séance dramatization. An

unexpected guest may make an appearance! \$20 for Rokeby members, \$25 for non-members. Tickets at rokeby.org/series/2025-spirits-of-rokeby-an-unexpected-visitor.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN WAITSFIELD. Friday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St.. See Oct. 10 listing.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Oct. 16 listing.

SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



Announcing Auditions for Middlebury Acting Company's 2026 Season

Wednesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 16 from 5 - 7pm in the THT's Anderson Studio

Casting for 3 plays this season; full details available online!

middleburyactors.org/auditions



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OPERA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OCM shot and produced the film in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic “using green screen technology, drone cinematography, and innovative

staging,” Anderson explained in the company’s “Bernstein Film Guide” last month.

In addition, Anderson provided the context for both “West Side Story” and “Candide” with pre-show talks.

THE PAYOFF

After priming audiences with deep dives into popular Bernstein works, OCM this past weekend presented a selection of the composer’s songs as well as a fully staged one-act opera, “Trouble in Tahiti” (1952).

“Act One,” a sort of “curtain raiser,” as Anderson called it, consisted of “A Bernstein Songbook,” showcasing 10 songs from larger theater pieces, including “West Side Story” and “Candide,” that span nearly three decades of the composer’s work.

Performed by the five singers of “Trouble in Tahiti,” the songbook covered a wide range of styles and emotions, from the cheeky flirtations of “I Can Cook Too” (from “On the Town,” 1944) and the bombastic satire of “The Best of All Possible Worlds” (from “Candide”) to the desperate hope of “Somewhere” (from “West Side Story”) and the angelic humility of “A Simple Song” (from “Mass,” 1971).

Patrick Bessenbacher’s performance of the latter was particularly moving on Saturday. The tenor entered into the song with the voice of an acolyte and brought it to a close with the voice of a poet.

“Trouble in Tahiti” takes a no-holds-barred look at 1950s American suburbia.

Dinah (mezzo-soprano Olga Perez Flora) lives a stylish life with clean lines and shiny surfaces, but underneath it all she’s trapped in an unhappy marriage to businessman Sam (baritone Kenneth Stravert).

Shadowed, mocked, and occasionally assisted onstage by a plaid-jacketed chorus (Bessenbacher, soprano Rachel Weinfeld, and baritone Evan Fleming), whose scating harmonies are inspired in part by the then emerging genre of the commercial jingle, Dinah and Sam move between conflict and loneliness toward a sorrowful conclusion that transcends its era and setting.

BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY

“You’ll see that we’ve leaned heavily into Mid-Century Modern in the set design,” Anderson



“WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR **LIVING ROOM IS PRISTINE,** BUT YOUR RELATIONSHIPS ARE **STILL AS MESSY, STILL AS HEARTBREAKING AS EVER?**”

— Doug Anderson



The Opera Company of Middlebury concluded the “Bernstein Festival” with a performance of “Trouble in Tahiti” at Town Hall Theater, Oct. 3-5.

PHOTOS / DAVE DEVINE

says in the program notes. The aesthetic movement in design and architecture, which emerged in particularly American ways as Europe lay in ruins after two world wars, represented “the promise of a glorious new existence,” he explains. “But what happens when those promises are not kept? What happens when your living room is pristine, but your relationships are still as messy, still as heartbreaking as ever?”

The composer seems to have been concerned with the same kinds of questions.

Bernstein was quick to recognize the pitfalls of this new suburban American life, this slipping into consumerism and superficiality, Anderson explained in the video essay.

Perhaps in our current moment, with a growing movement to redefine the 1950s as the apex of our country’s moral and social aspirations, this is part of what makes Bernstein such a compelling figure — a reminder of how indispensable the artist is to the journey along which we discover the truth.

P.M. SERIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Join the Ben Garnett Trio for an album release tour featuring acoustic guitar, fiddle and bass. In addition to debuting an album

of entirely original music, the trio rounds out their sets with a selection of bluegrass and fiddle tunes, jazz standards, and pop songs. Garnett's forthcoming album, "Kite's Keep" (2025), features artfully constructed compositions brought to life by acoustic music luminaries like Darol Anger, Brittany Haas (fiddle), Ethan Jodziewicz, Dan Klingsberg (bass), and Chris Eldridge (guitar).

