



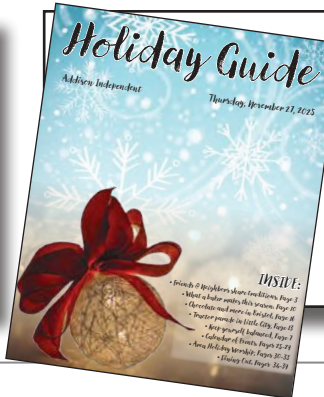
## X-mas story

A Charles Dickens classic returns to the Middlebury stage to put you in the spirit. See Arts + Leisure.



## Panthers finish

Two Middlebury athletes wrap up with success; another team ends its NCAA run. See Page 1B.



## 'Tis the season

Locals share holiday traditions, let's talk about baking and lots of activities planned. See our Guide.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 79 No. 48

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, November 27, 2025 ♦ 82 Pages

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## Bristol now dispensing free public health items

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRISTOL — There's a new vending machine in Bristol, but it's not the kind that dispenses sodas, candy bars or chips.

This particular machine, stationed right next to the Bristol Police headquarters at 72 Munsill Ave., isn't about fattening frivolities.

It offers potentially lifesaving products to folks battling substance use, who are homelessness and/or have limited resources.

And the products the machine offers are free

to those who need them.

Spearheaded by the Turning Point Center of Addison County, Porter Medical Center, the United Way of Addison County and other stakeholders in the local fight against substance use disorder, the new public health vending machine was officially unveiled at its outdoor location on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Stocked with Narcan — a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids — first aid kits, hygiene items and other emergency

commodities, the new machine is one of two in the county that can be accessed anonymously and 24/7 by anyone in need of emergency wellness and health supplies.

The machine also has, affixed to its side, a secure disposal bin for needles and other sharp items.

The first such local vending machine was installed back in June on the front porch of Turning Point headquarters at 79 Court St. in (See Bristol, Page 13A)

## Ripton ensures a happy Thanksgiving meal for all

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — Being a small town of 729 can present Ripton with challenges in achieving economies of scale.

But being small — and possessing a caring ethos — also has advantages.

So when Ripton residents Jenna and Bill Hunsinger, and their friend Brooke Wilcox, became aware that some of their neighbors were struggling economically with Thanksgiving approaching, they thought of (See Ripton boxes, Page 16A)



### Rise up singing!

DIRECTOR SUZANNE ROOD leads the Addison County Gospel Choir in a stirring performance during the annual Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing this past Sunday afternoon in Vergennes. The choir was joined by the Champlain Brass Ensemble at the Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church for a concert that welcomes those in the crowd to sing along. See more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photos/Steve James



## American heroes are highlighted in new book

Recounts bipartisan base renaming efforts

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — In March 2021, a bipartisan commission made up of both soldiers and civilians set out on a mission given to them by Congress.

That mission was to come up with a plan for removing “names, symbols, displays, monuments and paraphernalia to assets of the Department of Defense” commemorating the Confederacy or anyone who served voluntarily with it.

Among those supporting (See American heroes, Page 11A)

## Some farms growing drought-tolerant crop

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Addison County residents are likely used to seeing corn growing in local fields, as the crop is a popular one often used by farmers to feed their livestock. While many local farms continue to grow corn and other well-known forage crops for their animals, some have shifted to another option — sorghum sudangrass.

UVM Extension officials note the annual grass crop is

drought-resistant and can provide a resilient option for farmers' forage systems. Sorghum sudangrass was the focus of a Nov. 18 farmer roundtable hosted by the Middlebury Extension Office, where local farmers gathered to discuss how the crop has performed at their operations.

“It's another option for you to produce high-quality, large quantities of dry matter for your livestock,” said John Roberts, a Cornwall resident and former dairy

farmer. “It's highly digestible, but it needs to be managed properly.”

Roberts ran a dairy farm in Cornwall for 40 years and previously grew sorghum sudan at the farm. He noted the crop is an often overlooked one.

“When I first came here (from Great Britain) and asked about sorghum sudan, people were sort of very dismissive,” he recalled. “It was sort of a poor man's crop if you didn't get your corn in on time.”

“I don't think the benefits are fully appreciated; hopefully they will be,” he continued.

Roberts noted his farm began growing sorghum sudan because his team stopped growing corn.

“I probably grew corn on our farm in Cornwall for 10 years, and I just got frustrated that when I was cultivating corn I actually should be taking first cut,” he explained. “Cultivating corn is extremely timely; you've got to (See Farmers, Page 16A)

## Hunters bag deer with bows & muzzleloaders

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Bow and muzzleloader hunters combined to bring down 159 deer in the early seasons for both weapons. The archery season was Oct. 1 to Nov. 14; for muzzleloader users shooting antlerless deer the season was Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

Those numbers appear to be on track with kill counts in the past four years.

Both archery and muzzleloader hunters have two-week seasons in December. Over the past four years, archers have shot between 131 to 234 deer during their bifurcated (See Hunters, Page 15A)



## By the way

The folks at Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects, also known as HOPE, want to remind folks they can do some of their holiday shopping locally — for a good cause and at bargain rates. The HOPE community services building in Middlebury hosts Marion's Place, a resale shop that offers home décor, bakeware, holiday decorations, festive clothing and unusual gifts. Proceeds help subsidize (See By the way, Page 11A)

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## Shoreham kids will transfer to Bridport school

Change to begin next fall

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — The Addison Central School District board on Monday voted 8-1 in favor of a plan to blend Shoreham's kindergarten through 5th-grade students into Bridport Central School (BCS) beginning next fall, and at the same time convert Shoreham Elementary School (SES) into a district (See Shoreham students, Page 9A)

## Ripton school closure in hands of ACSD voters

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — The Addison Central School board on Monday agreed to initiate the formal closing of Ripton Elementary School beginning next fall, a move that will still require a positive vote by Addison Central School District voters on Town Meeting Day.

If the voters of the ACSD-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge affirm the closure plan next March 3, that would set the stage for the district to convey the Ripton Elementary building back to the town. Ripton officials (See Ripton school, Page 15A)



### Ready for winter

GET YOUR SKATES on, it's that time of the year! Middlebury College Figure Skating Club members Ting Cui, left, and HaQuyen Pham stretch their hamstrings before taking to the ice at Kenyon Arena recently. Cui, a senior and coach on the team, competes in national competitions. See more photos on Page 2A.

Independent photo/Steve James



# Bridport seeks to promote housing

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — A Bridport citizens group has come up with ideas for boosting the town's limited housing stock and is working with a local landowner to map a hypothetical new neighborhood.

The town's recent focus on boosting its housing stock stems from a partnership with the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD). The town and VCRD last year hosted three well-attended community gatherings under the heading "Bridport Comes Together."

Attendees were asked, in part, to name priorities for their town, including desired amenities, infrastructure and recreational priorities — anything they believed could make Bridport a more prosperous, healthy and desirable place to live.

Participants came up with a vision for Bridport that included 16 specific priorities, including:

- A town that is thriving and growing.
- An affordable and safe place to live for all, including youth and elders, farmers and farmworkers, homeowners and renters, families and single people.
- An environment with "safe roads for walking or biking, and where drivers slow down to appreciate the landscape and town."
- A place with good local schools, "where young people are welcomed and involved in gatherings and meetings."

The VRCD's Bridport Comes Together full report can be found at

[tinyurl.com/2ys4wymw](https://tinyurl.com/2ys4wymw).

