



## Pet sounds

Cutting-edge or traditional music? Both are coming to the MAC stage. See Arts + Leisure.



## Playoff success

Several area high school teams have advanced in postseason play. See Sports, Pages 1B-5B.



## They do!

See how 8 local couples planned and executed their most important days in our special section.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 79 No. 44

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, October 30, 2025 ♦ 54 Pages

\$2.00

## Town of Ripton could buy school from ACSD

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — Ripton Elementary School (RES) went dark this past July after the Addison Central School Board concluded that dwindling student numbers could no longer sustain the building's educational mission. But the lights could turn back on at RES sometime next year, albeit with a new, yet familiar, owner and a different set of uses. The ACSD board on Nov. 24 will vote on whether to initiate an official closure process for RES. If successful, that process would allow the town of Ripton to buy the school building back from the district for \$1 and consider new uses. Those uses might include a community center and/or a new location for town offices.

According to article 14 of the charter that created ACSD in 2016,

*As it stands, ACSD still owns the RES building, having acquired it in 2016 for \$1 along with the district's other school properties as part of the state's education governance consolidation law.*

the upcoming Nov. 24 vote must earn "yeas" from at least 10 of the board's 13 members — aka, a "supermajority."

If that margin is met, the board will hold three public hearings on the closure proposal, one of which must be held in Ripton.

Following those public hearings, the ACSD board would set a school closure referendum that would be fielded by voters in all the district-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Assuming school board approval on Nov. 24, that vote, according to ACSD officials, could be held either in a special election or on Town Meeting Day next March.

As it stands, ACSD still owns the RES building, having acquired (See Ripton school, Page 14A)



VERMONT ATTORNEY GENERAL Charity Clark is working with top law enforcement officials in other states to try and ensure the Trump Administration follows the law.



Independent photos/Steve James

## AG seeks to defend the rule of law

Clark guards against Trump overreach

By IAN CURRY

MIDDLEBURY — Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark has filed 32 lawsuits against the Trump administration since the president's inauguration in January. They share a common

theme. "Almost every case, if not every single case, really relates to the rule of law," she told the *Independent* this week.

Litigation has been a defining factor of the second Trump

administration, as it is in his business career. He has acted quickly issuing executive orders on everything from immigration and climate change to healthcare and even the name of a body of water.

On Vermont's behalf, Clark has filed many lawsuits to block some of Trump's actions — more than

half as many lawsuits in the just 10 months as the state filed during Trump's entire first term. Most of the actions were taken alongside attorneys general from 11 to as many as 24 other states.

Clark said Trump's rule-by-decree approach to enacting policy, (See Vermont AG Clark, Page 13A)

## New Haven brainstorms its future

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — New Haven residents will gather next week to share ideas to better the community's future.

The town is working with the Vermont Council on Rural Development on a Community Visit process, through which neighbors work together to identify priorities for the town and steps to move toward those priorities.

The three-month "New Haven Comes Together" process will kick off with an event on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at the Town Hall and town offices. The gathering will include a community (See New Haven, Page 9A)



## Hallow-Haven

FOLKS AT THE Village Green Market in New Haven really do go all out for Halloween, decorating the outside with all kinds of ghoulish paraphernalia and inviting people to take photos. Shown earlier this week are, from left, customer Angela Bassett, and Hannah and Patty Lawrence, who are joint owners. See more Halloween photos on Page 4A and 12A.

Independent photo/Steve James



## By the way

Sunrise will come a little earlier on Sunday as Daylight Savings Time ends early on Nov. 2. That also means that sunset will come an hour earlier with the return to Standard Time. Turn your clocks forward one hour before retiring to bed Saturday.



Bristol's July 4 fireworks display has become an annual must-see, but it's getting much more expensive to stage, according to the folks (See By the way, Page 17A)

## Local film spotlights reproductive rights in Vt.

By MARIN HOWELL

VERGENNES — In November 2022, Vermonters voted decisively in favor of amending the state's constitution to protect reproductive rights, including the right to abortion. The road to that decision was a long one, requiring years-worth of legislative efforts that drew passionate campaigning for and

against the measure.

The vote also came just months after the U.S. Supreme Court reversed *Roe V. Wade*, overturning the federal constitutional right to abortion.

Vergennes filmmaker Chris Spencer and his team have spent the past few years working on "Unintended," a documentary that captures

the lead up to and passage of the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, as well as its aftermath.

The team recently launched a crowdfunding campaign seeking to raise \$19,000 to support post-production work to complete the film.

"Obviously I am a man, and I don't have a direct linkage to abortion, but I also feel like ... (See Reproductive rights, Page 9A)

## Porter doctor returns from the brink

Physician becomes patient in own ER

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Dr. Mike Kiernan has treated thousands of patients during his almost quarter century with Porter Hospital's Emergency Department. He's done it with skill and compassion, crossing paths with folks having some of their worst — and sadly, sometimes last — days.

And last year, for the first time in his then-65 years, Kiernan had one of his own worst days, one that would see him suddenly

flip from physician to patient, ironically, and thankfully, while he was on the job.

The life-threatening incident occurred at around 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 — sandwiched between a late-winter snowstorm and a total solar eclipse.

It began much like any other morning for a seasoned ED doc like Kiernan: caring for someone other than himself and doing it well.

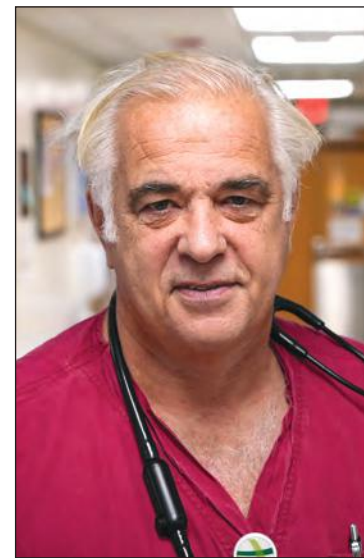
"We were having a good day. We had a number of (patients), but it was going really well," he said.

As he was noting improvement in a patient about which he had previously been particularly concerned, Kiernan felt a sensation in his own chest that he can now sardonically recall as being "surprisingly specific."

"I felt a 'tearing' sensation, but it wasn't severe. It literally felt — and I don't know why this flashed

in my mind — like a young child's fingers were digging through layers of sand at the beach, trying to get a shell; these cold little fingers were (digging) in a persistent way," he said.

Kiernan has an admirable facility with the English language that allows him to paint in paragraphs. It also allows him to specifically describe to fellow caregivers exactly where and why he's hurting. (See Dr. Kiernan, Page 8A)



DR. MIKE KIERNAN

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# Swimmers rally around their ailing teammate

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MIDDLEBURY — Young members and coaches of the Middlebury Aquatic Club gathered at the Middlebury College pool on Friday evening, Oct. 17, and collectively swam more than 59 miles for a cause close to their hearts — supporting fellow club

member and leukemia patient Anders Pirrung, 13, and his Ripton family. They participated in the two-hour “Swim for Anders,” which as of late last week raised about \$10,200 and counting for his treatment and related expenses, according to organizers, including club parent

Nicola Chance. Anders spends weeks at a time at the University of Vermont Children’s Hospital in Burlington undergoing treatment. As of mid-October he was in his second round, according to swim-a-thon organizers. They said according to his mom, Britta, Anders’s

highlights in the hospital are “getting to visit with a tutor from MUMS, music therapy, and the occasional ice cream treat.” Anders and his two brothers have for many years been members of the Middlebury Aquatic Club team, as well as the summer team the Middlebury Marlins. On Friday at the college pool, the club also invited members of the Addison Otters swim club — many of whom also swim with the Marlins or Vergennes Champs in the summer — to help them complete as many laps as possible during their two-hour practice.

Members of the Middlebury College swim teams, eight of whom help coach the Middlebury Aquatic Club, also volunteered to dive into the pool for the cause. According to Chance, one of the youngest club members swam six laps in a row to equal her age of 6, while one of the older swimmers met her goal of 274 laps, equaling 6,500 yards. All told, the swimmers that night swam more than 4,174 laps, or 104,350 yards.

At 1,760 yards in a mile, that translates to the 59-mile total. Cards and photos from the evening were forwarded to Anders at the hospital, and his teammates decorated their team bulletin board in his honor with pictures of fish that they colored for him as well as photos of him swimming.

“The swimmers hope to lift Anders’s spirits with the fish they colored for him,” Chance wrote in an email. “And they look forward to the day when he can rejoin them in the pool.”

While donations are still coming in for the swim-a-thon, separately the Pirrung family has an online fundraiser at [tinyurl.com/bd69p35d](https://tinyurl.com/bd69p35d). Also, Anders’s brother Jorgen, a sophomore at Middlebury Union High School, recently completed a



ANDERS PIRRUNG, 13, a Ripton resident and longtime member of the Middlebury Aquatic Club, is a leukemia patient. On Oct. 17 in the Middlebury College pool his teammates and coaches staged a Swim For Anders fundraiser that to date has netted more than \$10,000 for his treatment and his family’s related expenses.

Photo courtesy of Britta Pirrung



AMONG THE MIDDLEBURY Aquatic Club members who collected Swim For Anders fundraising pledges for their distance-swimming efforts on Oct. 17 at the Middlebury College pool were these five. Pictured are front, Fiona Mackey, and back, left to right, Quinn Mackey, Sadie Jette, Sadie Chance and Selma Citarella. Money raised — more than \$10,000 — went to help teammate and leukemia patient Anders Pirrung and his family.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

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**CORRECTION:** Our Oct. 23 story about the battery storage plant proposed for Panton Road in Vergennes listed an incorrect address for this facility. The correct address for the proposal is an industrially zoned address at 99 Panton Road. The reporter apologizes for the error.

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MIDDLEBURY AQUATIC CLUB members redecorated their team bulletin board with pictures of fish and photos of teammate Anders Pirrung, who is a leukemia patient, before the successful Swim For Anders fundraiser at the Middlebury College pool on Oct. 17.

Photo by Nicola Chance

## Monkton woman killed in fiery Route 7 car crash

LEICESTER — One person was killed and three people sustained life-threatening injuries in a fiery, two-car crash on Route 7 in Leicester Sunday afternoon.

Gillian Gero, 50, of Monkton was killed when a car crossed the centerline of the highway about a half-mile north of the Country Village Campground and struck head-on the car in which Gero was a passenger.

Vermont State Police report that a 2007 Pontiac G6 was traveling southbound on Route 7 a few minutes after 3 p.m. on

Oct. 26 when it swerved to the left, crossed the center line, and struck a northbound 2021 Chevy Trailblazer head-on. The Trailblazer was pushed over a guardrail and crashed onto the embankment before catching fire.

Bystanders at the scene pulled Gero and her 52-year-old husband, Thomas, out of the Trailblazer and started CPR on him.

The driver of the Pontiac, 51-year-old Jeremy Nolette of Brandon, and his passenger, Lisa, 60, were entrapped in their car

when police arrived.

Both Jeremy and Lisa Nolette were rushed to Rutland Regional Medical Center to be treated for life-threatening injuries. Jeremy was then transported to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for more intensive care.

Thomas Gero was taken by ambulance to UVM Medical center to be treated for serious life-threatening injuries.

Police said Gillian Gero was pronounced deceased at the scene and subsequently transported to the Medical Examiner’s Office.

Police suspect that the Pontiac’s speed was a contributing factor in the crash.

The Vermont State Police Crash Reconstruction Team was activated to investigate. Any witnesses are asked to contact Trooper Nicole Twamley at the New Haven Barracks at 802-388-4919.

Vermont State troopers were assisted on-scene by members of the Brandon Fire Department, Brandon Rescue, Middlebury Regional EMS, CDR Towing and MiddState Towing.

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# College and community mourn death of student

MIDDLEBURY — The community is mourning the loss of Middlebury College senior Lia Smith who disappeared from campus nearly two weeks ago, and last Friday was confirmed to have died by suicide.

“I have spoken with Lia’s family to express my heartbreak,” Middlebury President Ian Baucom said in a Facebook post this past weekend. “As president, and far more as a fellow parent, I ache for them. This is a profound loss that nobody should have to endure.”

Smith, a Woodside, Calif., resident, was reported missing by her father on Oct. 19. That touched off searches of the area by a host of agencies, including the town police and Vermont State Police, as well as by volunteers.

Authorities found a body in a field near The Knoll, the college’s organic garden, on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 23, and released the identity and cause of death the next day.

Police noted that the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers providing free and confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

Condolences flooded in from many, including Vermont Congressional Rep. Becca Balint, who said in a release that she was heartbroken for Smith’s family and the college community.

“The community will remember Lia as a bright student, talented athlete, and friend,” Balint said. “She was pursuing a double major in computer science and statistics. She was an outspoken advocate for her community as a trans woman and athlete.”

*“This is a profound loss that nobody should have to endure.”*

— Ian Baucom

The college’s Facebook post drew more than 100 comments and many more shares. The parent of one of Smith’s Panther swim team colleagues said she asked her daughter what she would remember about Smith.

“She didn’t hesitate ... her wicked sense of humor, gosh she could make me laugh,” the parent wrote.

In addition to offering a link to support resources at middlebury.pub/4oxamG9, Baucom thanked those who helped in the search and recounted reasons that Smith would be missed.

“Over the past few days, I have learned what a remarkable person Lia was,” he wrote. “She was a gift to us and we are so grateful that she was — and will always remain — a member of our Middlebury family.”

# Vermont joins lawsuit against USDA over food stamp funding

By THEO WELLS-SPACKMAN  
VTDigger.org

Vermont joined a multi-state lawsuit on Tuesday that seeks to force the federal government to fund its largest food assistance program. Normal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is on hold as the federal government shutdown wears on, and a potential use of contingency funds to temporarily support benefits has been hotly debated in recent weeks.

The federal suit was filed in Massachusetts district court against the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark announced Tuesday.

Vermont officials are preparing state-funded stopgap measures for SNAP as states have been informed that federal funding for November will not arrive, and Gov. Phil Scott said Tuesday that he would support such a suit simultaneously.

“We don’t want any Vermonter to go hungry,” Clark said in an interview, adding that federal nutrition assistance is crucial both to individual households and to the state’s food economy as a whole. Over 65,000 Vermonters receive food assistance through 3SquaresVT, Vermont’s version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

President Donald Trump’s administration indicated Friday that the USDA would not be able to use contingency funding to continue dispersing SNAP payments during the federal government shutdown, which is nearing the end of its fourth week. Clark’s lawsuit asks for such a use of such emergency funds to be mandated.

“The president has created a new crisis,” Clark said. “The best case scenario is that (he) comes to his senses ... and does what Congress asked him to do.”

contrary to law, and arbitrary and capricious.”

Clark and her colleagues are filing a motion for a temporary restraining order and emergency hearing in the case, seeking to speed along the timeline on which federal SNAP funding resumes for states. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

The Vermont Department for Children and Families, which administers 3SquaresVT, received guidance from the USDA on Friday which explicitly stated that contingency funding was not legally available to be used for SNAP because “the appropriation for regular benefits no longer exists.” The document appears to make a distinction in applicability for emergency funding between regular benefits like SNAP and “contingencies, such as the Disaster SNAP program.”

(See SNAP, Page 7A)

“The president has created a new crisis. The best case scenario is that (he) comes to his senses ... and does what Congress asked him to do.”

— VT Attorney General Charity Clark



THE NEARLY 130-YEAR-OLD Battell Block, an anchor in downtown Middlebury, is for sale with an asking price of \$9.6 million. Independent photo/John S. McCright

# Downtown Middlebury anchor property for sale

By JOHN FLOWERS  
MIDDLEBURY — The Battell Block, the largest mixed-use commercial property in downtown Middlebury, has been put on the market for an asking price of \$9,650,000.

Nedde Real Estate is widely advertising the property, which it acquired in 2017 for \$3.3 million. Built between 1892 and 1898 by the legendary Joseph Battell, the multi-story Battell Block boasts a total of 68,211 gross square feet of space at the nexus of Merchants Row and Main Street. Around 28,000 of its square footage is devoted to commercial tenants. The property also hosts 33 newly renovated loft, one-and two-bedroom apartments, according to the Nedde Real Estate listing.

Battell Block tenants include Edgewater Gallery, Little Seed Coffee Roasters, Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate, Crooked

Ladle Catering, Juice Amour and Sabai Sabai Thai Restaurant.

“I have enjoyed owning the Battell Block and will be sad to sell it. It is a beautiful, well-located, historic cornerstone property of the community,” Doug Nedde, owner of Nedde Real Estate, said through an email exchange with the *Independent*. “I have had a lot of pride of ownership and always had the goal to be a good steward of the property.”

So why is Nedde selling the Battell Block?

“I am developing a large hotel and housing project in Winooski and am looking to redirect some capital,” he said.

Nedde originally acquired the property from Battell LLC, then headed by Bruce Hiland.

“I am very excited about the acquisition of the beautiful, historic Battell Block,” Nedde told the *Independent* at the time.

“I have admired it over the past 25 years.”

The Battell Block was last appraised by the town in 2020, along with all other properties in Middlebury. It was valued at that time at \$4,453,300. Middlebury has ordered a new reappraisal of properties townwide.

Middlebury’s last reappraisal was completed just before the COVID pandemic; property values have increased considerably since then. And Nedde, in recent years, has poured a lot of resources into the property.

“We basically gutted the building

and invested over \$4 million of upgrades, constructing 36 needed residential apartments and making the building much more energy efficient,” he said.

“The property is in very good condition, with new roof, electrical, heating and air conditioning, elevator ... all new interior finishes,” Nedde added.

Nedde Real Estate had received “several offers” at press time, with “a few more buyers exploring the purchase,” Nedde said. “My goal is to close in 2026. We do not have deal yet.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Brandon man dies in single-vehicle crash

BRANDON — A 62-year-old Brandon man died in a single-vehicle crash at 12:58 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, according to Vermont State Police.

David Fletcher was driving the car when it went off the road and struck a utility pole at the intersection of Country Club Road and Forest Dale Road in Brandon. State police said. When emergency responders got to the scene, they found that Fletcher was unresponsive and members of Green Mountain Power were performing CPR.

An investigation by state police determined Fletcher’s vehicle, a 2013 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport, was traveling south on Forest Dale Road when it left the west

side of the roadway and struck a utility pole. The vehicle ended up off the west side of what was a wet road at the time, the report said.

Fletcher was taken from the scene by Brandon Rescue and was pronounced deceased by medical staff at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

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**Presented by:** Jordan Cotto  
Vermont Chapter/Alzheimer’s Association  
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Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

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# Editorials

## SNAP in the crosshairs of government shutdown

Vermont's legislature and Gov. Phil Scott are to be commended for their bipartisan determination to fund SNAP benefits to those in need while the government shutdown continues into what is now its fifth week. Just over 67,000 Vermonters, or 10.3% of the state's population, currently rely on SNAP (food stamps or what Vermonters know as 3SquaresVt) benefits.

In announcing that his administration would use state funds to provide supplemental food to those Vermonters in need, Scott said he "appreciate(d) the close collaboration my team has had with (Vermont) lawmakers to ensure Vermonters are protected in the face of Washington dysfunction."

But "dysfunction" is not an apt characterization. Rather, the government shutdown is a political standoff between Democrats, who are pressuring Republicans not to cut subsidies for health insurance plans that would impact over 22 million Americans and Republicans who rejecting that entreaty.

The reality is stark: Under the current Republican budget, reflected in Trump's "big beautiful bill," the health care subsidies will be cut. In Vermont, those subsidies are critically important for thousands of Vermonters because of the already high costs of health insurance.

If Democrats give in, there is little reason for Republicans to finance the health care plans originally created under the Affordable Care Act, a successful program and legacy of President Obama's that Trump has worked hard to undermine.

That's the politics.

The reality is more concerning.

According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, of the 67,743 Vermonters receiving SNAP benefits, 19,829 were children under 18; 12,274 were adults under 60 with disabilities, and 16,896 were age 60 and over. On average, about 8.0% of Vermont households were food insecure between 2020-2022. (Nationally, about 11.2% of American households are food insecure, with 4.3% of those considered "very low food insecurity.") In Vermont, about \$10.88 million in benefits were issued each month in FY 2022. The average SNAP benefit per month was \$161 per person.

And the impact goes beyond just helping feed families. SNAP funds benefit farmers, processors, distributors and retailers. Approximately 642 food retailers accept SNAP benefits in Vermont.

SNAP benefits are typically fully funded by the federal government through the Department of Agriculture. Even though Trump has sought other avenues to provide benefits during the shutdown for farmers, the military, funding in red states who voted for him and much more, he has opted not to provide any funding for SNAP benefits after Nov. 1 while the government is shutdown. That's true even though SNAP has an emergency contingency fund of about \$6 billion (not quite enough to fund the program for the first 2-3 weeks of November).

Historically, food stamps were first introduced in America in 1939 during the Great Depression, but didn't become a continuing federal program until the Food Stamp Act of 1964. Since then it has evolved through a number of expansions and contractions including a wholesale revision in 2008. Under President Trump's misnamed bill, SNAP benefits will be significantly cut as will the number of people who qualify for them.

It follows what Trump represents: cuts for those Americans most in need, while lavish spending on those who support him.

Angelo Lynn

## Lesson learned from RES

The closure of Ripton's Elementary School is a lesson learned. The takeaway is that it's incumbent on communities to meet the minimum student threshold of pupils per grade if they want to keep their local school.

In a K-5 system, under which the Addison Central School District operates (with sixth-graders now attending the district's middle school), that means a minimum of 30 students spread appropriately between its six grades are needed to fill the smallest of elementary schools.

Last February, the ACDS board adopted Policy D6, which called for a minimum of 10 students, and a maximum of 19 for kindergarten; a minimum of 10, and a maximum of 20 for grades 1-3; a minimum of 10, and maximum of 24 for grades 4-5. Those minimums can be met with a combination of any two grades.

When the board passed that policy, RES was projected to have just three students in its fall 2025 K-1 grades. Even so, the board and ACSD Supt. Wendy Baker allowed parents from any town in the district to transfer a child or children into the Ripton school to meet the minimum threshold. In the end, not enough interest was found and today 20 Ripton students are attending the elementary school in Salisbury.

Small towns do have a few options to help meet that threshold; the most critical is planning for affordable housing. That's no easy obstacle to mount, but it's not beyond the pale to imagine a community offering a property tax subsidy, along with expedited permitting, to a developer willing to build a feasible number of affordable units suitable for young families. And it's almost a sure bet that affordable units built for that demographic would be snapped up in a hurry.

The school district has set a reasonable policy through a deliberative and respectful process. For town residents worried their student numbers are dwindling and their school might be in jeopardy, the ball is now in their court.

Angelo Lynn



### Jump scare

THE LAWRENCES AT Village Green Market in New Haven like to have a little fright with their Halloween fun. The front porch and beyond is covered with all kinds of seasonal scare, including this charmer.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Our differences are permeable

Recently, I've been thinking about Samhain. Not because I'm knowledgeable about this annual celebration but because it appeals to my belief that the world is filled with barriers separating worlds from each other, creating illusions that the distances between them are more solid than they really are.

Samhain is a Gaelic festival, celebrated on Nov. 1. It's a precursor to Halloween, though it's less playful than a night of costumes and candy. Samhain marks the transition from fall to winter, which some believe is a time when the veil between the living and those who have passed on is the thinnest; so thin that they coexist on the same plane.

To me, fall foliage season is similar to the idea of Samhain. Gold, yellow and brown leaves swirl through the air and accumulate on the ground. Some trees have bare branches while green leaves hang lushly on others. In other words, the living and dead co-exist.

As summer transitions to fall, the landscape is so beautiful. Enjoyable as it is, this colorful spectacle foreshadows winter, a time of cold and snow and too few hours of sunshine. We trade long bright days for long dark nights. And if you're like me, you're imagining spring. It feels far away, but it will come.

This country's political situation reminds me of Samhain. For instance, the media constantly reminds us that we are a divided nation. Yet, as budget cuts dismantle jobs and services, and political stalemates rage on, I've begun to see that the political walls separating people are eroding.

I'm not saying that divisions no longer exist. They

do. However, as workers are fired or deported and access to services diminishes as a result, more and more people across partisan divides are seeing each other, connecting with each other. Interactions are becoming less about which political party we support and more about how we can help each other thrive.

There are podcasters, journalists, newscasters and others who tell us that, not only do we not get along, but we shouldn't get along because we're of different races, ethnicities and social statuses. If

we only focus on negative media stories about our divisions, we will find ourselves dismissing numerous categories of people, wishing they'll go away so we'll feel safe or validated. Once you've imagined all the people removed who make you uncomfortable or who are not like you, who is left?

What kind of world would you have created? It's easy to be against something, to imagine that someone is far away from you because they are different. Maybe that's why media people lean into these stories; they're easy to write. Being for something takes a lot more soul searching, more effort.

I believe people connect with neighbors, friends, family members and — yes — strangers more often and more easily than the media is willing to acknowledge. The divisions between us are thin, despite cynics saying they are brick walls.

What do you think? When you write a check to support organizations, donate food or time to the local food shelf, attend services at your house of

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

### Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer



## Why hunting matters for wildlife

When I worked in Zimbabwe, our USAID programs helped communities in some of the country's most arid and food-insecure regions conserve their forests and wildlife. These were places, like the Southeast Lowveld, where elephants roamed freely and lions still ruled the night — but also where local families often faced hunger. For many rural Zimbabweans, wildlife wasn't an abstraction or a symbol of wilderness; it was cultural, practical and sometimes a potential meal.

That experience helped shape how I think about conservation here in Vermont — where hunting, land stewardship and community values are also deeply intertwined. Whether in the dryland forests of southern Africa or the hardwood hills of Addison County, successful conservation depends on finding a balance between people and nature.

In the 1980s, USAID helped launch Zimbabwe's Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMPFIRE) program, one of Africa's first large-scale, community-based, natural resource management initiatives. CAMPFIRE gave local communities a legal stake in wildlife revenues generated from activities like tourism and licensed hunting. The idea was simple but powerful: If people benefited directly from conserving wildlife, they would have an

incentive to protect it. Decades later, that principle still shapes much of Africa's conservation success.

USAID and its partners built on this model, helping communities and safari concession owners work together to find a balance that could sustain both people and wildlife. These partnerships, which were often controversial, relied in part on a regulated hunting system that generated revenue for conservation and community development. In Zimbabwe, as in much of Africa, hunting is legal and tightly controlled through national quota systems. Those permits help fund anti-poaching patrols, ranger salaries and the maintenance of protected areas.

The world caught a glimpse of this complex reality during the 2015 uproar over Cecil the Lion. When an American dentist legally paid to hunt and kill a lion near Hwange National Park, global outrage followed. Airlines banned trophy transport, and new U.S. regulations restricted imports of lion trophies. These responses were well-intentioned, but they overlooked the local consequences. U.S. hunters, who typically pay the highest fees and follow conservation-based standards, stayed away and both local communities and conservation efforts lost critical funding. Fewer resources meant fewer rangers and reduced protection

(See *Kevin Fox*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Gratitude can go a long way

When we read about problems and tragedies it's easy to become distressed. To increase happiness, think about things for which you have gratitude.

My family does this at the end of dinner when we say "grats." This involves one person telling us three things for which she or he is grateful. Then we have a conversation about what was said.

Being the old guy at the table, I often discuss how one of those things was different in earlier times. For example, if televisions are cited, I might talk about how, when I was young, we didn't have one, and that the first tv's had small screens and took a while to "warm up" before a low-quality black and white image grudgingly appeared.

The only rule we have is that grats shouldn't involve a person at the table. Otherwise, they can be anything — big or small. Examples: freedom of speech, paper towels, email, volunteers, toothbrushes, friends, pie, plastic, sunshine, living in America, electricity, teachers, parks and music.

Grats has sparked a lot of good conversation and made us more appreciative of the lives we have. Try it. You'll like it.

Gary Jump  
Itasca, Ill.

### How did we fail Lia Smith?

How did we as a community, a college, a student athlete, a friend, a daughter fail Lia Smith? What could we have done to save her from killing herself? Perhaps we all need to look inside ourselves and wish we could have done more, anything, to allow this young adult to thrive.

Grieving thoughts to all.

Lois Farnham  
Middlebury

### We must resist Trump's actions

According to news reports, President Trump is asking the Department of Justice to pay him \$230 million to reimburse him for expenses he incurred in defending himself from various prosecutions and suits. (At least some of those prosecutions would have succeeded if the Supreme Court had not given him a Get Out Of Jail Free card). The final decision-maker would be Trump himself. We must resist this brazen corruption. Importantly, Republican elected officials including our governor must take a stand to fight this corruption.

And don't get me started on the illegal demolition of part of the White House.

Richard Hopkins  
Middlebury

### Remembering Virginia's life

Ninety-three year old Virginia Douglas died on Monday, October 13th, at Vergennes Grand Senior Living.

Virginia did not want a memorial service. My intention is to write this letter to honor Virginia by teaching you a little about her life.

Some time before the pandemic, Virginia moved to Bristol, Vermont from Knoxville, Tennessee. I met Virginia because we sang together. We sang Sacred Harp or shape note music. We had the chance to carry on the tradition of singing out our alto part to join in with the other three parts, once a month. This singing is a spirited work out. Virginia brought her vast experience of having sung with many a square of Sacred Harp singers from the South. Even though Virginia was legally blind, she had no problem singing out the songs she had memorized in her heart and mind.

A few years ago, Virginia shared with me that she had some kind of infection in her eye. She became very ill. She told me she was at peace with "meeting her maker". The surgeon needed to take her

(See *Heather-Lea*, Page 5A)

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## Letters to the Editor

### So-called Christians do not represent God of Bible

I am an unapologetic Christian, and the Christ I follow is being silenced by the very non-Christian Nationalists.

The God of the Christian Bible, including the Hebrew Scripture, is no longer recognizable as it is being acted out by Christian Nationalism. And it is this White Supremacist movement, with hatred, violence, wealth and White male dominance as gods, that fuel the exploding tyranny of the Trump Administration.

Gone is the call of the Hebrew prophets who, as one voice, say

that God who expected justice found bloodshed, who expected mercy heard cries of distress. Gone is the Christ who tells us to love our neighbor and our enemy. It is this Jesus, a person of color, who fed any who were hungry, who included in his expansive circle of love: criminals, laborers, widows, children, untouchables, immigrants and those who betrayed him.

This Jesus did not and would not use force or violence but blessed the peacemakers and those who showed compassion. This Jesus, who is the head of the Christian church

forgave us all. This Jesus's authority was God and God's love; it was not the strength of the military nor the power of wealth or position to exploit and abuse those he came to serve.

This is the Christ I want everyone to see and hear over and over again as the voice of the Christian church. And to know that Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy do not speak for this Christ. As an unapologetic Christian, neither do they speak for me.

**Patti Welch  
Bristol**

### Inequality is inevitable, but our reaction to it is not

The universe spins and thrusts all known matter (and antimatter) a half-million mph, to only-God-knows where, ever-spiraling but keeping their relative positions: The cause — the unequal forces of dark matter and gravity. Solar-systems, trajectories, and time-itself are creations of cosmic disequilibrium. A hurricane spins clockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and hits the U.S.; simultaneously a cyclone spins counterclockwise in the Southern Hemisphere and assaults Australia — both are caused by inequality, as a spinning Earth interacts with magnetic fields. Unequal pressure pushes water out of Lake Tear-In-The-Clouds, at 4,000 feet, to a filtration plant in New York City, at 40 feet; a jogger drinks, and trillions of water molecules enter his mitochondria, driven by proton pumps fueled by unequal charges. His brain signals him to sweat; the message dominos due to unequal charges, synapse to synapse, finally to the appropriate glands.

Clearly inequality is integral to all creation — it must be a God-thing. But man fixates on

the word "equality." Man can't fathom inequality as God's doing; that it might be God's way of encouraging loving-kindness? Instead, selfish, foolish men enact laws against giving, against kindness, against homelessness, against even gifting a drink to a thirsty voter standing in line for hours!

Man legislates using "inequality" as their dictum — though it's only a symptom, a word out-of-context, a scapegoat. The real evils — cruelty, greed, self-aggrandizement, exploitation — remain untouchable! We bark-up the wrong tree, let wealth be hoarded, criminals be pardoned, educators be censured, laws be ignored: We do nothing to fix health-care — which is no longer "care" — but a tradable commodity. The poor and sick are left to die, and actually targeted to expedite things; because, hey, that is the easiest and quickest way for the powerful and greedy to get MORE! Sharing is for weaklings. We love "Barabbas!"

A Good King once said: "The poor will always be with us."

That king had no confusion about inequality — He knew it was here to stay, He knew it was a fundamental law of creation; nor did He rail against being poor or being oppressed; What he did rail against was how we mis-treat those unequal "others" — with disdain, NOT with loving kindness. We have lost sight of that good King, and his ways. Quite the contrary, we have elected a bad king — and it wasn't just a one-off — as we did it twice! That speaks volumes!

We-the-(majority) did actually elect a mouthpiece to champion our (own) deprived value-systems. Now, we-the-(good)-people have our work cut out for us (and God help us to gather up a majority)! "NOW is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country" — Not with some typing exercise, but with some real action! All are allowed a short period of cognitive dissonance. Think! Then do something!

**Ronald LaDue  
Middlebury**

## Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

worship, or volunteer to help elders or young people, do you check which political party people belong to? I doubt it; I certainly don't. While volunteering or giving and receiving help, you might have a conversation, and politics might come up. At that point, you've had a bit of human-to-human contact and maybe, just maybe, a person's political view

doesn't matter so much.

I'm not naive. This country is going through terrible times. We are in a period of transition. There are fewer hours of brightness than we'd like. We can continue to view our differences as brick walls, or realize they're permeable, maybe as thin as a veil.

One thing I believe to be true: It's worth the risk to reach out a hand and touch the barrier. Maybe

someone is reaching back. Maybe this period of transition will lead to a stronger nation, one filled with people who are willing to connect, to walk through the short hours of sunshine and long hours of evening, to get to the other side, and welcome spring, together.

*Ruth Farmer is a published essayist and poet. She is sole owner of Farmer Writing and Editing (www.ruthfarmer.com).*

## Kevin Fox

(Continued from Page 4A)

for wildlife. Many local experts estimate that roughly 85 percent of conserved land in Africa depends directly or indirectly on hunting revenues. When responsible hunters stay away, then ones with fewer scruples — or none at all — fill the gap, leaving wildlife and habitats vulnerable.

Even within Africa's conservation community, the story isn't black and white. Some of the most dedicated conservationists I met were also hunters. They understood that maintaining ecological balance sometimes requires difficult tradeoffs. For instance, too many elephants in one area can devastate biodiversity, stripping forests bare and destroying habitats vital to other species. I've seen centuries-old baobab trees reduced to piles of splintered fiber — 900 years of life undone by desperate, thirsty elephants seeking moisture. Hunting quotas are one of the few tools landscape managers have to keep populations, and ecosystems, in balance.

Working in Zimbabwe taught me

that conservation succeeds when local communities see tangible benefits from protecting nature. That same lesson applies here at home.

This may feel far removed from Addison County, but the underlying principles aren't so different. Here in Vermont, hunting has long been part of both our culture and our conservation strategy. Deer populations are managed through state quotas to protect forests and reduce habitat degradation. Hunting license fees support wildlife management and land stewardship. And for many Vermonters, hunting isn't just recreation — it's tradition, food, family and respect for the land.

At the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) and other conservation organizations, we often talk about inclusivity and community. That means recognizing that conservation has many faces: birders, hikers, scientists and hunters among them. Most conservation easements in Vermont don't prohibit hunting; the choice is left to individual landowners. This flexibility reflects an understanding that conservation must be local,

grounded in community values and ecological realities.

None of this is to dismiss the legitimate concerns of those who oppose hunting. Their voices are important too. But if we want durable, effective conservation — whether in the savannas of Zimbabwe or the woodlands of Vermont — we must be willing to embrace complexity. Hunting, when done responsibly and ethically, can be part of the solution. It provides both resources and a tangible link between people and the land they depend on.

If we want conservation to endure, it must be built on inclusion and practicality. That means inviting hunters, anglers, landowners, and local communities to the table alongside scientists and advocates. Sustainable management, not ideology, keeps forests standing and wildlife thriving. From Africa's drylands to Vermont's Green Mountains, conservation works best when it's rooted in people, grounded in science, and locally driven.

*Kevin Fox is executive director of the Middlebury Area Land Trust.*

## Heather-Lea letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

eye but she kept living, wondering what this next adventure would be. Telling stories kept her busy.

I was happy to learn about the time that room was made in the front row of the alto section for the Black woman with a beautiful voice, some place down South at some Sacred Harp sing. Many a heart and mind were opened on that day, and carried into the future.

Virginia was open minded. Virginia once lived on South Street in Bristol, just a few houses from Holley Hall. At Holley Hall, every

Sunday, I played drums with our teachers, Seny and Simbo, from Guinea, West Africa. Virginia enjoyed our rhythms. Virginia also enjoyed planting flowers in front of her apartment. She enjoyed and appreciated the Bristol Peace Garden. She understood and supported the power of beauty, community building, and peace.

My heart went out to Virginia. Both her daughters died before she did. They had early onset dementia. Virginia seemed to react to their deaths in a practical way. She did not want to dwell upon what she

had no power to change.

I shall end this letter with a verse from New Jerusalem. "His own soft hand shall wipe the tear from every weeping eye. And pains, and groans, and griefs, and fears, and death itself shall die."