HEATHER PIERSON DUO

Sunday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m.

Anderson Studio

Heather Pierson is a pianist, singer/songwriter, song leader, and performer with a passion for cultivating joy, both onstage and off. Her uplifting live performances with her bassist/partner Shawn Nadeau delve into New Orleans jazz, blues, and folk. Best known for her ease at the piano and her bell-tone vocals, Pierson's songs and the band's musicianship embody honesty, playfulness, and a desire to share from the heart.

KATIE MARTUCCI DUO WITH JACOB DRAB

Sunday, April 19, 4 p.m.

Anderson Studio

Katie Martucci is a performer, bandleader, singer and composer, who is a graduate of

New England Conservatory, and has been featured on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Her latest release "Note to Self" on La Reserve Records is a collection of songs about the "unspoken third thing in the room" — stories surrounding friendship, family history, imposter syndrome, her own personal journey with epilepsy and more. Drawing inspiration from the writing and production of artists like Madison Cunningham and Emily King, Martucci's songs are lush and cinematic.

Tickets are \$15/students, \$25/advance, and \$28/door, and may be purchased via townhalltheater.org. Patrons may also buy tickets in person at the THT box office from Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m., or via phone at 802-382-9222.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

museum/exhibitions

"Eighteenth-Century Room from Paris to Vermont." The exhibition follows the journey of "Le Petit Salon" from Paris to Middlebury via Manhattan, where for 50 years it formed part of the decor of the Bliss family's Gilded Age mansion. At Middlebury, the Petit Salon became part of Le Château, the college's French language dorm, itself a fanciful recreation of a 16th-century Norman manoir. The exhibition incorporates Pâris's 1776 exquisite watercolor elevations of Aumont's mansion, as well as studies from his long educational sojourn in Rome and Naples. Included in the exhibition are loans from Bowdoin College, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum of Besançon. On view through Dec. 7.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury
For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Trees and Seasons," a juried photography exhibition celebrating the enduring presence of trees as they mark time through seasonal change. Juror Lee Anne White has selected images that reflect the poetry and rhythm of the natural world. On view Oct. 1-31.

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

"Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity." Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College, this mini exhibition is the result of meticulous research and thoughtful curation, showcasing many unique treasures in the Sheldon Museum's collection. On view May 21-Oct. 31.

"Slow Seeing: A Close Observation Room."

In this room, you're invited to *ssllllllloooooowwww dooooowwwnnnnnnnn* and really look. This is a space for immersive attention, close looking, and paying attention to the details. Take a seat, use the magnifying tools at hand and take the time to look. You are invited to draw, to dream, to write, to read, to think. On view May 21-Oct. 31.

"Stitching Memories: Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records."

The six samplers on display in the Judd Harris House were all made by girls whose father or grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. This local exhibit was curated by Middlebury College student Julia Breckenridge. On view May 21-Jan. 3.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury
For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Spotlight @ Sparrow: Beth Murphy."

October's exhibit will feature pressed botanicals by Beth Murphy. On view through October.

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- 16. Tax collector
- 17. Electronic counter-countermeasures
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- 20. Skeletal muscle
- 21. Popular fish type
- 22. Salts of acetic acid
- 25. Arriving early

- 30. Worded
- 31. Single Lens Reflex
- 32. Amphibians
- 33. Warm greeting
- 38. Belonging to a thing
- 41. Segmented worm
- 43. Concerns
- 45. Audacious
- 47. Wings
- 49. Type of drug
- 50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles
- 55. Island close to the U.S.
- 56. "To the __ degree"
- 57. Daniel __, French composer
- 59. A way to march
- 60. Where golfers

- begin
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Of she
- 63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
- 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

DOWN

- 1. Engine additive
- 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
- 4. Color properties
- 5. One who hands over
- 6. Thieves of the sea
- 7. Put in

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12			13				14	
15							16				17	
	18					19		20			21	
						22	23				24	
25	26	27	28	29								
30									31			
32										33	34	35
						38	39	40		41	42	
						43			44			
			45	46								
47	48						49			50	51	52
											53	54
55							56				57	
59							60				61	
62							63				64	

		2	5	6				
		9	8				3	1
								4
	4					5		9
				8				
					2		4	
				4	9	1	7	
5			1	2			8	

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

- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. Pouches
- 10. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 12. Greek alphabet letter
- 14. Greek goddess of youth
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Partly digested food
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. A major division of geological time
- 28. Angry
- 29. St. Francis of __
- 34. Romanian monetary unit
- 35. Stale
- 36. Go quickly
- 37. Commercials
- 39. Canadian city
- 40. One who slices
- 41. Perform perfectly
- 42. Nest of pheasants
- 44. Tactile sensations
- 45. Sword
- 46. Climactic
- 47. Adrenocorticotrophin
- 48. Fisherman's tool
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.