VRCD officials urged the Bridport Comes Together participants to whittle down their 16-item list, which they eventually did — to two items: Increase local housing opportunities and improve in-town communications and events. The former issue emerged as the "thornier, more complex issue," noted Al Zaccor, one of the many participants at the VRCD-moderated meetings.

Zaccor was picked to lead a Bridport Housing Task Force that's spent the past year collecting more public feedback, and gaining expertise from organizations like the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, to help the selectboard find ways to promote more housing starts in town. Bridport, like all of Vermont, has a shortage of available housing — especially affordable/workforce housing for young families.

Task force members learned the housing problem will be a tough nut to crack. The group has found, among other things, that:

- Around half of the development rights for land in Bridport have been converted to conservation easements.
- Bridport's heavy clay soils are inhospitable to conventional septic systems. The alternative is installation of expensive mound systems that add to development costs.
- There is currently no subsidized affordable multifamily housing in Bridport, and few accessory dwelling units.
- Bridport is geographically

expansive but isn't currently served by public transportation.

- There is significant regional home buying pressure, and limited available housing stock.
- The preponderance of conserved land south of the village limits housing expansion in that direction.

Undaunted, the Bridport Housing Task Force has been hard at work looking at a variety of possible solutions — including using technology, grants, local zoning adjustments and wastewater disposal solutions — to jumpstart housing.

On Nov. 11, the task force sent some specific suggestions to the town selectboard, including providing more flexibility in lot sizes and setbacks, revisiting subdivision rules, concentrating denser housing near the town's center, and supporting potential planned unit developments (PUDs). The group also recommended allowing "smaller homes on smaller lots."

"The key to making this possible is providing more flexibility in required lot sizes and setback requirements where geography and other conditions exist," the group wrote to the selectboard. "Additionally, rules governing subdivision of properties could be made more flexible to allow for the creation of more building sites on existing larger plots."

Task force members urged the town's top elected officials to get involved in the policy of promoting more housing.

"We call on the selectboard to support the planning commission's ongoing process of reviewing zoning and subdivision regulations. We understand that some of these changes could be made by the end of this year, which is why we felt it important to reach out to you at (See Bridport, Page 3A)

*"We ask that you keep in mind our community's expressed desire to make it possible to build more housing in Bridport, especially if it can be made more affordable."*

— Bridport selectboard

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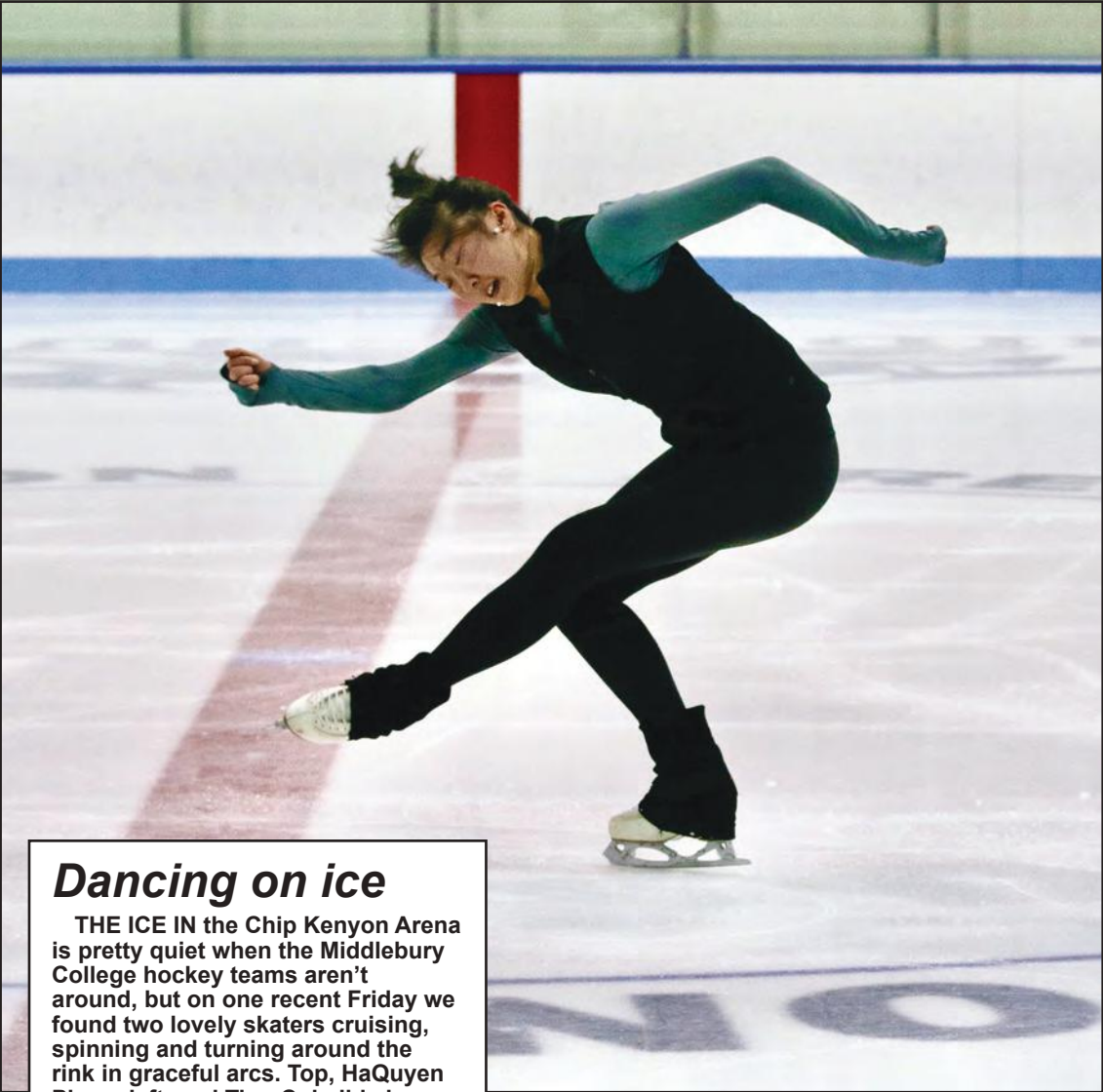
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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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### Dancing on ice

THE ICE IN the Chip Kenyon Arena is pretty quiet when the Middlebury College hockey teams aren't around, but on one recent Friday we found two lovely skaters cruising, spinning and turning around the rink in graceful arcs. Top, HaQuyen Pham, left, and Ting Cui glide in perfect synchronicity; above, Cui, a Middlebury senior and world junior bronze medalist, shows off a little of her dancing technique; right, the Middlebury Figure Skating Club advisor and co-president finish a move nicely.

Independent photos/Steve James

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# Health officials await federal funding

**By IAN CURRY**  
VERMONT — State health officials are keenly awaiting a decision from the federal government that could see a share of \$50 billion allocated to improve Vermont’s rural healthcare system during the next five years.  
The funds are part of the Rural Transformation Fund Program, which was included in this past summer’s big appropriations bill. It was added shortly before it was passed this past July after politicians from both parties raised concerns about the impacts the bill would have on rural hospitals. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the spending plan will reduce federal Medicaid spending by \$911 billion during the next 10 years and will see around 10 million more Americans become uninsured.

According to KFF, a non-partisan health policy organization, the rural health fund’s \$50 billion represents a little more than one third of the federal Medicaid funding that’s estimated to be lost in rural areas.

However, state officials have told the *Independent* that certain aspects of the rural health fund are irregular, especially for a nationwide grant of this size.

