

Family in tune

A father and son duo works together to blend music and poetry. See Arts + Leisure.



Eagles soar

Mt. Abe girls' soccer knocks off VUHS, and the boys claim the Lake title. See Sports, Page 1B.



Elder activity

Local seniors keep busy in many ways — writing, exercising and eating. Read Senior Lifestyles.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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EACH YEAR, STUDENTS at Ripton's North Branch School create a wooden sculpture to which they attach important mementos, and then symbolically set it aflame. This year's sculpture was named "Mount Makalu" for a classmate who died this past August after a long battle with brain cancer.

Independent photo/Steve James

School pays tribute to a mountain of a friend

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — In just one short year, Makalu Bagnulo made an incredibly profound impression on his classmates and educators at Ripton's North Branch School.

How profound? Mak's nine-month tenure with NBS merely spanned seventh grade, during the 2023-2024

academic year, but his former classmates and teachers are still talking about his kindness, special rapport with his peers, and a zest for life that was cruelly cut short by cancer this past August.

While Mak, who was 15 when he died, is no longer around in person, the North Branch community on Saturday honored him in spirit

with a student-made wooden sculpture tagged with heartfelt words and photos eulogizing the beloved teen. That sculpture, but for a statewide burn ban, would have been set ablaze on Saturday evening as part of NBS's "burning school" tradition. Instead, it will be illuminated by strung lights until conditions are safe for

(See Friend, Page 11A)

Redistricting panel ramps up its work

Input sought on Vt. school mapping

By JOHN FLOWERS MIDDLEBURY — The School District Redistricting Task Force looks to use public feedback as it drafts up to three maps to catalyze a major shakeup in the way Vermont schools are grouped, operated and financed.

The task force was created this year through Act 73, a new law that sets out a process for paring the state's school districts from the current 119, devising a "weighted" student funding formula, and creating a statewide education tax

"I know how important local control is... At the same time, we've got to establish some efficiencies of scale, wherever that can happen."

— David Wolk

rate. Act 73 also calls for statewide graduation requirements and calendar, class size minimums, state aid for school construction, and revised criteria for independent schools to receive public dollars.

Act 73's proponents believe it will transform a Vermont public school system that has shed around 6% of its students (20,000 kindergarten through grade 12) over the past two decades. At the same time, education costs have been rising with reduced

(See School districts, Page 10A)

Afghan student helps girls learn despite Taliban limits

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — When Taniya Noori came to the United States in 2022, it was in part to be able to continue her education.

Noori was among the millions of Afghans who fled Afghanistan in the aftermath of the U.S. withdrawal from the country and the Taliban's return to power four years ago.

The Taliban's restrictive policies targeting women — including barring them from attending school

after sixth grade — are among the reasons Noori and many other Afghan women and girls have left the country.

Today, Noori is a senior at Middlebury College helping girls and young women in Afghanistan continue their education through a project she started in 2023. The Afghan Tutoring Network supports girls and young women by providing online tutoring, as well as internet and technology

(See Students, Page 14A)

City eyes new way to boost its housing

Infrastructure deal could aid project

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Two funding sources could help the city of Vergennes establish a major workforce housing project off North Main Street in the city's Northern Gateway District.

One of those sources is a grant and the other a new Vermont program that allows communities to fund infrastructure up front, but recapture that cost and later profit from that investment.

The project is called Vergennes North, and is the brainchild of developer Peter Kahn and his partners doing business as Vergennes Housing Partners LLC. Kahn might be best known in Vergennes for developing homes on Commodore Drive off West Main Street.

Vergennes Housing Partners has an agreement purchase and develop 14.4 acres off North Main Street, (See Vergennes, Page 10A)



HOMES FIRST VOLUNTEERS Tom Randall, left, and Dutton Smith measure their roof-support work for a new cottage that's being built near the intersection of Seymour Street and Lucius Shaw Lane in Middlebury.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Nonprofit builds path to affordable homes

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — One of Vermont's biggest problems right now is a lack of workforce housing, and its availability will continue to be limited without a major infusion of subsidies — a.k.a. money — to drive down construction and purchase costs.

But members of a small Addison County nonprofit are creating ripples they hope will turn into a wave of creative housing starts

built with volunteer labor, close associations with construction material suppliers, and a keen knowledge of municipal zoning laws.

The group, called Homes First Vermont, is currently working on an all-volunteer, nonprofit build — a 527-square-foot, one-story home at the intersection of Seymour Street and Lucius Shaw Lane in Middlebury. Once

(See Housing, Page 16A)



By the way

Firefighters in the towns of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro will be at their firehouses from 9 a.m. to noon on Sat., Oct. 18, to receive donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf in Bristol as

(See By the way, Page 11A)

Guantanamo Bay art exhibited with Vt. prisoner work

By IAN CURRY

MIDDLEBURY — "Approved by U.S. Forces" reads a stamp that appears on the back of many of the artworks currently being displayed at Middlebury College's Johnson Memorial Building Gallery. These pieces were created by three prisoners held in the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, each of whom were eventually released having never been charged with a crime.

Established by President George W. Bush in the (See Guantanamo Bay, Page 15A)

State to join nation in day of protesting

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermonters are expected to show up in large numbers this Saturday to take part in peaceful, family-friendly events as part of a national day of action and mass mobilization. The goal of "No Kings Day 2," which will see at least 2,000 rallies take place across every state, is to protest destructive actions of the federal government, including cutting critical health and social services, deploying federal

(See No Kings Day, Page 7A)



Automotive detail

MICHAEL SUSSMAN OF Williamstown, Mass., explains how the choke operates in his 1960 MG1600 sports car to a visitor at Sunday's Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival. The event drew several hundred to ogle scores of classic cars parked on the closed Main Street and Merchants Row. See more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Book club explores social justice issues

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — A new book group starting up in the Bristol area will offer community members a space to read about and discuss various social justice issues.

Bristol resident Katy Kelly is organizing the social justice book club, which is open to community members in and outside of Bristol. Kelly said she was initially inspired to form the group by a growing pile of unread books related to social justice she'd collected through the years.

"Every year or so I like to do something outside my comfort zone, something that challenges me to be a better person and more closely live into my values. It feels like a good time to start digging into that

"I can help myself and others begin to understand the underlying causes of our country's deepest wounds and divides while fostering compassion for each other that can inspire positive change and action."

— Katy Kelly

pile now," she told the *Independent*. "How better to do so than invite other thoughtful and reflective people who will be inspiring, bring their own experiences, views and ideas which can only enrich our discussions!"

Kelly added that she was more broadly inspired by current affairs and reflecting on the "Upstream Parable" or "Parable of the River."

She explained that in the parable, villagers notice babies floating downstream in a nearby river. They work to rescue

the children but find more and more floating down the river and become exhausted by the endless rescue effort. Ultimately, it's suggested the villagers head upstream to find the source of the problem.

"In this way, I can help myself

and others begin to understand the underlying causes of our country's deepest wounds and divides while fostering compassion for each other that can inspire positive change and action," Kelly explained. "Maybe, in this small way, within this book club, we can go 'upstream' together and do the work within ourselves around these issues. It feels more like embarking on an emotional and spiritual journey than an intellectual exercise."

The group is currently accumulating a list of titles it could read, which Kelly said she's compiling into a working document. She noted books on the growing list center around themes including racism, homelessness, poverty and sexism.

A start date for the book group is still in the works. Kelly said the group will offer a Zoom option once up and running to include as many community members as possible.

"There will be rules of engagement we agree upon in order (See Book club, Page 3A)



KELLY HICKEY, INTERIM Curator/Collections Manager at Middlebury's Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, stands among the photographs and artifacts featured in a new exhibit highlighting the state's female farmers. The exhibit centers around "Vermont Female Farmers," a portrait series by JuanCarlos González showcasing around 40 female farmers from across the state.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Exhibit curators to give interactive talk

Newcomb and Vincent to discuss "Finding Hope Within"

MIDDLEBURY — AAUW (American Association of University Women) and Ilsley Library will launch their 2025-26 speaker series, on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m., by hosting an interactive presentation in the Johnson Gallery at Middlebury College. The presenters will be John Vincent and Heather Newcomb, co-curators of the art exhibit "Finding Hope Within."

This traveling exhibit features works by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Vermont artists, and has been viewed throughout the state since its opening at the Rokeby Museum in 2023.

Vincent, a retired police officer, poet and letterpress printer, will share the story of his business, A Revolutionary Press, which is committed to amplifying the voices of incarcerated writers and poets, detailing how this particular initiative evolved into direct collaborations with artists "inside."

Newcomb is a community advocate at Vermont Works for Women, interacting as a certified somatic life coach with women living in poverty, battling addiction, or involved with our justice system to support their paths towards fulfillment and economic independence.

Newcomb approaches her work through the lens of lived experience as a woman in long-term recovery from addiction and a history with the legal system, and as a single mother receiving public assistance.

Attendees can look forward to viewing the exhibit, hearing engaging stories about specific featured artists, as well as receiving a printed handout containing references and insights related to the topics discussed.

The presentation is free and open to the public; park on College Street or behind Johnson in the lot off Shannon Street.

(See Finding hope, Page 3A)

Sheldon exhibit features Vt. female farmers

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — From New Haven to North Hero, whether growing vegetables or milking goats, female farmers around Vermont play an essential role in the state's agriculture industry.

A new exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum highlights many of those farmers and their contributions to Vermont agriculture. The show centers around "Vermont Female Farmers," a portrait series by photojournalist JuanCarlos González showcasing the stories of over 40 women farmers across the state—including some in Addison County.

"It was really heartwarming (being in the project) because I feel like I'm surrounded by so many hardworking women with the work that I do, and I sort of never hear about them," said Ariel Krolick, one of the farmers featured in the collection. "It's been incredible to have somebody really value Vermont for feeding the state and beyond."

Asked about the inspiration behind the project, González pointed to his upbringing in Maunabo, Puerto Rico.

"My grandmother used to farm," he told the *Independent*. "People used to come to the farm and ask who's the guy who ran the farm and my grandmother used to say, 'I'm the guy.'"

González, a Plymouth resident, was more recently reminded of those experiences from his childhood.

"We were having dinner in (a farm-to-table restaurant), and I heard someone asking the staff about who is the guy that ran the farms where they get their vegetables and meat," he recalled. "That sort of triggered that feeling growing up. I immediately thought of this idea and wanted to start the project."

González referenced 2022 Census of Agriculture data stating 41% of Vermont farmers are women, a figure he noted many might be unaware of. He began the project with 10 farmers, a total that grew steadily as he was introduced to more people through the effort. **FEATURED FARMERS**

Krolick was among the farmers to connect with González. She runs

Ariel's Honey Infusions, based in Starksboro, as well as a landscaping business that builds pollinator gardens.

"I say that it's a like a cross-pollination of both businesses, starting with landscaping and educating kids with these gardens and how important pollinators are to then creating something from that where I'm also having bees and making infusions," she explained.

Krolick cultivates pollinator-friendly habitats on her property, sells her locally-sourced, raw honey infusions at a variety of spots and seeks to educate community members about the importance of protecting pollinators.

"I don't feel like I just like to sell my product and make money, it's more of a whole educational experience for a lot of people," she said. "I've gotten a lot of people excited about wanting to have bees or just planting for bees, no matter

where they live...that they can make an impact and do something."

The series spotlights a few other Champlain Valley farmers, including Camila Carrillo, who runs 10 Green Street in Vergennes with her husband, Nathan D'Aversa. The collaborative project serves as a showroom for D'Aversa Furniture and wine bar for Carrillo's label, La Montañuela, and other offerings.

Carrillo has worked in the wine industry for around 14 years, getting into the production side of winemaking in 2015. After moving back to Vermont in 2018, Carrillo dove into winemaking year-round through her work with Deirdre Heekin of La Garagista — another farmer featured in the collection.

"The way that we make wine, and the way that I've learned through Deirdre, is that winemaking begins in the vineyard," Carrillo said. "So, farming is extremely important." (See Sheldon, Page 3A)

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THE VERMONT FEMALE Farmers project features the stories of 45 female farmers from around the state, including a couple Addison County operations. The portraits are displayed alongside artifacts in the Sheldon Museum's collection, many of which relate to Addison County farms and agriculture.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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Book club

(Continued from Page 2A)

to foster a safe and non-judgmental space as well as some structure to follow and a regular (meeting) schedule," she said. "I hope this will evolve responsively to the needs and wishes of the group members once formed, which may depend on what book we are reading, and

adapt as we go."

Kelly has started to hear from residents interested in joining the group, which currently has 16 participants. Those looking to join or for more information can contact Kelly by emailing her at coachkaty7@gmail.com.

"I hope those in the group will be

able to grapple with the issues in such a way that they are better informed, armed with greater awareness, broader perspectives, and deeper compassionate understanding of the issues discussed that lead to courageous action when needed and inspired to do so," she said.

Sheldon

(Continued from Page 2A)

While working with La Garagista, Carrillo started managing vines on a plot in Hinesburg. She also buys fruit from farmers in Perkinsville and has begun growing vines in New Haven.

"The goal is really for me moving forward to manage most of my own vines, and if I need, vines from local Vermont growers would also be great," she said.

She noted farming is the most important part of the work of La Montañuela, which uses organic and biodynamic practices. Even before entering the wine industry, Carrillo said she always felt a strong tie to agriculture.

"I grew up (in Vermont) and my grandfather had a piece of land in Venezuela that I got to spend some time on as a kid, so I feel like I've always one way or another been super connected to nature and just had that interest through the connection of being on the land," she said.

Carrillo shared what it's felt like to be a part of the Vermont Female Farmers project.

"It's really inspiring and so cool that for a relatively small state there is so much diversity in what people are doing and growing; the animals that they're raising, the products that they're making," she said. "With wine being a new emerging piece of the agricultural puzzle, it's just really cool to be photographed and a piece of the history. I'm definitely honored."

ON DISPLAY

The photos of Carrillo and other farmers included in the project were taken between 2020 and 2022. The images capture the farmers in their element — out in the fields with crops, tending to their animals, and stewarding the land in all seasons.

Some scenes are shown in color,

others black and white.

"There were several moments that I felt that it was a very colorful moment," González said of choosing which photos appeared in color. "I felt that during that moment and that time and that conversation I made a note to myself that was a very beautiful, colorful moment."

He'd start out by getting to know each of the farmers and learn about their operations. González would then visit the farm, capturing photos during a simple, one-on-one interaction with the farmer.

"With all the farmers, I developed such a unique relationship," he said.

Photos from the project fill two galleries and a hallway space at the Sheldon. Visitors can also find goods made by some of the featured farmers in the museum store.

Interspersed with the photographs are artifacts from the museum's collection, such as a raisin de-seeder and a 19th-century drawing from a collection of farm animal sketches by Shoreham brothers Luther and Frank Webster.

"This is kind of the first time we're able to bring one (of the pieces) out, and it's really excited people, and so it gives us some future planning opportunities with what we might curate next," said Kelly Hickey, interim curator/ collections manager at the Sheldon.

Putting together the exhibit was a collaborative effort between Hickey, archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart, Middlebury College professor Ellery Foutch and former curator/ collections manager Emily Bryant.

"The four of us got together and culled through the collections and the archives to have pieces that really speak to the photography without really dominating the photos," Hickey said.

The team also worked with Colin Boyd of Middlebury College's

Johnson Gallery, who volunteered time as the installer for the exhibit.

Hickey noted the exhibit creates a conversation between contemporary art and issues and the museum's historical collections and archives, a dynamic the Sheldon is looking to replicate through future shows.

The museum was awarded a \$650,000 grant by the Mellon Foundation last year, which will support "a fuller, more complex telling of American histories and lived experiences" during the next three years. Upcoming events related to that work include a "Looking Back/Moving Forward: Vermont Stories of LGBTQ+ Caregiving & Community" event on Nov. 8.

The Vermont Female Farmers exhibition will be on display through Jan. 3. Looking ahead, González has a couple ideas for expanding on the project, such as revisiting farmers featured in the series 10 years from now, and a continuation of the project highlighting Puerto Rican farmers with a focus on how they've been impacted by climate change.

The Sheldon exhibit marks the latest in several showings of the portrait series around the state. Photos from the project have also been made into a book of the same title, now part of the permanent collection at the Library of Congress.

"As soon as JuanCarlos shot this, that became historical information," Hickey said. "We're lucky now that we can actually have this and collect this and that generations later will be able to look at it and say, 'Wow, women were very powerful within the agricultural community.'"

For more on the Vermont Female Farmers project, visit vermontfemalefarmers.com.



Running on all cylinders

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MEN'S rugby team dominated Colby on Saturday, winning a home contest, 31-12. It evened the Panthers' season record at 2-2. Right, Middlebury Captain Thomas Maloney braces for impact early in the game, then, above, he sprints downfield in the second half on the way to scoring the Panthers' fourth try of the competition. Middlebury will take on Providence College in Rhode Island this Saturday.

Independent photos/Steve James



Finding hope

(Continued from Page 2A)

Future events in the AAUW/ IIsley Library speaker series for 2025-26 include:

- "Vermont Education: Strengths and Challenges" by Peter Conlon and Wendy Baker on Nov. 18 at the Midd Rec Center;
- "The Gift of Failure" by author Jessica Lahey on Feb. 17 at MUHS;
- "The State of Health Care in

Vermont," by Owen Foster, chair of the Green Mountain Care Board on evening March 17 at the Midd Rec Center;

• "Scams and Prevention," by Tom Hanley on April 21 at the Midd Rec Center.

AAUW is a non-profit organization founded in 1881. Its mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through

research, education, and advocacy. The Middlebury Chapter, founded in 1922, meets once a month from September through May, and sponsors presentations open to the public. For more information about AAUW, visit aauw.org. With questions about local AAUW activities, call Dinah Bain (802-758-2218) or Liane Barrera (802-353-6543).

Elderly Services, Inc.

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:

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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:

Combatting 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
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Editorials

That Politico story, and why Sen. Douglass should resign

The real news of Politico's breaking story on Tuesday was not just that a handful of Young Republican leaders across the country consistently used racist language about people who are Black, Jewish and gay over seven months on a group chat, but that such a radical, white supremacist mindset is so much a part of the Republican culture that it has significantly changed the party in many parts of the country.

Vermont's Gov. Phil Scott, however, was quick to condemn the chats as hate speech and immediately called on Sen. Sam Douglass, R-Orleans, to resign.

"The hateful statements made in this group chat are disgusting and unacceptable," Scott said in a statement issued Tuesday. "The vile, racist, bigoted and antisemitic dialogue that has been reported is deeply disturbing. There is simply no excuse for it. Those involved should resign from their roles immediately and leave the Republican party — including Vermont State Senator Sam Douglass."

Kudos to Gov. Scott for taking such quick and decision action, and to Senate Minority Leader Scott Beck, R-Calendonia, and House Minority Leader Pattie McCoy, R-Pouney, who also joined Scott in calling for Douglass to resign, as did Democratic leaders in Vermont. They understand the significance of such language over such a long period of time.

The messages at issue were part of dialogue between a half dozen state leaders and others connected with the Young Republican National Federation, a 15,000-member political training ground for Republicans between 18 and 40 years old. The trove of messages, covering 2,900 pages of chats, over a seven-month period between early January and mid-August, found frequent use of racial slurs describing Black Americans, Jews and gays, as well as causal references to violent acts. Here's a sample of one chat exchange:

"Everyone who votes no is going to the gas chamber.... We only want true believers."

"Can we fix the showers? Gas chambers don't fit the Hitler aesthetic."

"I'm ready to watch people burn now."

"We gotta pretend that we like them. 'Hey, come on in. Take a nice shower and relax.' Boom. They're dead."

Those were texts with emoji reactions by Peter Giunta, Bobby Walker, Anne KayKaty, Joe Maligno, Rachel Hope and Alex Dwyer. In other comments, rape was referred to as "epic," Black Americans were called "watermelon people" and as "monkey" playing ball. Of the group involved in the texts, more than half a dozen participants represented Young Republican leaders from Vermont, New York, Kansas and Arizona. The chats chronicle their campaign to seize control of the national Young Republican organization "on a hardline pro-Donald Trump platform," according to the Politico report.

"Together," Politico's report continued, "the messages reveal a culture where racist, antisemitic and violent rhetoric circulate freely — and where the Trump-era loosening of political norms has made such talk feel less taboo among those positioning themselves as the party's next leaders."

While GOP leaders in New York and Vermont swiftly condemned the texts, leadership in the Trump administration is trying to diminish its vileness by suggesting that young Republicans in their 20s and 30s do "stupid things." That was the comment from Vice-President JD Vance, who is no stranger to suggesting vile and violent actions against those opposing Trump's mandates or daring to exercise free speech.

Indeed, you had to be living on another planet not to see how Trump, Vance, Stephen Miller, Kristi Noem and others in the Trump administration have set the stage for such hateful speech, and the sin of "othering" anyone who doesn't accept their myopic vision of America as a white supremacist, Christian nation — a team, by the way, that's also driving up the cost of groceries and electricity.

In Vermont, Sen. Douglass will hopefully do the right thing and resign.

Nationally, voters must stop excusing Trump's racist and violent comments as a quirk of his personality and recognize how dangerous and anti-American his speech is.

Angelo Lynn

No Kings Day and freedom

This Saturday, Oct. 18, No Kings Day rallies will be held throughout the country. In Addison County, rallies are set in Middlebury and Vergennes, as well as in nearby Brandon. Thomas Learmonth of Monkton notes the times of each event in his letter to the editor in today's *Addison Independent* at the top right of this page.

Why go?

Let Howard Jennings of Bristol tell you about the threats everyday Americans are facing. His son, a filmmaker and photojournalist, was documenting a protest in front of the Federal Building in Portland, Ore., during Trump's first term when Trump unwisely sent in National Guard troops and turned an everyday protest into chaos. Guard members teargassed citizens and fired rubber bullets into the crowd. One bullet hit his son in the eye. Fortunately, his gas-mask took the blow and likely prevented the permanent loss of that eye, but the experience hasn't faded.

The heart of Jennings' argument is this: "It is widely known that Trump is building a case to invoke the Insurrection Act. The Act would allow him, unilaterally, to send troops to quell dissent by American citizens anywhere he wants in the U.S. without the consent of Congress.... Let's not mince words. If Trump succeeds in invoking the Insurrection Act, this declaration of martial law would be another major step deeper into dictatorship."

Or consider Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen's comments in her letter to the editor. A pastor from Addison who has a far-reaching podcast heard in 56 countries and 401 cities, she asks, "Where do you look when the world seems dark?" An optimist, she believes most people want to do what's right and what's good, and that the good in people is far more sustainable than evil. She encourages us to not "give up. Be invested in our world. Love people and look for the good." (The Young Republicans implicated in the hate-filled group chat — see editorial above — could benefit from such wisdom.)

And there's Spence Putnam's letter in today's paper demonstrating why public protests can yield positive outcomes.

Each of these letters, and more in today's issue, are important to read. Trump and his clan have crossed the normal lines of political conduct and are seriously threatening our constitutional rights. Staying silent gives Trump the upper hand. Massive peaceful protests against the police state he wants to impose, on the other hand, help preserve the freedom Americans cherish.

Angelo Lynn



Elite club

THE VERGENNES UNION High School girls' soccer team surrounds senior forward Ava Francis, with sign, after Monday's game at Mount Abraham to celebrate her milestone 50th career goal during the contest. The senior forward not only tallied her 50th but also her 51st. The Eagles, however, won the game. See a full story on Page 1B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Humans real; borders creations

We people who live in North America are suffering from a severe case of Terrible Boundaries. This suffering is taking many different forms, but it is harming all of us. It's traumatizing some of us to an extreme extent, while others appear momentarily unscathed, but like a tsunami rolling towards the shore, its power to destroy is enormous.

A boundary is a line or limit. A boundary is where you end and I begin. We all deserve to have our personal boundaries honored. This is a basic human right that should in no way depend on your gender identity, proof of citizenship, race or ethnicity.

Some boundaries are natural, like a riverbank, or a place where a meadow gives way to forested land. Humans often influence these natural boundaries in ways small and large, like keeping fields mowed to prevent them from reverting to forest, or damming, straightening, or re-directing rivers. Some boundaries are entirely human made, like the border that declares where the United States begins and Mexico ends.

Why are some of our fellow citizens obsessed with the idea of some people being here "legally" while considering others "illegal?" When we experience harm sometimes we want to lash out and harm others. And if we haven't had the opportunity or space to heal, we are vulnerable to being manipulated by bad actors. In this moment in history, it is so important to have the moral clarity to see and name the harm that is being perpetrated.

The people of Chicago are showing us they know right from wrong. Restaurant workers are refusing to

serve ICE agents, tow truck drivers are following their vehicles, and hotels are locking their doors. Ordinary people on the street are showing extreme bravery in disrupting actual kidnappings of their neighbors. This courage is a beautiful example of healthy boundaries. The people of Chicago are saying NO to a fascist takeover of their city.

An argument against mass deportations often includes the facts that undocumented people are essential workers who build our houses, milk our cows, harvest our crops, and take care of the elderly. While all of this is certainly true, here is another truth: Human beings are real, and borders are imaginary. Humans have always moved around the earth, sometimes

fleeing violence or climate catastrophe, sometimes because they fell in love with someone on a different continent. If you have European ancestry, your great-great-grandfather may have come here as forced convict labor, as an indentured servant, or fleeing poverty and hunger in the Old Country.

To lack empathy for our fellow humans is the worst kind of spiritual poverty. Since the earliest days of the European arrival in North America, the ultra-rich have sought to destroy the empathy that people quite naturally have for one another, because by dividing us, they come out on top. In the time of chattel slavery, uber wealthy plantation owners doled out privilege to white men by paying them to pursue enslaved people who were running away from forced labor and torture. These were the first police forces, and we can see

(See *Ways*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Joanna Colwell



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Protect democracy for our kids

I am writing this as a mother, a healthcare provider, and as a concerned citizen of the U.S.

We are at a precarious moment in history, and I am kept up at night thinking about the world my young children will inherit. I worry that the escalating threat to basic freedoms protected by the U.S. Constitution means my kids will live in a country that does not allow them to safely voice their opinions and that fear of political violence will silence them from asking questions. I am scared they are growing up in a nation that is too politically divisive to allow them to be neighborly if their neighbors think differently than they do. And I am concerned about the rising costs my patients face, that increasing inequality makes access to healthy food, housing and healthcare not only difficult, but impossible.

These forces I fear — suppression of civil liberties, increasing political division, and growing wealth inequality — are all symptoms of democratic backsliding, which is defined as the gradual decline in the quality and strength of a country's democratic systems. Political experts and historians around the globe acknowledge that our democracy, one of the oldest and strongest the world has ever seen, is in decline. They see the current administration following a familiar playbook that has been used countless times in history when democracies have slid into

authoritarianism. These well-worn tactics include directing investigations against critics, deploying the military domestically, manipulating laws to target political opponents, tolerance for lawbreaking by allies, and not leaving office peacefully. We see examples of these in the news daily.

I am presenting this framework as the lens through which we should see our government right now, in hopes of building consensus over the most basic things that bind us as Americans: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, a free press, the rights to free and fair elections, and peaceful transitions of power.

I believe that most Americans can agree on the value of these — that, as humans, we want the same things. Which leads me to also believe that this moment is not about being a Democrat or a Republican, Independent or Libertarian. It is not about whether you support universal healthcare or agree with the tariffs, how you feel about the national debt or climate change policy. It is not about your opinion on abortion or gun control or immigration. Regardless of what color your skin is, how much money you have, where you are from, what religion you are, whether you are gay or straight or married or have kids, or how you feel about people who hold different beliefs than you — whoever you

(See *Forum*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Love America on No Kings Day

"No Kings Day" on Saturday October 18, with local demonstrations in Vergennes (10 a.m.-12 noon), Middlebury (11 a.m.-1 p.m.), Brandon (10 a.m.-12 noon) and Montpelier (12-1:30 p.m.), is not about "hating America." Just the opposite! I will be joining people who love America, and want it to become the land it has striven to be — "with Liberty and Justice for all!"

No more U.S. military in U.S. cities! No more masked vigilantes kidnaping hard working people! No more racism! The rule of Law, not the whims of one person! We want the God of Love to bless America! Please come join us or at least come talk with us and hear our concerns first hand! I bet we all want the same for America — a safe and healthy country where the American Dream can flourish!

Thomas Learmonth
Monkton

Honoring work of a late poet

Editor's note: Noting the ceasefire in Gaza last week, the writer's mind harked back many years to the time when Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai took a bus from Boston to Middlebury in a snowstorm to give a reading at the college.

Overlooking the Sea

"What are you doing here lying in wait for happiness..." — YA

First day in two years the horses look out from their shed Save one Poet Amichai (May 3 1924-

September 22, 2000) If he were still here he'd have something to write about this bridling the living

to the dead Who wouldn't want to be led back to their century their tent their house of stones?

Their window overlooking the sea. Amichai made the most of what he heard Isn't Hebrew a kind

of Arabic? He never said Writing what he felt Staying put. Until he could be sure Pausing between

worlds Making a sound Drawing the horses nearer To his mouth The new fence line

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Protest move to military rule

On the night of July 26, 2020, my son Trip Jennings, an award-winning filmmaker and credentialed photojournalist, was videoing a protest in front of the Federal Building in downtown Portland, Ore. President Trump had sent U.S. Border Patrol agents to protect the building over the mayor's objections. It was a chaotic scene with tear gas filling the air and people running everywhere. The agents ordered the crowd to leave the area, and they began moving back, with Trip retreating with them, filming as he went. Four blocks from the building they supposedly were protecting, they shot him in the face with rubber bullets impregnated with metal pellets. This was in direct violation of a City Ordinance protecting journalists. Thankfully his gas mask saved his eye.

Fast forward to today, and we have Trump trying to send troops to Portland and other Democratic cities, supposedly to crack down on crime, even though violent crime is going down in virtually all big cities, and sharply down in Portland. On Sept. 27, 2025, Trump made an announcement on his social media site Truth Social, writing that he was directing the Secretary of War to "provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland." He also said on national TV, "The place is burning down. There are fires all over the place." I called my son in Portland to fact check him; and the city is normal; there are no fires

(See *Jennings letter*, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

In darkening times, search for the good in people

Where do you look when the world seems dark?
I find myself being asked a variation of that question on a weekly basis since January of 2025. The podcast from our church is heard weekly in 56 countries and 401 cities; therefore, I get some form of that question a lot. From Germany, cities all over the United States and in territories I need to look at a map to know where they are located. New Caledonia? Yeah, I didn't know either. Those questions that come from all over the world are from people trying to reconcile what is happening to what we all have been taught is "right" and "good."

Albeit subjective (the terms "right" and "good"), most people know that zip-tying children, armed ICE agents on roofs aiming at peaceful protestors and cross-wearing as one lies to the public is not what we know to be "right" and "good."

Where do you look when the world seems dark? As a pastor, I have unfortunately seen a lot of darkness. I've sat with rapists, murderers, parents who have lost their child, a spouse who finds out their partner is not faithful, students who lost a classmate to domestic violence, sexual assault victims and people who were just given a death sentence in a diagnosis.

In that moment, you can't make it okay. You can't manufacture goodness by gaslighting reality with magical thinking. We can't do that in our world now either.

At the risk of seeming naive, I believe there is always good in our world — even when we can't see it. I believe that most people are trying to do the best they can with what they have. I believe most people truly want to do what is "right" and what is "good." I believe most people are trying to make it through the day with as little negative impact on the world around them. I believe most people understand that good is far more sustainable than evil. I also believe that evil is exhausting and eventually, even the most diehard will run from it.

So, where do I look in order to answer the people who can't find it yet? Not to influencers on social media, not to the birds or the tea leaves, not to the powerful or the ones on top. Nope. I look to those who seek to make the world the kind of place they want to live in.

Here is an example: On Oct. 8, a large group of Vergennes-area friends and family of Juan De La Cruz traveled to St. Albans to support him at his scheduled ICE check-in. Several hundred people, which included many students of VUHS, made the trip to support a wonderful family. In order to

support a man who has worked and paid taxes to a country he is trying to stay in. With 70% detainees being held despite no criminal record, it felt a little hopeless. Though they understood the outcome was not guaranteed, people did not give up. They showed up. Juan was not detained. Community made a difference in support and hope.

Nihilism is the destination when we stop looking for light in a dark world. What if instead of being consigned to resignation we saw motivation in the world around us? What if we supported people, loved people, showed up for people? What if instead of being sucked into the belief that I should hate my neighbor, I love them instead?

I know, I just sound like a preacher. The advice stands. I have seen a lot of bad in my life as a pastor, that is true, but I also have seen a lot of good — especially, not in spite of, but especially when darkness seems to be threatening to overcome the light.

Don't give up. Be invested in our world. Love people and look for the good.

Bypass nihilism in a world that benefits when we see only the bad. Be the light.

That is how I answer those questions every week.

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen Addison

Bridport to hold community meeting on housing

Last summer, residents of our town participated in the Bridport Comes Together process, sponsored and organized by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. Over the course of three public meetings, Bridporters identified the shortage of housing as one of the town's most pressing concerns. Residents were especially concerned about the lack of housing for working singles and families, young people, and seniors. As a result

of those meetings, the town organized a Housing Task Force. Since its inception, the Task Force has been working tirelessly to determine how best to tackle this complicated and difficult problem. As part of this effort, the Task Force has initiated a planning process, known as a charrette, to obtain residents' input. The charrette will focus on the type and number of housing units, as well as the character of development the town might pursue, especially

in the town center along the Route 22A corridor. On Tuesday evening, October 21, from 6-9 PM in the Bridport Church Vestry, town residents and other interested parties are invited to drop in and share their views on the future of housing in our town. We need your views! Please stop by and help us address this important quality-of-life issue for our citizens.

Albert Zaccor, Chair, Bridport Housing Task Force

Jennings letter

(Continued from Page 4A) anywhere caused by protesters.

Let's be clear, this is not a rambling exaggeration on some insignificant topic. These are bald-faced lies by the president of the United States designed to justify his attempt to send troops from one state(s) to another against the objections of the mayor and governor and in violation of the Constitution. According to one expert this has never been done before in our history. So much for state's rights. It is widely known that Trump is building a case to

invoke the Insurrection Act. The Act would allow him, unilaterally, to send troops to squelch dissent by American citizens anywhere he wants in the U.S. without the consent of Congress. This is dangerous beyond words.

Let's not mince words. If Trump succeeds in invoking the Insurrection Act, this declaration of martial law would be another major step deeper into dictatorship. None of us, regardless of party affiliation or philosophy, would benefit from national military occupation.

Please think deeply about this, friends. Is this the America we want? If not, what are we citizens going to do about it? We cannot let this pass simply as Trump's outrage of the week and submit to this growing tyranny.

We need to peacefully protest in massive numbers. Please find a No Kings Day rally near you on Oct. 18 (Middlebury, Vergennes, Brandon, Burlington, Montpelier, and more) and show up for America. NoKings.org.