(Thank you, Virginia, for visiting us for a while, here in the Green Mountains of Vermont. We understand that your ashes will be spread somewhere in the Southern Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee. Love, Patsy)

**Patricia Heather-Lea  
Bristol**

## Landowners offered info on conservation

FERRISBURGH — Property owners looking for information on conservation practices can join a free event on Nov. 10 in Ferrisburgh, the Vermont Land Trust announced this week.

The Vermont Land Trust and the Bobolink Project are hosting the workshop for landowners and land managers in the southern Champlain Valley. The event is titled "Conservation Speed Dating" and will be held on Monday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Ferrisburgh.

Those interested must apply by Nov. 5 at vlt.org/events or by sending an email to sam@vlt.org.

Landowners will have the chance to speak directly with local technical experts and develop a personalized roadmap for implementing conservation practices. They will also learn about incentives and cost-share programs.

The workshop's main focus will be on managing habitat for birds and other wildlife; however

other specialists will also be present.

The full list of organizations that will be on hand to provide technical expertise and guidance includes:

The Bobolink Project, Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, UVM Extension, eBird, Audubon Vermont Bird and Bee Friendly Farming, Audubon Vermont Bird Friendly Maple, Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

## Volunteers essential to local flag football success

The Middlebury Flag Football Board (MFF) would like to publicly thank its many volunteers who made this past year a success. This year, MFF served 110 young athletes of the greater Middlebury Community.

The program could not run without the time, energy, commitment and dedication of its volunteers. Thank you!

Coaches:  
1st – 3rd Grades (20 players)  
Tony Niemo and helpful parents  
4th Grade (14 players)  
MacIntyre Services – Peter Brakeley, Scott Sperry, Will Deering and Ethan Raymond  
5th – 6th Grades (30 players)  
Champlain Valley Equipment – Duane, Ian and Liam McDonald  
The Middlebury Shop (Forth 'N Goal) – David "Bootsie" Hanson,

Donny Patterson and Derek Coombs

Nino's Pizza – Joe Wesley and Brian Clark

Bristol – (20 players) - Dennis Relyea, Matt Paul, Caleb

Rockwood, Caleb Kelley, Chris Lampert, Chris Grassley and Gary Russell - B.Y.S. Coordinator

Brandon – (13 players) - Duke

Whitney, Joe Desabrais, Matt Mallory and Daniel Whitney

7th – 8th Grades (43 players)  
Carrara – Scott Bougor and Spencer Cadoret

G. Stone – K.C. Bullock, Isaiah Bullock, and Colin Bradford

Fire and Ice – Bobby Sunderland and Darcy Trudeau

Monument Farms – Richard Audet and Brian Kemp

Officiating Crew:  
Scott Sperry, Eric Kaufmann,

Kyle Lussier, Laurent Lussier, Paul Cherrier, Brian Kemp, Richard Audet, Darcy Trudeau, Kevin Cummings, Todd Desabrais, Luke Nueder, Ben DeBisschop, Will Deering, Cooke Riney, Donny Patterson, Andrew Peet, Parker Carl, Jason Sperry, and Mason Kaufmann

Board of Directors:

Peter Brakeley, June Kaufmann, Scott Sperry, Laurent Lussier, Peter James, Dennis Smith, Sean Farrell, Bob Ritter, Erin Quinn, Grover Usilton, Todd Desabrais, Jed Malcolm and Richard Audet  
Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department:  
Scott Bourne and Amber Hunt

Special Thanks to: American Legion Post 27, Middlebury Rotary Club and Friends of Middlebury Football for their generous contributions to the program.

**Peter Brakeley  
Flag Football Commissioner**

## Lack of staffing at post office impacting us locally

Through rain sleet and snow, the postman doesn't always go in Bristol.

There is trouble with the mail in Bristol. On some routes there are two and three day gaps in delivery when a year ago delivery was very consistent. Our *Addison Independent* now arrives on Monday or Tuesday instead of Friday or Saturday.

But for my household there are other problems, mis-delivered mail, and even worse, missing mail. Two out of the last three months we have not received important notices for car lease payments, causing us to set up auto-pay to avoid problems in the future.

I went to the post office to inquire about the situation and

was told that they are short-staffed and that on that particular day the post-master was out delivering mail. The clerk backing up the postmaster went back in the mailroom and brought out a bunch of our mail that would not have been delivered that day if I hadn't gone in.

Today we spent more than an hour tracing down a credit card payment that took 18 days to go from Bristol to Atlanta after we received a delinquency notice.

The folks at the Bristol Post Office are good people and I am not blaming them for what seems to be a problem beyond their control — lack of adequate staffing. But whose fault is it and what's the solution? The U.S. Postal Service has always been

dependable in the past and our experience now is calling that into question.

This is a very disturbing development in a rural state where the mail is particularly important to facilitate the smooth flow of commerce. Now, we cannot be certain that mail is progressing in a timely manner or even at all.

Ben Franklin must be rolling in his grave.

**Richard Butz  
Bristol**

## Seems no one to stop faux king

There was once a lost boy who liked pretending that he was a king. He decided to line up all of his soldiers and start a war against his own country and its

people. It seems that there was no one to stop him.

**David Lewis  
New Haven**

## Elderly Services Inc. ESI College



**The Rent is Still Too Darn High: Exploring Local Challenges and Solutions to Addison County's Affordable Housing Crisis**

Wednesday, November 12, 10:00-11:30 AM  
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange St.

What is being done about the housing crisis in Addison County? Explore how Addison Housing Works, a nonprofit affordable housing trust, develops, manages and maintains affordable homes in Addison County, and examine current Vermont housing policies shaping this work. Learn about the challenges and opportunities in meeting community needs, and how state and federal decisions impact local residents.

**Elise Shanbacher** is Executive Director of Addison Housing Works, a provider of more than 750 affordable homes in Addison County. A Middlebury College and Harvard Kennedy School graduate, she has more than a decade of experience in housing policy, and previously worked at the National Governors Association. She also serves on several state and local community development boards.

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<https://elderlyservices.org/esi-college-fall-2025/>  
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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## Stephanie Joan Morris, 98, of Brandon

BRANDON — Stephanie Joan Morris, age 98, passed peacefully on Oct. 22, 2025, at her home in Brandon, Vt.

Stephanie was born in Perth Amboy, N.J., on Oct. 28, 1926, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Cwiklic) Wojciechowski. On May 25, 1945, she married Charles M. Morris, Jr., and they raised their two daughters in East Brunswick, N.J.

In 1974, following her divorce, Stephanie began a new chapter in Amherst, Mass., where she spent several decades building friendships, tending extensive gardens, cycling, hiking, creating stained glassworks, playing the organ, and listening to opera and classical music.

To be near family, Stephanie moved to Brandon in 1999, where she developed treasured friendships with neighbors and community members. She continued hiking, cycling, and cross-country skiing, exercising daily into her nineties while living independently at age 98. Even in her final weeks, she was known to present a bicep or calf for inspection or pull out her log of 25+ mile cycle adventures.



STEPHANIE JOAN MORRIS

Stephanie was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brandon and was especially fond of Pope Francis, who shared her progressive values.

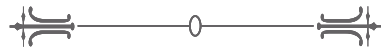
She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Joan Choma and her husband Joseph of Sudbury, Vt.; sister, Barbara Cser; grandchildren Amy Mason and her husband Brian of Weybridge, Vt., and Joseph Choma and his wife Jessica Saunders of Albany, N.Y.; five great-grandchildren: Sophie, Aster, and Elizabeth Mason and Isabel and

David Choma; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins including her beloved niece Rosemarie Bonk of Edison, N.J. She was predeceased by her daughter, Marilyn Ann Morris; brother Joseph Wojciechowski; sister Ann Bonk; and former husband, Charles.

Stephanie passed away peacefully at home just six days before her 99th birthday, after six weeks in the tender care of Rutland County VNA & Hospice, with long visits from treasured family and neighbors, wheelchair foliage strolls through her condo community, and many dishes of ice cream. Her family extends profound gratitude to VNA Nurse Amy Ferro and caregiver Nathalie Gedeon of TLC HomeCare for their exceptional care and compassion.

A private graveside service will take place in November at St. Mary's Cemetery in Brandon. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to The Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



## Heather Jackman Gevry, 51, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Heather Jackman Gevry, 51, of New Haven, Vt., passed away peacefully on Oct. 21, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Sept. 30, 1974, Heather was a lifelong Vermonter whose compassion, wit, and wisdom touched countless lives. She graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School in 1992, earned her bachelor's degree in education from Castleton College, and completed her master's in special education at Saint Michael's College. A published author and devoted educator, Heather spent her career mentoring young minds and inspiring students to believe in themselves and their potential. There are countless stories of students she impacted daily with her compassion. She has the unique ability to make every kid feel like they were the most special in her life.

Heather enjoyed spending time at her beach house in Surfside Beach, S.C., whenever she could, happily sharing this special place with her family and friends. She lit up the room wherever she was and was



HEATHER JACKMAN GEVRY

always the life of the party.

Heather is survived by her parents, Peter and Debra Jackman; her beloved husband of 28 years, Duke Gevry; her daughter, Ellie Gevry; son-in-law, Daniel Eugair; and cherished granddaughter, Lainey Gevry Eugair; her son, Beau Gevry, his partner, Laura Lenz, whom the family warmly welcomes as a future daughter-in-law; also, brothers Heath (Amy), Peter (Lindsay), and James (Lisa) and countless cousins. Heather was the fun aunt and second mom to Hannah, Sam, Keegan,

Rogan, Chessley, Genevieve, Idalee, Abigail and Zachary and a large extended family. She was predeceased by her mother-in-law, Gail; brother-in-law, Jack; special grandparents; and recently her beloved pup, Addie.

A celebration of Heather's life will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m. at Mount Abraham Union High School.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a scholarship in her honor, "Gevry Strong" — a tribute to Heather's enduring strength and commitment to education. Checks can be mailed payable to Mount Abraham Unified School District, 220 Airport Drive, Bristol, VT 05443, c/o Gevry Strong or via Venmo "@Mary-Wood-49".

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the staff at UVMCC and Laura, Hannah, Dianna, Ellie and Jordan for their loving care and presence during Heather's final days.

Heather's legacy lives on in every life she touched, every lesson she taught, and every laugh she shared. She was a light — steady, soulful, and unforgettable. ◊

## Amelia M. Kompass, 93, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — Amelia M. Kompass of South Lincoln, loving wife and mother of six children, passed away peacefully on Oct. 27, 2025, a week before her 94th birthday.

She is survived by her six children, Christine and husband Kevin, Daniel, Andrew and wife Emily, Timothy and wife Kathy, Matthew and wife Lois, Julie and husband Matt; grandchildren Timothy, Brian, Ashley, Patrick, David, Sara, and Kelsey; great-grandchildren Caila, Brendan, Katie, Lilly, Penelope and Harrison; and is predeceased by her beloved husband of 69 years, Edward, and grandson Mark.

Amelia (Emmy, née Heubel) was born Nov. 5, 1931, in North Bergen, N.J., to Johann P. and Maria M. Heubel (née Schuster) and is predeceased by her sister Eleanor.

Emmy was an example of a perfect wife and mother. She spent



AMELIA M. KOMPASS

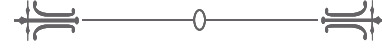
her life taking care of Edward and her six children. She was an angel and loved by all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She and family moved from the east coast to the Chicago area in 1972 with Ed's job and then returned to the east coast and Vermont in 1987 to be close to her mother and father, Maria and

Philip of South Lincoln. Emmy enjoyed needlework, crocheting and sewing. She was an amazing seamstress, and in her day made wool three-piece suits. She was a homemaker extraordinaire and had quite the green thumb, with a love of gardening, houseplants, cooking and baking. She was also a good pianist.

In Emmy's most recent days she befriended a very kind and caring group of ladies and thoroughly enjoyed card game Tuesdays and volunteering at the local Lincoln library. Thank you, Annette, Mary Lu, and Mary...You were Godsenders for our mother!

The family and close friends will hold a private burial service for Emmy at Maple Cemetery in Lincoln.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Lincoln Public Library at [www.lincolnlibraryvt.com](http://www.lincolnlibraryvt.com). ◊



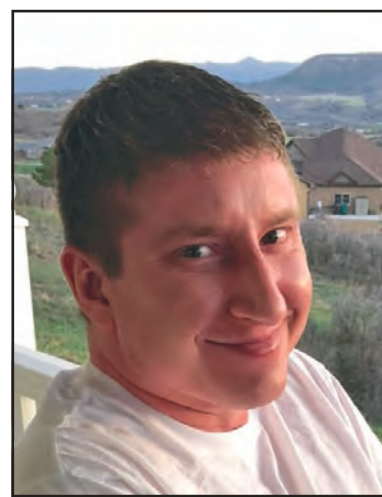
## SRA William K. Doe, 44, formerly of Bristol

AURORA, Colo. — SRA William K. Doe passed peacefully in his home in Aurora, Colo., June 10, 2025.

Bill, an Air Force veteran and crew chief on an F-16 in Germany and Turkey with a promising future, struggled and fought a long battle with his health. He did so with grace, spirit and courage that was admired by all who were fortunate enough to share his days.

Bill was born in New Jersey, where he will be missed by his extended family, especially his special cousin, Audrey Griess.

At age five, Bill and his parents, Lawrence and Joanne Doe, and older brother Larry Doe moved to the town green in Bristol, Vt., where he gained his love for Vermont and enjoyed the many



WILLIAM K. DOE

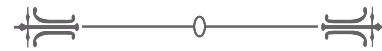
joys of the state, especially hiking and swimming at Bartlett Falls.

He graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School in

1998. Bill was a huge Philadelphia Eagles fan. Their February 2025 victory in the Super Bowl gave him great joy. Fittingly, his memorial service was held at Bristol's Eagle Park, where a memorial bench in his name was placed. A separate memorial was held in North Wildwood, N.J., his favorite beach with close family members and friends.

Bill is predeceased by his father, Lawrence Doe. He is survived by his mother, Joanne Doe; his brother, Lawrence Doe III; his wife, Inna; two special nieces, Alexandra and Sofia; special cousin Audrey; best friend, Joel Richardson; Jim Charron; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Special thanks to Paige Lloyd and Mary Workman for their endless love and support. ◊



## Michelle P. Shackett, 78, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — It is with immense sadness yet an abundance of pride in the way she lived, that we relay to our community that the amazing Michelle Patrice Forand Shackett gracefully exited this world on Oct. 27, 2025. She was surrounded by the infinite loving presence, thoughts, gratitude and peaceful wishes of friends and family far and wide.

Michelle "Shelly" was born on March 3, 1947, at a home on Main Street in Vergennes, in the middle of a snowstorm when the weather made it impossible for her parents to get to the hospital ahead of her arrival. She was the second of five children born to Leonard and Ramona (Sullivan) Forand.

Shelly attended school in Vergennes. Soon after graduating in 1965, she married Thomas Shackett and, although they later divorced, she remained deeply grateful for the two children their union produced and the respect they shared for one another as friends later on.

She was employed by Simmonds Precision for over 30 years, during which time she mentored and became friends with many people. Shelly was often first to welcome new hires, helping them acclimate to the company and routine. She



MICHELLE P. SHACKETT

won over many with her caring nature, contagious laugh and never-ending need to feed those she cared about.

Once a friend to Shelly, your status remained as such forever. She was witty and smart, thoughtful and generous. The scope of her kindness could never be measured and oftentimes was unknown by others, as she quietly reached out to help people through conversation, good deeds, nourishment and various other methods of support. Many people have sat at Shelly's table enjoying fellowship, laughter, delicious food, honest advice, and most importantly, acceptance and love. Also at that table, one might see a cup of coffee, books, word puzzles, recipes, handwritten notes and musings and always, her book of telephone numbers so she could easily call a friend. She was a person to forgive others and taught her children to face adversity with grace and resilience. Until the very end of her life, she conveyed the inspiring message and poised modeling that one can push through many things that are challenging while remaining hopeful and never bitter.

It would be impossible to summarize all the wonderful and often rare attributes that made up the essence of who Shelly is. We were blessed to have her guiding light throughout the years and are

left with beautiful memories to cherish. We will continue to benefit from all that she taught us and hold onto the many humorous times together which continue to make us laugh deeply, even in our sorrow. What we carry is sure to help us learn to navigate life without her by our side and always choose light over darkness.

Shelly is survived by her devoted partner and steady, loving mate to her and her children for more than 47 years, Charles Tucker; her son Todd Shackett (Tracy), daughter Amy S. Curtis (Jay), Tammy Tucker and Jeff Tucker (Tina). She leaves behind 11 grandchildren who adored their "Nanny" (Jordan, Quentin, Ally, Skylar, Derek, Ben, Jeffrey, Brooke, Grayson, Lauren and Tucker). Her sister Dolores Shea, brother David Forand (Carol) and sister-in-law Sandy Oswald also survive her, along with several nieces and nephews and countless friends she acquired and kept throughout her life.

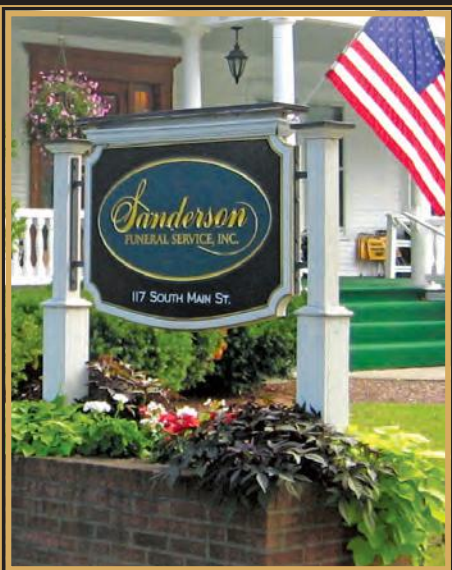
She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Brian Forand and her beloved sister and friend Sandra Forand, whose presence she felt in her final weeks of life.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Nov. 2, from 2-5 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Vergennes Congregational Church. Funeral services will be held on Monday, Nov. 3, at 11 a.m., at the Vergennes Congregational Church with reception to follow. Interment at Sunset View cemetery will occur at a later date.

In honor of Shelly, please reach out to someone through an act of kindness: a call, a meal or a warm visit just to let them know they matter.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the McClure Miller Respite House, 3113 Roosevelt Highway, Colchester, VT 05446, where they so tenderly and respectfully provided care and comfort to Shelly and her loved ones throughout her final days.

Arrangements are through Stephen C. Gregory And Son Cremation Service. ◊



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# Obituaries

## Daniel R. Coolidge, 67, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Daniel R Coolidge, 67, passed away peacefully after a short battle with lung cancer on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025.

Born Jan. 6, 1958, in Montpelier Vt., Daniel was the son of Gladys Freeman and Warren Coolidge. He was raised by Mildred Freeman and his foster parents Clark and Jessie Thomas.

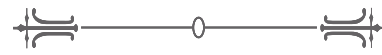
He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Anne Coolidge. He is also survived by his brother Warren Coolidge, brother-in-law Butch DuPont (with wife Janet), nephew Matt DuPont (with wife Elisabeth and son Gabe), nephew John DuPont, his foster sister Joan Richardson, sister-in-law Norma Thomas, and many other foster siblings and cousins. He is predeceased by parents, aunt Mildred Freeman, Clark and Jessie



DANIEL R. COOLIDGE

Thomas, foster brother David Thomas, and foster brother-in-law Bruce Richardson.

Daniel joined the United States Air Force in 1975. He served in Okinawa and Germany. He received



## Judith Anne Severy, 63, of Hinesburg

HINESBURG — With love and remembrance, we announce the passing of Judith Anne “Judy” Severy on Oct. 13, 2025. Born on July 14, 1962, Judy grew up in Vermont and graduated from Middlebury Union High School.

Judy will be remembered for her kind and gentle heart, and for the deep care she showed throughout her life. She was a loving caretaker to many children, always offering warmth, patience, and

understanding. She found peace in her garden and joy in the company of her three beloved cats.

She is survived by her niece and husband, Danielle and Josh Dearnley and their sons Forrest and Charlie; her nephew and his wife, Nicholas and Amanda Salant, and their daughter Genevieve; and by many beloved cousins who held a special place in her heart.

Judy was predeceased by her sister Deborah Marie Salant, her

an honorable discharge in 1978.

Daniel, Anne and Chakotay, their beloved shih-tzu, were able to spend many hours together over the past five years as Daniel worked remotely for Heartland Consulting for Homeland Security.

In his time off, Daniel was a movie buff; he loved to watch Star Trek, Star Wars and anything Sci-fi related. He also loved NASCAR and watched it often.

The most important thing in Daniel’s life was his wife, Anne who he loved endlessly, and though he is no longer here with us his love and devotion to his wife will never fade.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department.

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

brother Oral Severy, and her parents Charles and Lauraine Severy.

A graveside service will be held Friday, Nov. 7, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary’s Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration of Judy’s life.

Judy’s compassion, love of nature, and gentle spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.◊

# SNAP

(Continued from Page 3A)

“States cannot cover the cost of benefits and be reimbursed,” the guidance continued, reaffirming Vermont officials’ doubts about being paid back for state-level stopgap measures.

The suit comes a day after U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., co-sponsored a bill that seeks to release funds for the USDA to continue operating SNAP without interruption.

The Keep SNAP Funded Act of 2025, introduced by U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., would appropriate both current and retroactive funding as necessary to maintain full operations for the program. The bill has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

“Vermonters can be really proud that their elected leaders are doing just what they should do,” Clark said. “Each of us ... in our own lane is trying really hard to ensure that the SNAP benefits continue and that no Vermonter goes hungry.”

The lawsuit was welcomed by food security advocates in Vermont.

“We commend Governor Scott for directing his administration to work with Attorney General Charity Clark to join a multi-state lawsuit demanding that the federal government release unlawfully withheld SNAP funds,” said Sabina Parker, a spokesperson

for Hunger Free Vermont, in a statement on Tuesday. “The federal government has a basic obligation to meet people’s most basic needs, and they are failing to do so.”

Conor Kennedy, a spokesperson for Vermont House Speaker Jill Krowinski, called Clark’s lawsuit a “huge help” on Tuesday. “We’re trying to explore all avenues...to make sure that people have food security,” he said.

State legislative leaders said last week that they were confident about being able to provide a state-funded stopgap measure in November if SNAP funds dry up. The state’s Emergency Board, which includes Scott, will meet tomorrow to discuss proposals for dispersing those funds.

Lawmakers have also been working to provide temporary relief to Vermonters who rely on the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, which may also experience a loss of federal funding should the shutdown continue. Tuesday’s lawsuit did not reference LIHEAP, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Tuesday morning, Democrats in the U.S. Senate voted against the Republican bill that would have ended the shutdown for the 13th time, maintaining their position on the urgency of negotiations surrounding expiring tax credits

for the Affordable Care Act.

Clark said that while efforts from all political sides are important, it would be most “appropriate” for Vermont not to have to bear the burden of funding food assistance at the state level. The funds that would be directed toward a state-funded stopgap are needed elsewhere, she said.

“I think our lane is the most promising,” Clark said in reference to Tuesday’s lawsuit.

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## Orwell market offers locally-grown goods

By MARIN HOWELL

ORWELL — After Orwell’s Red Sky Farm exited the dairy industry in 2004, growing produce and operating a farmstand emerged as an opportunity for Ed and Paula Barnes to remain connected to the land on which they’d made their living.

The farm’s offerings have steadily expanded through the years and today, Red Sky Farm’s year-round market is stocked with a variety of locally-grown and produced options. The bright red market building sits at 613 Rt 73 and features produce grown at the farm, handcrafted gifts made by Paula, pantry staples like milk and bread, and other goods.

“It’s really what people are asking us for, if I can find it and supply it to them,” Paula said of the market’s offerings. “It’s what our customers want.”

Ed and Paula Barnes previously operated Red Sky Farm as a dairy operation for 25 years. When they transitioned out of that industry they began growing produce at the property, beginning with pumpkins. Throughout the years, they purchased more equipment and began growing a plethora of other produce.

In early 2020, the farm began exploring ways to increase business in the winter by marketing potatoes, beets and carrots grown at the site. The pair began offering a “root crop box,” which became filled with a larger variety of goods after the pandemic hit.

“People just needed food, and so it grew into this full-blown box of everything,” Paula said.

She noted the farm at that time was sending out 55-60 of the boxes every weekend, with people driving to Orwell from as far away as Rutland and parts of New York.

The farm was able to set aside proceeds from that offering to renovate the current market building, equipping it with the insulation, heat and other features it needed to become a year-round market.

The farm had previously sold goods through the stand, starting with the pumpkins and vegetables grown at Red Sky. Eventually, the farm added meat and dairy products to its market offerings.

Visitors can now find a variety of Red Sky Farm’s crops in the market, including sweet corn, green beans, cucumbers, peppers, onions and different types of squash. Fruit comes from Paul Mazza’s Fruit and Vegetables, apples from Cobble Knoll Orchard in Benson and cider and cider donuts from Champlain Orchards.

The market’s eggs come from Red Sky Farm’s hens. The market’s shelves are also stocked with goods

from several local producers, including Monument Farms, Bridport Creamery and Misty Knoll Farms. A “dessert shack” on the property is filled with a selection of Wilcox’s Ice Cream products and seasonal treats like pies and cookies.

Outside of its food offerings, the market features items from Paula’s handcrafted shop, Queen Bee Creations.

Paula said she’s been making handcrafted gifts for as long as she can remember. Once the growing season winds down in the fall, she can dedicate

time to sewing each morning before opening the market. Those creations include winter accessories like fleece mittens, blankets and children’s clothing, which can be found in a second room inside the market building.

There are seasonal offerings available at the market throughout the year, including flowers and herb starts in the spring and Christmas trees in the winter.

The farm continues to offer crop boxes, which are available daily and

offer items that change seasonally. Through the farm’s website, community members can compile a box filled with meat, dairy, bread, vegetable, and dessert options. The popular service also includes an option for customers to throw in “a la carte” items.

On a recent Friday at the market, Paula had sent out a crop box order that morning and was attending to a steady stream of customers passing through in the afternoon. She said the market has seen an uptick in demand since the closure of Buxton’s Store, the general store in Orwell that shut down around a year ago. Community members are working to revive that facility.

The year-round market is open seven days a week, and Pelletier’s Maple Food Truck offers lunch and snacks at the farm on Fridays.

Paula noted Red Sky Farm has some ideas for further growing its offerings and is looking to add a few more items with the space it has. The farm’s goal is ultimately to offer high-quality products at a reasonable price for community members.

“That’s really important to us,” Paula said. “We want our local people to be able to afford it.”



PAULA BARNES OF Red Sky Farm stands in the farm’s year-round market, which has steadily expanded its offerings over the years and now features a variety of locally-grown and produced goods.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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# Dr. Kiernan

(Continued from Page 1A)

“It was around 10 centimeters below my super-sternal notch, where the collarbones meet, and another 15 centimeters in the chest,” he said, flipping the switch from Thoreau to DeBakey.

But other than perspiring a little, Kiernan felt fine, like it might be a passing episode.

“I didn’t have shortness of breath, didn’t feel like I was going to pass out; it wasn’t terribly uncomfortable, but it was certainly *something*,” he recalled thinking.

Kiernan turned to unit Clerk Gail Mannigan and asked her to summon Porter Emergency Department Director Dr. Amanda Young. He then asked one of the unit nurses to meet him in one of the ED rooms.

“I went and laid down, and everyone looked a little concerned about me. They could tell I didn’t look quite well,” Kiernan confessed.

Ever the physician, Kiernan thought about what might be happening within his chest. It didn’t feel like a heart attack was supposed to feel — no crushing chest pain, shortness of breath or uncontrolled sweating. His mind then turned to his dad, who had died at age 65 and one month from a ruptured aneurysm in his abdomen. Here, now, was the son, facing the same potential fate at 65 years and two months.

If it wasn’t a heart attack, Kiernan reasoned it was his aorta, the main artery in the body supplying oxygenated blood to the circulatory system.

Sure enough, a chest CT scan showed what he called “a subtle tear” in his aorta.

At this point, Mike reached out his wife, Dr. Tawnya Kiernan, a physician at Rainbow Pediatrics.

“I get this text that says, ‘Hey Sweet, can you reach out when you get a chance?’” Tawnya said.

She calls him, he says he’s being evaluated for a tear in aorta but urges her not to fret or hurry.

So a stunned Tawnya starts to tie up loose ends at work prior to her departure until one of her staff meets her in the hallway and says, “You need to get to the ER *now*.”

“Both of our brains are going a mile a minute about, ‘Where’s this all going to end?’” Tawnya said. “I’m so thankful this happened in the ED and not elsewhere,” Tawnya said.

That’s because “elsewhere,” for Mike Kiernan, could be a lot of different places.

In addition to his medical duties, Mike is the founder and chief protagonist of “Bee the Change,” a nonprofit effort to expand pollinator gardens throughout the region — at homes, solar farms, schools and residential properties. The organization is now shepherding habitats in four different states.

“I might have been anywhere, and far from *anything*, when this (aorta issue) happened,” Mike acknowledged

But luck was on his side. Porter Hospital officials readied Mike for his ambulance ride north to University of Vermont Medical Center, whose cardiac surgeons had been prepped on the incoming patient-doc’s condition.

As he’s being readied for transfer, Kiernan is trying to update his colleagues on patients he’d be leaving behind in the ER.

Young tells him not to worry, and to do something he doesn’t like to do — focus on himself.

Mike was now seeing — from a patient’s perspective — how the docs, nurses, EMTs and support staff provide great care and positive reinforcement.

“When we go to work as docs, we prepare ourselves to be ready to help people with whatever they present with, all day long,” Kiernan said. “That feels good and that’s our role. To then be doing that job and all of a sudden be the person who needs help, it’s an abrupt change. It was pretty amazing and phenomenal to be received into the

hands of Porter.”

**TOUCH AND GO**  
Mike knew the severity of his situation.

“A tear in the aorta can go any number of ways, including complete tearing and a bleed-out, or some kind of bleed into the chambers that surround the heart,” he said. “Then the heart can’t fill effectively, and that’s when it can be a touch-and-go thing.”

The approaching April 8, 2024, solar eclipse was nothing compared to the constellation of good fortunes for Kiernan on this particular day. Time was of the essence, and he needed a seamless transition to UVMHC.

Had his heart crisis occurred 10 years earlier, he might have had a different outcome, he noted.

“It used to be if I were the ER doc, I would have to call a thoracic surgeon or cardiologist and get someone to accept the admission (at UVMHC) before I could even start an ambulance,” Kiernan said. “And the ambulance would be coming from Burlington, so it could be a three-hour round trip. That’s three hours lost. Now, you call the transfer center at UVMHC. On the other line is a nurse with critical care experience who knows exactly what our resources are and who’s able to get me connected to the right person, or the second-best person. There’s no longer half an hour on the phone when you have a critically ill patient.”

Did Dr. Kiernan rest during his ride to UVMHC?  
Of course not.  
“There are some reports that I was giving orders, but that can’t possibly be true,” he grinned.  
But he was certainly using his cellphone.  
You don’t go through medical school and treat hundreds of very ill patients in an ED setting without knowing the fragility of human life. When the healing powers of modern medicine and a caregiver’s skilled hands aren’t enough to bring a patient back from the brink,

Mike Kiernan has been known to tenderly place a cell phone to that person’s ear to hear final goodbyes from loved ones unable to be there during the waning moments.

Knowing a tear in the aorta can quickly worsen, Kiernan put into practice for himself the farewell outreach he had previously facilitated for others.

“At a moment like that, it’s possible you could be facing the end of your life,” he said. “In that ambulance, I wasn’t being brave or courageous; I was serene. I had gratitude and a profound sense of appreciation for life and the people in my life. So I was calling people and saying, ‘I love you... I’m so happy we are friends.’”

Were Kiernan’s goodbyes premature?

The ensuing 10 hours made that a difficult question to answer, but Kiernan knew he was in the right hands. His team of three surgeons sprang into action “and took exquisite care of me, right from the moment I got there,” he recalled. “Dr. (Elizabeth) Pocock said, ‘I am exactly the surgeon to take care of you.’”

Kiernan asked if his aortic tear might be solved with a “sleeve,” a non-operative approach where surgeons essentially put a new aorta over your torn one.

Pocock told him “No,” that his case would require cutting his chest open.

“She said, ‘For the next eight to 10 hours, I will be operating on you,’” he recalled.

With that, caregivers started wheeling Kiernan into a UVMHC operating room.

And just in time, because that’s when his heart decided to check out.

“They lost my pulse; I was ‘coding,’ as they say,” Kiernan said, borrowing from second-hand accounts that cover his resuscitation.

Again, with his professional training and smarts, Kiernan can’t resist speaking frankly and dispassionately about the temporarily deceased human that was him.

“They needed to restore my pulse, and that’s a little bit hard, because you want to compress the chest enough to make the heart pump, but you have a split aorta, so you don’t want to push with too much pressure,” he said, as if he was a disembodied observer peering over the shoulders of the surgeons who controlled his fate.

Pocock and the team, including Dr. Fuyuki Hirashima, handled the situation beautifully, Kiernan said.



**DR. MIKE KIERNAN** talks with a colleague in the Emergency Department at Porter Hospital in Middlebury this week. It’s the same place where the doc faced his own emergency two years ago when he suffered a torn aorta while on the job.

Photo credit UVM Health

“I would love to see a video of it,” Kiernan said. “In an extraordinarily short period of time, they did a number of major interventions — including opening my chest and getting the clot from around my heart that was preventing it from pumping. They took off a section of the septum that divides the two ventricles and then got to work repairing the aorta.”

While Kiernan was asleep during procedure, his spouse, their two grown children, and an abundance of other family and friends were not.

Tawnya was on her way to the UVMHC and hoped to see her husband before he went under the knife. Pocock and Tawnya connected by phone as the latter was on route.

“She asked me where I was, and I said, ‘I’m at the Kwiwaska Golf Club (near Shelburne),’” Tawnya recalled. “She said ‘I can’t wait. We’re taking him in *now*.’”

Tawnya was glad her husband’s caregiver knew not only about anatomy, but also about local geography.

**BLESSING AND CURSE**

Kiernan’s surgery began the early afternoon of April 3 and ended late that night. A lot of anxiety, commiserating, tears, trepidation for those waiting for the outcome. Mike Kiernan had been on cardiac bypass for five hours. A steady snow was accumulating outside.

“They had their work cut out for them; I knew that,” said Tawnya. “The blessing and the curse of being in medicine is I kind of knew what they were doing... That was good and hard at the same time.”

Indeed, her medical mind wandered to the hodgepodge of life preserving equipment that was sustaining her husband as surgeons toiled in his chest. They would install a new aorta made of GORE-TEX — pretty much the

same material as a raincoat.

“He’s sedated, he’s intubated, machines are breathing for him, a lot of arterial lines and IVs — all monitoring how well his heart is pumping,” she imagined.

After what seemed like an eternity, the Kiernan family got the good news — Mike had survived and had begun the first of many steps toward recovery.

“Everyone (in the family) wanted to see him,” Tawnya said of Mike, who had been transferred to the Intensive Care Unit. “He made it through the surgery, but he wasn’t yet awake.”

What was it like to open one’s eyes after dying, being brought back, then being subjected to nine hours of cutting?

Was it like heading toward a bright light, waving goodbye to loved ones lost with the words “not yet,” or perhaps the fading sound of harps?

Mike Kiernan’s wakeup call conjured the sweet smell of baked goods and classic rock.

“When I came to, the song in my head is Steppenwolf’s ‘Magic Carpet Ride’ — the long, trippy midsection that’s random, free and kind of wanders, before the chorus returns,” Mike said. “And oatmeal raisin cookies; an oatmeal raisin cookie is pretty close to perfect.”

With Mike out of surgery, the family could breathe a little easier. Tawnya turned her attention to finding accommodations closer to UVMHC. She stopped at a hotel on Williston Road, hoping to book a room for two or three days — not an easy feat, given the imminent influx of people hoping to see the solar eclipse.

In moments of crisis, acts of kindness stand out. And Tawnya, who’s done her best to hold her composure through the interview, thinks about how the hotel clerk (See Family, Page 13A)

## Looking for Meaningful, Flexible Work?

### Join CSAC’s Residential Team



#### “This Is Their Home, and I Get to Help Make It That Way”: Penny’s Story

By the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC)

When Penny Curler joined the Counseling Service of Addison County’s Developmental Services team more than 26 years ago, she wasn’t sure where the work would take her. But from her very first day, it felt like a fit.

“I realized pretty quickly that the people I supported appreciated the smallest things,” Penny says. “Just spending time with them, helping them do something they were proud of—it was really gratifying. And I loved it.”

Today, Penny is a residential instructor in one of CSAC’s staffed homes, supporting adults with developmental disabilities to live well, with dignity, stability, and joy. She’s had many roles over the years—Direct Support Professional, manager, mentor—but the core of the work has stayed the same.

“This is their home,” she says. “And I’m here to help make it feel like home.”

**The Heart of the Home**

Penny describes herself as a homemaker—and she brings that spirit to her work. Whether she’s making lunch, helping someone tidy their room, or heading out for an ice cream run, she sees herself as a steady, caring presence in the lives of the residents she supports.

“We paint, we play games, we make snacks—lots of snacks,” she says with a smile. “Just last weekend, someone wanted to bake cookies. They were so excited—and honestly, their level of enthusiasm really struck me. These small things? They’re not small to the people we support. That’s something I’ve never forgotten.”