For instance, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which administers the fund, gave states less than eight weeks to develop detailed plans on how they plan to invest grant money in their rural health systems. CMS is expected to announce awardees on Dec. 31.

“This was an unusually short and challenging application window for a grant of this complexity,” said Ashley Roy, a spokesperson for the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS), which developed the state’s application.

The application submitted by the AHS acknowledges “Vermont has a well-established health care system, nearly universal insurance coverage, and a robust set of health reform initiatives planned or underway. However, Vermont, like other states, is facing a rural health care crisis.

“More than half of the state’s hospitals are operating at a loss and experiencing financial distress,” it adds.

Data released by the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) in March found that six of the state’s 14 hospitals lost money in

fiscal year 2024. That same year, six hospitals were operating with less than 100 days’ cash on hand. That’s in line with analysis done by KFF, which found that 44% of rural hospitals nationwide had negative margins.

However, according to the application, “Trends are projected to worsen with 13 of the 14 hospitals expected to report losses by 2028.”

The application lists several other challenges presented by Vermont’s beleaguered rural healthcare system, including long wait times for care, access issues and the cost of health insurance.

While Vermont’s rate of insurance coverage is the highest it’s been in years, that’s expected change. State officials

estimate that around 45,000 Vermonters could lose access to insurance due to massive cuts to Medicaid funding authorized by the new law enacted by Congress and signed by the president.

Additionally, 22 million Americans who receive health insurance through Affordable Care Act marketplaces like Vermont Health Connect will likely see their insurance premiums skyrocket, potentially by thousands of dollars per month. Enhanced Premium Tax Credits, which were rolled out in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan Act to make monthly premiums more affordable during the COVID-19 pandemic, were eliminated and by law won’t be restored even after the government shutdown ended on Nov. 12.

The funding cuts come at a bad time for Vermont, which has the highest health insurance premium costs in the country. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, the state’s largest insurer, has implemented double digit premium increases during the past few years to shore up urgently needed funds to pay out an increasing number of claims. The Green Mountain Care Board approved lower rate increases for Blue Cross plans in 2026 and has enacted reforms that seek to address the underlying issues contributing to the state’s rising healthcare costs.

Vermont’s application to the rural health fund puts forward several initiatives to improve the state’s rural healthcare system.

“Given the parameters of the grant application and the quick turnaround, we tried to build on existing efforts and support well-

known needs — strengthening the workforce, including with housing, enhancing primary care, increasing access to mental health and substance abuse urgent care, enhancing the use of health care technology, and innovations like expanding the role of EMS and pharmacists in rural areas,” Roy said.

Developing a more accessible health network is central to the state’s application. AHS has requested funding from the federal government to help regionalize more specialized services that require both a high number of patients and specialized staff.

“The goal of regionalization is to make sure health care services are rightsized and optimally distributed in the state so that Vermonters can get the care they need, when and where they need it, and at a price they can afford,” the application reads.

This goes in hand with other plans to modernize rural primary care centers and strengthen the rural healthcare workforce. This includes infrastructure upgrades and workforce expansion that will make it easier to access quality care, especially for people with chronic conditions. The state would also subsidize tuition costs for those training for medical professions should they commit to work in Vermont for at least five years, while also subsidizing the construction of more workforce housing.

Finally, AHS hopes to improve the systems that track Vermont’s healthcare prices to help “explore options to promote marketplace sustainability for insurers and consumers, including small businesses.”

### UP IN THE AIR

Vermont AHS has developed this plan alongside other healthcare stakeholders in Vermont. However, the agency acknowledged the exact details remain up in the air.

“We have not yet received an award from CMS, and we expect significant adjustments before we have a final list of approved initiatives. We hope to have more information early in the new year,” Roy said.

According to KFF, half the rural health fund’s \$50 billion will be distributed equally among states whose applications have been approved by CMS, regardless of how large a state’s rural population is, or how many rural health facilities it has. The remaining \$25 billion will be distributed based on 23 factors that account for states’ rural populations and

# Bridport

(Continued from Page 2A)  
this time,” the committee stated in its letter. “We ask that you keep in mind our community’s expressed desire to make it possible to build more housing in Bridport, especially if it can be made moreaffordable.”

So where could any substantial housing be built in Bridport? A lot depends on who’s willing to sell and where the land is located. But the task force believes the best place for denser development is the area of the town nearest the corridor along Vermont Route 22A from Pratt’s store in the north, to Broughton’s Hardware in the south.

“This area benefits from the greatest access to transportation, services and existing retail, and

shows the most promise for further development,” the task force stated in its letter. “This general area would also receive priority consideration for any proposed PUDs.”

Bridport’s Pratt family owns substantial acreage in the growth area identified by the task force. The task force recently approached the family (and was given permission) to do some soil testing and hypothetical development planning on that 80-acre parcel — across 22A from Pratt’s Store — just to give the town a dry run at the mechanics of mapping out a new neighborhood.

All of the testing is being paid through a grant and private donations, Zaccor said.

“We want to be clear there are

currently no plans to develop that land,” Zaccor stressed. “As the chair of the housing task force, I would be thrilled if, out of this process, something concrete developed where the Pratts decided to try to pursue some sort of development. It’s too early right now to know if that’s the case.”

Early testing of the Pratt land indicates it could “support more housing from a septic standpoint than the current zoning will allow,” according to Zaccor. Local zoning in that part of town allows for either 2-acre lots along the road, but 5-acre lots where there’s no road frontage.

Drexel Wheeler is a Bridport selectman and member of the town’s planning commission. He said he and his colleagues are

# Field Days still raising funds for projects

**By MARIN HOWELL**

NEW HAVEN — Addison County Fair & Field Days organizers are continuing to raise funds to support improvements and other projects at the fairgrounds, with the aim of positioning the fair to continue serving the community for many years to come.

The organization as of last week had raised around \$125,000 through a capital campaign it launched this past January. The funds will support the construction of new facilities, expanded parking and other improvements to the county fairgrounds in New Haven. The capital campaign will run into 2026.

In a recent interview with the *Independent*, Field Days officials provided an update on the campaign and thanked fairgoers and all those who’ve supported the organization in myriad ways. They noted such contributions are made year after year and make the agricultural fair what it is.

When launching the campaign earlier this year, organizers noted while the agricultural fair has remained a constant in the region for more than 75 years, “the world around us has changed, bringing both challenges and opportunities.”

Field Days organizers have

had to contend with those shifts and their impacts, such as rising costs, severe weather events, and changes in Vermont agriculture.

The capital campaign is aimed at helping ensure the fairgrounds remains a vibrant part of the community, and funds raised will support several projects. Those include expanded parking and improvements to roads for increased accessibility and emergency access, as well as construction of a building to replace the show tent that hosts entertainment acts during the fair.

Organizers noted that building could serve as a year-round venue for community events. In addition to hosting the agricultural fair each summer, the New Haven fairgrounds serve as the site for the annual Addison County Benefit Pull, weddings and a variety of other gatherings.

Money raised will also help the organization address “unforeseen circumstances and future needs.” For example, the fairgrounds received around six inches of rain in a short period before fair week this past July, leading to substantial road repair costs.

The campaign is also supporting the construction of a new antiques storage house — a project that’s expected to get underway this upcoming

spring — and efforts to address stormwater runoff and comply with state regulations.

The 2015 Clean Water Act requires properties with three or more acres of impervious surfaces to treat stormwater runoff. The Field Days site is one of those properties, and Field Days stewards have in recent years been navigating the state stormwater regulations and related costs. Organizers noted that permitting is in process.

