

New phase

Retired professor Jay Parini is keeping busy as a Writer in Residence. See Arts + Leisure.



State champs!

The Tiger football team ground down St. Johnsbury in the D-I final on Saturday. See Page 1B.



Best in Show

A Leicester farm's chevre won top honors at a national dairy conference. See Page 14A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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MAUSD avoiding staff cuts

Eyes other paths
to budget target

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board has narrowed in on a budget target for the upcoming fiscal year, and district officials will look to meet that target without reducing staff positions other than those absorbed through attrition.

The board on Tuesday did not discuss a total spending number that could be put before voters on Town Meeting Day.

Rather, board members discussed and then agreed to move ahead with one of three budget targets put forth at the meeting. That target reflects a \$750,000 increase in education spending for fiscal year 2027, referred to as Target 3. Superintendent Patrick Reen's presentation noted meeting that target would require making around \$1.3 million in spending reductions or the use of
(See MAUSD, Page 7A)



Evading capture

THREE MOUNT ABE ACTORS — Lila Brightman, left, Nathan Lester and Charlie Prouty — jump from the train in a rehearsal of the Bristol school's fall musical, "Anastasia." The trio play a brave young woman with a mysterious past, a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. See the singing and dancing this Thursday through Saturday. More photos on Pages 4A and 12A.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

Education reform spurs local debate

Declining enrollment
means recalibration

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Addison Central School District Superintendent Wendy Baker has spent more than 30 years stressing the importance of keeping student learning cushioned from the external, political realm of public education.

That's becoming increasingly difficult for her to do.

During a Tuesday forum about Act 73, the state's new public education reform law, Baker described some of the gathering winds of policy change that are forming in Montpelier and Washington, D.C. — winds that are poised to blow into school buildings within Addison County and beyond during the next five to 10 years.

"There's a lot more (political) dialogue (at the Statehouse) around cost cutting, than 'How are the kids (See Education reform, Page 9A)

'Speed dating' aids conservation work

By MARIN HOWELL

FERRISBURGH — Vermont landowners can play a key role in conserving the state's wildlife and their habitats.

"There are a lot of species that exist primarily on privately-owned land, especially grassland birds in Vermont," said Hyla Howe, a grassland bird biologist and coordinator of The Bobolink Project.

However, property owners can run into some challenges when it comes to implementing conservation practices on their

land, from navigating available funding and planning resources to finding the time to pursue projects amid a busy schedule.

"It helps break down all the steps to get from idea to completion."

— landowner Lyn Des Marais

A Conservation Speed Dating event held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall on Nov. 10 was aimed at helping connect local landowners with the technical service providers and other professionals able to support them in various conservation efforts. Through conversations with participating organizations, local residents got a chance
(See Conservation, Page 13A)

Major child care expansion project complete

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — One can say that Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, has epitomized the working parent's quandary.

When she joined the state Legislature in January 2023, she often came to work at the Statehouse with a briefcase under one arm and an infant in the other.

"We didn't have childcare; there were waitlists everywhere," she said. "While I was able to cobble together help, there were gaps, and many of my earliest memories as a legislator are of bouncing (my daughter Marella) gently in her carrier while listening to testimony in committee, quietly shushing her and rocking on the House floor to stay asleep."

It's a juggling act that McGill no longer faces, thanks to the Otter Creek Child Center



THREE-YEAR-OLD Aubrey Aunchman takes a break from playing to share a moment with her grandma, Laurie Jewell, during Saturday's official unveiling of the newly expanded Otter Creek Child Center. Jewell is also an OCCC educator, so she'll get to see her granddaughter often.

Independent photo/John Flowers

(OCCC), which on Saturday cut the ceremonial ribbon on its newly completed renovations and

a three-story, 12,000-square-foot addition at 150 Weybridge St. in Middlebury.

The roughly \$12 million project has allowed OCCC to ramp up staffing and add 77 much-needed childcare slots, for a new total of 139.

Among those 139 children is Marella, now three years old, who was figuratively spot-welded to mommy's side as she and scores of other community members on Saturday roamed the center's new halls and classrooms after hearing from folks who helped make the project possible.

"(Marella) runs to the (OCCC) location each morning with excitement. And I know, as a parent, what a gift that is," said McGill, who serves on the House Committee on Human Services.

A gift from many private contributors, Middlebury College, grantors and federal tax dollars.

(See Center, Page 16A)



By the way

MovieMaker Magazine just named the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival one of the "25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World." In a personal note to the festival directors, MovieMaker Editor in Chief Tim Molloy praised MNFF for its grassroots appeal: "I know how hard it can be to make sure filmmakers feel appreciated at a time of relentless change and confusion,"
(See By the way, Page 9A)



LINCOLN RESIDENT KILEY Sorrell shot this 177-pound, 8-point buck in Charlotte during Youth/Novice Weekend and reported it at Green Mountain Trails End in Bristol.

Photo courtesy of Green Mountain Trails End

Rifle season starts off slow in county

Hunters bring down trophy bucks

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — One-hundred-and-thirty-one hunters had bucks weighed at Addison County wildlife reporting stations after taking them down this past Saturday and Sunday, the opening weekend of rifle season.

That's the lowest opening weekend total in at least the past decade, where opening weekend counts have ranged from a low of 179 bucks weighed locally in 2022's opening weekend to a high of 595 in 2021. The numbers from

2023 and 2024 were 244 and 200 bucks, respectively.

Department of Fish & Wildlife Deer Project Leader Nick Fortin was unavailable for comment early this week. Late last week he told the Independent that early archery deer season results from October were slow due to plentiful feed available, meaning deer didn't have to wander to find food. But he added that, although data were not yet available that November, results had appeared
(See Rifle season, Page 10A)

Youth hunters head out on their own weekend

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Young deer hunters and newcomers to the sport took 63 animals to be weighed in Addison County on Oct. 25 and 26 during the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Youth/

Novice Deer Hunting Weekend.

The total tied 2024 for the lowest count taken to one of the seven Addison County Wildlife Reporting Stations since 2015.

In other Youth and, more recently, Youth and Novice
(See Youth hunters, Page 10A)

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Family expands walking trail in memory of loved one

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Addison County's Elizabeth "Libby" Brakeley was just 42 years old when a car crash claimed her life in February of 2002. In addition to being a devoted family person and a designer of jet engines, she was an avid hiker, skier, kayaker, runner and swimmer.

When a stunned Brakeley family had regrouped following their crushing loss, they thought about a possible tribute to Libby. Her husband, Hap, and their three sons decided to create a trail to acknowledge — and share with others — her love of the outdoors.

They got permission in 2003 to install "Libby's Trail" on the Porter Medical Center campus, where she'd been triaged and ultimately whisked away to University of Vermont Medical Center following the accident.

"I grew up in Middlebury and had a long history with (Porter) Hospital," Hap Brakeley said during a recent phone interview. "There were a few instances where they put me back together. And when I lost my wife, we wanted to create something that would maybe help some other people with their healing journeys."

With Hap's financial backing and a lot of volunteer muscle, the Brakeleys established a fairly short, scenic and peaceful trail that can be accessed at the southeast corner of the Porter Medical Center parking lot, near the Open Door Clinic. It's not far from the Eastview retirement community, but not with direct access.

The trail is a Y-shaped paved spur that leads into the woods and offers a nice view. It started out as a base of hard-packed gravel, which the family subsequently replaced with pavement to provide smoother travel for frail and/or disabled folks reliant on walkers, canes or wheelchairs.

"It was designed for patients, their family members or staff who wanted to take a jaunt in the woods on their lunch break or in between visits," explained Sam Brakeley, one of Hap and Libby's sons.



SAM BRAKELEY IS spearheading an effort to expand a Middlebury walking trail in memory of his late mom, Libby Brakeley, who lost her life in a motor vehicle accident in 2002.

Independent photo/John Flowers

"But it was hard to access from Eastview, and I don't think a lot of Eastview residents have known about it."

They're about to get to know it a lot better. Sam Brakeley has been spearheading an expansion of the trail, converting it into a roughly half-mile loop that anyone can enjoy. Hap is again financing the project, and Sam, with help, is putting it into motion.

The Brakeley family developed a connection with Eastview a few years ago. Sam's grandmother (and Hap's mom), Patricia Brakeley, spent the final year of her life at the retirement community, before passing on Aug. 1, 2024, at age 96.

"That gave us the impetus for a renewed look at Libby's Trail and try to get access for more people," Sam said.

It's a vision that called for Libby's trail to be extended, the new portion meandering through

a field behind the main Eastview building. It will include a roughly 100-foot-long, pressure-treated boardwalk through a wetland and a convenient access point for Eastview residents.

So with their blueprint mapped out, the Brakeleys approached Porter and Eastview officials late last year to gauge their interest in the Libby's Trail extension. Middlebury College owns the land in question and was also asked to sign off.

A free trail bridging two neighboring, caregiving organizations?

It wasn't a tough sell and got a speedy "Yes."

Amy Barr is Porter's director of development. She acknowledged the great benefits and convenience of the trail extension and underscored the Brakeleys' generational generosity to the county's health care hub.

"For a very long time, multiple members of the Brakeley family have supported Porter's mission through generous donations, board service and volunteer work," she said. "The expansion of Libby's Trail will allow residents, families, staff, and neighbors to enjoy a quiet space for reflection and wellness and is yet another example of the Brakeley family's commitment. We're enormously grateful."

Sam was out last week spreading stone base for his mom's recreational legacy. The trail extension will meet United States Forest Service standards for access. That means gentle slope grades, no pinch points and tightly packed stone to ensure stable footing.

"I'm just the grunt," Sam said at the worksite.

He was of course understating both his contribution and expertise; Sam builds trails for a living. He's the founder/owner of Hermit Woods Trailbuilders LLC, which since 2012 has built the Warren Town Forest trail; the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Accessible Trails Network in Quechee; and the Chapel Ledge Climbers Trail in Ashfield, Mass., just to name a few.

As he works, Sam gets to think about his mom.

"She passed when I was a teenager. It was a traumatic event for the family, obviously," Sam (See Jump, Page 6A)



Ferrisburgh welcomes draft town plan

By ANDY KIRKALDY
FERRISBURGH — After two years of effort and outreach by the nine members of the Ferrisburgh Planning Commission, including a kickoff meeting in November 2023, three other community meetings strategically held around town, a community survey, two public hearings, input solicited from other town committees, an 81-page draft of a new town plan reached the Ferrisburgh selectboard for the first of two public hearings on Nov. 4.

It went well, according to Selectboard Chair Clark Hinsdale and planning commission Clerk Jean Richardson, one of the authors of the plan, which by law is due for its mandatory eight-year overhaul.

The selectboard has scheduled a second, and likely final, public hearing for its Dec. 16 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Hinsdale told the *Independent* he expects the board to adopt the plan that evening.

Fewer than a dozen residents attended the Nov. 4 hearing, and the event turned out to be a formality: No one had questions. Essentially, officials agree that after the planners' diligent public process their product was ready to be accepted.

"One of the great things about this round of work on the town plan was how many meetings the planning commission had in different locations in town," Hinsdale said. "They got a pretty significant amount of input."

Richardson said planners received feedback in public forums, each attended by between 35 and 40 residents, in North Ferrisburgh, the central village district on Route 7 and in West Ferrisburgh. They also mailed town residents to seek feedback; spoke to the highway department workers, held two well-attended public hearings, and received 60 responses to a survey posted on Front Porch Forum.

Planners also reached out to the town's conservation commission, historical society, and Energy, Recreation, Town Center, Trails, and Town Building Maintenance committees.

"They literally edited pieces of it and sent us language with changes and recommendations," Richardson said, adding the planners worked steadily with Addison County Regional

Planning Commission. "It's amazing how many people have given input," Richardson added.

Hinsdale brought "a couple pages of comments" to one of the planners' hearings.

"They were all dealt with satisfactorily," he said.

CHANGES & SUGGESTIONS

As well as updating demographic and other descriptive data about a community, town plans lay the groundwork for changes to towns' zoning.

They are also important when towns seek grants to support public projects — government officials and nonprofits look for conformity with town plans when they evaluate proposals.

One of the most significant changes in the draft plan is the blending of the town's Industrial

and Highway Commercial zoning districts, which mostly run on and near Route 7. They would now be one Mixed Use district that could, under new zoning laws, allow residential accessory units.

"A little bit that will come up when we do zoning is that we're trying to encourage more accessory dwelling units (ADUs)," Richardson said.

"We've taken the area that was sort of an Industrial-Commercial planning area and Highway Commercial and we're kind of molding that into a more flexible area. So that when it comes down to the zoning piece we'll make it more flexible and call it all Mixed Use ...

"And that's because some of those areas, along Route 7, for example, the people that are doing business there in an Industrial area, you can't have an accessory dwelling unit or an apartment."

Similar changes in the plan that lay groundwork for ADUs also apply in the North Ferrisburgh Village and Town Center zones that include, respectively, the village along Old Hollow Road, and the Ferrisburgh Central School, town offices, homes and businesses along and near Route 7.

Another new piece is a section on Flood Resilience, a change done in part due to Old Hollow Road village residents' concern about possible Lewis Creek flooding.

Overall, the plan divides the (See Ferrisburgh, Page 6A)

"One of the great things about this round of work on the town plan was how many meetings the planning commission had in different locations in town."

— Clark Hinsdale

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JON ISHAM, PROFESSOR of economics and environmental studies at Middlebury College and director of the college’s Environmental Studies Program, was one of four faculty members to take part in a Nov. 13 colloquium on “Educating for (Climate) Change.” The event was one of several organized as part of the What Works Now conference held at the college this past weekend.

Photo by Daria Bishop Photography

College community reflects on climate work

By **MARIN HOWELL**

MIDDLEBURY — It was standing room only inside the Franklin Environmental Center this past Thursday, when members of the Middlebury College and broader community gathered for a discussion on educating students amidst the climate crisis.

The “Educating for (Climate) Change” event was the latest in the Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series and served as the kickoff event for What Works Now, a three-day conference held at the college this past weekend. The conference offered an opportunity to reflect on climate initiatives spearheaded by members of the college community over the years, as well as contemplate future action.

“On the whole, it was an incredible gathering of alumni, students, staff, faculty, and community members,” said Minna Brown, Middlebury College Climate Action Program Director and alum. “Truly a time when it felt like we came together to learn from each other and catalyze further strategic action.”

Brown was one of four participants in Thursday’s colloquium, which also featured Bill McKibben, environmentalist and Middlebury College Schumann Distinguished Scholar; Jon Isham, director of the college’s Environmental Studies Program and professor of economics and environmental studies; and Dan Suarez, C.V. Starr Fellow in International Studies and assistant professor of environmental studies.

Throughout the discussion, speakers shared takeaways from their efforts to support students in engaging in climate work in and outside of the classroom. Following their remarks, panelists answered a few questions from the audience.

Reilly Isler, a recent alum and coordinator for the Climate Action Program, asked how educators and other professionals can let students know they’re allowed to dream beyond what they see as the possibilities and limits of climate work after graduation.

“It’s...useful to remember that even if you don’t want to or end up working in this stuff, change mostly gets made by volunteers who show up as citizens,” McKibben said.

Suarez shared a similar sentiment.

“Your engagement with climate solutions, climate action, doesn’t

begin and end with what you can list on your LinkedIn profile,” he said.

Suarez recalled a former student of his who wanted to be a doctor but wrestled with the decision to pursue that profession “when all of this outrageously urgent stuff is going on.”

“And at a certain point it was just like, ‘Be a doctor,’” Suarez said. “There are so many ways that you’re embedded in all of these pressing opportunities to protect members of your community, to engage civically in all of the ways that are demanded right now.”

Brown agreed, and she noted the value in acknowledging everyone’s unique contributions to this work.

“I think that that sense of the recognition of mutual value is so important,” she said.

Throughout the discussion, speakers credited several of those who have contributed to climate action at Middlebury College and beyond over the years. Panelists pointed to the work of past students who advocated for the creation of an Environmental Justice focus within the college’s Environmental Studies program, as well as

the contributions of Franklin Environmental Center Assistant Director Janet Wiseman and Diane Munroe, assistant director for community-based learning.

As the discussion wrapped up, attendees looked ahead to other opportunities to gather throughout the weekend, such as during a SNEG Welcome Meeting that took place on Thursday evening. Ella Powers, a student and climate action fellow at the college who helped organize the conference, noted students were looking forward to meeting with and learning from alumni at the meeting.

Attendees also highlighted efforts to enable more connections between students and alumni in the future, such as through an alumni network being developed by the student-run Sunday Night Environmental Group.

“Currently we are working on an alumni network...where we want to be able to connect the alums and students in a more interpersonal way, rather than a lot of these awesome, more formal institutions that we have,” said Sophia Galuppo, an external outreach coordinator for SNEG.



First response

FIRE, EMS AND law enforcement agencies came to the A. Johnson Lumber Yard in Bristol on Monday evening to hone their skills at responding to a Mass Casualty Incident.

The simulated school bus crash included about 20 patient-actors simulating patients who have suffered traumatic injuries from a bus rollover. First responders and vehicles participated both at the simulated crash scene and as part of an incident command center that was set up at the hospital.

“This exercise is an opportunity to test our collective emergency response with organizations providing health and public safety in our community,” said Brandi Helm, associate vice president of operations at Porter Medical Center. “We are focused on testing the plans we have in place and working together to ensure we communicate and collaborate effectively and efficiently in times of crisis, when people’s lives may hang in the balance.”

Photos by Mark Bouvier Photography



Thanksgiving Hours & Deadlines

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 27th to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our November 27th edition will hit the stands on Wednesday, November 26th, and will be in mailboxes, as usual, on Friday.

The advertising deadline for the November 27th edition will be Friday, November 21st at 5pm.

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Guest Editorials

Redistricting task force deserves our gratitude

By CHERYL CHARLES

The Rural School Community Alliance (RSCA) commends the leadership and members of the Act 73 Redistricting Task Force for their principled, evidence-driven approach to the work assigned by the Vermont legislature.

On Monday, Nov. 10, the Task Force voted to send a proposal forward to the legislature that calls for voluntary, cooperative agreements that create real cost savings, protect rural schools, maintain Vermont’s quality of life, and preserve democracy at the community level. Notably, the Task Force has committed to a democratic, community-driven approach to redistricting Vermont’s schools, one that trusts local decision-making at the community level rather than imposing top-down mandates. They took a strong stand against forced mergers of existing school districts and supervisory unions and an equally strong stand in support of protecting rural elementary schools and keeping them close to the children they serve.

The Task Force also proposed a thoughtful, cost-effective framework for communities to explore larger regional and comprehensive high schools, paired where feasible with Community and Technical Education Centers. This approach is grounded in the evidence and will reduce costs while increasing opportunities for older students. Their recommendations reflect hours of deliberation, review of research and careful listening to the public.

With more than 5,000 Vermonters engaging through surveys, meetings and public comment, the overwhelming conclusion was clear: forced mergers will not reduce costs or property taxes and would have negative impacts on our communities and children. Vermonters want solutions that protect local schools and make education more affordable. The Task Force listened. Their proposal affirms that communities, working collaboratively with local school boards, are best positioned to lower costs while maintaining the quality and character of Vermont’s public education system.

Task Force members openly questioned the assumption that “simply consolidating is going to save the state money” — a concern strongly supported by the research. And much would be lost in the process. The Rural School Community Alliance supports that view. In a July 2025 position statement sent to the Task Force, the RSCA stated, “There are no clear and consistent economic benefits from creating mega-districts that dissolve local ties.” Neither per-pupil spending data nor qualitative evidence shows that school closures or consolidations reduce costs. When increased transportation costs, maintenance of empty buildings, costs for expanding infrastructure, and reduced property values are accounted for, the evidence is even clearer: consolidation does not deliver savings and therefore does not reduce property taxes. Voluntary collaboration, however, consistently does.

After reviewing this and other evidence, the Task Force concluded that the most effective path for reducing costs now and in the future is the creation of cooperative educational services districts. This shared-services model, used successfully across the United States, especially in rural states, has already begun to show results in Vermont. Seven supervisory unions and one large school district in southern Vermont have signed agreements to form such a system.

As chair of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Board, one of the cooperating districts, I can report that we are already seeing savings that will ultimately help relieve pressure on local property tax rates.

The Act 73 Redistricting Task Force recognizes that closing small schools and creating mega-school districts will not solve Vermont’s rising education costs. Instead, they are poised to ask the legislature to support strategies that actually reduce spending, and therefore cut property taxes, without destroying the character and quality of Vermont’s entire education system in the process.

On behalf of the members of the Rural School Community Alliance, representing more than 100 towns and villages, we urge the public to contact your senators and representatives and support the Task Force’s recommendation for voluntary, cooperative agreements that will deliver cost savings, protect rural schools, and preserve local control. And while you are reaching out, please thank the Task Force members for their courage, clarity and commitment to Vermont’s shared values.

Westminster resident Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., chairs the Westminster Town School District Board, the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union Board, and the Steering Committee for the Rural School Community Alliance.



Easy does it
FIRST RESPONDERS FROM around Addison County, including folks from Bristol, Vergennes, Middlebury, Cornwall, Bridport, and New Haven, among others, trained at a simulated bus crash on Monday night. Here members of different squads help move a patient actor on a body board.
Photo by Mark Bouvier Photography

Getting to the ‘central tissue’

I’ve blinked and landed on the set of a Martha’s Stewart’s Living magazine shoot, or in the operating room of a hospital. I can’t decide which my kitchen has transformed into. Red globs sputtering out of a boiling pot, vintage yellow overhead lighting, an X-shaped contraption the size of my hand resting next to an old textbook or wrinkled cookbook. Fortunately, I have one clue to set the worlds apart: my neighbor, M, leaning over a wicker basket.

“We’ve got eight lids, eight metal bands, and eight mason jars!”

We are on step one of canning: boiling the jars to sterilize. Or I suppose I should say, my step one. My neighbor, who graciously offered to teach me how to can, spent the first half of the day cooking down 10 pounds of her garden tomatoes. She arrived about an hour ago, around 2:30 p.m., with a backseat full of supplies and a tall glass of yellow liquid. She popped open her Mini Cooper’s door and said, “You alright with me drinking some hard cider?”

I laughed and nodded at the glass, its amber contents absorbing the color of the surrounding treetops. Like green tea brewed past the suggested three minutes, the only type my mom deemed acceptable. I almost asked for a sip, wondering if my imagination was strong enough to bring the familiar earthy tang to my tongue. But I tightened my lips instead and reached into the backseat for the supplies.

Back in the kitchen, I peek behind a blue plaid curtain to my backyard, a barren plot that used to be

my mom’s sanctuary. Before my mom, sister, and I initially moved out of my dad’s house when I was in preschool, my mom would fill the garden with green pea vines, mixed greens and tomatoes. The kind that look like little bulbs, bright red lights waiting to burst behind sharp teeth. But mine had barely emerged. I imagine my mom pulling open the contents of the tomatoes with her long natural nails and pouring some of the sweet juice behind my lips. My body resting against her chest in a blue sling, waiting for one more drop.

M instructs me to wash all lids and bands of the mason jars, then place them in a warm bowl of water. In the meantime, she peels open the confirmed cookbook and flips through until she lands on what I assume to be the recipe.

“Ah, yes,” she says with delight, “one tablespoon of lemon juice for each jar to preserve! I bought some good organic ones.”

After a 20-minute sterilization period, M uses the “X contraption” (a jar lifter) to retrieve a 16-ounce mason jar from the pot on the left, then deposits it on a folded kitchen towel in front of me. She instructs me to place the lemon juice at the bottom, ladle it full with the stewed tomatoes, then secure on a matching lid and metal band. After I’m done, she places the jar back in the hot water and hands me the tool.

“You try now.”

I repeat her process, slowly, so as not to drop the hot glass, and successfully return the next sealed

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

Ways of Seeing

By Jnana Breck-Arndt



Work no longer matters in U.S.

Recently, the richest person in the world was granted a salary of one trillion dollars over 10 years. Let that sink in. \$1,000,000,000,000. One person will receive ONE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS *per year for 10 years* to run a company. One person, already unimaginably wealthy, was handed more money than the total budget of the state of Vermont, not to mention that a trillion dollars is larger than most countries’ GDP.

At the same time of that announcement, tens of thousands of federal employees went to work and didn’t get paid because of the government shutdown. Millions of poor and working-class Americans didn’t receive their SNAP benefits and struggled to feed their families. And healthcare costs for working people are skyrocketing with no end in sight.

Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives, the leaders we elected to run the government, didn’t meet for over a month. The President, with no sense of irony, threw a Great Gatsby-themed party, a celebration of excess named after a story that was supposed to warn us about it.

The rich got richer. People went to work and didn’t get paid. Millions went hungry. And somehow, this



Community Forum

This week’s writer is Larry Moquin, president of the Vermont AFL-CIO and a second-generation member of the Laborers’ International Union of North America.

has become normal.

What is happening in our country?

We used to value work. We believed that if you worked hard, you’d earn enough to live with dignity. One job could support you and your family. Now, too many companies and politicians treat workers as disposable and view the economy not as a shared project, but as a game to be won by a handful of shareholders.

The results are everywhere: record corporate profits, record CEO pay, and record levels of despair among working people. The rich continue to spend, propping up our economy while millions of people look for food. When the system rewards hoarding instead of helping, and speculation instead of service, it’s no wonder faith in the American Dream is fading.

It doesn’t have to be this way. We can value labor over luxury, community over greed, and people over profits. But that means demanding more — from our government, from corporations and from ourselves.

At the Vermont AFL-CIO, we work every day to support workers throughout the state and raise up their voices. Through the power of collective

(See *Community Forum*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Mourning the loss of Lia Smith

After Class
in memory of Lia Smith

Maybe you or I would have found her.
Lying in the woods, so near
her dormitory. With miles to go...

Still being herself. Caring for us,
not wanting a friend, a stranger
out path-walking, to come upon
her.

After class. After a hard diving
practice, with her team in the pool.
Between dives, on the deck, it
could

appear she was sleeping. Pranking
us
into shaking her. Even when
it’s not what she wanted. Content

to take a few minutes off.
Not this long, this far away,
the girl-in-us wants to say.

And more to our government,
trying to tell us who we are,
what we want. Even when we
know

who we are, what we won’t live
without.
Who we can love and how.
Sitting here in this room

of remembrance. Each of us
known and unknown to her.
Her fathers. One quiet.

One speaking. His hand
on his notes. Steady and shaking.
Saying more than we will
ever know about his daughter.
The if-onlys. What Frost might
have
meant when he wrote

“My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake

The darkest evening of the year.”
And here, we want to say, the time
changed, without her. How it is

now, stepping out this afternoon
into the first snow. Whose tracks
these are and woods. Out there.

— Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Act 73 panel failed to deliver

Regarding the recent report from the Vermont School Redistricting Task Force, it can only be said that they saw the can and kicked it down the road. Basically they said let’s not do anything substantial for the next 10 years.

I would suggest that the next legislature dissolve that committee and form a new one that is committed to do what Act 73 asked them to do. Vermont school enrollment continues to decline yet school costs continue to rise. We cannot afford to wait 10 years.

Jim Peabody
Bristol

Let’s celebrate health workers

We are fortunate to have a State Health Department staffed with public health professionals who are working tirelessly to improve and protect the health of Vermonters. November 24 is Public Health Thank You Day. In these chaotic times, it’s especially important to recognize and thank our public health heroes. Here are five top reasons to be thankful for the work of public health:

1. Preventing illness before it reaches you
Public health professionals work to stop diseases before they spread. CDC estimates vaccines for diseases like influenza, measles, or whooping cough prevented over 1 million deaths in U.S. children born in recent decades.
2. Keeping your food and water safe
Public health systems monitor and protect the food you eat and

(See *Kerschner letter*, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Let’s hope the commander can’t read nuke codes

OK, we have an unorthodox Supreme Leader, which pleases a portion of the populace. Thus far, the world has survived numerous disasters, except an out-of-control, irrational, ego-driven restoration of nuclear war, which could

bring an end to life on the planet. It’s the kind of power, chaos, uncertainty, threat and distraction the Commander enjoys. Meanwhile, the actual author of “The Art of the Deal” was not impressed with the central

character. “Attention span of a three-year-old.” “Doesn’t read.” We must count on his inability to understand testing and nuclear codes.

Alec Lyall
Middlebury

Solving health insurance could cure school funding

With regard to the ongoing crisis in education and conflict regarding consolidation, I’d like to offer an alternative solution to the funding challenges. Approximately 15% of school budgets are for health benefits and insurance. What if we had a single payer health care system that would be financed by progressive taxation — everyone pays their fair share. School budgets would

suddenly be free of this ever increasing burden. Single payer health care, which every other industrialized country has, makes more sense than the crazy-quilt, profit driven system we have in the U.S. This conversation has been going on for a long time. Nothing we have tried in our private insurance based system has worked to reign in price increases.

Health care is not a commodity — it’s a necessity. Like clean air, clean water and safe food. Let’s free our schools from shouldering an outsized proportion of these costs. The wealthy should pay at least their fair share, and maybe more. Jack Mayer, MD, MPH
Middlebury

Kerschner letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
water you drink. In the U.S., nearly 1 in 6 people contract a food or waterborne illness each year. Strong food and water safety measures reduce risk of illness. 3. Responding quickly during emergencies Whether it’s a pandemic, flooding or other disaster, public health teams assist the response by sharing vital information and helping protect communities. While preparedness can’t prevent every incident, public health

planning, surveillance, and response helps save lives. 4. Protecting the air, water and environment around you Poor air quality, contaminated water, lead exposure, and disease-carrying insects all pose threats. Public health efforts that monitor and reduce these hazards mean fewer people may suffer from asthma attacks, heart disease, cancers, and other conditions. 5. Using data and science to help guide decision-makers Research, surveillance, and data

guide nearly every public health initiative. Studies show that every dollar invested in public health saves about \$14 in medical and social costs. Sally Kerschner, MSN, RN
Ferrisburgh
The writer sent this on behalf of SOS for Public Health, a group of retired and former Vermont Health Department employees who are dedicated to speaking out strongly for public health in our state.

Community Forum

(Continued from Page 4A)
bargaining and union organizing, working families in the Green Mountain State can restore hope for tomorrow. Our strength lies in our unity, whether on the picket

line, at the bargaining table, or in the halls of government, we are one movement fighting for justice for all. We are building a future where every Vermonter earns a fair wage, has a safe workplace, and

can live with dignity and security. Because if we keep rewarding the richest for taking and punishing the rest for working, we won’t just lose our paychecks. We’ll lose our soul as a country.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
jar into the pot. I continued this process for the remaining six, with M occasionally retrieving a jar for me, then saying, “Shoot, I was going to let you do it. Sorry!” Her excitement is as palpable as the sweat on my upper lip — the accumulation of the oddly 74-degree September day, the steamy kitchen and the distant memory of my mom’s acidic garden tomatoes. M tells me she misses doing canning with her four kids, all adults now, and I watch her eyes shift over to my dad’s and my fridge; baby pictures pinned to the white plastic with bits of folded tape “You were a beautiful baby,” she says. “I remember when your mom had you, we brought over meals for her and your dad.” We wait for the cans to boil again, around 40 minutes this time, to create the double seam that will preserve the tomatoes. I ask M if she thinks her kids enjoyed doing these projects with her — canning, gardening, cooking. “I don’t think so,” she replies with a small laugh. “Well, maybe a little; maybe now they miss it.” The memory hangs one-sided between us, like a few of the

fridge pictures whose tape has lost its adhesive, but I can’t help myself from answering for them. “They miss it.” I know I do. The jars get pulled for a final time and placed to cool on a greying towel. I marvel a bit at the placenta of the sweet fruit, the fleshy part — known as the central tissue which connects seeds to their nourishment — now stewed and crammed into jar-sized coffins. Or cases. Maybe it’s like those dead butterflies hanging

between two sheets of glass on people’s walls. Maybe some coffins are just clear vessels. The type that turns death, the moment that has passed, inside out. Jnana Breck-Arndt graduated from Syracuse University in 2024 with a B.A. in English and Psychology. She works as a Wellness Coach at a mental health agency and is pursuing her health and wellness coaching certification through UVM. She runs the Substack Everything Bittersweet.



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Walgreens to payback Vermonters

By ALAN J. KEAYS
VTDigger.org
Walgreens has agreed to pay \$500,000 to settle claims of overcharging at its stores in Vermont — including in one instance where an item rang at the register \$23 higher than its shelf price, the state Attorney General’s Office said last week.