**Work That Changes With You**

Penny’s path at CSAC hasn’t been linear—it’s grown alongside her life.

“There were times when I needed more flexibility,” she says.



“When my family was growing, I was able to shift my schedule and still be present at home. I’ve had good supervisors who listened, and the agency has always been willing to adapt to fit my needs and strengths.”

Today, Penny works a schedule that gives her time to invest in what matters most—her relationships. “I have a standing pickleball date with my husband every Wednesday morning,” she says. “That time is sacred. I can do this work, and still show up for my family. That balance means everything to me.”

**The Deep Reward of Stability**

“This isn’t a job where you clock in and clock out,” Penny says. “This is a permanent home for people. It’s their safe place. That means when someone’s having a hard time, I walk beside them through it. That’s what we do here.”

Penny says she feels valued by the agency—and by the residents and families she supports. “It’s not always easy. But it’s real. And it’s important. People deserve to feel safe, cared for, and at home. I’m proud to be part of making that happen.”

**Join Us**

If you love people, find joy in the little things, and want work that grows with you, consider joining CSAC’s residential team. You’ll receive excellent benefits, a supportive team environment, and the flexibility to build a schedule that works for your life.

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# TEDx Middlebury

## ROOTS & REACH

### SPEAKER LINEUP

**MOLLY SOLOMON**  
Executive Producer & President, NBC Olympics

**WEIWEI WANG**  
Executive Director, VT PoC Network

**MOHAMED NOOR**  
Student Speaker, Class of 2027

**CHARLIE SELLARS**  
Sustainability Director, Microsoft

**CAITLIN MYERS**  
Middlebury Professor of Economics & Researcher at National Bureau of Economic Research

# Reproductive rights

(Continued from Page 1A)

this has become such a politicized topic that everyone seems to have an opinion on it," Spencer said of the project. "Predominantly men that are in powerful fields seem to feel like they can exert power and a sense of control over this idea without really having any understanding of the nuance of what this is all about."

"(The project) was really an opportunity to speak to lots of people to better ground myself in this idea of abortion in particular, but also the idea of reproductive autonomy and liberty, because as I talked to folks that were for this amendment, it seemed like that was the broader sense of what this was about," he continued.

Spencer previously collaborated with his wife, Erin Wolcott, on "The Price of Safety," a feature-length documentary film exploring "national conversations of over-policing and racial bias" as they unfolded in the Vergennes community where they live.

After releasing that film, Spencer wasn't initially planning to take on another project. Then a neighbor pitched him an idea for a new film — one focusing on efforts to pass the Reproductive Liberty Amendment in Vermont.

The measure, also known as Article 22 or Proposal 5, added language to the state's constitution protecting an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy, such as the right to abortion, contraception and other reproductive healthcare.

"As I started to research it further, I got even more interested when I realized how high of a bar it is in Vermont to pass a constitutional amendment," Spencer said.

He noted that Vermont has amended its constitution just 53 times over 200-plus years, compared to about 150 times in New Hampshire and around 500



CHRIS SPENCER

amendments in California.

"Vermont can only look at passing a constitutional amendment every four years, so this isn't something that happens often here," he said. "Vermont's (constitution) is a very static document, and here we were considering enshrining a very broad-based perspective on reproductive access and autonomy, and so I was like, 'Yeah, I want to follow this.'"

## MAKING THE FILM

Spencer began the project in 2021 and spent the next year documenting efforts pushing for and against the amendment. He interviewed around 25 people, from lawyers to doctors to lawmakers. They included state Sen. Ruth Hardy, Middlebury College Economics Professor Caitlin Myers and Bristol residents Lynn and Lloyd Dike. Lloyd Dike later died in December 2023.

Similar to his last project, the documentary allowed Spencer to explore a complex topic. He'd learned a lot about getting people to speak openly on controversial

issues with "The Price of Safety," skills he brought into this latest project.

"Often when I see films about topics like this, it's very much slanted in one way or another; it isn't really necessarily giving an audience an opportunity to hear a perspective they're not typically going to hear in their own world or bubble that they live in," he said. "What I'm trying to do with this film is, not necessarily put it 50-50 split, but certainly share perspectives throughout the film that people might not often hear."

At first he focused on capturing the historic moment from a policy standpoint. That approach changed after his wife gave birth to the couple's first child in 2023.

"I came back to (the film) in 2024 and I think my entire mentality over this entire topic had just shifted because I had just gone through this profound, life-changing moment myself by having a kid," he said. "I just recognized how deeply impacted people can be by policy decisions."

Spencer and his team sought to highlight those human stories behind the amendment. The film features the stories of two women — Kelli, who navigated an unexpected pregnancy as a teenager, and Carolyn, who had an abortion due to a fatal genetic disorder known as Meckel-Gruber Syndrome.

"The film, over 75 minutes, interweaves this last year of the amendment with these two stories, and hopefully, gives people a sense of ... what this amendment can mean and why policymakers are trying to enact this, and then also grounding it in personalized stories that give people a sense of the impact of that policy decision," Spencer said.

*"There is so much value in talking to others that you might disagree with."*

— Chris Spencer



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ASSOCIATE Professor James Chase Sanchez, left, looks on during an interview with Rutland Area NAACP President Mia Schultz, one of several people included in the documentary "Unintended." Sanchez is among a few writer/producers behind the film, which explores Vermont's historic move to enshrine reproductive rights in its constitution.

Photo courtesy of Chris Spencer

He noted the film's title refers to both the personal, unique experience of navigating an unplanned pregnancy, as well as a frequent concern of people opposed to the amendment.

"What they believed was the strongest argument was this idea that there were going to be profound, unintended consequences to such a broad amendment being proposed by the state," he explained. "This language to them felt so vague that there were going to be profound repercussions and unintended consequences for decades to come."

## ENGAGING THOUGHTFULLY

Along with documenting Vermont's historic move to enshrine reproductive rights in its constitution, the film is also aimed at encouraging community members to thoughtfully engage with each other on issues they may be divided on.

"We are living in a hyper-pressurized world where it's really easy to read the headlines or to get consumed by an algorithm and

only get fed a specific perspective, but there is so much value in talking to others that you might disagree with," Spencer said. "It doesn't mean that my opinions have necessarily shifted away from where I feel, but I think it at least roots us in a better, healthier democracy."

Inspiring such conversations is one impact Spencer hopes the film has on its viewers.

"I also try to leave a little bit of space, too, to say it's not all buttoned up," he said. "Just because Vermont passed this amendment doesn't mean the work is done, and I try to get that point across very clearly when it comes to equity when it comes to abortion access."

The filmmaking team is now looking to raise funds to support completion of the film. The crowdfunding campaign aims to raise \$19,000 by Nov. 8, which would go toward post-production work like hiring a professional colorist, legal expenses and submitting the film to festivals.

Spencer noted Vermont professionals would be hired to

tackle that work. The filmmaking team also includes multiple local residents, with James Chase Sanchez, Nancy Haffner and Kate Youngdahl-Stauss serving as writer/producers on the project.

Spencer expressed gratitude for the filmmaking team and those who have supported the project.

"Documentary storytelling is time consuming and unprofitable. My co-producers and I have independently produced, shot, and edited this film, so far, without funding. I'm very grateful they saw the promise of the project and wanted to help bring it to the screen," he said. "As we embark on this crowdfunding campaign, I'm also touched by the support from family, friends and neighbors. Filmmaking truly is a team effort, and this film has proven that."

The team hopes to release the film sometime early next year, first screening at film festivals and later making the documentary free to watch for all viewers.

To learn more about the project or support the campaign visit [www.bit.ly/unintendedthefilm](http://www.bit.ly/unintendedthefilm).

# New Haven

(Continued from Page 1A)

dinner, live music and forums on a handful of topics.

"The goal of the gathering is to hear from as many community members as possible with their ideas for the future of New Haven. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend," said Alyssa Johnson, community visit program director at the Vermont Council on Rural Development, or VCRD.

The council is a nonprofit that supports Vermont communities, including through the organization's Community Visits. The initiative works with towns to establish goals for the community's future, develop action plans for moving forward and access resources to support those plans.

VCRD has facilitated community visits in more than 90 Vermont communities, including several Addison County towns. Bridport residents engaged in the process last year, and the communities of Vergennes, Shoreham and Bristol previously participated in the program. Johnson noted VCRD also worked with Middlebury in 2019 on a climate-focused program with a similar structure.

She pointed to the diverse ways the process has unfolded in towns across the state.

"After a Community Visit, communities have launched local event series, developed community centers, boosted local businesses,

increased recreational trails and amenities, created childcare centers, improved broadband access, built infrastructure projects and more," Johnson said. "The initiatives that come out of the process are specific to the community because they are ideas that come from the community itself. Vergennes, for example, prioritized Redeveloping the Vergennes Falls Basin as part of their 2014 Community Visit."

Bridport residents identified two priorities for action through the process — improving community events and communication and advancing housing solutions.

"The Community Events task force hosted an outdoor skating party event at Barrows Memorial Park in January 2025 and collaborated to host Bridport Day in June 2025," Johnson said. "The Advance Housing Solutions task force has fundraised and partnered with a local landowner to plan an upcoming housing charrette (public workshop) to get more input on the types of housing people would like to see in Bridport. They have also explored different types of housing models and made recommendations to the planning commission about zoning changes to help support housing in their community."

## NEXT THURSDAY EVENT

New Haven residents will dive into their own version of that

process at the Nov. 6 gathering. The evening will consist of four forums on various topics, as well as a free community dinner catered by Village Green Market and live music from 6-7 p.m. Childcare will be available during the forums.

Community members are invited to attend forums focusing on:

- "Infrastructure: Fire Station, Emergency Shelter, Public Safety" held from 4:30-6 p.m. at the New Haven Town Office.
- "Future of Beeman, Youth, and Families" from 4:30-6 p.m. at the New Haven Town Hall.
- "Affordability" from 7-8:30 p.m. at the New Haven Town Office.
- "Community Center: Depot, Library, Community Engagement" from 7-8:30 p.m. at the New Haven Town Hall.

Forum topics were selected by a planning committee made up of community representatives. During those forums residents will discuss successes, challenges and opportunities for the town.

"A Visiting Team of state, regional, federal and nonprofit leaders will listen, share reflections, and be available to support the community as they begin this work," Johnson said.

Residents can also join a separate Zoom forum covering all four topics at 7 p.m. that evening, as well as share ideas in an online survey available through Dec 4. A

link to the survey and Zoom forum along with more details about the Nov. 6 event can be found at [bit.ly/NewHavenTogether](http://bit.ly/NewHavenTogether). The survey is also available at the town office, library and Village Green Market.

Those seeking a ride, interpretation or other accommodations for the event can reach Johnson at [alyssa@vtrural.org](mailto:alyssa@vtrural.org) or 802-222-6896. Johnson encouraged anyone with questions to contact her.

Next week's event marks the first of three steps in the New Haven Comes Together process.

"The action ideas shared by New Haven community members at the Nov. 6 forums, and via the online and paper surveys and youth forum, are the basis of the entire Community Visit process. The full notes from the forums will be posted on the New Haven Comes

Together website," Johnson said. "Community members will come back together on Dec. 11 to review the ideas that were shared by community members and prioritize which ideas are most important for the future of New Haven. On Jan. 15, community members will create local task force groups and build action plans to move the priorities forward."

Johnson noted VCRD was invited to facilitate the process by the New Haven selectboard and will now work on behalf of the entire community.

"We are a non-partisan, non-profit organization, and don't have an agenda for New Haven," she said. "We are here to provide a neutral process and facilitation to allow the community to brainstorm ideas for the future."

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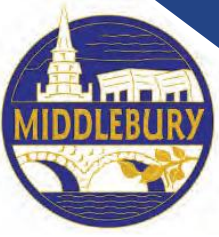
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On behalf of the Better Middlebury Partnership and Town of Middlebury we extend a very warm

**Welcome to  
President Ian Baucom  
and family.**

We are delighted to embark on a new chapter celebrating learning, leadership and local life in Middlebury.

**ALL  
are  
welcome  
and encouraged  
to attend public  
inauguration events:**

**Friday, Oct 31:**

*1:30-2pm: Carillon Performance outside Middlebury Chapel*

*2-6pm: Academic Roundtables, Dana Auditorium*

*5-7pm: Halloween at College Park, with Afropop music and festive treats*

**Saturday, Nov 1:**

*1-3pm: Open house at Special Collections to celebrate Middlebury's history and 225th anniversary*

*2:30-3pm: Carillon Performance outside Middlebury Chapel*

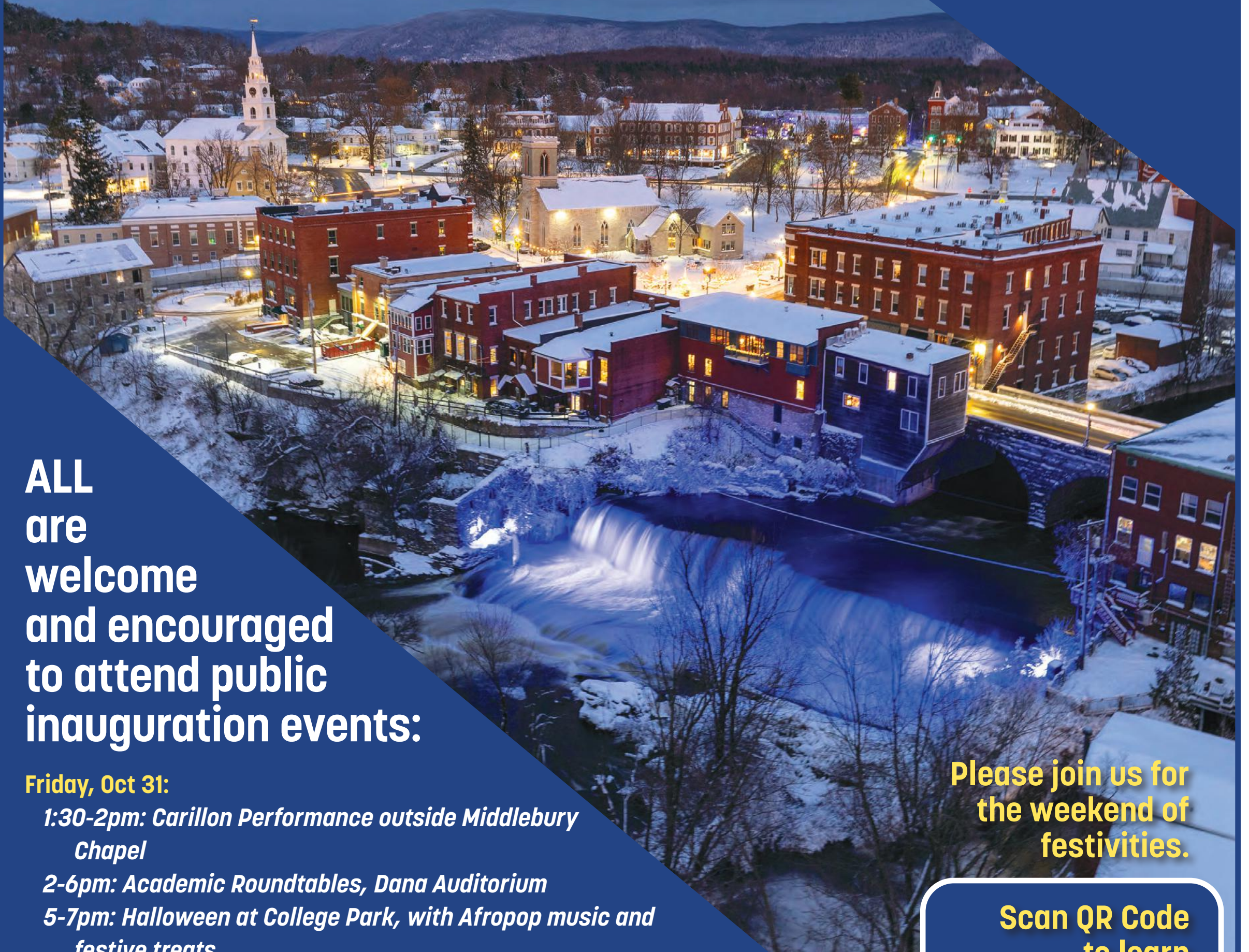
*8-10pm: Celebration of the Arts at Mahaney Arts Center*

**Sunday, Nov 2:**

*10:15am: Installation Ceremony to welcome Ian B. Baucom as Middlebury's 18th president. Virtue Field House.*

**Please join us for  
the weekend of  
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## Lincoln residents to vote on Nov. 4

LINCOLN — Lincoln residents will vote on a couple of questions regarding the town's 2026 annual gathering during a special town meeting next week.

The special town and Lincoln School District meeting will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. at Burnham Hall. During the meeting, Lincoln residents will be asked:

- Whether the town should hold its annual town meeting at 10 a.m. on "the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March, beginning with the 2026 Annual Town Meeting."
- Whether the town should "use an electronic voting system as the voting procedure at floor town meetings (beginning in 2026), and

authorize the Selectboard to rent/buy the electronic voting system."

Town Clerk Sally Ober has explained the electronic voting system consists of clickers that would be passed out to voters at the annual gathering. When voting on an article, residents would click "yes" or "no," with results appearing on a screen.

Voters on Nov. 4 will also be asked whether the Lincoln School District should hold its annual meeting on the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March, and if the district should use an electronic voting system "when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting."

The town of Lincoln and the Lincoln School District currently hold their annual gatherings on the Monday evening prior to Town Meeting Day.

Calling a special town meeting to vote on those questions was suggested to the town's selectboard by Lincoln's Town Meeting Advisory Committee, which over the past several months has explored options for boosting voter participation and accessibility at Lincoln's annual gatherings. The committee in August voted unanimously on a handful of recommendations to present to the selectboard, including holding the Nov. 4 meeting.

## Middlebury nets \$500K for Exchange Street project

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the town of Middlebury to help further its plan to install the proposed 0.52-mile sidewalk and shared-use path on Exchange Street.

The AOT last week awarded approximately \$6 million in grants to municipalities for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvement projects. The combination of construction projects and planning grants will benefit cities and towns statewide with improved transportation connectivity and safety, tangible economic benefits, and additional transportation options for commuters, visitors, and recreational users.

Vermont continues to prioritize making communities and streets more accessible for all modes of transportation. In downtowns and village centers especially, municipalities are responding to the need for better active transportation facilities.

"Walking and bicycling are good

for people, the environment, and the economy," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "Enhanced bike and pedestrian infrastructure can reduce traffic congestion, improve public health, and decrease personal transportation costs, as well as positively affect property values, tourism, and business growth."

In addition to providing safe passage to pedestrians and cyclists along a busy road fronting the town's industrial park and several high-profile businesses, Middlebury's new sidewalk and shared-use path is envisioned as the first domino that must fall in a grander plan for a shared-use path spanning the entire length of Exchange Street, ultimately dovetailing with a roundabout intersection at Route 7.

Phase 1 of the project, which calls for construction of 980 feet of curbed sidewalk beginning at the southern intersection of Elm and Seymour Streets. From there, the route would transition into a 10-foot-wide shared-use path for 2,650 feet north, to Catamount

Park.

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

Extending the shared-use path from Catamount Park to Route 7 would be "phase 2," and an eventual "phase 3" would be a sidewalk system within the town's industrial park, according to Middlebury public works officials.

AOT annually awards millions of federal dollars through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, with a goal of providing safe and convenient facilities for people who want and need alternative transportation opportunities. The 2025 grant cycle also includes funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), which funds projects designed to reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions.



LYNN LUGINBUHL AND Morris Earle, shown while on their hiking trip in the U.K., will present a program "Britain by Foot" on Sunday Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury.

## 'Britain by Foot' talk on tap in Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — On Sunday, Nov. 9, Green Mountain Club Bread Loaf Section's assistant director and local residents Morris Earle and Lynn Luginbuhl will present "Britain by Foot, the Coast to Coast and West Highland Trails." Earle and Luginbuhl will show slides and tell tales from their recent hike in Britain and how the folk in the U.K. think about getting out for a walkabout. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct., in Middlebury.

Earle has been hiking since age four, when a family photograph shows him at the Lake of the Clouds on Mount

Washington with a big woolen sock on his head to keep warm. Growing up, his family hiked in the Whites and Adirondacks every summer, and the Green Mountains starting when he was nine. Luginbuhl, who also loves mountains, persuaded Earle to move to Colorado for a while, but they regained their senses and returned to Vermont in 1995. Earle's family spends most of their free time hiking, and he became a member of the Northeast 111 club, after climbing 115 of the one hundred and eleven 4,000 footers in the northeastern United States. The pair hiked the Haute Route in Switzerland in 2017 and the Alta Via 1 in the Italian Dolomites in

2016. Earle and Luginbuhl have been trail adopters since 2011 on the Middlebury Gap north section of the Long Trail. When Earle is not hiking, he works as a pediatric intensive care doctor in Massachusetts, and with Doctors Without Borders internationally.

The program is open to the public, refreshments will be served and admission is free. Voluntary donations that support the Green Mountain Club will be accepted. Accessible parking and nearby parking is available at Middlebury Union High School. Find more information about the Bread Loaf Section and its activities on their website at [www.gmcbreadloaf.org](http://www.gmcbreadloaf.org).

## Cold and flu season: what you need to know

By MONICA BENJAMIN

It's that time of year again — when runny noses, coughs and sore throats seem to be everywhere. Here are some simple tips from your local pediatric nurse practitioner to help keep your family healthy (and your sanity intact) during cold and flu season.

### Cold vs. flu

The common cold and the flu can look a lot alike, but there are a few key differences.

- Colds usually come on gradually with nasal congestion, cough, sore throat and sometimes a mild fever or headache.
- Flu symptoms, on the other hand, tend to appear suddenly and hit hard — fever, chills and body aches often start abruptly, followed by congestion and cough.

A cold usually lasts 3-10 days, with symptoms peaking around days 4-5. The flu often lasts 5-7 days, but fatigue and weakness can linger for a week or more after other symptoms fade.

### Treatment

For most children, treatment

focuses on rest, fluids and comfort care.

- Fluids and rest are key to recovery.
- Tylenol or ibuprofen (ibuprofen only for children 6 months and older) can help with fever and body aches.
- Humidifiers and saline drops can ease congestion.
- Avoid over-the-counter cough and cold medicines for children under 6 years old — they don't work well and can cause side effects.

In certain high-risk children, an antiviral medication such as Tamiflu may help shorten the duration of flu symptoms.

When to call your child's healthcare provider

- Give us a call if:
  - Symptoms last longer than 7 days or seem to be getting worse
  - Your child is having trouble breathing or is unusually tired or irritable
  - Fever (100.4°F or higher) lasts more than 5 days
  - Or anytime you're just not sure — trust your instincts! We'd always rather you call than worry

at home.

### Prevention

A few simple steps go a long way toward keeping everyone healthy.

- Handwashing is still one of the best ways to stop germs from spreading.
- Keep children home from school if they have a fever (100.4°F or higher) or are too sick to participate in normal activities.
- Flu and COVID vaccines are available for children 6 months and older, though the COVID vaccine is in short supply right now. These vaccines don't just prevent illness — they also help reduce the severity and duration of symptoms if your child does get sick.

Stay well, and may your tissues be few and your healthy days many! And please remember — we're here to help if your family needs us this cold and flu season.

*Editor's note: Monica Benjamin is a doctor of nursing practice at Porter Pediatrics in Middlebury. This story originally appeared in Minibury, our e-newsletter for parents of young children.*

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## A Spooktacular time

Nearly 800 kids and families trick-or-treated through downtown Middlebury on Sunday as part of this year's Spooktacular costume parade. Above: Leah Sherry rocks her Elphaba costume, while Rev. Paul Olsson (top right) and Norma Zeller and Rosemary O'Malley (right) hand out candy. Clockwise, from bottom left, Archie and Emmy Lou Harlow are ready to rock; Aurora and Chevelle Oldenburg of Orwell go batty on the gazebo, Annabella Mayo-McGrath collects loot as a Mutant Ninja Turtle; Ellie and Dash Koerber show off some purple; junior firefighter Judah Schine gets a ride from his dad, Gabriel; and the Covey family — bearded cowboy Jason, Bailey as a minute man, Walter as a Middlebury Tiger, Piper wearing the witch's hat and Jodi as, well, Grandma — goes all out.

Independent photos/Steve James



# Vermont AG Clark

(Continued from Page 1A)

often through executive orders, has pushed the boundaries of what's legal in a system that divides power among the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government.

"It's trying to do Congress's job ... It's using emergency statutes to justify emergencies that aren't really emergencies," Clark said.

"The attorney general has a job as a statewide leader, and this is a moment where what the state really needs from their attorney general is information, presence and reassurance. In a way, that role was nascent, just waiting for a crisis to occur, and the crisis has occurred, and now the state attorneys general have been kind of called to," she added.

Clark, who was born in the Green Mountain State and raised in her family's grocery store in Londonderry, says she knows what issues are on Vermonters' minds.

"People want an attorney general who will fight for them ... I'm good at that. I'm a litigator; that's my job, and I love my job," she said.

One of the issues at the forefront of her office's work has been challenging the Trump administration's attacks on environmental policies meant to mitigate the effects of climate change. According to Clark, over half of her lawsuits against the president are related to the environment and protecting environmental protections.

On Oct. 16, Clark joined 20 other states in suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the alleged unlawful cancellation of federal grants awarded to states through the Solar for All program. Signed into law in 2022 as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the program gave states \$7 billion to help low-income households gain access to affordable solar energy while creating more jobs and addressing the climate crisis.

According to a press release, Vermont received over \$62 million in 2024 that was expected to serve 8,300 households and reduce electricity bills by an anticipated 20%. However, in August, the EPA said it would terminate the program, and by late September, the EPA had liquidated over 90% of the funding awarded to the state.

"\$62 million is at stake ... \$62 million coming to Vermont that would create jobs, that would help low-income people install solar panels and lower their energy costs," Clark told the *Independent*.

Also in the spotlight is a lawsuit brought against Vermont by the Trump administration over the state's Climate Superfund Act. The law allows Vermont to pursue financial damages from fossil fuel companies for the impacts of climate change in Vermont, which according to the lawsuit filed in May, attempts to usurp the regulatory power of the federal government.

Both lawsuits follow massive



VERMONT ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARITY CLARK

deregulatory actions enacted by the EPA as part of the executive orders Trump signed on first day in office. These included reconsidering the mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting program, as well as the reconsideration of wastewater and air toxin standards for oil, gas and coal developments. Clark is confident her office will be able to defend Vermont's environmental policies and reaffirm the state's dedication to addressing the climate crisis.

"We have a whole division that's devoted to this," she said. **STUNNING & BRAZEN**

Still, keeping up with the Trump administration can be challenging. Clark acknowledged that President "has gone way farther and faster than we anticipated, certainly compared to his first term. It's just been stunning how brazen he is."

*"Denying SNAP funding for millions of Americans, when Congress created a contingency plan to ensure no American goes hungry is illegal and it is cruel."*

— AG Charity Clark

This week, Clark joined 22 other state attorneys general and three governors in suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for unlawfully suspending the Supplemental

Nutrient Assistance Program (SNAP), known in Vermont as 3SquaresVT. The program provides 42 million Americans, and an average of 65,109 Vermonters, with monthly financial help to buy food. The Oct. 28 lawsuit accuses the USDA of illegally choosing not to release SNAP funds for November amid the government shutdown, even though the agency has billions of dollars in SNAP-specific contingency funds already appropriated by Congress.

"Denying SNAP funding for millions of Americans, when Congress created a contingency plan to ensure no American goes hungry is illegal and it is cruel," Clark said in a Tuesday press release.

The President has made no secret of his desire to reshape even the most fundamental policies and agencies of the federal government. However, there's a new battle intensifying: the fight over personal data.

Clark, a self-described privacy advocate, says she's determined to protect Vermonters' personal data.

"I have a fundamental philosophy that we all are entitled to privacy that I think Vermonters

share, and that is always a concern, because I don't like corporations, data brokers, whoever, including the government, collecting information about us that is private or isn't private. It's up to us. We should be able to decide," she told the *Independent*.

Since taking office, the President has sought to break down the barriers around the personal data that's collected by various state and federal agencies. The so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), once headed by billionaire Elon Musk, came under scrutiny early this year after it was able to grab figures from databases containing citizens' financial information, including Social Security numbers. DOGE was also granted access to information held by the Department of Labor, Education and Health and Human Services, including the bank and medical information of federal employees. DOGE came under fire for allegedly violating the Privacy Act and handling sensitive data without the appropriate guardrails.

"I think it's very dangerous to have a government that has been so cavalier with data," Clark said. "We sued over this, putting Elon Musk in charge of stuff without an appropriate vetting, and then we're giving them all this data, and it's very unnerving."

In June, the general counsel of the Internal Revenue System was forced out of his job after he refused to share 7.3 million strictly protected taxpayer addresses with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). A July ProPublica investigation found that DHS was constructing a computerized system that would give it on-demand access to taxpayer information to be used in its investigations.

Trump has also demanded personal information held by state governments. In August, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas promised not to share any personally identifiable information about Vermont voters. The statement came after the U.S. Department of Justice sought voter registration lists in at least nine other states.

**PERSONAL DATA**

However, at the end of July, the Vermont Agency of Human Services complied with the Trump Administration's request for the personal information of the 65,000 people who receive SNAP benefits in Vermont. Vermont Public

reported that the state would have faced unspecified financial sanctions should it had decided not to share the information with the USDA, which administers SNAP. Clark was disappointed that Vermont did not join 20 other states who filed a lawsuit seeking to block the action.

"That was (Gov. Phil Scott's) decision that he is responsible for making. That's not my choice, but I have no power over that choice," Clark said. "I was frustrated that we couldn't be a part of that lawsuit, but that's our system. "Obviously, the concern is

*"I fundamentally believe in the system. I believe I'm a patriot."*

— AG Charity Clark

that people who the Trump Administration dislikes receive SNAP benefits and now that their private information has been given to the Trump Administration. How are they going to use it?"

That question is at the center of many peoples' concerns about data privacy, including for Clark, who says she'll continue to fight for Vermonters' rights to choose what information they choose to share with who.

"If you have an imagination, you can see how all of this could be used for to harm people, or even accidentally harm people because they're so careless," she told the *Independent*.

However, with the government shutdown currently in its fifth week, Congress has come to a halt, with U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson refusing to call House representatives back in an apparent attempt to stymie negotiations with Democratic lawmakers. Since Trump's inauguration, Democrats in Congress have largely relied on the courts to oppose the President's actions.

"Donald Trump has appointed half the federal bench right now ... some of these people are put in place for their ideology relating to conservative pet issues like abortion, not because they're legal geniuses or even fair, so that I think that is troubling," Clark said.

Nonetheless, Clark says she has the utmost confidence in the judiciary's ability to assert itself amid any challenges that seek to upset the checks and balances that ensure the government's power is split between the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

"What we have seen is when the court rules against Donald Trump, the Trump administration often will defy it at first, like a disobedient child... but then eventually they'll comply, every time they've complied," Clark told the *Independent*.

Clark says she's not afraid to challenge the administration if it means ensuring, not only that Vermont receives the promised federal funding taxpayer money pays for, but that the entire system remains strong.

"I fundamentally believe in the system. I believe I'm a patriot," Clark said.

"Every time I bring a lawsuit, I'm also protecting our system, and standing up for our system and making sure that our system, which includes the separation of powers, federalism and the power of the sovereign states, is preserved. So, at the end of the day, even if Vermont gets \$0 back, our system is preserved, I still have done a good job and a worthwhile job."



DR. MIKE KIERNAN, shown with his wife, Dr. Tawnya Kiernan, is feeling lucky more than a year removed from a major medical crisis that saw him flip from physician to patient while on duty at Porter Hospital's Emergency Department.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Family

(Continued from Page 8A)

greeted her at the desk and she can't help tearing up.

As she was making her lodging request, the clerk — a woman she believed hailed from a Caribbean country — saw Tawnya's state and showed the best of humanity. "She said, 'Hang on a second.' She came around (from behind the counter) and said, 'You look like you've been going through a lot, can I give you a hug?' And she just held me."

**PLENTY OF TLC**

Back at UVMMC, Mike was waking up and gesturing. He was given a message board on which to write, as he couldn't yet speak.

One of his first written requests (after reconnecting with family)? He wanted his surgery explained to him.

Another early request: A copy of Stephen A. Marshall's book, "The Fly."

His family politely declined, as "The Fly" is a 10-pound book unsuited to bed confinement.

"It was a good sign, though, that he felt up to studying flies," Tawnya chuckled.

Indeed, Mike's love of nature remained omnipresent. He enjoyed the view from his ICU window, noting on one day a murder of crows dodging and diving amid some pine trees.

"I told (the nurses) that crows can live up to 35 years and live in multi-generational families," he recalled, then imagined the nurses might think he was too sedated, as he was talking about crows just a few days removed from major heart surgery.

After plenty of TLC, Mike left UVMMC to begin his rehab. He and Tawnya like to garden, and Bee the Change gives him a lot of opportunities to get out and exercise. He's also a regular participant in cardiac rehab at Porter.

Mike's expectations seem reasonable.

"I'm now 66 years old. If you can look toward to something where you're getting stronger over time, that's about as much as you get to ask for," he said. "What I've been having is continuing recovery. I feel great."

His goal was always to return to his ER job at Porter, which he did around six months after his heart event.

"Being ... a physician in a community — it's one of the most fortunate occupations you could ever find on Earth. I don't have any inclination to stop doing it," he said.

Always thirsty for knowledge, Kiernan has learned a few things from his own medical crisis.

To speak up when he doesn't feel well.

To enjoy life to the fullest.

To continue to appreciate his friends and family. He looks upon Tawnya as a partner and teammate.

"My relationship with the health profession has been something I enjoy as a provider, but rarely as a consumer," he said. "This is a chapter in what I would submit is one of the luckiest lives that's ever graced the planet. It's unbelievable that of all the things that could have happened, on a day when a 21-year-old's body (Lia Smith) has been found, that I'm 66 years old and this was my first medical event."

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# MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)

That option has been referred to as “status quo” and would keep all of the district’s schools open. The MAUSD currently operates Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School in Bristol, as well as elementary schools in each of its four member towns.

Board members agreed they would move that option forward, though school board member and state Rep. Herb Olson encouraged the board to think of the scenario as more than sticking to the status quo.

“I’d rather refer to this option as a cost-effective mindset that preserves the elementary schools,” he said. “I’m certainly OK to move that forward, but I would hope that we would be able to incorporate not just the notion that it’s the status quo, but it’s a starting point for figuring out how we can really redesign how we provide education but using the same schools that we have.”

The school board reviewed the other options they’d been exploring, discussing each of those scenarios

and whether to advance them. Board members expressed support for continuing to study “Scenario E,” which would consist of operating one PreK-5 elementary school, one K-5 elementary school and one regional middle/high school (6-12) at Mount Abe.

“I do love E because I think that it will give us the biggest bang for our educational buck by having all of our students together finally,” school board member Kathi Apgar said. “And the options that would be available to those students would be greater with a larger student body, and it will also give more professional learning opportunities for folks when they’re all housed in one building, basically.”

MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner pointed to the similarity between that option and other school districts in the county. She noted those districts no longer operate elementary schools in all of their member towns, and the Addison Central School District is weighing whether to consolidate further.

“Doesn’t have to be our district,

but it’s just curious how they’re doing that, and I wonder if there’s learning to be done from those,” Jipner said.

Board members also agreed to continue exploring a grade banding possibility, particularly an option that would operate one PreK-2 elementary school, one 3-5 elementary school and one regional middle/high school (6-12) at Mount Abe.

“The reason why I want to keep (the option) in the mix is the district Advisory Council letter in support of grade banding, as well as the teachers’ support of (professional learning community) time and grade banding, and the community survey saying that they really valued improving opportunities for students,” School board member Meredith Rossignol said. “A grade-banded three school option would be really important for me to see that we explore moving forward.”

Some board members advocated for keeping options open when it comes to evaluating which schools are considered for closure.

“I think...for the sake of equity let’s look at all of the different scenarios just so that everybody has the information as it is across the board,” School board member Kristen Toy said.