Howard Jennings Bristol

Actions against authoritarianism can be effective

People are understandably appalled, outraged, even frightened at what is going on in our country right now. Irresistible forces seem to be propelling us toward an authoritarian future. But there is evidence, both locally and nationally, that these forces can be resisted, and that individual actions, even small ones, make a difference.

Just last week, a crowd of 200 people, reinforced by local radio and TV crews, showed up at the ICE Field office in Saint Albans to show support for Juan De La Cruz. He was having a hearing to determine whether he would be detained and deported or allowed to remain in the state for his scheduled court hearing. After a tense 30-minute wait, joyful cheers and tears greeted the family as they emerged from the ICE building, announcing that the request to remain in the U.S.

had been granted. An example of more direct action was the dogged monitoring by activists of immigration officials who were using the Burlington Airport as a transit point for political prisoners whom they had apprehended and were preparing to deport. After extensive publicity and public pressure on the airport commission, backdoor access to the airport was closed. A clear message has been sent: This activity is not welcome here.

And on the national scene, late night TV host Jimmy Kimmel has been restored to his show after national protest by individuals, trade groups, celebrities, and others.

What these three examples have in common is concerned citizens shining a light on unlawful government activities and forcing the authorities to

backtrack. If you're concerned about the direction our country is taking you can write letters, make calls, send appreciative messages thanking public figures who stand up for our rights, attend protests, and much more. One such opportunity is occurring this coming Saturday, Oct. 18, when protests will be held in Vergennes, Middlebury, and Brandon as part of a national movement called No Kings Day. In Middlebury the theme is Let Freedom Ring. It will be on the Town Green from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please join your neighbors to defend American democracy. It is important for Americans across the country to show up in great numbers to demonstrate to the government that we are going to stand up for the rule of law.

Spence Putnam Weybridge

Gov. Scott praised for opposing Guard deployment

Editor's note: The writer sent this letter to Gov. Scott and copied it to the Independent.

As an occasional critic of yours, I am reaching out to acknowledge your praiseworthy actions on Thursday in opposing the inappropriate use of National Guard troops by the current Republican Administration. Thank you for showing the courage to oppose the ill-advised and often illegal use of federalized National Guard troops against U.S. citizens. Decent Americans are appalled at the blatant corruption of our current president, and we Vermonters

count on you to stand up to it, and to protect our state as far as possible from the harm it is doing to this country. I realize that you walk a fine line as a member of the corrupted national party governing a majority liberal state; it's important that our differences of political opinion do not prevent us from working constructively together to ensure the rights and freedoms of all Vermonters, and all Americans. Thank you for choosing to make this statement of integrity in support of the Constitution and the rule of law that characterizes a real democracy.

This was the report I read: "Yesterday, a second Republican governor, Phil Scott of Vermont, opposed the administration's deployment of federalized National Guard troops to Chicago and to Portland, Oregon. "I don't think our Guard should be used against our own people. I don't think the military should be used against our own people. In fact, it's unconstitutional," Scott said. "Unless, of course, there's an insurrection, much like we saw Jan. 6, a few years ago."

Tom Keefe Cornwall

Forum

(Continued from Page 4A) are and whatever your opinions are, you have a stake in protecting our democracy because you deserve the freedoms our Constitution protects.

Failure of our democracy is a failure for all.

So if you love America, if you value the political rights and civil liberties that define us as

Americans and want to preserve these for the next generation, let's work together to speak out against the dismantling of our democracy. Our grandparents fought fascism and we need to stand up against it too — for the sake of our kids and grandkids.

Join a No Kings Day peaceful protest near you this Saturday.

Letters to the editor

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

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

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

Ways

(Continued from Page 4A) their legacy clearly today, in the masked ICE assaulters let loose in our cities and on the back roads of Vermont.

Although these kinds of cruel abductions and family separations have been going on since before the American revolution, there is also a long tradition of fighting back. The more than 200 Vermonters who accompanied a Pantan man to his immigration check-in in St. Albans last week are a shining example of how we can show up for each other. They offered us all a beautiful example of empathy and solidarity with our neighbors, whatever their immigration status may be.

We are all in this together. Are we going to survive the climate emergency, the authoritarian takeover of a would be king, and the income inequality that is pushing more and more families into poverty and homelessness? That will depend on how deeply we can grasp the truth of our interconnectedness. This is what Palestine activists have been saying for a long, long time. What we allow to befall one group of humans in this world will eventually harm us all. When we stand up for each other, we have the chance to make it through.

Joanna Colwell is the founder of Otter Creek Yoga and the Yoga Equity Project, in Middlebury's Marble Works district. She is a proud member of Jewish Voice for Peace and the L'Chaim Collective. Joanna lives in Ripton.



COME CELEBRATE Middlebury Agway's Day of the Pumpkin Saturday 10/18/2025 11AM-2PM

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A Reporter's 35-year Journey through Addison County

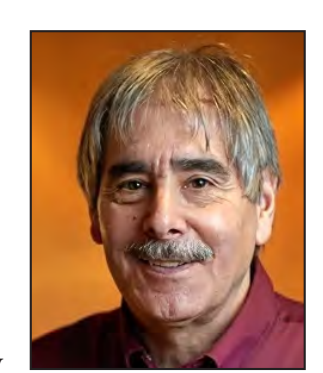
Thursday, October 23, 1:30-3:00 PM
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

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.


Einstein in a Nutshell

Tuesdays, October 28 & November 4, 10:00-11:30 AM
Middlebury Regional EMS, 55 Collins Drive

"It would take an Einstein to understand that" is a common phrase implying that Einstein's relativity is too challenging for mere mortals. Actually, relativity's basis is simple and straightforward. Understand that, and you'll see why surprising consequences follow. This course explains how Einstein resolved apparent contradictions in physics, explores relativity's implications for space and time and shows how Einstein's 1905 Special Theory of Relativity led to his General Theory - our current theory of gravity. **Rich Wolfson** is Professor of Physics & Environmental Studies, Emeritus, at Middlebury College. He taught at Middlebury through the early 2020s. He is the author of the textbook *Energy, Environment and Climate*, most recently updated in 2023.



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Angelo S. Lynn, Publisher
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10/16/25

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Jeremiah Nelson Beecher, 87, of Shelburne

SHELburne — Jeremiah “Jerry” Beecher of Shelburne, Vt., passed away on Oct. 8, 2025, at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Home.

Jerry was born on Nov. 4, 1937, in Middlebury, Vt., to Henry and Evelyn Shea Beecher. He graduated from Middlebury High School in 1956. After High School, Jerry entered the Navy in the administrative command and served until 1960. Upon discharge, he refined his trade and became a Journeyman Carpenter.

On May 18, 1963, he married Claire Vaillancourt at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington, Vt. He worked on many commercial projects while building our family home and finished his career at Fletcher Allen, UHC Campus, though he always remained active with carpentry for loved ones.

In his free time, Jerry enjoyed all sports, especially local college basketball, making a hobby of refereeing CYO and high school games. He was a member of the



JEREMIAH NELSON BEECHER

Carpenters Union, IAAB 105 Basketball Official Organization, and the Rutland Elks 345. He will be remembered for his love of sports, passion for polka music, and insatiable sweet tooth.

Jerry leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Claire, and his three children, Melissa Bonebo Hensen (William Hensen), James Beecher (Caroline Daniels), and Betsy

Beecher. He also leaves his three grandchildren, Olivia Bonebo, Vanessa Bonebo, and Reid Atwood (Erin Langevin); his sister, Marge Beecher Cole; brother-in-law, David Vaillancourt (Annie Audet); nephew Christopher Cole (Rose Burroughs), and niece Alison Vaillancourt Telgenhoff (Michael Telgenhoff and children, Jacob, Emily, and Joshua).

He was predeceased by his daughter, Sarah Beecher; parents, Henry and Evelyn Beecher; sister, Ellen Beecher; and brothers-in-law, Paul Vaillancourt and Phillip Cote.

The family is very grateful to the staff for the care given to Jerry in the Memory Care Unit. They treated him like he was a member of their own family.

There will be a graveside service at the family's convenience. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Helen Porter Memory Garden at Helen Porter Nursing Home, 115 Porter Drive, Middlebury, VT 05753. ◊

James Samuel Timothy Todd, 46, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — James Samuel Timothy Todd, age 46, passed away suddenly at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

James was born in Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Calif., and at an early age moved to Middlebury with his father, Tim (deceased); mother, Susan; and sisters, Andrea and Emma. He loved his time at the Farm & Wilderness summer camp Flying Cloud, living off grid.

James was most at home in nature — animals, trees, camping, fishing, bonfires. James was a goalie and loved playing lacrosse for MUHS, and he graduated from the ART program. James trained at the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School in Purcell, Okla., and was a professional



JAMES SAMUEL TIMOTHY TODD

farrier. He spent five years in Truth or Consequence, N.M., near his mother. He worked for many years with food, catering,

and in the restaurant business. He lived in Fort Bragg, Calif., where he worked for Roundman's specialty food company.

James traveled across the country several times before he eventually returned to Middlebury. Vermont was always the place of his heart and home. He was most recently part of the Food Services Department in Middlebury College. James was a kind soul, who had a cracking sense of humor, loved his tools, food, animals and the weather!

He will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Kirk Alumni Center, Middlebury College Golf Course. Contributions in his name can be made to: Turning Point www.turningpointaddisonvt.org/ ◊

Ronald H. Vincent, 84, of Addison

ADDISON — Ronald H. Vincent, 84, passed away at his home in Addison on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025. Ronald was born in North Ferrisburgh, Vt., on Aug. 29, 1941, the son of Lawrence and Leola (Carpenter) Vincent.

Ronald married his high school sweetheart, Joyce (Irwin) Vincent, and together they shared their love for the family they created, and 60 wonderful years of marriage.

Ronald will be remembered by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as a steady, gentle presence — the calm one who never seemed to get ruffled. He approached his work with tireless dedication and pride, spending 49 years with the same employer, where he worked alongside his boss and good friend Bill Findeisen. He was a man of quiet strength whose love was shown through steadfast devotion to his family, whom he cherished above all else. Whether tending to his land, caring for his wife, or finding a way to make it to his grandchildren's games, he always made the effort to be there. His gentle (and sometimes quirky) humor, hardworking spirit, and the familiar “Oh yeah” will forever echo our hearts.

From a young age, Ronald



RONALD H. VINCENT

had a special bond with animals, and his compassion extended to all living things. He had a deep love for the land and took great pride in caring for it and for the creatures, great and small, that called it home. Another passion he shared — one that carried on to several of his children — was his love of planes and motorcycles. On warm summer evenings, it was common to see him riding through Addison County, enjoying the open road and the beauty of the countryside he loved so much.

He is survived by his children, Jeff Kasupski (Anne), Tina Telgen (Ron), William Vincent

(Patricia), Cathy Vincent, Wyatt Vincent (Chris), Wade Vincent (Yolanda), Michael Vincent (JoAllen), Chad Vincent (Nami), and Jason Vincent (Tricia); grandchildren Kyle and Kevin Kasupski, Nicole Paquette (Heath), Michelle Davis (Russ), Kimberly Moulton (Ryan), William Vincent (Ciera Hoyt), Elise Taufa'asau-Vincent, Nina Taufa'asau-Vincent Armstrong (Robert), Cheyanne Toledano (Harvey), Allen Vincent (Allie Clark), Makayla Vincent, and Payton Vincent; and great-grandchildren Reese, Liam, Lydia, Jed, and Hana Paquette, Jonah and Cameron Davis, Michael Taufa'asau-Vincent, Robert Armstrong Jr., Anuhea Armstrong, Genevieve Toledano, and Griffin Vincent.

He was predeceased by his wife, parents, his brother Alva “Buck” Vincent, his sister Laverna (Vincent) Bassett, and his dear friend Bill Findeisen.

Calling hours and a time of remembrance will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. Family and friends are invited to gather afterward at the Vincent home on Route 22A in Addison to take time to celebrate his life. ◊

LuAnn Boutin, 71, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — LuAnn Boutin, a beloved resident of Starksboro, Vt., passed away peacefully in her home on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025. Born on May 30, 1954, in Barre, she was the daughter of Perley and Colleen Hudson Goslant Jr. of Plainfield, Vt.

LuAnn's interests and passions included crafting, puzzles, diamond dots, and playing cards.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Mark, and three children: David, Douglas, and Elizabeth, whom she shared with her late ex-husband, Philip Lee. Additionally, she was the grandmother of four wonderful grandchildren: Jocelyn, Braeden, Hunter and Evan.



LUANN BOUTIN

Her life was complex, and her relationships reflected that. While she is no longer with us, she leaves

behind children and family who carry forward with resilience, compassion, and strength. Through life's challenges, they have grown in ways that honor their own stories and futures.

The family will gather privately to remember, reflect and support one another during this difficult time. A celebration of life will be planned for next summer, where we will come together to celebrate LuAnn.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that kindness be extended to others and that love be shown in everyday acts. To send online condolences to her family, please visit www.brownmclayfuneralhomes.com. ◊

Marjorie K. Dickstein, 58, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Marjorie K. Dickstein, 58, of Starksboro, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, at McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester. Arrangements are in the care of the Pruneau-Polli Funeral Home, 58 Summer Street in Barre.

Stanford K. Pritchard, 81, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Stanford K. Pritchard, 81 years old and a long-time resident of Middlebury, died Sept. 28, 2025, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Born Nov. 23, 1943, and raised in Washington, D.C., he earned the Eagle Award, Scouting's highest achievement, at the age of 13. He graduated from Haverford College with a B.A. in philosophy and later studied at the University of Chicago on a Rockefeller Fellowship. He worked as a freelance writer in Chicago, then worked or wrote for *The New York Review of Books*, *Cavalier*, and *The New York Free Press*. He taught at Breadloaf Young Writers Conference.

He was the author of five novels, and collections of short stories, poetry, and plays. Nine productions of his plays were produced in New



STANFORD K. PRITCHARD

York City, including two on 42nd Street. He played and taught jazz piano professionally. He had a great love for music and art. ◊

Ancil Henry Derrick, 82, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Ancil Henry Derrick, 82, passed away Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, at University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born Aug. 12, 1943, in Middlebury, the son of Sanford and Audna Crowningshield Derrick. He enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Ancil is survived by his son, Paul Derrick of Milton; three cousins, Joyce Atwood of Addison, Betty Brileya of Shoreham and Joyce Cameron of Addison; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Doris Derrick in 1992; a son, Jonathan Derrick in 1989;

two brothers, Richard Derrick and Raymond Derrick; and a sister, Helen (Derrick) Quagliano.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, at Grandview Cemetery in Addison. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmclayfuneralhomes.com. ◊

Carol Ann Warner, 69, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Carol Ann Warner, born on Aug. 24, 1956, in Annapolis, Md., passed away on Oct. 5, 2025.

She was predeceased by her parents, Earl and Shirley Warner, and her brothers Richard, James and Ronald “Bigger” Warner.

She is survived by her brothers Gary Warner and William Warner, sisters Susan Warner-Murray and Joyce Warner, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Carol graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 1977. She went on to lead an independent life for many years. Carol had a huge heart that was filled with love for children. Through the years she provided babysitting services for



CAROL ANN WARNER

many, giving love and kindness and acceptance for their needs.

Carol learned quilting from a dear friend, and through the years she provided everyone she loved with lap blankets or quilts. She also made blankets to donate to nursing homes and small quilts for sick infants and children.

Carol loved traveling and seeing new things and places away from home. Through the years she belonged to a group called “Voices for Choices” and had the opportunity to travel to Washington state, Washington D.C., and Florida. She acted as a representative for those without a voice.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Addison County Home-health & Hospice. ◊

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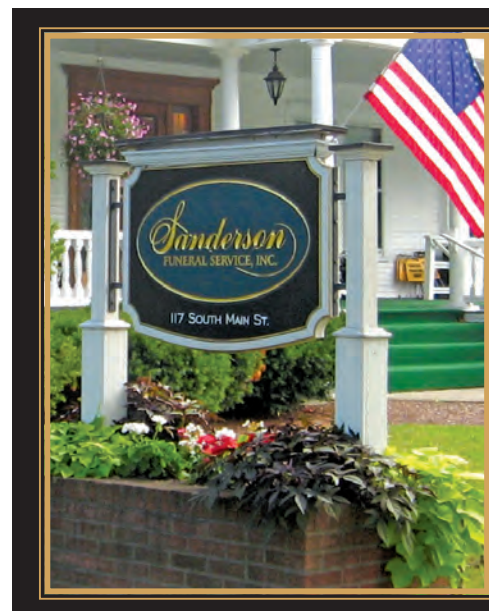
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ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Natalie Adams, of Monkton, was named to the President's List at Bryant University two semesters in a row. The President's List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant's highest achievers who earn a GPA of 4.0 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work.



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A SCENE FROM the underworld as depicted in "The Magician" shows an eerie sight. The 1926 silent film will be screened with live music this Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall.

Ghoulish 1926 silent film "The Magician" to screen in Brandon

BRANDON — Long before the movies depicted Dr. Frankenstein's famous laboratory, an earlier film pioneered the mad scientist genre.

It was "The Magician" (1926), a silent MGM thriller, and will be shown with live music for one screening only on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Live music will be provided by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire performer and composer who specializes in scoring and presenting silent films.

"The Magician" opens in Paris, where Oliver Haddo, a charlatan magician/chemist seeking to create life, lurks in the shadows of the city's medical community.

Haddo observes an emergency surgery performed on young sculptor Margaret Dauncey following an accident in her studio. The surgery is performed by a dashing young doctor, Arthur Burdon, who begins to develop a romance with Dauncey during her recovery.

Meanwhile, Haddo discovers an ancient formula for creating

life that requires exotic materials, including "the blood of a virgin." Haddo sets his sights on Dauncey, who becomes caught between the mesmerizing scientist, whom she is unable to resist, and the love of the surgeon.

To exert control over Dauncey, Haddo hypnotizes her, which leads to a bizarre sequence set in a fantastically grotesque underworld.

The story takes a dramatic turn when Haddo abducts Dauncey and takes her to his laboratory in a tower high atop a craggy mountain. As thunder and lightning terrorize superstitious villagers below, Dauncey is tied to a table as Haddo prepares to proceed with his experiment.

Can the mad scientist be stopped before it's too late? Can Dauncey be rescued from an unthinkable horrible predicament?

"The Magician," directed by Rex Ingraham, was based on a 1908 story by English author William Somerset Maugham, who was born in Paris and at one time was a medical student. Released by MGM, it was considered a lost film until copies surfaced in the 1990s.

Since its rediscovery, the

melodramatic thriller has been recognized as an influential predecessor to such horror classics as "Dracula" (1931) and "Frankenstein" (1931).

The film stars Alice Terry as Dauncey, Paul Wegener as Haddo, and Ivan Petrovich as Dr. Arthur Burdon.

Rapsis will use a digital synthesizer to recreate the sound and texture of the full orchestra when he provides live music for "The Magician."

"The Magician" is a terrific film for Halloween" said Rapsis, who improvises accompaniment using musical material he composes beforehand. "It has suspense, terror, and spooky settings — everything you need to get into the spirit of the season."

"The Magician" is appropriate for family audiences, although it includes intense scenes that may frighten very small children.

"If you've never seen a silent film in a theater with live music and an audience, this is a great way to experience the medium at its best," Rapsis said. "When you put all the elements together, silent film still has an ability to stir up an audience."

Letters to the Editor

There are many reasons to protest this Saturday

On Saturday, Oct. 18, in thousands of locations across the country, Americans will be standing up in peaceful protest to President Trump, his loyalist administrators, and ICE — his expanding domestic police force.

If you are uncomfortable with

- The President's reckless and broad scale dismantling of the Federal Government;

- His mass arrest, detention and deportation of members of our immigrant community, often without regard to their legal status;
- His demand for access to and potential abuse of personal information of millions of Americans traditionally protected by Federal agencies;

- His arbitrary withholding or canceling of billions of dollars in funds that Congress has officially appropriated;

- His commandeering use of the Justice Department to prosecute his personal enemies, and his reckless efforts to associate various liberal organizations, and Democrats generally, with supposed violence or terrorist activity;
- His arbitrary attacks on

Venezuelan fishing boats in International waters, murdering all on board — with no evidence, no intelligence, and no authority from Congress;

- His use of military force to police our cities, with no apparent need, and over the emphatic objections of local mayors and state governors;

- His commandeering oversight of national arts and cultural institutions to control their content and whitewash history;

- His leveraging of Federal funding power to limit or control the academic freedom of private universities;

- His acceptance of gifts, emoluments, and personal charity contributions from foreign governments in violation of the Constitution, and, generally;

- His arbitrary and wholesale expansion of Presidential power in direct violation of its Constitutional limits;

It is important to stand up and let this President — and everyone else — know that he is acting without the authority of the American people! The numbers and strength of this protest must

be counted and recognized. Your presence at any of the peaceful gatherings below will make this message clear!

Attend a No Kings event. Find a local location online at 50501vermont.com/event/no-kings-2-statewide.

NO KINGS is more than just a slogan — it's the foundation our nation was built upon. Born in the streets, carried by millions in chants and on posters, it echoes from city blocks to rural town squares, uniting people across this country to fight dictatorship together... We won't back down against chaos, corruption and cruelty! Bring a flag or a sign, bring a friend, and join us!

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

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No Kings Day

(Continued from Page 1A)
in U.S. cities, and defying court orders.

Organizers of the nationwide protest expect participation to exceed the 5 million people who took part in the first No Kings Day protests on June 14.

Addison County residents like Howard Jennings of Bristol are encouraging people to let their neighbors and their elected representatives know they're opposed to the way President Donald Trump has been flouting American tradition and U.S. laws.

"Let's not mince words. If Trump succeeds in invoking the Insurrection Act, the declaration of martial law would be another major step deeper into dictatorship," Jennings said in a letter published in today's edition. "None of us, regardless of party affiliation or philosophy, would benefit from national military occupation... Is this the America we want?"

Locally, No Kings Day protests are scheduled Oct. 18 in Middlebury, 1 a.m.-1p.m., Court Square; Vergennes, 10 a.m.-noon in City Park on Main Street; and Brandon, 10 a.m.-noon at Central Park on Route 7.

For a complete list of locations for the No Kings events, visit NoKings.org.

At the Vergennes No Kings rally, participants will be able to enjoy music and activities for children and bring a sign for a "honk and wave." A slate of community speakers will deliver a message of strength through unity, draw inspiration from past and current progress, and stress the importance of everyone developing a role in building a sustained movement that cares for all people in our country.

"Coming together in this way inspires us to remember the power of 'we the people,'" said organizer Allison Rimmer. "We can unite on so many issues: healthcare, the environment, kids being safe in their schools, taking care of veterans. We choose to focus on what unites us."

Others are not so conciliatory when describing reasons to protest, including "the cruel, vindictive, and destructive policies of the Trump Administration," the group Indivisible Middlebury wrote in a Front Porch Forum post.

It continues, "From ignoring the rule of law, to bullying and alienating long-time friendly nations and allies, from

destabilizing the economy and putting hundreds of farmers and small businesses at risk, to gutting agencies that protect food, worker, and environmental safety, from cutting healthcare funding that will directly cause tens of thousands of deaths, to insulting and demeaning military generals and leaders, from demonizing, kidnapping and deporting thousands of tax-paying immigrant neighbors to attempting to erase the existence of trans persons, Donald Trump has demonstrated that he is a cruel, anti-democratic bully interested in his own power and financial gain."

Locally and nationally, No Kings Day organizers are stressing the events will not call for violence.

The protests are scheduled to take place rain or shine.

For a complete list of locations for the No Kings events, visit NoKings.org.

VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11, 2025

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JennaH@addisonindependent.com.

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Cars galore

MIDDLEBURY'S MAIN STREET was packed this past Sunday with 75 classic cars and trucks, over 30 vendors and a variety of other activities — all part of this year's Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival. Pictured clockwise from top right; David Pearce, 93, stands by a 1953 Chevrolet Bel Air reminiscent of rides from his youth; one car offers spooky décor; a Bel Air bumper sits in the lineup; Wile E. Coyote catches a ride; Chester's Larry Carbonetti sits behind the wheel of his '73 Lotus Elan Sprint; Middlebury's Linda Schiffer shows off the 1952 MG TD she built from a kit; an English car's license plate points to its roots; Peter Beckett of Middlebury looks like he is ready to take off in his 1957 Lotus racer.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Climate matters

Perspectives on Change

EV drivers can now overcome range anxiety

By GREG DENNIS

Decades from now, people will look back at the time when vehicles were once powered by fossil fuels. And they'll regard those vehicles the same way we see the practice of using leeches as medicine.

"Can you believe they actually drove millions of cars with gasoline?" they will say. "People did that even when they knew burning gas was making the global climate so hot and unstable that large parts of the planet became increasingly unlivable."

When that time comes, electric vehicles will be the norm and gas a rarity, just as sophisticated medical treatments have replaced leeches that once bled unsuspecting patients to death.

Perhaps by then, a few folks will also recall a footnote to the bygone era of burning fossil fuels: "It's so weird," they might say. "People used to worry how far they would be able to drive an EV until the battery ran out." Today there persists the widespread belief that electric vehicles are too limited for anything but short excursions. The Great American Road Trip? That's for gas-guzzling RVs, not cars run on batteries, right?

Not anymore. Unless you drive a late-model EV yourself, you're probably under the impression that so-called "range anxiety" is still a thing. I was, too, until I leased an electric car and realized how easy it has become to take an EV on a long trip.

Several factors drove me to lease an EV this summer. One was the successful Republican push to eliminate federal EV tax credits as of Sep. 30. (Green Mountain Power still offers qualified customers rebates up to \$3,200.) Another factor was my longstanding effort to reduce my own greenhouse gas footprint.

Another factor was the smoke. I'd been driving a plug-in hybrid Hyundai Tucson. I decided to go fully electric during another summer of smoky skies from wildfires in Canada — which polluted our air for weeks on end and were driven by climate change.

Voting as a consumer seemed to be one of the few ways to make a difference amid the choking smoke.

Even with Trump's war on climate action, it's predicted that by 2030 there will be electric cars that have a range of 600 miles, more than most gas-powered vehicles. America already has about 12,000 fast-charging stations. A powerful consortium plans to build 30,000 more at "rechargeries" (chargers, canopies and retail outlets) over the next five years.

In Addison County today, there are a few dozen public chargers. High-speed chargers are available in Middlebury and are abundant in Vergennes. But what's it like today for an EV driver on a long trip? My first real test came when I decided to drive to and from mid-

coast Maine.

Vermonters who drive to Maine usually spend much of the trip in New Hampshire. Which is fine if you're driving a gas-powered car. But before this year, traversing the Granite State could make for a stressful journey between fast chargers unless you had a Tesla.

That has changed in the electrically brave new world of 2025: Tesla is opening up its expansive network of chargers to other EVs — making it much more practical to use a non-Tesla EV to travel long distances.

With a summertime battery range approaching 350 miles, I could theoretically make it all the way from here to Portland, Maine, without recharging. But I was new to the process and didn't know if I could believe the manufacturer's range estimates.

I blasted my way over Middlebury Gap to I-89 and onto I-93, stopping at the New Hampshire state rest stop to get coffee and recharge at the Tesla stations identified on my PlugShare app. The app reported plenty of open stations.

But there was a problem: I had failed to notice that this bank of stations was reserved only for Teslas.

Nonetheless, I knew there was another bank of Tesla chargers open to all EVs at a Target store just four miles away. Zipping down there, I plugged in, got a quick to-go bite at a Wendy's across the street, and was on my way, fully recharged in 20 minutes.

Cruising to and from my destination of Boothbay Harbor — a nice town but one without fast chargers — I stopped to charge and have lunch in Brunswick, Maine, at the popular Wild Oats Cafe. I charged again at the Target in New Hampshire on the way home.

I learned on my Maine trip that the typical rookie answer to range anxiety is to charge more frequently, even when there are many miles left in the battery. One nice thing I've discovered since then: It dissolves range anxiety knowing there is an available high-speed charger within reach. Just in the past year, the combination of reliable apps, stronger car batteries, and the rapidly expanding charger network have greatly eased EV charging anxiety.

On a trip a couple weeks ago to kayak in the Adirondacks, I drove through the High Peaks and back home without bothering to recharge. Nonetheless, once I was back home, I plugged in my home charger ... even though I still had nearly 150 miles of range left on the Kia. Just in case I decided to make a last-minute trip to Maine.

Greg Dennis usually charges his EV at home in Cornwall. Email: gregdennisvt@yahoo.com.



Fun facts about electric vehicles

While most of us think of EVs as a new technology, the first commercially available electric vehicle was produced in 1894. It was called the Electrobat. And no, it didn't come out to fly around on Halloween and scare the children.

Among other names of early EVs were the Henney Kilowatt, the Electrovaire (based on the ill-fated "unsafe at any speed" Corvaire), the Corbin Sparrow and the Commuta-Car. The current burst of EVs emerged in 2011 with the Nissan Leaf.

As concerns rose about air pollution from cars and trucks, in the late 20th century it was clear that just cleaning up gas vehicle emissions would not be enough to slow climate-warming emissions.

Manufacturers, incentivized by public pressure and legislation, responded with diesels, including VW's fraudulent scheme to fake emission tests. Makers also

offered increasingly popular gas hybrid cars that benefited from regenerative braking.

Next came plug-in hybrids, which are slightly cleaner because they can be charged and run for around 30 miles on battery-only before switching to hybrid electric/gas power. But hybrids don't do much to solve the gas-powered transportation that is Vermont's biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution.

On a global scale, automobile and truck transportation is a massive contributor to the highly dangerous changes we are experiencing to weather and climate. If we want to do our part to substantially reduce a piece of that pollution, we need to switch to ride sharing, public transit (a difficult option in rural Vermont), an electric vehicle — or all three.

Although EVs are more expensive and dirtier to

manufacture, operating and maintenance costs (e.g. no oil changes) are significantly lower. And during the lifecycle of the vehicle, they are cleaner than gas-powered ones. That's true even if the EV is charged on a relatively dirty electrical grid where coal and natural gas dominate. For its part, Vermont has one of the cleanest grids in the nation.

Globally, about two-thirds of electric vehicles are produced in China, which also provides more than 85% of battery capacity. Chinese vehicles can't be legally sold in the U.S.

America under Trump and the GOP is pursuing increased emphasis on the older and dirtier technologies of coal, oil and natural gas. China, by comparison, is in the process of lowering its greenhouse gas emissions, especially in new vehicles.

— Greg Dennis



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School districts

(Continued from Page 1A)

economies of scale, increasing state and federal mandates, and soaring special education and health insurance rates.

The 11-member Redistricting Task Force—which has no Addison County appointees—is crafting up to three different school district configurations for the Legislature to consider beginning this January. Lawmakers could choose one of the three maps, an amalgam, or reject the panel's suggestions. If the General Assembly does adopt a map, the new school districts would take effect beginning in the 2028-2029 academic year, according to the Act 73 timetable.

As the *Independent* went to press on Wednesday, the task force had yet to draft its first map; it has until December to get its work done, and it continues to crunch numbers and take testimony. With that in mind, the task force is holding a series of public hearings. Its most recent hearing was Oct. 10 at Oxbow High School in Bradford. Remaining public hearings are slated for Thursday, Oct. 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Leland & Gray High School in

Townshend; Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6-8 p.m. at Rutland High School; and Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6-8 p.m. at Winooski High School. You can attend the meetings virtually; find the links at tinyurl.com/mwejsud8. Submit your written testimony to ADM.Redistricting@vermont.gov.

The *Independent* checked in to the task force's Oct. 10 gathering, at which the panel—among other things—heard a presentation on how school services and supplies might be offered more efficiently and cost-effectively through five regional "Boards of Cooperative Education Services," known as BOCES.

The task force reviewed a map of five potential BOCES. One of those BOCES included schools in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties, containing a combined 34,104 students.

"All the things a BOCES model would do, all of our districts are trying to do right now—whether that's for literacy, professional development, or figuring out how to buy bulk toilet paper for eight districts versus 30 districts," said task force member Jen Botzjorn, former Kingdom East superintendent and one of the architects of the Oct. 10 BOCES presentation.

Officials reviewed the BOCES configuration simply as a regional services map—and not, at least yet, as a proposed school governance structure.

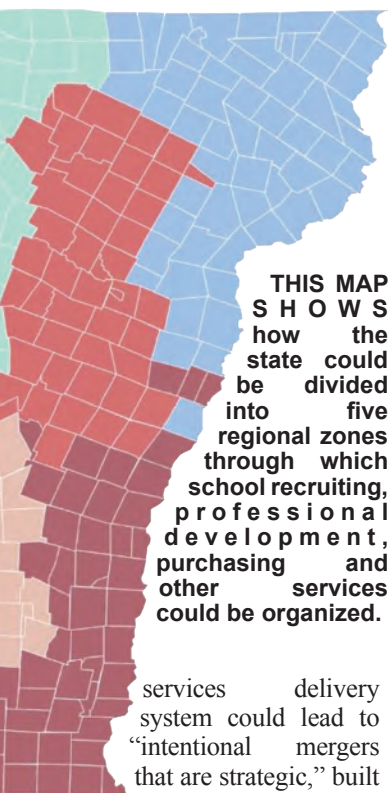
Among other things, proponents said a BOCES regional services structure could:

- Increase "regional resilience" to potential federal funding cuts.
- Allow for better pooling of expertise to troubleshoot regional education challenges.
- Provide more purchasing power (and thus lower costs) for school supplies and equipment.
- Aid in recruitment and offer more sharing of personnel among schools.

Around 66% of Vermont meets the federal definition of having a rural population, according to the task force's findings. Some other states with similarly high "rural population rates"—including Maine (61.5%), West Virginia (55.2%), Mississippi (55.4%) and Montana (47.1%)—have BOCES management systems for their schools. Vermont does not.

The four aforementioned states with BOCES all offer public education at lower per-pupil costs than Vermont, task force officials noted.

Botzjorn believes a BOCES



services delivery system could lead to "intentional mergers that are strategic," built on principles of local input, optimizing high school size at a minimum of 350 students, being mindful of transition costs, paving the way for state construction aid and putting the brakes on more school choice.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

While Vermont hasn't yet opted for a BOCES configuration, Botzjorn acknowledged the state has made progress in streamlining school governance. Since 2007, it has pared its number of school districts by 56% and decreased its number of schools by 8%. Those changes have in large part been spurred by declining enrollment and Act 46 of 2016.

David Wolk, a Middlebury College graduate, is also a member of the School District Redistricting Task Force. His extensive résumé includes service as a teacher, superintendent of Rutland City schools, Vermont Education commissioner, state senator, chief of policy under former Gov. Howard Dean, and president of Castleton University.

Wolk and state Sen. Scott Beck (another task force member) have been working on a Career and Technical Education (CTE) map for the state, which remains a work in progress.

Speaking as an individual task force member, Wolk believes the state's CTE system could greatly inform the panel's maps drawing assignment.