“Deceptive advertising harms consumers and the marketplace, and it will not be tolerated,” Attorney General Charity Clark said in a statement announcing the agreement. Walgreens, which operates nearly 8,000 stores in the U.S., did not “contest the facts” in the settlement and cooperated with the investigation, according to the agreement. The company did not return calls for comment. The pricing discrepancies were discovered in a routine inspection by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets’ weights and measures program, according to the agreement, released Wednesday. The inspections involved visits to the stores to make sure that shelf prices of items matched the prices at the registers, according to the attorney general’s statement.

Amelia Vath, a spokesperson for the attorney general, said the “pattern of pricing inaccuracies”

uncovered during the routine checks at the stores in Vermont prompted the opening of a larger investigation to determine what was going on. Between 2018 and 2024, the statement added, the state inspectors found 416 overcharge errors, with the overcharges ranging from 4 cents to \$23 per item, with a median overage of \$1.92. The inspectors randomly selected products at the stores, from personal care and health items to groceries, according to Vath. In the case of the largest price discrepancy, the skin care product No7 Booster Serum was listed on the shelf for \$10.99 but rang up at the register for \$34.39, Vath stated in an email. The Walgreens has stores in Bristol and Middlebury, as well as in Barre, Brattleboro, Burlington, Colchester, Enosburg Falls, Essex Junction, Fair Haven, Hardwick, Manchester Center, Milton, Montpelier, Morrisville, Newport, Rutland, Shelburne, South Burlington, St. Albans, West Rutland, Williston, Wilmington and Winooski.

Vath said the parties reached a settlement before a lawsuit was filed. Investigations leading to settlements with retailers related to overcharging claims are not “terribly uncommon” in Vermont, according to Vath. In one of Vermont’s largest such cases involving price discrepancies, the state settled with Dollar General in 2017 for \$1.7 million. Under the terms of the Walgreens settlement, in addition to the \$500,000 payment, the retailer is required to submit third-party pricing audits from stores to the Attorney General’s Office for the next three years and correct any inaccuracies. Walgreens “has explained that the acquisition of Vermont Rite Aid stores and the challenges in store operations and staffing associated with the COVID-19 pandemic were the primary catalysts for Walgreens’ heightened failure rate in the year 2022,” the document stated. “Walgreens’ overcharge rates improved significantly in 2023 and 2024, decreasing each year,” the document added. Of the \$500,000 that Walgreens has agreed to pay the state, the settlement calls for \$25,000 to go to the Community Health Center of Burlington, which works to provide affordable health services to Vermonters. The remainder of the settlement money will go to the state’s general fund.



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Obituaries

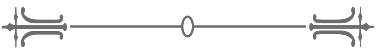
Melvin Howard Larrow, 69, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Melvin Howard Larrow, 69, passed peacefully at home on Nov. 2, 2025, after a long battle of Lewy Body Dementia with Parkinson’s. Mel was born June 16, 1956, and spent all his life in Addison County. He was born at Porter Hospital and since lived a fulfilled life of farming, hunting, fishing, and gardening. Mel is survived by his wife of the last 48 years, Priscilla “Perky” Larrow, with whom they had two kids, their daughter Karla Huizenga and son Todd Larrow. Soon after they were blessed with five grandchildren, Alex Larrow, Halle Huizenga, Emma Larrow, Owen Larrow and Jamison Huizenga, who he got to teach all his favorite hobbies and create lasting memories with. Mel also had two brothers, James “Jim” Larrow (Nancy), and Glenn



MELVIN HOWARD LARROW

Larrow (Gina), as well as twin sisters Diane Stetson, and Debbie Larrow. Mel is predeceased by his parents, Julius, Larrow, and Bertha (Comeau) Larrow. Mel spent most of his career



milking cows and driving shuttle for Almartin Volvo, but when he wasn’t working or playing outside, he was an active member of and volunteer for Ducks Unlimited. He helped receive donations and organize banquets for the program. Mel also spent several years delivering Meals on Wheels in Addison County after he retired. Calling hours and a short service will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Brown McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. A gathering will be held at the American Legion in Bristol immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Ducks Unlimited (Ducks.org) or Lewy Body Dementia Association (Lewy Body Dementia Association.org). ◇

Esther Mary Brown, 94, of Burlington, N.C.

BURLINGTON, N.C. — Esther Mary Brown (née Devlin), of Burlington, N.C., beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Nov. 12, 2025, surrounded by her family. Esther was born on July 2, 1931, in Staten Island, N.Y., daughter of James and Esther Devlin. She married Hank Brown on Oct. 29, 1955, and they moved to upstate New York in 1958, where they had six children. Esther was employed by the Little Falls Hospital for more than 30 years, ending her career as the administrative assistant to the medical staff. She was very active in the Little Falls, N.Y., community for over five decades, serving as an officer and volunteer for several organizations, including the Little Falls and Herkimer County Historical Societies, the Little Falls Hospital Guild, the Women’s Christian Association, the Foothills Council of Girl Scouts and the St. Mary’s Rosary Society. Esther was also a



ESTHER MARY BROWN

Eucharistic Minister and delivered Holy Communion to homebound parishioners. Her favorite hobbies included travel (all over the world), walking, reading, socializing with friends, and above all, doting on her grandchildren. She was an avid card player and especially enjoyed playing rummy with her children and grandchildren.

Following her retirement, she and her husband Hank lived near their children in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, and North Carolina, including four years in Middlebury near her daughter Colleen at the Residence at Otter Creek, where she made a number of good friends. She was predeceased by her son, Daniel, and her husband of 58 years, Hank. She is survived by her children Colleen Brown of Middlebury, Vt., Cathleen Muller, of Gainesville, Fla., Celeen Lawrence, of Graham, N.C., Tim Brown of Syracuse, N.Y., and Kevin Brown of Cedar Grove, N.J.; as well as 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. The family is grateful to Hospice Home in Burlington, N.C., where she spent her last days and received skillful and compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation, in Esther’s honor, to the Alzheimer’s Association or a local hospice organization. ◇

Libby’s Trail

(Continued from Page 2A) said. “This is a way to celebrate her.” The Brakeleys through the years have gotten good trail-maintenance assistance from members of the Middlebury College and Middlebury Union High School football teams. Sam’s uncle, Peter Brakeley, is a former MUHS head football coach who has put his love

and sweat into the trail. “It’s been a family affair over the years to keep it up,” Sam said of ongoing efforts to clear brush, fallen leaves and other occasional trail blemishes. Eastview residents have a window onto the project and are eager to give the trail a go. Ted Dunakin is operations director of the retirement community.

“EastView is thrilled to receive such a generous gift and resource for our community. It’s a wonderful addition to the campus and will benefit our residents and guests for years into the future,” he said. It will also ensure that Libby Brakeley’s memory will stay alive. “She was an amazing woman. She had a huge impact on the community, and it was tragic loss all the way around. She profoundly touched a lot of people’s lives,” Hap said. John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Willard R. Beecher, 77, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Willard R. Beecher, longtime resident of Starksboro, Vt., died Nov. 10, 2025, at age 77. Will was born in Somerville, N.J., Nov. 6, 1948. He moved to Vermont as a young adult, where he would go on to enjoy years of birdwatching and spending time in the Vermont outdoors. While he would always celebrate a win for the New York Yankees, he was equally likely to be celebrating a rare bird sighting. Prior to settling in Vermont, Will attended art school in Manhattan, New York, where he studied commercial art. He continued to possess artistic talent over the years and created many artworks that will remain cherished by their owners. In early adulthood Will spent time at car races, working as the pit crew for a number of events. He traveled to many destinations around the U.S. with his team to



WILLARD R. BEECHER

compete, including Daytona, Fla., for the Daytona 24-Hour Race. During a long career at PJ’s Auto Village in South Burlington, Vt., Will was beloved by his coworkers and customers alike. If a stubborn automobile problem could not be figured out, Will was known for

being able to take a quick listen or look and immediately identify even the most obscure, confounding issue with a car. His understanding of mechanics and engineering was profound. Will was known for his humor and harmless, creative pranks, which delighted those who knew him. Will is survived by his wife, Ruth Beecher; daughter, Jodie Beecher (Ian Tewksbury); and sister, Diane Farkas; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. He is predeceased by his parents, Willard and Bertha Beecher; and brother-in-law Robert Farkas. A celebration of life will be held in the spring, to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department or Addison County Home Health and Hospice. ◇

Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 2A) town into six “planning areas,” with policies and recommended actions tailored for each area. The Rural Use planning area, the town’s largest, currently includes the Rural Residential and Agricultural zones, with 2- and 5-acre minimum lot sizes, respectively. The plan recommends for those areas the town “Consider revising regulations to allow development based on density instead of minimum lot size to allow flexibility of building placement ... to protect Prime and Statewide soils,” and “Encourage shared driveways and utilities to minimize impacts to surrounding landscape.” The Lake Champlain Planning Area includes all or part of these current districts: Shoreland and Industrial districts (2-acre minimums), Rural Agricultural and Conservation (25-acre minimum). The draft plan recommendations include reviewing “Regulations ... to ensure that watersheds are protected,” and creating “design and siting standards for this area within Ferrisburgh zoning “that at a minimum, meet any requirements set by the state associated with shoreland protection.” Recommendations for the Conservation Planning Area (the Conservation zoning district) include working with regional planners on “needed flood

mitigation measures,” and asking the conservation commission to “determine what additional lands should be considered for the conservation planning area.” Recommendations for the North Ferrisburgh Village Planning Area (the North Ferrisburgh Village Zoning District) include “develop a master plan for the Village which includes both Flood Resilience planning and management, (and) creates a walkable village and provides public parking and access to the Creek.” Recommendations for The Ferrisburgh Town Center Planning Area (the Town Center zone) include zoning regulations for Route 7 businesses that “restricts scale and massing, and encourages safe access for vehicular and pedestrian circulation,” improve safety at the intersection of Little Chicago Road and Route 7, work with VTrans “to reduce traffic speeds on Route 7,” and research regulations that could “allow accommodation of higher development densities.” Recommendations for the Mixed Use Planning Area, which now includes all the current Highway and Industrial zoning districts include “consider (zoning) changes that would increase flexibility to meet changing housing and market demands, and “Allow development based on density instead of minimum lot size.”

DATA COMPILED Town plans also include updated data, some of it revealing. One draft plan chart is called “Ferrisburgh Land Cover,” and it shows how dominant the town’s agricultural sector is. Almost 60% of the surface of Ferrisburgh is devoted to farming — 39%, or 12,715 acres, is “Hay/Pasture, and 20%, or 6,716 acres, is “Cropland and other farmland.” The breakdown for the rest of Ferrisburgh is Woodland, 17%; Wetlands, 16%; Water, 2%; and Developed land and Vacant land, 6%. Maps include new ones, Richardson said. “Much of what is in here is just bringing the numbers up to date, and the maps. There’s actually a few more maps, because the state wanted us to have a few more maps about flood hazards and such,” she said. “There’s a push to have more trails, and there’s a map in there that’s new from the Trails Committee.” She admitted to being a bit surprised by the quick Nov. 4 hearing and total lack of pushback otherwise. “I didn’t know whether to be disappointed or happy,” Richardson said. “All we received were phone calls ... They were just looking for clarification. I haven’t received any fuss from anybody.”

City police keep the peace with patrols

VERGENNES — Vergennes police while working on ongoing investigations also recently continued to patrol city and nearby roads for safety between Nov. 10 and 16. They conducted 22 traffic stops, many during 10 cruiser patrols that focused on monitoring traffic. In that week, city police also conducted two foot patrols and two Vehicle identification number inspections, responded to two false alarms, processed four fingerprint requests, and: On Nov. 10: Found the door of a Main Street business unlocked after hours and quickly learned its owner was working late. On Nov. 11: Checked a report of a parent

and juvenile disagreeing at a Main Street residence, but found no issues upon arrival. Helped Vermont State Police by looking for a man who had allegedly threatened his mother with a gun the day before and might be at her home. Vergennes police did not find him. On Nov. 12: Looked into a report of a suspicious vehicle on North Street, but found it empty. Accepted a wallet found on Main Street and contacted its owner, who picked it up. Went to Ferrisburgh Central School to speak with students at the request of the principal. On Nov. 14: Responded to a one-car crash in which a vehicle went off

Vergennes
Police Log

Panton Road into the ditch. Police determined the driver was not impaired and drove the operator home as the vehicle was towed. Handled an accident in the parking lot at the Champlain Valley Christian School. On Nov. 15: Went to the intersection of Jersey Street and Panton Road, where a car had struck and killed a deer. Went to Macdonough Drive to look into a report a suspicious man in the park. Police determined there was nothing suspicious. Responded to the intersection of Main and Green streets after a report of an individual jumping in and out of traffic near the bus stop. Police said when the first officer arrived the individual fled toward South Maple Street and eluded a police search of the area. Checked a report of a woman acting in an erratic manner in the Green Street area, but she left before police arrived.

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Ripton man co-founds software co.

By MARIN HOWELL
RIPTON — Ripton resident John Garn has co-founded a company that seeks to help people better understand the world around them and work together to solve problems.

Garn is part of the team behind Maporium, a software company offering a systems mapping platform called SMAP. The software can be used to create smaps — systems maps that visually put “content in context.”

Smaps are dynamic visualization tools that capture how the various elements of a system — anything from wastewater disposal to local efforts to address climate change — are connected.

“We work in this world of information where it’s disconnected from the way we actually think, and so one of the things we’re doing is we’re offering a better way to interface with information by providing context, because that’s the way most people think,” Garn explained.

Garn’s work with Maporium has been a few decades in the making. He received a degree in environmental studies and planning from Sonoma State University in 1981. He later went on to create the Sonoma Green Business Program in 1993. The program helps businesses operate sustainably and has been replicated in other parts of the country.

Garn then worked with the winemaking community, helping author the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance’s Code of Sustainable Winegrowing, a

certification program, and later developing the Napa Green Certified Winery program.

In the late 1990s, Garn was hired as an environmental consultant for a start-up company known as Datafusion. The company developed software used to create “knowledge maps,” systems that placed data in context.

“They were taking all the disparate pieces of data and information that exist in the world, and they were creating a software that had a visual context,” Garn recalled. “You could actually see the system, and if you put the information in context, all kinds of things happen, and you can reuse it very easily.”

He pointed to the benefit of such systems. “If you think about data and information, it loses its value over time very quickly; you have to keep getting updates,” he said. “But if you and I create a system that we share and we put our information in it, it becomes knowledge, and it increases in value over time. So, it changes the whole dynamic from the information age into the knowledge creation age.”

Garn was able to use a beta (or pre-release) version of the software through his work as a consultant. “I was having just amazing successes, and so I got very excited by it,” he said. However, the company was later sold, and Garn lost access to its software. A few years ago, Garn got a call from a former coworker at Datafusion, Jean-Michel Decombe. The pair teamed

up on Maporium, where Garn serves as chief context officer, and Decombe is chief executive officer.

Decombe and Garn have been working to revitalize a software that creates the visual systems called smaps. The Maporium team uses artificial intelligence to build the systems, which users can also build, as well as transform PDFs into systems.

Garn noted that 65% of the general population is made up of visual learners and pointed to studies showing that people can understand complexity better if they have a visual system to help them.

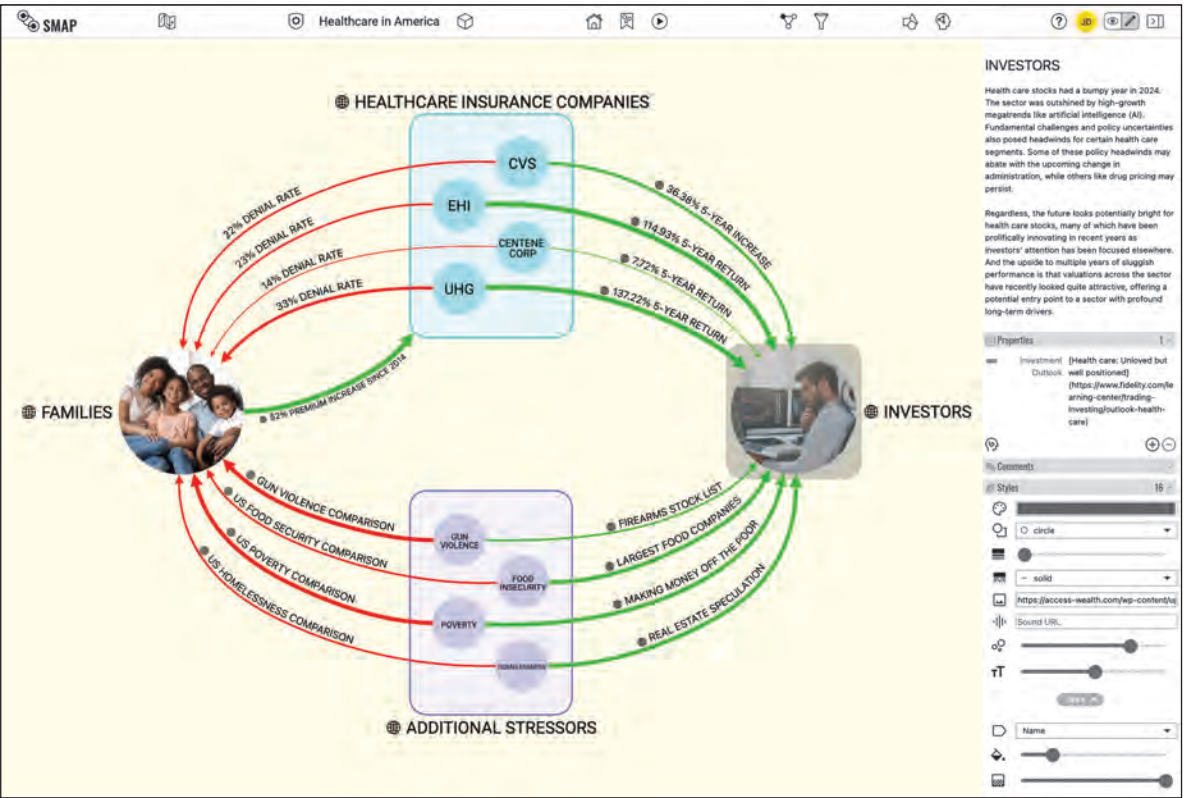
“If I give you a 100-page PDF to read, you’re going to make your own mental model of that PDF, and then if I read that same PDF I’ve got my own mental model,” Garn said. “Then when you and I get together to talk or to try to solve a problem, we don’t have any way right now to put our mental maps together and say, ‘Where do we have agreement, and where do we have disagreement?’”

Garn noted that when people are given that opportunity, it can show we have more in common than not.

“That changes the whole dynamic of our relationship and trying to solve this problem because instead of being confrontational and going ‘Ah, I disagree with everything about you.’ We see that no, that’s not true, I actually agree with you so it should be pretty easy to work this out,” he said. “Just that little shift alone is pretty amazing.”

A gallery of smaps on Maporium’s website offers a variety of examples of how these systems maps can look and the types of systems they can center around.

A smap on “UN Human Rights,” shows the ratification status for six of the United Nations human rights conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination



RIPTON RESIDENT JOHN Garn has co-founded a company that aims to help people better understand the world and work together to solve problems with systems maps — or smaps — created through the company’s software. This smap on “Healthcare in America” offers two perspectives on the American healthcare system.

Photo courtesy of Maporium

of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Arrows point from some of the UN’s original signatories to the various human rights conventions, indicating whether or not the entities have ratified them.

Users can create “bookmarks” highlighting different aspects of the smaps, for example showing solely the United States ratification status for the six human rights conventions. Clicking around a smap, users can also follow links to more information.

“The benefit of this is information in context,” Garn said of a smap.

Another smap on “Healthcare in America,” offers two perspectives on the American healthcare system, showing how costs have increased for families while profits have risen for investors.

Garn noted that Maporium has been creating templates for various uses of smaps, such as for project management or

onboarding and succession.

“When people leave an organization, that’s a huge loss,” Garn said. “If you can capture (their knowledge) then you can reuse that knowledge in the company, in the organization.”

He pointed to one of Maporium’s current pilot projects, in which Garn is mapping the system for someone who started a consulting company 35 years ago.

“He wants to have it as his succession plan, so that everybody knows what he does, where his important documents are, who his important relationships are, and then they have access to it all even when he’s not there,” Garn said.

SMAP is currently in a private beta phase, during which individuals can get a free copy of the platform and try it out. Garn noted Maporium has people using the software at Stanford University and Northeastern University, among other places.

Garn said Maporium will

release the public version of the SMAP software at the end of the year or beginning of 2026.

Moving forward, Garn said his hope is to create system maps with members of the Addison County community based on their area of expertise. For example, creating a smap for climate information with a local longtime climate activist.

“What I want to do right now is just offer free services to say, ‘OK I’m going to attend these (public) meetings and start doing my own system maps ... and just start engaging people and see where it goes,” Garn said.

Those interested in learning more about SMAP can visit <https://maporium.com>.

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
one-time funds.

Multiple board members said they’d like to try to meet that target with the use of one-time funds and savings realized through attrition rather than evaluating other potential position reductions.

“I think our teachers’ union was really clear that they want to see as few reductions in staff as possible,” board member Meredith Rossignol said.

She pointed to the work underway in the district to explore educational delivery models as part of an effort to reduce costs, while continuing to provide the educational experience the district seeks to offer students.

“I have a lot of hope that in FY’28 we will have a good, sustainable plan for our financial future, and a lot of the work that’s happening at the state level is also aimed at clearly reducing funds,” she said. “So, I personally would feel comfortable erring on the side of using more rather than less one-time funds because of the unique situation that we’re in right now with the work that we’re doing for FY’28 and the work that’s happening at the state level.”

The school board last month had directed district administration to develop three budget targets: one reflecting the \$750,000 increase in education spending, or Target 3, and the others suggesting \$1.2 million and \$1.7 million increases in education spending.

Education spending is the

difference between a district’s total spending for the fiscal year and its revenue. The \$34,894,443 budget approved by MAUSD voters for the current year reflects a total of \$28,358,585 in ed spending.

On Tuesday, Reen presented a closer look at what each of those budget targets could look like. The figures presented were based on several assumptions, including increased revenue and an anticipated 7.3% increase in health insurance premiums. The presentation also highlighted work that’s been done by district officials to date, such as reviewing each line of the budget, a close review of revenue expectations and accounting for increases in tuition to the Hannaford Career Center and in other areas.

“We’ve basically done pretty thorough scrubbing,” Reen said. “For the most part, changes from this point forward would come primarily from staffing reductions or from our facilities improvements monies, unless we were looking at making some cuts to places that would cut below what we have historically needed to spend on certain things.”

Reen’s presentation included projected tax rates for FY’27 based on each of the three budget targets. Estimated tax rate

increases ranged 8.10 to 10.32% if ed spending rose by \$750,000 and 11.66 to 13.95% if ed spending rose by \$1.7 million.

Board members favored moving ahead with Target 3.

“Speaking as a taxpayer, I look at any of the other options, and I’m looking over \$1,000 increase in my taxes every year, and we’re two retired incomes. Where does that extra \$1,000 come from?” school board member Kathi Apgar said.

According to Reen’s presentation, meeting the \$750,000 increase would require \$1,311,013 worth of one-time funds or reductions. District officials noted those one-time funds could come from a fund balance from FY’25 and the district’s Education Reserve Fund.

After deciding to continue exploring that target, board members discussed how much of the \$1.3 million would come from the use of one-time funds. Reen noted the district has the availability to have all of the

\$1.3 million come from one-time funds, though that move would have its implications.

“It’s effectively borrowing against future anticipated savings,” Reen said. “If we realize those savings then it was a smooth transition to a new reality. If we don’t realize those savings, it’s a pretty harsh way to approach a new fiscal year.”

A couple board members suggested an approach of using one-time funds to meet the budget target, while eyeing opportunities to realize savings through

“We work in this world of information where it’s disconnected from the way we actually think, and so one of the things we’re doing is we’re offering a better way to interface with information by providing context, because that’s the way most people think.”

— John Garn

“Speaking as a taxpayer, I look at any of the other options, and I’m looking over \$1,000 increase in my taxes every year, and we’re two retired incomes. Where does that extra \$1,000 come from?”

— Kathi Apgar

“For the most part, changes from this point forward would come primarily from staffing reductions or from our facilities improvements monies.”

— Patrick Reen

milestones

BIRTHS

- Ajah Tier and Nathan Billings of Ripton, Nov. 12, 2025, a son, **Owen Billings**, at Porter Medical Center. Brother to Griffin Billings and grandson of Charles Billings, Liz Walker, Stephen Tier and Deb Tier.

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OV board floats school consolidation

Residents respond to the recommendations

By IAN CURRY

LEICESTER/WHITING — Brandon-area school officials spent much of Saturday addressing local feedback and concerns regarding a proposal that would see the reconfiguration, and closure, of elementary schools in the district, including Otter Creek Academy (OCA) elementary schools in Leicester and Whiting.

Residents and local educators joined members of the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school board and administrators from the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU), the area's umbrella district, at public forums held in Whiting and Leicester.

"If we do nothing, taxes are going to go up," RNESU Superintendent Rene Sanchez told the lightly attended Leicester meeting on Saturday afternoon.

The OVUU board spent much of October exploring the future of the OCA programs in Leicester and Whiting. The most-discussed proposal, as detailed at the board's Oct. 21 meeting, would see "the closure of Whiting School with the transfer of the building to the town of Whiting; ... merging OCA K-6 (currently at Leicester Central School) with Neshobe K-6 (in Brandon); and establishing a Pre-K program at OCA (in Leicester)."

Data presented during the Oct. 21 meeting show that enrollment at OCA has declined by 38% over the last 10 years and is expected to decline a further 3% by 2030.

"We have fewer students, which means fewer dollars from the state," Sanchez said.

A timeline published in October calls for a board decision on Dec.

3, and for the new configuration to be in effect next August. However, administrators said at Saturday's meeting that an exact timeline has yet to be finalized.

According to Sanchez and OVUU board members, 65 students are projected to attend OCA's K-6 program next year. School officials calculated that sending those elementary schoolers to Neshobe instead would see an average classroom teacher-student ratio of 1:18, with the highest ratio sitting at 1:21. According to Sanchez, this is below the state's expectations and doesn't include other adults like teachers' aides and some special education staff. Neshobe would also receive the K-6 teachers from OCA in Leicester.

"We have phenomenal staff. We're constantly shifting around our support systems for our students," said Neshobe School Principal Patrick Binder at Saturday's meeting.

Following K-6 consolidation, OCA in Leicester would become a district Pre-K center, which would also be attended by children currently at Neshobe and OCA Whiting. The plan would see approximately 70 kids attending the Pre-K center in Leicester.

In late October, two staff resignations put the future of OCA's Pre-K in Whiting in question. Sanchez confirmed on Saturday that OCA Whiting's staffing issues had been resolved, and that the existing programs will continue in Whiting for now.

Leicester town officials who attended Saturday's meeting expressed their concern with the

board's consolidation plan, citing a lack of communication from school officials and the fact that the much of the plan's financial impacts remain unknown.

"Education tax rates keep going up and the communication doesn't keep pace ... (Taxpayers) want to know what's going on," said Leicester Town Clerk Julie Delphia.

Delphia said she's heard from several residents concerned by the RNESU's budget and feel that its administrative costs need to be reviewed.

"I have people struggling to pay their taxes this year, stealing from their retirement funds," Delphia said.

District and school board officials acknowledged that communication with residents and data collection about student performance need to improve.

"We are going to be very explicit about what costs are administrative and what is student-facing but centrally funded," Sanchez said.

However, Sanchez emphasized that Vermont school districts generally spend less on administration than the national average, and that a strong administration is needed to develop and regulate district-wide literacy and math curriculums that would improve student outcomes.

"I don't think we do a good job explaining what our administrators do ... There are things we can't give up as we have compliance obligations with the state and federal government, and we need oversight of our campuses," Sanchez said.

"Cutting positions at central office isn't going to cut it, it wouldn't account for even 1% of the budget," he added.

"We have fewer students, which means fewer dollars from the state."

— Superintendent Rene Sanchez

"What would make this (OCA Leicester) more robust would be having more kids here."

— teacher Brenna Kimball



FIRST- AND SECOND-GRADE teacher Brenna Kimball, left, and school board chair Laurie Bertrand discuss the future of the school after a meeting in the Leicester school building on Saturday.

Independent photo/Ian Curry

LEICESTER CONCERNS

Leicester selectboard Chair Diane Benware joined Delphia in expressing the town's concerns at the meeting. Benware said that Leicester relies on precise information about school district budgets to make decisions about the town budget and tax rates, which pay for everything from equipment and maintenance to road salt.

"When the selectboard looks at the town budget we look at everything carefully ... there's an explanation for everything," Benware said.

Leicester is in the process of updating its town plan, which considers the town's resources to forecast town development over the next eight years. A vital part of that updated town plan, Benware said, is a concrete blueprint for OCA's future; something she hopes can be provided in time for the Leicester selectboard to finalize a town plan by the end of the year.

Benware also called on school officials to consider the existing transportation issues at OCA Leicester. About 50 elementary

schoolers currently take a bus to and from school, with an additional 25 who travel by car. Town officials said under the current arrangement, town roads struggle with traffic during pick up and drop off times while school's parking lot remains too small to accommodate staff vehicles.

The selectboard chair worried that having 60 Pre-K children, all of whom would have to travel to and from school by car, would see town roads backed up "half a mile" during pick up and drop off.

In response, school officials clarified that should OCA Leicester become a district Pre-K center, 3- and 4-year-olds would attend school on different days. According to Sanchez, separating Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 would see around 30 kids at school each day.

A TEACHER PERSPECTIVE

Brenna Kimball, who teaches first and second grade at OCA in Leicester, told the *Independent* at Saturday's meeting that she hopes residents and school officials see the unique value in preserving OCA. She said OCA's small size has fostered a tight-knit community

among the children and created an environment in which teachers are especially attentive to their students' wellbeing and success.

However, Kimball acknowledged the considerable decline in enrollment the school has faced in recent years.

"What would make this (OCA Leicester) more robust would be having more kids here," she said.

Kimball, who described herself as an advocate for small schools, wants to encourage parents to do what they think is best for their children, whether that means sending them to a larger elementary school like Neshobe, or a smaller one like OCA.

Kimball told the *Independent* that boosting local parents' awareness of the intra-district transfer process could help strengthen enrollment at OCA and provide a more rewarding learning experience to children who would thrive in a smaller school.

Nonetheless, Kimball and other stakeholders present at Saturday's meeting recognize that many of the questions surrounding OCA's future have yet to be answered.

"I hope to see (OCA Leicester) stick around. I hope more parents can experience the treasure of OCA, but I understand the financial responsibility we have," Kimball said.

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Education reform

(Continued from Page 1A)
doing?” and, “What do the kids need and how do we move forward in that way?” Baker told a crowd of around 50 assembled at the forum, which was held on the Middlebury College campus and sponsored by the Middlebury Association of University Women.

At the same time, Baker said educators are contending with a Trump Administration that’s “just going to outwardly drain” the U.S. Department of Education.

“This is not an era where public schools, building community contributors and the importance of community activity, are alive and well,” she said “That’s the biggest challenge people in my position face. I’m very fortunate to be in this district, where the communities are supportive of public education. They hold us to account but are supportive and ready to partner with us.”

Vermont lawmakers have largely decried the gutting of the U.S. DOE, but a clear majority have also said Vermont needs to recalibrate its public school system due to declining enrollment and surging education costs. Act 73, signed into law this past July 1, sets out a process for paring the state’s school districts from the current 119, devising a “weighted” student funding formula, and setting a statewide education tax rate.

Act 73 also calls for statewide graduation requirements and a statewide school calendar, class size minimums, state aid for school construction, and revised criteria

for independent schools to receive public dollars.



“The (Vermont Redistricting Task Force report was created by) some of the best minds in Vermont when it comes to education ... and should be taken very seriously.”

— Rep. Peter Conlon

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, has gotten to know Act 73 very well as chair of the House Education Committee. He shared top billing with Baker at Tuesday’s forum and gave context to the driving forces that led to the crafting of the new state law.

He harkened back to Town Meeting Day 2024, when voters rejected around one-third of Vermont school budgets due to surging education tax rates. That pain, he noted, was worsened by a “perfect storm” of double-digit increases in health insurance premiums and the sunset of federal pandemic relief money.

It was costing taxpayers more money to educate fewer students.

Conlon said Vermont has seen its public-school enrollment decline by around 1,000 students per year for each of the past 40 years, to the current K-12 total of about 83,000.

“Unfortunately, that trend doesn’t seem to be stopping,” he said. “There are some predictions that we’ll be down to the 60,000-plus range in 15-20 years.”

He said the Legislature has taken steps to confront the new demographic realities by adjusting school funding formulae and

passing Act 46 — the state’s school governance consolidation law — back in 2015.

Asked if Act 46 had resulted in cost savings among school districts, Conlon said it had, though the details remain murky because districts have consistently redeployed those savings to other portions of their budget that have been lacking.