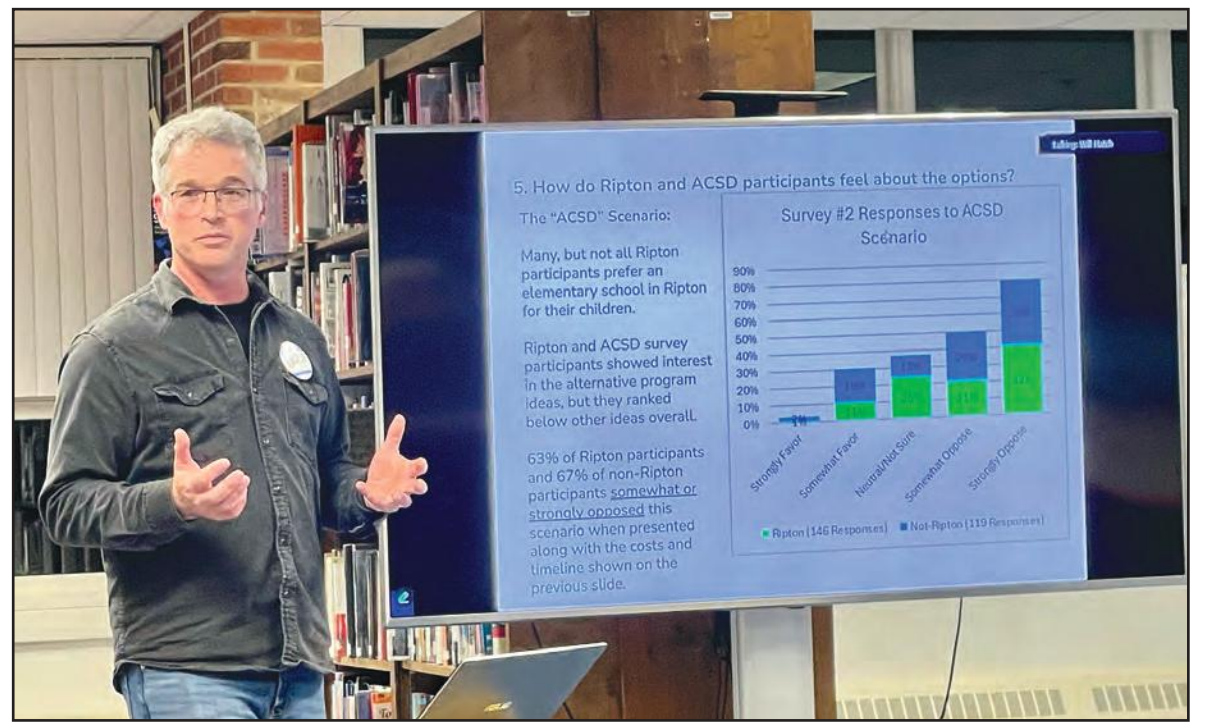
The MAUSD Board last month approved a resolution stating the district resolves “to honor its commitment to the Towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro, not to close elementary schools absent an affirmative town vote.”

Board members ultimately voted unanimously to advance those three options for further study. District officials will now take a deeper dive into exploring those scenarios and their anticipated impacts, such as on student outcomes and facilities.

**BUDGET TARGETS SET**  
Board members on Tuesday also set budget targets for fiscal year 2027. Superintendent Patrick Reen presented the board with an FY’27 budget forecast highlighting “best case,” “worst case” and “conservative middle” scenarios based on various assumptions and information available at this time.

Following the presentation and subsequent discussion, the board directed district administration to develop three budget targets: one reflecting a \$750,000 increase in education spending; a \$1.2 million increase in education spending and a \$1.7 million increase in education spending.

Education spending is the difference between a district’s total spending for the fiscal year and its revenue. The budget approved by MAUSD voters for the current year reflects a total of \$28,358,585 in ed spending.



CONSULTANT DAVID HOHENSCHAU on Monday presents to the Addison Central School District board his report on a possible next chapter for Ripton Elementary School, which ceased operations as a K-5 school this past summer. The ACSD board on Nov. 24 will take a vote that could pave the way for the property to be reacquired by the town of Ripton.

Independent photo/John Flowers

## Ripton school

(Continued from Page 1A)

it in 2016 for \$1 along with the district’s other school properties as part of the state’s education governance consolidation law.

Though RES stopped serving children in June, the ACSD refrained from initiating formal closure to give its staff — with Ripton input — time to determine whether the building could serve another educational purpose, such as alternative education or environmental studies programming. Some in Ripton held onto hopes RES could be reclaimed as a K-5 school someday if more young families moved to town.

The district this past spring hired David Hohenschau of the consulting group Community Workshop LLC to lead a Ripton School working group’s analysis of the future of the REAs building. Formed with Ripton residents and district officials, the working group and Hohenschau met several times, held multiple public forums, and conducted two surveys to gauge local and district-wide sentiment on the future of the building.

Hohenschau reviewed the working group’s findings with the ACSD board Monday night. Here are some of those findings:

- Public opinion runs counter to the idea of the ACSD keeping the property for educational purposes, as reflected in a working group survey completed by 146 Ripton residents and 119 residents in other ACSD towns. Around 63% of Ripton residents opposed continued ACSD ownership, with 67% of non-Ripton residents opposed.

The district at this point has no declared uses for RES. Given lower students throughout the region, the ACSD currently has ample space in which to run its programs. Meanwhile, it will cost ACSD taxpayers \$60,000 annually just to maintain the building as is.

Running a small educational program (10-20 students) in RES would cost approximately \$250,000 to \$300,000 (annually) more than running the same program in an already staffed facility, according to ACSD officials. And operating a class-size-compliant K-5 elementary school there would cost approximately \$580,000 more than the cost of educating the same students in an already-staffed building. Ripton’s current 20 K-5 students are attending Salisbury Central School this year.

- 68% of Ripton residents responding to the same survey “strongly opposed” the idea of Ripton acquiring the RES building and then leasing — or selling — the property to a third party, such as medical services center, housing, senior housing, or an independent school.

“Any such development would take years to implement, during which time the town would carry the \$60k annual cost to maintain the property,” the working group’s report concluded.

- A whopping 91% of Ripton survey respondents, and 88% of respondents from the other six ACSD towns, said they supported the notion of Ripton reacquiring the property for use as a multi-purpose community center. Under this scenario, Ripton’s town offices would occupy one of the four RES classrooms. Folks weighing in on the survey and at public meetings suggested the remaining RES space could be filled with such

## ACSD reviews school choice rules

MIDDLEBURY — Residents in the Addison Central School District-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge are being asked to weigh in on potential changes to a policy that could allow more “school choice” within the ACSD.

Currently, ACSD’s policy C30 directs students — except in special circumstances — to attend their local elementary school. So for example, if your child lives in Bridport, they will attend Bridport Central School.

But with declining enrollment and one school having already been shuttered due to low student numbers (see story about Ripton Elementary on Page 1A), ACSD leaders are considering ways to balance out resources while giving more choice to parents. As they mull over revisions to policy C30, ACSD Policy Committee members invite families to share input in an online survey that can be found at [tinyurl.com/469w94az](https://tinyurl.com/469w94az). Responses should take under two minutes and are confidential and anonymous.

things as childcare, co-working, maker spaces, after school activities and events — uses that might pay rent or fees to reduce the property’s annual maintenance costs.

The 14,864-square-foot RES was built in 1989 and includes 15 acres of land. It’s rated for 70-90-person occupancy and shares its well and septic with the Ripton fire station.

Meanwhile, Ripton’s modest town offices are located at 1311 Route 125, next to the Ripton Community House. An estimator in 2019 suggested it would cost \$950,745 to rebuild town offices on the current footprint; \$1,085,462 to equip that rebuild with an elevator; \$437,571 for a “basic addition”; or \$619,579 for a renovation with addition.

While moving the town offices and records vault to RES would also cost money, the \$1 availability of RES could make it a cheaper proposition.

But it should be noted that Ripton will have to come up with more than \$1 to reacquire RES. The ACSD charter also calls for the district to be reimbursed for any capital improvements and maintenance it has invested since owning the property. That’s currently estimated at around \$200,000, according to the working group’s report.

Survey respondents were also invited to submit written comments. One respondent voiced concern about the \$200,000 payback requirement.

“That money isn’t going to make or break ACSD. But for Ripton, it’s a meaningful burden, and it undermines goodwill in what’s supposed to be a collaborative process,” the unidentified respondent stated.

Other survey comments included:

- “Please give our building back and we’ll sort out what to do with it. It’s been a very difficult process for us, and we are ready to move forward on our own.”
- “I’m ready to move forward and stay positive. The building can be an asset to our community and we need to act on it now. Who knows what the state will decide with education.”
- “It is time for Ripton to have ownership of this property. We have the need for most of it and can generate income from the rest that keeps it as a town resource.”
- “Town office, post office, and an awesome playground! Let’s go Ripton!”

While the ACSD board on Monday acknowledged Ripton’s interest in an RES reunion, a lot will need to happen before that’s possible. Assuming a supermajority vote on Nov. 24 and a majority vote by the ACSD

electorate, Ripton would need to pass a separate, local vote to reacquire the school.

The prospect of a more permanent school closure is being greeted with mixed feelings by some Ripton residents. Molly Witters, a member of the short-lived Ripton School Board, was among those who fought fiercely to keep RES open. Townspeople at one point voted for a Ripton exit from the ACSD. But less than two years later, the town voted to rejoin the district after a pivot to an independent K-12 district proved too difficult.

And as the working group learned, there are no signs that Ripton’s school-age population is going to rebound anytime soon — at least not enough to meet the ACSD’s minimum class-size mandate of 10 students, drawn from no more than two grades.

“A basic, minimum indicator of short-term certainty would be if there were at least 30 children in all six-year age spans between ages 0-10. This would provide enough students to meet the minimum class size policy for a 30-student K-5 program starting next year and continuing for the next five years,” reads the Hohenschau’s report. “There is no six-year age span between ages 0-10 with 30 children (for Ripton).”

Lack of available housing is a major impediment for young families considering Ripton as a landing spot. Witters has reluctantly accepted the writing in the wall.

“I’ve come to believe that the Ripton school should be closed so that our own community can have the building back,” she told the ACSD board on Monday. “All of us, for years, have been dedicated to keeping our school open, so there’s a real dissonance for me now, where my opinion no longer aligns with my deepest values. And that’s a hard place to be coming from.”

Steve Cash, Ripton’s lone representative on the ACSD board, sided with his colleagues to initiate the closure vote. Like Witters, he had worked hard to save RES from closure.

“I didn’t join this board to close schools,” he said. “Our first goal in our strategic plan is ‘belonging.’ Regardless of where you come down on this issue ... there is a reality that when town schools close, reaching that strategic goal of making sure students feel like they belong, is more challenging.”

But he and other Riptonites are now acknowledging that formally closing the school — as painful as that would be — could give it new life in service to the community.

The first step in that process will be Nov. 24.

John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

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# Chamber awards fete county standouts

John Barstow named Citizen of the Year

MIDDLEBURY — Long-time Middlebury resident John Barstow was named the Buster Brush Citizen of the Year this past Thursday night at the annual Addison County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet held in the Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. About 100 people attended the event with State Treasurer Mike Pieciak kicking off the evening with a keynote address followed by eight other honors to individuals, nonprofits and businesses.

Here's a rundown of those honored:

## 2025 Business of the Year:

This year's award for Business of the Year recognized Nancie Dunn, owner of Middlebury's beloved Sweet Cecily. The gift store opened 38 years ago in 1987.

Nancie's shop is constantly evolving with a wide range of gifts, toys and household items being sold. Her goal, she said, is for Sweet Cecily to have something for anyone who passes through its doors.

Nancie has served on the Better Middlebury Partnership board and been a dedicated supporter of the Chamber of Commerce. She has also been the coordinator of one of the BMP signature annual events — Spooktacular!

## Non-Profit of the Year

Addison Housing Works was honored as 2025's Non-Profit of the Year. For 35 years, AHW has been the backbone of creating affordable housing in Addison County. It now provides more than 750 permanently affordable homes that help the county accommodate many workers, who in turn help the county thrive.

Recent achievements include the creation of 20 new workforce apartments at Stoney Hill (Firehouse, 2023) in Bristol, the completion of a \$5 million community septic infrastructure project at Lindale Circle serving 67 households (2024) in Middlebury, and participation in Middlebury's Stonecrop development (2025) to ensure that six new homes will remain permanently affordable for future generations of moderate-income Vermonters.

Just as importantly, AHW invests in the strength of our communities — not only in bricks and mortar, but in the well-being of residents — through Support and Services at Home (SASH), which helps seniors age safely in place, and the Family Support Program, which assists vulnerable families in maintaining stability.

Elise Shanbacker, executive director of AHW, received the award on behalf of the nonprofit.

## Young Professional of the Year

Jennifer Doane, owner Distinctive Paint and Interiors, was honored as Young Professional of the Year. Jen worked for and recently took over an active business that been long owned by Connie Carol. Since then, she has worked to enhance her product offerings, provide exceptional customer service and sustain a much needed and appreciated service to the community.

She does all of this with a smile and genuine care for every project, which has earned her customers' admiration and respect.

## Buster Brush Citizen of the Year



ABOUT 100 PEOPLE attended the annual Addison County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet held at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater on Oct. 23.

Photos by Addison County Chamber of Commerce



STATE TREASURER MIKE Pieciak delivers his Keynote speech.

starting from an idea to what is now a four-day event in Middlebury that draws filmmakers from around the world, the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival earned this year's Community Event Award.

Celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2025, the event has grown year after year in attendance, participation and acclaim. In 2025, the festival hired a talented young executive director, Caitlin Boyle, to take the reins from its inspirational founder Lloyd Komesar. The festival continues to bring life, youth, art and vitality to Middlebury every August and mobilizes hundreds of townspeople to support the arts. Komesar accepted the award on behalf of the film festival he created.

## 2025 HALL OF FAME

This year's Hall of Fame inductees were Linda Stearns, Peter DeGraff, Fred Kenney and Bob Feuerstein.

**Linda Stearns**  
Stearns served as Executive Director of the Addison County Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, bringing the chamber from a small, two-person operation tucked in the side office of the Addison County Sheriff's Department (in the latter half of the 1980s) to a thriving staff housed at one time in Middlebury's prominent Painter House. Stearns's work ethic set an example of a female executive. The Addison County Home & Garden Show was then the biggest draw of the county and ACCOC ran it.

Once at the Painter House, the chamber added a full-time membership director, then drew in the Addison County Economic Development Corp. to share a space within the office. Membership grew and the focus was expanded to include tourism where it was seen as an economic generator in Addison County. A full-time Tourism & Marketing Director was soon added to the staff. Stearns leaned into tourism and again became a leader in the field and gained statewide recognition for the chamber's innovations.

**Peter DeGraff**  
A graduate of the University of Vermont with a degree in civil engineering, DeGraff is a founding partner and former president of Otter Creek Engineering based in East Middlebury. Throughout his career, he focused on helping communities throughout Vermont improve their drinking water systems. In addition to his professional work, DeGraff served as trustee of Iisley Public Library and the Henry Sheldon Museum, vice chair of the Porter Hospital Board of Trustees and Secretary of the Town Hall Theater Board of Directors. He also maintained a strong connection with the UVM Department of Community Development, Engineers Without Borders, and Partners of the Americas — mentoring students on international development projects in Honduras, Peru and Kenya.

**Fred Kenney**

In 2017, the Addison County Economic Development Corporation hired Fred Kenney, who had over 30 years of experience in business and public administration at the state and federal levels, including 20 years in economic development. He had previously run an inn, restaurant and pub and worked in real estate and construction in the Sugarbush area. Kenney also served on Sen. Patrick Leahy's staff for 13 years in Washington, D.C., including as Assistant Clerk on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He returned to Vermont while still working with Leahy's office, eventually providing outreach in the areas of business, economic development, housing and transportation.

Highlights of Kenney's contributions to Addison County include overseeing \$1 million in business growth financing through ACEDC's Revolving Loan Fund, while recapitalizing that same fund; securing \$12 million in economic development grants for the region, and restructuring the ACEDC staff to better advance economic development in Addison County.

Kenney retired from ACEDC this past summer and lives in Salisbury with his wife, Jan. In his down time, Kenney serves as president of With Love From Vermont, a non-profit that since 2012 has partnered with Feed My Starving Children to pack and send over 1.3 million meals to starving children around the world and collect tons of non-perishable food for local food shelves.

**Bob Feuerstein**  
Bob Feuerstein and his wife, Lillian Kennedy, purchased the Kennedy Brothers Building in Vergennes in December 2012. As part-owners at the time, they bought the remainder from family members. It was sparsely occupied and needed significant investment, which Feuerstein and his wife have done over the past 13 years.

It wasn't part of Feuerstein's early interests. As a boy engrossed in chess tournaments in Manhattan, his interests were in science, numbers and strategy. Later, while working for a bank on Wall Street, he decided to get a PhD in Electro Physics, and later, while working as a post-doc at the University of Colorado, he got the world's first optical computer working — news that went around the world with a photo of him with that computer.

When he left a research position at the university in Boulder, he worked assessing technology in Japan for the U.S. military. Then he worked for a year in the United States Senate in Washington, D.C., as a liaison between science and Congress. After that, he worked for Level 3, a global telecommunications company and for British Telecom.

Presenter Marty Kulczyk captured Feuerstein's change of interests when he noted Feuerstein had an "epiphany — why not sell his stocks, mortgage the house,

and use his retirement savings to buy Kennedy Brothers back in Vergennes? Who wouldn't want dilapidated old buildings with no business? He could take care of that ... he likes making decisions and was ready to be his own boss."

Well, he did, and as Kulczyk said,

"He's happy doing renovations while building and running the business, and he really enjoys being part of this community and living in such a beautiful state. Bob also served for many years on the Board of the Addison County Chamber, including as its chair."



JENNIFER DOANE, LEFT, with presenter Elizabeth Ryks, was honored as 2025's Young Professional of the Year.



NANCIE DUNN, LEFT, owner of Sweet Cecily, was named Business of the Year. The award was presented by Kathryn Torres, co-director of the Better Middlebury Partnership.



JOHN BARSTOW CLUTCHES this year's Buster Brush Citizen of the Year award, which was presented by Nancy Foster.



2025 HALL OF Fame inductees were, from left, Bob Feuerstein, Linda Stearns and Fred Kenney, as well as Peter DeGraff, who is not pictured.



ELISE SHANBACKER RECEIVED the Nonprofit of the Year award on behalf of Addison Housing Works.



LLOYD KOMESAR, LEFT, received the Chamber's Community Event of the Year award honoring the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Presenters were Serena Kim and Matthew Robinson of the Swift House.

# Spotlight on Vergennes

## Council approves zoning changes

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council on Tuesday, Oct. 28, approved changes in Vergennes zoning laws that conditionally allow retail uses in the city's Historic

Neighborhood District near downtown and residential uses in the city's three-part Commercial District.

The action followed the second of two lightly attended public hearings, on Sept. 23 and Oct. 14. The Vergennes Planning Commission also held a public hearing earlier this year before it recommended the changes to the council.

The changes are based on updates to the Vergennes Municipal Plan that the council approved in May after holding two hearings. That council approval followed a recommendations from the planning commission.

That recommendation from the planning commission in turn followed feedback from a public forum — planners called it a "Community Conversation" — sponsored earlier by the planning commission.

The Historic Neighborhood District affected by the zoning change generally runs south from the city's downtown along East, Green, South Maple, South Water, School and connecting streets.

The city's Commercial District that is affected contains three distinct areas. One includes the Shaw's Supermarket/Kinney Drug Store plaza; another is a portion of one side of New Haven Road that includes the Big Barn, a Laundromat and a car wash; and the third is small stretch of Monkton Road's north side that includes a bank.

As well as the Community Conversation and the May city plan update that followed, Planning Commission Chair Shannon Haggett told the *Independent* earlier this fall that planners' support for the proposed

zoning changes also took into consideration that the owner of the Big Barn Furniture Center in the Commercial District had expressed an interest in adding housing units to the existing retail elements on his 5-acre lot, which borders both New Haven Road and Green Street.

As for allowing retail in the Historic Neighborhood District, Haggett said planners found public support overall during the Community Conversation, with some residents lobbying for small neighborhood grocery stores being allowed on side streets near homes, for example.

Haggett said making the changes boiled down to adding three words to the conditional uses in the existing regulations.

In addition to existing permitted residential uses in the Historic Neighborhood district, "Retail Store" joins the list of conditional uses that now includes "Bed and Breakfast, Boarding or Rooming House, Child Care Facility, Medical Services Facility, Multiple-household Dwelling, Nursing Home, Professional Residence-Office, and Outdoor Recreation."

The Commercial District change simply adds "Dwelling" to the regulation's list of 20 conditional uses for the district, a list which ranges alphabetically from "Bank" to "Professional services."

The newly approved uses will require conditional use approvals in public processes before the Vergennes Development Review Board (DRB), which means DRB members will consider proposals' impact on their neighborhoods before approving any proposal based on the new regulations before issuing permits.

## City police deal with drug cases

VERGENNES — Vergennes police in the past two weeks dealt with two separate cocaine-related cases that between them resulted in citations issued to five citizens.

More recently, at around 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, city police responded to a report of a fight outside an apartment on Walker Avenue. Police said they interviewed people involved in the incident as well as witnesses.

Police allege they learned Richard Memoli, 68, had stolen cash from an individual, and that when the individual returned to the apartment to ask for the money back, Memoli came out "brandishing a handgun and assaulted the individual who had been knocking on his door," according to the city police's media log. Police then arrested Memoli, took him to the station for processing and cited him for simple assault, aggravated disorderly conduct and larceny.

Police said during the investigation they also were told that Memoli had been "dispensing crack cocaine and there was crack cocaine" in his apartment. City police said they obtained a search warrant for the property, which they executed that night. They allege they found several grams of suspected cocaine and crack cocaine during the search of the premises, and that an investigation into the suspected drugs is ongoing and further criminal charges are pending.

Vergennes police said they were assisted on the scene by Middlebury police and their K9 unit.

On Oct. 17 in the other case, Vergennes police cited three people for alleged possession of crack cocaine and a fourth for several counts of violating conditions of release, all following a traffic stop for a moving violation on Main Street near MacDonough Drive.

Police alleged three passengers in the vehicle, Alicia Marshall (49)

of Hinesburg, John Stokes (55) of Ferrisburgh and Corey Marshall (25) of Hinesburg, were found to be in possession of suspected crack cocaine. Marshall, Stokes and Marshall were all issued citations to appear in Addison County Superior Court, Criminal Division on Dec. 1 to answer to the charges of possession of cocaine.

David Ambrose, 59, of Shoreham was transported to the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with a \$400 bail for driving with a criminally suspended license and for violation of conditions of release, including "Travel, Curfew, Contact, MV Operation," according to the Vergennes police media log.

Between Oct. 13 and 26, Vergennes police also conducted 29 cruiser patrols, one property watch and two VIN inspections; processed seven fingerprint requests; responded to seven false alarms; and:

- On Oct. 13: Got a complaint from a resident of a man driving with a suspended license, and arranged to speak to the driver.
- Conducted a death investigation at Vergennes Grand Senior Living and concluded there were no suspicious circumstances.
- Returned a laptop computer to its owner, who had left it at a Vergennes bus stop.
- Responded to the report of a burglary at the Laundromat on New Haven Road; and began an investigation.
- Checked a report of multiple doors open after hours at a Vergennes business. Police found the building to be secure and reported security cameras showed the doors blew open due to heavy wind.
- On Oct. 14: Checked on a car parked in Falls Park after sunset. Officers found its owner sitting by the falls, and she told police she was

- On Oct. 15: Stopped a car on Monkton Road after a report of its occupants throwing objects out of it while driving south on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. Police learned the occupants had been spraying Silly String out of the vehicle. Officers issued a verbal warning for littering and a written warning for improper display of a license plate.
- Following an online report looked into a citizen dispute over funds at an Armory Lane address. Police concluded the situation was civil in nature.
- Handled a public records request at the Main Street station.
- Served a Final Relief from Stalking Order to a Green Street resident.
- After a Main Street call about what appeared to be a lost dog, police then found its owner.
- Dealt with a minor two-car, rear-end accident on Main Street. Police ticketed one driver for driving without a registration.
- After a tractor-trailer vehicle inspection on Pantown Road issued a citation to the company for driving while overweight without a local permit. Police said the truck weighed 40,900 pounds, which was 16,900 pounds over the posted 24,000-pound limit.
- Responded to the report at a Walker Avenue residence of someone knocking at the home's window. Police checked the area but did not locate anyone.
- Began an investigation of a complaint stemming from a motor vehicle issue that allegedly occurred during a custodial exchange in the Vergennes Police Department parking lot.
- Warned a driver about passing a school bus in a parking lot that had its stop sign and red lights activated.

- On Oct. 21 dealt with a report of juvenile student who had run away from school. Police found him at home with his mother.
- On Oct. 23: Went to a Main Street apartment building to deal with a complaint of an intoxicated woman harassing her neighbors. The woman had left before police arrived, and police calmed the complainant, who was asked to call back if the problem neighbor returned and caused further problems.
- Tracked down an individual who had stolen a beer from Maplefields, who agreed to return to the convenience store and pay for it. Police also issued a no-trespass order to the person at the (See Vergennes police, Page 17A)

**AGWAY**

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### Community breakfast

**CROWDS CAME OUT** to the firehouse on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh this past Saturday for a good old fashion pancake breakfast fundraiser. There were lots of Dakin Farms products to enjoy. Helping serve up the delicious pancakes, sausage, bacon and maple syrup were Megan Maloy, Anne Cohn and Carol Bowles.

Photos by Lee Krohn

## By the way

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
who organize the extravaganza. The town's fireworks vendor is being bought out, and new tariffs and material costs have driven the price of the show to \$20,000 — "the highest it's ever been," according to members of the Bristol 4th of July Committee. Despite months of fundraising, sponsorships and community donations, the group is still \$8,000 short of covering the cost of the show. If you live in the 5-Town area and enjoy the fireworks, the committee would appreciate your donation. Go to [tinyurl.com/42yaumwv](http://tinyurl.com/42yaumwv).

**Please be advised:** The Vermont WIC (Women Infants & Children) program remains open for business even though the federal government is shut down. WIC families can attend WIC appointments and shop for WIC foods. The WIC program provides healthy foods, nutrition education, lactation support and referrals to other helpful services for Vermont families who are pregnant, have recently given birth, or are caring for children

under five years old. If you or your child is currently benefitting from Medicaid/Dr. Dynasaur, 3SquaresVT/SNAP, or ReachUp/TANF, you are automatically income-eligible for WIC. If you or someone you know might be eligible for WIC, you or they can apply at [HealthVermont.gov/ApplyToWIC](http://HealthVermont.gov/ApplyToWIC). Have questions? Email [WIC@vermont.gov](mailto:WIC@vermont.gov)

The Orwell Bugler podcast has returned after a one-year hiatus! In a new episode, hosts Andy Buxton and former Rep. Joe Andriano recap a busy year in Orwell — from the Food & Farm Fest to the new bandstand — and share updates from the Orwell Village School Student Council's swearing-in. They also discuss how neighbors stay informed when so much town news flows through Facebook, preview Halloween in the village, and float a lighthearted "Orwell Backyard Golf Tournament" idea to bring folks together. Find The Orwell Bugler on Facebook, your podcast app of choice, or at [theorwellbugler.com](http://theorwellbugler.com).

State revenue collections for the month of September 2025 have been compiled and show Vermont's General, Transportation and Education fund receipts were a combined \$341.8 million, \$7.4 million, or 2.2%, higher than the target in the consensus forecast adopted by the Vermont Emergency Board. Total General Fund revenues for September were \$250.2 million, \$9 million (3.7%) above the target. Transportation Fund revenues were slightly under their target at \$28.1 million. Monthly Education Fund revenues of \$63.4 million were 1.9% below their September cash flow target. According to Administration Secretary Sarah Clark, "The first quarter of fiscal year 2026 shows a continuation of a trend developed over the latter quarters of the prior fiscal year — that is, personal income taxes continue to exceed estimates and consumption-related taxes lag. That translates into solid performance for the General Fund and mild pressure on the Transportation and Education Funds."

The Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation (FPR) is seeking input from the public on an updated draft policy that would allow the use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on lands managed by the department, including state forests and state parks. The department is proposing to update the current FPR Policy 4: Mountain bicycles, horseback riding, and pack animals. The public is invited to submit comments on the draft updated policy through the online form, which will be open and available on the FPR website through Nov. 28. Vermont statute

(23 V.S.A. § 4) defines electric bicycles as bicycles equipped with fully operable pedals, a saddle or seat for the rider, and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that also meets the requirements of a bicycle "equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour." The FPR is proposing to allow all classes of electric bicycles on the following resources state park roads; class A and B forest highways; gravel-

surfaced Class C forest highways; and multi-use trails and other Class C forest highways designated for bicycle use through established planning processes. The new policy would also designate a 20-mph speed limit on all state park roads, forest highways, and multi-use trails with an option to designate a lower speed limit, as needed. The full text of the draft policy, supplemental information, a link to the comment form, and additional options for submitting comments are available on the FPR website, at [tinyurl.com/bdd7e62j](http://tinyurl.com/bdd7e62j).

## Vergennes police

*(Continued from Page 16A)*  
store management's request.

- Handled a Main Street report of an intoxicated female bothering neighbors and being loud. Police calmed things down and gave a courtesy ride to one of the involved parties.
- Directed traffic around a tractor-trailer truck stuck on the hill near Otter Creek.

- Received a report that a resident was being harassed by an ex-partner. Police offered information on how to file for a relief-from-abuse order and how to contact Atria.
- Dealt with a New Hampshire law enforcement agency's request to help find a person who was involved in a motor vehicle crash with injuries and fled the scene,

- but determined the person no longer lives in Vergennes.
- On Oct. 25:
  - Received a report of suspicious activity at a South Water Street apartment.
  - Searched the Walker Avenue area in an attempt to find a vehicle involved with a theft in Burlington on the day before, but did not find it.



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Kristin Bolton  
Executive Director, Elderly Services  
Middlebury, VT



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# Halloween Coloring & Decorating Contest

This year's fall Halloween Coloring & Decorating contest truly was spooktacular! From glitter and googly eyes to paint and even hand felting (!), local ghosts and goblins pulled out all the creative stops. Thank you to all who helped make this a fun competition and to *the following winners:*

## Congratulations to the following winners:



**Gemma Anderson**  
Age 4



**Shea Zeno**  
Age 4 - Starksboro



**Finnley Carter**  
Age 5 - Middlebury



**Louise Copeland**  
Age 6 - Weybridge



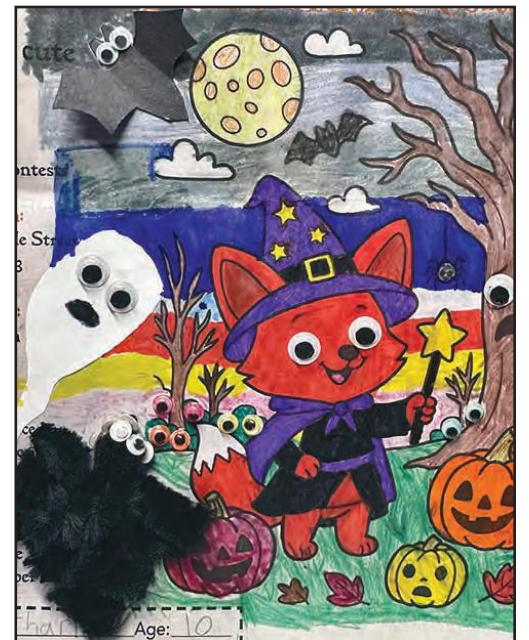
**Cole Rossignol**  
Age 7 - Addison



**Skyler Bushey**  
Age 8 - Vergennes



**Elka Przyperhart**  
Age 10 - Middlebury



**Rosie Phinney**  
Age 9 - Ripton



**Autumn Spritzer**  
Age 14 - Middlebury



**Ella Apuzzo-Kidder**  
Age 15 - Vergennes



**Cindy Watrous**  
Adult - Orwell



**Mark Favreau**  
Adult - East Middlebury

Participants can pick up their artwork and a sweet treat through the end of November. Our office hours are Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm. Winners will have the opportunity to select one prize from our generous sponsors.

## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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# SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

## VUHS girls in D3 semifinal

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
VERGENNES — The No. 2 seeded Vergennes Union High School girls' soccer team breezed through the first two rounds of the Division II playoffs, thumping No. 15 Green Mountain Union on Oct. 22, 9-0, and blanking No. 10 Woodstock, 6-0, on Oct. 25. The Commodores improved to 15-1 in the process and are the highest-seeded team left in the D-III postseason.

The two wins sent the Commodores into a home semifinal set to be played Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m. vs. No. 3 Stowe (13-3), after the deadline for the edition of the *Independent*. The Stowe program is a D-III powerhouse and won four straight titles between 2020 and 2023. VUHS and Stowe did not play one another this season. Stowe defeated No. 14 Paine Mountain and No. 6 Oxbow by identical 6-0 scores to reach Wednesday's semifinal.

Meanwhile, No. 8 Peoples (9-6-1) upset undefeated No. 1 seed Windsor, 1-0, to advance to the other semifinal against No. 4 Fair Haven (12-4). Vergennes did not play either Fair Haven or Peoples during the regular season.

The semifinal (See *VUHS girls*, Page 3B)

## Score Board

<b>Football</b>	
10/24 MUHS at S Burlington/Burl.....	35-14
10/25 MAV vs Poultney.....	41-20
<b>Field Hockey</b>	
D-II Playoffs	
10/24 #1 Bellows Falls vs #8 MUHS....	7-0
10/24 #2 OV vs #7 Brattleboro.....	4-1
10/28 #3 U-32 vs #2 OV.....	5-2
D-III Playoffs	
10/22 #7 Stowe at #2 Mt Abe... 1-0 (2OT)	
<b>Boys' Soccer</b>	
D-II Playoffs	
10/25 #1 Mt Abe vs #6 Springfield.....	6-0
10/28 Mt. Abe vs #5 Rice.....	3-0
D-III Playoffs	
10/24 #6 Thetford vs #3 VUHS.....	2-2
(Thetford advances on PKs, 10-8)	
<b>Girls' Soccer</b>	
D-II Playoffs	
10/22 #6 Mt Abe vs #11 Springfield.....	5-1
10/22 #10 Montpelier vs #7 OV.....	4-1
10/25 #3 U-32 vs #6 Mt Abe.....	1-1
(U-32 advances on PKs, 7-4)	
D-III Playoffs	
10/22 #2 VUHS vs #15 GMUHS.....	9-0
10/25 #2 VUHS vs #10 Woodstock.....	6-0
10/29 #3 Stowe at #2 VUHS.....	Late
<b>Volleyball</b>	
D-II Playoffs	
10/25 #1 MUHS vs #9 Vt Comms.....	3-0
10/29 #4 Harwood at #1 MUHS.....	Late

<b>COLLEGE SPORTS</b>	
<b>Men's Soccer</b>	
10/25 Midd vs Bates.....	2-0
10/28 Midd vs Williams.....	3-0
<b>Field Hockey</b>	
10/25 Midd vs Bates.....	2-1
10/28 Midd vs Williams.....	1-0 (Shootout)
<b>Women's Soccer</b>	
10/25 Midd vs Bates.....	1-0
10/28 Williams vs Midd.....	1-0
<b>Football</b>	
10/25 Midd vs Bates.....	34-16

## Schedule

<b>HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS</b>	
<b>Football</b>	
Division I Playoffs	
10/30 #8 St. Albans at #1 MUHS.....	7 PM
11/7.....	Semifinal
11/15 Final at S. Burlington.....	TBA
Division III Playoffs	
11/1 #6 Springfield at #3 MAV.....	1 PM
11/7 or 8.....	Semifinal
11/15 Final at S. Burlington.....	TBA
<b>Girls' Soccer</b>	
D-III Playoffs	
11/1 Final at Rutland HS.....	11 AM
<b>Boys' Soccer</b>	
D-II Playoffs	
Final at Burlington HS	
10/31 #1 Mt Abe vs #6 Milton.....	7 PM
(See <i>Schedule</i> , Page 2B)	



**TIGER JUNIOR KATE Kozak wins a point at the net during the top-seeded MUHS volleyball team's home quarterfinal victory on Saturday over Vermont Commons School.**

Independent photo/Steve James

## Tiger volleyball downs Vermont Commons to reach semifinal

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
MIDDLEBURY — On Saturday morning the No. 1 seed Middlebury Union High School girls' volleyball team easily got past a spunky, but overmatched, No. 9 seed Vermont Commons School squad in a Division II quarterfinal, three sets to none 25-7, 25-14, 25-11.

The Tigers improved to 14-1 and maintained their perfect record against D-I competition. Vermont Commons, coming off a first-round win over No. 8 Mount Abraham last week, wrapped up at 5-10.

The Tigers advanced to play No. 4 seed Harwood on Wednesday after the deadline for this print

edition. On Oct. 8 the Tigers claimed a 3-0 victory at Harwood, 26-24, 25-18 and 25-20.

No. 2 Hartford (13-2) played No. 3 Enosburg (12-3) in the other semifinal on Wednesday. The winners of the semifinals will meet at St. Michaels College on Sunday at 3 p.m. for the D-II title. This fall,

the Tigers won at Enosburg, 3-0, and outlasted Hartford at home, 3-2.

Against Vermont Commons, the Tigers showed off a service game that has been a strength all season long. They also showcased an improving net game that Coach (See *Volleyball*, Page 3B)

## Tiger girls run to third place in D-II XC

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
THETFORD — At Saturday's state championship cross-country meet hosted by Thetford Academy, the Middlebury

Union High School girls' team finished third in Division II, a runner from Bristol competing for Champlain Valley Union was the top female runner across all

divisions, and a Mount Abraham freshman and MUHS sophomore posted the best local D-II boys' and girls' times, respectively.

On a sunny day with temperatures in the 40s and light wind, CVU senior and Bristol resident Charlotte Crum's time of 19:15.20 on the 5,020-meter course. That was more than 13.5 seconds faster than her closest competitor in the D-I race, a senior teammate. No runner in the other girls' races was within 30 seconds of her time. Crum's team also claimed the D-I title.