He noted each tech center—including the Patricia Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury—has its own governing boards, director, budget and ancillary services, including accounting, counseling and special education support.

"You already have a framework there, and some history at each of the career center. Each program has an advisory board made up of professionals from the community.

(See Schools, Page 14A)

Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)

owned by Vermont Industrial Parks LLC, an entity related to J.P. Carrara & Sons of Middlebury.

Kahn described Vergennes North: "The goal there is to create 74 units of housing affordable to people of middle income, in multi-family dwellings, duplex and single-family homes."

Kahn told the Vergennes City Council he has been invited to seek a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant to help pay for needed project infrastructure, and is also looking for Vergennes to support a project-based Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal.

City officials would have to apply for both, and are already working with Kahn on the NBRC application. However, the TIF proposal can only move forward after officials agree to seek a bond, and Vergennes voters approve it.

Kahn told the council on Sept. 23 that rising construction costs would make it too expensive to create workforce housing for buyers with average incomes without backing from the city. His homes on Commodore Drive are going for up to \$800,000 even though he bought the land 20 years ago. He said he is trying to keep the selling prices on North Main Street much lower.

"We need help with the infrastructure because without road, water and sewer that we're not paying for, there's no way to come out with something that's not high-end," Kahn said. "We can't go high-end. I don't want to go high-end. I don't think that's what the city wants. It's not the right site for it, anyway. So to come out with anything that, say, normal people can afford, in a medium income bracket, we need help with the infrastructure."

POTENTIAL PLUSES

Addison County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Alex Armani-Munn made the case for workforce housing—and for a project-based TIF project to support Vergennes North. He echoed a widely shared belief—lack of housing is hurting the state's economy.

"It became apparent to me very quickly... that you can't help businesses grow and thrive here without adequate housing," he told the council Sept. 23.

Armani-Munn made a case for Vergennes bonding for a TIF project.

First, the central idea behind Tax Increment Financing, or TIF, is that a municipality can bond to create infrastructure that allows the private sector to create more valuable real estate. Then, the higher property-tax revenue generated from the improved property not only pays back the bond, but also leaves the municipality with property assessed at a higher rate than previously, thus generating more tax revenue.

In the case of Vergennes North, the undeveloped land off North Main Street under contract is now assessed at \$308,300. Certainly there is no way of pinning down what 74 units of housing in Vergennes would be worth several years from now.

But Kahn estimated that based on assessments of other single-family and multi-family homes he has developed in Vergennes and using current assessment rates in the city, that Vergennes North project's 74 units on 14.4 developed acres would conservatively be assessed at more than \$17 million. That figure would likely be higher by the time the project is built out, he added.

It's important to note that project-based TIFs, or Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) projects, are a new concept just authorized by the Legislature in the spring. Both rental and homeownership projects are eligible, and Vergennes North would blend both.

Vermont's previous 10 TIFs are district-based and have taken three-to-five years to establish, but have been as short as 18 months. CHIP TIFs are intended to be more streamlined, but the rules are being created now and won't be released until November. Thus there are unknowns at this point about timetables and process.

Certainly, the district TIFs have been productive for Vermont communities, as Armani-Munn said they have been in other states. He offered data at the Sept. 23 council meeting for tax revenue on parcels before TIF and after:

- In Winooski, it went from around \$822,000 to about \$3.6 million in FY2024.
- In South Burlington, it went from around \$662,000 to a projected \$6.7 million.
- In St. Albans, it grew from about \$1.5 million to about \$5.53 million in 2024.

QUESTIONS

In an interview with the *Independent*, City Manager Ron Redmond praised the concept of TIF financing, but was not positive Vergennes was in a position to take advantage of its benefits.

Redmond did not rule out pursuing a project-based TIF to boost Vergennes North, but cited potential drawbacks.

Possibly his most serious concern is the city's competing needs to bond for the money.

Redmond acknowledged there is some good news on the bonding front. Because of the city's recent reappraisal of taxable property, the Vergennes grand list has grown, thus increasing the city's bonding capacity.

"It went from about \$25 million to \$45 million," Redmond said.

Then there's the flip side. Rising construction costs the Redmond called "unbelievable" are hitting the city's overhaul of its wastewater collection and treatment system.

That project is still in the design and estimating stages, and that's just one potential drain of the city's bonding capacity.

"We're going to have to bond for the fire station, because the floor is falling in," Redmond said.

There are options for that building, including just fixing the floor, but Redmond said the city will also talk with its partners in fire protection—Ferrisburgh, Panton and Waltham—about an alternative station that could better serve all the communities.

"Do we spend more on that building, or do look at another possibility," Redmond said. He added he would recommend to the council this week that it establish a building committee to study options.

Neither Redmond nor Kahn envision a TIF district, which Redmond said he and Armani-Munn learned in a visit with those who backed a successful Rutland TIF District application was not only a three-to-five year process, but also an expensive and time-consuming one.

Redmond was also concerned that with the project-based TIF application process and timetable unknown it could hamper Kahn's plans for Vergennes North.

"There's a lot of process that is involved. And Peter Kahn is probably too far along to (use a CHIP TIF)," Redmond said, while acknowledging late last week he had yet to confer with Kahn on the question. "We would have to slow everything down, and he may not want to do that."

Kahn said on that point, given what's at stake, he'd take his chances. He told the *Independent* it is too early to say a TIF— at least a CHIP TIF—cannot not play a role in making Vergennes North a reality.

"My general understanding is that (a TIF district) would take years, while the new CHIP program is more streamlined and project specific," he wrote in an email. "I believe the guidelines for CHIP are supposed to come out this winter. We want to wait to see the guidelines before making any decisions about how to proceed."

Armani-Munn told the council it should consider the proposal.

"Peter's project is really well-positioned to be a great candidate for TIF because of the need to extend water, sewer and road infrastructure to serve the project," he said.

Kahn also told the council the Northern Borders documentation could help the city with the TIF application, and Armani-Munn agreed the two applications could be complementary because grantors don't want to be the first to award, but prefer to be the donor that pushes a project over the finish line.

"What this (the TIF application) does is it gives you that first dollar in," he said. "It makes both applications stronger."

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT 2025 Addy Indy Garden Game

This week brought four new entries. **Carol Krawczyk** submitted a lovely (and lengthy!) white carrot, measuring 12.5" L x 9" C, just narrowly surpassing the current record holder to take the lead. **Elka Przyperhart**, a budding green thumb, contributed two impressive veggies: a 6.25" C parsnip and a winter squash measuring 12" L x 23.5" C, earning her the top spot in both categories. **Donna Bezanson** brought a taste of summer with a 26.25" C "all-natural" watermelon, which puts her in the star position. Lastly, **Ted Foster** entered a 5" C parsnip. While it's a beautiful entry, it just misses taking the lead.

Calling all final entries!
The last week of this year's Garden Game is here.

Winners will be announced in next week's October 23rd edition, so be sure to get your last submissions in before Monday, October 20th.

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) - Carol Krawczyk, 12.5" x 9"
- 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) - Donna Bezanson, 26.25"
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 15.25"
- Parsnip (circumference) - Elka Przyperhart, 6.25"
- 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) - Elka Przyperhart, 12" x 23.5"
- Zucchini (length x circumference) - Julie Lonergan, 24" x 19"

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*PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.

Friend

(Continued from Page 1A)
it to be set ablaze, casting the sculptors' deep reflections and affections skyward.

"The kids have been talking a great deal about Mak, crying, laughing remembering old stories, thinking about the fleetingness and fragility of life, and trying to transform their sadness into good intentions and hopes and ways of keeping Mak's spirit alive," said Tal Birdsey, the school's head teacher, co-founder and director.

"He was one of those beautiful people who have no filters," he recalled of his former student. "He loved openly, sang openly, joked openly. Maybe he had an awareness that he had to get (joy) while he could. Everyone loved him deeply."

"Burning school" has been a 10-year tradition at NBS, a grades 7-9 independent school off Lincoln Road in Ripton. The tradition sprang from a past student's study of the Burning Man Festival, an annual arts/culture event held in the Nevada desert. The festival is in part built on the principle of "leave no trace."

North Branch students decided to adopt their own "Burning School" event, each October, at a gathering of the school community (including parents and alums). They dine together and then witness a series of ceremonial flourishes. One of the highlights is the burning of a student-created, wooden sculpture crafted by that year's enrollees.

"We put a pile of lumber out, and they build something. I bring out saws, screw guns, screws and measuring tape, and they come up with something," Birdsey said.

Each year's NBS student body has artistic license over its burning school sculpture. The only similarity from year to year is that the sculpture begins its life as an empty vessel that receives mementos and messages from those invested in it.

"It's like putting flesh on the body. It's a way of marking your place in the world and saying who you are, what's important to you, and who's important to you," Birdsey said. "The extra layer this year was saying something to Mak, remembering him."

This year's edition is a lattice work of conjoined sticks, formed into a mountain shape that one can enter and see through. The students have appropriately dubbed it "Mount Makalu," which, incidentally, is a real-life peak in the Himalayas. Mak's dad had climbed Mt. Makalu — the fifth-highest mountain in the world (27,838 feet) — and shared the moniker with his son.

This year's ninth-graders — who had attended seventh grade with Mak — adorned the sculpture with photos of, and messages for, their departed former classmate.

"Look around; you are loved," read one message.

"I love you Mak," read another, above a photo of the then-young boy preparing to launch a toy boat in a pond.

Some of the other Mount Makalu embellishments included writings, sayings and/or poems from famous folks, like William Shakespeare and Albert Einstein. Many of the quotes emphasized the realization



SIMON DONNELLY, LEFT, and Rupert Suhr, former classmates of the late Makalu Bagnulo, stand in front of a wooden sculpture they helped make as a tribute to their longtime friend.

Independent photo/Steve James



NORTH BRANCH STUDENT Yaz Stillman-Utterback holds a lantern illuminated as part of this past Saturday's "Burning School" ceremony.

Independent photo/Steve James

of self-worth and/or the importance of appreciating others.

Virtually nothing on the NBS's Mount Makalu could be deemed frivolous; Birdsey attached family photos, including one of himself and his then-infant child.

The investment of time, emotion and effort makes the eventual burning of the sculpture more meaningful and cathartic.

"This is also pedagogically related to what we do; we start the year with a skeleton — a framework of what we want to do for the year," Birdsey said.

"The lighting doesn't feel destructive; it feels creative."

And comforting to those who knew Mak, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer at age 4. It would affect his brain and balance, to the extent he had to relearn how to walk, according to Birdsey.

His was a constant health battle, with ups and downs, trips to the hospital, interspersed with periods of joy.

"Every year that Mak had was a bonus," Birdsey said. "His one year (at NBS) was a happy year for him."



AMONG THE NORTH Branch alums who attended Saturday's "Burning School" event were Avery Hohenschau, left, and Oprea Littlefield, who both attend Middlebury Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
well as food pantries in each of the other four towns. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted; checks should be made out to "Have-A-Heart Food Shelf." Here's a list of items that are most needed: diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, canned beans (kidney, black, pinto, etc.) baked beans, soup, canned chicken, tuna, peanut butter, rice, canned fruit in 100% juice, canned vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, mac 'n cheese, canned chili, pasta, ketchup, mayo, toothpaste & toothbrushes, unscented bar soap and toilet paper. Have-A-Heart Food Shelf distributes food once a month to anyone in the five-town area who needs it. The next distribution date is Friday, Oct. 24, from 5-6 p.m. at St. Ambrose Church in Bristol. Have-A-Heart Food Shelf is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, and is totally volunteer-run.

Rep. Rob North, R-Ferrisburgh, was among the top honorees at the Vermont Republic Party's annual Awards Night held at the Delta Hotel in South Burlington on Thursday, Oct. 9. North — a freshman lawmaker who represents the Addison-3 district communities of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, Waltham and a portion of New Haven — was named the Vt. GOP's "Rookie of the Year" legislator for 2025. The award is given to a "freshmen legislator who has made significant contributions to the caucus." Other nominees for the award included freshmen Republican Reps. Joshua Dobrovich and Zak Harvey, as well as Sen. Samuel

Douglass. North was the top vote-getter in the Nov. 5, 2024, race for the two seats representing Addison-3. North provided the following reaction to his award: "It's a great honor to have been selected rookie of the year. We have a great freshman class this biennium, both Republicans and Democrats. I put a lot of effort into getting us to all work together since we represent nearly a third of the House and at the outset of the session we seemed to share many of the same concerns. My Republican leadership was fully supportive of this activity, but we met strong resistance from Democrat leadership who attempted to thwart our joint efforts to work together as a whole freshman class."

Gov. Phil Scott and the Department of Housing & Community Development earlier this week announced \$2.7 million in Community Development Block Grant funding and \$770,760 in Recovery Housing Program funding to benefit 11 projects in 11 different communities. Grantees include the town of Salisbury, which received \$150,000 to bring its public library into compliance with ADA regulations. Access modifications to be built include a ramp to the front entrance, an elevator lift to the second floor, and an addition of a rear entrance to serve as a second means of egress. Also included in the project: energy efficiency upgrades and connection to public water and septic service.

Speaking of the Salisbury Library project, volunteers have

packed the library's collection of 6,300-plus items, and the town highway department has graded space in the parking lot of Salisbury Meeting House to accommodate two storage pods generously loaned by Midd State Towing. Preparations are now in the final stage to move library operations from 918 Maple St. to in the basement of the Meeting House at 853 Maple St. On Sunday, Oct. 19, the Middlebury Union High School football team and a group of helpers will move furnishings and books to their new home. If you have a strong back and some free time starting at 11 a.m., come and support your community library.

A brand new Little Free Library is coming to Addison. On Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10-11 a.m., join the Bixby Library at the Addison Town Clerk's Office for the installation and ribbon cutting, and help stock the shelves by bringing a book to share with your neighbors. Little Free Libraries are book-sharing boxes open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and freely accessible to all — removing barriers to book access and making reading available to everyone. Two or three Addison community members are needed to help with the install, so please reach out to miranda.degrees@bixbylibrary.org if you're interested. This project was made possible by the Bixby Library through a grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership. A special thanks goes to the Vergennes Leos for building this new Little Free Library.

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County Dairy 4-Hers bring home ribbons, respect from the Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Vermont 4-H youth showcased their talents and dedication at the 2025 Eastern States Exposition, better known as The Big E, held in West Springfield, Mass., last month. Representing the Green Mountain State, these young leaders participated in a variety of competitions and exhibitions alongside peers.

The Big E's 4-H program welcomed over 2,500 youth from six New England states, offering a vibrant platform for collaboration and celebration of agricultural excellence. The Big E is the largest agricultural event on the East Coast and serves as a regional showcase for 4-H members aged 12 to 18.

"We are incredibly proud of our Vermont 4-H youth," said Wendy Sorrell, State 4-H Livestock

Educator. "Their achievements at The Big E reflect months of hard work, learning and community engagement."

Many Addison County 4-H'ers earned recognition. They were:

The Livestock Program champions in the breed type categories were:

Ayrshire
Bella Roell, Bristol – Fall Calf - 1st – Junior & Grand Champion

Brown Swiss
Tenley Chittenden, Whiting – Winter Calf, 1st

Taryn Burns, Whiting – Fall Calf, 2nd

Jordan Hutchins, N. Ferrisburgh – Spring Yearling Heifer, 1st, HM Junior Champion

Holstein
Payton Lucas, Orwell, Winter Calf, 7th
Jayden Ploof, Panton, Fall Calf,



4-H'ERS STEVEN WERNER, left, Maddie Perry and Morgan Michaud take their cows for a stroll just after their classes at the Big E last month.

Photo credit Leslie Michaud

6th
Collin Chamberlin, Addison Fall Yearling Heifer, 1st, Jr and HM Grand Champion and Supreme Heifer

Jersey
Kylee Shepard, Panton, Fall Calf, 3rd
Lola Rollins, N. Ferrisburgh, Summer Yearling Heifer, 1st, Jr

and HM Grand Champion
Caroline Allen, Vergennes, Winter Yearling Heifer, 1st, Reserve Grand Champion
Mackenzie Chase, Bristol, Fall Yearling Heifer, 1st,
Hailey Chase, Bristol, 3-Year-Old Cow, 1st, SR and Grand Champion

Milking Shorthorn
Ava Wood, Shoreham, Winter Calf, 1st

The Livestock Program Champions in the showmanship category winners were:

Jr. Showmanship A
• Caroline Allen, Vergennes, 2nd

• Kylee Shepard, Panton, 7th
Jr. Showmanship B
• Collin Chamberlin, Addison,

2nd

Jr. Showmanship C
• Payton Lucas, Orwell, 3rd
• Ava Wood, Shoreham, 5th

Jr. Showmanship D
• Tenley Chittenden, Whiting, 3rd

• Jordan Hutchins, N. Ferrisburgh, 5th.

Jr. Showmanship E
• Melody Niesiobedzki, Bristol, 8th

Sr. Showmanship A
• Mackenzie Chase, Bristol, 9th

Sr. Showmanship C
• Lola Rollins, N. Ferrisburgh, 1st, Reserve Champion Jr and Reserve Overall Showman

• Hailey Chase, Bristol, 9th
• Jayden Ploof, Panton, 10th
(See 4-H teams, Page 13A)



CAROLINE ALLEN OF Vergennes, who won first place in the (Dairy) General Knowledge Test at the Big E in Massachusetts last month, is shown in the Jr. Showmanship Competition.

Photo credit Wendy Sorrell

Grants will aid dairy farm innovations

MONTPELIER — Dairy farmers across the Northeast can now apply for the Dairy Farm Improvement & Modernization Grant through the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC). With a total of \$750,000 in funding, this grant will support a wide range of projects aimed at improving farm viability, milk quality, worker conditions, economic sustainability, and climate resilience.

Grants will range from \$15,000 to \$100,000 with a 25% in-kind and/or cash match.

This grant will fund projects that help dairy farmers improve their operations for long-term success. Projects that take a systems-level approach and that show collaboration with experts or technical service providers will be most competitive. Projects that only replace old equipment without broader improvements to farm systems are not eligible.

Projects may focus on:

- Feed and nutrition management
- Animal health and comfort
- Milking systems
- Labor efficiency
- Animal management
- New and young farmer engagement
- Farm transition
- Cooperative milk production
- Or other areas that benefit dairy operations

Dairy farmers in Vermont and across the Northeast are eligible to apply. Producer associations and technical assistance providers applying on behalf of groups of farmers are also eligible, as are milk buyers/processors focusing on on-farm milk production or transfer.

Grants are available to applicants in all 11 Northeast states served by NE-DBIC: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Applications opened Oct. 14 and can be submitted until (See Grants, Page 13A)

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Time for harvest

SOYBEANS ARE NOT the most widely planted crop in Addison County, but as this field of yellowing beans in New Haven show, there are farmers who plant the nutritious legume. We saw these plants in late September, probably not long after they reached maturity and were harvested.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

4-H teams

(Continued from Page 12A)

Sr. Showmanship D

- Bella Roell, Bristol, 1st
- Taryn Burns, Whiting, 6th

Clipping Teams results

Junior Team placed first out of 4 teams.

Team members: Tenley Chittenden, Caroline Allen, and Emmeline Paquet

Senior Team placed second out of 4 teams.

Team members: Taryn Burns, Jayden Ploof and Madalyn Perry

Vermont Quiz Bowl team

placed first out of 5 teams.

Team Members: Caroline Allen, Taryn Burns, Bryn Nelson and Bristol Card.

Coaches; Judith Vaughan and Stacey Bowen

State Herds, Vermont won:

- Brown Swiss
- Holstein
- Jersey

(Dairy) General Knowledge Test (Top 10)

Juniors

- 1st Caroline Allen, Vergennes
- 2nd Tenley Chittenden, Whiting
- 3rd Jordan Hutchins, North Ferrisburgh

- 4th Sloan Nelson (2-way tie)
- 10th Emma Pothier (3-way tie)

Seniors

- 5th Taryn Burns (2-way tie)
- 6th Bristol Card (4-way tie)
- 7th Mackenzie Chase (2-way tie)

Judging Teams

Vermont A Team placed First overall:

Brailey Livingston, Mackenzie Chase and Morgan Michaud

Vermont B Team placed Fifth overall:

Dawson Michaud, Talon Michaud, Steven Werner and Emmeline Paquet

For more information about Vermont 4-H and upcoming dairy



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Buskey stands out at the Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Eastern States Expo, known as the Big E! is the regional culminating competition for Vermont 4-Hers, and the 4-H Horse Show is a highlight the Big E!

This equestrian event showcases the skill, dedication and teamwork of young equestrians from across New England.

Participants compete in a variety of disciplines, demonstrating their

horsemanship and project work developed throughout the year. These events are designed to test both riding ability and knowledge of horse care and management.

Seven Vermont youth participated in the Equine categories at the Big E, including Tessa Buskey of North Ferrisburgh.

Buskey placed in four horse-related events. In the General Knowledge Test, she finished as

1st in Delegate. In 4-H Fitting and Showmanship, she won a 2nd-place ribbon.

In her equitation classes she placed 2nd and 4th. And in English Trail, Buskey claimed 2nd and 1st.

For more information about Vermont 4-H and upcoming equestrian opportunities, head online to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth.

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Grants

(Continued from Page 12A) 2 p.m. on Dec. 4. Access the full request for applications here: nedairyinnovation.com/grants/farm-improvement-modernization.

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Students

(Continued from Page 1A)
 support.
 “For a lot of students (in the program), I believe for almost all of them, this is the only opportunity that they have right now,” Noori said of the offering.

Noori and several hundred other Afghans resettled in Vermont following the Taliban’s seizure of power in 2021. Among those coming to the state were former students at the School of Leadership Afghanistan, or SOLA, the first boarding school for girls in Afghanistan, founded

by Middlebury College graduate Shabana Basij-Rasikh.
 Noori noted that soon after returning to power, the Taliban enacted policies banning girls and young women from attending colleges and universities and other educational institutions.

Afghan women are banned from attending secondary school and barred from universities, according to UN Women, which states that 78% of young Afghan women are not involved in education, employment or training.

Noori reflected on watching

those policies unfold from afar.
 “I couldn’t just look away at their suffering, that’s why I wanted to do something given that I, as an Afghan girl, I have all kinds of opportunity,” she recalled.

Noori noted that in addition to the Taliban’s policies, girls and young women face other barriers in getting an education, such as a lack of internet access.

“A lot of women in Afghanistan, they don’t have access to internet,” she said. “Right now, the economy is collapsing. They can’t afford food, bread, let alone having access

to internet, which is a privilege for many people.”

Noori decided to launch the Afghan Tutoring Network to support other girls and young women in pursuing an education. She’s been supported in the effort by Ann Straub, president of the Middlebury branch of the American Association of University Women Vermont, who’s helped establish the project as well as find tutors and funding.

Through the network, students in Afghanistan connect with tutors for weekly, online learning sessions. Students work with tutors on subjects including English and biology. The project also provides students with internet and technology like phones.

“Because most of our students are coming from impoverished families, they can’t afford internet or phones or any other technology, therefore these are stuff that we offer them,” she said.

Noori started the project with a group of around eight students, which over the past couple of years has grown to about 31 students, with more seeking to join the program. Students involved in the project largely range in age from 12 to 22 years old.

The Afghan Tutoring Network has around 40 tutors, many of whom are retired educators in the Middlebury area and other parts of the state. Noori said the hope is to get more Middlebury College students involved in the project. She noted one Middlebury



TANIYA NOORI

student runs a book club through the network, reading and teaching Afghan history to students.

Noori said the network is looking for more tutors.

“So many students are reaching out to us to become a part of the tutoring, however we don’t have many tutors right now,” she explained. “So, I think we would need more dedicated volunteers who are very passionate about education, who are passionate about teaching English to students with very little English.”

Noori noted the hope is for prospective tutors to be able to dedicate at least an hour or two to working with students each week. Those interested in becoming a tutor can contact Noori at tnoori@middlebury.edu.

She said the network is also looking for funding to support its offerings. Community members can donate to the effort through a GoFundMe, which helps finance the project along with grant funding and can be accessed at tinyurl.com/afghantutoringnetwork.

THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY

Noori shared what she’s heard from students involved in the network.

“A lot of students reach out to

us and they showed appreciation, and they told us that this is the only opportunity that they have right now,” she said. “Without it, of course, they don’t have any other thing; there’s no private schools or secret schools they could attend. Without having access to internet, they wouldn’t be able to continue their classes.”

Noori is looking to continue growing the network, such as by finding more tutors and increasing the frequency of online tutoring sessions.

“So that each of our students at least meets (with tutors) four times a week or every day maybe because right now they’re meeting only twice a week, which is not really enough,” she said. “It’s better than nothing, not going to school at all or not having any opportunity, but if I want to grow the impact then they should at least meet four times a week.”

She said the hope is to also broaden the network’s reach moving forward.

“We are hoping to expand our program where we could have more students,” she said. “We are hoping to grow that (total) into maybe 40 or 50 students, hopefully, to kind of expand the impact.”



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Schools

(Continued from Page 10A)
 That’s not to say the same model should be the same for a larger district (under Act 73), but at least the infrastructure is in place.”

Wolk acknowledged the task force has a lot of work to do during the last seven weeks of its existence. It’s not just a matter of drawing three maps and calling it a day; the panel must study the intricacies of Vermont’s more than 200-year-old school system. Should school choice continue for folks in roughly 90 small Vermont towns? How should independent schools be regarded? Should the state confine its education framework to school districts — governed by a unified board and preK-12 budget — or

continue to permit “supervisory unions,” each endowed with a central office and multiple school boards?

Vermonters haven’t been shy about weighing in on these issues. The prospect of seeing long-established schools shuttered and potentially longer bus times for children has some parents on edge.

“A lot of people are understandably wary of our work and what the Legislature will decide, because it’s a major transformation, and that’s what the law is (requesting),” Wolk said.

Vermonters, he noted, have always been bullish on local control.

“I know how important local control is... At the same time, we’ve got to establish some efficiencies of scale, wherever that can happen. My focus is not only that, but on expanding meaningful opportunities for students,” he said.

And speaking of local control, Wolk said he hopes school choice can be preserved in the Vermont communities that currently have it.

The redistricting task force is currently getting most of the education reform headlines, put will pass the baton to the Legislature in December. Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, is chair of the House Education Committee. He and Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol, will likely be among the first lawmakers to view and tinker with the task force’s maps, as part of potential legislation. Heffernan serves on the Senate Education Committee.

Conlon said the task force’s work could be introduced simultaneously into multiple legislative committees, including both House and Senate Government Operations.

“We have not made any determination of whether the debate over the recommendations ... will begin in the House or the Senate, or both at the same time,” Conlon said. “It’s probably a good idea for our committee to hold joint hearings as much as possible, because this is going to be such a big debate.”

Editor’s note: Next Thursday’s *Addison Independent* will look at how the county’s school districts have weighed in to the redistricting task force on the issue of Act 73 and school consolidations.



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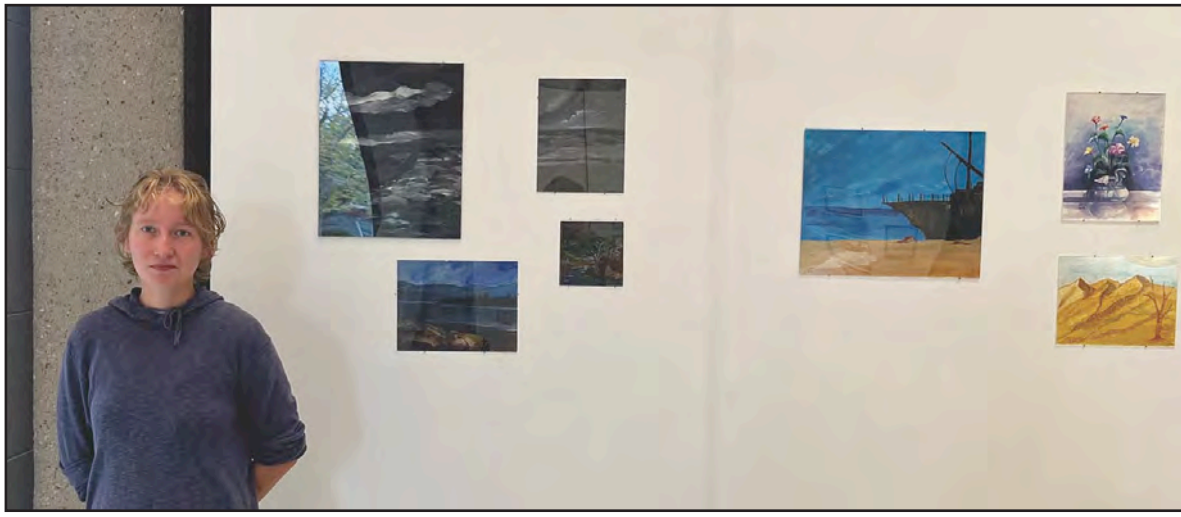
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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SENIOR Annalise Johnson, above, stands alongside the artwork of three men detained in the notorious Guantanamo Bay military prison. Johnson curated the "Finding Hope Within" exhibit at the college's Johnson Exhibition Gallery. These pieces are displayed alongside the works of individuals incarcerated in Vermont prisons. Below right, the exhibition shows how one Guantanamo Bay prisoner wrote a note on the back of his piece in Arabic, which was translated by Middlebury's Arabic Department.

Independent photo/Ian Curry

Guantanamo Bay

(Continued from Page 1A)
wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, the notorious military prison located in Cuba has held at least 780 people — primarily non-American — suspected of terrorism.

The artworks join those of men and women currently incarcerated in Vermont at Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield and Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington as part of an exhibit titled "Finding Hope Within."

"It's been a privilege being able to display people's work," said Annalise Johnson, the Middlebury College senior who curated the exhibit at the college.

"Finding Hope Within" and its Vermont-based artwork was previously displayed at the Sheldon Museum in downtown Middlebury throughout the summer in a collection co-curated by A Revolutionary Press founder/owner John Vincent of New Haven and Heather Newcomb, who helps incarcerated women find jobs and achieve their goals as part of the nonprofit Vermont Works for Women.

According to Johnson, the current iteration of the exhibit

came through a long process of collaboration between Vincent, Middlebury College History of Art and Architecture Professor Sarah Rogers and Art Crime Professor Erin Thompson from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

"We had wanted to integrate with interests on campus," Johnson said. "We reached out to professors doing work on migration and incarceration issues."

Johnson said that Vincent contributed the artwork he had collected from incarcerated Vermonters and displayed earlier this year at the Sheldon Museum.

"I feel lucky to know John and have been connected with his work," Johnson said.

The artwork from Guantanamo Bay was brought to Middlebury in collaboration with Thompson from John Jay College. She has curated several exhibitions of art from the detention camp, including "Ode to the Sea: Art from Guantanamo," which received widespread press coverage during its display at John Jay College in 2017 and 2018.

"It seemed like a good opportunity to combine the two (exhibitions)," Johnson said.

While Vermont may seem worlds away from Guantanamo Bay, the common urge to create art while imprisoned is impossible to ignore. Johnson emphasized that getting art materials into prisons, let alone Guantanamo Bay, is a lengthy process, but that it doesn't stop inmates from seeking ways to express themselves.

Johnson said she curated the current exhibit based on the theme of the artwork. While the showcased artists may have been incarcerated in vastly different facilities, they share potent themes, some of which explore darker issues, while others are more lighthearted, she added.

"There are some themes of love and loss, so I curated them around those themes," Johnson said.

"I think both of them seek a way to visualize some sort of life and dreams of life outside prison... and their imagined futures," she added.

For many, that desire takes the form of scenic landscapes. As Newcomb told the *Addison Independent* in July, "It's a way for them to transport themselves into an environment that invokes peace and calmness."

For others, it also takes the form

Police respond to juvenile incidents

BRISTOL — Bristol police have responded to a couple of incidents involving juveniles in recent weeks.

On Sept. 28 an officer helped with returning a juvenile back home.

On Oct. 3 police received a report of a juvenile missing from Main Street in Bristol. The juvenile was found and reunited with their family.

Between Sept. 28 and Oct. 4 Bristol police completed 15 foot patrols, conducted three traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School times seven times, at Bristol Elementary School seven times and at local businesses seven times.

Police also processed 11 fingerprint requests, conducted two welfare checks and performed five sex offender registry compliance checks.

Bristol Police Log

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Sept. 28 assisted Vermont State Police with a motor vehicle crash on Rockydale Road.

- On Sept. 29 assisted a business with attempting to locate a missing bike rack. The bike rack was returned to the business.

- On Sept. 29 took a report of a motor vehicle crash that occurred on River Road.

- On Sept. 29 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Pine Street. The vehicle was gone when police arrived.

- On Sept. 30 assisted Bristol

Elementary with a truancy concern.

- On Sept. 30 responded to a motor vehicle crash on West Street.

- On Oct. 1 an officer and Bristol's community resource specialist took part in Safety Day at Beeman Elementary School.

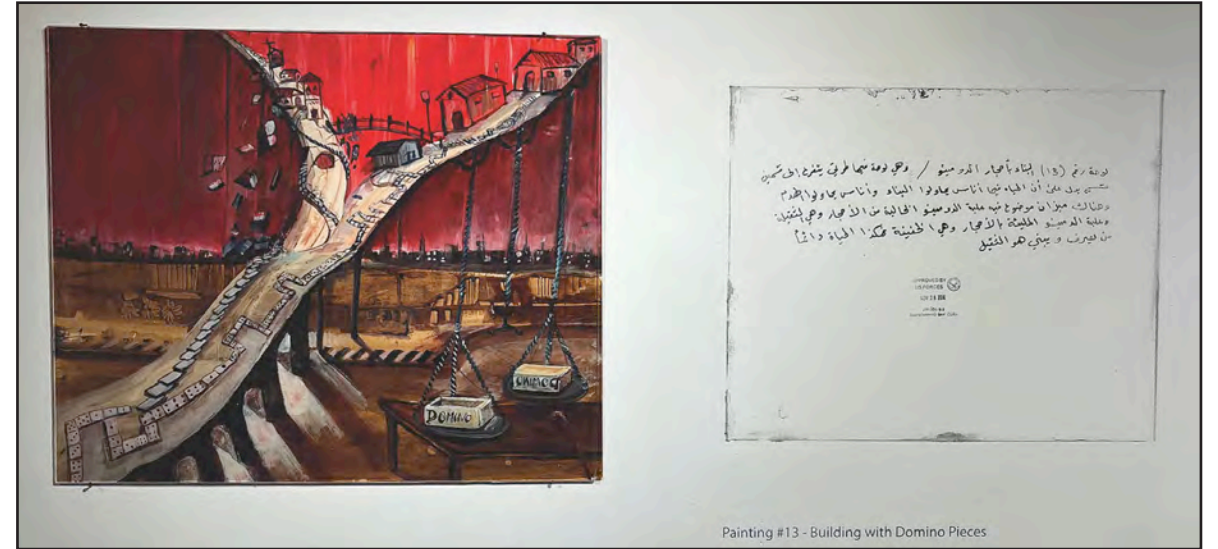
- On Oct. 1 assisted Bristol Elementary with a relocation drill.