By 2024, taxpayers were registering their frustration *en masse* at the polls. In addition to defeating school budgets, Vermonters that November changed the makeup of their Vermont Legislature. They increased Republican ranks by six seats in the Senate and 17 seats in the House. Democrats continue to hold majorities in both chambers but no longer hold a super majority.

“We saw voters really react to affordability and property taxes in particular in Vermont,” he said.



“There’s a lot more (political) dialogue (at the Statehouse) around cost cutting, than ‘How are the kids doing?’”

— Superintendent Wendy Baker

Gov. Phil Scott, with more political capital, unveiled his concept for reforming the state’s education system — a bill that among other things called for paring the state’s school districts to five, which would have lobbed Addison, Franklin and Chittenden counties into a single district extending from the Canadian border to Brandon.

The Legislature opted for Act 73, which also created a Vermont School District Redistricting Task Force charged with recommending, to the General Assembly, up to three school district maps showing new boundaries and configurations. The task force last week essentially balked at the map assignment,

(See Schools, Page 13A)

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
when the human touch is often lost to concepts like automation and scale. The kindness and generosity that all of you provide to artists, at all stages of their careers, helps them feel appreciated and encouraged to keep making great films. You recharge and inspire, at the cost of your own sleep. So, thank you all for working so hard to make it look easy, and for lifting all boats.”

Judges for the “25 Coolest Film Festivals” evaluation added this about MNFF: “It runs smoothly with the locals turning out in force; it’s one of the rare gems where the talent isn’t hidden in the green room — they’re hanging out, grabbing a coffee, and easy to approach.” Congratulations MNFF, which will stage its 12th annual festival next August.

If you are a recipient of 3SquaresVT/SNAP benefits, please take notice: There are some scammers who are calling and messaging SNAP recipients, telling them their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards are “locked” and they must call a number to verify eligibility. This is a lie. The state’s 3SquaresVT/SNAP agency will never text or call people with such a message, according to Vermont officials. If someone messages or calls you with the above-mentioned request, don’t fall for it. If you’ve been victimized by the scam, please call the Vermont Economic Services Division at 1-800-479-6151. Those needing to talk to a service

provider can call 2-1-1 and ask for their local Community Action Agency. Older adults can call The Helpline at 1-800-642-5119.

How about some holiday shopping for a great cause? The annual **Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation’s online silent auction** has gone live (at tinyurl.com/ys8je7y3) and will be accepting bids until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The Bristol foundation, created in memory of the late emergency responder **Brendon Cousino**, is dedicated to raising funds to support firefighters, EMTs and their families, as well as scholarships for students entering the trades and general support to those in need. This year’s benefit auction features around 300 items, including collectibles, toys, jewelry, new name brand clothing, decor, gift certificates and gift baskets. Winning items can be picked up starting on Saturday, Nov. 29, at 9 a.m. at the Med47 Foundation’s craft fair at the New Haven Town Hall. After that, winning bidders can collect their items at the Cousinos’ residence at 3319 Route 116 South in Bristol. To donate or learn more, call 802-233-8334, email med47foundation@gmail.com, or check out facebook.com/med47foundation.

Like most Vermont communities, the town of Lincoln looks out for its own — including during the holidays. As part of its celebration of Christmas, the United Church of Lincoln distributes monetary gifts to neighbors and families

who could use additional resources to brighten their holidays. The number of gifts and the amounts distributed depend directly on contributions received from the Lincoln community. For each of the past three years, United Church was able to distribute around \$7,000 to more than 40 neighbors and families. The gifts given have included cash, Shaw’s Supermarket Gift Cards, Lincoln General Store credit, or flowers. If you wish to be part of this year’s United Church “Neighbors-to-Neighbors” giving, please send or deliver your contribution to the Church Office by Dec. 6. The address is United Church of Lincoln, 23 Quaker St., Lincoln, VT 05443. Checks should be made out to: United Church of Lincoln, with “Christmas Gifts” in the memo line. If you wish to designate your gift to go to a particular Lincoln neighbor, you may do so, but your name will not be attached to the gift. Gifts will be hand delivered during the week of Dec. 15.

For those planning to travel for Thanksgiving: Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 0.8 cents per gallon during the last week to \$3.10, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices are 1.3 cents lower than a month ago and 1.2 cents higher than a year ago. The least expensive gas was \$2.79 this week, and the most expensive was \$3.25. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.4 cents in the last week to \$3.03. That average is up 1.1 cents from a month ago and also 1.1 higher than a year ago.



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Rifle season

(Continued from Page 1A)
to be picking up.
It is possible that more hunters are using Fish & Wildlife's relatively new online reporting system, and that hunters who formerly reported at the now-shuttered Buxton's Store in Orwell are migrating to northern Rutland County weigh stations.

For whatever reasons, the numbers were also down for Fish & Wildlife's Youth/Novice Hunting Weekend this year and in 2024; see related story on this page.

Certainly some hunters brought trophy bucks to Addison County's weigh stations: Rack 'N Reel in New Haven, the West Addison and Lincoln General Stores, Jerusalem Country Store in Starksboro, Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport, C&S Hunting Supplies in East Middlebury, and Green Mountain Trails End in Bristol.

The largest buck from opening weekend was shot by Todd Hunter in Hinesburg, a 222-pounder with six antler points he took to Rack 'N Reel to be weighed.

Two hunters brought 205-pound, 8-pointers to reporting stations. Ronald Berthiaume shot his 205-pound, 8-pointer in Salisbury, and took it to Rack 'N Reel.

Wilder Galipeau shot his big

buck of the same dimensions in Shelburne, and reported it at the West Addison General Store.

Ariel Audet shot a 202-pound, 6-pointer in Waltham, and took it to Backwoods Gun & Tackle to be weighed.

Two more hunters brought down 190-pounders. David Yandow shot an 8-pointer in New Haven and reported it at Green Mountain Trails End, and Corey Shepard shot a 6-pointer in Starksboro and had it weighed at Rack 'Reel.

The full list of hunters who were successful in the first two days of rifle season is as follows. They are listed by name, town of kill, and bucks' pounds and antler points.

WEST ADDISON GENERAL STORE

Cyrus Devine, Weybridge, 140 pounds-4 points; Wilder Devine, Weybridge, 160-6; Raymond Cousineau, Addison, 149-7; Juan De La Cruz, Panton, 125-4; Logan Lecompte, Panton, 150-3; Charles Bourgeois, Shoreham, 155-6; Wilder Galipeau, Shelburne, 205-8; Gary Grant, Bridport, 122-4; and Russell Bishop, Shoreham, 155-8.

JERUSALEM COUNTRY STORE

Edward Duval, Starksboro, 142-7; John Miles, Starksboro, 172-5; Robert Lavallee, Huntington, 171-

4; Nolan Whitcomb, Starksboro, 115-4; Lay Lay, Richmond, 157-6; Robert Durand, Starksboro, 101-4; John Chamberlain, Lincoln, 125-4; Matthew Brace, Huntington, 139-8; and Steven Utter, Bolton, 166-6.

Also, Jacob Smeriglio, Huntington, 162-8; Clinton Alger, Huntington, 88-3; Jonathan Prack, Richmond, 145-5; Corey Shepard, Starksboro, 181-6; Scott Poland, Huntington, 110-2; Roland Haskins, Huntington, 122-4; and John Chamberlain, Lincoln, 172-8.

C & S HUNTING SUPPLIES

Hunter Warner, Middlebury, 128-6; Cody Warner, Middlebury, 182-6; Richard Billings, Middlebury, 136-4; Raymond Gale, Salisbury, 112-3.

GREEN MT. TRAILS END

Levi Hubbell, Middlebury, 115-5; Timothy Bouvier, Waltham, 120-3; David Yandow, New Haven, 190-8; Peter Deloin, Monkton, 129-4; Dylan Hill-Quintin, Shoreham, 126-5; Ryan Fraser, Shoreham, 161-3; and Kiley Sorrell, Charlotte, 168-7.

RACK 'N REEL

Marc Aube, Williston, 127-8; Todd Badger, Monkton, 106-5; Gabriella Kilbourn, Ferrisburgh, 124-4; Timothy Brown, Hinesburg, 157-8; Alayne LaFountain, Starksboro, 150-6; Ronald Berthiaume, Salisbury, 205-8; Brendon Huestis, Bridport, 168-8; Marc LaRoche, Shoreham, 170-9; Christopher Hansen, Monkton, 154-10; and Matthew Richardson, Ferrisburgh, 145-6.

Also, Alivia Germain, Panton, 140-4; Dalton Smith, Starksboro, 121-4; Brendin Roberts, Addison, 112-5; Jordan Euber, New Haven, 188-6; Todd Hunter, Hinesburg, 222-6; Ben James, Weybridge, 133-5; Reilly LaBerge, Waltham, 138-6; Jacob Hoag, Monkton, 164-6; Mark Whitcomb, Starksboro, 110-6; and Tyler Cousino, Weybridge, 154-8.

Also, Gerry Lafreniere, Starksboro, 157-6; Gage Lalumiere, Starksboro, 157-6; James Bahrenburg, Ferrisburgh, 146-4; Katha Bolduc, Addison, 134-3; Carroll Griggs, Bristol, 186-6; Ryan Thomas-Danyow, Ferrisburgh, 165-6; Travis Whitcomb, Bristol, 175-7; Bryan Curtis, Hinesburg, 150-4; Michael Jewell, New Haven, 123-3; and Terry Aldrich, Cornwall, 134-5.

Also, Larry Marcelle, Bristol, 138-4; Lyle Gallison, Ferrisburgh, 170-5; Anthony Porter, Starksboro, 138-10; Reed Shepard, Monkton, 136-7; Corey Shepard, Starksboro, 190-6; Timothy Fisher, Starksboro, 116-2; Mason Livingston, New



ARIEL AUDET BROUGHT down this 202-pound 6-point buck in Waltham. It was one of the four largest deer weighed in Addison County during opening weekend of rifle season.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

Haven, 168-8; George Torrey, Ferrisburgh, 167-5; Nolan Quenneville, Hubbardton, 133-6; and Bryn White, Monkton, 141-5.

Also, Guy Magnano, New Haven, 127-8; Stanley Bigelow, New Haven, 164-8; Wyatt Lossman, Bristol, 88-0; Kameron

Brooks, Addison, 140-4; Sean Hamel, Bristol, 95-4; Michael Hinsdale, Ferrisburgh, 155-7; (See County, Page 11A)



JEREMY MARKWELL SHOT this 146-pound, 6-point buck in Cornwall during opening weekend of rifle season.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

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Youth hunters

(Continued from Page 1A)
weekends since 2015 Addison County totals have ranged from a low of 89 to a high of 142.

The advent of online reporting and the closing of Buxton's Store in Orwell are factors in the lower numbers, but it appears that fewer hunters are taking to the county's woods and fields during the weekend, according to weigh station operators.

Fish & Wildlife Deer Project Leader Nick Fortin also told the

Independent October was a tough month for hunters statewide. He said due to plentiful feed that month deer were often hunkered down and not moving as much as often as might be typical.

Still, young hunters brought down a few trophy deer.

Most notably Natalie Davis took down a 225-pound buck with an 8-point rack in Shoreham and had it weighed at Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport.

The runner-up for biggest deer

shot by a county resident was a 177-pound-8-point buck Lincoln's Kiley Sorrell brought down in Charlotte and reported in Bristol at Green Mountain Trails End.

The rack with most points belonged to a 142-pound, 9-point buck shot by Wilson Brennan in Monkton and weighed in at Rack 'N Reel in New Haven.

The following hunters found success during Youth/Novice Weekend and reported their deer at an Addison County weigh

station, C&S Shooting Sports in East Middlebury, Lincoln General Store, West Addison General Store, and Jerusalem Country Store in Starksboro as well as those mentioned above.

They are listed by name of hunter, town of kill, pounds and points if bucks, and pounds if does or fawns.

GREEN MT. TRAILS END

Jennifer White, New Haven, doe 124 pounds; Corey Farnsworth, (See Trails End, Page 11A)

Be sure to check out the

2025 Holiday Guide

in next week's edition of the

Addison Independent

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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County

(Continued from Page 10A)
Jarrod Brutkowski, Brandon, 89-0; Liana Wilks-Dupoise, Ripton, 121-7; Jeffery Hayes, Salisbury, 157-5; and Eli Cyr Panton, 153-5.

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE
Steve Bissonette, Huntington, 148-4; Emily Lowell, Starksboro, 100-2; Grady Brokaw, Lincoln, 171-9; Donna Baker-Whitcomb, Starksboro, 89-2; Brian Donnelly, Lincoln, 134-7; Ron Pentkowski, Ferrisburgh, 148-6; Ty Combs, Lincoln, 121-4; Jeffrey Masterson, Lincoln, 148-5; Ben Freund, New Haven, 142-9; and Edward Lafayette, Lincoln, 143-4.

Also, Judy Atkins, Lincoln, 93-2. Jeremy Francis, Starksboro, 143-5; Samuel Weaver, Lincoln, 95-2; Colby Trudeau, Lincoln, 150-7; and Adam Thomas, Lincoln 121-5.

BACKWOODS GUNS & TACKLE
Ariel Audet, Waltham, 202-6; John Cyr, Bridport, 186-8; Timothy Clark, Cornwall, 182-8; Kimberlee Gero, Shoreham, 180-5; Paul Tewksbury, Cornwall, 169-7; Scott Stanley, Shoreham, 162-4; Scott Douglass, Shoreham, 155-8; Daniel Gaiotti, Salisbury, 154-8; Jonathan Hescoc, Shoreham, 153-4; and Craig Hanson, Shoreham, 148-6.

Also, Kelly Torry, Salisbury,



PAUL TEWKSBURY LOOKS proud of this 169-pound, 4-point buck he shot in Cornwall during opening weekend of rifle season.
Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

148-4; Jeremy Markwell, Cornwall, 146-6; Steven Rheame, Middlebury, 145-4; Brandon Valente, Bridport, 145-7; Darren Ouellette, Shoreham, 144-6; Brian Novak, Cornwall, 144-6; Samuel DeVries, Addison, 142-6; Peter Fuller, Middlebury, 141-7; Darcy Trudeau, Salisbury, 136-5; and James Gorton, Middlebury, 134-7.

Carter Leggett, Bridport, 130-6;

Gary Washburn, Benson, 127-3; Robert Jennings, Monkton, 127-4; Jeremiah Kirby, Orwell, 125-8; James McEvilla, Shoreham, 124-4; Gregory McKenney, Bridport, 121-7; Ryan McLean, Bridport, 118-3; Joshua Ramon, Cornwall, 110-5; Tessa Whittemore, Shoreham, 110-4; Shania Atwood, Addison, 108-4; and Jared Provoncha, Middlebury, 99-2.

Trails End

(Continued from Page 10A)
Charlotte, buck 111 pounds-1 point; Kiley Sorrell, Charlotte, buck 177-8; Levi McGuire, New Haven, buck 126-2; Jayden Genest, New Haven, buck 122-2; Chase Myers, Lincoln, buck 116-3; Alexis Freegard, New Haven, doe 100; Cole Meader, Starksboro, buck 109-2; Fischer Pelland, Monkton, male 76; Wyatt Parks, New Haven, male 71; and Abraham Sherman, Bridport, female 54.

RACK 'N REEL
Cooper Reed, Addison, buck 112-2; Ava Butterfield, New Haven, doe 115; Greyson VanderWey, New Haven, buck 115-4; Connor Wimett, Salisbury, doe 98; Camden Fox, Hinesburg, male 107; Wilson Brennan, Monkton, buck 142-9; Cason Gallison, Shoreham, male 56; Emil Feiker, Ripton, doe 126; Beau Bourgeois, Cornwall, doe 136; Callie Rule, Monkton, buck 105-2; Madison English, Brandon, buck 109-4; and Matthew Morgan, Starksboro, doe 110.

Also, Oliver Greene, Charlotte,

doe 115; Ryan Laberge, Charlotte, doe 105; Joel Fifield, Cornwall, buck 121-4; Celia Barnes, Cornwall, buck 107-1; Eden Flynn, Waltham, doe 136; Dayton Needham, New Haven, buck 139-2; Zackerry Gaboriault, Richmond, doe 112; Hunter Tribou, Addison, male 66; Jamison Fisk, Middlebury, doe 115; Logan Davis, Starksboro, male 67; Shealyn Zeno, New Haven, doe 124; Ellie Flynn, New Haven, buck 102-3; and Owen Ashley-Selleck, Waltham, buck 126-2.

BACKWOODS GUNS & TACKLE
Natalie Davis, Shoreham, buck 225-8; Weston Gaoitti, Salisbury, buck 161-8; Cooper Butler, Cornwall, buck 160-8; Andrew Trudo, Addison, buck 143-4; Tyler Tatro, Cornwall, buck 130-3; Colten Butler, Shoreham, buck 121-2; Camille Plouffe, Bridport, buck 120-5; and Ashlynn Ketcham, Shoreham, doe 119.

Also, Eli Larocque, Shoreham, doe 114; Brett Wood, Shoreham, doe 113; Nathan Abbott,

Shoreham, doe 112; Ryder Rule, Cornwall, buck 110-2; Savannah Whitney, Addison, doe 107; Tessa Whittemore, Shoreham, buck 106-2; Bryce Wood, Shoreham, doe 105; Kohlton Flemings, Bristol, doe 101; and Case Pope, Bridport, doe 94.

W. ADDISON GENERAL STORE
Wesley Filion, Addison, doe 120; and Blake Filion, Addison, doe 90.

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE
Lukas Alger doe 104, and Avah Jones buck 125-4.

Note: Towns of kill not available.

JERUSALEM COUNTRY STORE
Lucas Estey, Waltham, buck 102-2; Dristin Haselton, Huntington, buck 118-3; Ryan Weaver, Huntington, fawn 50; Wilder Wheelock, Starksboro, buck 149-7; Ethan Weaver, Huntington, doe 109.

C & S HUNTING SUPPLIES
Erik Bruning, Middlebury, doe 129.

Two cited for having cocaine

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Jeffrey Betts, 52, of Rutland and Joseph Smith, 59, of Bristol for possession of cocaine, following a traffic stop on Route 7 South on Nov. 13.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Investigated a report of “suspicious activity” and retail theft at a Washington Street business on Nov. 10. Police said the case is under investigation.
- Responded to a report of a rock being thrown through a window at the National Bank of Middlebury’s Main Street branch on Nov. 10.
- Took, into protective custody, a drunken person who had allegedly caused disturbances at businesses on Route 7 and East Main Street on Nov. 10. Police said the person was taken to the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility due to his level of intoxication.
- Cited Timothy E. Edwards Jr., 37, of Ripton for aggravated disorderly conduct, following an alleged incident in the Route 7 South area on Nov. 10.
- Responded to a “juvenile issue” at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Nov. 10.
- Took in two firearms to be destroyed on Nov. 10.
- Assisted a local resident with a credit card fraud complaint on Nov. 10.
- Investigated a report of a potential drunken driver on Case Street on Nov. 11. Police found the driver, who wasn’t impaired.
- Helped a driver get into their locked vehicle on Nov. 11.
- Loaned the department’s K-9 Guinness to Vermont State Police on Nov. 11 to sniff a vehicle they had stopped on Route 7. Police said Guinness alerted on the vehicle as potentially containing illegal drugs.
- Cited Matthew S. Rich, 25, of Middlebury for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop at the intersection of Route 7 South and Boardman Street on Nov. 11. Police said they measured Rich’s

Middlebury Police Log

- blood-alcohol content at 0.88%, the legal limit for driving is 0.8.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity in the Maple Street area on Nov. 11.
- Served no-trespass orders on multiple people on behalf of Shaw’s Supermarket on Nov. 11.
- Investigated a trespassing complaint on Merchants Row on Nov. 11.
- Assisted a person having a mental health episode on Amory Lane on Nov. 11.
- Searched in vain for a person who had reportedly been walking and yelling in the middle of North Pleasant Street on Nov. 12.
- Assisted a driver whose vehicle had broken down on Pulp Mill Bridge Road on Nov. 12.
- Responded to a report of someone potentially overdosing at the South Village Green housing complex on Nov. 12. Police said the person was taken to Porter Hospital for treatment.
- Assisted with a custody dispute at a Jackson Lane residence on Nov. 12.
- Checked on the welfare of a Creek Road resident on Nov. 12.
- Responded to a report of someone walking in the middle of North Pleasant Street on Nov. 12.
- Served a no-trespass order on Nov. 12 on a person who was unwanted at an Elm Street business.
- Euthanized a deer that had been struck and badly injured by a vehicle on Route 30 on Nov. 12.
- Assisted with a custody dispute at a Jackson Lane residence on Nov. 13.
- Performed a welfare check at a Jayne Court residence on Nov. 13.
- Investigated a suspicious activity complaint in the Pond Lane area on Nov. 13.
- Conducted a welfare check

- on an elderly person in the Court Street area on Nov. 13.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) on a medical call to a Painter Hills Road residence on Nov. 14.
- Assisted a local woman who said she had been receiving harassing communication on Nov. 14.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical call to the Halpin Road area on Nov. 14.
- Received a junk ordinance-related complaint about a North Pleasant Street property on Nov. 14.
- Assisted the local office of the Vermont Department for Children & Families with a disorderly conduct complaint on Nov. 14.
- Helped a North Pleasant Street resident who reported receiving harassing phone calls on Nov. 14.
- Responded, with rescue and fire officials, to the Marble Works complex on Nov. 14 where someone had driven their vehicle onto the outside stairwell of a marble-clad building. Police said the driver was uninjured.
- Checked on the welfare of a woman seen walking with no shoes on Court Street during the morning of Nov. 14.
- Escorted the Middlebury Union High School football team through town after its state championship victory on Nov. 14.
- Conducted a welfare check on a man seen walking on Halladay Road during the evening of Nov. 15.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical call to the North Pleasant Street area on Nov. 15.
- Responded, with MREMS, to a North Pleasant Street home on Nov. 15 where a woman was having a mental health crisis. Police said the woman was taken to Rutland for care.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical call to the Seminary Street neighborhood on Nov. 16.
- Helped defuse a landlord-tenant dispute on Nov. 16.



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‘Anastasia’
MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION High School’s dazzling fall musical, “Anastasia,” transports audiences from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. The show, which will be staged at the Bristol school this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, corrals the work of more than 90 7th- to 12th-graders.
Shown at a recent rehearsal are, (immediate left) Lila Brightman as Anya, and (clockwise from right) Lighting Director Wyatt Moyer briefs the cast about lighting effects; Bailey Antos-Ketcham as the Dowager Empress gives a music box to the young Anastasia, played by Isolde Tierney; Sound Tech Paige Gilbeault adjusts Ada Fisher’s microphone; Louisa Guilmette listens attentively to Scarlett Tarmy’s short speech; the Dowager Empress joins the audience at the ballet; Addison Wright (far left) and Maris LaPerle (far right) flank Scarlett Tarmy; and the entire cast perform a big show-stopping number.
Photos by Buzz Kuhns





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BRANDON'S DES MARAIS FARM, pictured here, is owned by Lyn Des Marais, who was one of nine local landowners to attend a Conservation Speed Dating event at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall last week. Des Marais said the event informed her of more conservation opportunities for her farm, which sits along Otter Creek.

Conservation

(Continued from Page 1A)
to discuss the opportunities and challenges specific to their properties.

“The goal (was) really to connect landowners and technical service providers or conservation professionals who can offer guidance and resources to support bird-friendly management on the suite of different habitats that the landowners have on their properties,” Howe explained.

The event was organized by The Bobolink Project and Vermont Land Trust. Several other organizations took part in the workshop: Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, UVM Extension, eBird, Audubon Vermont, Otter Creek NRC and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Howe noted the idea behind the workshop came from the Virginia Grassland Bird Initiative, which discussed conservation speed dating events during a meeting of the Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative last year.

Organizers decided to replicate the idea through last week’s event in Ferrisburgh. Such workshops are intended to be smaller, so landowners can have one-on-one conversations with participating organizations.

Lyn Des Marais was one of nine local residents to take part in the workshop. She and her husband own Des Marais Farm in Brandon, situated along Otter Creek.

“We’re strong conservationists of land and wildlife and clean water,” Des Marais told the *Independent*. “We also love farms and farming, so we’ve always tried to balance the needs of one against the other.”

Des Marais noted the farm has been a part of The Bobolink Project for around five years. The initiative offers financial assistance to “participating farmers who modify their mowing schedules so that grassland nesting birds can successfully raise their young.”

“We just love every inch of (the farm), and we feel strongly that we’d like it to stay fairly similar to what it’s (currently) like after we’re gone, so that pushed us

toward conservation,” Des Marais said.

She noted conservation is part of succession planning for Des Marais Farm, ensuring it’s manageable for the next generation. Her interest in conservation opportunities is what inspired Des Marais to attend last week’s event.

“We are confronting a time period where there is less stability around the presence of farmers in Rutland County and, although we do have a farmer farming our fields, there’s just not many farmers,” she said. “If he were to move or

“This might be someone who could help design (a conservation project), this might be a group that could help you acquire the right plants, and this might be a way to get some actual on-the-ground-help.”

— landowner Lyn Des Marais

enabling fruitful conversations between participants.

“The enthusiasm, the energy in the room, was incredible. The people who were giving us their attention and talking about the organizations were so organized,” she said. “They were so knowledgeable that I, and I think most of us, walked away thinking, ‘Wow, I haven’t thought of that, we could do this.’”

Howe pointed to the variety of topics participating organizations were able to speak with landowners about. For example, representatives from Audubon Vermont could cover bird and bee-friendly farming, and Bobolink Project officials were available to discuss hayfield management.

GETTING CONNECTED

For Des Marais, the event gave her an opportunity to reconnect with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition. She said she left the event with an idea for another conservation practice to implement on her property and assistance available for potential projects.

“One was a riparian boundary along Otter Creek and to learn how to do one of those,” she recalled. “There were tremendous resources for that, and they (gave me) multi-layered help. So, this might be someone who could help design it, this might be a group that could help you acquire the right plants, and this might be a way to get some actual on-the-ground-help.

“It helps break down all the steps to get from idea to completion,” she continued.

Des Marais noted one of her concerns regarding conservation is not having enough farmers to keep fields and land open in the future. She pointed to the state’s aging farmer population and challenges older farmers face when it comes to conservation, such as not having the funding for equipment needed to remove invasive species on their land.

“Those are some of the concerns that are bringing us out to say, ‘How can we help to conserve open land, grassland birds; how do we conserve woodlands in a way that enhances Vermont and enhances some of the businesses that are here, whether that be tourism or other businesses that rely on how beautiful our natural world is,’” she said.

For those unable to attend the event, there are still ways to connect with the organizations involved and learn more about conservation opportunities. Howe said those interested can fill out the event’s interest form, which is sent to technical service providers so they can connect with landowners with properties relevant to their programs.

Howe welcomed those interested to reach out to her (hhowe@massaudubon.org) or fellow organizer Sam Graulty (Sam@vlt.org) of Vermont Land Trust for a copy of the form.

She noted there are currently no plans for another conservation speed dating event, though filling out the form helps organizers gauge interest in potential future events.

Des Marais is hoping the event will be replicated. She underscored how informative participating organizations were and said the event spurred hope and optimism around conservation.

“I certainly came away with a really strong sense that I’d love for them to continue this amazing workshop throughout the state, and I’m hoping that I can help in any way make it possible,” she said.

Devil’s Bowl honors drivers, contributors

SARATOGA, N.Y. — Several local drivers were honored for their track championships at the Devil’s Bowl Speedway’s annual year-end banquet, which was held on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Saratoga Holiday Inn.

Others were honored for their contributions to the track, and many drivers also received special recognition, including Rookie of the Year, Most Improved and Sportsmanship honors.

Brandon racer Joey Scarborough and his car owner and father, Don Scarborough, took the stage to be recognized as the champions of the track’s headline division, the Sunoco Sportsman Modifieds, earning \$5,000 for their efforts.

Quechee’s Jason Quenneville took the trophy and \$2,000 for the O’Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman Championship.

Bridport’s Gage Provencher was crowned the champion for the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint division. It was Provencher’s second straight title.

Middlebury’s Eric Friend was recognized for winning the 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic division. Bristol’s Aiden Benoure was

honored for claiming the title in the Hoosier Tire Novice Sportsman Division.

New York racer Jeremy Brownell took home the hardware as the champion of the Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stock division.

Most Improved Driver awards went to Tyler Bell in the Mini Stocks, Leicester’s Levi Cram in the Mini Sprints, Raelin Dunham in the Novice Sportsman series, Katrina LeClaire in the Limited Sportsman series, and Shoreham’s Brent Warren in the Sportsman Modifieds

Rookie of the Year awards went to TJ Knight in the Crown Vic division, Jeremy Brownell Jr. in the Mini Stocks, Alyssa Vanderpool in the 500cc Mini Sprints, Rob Steele for the Novice Sportsman division, Whiting’s Logan Denis for Limited Sportsman series, and Eric Shaw for the Sunoco Sportsman Modifieds.

Two longtime Devil’s Bowl contributors were honored with Dedication Awards. Track worker Rusty Bishop and photographer Bill McGaffin were recognized for their years of support and contribution to Devil’s Bowl Speedway.

A driver from each series

received sportsmanship awards as voted on by their peers: Alyssa Vanderpool for Mini Sprints, Bob Wood for Mini Stocks, Benoure for Novice Sportsman, Logan Denis for Limited Sportsman, and Brandon’s Vince Quenneville for Sportsman Modifieds.

Josh Richards, who has made a major contribution for several years, received as Award of Excellence for his passion, leadership, and unending commitment to Devil’s Bowl Speedway and the stock car racing family.

The final honor of the evening was the John Bruno Award, given to veteran racer Fred Little, a longtime competitor at the track in multiple divisions and a five-time track champion who competed this season in the Limited Sportsman Division.

According to a track press release, Bruno was one of the central figures in Devil’s Bowl’s early years. The award goes annually to someone who embraces the principles that Bruno lived by. Recipients make significant contributions to short-track racing during their lifetimes while maintaining standards of conduct and respect.

Schools

(Continued from Page 9A)
releasing a draft report (tinyurl.com/49twuzmz) in which a majority of the members recommended the state provide more incentives for school districts to voluntarily merge students and services.

Scott wasn’t pleased.

The task force also suggested school districts could form regional “Cooperative Education Service Areas,” or CESAs, offering shared educational and operational resources to its members. This, according to proponents, could save money by paring administrative and support positions, and through bulk purchasing.

“This reduces cost and frees time at the supervisory union/ school district level to focus on improvement of learning and smooth and efficient operations. It also can ensure higher quality of professional learning, more coherence and consistency in learning, and higher quality implementation of state initiatives,” the task force wrote.

Conlon told forum participants he was still digesting the task force’s 170-page report. He said the report was created by “some of the best minds in Vermont when it comes to education,” and “should be taken very seriously.”

But he expressed disappointment that “What’s being proposed does not necessarily move us in a direction that builds scale quickly and addresses inequities in a way that I think many communities across Vermont have been hungering for, where they see budgets being voted down repeatedly while having some of the lowest (per-pupil) spending in the state.”

In reference to the task force’s proposal for CESAs, Conlon noted the Legislature in 2024 passed a bill (now known as Act 168) that allows school districts to accomplish the same collaborations through “boards of cooperative education services,” or BOCES.

COULD IB DISAPPEAR?

While lawmakers are working on ways to bend the curve on education costs, Baker said she and her colleagues are concerned about potential repercussions that any Act 73-related mergers or school

closures could have on school curricula and the way children are educated.

Addison Central School District, ACS D, is the only public school system in Vermont with an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.

“If we dissolve the current districts, then our IB accreditation and our New England Association of Schools and Colleges as an Addison Central district disappears, unless there are some provision for those things to transfer,” she said. “Discussions so far have landed more on the side of, ‘dissolve the old and begin anew,’ in a manner that would perhaps allow for different levels of administrative efficiency.”

Meanwhile, educational inequities persist — in some cases resulting in wide margins of spending trajectories between neighboring school districts, Conlon and Baker noted.

“I have colleagues around the state that are attempting to pass budgets at \$10,000, or \$12,000 per student, and those budgets are going down,” Baker said.

Meanwhile, districts like ACS D are offering a wide range of programming at more than \$20,000 per student, with consistent support from Middlebury-area voters.

“We do need to create a new level of equity, and I hear superintendents across the state agreeing with that process and that point, readily,” Baker said. “It’s just, how can we begin to actually have that (equity) conversation? That’s the thing I think we’re all champing at the bit to do.


“We need to put lots of pieces of this puzzle together.”

And that puzzle figures to be a lengthy project. It will likely take upwards of five years for Act 73 to play out, according to Conlon. And future Legislatures and/or governors could choose to alter the process or take an entirely different route.