The Tiger girls trailed only Burr & Burton Academy and U-32 in the 10-team D-II girls' competition. Those latter two squads battled alone at the top, with BBA, which placed five runners in the top 14 to score 39 points, edging U-32, which finished just seven points back after five Raider runners cracked (See *Cross country*, Page 5B)



**MUHS SENIOR KADEN Hammond was the Tiger boys' cross country top finisher, taking 22nd in the 13-team Division II championship race on Saturday.**

Photo by Tracey Harrington



**THE MEMBERS OF the MUHS girls' cross country team smile before the start of the Division II championship race on Saturday in Thetford. The Tigers finished third.**

Photo courtesy of Chris Anderson

## Eagle boys' soccer earns D-II final berth with sixth straight shutout

### Defeat Rice handily, 3-0, in semifinal

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham boys' soccer team split two games with Lake Division foe Rice in the regular season. The Green Knights were the only

team to defeat the Eagles on Mount Abe's way to earning the top seed in the Division II tournament.

Then the tournament gave the teams a third meeting in Tuesday's D-II semifinal in Bristol between

Rice, the No. 5 seed with a 12-5-1 record, and the 14-1-1 Eagles.

The result left no doubt who was the better team.

The Eagles posted their sixth straight shutout, received two well-assisted first-half goals from junior Jarad Griffin and a clinching

second-half strike from sophomore Waydon Cherington, and won in convincing fashion, 3-0.

Coach Chris Coffey said his team, which has already won the program's first Lake Division title since 2013, had its eyes on the prize from the start — and has taken it up

to another level with the finish line in view.

"In the third or fourth practice I had the guys write down their goals, individual and team goals. And everybody set their eyes on winning the Lake Division and the Division II championship game," Coffey said. "And we just weren't going to be denied. We focused on that every night and every practice. And in the last three weeks we turned up the dial on how we trained."

Co-Captain and goalie Evan Audy was credited with only two saves on Tuesday, but came off his line often to snare serves into his box, notably on dangerous corner kicks. He also pointed to the team's work ethic and unity.

"A lot of these boys, we've been together a long time," Audy said. "We're really close. We come into practice with a lot of enthusiasm, and not one of these boys can say they don't like someone on this team. Everyone's friends."

He also cited the defense of the back line against a dangerous Rice team. On Tuesday senior Johnny Stanley joined junior Rowan Clark in the middle, while senior Evan Corrigan and junior Truman Sawyer held down the flanks. As a team, typically with senior Zealand (See *Eagles*, Page 4B)



**LED BY SOPHOMORE WAYDON Cherington (No. 9), members of the Eagle boys' soccer team rush to celebrate Cherington's game-clinching second-half goal with their fans during the Mount Abe boys' soccer team's shutout win in Tuesday's D-II semifinal.**

Independent photo/Steve James

## Spending an afternoon on an Addison County river

It's mid-afternoon on a Friday. Although most of the red maples and sugar maples have lost nearly all of their leaves, and the bright reds and oranges have faded on the foliage that remains, the gold and yellow hues are still vibrant — especially where they contrast with the darker greens of hemlock, fir and pine. And closer to the ground the sumacs are still flaming in deep crimson and purple. The river has subsided slightly from the recent rains, but it is still flowing with more abundance than it had been for months, and with just enough turbidity to keep fish from being spooked.

I'm standing at the edge of the river, across from a deep pool where the current swirls around a fallen tree. It's the second river I've fished today, and the third stretch of water. All likely looking spots, but so far I haven't seen a fish. So I switch from a heavy, dark, leechy-looking fly to a small streamer imitating a little brook trout, with colors that could compete with the red, orange and green of the foliage. When I drop my fly just above the log and start stripping it toward me, I see a wake appear just behind it as a fish chases it across the surface for several feet. When my fly

reaches the shallows, however, the fish turns away without a strike. Several more casts elicit no response. I move downriver for a few minutes to let the fish rest, and then return. The next cast, the fish comes out from the log and ambushes my offering. A minute later, I land a brown trout whose rich, earth-toned spots jump out from its gold-hued sides.

It's been one of those years. The sort of year that I've felt a need to stand out in a river as often as possible and have my soul restored by a cold current tugging at my legs while I wave a wand over my head and try to send little flies into riffles and pools where wild fish will snatch at them and initiate a dance with me. Also the sort of year that's proven especially difficult to do this. Back in the spring, it didn't merely *seem* like it rained every weekend; it actually *did* rain weekend after weekend. Also, if I happened to get a weekday afternoon free, it rained then also. And even when it wasn't raining, many rivers were too high from all the rain for great fishing.

Then the state moved straight from constant rain to prolonged drought. For about three weeks after the rains stopped, the water levels in local rivers were perfect for fishing. And then the water began to float away down to the sea, and it didn't get replaced.

So when the October rains came, I was determined to get out on the river regardless of obstacles and obligations.

Fall is a delightful time to fish in Vermont. And with recent changes in Vermont's fishing laws, the fall fishing season no longer ends on Halloween. Most waters are now open year-round for catch-and-release fishing with artificial lures. (For general regulations, see [www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/](http://www.eregulations.com/vermont/fishing/).) The river temperatures

have begun to drop to levels comfortable for the metabolism of trout and other cold-water species, meaning fish are often active all day. Brown trout and brook trout are especially active; both species are fall spawners that migrate up the watershed from summer habitat to their autumn spawning habitats, and once near or on that spawning habitat they get aggressively protective and hungry. Rather than fishing with small flies imitating little aquatic insects, this time of year I most often switch to bigger patterns imitating forage fish.

Although the most avid anglers are still on the water, many have turned their attention to the fall hunting seasons, and so there is less competition for the favorite local waters. Of course, Vermont's famous foliage often lines rivers with even more vibrant colors than found elsewhere, adding extra delight to a day on the river.

Not five minutes after I land my first brown trout, I'm standing 30 yards upstream casting not into a deep pool but into a little trough no more than knee-deep where the current drops of a long shallow riffle and takes a sharp turn. As I strip my fly along the edge of the drop-off, I see a shadow emerge from the turbulence and chase my fly across the trough. I slow the retrieve just enough that the fish is able to catch up and strike its prey, and soon I'm pulling in an even fatter and brighter brown trout. Leaving it in the water, I snap a couple quickly cell phone photos and then let it slip away.

I will get out two more times over the next three days. Though none of the excursions is longer than two hours, the breaths of fresh air, the cold water on my legs, the quiet, and the color, are enough: the wonder, delight and beauty serving me like a good meal.



**MATTHEW DICKERSON**  
Outdoor Columnist



A BROWN TROUT caught in a local river displays its rich, earth-toned spots jumping out from its gold-hued sides.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

## Tiger football nabs top seed MUHS to host St. Albans Thursday

By ANDY KIRKALDY

SOUTH BURLINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School football team eased past host Burlington/South Burlington this past Friday night, 35-14, to nail down the top seed in the Division I playoffs with a 7-1 record.

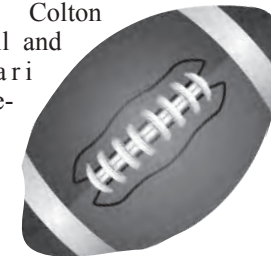
St. Johnsbury also finished the regular season with a 7-1 mark, but the Tigers earned the No. 1 seed due to a tougher schedule. Three 5-3 teams are seeded third, fourth and fifth, respectively: Rutland, Essex and Burr & Burton.

The Tigers will open their quest for the title against visiting No. 8 seed St. Albans (3-5) on this Thursday night at 7 p.m. The Tigers did not play the Bobwhites this fall. An MUHS win would mean a home semifinal between the winner of another quarterfinal between Essex and Burr & Burton on a week from Friday. The final

will be played at South Burlington High on Nov. 15 at a time to be determined.

Against the SeaWolves this past Friday the Tiger rushing attack was once again productive. Tucker Wright led the way with 86 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries, Logan McNulty rushed for 70 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries, and Jason Sperry amassed 81 yards on 13 attempts. Brady Lloyd added a 17-yard touchdown pass to Marshall Eddy.

Seawolf QB Kyle Knoth completed 15 of 26 passes for 163 yards and touchdowns to Colton Bramhall and Dhamari Brissette-Twitty.



## Eagle girls ousted in D2

After a first-round win, PK heartbreak

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The 6th-seeded Mount Abraham girls' soccer team exited the Division II playoffs on Saturday after losing a heartbreaking penalty kick shootout to host No. 3 U-32.

Regulation and two 15-minute overtimes ended with the teams still knotted at 1-1, but the Raiders prevailed in two rounds of penalty kicks, 7-4. U-32 (10-4-2) avenged an early-season 1-0 loss to the Eagles, who finished at 7-6-2 despite graduating 10 seniors from the squad that made it to the D-II final in 2024.

Olivia Sawyer's goal in the 37th minute on a corner kick gave Mount Abe the lead. The Raiders knotted the score with seven minutes left in regulation when Mollie Mislak also scored on a corner kick.

U-32 goalie Zofia Willis

made five saves, while Brooklyn Ryersbach stopped seven shots for the Eagles.

The Eagles opened the playoffs with a 5-0 first-round win over visiting No. 11 Springfield on the previous Wednesday. They allowed only one shot to reach Ryersbach, which she handled. Offensively, Leah Tierney led the attack with a pair of goals, and Sawyer scored one goal and assisted another. Skylar MacDonald scored a goal, and Payton Shepard and Molly Burgess picked up assists. The other Eagle score was a Springfield own goal on a play influenced by Sophia Underwood.

The Mount Abe team's seniors are Lila Brightman, Molly Burgess, Skylee Macdonald, Ryersbach, and Isla Underwood, a versatile standout who missed the season after a preseason injury.

## Commodore boys' soccer bested on penalty kicks

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Visiting No. 6 seed Thetford on Friday, Oct. 24, knocked the No. 3 Vergennes boys' soccer team out of the Division III playoffs. The quarterfinal matchup ended only after a penalty-kick shootout decided matters for regulation and two 15-minute overtime periods resulted in a 2-2 deadlock.

Thetford prevailed, 10-8, in the shootout, making all 10 of its penalties and clinching the victory with its final shot from the penalty stripe. Thetford advanced with a 9-6-1 record, while the Commodores concluded a successful season with an 11-4-1 mark.

The Commodores took the lead in the second minute on and Aiden Fuller goal assisted by Garrett Wood. Thetford equalized on a Henry Trage penalty kick seven minutes later, and it was 1-1 at the half.

Owen Goodrich scored for Thetford four minutes after halftime. Fuller scored the tying goal, with an assist from Andrew Houghton, nine minutes later, and no one found the net again until it was time for penalties.

Fuller is one of six seniors on the VUHS roster; the others are Evan White, Tiegna Buskey, Ryker Mosehauer, Peter Maneen and Wood.

## Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

Volleyball	
D-II Playoffs	
11/2 Final at St. Mike's.....	3 PM
<b>COLLEGE SPORTS</b>	
<b>Men's Soccer</b>	
<b>NESCAC Quarterfinal</b>	
11/1 Midd at Bowdoin.....	Noon
<b>Field Hockey</b>	
<b>NESCAC Quarterfinal</b>	
11/1 Bowdoin at Midd.....	1 PM
<b>Women's Soccer</b>	
<b>NESCAC Quarterfinal</b>	
11/1 Hamilton at Midd.....	12:30 PM
<b>Football</b>	
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.	

## OV field hockey bows out

Repeats last year's loss to U-32 in semifinal

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ST. JOHNSBURY — In a Division II field hockey semifinal game played in St. Johnsbury on Tuesday, No. 3 seed U-32 scored four unanswered goals in the first

half on the way to a 5-2 victory over No. 2 Otter Valley.

The Raiders improved to 13-3 and will take on No. 1 seed Bellows Falls at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday for the D-II title at the University of Vermont's Moulton Winder Field.

The Otters wrapped up a successful campaign at 12-4, a season that included a regular-season home victory over the top-seeded Terriers. But for the second straight season the Otters lost to the Raiders in a semifinal matchup.

On Tuesday U-32's Arianna Conti scored three of the Raiders' four first-half goals, and Chloe Pembroke scored once in each half.

OV leading scorers Breanna Bovey and Sophia Parker put the Otters on the board in the second half.

The Otters reached Tuesday's semifinal with a 4-1 home quarterfinal victory over No. 7 Brattleboro on Oct. 24. Bovey led the attack that day by scoring twice and assisting two Parker goals. Tayah Cram assisted one of Bovey's goals.

Bovey is one of five seniors on the OV squad. The others are Alexis Beaulieu, Hannah Desabrais, Marissa Dick and Micheala Hobbs.

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**TIGER JUNIOR IDA Blackwell** slams a spike over the net during the top-seeded MUHS volleyball team's home quarterfinal victory on Saturday over Vermont Commons School. Blackwell was one of several Tigers with multiple kills in the match.

Independent photo/Steve James



**TIGER SENIOR GRACE Ritter** stretches full out for a dig during the top-seeded MUHS volleyball team's home quarterfinal victory on Saturday over Vermont Commons School.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)  
Bethany Morrissey has made a focus in recent weeks. The Tigers racked up 25 aces, nine

from junior Stella Lenti and four from sophomore Adeline Ritter. Morrissey noted more than 90% of the team's services landed in

bounds.

At the net, sophomore Willow Heywood led with six kills, followed by juniors Julia Morrissey and Ida Blackwell with five and four, respectively. Coach Morrissey said practice has paid off for the Tigers' play at the net.

"They've been working hard. They've been working hard to hit hard. And the next step is making sure their hard hits went in, and that seems to be clicking right now, being aggressive at the net," she said. "And I feel like our service game is strong as well. I'm pretty excited."

The group also continues to develop chemistry and depth as well as skills, Morrissey said, pointing out that 20 players took the court against Vermont Commons.

"We continue to coalesce as the season goes along. Our depth makes practices really strong," she

said.

In the first set on Saturday the teams traded points early on. The Tigers led only by 5-4, but The Flying Turtles managed only three more points in the set.

A Turtle service error started an 8-0 Tiger run at that point. The next four points came from three aces and an unreturned serve from Tiger junior Kate Kozak. Vermont Commons Coach Peter Goff called timeout when his team was down 10-4, but it didn't help. A Turtle miscue and a Heywood kill made it 12-4.

Turtle Captain Ro Dougherty-Masé ended the streak with a kill, but Tiger senior Grace Ritter responded with a kill on the next point, and Tiger junior Addie Young went on a 4-0 service run to make it 17-5, and the Tigers cruised home to the 25-7 first-set win.

The second set started as if it would be equally lopsided, as

Adeline Ritter served and MUHS went on a set-opening run that included three aces and a Kozak kill.

But back-to-back kills from Turtles Fiona McCormick and Dougherty-Masé sparked a Vermont Commons surge, and the second of two kills by Turtle Yutong Li cut the Tiger lead to 13-11.

Sophomore Ginger Riney then played a role in reversing the momentum for the Tigers. First, her kill made it 14-12. After a Tiger service error, senior Anna Wolosinki responded with a kill that made it 15-12 and brought Riney to the service line. She hit four aces in a 5-0 run, and suddenly it was 21-12, and the Tigers had fought off the Turtle rally and cruised from there to claim the second set.

Dougherty-Masé hit an ace to open the final set, but Heywood equalized with a kill, bringing

Lenti to the service line. By the time she was through serving she hit six aces in an 8-0 run that also included a kill by Blackwell. The run ended with a beautiful block by Turtle Nina DeNapoli to make it 8-1, but Vermont Commons came no closer than seven points the rest of the way, the latest at 15-8 as the Tigers pulled away for the match-clinching 25-11 set victory.

Coach Morrissey knows the competition that lies ahead in the semifinal, and hopefully a final, will be more challenging. She said she's excited to see her team take on the challenge.

"I'm cautiously confident. All the teams that we have left are strong teams," Morrissey said. "We need to just play our game, continue to stay mentally tough. I think that's one of the things we do really well. We don't get in our heads. We just kind of look at the next point."



**TIGER JUNIOR JULIA Morrissey** lines up a serve during the top-seeded MUHS volleyball team's home quarterfinal victory on Saturday over Vermont Commons School. Morrissey was one of several Tigers who racked up multiple service aces.

Independent photo/Steve James

## VUHS girls

(Continued from Page 1B)  
winners will square off at 11 a.m. on Saturday morning at Rutland High School for the D-III crown.

The Commodores' path to their semi has certainly been smooth. On Oct. 22 against visiting No. 15 Green Mountain, Ava Francis led the assault with three goals and an assist, and Ashtin Stearns also netted a hat trick. Sophia James scored twice and assisted a pair of goals, and Ayla Kittredge scored once and set up two goals. Ella Romond and Libby Ringer each chipped in with an assist, and goalie Addie Smith made two saves.

On Saturday against visiting Woodstock, which upset No. 7 Thetford in the first round, Francis racked up three more goals, and James, Lauren Husk and Megan Willis each netted a goal. Stearns

assisted two goals, and Kittredge set up one.

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**MOUNT ABE SOPHOMORE** Waydon Cherington watches his game-clinching second-half goal hit the back of the Rice net during the Mount Abe boys' soccer team's shutout win in Tuesday's D-II semifinal.

Independent photo/Steve James



**MOUNT ABE JUNIOR** Abraham Camara duels with a Rice defender during the Mount Abe boys' soccer team's shutout win in Tuesday's D-II semifinal.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)  
Jackson, not Stanley, in the middle, the Eagles have allowed just seven goals in 16 games.

"I had a couple balls that came in, but I didn't have much of a threat," Audy said. "Our defense, I've just got to give it to them. Every day they're the best in the state, I think. With this line of boys, we can go up against any team."

The Eagles also have a potent attack and scored early on Tuesday. Cherington burst into the Rice penalty area toward the left post and served a crisp ball across the

goalmouth to Griffin, who slammed the ball into the net's right side with just over four minutes gone.

Rice developed possession at times and served a few balls into the box, but Audy and Stanley dealt with most of them. And in the 25th minute Griffin struck again. Senior middle Maverick Livingston ripped a shot from the left side that Rice goalie Rickey Carroll stopped, but couldn't control. The ball bounced toward the right post, and Griffin was there to body the ball into the net.

Late in the half junior Abe Ready had a couple chances, including a header that drifted wide. Rice's Theoden Broussard also guided a header wide, and Audy did well to corral Broussard's corner kick in traffic as time wound down.

If anything, the Eagles controlled more play in the second half. The

Green Knights sent a few balls into the box, but Audy and the Eagle backs dealt with them easily enough. Audy did have to deflect one long free kick wide midway through the half, a play that led to back-to-back corner kicks. Stanley headed away the second with 27 minutes to go. Cherington headed another Rice corner away eight minutes later.

With 16 minutes to go a wild scramble in front of the Rice net after a Livingston direct kick from the right side line resulted

in Cherington's clinching score. The Eagles fired three shots in the scrum, one blocked by Carroll and one by a defender. The second rebounded to Cherington on the left side, and he blasted it home at 16:15 to make it 3-0. Rice was cooked.

The Eagles reached Tuesday's semifinal with a 6-0 home quarterfinal win over No. 6 Springfield (7-7-2) on Saturday. Mount Abe did not allow a shot on goal, and Griffin scored three times. James Graziadei (assist), Livingston and Abraham Camara also scored, and Stanley set up two goals.

The D-II final will be played at 7 p.m. on Friday at Burlington High School, and the Eagles will be seeking the program's first title since 2013.

They will face another familiar foe: No. 6 Milton (11-6). The Yellowjackets upset No. 3 Montpelier and No. 2 Harwood to reach the final.

Milton has played the Eagles tough twice this fall. Mount Abe won at Milton, 2-1 in overtime, and at home, 1-0.

Coffey said leadership and experience has helped the team get this far, and he said more of the same would go a long way on Friday.

"We've got seven seniors.

*"Our defense, I've just got to give it to them. Every day they're the best in the state, I think. With this line of boys, we can go up against any team."*

—Evan Audy  
Goalkeeper



**MOUNT ABE SENIOR** central midfielder James Graziadei takes the ball away from a Rice player during the Mount Abe boys' soccer team's shutout win in Tuesday's D-II semifinal.

Independent photo/Steve James

We've got a lot of mature guys who've been doing this a long time together," Coffey said. "And they wanted it, and they came in and executed today."

And he also pointed out his team is hard to contain, with 58 goals in 16 games.

"We have a bunch of fast guys. They're really hard to keep up with," Coffey said. "They create opportunity after opportunity."

That said, the Eagles expect a challenge from Milton.

"They're dangerous," Coffey said. "They've got some young, really good guys up top. We've got to defend those guys. We can't be flat in the back. We'll have to keep our shape there. They're dangerous with through balls, like we are."

Audy said the Eagles will be ready.

"Friday night, that's it," he said. "We've got to end the season strong, come out and get that plaque."



**EAGLE SENIOR GOALIE** Evan Audy battles a Rice forward for the ball on a corner kick during the Mount Abe boys' soccer team's shutout win in Tuesday's D-II semifinal.

Independent photo/Steve James

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## No. 1 seed tops Tiger field hockey in D2 quarterfinal

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**  
**BELLOWS FALLS** — Top seed Bellows Falls defeated the Middlebury Union High School field hockey team in an Oct. 24 Division II playoff quarterfinal, 7-0.

The Terriers' Veronica Moore was a one-person wrecking crew,

scoring six times to dash any hopes for an upset by the No. 8 Tigers. Bellows Falls improved to 12-2-1.

MUHS wrapped up at 2-11-1. The team's senior class includes Hex Bingham, Maya Breckenridge, Kenyon Connors, Quinn Doria and Ivy Gates.

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**TIGER SOPHOMORE LOUISA Orten** works her way along one of the many wooded stretches on the Thetford course during the Division II championship race on Saturday. Her 10th-place finish was the best among local female runners. Close behind is MUHS senior Mary Harrington, who took 12th.

Photo by Tracey Harrington

## Cross Country

(Continued from Page 1B)  
the top 16.

For the MUHS girls, sophomore Louisa Orten was 10th, two spots ahead of senior teammate Mary Harrington, for the best D-II result. In all, five Tigers finished in the top 36 as the team scored 109 points. Harwood (153) and Woodstock (154) finished well behind MUHS. Annika Bruning, Meredith Carr-Perlow and Fiona Mackey also scored for the Tigers.

Vergennes and Mount Abe did not field scoring girls' teams. Lauren Hill led the Commodore girls by taking 35th, and Eloise Newman was 76th for the Eagle girls.

On the boys' side, Eagle freshman Del Guilmette maintained his string of strong showings by taking 12th place in the boys' race to top local male finishers. MUHS senior Kaden Hammond finished 22nd to pace the Tiger boys, who were seventh in a 13-team field with 215 points. U-32 (19 points) ruled the D-II boys' race, followed by BBA (62) and Montpelier (104).

Vergennes, paced by Emerson Morrill in 35th, finished 10th with 263 points. Mount Abe (292) was 12th.

MUHS Coach Chris Anderson said in an email he was pleased with the performances of both Tiger teams, especially keeping in mind their inexperience.

"Both teams competed hard and performed well considering we are a young team with only two seniors and three juniors competing in the championship races," Anderson wrote.

### FULL D-II RESULTS

The winner of the D-II girls' race and the local runners and their times were:

1. Sydney Remenar, BBA, 19:47.80; 10. Louisa Orten, MUHS, 21:48.0; 12. Mary Harrington, MUHS, 22:12.40; 21. Annika Bruning, MUHS, 23:31.80; 30. Meredith Carr-Perlow, MUHS, 24:21.10.

Also, 35. Lauren Hill, VUHS, 24:48.20; 36. Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs, VUHS,

24:57.10; 37. Georgia Kunkel, VUHS, 25:02.10; 40. Fiona Koenig, VUHS, 21:07.40; 57. David Coburn, VUHS, 22:06.50; Mackey, MUHS, 25:23.0; 49. Truth Fetterolf, MUHS, 22:20.40.

*"Both teams competed hard and performed well considering we are a young team with only two seniors and three juniors competing in the championship races."*

— Coach Chris Anderson

Also, 65. Quin Dubois, VUHS, 22:29.10; 67. Oliver Zelonis, Mt. Abe, 22:47.60; 69. Blake Davidson, MUHS, 23:02.60; 71. Karson Norris, Mt. Abe, 23:08.70; 72. Sawyer Garthaffner, VUHS, 23:08.90; 75. George Cammack, MUHS, 23:22.80; 76. Matthew Steele, Mt. Abe, 23:25.50; 78. James Mount, Mt. Abe, 23:52.40;

80. Elias Bennett Eberhardy, Mt. Abe, 23:54.20; and 82. Ezra Latch, MUHS, 24:13.90.



**BRISTOL RESIDENT CHARLOTTE Crum**, a CVU senior, sprints to first place in the Division I cross country race on Saturday in Thetford. Her time of 19:15.20 on the 5K course was the best among all divisions.

Photo by Tracey Harrington

## Eagle stickers bow out in double OT

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — A successful Mount Abraham field hockey season came to an earlier end than hoped for on Wednesday, Oct. 22, when visiting No. 7 seed Stowe upset the No. 2 Eagles in a Division III quarterfinal, 1-0, in a double-overtime marathon.

The Eagles put seven shots on

the Stowe cage, while the Raiders put only three on target. But the only one that ultimately mattered by crossing the goal line came off the stick of Stowe's Gracie Fox in the second extra session.

Stowe goalie Lana Sibenaller made seven saves as her team improved to 5-9-1.

Jillian Cousino made two saves

for the Eagles, whose 10 wins and No. 2 seed were the most wins and highest seeding since the program won the Division II title in 2021.

The team's seniors are Louisa Guilmette, Maris LaPerle, June Yates-Rusch, Harper Young and Addison Wright.



### Jumping for joy

**THE TIGERS GATHER** to celebrate winning a point during the top-seeded MUHS volleyball team's home quarterfinal victory on Saturday over Vermont Commons School.

Independent photo/Steve James

## State police see a spate of impaired driving

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police in Addison County dealt with three impaired driving cases and a fatal two-car crash in the past week.

In the first incident, a trooper saw multiple motor vehicle violations on Route 7 near Dakin Road in Ferrisburgh shortly before midnight on Oct. 22, so he stopped the car. The officer identified the driver as Timothy J. Ely, 43, of Burlington and observed signs of impairment while speaking with Ely. Ultimately, the trooper cited Ely for driving under the influence (DUI) of drugs.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 25, troopers were patrolling South Middlebrook Road in New Haven when, at a few minutes before 10 p.m., they saw a vehicle make

several violations and stopped it. Again, the officer saw signs of impairment in the driver, identified as Scott A. Burnham, 54, of Vergennes and ended up citing Burnham for DUI, second offense.

The third incident wrapped up this week, but its roots stretched back to Oct. 16 when a trooper stopped a vehicle on Old Hollow Road near the intersection with Route 7 in Ferrisburgh just before 7 p.m. After discerning signs of impairment, the trooper cited Benjamin M. Collaro, 24, of Bristol for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol or both.

Then on Oct. 27, troopers executed a search warrant on Collaro's vehicle, where they said they found cocaine inside the car.

## Vt. State Police Log

To the DUI charge they added a citation for possession of cocaine.

On Oct. 26 at nearly a quarter after 1 p.m., troopers responded to Route 7 in Leicester for a report of a head-on collision involving two vehicles. Gillian Gero, 50, of Monkton was killed in the crash, and her husband, Thomas, 52, was critically injured. The driver and passenger in the other car, Jeremy, 51, and Lisa Nolette, 60, of Brandon also sustained life-threatening injuries. See a full story on this crash on Page 2A.

## New protocol helps Vermonters in crisis

WATERBURY — 911 call-takers have begun connecting Vermonters directly to trained mental health counselors. The new statewide 911-to-988 protocol makes it possible for 911 call-takers to transfer appropriate calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, the national three-digit number for mental health and suicide crises.

The Vermont Department of Mental Health, the Vermont Department of Public Safety, the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board and stakeholders from the first responder community developed the 911 to 988 transfer protocol collaboratively.

Now, 911 call-takers can quickly connect people experiencing a mental health crisis to 988. The call-taker stays on the line until

a 988 counselor joins. Once connected, 988 counselors provide crisis support. They also develop safety plans and link callers to local resources or emergency services if needed. Before this change, all 911 calls involving mental health needs were handled by EMS and/or police.

"We want 988 to be as well-known and trusted as 911 for anyone in need of mental health support," said DMH Commissioner Emily Hawes. "When emergency and mental health responders work together, Vermonters in crisis can reach the right help without unnecessary hurdles."

The initiative began as a pilot at the Hartford and Westminster 911 call centers and has since expanded statewide. The first transfers under

the new protocol happened in September.

"988 adds another tool to our toolbox, helping us match the right response to the person who needs it," said Daniel Batsie, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

Barb Neal, Executive Director of the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board, added that the new process "also allows 911 call-takers to focus on medical and public safety emergencies that need immediate attention."

The Vermont Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Safety, and Enhanced 911 Board will regularly review call transfer data from Vermont's 988 centers and meet monthly to assess and refine the protocol as needed.

## Women's Center moving to expanded space

MIDDLEBURY — A 40-year-old Middlebury nonprofit is celebrating expansion into a bigger new space that happens to be at the same address as its old space — 102 Court St.

The Women's Center on Thursday, Oct. 30, will host an open house at its new office, whose front door faces the street and is three times larger than the 10-foot-by-10-foot space it previously occupied.

The center serves women who think they are pregnant as well as families after children are born. It provides pregnancy tests and ultrasound tests to determine pregnancy, but it does not provide abortion services or refer clients to those services. It does provide information on adoption. The

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington refers women with unplanned pregnancies to the Women's Center, among other agencies that it calls Crisis Pregnancy Centers.

A Women's Center advocate said the center has purchased and renovated an entirely new space at 102 Court St. with expenses of nearly \$500,000.

"We are so excited to have a larger space that is ground level and ADA accessible," said Women's Center's Executive Director Joanie Praamsma, in a press release. "It includes a new conference room where we will host group classes on topics such as parenting and relationships."

The new space also houses Zoey's Place, the center's boutique

where anyone can obtain baby and kids clothing, maternity clothes, and other essential baby items, with payment by donation.

The center has raised nearly \$130,000 to aid in the move to its new space, officials said.

"I look forward to leading us as we attain our \$160,000 campaign goal and raise the remaining \$30,000 over the coming winter and spring," Praamsma said.

The Women's Center is inviting guests to tour the new space on Oct. 30 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., with a ribbon-cutting scheduled for 4:50. Visitors are asked to park at the Middlebury Parks and Rec Center on Creek Road and make the short walk to the center at 102 Court St., since parking space is not available at the center for this event.



### Loud and proud

**WHILE SOME HAVE** considered Champlain Valley foliage to be rather dull this fall (by Vermont standards), these maples spotted off Exchange Street in Middlebury certainly are presenting the best side of autumn in the Green Mountain State.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Bat Week continues through October 31

MONTPELIER — The onset of fall sends Vermont's bats into motion, which makes it an important time for conservation-minded Vermonters to learn about, and help conserve, our nine native bat species.

If you have noticed bats roosting in your attic, barn or office over the summer, fall and spring are the perfect times to safely evict these uninvited guests from your property. Bats migrate between winter and summer roosts during the fall and spring and do not have vulnerable young at these times. You can learn how to safely evict bats from your building at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's best management practices page.

You can also help bat conservation efforts by reporting large colonies of bats living in structures to the department's website. Locations with rare colonies of endangered little brown bats are eligible for free bat houses from Vermont Fish and Wildlife. Through this successful program, 135 free bat houses have been placed since 2014, with over half already occupied by over 1,500 endangered bats.

Bat houses provide an alternative location for safely evicted bats to remain in your yard and continue

eating huge quantities of insects that may be forest, agricultural or human pests. Variety is important, so placing at least two bat houses with variable solar exposure to help bats find the right temperature ranges throughout the summer helps bats raise their young successfully. Information on successful bat house design and placement can be found on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Bat houses can be put up any time of year but do require some simple maintenance. Late fall or winter is the time to look up inside your bat house and make sure all the bats have left before cleaning out any abandoned wasp nests and planning any needed caulking or repainting.

"Fall also means Halloween, and scary images of bats, but this presents an opportunity to bring positive attention to bats as well," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Small Mammals Biologist Alyssa Bennett. "We celebrate 'Bat Week' in the days leading up to Halloween." Bat Week takes place October 24-31 and aims to raise awareness about the vital ecological functions of bats and to dispel the many myths and misinformation about them.

Anyone interested in learning more can visit the official Bat Week website at [www.BatWeek.org](http://www.BatWeek.org), or email [Alyssa.Bennett@vermont.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Bennett@vermont.gov) for more information about what they can do right here in Vermont to promote bat conservation.



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A subscriber from Cornwall writes:  
**"Thanks for making my kids feel famous!"**  
Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.  
ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

# community calendar

**oct 30 THURSDAY**  
**Halloween Pet Costume Parade in Bristol. CANCELLED.** Thursday, Oct. 30, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Bristol Town Green. More info at [bristolvtrec.com](http://bristolvtrec.com).

**nov 1 SATURDAY**  
**Penny Fair in Vergennes.** Saturday, Nov. 1, doors open 10 a.m., drawings 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Annual event with games, raffles and chances to win prizes for pennies per chance. Fun for all ages.  
**Rhinestones & Rust Halloween Costume Party in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 1, 7-9 p.m., Addison County VFW 7823, 530 Exchange St. Halloween party with live music by Nashville country duo Rhinestones & Rust. Costume contest, 50/50 raffle and door prize. Proceeds benefit veterans' programs. Tickets \$15 at [tinyurl.com/VFWRhinestones](http://tinyurl.com/VFWRhinestones).

**nov 2 SUNDAY**  
**Breakfast Buffet in Middlebury.** Sunday, Nov. 2, 8-10 a.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Hearty breakfast buffet featuring pancakes, biscuits with sausage gravy, bacon, hash, sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, made-to-order omelets and eggs, toast, coffee and orange juice. Open to the public. \$13 adults, \$7 children. Proceeds benefit veterans programs.  
**Victor E. Reichert Annual Bible Talk in Ripton.** Sunday, Nov. 2, 3 p.m., Ripton Community Church, 1329 Route 125. Mitchell Pear, a lay leader of the Havurah of Addison County for over 20 years, delivers the annual Bible Talk. For more information contact Norm Tjossem at 802-388-0338 or [nkt.xcski@gmail.com](mailto:nkt.xcski@gmail.com).

**nov 4 TUESDAY**  
**American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., American Legion Middlebury, 49 Wilson Rd. Donate blood to help hospital patients ahead of the holidays. Donors who give blood between Oct. 27-Nov. 16 will receive a \$20 e-gift card and be entered to win one of three \$5,000 prizes. Schedule at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or 1-800-RED CROSS.  
**Veterans Coffee and Conversation Hour in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Coffee, baked goods, and community in recognition of National Veterans and Military Families Month. Guest speaker Bob Stock from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will share information about eligibility for VA programs and services. Free.  
**Pins and Needles Craft Club in Brandon.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, and weekly on Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Bring your own supplies and stitch or craft with the group. Free.  
**Serious Reads Book Talk in Brandon.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Monthly discussion of thought-provoking titles. Stop in or call 802-247-8230 to reserve the book. Free.

**nov 5 WEDNESDAY**  
**Brush Hour in Brandon.** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Relax with paint-by-numbers; materials provided. Free.  
**nov 6 THURSDAY**  
**ASL Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Nov. 6, and weekly on Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Collaborative American Sign Language learning using video tutorials. Free.  
**nov 7 FRIDAY**  
**Bridport Central School Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle in Bridport.** Friday, Nov. 7, 5 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. Support students' yearlong STEM unit with a basket raffle and eat-in or take-out spaghetti dinner. Basket raffle drawing starts at 6:30 p.m.

**nov 8 SATURDAY**  
**Rutland County Audubon bird seed sale in Brandon.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Brandon Blue Seal, 57 Alta Woods. Stock up on seed for backyard birds. Proceeds support Rutland County Audubon and scholarships for local high school students who plan to study the environment.  
**Clean out the closet sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. St. Peter's Resale Closet is clearing inventory with a take-what-you-want, pay-what-you-can sale. Gently used clothing, household goods, books and more. Proceeds support St. Peter's community charity partners.  
**Live music in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Enjoy soulful originals and expressive acoustic covers from singer-songwriter Melissa D, plus local craft vendors and a raffle supporting the summer music program.

**nov 9 SUNDAY**  
**Masons' charity fundraising breakfast in Bristol.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North & Elm streets. Monthly community breakfast. Proceeds benefit a person or group in need in the Five Town Area. Homemade corned beef hash, apple bread pudding, bacon, sausage patties and links, home fries, pancakes, French toast with Vt. maple syrup and Cabot butter, coffee from Vermont Coffee Company. \$9 adults, \$5 under 12.  
**Breakfast buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Menu includes omelets, scrambled eggs, French toast, plain and blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, cornbread, home fries and mini muffins. Juice, tea and coffee available. \$13 adults, \$8 children 8-12; under 8 free. Sponsored by the Vergennes Council of the Knights of Columbus.  
**110th anniversary of the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter House in Cornwall.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 1-4 p.m. Mary Baker Allen Chapter House, 2706 Route 30. Celebrate the history of the DAR chapter house with cake and shared memories. Free.  
**Stories from Jerusalem Schoolhouse in Starksboro.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m., Jerusalem Schoolhouse, 397 Jerusalem Rd., South Starksboro (behind Jerusalem Country Store off Route 17). Learn about the 1874 one-room schoolhouse and preview plans to transform it into an all-access, year-round community center. More info at 802-453-8447.  
**Brandon Has Talent in Brandon.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 2-4 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Community talent showcase featuring music, dance, and comedy acts. Admission by donation. More info at [brandontownhall.com](http://brandontownhall.com).