- On Oct. 1 responded to a call reporting a suspicious vehicle on West Street. Police determined the individual was waiting for their friend to get out of work.

- On Oct. 2 received a noise complaint on Spring Street and asked the individuals to turn down the music.

- On Oct. 3 attended an event at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School.

- On Oct. 3 assisted Bristol Rescue on Rockydale Road.



Painting #13 - Building with Domino Pieces

of the written word, whether they are poems to loved ones or calm meditations. One Guantanamo Bay prisoner wrote a note in Arabic on the back of a painting. It was translated by Middlebury College student Alistair Nalle and Professor Usama Soltan.

"Painting #13 - Building with Domino Pieces

"This is a painting in which a road branches into two sections. One section shows that in life,

there are people who try to build while the other shows those who try to destroy. There is a scale upon which two empty domino boxes are placed. One is empty and heavy and the other is full and light. Life is always like this. The one who spends and builds carries the weight."

The "Finding Hope Within" exhibition includes weekly programming between Oct. 17 and Nov. 14 that explores the

relationship between incarceration and the human spirit. Events are open to the public and include film screenings and a Halloween Listening Event.

The exhibition, free and open to the public, runs until Nov. 14 and can be viewed in the Johnson Exhibition Gallery on the Middlebury College campus. Johnson Memorial Building, 2nd floor, 74 Chateau Road. It's open daily 1-7 p.m.



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HOMES FIRST VOLUNTEERS Dutton Smith and Jean Terwilliger, above left, take a moment to chat during construction of a new Middlebury cottage that will — along with an adjacent two-story home — be offered at an affordable rent. Above right, the silhouette of a barren tree marks the spot of a small, affordable cottage in Middlebury being constructed by local volunteer workers.

Independent photos/John Flowers

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Housing

(Continued from Page 1A)
 completed next spring, the modest-yet-well-constructed, energy-efficient abode will house an elderly person currently residing in an adjacent, two-story home.

The owner of that home, Emily Gowan, is financing the new small house in which her mom will reside. Because of volunteer labor and a nonprofit rate for construction supplies, the new small house will end up costing Gowan around \$200 per square foot — around half what developers of subsidized housing paid on average for construction last year in Vermont.

For her part, Gowan will rent out both homes on her property for 10 years, at 60% of the Vermont State Housing Authority guidelines for Addison County, which is currently \$1,000 per month, according to Mary Simons, a leader of Homes First. This below-market rate is to be used by a person who earns no more than 60% of the median income for Addison County, which

currently is \$45,000 annually. “The partnership came together relative quickly,” Simons said during a break at the job site on Friday, Oct. 10. “(Gowan) was extremely motivated to make this happen.”

ADUs are “a commonsense model to increase density on the town, where there are facilities and infrastructure.”

— Mary Simons

Friday saw a dedicated corps of Homes First volunteers toiling away on the new cottage. It was designed by Jean Terwilliger, a talented local architect who’s no stranger to donating her time to charitable causes; she’s also designed several Habitat for Humanity of Addison County homes.

“I’ve been having so much fun getting hands-on experience, seeing things built,” Terwilliger said.

Once completed, the Seymour Street cottage will feature a bedroom, living area, bathroom and kitchen. It will be insulated beyond the state’s energy code, have triple-glazed windows and have south-facing solar panels on its roof, Terwilliger noted. It will also be endowed with clapboard siding and a standing seam metal roof.

Gowan is being charged materials plus 10%. That 10% (roughly \$12,000) premium will help seed the next Homes First project, according to Simons.

This is the third home-build that Homes First has spearheaded. The first two — both “tiny homes,” each of them in the 500-square-foot range — were done in collaboration with the Patricia Hannaford Career Center’s Construction Technology program. Those homes were made at the Career Center by educators and students.

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT

Finding buyers for the tiny homes was a little tricky, as they needed a landing spot. And land adds to the cost of a project.

But the Seymour Street cottage is being built as an Accessory Dwelling Unit, or ADU. Many Vermont towns — including Middlebury — have developed more lenient ADU rules as a way encouraging more housing development. So the Seymour Street cottage won permitting on a piece of land conveniently accessible to municipal water and sewer service.

“It’s a commonsense model to increase density on the town, where there are facilities and infrastructure,” Simons said of the ADU process.

Homes First earlier this year took to social media to solicit interest in an ADU build. Gowan stepped forward and has been an enthusiastic partner ever since, according to Simons. Gowan and Homes First signed a contract this past spring, and construction began during the summer.

Since the future tenant lives next door and isn’t under the gun to relocate, it’s been a no-stress worksite. That’s adding to the joy and camaraderie of the volunteer workers, who donate several hours of their time each Friday and Saturday. Among the helpers on this day were Simons, Terwilliger, Ben Lucarelli, Dutton Smith, Todd Kincaid and Tom Randall.

Lucarelli, Smith, Kincaid and Randall are all either fully or semi “retired”; some have prior experience in building and/or carpentry, which certainly helps.

Randall, in his former professional life, was a well-respected clinician with the Counseling Service of Addison County. But 50 years ago, he was a carpenter.

“I worked on large, concrete form work, but never did house framing,” Randall said. “I’m really enjoying learning to do that and seeing how a house gets put together.”

He likes the more casual work schedule.

“I retired from early mornings,” he said with a smile.

Kincaid is retired from a white-collar job and wanted to help with a housing project. Terwilliger is his spouse, so the Seymour Street project allows the couple to work together in her universe.

He called himself an “unskilled laborer,” helping out wherever he can.

“It’s a chance to do something good,” he said of the fruits of the group’s labors.

Lucarelli is a seasoned carpenter who used to work for Conner & Buck Builders, as a finish carpenter and cabinets maker. He’s semi-retired now and was looking for a way to give back to the community.

“My kids are at the age where they’re going to be needing housing, and there’s a dearth of it right now,” Lucarelli said. “It’s great to be part of the solution.”

Homes First officials are happy to take on projects piecemeal, but their grand vision is for a pocket neighborhood populated with dozens of affordable, tiny homes.

With energy, financing and a growing portfolio of homes, the group will keep hammering away at the county’s housing deficit.

“It’s a can-do group,” Simons said.



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HOMES FIRST, A nonprofit working to solve the housing shortage, is building a roughly 527-square-foot home, which will be rented at a long-term, affordable rate — as will an adjacent two-story home.

SPORTS

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- Police Logs



EAGLE JUNIOR DEFENDER Aubrey Coffey and VUHS freshman middle Ayla Kittredge battle for the ball during Monday's girls' soccer game at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/Steve James



EAGLE SOPHOMORE FORWARD Payton Shepard fends off a challenge from Commodore senior forward Ava Francis during Monday's girls' soccer game at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/Steve James

MAV football strikes back

Team back in form with 46-0 tally over Milton

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MILTON — The Division III Mount Abraham/Vergennes football team rolled over D-II host Milton on Friday night, 46-0.

The Eagles improved to 5-1 at the 2-4 Yellowjackets' expense and remained in third place in D-III behind Bellows Falls (6-0) and Woodstock (5-1, but with more quality points).

The Eagles' final two games are against D-II Spaulding (3-3) at home at 1 p.m. this Saturday and at winless D-III Poultney the following Saturday. It appears unlikely they will drop out of third place, but almost certainly have to defeat Spaulding to have any hope of moving up to second place.

On this past Friday vs. Milton, Cole Gagnon led the offense by rushing 20 times for 143 yards and four touchdowns.

Also, Clark Cray rushed three times for 56 yards and went two-for-two passing for 71 yards and a touchdown to Ryan Wright, who caught two passes for 87 yards. Rhett Lathrop tossed six passes, completing three for 32 yards, and Logan Stearns rushed twice for 19 yards and a score. Lincoln Painter attempted five field goals, making three, and Levi Smith converted his only field goal attempt.

Eagles girls' soccer ends Commodore winning streak

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BRISTOL — Vergennes senior standout Ava Francis scored her 50th and 51st career goals against host Mount Abraham on Monday afternoon, but it wasn't enough to preserve the Commodore girls' soccer team's undefeated record — or prevent a determined Eagle team from avenging its early season defeat at VUHS.

That's because Mount Abe scored three straight first-half

goals in a short span on the way to a 3-2 victory over the Commodores.

After sophomore Payton Shepard tied the game once Francis struck for her first goal, junior Leah Tierney gave the Eagles the lead. Then sophomore Sophie Underwood bombed home a long-range free kick as the Eagles scored three times in less than 12 minutes to stun the Commodores.

Vergennes regrouped and carried more of the action in the second half, but despite another Francis strike the Eagle defense mostly held firm as Mount Abe improved to 3-1-1 in their past five games and moved over .500 at 6-5-2 for the season. A win on Saturday morning vs. visiting Milton would nail down a winning record and a home D-II playoff game next week.

Mount Abe coach Dustin

Corrigan said Monday's result continued an upward trend sparked by improved teamwork and chemistry from his young team. The Eagles graduated 11 seniors from the group that reached the Division II final a year ago.

"We're starting to play well at a good time," he said. "Within our team the last couple weeks I think we've figured some things out, like how to work as a team,

how to function as a team. And we're getting contributions from everybody, top to bottom, and everybody's being real positive."

VUHS Coach Morgan Kathan said she juggled her lineup and tactics to combat the strong Eagle midfield, which could have contributed to falling behind in the first half as the Commodores dropped to 11-1 and out of first place in D-III.

(See *Streak*, Page 4B)

Score BOARD

Football	
10/10 MUHS vs Mt Anthony	17-6
10/10 MAV vs Milton	46-0
Field Hockey	
10/9 Spaulding vs MUHS	1-0
10/9 Mt Abe vs Lyndon	1-0
10/13 MUHS at Harwood	2-2
10/14 Stowe vs MUHS	3-1
10/15 Mt Abe at Spaulding	Late
Girls' Soccer	
10/9 Harwood at MUHS	4-0
10/10 Mt Abe vs St Albans	2-1
10/11 VUHS vs MUHS	2-1
10/13 Mt Abe vs VUHS	3-2
10/15 Missisquoi at VUHS	Late
10/15 MUHS at Rice	Late
Boys' Soccer	
10/8 Mt Abe vs Missisquoi	11-0
10/8 MUHS vs Winooski	4-3 (OT)
10/9 VUHS vs GMVS	1-0
10/11 St Albans vs MUHS	2-0
10/11 VUHS vs Paine Mt.	4-0
10/14 VUHS vs Fairfax	9-1
10/14 Mt Abe vs Winooski	4-0
10/14 Milton vs MUHS	3-0
Volleyball	
10/8 MUHS vs Harwood	3-0
10/8 Mt Abe vs Lyndon	3-2
10/10 Mt Abe vs Randolph	3-2
10/11 MUHS vs Montpelier	3-1
10/15 Lyndon at MUHS	Late
10/15 Mt Abe at Montpelier	Late

Volleyball teams sweep their matches

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury and Mount Abraham girls' volleyball teams each won two recent matches as their regular seasons enter the home stretch.

The high school teams are playing their final regular season games this week; Division II playoffs will begin this coming Tuesday and Wednesday with first-round games. Quarterfinals will be played on Oct. 24 and 25, and semifinal games on Oct. 28 and 28. The date for the final will be determined.

TIGERS
On Oct. 8 the Tigers claimed a pivotal 3-0 victory over host Harwood, 26-24, 25-18 and 25-20. Harwood could have taken over first place in Division II from the Tigers with a victory.

On Saturday the Tigers won at Montpelier, 3-1 (25-12, 25-19, 17-25, 25-14), in the process clinching at least a tie for the best win-loss record in D-II by improving to 12-1. Second-place

(See *Volleyball*, Page 2B)



TIGER GOALIE LYLE Carey dives to successfully save a Milton penalty kick during the Tiger boys' soccer team's home game on Tuesday. Carey also saved two Milton PKs the first time the two teams met this fall.

Independent photo/Steve James

Area boys' soccer teams post victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury, Mount Abraham and Vergennes boys' high school soccer teams all picked up at least one victory in the past week as the regular season nears its conclusion.

The teams are playing their final regular season games over the next couple days, and the teams will enter the Division II and III playoffs this coming Tuesday and Wednesday with first-round games. Quarterfinals will be played on Oct. 24 and 25,

and semifinal games on Oct. 28 and 29.

TIGERS
On Oct. 8 the Tigers earned a 4-3 overtime victory at Winooski. Noah Gillespie knocked home a penalty kick in the extra session to provide the winning margin.

During regulation for the Tigers Timmy Laframboise scored with an assist from Daniel Power, Landon Hunt found the net with a Gillespie assist, and Judah Matovu had an unassisted strike. Goalie Lyle Carey made four

(See *Boys' soccer*, Page 3B)

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
10/11 Midd vs Colby	4-0
Field Hockey	
10/11 Midd vs Colby	2-1
10/12 Wesleyan vs Midd	2-1 (2 OT)
Women's Soccer	
10/11 Midd vs Colby	1-0
10/12 Midd vs S. Maine	2-1
Football	
10/11 Williams vs Midd	24-17

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Football	
10/17 Burr & Burton at MUHS	7 PM
10/18 Spaulding at MAV	1 PM
10/24 MUHS at S Burlington	7 PM
10/25 MAV at Poultney	1 PM
Field Hockey	
10/17 North Country at Mt Abe	4 PM
10/17 MUHS at Montpelier	4 PM
10/21&22	Playoffs Open
Girls' Soccer	
10/18 St Albans at MUHS	10 AM
10/18 VUHS at Blue Mt	11 AM
10/18 Milton at Mt Abe	10 AM
10/21&22	Playoffs Open
Boys' Soccer	
10/17 Milton at Mt Abe	4 PM

(See *Schedule*, Page 2B)



EAGLE JUNIOR ABE Camara takes a touch on a bouncing ball as Winooski forward Stephan Stephano moves in to defend during Tuesday's soccer game at Mount Abraham.

Image by Mark Bouvier Photography

Eagle boys' soccer tops Spartans

Take Lake Division title after 12-year drought

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BRISTOL — It had been a dozen years since the Mount Abraham boys' soccer team had won a Lake Division championship, and on Tuesday the Eagles ended that drought in style with a convincing 4-0 victory over visiting Winooski.

The 5-7-1 Spartans matched the Eagles' speed and athleticism, but not their passing and teamwork. Mount Abe controlled play throughout and put the game away with three second-half goals.

At 11-1-1, the Eagles also remained atop the Division II standings. They can clinch the top seed for the D-II playoffs that begin next week if they can defeat visiting Milton, a tough 8-5 team, at home on Friday at 4 p.m. The Eagles won in overtime at Milton earlier this season, 2-1.

Central midfielder and senior captain James Graziadei talked

after Tuesday's game about what the Lake title meant to the Eagles.

"It's a huge milestone, we've been waiting 10-plus years, since 2013, and the boys have been putting in the work to win it," Graziadei said. "It means a lot to win it."

Graziadei also weighed in on what he believed has made this season a success for the Eagles.

"The connection and mentality we've had this season is different than any we've had in the past three years that I've played," he said. "We're all connected as a team. We're all brothers on this team. We're all here for each other."

Of course, there is a bigger trophy to be claimed out there in the upcoming D-II tournament. It was also in 2013 that the program last won a state championship.

"We're looking to go all the way

(See *Eagle boys*, Page 4B)

Tiger football wins on the road

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BENNINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School football team got past stubborn host Mount Anthony on Friday night, 17-6, to improve to 5-1 with two games to go in the regular season.

The Tigers, second-place in the Division I points standings behind Rutland, also 5-1, will host third-place Burr & Burton (4-2) this Friday at 7 p.m. They wrap up with a visit to currently winless South Burlington/Burlington on Oct. 24. Mount Anthony has been competitive this fall, but dropped to 2-4; the Patriots are in seventh place in D-I and are a possible first-round Tiger playoff foe.

On this past Friday, MUHS

opened the scoring in the first quarter with an 8-yard Ben DeBisschop run. The Patriots answered in the second quarter with a 4th-down 3-yard run across the goal line by Patriots quarterback Jon Crossman, but did not convert the extra point.

The Tigers extended their 7-6 lead when Jason Sperry rushed for a touchdown as time wound down in the third quarter to make it 14-6. Owen Butterfield added a 27-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to create the final score.

Sperry had a big night, with 149 yards on 20 carries. Tucker Wright (2.5 sacks) and Jaxson Heffernan (interception) helped spark a strong Tiger defensive effort. Crossman threw for 145 yards to led MAU's offense.

Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)
 Enosburg stood at 11-2 entering the final week of action.

The Tigers were in position on Wednesday, Oct. 15, to clinch the top seed in D-II with a win at Lyndon, a one-win team entering play this week. That game, the Tigers' last of the regular season, was played after the deadline for this edition.

EAGLES
 On Oct. 8 the Eagles snapped what had been an eight-match losing streak with a road win at Lyndon, three sets to one (17-25, 25-22, 25-23, 26-24.) The first-year varsity Eagles had won their first two matches of the season before hitting a drought that ended with the victory at Lyndon.

Coach Megan LaRose said the close win of the second set "gave the Eagles some confidence, and the two teams battled fairly equally through the final two

sets, with the Eagles coming out ahead."

Senior **Paige Guilbeault** led the Eagles with 16 kills and five aces, while sophomore **Meg Park** contributed seven aces and two kills.


Two days later the Eagles made it two straight triumphs with a hard-fought 3-2 decision over visiting Randolph (25-20, 25-22, 15-25, 19-25, 15-13) on senior night — at which the team's only senior, Guilbeault, was honored.

Guilbeault led Mount Abe with nine aces and eight kills, including the winning kill on the final point of the fifth set, on an assist from Park. Park had 10 assists and three aces, and **Charlotte Desilets** added a kill and two aces.

The Eagles improved to 4-8 and were in eighth place in the D-II standings heading into a match at Montpelier on Wednesday after deadline for this issue.

Pet of the week


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An enchanting visit at Quebec's Parc de la Gorge de Coaticook

To say simply that we went on a nighttime hike through a lighted forest beside a gorge gives only a glimpse of the evening. Appealing enough on its own perhaps, it would still fall far short of capturing the "Foresta Lumina" experience. "Magical" would be a better description.

It was the final night of our three-night, four-day visit to Quebec's Eastern Townships. Although we found the entire region enchanting in one sense of the word, the last night was enchanting in a more traditional way.

Deborah and I had departed from the village of Georgeville in the Lake Memphremagog region in the morning and driven eastward about an hour. Once we left the hills and drove through the village of Ayer's Cliff on Lac Massawippi, we began passing more road cyclists touring the gentle terrain of the pastoral countryside. Having read about other nearby bike routes on the quieter gravel roads, I made mental note of the many options for possible future visits and bike tours. After a stop for a delicious cheese-tasting and lunch at the Fromagerie La Station — an award-winning, fourth-generation organic dairy farm and cheese maker near the town of Compton famous for very rich and creamy cheeses — we continued another quarter hour south along the Coaticook River to its namesake town.

The Coaticook has its sources in the clean, cold waters of Norton Pond and the Averill Ponds in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Less than 10 miles from where it

crosses the border into Canada, the river flows through the town of Coaticook, where it passes through a small hydro dam and drops down into a gorge. As its name suggests, that is where the lovely Parc de la Gorge de Coaticook sits. The park is owned by the city of Coaticook but managed by a private non-profit so the costs are modest. In addition to a large wooded campground spread along the river at the end of the gorge, a swimming pool and water play area for kids, a small training course for aspiring young mountain bikers, a farmhouse where young and old alike may visit a variety of farm animals, and a couple kilometers of gentle, family-friendly bike trails along the river, the park also features an extensive mountain bike trail system with more than 20 kilometers of trails. But it was the tent camping and the "Foresta Lumina" evening event we had come for.

We arrived at the park in plenty of time to get our tent setup and explore the area before dinner and the evening walk. We had a quiet tent site most of the way up toward the gorge, with a hill rising steeply behind us. After setting up the tent, we hopped on our bikes. We pondered biking up a trail out of the gorge and making our way south along a bike route into town. However, the 16% grade up the hill to escape the gorge changed our minds. Instead, we turned north and biked the paths on some

more level terrain along both sides of the river. Dinner was at a craft brewery within modest walking distance of the park along a riverside trail: the Microbrasserie Coaticook, where we enjoyed tasty pub fare and a flight of six of their locally brewed specialties.

Then, as dusk settled, it was back to the park for the "Foresta Lumina." It is billed as a nighttime walk through an enchanted forest, and people travel for hours to experience it. The walk begins near a long suspension footbridge at the deepest part of the gorge. Lines of ticketed visitors have been waiting to enter, and for a few minutes you walk in a press of folks along the top of the gorge. But the scene soon draws the visitor into the wonder and enchantment. Crossing the suspension bridge as it gently sways, and looking down into the gorge, you are treated to a light show playing along the river bottom that looks like forest fairies have floated out over the river for a dance.

And as the crowds spread out more, you enter into a forest lit by more small moving lights, and you begin to see visions. Moving fairy spirits. Enchanted deer. The dreaded forest creature. And the heroine of the story: the mysterious local legendary figure of Margaret. All were cleverly projected in ways that maintained the sense of mystery and wonder: on trees, and cliff faces, and on mesh so fine that even in broad daylight the



MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor Columnist

next morning I would have missed it had I not remembered exactly where to look.

The walk was also interactive in places. One stop featured lighted forest instruments that was clearly a favorite among children who stopped to play them — as well as the writer of this column. Overall, Deborah and I were amazed at the creativity and ingenuity that put it all together. If you imagine the quality of the best immersive experiences at a place like Disney World and add the natural beauty and mystery of the forest, you will get a sense of it.

The walk ended at the bottom of the gorge, where we found ourselves down amid the dancing fairy lights we had seen from the suspension bridge an hour earlier. A lovely place to end the walk. And only 10 hours later, after morning coffee cooked at the camp stove beside our tent, we would be back at the same place for a daytime walk reversing our path from the night before. Although less mysterious than the previous night's trek, it was still a lovely morning hike. And I was able to appreciate the view from the suspension bridge even more in morning light.

Before our return to Vermont, we took one more leisurely bike ride along the river trails (ignoring the more famous mountain biking loops) ending at the famous local dairy, the Laiterie de Coaticook, where we ended our trip with an ice cream I might not encounter in Vermont: a very rich and creamy pineapple and coconut, which sustained us on the drive back to Addison Country.

Eagle field hockey wins while Tigers earn tie

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — In local high school field hockey action in the past week, Mount Abraham won its only outing and appears to be headed for a high seed in the Division III playoffs, while Middlebury earned a tie in three

games and looks headed for a No. 7 seed in D-II.

Local field hockey teams are playing their final regular season games this weekend. First-round D-II and D-III games are scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 21 and 22. Otter Valley will join

MUHS in the D-II tournament as a high seed.

EAGLES
 On Oct. 9 Mount Abe edged visiting Lyndon, 1-0. **Natalie Smith** notched the game-winner, and goalie **Jillian Cousino** made two saves.

The Eagles improved to 8-4 heading into a road duel with Spaulding on Wednesday played after deadline for this issue. As of Wednesday morning the Eagles were unofficially in second place in Division III, but in a close race with Woodstock behind undefeated first-place Montpelier, which has clinched the top seed. Mount Abe's final game will be at home on Friday vs. North Country at 4 p.m.

but Harwood scored in the last 16 seconds of regulation to force overtime, in which the Tigers created "some decent opportunities." In an email she described the game as a strong outing for the Tigers.

On Tuesday visiting Stowe claimed a 3-1 decision over MUHS. Emilee Martine sparked the Raiders with two goals.

Breckenridge scored for the Tigers, and Ross had another big day with 21 saves.

The 2-9-1 Tigers will wrap up their regular season with a visit to Montpelier on Friday. The Tigers could be headed to a quarterfinal matchup with Otter Valley.

TIGERS
 On Oct. 9 Emily May's goal was the difference as host Spaulding edged the Tigers, 1-0. The Tide held a 14-9 edge in corners, and Tide goalie Carmelina Royer made three saves. MUHS goalie **Heaven Ross** made 10 saves.

On Tuesday the Tigers earned a 2-2 tie at host Harwood. **Quinn Doria** and **Maya Breckenridge** scored for MUHS, and Breckenridge assisted Quinn's goal. Ross made 14 saves, including one on a penalty stroke.

Coach Makayla Broughton said the Tigers almost secured the win,

but Harwood scored in the last 16 seconds of regulation to force overtime, in which the Tigers created "some decent opportunities." In an email she described the game as a strong outing for the Tigers.

On Tuesday visiting Stowe claimed a 3-1 decision over MUHS. Emilee Martine sparked the Raiders with two goals.

Breckenridge scored for the Tigers, and Ross had another big day with 21 saves.

The 2-9-1 Tigers will wrap up their regular season with a visit to Montpelier on Friday. The Tigers could be headed to a quarterfinal matchup with Otter Valley.

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

10/17 Richford at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/18 MUHS at Rice	10 AM
10/21&22	Playoffs Open
Volleyball	
10/17 Mt Abe at Missisquoi	6 PM
10/21&22	Playoffs Open
Cross Country	
10/25	State Meet at Thetford
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	Noon
10/21 Vassar at Midd	3 PM
10/25 Bates at Midd	Noon
10/28 Midd at Williams	3 PM
Field Hockey	
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	Noon
10/25 Bates at Midd	11 AM
10/28 Midd at Williams	7 PM
Women's Soccer	
10/18 Tufts at Midd.....	11 AM
10/25 Bates at Midd	11 AM
10/28 Midd at Williams	1 PM
Football	
10/18 Midd at Trinity.....	1 PM
10/25 Bates at Midd	1 PM
11/1 Midd at Hamilton	12:30 PM
11/8 Tufts at Midd.....	12:30 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.




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A QUARTET OF Tigers have an eye on a ball that Milton served into the MUHS box during Tiger soccer's home game on Tuesday. From left, they are senior Theo Fallis, junior Henry McDonnell, senior goalie Lyle Carey, and sophomore Oliver Wetzel

Independent photo/Steve James

Boys' soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

Stephan Stephano sparked the Spartan attack with two goals and an assist, and Winooski goalie Omar Turnage made four saves.

On Saturday host St. Albans blanked the Tigers, 2-0. Charlie Levine and Brody Tatro scored for the Bobwhites, and goalie Quinn Blackburn made one save. **Jonathan Kafumbe** made six saves for MUHS.

On Tuesday, visiting Milton topped the Tigers, 3-0, with goals from Brock Bushey, Wyatt Wooten

and Killian Choquette and four saves from Brody Allard. Carey was in goal for MUHS and made 12 saves, including blocking a penalty kick.

The Tigers dropped to 5-8 heading into their final regular season game, at Rice on Saturday morning. It appears they will be the No. 10 or 11 seed in D-II.

EAGLES

On Oct. 8 the Eagles romped over host Missisquoi, 11-0. **James Graziadei** (three goals, two assists), **Wayden Cherington** (three goals) and **Abe Ready** (two

goals) did most of the damage for Mount Abe. **Jaran Griffin** (goal, assist), **Kestrel Edwards** and **Johnny Stanley** (goal apiece) and **Abe Camara** and **Truman Sawyer** (assist apiece) also chipped in.

The Eagles improved to 10-1-1 heading into their Tuesday home game vs. Winooski; see story on Page 1B. They will wrap up their regular season by hosting Milton at 4 p.m. on Friday and could clinch the No. 1 seed in D-II with a win in that outing.

COMMODORES

On Oct. 9 the Commodores



MUHS SENIOR FORWARD Gabe Velez controls the ball despite pressure from a Milton defender during the Tigers' home game on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James

edged host Green Mountain Valley, 1-0. **Aiden Fuller** scored the game's only goal, and VUHS goalie **Colton Reed** blocked all six shots he faced. Gumbie goalie Sam Bourget made five saves.

On Saturday the Commodores posted another shutout in a 4-0 win over visiting Paine Mountain, limiting their visitors to two shots, both of which Reed parried.

An early **Ryker Mosehauer** penalty kick gave the Commodores

the lead, and **Andrew Houghton**, assisted by **Tiegen Buskey**, made it 2-0 in the 17th minute. **Garrett Wood** closed out the scoring with a pair of first-half goals, one in the 30th minute and the other seven minutes later. **Owen Sweet** made seven saves for Paine Mountain.

On Tuesday the Commodores blitzed visiting Fairfax, 9-1. Providing the offense were Houghton and Ryker Mosehauer (each with two goals); **Peter**

Manceen, Fuller, Wood and **Pearce Mosehauer** (goal and an assist apiece) and **Joseph Manceen** (one goal). Reed made one save.

Steven Whiteman scored for Fairfax, and goalie Mason Sanders made seven saves.

The Commodores improved to 9-4 heading into their final regular season game, at home on Friday vs. Richford. It appears they are most likely headed for a No. 3 or 4 seed in D-III.

Orten wins NVAC girls' race; VUHS boys place second

By ANDY KIRKALDY

SWANTON — Middlebury Union High School sophomore Louisa Orten won the NVAC Small School girls' championship race on Saturday at a meet hosted by Missisquoi Valley Union. Her time of 20:41.4 over the 5 km course was almost eight seconds faster than runner-up Kennedy Longway of host Missisquoi.

Meanwhile the Vergennes boys' team edged MUHS for second place in the eight-team boys' race. Fairfax rolled to victory in the boys' division, and in the girls' race, the Rice squad eked out a two-point win over a shorthanded Tiger team in a race in which only three schools fielded scoring teams.

Mount Abraham freshman Del Guilmette once again posted the best time among all local male runners in finishing fourth overall in the Small School race, a result that helped his team take fifth. Tiger senior Kaden Hammond was next best in taking seventh. VUHS senior Carter McGuire finished 13th for the best Commodore male result, and his teammates outduelled the other Tiger finishers on Saturday as VUHS earned a two-point edge.

Vergennes sophomore Georgia Kunkel paced the non-scoring Commodore girls by finishing ninth, and junior Merissa Gordon led the Eagle contingent by taking 28th.

In the three-team race for the girls' Small School trophy, Rice edged MUHS, 35-37, with host Missisquoi not far behind in third at 48. The Tigers were missing top senior runner Mary Harrington.

The boys' Small School team results were 1. Fairfax 27, 2. VUHS 99, 3. MUHS 101, 4. Richford 105, 5. Mt. Abe 126, 6. Rice 129, 7. Milton 146, and 8. Spaulding 155.

The local female runners' placements and times were:

1. Louisa Orten, MUHS, 20:41.4; 4. Annika Bruning, MUHS, 22:04.3; 8. Meredith Carr-Perlow, MUHS, 22:57.7; 9. Georgia Kunkel, VUHS, 23:14.4; 10. Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs, VUHS, 23:14.5; 12. Fiona Mackey, MUHS, 23:36.8; and 17. Emerson Blair, MUHS, 25:00.6.

Also, 24. Cameron Vose, MUHS, 26:28.6; 28. Merissa Gordon, Mt. Abe, 28:24.1; 32. Eloise Newman, Mt. Abe, 32:02.2; and 33. Sadie Nezin, Mt. Abe, 32:20.7.

The winner's and local male runners' placements and times

were:

1. Gage Magnuson, Fairfax, 15:54.40; 4. Del Guilmette, Mt. Abe, 17:36.80; 7. Kaden Hammond, MUHS, 17:55.6; 13. Carter McGuire, VUHS, 18:43.7; 16. Jorgen Pirrung, MUHS, 18:53.6; 17. Jase Kozak, MUHS, 18:54; 19. Oliver Zelonis, Mt. Abe, 19:15.3; and 20. Emerson Morrill, VUHS, 19:36.4.

Also, 23. Chance Koenig, VUHS, 20:04.3; 25. David Coburn, VUHS, 20:24.9; 26. Quin Dubois, VUHS, 20:28.5; 35. Truth Fetterolf, MUHS, 21:00.2; 36. Blake Davidson, MUHS, 21:13.6; 37. Karson Norris, Mt. Abe, 21:29.3; and 38. Matthew Steele, Mt. Abe, 21:29.5.

Also, 41. James Mount, Mt. Abe, 21:54; 43. George Cammack, MUHS, 22:00; 44. Charlie Reiderer, MUHS, 22:05.6; 50. Elias Bennett Eberhardy, Mt. Abe, 23:08.5; 51. Ezra Latch, MUHS, 23:11; 54. Sawyer Garthaffner, VUHS, 23:32.4; 57. Berkeley Graham-Gurland, MUHS, 24:23.1; and 61. Jeevanjot Singh, MUHS, 28:36.4.

Saturday's meet was the last of the fall before the state championship races hosted by Thetford on Saturday, Oct. 25.

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MOUNT ABE SENIOR goalie Brooklyn Ryersbach comes off her line to corral a Commodore serve into the Eagle box and help preserve her team's lead late in Monday's girls' soccer game at Mount Abraham. Independent photo/Steve James



VUHS JUNIOR ISABELLE Van Voorst pressures Eagle freshman defender Ila Corrigan during Monday's soccer game at Mount Abraham. Independent photo/Steve James

Streak

(Continued from Page 1B)

At the same time Kathan acknowledged slow starts have been a trend. Two days earlier the Commodores had to score twice in the second half to rally past visiting Middlebury, 2-1, for example.

She also credited the play of the Eagles in making life difficult for her team.

"We're a second-half team. We just have to find a way to do things early," Kathan said. "But it was a great game, a really strong showing before the playoffs. We've been having a good time in our league, but these types of games will really help us prepare for what we're going to face when we get a little closer to a championship game."

The Eagles served notice early they were ready to give a better showing than their early-season 4-0 loss at VUHS, as Commodore central defender Amelia Giroux did well to block Eagle forward Molly Burgess's shot after a dangerous through ball.

Then Francis struck with 9:04 gone, somewhat against the run of play. From the left flank, midfielder Libby Ringer found Francis with room to maneuver about 30 yards out from goal. Francis took a couple touches by a defender, and before other Eagles could close her run down she drilled a right-footed shot from just outside the Eagle box into the net's right side. The goal, her career 50th, triggered a sign-waving celebration on the VUHS bench.

The Commodore joy lasted a little over 14 minutes. At 24:14, Shepard equalized. Junior middle Olivia Sawyer shot from the right side of the box, and Shepard was the left post to tap home a rebound.

Twelve minutes later, Mount

Abe had the lead. Sophomore forward Elsa Masefield smartly sent Tierney alone toward goal, and from about the penalty stripe Tierney snapped a waist-high shot inside the right post.

It took the Eagles just over two minutes more to make it 3-1. A foul a few yards outside the left of the VUHS box brought Underwood up from the back for a free kick, and she unloaded a bullet into the goal's far-side netting.

A bit more than two minutes later Commodore sophomore goalie Addie Smith kicked aside a deflected Sawyer shot, and the two-goal margin stood at halftime.