Sticking with the status quo will only compound current educational inequities and lead to more budget failures while the lifeblood of schools — children — continue to become a scarcer resource in an aging state with a severe housing shortage, Conlon said.

“Doing nothing means we just stay the course of school, boards every fall deciding, ‘What can our taxpayers tolerate?’ and, ‘Where can we cut the budget to a point where they will tolerate it?’” he said. “What we have going on now is hard and challenging.”


John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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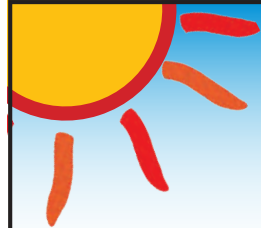
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ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Event welcomes farmers to unwind

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Local farmers and farmworkers are invited to enjoy a restful day in the Middlebury Marble Works next month.

The Dec. 7 wellness event is being organized by Rural Vermont and the Addison County Relocalization Network, or ACORN. The free event will offer yoga, massages, herbal consultations and a variety of other activities for members of the farming community.

“Not only is access to healthcare difficult for many, and soon to get more so, but farming itself is strenuous, both physically and emotionally,” said Mollie Wills, grassroots organizing director at Rural Vermont. “We rely so much on local farmers and farmworkers to feed our families and communities;

A catered lunch and snacks will be served at Otter Creek Yoga, which will also offer restorative yoga and a song circle. Individual massages and herbal consultations will also be provided at Otter Creek Yoga throughout the day.

we want to honor and appreciate their work.”

Wills noted that Rural Vermont is always checking in to hear how members of the farming community are doing. The nonprofit began offering a series of wellness events based on community feedback,

Wills said.

“Rural Vermont started organizing farm(work)er wellness days earlier this year, and ACORN had been doing the same, so we decided to collaborate and offer a really special experience to the folks who put food on our tables,” Wills said.

A handful of Middlebury businesses will host activities throughout the Dec. 7 wellness day. A catered lunch and snacks will be served at Otter Creek Yoga, which will also offer restorative yoga and a song circle. Individual massages and herbal consultations will also be provided at Otter Creek Yoga throughout the day.

Attendees can sign up for hydrotherapy (cold plunge/sauna) at Green Mountain Shakti and

(See Wellness event, Page 15A)



AT THE ANNUAL American Dairy Goat Conference in Massachusetts last month, Deb Hogan shows off the Best in Show designation awarded to the Honey Orange Chevre produced by Leicester’s Blue Ledge Farm.

Local farm wins Best in Show for cheese

LEICESTER — The Best in Show award at the Annual American Dairy Goat Conference in Danvers, Mass., last month went to Blue Ledge Farm’s Honey Orange Chevre. The farm on the Leicester/Salisbury town line won over 70 goat cheesemakers from across the country that had

entered the contest

“We are thrilled to take home this award!” said Blue Ledge co-owner Hannah Sessions. “It’s our first Best in Show, and the judges’ comments were so encouraging.”

(See Blue Ledge Farm, Page 15A)

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UVM Extension welcomes new agronomist

BURLINGTON — Alyssa Thelin recently joined University of Vermont Extension as an agronomist.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Plant and Soil Science with a concentration in Soil and Water Resources from Oklahoma State University. After getting her undergraduate degree, Thelin pursued a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in Plant Science. Her thesis research covered the impact of cover cropping and tillage systems on Angular Leaf Spot in tobacco.

"Through my research, I had the opportunity to travel all over the state of Tennessee and into some parts of Kentucky to listen and learn from tobacco farmers about their experiences with Angular Leaf Spot," Thelin said. "I am very



ALYSSA THELIN

excited to start my journey as the new Agronomy Specialist with the Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team. I look forward to meeting everyone!"

Wellness event

(Continued from Page 14A)
enjoy tea and chocolate at Stone Leaf Teahouse.

The event is open to all farmers and farmworkers, though Wills noted space is limited and community members are encouraged to save their spots early. Those interested can RSVP at www.acornvt.org. Farmers and farmworkers are asked to RSVP by Dec. 1.

Wills said the hope is to offer similar wellness events in the future.

"Funding dependent, Rural Vermont hopes to offer more of these events in different parts of the state moving forward," Wills said. "If you are a care practitioner interested in supporting these events, let us know."

ACORN Executive Director Lindsey Berk echoed that sentiment, noting the nonprofit is looking to offer opportunities for

those working in the food sector to talk about their experiences and feel supported.

"(ACORN is) talking about hosting simpler support sessions to offer space where folks across the food system — and not just on the production side but people working at restaurants and food shelves — can all come together and talk about what they're seeing," Berk said.

She noted community members can stay up to date on ACORN events by signing up for the nonprofit's monthly newsletter.

In the meantime, farmers and farmworkers are encouraged to join in on next month's event.

"With the season winding down, we hope members of the farming community join us for a day of relaxation, care, celebration, and community connection," Wills said.

"Not only is access to healthcare difficult for many, and soon to get more so, but farming itself is strenuous, both physically and emotionally."

— Mollie Wills



Baking for HOPE

ALTA WHELAN, LEFT, and Winter Benjamin have their treats ready and were just beginning to welcome customers to their bake sale in downtown Middlebury's Triangle Park this past Saturday, Nov. 15. The Mary Hogan School first-graders helped their mothers bake brownies, cookies and muffins, and raised \$241, which they donated to the poverty-fighting organization HOPE, or Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects.

Photo courtesy of Jan Jaferian

Blue Ledge Farm

(Continued from Page 14A)
Some of the judges' comments: "very unique execution," "very fluffy and smooth," "Perfect! So stunning on the plate."

Sessions was especially pleased with the comments about the packaging since this is Blue Ledge Farm's first season with their new thermoformer packaging machine, which vacuum seals a medallion shaped goat cheese. The judges approved and noted how the packaging enhanced the appearance of the cheese and fit the contents well.

Sessions, raised in Cornwall, started Blue Ledge Farm with her husband, Greg Bernhardt, in 2000. The couple began making goat cheese in 2002 and expanded to cow's milk cheese in 2008. They currently purchase cow's

milk from Deb Hogan and her husband Andy's farm in Leicester for their full line of cow's milk and mixed milk cheeses. Deb Hogan was at the conference to accept the award.

"We're thrilled that Deb was there to receive the award for us, we couldn't ask for a nicer person to represent our little company," Sessions said.

Also in the competition, Blue Ledge Farm's Lake's Edge took first place and their Crottina second place in the Surface Ripened Cheese category.

The American Dairy Goat Association meets annually at various locations around the country. "I'm glad that we took advantage of the proximity and entered this year," Sessions said.

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Center

(Continued from Page 1A)

The OCCC expansion project began seven years ago, spurred by the dearth of childcare slots in Addison County. The shortage was hampering the recruitment efforts of several local employers, including the college. The institution would eventually make a \$4 million commitment to the OCCC expansion, including the donation of a 2.5-acre lot just west of OCCC that made the building addition possible.

Former U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., secured a \$3.1 million earmark for the project, while Vermont Community Recovery & Revitalization (\$500,000), the Northern Borders Regional Commission (\$350,000), Let's Grow Kids (\$200,000), and the Hoehl Family Foundation (\$100,000) also came through with key dollars.

Unfortunately, inflation and other factors kept moving the project price tag upward from what had originally been pegged as a \$4

million undertaking.

"When (the cost) became \$12 million, the college turned to its supporters and donors. We had an anonymous donor, whose family cares deeply about this community, make a gift of \$5 million," announced David Provost, the college's treasurer and executive vice president of finance & administration.

But dollars weren't the only currency that clinched the OCCC expansion. Provost stressed it "took a village" to get the project from dream to reality. He specifically cited folks like center Executive Director Linda January, Addison County Parent-Child Center Co-founder Cheryl Mitchell, former OCCC Director Doumina Noonan, Aly Richard and Sherry Carlson of Let's Grow Kids, Dr. Jody Brakeley and Darla Senecal of Building Bright Futures.

Recently inaugurated Middlebury College President Ian Baucom was among those who helped roll out the stunning new



SEVERAL OF THE champions of the now-completed renovation and expansion of Middlebury's Otter Creek Child Center on Saturday get ready to cut the ribbon on the much-improved facility at 150 Weybridge St.

Independent photos/John Flowers

center. He had gotten his first glimpse of the facility as part of a mini tour of Middlebury that had also included views of affordable housing, Town Hall Theater and the Cross Street Bridge—all examples of town-gown collaborations.

"What that said to me is I was with good people, where civic commitment isn't just a 'thing,' it's a reality," Baucom said.

He said his observations of OCCC have reminded him that the intellectual and social molding of youth "isn't only the work that happens with 18- to 22-year-olds up at the college; the work with youth begins with 2- and 5-year-olds."

The community's investment in childcare also offers a potent counterweight to the political polarity dominating the national scene these days, according to Baucom.

"In a time when too much of our culture is defining itself by what it's *against*, we have resolved we're going to define ourselves based on what we are *for*," he said.

Middlebury's Rita Munro and her spouse have four children, three of whom have childcare

needs. Daughter Ruby will be 3 next spring, and her twin brothers Edward and Alistair are both almost 3 months old. Ruby had been attending the College Street childcare facility, which OCCC oversees. The new expansion is allowing OCCC to bring College Street's three classrooms into the fold at 150 Weybridge St. That will make a total of eight classrooms, for now, with a ramp up to 11 early next year, according to center officials.

The expansion project ensures Munro's three youngest children will all be accommodated at one childcare location.

"Infant spots are very hard to come by," Munro noted. "I don't think there's anywhere else in town that could have accommodated us."

Munro and her husband both work in town and will thus get the joy of seeing their children taken for walks around the downtown. The OCCC has become famous for leading well-chaperoned toddler walks, the children holding hands for extra safety.

"The fact that the town and the college are not only committed to (childcare), they're committed



STATE REP. JUBILEE MCGILL, D-Bridport, has a joyful moment with her daughter, Marella, during the grand opening of the expanded Otter Creek Child Center on Saturday. McGill back in the day had to take Marella to the Statehouse with her due to a lack of infant care options.

to having it in town, is one of my favorite parts," Munro said.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISH

Linda January was visibly moved by Saturday's events.

"Today represents more than the opening of a building; it is a celebration of what our community can accomplish when we work together with a shared purpose, ensuing that every child has access to a safe, developmentally rich place to learn and grow," she told a crowd of around 100 spectators of all ages. "This project has taken commitment, creativity and collaboration from so many people."

Three-year-old Aubrey Aunchman was too busy playing on one of the indoor OCCC play structures to be impressed by adult talk about the project's \$12 million price tag; she can't count that high (yet). But her grandma Laurie Jewell is pleased that little Aubrey will now have a wondrous facility in which to learn and play. And she'll be able to see her granddaughter every day, because Jewell is also an OCCC educator.

"I have no words," Jewell said as she cast her eyes about the

revamped and expanded center, which includes a robust kitchen and pint-sized potties and sinks for the little kiddos.

"It's going to be wonderful to work here," she added.

Lorie Mulcahy is one of Jewell's colleagues. Lorie has worked at OCCC for five years, so she's been through the more Spartan times at 150 Weybridge St., the temporary center relocation at the Inn on the Green, and now the joyous return to a transformed OCCC.

"It's beautiful, and I'm very grateful," she said while surveying the new rooms and hallways teeming with multigenerational humanity.

Shannon Nadeau has taught at OCCC for two years. Recent months saw her take children on walks to check out construction progress on the center. Now they can move back in.

"It's very exciting," she said.

January summed it up for the crowds.

"We can truly say this project is of the community and for the community."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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A HAPPY TIGER football team tells the state who is Number 1 after winning the Division I title in South Burlington on Saturday night.
Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger football rushes past St. J to win D-I title

By ANDY KIRKALDY
SOUTH BURLINGTON — It was ground and pound for the top-seeded Middlebury Union High School football team in Saturday night's Division I final against No. 2 St. Johnsbury on South Burlington High's turf field.
The Tigers crafted their 13-7 victory by running for 265 yards on 51 attempts, using tough defense to limit the Hilltoppers to four yards rushing and a net 144 yards passing, and staving off a late St. Johnsbury rally with an interception followed by a game-clinching 4th-down run.
The Tigers finished 10-1, earned the program's 15th championship, and completed the program's 17th straight winning season. St. J ended the season at 9-2.
Tiger Head Coach Jed Malcolm praised his squad.
"It was a full team effort. The

offensive line blocked, so we could run the ball. We played Tiger football," Malcolm said. "We kept our cool after making some mistakes, which was huge ... Those kinds of plays, where you can recover like that, that shows the resilience these kids have."
The Tigers don't run for 265 yards without strong play from the offensive line of seniors Kam Raymond, Steve Lackard (a captain) and Levi D'Avignon; junior Aiden Arsenault; and sophomore Tim Nop. It also helped that senior tight end Cooke Riney, a key blocker in the running game, returned to action despite sore ribs that prevented him from playing

"It was a full team effort. The offensive line blocked, so we could run the ball. We played Tiger football."

— Jed Malcolm

defense.
"He played offense, and was hurting the whole time. We knew it was going to be a struggle for him to play, but he sucked it up," Malcolm said.
What else made for a successful season?
"We're really balanced. We've got great pieces everywhere. And a lot of times you've got stars. But all of our role players, were good players all year as well," Malcolm said. "We stuck to the formula, too ... good defense and run the football."
Two of the team's captains pointed to chemistry to explain the team's success.
"I think it's the morale. Just like,

practicing, we're all hyped every time," said senior Logan McNulty, a running back and defensive back. "We're all close to each other, everyone. There's no separate groups. We're just all one team."
Being hyped doesn't mean not having fun together, according to Riney, another captain. He said the Tigers had a good time while getting their work done.
"We lock in for three hours every Friday," Riney said. "Being able to lock in and the joking and camaraderie in practice I think is unique to us, and I'm very happy we're able to do that."
Certainly the Tigers were all business on Saturday.
Neither team moved early, but the Hilltoppers used a 27-yard completion to reach the Tiger 27 in their second possession.
(See Champions, Page 4B)



TIGER JUNIOR BRADY Lloyd returns a punt during Saturday's Division I football final in South Burlington. Lloyd also punted, played tough defense in the secondary, scored a rushing touchdown, and at quarterback orchestrated the Tigers' successful running game.
Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
NCAA D-III Tournament	
Regional at Wheaton	
11/15 Midd vs SUNY Geneseo.....	2-1
11/16 Wheaton vs Midd.....	1-0
Field Hockey	
NCAA D-III Tournament	
First Round	
11/12 Midd vs. Westfield St.....	6-0
Regional at Johns Hopkins	
11/15 Midd vs Endicott.....	3-2 (2OT)
11/16 Johns Hopkins vs Midd.....	3-0
Women's Soccer	
NCAA D-III Tournament	
Regional at Midd	
11/15 Midd vs Westfield St.....	3-0
11/16 Midd vs Rochester.....	2-1
Men's Ice Hockey	
11/15 Bowdoin vs Midd.....	4-0
11/16 Colby vs Midd.....	3-2
Women's Ice Hockey	
11/15 Midd vs Hamilton.....	2-1
11/16 Midd vs Hamilton.....	2-2 (Hamilton Wins Shootout)
11/18 Midd vs Middlebury.....	6-0
Men's Basketball	
11/15 Skidmore vs Midd.....	91-87
Women's Basketball	
11/15 Springfield vs Midd.....	58-56
11/16 Midd vs Rochester.....	67-62
11/18 Midd vs Norwich.....	80-36

Schedule

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Soccer	
NCAA D-III Tournament	
Sectional at Midd	
11/22 Midd vs Tufts.....	11 AM

(See Schedule, Page 3B)



MIDDLEBURY JUNIOR Chloe Swindle blows past a Westfield State defender during Saturday's first-round NCAA D-III tournament game in Middlebury.
Independent photo/Steve James

College women win pair of NCAA games

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women's soccer team hosted and won first- and second-round NCAA Division III tournament games this past weekend. The Panthers were awarded hosting rights for a four-team NCAA Sectional this coming weekend.
This past Saturday Coach Peter Kim's 13-3-3 Panthers defeated Westfield State, 3-0, and they followed that up on Sunday by knocking off the University of Rochester in the second round, 2-1.
The Panthers will next host NESCAC rival Tufts (16-1-3) at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Middlebury and Tufts tied on the Panthers' home field this season, 0-0. Saturday's second game, set for 1:30 p.m.,

will pit Mary Washington (13-3-5) against Penn State-Harrisburg (16-5-4). Middlebury did not play either of those schools' teams this season.
Saturday's winners will square off at 1 p.m. on Sunday for a berth in the tournament's final four, which will be contested in Salem, Va., on Dec. 4 and 6.
Kim was asked after Sunday's win if he were confident in his team moving forward. He pointed out two things, first that it is a young team, with only three seniors, all of whom start: goalie Livia Davidson, center back Roshan Purcell, and forward/midfielder Carolina Espinosa.
Thus, Kim said after Sunday's game that the Panthers, whose losses have all been to NESCAC

rivals by one goal and who are 7-1-2 at home, will simply stay the course.
"We're enjoying every day that we play. We have three seniors and 14 freshman. We're a young team, and we just take every game at face value," he said. "And that attitude has gotten us as far as this."
Secondly, the Panthers have surrendered only nine goals in 19 games. This past weekend they allowed only a meaningless penalty kick on Sunday with seconds to go while up, 2-0.
In this past weekend's defensive effort, the Panthers allowed three shots, one on goal, in Saturday's game, and four on target (including the PK) on Sunday against a tougher foe. The defenders also
(See NCAA, Page 3B)

Panther field hockey's incredible run ends

BALTIMORE — The championship streak for one of college's greatest dynasties ended on Sunday, when host Johns Hopkins defeated the Middlebury College field hockey team, 3-0, in an NCAA Division III quarterfinal.
The defeat ended Coach Katharine DeLorenzo's Panthers' hopes of winning the program's unprecedented ninth straight NCAA title. No other D-III field hockey program has won more than three in a row.
In the Panthers' opening round win at home earlier last week, DeLorenzo's team gave their coach her 500th career victory. Her career mark now stands at 501-135-2.
But Sunday belonged to the Blue Jays, who got goals in the

first period (Grace Nockolds), second period (Sophia Albano) and third period (Kaitlin Coward), and a combined four saves from two goalies to defeat the Panthers.
Middlebury goalie Izzy Redzic made five saves as the Jays (21-1) outshot the Panthers, 9-8. Middlebury, which lost many veterans to graduation from its 2024 squad, wrapped up its season at 14-6.
MILESTONE WIN
The Panthers opened the tournament on Wednesday, Nov. 12, with a 6-0 victory over visiting Westfield State (18-4).
The win was the 500th of Coach DeLorenzo's career, including her time spent leading the Skidmore program. DeLorenzo became the 15th field hockey coach across the
(See Field Hockey, Page 3B)

Men's soccer out of tourney

NORTON, Mass. — The No. 14 Middlebury College men's soccer team this past weekend won a first-round NCAA Division III game, but came up short in a second-round game vs. undefeated host No. 8 Wheaton, both in one-goal contests. The Panthers wrapped up at 10-6-2.
In Saturday's first-round game, the Panthers claimed a 2-1 victory over SUNY-Geneseo in which all the goals were scored in the final 25 minutes.. Middlebury took the lead at 65:01, when Pablo Gonzalez converted a Dylan Payne assist.
Will Sawin made it 2-0 with an unassisted strike in the 70th minute, his ninth goal of the season, and it was enough to overcome Geneseo's

Dylan Thody's penalty kick in the 84th minute.
The Panthers held a significant edge statistically, with a 19-7 edge in shots and an 8-1 advantage in corner kicks. Geneseo goalie Max Crothall made four saves, and Joey Waterman made one for the Panthers.
On Sunday, host Wheaton prevailed, 1-0. Wheaton scored in the first half, when Aidan Doyle's corner kick snuck into to net through a crowd. Middlebury outshot Wheaton, 28-10, 19-4 in the second half, but could not find the equalizer. Wheaton goalie J.D. Ball made 10 saves, and Waterman blocked four shots.

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Owen Butterfield	SE/DB	12	Aiden Arsenaault	OL/DL	11	Connor Desabrais	OL/DL	10	Luke Wing	RB/DB	9
Marshall Eddy	TE/CB	12	Aiden Benoure	OL/DL	11	Tanner English	FB/LB	10	*Denotes captain		
Jaxson Heffernan	RB/CB	12	Parker Carl	TE/DE	11	Maverick Gardner-Wacker	QB/S	10			
Steven Lackard*	OL/DL	12	Rudy Devoid	RB/DB	11	Evan Gillett	RB/DB	10	Coach: Jed Malcolm		
Brayden McKee	OL/DL	12	Brady Lloyd	QB/S	11	Jackson Jacobs	OL/DL	10	Assistant coaches: John Nucedar,		
Logan McNulty*	RB/CB	12	Sam Sherman	TE/DE	11	Adam LaRose	TE/DE	10	Nick Lawes, Mark Ambrosio		
Kameron Raymond	OL/DL	12	Jason Sperry	RB/LB	11	Tim Nop	OL/DL	10			
Yankee Rheume	OL/DL	12	Connor Swan	OL/DL	11	David Odell	TE/FB/DE	10			

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NCAA

(Continued from Page 1B)
played key roles distributing the ball and setting up the attack.
“They’ve been top-notch all season long,” Kim said. “They’re strong, and they’re organized. The backs can play, for sure.”

PANTHERS, 3-0
On Saturday the Panthers breezed past overmatched Westfield State, 3-0. The visitors wrapped up a 9-6-6 season.

Middlebury outshot their guests, 37-3, and earned a 12-1 advantage in corner kicks.

Freshman Mari Rode gave Middlebury the lead in the 12th minute of the first half. Rode won the ball about 15 yards off the top right corner of the Westfield box and bolted toward its corner. As she approached the box, Rode unleashed a blast into the far left side of the goal.

Middlebury padded the lead with 34 seconds left in the first half. Sophomore Taya McCleennen crossed into the box from the left side and sophomore Fiona Linnau settled the ball in front of freshman Olivia Colby. Colby, bolting toward the right post, banged the ball low into the net.

Freshman Suzanna Fee made it 3-0 in the 66th minute by finding the middle of the net with a low shot on a feed from Rode.

Westfield goalie Julie Robak made 12 saves. Lia Davidson made one routine stop in the first half. Westfield did not land a shot on target in the second half.

PANTHERS, 2-1
On Sunday the Panthers again earned a statistical edge, though one not as pronounced, against a 9-4-6 team that had played a more challenging schedule than Westfield. Their advantage in shots was 13-7, 7-4 in shots on target.

The first 15 minutes were largely contested at midfield as the teams appeared to be getting the measure of each other.

Rochester’s Hannah Nagashima launched the game’s first shot on target in the 20th minute, a solid bid from a few yards outside the Panther box. Davidson did well to tip it over the bar.

But as the game wore on Middlebury began to win the midfield battle and steadily earn more possession and territory.



PANTHER SENIOR CAROLINA Espinosa touches the ball away from a Westfield State defender during Saturday's first-round NCAA D-III tournament game in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

The Yellowjackets in particular struggled to move the ball out of their own end against pressure from the Panther forwards and midfielders.

Kim said he felt Rochester was reluctant to play the ball long because of his team’s ability to win head balls. But their strategy of trying to play through the Panthers, including back passes to create space, did not pay off.

“I think they were concerned that we were better than them in the air,” Kim said “So they tried to play it out of the back. And our kids did a great job of organizing the press. They gave the ball to us almost every time.”

And one of those failed clearances led to the Panthers’ first goal. Linnau won possession about 40 yards from the Rochester goal and looped a pass through the defense to send in McCleennen alone on Yellowjacket goalie Sydney Moore. McCleennen, from near the penalty stripe, finished low into the net’s left side in the 34th minute to put Middlebury on top.

Real chances were few for either team in the rest of the first half,

but both sides had chances on corner kicks early in the second half. Moore held her ground in a scramble in the third minute, and Davidson smothered a Remi Cherkas bid five minutes in.

Panther junior Chloe Swindle nearly added to the lead in the 64th minute, but her header on a feed from Carolina Espinosa went over the crossbar.

With 21 minutes to play, Rochester’s Riya Kunderan hit a speculative bid from 20 yards out, but Davidson was there for the stop for the last of her three saves. Rochester’s Moore made five.

Lauren Tracey doubled the Panther lead at 77:48 with a brilliant one-time finish. Swindle crossed from the right side to Tracey two yards off the far post, and Tracey volleyed the waist-high serve high into the net.

Nagashima buried a penalty kick high into the right side at 0:18, but to little avail — the Panthers soon were celebrating.

And they celebrated again when they learned they would be hosting more tournament games this weekend.

Field Hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)
three NCAA divisions to reach the 500-win landmark.

Megan Fuqua scored a career-high four goals in the game, setting a record for the most by a Panther in an NCAA tournament contest

Fuqua converted a penalty stroke 56 seconds into the game to give Middlebury the lead, and Middlebury made it 2-0 at 4:16 of the second quarter on another Fuqua penalty stroke.

Claire McMichael netted her own rebound at 7:47 of the second period to make it 3-0, a score that stood at halftime.

Seven minutes into the second half, Fuqua struck again, taking a through pass from Addie Chandler and finishing high into the cage.

Fuqua made it a 5-0 on penalty corner with 1:57 left in the period, tucking a shot inside the left post on

a feed from Grace Keefe.

Chandler netted a rebound midway through the final period to create the final score.

Westfield State goalie Emma Gniadek made 22 saves as the Panthers earned a 49-1 edge in shots at goal. Thea Rosenzweig was the only one of three Panther goalies to record a save.

SATURDAY GAME

On Saturday the Panthers avenged a regular-season extra-time loss by defeating Endicott in double overtime, 3-2. McMichael scored 3:13 into the second overtime to lift Middlebury to the win.

Endicott scored twice in the first quarter to take the lead. Abby Antonelle scored with 3:09 gone, and with 5:15 remaining, Tori Swanson tipped home a shot on a penalty corner,

The Panthers dominated the second quarter, earning a series of penalty corners, but Gull goalie Faith Minickene and her defense held strong.

Middlebury equalized with two third-period strikes. McMichael scored after picking up the ball near midfield. She raced to goal and laced a shot that tucked inside the right post at 6:33.

With 44 seconds to go in the period Fuqua converted a penalty

stroke.

In the first overtime, Minickene saved a Fuqua penalty stroke, and in the second OT, the Gull goalie sprawled to deny Emma McNealy on a penalty corner.

But Minickene couldn’t stop McMichael in the second OT. McMichael dribbled into the circle and lifted a backhanded shot home for the game-winner. Minickene made 17 saves for the 24-2 Gulls, and Livia Davidson made three for the Panthers, who won their 30th straight NCAA game.

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

11/16 Mary Washington vs Penn St-Harrisburg 1:30 PM
Final 1 PM
Final Four in Salem, Va. 12/4 & 12/6


Men's Ice Hockey
11/21 Tufts at Midd 7 PM
11/22 Conn at Midd 3 PM
LayerEight Shootout at Norwich
1/28 Midd vs Plattsburgh 4 PM
1/29 Midd vs TBD 4 or 7 PM

Women's Ice Hockey
11/22 Midd at Wesleyan 7:30 PM
11/23 Midd at Wesleyan 3 PM
Panther/Cardinal Classic at Midd
11/29 Midd vs Endicott 3 PM
11/29 Plattsburgh vs. River Falls 6 PM
11/30 Consolation/Final 2/5 PM

Men's Basketball
11/20 Union at Midd 5 PM
11/22 Midd at Stevens 1 PM
11/25 Midd at Plattsburgh 6 PM
11/30 RPI at Midd 5 PM

Women's Basketball
11/20 Midd at Union 1 PM
11/25 Midd at Castleton 1 PM
11/30 Oswego at Midd 3 PM





Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 20:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Friday November 21:
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Sunday, November 23:
1:00 - 2:00 PM Public Skating

Monday, November 24:
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Tuesday, November 25:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Wednesday, November 26:
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Thursday, November 27:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck



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SENIOR CAPTAIN STEVEN Lackard puts the heat on St. Johnsbury quarterback Maddox McFarland during Saturday's Division I football final in South Burlington.

Independent photo/Steve James



SENIOR CAPTAIN LOGAN McNulty finds some running room vs. St. Johnsbury during Saturday's Division I football final in South Burlington.

Independent photo/Steve James

Champions

(Continued from Page 1B)
But the Tigers defended a fourth-down pass and took the ball over at 2:41 of the first quarter. And they marched 73 yards in 13 plays to take the lead. A 28-yard Jason Sperry run moved MUHS into St. J territory, and his 3-yard dive on fourth-and-one from the Hilltopper 33 kept the drive alive.
The Tigers ran for short yardage until they reached the 19. Then senior Logan McNulty broke loose for nine yards to the 8, and on the next play he ran wide left to reach paydirt at 8:22 of the second period. Owen Butterfield added the kick, and it was 7-0. Neither team mounted another threat before halftime.

Then came a wilder third quarter. The Tigers moved after receiving the second half kickoff, which McNulty returned to the Tiger 49. Back-to-back 11-yard Sperry runs soon gave the Tigers a first-down at the Hilltopper 23.
But St. J linebacker Hampton Mahy stripped the ball from Tucker Wright after a handoff and returned the fumble to the Tiger 40. The field position didn't help St. J: Three plays later Wright sacked St. J quarterback Maddox McFarland for a 15-yard loss, forcing a punt.
Another three plays later, Hilltopper Jamal Saibou picked off a pass from junior QB Brady Lloyd at the St. J. 45, and the Hilltoppers were back in business.
Not for long. Four plays later. Tiger senior Marshall Eddy intercepted McFarland at the St. J. 43, and the Tigers launched their second scoring drive — but were promptly flagged for a holding penalty.
No matter. On the next play, Sperry broke a tackle at the line of scrimmage and rambled for 24 yards to the Hilltopper 30.
Another holding penalty

threatened to kill the march, and the quarter ended with a third and 16 at the 25. But McNulty galloped 12 yards on a reverse, and on fourth-and-three Wright plowed through the line for 10 more, and it was first-and-goal at the Hilltopper 3.
Two plays later, Lloyd snuck in from the 1. A missed point-after set the score at 13-0 with 8:22 to go.
St. J switched quarterbacks, replacing the sophomore McFarland with senior backup Owen Marcotte. The Hilltoppers began to move. Marcotte completed seven passes on a 71-yard, six-minute march that made it 13-7 with 2:33 remaining. His final completion came on fourth-and-six from the Tiger 18 to Saibou slanting across the middle at the goal line for the touchdown — 13-7.
Hilltopper Henry Semp recovered the onside kick after it bad-hopped past the Tigers. St. J had the ball on the Tiger 46 with three timeouts. A completion put the ball on the 35.
What happened resembles the end of "Hoosiers," when Jimmy Chitwood tells Coach Norman Dale he'll take the game-winning shot instead of the play Dale draws up.
Malcolm said the Tigers had been blitzing linebackers more often. But Sperry, a linebacker as well as running back, suggested he could break up a pass play rather than rush the passer.
"He actually looked at me and he said, 'Stop. Don't send us,'" Malcolm said.
What happened?
"On the next play he picked it off," Malcolm said. "Because he knew if he was going to drop into the hook-and-curl area he could pick it off. So the kid's sharp."
Sperry returned the interception to the Tiger 35, but with 2:05 still

on the clock the game was not over. If the Hilltoppers could stop the Tigers they would get the ball back.
On third-and-three they stopped Sperry a yard short.
Malcolm's first instinct was to punt. But Sperry suggested they should go for it. They did. The line opened a hole. Sperry bulled ahead for four yards. The Tigers were champions.
"That first down was about as big as you're going to get, and you've got to give it to your best player, the kid who's done it all year," Malcolm said.
Those were the final four yards of Sperry's 142 yards on 20 carries. McNulty added 15 carries for 70 yards, and Wright, Lloyd, and senior captain Ben DeBisschop also picked up key yards.
The two St. J quarterbacks combined to complete 15 of 28 attempts for 178 yards, but three Tiger sacks for 34 yards of losses dropped their net yardage to 144.
The Tigers suspected early on they would be lifting a trophy after the final.
"(I thought so) when we won week one against Essex without our quarterback," Malcolm said. "We didn't have a great preseason. But we showed up week one, and we were gamers."
McNulty and Riney said they began to believe after the team stacked up a few wins.
"We knew we had something special. We felt really good in the middle of the season," McNulty said. "We knew we could do it."
Riney summed up how everybody felt celebrating afterward with their friends, families and many Tiger fans.
"I feel good. Seeing the community here from Middlebury supporting football, it's amazing," Riney said "There's so much love here."