Those interested in donating to the campaign can do so online at [paypal.com/biz/profile/acffd](https://paypal.com/biz/profile/acffd), or with checks made payable to Addison County Fair & Field Days and mailed to 1790 Field Days Road, Vergennes, VT, 05491. The Field Days organization is a 501C-3 nonprofit and can also accept donations of stocks and investment funds.

The organization continues to welcome support from community members in other ways, such as through volunteering or filling an outdoor exhibit spot.


Officials also encouraged community members to invite a friend to next year’s fair, scheduled for Aug. 4-8.

“We have people from all over, all different states, come to our fair, and the reason they come to the fair is because somebody invited them,” said Field Days board member Tricia Foster. “Just invite somebody, and they’d be surprised what they might find at the fair; something they might like.”

Nonetheless, the \$50 billion allocated by the program pales in comparison to the \$911 billion in healthcare funding cuts set to take place during the next 10 years, including the \$137 billion estimated to be lost in rural areas.

“While the fund was established in part to address concerns about rural hospitals and closures, the

extent to which it will benefit these facilities and offset losses under the reconciliation law is unclear... the rural health fund will be temporary, while many of the cuts in health spending are not time limited, meaning that the longer-term impact on rural areas and hospitals could be less favorable,” KFF wrote in its [analysis](#).



# Memory Tree

The Middlebury Lions Club informs those who wish to memorialize the names of their deceased relatives and friends on this year’s “Christmas Memory Tree” that they may do so by the donation of a dollar for each name and forwarding the names to the:

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Guest Editorial

Protect, grow programs for early childhood teachers

By Heather Duhamel and Kaitlin Northey

Vermont’s child care future depends on the strength of its early childhood education workforce. We’ve made historic gains in expanding access for families, but the system still needs more well-prepared early childhood educators to give our youngest children the best possible start.

Building a strong child care workforce starts with educating the early childhood educators. Long before caring for your child, your family’s trusted early childhood educator was training to teach young children.

Across Vermont, future educators begin their journeys in high schools, career and technical education programs, apprenticeships, community colleges, certificate programs and universities. This variety is a strength, reflecting the many ways people enter higher ed: as students, parents, mid-career changers and lifelong learners.

And these programs are popular — more high school students are taking ECE courses for college credit, and early childhood education courses are among the highest enrolled at Community College of Vermont.

In our work as teacher educators, we see every day how much these programs strengthen our workforce, and why it’s important to stabilize them in uncertain times. We also see where students stop their studies, and how we can help them continue.

The Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children recently released the first higher ed landscape study since 2017. The report, “Higher Ed Pathways, Challenges, and Opportunities for Vermont’s Early Childhood Education Workforce,” was researched and written by Heather.

Her research finds that students need to see connections between today’s coursework, tomorrow’s credential, and how continuing their studies impacts their compensation and career.

There are many ways for early childhood educators to enter higher ed, but many stop credit-bearing coursework after two courses, or six credits. This pattern extends beyond early childhood education, yet because our intro classes are so popular, we have specific opportunities to retain students.

And this is important because Vermont needs more well-prepared early childhood educators. As a state, we’ve invested in helping families afford child care and expanding program access. But every new classroom that opens needs a qualified early childhood educator to lead it.

Institutions are adapting. Flexible scheduling, credit for prior learning and clearer advising tools all help ECEs continue their own education — especially the many who do coursework while working full-time. State investments in scholarships, apprenticeship programs and student loan repayment assistance for early childhood educators are crucial supports.

Yet bachelor’s and graduate-level programs remain fragile. Over the past 10 years, Vermont has lost several early childhood preparation programs, and faculty across the state told us that higher ed institutions are now making changes or reductions to programs in an effort to navigate federal funding uncertainties.

Federal policy adds urgency. The 2025 national budget reconciliation bill introduced restrictions on federal student loan access for “low-earning” majors. Without action, many students could lose the very loans that make their education possible, jeopardizing both higher education programs and Vermont’s child care workforce.

This threat compounds the ongoing challenge of compensation: historically, early childhood educators earn low wages, while the cost of care for very young children remains high. Without public investment, families shoulder tuition costs and educators endure low wages. Vermont is leading the nation in changing this, but educator compensation is still catching up.

Vermont doesn’t have to accept this outcome.

Federal law uses statespecific earnings thresholds to define “low-earning,” which means that ensuring early childhood educators are paid according to their qualifications — as in other professions — can protect students’ access to federal loans. This approach strengthens higher ed programs and pathways, attracts new students, and makes early childhood education a viable career choice. Ultimately, it supports stronger child care programs and better outcomes for children and families.

Here’s what we recommend:

- Stabilize early childhood education preparation programs at every level, from high school to graduate school, through consistent funding and policy support.
- Make transfer agreements and pathway maps visible and easy to use for students, advisors and faculty.
- Strengthen coordination between higher ed, workforce and licensing systems so programs and professional standards align.
- Link compensation and advancement to preparation and credentials, so education in this field has tangible value.

These are not abstract policy goals; they’re the foundation of the workforce our child care system depends on.

We’ve seen firsthand that progress happens when Vermont’s educators, higher ed partners and policymakers work together. Advocacy and partnership have already reshaped child care in Vermont. Now we must sustain that momentum by protecting the programs that support early childhood education careers.

We’ve worked hard to build higher ed systems that welcome aspiring and advancing early childhood educators wherever they are in their coursework and career. These systems show real promise. With the right support, they can grow and retain the child care workforce Vermont depends on.

Heather Duhamel is assistant professor and program director for early childhood education online at Vermont State University, and Kaitlin Northey is associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Vermont.



Perhaps it’s the snow

CORRECT ME IF I’m wrong, but does the smile on this jack-o-lantern, spotted on a Middlebury porch Sunday afternoon, look nervous and a bit forced?

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Politicians use words as weapons

When I travel abroad, even just up to Canada, I’m embarrassed to tell people I’m American. When people ask where I’m from, I’ve started telling them I’m from Vermont. Either they don’t know where it is, or they know Vermont and have a more accurate representation of what kind of American I am. My level of embarrassment, along with a negative attitude abroad regarding Americans, have slowly increased but recently snowballed.

There are many aspects of being American that have shifted because of the current political landscape. In addition to all the other things we are fighting for, we should also be fighting to take back our identity as Americans.

I used to think that flying the American flag was patriotic. However, the very flag itself and the word patriotic have become politicized. While participating in the festive aspects of the No Kings Rally this October in Montpelier, I loved how many people were flying or displaying American flags and declaring themselves patriots. We were all displaying love for our country, which is the dictionary definition of a patriot. Using the word unpatriotic to describe someone who simply doesn’t agree with your political beliefs is not only technically incorrect, but also morally wrong and undermines the meaning of the word.

The final speaker at the Montpelier No Kings Rally had a similar message about reclaiming what politics has attempted to redefine. He used the Pledge of Allegiance as an example of how patriotic traditions

have become divisive and politicized. For me, it is the addition of the line “under God,” added in 1954, that goes against the grain. It also seems to be at least one reason many people have an issue with the pledge. The Pledge of Allegiance is currently on its 5th iteration. I quite like the simplified original version from 1892: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

The idea of a country that is indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, seems like it should be something we all agree on. Sadly, the problem seems to be that some people want liberty and justice for themselves, but not for others. I’m also concerned about the manipulation and politicization of our language, which spreads beyond my previous example. For instance, the word woke developed in African American English and was originally used to describe a state of active attentiveness to issues of racial and social justice. It was first used in the mid-late 20th century, but gained widespread use and attention beginning in 2014 as part of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Currently the term “woke” has developed pejorative use describing people, policies and practices that are seen as too politically liberal or progressive. I would like to reclaim the definition of woke to mean that someone is aware and knowledgeable about issues of racial and social justice.