The Eagles earned two early corner kicks in the second half, but the VUHS back line of Giroux and Adrienne Smits in the middle and Ella Romond and Octavia Devine on the flanks steadied in the second half and allowed only two more shots on Smith, who finished with five saves.

At the other end, the Commodores began to gain some traction. Francis broke through again in the half's 11th minute. Freshman middle Ayla Kittredge served from the left side, and the ball bounced off the ground and a couple players before finding its way to Francis on the far side of the Eagle box. She struck the ball back inside the left post to make it 3-2 with plenty of time left. The Commodores also earned two corner kicks shortly after Francis's second goal, but failed to threaten.

Starting Eagle backs Underwood and Brooke Barnard and the rest of the defense remained steady, and in addition to her four saves goalie Brooklyn Ryersbach came off her line to pick off several serves into the Eagle penalty area. Ryersbach was truly tested just once, making a diving save on a Francis direct

kick with 19 minutes to go. After that the Eagles began to push back, and controlled most of the rest of the action.

"At times we were carrying play. It does benefit us that we play a tougher schedule than they do," Corrigan said. "They're a good team. They've got some talent."

And now his Eagles will be looking to finish with a winning record when they host Milton at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

"They're just getting behind each other and supporting each other and playing as a team," Corrigan said. "To be a team that is better than the sum of its parts, you can be that if you function well as a team, and if everybody really owns their role and accepts it and supports each other, and everyone values what everyone else does."

Kathan acknowledged her team's schedule has been a challenge in that the Commodores have to be ready to play hard and well no matter who the competition is, while some games have been essentially walkovers, and others, like Monday's, are against tougher opponents.

"We've got to find the mentality to show up to these games," she said. "We've got the skills. We've got the connectivity. We've got the hard work. We've got the drive, but how do we translate it from lower games to really high intensity games? ... It's how do we find the intensity and skill right off the bat?"

She's confident the Commodores can solve that conundrum with the playoffs opening next week, after they wrap up their regular season with a visit to Blue Mountain on Saturday.

"I feel like that I'd like to see a game in November," Kathan said.

Eagle boys

(Continued from Page 1B)

this year," Graziadei said. "That's been the goal from the start."

On Tuesday the Eagles opened with crisp passing and scored about 10 minutes in. Senior Johnny Stanley served a strong ball from the left side that made its way to junior striker Jarad Griffin on the right side of the box, and Griffin one-timed a rocket high into the middle of the net.

Winooski didn't manage a shot at goal until the 18th minute, when speedy striker Stephan Stephano fired wide left from long range.

Winooski played decent defense for most of the half, but Spartan goalie Omar Turnage (six saves) made several outstanding plays. He came off his line in the 23rd minute to deny Eagle senior back Evan Corrigan stepping into the attack, in the 25th minute turned aside a point-blank chance by Eagle sophomore Wayden Cherington, and late in the half dove left to deny a Graziadei penalty kick.

Eagle goalie Evan Audy tracked down a long direct kick among his

two routine first-half saves.

The Eagles dominated the second half right from the start, storming the Spartan end and earning two corner kicks in the first five minutes. Only a defensive save stopped Eagle senior defender Zealand Jackson's solid header on the second corner.

In the ninth minute the Eagles broke through. Cherington raced in on goal from the left side. Turnage stopped his close-range bid, but Graziadei pounced on the rebound and pounded it into the net.

In the 21st minute junior forward Abe Ready made it 3-0. Griffin beat a defender along the end line to the left of the goal and served across the goalfront, and Ready, wide open on the far side, tapped it into the inviting twine.

In the 26th minute junior Abe Camara crossed from the right side, and Cherington rapped it home on the far side to complete the scoring.

The Eagle defense of Jackson and junior Rowan Clark in the middle and Corrigan and junior

Truman Sawyer (the latter until he left after being inadvertently kicked in the face) allowed the Spartans few looks at Audy, who finished with four saves. One was challenging — he jumped up to his right to deflect a dangerous Charle Mathys-Vallario free kick wide in the second half's 21st minute.

After the game Assistant Coach Peter Coffey spoke on behalf of Coach (and his son) Chris Coffey, who missed the game because of a business conflict.

He addressed the reasons for a good season, like Graziadei citing chemistry and hard work as enhancing the Eagles' talent, while also noting three Eagles have nine or more goals this fall — Griffin, Graziadei and Cherington.

"The biggest thing for us this year is these kids have played forever together, and they practice hard," Coffey said. "They've been focused and working on the things they need to work on. They've got a goal. They want that championship. I think we've got as good a shot as anyone."



WINOOSKI MIDFIELDER SAMUEL Birunga makes a play on the ball with Mount Abe sophomore Wayden Cherington in pursuit Tuesday in Bristol. Image by Mark Bouvier Photography

Girls' soccer: VUHS nips MUHS, Eagles prevail

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Vergennes edged Middlebury, and Mount Abraham nipped St. Albans to highlight county high school girls' soccer play as the playoffs loom.

The teams are playing their final regular season games this week, and their Division II or III playoffs will begin this coming Tuesday and Wednesday with first-round games. Quarterfinals will be played on Oct. 24 and 25, and semifinal games on Oct. 28 and 29.

VUHS-MUHS

On Saturday the Tigers gave the host Commodores all they could handle, taking a 1-0 lead before VUHS rallied for two second-half scores in a 2-1 victory.

Josephine Ives scored for MUHS in the first half, while

Megan Willis and Ava Francis found the net for the Commodores after intermission. Addie Smith made three saves for VUHS, and Marley Lambert (three saves) and Ellie Orten (one save) shared time for the Tigers in goal.

The Commodores improved to 11-0. They were also scheduled to visit Mount Abe on Monday (see story on Page 1B) and host Missisquoi on Wednesday after deadline for this edition. The Commodores are scheduled to wrap up with a visit to Blue Mountain on Saturday morning.

The Tigers dropped to 1-10-1 with the tough loss.

On Oct. 9 visiting Harwood blanked the Tigers, 4-0. Roanha Chalmers led the Highlanders with a pair of goals.

The Tigers put two shots on the Harwood net, while MUHS

goalies Lambert (one stop) and Orten (three) combined for four saves. This game was rescheduled from Sept. 6.

The Tigers were also scheduled to visit Rice on Wednesday after deadline for this edition. The Tigers' last regular season game is scheduled at home on Saturday vs. St. Albans at 10 a.m.

EAGLES

On Oct. 10 the Eagles edged visiting St. Albans, 2-1, on unassisted goals by Payton Shepard and Sophie Underwood. Isabelle Mulheron scored with 14 minutes go to for the Comets to tighten the score. Eagle goalie Brooklyn Ryersbach made five saves, and St. Albans keeper Amelia Pinkham made eight.

The Eagles are set to conclude their regular season by hosting Milton at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Contact Your U.S. Senators

Contact Your U.S. Congressman



Sen. Bernie Sanders
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Sen. Peter Welch
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124 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
https://www.welch.senate.gov/
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community calendar

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 baring 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 dsenechal@buildingbrightfutures.org or abessette@acsdvt.org.

Porter Medical Center centennial ribbon-cutting in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 17, 1-3 p.m., Porter Medical Center main lobby, 115 Porter Dr. The public is invited to a ceremony where hospital leaders will unveil the Porter Centennial Exhibit art installation and a time capsule to be opened in 2075. Free and open to the public.

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=oddttdcreator.

oct 18 SATURDAY

Fill the Fire House food drive in Bristol. Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-noon, Bristol Fire Department, 79 West St., and Bristol Shaw's parking lot, 7 Prince Ln. Community food drive benefiting the Have a Heart Food Shelf. Accepting non-perishable items or cash/check donations. The New Haven, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro fire houses are also collecting donations at the same time.

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 lewisecreek.org or kate@lewisecreek.org.

Quadball Classic Festival at Middlebury College. Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m., Battell Beach, Middlebury College. Collegiate quadball tournament based on Quidditch from "Harry Potter." Free family activities including arts and crafts, a quadball museum and a photo booth. Activities/vendors begin 11 a.m.; Kidditch (quadball for kids) 12:30-1 p.m. More info at go.middlebury.edu/quadballclassicfestival.

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 tkdkicks101@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.

No Kings rallies in Brandon, Vergennes and Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 18. Brandon: 10 a.m.-noon, Brandon Central Park, 2 Franklin St. Vergennes: 10 a.m.-noon, Vergennes City Park, Main St. Middlebury: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Court Square. Peaceful community protests opposing authoritarianism, Trump administration overreach and ICE. Bring flags, signs, friends and a commitment to nonviolent action.

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



Fill the Firehouse

THE BRISTOL FIRE DEPARTMENT is collecting non-perishable items and cash or check donations for the Have a Heart Food Shelf this Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m. to noon. Donations can be dropped off at the fire house on 79 West St. or the Bristol Shaw's parking lot. The New Haven, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro firefighters are also collecting donations at the same time.



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.

Fiddlers Jam in Brandon. Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin St. Come ready to play your fiddle or listen and dance. Door prize, 50/50 raffle, refreshments available. \$3.

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.

Tory Rocks in 1777 in Monkton. Monday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Monkton Town Hall Community Room, 92 Monkton Ridge. Historian Ian Gramling revisits a Revolutionary War ambush, when a local militia seized Loyalist Tories at the rocky outcrop now called Tory Rocks, and previews 250th commemoration plans. In person and on Zoom. More info at monktonhistory.org.

oct 21 TUESDAY

Housing discussion in Bridport. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m., Bridport Church Vestry, 54 Middle Road. The Bridport Housing Task Force will present ideas for workforce and senior housing solutions in town and solicit public input. For more information, contact Albert Zuccor at amzaccor@gmail.com or Mary Duddles at mduddles@gmail.com.

100+ Women Who Care Addison County quarterly meeting. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., location to be announced to members. Quarterly meeting with fund disbursement voting and presentations from New Haven Food Pantry, Addison Housing Works and Counseling Services of Addison County. New members welcome. Cash bar. More information at 100WACVT.org.

oct 22 WEDNESDAY

Teach the World to Sew Day in Middlebury. Wednesday, Oct. 22, two sessions: 10 a.m.-noon or 12:30-2:30 p.m., Middlebury Sew-N-Vac, 260 Court St Suite 4. Free beginner sewing class for those who have never sewn before. Learn to operate a basic sewing machine and make a tote bag; all materials provided. Free, but space is limited. Register: 802-388-3559 or middleburysewnvac.com.

Estate planning seminar in Brandon. Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Attorney Sarah Bouvier Haselton and senior paralegal Katie Reen of Maple Haven Law PLLC present a free estate planning seminar, offering simple and clear explanations of the process. Free. More info at Brandon Free Public Library.

oct 24 FRIDAY

RNESU Coffee Talk with Superintendent Sanchez in Whiting. Friday, Oct. 24, 7:45-9:45

a.m., Whiting General Store, 3 S. Main 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.

5th Annual Med47 Haunted Forest in Bristol. Friday, Oct. 24, 4-8 p.m., 3319 Route 116 South. Trick-or-treat in the woods, listen to witches' spooky stories around the fire pit, and prepare to get candy dropped on your head. Free; donations appreciated. No on-site parking; a shuttle from 485 Route 116 South. Runs every half hour. More info at facebook.com/med47foundation or med47foundation@gmail.com.

Community Discussion Regarding Responses to Domestic Violence & Supporting Survivors in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 24, 6:15-7:30 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Community partners discuss how to collectively respond to survivors of domestic violence.

oct 25 SATURDAY

Craft Supply Sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-noon, Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Shop assorted craft supplies including fabric, yarn, embroidery, notions and unfinished projects. Soup-to-go \$10 a quart. Donations accepted Oct. 19-23; call or text 802-349-7754. Proceeds benefit the Vergennes Congregational Church.

Middlebury Walk for Stroke Awareness in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m., Triangle Park, Merchants Row and Main St. Community walk in honor of World Stroke Day. Share resources and connect with fellow survivors and caregivers. Free. More info at strokeawarenessvermont.org or strokeawarenessvermont@gmail.com.

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 25, 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.

5th Annual Med47 Haunted Forest in Bristol. Saturday, Oct. 25, 4-8 p.m., 3319 Route 116 South. See Oct. 24 listing.

Frights & Flicks in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 25, 7-9 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. After-hours Halloween movie night featuring the cult classic whodunit "Clue." Costumes encouraged; popcorn provided. Free.

Hot Neon Magic in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 25, 7-10 p.m., Vergennes American Legion Post #14, 100 Armory Lane. Hot Neon Magic plays pop and New Wave favorites from the early MTV era. Hosted by Vergennes American Legion Post #14. Admission by donation. Cash bar. Open to the public. More info at facebook.com/share/17VEYNkikq.

oct 26 SUNDAY

Bingo in Vergennes. Sunday, Oct. 26, 1-3:30 p.m., Vergennes American Legion Post 14, 100 Armory Lane. Doors 12:30 p.m. \$15 packets; \$1 winner-take-all. Cash prizes. Food for sale. Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 14. Open to the public. More info at facebook.com/share/1DAEBryA2U.

Why Vermont History Matters in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, 3279 Route 7. Historian Kevin Graffagnino discusses why Vermont history matters — from how local stories build identity and community ties to how historical knowledge can shape a better future for Vermonters.

5th Annual Med47 Haunted Forest in Bristol. Sunday, Oct. 26, 4-8 p.m., 3319 Route 116 South. See Oct. 24 listing.

CALENDAR ONLINE
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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — There will be a library storytelling event at Burnham Hall on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. Join us to hear stories and perhaps share a story yourself.

Vermont resident Samara Anderson is on a mission to host storytelling events in every Vermont public library. She will facilitate 7-10 visiting storytellers who will tell a personal story in less than seven minutes. Audience members will also be invited to share a short story from an available prompt if feeling inspired. This is a powerful opportunity to support personal stories that help us understand the small histories people carry with them, the ones worth sharing and

preserving. Snacks will be available.

The library's Annual Pumpkin Palooza and Magic Show will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. People of all ages are invited to carve pumpkins for Halloween. Feel free to bring your own or some will be provided. Showing off your costume is welcomed, but optional. Cider and snacks will be available. This year, Tom Verner and the Magic Club will be putting on a show around 1:15 p.m. so come early, claim your pumpkins and tools, watch the show and then create your jack-o-lantern.

The last day of the library's book sale is Saturday, Oct. 18. Come one and all for the best deal in town — a bag of books for \$5. Stock up on

books for winter reading, gifts or crafts. A big thank you to everyone who has supported the library by purchasing books and to those who donated books to the sale.

Please do not drop off any more books for the sale. Books can't be stored over the winter and though they try to find new homes for each of them, they do end up transporting and paying to dispose/recycle those they can't rehome. If you have a book that you think should be added to the library's collection, stop in and talk to them about it.

REMINDER: The Lincoln Fire Department will be collecting donations for the food drive on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Monkton

Have a news tip?
Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — What is a Silent Reading Party? New Librarian Catherine Goldsmith is inviting you to come to Russell Memorial Library on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., to find out. During this first-time event you will be able to enjoy a little soft music, a hot or cold drink and a comfortable chair to indulge in an hour of silent reading time, which will start at 6:15 p.m. Just think, no household interruptions, or phone calls, TV noise or any other things that always seem to interrupt your reading time. Just an hour of peace and quiet!

Many public libraries are taking on this challenge, which is a great way to get out but not worry about small talk or that you can't remember someone's name. All are welcome but suggested age is for people 13 and up who want a quiet place to read

for a while. For more information, contact Catherine at the library on Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. or Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or call 802-453-4471 and leave a message.

Come one, come all to the Haunted Corn Maze, hosted by our very own Monkton Boy Scouts. This eerie event will be held on Oct. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Layn Farms, 3984 Bristol Rd, in Monkton. Admission is \$5 per person. All ages welcome. Wear good walking shoes and bring your flashlight.

The Layn Farms Corn Maze weekend continues through October from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. And mark your calendars for the Layns' first ever Fall Fest on Sunday, Oct. 26, with music, vendors, activities, animals and much more. Children age 12 and

over and adults will get in for \$10 each, under age 12 will cost \$5 each. More details to follow.

Also watch for more details on the beloved Monkton Trunk or Treat event on Sunday Oct. 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., co-sponsored by the Monkton Friends Methodist Church and Russell Memorial Library. Families may park in the Church yard to walk over to the circle of vehicles and/or tables in the Town Hall parking lot with all kinds of goodies. If the weather is bad, the festivities will be moved into the Community Room of the Town Hall. Individual and town groups are invited to participate in this fun event and set up their trunk or table to greet the excited trick or treaters. Please contact Teri Fitzgerald at 802-453-4918 for more information and to sign up for a space.



This monarch butterfly was spotted in Addison County.

Let's help preserve them

Monarch butterflies are incredible

By JILL VICKERS

Do you recall the late July weather this year with its high 80s and peak mugginess? I broke out in a sweat just thinking about yardwork.

This was, however, the beginning of the International Monarch Blitz, a call from eight organizations in Canada, Mexico and the United States, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. People were encouraged to get outside to observe and note the presence of eggs, chrysalises and larvae to submit to the study. The information collected by North American community science observers helps researchers identify priority areas for monarch conservation actions.

I was on the hunt on our property in West Bridport with its roughly 100 milkweed plants. This involved bending over the two- to three-foot-tall plants crowded together among the grasses, goldenrod and other wild plants to examine the underside of each leaf for a single egg the size of a pinhead.

To distinguish the whitish egg from a droplet of milkweed "milk," I would look for a slightly deflated football shape. I was bent over, clipboard in

one hand, pen in pocket, swiping sweat from brow in my attempt at "citizen science." Results: a couple dozen eggs and no larvae. I was not looking for the green chrysalis as the monarch caterpillar leaves the milkweed to find a secure spot, sometimes as much as 30 feet away, on other plants or sides of houses.

Why do I do this? Our Eastern monarch population has declined by more than 80% since the mid-1990s. Land development and herbicide use continues to reduce habitat for breeding, feeding and overwintering in Mexico. Climate change also poses a threat by affecting milkweed availability (due to droughts) and creating more extreme weather events. It's not all bad news for the monarch. The Eastern monarch population nearly doubled in 2025, according to the annual report released in Mexico. Also, the 2024 overwintering area occupied two more acres than in 2023. At least another two acres are needed to sustain the population.

Still, U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists predict a 56-74% probability of extinction for the monarch (See *Monarch butterflies*, Page 10B)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists predict a 56-74% probability of extinction for the monarch in 60 years.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Otter Valley Union High School

Breanna Bovey

Breanna Bovey is Otter Valley Union High School's Student of the Week. She lives in Pittsford with her dad, two brothers, one sister, two dogs, and a cat. Outside of school, she works as a hostess at the Cluckin' Cafe in Pittsford and enjoys staying active through sports like field hockey and basketball, as well as spending time outdoors.

In the classroom, Breanna likes learning new concepts and connecting with other students. Her favorite classes are AP World History and AP Chemistry because they challenge her to analyze information deeply and form well-supported claims. She credits Mr. Jeskie as one of her biggest influences, sharing that he has been "super supportive of me through academics and athletics... he has always been there for help and I really find him to be extremely helpful during the school year."

Breanna's hard work and leadership have earned her numerous achievements, including placement on the Principal's List and receiving Excellence Awards in Chemistry, Global Studies, American Studies, You and the Law, BSCS, and Geometry. She is also a proud member of the National Honor Society.

Reflecting on what she's learned, Breanna says that being supported by her peers through academic challenges has inspired her to do the same for others. Her advice to younger students is simple but meaningful, "Treat others how you want to be treated."

Looking ahead, Breanna plans to attend college to study pre-legal studies, with the goal of going on to law school to become an attorney. She also hopes to continue playing field hockey at the university level. We wish Breanna continued success!



Breanna Bovey
OVUHS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Genevieve Forand

Mt. Abraham is proud to recognize Genevieve Forand as our Student of the Week. Gen lives in Bristol with her parents, two brothers, her dog and cat.

Gen has been a recipient of high or highest honors every semester of her high school career. She likes that school allows her to constantly learn new things while being involved with a supportive community. Gen earned the Seal of Biliteracy for French. Her favorite classes at Mt. Abe have been AP Environmental Science, AP English Literature, and Virtual High School American Sign Language. She appreciates her teacher Mrs. Grzyb for being "incredibly supportive and kind while still pushing you to your fullest potential."

Gen is an involved member of our Mt. Abe community. She is the captain of the Varsity Softball team, Co-President of the Environmental Action Group, and has been recognized as an All League Player for softball three years in a row. Gen is also the founder of the Morgan's Message club and serves as an ambassador for the organization. In addition to her school commitments, Gen works part-time at Rocker's Pizza as well as volunteers at the Homeward Bound animal shelter. In her spare time she enjoys reading, hanging out with friends and going to the gym.

Reflecting on her time at Mt. Abe, Gen talks about the importance of organization and time management. "Balancing academic responsibilities, athletics, and a social life can be challenging," she said. "What I would tell underclassmen is, stay grounded, look at the bigger picture, but know it's OK to ask for help."

Gen plans to attend a four-year university to pursue a degree in Marine Biology and continue her softball career. The Mt. Abe community wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.



Genevieve Forand
MAUHS

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

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To celebrate your achievements, Full Circle Building & Remodeling is providing each Student of the Week \$25 in local currency (Bristol Bucks, Middlebury Money, Vergennes Green, or Brandon Bucks). Just check in with your school's Student of the Week coordinator to claim your prize!

Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Congratulations, Genevieve and Breanna

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advertising@addisonindependent.com to advertise.

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Congratulations, Genevieve and Breanna!

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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

Public Meetings

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services. Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT-TALKS.

Services

BROWN'S CONSTRUCTION renovations, interior/exterior painting, drywall, plumbing/electrical services. Fully insured w/ 30+ years of experience covering Northern Addison and Southern Chittenden, references available. Call 802-238-4864

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

FALL GUTTER CLEANING Affordable and reliable gutter cleaning. Free quotes. Call/text Ian 802-349-7871

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Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Garage Sales

LARGE QUANTITY OF FRAMED PAINTINGS, prints, photographs and a huge Gene Autry movie poster. Also a section of the wooden seats from Centennial Field and other misc items. 77 North Main St, Whiting (Route 30) October 18th 9 - 4

Help Wanted

BREAKFAST CHEF - FULL TIME Swift House Inn in Middlebury, Vermont is hiring a full-time breakfast chef to lead our small, dedicated restaurant team. We're looking for someone with creativity, consistency, and a passion for fresh, local ingredients. This is an opportunity to elevate our breakfast offerings with innovative ideas and beautiful presentation. Early mornings, weekend availability, reliability, and a positive, professional attitude are essential. Pay range \$22-\$25. Housing available for the right candidate. To apply, stop by in person or email owner@swifthouseinn.com.

Help Wanted

EVENING FRONT DESK/ CONCIERGE. Swift House Inn - Middlebury, Vermont. We're hiring a front desk professional to anchor our evening shift. This position plays a pivotal role: greeting arriving guests, fielding questions, supporting restaurant reservations, and ensuring the property is secure and guest-ready for the next day. If you thrive on creating memorable experiences and want to grow in the hospitality industry, this is for you. Swift House Inn has 20 guest rooms across three historic buildings, and is home to Jessica's at Swift House Inn, one of Vermont's most celebrated fine dining restaurants. Responsibilities: Welcome and check in arriving guests with warmth and professionalism. Answer phones, manage room and restaurant reservations. Provide local recommendations and concierge-style service. Troubleshoot guest concerns and offer proactive solutions. Liaise with Jessica's restaurant team for smooth communication. Keep common areas tidy, cozy, and well-presented. Follow nightly checklists and procedures. Lock up buildings and hand off to the overnight security team. You Are... Deeply interested in the hotel and lodging industry, A natural host who loves creating great guest experiences in Addison County, Communicative, warm, and gracious under pressure, Obsessed with details and good systems, Reliable, punctual, and self-directed. Shift & Compensation. Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Schedule: Part-time, includes some weekends and holidays. Pay: \$20-\$22 Hourly, commensurate with experience, bonuses and tips. Apply Today. Email your resume and a short note to owner@swifthouseinn.com. Learn more about us at swifthouseinn.com

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999, weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

For Rent

ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Sale

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

For Sale

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

TWO WHEELS Two round heavy duty freight wagon wheels. One has 18 spokes, pictures available. \$150 each. 802-425-3529

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999, weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

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HISTORIC 2 BEDROOM HOUSE Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available mid-October. \$2100/month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call for info. and photos. 802-897-2448.

MIDDLEBURY ONE BEDROOM Small, ground floor. Very nice, very convenient in-town location, perfect for person who does not drive. \$795 plus heat and electric. Non-smoker, no pets.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/ no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

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Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

Help Wanted

Att. Farmers

EQUIPMENT SALE M.F 294 and 175, diesel tractors. KFM 806, bedding chopper. Calf hutches for sales. 802-321-2886

HAY First and second cut round bales, stored. \$25 and up. 518-321-2886

Help Wanted

Wanted

WANTED in good health. Please call 802-228-2228.

Help Wanted



Why search the whole internet when your next hire could be right next door?

Free job sites might get you clicks, but the *Addy Indy* gets you candidates. Our help wanted ads connect you directly with people who already live in Addison County, shop on Main Street, and care about this community. In print and online.

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RSVP of Addison County connects volunteers age 55 and up with organizations that need their support. RSVP provides a wide range of opportunities from delivering healthy meals to neighbors, helping community members with transportation, to reading to a companion, or providing support to children of all ages. RSVP will help you find an opportunity to fit with your causes, interests and schedule.

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Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals

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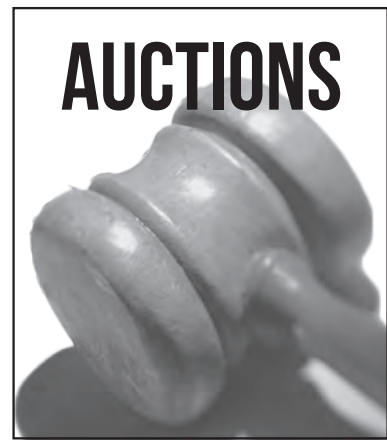
Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

RATES

AUCTIONS



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Please check back next week!

BEEF	\$
Iroquois	8.80
Nop B	9.60
Blue S	1.50
J. Alle	2.50
Sunde	4.00
Vorse	4.00
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CALV	\$
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call 1-802-388-2661



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SPORTS WE'VE GOT IT COVERED!

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
on Pages 10B and 11B

- Addison (2)
- Ferrisburgh (1)
- Leicester (1)
- Lincoln (1)
- New Haven (1)

TOWN OF ADDISON SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

At a duty called meeting of the Selectboard held on October 5, 2025 the Selectboard amended the following:

Speed Limit Ordinance
The Speed Limit on King Hill Road shall be 25 mph from Vermont Route 22A to Vermont Route 17 East.

Sign Ordinance
Signs posted on Potash Bay Road indicating Public Beach and No Parking (dusk to dawn, beyond this point), and handicap parking. Efforts are being made to keep the access to the public launch open for traffic.

This Ordinance shall become effective on November 7, 2025.

Jeff Kauffman, Sr.
Roger Waterman
Robert Hunt
Peter Briggs
Geoffery Grant

TOWN OF ADDISON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of real property in the Town of Addison in Addison County are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

Property Owners: John Hinkell, Sr.
Property Address: Sportsman Campground #62
Parcel ID # VR0062-T
A travel trailer located at Sportsman Campground, Lot 62.
Tax Years: 2021-2024
Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$3,584.84

Property Owners: James Koerber
Property Address: 144 Cedar Drive
Parcel ID # CD0144
Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Louise Koerber to James Koerber dated June 1, 2018, and recorded at Volume 115, Page 280, of the Town of Addison Land Records.
Tax Years: 2022-2024
Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$4,843.18

Property Owners: John E. Oliva
Property Address: 9 Oven Bay
Parcel ID # OB0009
Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 823, of the Town of Addison Land Records.
Tax Years: 2022-2024
Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$21,592.64

Property Owners: John E. Oliva
Property Address: 392 Tritown Road
Parcel ID # TR0392
Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 821, of the Town of Addison Land Records.
Tax Years: 2022-2024
Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$21,720.03

Property Owners: Shayne Thompson
Property Address: 3313 VT Route 17W
Parcel ID # VW3313
Land and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Daniel Devries to Shayne Thompson dated February 21, 2017, and recorded at Volume 107, Page 240, of the Town of Addison Land Records.
Tax Years: 2022-2024
Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$4,007.28

Reference may be had to said instruments for a more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appear in the Town Clerk's Office of the Town of Addison.

So much of such real property will be sold at public auction at the Addison Town Clerk's Office, 65 VT Route 17 West, Addison, VT 05491, on October 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with interest, costs and penalties, unless previously paid. Property owners or mortgagees may pay such taxes, interest, costs and penalties in full by cash or certified check made payable to the Town of Addison. At tax sale, successful bidders must pay in full by cash or certified check. No other payments accepted. Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Kristen E. Shamis, Esq.
Monaghan Safar PLLC
27 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
kshamis@msvtlaw.com

Monaghan Safar PLLC, and the Town of Addison give no opinion or certification as to the marketability of title to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owner/taxpayer.

Dated at Addison, Vermont, this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Alden Harwood
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Addison

Head-on crash results in injuries

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police responded to a two-car, head-on collision — with injuries — on Route 125 in East Middlebury on Oct. 7.

Police said Middlebury Regional EMS and local firefighters also responded to the scene.

Meanwhile, almost every night between Oct. 6 and 12, Middlebury police were called to deal with someone sleeping where they were not wanted around town.

On the morning of Oct. 6, police received a report of a person sleeping outside a Court Street business; the woman had left upon their arrival. The next day, police investigated a report of a man sleeping in the stairwell of a Court Street apartment; the man agreed to leave.

At around 10 p.m. on Oct. 8, officers moved along a woman who had been sleeping on a College Street business's property. Separately, police responded to a report of an unwanted person sleeping in front of a Court Street business on Oct. 9.

Finally, authorities looked into a report of a homeless person sleeping on Congregational Church of Middlebury property on Oct. 12.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Investigated a retail theft from a Route 7 South business on Oct. 6.
- Responded to a report of someone driving erratically on Route 7 North on Oct. 6.
- Intervened after a reported road rage incident on Main Street on Oct. 6.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint at a Shannon Street address on Oct. 6.
- Cited John Brown, 48, of Middlebury for violating a temporary restraining order in the Case Street area on Oct. 6.
- Were informed on Oct. 6 that multiple items had been stolen from a vehicle parked on Washington Street.
- Investigated an unlawful mischief complaint at a Shannon Street home on Oct. 6.
- Assisted state police with a stolen-bike complaint off River Road in New Haven on Oct. 7.
- Responded to a report of a suspicious man on Mary Hogan Drive at around 7 a.m. on Oct. 7.
- Responded to a report of two people violating a no-trespass order at a Court Street business on Oct. 8.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a medical call in the North Pleasant Street area on Oct. 8.
- Served a temporary restraining order on a local person in the Lindale Circle area on Oct. 9.
- Assisted with a domestic issue at a Kings Row address on Oct. 9.
- Conducted a foot patrol downtown on Oct. 9.
- Responded to a "juvenile issue" in the Lindale Circle area on Oct. 10.
- Received a report about someone allegedly illegally dumping trash off Eastview Terrace on Oct. 10.
- Assisted a Wilson Road business that was having an issue with a homeless person on Oct. 10.
- Helped Vermont State Police take a man into custody in the Lindale Circle area on Oct. 10.
- While investigating a noise complaint filed by a Morse Road resident during the evening of Oct. 11, Police found seven youths in possession of alcohol near the edge of the Otter Creek. Police said the youths initially scattered into the woods, but all eventually turned themselves in.
- Ensured a local vulnerable adult got back to her home safely on Oct. 11.
- Investigated a report of a man driving his bike unsafely on Case Street on Oct. 11.
- Were informed of a potentially drunken driver on Route 7 South on Oct. 11. Police determined the driver wasn't impaired.
- Responded to a report of a man allegedly threatening workers at Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, on Oct. 11.
- Reported a driver had fled from officers during an attempted traffic stop on Route 125 East on Oct. 11. Police now know the identity of that driver and have issued a warrant for her arrest.
- Searched in vain for an injured fox reported in the North Pleasant Street area on Oct. 12.
- Located a missing local juvenile and returned her to her residence on Oct. 12.
- Investigated a report of someone allegedly kicking in a door at the Sarah Partridge Library in East Middlebury on Oct. 12.
- Responded to a single-vehicle crash, with minor injuries, on Middle Road North on Oct. 12.
- Helped a local woman who on Oct. 12 receiving unwanted phone calls.
- Investigated an unlawful mischief and theft complaint at an East Main Street residence on Oct. 12.

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police had a busy week keeping local roads safe between Oct. 7 and 12. The department's officers conducted 41 traffic stops for moving violations or defective equipment. Typically half of those stops result in traffic tickets and half in warnings.

During those seven days Vergennes police also conducted 10 cruiser patrols and three foot patrols, processed three fingerprint requests, responded to two false alarms, and:

On Oct. 6:

- At the station accepted found property that was turned in by a city resident.
- Were told about a suspicious person in the area of Victory and Green streets; the person left the area before police arrived.

On Oct. 7:

- Responded to a Walker Avenue report of a stolen package that had been delivered. After an investigation, police cited Debra Cobb, 63, of Vergennes for petit larceny and issued her a pre-charge diversion referral.
- Responded to allegations of animal abuse in the North Street area. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

On Oct. 8:

- Conducted a welfare check on Green Street and found the person to be well.
- Were notified of damage done to a building in the city. An investigation is ongoing.
- Went to a Second Street home for a welfare check on a juvenile at the request of a parent. Police said the juvenile had not gone to school because of an illness.

On Oct. 9 took a report of a fight between two students on the Vergennes Union Elementary School playground. Police agreed with school staff that the school would handle the issue.

On Oct. 10:

- Looked into the welfare of a Main Street resident who did not show up to work, but could not find the person. Police said there was no indication the individual was in danger and took no further action.
- Helped Vergennes Union High School at its homecoming parade.
- Received a complaint about a threat from a juvenile on Monkton Road and made several attempts to contact the complainant, who did not respond.
- Looked into a custodial complaint on Armory Lane and helped create a safety plan between the parents for the juvenile involved.
- Served an abuse prevention order to a Green Street resident.
- Checked a report of a suspicious person in Booth Woods and contacted the subject, but found nothing of concern.
- Took in a report of a minor crash that occurred on Oct. 2 for insurance purposes.
- Responded to the intersection of Main and South Water streets to a two-vehicle head-on crash with air bag deployment, but no injuries. The accident is under investigation.

On Oct. 11:

- Sent a department Drug Recognition Expert to a car accident in Rutland County with serious bodily injury.
- Took a call from the Champlain Farms convenience store about a suspicious vehicle that had been sitting in the parking lot. Police suggested the store issue a no-trespass notice to the driver.

On Oct. 12 heard from a South Maple Street resident that an Amazon package had been stolen from a home's front porch during the afternoon of the day before. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police did not have a particular busy week during the first part of October with only three reports of citations issued.