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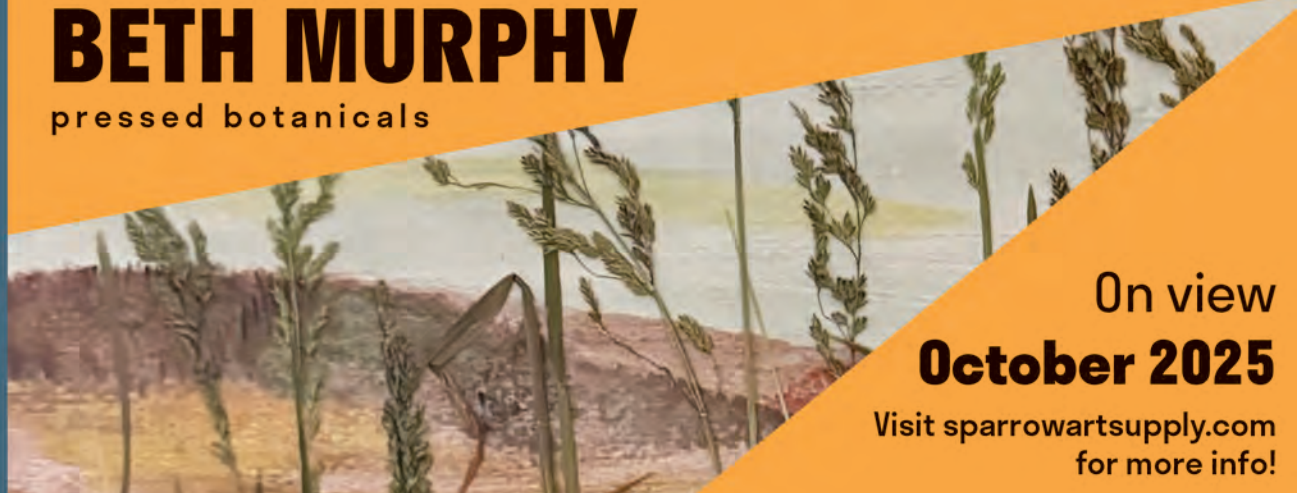
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GRANFILM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In lengths from five to 22 minutes, the films show a dynamic range in both

approach and style, from Kate Stryker's and Lucas Millard's delightful "Bananas," which tracks the quirky cultural phenomenon of growing tropical trees in frigid Beacon, N.Y., to Kate Youngdahl's "Alien Intelligence," with its extraordinary underwater ocean images and startling exploration of the consciousness of manta rays.

Three-time Emmy winner Rob Gardner, whose career spans 50 films and 50 years, has provided a timeless tale of a quest for a legendary object. Shot on location in Ethiopia, Egypt and Israel, Search for the Lost Ark profiles a British investigative reporter who believes that he has solved the greatest mystery in the Bible: the location of the Ark of the Covenant.

Willow O'Feral, named as one of "40 Under 40" filmmakers-to-watch at the NYC DOC film festival, and co-director and cinematographer, Brad Heck, bring "Artifacts of the Present." An intimate glimpse into the world of printmaker Brian D. Cohen, it illuminates the passions of a craftsman at the end of his career, from his model airplanes, printing press and vintage MG to the tools of his trade — copper plates, ink and engraving implements.

"Feed Them" — the shortest piece in the program — packs a big punch. The only film that is dramatic rather than documentary, it follows an artist, played by Monica Callan, as she comes to terms with an old but enduring grief over the death of a child. Directed and edited by Melissa Kosmaczewski,

it was co-written with Keryn Nightingale who also appears on screen.