Another manipulated word is Antifa. This word is (See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Claire Corkins



When Jamaica floods, Vt. feels it

Every fall in Addison County, as the leaves turn and our orchards come alive with families and tourists picking apples, hundreds of Jamaican workers are quietly doing the hard work that makes the season possible. For decades, Vermont farmers have relied on these workers — many of whom return year after year, so consistently that local farms like Champlain Orchards often describe them as “family.” It’s incredible that most of the apples Vermonters buy at farmstands, co-ops and weekend festivals were picked by hands that traveled here from a small tropical island nearly 2,000 miles away.

This year, as those workers tended our harvest, their own families at home were enduring the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, a devastating storm that tore across Jamaica with catastrophic force. Having served in Jamaica from 2010 to 2012, and with our daughter born in Kingston during my time with the U.S. Embassy, the images of collapsed homes, flooded towns, and families grieving losses feel deeply personal. Jamaica, like so many island nations caught in the crosshairs of climate change, is facing storms of increasing intensity, fueled by warmer Atlantic and Caribbean waters.

For years, Jamaica had been spared the worst of the new megastorms. But this time, they were not



From the Amazon to Addison: Conservation stories that connect us By Kevin Fox

measures helped soften the financial blow, even though they could not ultimately prevent the human one.

Here in Vermont, we often think of climate change in terms of warming winters or erratic snowfall. For a long time, many assumed our small, landlocked, mountainous state was largely insulated from the worst climate disasters, far removed from hurricanes, coastal surges and the dramatic storms seen elsewhere. But the last few years have shattered that sense of security. (See Kevin Fox, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Why is Trump still a free man?

According to DT’s latest posts, seditious acts should be punished severely. So why is he a free man? Is it because we the people have allowed it? Including re-electing the perpetrator?

Christy Alger Orwell

Police log item was perfection

I’ll note that the author of the Nov. 20 Vergennes Police Log deserves an E.B. White award for brevity. Reporting, “Found the door of a Main Street business unlocked after hours and quickly learned its owner was working late.” Perfection.

J. Paul Sokal Panton

‘Libby’s Path’ a great amenity

I have been watching the addition to Libby’s Path, which was created to connect EastView to the existing trail. (See Addy Indy Nov. 20, 2025). Yesterday, as the Brakeley family was finishing, I went to check it out. After going around the caution tape, I came to the boardwalk across the wetlands.

This is no ordinary boardwalk; it is a work of art. It forms a graceful “S” curve through the swamp with boardwalk “bumpers” on the sides to prevent errant walkers from going over the edge. The workmanship is magnificent. From there the path winds gracefully uphill to meet the original path.

While the new path is slightly less than one mile, it is worth the time to enjoy. Stop at the top and look down at the loops of the new trail and on down through the trees to the boardwalk. It is truly a special addition to the area.

Holly Puterbaugh Middlebury

A poetic ode to autumn’s arrival

I wandered lost in an oaken wood

Unleaved by winter’s turning And the rustling leaves beneath my feet said they, too, had fallen

I felt their companionship as the sky turned blue and back again to rainclouds

stonewalls long abandoned, pointed out my way

Did you hear the owl? I asked a family as they scurried by

And they said “yes,” they thought it was a barred owl and I said you can call them and they’ll answer

and they said “Oh,” and hurried on

not much I could tell them anymore

me being old and they being young

And the Doctor Who was back from Africa, I thought he wouldn’t call, but maybe he didn’t know I was old and he needed something

The sound of rustling leaves, perhaps, to cover up the pain he could not heal

So I sent a message that I would call soon (and try to be a witness, a person without borders)

Before I return to the leaf meal for good

Morris Earle Middlebury

Is consensus achievable?

I straddle two social-political realities. One is deeply cynical and pessimistic, based on the multitude of transgressions President Donald Trump and his administration have enacted against our norms, institutions and the rule of law. I often think Trump and his adherents will do whatever is necessary to maintain and extend their autocratic, totalitarian power as detailed in Project 2025. This view posits that nothing is beyond their imagination or unthinkable relative to achieving their goal.

My other reality is quite the opposite; I believe reclaiming our (See Rubin letter, Page 5A)

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# Rubin letter

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

democracy is possible. Data shows Americans of all affiliations are keenly and increasingly aware that Trump and his administration don't care about us. We understand that promises to make our lives more affordable, enact effective and humane immigration policies and practices, and ensure we are safe in our communities, are bankrupt. We see the hypocrisy of such promises compared to Trump's lavish "Great Gatsby" party at Mar-A-Lago, the millions spent to unnecessarily deploy troops to our city streets creating fear and trauma, and the abuse of Trump's use of presidential pardons to free criminals. Protests and resistance to Trump's demagoguery, speaking out and standing up for our rights are more and more commonplace, even among some fervent MAGA Republicans.

U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's very public break with Trump is a prime example. A former die-hard Trump supporter, Greene is very vocal in opposing Trump's unwillingness to address rising health care costs and the cost of living in general resulting from Trump's "Big Beautiful (budget) Bill."

Admittedly, Greene has advocated a variety of fantastical conspiracy theories. She was a believer in QAnon, espousing Trump would save us from a cabal of satanic, cannibalistic pedophiles running our government. Greene

claimed the mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School were staged "false flag" operations intended to push for stricter gun control laws. Greene suggested that the deadly Camp Fire in California was caused by a laser beam from space, controlled by the Rothschilds, a prominent Jewish banking family, to clear land for a high-speed rail project. Greene has since distanced herself from such advocacy. In a November CNN interview, she apologized for taking part in toxic politics, expressed regret for contributing to political divisiveness, and called for "kindness," instead.

The cynical side of my social-political reality doesn't trust Greene or her current sentiments one bit. At best they're probably opportunistic. But in the context of the increasing signs that Americans see, understand, and are fighting back against the Trump regime and its dystopian pursuits, I am hopeful that Greene is being honest with herself and with us. The hopeful side of my social-political reality says to me that a vast majority of Americans, including Trump cultists, are coming to realize they've been duped. We envision a reality in which the values of compassion and empathy, the rule of law, etc., that underlie our democracy and drive practical ways of meeting our material needs is possible. Politicians,

lawmakers, co-workers, friends, and family members who in the past unquestionably believed the same empty theories as Greene are beginning to have a change of mind. No doubt it will be difficult for people like me to trust they've transformed their core beliefs any more than I trust that Greene has done so.

And that is the real test for those of us who believe our democracy is an idea that is always in the process of becoming. Will we be able to empathize with those who were diametrically opposed to everything we believe in, everything we aspire to, and accept as truth? Who we may have labeled "crazy," and pledged never to associate with again? Will we be able to accept our differences and honor them as strengths? Will we be able to view others as opponents rather than enemies and engage in civil dialogue? That is the question for our collective future. It reminds me of the following anecdote.

*The One I Feed*

A grandfather was talking to his grandson about how he felt. He said, "I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other wolf is the loving, compassionate one." The grandson asked him, "Which wolf will win the fight, grandpa?" The grandpa paused for a moment and said, "The one I feed."