Daniel Sabourin, 48, of Vergennes appeared on the police blotter again this week. On the morning of Oct. 3, troopers took a report of a vehicle taken from Midd State Towing's lot without paying for the tow services. Police said Sabourin took the vehicle without paying the bill. On Oct. 5 they cited him for theft of services.

Then on Oct. 8, troopers released information on an investigation that began Sept. 27, when state police received numerous calls about a disorderly conduct violation in Monkton. Officials said their investigation showed that Michael Casey, 62, of Monkton engaged in an altercation with another Monkton man on a public highway. They cited Casey for disorderly conduct.

Finally, on Oct. 9 troopers responded to a report of a restraining order violation in New Haven. Ultimately, police cited Bruce Bushey, 61, of Middlebury for violation of an abuse prevention order.

Monarch butterflies

(Continued from Page 6B)

in 60 years. As grandparents themselves, my grandchildren would someday only be able to tell the young of a large orange and black butterfly that used to be born, develop and metamorphose into a butterfly strong enough to fly thousands of miles to its winter home.

How easy it is to engage a child with this brightly colored creature flitting around the flowers. How simple it is to take a milkweed leaf and monarch egg indoors with lots of fresh milkweed leaves to witness

up close the emerging of a 2-mm caterpillar. It will eat its way through four stages of growth, shedding its skin each time. After awhile it makes its way to a suitable place to hang head down from its silk pad, molt for the fifth and last time. As the skin disappears, the chrysalis can be seen underneath.

Then, the magic.

Much, but not all, of the animal inside dissolves and builds a new body with wings, antennae and proboscis. Ten days to two weeks later, the butterfly emerges.

What can we do to help ensure the monarch does not go extinct? One simple step is to reduce or eliminate our use of pesticides.

One a bit more involved is what entomologist Doug Tallamy recommends. He argues that it is

habitats loss that is the primary threat, and the solution is habitat restoration. Planting the host plant milkweed is the answer. Planting other nectar plants is also recommended, i.e. native plants like asters, goldenrods, blazing star, coneflowers and others. being excellent choices for their high nectar content and long bloom times.

Locally the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County is a group of volunteers active in the international movement to preserve biodiversity by planting more native plants for the pollinators, by reducing lawns, by avoiding pesticide use and by educating others in these practices.

And another way to help monarchs is to encourage others to take these steps — stop using pesticides, improve habitat — and we all will benefit.

TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Office (62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT) and virtually using Zoom

The Lincoln Development Review Board will hold public hearings for:

- Subdivision Application #25-039 as requested by Kevin and Megan LaRose for their property located at 33 French Settlement in Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID# 34-10-01-58.100. Description: To create four lots from one. No further development is planned at this time.
- Subdivision Application #25-047 as requested by Ronald L. and Joni D. Masterson for their property located at 262 Grimes Road in Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID# 33-10-01-43.000. Description: To create two lots from one.

Participation in local proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeals. Please call the Zoning Administrator at (802) 453-2980 to arrange a time to view complete applications.

The Zoom link will be included in the agenda which can be found on the Town's website the week prior to the hearing: <https://lincolnvermont.org/2025-DRB-agendas-minutes>

Nicole Lee, Lincoln DRB Vice Chair

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING

The Ferrisburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearing on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025** at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at **7PM**. The hearing will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Application Number 25-091: Construct, operate, rent, and sell commercial flex spaces and multi-use facilities for a variety of business types in five new buildings totaling 44,400 square feet; Applicant: Vermont Toy Storage, LLC; west side of Route 7 between Stage Road and Lewis Creek; Parcel ID number 05/01/44.11 Lots 2 and 3; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Conditional Use.

The files for the above application are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the New Haven Development Review Board will be held at the Town Clerk's Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT on Monday, November 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

- Final Plat Hearing on Application #2025-DRB-09-SD submitted by applicants Jonathan and Christa Bevan and landowners Michael and Emily Findlay (classified as a minor subdivision October 6, 2025), per Section 923 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations adopted April 2024.
- Final Plat Hearing on Application #2025-DRB-10-SD submitted by applicant Douglas Wiker (classified as a minor subdivision October 6, 2025), per Section 923 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations adopted April 2024.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Clerk's office, or by remote:

<https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09>
Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing the zoning administrator at: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours, or on the Town's website: <https://www.newhavenvt.com/>

New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516



Metro Creative photo

Hunters urged to wear orange

MONTPELIER — Vermont Fish and Wildlife is reminding hunters to wear fluorescent hunter orange.

“Hunting is one of the safest outdoor activities, thanks to advances in education as well as science,” said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Jason Batchelder. “Our volunteer hunter education instructors stress that wearing orange during hunting season is important, and studies prove that wearing fluorescent hunter orange keeps hunters visible to other people in the woods.”

“We should strive to be the safest we can by wearing at least a hunter orange hat and vest,” added Vermont Hunter Education Program Coordinator Nicole Meier. “Deer are most active during dawn and dusk hours when visibility is low. You can improve your chances of being seen by other hunters by wearing hunter orange, which can be seen even in low-light situations.”

“While it isn’t recommended to wear orange during waterfowl

and turkey seasons, we certainly still recommend hunter orange when you are going to and from your blind, treestand or calling spot,” added Meier.

While some hunters might be concerned that deer are scared by hunter orange, in fact deer have been shown to be unaffected by the color. A deer’s vision is based on movement, patterns and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color, but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Hunting in Vermont continues to be a safe recreational pursuit and hunters can help keep it that way by choosing to wear hunter orange. This video shows how much more visible hunters are when wearing orange: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kjSI79ss9I.

Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear orange.



Backers hope to rebuild the Vermont Farm Show

VERMONT — After five months of gathering stakeholder input earlier this year, the Vermont Farm Show’s Board of Directors voted to keep the organization alive. With that vote, comes a lot of work.

The board announced this week that it is building a new organization, one to ensure the return of an event that supports Vermont’s diverse agricultural enterprises and land-based economy well into the future. As its first actions, the organization set a goal to hold a renewed show in 2027, is changing its federal tax status so tax-deductible donations can be used to support its work, and adopted a new mission and vision.

The Vermont Farm Show’s new mission is to build knowledge and community among farmers and the general public while celebrating Vermont’s diverse agricultural sector. The organization’s new vision reads:

The Vermont Farm Show is an event for everyone. The show provides individuals with the opportunity to 1) learn, see, and taste the variety of agricultural products our state has to offer, 2) engage in learning and hands-on experiences, 3) share individual experiences, and 4) enjoy time with family and friends all while serving to advance Vermont’s diverse agricultural industry.

The board has outlined the Vermont Farm Show’s key purpose going forward to include these five actions:

Gather — all people together in a celebration of Vermont agriculture

Educate — everyone, including farmers and future farmers to

support a vibrant and diverse agricultural sector in Vermont

Engage — all people through sharing access to resources and providing visibility to the variety of products produced by Vermont’s farmers

Enhance—Vermont’s agricultural activities by highlighting services and resources, and creating connections and access to information

Ensure — a diverse agricultural future for Vermont through embracing all types

and scales of agriculture, and educating people of opportunities to support Vermont farmers and farming

And, as a final note, the board set two essential objectives:

1) **Hold an Annual Show** that:

• Provides everyone the opportunity to Taste, Touch, Teach, Learn, and Buy through providing hands-on access to the bounty of Vermont agricultural products and practices

• Invites all farmers to share and learn in community to strengthen individual and industry operations in support of Vermont’s diverse agricultural enterprises

• Supports youth engagement, education, and empowerment to help ensure a strong agricultural future in Vermont

• Highlights diverse service providers so that current and aspiring farmers, and the public has access to information and resources to grow Vermont’s agricultural sector

2) **Be a self-sustaining organization** that generates earned and contributed revenue, and leverages reciprocal partnerships

For more information and Vermont Farm Show history, visit www.vtfarmshow.com.

Sheriff’s Department seeking a speeding black motorcycle

ADDISON COUNTY — An Addison County Sheriff’s deputy observed a black motorcycle speeding faster than 50 mph on Route 22A North in Addison on Oct. 6 at around 2:40 p.m. The officers attempted to stop the cycle but discontinued pursuit after a short distance.

The motorcycle was spotted a short time later on King Hill Road, where it again fled from a traffic stop and continued south on Route 22A.

Anyone with information on the identity of the motorcycle driver is asked to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 802-388-2981.

Between Oct. 5 and 11, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 39 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted 7 people for background checks.

Sheriff’s Log

Also during that week, deputies attempted to serve 10 pieces of civil process around the county; completed VIN verifications for residents Addison, New Haven and Shoreham; completed a HIN verification (boat) for a Leicester resident and attended DUI investigation training at the Police Academy in Pittsford.

On Oct. 8-10, Sheriff Michael Elmore assigned extra deputies to the courthouse because a jury trial was underway.

Sheriff Elmore met with selectboards in Waltham, Panton and Hancock to discuss contracted law enforcement from

his department.

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

• On Oct. 6 assisted rescue with a person who was injured on the Snake Mountain hiking trail in Addison.

• On Oct. 7 assisted Vermont State Police with a crash on Route 22A in Bridport.

• On Oct. 7 did a background investigation in Middlebury.

• On Oct. 7 responded to a report of a Weybridge resident firing a pellet gun in an unsafe manner. The resident was located and warned.

• On Oct. 7 checked the welfare of a New Haven resident and found them to be safe and well.

• On Oct. 8 Sheriff Elmore and a deputy stopped by a Middlebury daycare to give a tour of the

cruisers and hand out activity books.

• On Oct. 8 got a complaint about a horse that was not being cared for in Ferrisburgh. The officer determined that the horse was getting proper care.

• On Oct. 9 escorted an oversized load to the New Hampshire state line.

• On Oct. 9 assisted state police at a crash on Route 17 East in Addison.

• On Oct. 10 provided a car seat inspection for a family with two new seats.

• On Oct. 10 assisted with a medical call in Waltham.

• On Oct. 11 responded to a report of a possible crash on Route 7 in Salisbury and tracked it back to be a phone in the road that had set off a crash detection alert.

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B and 11B.

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

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION Addison Unit Docket No. 25-CV-04065

IN RE: ABANDONED MOBILE HOME
OF EUGENE RAYMOND AND EUGENE STREETER
74 HILLSIDE DRIVE, STARKSBORO

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an Order of the Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Civil Division, dated October 7, 2025, the abandoned mobile home of Eugene Raymond and Eugene Streeter located at 74 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont, will be sold at public auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 22nd day of October, 2025, at 74 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont:

To Wit:

Being a 1984 or 1986 mobile home, make, model and serial number unknown, sited at 74 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont.

Terms of Sale: The mobile home to be conveyed in “as is” condition, free and clear of all liens and other encumbrances of record. The minimum bid established by the Court, sufficient to cover costs of sale, is \$13,145.57. The mobile home shall be sold to the highest bidder over the minimum bid. The successful bidder shall make full payment at auction if the bid does not exceed \$2,000. If the bid exceeds \$2,000, the successful bidder shall provide a non-refundable deposit at the time of the auction of at least \$2,000 or 25% of the bid, whichever is greater, and shall make full payment within three working days after the auction. A successful bidder, if other than the park owner, shall remove the mobile home from the park within five working days after the auction unless the park owner permits removal at a later date.

Other terms to be announced at the sale or make inquiries to Lesley Deppman, Esq., Deppman Law, 56 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont, 802-388-6337.

DATED AT Middlebury, Vermont this 9th day of October, 2025.

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST

By: Lesley Deppman, Esq.
Deppman Law PLC
56 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6337; (802) 382-8840 (fax)

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT

CIVIL DIVISION
DOCKET NO: 242-10-15 Ancv

M&T BANK

PLAINTIFF

VS.

KERRY KURT; NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION; DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; VERMONT LAND TRUST, INC.; VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS; VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 4118 ROUTE 116, STARKSBORO, VT 05487

DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Second Amended Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered on June 20, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Salvatore J. Provetto and Kerry Kurt to Chittenden Trust Co. dba Chittenden Mortgage Svcs. (now M & T Bank s/b/m to People’s United Bank, N.A. s/b/m to Chittenden Trust Co. dba Chittenden Mortgage Svcs.) dated October 15, 2008, and recorded in Book 93, at Page 110, of the Town of Starksboro Land Records as affected by Modification of Mortgage recorded September 17, 2017 in Book 115, at Page 342 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on **October 29, 2025 at 03:00 PM at 4118 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487** all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Kerry Kurt and Salvatore J. Provetto by Warranty Deed of Monty Adams dated October 7, 2005 and recorded at Book 83, Pages 279-280 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records.

Being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Monty Adams by Quitclaim Deed of Donna Adams, dated September 7, 2004 and recorded in Book 79, Pages 296-297 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records, and being further described as all the same land and premises conveyed to Donna Adams and Monty Adams by Warranty Deed of Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 30, 1999 and recorded in Book 61, Pages 404-407 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records.

The mortgaged premises are subject to and/or benefited by easements, rights of way, agreements and permits of record.

Reference is hereby made to said deeds and their records and to all prior deeds and their records for a further and more complete description of the lands and premises herein conveyed.

Also being all the lands and premises conveyed to Kerry Kurt by Warranty Deed of the Town of Starksboro, dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Town of Starksboro Land Records, and more particularly described therein as follows:

“A parcel of land containing 13.24 acres, more or less, as shown on a survey plat entitled ‘Boundary Line Adjustment Plat Between Lands of Town of Starksboro & Kerry Kurt, VT Route 116, Town of Starksboro, Addison County, Vermont,’ prepared by Donald A. Johnson, dated January 20, 2016, and recorded at Map Slide 81F in the Town of Starksboro Land Records. The portion to be conveyed is identified in said survey as: 13.24 Acres portion of Town of Starksboro land to be merged with land of Kerry Kurt. Subject to all matters shown on said survey.

“Being a portion only of the lands and premises conveyed to the Town of Starksboro by Limited Warranty Deed of Vermont National Bank dated December 14, 1998, and recorded at Book 59 Page 396 of the land records of the Town of Starksboro.

“Reference is made to a quitclaim deed from Vermont Land Trust, Inc. to the Town of Starksboro, dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded prior to this deed.

“This is a boundary line adjustment only, and the herein conveyed lands and premises shall merge with and be a part of the other lands of Grantee, being those lands described in a warranty deed from Monty Adams to Kerry Kurt and Salvatore J. Provetto recorded at Book 83 Page 279 of the Starksboro Land Records. No new lot is created by this adjustment.

“The property is conveyed AS IS, and without warranty as to physical condition. Grantee agrees by acceptance of this deed that Grantor has complied with all of its obligations under the Purchase and Sale Contract between the parties. Grantee accepts as sufficient all reclamation work done by Grantor and agrees that Grantor has fulfilled any reclamation requirements under LUP 9A0082-1R-9.

“Subject to easements, rights of way and restrictions of record.

“Subject to the terms and conditions of the following:

1. Subdivision permit #98-107SD, dated November 11, 1998, recorded at Book 59 Page 391 of the Town of Starksboro Land Records;

2. Zoning Permit #2017-15-BLA, July 6, 2017. In accordance with that permit, this is a boundary line adjustment, and the property being adjusted to Grantee shall merge with parcel #C21167E, and the property shall not be considered a separate parcel or subdivision of land;

3. ACT 250 permit 9A0082 and all amendments;

4. Stormwater Discharge Permit No. 7451-9015;

5. WW-9-2165, dated August 19, 2015, and recorded at Book 111, Page 70 of the Starksboro Land Records, any amendments, and the case-specific exemption determination by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division dated June 28, 2017, and recorded in the Town of Starksboro Land Records at Book 115 Page 192. In accordance with that case-specific exemption determination, Grantees property must remain one single, undivided lot, unless and until future State subdivision approval is obtained prior to any separate conveyance of any portions thereof.

“Reference is hereby made to said deed and its records and to all prior deeds and their records for a further and more complete description of the land and premises herein conveyed.”

“The above described lands and premises are subject to a certain Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Right of First Refusal from Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 30, 1999, and recorded in Book 61, Page 393 of the Starksboro Land Records, as amended by an Amendment to Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Right of First Refusal by and between Kerry Kurt, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and Vermont Land Trust, Inc., dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Starksboro Land Records.” [The amendment was subsequently recorded on September 13, 2017, at Book 115, Page 341 of the Starksboro Land Records (as amended, the “Grant”).]

“Said Right of First Refusal is subject to a Right of First Refusal Subordination Agreement by and between People’s United Bank, National Association and Vermont Land Trust, Inc. dated September 8, 2017, and to be recorded in the Starksboro Land Records.”

Pursuant to Paragraph 7 of the Second Amended Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale: “The Right of First Refusal held by VLT [Vermont Land Trust, Inc.] and VHCB [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board] shall not apply to the public sale in this action. However, the Grant and the Right of First Refusal shall survive confirmation of the sale and shall continue to apply to all conveyances of the Mortgaged Property subsequent to the conveyance by confirmation order in this action.”

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

M&T Bank
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com



MORE THAN A 120 runners scamper away from the starting line at the Ripton Ridge Run footrace this past Sunday (above). The day featured running competitions of 5K and 10.4K and a 5K fun walk. Top finishers were, below left, 10.4K runners Tony Bates, Holt Witter and Keith Wilkerson; and below right, 5K runners Charlotte Boire, Sarah Ingersoll and Arden Metcalf.



Community, tradition, triumph reign at 2025 Ripton Ridge Run

RIPTON — The hills of Ripton this past Sunday rang once again with cheers, the rhythm of running feet, and even the sounds of musical instruments as more than 150 runners, volunteers, and supporters came together for the 2025 Ripton Ridge Run. It marked nearly four decades of this cherished community event.

Founded in 1987 by local parents and grandparents, some of whom still volunteer today, the Ridge Run has grown into a beloved tradition that celebrates perseverance, intergenerational connection, and grassroots support for local youth. While the route, venue, and post-race lunch have changed over the years, the spirit of the event remains the same: a resilient town coming together with purpose, pride, and plenty of heart.

“This event embodies everything that makes Ripton special—determination, connection, and joy,” said one longtime volunteer. “Seeing runners push their limits while cheering each other on is what the Ridge Run is all about.”

The day brought no shortage of surprises and smiles—especially during the kids’ race. One volunteer shared a favorite moment:

“Wow! We only had three kids registered inside, but 13 showed up at the starting line— all proudly ready



HENRIETTA SCHOEFFLER, RIGHT, outpaced Lucia Alzaga to win the women’s crown in the 10.4K race in Ripton on Sunday.

to run! I had to dash back to grab more waivers and ribbons!”

It was a heartwarming reminder of how the Ridge Run continues to inspire the next generation.

The event’s ongoing success is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers, including the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department, the ever-popular lunch crew, and the many community members who gave their time, energy, and encouragement.

The following are the top finishers in each division and their finish time:

- 5K – Women**
- Charlotte Boire (Shoreham) – 22:59
 - Sarah Ingersoll (Middlebury) – 27:32
 - Arden Metcalf (Middlebury) – 28:15

- 5K – Men**
- Matthew McIntosh (Ripton) – 18:58
 - Wade Mullin (Williston) – 19:32
 - Lee Kolias (Viera, Fla.) – 19:55

- 10.4K – Men**
- Holt Witter (Seattle / Middlebury College) – 45:19
 - Tony Bates (Salisbury) – 47:04
 - Keith Wilkerson (Bristol) – 47:45

- 10.4K – Women**
- Henrietta Schoeffler (Wayland, Mass.) – 54:05
 - Lucia Alzaga (Stoughton, Mass.) – 55:55
 - Alethea Hill (Ferrisburgh) – 1:01:47

To see full race results, photos and event history head online to www.riptonridgerun.org.

Race organizers were effusive about the success of the day.

“As we wrap up this year’s event, we offer heartfelt thanks to every runner, volunteer, sponsor and supporter,” they said in a press release. “Whether you were chasing a personal best, handing out water, or cheering from the finish line, you helped make the 2025 Ripton Ridge Run another unforgettable celebration.

“We look forward to seeing you on the Ridge next year!”

Halloween Coloring & Decorating Contest

Bring this spooky cute scene to life!

Online:

addisonindependent.com/contests

By Mail or In Person:

Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Deadline for Entries:

Friday, October 24th

Winners will be announced in the October 30th edition of the Addison Independent.

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.



Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to our website for a printable version.

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Parent/Guardian’s name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

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

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ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

October 16, 2025

LISTEN

CORNWALL FATHER AND SON
CREATE NEW SOUNDS

Gary and Sam Margolis of Cornwall rehearse a track at Sam's studio in Waltham, Mass. The father-son team have just released a new album of Americana music and poetry.

COURTESY PHOTO

In *the pocket*. This phrase describes, if anything, a feeling of being in sync when playing music with a group. Musicians all bring their own flavor to a jam, a performance or a recording. And when they're lucky, they sit right "in the pocket" together — rhythmically and musically. What makes this place special is the skill it takes to listen to each other, anticipate changes and react effortlessly to the unexpected.

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

It's a beautiful place.

Father-son team Gary and Sam Margolis found this "pocket" in their newest album, "Half Country Heart," which was released by Horse Fuel Records just yesterday. And yes, it's definitely unexpected.

"Half Country Heart" brings together the songwriting and production talents of Sam — frontman of Ghost Creator, New England's premiere Americana collective — with the celebrated poetic voice of his father, Gary, an award-winning poet and psychologist from Cornwall. That's right, this is Americana meets

"ANY PARENT AND KID KNOWS IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU GET — **IT'S ABOUT HOW YOU GET THERE, TOGETHER.**"

— Gary Margolis

beat-poetry... and it's fabulous.

"We had the intent when we took on a project of poetry and music," explained Sam from his studio (Riverview Sound) on the Charles River just outside Boston. "We first imagined it would be a call and response, but what happened when we got in a room with these incredible musicians was ... magic."

"We were realizing what was happening when it was happening," Gary added. "Something was happening that was surprising and organic."

Spontaneous jam sessions with Ghost Creator evolved the project into a dynamic fusion of music and poetry, where extended instrumental passages created space for Gary's voice to enter with poetic lyricism that elevates and deepens the musical narrative.

The result: 10 emotionally resonant tracks — five songs and five poems — that explore themes of love, loss, healing, protest, travel, human sacrifice, and the pursuit of happiness.

The title, "Half Country Heart," refers to Gary and Sam living in both Cornwall and the city. Gary was raised in Brookline, Mass., and then moved to Cornwall more than 50 years ago; while Sam was raised in Cornwall and left the country to live in metropolitan Boston. The album is a "coming together of these two places in our heart."

"For me, 'Half Country Heart' is the collaboration of a lifetime," Sam said. "A dream come true to work with the incredibly talented musicians in Ghost Creator, alongside my poet-father, Gary. He's been one of my greatest influences."

SEE LISTEN ON PAGE 2

LISTEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I can still hear my son, Sam, guitar-strumming in his childhood bedroom here in Vermont," Gary remembered. "Now, to come together across the

miles — as poet and musician — composing our voices and lives, this is a father's dream realized."

The intergenerational bond here is undeniable. Thanks to 46 years of shared experience and a commitment to music and poetry.

"One of the joys over the years has been getting in the car and driving to Advance Music. Wondering what's going to be his next instrument," said Gary, remembering trips with Sam up to the Burlington music store. "The ride. The ride. Let's take this ride... Any parent and kid knows it's not about what you get — it's about how you get there, together."

"As the son, it meant everything to have such an amazing and supportive family who let my passion develop," Sam said, adding that his career has taken him to Nashville, and touring overseas with his band Comanchero. "Bringing all that experience back to my dad is really special for me."

The idea for this album sprouted at the Margolis home on Sperry Road in Cornwall back in 2021. Sam — a multi-instrumentalist, audio engineer and producer who co-owns Riverview Sound in Waltham, Mass., with his partner Shannon Obrien — put together what he calls a "dream team of musicians" who



Father-son team Gary and Sam Margolis have released a new album, "Half Country Heart," that combines Americana and spoken-word poetry. The album cover art was done by Sam's partner, Shannon Obrien.

he's worked with professionally for years. The musicians on the album also include Marty Ballou on bass, Marco Giovino on drums, Sonny Barbato on keys, Andy Santospago on guitars, and special guest Mikaela Davis on harp.

"My father feels like one of the band members," Sam said, adding that his father has formal music training too (he plays the piano).

They've got the chops. There's no doubt about that... but what's the secret sauce that keeps these musicians *in the pocket*?

According to Gary, "It's the listening... And the trust, and the *love*, and the relationships."



This photo was taken sometime in the 1980s at the Margolis family home in Cornwall.

"This theme of listening goes way back," Sam said, launching into a memory from his youth. "I must have been about 7 years old... My father gave me a pin that said 'Listener.'"

Sam chose to wear that pin when he attended the Dalai Lama's speech during the 1987 symposium on religion and the environment at Middlebury College.

"I was wearing the button and standing in a line when the Dalai Lama walked by. I don't know why, but I took off that button and gave it to him! He smiled and nodded; looked at me and said, 'Listener.' I think that set my entire life on a path to be a listener."

Now with a new sound out, Sam is encouraging all of us to be listeners.

"I want people to hear this," he said, holding up a CD of "Half Country Heart." "I want it to spread far and wide."

The album is now available on all platforms, or if you prefer to order an "antique" they're available at ghostcreatorband.com.



With Sam's musical expertise and Gary's poetic lyrics, this father-son team have innovated a musical genre with the help of the musicians from GhostCreator. Check out "Half Country Heart" to listen to something new.

Learn about the Black experience with Robert Livingston

Drawing on social science, his own experiences, and interviews with trailblazing Black leaders, Robert Livingston, Ph.D., reveals the contours of these oft overlapping paths for effectively navigating, mitigating, and circumventing White supremacy, in his most recent book "Play the Game. Change the Game. Leave the Game. Pathways to Black Empowerment, Prosperity, and Joy."

Livingston will present his book in a talk on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 3-4:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre. Free and open to all.

ABOUT ROBERT LIVINGSTON

Robert Livingston is a social psychologist and leading expert on the science underlying bias and racism in organizations. Prior to joining the Harvard Kennedy School in 2015, he held positions as Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Associate Professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and Professor of Organizational Behavior at the University of Sussex, where he was also area chair, and founder and faculty director of the Centre for Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity (LEAD).

Livingston is also a practitioner whose passion is the application of social psychological theory and research to solving real-world organizational and societal



Robert Livingston, Ph.D., will present his most recent book "Play the Game. Change the Game. Leave the Game," on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury.

challenges. For two decades, he has served as a diversity consultant to scores of Fortune 500 companies, public-sector agencies, and non-profit organizations.

His groundbreaking approach to combatting racism is detailed in his book "The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations" published by Penguin Random House in 2021.

Livingston is an elected Fellow of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, an honor bestowed upon "individuals who have made extraordinary and unique contributions to the field of personality and social psychology." He was also selected by Thinkers50 Deloitte as a member of the Radar Class of 2022, described as "an exceptional group of thinkers, whose ideas, hard work and passion can make a real difference in the world."

In his spare time, he enjoys jazz, wine and whiskey tasting, gastronomy, philosophy, cinema, interior design, and nature documentaries. He has resided in six countries and speaks four languages.

For more info visit robertwlivingston.com.

In a town where history has been silenced, an eyewitness to murder speaks out in search of the boy she loved.

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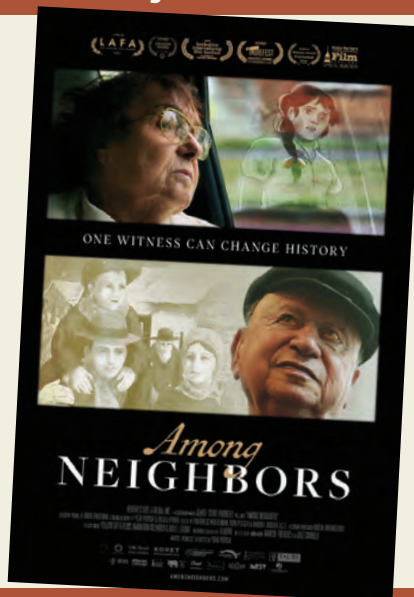
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UPCOMING MUSIC



The Almendros, pictured from left, Naunau Beloha, Pete Ryan, Mark Pelletier, Kemi Fuentes-George, Doug Wilhelm, John Wallace, Addison Tate and Liz Cleveland, released their second album and will perform a special concert at Town Hall Theater on Friday, Oct. 24.

The Almendros premieres new album

The Addison County band, The Almendros, will premiere their new second album, "Destination Unknown," at the Town Hall Theater's Anderson Studio on Friday, Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$15; \$10 for students.

With 14 original songs, the album features a wide range of styles, from funk, blues and country-rock to reggae, ska and calypso. The band will also cover songs by Sam and Dave, the Beatles, Dave Brubeck, Orchestra Baobab, Elvis Costello, and Nathaniel Radcliffe and the Night Sweats.

An eight-piece band with six vocalists,

horns and multiple percussionists, The Almendros are powered by longtime players on the local music scene. The band members include: Naunau Beloha, Pete Ryan, Mark Pelletier, Kemi Fuentes-George, Doug Wilhelm, John Wallace, Addison Tate and Liz Cleveland. Five songwriters in the band contributed material to "Destination Unknown," which was produced by Clint Bierman and recorded at Middlebury's Lion Tone Studio, as was the group's first album, "All Over the Place."

Doors for the album-release show will open at 5 p.m., and tickets are available at townhalltheatre.org.

MORE TUNES

Dreamers' Circus to return to Mahaney Arts Center on Oct. 25

Dreamers' Circus is one of the most acclaimed and adventurous acoustic bands from the Nordic region, with an impressive global following. They're also a Middlebury Performing Arts Series favorite. The trio brings their joyful energy and remarkable skill back to town on Oct. 25 for a concert at the Mahaney Arts Center. Like their previous two shows on campus, this concert is already nearly sold out, so don't wait to secure the last few tickets.

For this show, Dreamers' Circus will showcase tunes from their most recent album, "Handed On," drawing on a project launched during the pandemic. The trio composed dozens of original tunes rooted in Nordic traditional style — what they refer to as New Nordic Music that "acknowledges the past while responding to the present." They compiled these

SEE DREAMERS ON PAGE 11

Hear Music on the Trail in Bristol

The Bristol Trail Network will host Music on the Trail this Saturday, Oct. 18. If you're looking for something different than the No Kings protests, check out this music event aimed to gather the community in support of the Bristol Trail Network. People of all ages are encouraged to come and enjoy an afternoon filled with music.

Starting at 1 p.m., Bart Feller will take the "stage," later Micah Plante, then Raphael Groten and Rebecca Kodis, and finally, Tom Van Sant. This event will be located on the field at the bottom of Basin Street in Bristol, Vt. Each performance will be completely acoustic, allowing the audience to appreciate the nature surrounding them. Attendees are encouraged

SEE TRAIL ON PAGE 11

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"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 October.

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. Timing is everything, Aries. Even though you are anxious to start something big, this might not be the right moment for it. You'll benefit from stepping back to reassess.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. You are craving comfort, but growth is just outside of your range, Taurus. This week, a financial focus pays off. Don't ignore your gut when it comes to a financial matter.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. You may be charming and magnetic right now, Gemini, but are you paying attention to what other people are saying? It's time to listen more than you're speaking.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Emotions are running strong right now, Cancer. It is alright to be passionate. Your intuition will be heightened, but do your best to take a measured approach in the days ahead.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, it's important to remember that, while the spotlight loves you, not every stage is meant for a solo. Share the attention midweek and others will love you even more for it.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, perfection can wait right now, even if you are craving ultimate order. Embrace progress even if it doesn't come in a polished form. Say yes to a new opportunity.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you are balancing a dozen things. This seems like a pattern for you, but avoid overextending yourself. Speak up and advocate for your needs.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You are focused and quiet working behind the scenes this week, Scorpio. Some people need to be flashy with fanfare, but that's not you right now. Relish in the quiet success.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You might be fired up with fresh ideas, Sagittarius. Just be sure your vision is rooted in reality. Write it down and stay open to feedback. It's best to avoid spontaneity right now.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, you're bound to tire out if you don't pace yourself. Delegate things when you can, especially by the end of the week. A surprise compliment at work brings joy.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, let your curiosity lead you somewhere new. Someone different from your usual crowd could offer unique insight that you hadn't considered previously.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, creative energy is high right now, especially around Wednesday. You're close to a creative breakthrough, but you might need a practical play to get there.



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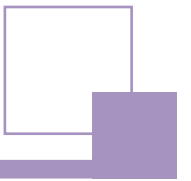
FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 18 — Wynton Marsalis, trumpeter (64)
OCT. 19 — Rebecca Ferguson, actor (42)
OCT. 20 — John Dewey, philosopher (d)

OCT. 21 — Celia Cruz, musician (d)
OCT. 22 — Robert Rauschenberg, artist (d)
OCT. 23 — Pele, soccer player (d)
OCT. 24 — Bill Wyman, musician (89)

CALENDAR

OCT. 16-26
2025



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/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.

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

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.

TOWN HOLLERS IN

CORNWALL. Saturday, Oct. 18, noon-2 p.m., Sunrise

Orchards, 1287 N. Bingham St. Live music in the orchard.

TOM JOYCE FAMILY MAGICIAN

IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Oct. 18, noon-1:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. A family-friendly magic show with local magician Tom Joyce, who was a resident magician at FAO Schwarz in NYC and has been the Addison County Fair Magician for 20 years. Free. Presented by the Vergennes Opera House. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

MUSIC ON THE TRAIL IN

BRISTOL. Saturday, Oct. 18, 1 p.m., field at the bottom of Basin St. An afternoon of acoustic performances in support of the Bristol Trail Network. Bring blankets, chairs and food to enjoy. Free; donations to the Bristol Trail Network appreciated. Rain location Holley Hall. More info at lshvche@uvm.edu.

INSELDUDLER OOMPA GERMAN BAND IN

MONKTON. Saturday, Oct. 18, 1-5 p.m., Stine Orchard, 1823 Monkton Rd. The afternoon comes alive with the Oktoberfest-style sounds of The Inseldudler OOMPA German Band.

SPIRITS OF ROKEBY, "AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR" IN

FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Oct. 18, 5-9:30 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh. See Oct. 17 listing.

AN EVENING WITH PIANIST

MATHIS PICARD IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 18, 5:30-7 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Picard, a pianist, composer and producer with roots in France and Madagascar, merges diverse musical influences. THT's new Jean's Place bar will be open, and a post-show meet-and-greet with Picard follows the concert. Tickets \$15-\$50. More info at addisonarts.org/event/house-of-jazz-mathis-picard.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN

WAITSFIELD. Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. See Oct. 10 listing.

"THE MAGICIAN" SILENT FILM IN BRANDON.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, 1 Conant Square. 1926 silent thriller about an alchemist's quest to create life. Screening will be accompanied by live music. Free; donations welcome. More info at jeffrapsis.com.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Oct. 16 listing.