Chris Spencer will show an excerpt from his soon-to-be-released, "Unintended: When Private Becomes Public." Shot over the course of five years, it sensitively covers the controversial and ultimately triumphant road to amending the Vermont constitution in support of bodily autonomy, the first state in the nation to do so.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Films start at 7 p.m. There will be a brief intermission, snacks and an opportunity to talk to the filmmakers, many of whom will be present. Free and open to all ages. The Corner School is located at 75 Post Office Rd. in Granville. For more information, visit cornerschoolvt.org.

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Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Abby



Hi! I'm **Abileen**, but you can call me Abby! I'm a 7-year-old, 64-pound girl with a happy smile. If you're looking for a smart pup, you will be amazed at what I can do. I am an excellent puzzle toy solver and will find ways to play fetch by myself in the yard. I'm in search of a family that will give me lots of mental stimulation and wants to interact with me during play and training. I love to learn new things and would like for you to be the one to teach me! I've previously lived with children but need to be in a pet-free home. Balls are my favorite thing in the world and being near my people. I'm crate trained and housebroken. A fenced in yard is preferred!

Addy



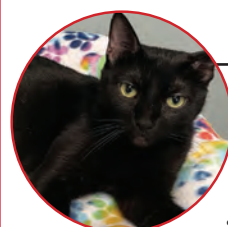
Our lovely senior **Addy** wasn't meant to be back at the shelter. He was adopted from Homeward Bound years ago and unfortunately due to no fault of his own, ended up back here yet again. He's a gentle cat who is affectionate and would do well in a low energy household. If you're looking for a quiet and affectionate companion, please consider Addy!

Lucy



Lucy is a playful little girl who came in with a brother and sister. She is a little shy but warms up easily with treats! She continues to bond with other kittens in the shelter and would do best in a home with another cat or even better, to be adopted with one of her friends at the shelter!

Midnight



Midnight is an affectionate and independent girl. She is purrfect, not smothering you with constant love but also won't completely ignore you. Midnight is very vocal when she wants some affection and also enjoys nap time. She has coexisted with both cats and dogs but would prefer a more calm household. She has been an indoor only cat.

Mitzy



Mitzy is a sweet senior who is hoping to find a calm home to finally call her own. She is shy at first, but with a little time becomes very confident and curious. She was recently in a foster home and tolerated being around another cat, she would do best with a cat that doesn't want to force interaction on her though. She has a ton of love to give, she just needs someone to give her the chance to show it. Mitzy is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and is on a low-cost medication that she takes 2 times a day.



Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Luxury awaits at this modern chalet

A custom modern chalet on over 24 pristine acres with two deeded lots. This luxury property offers complete privacy with stunning mountain views and sustainable living. The open-concept kitchen features high-end appliances, a quartz waterfall island, and a custom maple bar, flowing seamlessly into dining and living areas with lofted ceilings and a 10- by 36-foot covered porch with timber frame accents. The first-floor primary suite allows for aging in place, while the loft and walk-out lower level provide flexible entertaining spaces. The landscape inspires with established gardens, fruit orchard, specialty nuts, and hundreds of sugar maples for tapping. Restored wetlands attract native wildlife, private forest trails invite exploration, and a babbling brook offers serenity. Adjacent lot #243 features a stunning 18- by 48-foot Douglas Fir barn with a full loft and soaring mountain views. Best of all, permits are in place for a 4-bedroom home - perfect for expansion or subdivision. Located just 20 minutes from Mad River Valley and 12 minutes to downtown Bristol, this peaceful property offers the perfect blend of nature and luxury for homesteading or personal escape.



This property is listed and marketed by Lilly Boardman of the Brian Boardman Group at Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. For more information, please visit HickokandBoardman.com.

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274 ORCHARD LANE

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3 BD | 3 BA | 3142 SF | 7.13 ACRES

Seven acres on a dead-end road and just minutes to Middlebury. Stone patio, in-ground salt water pool, solar, level 2 EV charger and three garage spaces, plus mini splits for heating/cooling is just the start!



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
30 SOUTH STREET

MLS #5064171 | \$695,000
4 BD | 2 BA | 2037 SF | 0.21 ACRES

Classic Colonial on an historic street with sidewalks to lead you into town. Formal dining, den, laundry/pantry, built-ins, a pellet stove to keep you cozy. Level, fenced lot provides privacy and a safe space for pets.