**Ron Rubin  
Middlebury**

# Ways of Seeing

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

tossed around carelessly by the current administration, which wants to designate Antifa as a foreign terrorist group. First of all, this word represents a political stance and not a specific organization. The word Antifa was first used in 1946 to mean a person or group actively opposing fascism. It was borrowed from the German *Antifa*, short for *antifaschistisch* or "anti-fascist."

During World War II the entire

free world fought the fascist regimes of Hitler and Mussolini. The United States was actively anti-fascist during this war. How has this word shifted from meaning someone opposing a fascist regime, to broadly labeling anyone on the opposite political spectrum from you?

Words have meaning, and their meanings matter. Of course, words often lose their original meaning because language is not static, but changes and evolves over

time. However, the rapidity with which politics is purposefully using words as weapons and standardizing incorrect information is unprecedented.

There is so much worth fighting for right now. I hope someday soon I will be able to call myself an American and feel pride instead of embarrassment.

*Claire Corkins grew up and lives in Bristol and studied Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic in Maine.*

# Kevin Fox

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

Addison County and communities across Vermont have endured record-breaking floods, landslides that have cut off roads and isolated towns, and storms that have washed out fields and infrastructure. Farmers have watched once-predictable seasons swing wildly from drought to deluge, and homes and businesses that never worried about water damage now flood repeatedly. The belief that Vermont was somehow immune has faded; the climate crisis has arrived here, too, reshaping our landscapes, our farms, and our sense of what the future holds.

from a storm intensified by the same global climate forces now reshaping life here in the Green Mountain State.

The fact is that shared harvests come with shared responsibility. Vermonters should recognize the global ties that sustain our local economy and stand with the Jamaican workers who are part of our extended community, offering

support as their families rebuild. Yet, this act of solidarity should also prompt us to consider our own future. By preparing our state for climate disasters, we would be following Jamaica's example, both as sound policy and as a sensible act of community.

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



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# Politics and the beloved community

At this moment of widespread concern for the future of our democracy, Americans of all political persuasions are intensely focused on the 2026 and 2028 elections. My wife Rita and I certainly are. Whatever the outcomes of the upcoming congressional and presidential contests, however, a deeper challenge will remain.

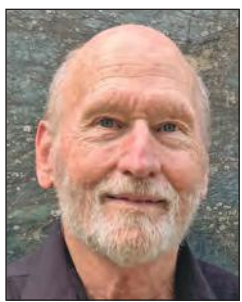
How can the cynicism and animosity so evident today between people, parties and whole regions of the country be healed? How can we liberate ourselves from the mindset of winners and losers and cultivate a sense of common cause with our fellow citizens?

Martin Luther King referred to "the beloved community" when calling for nonviolent, collective action on behalf of social justice. He was clear that justice alone, while absolutely necessary, was not sufficient. Belonging to a true community would mean cherishing one another. While King expressed this ideal with reference to his own Christianity, his close friend Thich Nhat Hanh felt it to be equally aligned with his Buddhist beliefs. A similar vision of community needs to be renewed now in this complicated country of ours. The experience of living in a small Vermont town offers glimpses of the direction in which our nation as a whole needs to move.

Dr. King evoked his dream of what America should become in the grand cadences of the King James Bible. "[W]e will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." Such lofty language is unlikely to be overheard by someone strolling down the sidewalks in our village of Bristol! Nevertheless, in the sociability and mutual curiosity of casual encounters here, we can begin to experience what a beloved

community might feel like and to imagine how our patriotism as Americans might be expressed more productively.

My Baptist-minister father smiled when defining sentimentality as loving something more than God does. I don't intend to characterize



## Visions of Renewal

*By John Elder*

Bristol in a sentimental way. We have plenty of differences of opinion in our town and are definitely not blind to one another's foibles. Still, the small scale of our community and the opportunity to interact casually with fellow inhabitants both daily and over the decades have great value. The pleasure of impromptu chats is so restorative after the headlines' morning din. It's also a welcome antidote to the solicitations from political candidates that Rita and I regularly receive online, the main intent of which seems to be reducing us to quivering agitation.

Just this morning, when darting down to Walgreen's to get a birthday card for our seven-year-old granddaughter, I ran into a friend whose sons attended Bristol Elementary with our own daughter and sons several dozen years ago. She and I came to a standstill when spotting each other near the register so that we could learn what each other's children were doing now, as well as what we ourselves were up to. It was a pleasure to get these updates and to express our warm wishes for each other's families. Such kindly exchanges can release us from immediate concerns and send us forward with more hopeful hearts. And as Bryan Stephenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has said, "No hope, no justice."

A dozen years ago Rita was diagnosed with a progressive disorder that would predictably limit her mobility. So we sold our family home on North Street and

built a smaller, more accessible place to live on Mountain Street. We hadn't known any of our new neighbors well, and were grateful for the friendly way they received us. When an especially heavy snowfall might prove too much for my plastic shovel and arthritic wrists, they clear the end of our driveway with their snowblowers. One neighbor also sends over a meal when he has just cooked a casserole or a stew for dinner, and there is more than he and his wife need. I'm always grateful for such breaks from shopping and cooking but, more importantly, Rita and I feel loved and taken care of. The food drives now revving up to support families whose SNAP benefit have been interrupted are heartening, county-wide examples of similar neighborly generosity.

A meditation group to which I belong in Bristol discussed the book "Walking Each Other Home" as part of a conversation on aging and death. I love that title's companionable way of framing our inevitable mortality. It reinforces the necessity of shifting the national discourse from opposition to mutual supportiveness if we are to right the course of our lurching republic. Such interaction can of course arise in settings other than a Vermont village. I've observed a comparable quality of supportive engagement in our daughter's neighborhood in the middle of Los Angeles, as well as in colleges like Middlebury, where students from a wide diversity of backgrounds can enter into authentic and mutually beneficial dialogue. Many other settings, too, have the potential to encourage warm, productive ways of meeting each other. Through such an orientation to our fellow citizens, America's never fully realized yet still abiding aspiration toward liberty and justice for all can be re-centered in the conversation.

*Bristol resident John Elder retired after a long career as an educator at Middlebury College and the Bread Loaf School of English. His last four books have combined discussions of poetry and music, evocations of the Vermont landscape, and memoir.*

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Obituaries

Jennifer Lennox Moeykens, 75, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Jennifer Lennox Moeykens, 75, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully at home with her daughter and son-in-law by her side on Nov. 20, after a long battle with cancer. Jennifer was born November 3, 1950, in Needham, Mass., the daughter of Keith Alton Lennox and Ruth Carr Lennox. She was the wife of the late Bernard Moeykens and is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Moeykens Thacker and her husband Corey; two grandchildren, Joshua and Avery; as well as her brother, Robert Lennox; a niece, Meredith Fries (Steven); a nephew, Zachary Lennox (Rayuanna); and a great niece, Dylan.

Jennifer graduated from Saint Mary's in the Mountains in Littleton, N.H., in 1969 and then from Keuka College in 1973, with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught for 37 years, spending her first three years in Bridgewater, Vermont, before moving to Middlebury and teaching grades 3-5 at Cornwall Elementary School for 34 years. She and her daughter, also a teacher, have educated several generations of children in the area.

The most formative years of Jennifer's life were spent at Fleur



JENNIFER LENNOX  
MOEYKENS

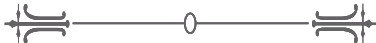
de Lis Camp, in Fitzwilliam, N.H. She spent 17 summers as a camper and then a counselor, waterfront director and program director. Jennifer always said the most important life lessons she learned were at camp. It was there where she also realized she wanted to be a teacher. Jennifer was proud of her time at Fleur de Lis and always loved to share her experiences with others.