**nov 10 MONDAY**  
**American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury.** Monday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury EMS Building, 55 Collins Dr. See Nov. 4 listing.  
**Conservation Speed Dating in Ferrisburgh.** Monday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Farmers meet 1:1 with the Vermont Land Trust and The Bobolink Project to explore wildlife-friendly management across working lands. Free; lunch provided. Space is limited. Apply at [vlt.org/events/conservation-speed-dating](http://vlt.org/events/conservation-speed-dating). More info at [sam@vlt.org](mailto:sam@vlt.org), 781-259-2119.  
**Cribbage Night in Bristol.** Monday, Nov. 10, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North



## Breakfasts of Champions

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOY a pancake breakfast at the Ferrisburgh Fire Department this past weekend. Look for more opportunities to start your day with a hearty meal in the calendar, including this Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Addison County VFW Post 7823, which will host a breakfast buffet from 8-10 a.m.

Photo by Lee Krohn

**November Crafters Market in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Start your holiday shopping early and support local crafters, small businesses and farmers. Hosted by the Middlebury Farmers Market.  
**11th Annual Artisan Fair in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Shop holiday gifts including pottery, ornaments, felted mittens, bird paintings, keepsake boxes, jewelry, cards, scarves, candles, honey, cider blends in birchbark carriers and more. Free and open to the public.  
**Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 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](http://bixbylibrary.org).

St. & Elm St. All ages cribbage night hosted by the Masons of Libanus Lodge.

**nov 11 TUESDAY**  
**Bixby Book Club in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. November's selection is "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Daré. All readers are welcome. Copies available at the circulation desk or by emailing [martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org). Free.

**nov 12 WEDNESDAY**  
**Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon.** Wednesday, Nov. 12, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

**nov 15 SATURDAY**  
**Breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church in Shoreham.** Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School St. Enjoy plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, plus sausages, home fries, quiches, beverages and more. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the food shelf. \$12 adults, \$6 children, \$30 families.  
**Annual puzzle swap in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m., Mini Ilesley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Bring complete puzzles to swap at this community event. Puzzle donations accepted through Nov. 8. Free. More info at [renee.ursitti@ilesleypubliclibrary.org](mailto:renee.ursitti@ilesleypubliclibrary.org), 802-388-4095.  
**Fall Candle-Making in Vergennes.** Saturday, Nov. 15, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Celebrate autumn with a candle-making workshop. Choose scents and colors, design a custom jar, and take home your own candle. Space is limited; RSVP to [miranda.degreenia@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:miranda.degreenia@bixbylibrary.org). Free.

**nov 19 WEDNESDAY**  
**Brush Hour in Brandon.** Wednesday, Nov. 19, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. See Nov. 5 listing.  
**nov 20 THURSDAY**  
**Cookbook Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Nov. 20, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month's cookbook. Free.  
**Community Storytelling Event in Vergennes.** Thursday, Nov. 20, 6-8:15 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Share and hear true, first-person stories as neighbors connect through storytelling. Interested in telling a story? Email [Samara@anderson\\_samara@yahoo.com](mailto:Samara@anderson_samara@yahoo.com).

**nov 21 FRIDAY**  
**VFW fish fry in Middlebury.** Friday, Nov. 21, 5-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Fish fry with choice of haddock or butterfly shrimp, baked potato or french fries, and coleslaw. Eat in or takeout; takeout starts at 5 p.m. Open to the public. \$16 per person. Proceeds benefit veterans programs. More info at 802-388-9468.

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**Climb a tree**  
FALL FOLIAGE IS still vibrant on the Orwell town green, where Kess Hunter (left), Ruth Greene, Talus Hunter and Willa Hunter play after school last week.

Photo courtesy of Kate Hunter



## Women Who Care give to local charities

**ADDISON COUNTY** — On Tuesday, Oct. 21, the organization 100+ Women Who Care Addison County held its fourth-quarter meeting of 2025 in the new wing of Town Hall Theater. Organizers said they appreciated THT for hosting in its new space, which they said is a magnificent place to hold a gathering or meeting.

At the meeting, 100+WWC distributed \$17,500 to local non-profits. The three finalists for this quarter were New Haven Food Closet (to expand their refrigeration/freezer storage facilities), Addison Housing Works (for affordable, dignified housing for seniors and families) and Counseling Service of Addison County (to train counselors for youth crisis programs). Addison Housing Works was the top vote recipient receiving 70% of the funds. The runners-up both received 15% of the available funds.

100+ Women Who Care, Addison



**DONATIONS FROM 100+ Women Who Care Addison County will help Addison Housing Works distribute grants for home buyer down-payments, making it possible for families like the Couches, shown here, who received a downpayment grant from Addison Housing Works to move into this Middlebury home.**

County is a charitable giving circle gathering quarterly to choose three non-profits to receive members' collective donations. Since 2023, this local 100+ Women chapter has gifted close to \$250,000 to Addison County charities (this figure includes matches from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation to whom local members extend much gratitude).

WWC welcome new members to come learn about the non-profits in Addison County and enjoy a cocktail together. They said they are grateful for the women who share this commitment to supporting each other and our community. Learn more online at 100wacvt.org. The next meeting will be in January 2026, via Zoom.

## Kudos to Rotary Club for help with the quilt show

We hope you were able to attend our recent Milk & Honey Quilters Guild quilt show. The wide array of colors, patterns and techniques was a sight to behold.

If you've never set up a quilt show, you might not understand the physical demands of that job. Our guild members can do a lot of things, but when it comes to setting up, hanging and taking down over 200 quilts, we knew we needed help. We're grateful to both the spouses of several members and to the Rotary Club of Middlebury, who showed up with tools and ladders, strong

knees and backs, to help us get the job done. Setting up would have been so much more difficult without all their muscle power.

The Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self," and we certainly witnessed it in action.

We're appreciative of so many others who helped make our show a resounding success. The vendors offered beautiful wares and yummy food. The crafters donated wonderful items we sold to benefit a local nonprofit, Tri-Valley Transit. The Quilts of Valor organization and former Gov. Douglas held a

very moving ceremony honoring eight veterans. The quilt turning was interesting and educational as was the hand quilting demonstration. The special exhibit, Sacred Threads, was powerful and moving. The raffle quilts were beautiful. The basket raffles offered desirable items. The quilts that were entered in the show were stunning. And, of course, it wouldn't have been so successful without all the community members who came and supported us. We're so very grateful.

**Joyce Dicianna**  
Show Committee Chair  
Milk & Honey Quilters Guild  
Middlebury

### Notes of appreciation

## scrapbook

### WEDDINGS

#### Bove, Lee

**SHELBURNE** — Ethan Lee, son of Robert and Michelle Lee of Lincoln, and Mary Bove, daughter of Stephen and Joyce Bove of South Burlington, were married Oct. 15, 2025, in Shelburne, Vt.

Cathee Chinn was the matron of honor and James Dempsey served as the best man. The flower girl was the bride's sister, Sarah Bove, and the ring bearers were Charlie and Norma, the couple's two dogs.



# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Logan Denis

Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon is proud to recognize an outstanding senior, Logan Denis, as its latest Student of the Week! Logan lives in Whiting with his parents, two brothers, and two cats.

Outside of school, Logan works as a parts store worker and service writer at Green Mountain Garage. When he's not working, he enjoys playing basketball and racing in the limited sportsman division at Devil's Bowl Speedway.

At school, Logan enjoys seeing his friends and learning new things. His favorite subject is math, and his favorite teacher is Mr. Jeskie, who "teaches in a way that helps me learn subjects well." Logan has earned a place on the Principal's List, reflecting his dedication and hard work.

What advice would Logan give to underclassmen Isla?

He believes that "the most important thing to be successful in school is to put in effort, the more effort you put into school, the more you will learn and the better grades you will get."

After graduation, Logan plans to attend college and study mechanical engineering, though he hasn't yet decided where he'll enroll.

Congratulations, Logan!



Logan Denis  
OVUHS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Isla Underwood

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Isla Underwood as our student of the week. Isla lives in Monkton with her parents, sister Sophie and two dogs.

Isla has received highest honors each semester of her high school career and earned the Seal of Biliiteracy in French last year. Her favorite classes have been AP Calculus and AP Biology. Isla finds math and science the most interesting subjects as they allow her to explore how things work and think critically to solve problems. Her favorite teacher is Ms. Little; Isla states "I'm so grateful for all the support and kindness she has shown me over the years. She is always there for me, whether I need advice, help in a class, or just someone to talk to and I truly thank her for that." Another influential adult at Mt. Abe has been the athletic trainer, Meg Quiet. Isla shares that Meg "cares deeply for so many athletes, not only helping us recover from injuries but also offering encouragement and support. She has been instrumental in helping me recover and pursue my athletic goals."

Isla is an involved member of our Mt. Abe community and is grateful for the opportunities available through classes, sports and clubs. She has been Vice President of the Class of 2026 since her ninth-grade year. She is co-president of the Environmental Action Group, and a member of the Eagle Leadership Society. Isla is also the first Mt. Abe student to serve as a member of the Vermont Principals' Association Student Athlete Advisory Council, or VPA SAAC. Isla is a three sport varsity athlete in soccer, basketball and track. She has been the captain of the varsity soccer team for two years running and captain of the track team as a junior. She also earned Division II First Team All State and First Team Lake League honors for both 10th and 11th grade in soccer.

Outside of school Isla is an assistant youth soccer coach at Far Post Soccer Club and works as a summer camp counselor at the Expanded Learning Program (ELP). In her spare time she plays a lot of soccer and enjoys spending quality time outside or traveling with friends and family.

When asked what advice she would give to underclassmen Isla stated, "Surround yourself with things that positively influence your life, whether that be activities or people; make the most out of the opportunities given to you."

Isla plans on attending the University of New England. She is excited to be a member of the UNE soccer team and will major in Applied Science and Applied Mathematics. The Mt. Abe community wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.



Isla Underwood  
MAUHS

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**Congratulations, students!**

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, Isla and Logan!**

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carpentry/contractors  
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construction  
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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 [vermontalanonlateen.org](http://vermontalanonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

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

**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](http://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

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**Help Wanted**

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**PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT** Wanted to help 77 year old man in Addison on Saturdays and Sundays for 3-4 hours a day. Help with cooking, housework, and chores. \$25 an hour. Contact [ellenresnik@gmail.com](mailto:ellenresnik@gmail.com)

**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**For Sale**

**2011 38' CAMPER** needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**ENCORE WOOD STOVE** porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**FIREWOOD STOVE** in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

**For Rent**

**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT** Located in Historic Downtown Vergennes. Furnished, all utilities included \$2600/month. Pet friendly. No smoking. Call for info. and photos. 802-922-1924



**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**

**BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM HOUSE** Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available November. \$2100/month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call/email for photos. 802-236-8721 [hescocock@sover.net](mailto:hescocock@sover.net)

**BRANDON ESTATE** 5 Bedrooms 3 bath \$4800 Furnished See Craigslist at <https://vermont.craigslist.org/apa/d/forest-dale-bedroom-updated-stone-home/7889936398.htm> or call 802 377 9394

**BRISTOL:** Active retiree who enjoys walking, gardening, cooking for friends is seeking housemate to share conversation, meals, and to provide some light household assistance. \$400/month. A gentle dog would be considered! Familiarity with memory loss is a plus but not a must. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**EAST MIDDLEBURY APARTMENT** 3 Bedroom Apartment, with office: \$2500 per month. Heat - Water - Trash - Lawn Mowing included in the rent. You pay Electricity. Washer and Dryer in Unit Off street parking. (3 spaces) 1st Month Rent and security deposit can be paid in installments, no smoking, quiet pets possible upon approval. Available on November 15th. Text (802) 349-7464



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**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. 802-388-5474.

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**MIDDLEBURY:** Senior woman who enjoys exercise, gardening, singing in the choir, seeking housemate to cook some evening meals in exchange for reduced rent of \$300/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**For Rent**

**MONKTON** Monkton - 4,600 sq ft commercial workshop. Open plan, office plus 2 workrooms; kitchenette (tenant provides fridge). Power: 110/220 & 3-phase. Oil heat, 4 zones. Minutes to Burlington, Middlebury, Vergennes & Hinesburg. Contact Ricky 802-636-0127 or visit [northstarpropertiesvt.tenantcloud.com/listings/181951](http://northstarpropertiesvt.tenantcloud.com/listings/181951).

**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](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

**Want to Rent**

**PLEASE, I NEED** a space, even a floor until spring. Have no pets, no smoking, no car. Do no drugs. Money negotiable. Abby Bray 802-598-6176. [brayabby3@gmail.com](mailto:brayabby3@gmail.com)

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**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

**Real Estate**

**RIPTON LOT** Ripton 10.1 acre lot. County Cross Rd frontage. Call 802 233 0845

**Help Wanted**

**Att. Farmers**

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**HAY** First and second cut round bales, stored. \$25 and up. 518-321-2886

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Check the Classifieds every week in the *Addison Independent*.

**Help Wanted**

**Head Start Preschool Teacher**  
**Addison County Early Learning Center**

As a Head Start Preschool Teacher, you will serve as lead or co-teacher in an outcome oriented, team environment, and provide safe, healthy, friendly, and developmentally appropriate environments and experiences for children ages 3-5.

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**RSVP of Addison County** is looking for volunteers to donate blankets, children's books, coloring books, crayons, hats, and mittens for crisis bags for children & families in need.

Call Johanna at 802.379.9512 or email [johannarsvpfgp@gmail.com](mailto:johannarsvpfgp@gmail.com).

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.

[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)

**ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**

## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
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Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

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Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE:** Monday at 5 p.m.

**RATES**  
• 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

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|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

\*\* no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spotlight Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

# Police used drones to search for student

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police deployed multiple drones and personnel on Oct. 21, 22 and 23 as part of the search for missing Middlebury College student Lia Smith, 21, of Woodside, Calif. Searchers found Smith's body on Thursday, Oct. 23. An autopsy confirmed she had taken her own life.

Agencies participating in the search included Middlebury PD, the Vermont State Police Search & Rescue Team, game wardens with the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, North Country Search Dogs, New Hope Search & Rescue, and members of the public — including the Middlebury College community.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Investigated a harassment complaint in the Elm Street area on Oct. 20.
- Cited David B. Ambrose, 59, of Shoreham, for retail theft, after he allegedly stole "multiple containers of alcohol" from a Court Street business on Oct. 20.
- Responded to a report of a person sleeping on the porch of a Court Street business during the morning of Oct. 20.
- Investigated a domestic dispute in the downtown area on Oct. 20.
- Investigated a retail theft complaint at the Maplefields store on Oct. 21.
- Assisted a local resident who had fallen on East Street on Oct. 22.

## Local law enforcement collects unwanted drugs

ADDISON COUNTY — On this past Saturday, Oct. 25, the Addison County Sheriff's Department provided a drop box for unused drugs to be safely disposed of as part of a national Drug Take Back Day.

Between Oct. 19 and 25, sheriff's deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 53 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted 10 people for background checks. Also during that week, deputies attempted to serve 27 pieces of civil process around the county. Due to a jury trial, extra deputies were assigned to courthouse duties Monday- Thursday

Sheriff Michael Elmore met with selectboards in Leicester and New Haven to discuss contracted law enforcement from his department.

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

- On Oct. 19 assisted with traffic control for the Middlebury Maple Run.
- On Oct. 20 Sheriff Elmore met with the county side judges, clerk and treasurer to discuss next year's budget
- On Oct. 20 came upon a vehicle abandoned on the side of Route 74. The driver eventually returned with a can of gas as the

## Middlebury Police Log

- Received a report about suspicious activity in the Bakery Lane area on Oct. 22.
- Helped Vermont State Police with a noise complaint on Route 7 in New Haven on Oct. 22.
- Cited Gisele Musanase, 20, of Middlebury for domestic assault after responding to a 911 call at a Jackson Lane residence on Oct. 22.
- Investigated possible drug activity on Route 7 south on Oct. 22.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint at a North Pleasant Street location on Oct. 22.
- Issued a no-trespass order on Oct. 22 to a person who wasn't wanted at Shaw's Supermarket.
- Investigated a report of a vehicle leaving the scene of an accident on Halladay Road on Oct. 22.
- Moved along a woman who was found sleeping in the National Bank of Middlebury entryway during the morning of Oct. 22.
- Received a report about a local citizen being scammed on Oct. 23.
- Responded to an alleged assault at 260 Court St. on Oct. 23. Police said the case remains under investigation.
- Responded to a report of a

stolen vehicle in the Washington Street Extension area on Oct. 23.

- Were informed of an alleged shoplifting incident at the TJ Maxx store on Oct. 23.
- Received a report on Oct. 23 that a firearm had been stolen from a Jayne Court residence. Police said the case remains under investigation.
- Investigated a threatening complaint in Catamount Park on Oct. 23.
- Received a report about a juvenile in possession of tobacco on Middlebury Union High School grounds on Oct. 23.
- Responded to a report of a woman screaming on North Pleasant Street on Oct. 23.
- Deployed the department's K9 team to assist Vergennes PD with a search warrant at a Walker Avenue location on Oct. 24. As a result, authorities found and seized alleged cocaine during the search, according to police.
- On Oct. 24, helped locate a missing East Middlebury juvenile, who was taken to Porter Hospital for evaluation.
- Assisted with a runaway juvenile at a Wilmar Street location on Oct. 25.
- Helped Vermont Department for Children & Families officials with a child who was refusing to leave Porter Hospital on Oct. 25.
- Helped a local resident who

had been approached by an online scammer on Oct. 25.

- Responded to Mary Hogan Elementary School grounds for a report of suspicious activity on Oct. 25.
- Took into protective custody a drunken man found in the Route 7 south area on Oct. 26. Police said the man was taken to Rutland County for detox services.
- Hosted local children for pumpkin painting at Middlebury PD on Oct. 26.
- Received a report about a vehicle being egged in the Jackson Lane neighborhood on Oct. 26.
- Gave a courtesy ride home to a discharged Porter Hospital patient on Oct. 26.

### MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 10/23/25 & 10/27/25

		LBS.	/LB	COST	\$
BEEF					
H. Veldman	1995	1.68		\$3351.60	
A. Brisson	1995	1.67		\$3331.65	
Robeth	1995	1.60		\$3192.00	
Goodrich	1800	1.55		\$2790.00	
Nop Bros	1525	1.55		\$2363.75	
Vorsteveld	1910	1.45		\$2769.50	
Iroquois	1905	1.45		\$2762.25	
CALVES					\$
P. Livingston				\$1566.00	
Sunderland				\$1540.00	
Deer Valley				\$1520.00	
Barnes Bros				\$1504.70	
Savello Farm				\$1474.20	
B. Dykema				\$1440.00	

Total Beef - 139 Total Calves - 146  
We value our faithful customers.  
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.  
call 1-802-388-2661



## ONLINE AUCTIONS

(1698) RESTAURANT & CONTRACTORS EQUIPMENT

ONLINE AUCTION: Tues., Nov. 11 @ 10AM  
PREVIEW: Mon., Nov. 10 from 2PM-4PM  
ITEMS LOCATED: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT 05495



**Industrial, Commercial & Equipment Auction**  
Featuring forklifts, industrial equipment, commercial foodservice machinery, welding units, and more—perfect for contractors, manufacturers, food businesses, metalworkers, and entrepreneurs looking to expand their operations with professional-grade assets.

(1711) GROWING EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

ONLINE AUCTION: Mon., Nov. 17 @ 12PM  
PREVIEW: Wed., Nov. 12 from 11AM-1PM  
ITEMS LOCATED: 1878 Cadys Falls Road, Morrisville, VT 05661



**Indoor Grow Equipment & Hydroponics Auction**  
This auction features high-powered LED grow lights, hydroponic systems, carbon filtration, climate control, nutrients, grow tents, and more, this is a rare opportunity to acquire premium gear at auction prices.

3-BEDROOM / 1.5-BATH RAISED RANCH HOME IN COLCHESTER, VT

LIVE AUCTION: Thurs., Nov. 20 @ 11AM  
OPEN HOUSE: Thurs., Nov. 6 from 11AM-1PM  
ADDRESS: 55 Bonanza Park Drive, Colchester, VT 05446



**Estate Auction - Raised Ranch in Prime Colchester, VT Location**

Don't miss this estate auction opportunity featuring a well-located raised ranch home on 0.35± acres in the heart of Colchester, Vermont. Built in 1971, the home offers 1,132 sq. ft. of living space with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, and two fireplaces for added comfort and charm.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY  
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

## Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

Addison (1)	Orwell (1)
Brock & Scott (1)	Salisbury (1)
Ferrisburgh (1)	Slate Valley UUSD (1)
Lincoln (2)	State of Vermont (1)
New Haven (1)	

### TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472 on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

• Conditional Use Hearing on application #2025-DRB-11-CU submitted by Megan Ooms to amend existing conditional use permit #2024-DRB-11-CU to expand home business located at 261 Belden Falls Road per Section 610 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 Offices, 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: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town's website at: https://www.newhavenvt.com/

New Haven Zoning Administrator  
(802) 453-3516

### TOWN OF ADDISON PUBLIC NOTICE

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2025 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM. (regular monthly meeting)

1. Open the meeting.
2. Roll call given.
3. Public Comment time allowed. (beginning & end if deemed necessary.)
4. Continue to work with Katie Raycroft-Meyer on the Town Plan revisions, finalizing details & progressing with the next steps for the Town Plan. Katie will discuss the sections on "NATURAL RESOURCES", "LAND USE", and "CONSERVATION". We will continue the discussion for goals & objectives for the different sections. and discuss what goals & objectives we would like to implement in the Town Plan.
5. We have an open position on the board so the Chair will post on the Town website & PPF for inquiries.
6. The maps we want to put in the Town Plan.
7. Approve the meeting minutes for October 20, 2025.
8. Discuss any remaining miscellaneous Planning Commission business or concerns.
9. If needed, allow additional public comment time before adjourning.

Michael Hollis, Chair  
Starr Phillips, Secretary  
Addison Planning Commission

ADVERTISE Email us at: ads@addisonindependent.com

### TOWN OF LINCOLN WARNING

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
On Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.,  
at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business which may impact our Annual Town Meeting in 2026. [This meeting is being called as a result of the work done by the Town Meeting Advisory Committee. This committee was appointed by the Selectboard, following Lincoln's 2025 Annual Town Meeting, after the town voters decided to table an article to vote on all money articles by Australian ballot.]

#### Agenda

Article 1: Shall the registered voters of the Town of Lincoln [in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2640(b)(1)] vote to start its annual Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March, beginning with the 2026 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 2: Shall the registered voters of the Town of Lincoln [in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2658] vote to use an electronic voting system as the voting procedure at floor town meetings (beginning in 2026), and authorize the Selectboard to rent/buy the electronic voting system?

Article 3: To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2025

Tim McGowan  
Joe Martell  
Ken Stockman  
Lisa Sargent  
Jessica Erwin  
Town of Lincoln Selectboard

### LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING SPECIAL MEETING

On Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.,  
at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss and transact business which may impact our Annual School District Meeting in 2026. [This meeting is being called in conjunction with a special meeting called by the Lincoln Selectboard at the same time and place.]

#### Agenda

Article 1: Shall the Lincoln School District hold its annual meeting on the Saturday preceding the first Tuesday in March?

Article 2: Shall the Lincoln School District change its procedure from paper balloting to the use of an electronic voting system, to be used when the moderator's declaration of votes taken from the floor is questioned at a meeting?

Article 3: To transact any other legal and proper business when met.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2025

Jeanne Albert  
Rob Backlund  
Mary Gemignani  
Deirdre Kelly [Not present for vote]  
Peg Suttle

## New Haven

### NEWS

NEW HAVEN — Wow what a fall we have had. It seems to be coming to a close but it certainly surprised me — when I vowed I would never take foliage photos again, I found myself stopping my car multiple times on the way to Bristol to snap a photo!

Everyone's invited to the first of three community gatherings of New Haven Comes Together on Thursday, Nov. 6, where we'll share ideas and help shape the future of our town.

Come for one session or stay for them all — there'll be a free dinner and live music for all! The first session is 4:30-6 p.m.; dinner: 6-7 p.m.; second session: 7-8:30 p.m.

You can learn more at bit.ly/NewHavenTogether. Let's come together and keep making New Haven the wonderful place it is!

**Library News:** If you haven't had a chance to meet Jamie Bergeron, our new library assistant, stop by and say hi! Jamie's in the library most Saturdays, helping keep everything running smoothly.

The November Book Club pick is "The Light Pilot" by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Join the discussion on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. Copies are available at the library — come grab one and join the conversation!

**Spookiness on the Green:** What a turnout! Over 165 kids and parents joined us for this year's Trunk or

Have a news tip?  
Contact Kim Callahan at  
kimcallahan99@gmail.com.

Treat on the Green. Huge thanks to the Events Committee for creating such a fun and festive event for our families!

If you missed it, don't worry — the decorations are staying up a little longer. Stop by at dusk with a hot cocoa from the village green and enjoy a stroll around the green.

**Village Green Fall Hours:** Starting Nov. 2, the Village Green will switch to fall hours: Mon.-Fri.: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sun: Closed.

**Conservation Committee: Free Trail Cams:** The Conservation Commission now has two trail cameras available for checkout at the New Haven Community Library! It's a great time of year to see what our wild neighbors are up to — fox kits are foraging, deer are active, and there's plenty of wildlife energy out there.

Before setting up your camera, check out this helpful video: youtu.be/eE4uDXKqoC4.

**New Haven Food Closet:** A big heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the 18th Annual Five-Town Food Drive!

Special thanks to the Volunteer Fire Department and the Beeman students who helped collect a whopping 1,428 pounds of food for the New Haven Closet. What an amazing community effort — we're so grateful for all of you!

**SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
POLICY WARNING**

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on November 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and take action on the following policies:

- To Adopt:
    - B8 Electronic Communications
    - E21 Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Literature in the Schools
- Copies of the policies are available on the district website at [slatevalleyunified.org](http://slatevalleyunified.org).  
Brooke Olsen-Farrell  
Superintendent of Schools

**TOWN OF SALISBURY  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 18, 2025, to consider the following:

**Application 2025-08 & 10**

An application from Property Owner, Keewaydin Foundation, Applicant, Ken Trombley (parcel ID #1304178.A) in connection with a proposed permit, (#2025-08), to raze existing Beenadeewin building and reconstruct in the new location on the property. Additionally, under permit #2025-10, to construct a new 18' x10' x 11'2" bathhouse, on the same property, water and wastewater connection is required. This property is located on Lake Dunmore and West Shore Roads and is located within the Lake Shore District 1, (LS1) and Lake Shore District 2, (LS2). The application requires Conditional Use review under Section 2.4.4 of the Unified Zoning Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.4D, §3.4.2, §3.4.6 and additionally the DRB Board may also review this application under §3.4.8, of the Salisbury Unified Zoning Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on November 18, 2025. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck  
DRB Clerk



LAST YEAR'S VOLUNTEERS gather before doors open. The Bazaar, in its 101st year, is an entirely volunteer-run event.

**Big Holiday Bazaar to be held Nov. 8 in Midd.**

MIDDLEBURY — The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A cherished tradition now in its 101st year, this community landmark runs on the generosity of volunteers, some of whom trace their family involvement back to the Bazaar's founding in 1924. Through hours of organizing, baking, cooking, crafting, and



THIS HANDSOME QUILT, featuring a traditional Braided Irish Chain pattern, will be raffled off as part of the Congregational Church of Middlebury's Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8. Raffle tickets start at \$5.

donations-gathering, a team of volunteers makes it possible to open the doors for this day-long event.

Bazaar Treasurer Katharine Scribner, who has held that role for six years, describes it as a "spiritual experience," adding that "seeing church members

come together to offer an annual event for the community is inspiring."

Margaret and Jim Eagan, who have been volunteering for a decade, add, "We love being part of all the wonderful volunteers who spend many hours to make this event a success."

That spirit of community is at the heart of the bazaar, which aims to extend impact far beyond the walls of the church. Monies earned at the bazaar help fund donations to local nonprofits, such as the Atria Collective, Addison Allies, Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects, the Addison County Parent/Child Center, Addison Central Teens, and the Open Door Clinic.

Funds raised allow for junior and senior youth group activities, worship services, and adult education services, all of which are open to everyone, including non-members of the church.

Dorothy Douglas, who has volunteered for 10 years (and each year makes and donates a handcrafted quilt to raffle), says "It gives me joy to be able to give back and be a part of what the bazaar brings to the community every year. It unites our church members and our neighbors, all of whom look forward to this annual event."

Dorothy's bazaar donation this year is a gorgeous bed quilt. It features a Braided Irish Chain Pattern, made of colorful Robert Kaufman batiks, and measuring 90" x 88." Quilt raffle tickets will be on sale during the Bazaar and also by calling the church office. They are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The drawing for the winning ticket will be held on Sunday November 9th after Sunday service in Fellowship Hall. The winner need not be present to win.

As usual, shoppers can look forward to a wide variety of items for sale on the building's two levels. Shop upstairs for handmade crafts, jewelry, and a collection of gently used books — or bid on a selection of themed baskets (which make great gifts for yourself or a friend).

On the lower level of Fellowship Hall are games, puzzles and toys for both children and adults and the garden table, featuring indoor and outdoor plants, garden tools, and more.

Also returning this year: The always-popular soups and pies table, with hearty soups sold by the quart and pint, and delicious homemade pies. Come early for the pies — they're always the first to sell out!

Visit the bakery table, featuring specialty sweet treats, as well as jams, jellies and pickled foods and local maple products.

Access to the bazaar will be through the church's 30 North Pleasant St. and Seymour Street entrances.

**HEARING NOTICE  
TOWN OF ORWELL  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT. By Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129886127> or phone 1-646-558-8656, use meeting ID: #881 2988 6127 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #8-44-25: David Martin for a 2 lot Subdivision located at 16 Horton Road, Orwell, VT.
2. Permit #9-49-25: Vincent Aveta for a Variance for a Car Port located at 505 Singing Cedars Road, Orwell, VT.
3. Permit #9-53-25: Matthew Bushee & Carol Shaw for a 2 lot Subdivision located on Fisher Road, Orwell, VT.
4. Permit #9-54-25: Horace Carpenter for a Waiver for lot frontage and side setbacks located at 283 North Orwell Road, Orwell, VT.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th & F 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.  
Daniel Redondo, Chair  
Orwell Development Review Board

**Public Notices**

can be found in this  
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 11B and 12B.

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**, at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 6PM. The hearings 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](http://ferrisburghvt.org)) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

**Application Number 25-057:** Three-lot subdivision; Applicants: Fred & Donna Morrow; 1060 Four Winds Road; Parcel ID number 18/20/43; North Ferrisburgh Village District (NFVIL-2); Sketch Plan Review.

**Application Number 25-111:** 4-lot residential Planned Unit Development; Applicant: Anthony Handy / Iceberg LLC; 192 Bird Haven Lane; Parcel ID number 05/01/42.1; Conservation District (CON-25), Rural Agricultural District (RA-5), & Rural Residential District (RR-2); Preliminary Plat Review.

The files for the above applications 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](mailto: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.

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-04284**

**IN RE ESTATE OF: JUDY BISSONETTE  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: **Judy Bissonette**, late of Bristol, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 10/24/25  
David Jerome  
772 East River Road, Lincoln, VT 05443  
802-989-2045

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 10/30/25  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**PROPOSED STATE RULES**

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Risk Retention Group Holding Company Systems  
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P037  
AGENCY: Department of Financial Regulation

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The Risk Retention Group Holding Company System Rule sets out reporting, organizational and operational requirements for Risk Retention Groups (RRG) organized as holding companies. This update to the rule tells RRGs how to comply with changes made in Subchapter 13 of Title 8, Act 101 by Act 110 (H.659) of 2024. The amended statute permits exempting RRGs from certain filing requirements and requires certain terms in RRG management agreements, in each case based on Department rules. This update provides those rules. The update also explains what it means for a non-U.S. jurisdiction to "recognize and accept" a group capital calculation under 8 V.S.A. § 3684(m)(2) (D). Lastly, this update provides administrative changes and technical corrections to the rule.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Russ McCracken, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, Tel: 802-828-3301, Email: [russ.mccracken@vermont.gov](mailto:russ.mccracken@vermont.gov) URL: <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/legal-general-counsel/proposed-rules-and-public-comment>.

**FOR COPIES:** Dan Petterson, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, Tel: 802-828-3304, Email: [dan.petterson@vermont.gov](mailto:dan.petterson@vermont.gov).

**STATE OF VERMONT**

**SUPERIOR COURT  
ADDISON UNIT**

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST  
PLAINTIFF

VS.

ANDREW H. MONTROLL, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF PAUL SMITH; CITIFINANCIAL, INC.; AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 229 PINE LANE, SALISBURY, VT 05769  
DEFENDANT(S)

**NOTICE OF SALE**

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale filed on February 14, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Paul C. Smith and Dianne L. Schroeder to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB, dated July 11, 2006, and recorded in Book 60, at Page 117, of the Town of Salisbury Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Flagstar Bank, FSB to Nationstar Mortgage LLC recorded in Book 64, at Page 88 (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT recorded in Book 71, at Page 153 (3) Assignment of Mortgage from U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. recorded in Book 78, at Page 199 and (4) Assignment of Mortgage from DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust recorded in Book 80, at Page 167, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on December 3, 2025 at 01:00 PM at 229 Pine Lane, Salisbury, VT 05769 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Paul C. Smith and Dianne L. Schroeder by Warranty Deed of Steven R. Carruthers dated December 18, 1998 and recorded in Book 45 at Page 539 of the Town of Salisbury Land Records and is described therein as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to the herein Grantor Steven R. Carruthers by Warranty Deed of John L. Austin and Judy H. Austin dated September 29, 1992, recorded in Book 39, Page 302 of the Salisbury Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to John L. Austin and Judy Hendy (now known as Judy H. Austin) by Warranty Deed from Raymond R. Wanke, II and Shelley Wanke dated August 23, 1985 and recorded in the Salisbury Land Records in Book 32 at Page 596 and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being all and the same lands and premises described in Warranty Deed of Leo F. Sabourin and June M. Sabourin to Raymond R. Wanke, II and Shelley Wanke, the Grantors herein, dated June 22, 1981 and recorded in Book 30, Page 429 of the Salisbury Land Records and therein more particularly described, in pertinent part, as follows:

"Beginning at a point on the northwesterly corner of the parcel herein conveyed marked by marble marker, said point also being located on the rod right of way to Route 53; thence proceeding in a general southerly direction 90 feet to a point marked by a marble marker; thence turning and running in a general easterly direction a distance of 97 feet to a point marked by a marble marker; thence turning and running in a general northerly direction 90 feet to a point marked by a marble marker, said point being located on the northeasterly corner of the aforesaid right of way; thence turning and running in a general westerly direction 92 feet along said right of way to the point and place of beginning.

Bounded on the west by George Wright, on the south by Sleepy Oaks, so called and on the east by Paula Wimett.

Included is a right of way leading from Vermont Route 53 to Lake Dunmore; AND SUBJECT to the right of way of the Grantors and others to use said roadway leading from Vermont Route 53 to Lake Dunmore;

Subject to applicable zoning, development and subdivision laws, regulations, restrictions, conditions, ordinances and the like promulgated by the State of Vermont, the Town of Salisbury or any other municipal corporation, any of their subdivisions, or any commission, agency, board or the like, by whatever name called, regarding any matter affecting health, safety, order and the like.

Reference is made to said deed and the references contained therein for a more particular description.

The Grantees herein are obligated to pay water rent to Bryon E. Jones, his heirs, successors and assigns commencing 1 November 1981 as follows:

Rental due from Grantees or their heirs and assigns, \$7.00 per month until June 1985 while the said Grantees are actually using water from the said Bryon E. Jones' well. After June 1985, the Grantees or their heirs and assigns shall pay such rental as may be agreed upon by the said Bryon E. Jones, his heirs and assigns and said Grantees herein and their heirs and assigns."

The foregoing parcel is commonly referred to as the "Renshaw Cottage".

Subject to easements and right of way of record, if any, as of the date hereof."

The lands and premises hereby conveyed are not the homestead of the herein Grantor.

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.

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# ARTS + LEISURE

The Admon...ndent

October 30, 2025

## FRICION

ROOMFUL OF TEETH AND THE TAKÁCS QUARTET PERFORM VERSIONS OF "CHAMBER" MUSIC

Genre-smashing vocal band Roomful of Teeth will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center on Wednesday, Nov. 5, with flutist and composer Allison Loggins-Hull.

PHOTO / ANNA SCHUTZ



PHOTO / RAFAEL RIOS

**I**t's cold in the house. The bed is so warm. The sun's not even up. Work starts in 40 minutes... Friction. From the start of our frosty mornings, every one of us faces friction — then, we

BY **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

make a choice, and that choice shapes our lives.

No pressure or anything — jeezum crow!

Want to step back a little from that existential cliff we almost just fell off? Good idea.

The arts can be helpful for contextualizing complex stuff like this, and lucky for us, there's a Vermont premiere of a new work titled "Friction" coming to the Mahaney Arts Center next Wednesday, Nov. 5.

This collaboration between two-time Grammy award-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth and innovative flutist and composer Allison Loggins-Hull, "will surely stretch the audience's ideas of what the human voice can do, and will offer musical discoveries worth making," promises the event's promo material.