MUMS XC runs to championship

ST. ALBANS — The Middlebury Union Middle School girls' cross-country team on Oct. 26 in St. Albans made it two straight Vermont championships.
The Tiger runners defeated 27 scoring teams with 64 points, well in front of the second-place team's total of 127 on the Hard'ack Recreation Area's 1.9-mile course, according to Coach Karen Morris.
The MUMS varsity runners were Evie Fuller, Rosie Barry, Charlotte Boire, Kaisa Remsen, Sedsel Gillette, Myla Portz and Tallulah Nurok.
Fuller and Barry led the team finishing just three seconds apart in 7th and 8th place, respectively, according to results on the athletic.net and vt.milesplit.com websites. Boire was next in 11th, followed by Remsen 18th and Portz was 36th.
Notable in the boys' race was that 8th-grade racer Finn Ray took third place in 10:38, averaging 5:19 per mile as the MUMS boys took fifth place out of 26 teams.
Morris noted the JV girls' team also won, with MUMS runners taking first, second and fourth places.
The coach was also pleased to report there were a total of 39 runners in the program across the three grade levels.



MEMBERS OF THE MUMS girls' cross-country team pose with their Vermont championship medals and plaque after winning the state title for the second straight year, this time in St. Albans on Oct. 26.

Photo courtesy of Karen Morris

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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 at anderson_samara@yahoo.com.

"Anastasia" in Bristol. Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. This year's Mt. Abe fall musical follows a brave young woman from the twilight of the Russian empire to 1920s Paris as she sets out to discover the mystery of her past. \$15 general admission, \$12 seniors and children under 12, \$5 for current Mount Abe students with student ID. Tickets available cur8.com/22548/project/133201.

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.

"Anastasia" in Bristol. Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. See Nov. 20 listing.

nov 22 SATURDAY

TaeKwonDo KICKS Leveling Up Ceremony in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 22, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Middlebury Recreation Center gym, 154 Creek Road. Watch students of all ages demonstrate skills to level up to a new belt and learn about the benefits of martial arts. Free. More info at tkdkicks101@yahoo.com.

Holiday bazaar and bake sale in Monkton. Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friends Methodist Church, 78 Monkton Ridge. Shop handcrafted gifts, attic treasures and homemade doughnuts, chocolates, pies, cookies, whoopie pies and more. Lunch available. Call 802-453-2879 for more information.

Toy swap in Lincoln. Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. Find like-new toys and games for children, all free. Donate items to de-clutter and reduce waste. Open to all: there's no requirement to bring items in order to take items. Free.

Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 22, 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.

"Anastasia" in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 22, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. See Nov. 20 listing.

Dance to Joe & Jackie in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 22, 4-7 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Come dance to Joe and Jackie's mix of rock 'n' roll, country and oldies and enjoy line dancing too. Kitchen open 4-6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 22, doors open 5 p.m., games 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Family-friendly bingo with cash prizes, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit restoration of the church bell tower.

nov 23 SUNDAY

Bristol Boy Scouts Christmas tree sales in Bristol. Sunday, Nov. 23-Wednesday, Dec. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, 38 West St. Celebrate the season with a tree from Boy Scout Troop No. 543. Proceeds support outdoor gear, camping trips and other Scout programs. Affordable prices. More info at 802-453-4877.

nov 24 MONDAY

Thanksgiving bingo in Middlebury. Monday, Nov. 24, 4:30 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., quickies start at 6 p.m., regular bingo at 7 p.m. \$1000 jackpot. Kitchen open 5-6:30 p.m. with regular bingo menu and homemade desserts. Open to the public. Benefits veterans' programs.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, Nov. 24, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North St. & Elm St. All ages cribbage night hosted by the Masons of Libanus Lodge.

nov 25 TUESDAY

Third Eye Chakra drum Circle in Middlebury. Tuesday, Nov. 25, 6:30 p.m., 54 Main St., Unit B. Brought to you by Breanna Elaine music and Love Play Grow Wellness. \$10 suggested donation.

nov 27 THURSDAY

Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Middlebury. Thursday, Nov. 27, noon-2 p.m., Middlebury VFW, 530



An epic musical adventure

JOURNEY FROM THE twilight of the Russian empire to 1920s Paris with the Mt. Abe fall musical, "Anastasia." Performances run Nov. 20-22 at the MAUHS Performing Arts Center. Pictured here, from left, are Andrew Koczal as the tsar, Bailey Antos-Ketcham as the dowager empress, Isolde Tierney as young Ana and Rhiannon Andrews as the tsarina.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

Exchange St. Free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by 802 Cares. Walk-ins welcome; reservations appreciated. Free. Donations welcome but not required. More info at 802-345-1451, 802cares@gmail.com.

nov 28 FRIDAY

Holiday Gift Raffle in Shoreham. Ongoing through Saturday, Dec. 6, Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Stop by the library to buy tickets for the holiday gift raffle. Proceeds benefit the Platt Memorial Library Summer Concert Series in 2026. Put your tickets into the gifts you want to win. Winners drawn Saturday, Dec. 6; you do not need to be present to win. \$1 per ticket; \$5 for six tickets.

Christmas tree and wreath raffle in Middlebury. Ongoing through Wednesday, Dec. 17, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, featuring festive creations by local artists. View the trees and wreaths for free during museum hours and purchase raffle tickets in person or online. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Small Business Weekend in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Nov. 30, downtown Middlebury. Kick off the season by shopping small at owner-run downtown businesses. Find unique gifts and soak up the holiday cheer all weekend long.

nov 29 SATURDAY

Small Business Saturday in Brandon. Saturday, Nov. 29, all day, downtown Brandon. Celebrate small businesses, kick off your holiday shopping and support the local economy after Black Friday.

Med47 Annual Holiday Shoppe & Craft Fair in New Haven. Saturday, Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. The Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation's annual holiday market features local crafters and artisans, attic treasures, home-baked goods, jams and jellies, syrup, fiber arts, stained glass and more. Silent auction through Nov. 25 at 32auctions.com/med47winter2025auction. Proceeds support firefighters, EMTs and their families. More info at cmcousino@gmail.com, 802-233-8334.

Small Business Saturday in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. and downtown. Bristol will be buzzing with holiday cheer. Stop by the Holley Jolly Market in Holley Hall and head downtown for holiday shopping, giveaways and more.

nov 30 SUNDAY

Library Holiday Auction in Brandon. Sunday, Nov. 30, 3-6 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Silent auction with light refreshments, wine and beer. Presented by the Friends of the Brandon Library. **Memory Tree Lighting in Brandon.** Sunday, Nov. 30, 3:30 p.m., Brandon Central Park (by the fountain), 2 Franklin St. Honor loved ones who have passed and brighten the dark winter months with the lighting of the Memory Tree. Carol singing by the Brandon Festival Singers will begin at 3:30 p.m.; the Memory Tree will be lit at 4 p.m.

dec 1 MONDAY

Shoreham Writer's Group in Shoreham. Monday, Dec. 1, 4-6 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Share writing, give and receive feedback and enjoy a community of writers. December's optional prompt is pet stories. Meet in the front room, all are welcome.

dec 2 TUESDAY

American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., American Legion

Middlebury, 49 Wilson Rd. Community blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS.

Pins and Needles Craft Club in Brandon. Tuesday, Dec. 2 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, Dec. 2, 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.

dec 3 WEDNESDAY

Kids' Club After School in Shoreham. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2:45-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. A special guest from the Middlebury Studio School will lead a holiday card-making activity. Open to children ages 5-12.

Moonlight Madness in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-8 p.m., downtown Brandon. Shop local this holiday season and take advantage of bargains, sales, specials and drawings throughout town. Many shops will offer 20% off storewide and be open 'til 8 p.m. More info at brandon.org, info@brandon.org, 802-247-6401.

Winter Village in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. A European-style Christmas market with food, music, shopping and holiday cheer. Enjoy twinkling lights, mulled wine, spicy sausage sandwiches, handmade crafts and greenery, rich cocoa, live performances, fire pits and café seating.

Brush Hour in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Relax with paint-by-numbers; materials provided. Free.

The People vs. Big Tech: A Vermont Town Hall Series in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Data privacy town hall with Vermont State Rep. Monique Priestley. Learn how privacy, artificial intelligence, and digital ads affect everyday life and what you can do. Reservations at peoplevsbigtech.com.

dec 4 THURSDAY

ASL Club in Brandon. Thursday, Dec 4 and weekly on Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Collaborative American Sign Language learning using video tutorials.

Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., downtown Middlebury. Enjoy late-night shopping, carolers, festive lights and holiday magic throughout downtown.

Henry Sheldon Museum and store open during Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Find gifts at the museum store, visit the Trains exhibit, make seasonal crafts in the Makerspace and enter the decorated Christmas tree & wreath raffle. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Christmas Tree Lighting in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, exact time TBD, Triangle Park, Merchants Row and Main St. Join the community to light the tree during the first Midd Night Stroll.

Craft Fair at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Wing, 72-76 Merchants Row. Shop handmade gifts from local artisans during the first stroll night.

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UVM scientists get clues to identify dementia risk years before onset

BURLINGTON — Impactful research by scientists at the University of Vermont has identified new blood tests that can predict a person’s risk for cognitive impairment that can lead to dementia. The research ID’s risk long before people notice any memory issues, the university reported this month.

These blood tests use an emerging technology able to detect leakage of tiny amounts of proteins, called biomarkers, from damaged brain cells. The findings, published in *Neurology*, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology, show that brain changes happen decades before the onset of symptoms.

“Findings from this research provide new knowledge that might allow us to help people avoid Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias as they age,” says study co-author Nels Olson, Ph.D., M.P.H., associate professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. Olson collaborates closely with Vermont Center for Cardiovascular and Brain Health Co-Director Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., university distinguished professor of Medicine, who is senior author of this study. Additional co-authors include scientists at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Alabama, and other institutions.

Using blood tests to assess risk for future cognitive problems can help people identify a need for prevention treatments and lifestyle modifications. Evidence shows that maintaining a healthy lifestyle that includes staying physically active, eating a healthy diet, avoiding tobacco and excessive alcohol consumption, and controlling high blood pressure can ward off dementia. Staying mentally and socially active can



NELS OLSON, PH.D., left, and Mary Cushman, M.D., collaborate on research into dementia at the University of Vermont’s Larner College of Medicine.

Photo credit: Andy Duback

also reduce the risk.

The investigators examined a subset of participants from the ongoing Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, REGARDS has followed 30,239 Black and white adults since 2003 to identify factors that lead to stroke and cognitive problems. For the current study, researchers looked at four lab tests in blood of REGARDS participants who had no baseline cognitive impairment and followed them for about 12 years. They found that three tests — neurofilament light chain (NFL), glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP), and ubiquitin carboxy-terminal hydrolase L1 (UCH-L1) — were very good at predicting who would develop memory problems later.

As dementia rates continue to rise with the aging of the U.S. population, a reliable test to predict it will become increasingly important. The U.S. population is older today than at any previous

time in history and, over the next 25 years, the number of adults older than 65 will increase by 50 percent, putting more people at risk for cognitive decline. Evidence shows that women, Black people, and Hispanic people have a higher risk of developing dementia as they age.

Previous investigations of these blood tests mostly included patients referred to memory clinics with cognitive problems, who were predominantly non-Hispanic white participants, limiting translation to the general population. This new study helps clarify the role of the blood tests in predicting future cognitive decline in the general population years before the appearance of symptoms. Because the REGARDS data is from a national sample, the findings are more geographically generalizable than previous studies.

Future research will seek to confirm these findings in larger studies, see if findings apply at a younger age, and identify additional blood tests that could be used in clinical practice.

Read the study, *Circulating Biomarkers of Neurodegeneration and Risk of Cognitive Impairment*, online at tinyurl.com/UVMdementia.



Holiday events on tap in Lincoln

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

NEWS

(12) and you must also submit a consent form to the town clerk. The deadline for submission is Monday, Jan. 26, 2026. Petitions, consent forms and a list of open positions can be found on the town website at lincolnvermont.org.

If you are considering running for school director, the Vermont School Boards Association has an upcoming webinar for prospective candidates on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. To register, please visit vtvsba.org.

The library is looking to add volunteer snow shovelers to their team to help keep the library safely accessible this winter. They are looking for people who love being outside and can help them shovel the sidewalks and the porch when it has snowed.

Some of the volunteers choose a day of the week and show

up in the morning before the library opens if snow is in the air, others might choose a day or two a month and others opt to be substitutes when the regulars are traveling or can’t make their day. Any and all help is very much appreciated! The library will provide the shovels (and a wide variety of free books to check out and even the occasional hot chocolate).

If you are interested in helping the library, please reach out to Kate by email at lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com or by phone at 802-453-2665 and they’ll get you on the schedule.

The library will be closed Friday, Nov. 28 and Saturday, Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving.

REMINDER: The toy swap will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Here you will find like-new toys, games, puzzles, and other items, all FREE to whoever would like them! You can bring items to swap with you on the day of the event. All are welcome.

Until next time...“What If Today, We Were Just Grateful For Everything?” — Charlie Brown

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Friends Methodist Church invites you to join them for their annual Holiday Bazaar. This cherished event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a bake sale with various pies, cookies, cakes, whoopee pies, homemade chocolates and of course the wonderful homemade donuts

which have become that special treat for this time of year! Some of these goodies include gluten free options. You will be able to pick up some lunch or eat it there consisting of sandwiches and belly warming soup. If you choose to take some soup home to enjoy, it will be available in pint or quart sizes- perfect for a single person or family. Also don’t

forget to check out the homemade crafts, attic treasures and a few surprise items you may not expect to find! All are welcome to join in on the festive shopping, see your neighbors and get some great Christmas gifts or special treats for Thanksgiving. For questions contact Marilyn at 802-453-4918.

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

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Ryan Wright

Ryan Wright is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. Ryan has lived in Addison his entire life with his dad, stepmom, and his dog, Bella (a birthday gift he received when he was just two years old). Growing up alongside Bella and in a tight-knit community that always shows up for one another has shaped Ryan's appreciation for small-town connection and support. “I believe that’s how it should be,” he says.

Ryan enjoys school more than he sometimes realizes, especially because of the friends and classmates he’s shared so many experiences with. His favorite subject is CAD, where Mr. Crawford pushes him to make his work the best it can be. Ryan loves designing buildings and structures and using his visualization skills to bring ideas to life. Academically, he has made the honor roll every year and was selected as a delegate for the 2025 Vermont Boys State.

Sports play a major role in Ryan's high school life. He has played football and basketball throughout all four years and added baseball to his schedule during his junior and senior years. He served as a varsity basketball captain during both his junior and senior seasons.

Outside of school, Ryan holds two summer jobs: one with the City of Vergennes Public Works Department, where he’s been learning about construction and practical life skills, and another at the West Addison General Store. In his free time, he enjoys playing sports with friends, drawing, fishing and spending time with friends and family.

One of the most important lessons Ryan has learned in high school is not to get lost in the what-ifs. “I see people worrying about the hypotheticals too much. Live life to the fullest and with purpose. If you can stop and think about someone or something you want to devote your life to, you’re going to make them proud. Make memories with your peers now because life can change before you even know it.”

After graduation, Ryan plans to attend college to study architecture and pursue his Bachelor of Architecture degree. Good luck, Ryan!



Ryan Wright
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Peter Conklin

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize Peter Conklin as its latest Student of the Week. Peter is the son of Kate Conklin and lives in Middlebury with his mom, her boyfriend, and his sister Ellie, a tenth-grader at MUHS. He also has four older siblings, and the family shares their home with three beloved cats.

At school, Peter appreciates being surrounded by peers who are genuinely interested in learning and in exploring diverse perspectives. His favorite classes are Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Latin. He credits Mr. Tufts and Ms. Carroll as his favorite teachers. Peter notes that “Mr. Tufts is able to succinctly tie the Latin language to Roman and modern culture — it’s almost like an anthropology course.” He adds that “With Ms. Carroll, we get to discuss philosophy, and she’s great at incorporating students’ interests into the curriculum, which keeps everyone more invested.”

Peter has received the Language Acquisition Award and has been an active member of Student Council for three years, serving as secretary for two of them. He also participates in DREAM Club mentorship and Scholars Bowl.

Outside of school, Peter babysits for a neighborhood family and spends much of his free time reading. He especially enjoys exploring history, political theory and philosophy, and has recently developed an interest in sculpting. Politics and current events are also important to Peter. He has become deeply interested in the work of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, particularly Hegel’s ideas about Immanent Critique and Dialectical Reasoning — engaging in logical debate to form a worldview. Peter says this philosophical approach has helped him connect his academic studies to real life.

His biggest piece of advice for underclassmen is simple but powerful: “Read. Reading has changed my life.”

Looking ahead, Peter plans to attend a four-year university to study accounting or political science. He is also considering a future career as a professor. MUHS congratulates Peter Conklin on his many accomplishments and wishes him continued success throughout his senior year and beyond.



Peter Conklin
MUHS

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Public Meetings

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Help Wanted

SEEKING QUALIFIED PERSON to provide respite care for a friendly healthy young woman at her home or in your wheelchair-accessible home. Requires safe transfer from wheelchair to bed and toilet and assistance with all activities of daily living and personal care. Involves meal preparation of soft or chopped regular diet. Communication using text messages or American Sign Language. Excellent pay. Interested parties please contact Cindy at 802-758-2410. Please leave a message.

Help Wanted



Highway Department Road Foreman

The Town of Monkton is seeking qualified applicants for Highway Department Road Foreman. This position is to serve as the working supervisor of the Highway Crew and is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Monkton Highway Department. Experience in highway maintenance and repair, mechanical ability, record keeping and communication skills required. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week, requiring a flexible schedule which may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime.

Must have CDL, pass a drug test, and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours and live within 15 minutes of the Town Garage.

Salary \$30-40 per hour depending on years of qualification and experience.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest outlining your experience and qualifications for the position either by email to selectboard@monktonvt.com & townadministrator@monktonvt.com or via mail at Monkton Town Hall, P.O. Box 12, Monkton, VT. 05469-0012

The Town of Monkton will be accepting applications until the position is filled. Full job description is available at Town Hall or online at monktonvt.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

JR & SONS

JR & Sons is looking for CDL & non CDL drivers.

We serve all of Addison County and the state of Vermont

\$27-\$30 per hour
Management experience is helpful.

Please call Jerry at: 802-989-0005
Or our office at: 802-735-9760

JR & Son's Inc.
63 School St., Vergennes, VT 05491

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Leading construction company is seeking Carpenters and Lead Carpenters in the Addison & Chittenden County area.

We offer a rewarding work environment with comprehensive compensation packages ranging from \$65,000/yr to \$95,000/yr based on experience. Benefits include paid holidays, 3+ weeks paid time off, 401k, employer healthcare contribution, profit sharing, bi-annual bonuses, and more.

Scan the QR code below to text your contact info and experience or email us at admin@smithmcclain.com.



Come build with us!

Find it!

Check the Classifieds every week in the Addison Independent.

Help Wanted

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities


Opportunities

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are a valued and vital part of the Bixby Library. We welcome, train, and celebrate those who would like to serve patrons and visitors at our circulation desk, catalog books, create crafts and more!

To learn more about volunteering with the Bixby please give us a call at (802) 877-2211



Join the Addy Indy Team!

Sports News Reporter

The award-winning weekly Addison Independent in Middlebury, Vt., seeks a full-time reporter covering local sports and news. Responsibilities are similar on both sides of the beat: research, report, write and deliver stories to run online and in print.

Sports beat: three local high schools and, when possible, the local college. Attend and write game stories, get results and prep briefs on other local competitions, develop stories beyond game write-ups.

News beat: Keep tabs on people and events in five towns, cultivate sources (organizations, businesses, civic officials, educators). Create news and feature stories to reflect the community.

- Meet sources in person, interview them and write interesting stories that are clear and engaging.
- Photograph people or events to accompany your stories.
- Meet deadlines and work under pressure in a fast-paced news environment.

Starting Salary \$40k - \$50k
Commensurate with experience

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



To apply, email a cover letter and resume to news@addisonindependent.com

Scan to learn more

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: \$ _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: \$ _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

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; East Middlebury. No Pets, No Smoking. \$1300 plus utilities. Semi-furnished. First & last security deposit. 802-771-4686.



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.

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

BRIDPORT: Share beautiful views of Lake Champlain with senior man interested in farming/rural life. Help with a few meals/week and upkeep of the home in exchange for rent of \$200/ month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

Help Wanted

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft – Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury – 802-558-6092

EAST MIDDLEBURY APARTMENT 3 Bedroom Apartment, with office: \$2250 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

MIDDLEBURY ONE BED-ROOM 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.

MIDDLEBURY SUGAR-WOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

MIDDLEBURY: Senior woman who enjoys exercise, gardening, singing in the choir, seeking housemate to cook some evening meals in exchange for rent of \$300/month. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

MIDDLEBURY: Share comfortable home with senior woman who enjoys reading and connection with her faith. \$650/month plus occasional transportation. Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

Help Wanted

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 north-starpropertiesvt.tenantcloud.com/listings/181951.

PAINTING STUDIO FOR RENT Serene, bright, and spacious painting studio available January 1, 2026. 20'x30' open floor plan with 11-foot ceilings and plenty of ventilation. Located in Orwell, Vermont, less than 30 minutes from Middlebury. \$930 per month, heat and electric included, 12-month lease. Contact John@Hubglass.com to schedule a viewing.

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.

WOODLAND APARTMENTS 2 Bedroom and Studio Apartments Available in Bristol Vermont. Go to WoodlandApartmentsVT.com for availability/pictures!

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

Wood Heat

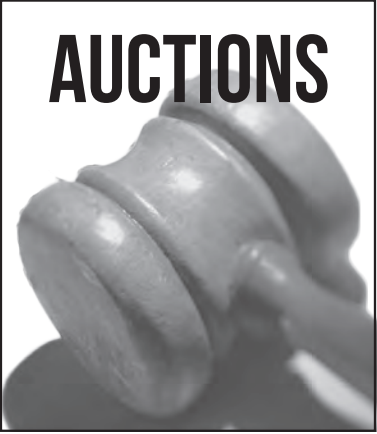
DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

CORN SILAGE FOR SALE 4-5000 tons of processed corn silage. Nutrient analysis available. Ben Whitcomb 802-598-2027

Help Wanted



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/14/25 & 11/17/25

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Nop Bros	1835	1.50	\$2752.50
Riverhill	1175	1.47	\$1727.25
S. Dean	1495	1.40	\$2093.00
Gosliga	1345	1.35	\$1815.75
Quarry Rd	1650	1.30	\$2145.00
CALVES			\$
Doton			\$1384.30
Green Mtn Dairy			\$1369.60
Sunderland			\$1158.30
Conants			\$1145.40
Barnes			\$1144.00

Total Beef - 137 Total Calves - 181

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

ADDISON COUNTY INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The Assistant Judges of Addison County invite the public to a meeting to discuss the proposed Addison County budget for 2026-2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027). The meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Clerk's office at the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury.

Any questions or for a copy of the budget, please contact the county clerk at addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com or 802-388-1966.

Patricia Ross, Assistant Judge
Nicole Wilkerson, Assistant Judge

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF OIL, GAS, AND MINERAL LEASE PURSUANT TO 29 V.S.A. §563(g) and (h)

Name of Record Owners of Interest:
William J. Shallow and Addison Gardner, III

Description of the Land:
All lands of Anne L. Harper located in the Town of Orwell, Vermont.

Nature of the Interest:
Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease of Anne L. Harper and Henry Thomas Harper, III (now deceased) to William J. Shallow and Addison Gardner, III, dated December 4, 1981, and recorded in Book 36, Page 259 of the Orwell Land Records.

Name and Address of the Person Giving Notice
Amy R. Menard, Esq.
Agent for Anne L. Harper
Putnam & Menard, PLC
One Cross Street
Middlebury, VT 05753

It is presumed that this Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease is abandoned.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont, this 14th day of November, 2025.
Submitted by: Amy R. Menard, Esq.,
Agent for Anne L. Harper

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT Addison Unit

CIVIL DIVISION Docket No. 25-CV-00906

JOHN SHERLOCK, Plaintiff v. JENNIFER STOCKER, ADAM SHAFER, ALL OCCUPANTS OF 2168 RIVER ROAD, NEW HAVEN, VERMONT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, REINHART FOOD SERVICE, LLC, and NATIONAL FUNDING, INC., Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale dated October 15, 2025 in the above-captioned action brought to foreclose the mortgage given by Adam Shafer and Jennifer Stocker to John Sherlock recorded in Book 83, Page 480 of the New Haven, Vermont Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, there will be sold to the highest bidder at public auction at 2168 River Road, New Haven, Vermont, at 2PM on December 9, 2025 all and singular the premises described in the said mortgage, to wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed by Quitclaim Deed of John P. Sherlock to Adam Shafer and Jennifer Stocker dated August 14, 2015 and recorded in Book 83, Page 407 of the New Haven, Vermont Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

The purchaser must at the time of the winning bid sign a no contingency purchase and sale contract (subject only to Court confirmation) and deliver a \$10,000 deposit in the form of cash, a bank treasurer's check, or a certified check. The deposit is subject to forfeiture. All bids are to be made and payable in U.S. Dollars.

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the Mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

John Sherlock, Mortgagee
By John M. Mazzuchi, Esq., his counsel
MSK Attorneys
275 College St.
Burlington, VT 05406
jmazzuchi@mskvt.com (802) 388-6337; (802) 382-8840 (fax)

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-05898 IN RE ESTATE OF: MARY BUDAI

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: **Mary Budai**, late of Middlebury, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 11/17/25

Janice Fraga and Francis Fraga
570 Moody Road
Lincoln, VT 05443

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 11/20/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TRI-TOWN WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 P.O. BOX 85 BRIDPORT, VERMONT 05734-0085 802-758-2202 tritownwater@gmavt.net

The Legal Voters of Tri-Town Water District No. 1, a municipal corporation, are hereby warned and noticed to meet at the business office of Tri-Town Water District No. 1 at 14 Crown Point Road in Bridport, VT on December 2, 2025 at 6:00 PM to transact the following business:

Article 1. To elect the officers for the ensuing year
a. Moderator
b. Clerk
b. Treasurer

Article 2. To hear and act upon reports of the District.

Article 3. To see if the District will authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to borrow money to pay debts and expenses in anticipation of revenue receipts, if necessary, for the ensuing year, said money to be paid to its Treasurer.

Article 4. To approve projected budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Article 5. To transact any other business thought proper to be done at this time.

Tri-Town Water District No.1
Jennifer Sullivan, Clerk-Treasurer

REACH THE COUNTY, PLACE YOUR AD HERE. CALL 388-4944

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 10B and 11B**

Addison County Clerk (1)

Addison (1)

Cornwall (1)

Middlebury (2)

Monkton (2)

Starksboro (1)

State of Vermont (1)

Town & Country Self Storage (1)

Tri-Town Water District (1)

Vergennes Panton Water District (1)

Weybridge (1)

TOWN OF WEYBRIDGE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE (In Person and Online) PLANNING COMMISSION

A public hearing before the Weybridge Planning Commission will be held in person and via Zoom at the Weybridge Town Office on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM, to pursue the following business:

To consider the request of Terry Hier to adjust the boundary between the parcel he owns at 257 Pine Ridge Lane and the adjacent parcel owned by Charlene Hier.

Persons wishing to be heard at this Public Meeting may do so in person or may be represented at the meeting by a licensed Vermont Attorney or an authorized agent; please note that in accordance with Chapter 117, Section 4464 of the Vermont statutes that participation in the Public Meeting is a prerequisite to the right to take subsequent appeal.

The full application and sketch plan can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office – call 545-2270 for access instructions. Please call or email jwolson23@gmail.com or clerk@townofweybridge.org for instructions on participating in the hearing via Zoom.

Jeff Olson, Chair
Weybridge Planning Commission

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-06952 IN RE ESTATE OF: MARK YANDOW

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: **Mark Yandow**, late of Salisbury, 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: 11/13/25

Skylar Yandow
c/o Miller Estate Law
PO Box 220
North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473
802-829-0171
skylar.yandow@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 11/20/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION – LET’S GROW KIDS, INC.

Let's Grow Kids, Inc. was launched in 2000 as a time-limited campaign to transform Vermont's child care system by 2025. Over the last 25 years, LGK built a movement of over 42,000 Vermonters, who have come together to make clear: child care is essential. Through their lobbying and advocacy efforts, LGK helped pass Act 76, Vermont's groundbreaking new child care law. As a result of Act 76, Vermont is finally addressing decades of under-funding through new, dedicated public investment in our child care system.

With the statewide movement and the framework and funding in place from Act 76, LGK as an organization will be officially winding down at the end of this year. LGK has passed the baton to key child care ecosystem partner organizations who are ready to lead the movement in this next phase. Let's Grow Kids intends to wind down its operations by December 31, 2025.


In connection with winding down its affairs, Let's Grow Kids wants to ensure that all of its vendors have been paid and seek to verify that all outstanding invoices have been satisfied in full. Accordingly, if you believe your company/organization is owed any amounts from Let's Grow Kids, **please mail Let's Grow Kids your written claim to the following address:** 3 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753, Attn: Barry Pius.

If you submit a claim to us, please include in your submission: (i) the specific amount owed, (ii) the date the debt was incurred, and (iii) a description of the service or product that your company/organization provided to Let's Grow Kids.

Please note that **your claim against Let's Grow Kids will be time-barred under Vermont law unless** you commence a proceeding to enforce your claim within five years after the publication of this notice. This notice is published in compliance with 11B V.S.A. § 14.07.

For more information on the winding down of Let's Grow Kids, please see our website about this new chapter (<https://letsgrowkids.org/lets-grow-kids-is-winding-down-but-our-child-care-campaign-is-not-over>).

We thank you for your support over the years. And thank you to Vermont and all those who are a part of this movement for demonstrating that when we come together around a shared goal, we can accomplish great things.


Alyson Richards
CEO
Let's Grow Kids, Inc.

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont, this 6th day of November, 2025
Maria L. Brown, Clerk
VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT

Sheriff's Log

ADDISON COUNTY — When an Addison County Sheriff's Department deputy on Nov. 10 attempted to stop a blue Honda Civic in Shoreham on Richville Road, the car sped away. The deputy said the Honda was affixed with a temporary registration.

Anyone with information on this car or its driver is asked to contact the Sheriff's office at 802-388-2981.

Between Nov. 15 and 19, Sheriff Michael Elmore and his deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 55 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, fingerprinted nine people, provided free car seat inspections to two

families who had new seats and attempted to serve 25 pieces of civil process around the county.

In other recent activity, Elmore and his deputies also:

- On Nov. 10 provided a transport to Rutland Regional Medical Center from Middlebury.
- On Nov. 11 the sheriff taught a Use of Force class to several deputies.
- On Nov. 11 assisted a disabled tractor-trailer on Route 22A in Shoreham.
- On Nov. 11 helped out a driver when their vehicle got a flat tire on Route 22A in Orwell.
- On Nov. 12 assisted Vermont State Police with a crash at

the Route 22A and Route 17 intersection in Addison.

- On Nov. 12 provided a courtesy ride for someone walking on Route 7 in Middlebury.
- On Nov. 13 investigated a crash between two commercial vehicles on Route 125 in Ripton.
- On Nov. 14 assisted with a property retrieval due to a court order in Middlebury.
- On Nov. 15 assisted with security at Hannaford supermarket due to a planned protest.
- On Nov. 15 escorted the MUHS football team back to Middlebury after they won the state championship.

Leicester shooter signs plea deal

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Vermont News First

BURLINGTON — A gun-toting Franklin County drug dealer is facing a prison sentence somewhere between 20 and 27 years after agreeing to plead guilty to two federal charges stemming from killing another drug dealer he was trying to rob in Addison County, court records show.

The shooter, Zaquikon T. Roy, 37, formerly of Rutland has signed a plea deal to admit to two of the 15 felony charges he is facing in U.S. District Court in Burlington.

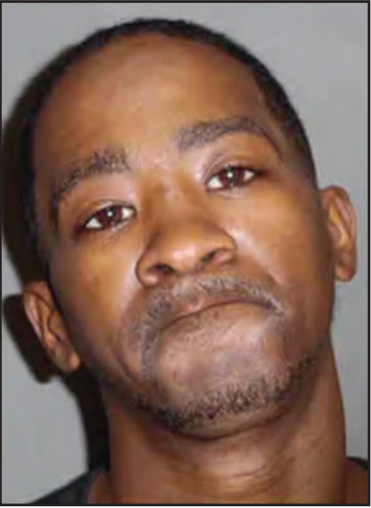
He was due to formally plead guilty on Friday, but his lawyer Chandler Matson asked for at least a one-week delay to allow his client to inform his ill mother about his 14-page plea agreement.