Jennifer and her husband, Bernard, were married for 35 years. They were true life partners forging a life together in Cornwall. In 1996 they purchased a beautiful piece of

property in Shoreham, where they built a new home and farm for their Belgian Draft Horses. Throughout their life together they worked to run Bernard's horse training and breeding business. Additionally, they spent many years showing horses, first Morgans, and then Belgians. Jennifer was proud of their horses and all that they accomplished. She particularly loved their horse, Cub and fondly remembers winning several ladies cart classes with him.

Jennifer always loved to be near water, especially the ocean. Going to Maine with her grandchildren was the highlight of her year. She found peace at the beach watching her grandchildren play in the water and do cartwheels on the shore. Jennifer was a woman with true grit and faced her battle with cancer with dignity and grace. She was a genuine person in thought and deed.

A Memorial Service will be held at St. Stephen's Church in Middlebury, Vt., on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor may be made to Fleur de Lis Camp online at [www.fleurdeliscamp.org/donate](http://www.fleurdeliscamp.org/donate) or by mail to Fleur de Lis Camp, 120 Howeville, Rd., Fitzwilliam, NH 03447. ♦



Edgar 'Bub' Crosby, 77, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Edgar "Bub" Crosby, 77, passed away Nov. 19, 2025, at Helen Porter Nursing Home, surrounded by his wife and daughter. Bub was born in Burlington, Vt., to Edgar and Glenna (Bump) Crosby Aug. 18, 1948. He grew up in Brandon and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in 1966. He married Margaret "Meg" Ryan of Vergennes in 1974.

Bub proudly served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968-1972. After his military service he returned to Vergennes to run the family cattle business. In 1989 Bub and Meg opened Crosby's Furniture Barn, which they successfully ran until their retirement in 2014.



EDGAR "BUB" CROSBY

After retirement Bub was heavily involved at the Veterans of Foreign

Wars Post in Middlebury, serving as Quartermaster for many years. He was also a proud life member of the Bridport Fire Department.

Bub was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and a special friend to many. He would always go out of his way to help anyone in need, and he will be missed greatly by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Meg of Middlebury; his daughter, Beth and her husband Greg Hathaway of Vergennes; his son, Dan of Vergennes; and his grandchildren Benjamin and Lucy Hathaway. He is also survived by his sisters, Eileen Gruen of Melbourne, Australia, and Adele Steele of Lawrenceville, Georgia.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Bridport Fire Department, 125 Crown Point Road, Bridport, VT 05734. ♦

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*Hazel Grace*

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Walter Lincoln Rice, 77, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Walter Lincoln Rice, 77, a longtime resident of Ferrisburgh, Vt., passed away peacefully at McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vt., on Nov. 14, 2025, after a courageous three-year battle with cancer.

He was born on Jan. 14, 1948, to Walter Marion Rice and Ruth Ann (White) Rice in Bennington, Vt. He attended a one-room elementary school in Sunderland, Vt., and graduated from Arlington Memorial High School in 1966. He went on to earn an Electrical Mechanical Engineering degree from Vermont Technical College in 1968 and later completed a bachelor's degree from Trinity College while working full-time.

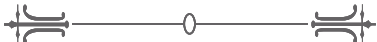
Walt enjoyed three meaningful careers throughout his life. After college, he began working in 1968 for Simmonds Precision Aerospace in Vergennes, Vt. He later joined Digital Equipment Corporation in Burlington, where he worked until the company closed the Burlington plant in the early 1990s. Never one to be discouraged by change, he reinvented himself and founded Quality Workshops, a Real Estate Training and Education company.



WALTER LINCOLN RICE

Walt married Judy Coulman Rice in 1970 and together they raised three wonderful children. Walt was deeply proud of his family, the home he built with his own hands, and the beautiful property he tended with love and care over the years.

Walt is survived by his loving wife, Judy; his children, Darren (Abby), Jennifer (Lou) Aiossa and Justin (Carrie); his four siblings, Beverly O'Dell, Sandy (Dan) Zimmer, Joanne Clayton, and Bill; his brother-in-law Steve



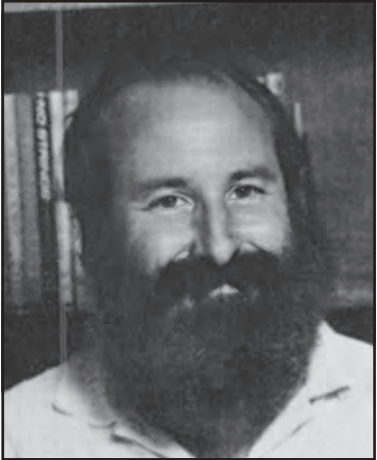
Marshall Hunter Eddy, 85, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Marshall Hunter Eddy, 85, died peacefully, surrounded by his children, at his home in Middlebury, Vt., Sept. 20, 2025. Born Oct. 30, 1939, in Bridgeport, Conn., to Virginia and Maxon Eddy, Marshall spent his childhood in Southport, Conn., before leaving to study at Phillips Exeter Academy and Yale University. He left college after one year to join the Army and studied Russian at the Language School in Monterey, Calif. He was stationed overseas in Helmstedt, Germany on the East-West German border and served as a Russian language radio intercept operator from 1959-1962.

Immediately upon his return to the U.S., he married his childhood sweetheart, Jane Miller, and they moved to the Eddy family homestead in Middlebury, Vt. Marshall went on to major in Russian and graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Middlebury College in 1965 before attending the University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, where he graduated cum laude in 1968. He subsequently moved back to Middlebury to join the two-man law firm of Langrock and Sperry, and after two years, was offered a partnership. Marshall decided, however, that the way he could most positively impact his community was by serving as a teacher, and for the next 47 years, "Mr. Eddy's" patience, kindness and encouragement inspired three generations of Art students at Middlebury Union High School.

As a member of the Middlebury community, Marshall performed several civic functions, including serving as Chairperson of Addison County Act 250 Environmental Commission, lead negotiator for the MUHS Teachers' Union, member of the Vermont Arts Council, and on the board of the Children's Art Exchange. He was a skilled carpenter and spent hundreds of hours renovating the Eddy Family Barn down by the river into a beautiful home. After he retired in 2014, he greatly enjoyed the camaraderie he found within the local writing group at the UU Church. And he loved the marvelous conversations and lasting friendships that resulted from the years he spent sculpting unique and beautiful clay treasures at the Middlebury Studio School.

Marshall especially enjoyed performing in singing groups and theater productions. He sang



MARSHALL HUNTER EDDY

in several choral groups, acted in many musicals, and directed numerous high school plays and mime productions. The highlights of his performing career included serving as the Baritone Soloist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, and playing Teyve, Fagin and the Pirate King in Middlebury Community Players' productions of Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver, and the Pirates of Penzance. His other favorite memories included sharing the stage with his children and grandchildren in Shrek and making his operatic debut as the Emperor in the Opera Company of Middlebury's production of Turandot.

Marshall's most important role, however, was that of devoted husband, father and grandfather. He loved supporting his children's and grandchildren's academic pursuits, nurturing their artistic talent, introducing them to the stage, cheering for them on the playing fields ... and loving them unconditionally through triumphs and trials alike.