SUNDAY, OCT. 19

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

HIKE: MT. Mansfield in Underhill. Sunday, Oct. 19. Hike the Laura Cowles trail to

the summit of Mt Mansfield and hike back down the Sunset Ridge Trail. Strenuous hike with 2,555 feet elevation gain over about 4.6 miles. Beautiful views of the Lamoille and Stowe Valleys. For more information, contact Cary Beckwith at cwbeckwith@yahoo.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FIDDLERS JAM IN BRANDON.

Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin St. Come ready to play your fiddle or listen and dance. Door prize, 50/50 raffle, refreshments available. \$3.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" IN

MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 19, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Oct. 16 listing.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN

WAITSFIELD. Sunday, Oct. 19, 2 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. See Oct. 10 listing.

PM SUNDAYS PRESENTS

JENNA NICHOLLS IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 19, 4-6 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Songwriter and performer Jenna Nicholls showcases her love of vintage music and restless muse. Tickets \$15-\$25. More info at addisonarts.org/event/jenna-nicholls.

MONDAY, OCT. 20

AFRICAN DRUMMING

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 17 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. Intentional Communities 7:30 p.m. Press Conference 10 p.m. Democracy Now Saturday, October 18 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 2:30 p.m. Intentional Communities 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. Intentional Communities Sunday, October 19	5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 1:30 p.m. Intentional Communities 3 p.m. Sharpe Takes 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Press Conferences 9 p.m. Intentional Communities 11 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, October 20 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. Chamber Telecast 9 p.m. Sharpe Takes 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Tuesday, October 21 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 22 5 a.m. Press Conference 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 23 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 8 p.m. Intentional Communities 9:30 p.m. Eckankar Channel 1091 Friday, October 17 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi	6 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Book Talk 9 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. At the Ilsley 6 p.m. Local Sports Saturday, October 18 5 a.m. Ilsley Book Talk 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 7:30 a.m. School Boards 3 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Festival On the Green Sunday, October 19 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Book Talk 8 a.m. Science & Nature Programs 10 a.m. State Board of Education 4 p.m. Local Sports 9 p.m. Book Talk Monday, October 20 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. School Boards 11 a.m. Chair Yoga	12 p.m. Festival On the Green 5:30 p.m. Book Talk 6 p.m. Hannaford Career Center Board 6:30 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Book Talk Tuesday, October 21 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Yoga for Kids & 4:30 p.m. Yoga for Everyone 5:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 10 p.m. Book Talk Wednesday, October 22 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 7 p.m. Book Talk 8 p.m. At the Ilsley 10 p.m. Yestermorrow Thursday, October 23 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports	

SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Monday, Oct. 20, and weekly on Mondays, 2-3 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Learn beginner-friendly West African rhythms with Shelly. Some drums available or bring your own. Use the door facing the TenneyBrook convenience store; park in back. Free. Drop-in. More info at 802-388-3093.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21

YARN AND OTHER CRAFTS IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Oct. 21, and weekly on Tuesdays, 2:30-4 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Bring your own projects; share skills with others. Hosted by Marie. Use the door facing the convenience store; park in back. Free. Drop-in. More info at 802-388-3093.

"FINDING HOPE WITHIN" TALK AND GALLERY TOUR IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Johnson Memorial Building, Middlebury College, Chateau Rd. Exhibit featuring works by incarcerated Vermont artists, presented by co-curators John Vincent (A Revolutionary Press) and Heather Newcomb (Vermont Works for Women), plus works from Guantanamo Bay. Free and open to the public. More info at skubikow@middlebury.edu, 802-377-5820.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22

ART AND CREATIVE WRITING IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Oct. 22, and weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Work on your own projects or try prompts with Nate; supplies available or bring your own. Park in back, use door facing the convenience store. Free. Drop-in. More info: 802-388-3093.

THURSDAY, OCT. 23

"ALL ABOUT EVE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. An aspiring actress feigns humility and naiveté to connive her way under the wing of a veteran Broadway star. She manipulates those in the star's circle in hopes of cheating her way to the top. Based on the short story "The Wisdom of Eve" by Mary Orr. A Middlebury Classic Film Club offering. Free!

"TURNING STONES: DISCOVERING THE LIFE

OF WATER" BOOK TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6-7 p.m., Ilsley Library, Mini Meeting Room, 30 Main St. Aquatic ecologist Declan McCabe will discuss how climate change and increased flood risk are impacting Vermont's waterways and aquatic organisms. A Vermont Reads Program sponsored by Vermont Humanities Council. Free.

NEW ENGLAND REVIEW'S ULYSSES READING SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m., Humanities House, 115 Franklin St. Featuring NER contributor Grady Chambers, poet and educator Molly Johnsen, Middlebury student poet Daisy Kulina and novelist and Middlebury alumnus Tim Weed. Free. More info at nereview@middlebury.edu, 802-443-5075, nereview.com/an-evening-with-chambers-johnsen-kulina-weed.

MEMORY ALTAR IN MIDDLEBURY.

Oct. 23-Nov. 8, front porch, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. As part of Porter Medical Center's "Stories from the Heart" project, the museum invites community members to contribute to a shared altar honoring loved ones who have passed. Free.

FRIDAY, OCT. 24

SPIRITS OF ROKEBY, "AN

UNEXPECTED VISITOR" IN FERRISBURGH.

Friday, Oct. 24, 5-9:30 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh. See Oct. 17 listing.

THE ALMENDROS: "DESTINATION UNKNOWN" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Oct. 24, 5:30-7 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The band's new album, "Destination Unknown," features 14 original songs in styles ranging from funk, blues and country-rock to reggae, ska and calypso. Tickets \$10-\$15. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-almendros-destination-unknown.

"BLITHE SPIRIT" IN WAITSFIELD.

Friday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m., Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main St. See Oct. 10 listing.

"ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS" SCREENING AND TALK IN BRISTOL.

Friday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Scott Kluever will discuss Lake Clark National Park, one of Alaska's lesser known parks, followed by a screening of "Alone in the Wilderness." More info at scottk2.lml@gmail.com, 907-854-3192.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Oct. 16 listing.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: TACONIC RAMBLE IN HUBBARDTON.

Saturday, Oct. 25. This hike will span the two sides of the park on Mt. Zion major and minor for a moderate 5.5-mile hike with a few steep sections and a couple hundred feet of elevation change. Nice views to the southeast and to the west, plus a visit to the Japanese Zen garden in the park. Contact Ryan Grace at rgracersox@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"LA SONNAMBULA" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of The MET: Live in HD series. Nadine Sierra stars as

Amina in Bellini's poignant tale of love lost and found. Note: this is an encore screening, not live. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-met-live-in-hd-la-sonnambula.

SPIRITS OF ROKEBY, "AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR" IN FERRISBURGH.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 5-9:30 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh. See Oct. 17 listing.

HOT NEON MAGIC IN VERGENNES.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 7-10 p.m., Vergennes American Legion Post #14, 100 Armory Lane. Hot Neon Magic plays pop and New Wave favorites from the early MTV era. Hosted by Vergennes American Legion Post #14. Admission by donation. Cash bar. Open to the public. More

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 14



Taste Vermont.

Tastings and bottle sales at the winery

SATURDAYS
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1:00-4:30 pm.

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Ilsley Library's Classic Film Club


Fall/Winter 2025 Session

At the Marquis Theater!


Join fellow community film lovers to watch this session's films at the Marquis Theater, followed by a short discussion of the film. What a great opportunity to treat yourself to a delicious southwestern lunch before or even during the film. As always, the popcorn is on us!

This session, our theme is Strong Female Characters. Showings will continue through December.


All films begin at 1:00 pm



October 23
All About Eve
1950





November 13
Rose Tattoo
1955



December 11
Thomas Crown Affair
1968

FREE ADMISSION courtesy of Ilsley Public Library. Marquis is open for lunch beginning at 11:30am.

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Ulysses Reading Series features four authors

HEAR GRADY CHAMBERS, MOLLY JOHNSEN, DAISY KULINA, AND TIM WEED READ ON THURSDAY, OCT. 23

Join us on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m., in Middlebury College's Humanities House (115 Franklin Street) for the third installment of NER's Ulysses Reading Series. Named after artist James MacDonell's Visualizing Ulysses series of schematic prints, which hang throughout the house, this series celebrates new work by writers at all stages of their careers.

Featuring NER contributor Grady Chambers, poet and educator Molly Johnsen, Middlebury student poet Daisy Kulina, and novelist and Middlebury alumnus Tim Weed.

Light fare and specialty mocktails inspired by Visualizing Ulysses will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

Interested in attending? Help us get a head count by RSVPing at nereview.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Grady Chambers is the author of the novel "GreatDisasters" (Tin House) and the poetry collection *North American Stadiums* (Milkweed Editions), winner of the Max Ritvo Poetry Prize. His writing can be found in *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Sun*, and elsewhere. Chambers is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow, and lives in Philadelphia.



Grady Chambers, Molly Johnsen, Daisy Kulina and Tim Weed will present at the NER Ulysses Reading Series on Oct. 23, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to all and will be held on the Middlebury College campus.

More info at gradychambers.com.

Molly Johnsen is a Vergennes-based writer and teacher. Her debut poetry collection, "Everything Alive," was published Oct. 14 by Green Writers Press, and a previous version of the collection was selected as a semi-finalist for the Black Lawrence Press St. Lawrence Book Award. Her work has appeared in the *Nashville Review*, *Indiana Review*, and others. She holds an MFA from Syracuse University. Find her on Instagram at [@mollyjohnsen.poet](https://www.instagram.com/mollyjohnsen.poet).

Daisy Kulina grew up in the Bitterroot Valley just outside of Missoula, Mont. She is a senior at Middlebury College studying creative writing and gender, sexuality, and feminist studies. She recently attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and had a blast. You can

find her work in *Lily Poetry Review*, *Lavender Review*, *The Basilisk Tree*, *The Accendo Review*, and elsewhere.

Tim Weed (Middlebury '87) is the author of three books of fiction. His new novel, "The Afterlife Project," finalist for the Prism Prize in Climate Fiction, received a starred review from *Library Journal* and was a *Middlebury Magazine* editor's pick and a *New Scientist* best new science fiction book of the month. His work has won or been shortlisted for the Eric Hoffer Book Award, the Writer's Digest Annual Fiction Awards, the Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction, the Fish International Short Story Award, the New Rivers Many Voices Project, and many others. Co-founder of the Cuba Writers Program, Weed is on the core faculty of the Newport MFA at Salve Regina University.



A place where stories don't fit — My Dentist's Son

Have you heard of "My Dentist's Son" it's a pop-up storytelling gathering that takes place at the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk's Office specifically for "Stories That Don't Fit."

"We share tales of magic and miracle...any stories we carry that hold a signature of the 'impossible,'" reads the event's description. "My Dentist's Son is a place for stories that don't fit. A space where we can share the mystical experiences we're graced

with — big or small — and have it held by and anchored through community. A space where these cherished moments are met with acceptance, awe and gratitude."

There is no pressure to share; and all are welcome to listen and take in some amazing tales.

Check out this free storytelling circle on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Donations are welcome. More info available at mydentistsson.com.

My Dentist's Son will hold another free storytelling circle on Sunday, Oct. 19 at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Come listen to "stories that don't fit."

SEE MORE ONLINE!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/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 Paris’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.



Stained glass by Kendra Schpok

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.

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 *sslllllllooooooowwww doooowwwwnnnnnnnn* 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.

HAVE AN EXHIBIT TO SHARE?

Email Elsie to have it listed in the Arts+Leisure section.
elsie@addisonindependent.com



**Movement Matters:
Alexander Diaz shares his work**

Alexander Diaz is an independent artist born and raised in The Bronx, N.Y. As a Middlebury Movement Matters artist, Diaz will share his work in movement, photography and film during a free class on Wednesday, Oct. 22. The class will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theater. For more info follow Diaz @alexanderdiaz.ata.

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Your subscriptions, donations and advertising allows us to have dedicated coverage of the arts scene in Addison County.

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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

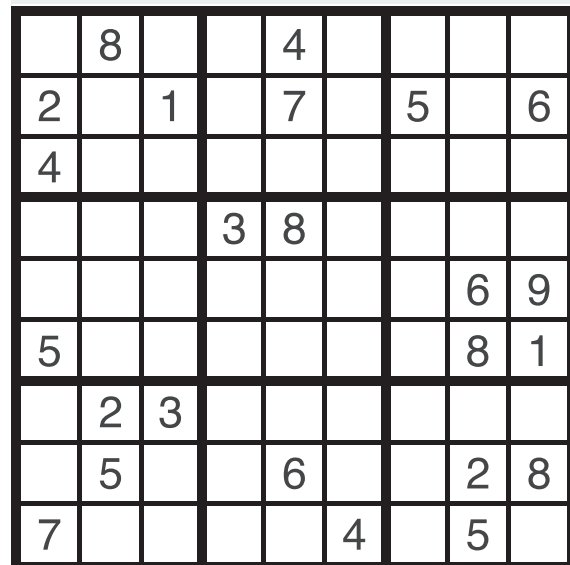
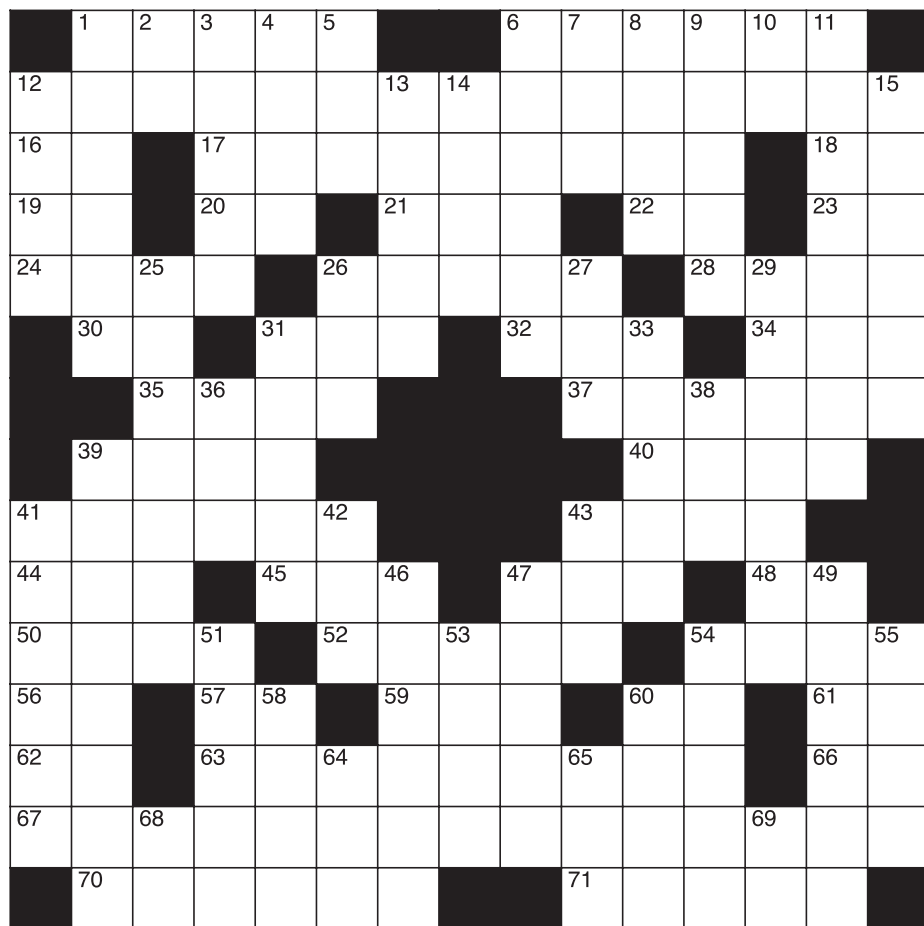
- 1. Martial arts in China
- 6. The butt of jokes
- 12. Nevertheless
- 16. Sportscaster Michaels
- 17. A firm believer
- 18. Atomic #18
- 19. One's bestie
- 20. Of I
- 21. Hamburger accessory
- 22. Thus
- 23. Partner to Pa
- 24. Scottish tax
- 26. Cuts away
- 28. Require
- 30. Government lawyer
- 31. Own (Scottish)
- 32. Body cavity

- 34. Brew
- 35. Young woman (French)
- 37. Platforms
- 39. Pair of points in mathematics
- 40. Attack suddenly
- 41. Aviators
- 43. Make perfect
- 44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 45. Neither
- 47. The center of a city
- 48. Sacrifice hit in baseball
- 50. Singer Redding
- 52. Dragged forcibly
- 54. Puncture with a knife
- 56. Belonging to me
- 57. Expresses surprise

- 59. Haul
- 60. The Golden State
- 61. Biblical Sumerian city
- 62. Integrated circuit
- 63. Opposed to certain principles
- 66. Sodium
- 67. Qualities
- 70. Walk
- 71. It awaits us all

DOWN

- 1. Ate quickly
- 2. Peyton Manning's alma mater
- 3. Moves through water
- 4. Run away from
- 5. Utah resident
- 6. Natural objects



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

- 7. Children's game
- 8. Obligation to prove
- 9. Ancient Greek building for performances
- 10. Soldier
- 11. Decorated
- 12. Catches
- 13. Russell ___, author
- 14. Speak indistinctly
- 15. Students get them
- 25. Japanese warrior
- 26. Dessert
- 27. Doleful
- 29. Most cushy
- 31. Moon crater
- 33. Small evergreen Arabian tree
- 36. Something fugitives are "on"
- 38. 007's creator
- 39. Paintings on hinged panels
- 41. Type of bomb
- 42. Japanese classical theater
- 43. U.S. gov't department
- 46. Flightless bird
- 47. One who cuts
- 49. Buttock and thigh together
- 51. A way to gather
- 53. Body part
- 54. Argentinian city
- 55. Undergarments
- 58. Jai ___, sport
- 60. Container for shipping
- 64. Type of screen
- 65. Get free of
- 68. Indicates position
- 69. Business department

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.



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Nordic folk trio Dreamers' Circus will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center on Saturday, Oct. 25.
PHOTO / KRISTOFFER JUEL POULSEN

DREAMERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

new tunes into a book to serve as a teaching resource — a handing on — of music that honors both the origins and the future of the genre.

"The best thing about this music is often found in the simplest moments: sitting in a pub, jamming with friends," explained Dreamers' Circus fiddle player Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, who is also the first violinist of the world-class Danish String Quartet. "The sole purpose is to have a jolly good time, and somehow, that sense of freedom sets the music loose."

ABOUT DREAMERS' CIRCUS

The story of the trio began late one night in 2009, when Nikolaj Busk pushed open the door of a bar in Copenhagen and chanced upon fiddle player Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen and cittern player Ale Carr playing some traditional Nordic tunes. Spotting a piano in the corner of the room, Nikolaj joined the pair, and within minutes the three recognized a remarkable musical chemistry.

Since joining forces that evening, Dreamers' Circus has become known for their extraordinary genre-bending, jazz-tinged improvisations. They have released seven albums, toured internationally, and earned major awards, including 2023's Artist of the Year from the Danish national classical radio channel P2 (they are the first non-classical group to earn that honor), and the prestigious Carl Prize for Composer of the Year in 2021. With backgrounds spanning folk, classical, and jazz, they bring virtuosity and imagination to every performance.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Dreamers' Circus will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff, emeriti, retirees, and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students; information about free and discounted ticket programs is available at go.middlebury.edu/boxoffice. For tickets, further information, or assistance with accessibility services, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

TRAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to bring blankets, chairs and food to enjoy during the performances. This event is free, but donations towards the Bristol Trail Network are appreciated. In the case of rain, this event will be held at Holley Hall in Bristol.

Attendees are encouraged to walk, bike and use the BTN to get to this event. Parking is available in the center of town, just a short walk away from the event space. For accessibility

accommodations or any other questions or concerns email Lily Shevchenko at lshevche@uvm.edu.

ABOUT THE BRISTOL TRAIL NETWORK

The Bristol Trail Network is a project spearheaded by the Bristol Recreation Club. Its goals are to provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation in Bristol, to promote access to natural, historical, and cultural resources, and to foster human connections within the community. Music on the Trail does all of these by bringing folks onto the trail, to enjoy the surroundings, the music, and each other.

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



This fluffy guy resembles the majestic creature that resides above the arctic circle – the polar bear. Fittingly, his name is **Polar**. A distinguishing mark that will tell him and a white bear apart is his eyes. One is blue and one is brown. Polar will trot around the yard remarkably, taking in all the smells the wind brings him. He's as goofy as he's handsome and will happily sit and smile at his human. Especially if a yummy treat is involved. Polar has previously lived with other dogs but we're unsure about cats or children. He knows how to sit on cue and is currently trying to master the "down" command.



Can you spot the unique looking dog at our shelter? This is **Spot!** Petite with a big personality. Timid yet affectionate. Give her a moment to warm up and she will be leaning in for kisses. Whether it's leash walking or sitting on cue, this girl is spot on! She has lived with dogs previously, but we're unsure about cats or children. Spot is looking for a quiet home where she can take her time to feel comfortable. She's loves food!



Hello, my name is **Buttercup!** I'm a bit shy, preferring to watch what is going on before I jump into the action - sometimes I like to observe from high up in order to feel safe. It takes me a while to warm up to new people but once I do I enjoy play time and receiving attention!



Hi, my name is **Dahlai** (pronounced Dolly)! I love A LOT of attention, but I like to choose when. Please respect my personal bubble! I don't like being held right now, but I love to snuggle and sit in laps when the time is right. Let's be friends at my pace! If you're looking for a companion who is also independent, I'm your girl. Kids and dogs have scared me in the past, but if you have a calmer, cat savvy dog or kid, I would be willing to try.



Hello, my name is **Mandy!** My hobbies here in Cat Land include: snuggling on laps, playing with feathers, observing the food stock, inspecting whatever piques my interest, and taking treats from volunteers! I'd much prefer to be doing these activities in a home though, perhaps it could be yours? A shelter environment makes me anxious, causing me to pull out my hair. I might be a little shy in my new home, just like how I was when I arrived at Homeward Bound, but I come out of my shell after I've had time to adjust and decompress! Feel free to stop by Cat Land to meet me - I'm often out exercising and I will come right up to you to welcome you.



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274 ORCHARD LANE, WEYBRIDGE
\$775,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

A quiet corner just minutes from Middlebury

Situated on seven acres on a dead-end road, just minutes to downtown Middlebury, you'll find privacy and views abound as you sit on the new stone patio or lounge by the in-ground, saltwater pool. Solar was added to this home, helping to cover the power needs, including a level 2 EV charger and mini splits that provide both heat and air conditioning. You'll want to spend time in the handsome kitchen with cherry cabinetry, new appliances, and granite countertops, as well as around the wood stove, ready to accompany you into cooler nights. French doors lead out to an expansive deck overlooking the pool area and the view beyond—imagine what next summer could be like. The large primary bedroom is another space you'll find it hard to leave, providing an additional private deck overlooking the grounds and a bath equipped with a custom tile shower and soaking tub with a heated floor. A smaller bedroom/office and bonus space over the attached two-car garage provides options, while the lower level gives direct access to the pool and includes a guest bedroom, full bath, and living space. Swim, garden, play, and watch the seasons turn—this is a property you'll truly live in.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*





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CORNWALL NEW LISTING!
3958 VT ROUTE 30

MLS #5065493 | \$675,000
5 BD | 5 BA | 4232 SF | 2.60 ACRES

This historic home enjoys Green Mtn views and includes a partially finished barn. Hardwood floors, abundant natural light, newly updated kitchen, plus a one-bedroom in-law suite above the attached garage.



CORNWALL NEW LISTING!
2137 BINGHAM STREET

MLS #5065094 | \$375,000
1 BD | 1 BA | 956 SF | 6.30 ACRES

Compact, custom home with radiant floor heat and mini splits for A/C. A fantastic yurt with a woodstove, plus two additional outbuildings for your tools/equipment. Largely open land is ready for gardening or animals.



BRANDON NEW LISTING!
1526 FOREST DALE ROAD

MLS #5063057 | \$170,000
1 BD | 1 BA | 924 SF | 0.36 ACRES

An affordable house on a spacious lot close to the Village. Waiting for your updates and with plenty of potential. A barn works as a one-car garage with extra storage. Just 25 minutes to Middlebury or Rutland.

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Located in a beautiful country setting with stunning mountain and pastoral views. 4.69 acre lot is mostly wooded. 1st floor consists of large living room with brick fireplace, office/den area, dining room with built-in hutch, kitchen, laundry/mudroom, 2 bedrooms, and full bath. 2nd floor consists of hall/office area, full bath, spacious bedroom w/walk-in closet, and attic storage room with large wall fan. Barn/garage offers additional storage space on 2nd floor. Conveniently located near the village, schools & lakes. **\$439,000.**

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2852 Vermont Rt 22A, Addison MLS# 5063539 \$335,000

This 2.4-acre homestead is a great starter home or retirement home just minutes from Lake Champlain! This home sits right off 22A with wonderful exposure for an in-home business with easy access year-round! Many upgrades have already been done, including noise-canceling insulation in the living room. The property has many gardens and beautiful places to enjoy an amazing view of the Adirondacks. Just 5 minutes to Vergennes, 12 minutes to Middlebury, 2 minutes to Addison 4 Corners. Come and see what this cute home has to offer!

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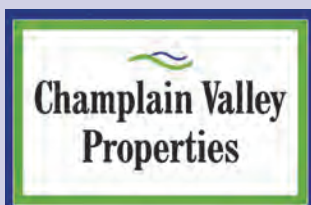
**200 BUTTERNUT RIDGE DR., MIDDLEBURY
MLS #5053422 - \$485,000**

This lovely home is really only about 4 years old. The current owner purchased the property after a major fire and ripped down much of the old structure. The electrical, plumbing, heating, bathrooms, kitchen, floors, windows, sheetrock, roof, siding, etc. were all replaced. The oversized one car garage is insulated and heated. There is also a very nice storage shed in back that has a new 1-car garage door and is perfect for additional storage. This beautiful home is located in a very nice older neighborhood with established trees giving the back yard and porch a sense of privacy that is rare to find in a neighborhood.



**2364 BRISTOL RD., MONKTON
MLS #5060114 - \$439,000**

This inviting three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home in Monkton is nestled on 10.7 acres, offering both privacy and convenience. Centrally located, the property provides an easy commute to Burlington, Bristol, and Middlebury. The first floor features a spacious, open-concept kitchen and dining area. There is also a generously sized living room, perfect for entertaining. A half bath and a convenient laundry room complete this level. Upstairs, the primary bedroom offers abundant space, a walk-in closet, and a private ensuite bath. Two additional bedrooms share a large full bathroom. The full basement provides plenty of room for storage. Outdoors, you have 10.7 acres of primarily wooded, hilly terrain to explore and enjoy.



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Stories from the Heart Weekend

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Community Memory Altar set up on the front porch of Sheldon Museum



This altar is open to the public and will be up until Nov 9th

A memory altar is a deeply personal and meaningful way to honor the memories of loved ones who have passed. Rooted in many cultures worldwide, these altars serve as spaces where people can connect with the past, celebrate the lives of those who came before, and offer gratitude and remembrance. At its core, a memory altar is about storytelling, reflection, and the universal human experience of love and loss. All community members are invited to add something of meaning to the altar on the porch at the Sheldon Museum.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

4-5:30pm | Death Café at Sheldon Museum



At a Death Café, we create a warm, welcoming space for open, honest conversations about death, dying, and what it means to truly live. Death is one of the few certainties in life, yet it's often the hardest thing to talk about. There's no agenda, no objectives, and no pressure – just relaxed, respectful conversation where you can share thoughts, listen, and reflect. Everything shared is confidential, and all perspectives are honored. **Attendees must pre-register at tinyurl.com/death-cafe-addison-county**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

1-4pm | Luminary decorating at the Mini Ilsley Library, 32 Main Street



Create a luminary to honor someone you have loved and lost

These luminaries—simple paper lanterns—will serve as personal canvases for participants to create memories and honor the loved ones they have lost, whether it be a friend, a parent, or even a cherished pet. By contributing to this collective display, the community will help transform our town into a glowing tribute of remembrance, adding warmth and reflection to our community spaces, starting at St. Stephen's Church and along Main St to the Sheldon Museum. They will be lit on the evening of Saturday, October 25th.

6:30-8pm | Stories from the Heart at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main Street



Join us for this Moth-style storytelling event, when five brave community members stand up to be witnessed, telling their unique story of grief and loss.

8-9pm | Luminary path walk from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and ending at the Sheldon Museum, 1 Park Street, where Matthew Von Behrens will be playing harp music.



THE
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HEALTH NETWORK
Porter Medical Center

For any additional information, please reach out to Louella Richer at Ircher@portermedical.org.

These events are sponsored by the Palliative Care Department at Porter Medical Center and hosted by the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Henry Sheldon Museum and Mini Ilsley Library. As well as supported by the Better Middlebury Partnership and numerous locations around Middlebury.

Senior Lifestyles



A VOLUNTEER DISHES up some stuffed shells with a spinach white sauce to a hungry diner at an Age Well community luncheon at Bristol's American Legion Hall this past week. The community lunches at eight Addison County locations offer locals age 60 and up a reasonably priced meal and a big serving of fellowship.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Get out, rub elbows and enjoy a community meal

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

ADDISON COUNTY — In some ways, senior citizens are different from younger folks, but in one way they are just like everyone — we all need to eat. Fortunately, there's a special venue for people age 60 and older to get a nutritious lunch that also comes with a big helping of social contact, and sometimes a dollop of education.

It is Age Well's community meals, which is a series of lunches held in six county communities at eight different venues.

The food at these lunches is important nutritionally, but Michelle Eastman, Age Well's community meals program coordinator who has been at it for more than 13 years, said the events are helpful for seniors in another way.

"This is also a chance for seniors to socialize," she said. "It's kind of a social club."

A recent lunch at the Bristol American Legion Hall, where Age Well's Eastman gave an overview on changes to Medicare with enrollment deadlines coming up, drew almost two dozen seniors. But Eastman said most meals serve even more seniors.

There are senior lunches at two locations in Vergennes — at the Congregational Church at 30 Water Street and at Armory Lane Housing on Armory Lane — and they usually gather 50 or more senior for lunch. The monthly luncheon at the VFW Hall on Exchange Street in Middlebury usually gets 100 or more diners.

In fact, the community luncheon at Pleasant Hills at 93 Mountain St. in Bristol often draws more than the Bristol Legion dates, she said. There also regular events in Shoreham, Bridport and in Addison at the former school.

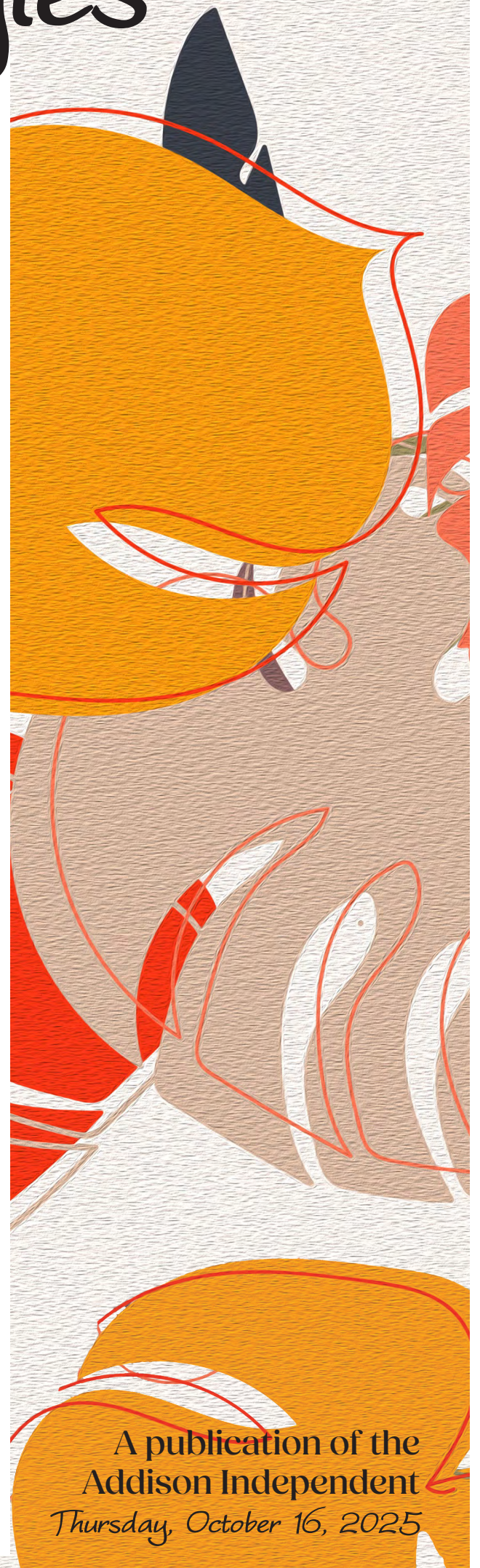
Volunteers organize welcoming meals with good food, good company and a chance to connect with neighbors. Age Well tries to keep it fresh when it comes to what's served, while also keeping the old favorites.

On next month's menus community members will find roast pork, Salisbury steak, and, for Thanksgiving dinners, roast turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. But they'll also find cheese ravioli and chicken cordon beau. Last week, Eastman planed a new dish — stuffed shells with a spinach white sauce — and got feedback from the diners.

Of course, there is always a vegetable — sweet potatoes, butternut squash, green beans. Plus dessert.

Age Well meals are open to anyone age 60 and over, and their spouse of any age, who completes a yearly registration form. Forms are updated each fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1. Please plan on registering for Community Meals in advance. There's no charge; a suggested donation is \$5, but they won't turn you away if you don't make a donation. Under age 60 guests with approval are welcome for a fee of \$6 per guest.

(See Meals Page 5)



A publication of the
Addison Independent
Thursday, October 16, 2025

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Some seniors turn their hand to writing



When considering our cultural touchstones, so many of us look to the hot, young writer or precocious storytelling filmmaker. Their insights seem so fresh.

But as many old hands will tell you: Youth ain't all it's cracked up to be.

And while 20-somethings may bring new ideas to the table, they don't always bring the perspective that decades of life impart.

Senior adults have vast experiences that inform their world views. And many of us north of 60 are tapping into that experience to create fascinating memoirs, fiction, poetry

and more.

Some seniors want to write memorable stories for their grandchildren or capture significant events of their lives as a legacy for their family and friends. Others just enjoy the process of making sense out of their lives by writing down and organizing their thoughts.

Writing a book can be an enjoyable experience at any age . . . it's just that seniors have more life experiences to tap into.

In Addison County, we increasingly see our older residents honoring memory,

seeking support of writing groups and creating fantastic books that pass on the wisdom of their age — often with doses of humor to go along with the insight.

In this Senior Lifestyles section we introduce you to two local residents — Tom Wells of Shoreham (formerly Bristol) and Kirk Webster of New Haven. They both have interesting stories to tell that they have picked up during more than seven decades on this Earth. Read about their experiences here, then seek out their books if you want the full story.