Matson said Roy wants to explain to his mother that she is not likely to ever see him again outside of prison. Roy's mother has been undergoing kidney dialysis and he has not had a chance to discuss his case with her, Matson said.

Roy has signed a plea agreement admitting to conspiracy to distribute fentanyl, crack cocaine and more than 500 grams of cocaine between February 2022 and June 2023. He also is admitting to knowingly using and carrying a Smith & Wesson .380 Bodyguard while involved in drug trafficking crimes in May and June 2023 and discharged it seven times during the June 4, 2023, fatal shooting in Leicester, records show.

Scott D. Lanpher, 35, of Leicester was killed, while his brother Larry L. Lanpher Jr., 32, also of Leicester was seriously wounded in the chest outside their home on Route 7 on June 4, 2023.

The Leicester shooting was sparked by a plan by the Lanphers to steal money and drugs from



ZAQUIKON ROY

Roy. Several hours before the shooting Roy sold the Lanphers crack cocaine at the Hannaford Supermarket parking lot in Middlebury, but reportedly shorted the product, records note.

Vermont State Police were able to quickly identify the shooter in part because Roy left his wallet at the scene.

Under the plea deal, the two sides agreed that Senior Federal Judge Geoffrey Crawford could find the appropriate penalty somewhere between 240 and 324 months. The new hearing is tentatively set for Dec. 3. Both charges carry mandatory minimum 10 year sentences and must be consecutive.

The drug count carries up to 40 years in prison, with a term of supervised release between four years and life, and up to a \$5 million fine. The gun charge carries up to 5 years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

Roy also could be ordered to make restitution to the victims.

Roy's girlfriend, Kimberly Coons Bouchard, 38, of St. Albans, who was present during the shooting, was allowed to plead guilty on Jan. 4, 2024, to two felony

drug and gun charges. She admitted to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Vermont and elsewhere between January and June 2023 and conspiracy to possess firearms to further her drug trafficking business during that time, records show.

Larry L. Lanpher Jr. was sentenced in July to two and a half years in prison for drug trafficking. Chief Federal Judge Christina Reiss noted he had repeatedly lied to authorities, including about the fatal shooting of his brother. The judge refused to provide him credit for acceptance of responsibility due to his lack of honesty.

He admitted to a conspiracy to knowingly and intentionally distribute both crack and powder cocaine between January 2023 and August 2023 in Vermont and elsewhere.

Roy, who is originally from Brooklyn, is well known to police in Vermont. Court records show he has five previous felony drug convictions in Vermont, including sales, possession and conspiracy between 2009 and 2013. He also has a felony gun conviction in New York in 2019, records show.

A third person also charged later in the Roy case, Christopher Gagne, 35, of Highgate is due for sentencing. He was initially charged in February 2024 with conspiring with Roy and Bouchard to distribute drugs, but he later agreed to plead guilty to operating a drug house at 518 St. Armand Road in Highgate Center in April 2023.

Under the plea agreement, Roy admitted distributing cocaine, crack cocaine and fentanyl in the Franklin County region between the fall of 2022 and June of 2023 and that he possessed firearms to protect himself, his drugs and his proceeds. He also traded controlled substances with drug users in exchange for firearms, court records show.

Roy traded controlled substances with a drug user to obtain a Taurus G2C 9-mm firearm, records show.

Swanton Village Police responded to a burglary and encountered Roy as he crawled through a window on Dunning Street and fled on Jan. 17, 2023, records note. Police later recovered the gun and cocaine that belonged to Roy, the plea agreement noted.

Leicester

Have a news tip?
Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome. The society will be taking a break from Bingo for the winter months; look for

Bingo to return on April 11.

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring its Annual Memory Tree for the holidays. The tree sits on the Meeting House steps and will be lit at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025. To submit names for the Memory Tree

email names to Diane Benware at dianembenware@gmail.com or to 1594 Old Jerusalem Road, Salisbury, VT 04769.

The cost is one dollar per name or six names for \$5.00. Money can be sent to the address above or left in an envelope at the Town Office.

The Leicester Selectboard is busy building the 2026 town budget. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for the budget to the Town Clerk who will see that the Selectboard gets your message for their consideration.

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

"Really impressed to have such a high quality small town newspaper."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



The Leicester shooting was sparked by a plan by the Lanphers to steal money and drugs from Roy. Several hours before the shooting Roy sold the Lanphers crack cocaine at the Hannaford Supermarket parking lot in Middlebury, but reportedly shorted the product, records note.

AGWAY Black Friday & Small Business Saturday Deals

NOVEMBER 28 - NOVEMBER 29

HOT BIRD FOOD DEALS:

WILD BIRD FOOD 20LB \$11.99.

SUET SINGLES
buy 1-4 get 10% off
buy 5-9 get 20% off
buy 10 or more get 30% off

3LB Hungry Bird
Suet Bites
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ARTS & CULTURE

The Addison Independent

November 20, 2025



AN EXIT-INTERVIEW WITH JAY PARINI

Jay Parini sat down with Arts & Culture editors from the Middlebury College newspaper, *The Middlebury Campus*, to share his insights after a 50-year career as a professor of English.

OLIVER PARINI PHOTOGRAPHY

To commemorate Weybridge author Jay Parini's recent retirement from his full-time position as professor of English at Middlebury College, some of the Arts & Culture team from *The Middlebury Campus* (the college's newspaper) sat down with him to

BY **CHRISTY LIANG,**
ANTHONY CINQUINA
AND **ELLIE TRINKLE**

chat about his career, life post-retirement and everything in between.

ELLIE TRINKLE: Tell us about yourself. What have you been up to?

Jay Parini: This fall is my first semester not teaching in 50 years. So, I'm really enjoying my new lease on life in my new position, which is Writer in Residence at the college. I keep my office and I'm still talking to students and supervising theses and trying to be an active member of the literary community on the campus and to be here for people.

My mornings are always devoted to writing, and they have been for half a century. I write every morning, often in the Haymaker Bun

**"IT'S ALL STORYTELLING. AND
STORYTELLING IS AN EFFORT TO
GET AT THE TRUTH."**

— Jay Parini

coffee shop. Then I go home, write some more and play basketball or swim.

I've got a novel I'm finishing about Graham Greene, the English writer, whom I met some decades ago; I have a book of poems that's almost done, and I just finished a play. In another recent book for the Library of America, I chose from some of my favorite poems from the Puritans to the present, with an essay on each one.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: I want to ask you about the variety of kinds of writings you've engaged in. It seems to me that you've managed to strike a good balance between different forms of expression. There are memoirs and biographies and novels, and you've been involved in films and plays now and poetry, of course. Do you find that you've

balanced it well, how have you done that?

Jay Parini: I think I've been naturally inclined to write in different forms. When I first began writing, I thought "I'll just be a poet." And then, I started finding myself writing longer and longer poems. I thought "Well I must try this as a piece of fiction," and I started writing novels. And then, as a fairly young man, I got involved in writing biographies. Once I wrote one biography I liked doing it, so I wrote six biographies. I've written biographies of Robert Frost, John Steinbeck, William Faulkner, Gore Vidal and Jesus.

Memoir is a more recent genre for me. I had great fun writing "Borges and Me" — my memoir of my travels in 1971 with the great Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges. He and I travelled together in the Highlands when I was 22 and he was in his 70s in my old car. He was totally blind and wildly talkative.

I've also been involved in filmmaking. One thing led to another, and I've managed to do three movies, and not do about 10 movies. That's because projects often fall through.

CHRISTY LIANG: How do you see all

SEE PARINI ON PAGE 2

PARINI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

these mediums as different, or perhaps ultimately similar, vehicles of truth?

Jay Parini: It's all storytelling. And storytelling is an

effort to get at the truth. Even a poem is a story; it always has a bit of a plot. Every form I work in is a version of storytelling, and I'm trying to find a story that interests me. It might've come out of my own life, Walter Benjamin's, Robert Frost's. I'm interested in people's lives and stories.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: Among those incredible artists and thinkers, whose life did you find most difficult to capture in words, is there one that stands out? You can include Jesus.

Jay Parini: Jesus, yes, those were the hardest interviews. Every one of those biographies presented its own challenges. William Faulkner was a very complicated writer, and it broke my brain trying to wrap my mind around him and his fiction. Gore Vidal was challenging because he was a close friend of mine. He was a difficult, strongly alcoholic man, which presented personal and emotional challenges. Robert Frost was the most satisfying biography for me because I love Frost's work and have lived in Frost's world in New England.

ELLIE TRINKLE: Do you have any early memories of realizing you wanted to become a writer? Have you always wanted to be one?

Jay Parini: Early on I thought I wanted to be a stand-up comic. I think I've kept that going, that's what teaching is for me. Teaching is strangely a version of stand-up comedy — the comedy keeps the material alive, keeps students engaged. I love audiences and performing. I wanted to be a poet, only a poet, at first. And then I realized I had to make a living, which was a bummer.

So, I did a Ph.D., but it didn't satisfy my urge to tell bigger stories. So, I started writing novels, and at the end of the day I've written 10 novels. It sounds more impressive than it is. It's just a question of one word after another, one year after another. You have to be lucky, have good health and energy and have the wish to do it. It takes a great deal of patience. You've got to maintain your ambition, and at times that can be rather demoralizing. You make false starts. I have a lot of projects that are in the drawer, where they belong.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: I think a lot of young people encounter a figure — an author, if it's writing — who opens their eyes to the world of

literature. Was there a person or a few people like that in your adolescence who inspired you to go in that direction?

Jay Parini: I came from a very working class family in Scranton, Penn. Nobody in my family read books let alone wrote books. So, there were no books in my family except "The Bible." The high school I went to, West Scranton High School, had 3,000 students and the vast majority of my classmates went off to fight in the Vietnam War. A very small number went on to college. So, I didn't have any models before me to think about becoming a serious writer or even reader.

The first writer I met was Alastair Reid, a Scottish poet who wrote for *The New Yorker*. He was amazingly influential in my life. The movie "Borges and Me" is partly about my relationship with him. He was my mentor who introduced me to a lot of other writers, taught me about the literary world and inspired me.

CHRISTY LIANG: Would you say that growing up in this relative literary vacuum has somehow deepened your sensitivity to narrative?

Jay Parini: My mother, though uneducated, was a great storyteller. In my family of origin, everybody sat around and told stories and made jokes, which was a very supportive environment.

My students from Middlebury come from middle class families where there's a lot of pressure and competition; they're in a race of some kind. I never had that impediment. I think I lucked out. The vacuum I came from was in some ways generative.

ELLIE TRINKLE: While we're in this sort of reflective mood, do you have a favorite memory at the college that you're carrying with you to retirement?

Jay Parini: I remember certain writers that came to campus. Those were exciting moments for me. One year in particular, I invited Adrienne Rich, Seamus Heaney and Mario Vargas Llosa. That was thrilling. With each of these speakers, we filled the Chapel, with standing room only. We had students talking to them afterward and the conversations spilled into weeks and months. To me that was a really great example of what the college can be: a place of conversations.

I remember my classes vividly. I've really loved teaching here over the years. I've had smart students and many of them have gone on to become writers and stay in close touch with me. It's an ongoing relationship.

CHRISTY LIANG: Do you have any advice



Jay Parini writes in his home office in Weybridge.

OLIVER PARINI PHOTOGRAPHY

for young writers who want to build their lives around storytelling and meaning making?

Jay Parini: You only need one thing, which is discipline. I would urge people to develop a writing practice where they set aside a certain amount of time every day, keep a journal, write their ideas down and write every day. It needn't be a long period of time. One of the best pieces of advice I had from a writer was early on, I wrote to the brilliant and prolific Pennsylvania writer John Updike saying, "I really like your novels and stories," and I met up with him for lunch at a McDonald's.

He said, "Just do two or three pages a day, and at the end of the year that's over 600 pages, that's two full books. If you just do two pages a day and keep consistent, you will have a shelf of books by the end of your life."

ELLIE TRINKLE: And you do have a shelf!

Jay Parini: I do have a shelf, over 30 books published. Maybe too many books.

ELLIE TRINKLE: What are you reading now?

Jay Parini: I am reading a 600-page biography on Ian Flemming, author of James Bond. It's a fun book to read. I read all kinds of books: popular biographies, more serious biographies, serious novels, crappy novels, poetry, criticism. I always go back to the classics: Frost, Wallace Stevens and T.S. Eliot.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: Is there a form of writing that you feel like your brain naturally feels more comfortable in? Poetry, criticism, prose?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Jay Parini: My most natural form is poetry, but I like memoir as well. "Borges and Me" came easily, and it felt good. My wife thinks I should've been writing memoirs from the beginning. I could never resist telling stories from my own life to students. It got to be an embarrassment.

ELLIE TRINKLE: They're really good stories, though.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: Maybe it's a characteristic from your storytelling family.

Jay Parini: Yeah, I think that's exactly what it is. I love telling stories, and in class I have always told lots of stories. But I am 77 years old, at a certain point you have to stop. I have books I would like to finish, and I'd like to do another solid 10 years of writing.

ANTHONY CINQUINA: Another movie or two?

Jay Parini: Another movie or two, that's the theory of the thing. But I also hope that the students will stay in touch with me. That's the hardest part of giving up teaching. I love talking to students. I get a lot from those conversations.

ELLIE TRINKLE: Do you have any more wisdom to impart?

Jay Parini: There's no reason why anyone can't be a writer. So many of my students have gone off and published novels, memoirs, written and directed movies. It's amazing how many of them have done things. There's no end of possibilities.

Editor's Note: This interview was published in the Middlebury Campus on Nov. 6, 2025, and reprinted with permission. Elsie Lynn Parini, Addison Independent's Arts+Leisure editor, is Jay Parini's daughter-in-law and married to photographer Oliver Parini.

ABOUT THE INTERVIEWERS:

Christy Liang '28 (she/her), an Arts & Culture Editor, is an English and Religion major who loves long conversations, live music in underground bars, and movies that are a little pensive. She's genuinely curious about what goes on in other people's minds.

Anthony Cinquina '25.5 (he/him), an Arts & Culture Editor, is majoring in English with a minor in Film and Environmental Studies. Beyond The Campus, Anthony works as a writing tutor at the CTLR and plays guitar for a rotating cast of bands.

Ellie Trinkle '26 (she/her), Senior Arts and Culture Editor, is a Film and Creative Writing double major from Brooklyn who loves all things art. You can typically find her obsessively making Spotify playlists, wearing heaps of jewelry, or running frantically around campus.



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Vermont students save the show in Youth Opera's 'Cabaret on 46th'

On Nov. 29 and 30, Opera Company of Middlebury's Youth Opera Company (YOC) will present its fall after-school workshop production, "Cabaret on 46th" — a lively new cabaret-style show performed by eight talented young singers representing five high schools across Vermont. There will be a local performance on Saturday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (CVUUS) in Middlebury.

Set in a vibrant New York City cabaret



Students in Opera Company of Middlebury's Youth Opera Company rehearse "Cabaret on 46th", which will come to Middlebury on Saturday, Nov. 29.

PHOTO / KATIE ANTOS-KETCHAM AND SARAH CULLINS

catering to the international diplomatic corps of the United Nations, "Cabaret on 46th" follows a cast thrown into an unexpected last-minute rehearsal just hours before opening night. In the scramble, surprising opportunities emerge, hidden talents shine, and bittersweet twists of unrequited love take center stage.

The program features an eclectic mix of cabaret, musical theater, operetta, and zarzuela — performed in French, Italian, Spanish, German and English. Audiences will recognize familiar favorites such as "Willkommen" from Cabaret, the beloved "La Vie en Rose," and the infectious joy of Offenbach's Can-Can.

The production is led from the piano by Youth Opera Company Music Director Mary Jane Austin, with story and stage direction by Opera Company of Middlebury's General Director Sarah Cullins. Cullins describes the show as "a nod to the 50th anniversary of A Chorus Line," adding, "At its heart, this is opera pared down to its simplest form — something audiences deeply relate to."

The students agree.

"I love this show!" shared Eve Mengüç of Middlebury Union High School. "I really like all the different genres of music in one story because it feels personal — it's

SEE OPERA ON PAGE 9



Middlebury student actors in "The Journey of the Saint" pictured left to right, front to back: Sam Lueke, Sebastien Bonnabesse, Morgan Chacon, Xeon Waterhouse; Eduardo Arias Mendez, David Torres, Dominick Hutchins, Quinna McCarty, Jake Iacobucci, Sani Karkar.

PHOTO / OLGA SANCHEZ SALTVEIT

Students tell rollicking adventure of two artists fleeing the Spanish Inquisition

The Middlebury College Department of Theatre presents the East Coast premiere of "The Journey of the Saint" by celebrated Peruvian playwright César De Maria, translated by Rose E. Cano, and directed by Olga Sanchez Saltveit. This rollicking adventure filled with mystery and deception is brought to us by a late 18th century Latin American traveling theatre troupe. It will be performed at Wright Memorial Theatre in Middlebury on Dec. 4, 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Renowned Spanish actor Juan del Camino is in crisis following the death of his beloved wife, Fiore, when Tomaso Malaspina, the Italian master of theatrical special effects arrives at Juan's door in Cádiz as if by miracle, providing Juan a new purpose for living. Together they embark on an adventure, crossing the Atlantic to the New World, traversing into the heart of the Southern Cone, bearing the remains of St. Fortunata to Moquegua, a small village in the Viceroyalty of Peru. Their encounters along the way, filled with danger, mischief, and wonder, challenge their long-held beliefs as they find truth in an era of revolution and independence.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$10 for Middlebury College faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, and other ID card holders; \$8 for youth (under 21); and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call 802-443-6433 or visit middlebury.edu/college/box-office. The performance will be held Dec. 4-6, at 7:30 p.m., in Wright Memorial Theatre, located at 96 Chateau Road in Middlebury, with free parking available just off Shannon Street. A talk-back with the director and cast of the show will be held after the Friday performance.



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"Merry & Bright" a Holiday Art Market of original artworks by more than 35 Vermont artists and artisans. Free and open to all. On view through December.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury
For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Impressions" brings together three local printmakers — Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs and William Hays — whose work demonstrates how this process of image-making can yield distinct languages. On view through Dec. 31.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury
Visit 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.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Eighteenth-Century Room from Paris to Vermont." The exhibition follows the journey of "Le Petit Salon" from Paris to Middlebury via Manhattan, where for 50 years it formed part of the decor of the Bliss family's Gilded Age mansion. At Middlebury, the Petit Salon became part of Le Château, the college's French language dorm, itself a fanciful recreation of a 16th-century Norman manoir. The exhibition incorporates Paris's 1776 exquisite watercolor elevations of Aumont's mansion, as well as studies from his long educational sojourn in Rome and Naples. Included in the exhibition are loans from Bowdoin College, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and the Fine Arts Museum of Besançon. On view through Dec. 7.

"Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Visions of Grandeur" showcases a selection of Piranesi's artistic output and contextualizes the work within the important cultural debates of his time. On view through Dec. 7.

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SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Right now you are inspired to roll up your sleeves and clear away the clutter so you can focus on what counts, Aries. Your productivity soars this week.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Your words will carry extra weight between this week and next, Taurus. Don't hold back on speaking about what is in your heart. You may navigate your way to romance.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, this week you may feel energized to pursue new connections with family and friends. Plan a few long overdue catch-ups, and bask in that feeling of contentment.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Some may call you timid, Cancer, but not this week. You put all of yourself out there the next few days, and others may be hanging on your every word.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Money is at the top of your priority list, Leo. You may be dreaming big or content to just make sense of finances that have gotten a bit off the rails.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, it's all about honesty this week and letting others in. Don't sugarcoat things with the people you love. They will love you even if you're in need of some support.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, release what is draining your energy, especially before the busy holiday season is in full force. Wrap up lingering projects and bow out of obligations that are stretching you too thin.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you are selective about your social circle, but stay open to new friendships. New allies bring surprising opportunities if you simply let them in.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Your ambitious streak is on fire right now, Sagittarius. Partnerships and acquisitions are very much within reach, so start conversations now. It's time to network as much as possible.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. You pride yourself on telling it like it is, Capricorn. But candor can sometimes be costly. A measured approach in a delicate situation this week can serve you well.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Typically "what you see is what you get" is your mantra, Aquarius. Yet, this week you might hold something back to be a bit more mysterious. Others may not catch on right away.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Relationships take center stage in your life, Pisces. Talks of further commitment could come up more often than in the past. This is an important time.

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NOV. 23 — Luis Tiant, pitcher (d)
NOV. 24 — Baruch Spinoza, philosopher (d)
NOV. 25 — Nat Adderley, Jazz musician (d)

NOV. 26 — Tina Turner, singer (d)
NOV. 27 — Jimi Hendrix, guitarist (d)
NOV. 28 — Jon Stewart, comedian (63)

CALENDAR

NOV. 20-DEC. 5
2025



THURSDAY, NOV. 20

ROBERT FULLER BOOK TALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m., Mini Ilsley Public Library Community Room, National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Acclaimed Vermont restaurateur Robert Fuller (Leunig's Bistro, Pauline's, Cubbers, Bobcat Café) presents his memoir, "A Horse-Drawn Sickle Bar Cutter: Finding My Road to Felicity."

"THE LOOP" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. This interactive series invites audiences into the creative process with dancer and choreographer Laurel Jenkins and Grammy-nominated singer and composer Moira Smiley. Happy hour at 6 p.m., followed by a work-in-progress performance in the Anderson Studio. Suggested donation \$10-\$20; no one turned away for lack of funds. Reservations at townhalltheater.org, 802-382-9222.

MIDDLEBURY AFROPOP BAND AND AFRICAN MUSIC AND DANCE PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., McCullough Student Center, 14 Old Chapel Rd. Free concert featuring East African musical traditions and Afropop songs. Info: tinyurl.com/AfropopPerformance.

"ANASTASIA" IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. This year's Mt. Abe fall musical follows a brave young woman from the twilight of the Russian empire to 1920s Paris as she sets out to discover the mystery of her past. \$15 general admission, \$12 seniors and children under 12, \$5 for current Mount Abe students with student ID. Tickets available cur8.com/22548/project/133201.

"WARREN MILLER'S SNO-CIETY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. In this feature film, Olympians, urban riders and local legends celebrate the spirit of the ski season, from the Scottish Highlands to a downtown Denver hill-turned-terrain-park. Tickets \$25.

FRIDAY, NOV. 21

"ANASTASIA" IN BRISTOL. Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. See Nov. 20 listing.

SATURDAY, NOV. 22

"ARABELLA" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Part of The MET: Live

in HD series, Strauss's opera brings the glamour of 19th-century Vienna in a sumptuous production by Otto Schenk. Tickets \$10-\$24. More info at addisonarts.org/event/the-met-live-in-hd-arabella.

"ANASTASIA" IN BRISTOL. Saturday, Nov. 22, 2 and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium, 220 Airport Drive. See Nov. 20 listing.

BIG BLUE TRUNK BALLOON FUN IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Nov. 22, 2-6 p.m., Lulu Ice Cream and Rockers Pizzeria, 185 and 191 Main St. Mike Randall brings balloon-twisting fun for kids and adults, starting at Lulu and then moving next door to Rockers. Free. Part of the Vergennes Opera House "Off Stage" series. More info at vergennesoperahouse.org.

CLINT BIERMAN'S "LISTENING ROOM" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 22, 7-9 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. The Grift's Bierman debuts previously unheard songs and previews a new album. Sam Bierman opens. Cash bar opens at 6 p.m. \$20-\$35; limited to 100 attendees. Tickets at townhalltheater.org. More info at 802-382-9222.

SUNDAY, NOV. 23

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY HYMN SING IN VERGENNES.

Sunday, Nov. 23, 3 p.m., Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, 73 Church St. Third annual celebration featuring the Champlain Brass Quartet and the Addison County Gospel Choir. Songbooks provided at the door. Free. Part of the Vergennes Opera House "Off Stage" series. More info at vergennesoperahouse.org.

MONDAY, NOV. 24

LUNCHTIME CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, Nov. 24, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6 Park St. Guitarists and vocalists Sallie Mack and Rosi Gowley offer a concert of eclectic music. Free and open to all.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26

THE ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Nov. 26, 6-8 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. The Albany Sound returns for an evening of soulful American country, folk and rock in the Tillerman barn. Bar service inside the barn, plus a bonfire and heaters, dress warmly. No food in the barn; guests are encouraged to reserve in the restaurant, with 20% of the night's sales benefiting HOPE. More info at thetillermanvt.com.

FRIDAY, NOV. 28

HOLIDAY TRAINS AT HENRY

SHELDON MUSEUM IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 28-Saturday, Jan. 3, train hours, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Annual tradition featuring a three-level Lionel train layout and backdrop of the Green Mountains by local artist Gayl Braisted. See the train on Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Regular admission applies; admission is free during the Holiday Open House (Dec. 6), Midd Night Stroll (Dec. 4 and 11) and Community Day (Jan. 3). More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

THE HOLLEY JOLLY HOLIDAY MARKET IN BRISTOL. Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. The Holley Jolly Holiday Market transforms Holley Hall into a vibrant hub of artisanal talent. Embrace the holiday spirit with a curated selection of high-end handmade goods from local vendors.

"CABARET ON 46TH" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 29, 7-8 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Opera Company of Middlebury's Youth Opera Company

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Through the Night and in-between: Public Affairs, Bulletin Board Friday, November 21 4:30 a.m. Press Conferences 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. Democracy Now Saturday, November 22 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 4:30 p.m. The Talk 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, November 23 4:30 a.m. Press Conferences 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Congregational Service	5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 11 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, November 24 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard 4:30 p.m. Press Conferences 10 p.m. Democracy Now 11 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Tuesday, November 25 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 11 p.m. Press Conferences 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard (LIVE) Wednesday, November 26 5 a.m. Press Conferences	6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard Thursday, November 27 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. Democracy Now 6 p.m. Press Conferences 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. The Talk Channel 1091 Friday, November 21 5:00 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 6 a.m. Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. AAUW Talk 8 a.m. Author Talk 7 p.m. School Boards	Saturday, November 22 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:45 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7:30 a.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 8:30 a.m. School Boards 3 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Poetry Out Loud Sunday, November 23 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Local Sports 12 p.m. School Boards 6 p.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 7:30 p.m. Author Talk - The Feather Detective 8:30 p.m. AAUW Talk Monday, November 24 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Boards 3 p.m. Yoga for Kids	3:30 p.m. Local Sports 6:30 p.m. ACSD (Live) Tuesday, November 25 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. School Boards 3:30 p.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 5 p.m. Author Talk 6 p.m. AAUW Talk Wednesday, November 26 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports 10 p.m. Author Talk Thursday, November 27 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Boards 4 p.m. Local Sports 8 p.m. Author Talk	

presents "Cabaret on 46th," where talented teens take the stage for an eclectic repertoire spanning musical theater to operetta. Suggested donation \$20; free for attendees under 26. More info at ocmvermont.org/events/youth-opera-cabaret-on-46th-1, production@ocmvermont.org, 802-388-7432.

SUNDAY, NOV. 30

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MT. GRANT IN LINCOLN.

Sunday, Nov. 30. Moderate 8-mile hike via the Cooley Glen and Long trails to the summit of Mt. Grant, with 2,200 feet of elevation gain. Enjoy a piece of the Bread Loaf Wilderness. Contact Dwight Griesman at dwight.griesman@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org. Free.

MONDAY, DEC. 1

AFRICAN DRUMMING SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Monday, Dec. 1, 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. Free. Drop-in. Park in back, enter through the door facing the convenience store. More info at 802-388-3093.

NEEDLE-FELTED SNOWMAN WORKSHOP IN SHOREHAM.

Monday, Dec. 1, 6-8 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join local fiber artist Wendy-Ann Durkee to create a needle-felted snow person. Workshop designed for adults and confident teen crafters. \$25, participants receive Vermont-grown wool, a set of needle-felting needles, a felting sponge and

a library discount. Limited to 8 participants, stop by the library or call 802-897-2647 to reserve your spot.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

YARN AND OTHER CRAFTS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 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. Free. Drop-in. Park in back, enter through the door facing the convenience store. More info at 802-388-3093.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3

ISAIAH J. THOMPSON TRIO: A GUARALDI HOLIDAY AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Robison Concert Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Road. Rising star jazz pianist Isaiah J. Thompson makes his Middlebury debut with "A Guaraldi Holiday." Tickets \$30/\$20/\$10/\$5 at middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Dec. 4, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Robert Ludwig, director of music at St. Stephen's, presents organ music of the Advent and Christmas season by Franck, Bach, Dupré and André Carter. Free.

"THE JOURNEY OF THE SAINT BY CÉSAR DE MARÍA" PLAY AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. A rollicking adventure told by a traveling theatre troupe. Two artists flee the Spanish Inquisition and cross the

Atlantic to deliver a holy relic to revolutionaries. More info at middlebury.edu/events/event/journey-saint-cesar-de-maria-0.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

"FROZEN: COLD, QUIET, PURE" OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a winter-themed fine art photography exhibition exploring clean lines, soft textures and silent spaces. Selected by juror Paula Tognarelli. Exhibition runs Dec. 5-27.

SALISBURY MILLS FAMILY FULL MOON HIKE IN SALISBURY.

Friday, Dec. 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Salisbury Mills Preserve, 1660 West Shore Rd. Family-friendly evening hike with Vermont Land Trust and Middlebury Area Land Trust on a 0.75 mile trail. Learn about nocturnal animals, play a game and enjoy storytime at the trailhead plus hot cocoa and a snack. Bring water, snacks and a headlamp or flashlight; dress for the weather. Register at vlt.org/events/salisbury-mills-family-full-moon-hike.

BROADWAY DIRECT 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW IN VERGENNES.

Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Broadway veteran Bill Carmichael Walsh and guests from Broadway join local talent for a special anniversary concert. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 students. Part of the

Vergennes Opera House "Off Stage" series. Tickets at vergennesoperahouse.org.

A CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT IN NEW HAVEN.

Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Route 7 (4 miles north of Middlebury). Christmas songs, readings and refreshments to prepare for the holiday season. All are welcome. Snow date Saturday, Dec. 6. More info at 802-877-2486.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Acting Company presents Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from miser to benefactor, guided by ghosts and unforgettable characters. Tickets at addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol. Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email melissa@middleburyactors.org.

TINA FRIML & FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Dec. 5 (rescheduled from Nov. 14), 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. World-famous comedian and Middlebury native Tina Friml returns home to headline a night of stand-up comedy. Tickets \$10-\$20.

"THE JOURNEY OF THE SAINT BY CÉSAR DE MARÍA" PLAY AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

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SKULKERS ANONYMOUS

THE MEANING OF HOME

Judith and I will not travel south to escape the Vermont winter of 2025-26 as we have many times during the previous decade, but will remain in our Lincoln home like real Vermonters. I am looking forward to reliving the experience. Slipping out from under the annual dark and cold has been good for our mobility and well-being, but has left me feeling slightly guilty and spoiled.

BY JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS

I have always disliked the expression "snowbird" used by native southerners to describe northern elderly migrating from the winter complications of their homes to roost temporarily where the days are longer and warmer during the first few months of every year. It is an insultingly accurate label, compounded by the feeling that we are abandoning our fellow citizens to the rituals of stockpiling fuel, switching over to winter tires and moving indoors for months. The term "skulker," along with "fair-weather Vermonter," seems particularly apt for this behavior. These are self-imposed disparagements, and we certainly have earned our escape strategies by living through 50+ years of Vermont's winter challenges, which explains why it feels like a character flaw to slink away just when the going gets extreme.

Two circumstances persuade us to stay put for the next eight months. The first is my wife's employment as the clerk-of-the-works on the Ilsley Library renovation/expansion project in Middlebury which is racing to achieve "tight-to-the-weather" status by early December. This project is viewed by everyone involved as "the most complex of their professional careers to date." Completion is scheduled for next summer, and recently there have been 50+ tradesmen working to get this exciting community endorsed project back in service for its many users. It is a unique and ambitious design full of first-time inclusions



Long shadows and naked trees at the Harrises' home in Lincoln.

PHOTO / JUDITH HARRIS



RUMINATIONS
OF THE

ROOST

of multiple new technologies and is demanding her willing and undivided attention.

There are also health-related issues demanding my attention this fall. The most prominent intervention

I have agreed to navigate has been the implantation of a bio-mechanical aortic heart valve. The surgery was done early in October, and in a few short weeks, I have already recovered most of my identifiable self. This is my third aortic valve replacement since 1999. My original equipment was defective from birth and replaced with a highly invasive open-heart surgery in 1999. The same process was repeated in 2013, once the second valve reached its predicted estimated useful life, and again this year via a new and much less

invasive trans-arterial installation. I have further procedures on my horizon, but I will spare you any further refrains of my "organ recital."