The music hangs in the balance between intimate chamber singing and modern music production, blurring the lines between acoustic and electronic, to capture the entangled joy and anxiety of human experiences. The songs of "Friction," composed by Loggins-Hull, are deeply personal and delve into the intricate dance between the forces that shape us.

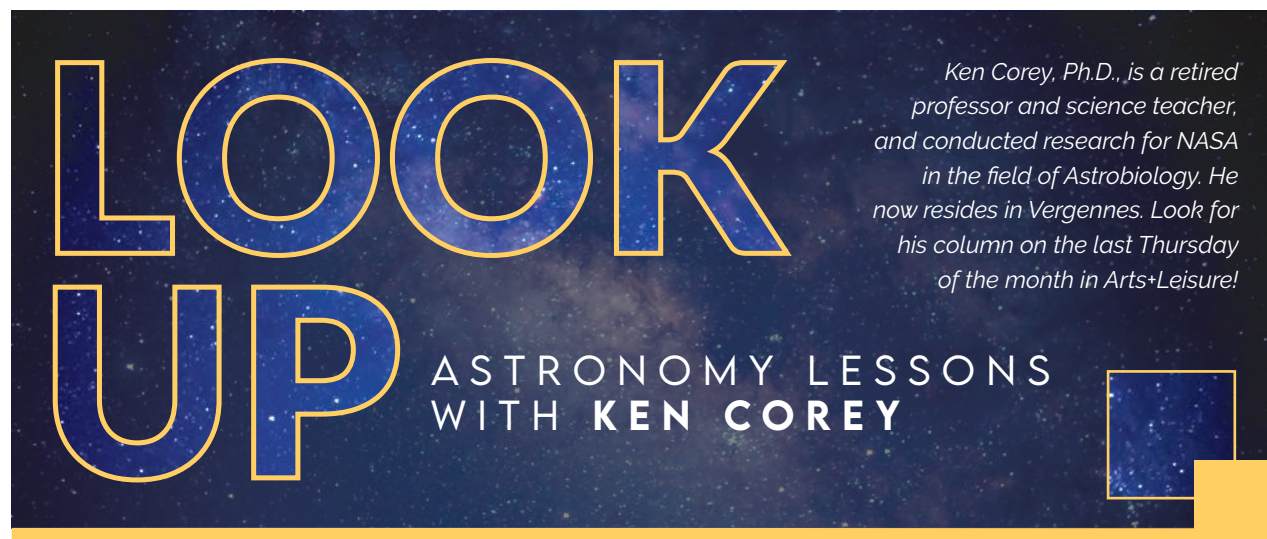
"Roomful of Teeth is a kind of lab experiment for the human voice," said Burkhard Bilger in a 2019 review for *The New Yorker*. "Its eight singers cover a five-octave range, from grunting lows to dog-whistle highs. Three have perfect pitch, all have classical training."

"SURELY STRETCH THE AUDIENCE'S IDEAS OF WHAT THE HUMAN VOICE CAN DO..."

Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, Roomful of Teeth was incubated at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass. With experimentation and exploration, the group learned that the boundaries of the human voice are never what they seem, that rules can be bent, even broken — and perhaps they should be.

Loggins-Hull co-founded the groundbreaking duo Flutronix, and has performed as an accompanist to major pop acts including Lizzo and Frank Ocean. She has performed on multiple blockbuster film scores and composed the score for "Bring Them Back," an award-winning documentary. She is Resident Artistic Partner to the New

SEE FRICTION ON PAGE 4



*Ken Corey, Ph.D., is a retired professor and science teacher, and conducted research for NASA in the field of Astrobiology. He now resides in Vergennes. Look for his column on the last Thursday of the month in Arts+Leisure!*

## Fall nights highlight aurorae and comets galore

If you were looking up in September, you may have noticed a large number of very clear dark skies with nice displays of aurorae and the Milky Way. In mid-September while observing the sun, I counted 13 sunspots, some quite large, at the relatively low magnification of 38 X. On that day and subsequent days, there were numerous posts by Vermonters of beautiful auroral displays. Go to the Facebook groups Vermont Aurora Sightings and Northern Lights New England to enjoy what people are seeing and recording.

### AURORA SCIENCE

Imagine a spacecraft flying at speeds of 430,000 mph and a mere 3.8 million miles above the surface of the sun (about 15 times the Earth-moon distance). The Parker Solar Probe is doing just that and has set a record for the fastest human-made object. Its mission is to learn more about the unimaginably hot outer atmosphere of the sun called the corona. During a total solar eclipse such as the one we had last year, Vermonters were able to catch up to a few minutes of that spectacle and see the sun's corona. Astronomers do not yet fully understand the huge temperature difference between the corona and the visible surface of the Sun, the photosphere. The photosphere is "only" about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit compared with a whopping 1.8 to 3.6 million degrees Fahrenheit for the corona. The corona is where solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME's) originate and give us our space weather as streams of plasma, known as the solar wind.

Plasma is a high-speed mix of charged particles coming predominantly from ionized hydrogen. Hydrogen nuclei are protons, which were stripped of electrons because they were too hot to hold. Helium nuclei (alpha particles) make up another 8% of the corona, with a mix of heavier ions such as the nuclei of C, N, O, Mg, and others in trace amounts. Solar wind particles that travel into the Earth's region of space are captured by the Earth's magnetic field. The origin of the magnetic field resides in the moving electric charge



*The night sky lights up with a large display of aurorae in North Ferrisburgh on Oct. 8, 2024. Captured on an iPhone on dark mode.*

PHOTO / KIRSTEN DWYER

that is in the molten materials of the mantle, the layer beneath the Earth's crust. Electrons are moving within the metal-rich lava, and on a large scale, cause the Earth to act like a gigantic magnet. The magnetic field the Earth creates can be visualized as contours of field lines where they converge and concentrate near the poles. In 1600, William Gilbert's use of a spherical magnet, called a terrella, led to an explanation of why the Earth acts like a large magnet.

As particles are captured by Earth's magnetic field, they interact with electron clouds in the orbitals of atmospheric molecules. Those interactions raise the energy states of electrons within diatomic nitrogen and oxygen molecules, which together comprise nearly 99% of the atmosphere. When energized electrons drop back down to their



*Comet LEMMON a day after perigee. Captured with a SeeStar 50 on Oct. 22, in Vergennes. Exposure of 6 minutes using 10 sec stacked images.*

PHOTO / KEN COREY

ground states (unexcited), the difference in energy results in the emission of different wavelengths of light. For nitrogen, blue and violet are typical and for oxygen, green and red; with other gases, notably carbon dioxide and argon adding touches of color. Variations in color result from the many numbers of different energy transitions at the atomic level combined with fluctuations in the solar wind and magnetosphere; the sources of energy for the production of beautiful curtains of color.

An auroral oval of maximum activity occurs at high northern and southern latitudes (roughly 60 degrees north and south). Wondrous shimmering curtains of violets, greens, and sometimes violets and blues are commonly seen in northern locations such as Scandinavia, Iceland, Alaska, Canada, and Russia and in southern locations such as Tasmania, southern Australia, South Island of New Zealand, Antarctica, and the Falkland Islands. Solar output varies according to 11-year cycles and we are just one year past the maximum of the cycle, resulting in a lot of activity during the last two years. During periods of high solar output, the aurorae can be seen at more southerly latitudes, such as in Vermont (44 degrees north) and even into the southern states.

To monitor space weather and auroral activity go to the NOAA prediction center at [swpc.noaa.gov](http://swpc.noaa.gov). You can also download the My Aurora Forecast & Alerts mobile app. The app will give you the latest information for aurora viewing, including strength maps, forecasts and live webcams.

Enjoy the small sample of beautiful photos of aurorae shown here as captured by local Vermonters.

SEE LOOK UP ON PAGE 8

# Thomas Munschauer showcases new paintings in upcoming exhibit

**T**wo years ago, the Jackson Gallery introduced Tom Munschauer's art to the community. A recently retired veterinarian well known in the community, he had seized the new opportunity to expand his life-long interest in art by turning his attention to creating oil paintings. His subject matter was varied as he experimented with image and techniques. His focus and dedication have continued, and now he returns with a new collection of works for his new exhibit "Shadow, Light, and In Between."

There is a continuity of theme in many of the new paintings. Shadow and light play a leading role in his architectural "portraits" where the buildings themselves suggest a story. Familiar scenes — a local granary under a vivid blue sky, a vintage looking gas station glowing with light from within. His eye for composition is always evident as he closely crops his scenes to maximize the visual impact of the shapes and shadows. Back doors to neighbors' homes invite the viewer with a welcoming warmth. In

**WHEN:** Friday, Nov. 7, 5-7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Jackson Gallery, Middlebury

one image he zooms in on Adirondack chairs next to the rear half of his dog creating a dancing zig-zag of elements.

Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. For decades he has created small paintings for family and friends in the form of Christmas cards. The paintings will be available for purchase throughout the holiday season.

The exhibit runs from Nov. 7 through Jan. 17, 2026, at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Town Hall Theater on Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury. All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, noon-5 p.m., and when performances are taking place.



New paintings by Thomas Munschauer will be on view at the Jackson Gallery in Middlebury Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026.

## Merry & Bright! A 2025 Holiday Art Market pops up in Brandon

The Brandon Artists Guild will open "Merry & Bright" a Holiday Art Market at the gallery Friday, Nov. 7, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. Come meet two new artists along with the regular BAG artists and enjoy the fun, festive, Merry and Bright Holiday Market. Complimentary light libations served.



This whimsical cat ornament is made by local artist Ashley Wolf. The painting of Santa was done by Lynn Austin.

The Brandon gallery will be filled with a distinctive collection of handcrafted pieces, including ornaments, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, photography, fibers, and whimsical gifts. As always, the walls will be hung with a curated collection of original artworks by more than 35 Vermont artists and artisans.

The Brandon Artists Guild is located at 7 Center Street in Brandon and is open seven days a week. For more info visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956.



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[go.middlebury.edu/pas](http://go.middlebury.edu/pas)



**FRICION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jersey Symphony, after serving three years as the Lewis Composer Fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Pair these two together... and we're in for some mind-bending and totally rad new music.

"This unique performance is for singers, composers, lovers of vocal music, contemporary music fans, and adventurous voyagers of arts and culture," said Liza Sachelli, director of the Mahaney Arts Center at Middlebury College.

**THE FLIP SIDE**

If experimental music isn't really your cup of tea, there's an alternative coming up on Friday, Nov. 14: The Takács Quartet.

This legendary foursome, now celebrating their 50th anniversary season, is a long-time friend to the Middlebury Performing Arts Series. Did you know, the Takács Quartet has performed at Middlebury 31 times since 1994!

The Takács Quartet was founded in 1975 by four students at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. Within two years they were gaining international attention, receiving first prizes and gold medals in competitions across Europe. In this, their 50th year, one founding member, cellist András Fejér, remains with the ensemble. He is joined by three world-class musicians who carry on the ensemble's extraordinary virtuosity: violinists Edward Dusinberre and Harumi Rhodes, and violist Richard O'Neill.

For the Nov. 14 performance these Grammy and four-time Gramophone award-winners



The Takács Quartet will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center on Friday, Nov. 14, as part of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour.

PHOTO / AMANDA TIPTON

will perform the Vermont premiere of Clarice Assad's "Nexus" — a work co-commissioned by Middlebury College.

"Nexus was inspired by watching the Takács Quartet's visceral, whole-body approach to musical expression," explained Assad in her program notes. "Nexus' amplifies the natural physicality of chamber music performance into choreographed symbolism."

"Complementing [Assad's] new work are pieces of music that are in tune with Clarice's ever-present sense of innovation: Haydn's 'Rider' quartet with its improvisatory slow movement

and theatrical finale, and Debussy's Quartet, in which he applies his unique soundscape to the quartet genre," said violinist Dusinberre.

To get an even deeper understanding of the music, Middlebury College Professor Emeritus of Music Larry Hamberlin will offer a free pre-concert lecture at 6:15 p.m.

Music lovers, we have choices — *friction*. Do you want to expand your pallet with experimental music? Or revel in the excellence of a traditional, time-tested quartet? Hmm... Or maybe — for the lucky few — go ahead and get tickets to both shows?

Friction... Who needs it when you can have your cake and eat it too?

**"NEXUS' AMPLIFIES THE NATURAL PHYSICALITY OF CHAMBER MUSIC PERFORMANCE INTO CHOREOGRAPHED SYMBOLISM."**

— Clarice Assad

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# ART ON EXHIBIT

## ART ON MAIN

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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](http://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.

**"Merry & Bright"** a Holiday Art Market of original artworks by more than 35 Vermont artists and artisans. An opening reception will be held Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Free and open to all. On view through December.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto: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](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto: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](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Shadow, Light, and In Between."** Thomas Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works in this new exhibit. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. On view Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026. All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5-7 p.m.

**"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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 9

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. This is a great week to start a new project or hobby, Aries. Your energy is very high right now. Just be careful not to bite off more than you can chew.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. This week is all about treating yourself, Taurus. You have been working very hard and it's about time you indulge in some well-deserved relaxation. Think about ways to unwind.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Gemini, your social calendar is buzzing. You will be the life of the party this week, so get ready for some fun conversations and exciting invitations in the days to come.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. You might be feeling particularly cozy and creative this week, Cancer. Your home is your sanctuary, so consider a DIY project to make it even more restful and comfortable.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. People may be drawn to your confident and playful nature this week, Leo. This is a great time to express yourself creatively or take the lead on a group activity.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you are a master of small details. This week you may find joy in organizing and perfecting something you care about. Tidying up may feel therapeutic right now.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, get ready for some surprises. The universe is giving you a little nudge towards fun and adventure. Keep in mind a casual outing could turn into an exciting experience.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Pay attention to your gut feelings, Scorpio. Your intuition is sharp this week. You may be able to navigate a tricky situation with surprising ease and do so in a good mood.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. A funny misunderstanding will lead to a lot of laughter with a close friend, Sagittarius. Don't be afraid to tell jokes, even if they aren't the best. Humor will land well this week.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn. Take some time to celebrate your wins, big or small. You might find a new way to make a routine task more enjoyable.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Creativity is flowing this week, Aquarius. You may have some innovative ideas, so share them with others. A brainstorming session with coworkers can be rewarding.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, right now your imagination is your best friend, so let it guide you to some fun and whimsical activities. This is a great time to listen to music or to learn to play an instrument.



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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 1 — Toni Collette, actor (53)

NOV. 2 — K.D. Lang, singer (64)

NOV. 3 — Anna Wintour, journalist (76)

NOV. 4 — Shakuntala Devi, "human computer" (d)

NOV. 5 — Tilda Swinton, actor (65)

NOV. 6 — Thandie Newton, actor (d)

NOV. 7 — Marie Curie, physicist and chemist (d)

# CALENDAR

OCT. 30-NOV. 11  
2025



## THURSDAY, OCT. 30

**"THESE SHINING LIVES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre, 72 Porter Field Rd. Play based on the true story of women dial painters at the Radium Dial Company, who fought for justice and survival. Tickets \$15/10/5. Info: [www.middlebury.edu/events/event/these-shining-lives-melanie-marnich](http://www.middlebury.edu/events/event/these-shining-lives-melanie-marnich).

**"THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW" 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Celebrate five decades of the cult-classic film. Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite characters. Tickets are \$15-\$20 and include a participation kit (no outside props allowed). More info at [addisonarts.org/event/the-rocky-horror-picture-show-2](http://addisonarts.org/event/the-rocky-horror-picture-show-2).

## FRIDAY, OCT. 31

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL FEATURING SOULSHINE REVIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 31, 7:30-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The evening includes dancing to live music, seating, prizes for best costumes and food & beverages for purchase. Free with registration. More info at [tinyurl.com/SoulShineTHT](http://tinyurl.com/SoulShineTHT).

**"THESE SHINING LIVES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Oct. 31, 8 p.m. Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Oct. 30 listing.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 1

**"THESE SHINING LIVES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 1, Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre, 72 Porter Field Rd. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. See Oct. 30 listing.

**MAIDEN VERMONT CHORUS PRESENTS "WORDS MATTER" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Under the direction of Tim Guiles, the local women's a cappella chorus returns with barbershop harmonies and "hearts on fire" energy. Tickets \$10-\$20. More info at [addisonarts.org/event/maiden-vermonts-fall-2025-show-words-matter](http://addisonarts.org/event/maiden-vermonts-fall-2025-show-words-matter). Repeats Sunday.

**É.T.É. AT BURNHAM PRESENTS IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. Multi-award-winning Québécois trio blends trad with jazz, prog and classical influences. Doors 7 p.m. Homemade desserts. Sliding scale \$20/\$25+. Tickets and details at [burnhampresents.org](http://burnhampresents.org).

## SUNDAY, NOV. 2

**MAIDEN VERMONT CHORUS**

**SINGS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Nov. 1 description.

## MONDAY, NOV. 3

**AFRICAN DRUMMING SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Nov. 3, 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. Park in back, use the door facing the convenience store. Free. Drop-in. More info at 802-388-3093.

**FAURÉ "REQUIEM" AND "DARKNESS AND LIGHT" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. The Choir of St. Stephen's presents Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem" alongside the world premiere of "Darkness and Light," a new composition by Middlebury College professor emeritus Peter Hamlin. All are welcome at this special service to remember departed loved ones. Free. Info: [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org), 802-388-7200.

**"LE RÈGNE ANIMAL" (THE ANIMAL KINGDOM) SCREENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Monday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216,

Middlebury College, Bicentennial Way. Screening of Thomas Cailley's 2023 feature as part of Middlebury's Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival. Free. More info at [tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege](http://tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege).

## TUESDAY, NOV. 4

**YARN AND OTHER CRAFTS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 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. More info at 802-388-3093.

**FOSSILS IN THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6-7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, Mini NBM meeting room, 30 Main St. Learn about fossils from the Champlain Valley and what they reveal about ancient environments. Free.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: CAMEL'S HUMP IN HUNTINGTON.** Wednesday, Nov. 5. Ascend Camel's Hump via the Forest City and Long Trail and descend via the Burrow's Trail. Nice views on the way to the summit. Strenuous hike taken at a moderate pace. Elevation gain of about 2,500 feet over 5.8 miles. To register, contact Ken Corey at [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) or 802-349-

3733 to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**ART AND CREATIVE WRITING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 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. Free. Drop-in. More info: 802-388-3093.

**ROOMFUL OF TEETH AND ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Robison Hall, 72 Porter Field Rd. Grammy-winning vocal ensemble joins composer/flutist Allison Loggins-Hull for the Vermont premiere of "Friction." Tickets \$30/20/10/5. Info: [tinyurl.com/TeethSing](http://tinyurl.com/TeethSing).

## THURSDAY, NOV. 6

**"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE WORLD WHERE YOU USED TO BE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 6, 4:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Room 125, 72 Porter Field Rd. Filmmaker Mariam Ghani presents her documentary on memory, mourning, and war, with lecture and Q&A. Free. Info: [tinyurl.com/HoleInTheWorld](http://tinyurl.com/HoleInTheWorld).

**POETRY NIGHT WITH MOLLY JOHNSEN & KARIN GOTTSALL IN VERGENNES.** Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a> , 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.	
<b>Channel 1071</b> Through the Night and in-between: Public Affairs, Bulletin Board <b>Friday, October 31</b> 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Selectboard TBD 3 p.m. Democracy Now 7:30 p.m. Press Conference 10 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Saturday, November 1</b> 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 8:35 p.m. Press Conferences <b>Sunday, November 2</b> 5:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 1:30 p.m. Charles Bonnet Syndrome 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 11 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Monday, November 3</b> 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 p.m. AAUW-Finding Hope Within 9 p.m. Sharpe Takes 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ <b>Tuesday, November 4</b> 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 <b>Wednesday, November 5</b>	5 a.m. Charles Bonnet Syndrome 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Democracy Now 5 p.m. Press Conference 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Thursday, November 6</b> 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3 p.m. Democracy Now 4 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 5:15 p.m. Charles Bonnet Syndrome 8 p.m. Finding Hope Within 9:30 p.m. Eckankar <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, October 31</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. State Board of Education 12:15 p.m. Snap Shot - M.D. Usher - Climate Trauma	4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. SPOOKTACULAR <b>Saturday, November 1</b> 4:15 a.m. Climate Trauma 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 8 a.m. State Board of Education 1:45 p.m. FMP Eddy Lecture 3 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night <b>Sunday, November 2</b> 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Local Sports 12 p.m. State Board of Education 4 p.m. School Boards 9 p.m. FMP Eddy Lecture <b>Monday, November 3</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 9 a.m. Chair Yoga 10:30 a.m. Hannaford Career Center 12 p.m. State Board of Education 5 p.m. Climate Trauma	6 p.m. Local Sports <b>Tuesday, November 4</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Yoga for Kids & 4:30 p.m. Yoga for Everyone 8 p.m. AAUW Presentation 10 p.m. Climate Trauma <b>Wednesday, November 5</b> 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports 8:30 p.m. Festival On the Green 10 p.m. AAUW Presentation <b>Thursday, November 6</b> 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Meet the Author - Dr. Anthony Fauci	

Community Room, 258 Main St. Local poets Molly Johnsen and Karin Gottshall share new and selected work.

**TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m., Mini Ilsley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Discuss Season 1 of "The Clearing," where April Balascio uncovers her father's murderous past. Please listen to the podcast before the discussion. For participants 18+. More info at renee.ursitti@ilsleypubliclibrary.org, 802-388-4095.

**THEATER GROUP LIMITED PRESENTS "IF YOU WERE REALLY THERE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Deborah Lubar debuts her first new one-woman show in 20 years, portraying courageous, inspiring and feisty women from around the world. Filled with her trademark laughter and love, the play explores themes of community and connection. Tickets \$20-\$40.

**"LE SALAIRE DE LA PEUR" (WAGES OF FEAR) SCREENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216, Middlebury College, Bicentennial Way. Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1953 nerve-shredding thriller follows four desperate men hired to haul nitroglycerin over treacherous mountain roads to extinguish an oil fire. Free. More info at tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 7**

**"MONOCHROME: LIGHT, SHADOW, FORM, TEXTURE"**

**OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Nov. 7, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Black-and-white photography exhibition highlighting the drama of light and shadow, elegance of form and richness of texture. Photos selected by juror Jason Landry. Refreshments and mead tastings from Golden Rule Mead. On view in the gallery and online through Nov. 28. Free. Info: photoplacegallery@gmail.com, 802-989-7556, bit.ly/PPG-Monochrome2025.

**MERRY & BRIGHT HOLIDAY ART MARKET OPENING RECEPTION IN BRANDON.** Friday, Nov. 7, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Meet two new artists and explore handcrafted ornaments, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, photography, fibers and whimsical gifts by Vermont artists. Complimentary light libations. More info at 802-247-4956, brandonartistsguild.org.

**YOUNG MASTER'S TRIO: FRANÇOIS-FÉLIX ROY, MCKINLEY JAMES, AND OLIVER SCANLON IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Hailing from Quebec and Vermont, the trio blends regional traditions with original material for a sound that is both rooted and exploratory, infused with a collaborative spirit. Tickets \$20.

**THEATER GROUP LIMITED PRESENTS "IF YOU WERE REALLY THERE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage. See Nov. 6 listing.

**"SIMPLE SAGE" IN ROCHESTER.** Friday, Nov.

7, 7:30 p.m., The Theater at the Valley Hub (former Rochester High School), 222 S. Main St. A new one-act by local playwright Kate Youngdahl-Stauss about five women connected to a Granville farmhouse across two centuries. More info at wrvp.org.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 8**

**LIVE MUSIC IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Enjoy soulful originals and expressive acoustic covers from singer-songwriter Melissa D, plus local craft vendors and a raffle supporting the summer music program.

**LOOKING BACK/MOVING FORWARD: VERMONT STORIES OF LGBTQ+ CAREGIVING & COMMUNITY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Scholar Andrew Ingall, podcaster Gail Golec, Social Tinkering founder Jeanette Langston, and artist/performer Francois Clemmons highlight LGBTQ+ caregiving legacies. Part of the Vermont Humanities Fall Festival 2025. Free.

**"LA BOHÈME" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov.

8, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of The MET: Live in HD series. Franco Zeffirelli's production brings 19th-century Paris to the stage as Puccini's young friends and lovers navigate the joys and struggles of bohemian life. Tickets \$10-\$24. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-met-live-in-hd-la-boheme.

**TEDXMIDDLEBURY CONFERENCE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 1-4 p.m., Robison Hall, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Road. Student-run conference featuring TEDx talks by Molly Solomon (president, NBC Olympics), Charlie Sellars (sustainability director, Microsoft), Weiwei Wang (executive director, VT PoC Network), Caitlin Myers (Middlebury professor of economics) and Mohamed Noor (Middlebury class of 2027). Tickets at go.middlebury.edu/boxoffice.

**"SIMPLE SAGE" IN ROCHESTER.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., The Theater at the Valley Hub (former Rochester High School), 222 S. Main St. See Nov. 7 listing.

**THEATER GROUP LIMITED**

**PRESENTS "IF YOU WERE REALLY THERE" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage. See Nov. 6 listing.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 9**

**BRANDON HAS TALENT IN BRANDON.** Sunday, Nov. 9, 2-4 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Community talent showcase. SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 16



**Holiday Wreath Pre-Ordering!**

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\*Pre-order by 11/22 to guarantee availability

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**Artisan Fair**

**Saturday, November 8<sup>TH</sup> | 10AM - 2PM**

Beautiful hand-made fine art, crafts, jewelry and more – from talented local artisans!

**FREE and Open to the Public!**

Hosted by **THE RESIDENCE** at Otter Creek

**350 Lodge Rd. Middlebury, VT**



Cosmic display on Sept. 16, from Starksboro. Captured with a Nikon D750 / 30-second RAW exposures at f/2, ISO 1600.

PHOTO / SAMANTHA RIVERS, WILDFLOWERS PHOTOGRAPHY

## LOOK UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### TALE OF THREE COMETS

As of this writing, comet Lemmon (C 2025 A6) was at its closest approach to Earth. I was able to capture a picture of it on Oct. 22, a day after it

reached perigee. It has a classic comet appearance with the bright coma and long diffuse tail. Comet Lemmon may reach a visible magnitude of 2.5 to 4 and is expected to appear bright enough to be within the limit of naked eye visibility throughout November. Binoculars or a telescope with a wide field of view eyepiece will give great views. As of Oct. 22, the comet was a little more than a fist's width (~ 10 degrees) northwest of the bright star Arcturus in Boötes after sunset. Comet Lemmon will move in a southwesterly direction over the coming weeks. Be on the alert! Comets often break-up from solar heating, sport flashy tails, and brighten considerably.

Also gracing our skies is Comet SWAN (C/2025 R2), a long-period comet discovered by Vladimir Bezugly on Sept. 11, 2025. On Oct. 20 it was at the limit of naked eye visibility (about apparent magnitude 6.0 depending upon degree of light pollution and viewer's eyesight). Through a small telescope it looks like a greenish glowing ball. Comet SWAN is now on its journey out of the solar system into a highly elliptical, 654-year orbit of the sun.

The third comet is the interstellar guest 3I/ATLAS, also known as C/2025 N1. The discovery of comet ATLAS was made by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System station, thus the acronym. Following the interstellar comets 1I/Oumuamua (2017) and 2I/Borisov (2019), it is the third interstellar comet to have been discovered. Because of its high speed, it is on a path that is not gravitationally bound (hyperbolic) and will likely pass no closer than 1.8 astronomical units (1 a.u. = average Earth-Sun distance) to the Earth. It is too close to the sun to observe in November, but it reaches its closest point to Earth on Dec. 19 and will be visible for most of the month with binoculars or a telescope. Comet ATLAS is exhibiting interesting features such as a sunward tail and unusual heavy metal compound emissions.

### OTHER SKY WATCH EVENTS

Nov. 5 – Full Moon, variously known as the Beaver, Frost, and Freeze Moon rises just west of the Pleiades star cluster.

Nov. 6 to 30 – Leonid meteor shower peaks Nov. 17 with about 15 meteors/hour max rate. Locate the bright star Regulus to help find the radiant.

All month look for brilliant Venus as a morning star and the Jovian giants Jupiter and Saturn dominating the night sky. Mercury is shining brightly at -0.1 magnitude shortly after sunset in the west.

Nov. 20 – New Moon – Great time to spot Leonids.

Nov. 25 – Mercury and Venus are a bright pairing in the predawn sky.

Middlebury College and the Lois '51 and J. Harvey Watson Department of French and Francophone Studies with support from the Albertine Foundation are proud to present

# ALBERTINE CINÉMATHEQUE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

November 3-19, 2025

All community members are welcome and encouraged to attend! Films are in French with English subtitles.

Mon., November 3 | McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216 | 7:30 PM

### The Animal Kingdom

Directed by Thomas Cailley, 2023

Thu., November 6 | McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216 | 7:30 PM

### The Wages of Fear

Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1953

Tue., November 11 | Alexander Twilight Auditorium | 7:30 PM

### No Chains, No Masters

Directed by Simon Moutairou, 2024

Sat., November 15 | Alexander Twilight Auditorium | 3:00 PM

### Banel & Adama

Directed by Ramata-Toulaye Sy, 2023

Mon., November 17 | Dana Auditorium | 7:30 PM

### Orlando, My Political Biography

Directed by Paul B. Preciado, 2023

Wed., November 19 | Dana Auditorium | 7:30 PM

### Dahomey

Directed by Mati Diop, 2024



Scan QR code for more information or visit [middlebury.edu/college/academics/french/news-upcoming-events](https://middlebury.edu/college/academics/french/news-upcoming-events)

Albertine Cinémathèque is part of the French For All initiative by Villa Albertine and Albertine Foundation and is made possible by the support of the Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée (CNC)



SEE MORE PHOTOS ONLINE!  
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

# COMMUNITY DANCE EVENTS

## Movement Matters master class with Robbie Cook



Robbie Cook will lead a Movement Matters class on Nov. 5 at the Mahaney Arts Center. Free and open to all.

The monthly Movement Matters Master Class will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 4:30-6 p.m., featuring floorwork with Robbie Cook. This class pulls from various floor work modalities Cook has studied with choreographers from Europe and Latin America who weave the use of the floor into their creative work. His approach is to scaffold the class with passes across the floor that build in complexity and intensity to develop strength, coordination, fluency and personal agency to move in and out of the floor and into inversions safely, and in unexpected ways.

Logistically speaking, participants should wear long pants and shirts with sleeves, no tank tops, and possibly wear "dancer knee pads" if they have concerns moving on their knees. All

levels of experience are welcome. Held in the Dance Theater of the Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury. Free and open to all.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Robbie Cook has been professionally active in the dance communities of New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Based in Rhode Island, he has taught during the summer at the American Dance Festival (since 2012), and has also taught in various capacities at Hofstra University, Douda Seck (Dakar, Senegal), Hong Kong International School, Bates Dance Festival, Shenandoah Conservatory, Loyola Marymount University, Idyllwild Arts Academy, Chadwick International School (South Korea), Japan Contemporary Dance Network (Sapporo) with Liz Lerman

Dance Exchange, Universidad de Las Américas (Mexico), and IUGTE Conference (Austria). He is currently working as a dancer with Momar Ndiaye, and has also performed in the works of many other choreographers, including Seán Curran, James Gregg, Guanglei Hui, Teena Marie Custer, Michel Kouakou, Rosie Herrera, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Keith Thompson, Edwaard Liang, Laurel Jenkins, Cheng-Chieh Yu, Stacy Spence, Douglas Dunn, Nancy Garcia, Liz Gerring, Margaret Jenkins, Jan Erkert and Deborah Hay. Cook has an MFA in Dance from Bennington College and a BFA in Visual Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

## EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road,  
Middlebury  
For hours and info  
visit [middlebury.edu/](http://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.

### MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury  
For more info visit [middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions](http://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 Pâris's 1776 exquisite watercolor elevations of Aumont's mansion, as well as studies from his long educational sojourn in Rome and Naples. Included in the exhibition are loans from Bowdoin College, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum of Besançon. On view through Dec. 7.

### PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit  
[photoplacegallery.com](http://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](http://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 doooooowwwwnnnnnnnn` 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](http://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](mailto:elsie@addisonindependent.com)

# PUZZLES

sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

## ACROSS

- 1. El \_\_, Texas town
- 5. Rocker's tool
- 8. A lot
- 12. Traveling by ground
- 14. Spelling competition
- 15. Two-toed sloth
- 16. Small perfumed bag
- 18. "Much \_\_ about nothing"
- 19. Tough-skinned mollusk
- 20. Removes from record
- 21. It warms the planet
- 22. Leafy green
- 23. Quality of arriving favorably

- 26. Living thing
- 30. "Six of Crows" author Bardugo
- 31. Got around a rule
- 32. Resin from burned substance
- 33. Iraq seaport
- 34. Religious leaders
- 39. Fugitives are on it
- 42. Samson's influencer
- 44. Italian city
- 46. A quality of lacking interest
- 47. Predatory tropical fishes
- 49. Nobel physician Isodor
- 50. Luck
- 51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
- 56. Orthopedic

- professional group (abbr.)
- 57. One point south of due east
- 58. It follows 79
- 59. Paper currency
- 60. Anger
- 61. Spanish seaport
- 62. Sleep in a rough place
- 63. Famous museum
- 64. Selfs

## DOWN

- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. From a distance
- 3. Soul and calypso song
- 4. Expressions of delight

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13			14				15				
16						17				18			19		
20										21			22		
				23		24					25				
26	27	28	29						30						
31									32						
33											34	35	36	37	38
				39	40	41			42	43					
					44	45				46					
	47								48						
49										51		52	53	54	55
56											58				
59															
62															

			7					
		9					4	8
		8			5	6		9
			2					
		5						3
	6				9	4		
								7
5	7				2	1		6
	3	6	4					5

## 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**

- 5. Lower in esteem
- 6. Inner region of an organ
- 7. Flowers
- 8. A bog
- 9. Remove a fastening
- 10. Membranes
- 11. Enormous
- 13. One who abstains from drink
- 17. Malayan wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Rejecting all moral principles
- 26. Sino-Soviet block
- 27. Egyptian unit of weight
- 28. Wrong
- 29. Make a mistake
- 35. Indicates location
- 36. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 37. Where wrestlers compete
- 38. Timid
- 40. Disney town
- 41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 42. Male parent
- 43. Remove for good
- 44. Simple shoes
- 45. Flowers
- 47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
- 48. Not pleased
- 49. "Atlas Shrugged" author
- 52. CIA officer and writer
- 53. Hoodlum
- 54. \_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- 55. Woolen rugs

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.



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# Cookies, Creativity, & Cheer!

**Friday, November 14, 3pm-6pm**

Kick off the holidays at Sparrow! Hands-on fun for all ages, festive treats, and local art!

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# FILM SCREENINGS

## Albertine Film Festival features six French flicks that are free

Love French films? Great! The French and Francophone Studies Department at Middlebury College will host its annual "Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival" from Nov. 3-19. Spread over two weeks, six wonderful films will explore Francophone cinema's contribution to the fundamental question of what makes us human and how humans interact with their human and non-human living environments.

All films are free and open to the public. Certain films will be ticketed due to capacity. All films will start at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of Saturday, Nov. 15; that is a matinee at 3 p.m.

### FILM DETAILS

#### **Le Règne Animal (The Animal Kingdom)**

Monday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
McCardell Bicentennial Hall

In a world hit by a wave of mutations that are gradually transforming some humans into animals, François does everything he can to save his wife, who is affected by this mysterious condition. As some of the creatures disappear into a nearby forest, he embarks with Émile, their 16-year-old son, on a quest that will change their lives forever.

#### **Le salaire de la peur (Wages of Fear)**

Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216

In a squalid South American oil town, four desperate men sign on for a suicide mission to drive trucks loaded with nitroglycerin over a treacherous mountain route. As they ferry their explosive cargo to a faraway oil fire,



Six films will be screened for a French film festival on the Middlebury College Campus beginning with *Le Règne Animal* on Nov. 3. Free and open to all.

each bump and jolt tests their courage, their friendship, and their nerves. The result is one of the greatest thrillers ever committed to celluloid, a white-knuckle ride from France's legendary master of suspense, Henri-Georges Clouzot.

#### **Ni Chaines, Ni Maitres (No Chains, No Masters)**

Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Alexander Twilight Hall Auditorium

In 1759, the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean is under French colonial rule. The enslaved population working in the sugar cane plantation live in constant fear. Among them, 16-year-old Mati refuses to accept her fate. Unlike her father Massamba, who has grown disillusioned by years of oppression, Mati dreams of freedom and a life beyond the plantation. One night, desperate to flee the violence of her captors, Mati finds refuge in a remote part of the island rumored to be

SEE FEST ON PAGE 14

## College screens two films for dark days

Chilly and dark days give a great excuse to cozy up indoors and catch up on some films. The Hirschfield International Film Series will screen "Frankenstein" on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 7-9:30 p.m. in Dana Auditorium (356 College St, Middlebury); and then there will be a showing of Mariam Ghani's documentary film (15:30), "There's a Hole in the World

Where You Used to Be" the following week, Thursday, Nov. 6, from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Mahaney Arts Center (room 125). Both events are free and open to all.