Tom Wells: Blessed & giving back

By MARIN HOWELL

SHOREHAM — If life is a highway, then Tom Wells has had quite the 73-year adventure on the open road.

The Shoreham resident has made a home in the suburbs of Cleveland and the mountains of Vermont, worked as a lawyer and an independent bookstore owner, and sailed the waters of Lake Champlain and the Virgin Islands.

Now he's compiled the stories, lessons and opinions he's amassed over the years into a new memoir, "Naked on the Highway." Wells describes the book as an "unusual memoir," blending self-help with opinions and stories from his life. The book's title draws inspiration from both a reoccurring

dream and a metaphor for life with which Wells resonates.

"My sense is that I've been traveling down the highway — a highway has roads off of the highway, it has lights, it has accidents, it has all kinds of things," he said during a recent interview. "Naked on the Highway" is really a metaphor for a certain level of vulnerability and real life experience going down a highway."

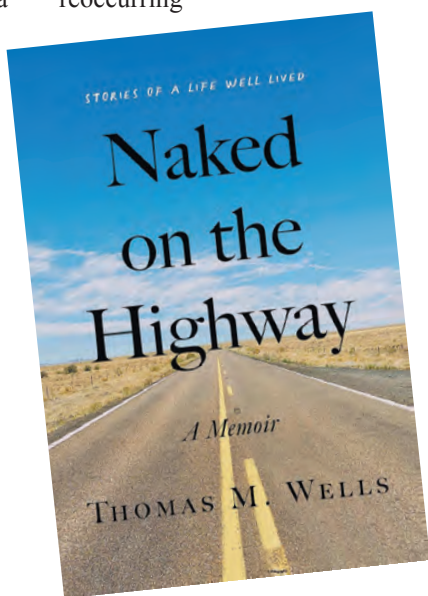
The memoir is divided into five sections, the first and last of which being the most biographical. Section II centers around 'Giving Back,' a central theme of the book. The third section is filled with family stories and the fourth, entitled 'On the Soapbox' is made up of opinions on various topics.

SHARING MEMORIES

In the first section of the book, Wells recounts growing up in Paramus, N.J., as the oldest of six children. His father worked as an architect, and his mother was a homemaker involved in several community organizations. Wells describes his upbringing as a pleasant one, filled with positive memories that blend together.

Coming of age in the 1960s, Wells's adolescence coincided with a time of significant change in the United States. In the book, Wells recalls attending the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair at 17 and clashing with his father over their stances on the Vietnam War.

"I really, stridently didn't like the Vietnam War. My dad, who had served



Webster reveals secrets of bees, life

By IAN CURRY

NEW HAVEN — Kirk Webster has been a professional beekeeper for over 50 years, and for much of that journey, he writes in his new book, "Many Best Kept Secrets: A Wonderful and Unusual Life Around Honey Bees," he's struggled to define what farming really is.

However, he believes that Japanese farmer Masanobu Fukuoka put it most elegantly when he wrote, "Farming is really the cultivation of better human beings."

Webster, 71, was drawn to nature from the very beginning, and he knew, growing up in suburban New Jersey, that he wanted a quiet but useful life living in the country. He's found that calling in raising honey bees.

"I feel like it's been an incredible privilege to spend most of a career doing this," Webster told the *Independent*. "The way I decided to do things was just through a few simple goals. . . All the decisions I made to further those goals is what made for sense to me."

Webster runs New Haven's Champlain Valley Bees and Queens, a nature-based apiary that breeds honey bees and harvests honey without the use of chemical treatments, a process that is continually being improved upon and refined.

"It's not easy to start a beekeeping business from scratch," Webster said.

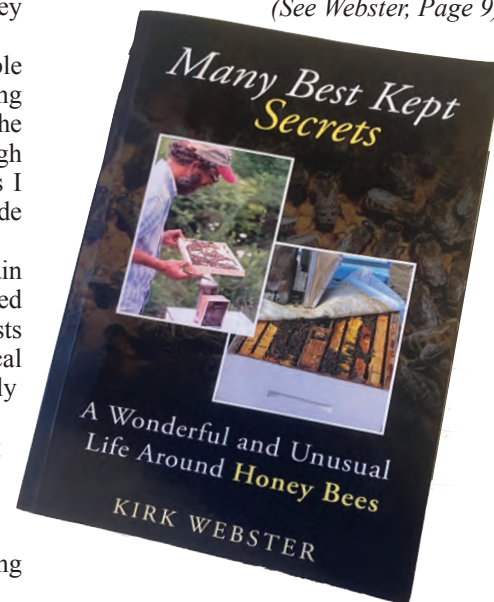
In fact, it took Webster around 20 years to become fully self-reliant on his bees. After a high school tobogganing

accident injured his knee, Webster borrowed a book on beekeeping, and by that spring, was working alongside beekeepers near his hometown in New Jersey. However, one of his most influential beekeeping mentors was Charles Mraz of Champlain Valley Apiaries, a fourth-generation, award-winning apiary in Middlebury.

"Working at Charlie Mraz's apiary and living with his family was another huge and overwhelming step in my education as a beekeeper and human being," Webster writes in his book.

Webster left, but returned to Addison County with his own bees in 1986 and worked part of each year in construction

(See Webster, Page 9)



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There are local options for how and where to get moving

By IAN CURRY

Exercise is an important part of overall wellbeing. And while we often think of it in terms of how many calories we burn, even just a little exercise is an amazing way to boost energy, strengthen your bones and muscles, and reduces your risk of disease.

But exercise is also a great reason to get out of the house and socialize.

“Any (exercise) is good as long as you do it on a regular basis, and the social aspect is what has people doing it on a regular basis,” said Steve Hare, founder and owner of Vermont Sun Fitness Centers.

Hare said what he’s discovered since founding Vermont Sun in 1985 is the importance of making exercise fun and social.

“Keeping mentally engaged with friends is critical,” Hare said.

Hare operates two fitness centers, one in Middlebury and another in Vergennes, which both offer a full range of weights and machines including treadmills and stationary bikes.

“We just got all brand-new treadmills. Our whole weight line is also brand new,” Hare said.

However, Vermont Sun’s Middlebury location also hosts a pool and a range of fitness classes, many of which are geared towards seniors.

“Seniors are really drawn to the classes. They’re almost all in the morning. It’s a senior social hour. We started it around 40 years ago and we’ve never had this sort of senior population,” Hare told the *Independent*.

Aqua aerobics, which takes place in the pool, continues to be one of the more popular classes according to Hare. Other classes like slow yoga and Forever Young Fitness, which are done on a mat in the gym, are also popular and have a dedicated community of participants.

“The healthy benefits of the social interaction as well as the benefits of the exercise is amazing,” Hare said.

Jerrold Rushton, owner of Middlebury Fitness, echoed those



SENIORS CAN USE the full array of weights and exercise machines at Middlebury Fitness and, as shown here, can take part in a senior-oriented fitness class.

Photo courtesy of Middlebury Fitness

sentiments, saying that there’s a “physical, emotional and mental” benefit to regular exercise.

In addition to a full array of weights and exercise machines, Middlebury Fitness also offers senior-oriented fitness classes that range from less intense, bone-building classes like Senior Strong, to more intense strength and balance classes, which are taught by long-time fitness instructor Gail Isenberg. However,

Rushton added, Middlebury Fitness also offers a variety of other classes that are not geared specifically for seniors, but still have many older participants.

MAINTAINING HEALTH

According to Sandy Bemis, a Middlebury Fitness regular who attends senior fitness classes with her husband Dick, exercising has been key to maintaining
(See Get moving, Page 6)



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Meals

(Continued from Page 1)

Make reservations in advance so Eastman and the chefs will know how much to make. You must reserve a spot four days in advance by calling Michelle Eastman at 802-377-1419. Seats are limited.

All participants must register with Age Well and can do so at the meal site.

Some upcoming Addison County meals include:

- Thursday, Oct. 16, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sit Down Meal at Armory Lane Senior Housing, 50 Armory Lane, Vergennes.

- Monday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Community Meal at Bristol American Legion, 56 Airport Drive, Bristol.

- Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sit Down Meal at Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water St., Vergennes.

- Thursday, Oct. 23, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sit Down Meal at Armory Lane Senior Housing, 50 Armory Lane, Vergennes.

- Friday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,

Community Meal at the Addison Community



FOOD MAY BE on the marquee when it comes to senior meals, it turns out that seeing and talking with friends and acquaintances is just as important when it comes to these events.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Center, 121 Route 17 (former school building), Addison.

- Tuesday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sit Down Meal at Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water St., Vergennes.

- Monday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,

Bridport Community Meals at Bridport Congregational Church Vestry, 54 Middle Road, Bridport.

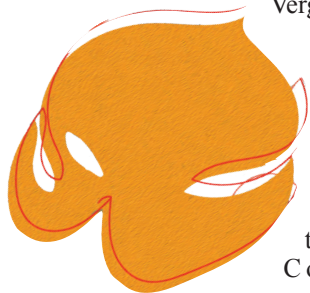
- Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Shoreham Community Meal at the Halfway House Restaurant, Route 22A.

- Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.-12:30

p.m., Community Meal at Middlebury VFW, 530 Exchange St., Middlebury.

See a listing of all upcoming senior luncheons online at tinyurl.com/AgeWellMeals.

Bring your appetite and stop in at one of these amazing community meals.



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(Continued from Page 4)

their health and lifestyle.

“There are many days when we don’t feel like coming but the class has become a group of friends that we enjoy seeing and meeting with when we come to exercise. Thanks to Gail, we have all gotten to know each other and enjoy being together. The class has enough variety to keep us interested and challenged, and even though it may seem easy to young people, it suits the ‘seniors’ just right,” Bemis said.

Both Vermont Sun Fitness Centers and Middlebury Fitness, along with Bristol Fitness in the northeast part of Addison County, have plenty of opportunities for those seeking more individual instruction and training.

“We have personal trainers who work with seniors. Most of the people doing personal training (at Middlebury Fitness) are seniors,” Rushton said. He mentioned that individual and couples training can be especially helpful for those in need of physical therapy following procedures like hip and knee

replacements.

Hare from Vermont Sun said both the Middlebury and Vergennes locations offer personal training.

“We have two (personal trainers) right now who are just spectacular,” Hare said.

He added that in addition to the personal training, Vermont Sun’s Middlebury center is also home to Long Trail

Physical Therapy, which provides traditional therapy, aquatic therapy and advanced stage therapy services.

Addison County has plenty of opportunities for anyone looking to stay active and healthy. Whether you’re looking for individual guidance, to join a class, or

“There are many days when we don’t feel like coming but the class has become a group of friends that we enjoy seeing and meeting with when we come to exercise. Thanks to (the instructor), we have all gotten to know each other and enjoy being together.”

— Sandy Bemis

simply for a place where you can push yourself with a workout, local fitness centers will support you.

“It’s a community,” as Rushton said.



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Walk for Stroke Awareness to celebrate survivors and raise visibility

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 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.



NIKKI JUWAN, 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.

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



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UVMHealth.org/PMC

Webster

(Continued from Page 3)

until 1992 when he was finally able to make a living off his bees.

Webster told the *Independent* that beekeepers, like other farmers, are constantly under financial strain. He added that since setting up his apiary in Addison County, he's only known of around 10 other individuals and families engaged in commercial beekeeping throughout Vermont.

"Vermont honey has been in demand, but we don't have a lot of territory to produce it in," Webster said.

Part of what allowed Webster's operation to succeed was the growth of organic farming in Vermont, especially in the dairy sector. He said that when organic milk cooperatives were able to start paying farmers higher prices for their products, it was encouraged for the rest of the agricultural industry.

"Farmers could paint their houses ... and not be in fear of going bankrupt," he said.

However, much of Webster's success came down to vigorous research and experimentation. One major breakthrough came when he found some of his honey bees were able to survive Vermont's cold winters. At that time,

Webster was spending a significant amount of his revenue on buying replacement bees from apiaries in milder parts of the country to replace the colonies that died off each winter. However, he found that by using the winter to test his surviving bees and breed the strongest ones, he could not only supply his own bees for each new season but sell them to other parts of the country where they would outperform other bees. Webster said this method helped him develop a consistent revenue stream beyond the peak honey producing periods in the summer.

That mindset of constant experimentation has served Webster well on more than one occasion. When exotic parasites began to arrive in North America from Europe and Asia and attack honey

bees, Webster said many beekeepers turned to chemical treatments, something he refuses to subscribe to. Instead, Webster found that the most resilient bees were able to resist the invasive parasites, and that by breeding them, he could propagate bees that were better able to survive the parasites without the help of chemicals.

Webster has been pursuing a more organic, chemical free form of beekeeping for his entire career, and he hopes that other beekeepers, and farmers in other sectors, will someday follow suit.

"The real existential threat is this ... insidious poisoning of the environment, especially by industrial agriculture," he said.

He says that while the threat of parasites has mostly passed, honey bees are increasingly threatened by the widespread use of chemical seed treatments in corn and soybean crops.

"Honey bees have been around for a long time and they've seen all sorts of climate changes My experience shows that bees can adapt to anything nature

throws at them, but they don't have the ability to adapt to poison," Webster said.

He said that while many farms have grown so large they don't have many feasible options

"The farmer needs to deal with the whole enchilada all day, every day. That requires a different frame of mind."

— Kirk Webster

to change, he's cautiously optimistic that Vermont's unique agricultural landscape, full of small, organic farms, could present solutions to the sustainability issues facing American agriculture.

"All these farming problems we're facing have been solved by farmers working on their own. We need to look to them ... the person whose livelihood depends on his livestock ... They're the ones in the end who need to figure those things out," he said.

"Beekeeping in the future is going to depend on the success of organic farming," he added.

In fact, Webster has accumulated some 50 years-worth of writings on the topic, many of which are included in his recently published book, which he describes as



NEW HAVEN SEPTUAGENARIAN Kirk Webster tends some of his hives on the edge of a hayfield during a recent warm fall day. He has been a beekeeper for five decades and shares some of his experiences in a new book.

Independent photo/Ian Curry

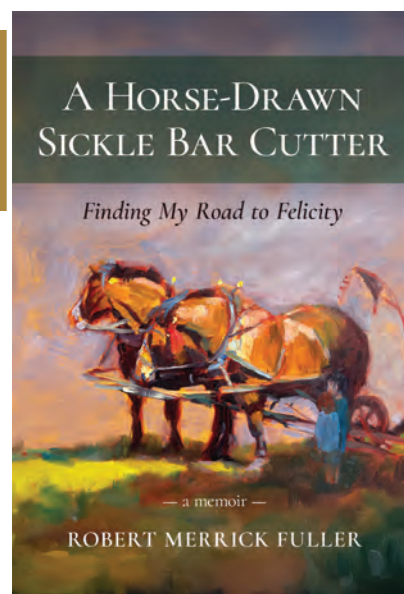
filling in the gaps between his writings and detailing the story of his apiary's creation.

"The farmer needs to deal with the whole enchilada all day, every day. That requires a different frame of mind," he said.

Webster hopes that his perspective can add to the discourse on sustainable farming practices and help the younger generation develop a healthier future.

Currently, he's in the process of handing over some of his beekeeping responsibilities to a younger man who is already running his own apiary and supporting his family off bees. Webster says that while the future will be uniquely challenging, he knows the potential is out there.

"I'm just writing to share... It's been the key to everything for me," Webster said.



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"Fuller has indeed led a fascinating life, and his passion is palpable and contagious. The willingness to make mistakes, the inevitability of failure, and unending perseverance are relatable and inspiring themes... as the author proudly asserts that, with passion and tenacity, everyone can find their 'felicity.'"

— Kirkus Reviews

"A Horse-Drawn Sickle Bar Cutter is a stirring memoir colored by history, nostalgia, and life lessons. Enlivened by serendipities and adventure, it's the story of one man's pursuit (often on his motorcycle) of visual and culinary artistry and a life well-lived."

— Claudia Cooper, Middlebury College Professor, retired



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Wells

(Continued from Page 3)

in the Army in the Korean War, did not appreciate my viewpoint, so (we) had some pretty good fights about that kind of stuff,” he said. “But I would say that was the most tumultuous thing in my childhood.”

The ‘60s were also a time of transformation for Wells, who was 8-years-old when decade began and 18 when it ended. He shares stories of the mix of experiences he had in his youth, from being elected senior class president to helping organize protests.

Wells noted his personal politics were shaped by the times he grew up in. In the book, he describes himself as often falling in the middle of the road and advocates for “thoughtful, truth-respecting compromise” as a path forward.

“I really believe in compromise. I think it’s a mistake where our current politics has gotten where people have become so extreme that they vilify the other side,” he said.

While in high school, Wells began what would be the first of many jobs and entrepreneurial pursuits to come.

Throughout the years he delivered papers for the *Newark Star Ledger*, sold clam door to door through a business he created, and opened a women’s clothing store with his wife, Carol, as a junior in college.

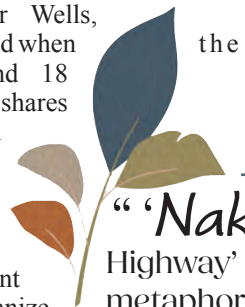
At age 29, Wells started down a path that would lead to over 40 years practicing law. In 1978 he enrolled at Case Western Reserve Law School in Cleveland, later working at firms in the area before moving back to New Jersey several years later.

“Right from the beginning, I was always a kind of lawyer who worked with small businesses and did a lot of real estate work and that kind of stuff,” he said.

Wells noted he often worked in land-use law, helping applications get

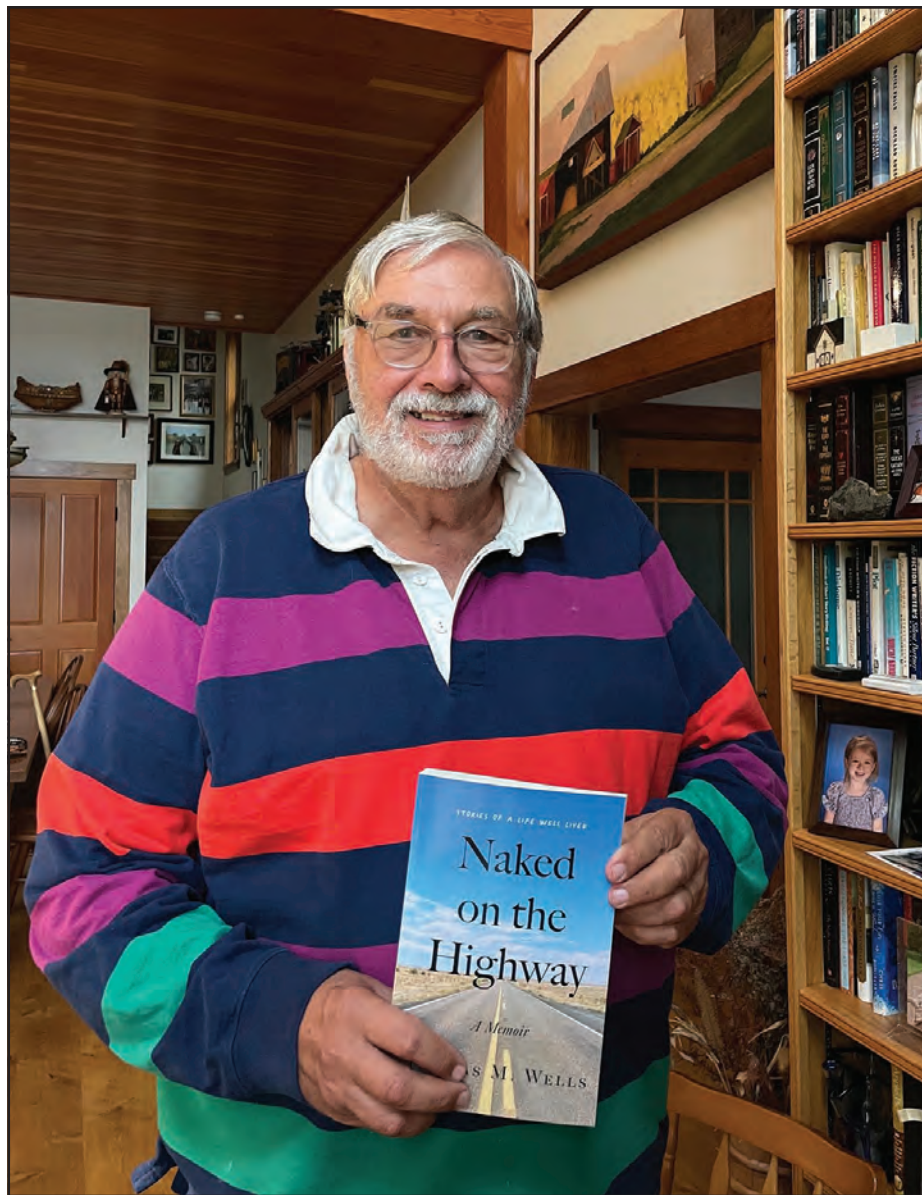
approved by a planning board or board of adjustment. He recounts representing a New York City developer on a project in northern New Jersey — that developer being Donald Trump.

Wells’s reflects on his experience with Trump in a 2016 *Huffington Post* piece entitled “Donald Trump Hired Me As An Attorney...Please Don’t Support Him For President” printed in the memoir. That experience lasted around four years,



the
 “‘Naked on the Highway’ is really a metaphor for a certain level of vulnerability and real life experience going down a highway.”

— Tom Wells



SHOREHAM RESIDENT TOM Wells has amassed a plethora of stories over the years, from his career as a lawyer, sailing adventures and raising a family with his wife, Carol. Wells recently compiled what he’s learned and experienced into a memoir entitled, “Naked on the Highway.”

Independent photo/Marin Howell

beginning when Wells was 35 and Trump was 41.

Wells writes that he found Trump to be “shallow and remarkably crude behind the curtain.”

“My experience with him then means that the guy that we now see at 79 is pretty much the same guy,” he said. “My early impressions, or even what I thought in 2016 about him, are largely confirmed, so I’m not a fan.”

The law firm Wells started — Wells, Jaworski & Liebman — quickly grew to include a team of around a dozen attorneys, a number its hovered around ever since. His work as a lawyer overlapped with ventures in the Green Mountain State, to which his family relocated in 1996.

The Wells family had fallen in love with the state during summer vacations in the years prior. Part of what pushed them to make the move to Vermont was Wells seeing an advertisement for Bristol’s Deerleap Books, which the pair purchased in 1996.

“My initial plan was that I would essentially give up practicing (law) in New Jersey, maybe practice up here, but I was focused on the bookstore,” Wells said. “Almost immediately I realized, ‘This isn’t going to make very much money,’ and then I realized I probably have to keep being a lawyer.”

Wells commuted to New Jersey a couple

times each week, practicing law long-distance while running the bookstore with Carol. The Wells operated the bookstore for ten years before it closed its doors.

Deerleap Books is one of a few Bristol-based entities the Wellses have run over the years, a part of the story perhaps more well known to Addison County residents.

Together, the Tom and Carol have managed properties through Wells Mountain LLC, including the Dunshee Block and its resident businesses, which were sold to a new owner this past February. They also founded the Wells Mountain Initiative, a nonprofit that provides scholarships and support to a global network of scholars enacting change in their communities.

His work with the Wells Mountain Initiative ties into one of a couple sayings that form something of a life philosophy for Wells — “Give back.”

“I’m a very big believer in that if you have blessings, that you need to give back,” he said. “I’m very much a Golden Rule kind of guy, ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto

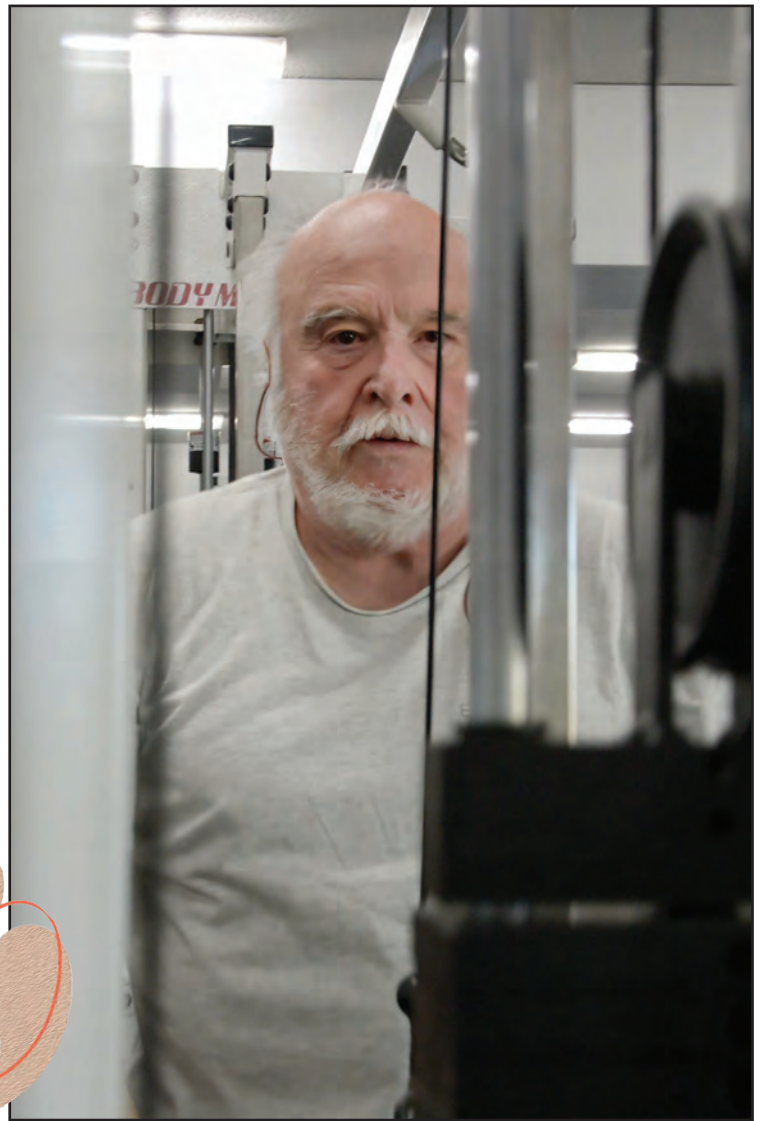
(See *Naked*, Page 15)



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MARYCAROL ROSSIGNOL OF Addison, above, and Middlebury's Tom Curran, right, know that pumping iron is good for them. Strength training is highly beneficial for older adults because it helps maintain muscle mass, increase bone density, improve balance, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases and falls. Plus it just helps seniors feel and be more independent.

Independent photos/John S. McCright



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Can exercise help prevent Parkinson's? Experts say yes

Aerobic activity may protect your brain, doctors say it's more important as we age

Here's one more reason to lace up your sneakers: Regular aerobic exercise may help lower your risk of developing Parkinson's disease — and could even slow its progression if you've already been diagnosed.

That's the message from Lisa Deuel Baker, MD, movement disorder specialist at the Binter Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders at University of Vermont Medical Center and assistant professor of neuroscience at UVM Larner College of Medicine.

"There's something about exercise that may be neuroprotective," she says. "It may help prevent dopamine-producing cells in the brain from dying off."

A 2024 study backs this up: Researchers found that six months of regular, high-intensity aerobic exercise improved the health of dopamine neurons — cells that play a key role in movement and coordination and are damaged in Parkinson's.

What Kind of Exercise Helps Parkinson's Disease?

Jogging, swimming, biking and brisk walking all count — as long as you're raising your heart rate. Dr. Deuel Baker recommends aiming for 30 minutes at up to 85% of your maximum heart rate, which is calculated by subtracting your age from 220.

"All exercise is good when it comes

to Parkinson's," she says. "But the type being studied as neuroprotective is aerobic exercise with pretty high intensity."

Understanding Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disorder that typically affects people over age 60. It causes involuntary movements, stiffness and balance issues. Symptoms develop gradually and vary from person to person. Common signs include:

- Tremors
- Muscle rigidity
- Slower movement
- Changes in speech or handwriting

"Parkinson's doesn't have a sudden onset of symptoms," says Dr. Deuel Baker, nor is there a single test for the disease. The diagnosis is made based on a person's symptoms and examination findings, but tools like DaTscan imaging and a new skin biopsy test can help confirm a diagnosis. While there's no cure, medications and therapies — including physical and speech therapy — can help manage symptoms.

Who's at Risk of Parkinson's Disease?

About 90,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with Parkinson's each year. The biggest risk factor? Aging. One in 100 people over age 60 will develop the disease, and that number jumps to five in 100 for those age 85 and older.

Other risk factors include:

- Family history (parent or sibling with Parkinson's)
- Male gender
- Head trauma
- Exposure to pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals and industrial solvents

A Growing Concern

Researchers estimate that Parkinson's

cases worldwide will exceed 25 million by 2050 — a 76% increase from 2021. Dr. Deuel Baker attributes this rise to an aging population and longer life expectancy. "Parkinson's is definitely a disease of aging," she says.

Editor's note: This story was provided by University of Vermont Health Network.



ALL KINDS OF exercise are good for helping seniors stave off Parkinson's Disease. Experts say that aerobic exercise done with high intensity probably helps the brain preserve its vitality most.

Photo courtesy of Middlebury Fitness

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AmeriCorps makes giving back a second act

COLCHESTER — Imagine the difference a friendly face, a listening ear, or a helping hand can make. For many older Vermonters, the simple gift of companionship means the world, and you can be that gift.

The AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program is a statewide program inviting caring Vermonters, age 55 and older, to make giving back their second act in life. As a Senior Companion, you will do more than run errands or provide a ride, you'll bring comfort, friendship, and hope to older neighbors who want to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Senior Companions ease loneliness, lend support with everyday tasks, and give family caregivers a much-needed break. In return, volunteers often find their own lives enriched with new friendships, a renewed sense of purpose, and even better health.

“Every visit makes a difference, sometimes it’s as simple as sharing a laugh, other times it’s helping with groceries or sorting mail,” said Erica Marks, Director of Volunteer Services at Age Well and State Director for the AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program. “Our volunteers don’t just help older Vermonters live independently. they remind them that they’re not alone.”

Clients feel the impact too. “Before my Senior Companion started visiting, I often went days without talking to anyone,” shared Mary, a Burlington resident. “Now I look forward to our time together, she

brightens my week and makes me feel like I matter.”

Volunteer Benefits Include:

- \$4/hour non-taxable stipend (does not affect benefits like 3SquaresVT or subsidized housing).
- \$.70/mile mileage reimbursement.
- Flexible schedule (10–40 hours per week — you choose).
- Monthly gatherings, ongoing training, and support.
- The joy of meaningful connections and friendships that last a lifetime.

Eligibility:

- Age 55+.
- Meet income guidelines (e.g., \$31,300, or less for a single person, \$42,300 or less for a couple).
- Able to serve at least 10 hours per week (up to 40 hours).

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

The AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program is offered statewide through Vermont’s four Area Agencies on Aging. Interested volunteers can learn more or apply through any of the following:

- Age Well — www.agewellvt.org.
- Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging — www.nekcouncil.org.
- Senior Solutions — www.seniorsolutionsvt.org.
- Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging — www.svcoa.org.

If you’ve ever wanted to do something that truly matters, now is the time. Make giving back your second act. Become an AmeriCorps Senior Companion and help

an older Vermonter live with dignity, independence, and joy.

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Editor’s note: This story comes courtesy of Vermont Maturity.



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Myths about aging persist: don't buy into them!



Ageism Awareness Day was celebrated this month on Oct. 9. Modeled after the United Nations' International Day of Older Persons (Oct. 1), this day shines a spotlight on the existence and impact of ageism in society. This year's theme emphasized the diverse and meaningful experiences of aging — countering the myth that age defines identity.

"Aging is a universal experience, but it happens in different ways for different people," said Leanne Clark-Shirley, president and CEO of the American Society on Aging. "Too often, we focus on what we lose and assume that everyone who is older shares the same concerns. That's simply not true. Society

is stronger when we embrace the many different voices and perspectives that make us who we are. Our age adds to that richness and should be viewed as an asset."

Ageism — one of the most socially accepted forms of prejudice — is defined by the World Health Organization as "the stereotypes (how we think), prejudices (how we feel), and discrimination (how we act) toward others or oneself based on age." It affects people of all ages whenever assumptions are made about them simply because of how old they are.

Ageism can be found everywhere — from workplaces and health systems to entertainment, advertising and media.

Despite many pervasive myths about aging, the reality is quite different.

"The American Society on Aging and our members, partners, and allies are committed to raising awareness about ageism and its harm. Together, we're advancing a more complete narrative — one that recognizes the many ways people

experience aging — while working to break down barriers. Join us in shaping a future where everyone can grow older on their own terms," Clark-Shirley said.

Common Myths About Aging:

Myth: If I avoid aging, I'll be happier and healthier.

Reality: Changing negative perceptions about aging can improve quality of life and even increase lifespan by up to 7.5 years.

Myth: Aging is the same for everyone.

Reality: The aging experience varies widely based on genetics, policies, culture, and access. Ageism often intersects with other forms of discrimination.

Myth: Older adults can't learn new things or are hoarding wealth.

Reality: Older adults are diverse in skills, beliefs and income. Lifelong learning and growth happen at every age.

Myth: Generational divides are deep and unbridgeable.

Reality: We often share more across generations than we think. Intergenerational collaboration benefits everyone.



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Naked

(Continued from Page 10)

you,' and I really feel like we should give back. That's an important message for me that I push and preach anywhere I can."

A LIFE WELL LIVED

His other favorite saying, "Dream, Plan, Do," is a condensed version of a call to dream big, plan well and then "just do it," a popular slogan Wells is fond of.

"I've found over the years, that the most successful people don't let anything stop them too much," he said. "That's not to say you shouldn't be careful and thoughtful about it, but once you do it, you need to just say, 'I'm going to do it,' and be determined."

"Dream, Plan, Do" has become a mantra for the Wells Mountain Initiative and is a message he shares with scholars in the organization.

"They are way more impressive than I am in that so many of them have come from really difficult circumstances where they had to really work hard to get an education and their families have had to work hard to do it, and they do it, and they're successful," he said.

Reflecting on his life, the Wells Mountain Initiative is a part of his

story he's most proud of. The Wells Mountain Initiative is also one of several components he feels has made for a life well-lived, along with the family he's built with Carol.

"My three daughters are successful people and also good people; good parents that take care of their kids...we'll have Cider Weekend here and they'll all be here, and we'll all be hanging out with the grandchildren," he said. "Those are all simple pleasures, but ones that feel particularly special when you start to get into the end times of your life, when you start to look back at it."

W e l l s summed up what he hopes readers take away from the memoir.

"G i v e back, but be reasonable with each other in the sense of be

willing to compromise," he said. "If we all do that, the world gets better."

"Naked on the Highway" can be found at the Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury and Bristol's Recycled Reading, as well as online through Amazon and bookshop.org. The memoir is also available at the Lawrence Memorial Library.



"I'm a very big believer in that if you have blessings, that you need to give back."

— Tom Wells

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