It takes weeks of interviews, testing and examinations to qualify for this aortic surgery, which gave me time to cultivate some revisions to my philosophy on aging. My gratitude for having my life extended three times is already profound. I was biologically scheduled to die at the turn of the last century, but medical and surgical advances, plus my over-due focus on good diet and adequate exercise, have postponed my funeral three times now. I remain on the warm side of the ice, amazed at my good fortune.

I have concluded that the glidepath through my final years includes a series of health-related "incidents." The effort to heal from these incidents reveals the fugitive nature of a "full recovery." I suspect there is no such thing. One

SEE ROOST ON PAGE 11



THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Issue 57

Fall 2025

STARKSBORO COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL MOVES INTO ROBINSON

By Emily Wells

The Starksboro Cooperative Preschool has relocated to Robinson Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year due to construction and renovations at the Starksboro Meetinghouse where the preschool is usually located. From the student point of view, there may be some downsides to the whole ordeal.

Robinson Elementary School 5th and 6th grade teacher Emily Reid, 5th grade student Madison Wells, and Starksboro Preschool Assistant Teacher Star Porter spoke up about the Starksboro preschool's invasion of Robinson Elementary School. While there are benefits to this, Wells reported that the preschoolers can be distracting. "You can hear them crying in the hallways and they're very noisy," she

shared. However, Porter saw the good things the relocation brought. "The benefit to being at RES is helping the preschoolers become familiar with the 'big school' and the teachers," she stated. "Some of our preschoolers receive speech services from the SLP (Speech-Language Pathologist) specialist at RES, which helps them to become familiar with her and her space." In addition, she also noted that they now receive breakfast and lunch from the Robinson kitchen, which eases the work load from the adults. "We receive breakfast and lunch from Robinson's kitchen, so in the past, we would have had to drive over and pick it up and bring it to the meetinghouse and drive back to return the dishes daily. Being at RES, we are able to walk to the kitchen, pick it up and bring it back to the

classroom!"

Luckily, the preschoolers do not bring any interruption to the elementary school schedule. "I don't believe we have a negative impact on their learning or affect their schedule," Porter commented. Fifth and sixth grade teacher Emily Reid responded as well, stating, "No, I feel like it hasn't affected the elementary school's learning or schedule." As Wells remarked earlier, they can still be distracting, even if they do not affect her schedule. Reid, Wells, and Porter all agree that Robinson Elementary School was a good fit for when the preschool needed to relocate. When asked how



Porter, Madison Wells, and Reid stand in the preschool classroom

she would have dealt with the relocation differently, she replied by saying she would still have brought them to RES. Porter also agreed, adding, "Due to the timing of low enrollment at RES, we could not have found a better place!" Reid shared the

(See **PRESCHOOL**, Page 8)

MEDICAL PROFESSIONS AT HCC... Is It WORTH A SHOT?

By Bella Osborne

The Medical Professions program at Hannaford Career Center was created to help teenagers jumpstart their medical career at a young age. Each year, students can earn certifications that include Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Licensed Nurse Assistant (LNA), Phlebotomist (PA), and Medical Assistant (MA).

Medical Professions is intense, but students who join often end up loving it. "Medical," as it is referred to by students, feels like a glimpse into nursing school, with its long nights of studying, early mornings, and constant learning while juggling other responsibilities.

Natalie Smith and Harmony Caron recently chatted about our shared experiences. When asked if she liked Medical Professions, Smith replied, "I love the Medical Career Center!" nearly jumping out of her chair. Caron agreed, and both students admitted that the workload is a lot to handle. "The classwork is not hard, but there is a lot of it, so it makes it hard



"Medical" students take a break at HCC

to complete thoroughly," Smith explained. Caron added, "I don't think the classwork is hard, but note-taking and homework takes up quite a bit of time."

When asked about their favorite topic so far, Smith answered without hesitation. "The eyes and special senses." Both said they were most excited about job shadowing because it's a hands-on experience.

But Smith added, "I am also excited for the OR, OB, and emergency room," with an excited look on her face. Caron agreed with Smith about job shadowing, which is when you go to a hospital and get assigned a nurse to follow around for the day. They show you what they do in their day and what it would be like to be "them."

As for their favorite part of class, "I really love the people and how we can all work together and focus, but still enjoy ourselves," Smith said. Caron likes interactive activities. In terms of staying prepared and being on time, Caron said, "I get my backpack organized the night before and try my best to keep up with homework." Playing a sport makes the class harder because there is less time to do homework. Smith does a sport and said, "I spend all my free time doing homework." When asked what career they want to go into as an adult, Smith replied, "I would like to be a nurse practitioner, especially pediatric-based, because I love children." Caron said she really wants to travel.

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In Medical Professions, there are different certifications you can get each year. In the class, you learn all of the materials, but you only get the certifications if you test on them. For certifications, Smith is planning on getting her first year, LNA, and maybe EMR if classwork is less time-consuming, and second year phlebotomist and medical assistant." Caron said, "Phlebotomist, and EMS." Rather than being in a hospital setting, she wants to be a private practice nurse.

Finally, they had some suggestions for

(See **MEDICAL**, Page 8)

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON CELL PHONE "BAN"

By Charles Trudeau

Months after the phone ban took place, the staff and students at Mt. Abe shared their thoughts on the technology ban, and the use of Yondr pouches.

English teacher Lisa Grzyb and three students from both high school and middle school talked about the no phone policy. Grzyb believes that the no phone policy is fantastic, and has effected class positively, helping students focus during class and she added, "I'm sure some teach-



ers have had to make some adjustments, but I have not heard from my colleagues that it was a major imposition." She also said all of the teachers are in agreement that this is a positive change. If a crisis were to happen like an intruder in the building, fire or even a natural disaster, Grzyb said, "The statistical likelihood of a major event happening are so slim that I think it's worthwhile." Other

teachers agreed, that if there is an emergency then they can just use the wall-mounted

phones in every classroom.

The Yondr Pouch is a green pocket-like container designed to hold your phone locked inside and only it can be opened with a magnetic force from the green boxes in the lobby. When it comes to the Yondr pouches, Grzyb commented, "I am uncertain about their efficacy," and added, "It feels like their presence may contribute to students not having their phones out." Grzyb concluded, "I can see in the future if students are sneaking in phones more and more, Yondr pouches can come into action, but I will have to see this play out." In the past, Grzyb has taken so many phones she made a Jenga tower on her

desk.

While Grzyb and other teachers think the phone ban is a great choice, students have other thoughts. Many students think the phone ban is stupid and they don't really know if it will affect classes. Students agree that the phones in class might affect class negatively, but they aren't aware of any major problems from it. Students don't really know if the phone ban will be a problem for future classwork, since most of the students don't really know, but one said, "Any class where you have to take a lot of notes and can't take a picture of the board might be a problem." Some

(See **CELL PHONES**, Page 5)

VOICES

SENIORS OVERCOME LOWS AND ENJOY HIGHS OF YEAR

THE QUARTERLY PERSPECTIVE

By Brooklyn Ryersbach

The overwhelming, overjoying highs and lows of senior year capture both the tears and the cheers as we begin the next chapter of our lives.

Welcome to the Quarterly Perspective of me, a senior at Mt. Abraham High School. First of all to all of the seniors reading this we made it! Senior year is so exciting and will go by so fast, we need to take advantage of the opportunities and experiences at hand. There are so many things happening from senior sunrise to senior's last games at home. As we weave through college applications, writing college essays, asking for letters of rec, filling out the dreaded common application ect... Make sure that you look around and appreciate the people and places that are taking you to where you want to go.

I took senior pictures. I was nervous. I curled my hair, prime, concealed then applied blush. These are the things I do to put on my mask. I mask my uncertainty in crimped hair and lip gloss, when all that I could think of is whether or not I'm going to pass that test tomorrow and the senior square deadline. The reality of being a senior sets in. This is my last fall in Vermont with apple trees and falling leaves. The senior scares can be intimidating, and I certainly felt the weight of the senior pressure. Hearing your friends talk about their ever-growing aspirations can be a hard pill to swallow. I, like many others I fall victim to constantly comparing myself to my peers. Hearing about your peers go on to do all these great things can make you doubt your plans. "Oh, have you heard that ___ is going to Brown." Or "Brooklyn, have you seen that ___ posted his commitment to Clemson and is playing basketball?"

All of these added pressures can be hard on top of the stress of senior year. Hearing that they have their life all figured out makes me feel as though I am falling behind, the best way to describe it is drowning. I am in a box where the water levels are rising, my ears fill with water and my mouth takes a deep breath of air. But this is not my last breath, this is my first breath. Breathing in getting ready to take on the next chapter of my life. Remembering that this isn't just the end of high school but it's also the beginning of the rest of your life whether that means college, military, going into the work force or wherever you may go, we are growing and changing into the adults we once looked up to.

Overall, my perspective of this quarter has been mostly positive with a few times of stress and anxiety. The best way to describe it is with big words that usually have negative connotations, but most importantly, it's been the most exciting and rewarding year of my life...so far.



Environmental Action Group (EAG) students, along with families and community members, held their annual Fall Battell Trail Day on Sunday, October 26.

TO TRAVEL TO SCOTLAND, YAY OR NAY?

By Bella Osborne

I had the experience of going to Scotland for a vacation with my family for a week. Read this short article to discover what makes parts of Scotland so special.

I recently went to Scotland, yes, the "perfect" family holiday. However, it wasn't just for the fun of it; it was for a destination wedding! Yup, you heard that right! Let's start from the beginning. We have heritage and a clan in Scotland, and my grandfather is a very generous man, which is why this trip could happen. My family and I appreciated this opportunity very much, so a big thanks to him. I have two siblings who are 3 and 5, right now you're probably thinking, "Oh my gosh, God bless you." Yes, god bless me is right; it is not easy to go on a plane at 10:30 at night and arrive in Scotland at almost 10:30 in the morning, but that's exactly what we did. We arrived in Scotland with two hours of sleep under our belts, two very tired children, five energy drinks, and a lot of hope that this trip would go well.

My grandfather greeted us with huge smiles and a very nice van. We boarded the van, with ALL of our bags, which was basically an entire house on the road. We got greeted by a very kind man named Eddie who had a brilliant Scottish accent. Our first destination was our airbnb. Eddie guided us through gorgeous moun-



tains and oh so many roundabouts. One thing that surprised me about Scotland was their driving. The roads are tiny and sometimes very confusing, especially in Edinburgh, the main city of Scotland. Another thing that surprised me was the number of traffic lights to roundabouts. I would say we saw seven times the number of roundabouts than we did traffic lights.

On this leg of the trip, the highways were beautiful, fields stretched for miles, dotted with tons of sheep on the horizon. As we were driving on the highway, I noticed how meticulous the drivers were about following the fast and slow lane rule, which the United States could NEVER follow. Our first stop after getting dropped off at our airbnb was a pub. One interesting thing I learned was that for the pub to serve any alcohol, especially beer, they had to serve food with it. This was written in their license because the beer or alcohol had a high percentage and it was safest to consume food with it. As a plus for the business, it also created more revenue because people had to buy food and spend more money.

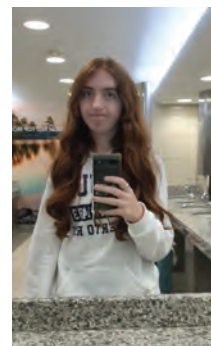
After going to the pub, we adventured throughout the beautiful city of Edinburgh. I noticed that the sidewalks weren't covered in litter, bottles, and papers flying around. It was clean, and people seemed happier. In Scotland, they have some name brands, but they can't take all the name brands, so they recreate them. We went to M&K, which was a mix of Target and Walmart. They had a better selection than Walmart and Target could dream of. Right next to M&K was TK-Maxx, yes, you read that right. It was just like TJ-Maxx, but it was a bit different in the way they set up the store and the products. However, it still had tons of good brands in its store for lower prices. As we were walking home, the streets were filled with warm lighting glowing from the streetlights. I felt so safe there; it was like I had stepped back in history.

It just felt like bliss. By the end of the day, I was completely in love with Scotland's charm—its history, its people, and its sense of calm. I couldn't wait to see what the next day would bring.

MT. ABE TRAVEL CLUB FENDS FOR THEMSELVES

By Emily Wells

In the summer of 2025, at 1 p.m. at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in Carolina, Puerto Rico, the Mt. Abe Middle School Travel Club, which I was a part of, took a three hour and 45 minute flight to Atlanta, Georgia, unaware of the sticky situation awaiting them.



Prior to the flight from Atlanta to Vermont, we were informed that our flight home wasn't scheduled for another three hours. So, we bought dinner, surveyed Atlanta souvenirs, and rested in empty gates as we attempted to ignore the dark colors of the sky and heavy rainfall outside. The flash flood warnings on everyone's phones and the continuous delayed flights brought more discomfort, but finally, we gathered at our gate, eager to return home. Our flight delay made sense as more and more monitors displayed the words 'delayed'. However, as people gradually looked up at the monitor, all hope for home disappeared. Our flight had been cancelled and we were officially stuck in Atlanta.

We spent ten painful hours watching movies on our phones, attempting to sleep, and listening to people complain, before finally leaving around seven a.m. the next day. Anxiety and longing filled every nerve, and after a restless night spent sleeping on the airport floor, Karyn Norwood, Ryan Farran, and Emiko Bennett (our travel club's chaperones) finally found a place for us to stay for the next night.

Upon finally arriving at our hotel, we were thrown into further terror. The moment we stepped inside, we were greeted with a worrying smell: mold. The lobby

(See TRAVEL, Page 6)

SUBS FACE CHALLENGES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Charles Trudeau

Starting last year, I noticed that substitute teachers had to deal with a lot of difficult behavior, and some even refused to sub in the middle school wing.

In the second semester of 2025, when I was in 8th grade, preparing to enter high school, I realized that there usu-



ally were about 2-4 subs that worked in the middle school. When a class misbehaved with a sub, they would get in trouble by the teacher when they came back, unless it was a long-term sub, where it is

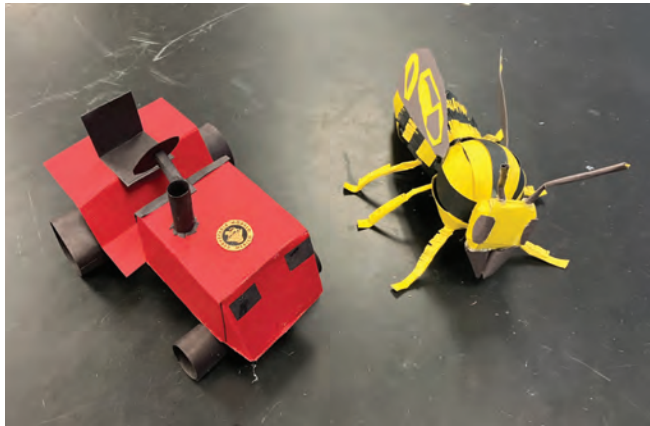
their responsibility to punish you. I heard from my parents that many subs were refusing to work in the middle school because of the students misbehaving. When I was in middle school, a fair amount of my classes had subs, it seemed like the bigger

(See SUBS, Page 3)

BEHIND THE LIGHT

By Aubrey LaRock '30

I place band-aids to cover my bullet holes.
A mask to hide my face.
I look in the mirror and don't recognise myself.
The walls I've built inside of me scream and shake,
Threatening to fall.
The echo of my heart vibrates throughout me.
My unspoken words, trying to claw their way out.
My head telling me to run but my feet won't take me.
My bullet holes are now burning, bleeding.
My mask falling to the ground.
The light is gone.
Now I'm in the dark.



TRACTOR & BEE, MIXED MEDIA
By Cam Roleau '30

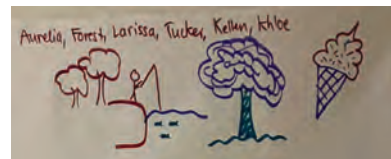


BUG & BOUQUET, MIXED MEDIA
By Elise Morton '31

THE BRISTOL LIFE

By Aurelia, Forest, Larissa, Tucker, Kellen & Khloe

I am Bristol.
I am bordered by beautiful rolling green mountains
I am often found busy at Pocock Rocks
and the 4th of July.
I am old-fashioned and old,
along with the Bristol Creemee Stand.
I am from the shadowy canopy, shielding me
from the blazing sun as I hike.
I am Bartlett Falls, for swimming and fishing.
I am the sunlit ball fields glittering in the setting sun.
I am the rewarding view on the top of Deer Leap.
This is Bristol.



MIDDLE SCHOOL



BUMBLEBEE, MIXED MEDIA
By Shane Zeno '30

Thank you to Emiko Chrusciel for encouraging art students to share their work here, and to Colleen Kiley for getting students to share their writing.

SUBS

(Continued from Page 2)

the class, the more misbehavior occurred.

I noticed that most of the subs were relaxed and some of the time would make a deal to bring the students outdoors to spend the remainder of class time if everyone completed their work. Most of the time, this usually worked, because going outside is like a golden ticket to the chocolate factory. If the students weren't able to go outside, substitute teachers would also allow students to use the rest of class time to do what they want if they complete their assignments, and most of the time that turned out well.

Students often misbehaving when a sub is around because they think they don't care as much as their teachers do. Normally, when misbehavior starts, the students see how far they can take it, usually starting with one student and then the next thing you know about 5-7 students are in on it. The other students are still trying to complete their assignments, so they aren't missing anything.

I don't intended to throw shade towards any students who are misbehaving since most of them are in 9th grade and have matured now. Subbing in the highschool is far different than subbing in the middle school. First of all, your grades actually matter from here on out and can effect your future. Secondly, high schoolers are mostly more mature and focused on their work, there is still some misbehavior during class that is often distracting.

Middle schoolers are still learning and are still young and they will become mature just like all the 11th and 12th graders. The 7th graders are still transferring from elementary school to middle school. And like often middle school students, they do misbehave in class, but soon, they will grow up.

AMERICAN STUDIES' STUDENTS CREATE ART OUT OF POETRY

Students in American Studies studied the history and literature of the Harlem Renaissance, then created an artistic visual for a specific poem. See more on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Harlem Night Club

By Langston Hughes

Sleek black boys in a cabaret.
Jazz-band, jazz-band,—
Play, PLAY, PLAY!
Tomorrow . . . who knows?
Dance today!

White girls' eyes
Call gay black boys.
Black boys' lips
Grin jungle joys.

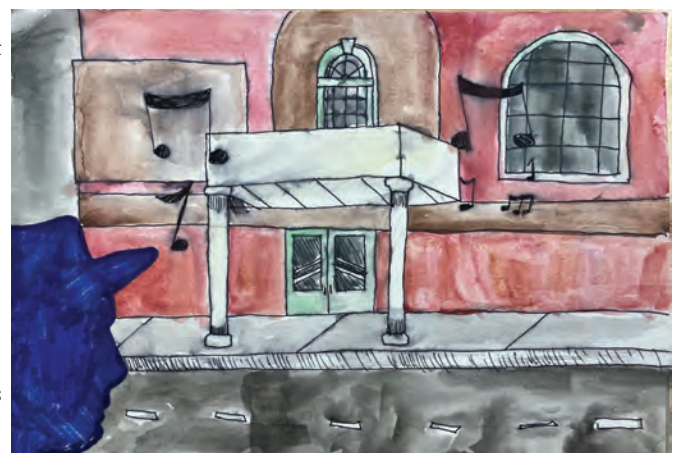
Dark brown girls
In blond men's arms.
Jazz-band, jazz-band,—
Sing Eve's charms!

White ones, brown ones,
What do you know
About tomorrow
Where all paths go?

Jazz-boys, jazz-boys,—
Play, PLAY, PLAY!
Tomorrow . . . is darkness.
Joy today!

The message of the poem is that no one should have the right to dictate the people you hang out with, and you shouldn't let their words or stares control your decision. I wanted to make this artwork clear with its purpose, showing the poem of the boys getting judged just for walking with each other. I tried to incorporate everything that I could, things in the poem, and Douglas' way of emphasizing important things. My main focus was the two boys, but I also wanted to put in the grown people who were judging them. And in the poem the lightning bolt and the sword were representing the boys, so I added it as a way to show that the groups of people were divided.

I chose to represent the poem "Harlem Night Club" by Langston Hughes. I interpreted this poem as someone gazing out at a black night club and seeing a space of community and awe. I tried to use Aaron Douglas's technique of figure and a central point in the painting. The door shows a welcoming attitude with music notes coming out from it and the figure appears to be staring at it. I thought the poem showed a place where anyone could fit in and get along, even if it was just for one night which is sometimes a subject in Aaron Douglas's paintings.



By Saebyrn Carter '28

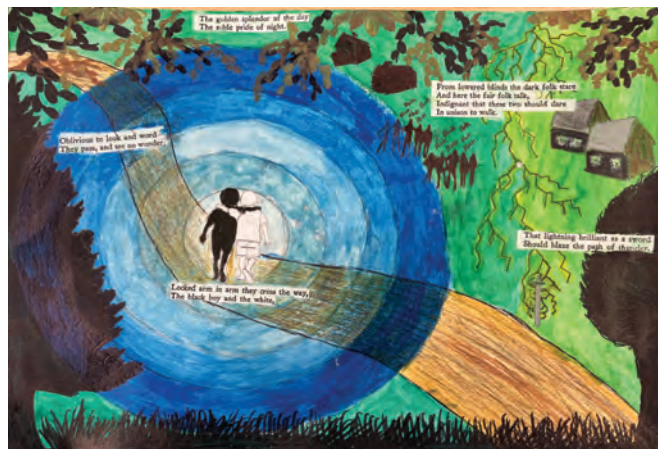


Tableau by Countee Cullen

Locked arm in arm they cross the way,
The black boy and the white,
The golden splendor of the day,
The sable pride of night.

From lowered blinds the dark folk stare,
And here the fair folk talk,
Indignant that these two should dare
In unison to walk.

Oblivious to look and word
They pass, and see no wonder
That lightning brilliant as a sword
Should blaze the path of thunder.

By Kassi Garrow '27

ART & POETRY

BOND NEVER BROKEN

By Kayleigh Austin '27

A bond to never be broken.
Two bodies.
Two hearts.
Two different stories.

Two stories that got to cross each other's path,
get a few pages, or maybe even a few chapters.
Two hearts wound together.
Finger intertwined, signifying forever.

They sit together,
the scent of the street rolling through each of their nostrils.
They sit together waiting, breathing.
Maybe broken, beat, torn from the surrounding world.
The world that does dirty work,
tears until its victims are broken.

They are not just breathing together.
Their lines and creases represent a life lived,
scattered from head to toe.
A life where they not only breathed
together, they survived together.

A smile painted on both souls' faces.
Smiles that show not only a life lived,
but a life survived.
The two continue to stay intertwined.
A bond never broken, in a hard world.
They survived.



**inspired by Jordan Casteel's
"Yvonne and James"*

THE WATER WE ONCE WERE

By Rowan McDurfee '29

The time we have together today will soon be swept away.
Like a dandelion floating down the river.
It won't ever be the same.

You won't ever touch that water again,
eventually you will only have the memories to dwell in.
and have the thoughts
over take your mind.
Dwelling for months at a time.

Everywhere you go, you will feel their presence.
Reminding yourself of that water,
Thinking to yourself "who else is going to touch that water?"
"who else is going to share the memories with my water?"

sometimes you will even think to yourself
"does my water still think about me?"

Don't waste your time... that water is actually cold and heartless.
Eventually your brain will become dead
from the dwelling thoughts in your head.

No feelings,
no other thoughts,
just brain dead. It won't ever be the same,
you will never be the same.

You cannot chase the water.
The water will never change.

The only thing left of them will be the once sweet memories we shared.
Forever will I dwell
the water we once were.

The Dream Keeper By Langston Hughes

Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers.
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too rough fingers
Of the world.



BRIGHT DAYS AT THE OCEAN

By Molly Burgess '26

Bright green mask, eyes wide and bright,
Ready to dive, chasing light.
Breath held close, the sea calls near,
A world below, so calm and clear.

Heart beats fast,
adventure starts,
In ocean's arms,
she finds her heart.

**inspired by the art of
Beth Carrington Brown*



HOME OF THE BROKEN

By Lily Ryersbach '27

Go back home my dear
You don't fit in here
You don't fly among the angles
I'm a god don't you fight with me
I can see who you are to me so don't
You try and fight with me
This ain't your home

Don't you close the gate on me
I know where i'm meant to be
I don't think i'm the one far from my home
Don't you snap at me
Don't you play with me
I know who I am too me

If there's one thing we know

Home isn't a house on the ground
Home isn't a building safe and sound
If you step up to my home and me
You'll know for certain that if you
Make one wrong move and you're done for
Anything we don't approve and you're done for
Us gods could a spell on you so you're done for
If you make a run you will done for

The moment you made that little exchange
Don't think I don't see what goes on underground
I'm the one that makes the flowers grow
The roots can hear your sound and the way it flows
Home is the people who care for you
You're place is with us my dear
Persephone
No

Everything ain't always like the tales
And if you really cared you'd be by my side
Not leaving me to rot like a flower dying in the snow
Home is the people who care for you
My place is someone who loves me for me
Not for my body that could grant my status up above

Home isn't a house on the ground
Home isn't a building safe and sound
If you step up to my home and me

LOOKING OUTSIDE

By Callie Rule '28

Looking outside, it's dark and gloomy.
I'm all alone in this coffee shop, it's quiet, I like it.
The sound of rain drumming on the window behind me,
easing my thoughts.

This warm coffee mug, snug in my hands, refusing to let go.
I've been here a while now, I'm dreading the drive home.
My jacket is damp from the rain,
smells creeping out from each thread as it dries.
Looking outside, it's dark and gloomy.

**inspired by "Automat" by Edward Hopper*



You'll know for certain that if you
Make one wrong move and you're done for
Anything we don't approve
and you're done for
We gods could put a spell on you
so you're done for
If you make a run, you will be done for

Persephone
Mother
Why have you fallen into shame
Do you even know my name
Why have you defied your fate
You always hesitate
You are my daughter
I see you mother
Yet we never have the same mind

You will no longer have a room
inside my head
I hope to never see this home again

BEFORE THE SUN

By Sophie Thomsen

**written in the style of "Those Winter
Sundays" by Robert Hayden*

Dad got up early,
When it was still cold.

He lit the fire, so the house was warm.

I stayed in bed, Not saying much.
I never said thank you.

He tied my shoes,
Smoothed my day.
He loved me in silence.

I didn't know then.
Now I do.

By Gemma Lyles '27

"The Dream Keeper" is a poem about escapism and using your dreams to forget about the cruelty of reality. I made the conscious decision to portray the Dream Keeper as a person that protects humanity while they sleep, giving them a break from their harsh everyday lives. She represents the blue-cloud cloth that the dreamers are wrapped in as they rest and she shields them from the "too-rough fingers of the world" as their beautiful dreams play out from the depths of their hearts. To show the flowing-ness of wonder and dreams, I used stark contrast between sharp and round shapes, as well as contrasting colors to show the difference between the dark outside and the lightness of the bubble a sleeping person safely resides in. I also took heavy inspiration from Aaron Douglas, with partially faceless figures and simple shapes, blocky yet smooth coloring, and circles to show focal points.

2007 *BEOWULF* FILM CHANGES ENTIRE CONCEPT OF HERO

By Sapphire Beatty '26

The story of *Beowulf* takes a different path in the 2007 film than the Robert Nye book through small or drastic changes, to make it more interesting to an audience with less description and more suspense. One thing changed in the film that didn't really need to be changed was when Beowulf was naked during his fight scene with Grendel, making it more

embarrassing or funny to watch, depending on your sense of humor. Another difference that kind of put off the show was that they changed the love aspect between Queen Wealhtheow and King Hrothgar; instead of the love between them being pure of heart, they had marriage problems with cheating and a bit of annoyance, which was a horrible change that made the king seem cruel. The second change that was pretty annoying and changed the

whole story's plot was Grendel's mom, who though looked as made of gold still looked human, and she even seduced Beowulf whose character was supposed to be pure and righteous at heart. Her seduction ended up with a curse placed on him that played out till the very end of his life. one final difference that was added to the movie was due to not killing the mom, the film ended with Beowulf becoming the king of another's land instead of his home

REVIEWS

country's king, but also they had him cheating on his newfound wife, Wealhtheow, with a younger girl which just changed his character for the worst. These changes show how drastically different the show and book are, whether it be from character changes or storyline differences, both have a very different effect on the story of Beowulf.

NINTH GRADERS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON LITERATURE OF AFRICA CHOICE BOOKS

By Noella Harris

In the book *A Long Walk to Water* written by Linda Sue Park, two stories are told. One about a girl named Nya and her life in Southern Sudan in 2008, the other one about a boy named Salva and his life, also in Southern Sudan, but in 1985.

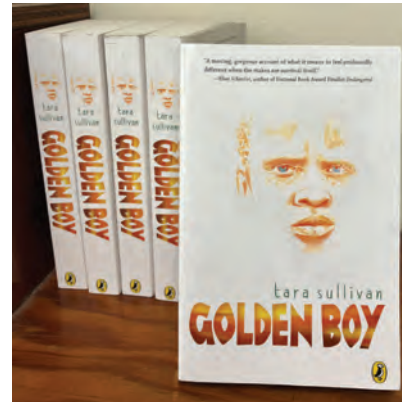
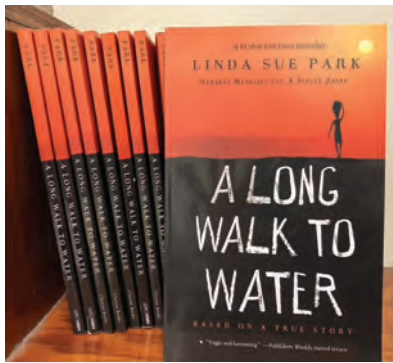
This book tells the stories of Salva and Nya, whose lives are hard because of war and the need for water. Salva has to survive dangers and Nya walks far for water every day. The book shows how tough life can be in Sudan, with water and war problems, but also how strong and hopeful people can be even when things are difficult.

My favorite part of this book was when Salva reunited with his father years later, after Salva had left for America. His dad rejoiced and cried out his name saying, "Salva! My son, My son!" (105) It made me appreciate the thought of my dad more and how much he loves me. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes stories based on real-life events that are both inspiring and thought-provoking.

By William Zaikowski

A Long Walk to Water is set in Sudan during a civil war. Salva escapes into the bush after an attack on the village where he was at school. Not knowing where his family was. He began his long journey of walking with many different groups of people. An unexpected person finds Salva and his world changes after. In *A Long Walk to Water*, I learned about how scary it was to live in Sudan during a civil war, not knowing who you will see and not knowing if people are friendly.

And the sheer amount of walking they had to do to escape the war. Then when Salva was flying to America. He said that he was scared when the plane touched down. I can agree with it because the first time I ever flew I was scared of the landing. If you love an adventure story and perseverance. You will like to read this book. Salva overcomes big challenges and kept pushing even when it was hard.

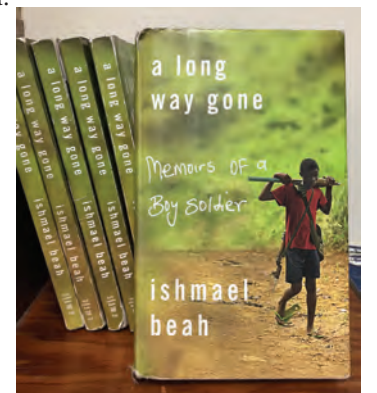
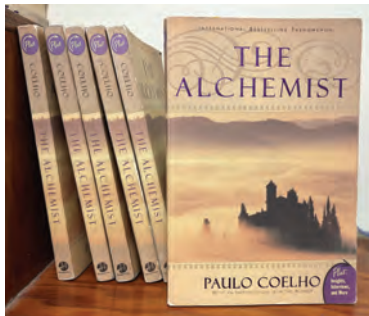


By Levi Clark

Tara Sullivan's *Golden Boy* is set in Tanzania, Africa. It is a realistic fiction that captures a story of struggle and strength. *Golden Boy* follows the story of an albino boy named Habo. He and his family live in a rural farming community. Habo faces discrimination and hate because of how he looks. Throughout the book he searches for his place in the world. One of my favorite parts of this book is when Kweli starts giving Habo projects to crave. "What's my carving assignment tonight" (217) I like this part of the book because it shows Habo's love for creating and it shows you who he really is. It is also one of my favorite parts because it illustrates how Kweli gives Habo the respect of any other person, Habo has never been able to feel what that's like. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes suspense and fear, *Golden Boy* will continue to leave you wanting to know what's on the next page.