### DETAILS

#### **Frankenstein**

Oscar-winning director Guillermo

SEE FILMS ON PAGE 15

## Pets In Need

### HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

#### **Virginia**

**Virginia** was found as a stray and pregnant, wandering the streets and fields of Vermont. A few weeks after being brought to Homeward Bound, she delivered 9 puppies! Virginia was a great mom, the puppies are all grown up and finding their forever homes, now it's Virginia's turn. She is a love bug once she gets to know you. A staff favorite for sure. She is looking for a home with an active family where she can get her exercise then cuddle up to take a nap. She should be the only pet in a home and we're looking for an adult-only home. Virginia will make a great family dog with plenty of love to give!



#### **Lilith**



Little **Lilith** arrived to us as a friendly outdoor cat, her caretaker saw her sweetness and potential to be a lovely house cat and brought her to us. She's quiet at first but becomes super affectionate if you give her a couple of minutes to warm up to you. Even though she is initially shy, she has an immense amount of love to give, she just needs a family to choose her!

#### **Pumpkin**

Hello, my name is **Pumpkin!** I'm very shy but once I am given the chance, I will come out of my shell. I am very affectionate and I love to play once I am comfortable! I am looking for an owner who will put in the time and effort to help me feel confident in my new home.



#### **Snickers**



Meet the handsome **Mr. Snickers!** This hunky boy has a face you can't help but love. Aside from his good looks, he is gentle and affectionate and we think he would best enjoy a lower energy household. He leans in to affection and loves to gaze out the window. If you're looking for a mellow companion, Snickers would be a good match. He has lived with other cats and dogs before.

#### **Snickerdoodle**

Prepare yourself for some serious cuteness... meet **Snickerdoodle!** This full-figured lady clocks in at 19 pounds and immeasurable levels of sweetness. At 11 years old Doodle is considered a senior, she also has a breathing issue we are currently in the process of diagnosing. Due to these two factors, we are considering her 'special needs' and her adoption fee is by donation. We will share previous medical records and Homeward Bound medical records with her adopter. You have to meet her to believe her, she has so much love to give, she just needs an understanding family to give it to. She has lived with cats and dogs previously.



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# THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY** | VERMONT REALTY GROUP  
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*This week's property is managed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. More info at vtregroup.com.*



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**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!**  
**68 COURT STREET**

MLS #5067388 | \$410,000  
4 BD | 2 BA | 1652 SF | 0.30 ACRES

Close to town and move-in ready with charm, character, and convenience! Within walking and biking distance to local schools, healthcare, grocery stores, shopping and recreational opportunities. Plenty of on-site parking or make some improvements to the existing 3-bay garage. Updated galley kitchen with stainless counters. Generous foyer, laundry room and 3/4 bath on the first level with four bedrooms and full bath on the 2nd. Hardwood floors, a ton of natural light, original woodwork. Outside, a covered front porch, rear porch with a pergola and patio, and a small fenced yard. Strategically placed native perennial plantings improve privacy.



**SUDBURY NEW PRICE!**  
**2395 BURR POND ROAD**

MLS #5062348 | **NOW \$549,000**  
4 BD | 4 BA | 3100 SF | 33.00 ACRES

C. 1817 post and beam on 33 acres with a versatile outbuilding ready to accommodate. Authenticity, charm, and history throughout the home ready for its new owners to create their own lifetime of memories!



**ORWELL NEW PRICE!**  
**289 MOUNT INDEPENDENCE RD**

MLS #5060877 | **NOW \$619,000**  
4 BD | 2 BA | 2512 SF | 10.50 ACRES

Lovely views of the lake and perfect acreage for horses or other animals. This well cared for farmhouse is set back from the road with a welcoming front porch and warm and inviting interior.



**SALISBURY NEW PRICE!**  
**130 SMEAD ROAD**

MLS #5060367 | **NOW \$624,000**  
3 BD | 2 BA | 2084 SF | 8.00 ACRES

Charming, well cared for home, with a classic wraparound porch, in-ground pool, and lovely plantings. The outbuildings create a true homestead: workshop, equipment storage, space for hobbies, or housing for animals.

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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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UNDER CONTRACT

**501 Quaker Street, Ferrisburgh**

This well maintained 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath single level home offers simplicity on a lovely country lot. Two car detached garage, with extra bay and 2 sheds offers plenty of space for vehicles and enclosed storage and the level 2-acre yard provides ample space for gardens, play and relaxation.

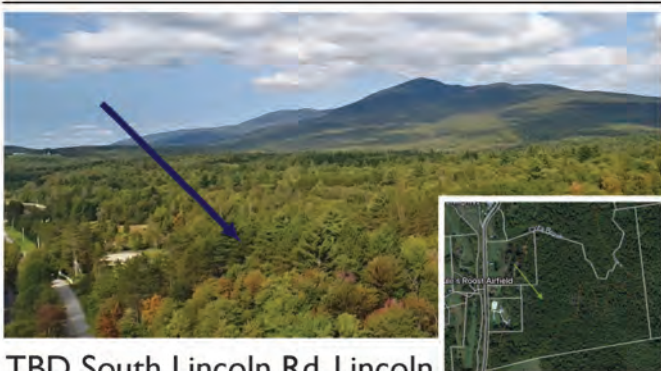
MLS No. 5065515 | \$ 420,000



**204 West River Road, Lincoln**

Tastefully restored, this 3 bedroom, 2 Bath Lincoln village cape has just undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic character through the seamless integration of modern design elements including new kitchen, baths and limestone veneer plaster walls! Come see it in person.

MLS No. 5055620 | \$ 495,000



**TBD South Lincoln Rd, Lincoln**

62.3-acre wooded parcel with western view potential and Cota Brook along its northern edge, featuring waterfalls and swimming holes. Ideal for recreation or future development. Close to the New Haven River, hiking, skiing, and a vibrant community. This special land offers natural beauty with long-term potential.

MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000

*for* more information, contact:



Tammy Petersen  
Agent/Realtor®



Jill Fraga  
Broker/Owner/Realtor®

**FEST**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

plantation owner hires the merciless slave owner Madame La Victoire and her sons to track her down. Massamba realizes the brutal consequences awaiting her daughter if she gets captured. He has no choice but to break free from his chains and embark on a perilous journey through the island's dense jungle to find her. The father and daughter's journey becomes a desperate fight for survival and a final, irreversible break from the colonial system that has defined their lives.

**Banel & Adama**

Saturday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m.

Alexander Twilight Hall Auditorium

Set against the terrestrial majesty of the Sahel, "Banel & Adama" is a tragic romance following two young lovers as they strive for independence and self-possession in the face of imperious tradition. Neither Senegal nor the rest of the world has known a love like Banel (Khady Mane) and Adama's (Mamadou Diallo), each eager to begin their adult lives away from the stifling demands of their families and community. The young couple were married by an ostensible combination of chance and duty when Adama's older brother Yero died, leaving a still-young Banel, his second wife, a too-young widow. Now, the same duty dictates that Adama accept the role of village chief. However, the fated lovers have plans that do not include the expectations of others. That is, until something in the air changes. The rains do not come, the cattle begin to die, the men leave and Banel, once lovelorn and lost in responsibility, surrenders to the call for a life lived beyond prescription. Premiering in competition at this year's Cannes Film Festival — the sole debut granted the honor — "Banel & Adama" is a lyrical odyssey that takes a hypnotic descent into mythic fabulism with the profundity of a timeless fable. Sy delivers a lesson in craft, building lush, inspired, and strong-willed characters who command perspective, seeking to carve out a future for themselves in a narrative atmosphere hauntingly alive from sand to sky.

**Orlando: ma biographie politique (Orlando: My Political Biography)**

Monday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Dana Auditorium

home to a community of runaway slaves. Her escape triggers a ruthless pursuit. The

"Come, come! I'm sick to death of this particular self. I want another." Taking Virginia Woolf's novel Orlando: A Biography as its starting point, academic virtuoso turned filmmaker Paul B. Preciado has fashioned the documentary, "Orlando: My Political Biography," as a personal essay, historical analysis, and social manifesto which premiered and took home four prizes at the 2023 Berlin Film Festival. For almost a century, Woolf's eponymous hero/heroine has inspired readers for their gender fluidity across physical and spiritual metamorphoses over a 300-year lifetime. Preciado casts a diverse cross-section of more than twenty trans and non-binary individuals in the role of Orlando as they perform interpretations of scenes from the novel, weaving into Woolf's narrative their own stories of identity and transition. Not content to simply update a seminal work, Preciado interrogates the relevance of Orlando in the continuing struggle against anti-trans ideologies and in the fight for global trans rights.

**Dahomey**

Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Dana Auditorium

This film will be ticketed to ensure capacity. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/Midd-Albertine-Dahomey](https://tinyurl.com/Midd-Albertine-Dahomey)

Winner of the coveted Golden Bear prize at the 2024 Berlinale, "Dahomey" is an immersive and astounding work of art from Mati Diop — director of the award-winning Atlantics. Delving into real perspectives on far-reaching issues surrounding appropriation, self-determination and restitution, this acclaimed documentary is a poetic look at a seldom-discussed history.

Taking place in November 2021, the film takes as its subject 26 royal treasures of the Kingdom of Dahomey, which, along with thousands of others, were plundered by French colonial troops in 1892. As these artifacts are due to leave Paris to return to their country of origin: the present-day Republic of Benin, Diop questions how they should be received in a country that has reinvented itself in their absence, using ethereal voiceover and footage of debating students at the University of Abomey-Calavi to offer multiple perspectives.

By turns invigorating and thought-provoking, Diop's latest uses compelling non-traditional storytelling techniques to powerfully bring the past into the present, offering an affecting though altogether singular conversation piece that is as spellbinding as it is essential.



www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com

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The Hirschfeld International Film Series will bring "Frankenstein" to the screen at Dana Auditorium this evening, Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. Free and open to all.

**FILMS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

del Toro adapts Mary Shelley's classic tale of Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but egotistical scientist who brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads

to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation. There will be pizza and popcorn outside Dana at 6:30 p.m.

**There's a Hole in the World Where You Used to Be**

"There's a Hole in the World Where You Used to Be," is a film about memory and mourning, war at a distance, and grief that overflows or fits poorly into the usual containers. It departs from the premise that both grief and black holes are so dense and intense that they bend space and time around their specific gravity — warping perspectives, reshaping the physical world, and throwing those caught in their orbit out of temporal sync.

Mariam Ghani will give a lecture and host a Q&A after the screening of her film. Ghani is an artist, writer, and filmmaker. Her work examines places, spaces, and moments where social, political, and cultural structures manifest in visible forms, encompassing video, sound, installation, photography, performance, text and data.



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**344 HEMLOCK LN, RIPTON**

Just 2 miles to Ripton village, this peaceful cottage offers the perfect balance of seclusion and accessibility. Features a cozy covered porch, a stocked woodshed, a gas cook stove, a privy latrine, and a loft space, ideal for sleeping or storage. Whether you're seeking a weekend escape or a seasonal sanctuary, make this cottage your off-grid oasis!

**\$189,000**

**MLS# 5055835**



**0 UPPER NOTCH RD, BRISTOL**

Escape to the tranquility of Vermont's Green Mountains with this exceptional 30-acre parcel located just outside the charming town of Bristol. Offering unmatched privacy and natural beauty, this property is ideal for building your dream retreat, investing in land, or simply enjoying the peaceful surroundings. The property features 30 acres of a rich mix of hardwoods: including maple, beech, ash, birch and more.

**\$150,000**

**MLS# 5067202**



**1083 LAKE DUNMORE RD, SALISBURY**

New 2025 contemporary style home on 2 acres in the lovely town of Salisbury, Vermont. This home is in the process of being built with three bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and one-half bath downstairs. Full appliances included. This is the perfect home for a new family or a lovely vacation home. Close to Lake Dunmore, and the Middlebury Snow Bowl. Owner Financing Options Available. A perfect place to call home!

**\$399,000**

**MLS# 5039318**



**640 ORCHARD DRIVE, BRIDPORT**

Charming 1888 3 bedroom farmhouse with Adirondack views, rolling fields, and modern updates. Enjoy original hardwood floors, an office, and spacious laundry. Outside: a stunning patio with pavilion, perennial gardens, and a spring-fed pond. The property has a history as a working farm and includes a heated 48' x 78' building with office, wash bay, and 1-bed suite. Zoned Commercial & Residential—endless possibilities!

**\$1,499,000**

**MLS# 5022374**



**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS** OCT. 30, 2025

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1	8	2	9	5	6	3	7	4
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**15 ACRES  
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MLS #5055990 ~ \$200,000**

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**CALENDAR**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

featuring music, dance, and comedy acts. Admission by donation. More info at [brandontownhall.com](http://brandontownhall.com).

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB FALL SPEAKER PROGRAM: "BRITAIN BY FOOT," IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sun, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. GMC Bread Loaf Section's Morris Earle & Lynn Luginbuhl will show slides and tell tales from their recent hikes in Britain. Refreshments served. Admission is free; all donations support the Green Mountain Club. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**HIKE: RATTLESNAKE POINT IN SALISBURY.** Monday, Nov. 10. A three-mile round trip hike to Rattlesnake Cliffs. Very steep but not scary, gain of about 1,000 feet. Great views. Dogs welcome on leash. For more information, contact Morris Earle at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**TUESDAY, NOV. 11**

**"NI CHAÎNES, NI MAITRES" (NO CHAINS, NO MASTERS) SCREENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m., Alexander Twilight Hall Auditorium, Middlebury College, 50 Franklin St. Sixteen-year-old Mati's escape from a Mauritian sugar plantation in 1759, igniting a relentless manhunt. Part of Middlebury's Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival. Free. More info at [tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege](http://tinyurl.com/FilmsAtCollege).

**MONDAY, NOV. 10**

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

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**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.



**200 BUTTERNUT RIDGE, MIDDLEBURY  
MLS #5053422 - \$485,000**

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.

**Are you a history buff? If so, you can own this wonderful piece of Vermont history.** The "Old Blacksmith Shop" in Cornwall has been a part of the Harding/Witherell families for generations. They are now ready to have the next owners take over this interesting and historical property. Located just off Route 30, the blacksmith shop is built from coursed limestone and believed to be fashioned into place in the late 1700's. There is a good deal of history in the attached documents. It is a part of the US National Register of Historical Places. There are many antique tools included within the shop. There is no doubt that many stories were traded here!



**1488 ROUTE 30, CORNWALL  
MLS #5055719 - \$49,000**

**This beautifully appointed 4-bedroom, 3-bath home offers exceptional space, comfort, and versatility for today's modern living.** Two inviting living areas and a generously sized kitchen are perfect for entertaining or everyday family life. The home features hardwood and porcelain tile floors and a large deck with beautiful views. The spacious primary bedroom boasts an updated en suite bath and ample closet space. Upstairs, you'll find a large sitting area, 3 bedrooms, a full bathroom and a unique bonus room. The finished attic offers two additional rooms, and the partially finished basement includes a kitchen and half bathroom, making it perfect for a home business, in-law suite, or rental potential. Central vacuum throughout. This home is full of possibilities!



**163 STICKNEY RD., WHITING  
MLS #5049132 - \$499,900**

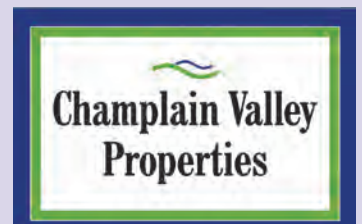
**Discover the perfect setting to build your dream home on this beautiful 22-acre parcel, offering scenic views of the Adirondack Mountains.** The lot is located in the town of Cornwall; not far from Middlebury and all the amenities the area has to offer. An approved three-bedroom, single-family wastewater permit is already in place. The land features a mix of an open meadow and a wooded section, providing both natural beauty and flexibility for your future plans. FYI It is hunting season in VT, wear bright colors.



**ROUTE 74, CORNWALL  
MLS #5065913 - \$280,000**



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# Weddings

A special section of the Addison Independent



Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025

**DANIELLE MORSE AND Calvin Hogan** were married this past winter at Tourterelle in New Haven. She first thought of having her wedding there at her Miss Vermont send-off party in 2021.

Photos by AW Photo and Design

## EIGHT LOCAL NUPTIALS

Planning a wedding can be fun, stressful, exciting, overwhelming, emotional ... all of the above. But the end result is priceless. In this section read how a handful of local couples turned their special day into a treasure.

### Taylor Cole + Mason Wood

Mason Wood and Taylor Cole of Monkton were on a family vacation in the Dominican Republic, when Mason suggested a

**romantic dinner package.**

Taylor told him, “Oh, we don’t need to do that. That’s engagement level stuff.” Well, he convinced her, and as they walked to the dinner and reminisced about the trip, Mason told Taylor, “I can think of one thing that would make it even better.” He got down on one knee and asked, “Will you marry me?”

When planning the wedding, Taylor and Mason chose the Champlain Valley Alpaca Farm/Vermont Wedding Barn in Bridport. They liked the Vermont  
(See Wood, Page 7)

Photo by From the Heart Photography



### Danielle Morse + Calvin Hogan

**When Danielle Morse and Calvin Hogan were married this past winter the back of her bouquet was wrapped in the shirt she wore on their first date; it was a memorable keepsake of a pivotal moment.**

“To say I was ecstatic that he asked me out is an understatement as I had a pretty big crush on him when we originally met,” Danielle says.

Their engagement came seven years after that first date, and it was a surprise to Danielle. Calvin proposed with his great-great-grandmother’s ring right in their home in Whiting on the night of Feb. 8, 2024.

You may remember Danielle when she was Miss Vermont in 2021. Her send-off party to Miss America was at Tourterelle restaurant in New Haven, and she told someone then that she would love to have her future wedding there; three years later it was — on Jan. 11, 2025. Her family owns a Christmas Tree farm so all of the garland and greenery was made entirely by Danielle’s mom.

The details all fell into place. For instance, Danielle had been a volunteer firefighter for

(See Morse, Page 7)



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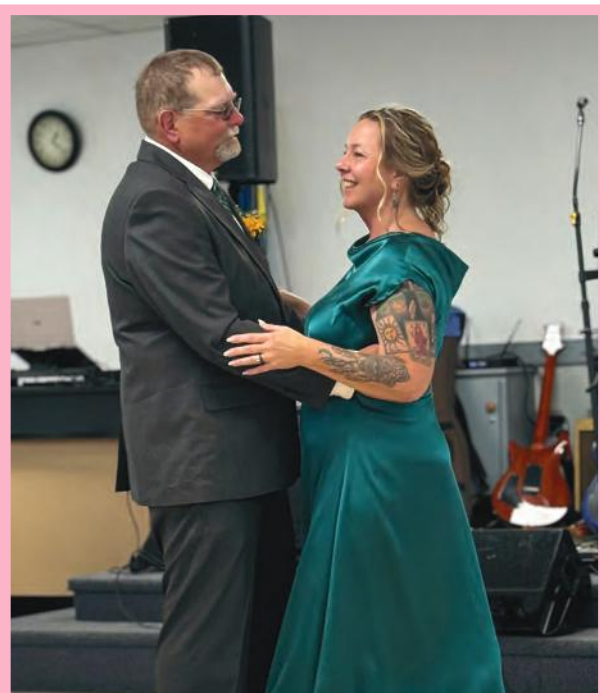
## Angela McCluskey + Brian Barrows

The first line of the personals ad that Angela McCluskey put in Seven Days said, “Yes, I have a motorcycle and, no, you can’t drive it.” Brian Barrows saw it and was intrigued by the sassy attitude and mysterious photo.

So they met face-to-face at the Addison County Fair and Field Days on demolition Derby night. Thirteen years later, when they decided to get married. Angela and Brian held their Oct. 12, 2025, wedding ceremony at Field Days, presided over by their good friend Tim Havens, who does announcing for the tractor pulls at the fair. The reception was at the American Legion in Middlebury.

Angela described wedding planning as “controlled chaos” with a goal for the celebration to be fun. For instance, they rented a photo booth and created a backdrop, which was a big hit. Best friend Amanda performed as a DJ and sung in the band Toast at the party. They borrowed a dance floor, which was a pain to put together, with Brian running out to get the extra parts — but once it was together, the dance floor was amazing!  
*(See McCluskey, Page 5)*

Photo by Mark Bouvier



## Isabella Seissen + Winston Forbes

Sometimes getting the engagement done is as much a challenge as the wedding.

Winston Forbes wanted to ask for the hand of his partner, Isabella Seissen, at a special dinner but his sister insisted on having pictures of the event, so the proposal was put on hold. A few days later, Bella’s friend Katelyn suggested taking the dogs swimming and eventually decided on Goshen dam. Bella was surprised when Katelyn didn’t know how to get there since she was the one who suggested the spot. As they were about to leave their Brandon home, Winston decided to come along. At the reservoir Bella didn’t think anything of Katelyn having her camera as she is always taking pictures. Winston tried many times to pop the question, but Bella kept moving around.

Finally Katelyn managed to keep Bella facing in one direction long enough for Winston to get on one knee, and the rest is history — captured in photos!

For their Oct. 11, 2025, wedding, they selected Buck Ridge Barns in Hinesburg. Bella says the place is absolutely beautiful inside and out, but what sold her was the  
*(See Seissen, Page 5)*

Photo by Eddie Donlin



  
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## Kati Larocque + Karl Kaufmann

On a chilly Sunday afternoon in Buffalo, N.Y., Kati Larocque and Karl Kaufmann were watching the Bills play the Cowboys at Highmark Stadium, surrounded by the electric energy of the crowd.

That's when they got engaged. "With our favorite team on the field, the moment was perfect — unforgettable, emotional, and full of love," Kati remembers.

The East Middlebury couple's nuptials took place at a more conventional, though no less meaningful place — the Vermont Wedding Barn in Bridport. They loved the

beautifully restored rustic venue with its exposed wooden beams, vintage decor, and soft fairy lights. Surrounded by rolling hills and the sweetest alpacas, it created a fun and intimate setting. "Les and Jenny's dedication to personal touches and warm hospitality made our wedding feel uniquely special," Kati says.

Kati and Karl found the wedding planning process exciting. And it wasn't just selecting and organizing the details. "Weddings are powerful celebrations of love and unity that bring families and friends together," Kati expounds.

(See Kaufmann, Page 5)



Photo by Adrianna Paige Photography



## Ariel Seiple + Nick Audet

Ariel Seiple and Nick Audet made a connection on their first date.

Neither really wanted to go to a restaurant and awkwardly sit across from each other, so instead they picked up Chinese takeout from Magic Wok, drove out to a field on Nick's family farm in Bridport, and ate in lawn chairs by a pallet fire. "We hit it off so quickly and easily," Ariel recalls.

A few years passed, and Nick planned a marriage proposal at dinner on this past Christmas Eve. But he got nervous. "He didn't even finish his dinner that night and I was convinced he just had a stomachache or didn't like my cooking," Ariel recalls. But the next morning, after he, Ariel and her son all opened presents, he popped the question. "He was so nervous," Ariel says, "It was amazing!"

Unlike most couples, Nick and Ariel had a venue where they could host a country-themed wedding with 250 guests — on Blue Spruce Farm in Bridport. Unlike every other couple, they had to transform an 80-foot-by-100-foot equipment shed into a dream come true wedding barn. The crew on the farm installed a concrete pad, lighting fixtures and fans, and they leveled the footing plus so much more. "It was really special to see the vision and transformation come together and have so many people there to celebrate it," Ariel says.

(See Audet, Page 5)



Photo by Caitlin Kelly Photography

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## McCluskey

(Continued from Page 3)

They can't pick just one favorite memory of the event — there were those people that were there for Angela and Brian who helped with set up, planning and cleanup; Angela's son Jonathan giving a toast that brought everyone to tears; and dancing with Jonathan, Angela's daughter, Caitlin, and their best friends who came from the

U.K.. Debbie and Andy. Oh the dancing!

"The most special memories I will have from our wedding are the memories of dancing with Brian to the song I had created for him," Angela reflects

"I'll always remember seeing the glow and happiness in Angela's face," Brian adds.

## Seissen

(Continued from Page 3)

owner. "Jess is one of the most amazing, kind-hearted people I know," she says. "She was hands-on the entire day of the wedding making sure I didn't have to worry about anything, and double amazing that she owns Sugar Mommas Catering and was able to make my dreams of the most amazing maple cupcakes and apple cider doughnut wall come true." That's right — rather than a regular wedding cake, Bella and Winston wanted something fun and out of the normal so they had maple cupcakes and apple cider doughnuts.

While the wall of doughnuts may have been surprising, it was not surprising the way the families rallied around the couple. "While most of his family lives close, my family is mostly out of state and to have

some members come from 6, 7, 8 hours or even California to celebrate our special day was amazing," Bella gushes. "To see them all come together for us it was amazing to see."

Both Winston and Bella are not people who like to stand in front of a large group of people so their first dance is something they will never forget. They hadn't practiced, and only knew the song. It wasn't long before they wanted friends and family to join them. "I won't ever forget both of us staring down our DJ to let him know we had both had enough only about a minute into the song."

Bella put it in perspective:

"It's your wedding day, it's about you and your partner, not anyone else."

## Kaufmann

(Continued from Page 4)

"Beyond the union of two people, they create a shared experience filled with joy and connection. During our wedding, I realized it's not just the couple who feels the love — everyone in the room becomes part of something bigger.

A highlight of the Aug. 30, 2025, wedding was the dancing. And not just the newlyweds dancing — but everybody dancing. The Kaufmanns called DJ Amanda Rock for making their wedding truly unforgettable. "She kept us dancing late into the night alongside our closest friends and family," Kati remembers. "The amazing mix of music energized everyone, and the spontaneous karaoke moments brought laughter and heartfelt memories. Music brings people together and this

made our celebration feel warm, fun, and deeply personal."

Although weddings aren't perfect, Kati cautions the nervous bride or groom that only they will see the imperfections. "The little flaws don't matter—everyone else sees joy, laughter, and love. So let go, have fun, and take a mental picture of your imperfect, beautiful moment."

One moment came to the Kaufmann's on their wedding day as the sun set and Kati and Karl ran hand in hand with the alpacas, guiding them to bed while the couple's loved ones looked on, laughing and cheering. "In that golden moment, wedding clothes and all, it felt like the perfect blend of love, joy, and a little wild magic," Kati recalls, "...just before the real party began."

## Audet

(Continued from Page 4)

The July 6, 2025, wedding day turned out to be one of the hottest and driest of the summer, with temps in the 90s. "I don't think any of us were prepared to sweat as much as we did," Ariel recalls. "Thank goodness for water and fans!" That prompts her to recommend that future wedding couples make sure there is enough water to hydrate people and shade to get out of the sun. If it rains, add in some boots and an umbrella and make the most of it.

A cherished moment on their wedding day was when Ariel and Nick saw each other for the first time at the ceremony. She rode down on her horse and dismounted

just before aisle. "Everyone was there to be with us, yet it also felt like it was just the two of us in that moment in the field," Ariel recalls.

Getting married at the Audets' home farm was very important. "We feel incredibly blessed to be able to live where we do," Ariel says. "It meant so much to be able to share with our guests the beauty of the land, the views of the Adirondacks, and what the family has worked endlessly to build.

Then a few days after the family and guests had celebrated in the incredible wedding barn, the Audets took everything down, cleared out the space and the tractors and other equipment went back in it.

## A day to remember

PHOTOS OF THE big day provide a lifetime of memories and joy. From top to bottom, these images captured the moment at the celebrations of Kennady and Willard Meyer, Taylor and Mason Wood, Ariel and Nick Audet, and Kati and Karl Kaufmann.



Photo by Hannah Natalya Photography



Photo by From the Heart Photography



Photo by Caitlin Kelly Photography



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## Kennady Roy + Willard Meyer

**Kennady Roy's family had been waiting for Willard Meyer to propose to her for years. But even with the expectation, Will made it special.**

On Christmas morning, during the couple's first holiday in their newly purchased home in Bristol, they exchanged stockings and gifts. Then Will told Kennady he had one more present waiting on the kitchen table. Under a gift-wrapped box she found a bottle of champagne, two engraved "M" champagne glasses and a ring box.

"It was the most perfect, private moment between just the two of us," Kennady recalls. "We were able to soak it all in before heading off to celebrate with our families, making the day even more meaningful."

They had a clear vision for their wedding day, and it was fun to watch all the details come together after months of planning and anticipation.

When it came time to pick a wedding dress, Kennady tried on 20 — exploring many different silhouettes. The one she ultimately chose had a hand-stitched outer layer with intricate beading. "It was an unexpected choice (See Roy/Meyer, Page 7)

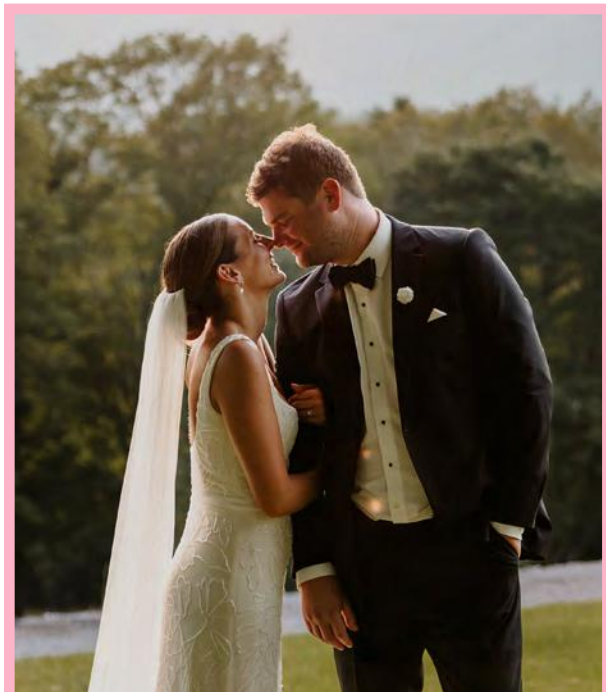
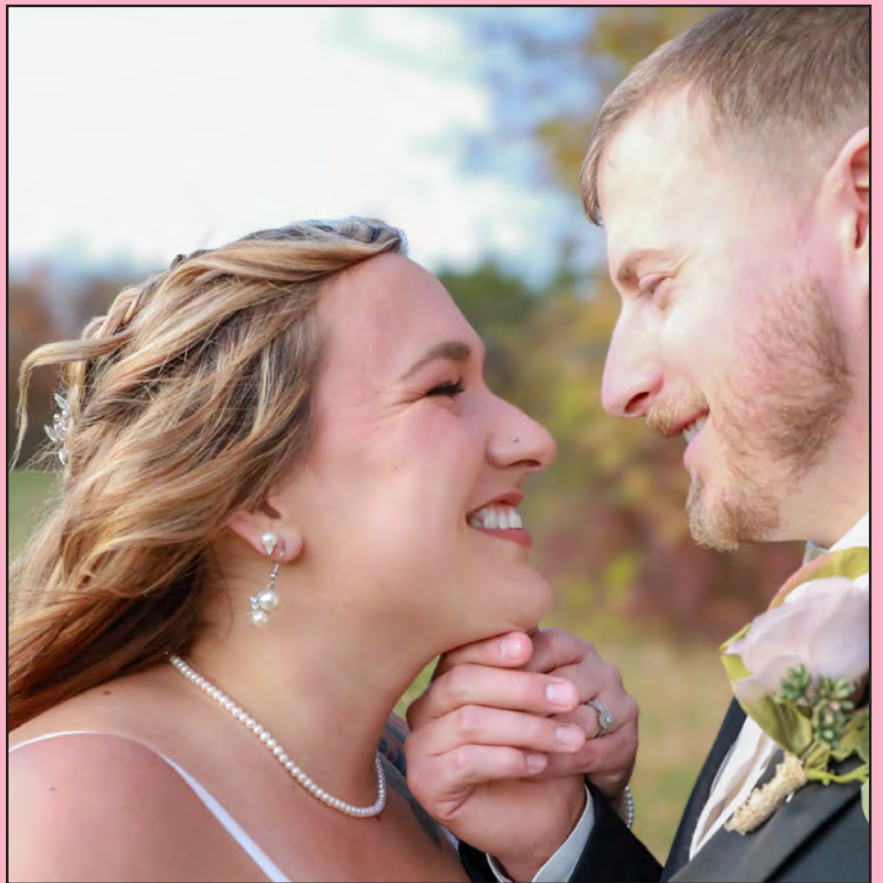


Photo by Hannah Natalya Photography



### Big day

**JENNA CLOUTIER AND Joshua Steadman** take a moment together on their wedding day, Oct. 18, 2025. After the two started dating last year they were surprised to discover that they went to Beeman Elementary the same year for kindergarten, but were in different classes. They had lived five minutes apart their whole lives and never met until they did so on Facebook. Now they share a New Haven home as well as two dogs, two cats, 28 chickens and eight ducks.

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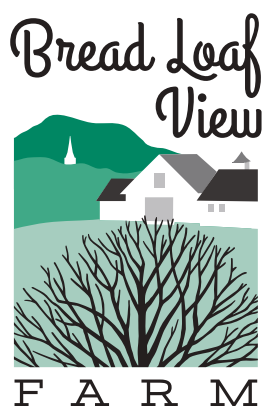
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# Wood

*(Continued from Page 1)*

atmosphere of the venue. “Nothing says we were born and raised in Vermont quite like doing an alpaca run,” Taylor says.

Emotions during the planning process ran from fun to stressful to overwhelming to exciting. They said they couldn’t have done it without the amazing support team of friends and family. A unique aspect of the wedding was hiring Big Day Paintings by Ashley Hayunga, a live event artist, who created a piece of art that not only featured the happy couple and those at the wedding, but also their golden retriever Rayne loved ones who had passed over

the years.

People are not kidding when they say that the day goes by in the blink of an eye. It surprised Taylor and Mason how fast the wedding day went by. But a standout moment comes easily to mind — sharing their vows. “We hand wrote our vows to each other and kept them from each other until the ceremony,” Taylor says. “Sharing our vows in front of everyone we loved with the alpacas in the background was a moment we will never forget.”

Which goes along with their prime piece of advice: Savor every moment.

# Roy/Meyer

*(Continued from Page 6)*

— not at all the style I had originally imagined myself wearing,” she says. But it was the right one. “Everyone who knows me well said it couldn’t have been a more perfect reflection of who I am.”

Kennady and Will were married Aug. 16, 2025, at The Wilburton in Manchester. Like many couples Will and Kennady were surprised how quickly their wedding day went by.

“It was a beautiful, joyful whirlwind that was over in a flash but filled with moments we’ll never forget,” Kennady

says.

One of those unforgettable moments is when they couple had their first look and private vows. “I’m so grateful we took that time to share something just between us, especially since the rest of the day goes by so quickly and there are so few quiet moments alone together.”

The Meyers’ advice to others planning their own nuptials is to not let the little things stress you out. “Remember, at the end of it all, you get to marry your best friend, and that’s what matters most,” Kennady says.

# Morse

*(Continued from Page 1)*

11 years and Calvin for five, so the chose to cut their wedding cake with a fireman’s axe. “Don’t worry, it was a new one,” Danielle notes.

The biggest surprise was that it actually SNOWED on their wedding day! “Of course that was our goal the entire time, but you can’t control mother nature,” Danielle confides. “My dad had shined up my 1970 Arctic Cat Panther snowmachine for me, which I said I wanted at my wedding since I was about 11, so I am so glad there was snow for that.”

The snow machine wasn’t the only special item. Danielle’s veil was the same one her grandmother who wore it at her own wedding. Also her aunt and own mom wore the same veil at their weddings. “It was so special to be the fourth woman in my family to wear it at their wedding.”

Another high point was the newlyweds’ first dance. Calvin and Danielle choreographed their own dance to “Slow Hand” by Conway Twitty. “Neither of us are dancers, but it was so fun practicing in our living room many nights and having it come to fruition the night of

our wedding,” Danielle says.

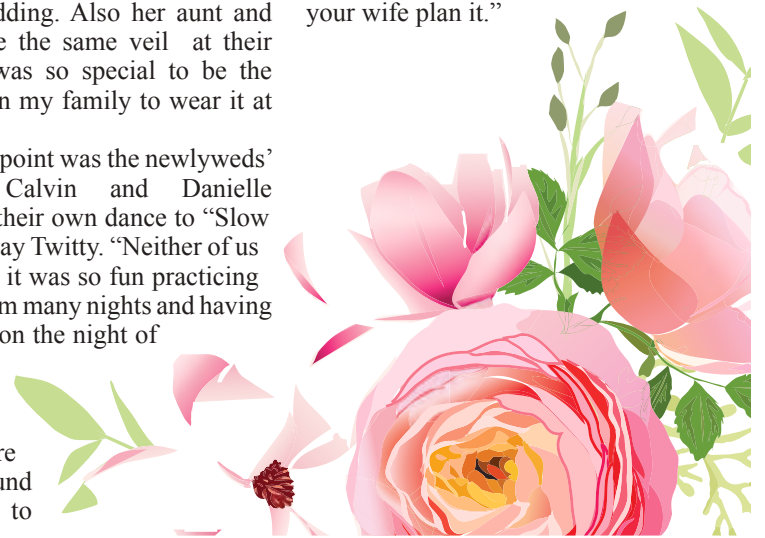
“Many of our first dates were driving around listening to

Country Gold on the radio and Conway is my favorite singer so that is how we decided that song.”

When it comes to planning the perfect wedding for you, Danielle believes that future brides and grooms shouldn’t just follow trends or what other people say to do. She and Calvin briefly considered getting married in another season because it would be easier, but at the end of the day they knew their hearts always wanted a winter wedding.

“Plan those little details that you can look back on and smile about,” Danielle sums up. “Luckily I married someone who also loves winter.”

Calvin’s advice: “Let your wife plan it.”



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