CORNWALL NEW LISTING!
205 CEDAR RIDGE DRIVE

MLS #5064149 | \$494,700
2 BD | 2 BA | 2114 SF | 11.30 ACRES

Sited for privacy, this chalet-style post and beam offers large, open spaces, pine board floors, wood stove, a great deck, and rustic charm. Enjoy upgraded septic, roofing shingles, and the fresh coat of exterior paint.



WEYBRIDGE NEW LISTING!
2345 QUAKER VILLAGE ROAD

MLS #5064172 | \$475,000
3 BD | 2 BA | 1397 SF | 0.63 ACRES

This historic home underwent a large renovation in 2011 with a new roof in 2021. Wood floors, natural light, and plenty of original charm. Level lot for gardening and play. A barn offers storage and possibilities.



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204 West River Road, Lincoln

Tastefully restored, this 3 bedroom, 2 Bath Lincoln village cape has just undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic character through the seamless integration of modern design elements including new kitchen, baths and limestone veneer plaster walls! Come see it in person.

MLS No. 5055620 | \$ 495,000



220 West River Road, Lincoln

Opportunity awaits - bring your vision to life with this one of a kind mixed-use studio/residential space in the heart of Lincoln. With a large studio/workshop space, two office spaces and 1/2 bath on the ground level and prep work completed for a comfortable 2-bedroom apartment on the 2nd floor; this property has lots of potential.

MLS No. 5059162 | \$ 295,000



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 | \$ 685,000

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WEDNESDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Two of Britain's greatest painters, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were also

the greatest of rivals. Turner's blazing sunsets and sublime scenes from his travels and Constable's idealized depictions of beloved places from home whipped the public of the time into a frenzy of enthusiasm.

Wednesday, April 11, at 11 a.m.

"Renoir: Reviled & Revered"
Anderson Studio

Pierre Auguste Renoir is known and loved for his impressionist paintings of Paris which rank among the world's favorites. This stunning film — based on the remarkable Renoir collection at Philadelphia's Barnes Foundation — explores

the artist's new approach. This film is a biography of an artistic giant — Renoir — but also uncovers an untold story that identifies him as a significant link between the art world's old order and the new.

Wednesday, May 6, at 11 a.m.

"Girl with a Pearl Earring"

Rothrock Mainstage

"The Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Johannes Vermeer is one of the most enduring paintings in the history of art. This beautifully filmed documentary goes in pursuit of answers to the unresolved riddles surrounding this extraordinary piece. Holland's distinguished Mauritshuis is home to the painting and the film also showcases other key works housed here.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222 or purchased at the door.

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6	5	9	8	4	7	2	3	1
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3	9	7	4	8	5	1	6	2
1	6	5	9	7	2	8	4	3
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8	2	3	6	5	4	9	1	7
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JAZZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

by *Jazzwise* magazine, Picard also shines as a solo pianist, playing solo sets for NY Fashion Week, Little Island, Umbria Jazz Festival, and is featured on several records.

Picard presented his first solo piano album "*Live at the Museum*" in 2022. Recorded with a live audience at the National Jazz Museum of Harlem in New York City, "*Live at the Museum*" is a sonic journey through which Picard explores the museum of his own life in music, honoring and spotlighting his roots in jazz, classical and electronic music. In 2023, Picard released his latest album "*Heat of The Moment*," which the UK's "*The Times*" gave a 5-star review.

THT's new Jean's Place bar will be open, and attendees are invited to a post-show meet-and-greet and casual conversation with Picard. The show will take place from 5:30-7 p.m. General admission \$35 and students \$15. Tickets are available at townhalltheater.org or by calling 802-382-9222.

SING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

World Singing Day is a joyful community experience for musicians and non-musicians

alike, from shower singers to celebrities, as they gather in their communities and sing together without the pressure of performing.

World Singing Day is not a competition, and no rehearsals are required. Anyone

can join in the fun.

The Bristol event will feature local community members including middle and high school students. Food and drinks will be available.

ABOUT 5-TFA

5-Town Friends of the Arts (5-TFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of residents in the Five Town area that includes Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro, New Haven and Monkton.

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Two winners from each age group will win a prize from one of our sponsors that can be picked up at the Addy Indy office through November 26th.



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