By Sadie Fogg

The book *The Alchemist* is set in Egypt and the author is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The book is about a shepherd boy from Egypt who is trying to find his Personal Legend. Something I learned was just how much desert there is in Egypt. I really liked when the boy had to turn himself into wind or else he would die." He is going to transform himself into the wind, just to demonstrate his powers. If he can't do so, we humbly offer you our lives, for the honor of your tribe" (140). I recommend this book to anyone as long as you're okay with it having no chapters.



CELL PHONES

(Continued from Page 1)

students believe the Yondr Pouches are a waste of \$50,000. When asked how often they saw peoples phones out, students' responses varied, with one saying that they saw it very often and another saying they weren't seen as much before, but after the phone ban they have seen them more. Students believe that during a emergency like a lockdown or a fire, having no phones could be dangerous. Some students think the phone ban is good and can positively effect their classes.

Teachers and students involved with the yearbook argued that it interferes with photography and taking photos for the yearbook. The phone ban is positive in some cases and negative on others. During class it's less of a distraction, but during an emergency, many students feel that having their phones would be essential to quickly contact parents and guardians.



Mt. Abe French students joined Middlebury High School French students for a French immersion day on Middlebury College's campus in October.

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A.P. ART CLASS SHARES “TAPE ART” SELF-PORTRAITS

Students in A.P. Art used tape to create dynamic self-portraits, addressing the challenge of an unfamiliar medium while using the opportunity to explore color and texture in new ways. Each student took a different approach in creating their pieces, resulting in a large variety of styles between their finished works.



Georgia Dusk
By Jean Toomer

The sky, lazily disdaining to pursue
The setting sun, too indolent to hold
A lengthened tournament for flashing gold,
Passively darkens for night's barbecue,

A feast of moon and men and barking hounds,
An orgy for some genius of the South
With blood-hot eyes and cane-lipped scented
mouth,
Surprised in making folk-songs from soul sounds.

The sawmill blows its whistle, buzz-saws stop,
And silence breaks the bud of knoll and hill,
Soft settling pollen where plowed lands fulfill
Their early promise of a bumper crop.

Smoke from the pyramidal sawdust pile
Curls up, blue ghosts of trees, tarrying low
Where only chips and stumps are left to show
The solid proof of former domicile.

Meanwhile, the men, with vestiges of pomp,
Race memories of king and caravan,
High-priests, an ostrich, and a juju-man,
Go singing through the footpaths of the swamp.

Their voices rise...the pine trees are guitars,
Strumming, pine-needles fall like sheets of rain...
Their voices rise...the chorus of the cane
Is caroling a vesper to the stars...

O singers, resinous and soft your songs
Above the sacred whisper of the pines,
Give virgin lips to cornfield concubines,
Bring dreams of Christ to dusky cane-lipped
throngs.



TRAVEL (Continued from Page 2)

itself smelled a little moldy, but it was nothing compared to the mold smell in our rooms. The faucet in my room was still running when my friends and I walked in. Above the beds, there were holes in the wall, mold in the corners, and mysterious and unsettling green stains on the bed sheets. Tired and upset, we walked across the hall to see if anyone else was facing the same problem. The other rooms were worse than ours, with half-eaten Wendy's food, trash cans still full, roaches, and blood-stained carpets.

The worst part was that we had nowhere else to go. We were supposed to be home late the night before, but instead, we were stranded in Atlanta. Hope was scarce, with no sight of home, and despite finally leaving the awful hotel about an hour after arrival, we were carrying heavy hearts the rest of the day.

Our flight from Puerto Rico to Atlanta had been overbooked, so our carry-on bags had to be stored as checked baggage underneath the plane. Since our flight was cancelled, we were separated from our luggage, with nothing except our tiny backpacks. All we had were our phones, wallets, and chargers. We eventually found our way to a mall downtown to buy clothing to sustain us until we could get a flight home. In the end, between exploring stores we didn't have back home, getting lost, and trying to find everyone in the massive mall, we killed about two or three hours hanging out and shopping.

Thankfully, our chaperones spent their time finding a new hotel. This time, our accommodations included an indoor pool, a gym, a Starbucks, and a gift shop. It sounded too good to be true, but the huge TVs, nice showers, and most importantly, clean rooms, lulled us into a comfortable slumber. The next morning, we finally got flights home. The plan was to take a flight to Baltimore then another flight to Maine right after. From there, we would drive home in a coach bus back to Burlington. It was creative, but we were happy with any way back to Vermont.

Our flight was in the evening, so we spent the day exploring the Centennial Olympic Park until the time finally came. Inside the Atlanta airport once again, everyone waited anxiously, praying that the already-delayed status would not switch to cancelled. Thankfully, luck was on our side and we made it to Baltimore. Unfortunately, because our flight had been delayed, our chance at flying to Maine had vanished.

At midnight, we waited outside for an undisclosed ride that our chaperones assured would arrive to take us home. The notion of being stuck in Maryland was on everyone's mind the longer we waited, so the sight of a coach bus pulling up to our group and the driver motioning us inside seemed like a miracle.

For nine hours, we were driven home overnight, all the way from Baltimore, and we finally arrived in Burlington around 10 a.m. the next morning.

My artwork represents the poem "Georgia Dusk" which I chose for its word choice and theme, because I thought it could be interpreted in many different ways. The stanza that resonated with me the most in "Georgia Dusk" was the last one, where the author talks about singing and music. I used that as an inspiration to draw something involving music. I drew guitars as trees to show music in everyday life, as well as music notes as smoke and water. I tried to draw a beautiful sunset that highlighted the beauty of the music. I really liked how I captured exactly what I was going for, even though I could have gone many different ways.

By Mazin Sweptson '28



EAGLES LEAVING THE NEST: SENIORS DISPLAY VALUES OF GIRLS' SOCCER

SPORTS

By Brooklyn Ryersbach

The girls varsity soccer team had some amazing leaders that are leaving the program this year after having beautifully represented Mt. Abraham sports.

The seniors this year demonstrated the values of the team known as “hammer and glue”. A hammer is someone that works their hardest every time they step on the field. The glue is the person that demonstrates nurturing and kindness at every opportunity, they are approachable and warm despite the situation. In a mo-

ment of gloom such as 30 seconds before losing a game, they are keeping their head held high and doing their best to keep the team together. The seniors this year have exemplified the values of the Eagle's girls soccer program throughout their years in the program.

“The purpose of the hammer and glue is to set a standard and create goals,” says Captain and senior Molly Burgess. “Creating a team dynamic with competition even when we are not on the field gives fire and

drive to the players to strive for better and keep working towards our goals.”, says Captain and senior Skylar Macdonald. Caption and 4th year varsity player Isla Underwood says “Hammer and glue is meant to instill these values, not just for soccer but for life as well.”

The underclassmen on the team wrote scripts dedicated to each senior, reminiscing and appreciating the time, effort and work they put into the program. These are presented at the last home game of the

year. This was a chance for the underclassman to give back to the seniors who have led and guided them thus far.

The last regular season home game was held on October 18, and before the game, the other players on the team presented a short tribute to each senior, posted below.

The seniors leaving the soccer program this year are near and dear to our hearts and the whole community. We will miss them, but we cannot wait to see how far they'll go!



#16 Isla Underwood by Sophie Underwood '28

Throughout Isla's 4 years in this program, she has truly been inspiring. Although she was off the field this year due to injury, she will return with strength and tenacity to continue her soccer career in college. Her love for the game shines through, inspiring all of us at any moment. From cheering her hardest for us on the bench and being my biggest supporter, to keeping us motivated at practice, she's always there, celebrating with us after we score. Her leadership is something to be idolized, and she will carry it with her as she continues to excel. Thank you for being the best teammate, captain, and sister. I can't wait to cheer you on at UNE! Isla, you will be missed more than you know. We love you!



#5 Molly Burgess by Elsa Masfield '28

Molly, you are an absolute light on our team. This season, like any, has had its ups and downs and you have been a constant happiness through it all. As a new player to this team, you made me feel welcome from the first practice, and since then I am more than happy to say you have become someone I can count on for anything, especially a laugh. Your infectious positive attitude, and the love and empathy you have for your teammates shines through on and off the field. You care about the success of our team, even if it means your needs have to take a back seat. Despite some occasional setbacks, this year I've watched you persevere, taking the ankles of countless defenders with her amazing footwork, racing after every loose ball, and leaving all your energy and effort out on the field. Keep being a light Mol. We're gonna miss you like crazy.



#48 Brooklyn Ryersbach by Payton Shepard '28

This year, we were incredibly fortunate to have someone truly special step up for our team in Brooklyn. She bravely took on the role of goalie, and we couldn't have asked for anyone better. After taking a few years away from the game, Brooklyn returned with heart, courage, and determination. From the very beginning of the season, her fearlessness in goal and constant encouragement lifted everyone around her. Brooklyn will be missed, both on and off the field. We're so proud of all she has accomplished and wish her nothing but success in all her future endeavors.

#11 Lila Brightman by Thompson Davis '27

Our wonderful Lila, you have all the qualities anyone could hope for in a teammate. You are driven, compassionate, kind, hardworking, and incredibly organized. As captain this year, you have fully embraced your role, leading by example and always being there for others, whether they need a laugh, a hug, or a bit of advice. Your positivity shines through in everything you do both on and off the field, no matter the situation, making you a true inspiration to everyone around. Lila, you will be missed so much. Thank you for being such a truly beautiful soul.



EAGLES VOLLEYBALL SOARS IN HISTORIC FIRST FULL SEASON WITH VARSITY AND JV

The Mount Abraham Union High School volleyball program capped its first full season fielding both JV and varsity squads with a string of milestone achievements that set a new standard for the Eagles.

In just their first year at the varsity level, the Eagles captured the first Varsity victory in program history, a breakthrough moment that energized both the team and the growing crowd of supporters in the gym. That early success proved to be no fluke: Mount Abe went on to win five matches, steadily improving their communication, confidence, and court awareness as the season progressed.

The Eagles saved their best for the end, closing the regular season on a strong



run that secured them a coveted home playoff match—another first for the young program. Coaches Megan LaRose and Bre Sykes praised the athletes for their dedication, noting the rapid development made possible by having both JV and varsity squads for the first time. Younger players gained meaningful experience, while varsity athletes stepped into leadership roles that helped shape the program's identity. “There's plenty for the girls—and for our school community—to be proud of,” the coaching staff said. “What they accomplished in year one is remarkable, and it's only the beginning.”

With a foundation of enthusiasm, teamwork, and steady progress, the future looks bright for Mount Abraham volleyball.

PRE SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

sentiment, reporting that the relocation has been “really positive.” Interestingly enough, this is not the first time the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool has been relocated. Originally, it was held at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse in South Starksboro, then it was moved to RES. Most recently, it was moved to the Starksboro Meetinghouse because they needed more room for students. Porter shared some last thoughts about the relocation, stating, “Last year we had to get creative with a classroom space that felt really small with 16 preschoolers each day, but we did it!” She continued, “This year, we have been given a larger classroom space which has been amazing!” Wells shared how the preschoolers have affected her placement within the school, sharing that the 5th and 6th graders should have taken the classrooms near the front playground, but the preschool is located there instead. Wells was frustrated because she wished that her class could have experienced the larger classroom like all of the older kids before her. Reid acknowledged the displacement as well, though she commented, “I know some 5/6 students were upset about moving hallways, but I think it has been great for the elementary school to be together in one hallway.” Grateful for the Robinson Elementary School staff, Porter commented, “We can't thank the staff at RES enough, they have been very welcoming and accommodating to us!” Reid also shared, “It's been fun to have the preschoolers in the building” and “Has allowed preschool and RES staff to meet each other, which I have enjoyed.”

MEDICAL

(Continued from Page 1)

how to make the class better. “My suggestion is to spend more time on specific parts of the chapter. Vocab one day and second day illnesses,” said Smith. “I don't want to have to turn in photos for the homework because it takes a lot of time to download,” said Caron, which got fixed thanks to her suggestion. Stephane Wilbur is the Coordinator, Director, and Teacher of the Medical Professions program. When asked how teaching has changed her life, Wilbur shared that she has always wanted to help people, and “I quickly learned that the number of people I can help is limited at the bedside.” As a result, she found that teaching allowed her to make a bigger impact. “I can really impact and change lives by providing the best compassionate care. What I love about teaching is that I can teach ten students to care and understand the importance of the care that they provide. Those students, in turn, care for patients, and I can make more of an impact. I love seeing students grow and develop confidence in themselves.” Wilbur enjoys teaching, but admitted, “It is the most exhausting job ever!” Her favorite part of teaching is “growth, which looks different for every student, and it is all about the small wins!” In the class, everyone is learning differently and specializes in each area. Teaching has been difficult for her because “It is hard to know that what I am working on is good enough. I always want it to be perfect, which is unrealistic. I want to produce work that is better with revisions and time.” Wilbur's favorite subject is “teaching the softer skills, explaining systematic approaches to problem solving, and helping students develop as whole individuals,” and her favorite part of school is the students, and her favorite field trip is when she gets to take students to Nurse Excellence Day at VTSU Castleton. It gives students a chance to see college-level work and meet soon-to-be college graduates.” When asked if she had anything else to add, she said. “Teaching requires the ultimate in flexibility!” In the end, as either a teacher or a student, the Medical Career Center is a well-rounded experience. It is extremely difficult, but so so worth it. It helps you jump-start your Medical Career, making it 100% worth it.



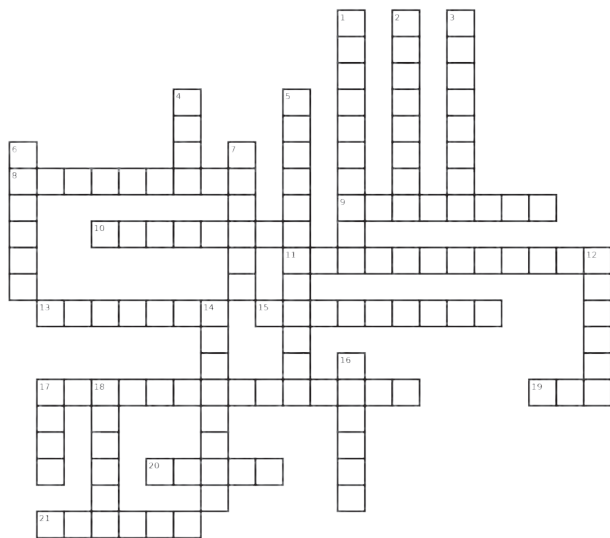
Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

The Bird's Eye View

Contact: Mt. Abraham Union High School
220 Airport Drive
Bristol, VT 05443
Phone: (802) 453-2333 x62095
Fax: (802) 453-4359
Advisor Vicki Bronson
vicki.bronson@mausd.org
Staff: Brooklyn Ryersbach '26 Bella Osborne '27
Emily Wells '29 Charles Trudeau '29
sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/

Thanksgiving

By Emily Wells



Down:

- 1. Container Shaped as Goat's Horn
- 2. "Soccer"
- 3. Month of Thanksgiving
- 4. Another Word for Sweet Potato
- 5. What Thanksgiving is all About
- 6. Macy's Day...
- 7. Kin
- 12. Sound a Turkey Makes
- 14. Thanksgiving Weekday
- 16. Bird Eaten at Thanksgiving
- 17. Maize
- 18. Fall

Across:

- 8. The Fall Musical
- 9. English Settlers in Plymouth in 1620
- 10. Gets Cooked Inside a Turkey
- 11. Fourth Thursday of November
- 13. Gather Crops
- 15. Name of the Pilgrims' Ship
- 17. Commonly Eaten Berry Sauce
- 19. Dessert Commonly With Apple or Pumpkin
- 20. A Savory Sauce
- 21. Last Meal of the Day

For the solution go to: sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/home/puzzles



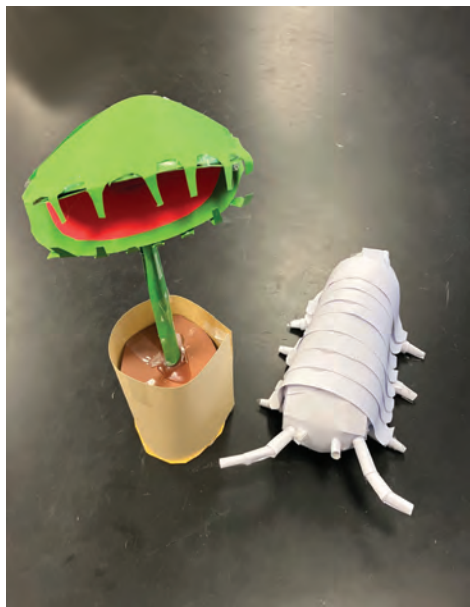
I chose this poem for the imagery it gave me while reading. I pictured Harlem, the dark, starry sky, a boy reaching up- away from the chaos ensuing down on the street below. He is among music and light of his apartment- almost lifting him closer to the stars. The stars represent, as the poem says, “oblivion.” He reaches away from the hatred and violence; it is below him. The narrator urges the boy to keep reaching up, to hold onto the peace.

By Ali Brown '27

Thank you to Katie Burdett for encouraging American Studies students to share their poetry art, and to Leah Hammond for sharing A.P. Art students' work.

Stars by Langston Hughes

O, sweep of stars over Harlem Streets,
O, little breath of oblivion that is night.
A city building
To a mother's song
A city dreaming
To a lullaby.
Reach up your hand, dark boy, and take a star.
Out of the little breath of oblivion
That is night,
Take just
One star.



ONE MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL ART PIECE, MIXED MEDIA
By Jonah Tarmy '30

OPERA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

exactly what we want to sing."

"This was a much more gentle way to get into the world of opera," Samara Davis of U-32 High School added.

"It's been a lot of work, but also a lot of fun to collaborate with talented musicians and meet people I wouldn't have met otherwise," said Jacob Foster of Essex High School.

Cullins emphasizes that the YOC experience builds more than musical skill. "Rehearsing in and performing in multiple spaces teaches important adaptability and resilience — skills that serve students far beyond opera," she said. "Over time, these kids build confidence, flexibility, and courage. They're unafraid to think on their feet."

Music Director Mary Jane Austin is integral to the process, extensively coaching each scene, focusing on style, performance practice and interpretation, as well as this production's many languages. Each YOC participant also takes individual voice lessons



Pet of the WEEK

Send us a pic of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

outside of the Youth Opera program and Cullins incorporates opera-specific vocal training at every session. "We focus on breath support and the resonance and vowel shaping unique to opera," she explained.

For many of these students, YOC is an artistic turning point. "I've always been passionate about opera but hadn't had the opportunity before YOC," said Foster.

"It's easy for your passions to fade without opportunities like this," Davis agreed. "YOC helped me prioritize music with purpose." Eve summed

it up best: "I'm meeting the people who make it possible to keep doing projects like this."

As opening weekend approaches, Cullins reflects on what audiences can expect: "There's this universal excitement about young people working hard and reaching high. In "Cabaret on 46th," you'll see eight talented, dedicated students reaching for the stars."

Admission is pay what you can. Suggested donation is \$20/adult, audiences under 26 are always welcome for free. Visit ocmvermont.org for more information.

Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Ayana



Ayana is a sweet 1-year-old mixed breed looking for a new start. She's playful with other dogs and loves to solve puzzle toys. We don't have much history on Ayana, so we're unsure of how she would do in a home setting with other dogs, cats, or children. She's a bit shy getting to know new people, but with reassurance she warms up fast and shows off her goofy personality. She walks well on leash and is food motivated.

Oliver



Oliver is a 5-year-old black labrador retriever. He's a handsome, playful man with a lot of energy and is looking for a home where he can get a lot of physical and mental stimulation. Oliver would love to go for regular walks with his new family and would prefer to be an only pet. He's housebroken and knows a few basic commands.

Oliver can be shy when first greeting new people but will shortly plop onto your lap once he's comfortable. He's slowly learning to be comfortable on a leash and is doing great so far. He can be nervous around young children. Older teenagers would be fine. Oliver can't wait to find his forever home where he can lean in for all the snuggles!

Brandi



Brandi is a bright little lady who's starting to show her curious, social side. She's learning that hands often mean fresh veggies and treats, and is quickly catching on to the joys of snack time! With a little patience and plenty of yummy motivation, she'll happily come to the front of her enclosure to greet you. Brandi would love to go home with one (or both!) of her sisters or make new guinea pig friends, though she could possibly be happy on her own with plenty of attention and daily companionship from her humans — loneliness can feel so sad!

Barry



Barry is a big hunk with a lot of love to give. He is starting to come out of his shell with us, but will need some patience when going into a new home. This gentle boy takes comfort in being close to the other cats he arrived with. He would do great in a quiet home that will give him time to get some confidence. We are sure he will become someone's best friend. Could it be you?

Ollie



Ollie is a distinguished gentleman with the utmost love to give. He loves to rub his face all over your arms to get as much love he possibly can. Dogs and children have stressed him out in the past, but with a proper introduction and a cat savvy child he may be up to trying again. He is going to make a great lap cat for someone.



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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one's demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

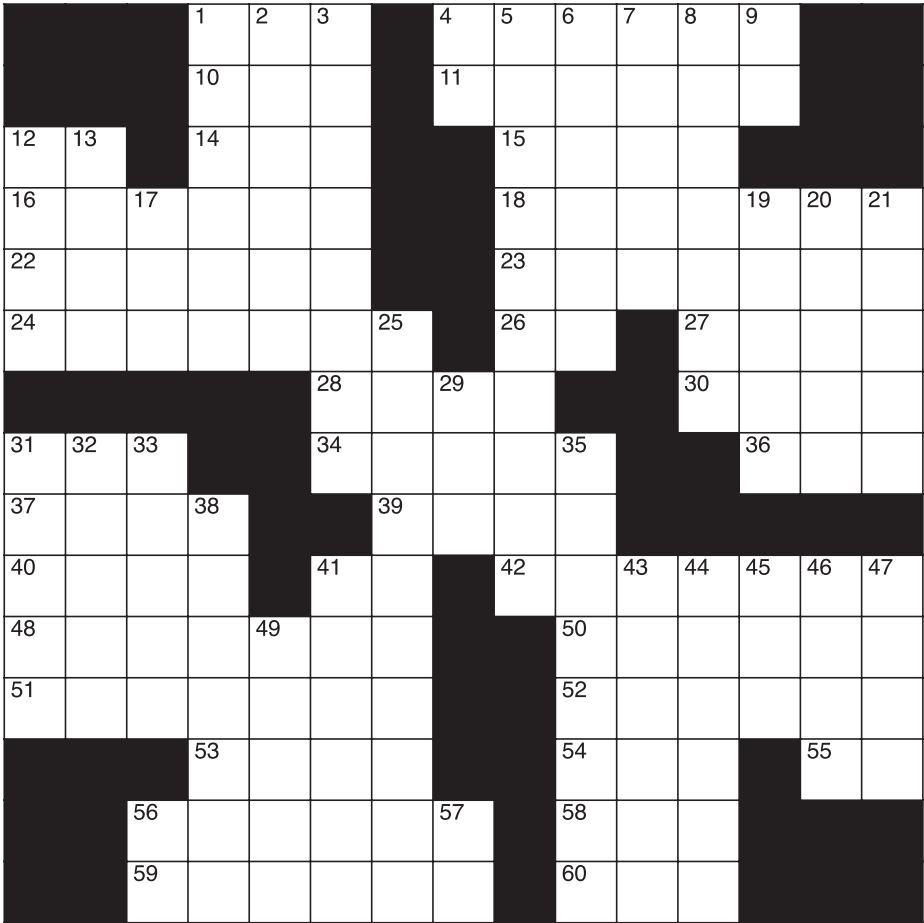
51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or

- anklet
53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposing factions
60. Vietnamese offensive

DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers



3		9		5				
						6		9
				8	2			3
	2				3			
1			4		6			7
5					8			6
							4	
		1				2		
		4			1	9	7	8

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile
- liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity

29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and
- slender dog

43. Sports personality Michelle

44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snakelike fish


47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.





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of my surgeons used an expression that caught my attention when describing a damaged organ: "Previously compromised." I am considering having those words used as my epitaph.

I recently looked up the average life expectancy of a male born in America, and it appears I am only few months from reaching my "sell-date" of 75.8 years. Put another way, this means that half of the males sharing my birth year of 1950 are either dead or circling the drain, about-to-expire. This is a sobering data-point to absorb into my outlook. It makes each day feel like an opportunity rather than an obligation. Joy has replaced the impatience, frustrated entitlement and the endless striving of my younger working self. It also is another proof-positive that the days remaining to me are becoming more precious. Gratitude and appreciation have become frequently cited as the key to good health, but I believe they have opened access to a less discussed and more fugitive concept...meaning.

Stepping off the employment carousel can lead to disorientation and frustration. The mantra of the long-suffering wife of the recently retired can be summed up by the following sentence, "I married him for better or worse, but not for lunch." The retired captain of industry morphing into the grocery store bully is a cultural trope. Personally, retirement (and its synonym, retreat) feels more like an ascension to a different cognitive plane than a military setback. It has offered me glimpses of a new level of understanding about the "core purposes" of human beings.

"What are people for?" is a quote from Kurt Vonegut that has always stuck in my consciousness. I am quite certain there is not one succinct answer to this rhetorical question, but my curiosity to consider the evidence is still whining in the background of my brain all the time. It is an issue that demands my attention the way our dog does when she needs to go outside. I have been treating our recent tours and road trips of the past few years as a kind of research into this question. This winter, I will be staying put, but I intend to accelerate my efforts with local friends that have made an impact on me.

The more I think about suitable examples of the folks I plan to visit, the more plentiful and significant they become. The first thing I have concluded is that all the evidence I could possibly need is here within reach and literally, under my nose. By paying attention and remaining willing to see the eternal in the ordinary, life's great treasure hunt becomes more shared and rewarding. Getting out of my own way permits the rewards of serious conversation and everyday events to get



Preparing our Lincoln gardens for winter. Note the idle Airstream in the distance.

PHOTO / JUDITH HARRIS

through the defensive screen I carefully erected as a younger man out of habit and a mistaken concern for self-preservation. As my hearing gets worse, my appreciation for what is said increases. Active listening to my own words and the responses from those around me has become a remarkable continuing education.

My vision is also becoming less reliable as the images I treasure become more profound. My grandmother used to ask me to thread her needle as she prepared to replace a missing button or mend a small imperfection in a garment with "life left in it." She would add that my eyes were better and my hands steadier than hers, and it made a small boy feel useful and important to help her through her day. I see now what an act of love it was to treat me as a resource rather than an attention sponge. After all, "being useful" is one of the things that "people are for," a hint wrapped up in a mundane request.

My mother used to ask me at the dinner table, "So, Stephen, what did you do for your country today?" It didn't come up at every meal, but often enough that I knew I had better have an answer prepared to explain how I had acted with responsible empathy at some point since my last testimony.

Past examples are easier to cite because they have been subject to my repeated analysis for a long time. Current examples are less obvious, and it is those I wish to recognize and share. "Catching up to the present" has been

an objective of mine for most of the past few years. Attempting to get there and stay there in this context will make clear to me one more mystery, which can be summed up by another question; "What is it about my home that I love so much?"

Through this winter, I hope to spend time with some of my peers and discover how they have answered the "What are people for?" question to their own satisfaction. I suspect that I am not the only aging citizen in this part of Vermont curious to appreciate the answers other members of their cohort may have resolved. Selfishly, it is good to have an excuse to know these folks better and spend some time with them. I hope that putting the results in print will present more evidence from which to draw your own conclusions.

— sbh

Steve and Judith Harris reside in Lincoln where their recently built cabin is the world headquarters of their consulting business. They will not be camping in the relative comfort of the southeast this winter, but will instead remain at home while Judith attends to their clients and Steve attempts to create monthly episodes of "Ruminations from the Roost". Steve promises a travelogue, without the travel. Each episode will present a profile of a local "community fixture", folks that Steve has selected, based on criteria that remain unclear even to the author. Furthermore, these sketches will offer examples of the many ways he finds to cherish and be grateful for his life in Addison County.



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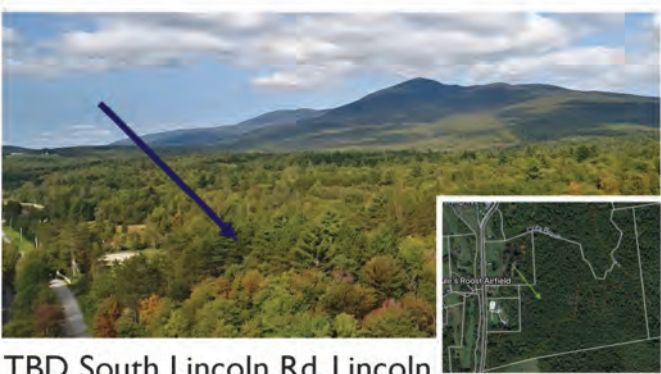
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ART ON EXHIBIT

Learn about a mover-and-a-shaker from art history

The permanent collection at the Middlebury College Museum of Art has a special exhibit on view now. "Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Visions of Grandeur" opened in early September and will close Dec. 7.

Giovanni Battista Piranesi (Italian, 1720–1778) was one of the protagonists in European culture as it transitioned from the Rococo into the Enlightenment and the modern world. Today he is best known as a prolific printmaker who documented the Rome of both classical antiquity and his own time, but the scope of his work and influence extends much further.

Trained as an architect in his native Venice, Piranesi was an important tastemaker who spread his ideas in multiple ways, not only as a printmaker but also as an architect, designer, polemicist, author, antiquities dealer,



Giovanni Battista Piranesi (Italian, 1720–1778), *Veduta dell'Arco di Benevento ... [View of the Arch of Benevento ...]*, 1778, etching on paper, 18 3/4 x 28 1/4 inches (47.6 x 71.8 cm). Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art, Vermont. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Stewart, 1993.013.

and proto-archaeologist. Profoundly impressed with Rome's classical past, he often took creative, even spectacular,

SEE ART ON PAGE 15

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

tone and emotion, allowing mood and meaning to rise to the

surface. This exhibit features 35 images in the gallery and another 40 images online, selected by juror Jason Landry. On view through Nov. 28.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"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.

"Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity." Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College, this exhibition is the result of meticulous research and thoughtful curation. Students assembled a diverse collection of objects that show

how adornment across centuries and cultures both shapes and reflects the human experience. On view through Jan. 3.

"Vermont Female Farmers." This striking portrait series by JuanCarlos González offers a powerful and intimate look into the lives of farmers shaping the landscape and future of Vermont agriculture. Complementing the photography are agricultural-related artifacts and ephemera from the Museum's collection. These additions create meaningful dialogues between past and present, offering reflections on our Addison County landscape and farming heritage. On view through Jan. 3.

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"Kati Christoffel & Heather Rusch Zelonis" are the two local featured artists. Their work will be featured in a shared celebration of the changing seasons. Kati's plein air watercolors capture shifting light and color across the landscape while Heather's block prints explore the quiet rhythms of winter. On view through December.

ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

liberties with the awe-inspiring images, the inventive designs, and the fanciful archaeological restorations he produced.

The exhibition showcases a selection of Piranesi's

artistic output and contextualizes the work within the important cultural debates of his time. The prints, drawings, a book, a map, and a recently acquired sculpture are presented in thematic sections, arranged roughly chronologically. They highlight the artist's visionary ideas about antiquity, his role as a printmaker and antiquities dealer, his understanding of the place of the artist in history, and his conception of the relationship between culture and nature.

If you want to explore this exhibit with a stellar group, connect with the Art Club on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 3:30 p.m. Two Middlebury College students, Kyra Dybas and Jude Kuykendall, will be joining the group and will share their experiences in researching Piranesi as well as designing and organizing the exhibit. To join the Art Club gathering, RSVP to Don Burns at ddbbstx1@gmail.com by Nov. 30.



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R	E	V	I	S	E			I	T	E	R	A	T	E
A	R	I	S	E	N			T	O	W	B	O	A	T
N	E	M	E	S	E	S		I	N		I	T	C	H
						L	O	T	A			C	U	K
						Y	L	E	M	S		S	S	R
	L	A	M	P			I	D	E	A				
A	M	I	R		S	D		N	I	B	B	L	E	D
M	O	L	O	K	A	I			L	E	A	N	E	R
O	N	E	S	E	L	F			B	A	N	G	L	E
			A	R	U	I			O	D	D		S	G
		D	I	C	K	E	R		A	L	I			
		S	C	H	I	S	M		T	E	T			

3	1	9	6	5	7	4	8	2
8	7	2	1	3	4	6	5	9
4	6	5	9	8	2	7	1	3
6	2	7	5	1	3	8	9	4
1	9	8	4	2	6	5	3	7
5	4	3	7	9	8	1	2	6
9	8	6	2	7	5	3	4	1
7	3	1	8	4	9	2	6	5
2	5	4	3	6	1	9	7	8

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