Marshall is survived by his loving children: Serena Eddy, Katinka Eddy (and husband Eric Troffkin), Stanton Eddy (and Andrea Grimm), and daughter-in-law Jodi Eddy (and partner Ryan Longe); his beloved grandchildren, Chloe, Kess, Tucker, Seely, Spencer, Marshall and Ashlyn; his brother, David; brothers-in-law Alden and Bill; sisters-in-law Mary, Becky, Nancy and Barbara; and several generations of devoted cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Jane, son Merritt, daughter-in-law Tamara, sister Ginny, sister-in-law Linda and brothers-in-law Chuck, David, Clark and George.

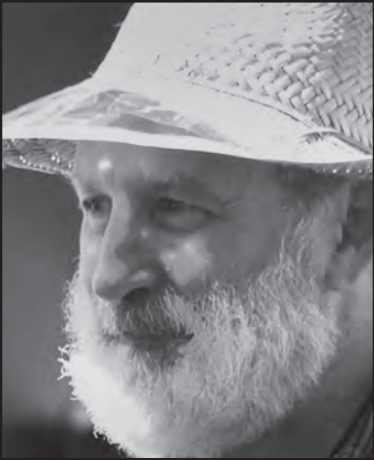
In accordance with tradition, Marshall's family transported

(Maggie) Coulman; as well as his eight grandchildren, several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Brother Edward and sister Cheryl Charpentier.

He had a lifelong love of Country & Western music from the 50s and 60s and enjoyed playing his guitar. He would often sing to his family and treasured monthly guitar gatherings with friends. His passions extended to camping on Cape Cod with family, playing golf, fixing anything that needed repair, and running Travelin' Dogs, a family hot dog stand.

Though our hearts are heavy, we are grateful for the gift of Walt's life. He fought bravely and never lost hope. His legacy lives on in his wife, children, grandchildren, his cherished home, and the many lives he touched.

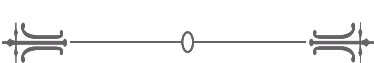
Per Walt's request, there will be no public services. The family will celebrate his life at their favorite beach in North Truro, Cape Cod, at a later date. In honor of Walt's spirit, they encourage everyone to live life to the fullest, cherish family, and always hold on to hope. ♦



his body in a homemade wooden casket over the Green Mountains to the Mt. Pleasant Crematorium in St. Johnsbury. Next summer, Jane's wishes will be honored when Marshall's ashes are combined with hers and scattered near the Oodzee-hozo Rock in Lake Champlain. A Celebration of Marshall's Life will be held Saturday, Dec. 27, at 2 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury and is open to all. In lieu of flowers, Marshall asked that contributions be made to the Middlebury Studio School in his honor.

Note to our community: Our family would like to extend our most sincere thanks to everyone who reached out during this past very difficult year. Dad enjoyed spending the last several months of his life connecting and reminiscing with his very favorite people — his beloved family members, dearest friends, and devoted students. He was glad for the opportunity to say farewell to so many, and to express his sincere appreciation for the love and laughter he shared with us all during his lifetime.

We are incredibly grateful, once again, for the love, compassion and expert guidance provided by Dr. Katie Miller, the staff at AC Home Health and Hospice, and Heather Blair and her most wonderful team of caregivers, all of whom helped Dad complete his final journey at home in the manner he desired. As his time grew nigh, Dad encouraged us all to take solace in the fact that he had lived a long and productive life, was happily married for sixty-two years, and did not linger long or suffer at the end. He will forever be remembered and appreciated for the warmth, wit, and wisdom that he bestowed upon us all. ♦

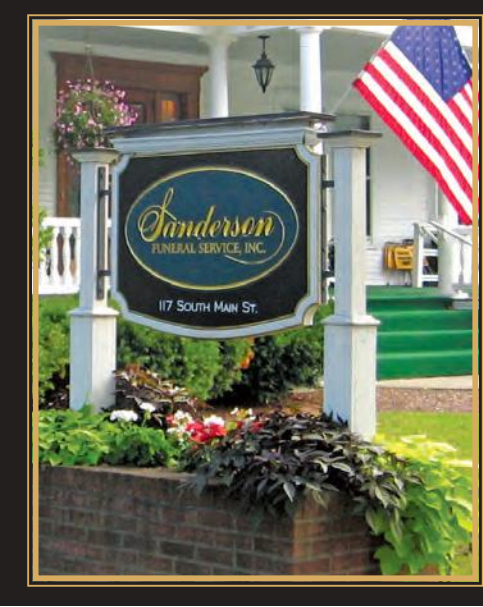


Robert Bruce  
Borden  
celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — Celebration of Life for Robert Bruce Borden, who died Oct. 25, 2025, will be held Friday, Dec. 5, at 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main Street, Middlebury.

To stream the service go to <https://zoom.us/j/360635588>, Password: StStephen

A reception will follow at The Waybury Inn in East Middlebury.



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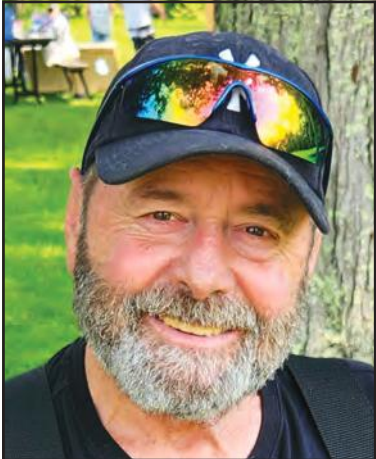
## Randall ‘Randy’ B. Thurber, 69, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Randall “Randy” B. Thurber passed away Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025, in Middlebury, Vt., at the age of 69.

He was born in 1956 to Norton and Lois (Tatro) Thurber and grew up on the family dairy farm in Panton, Vt., as the youngest of five children. He attended Vergennes Union High School, where he met his wife, Sheryl (Lowry) Thurber. They married in 1976 and built a home in Bristol, Vt., where they raised four children: Shannon, Erin, Devin, and Shawn.

Randy is survived by his wife, Sheryl; children Shannon Thurber and fiancé Colby Cheever, Erin (Thurber) and husband Kris Jarrett, Devin Thurber, and Shawn Thurber Sr.; grandchildren Sadie and Connor James, Shawn Thurber Jr., and Savannah Struhammer; sister Connie and husband David Swenson; sister Sandi and husband Lee Comly; brother Richard and wife Linda Thurber; sister Peggy and husband Jim Archambault; and many beloved extended family members and friends.

Randy and Sheryl were thankful to be surrounded with love and support from their families throughout their years together. Traditions of family picnics, reunions, time at family camp and Christmas celebrations, brought special times for them to



**RANDALL “RANDY” B. THURBER**

cherish.

Always quick with a story or a joke, Randy enjoyed being “the fun one” with friends and family, fishing, hunting, and being in nature. He definitely had a gift of gab and spoke with everyone. He loved to watch his children and grandchildren play baseball, soccer, and football, and attend their reenactments, equestrian events and dance recitals. Above all, Randy loved his family and spent time finding ways of engaging in the fun that life could bring.

Randy loved sports and coached VUHS wrestling and Mt Abe Middle School football. He also

coached his children’s baseball and soccer teams.

Randy ran his own company, Mountainside Harvestore, repairing and maintaining farm equipment. He was able to follow his love of agriculture and worked with many farmers in and around Vermont. He had a strong work ethic and especially liked working with students at Northlands Job Corps, where he was an auto mechanic instructor and mentor for many years, influencing and supporting thousands of young lives.

Randy’s family wishes to thank all those who supported him during his time fighting Alzheimer’s, especially Addison County Home Health & Hospice. A special thanks to John, Melody, Sam and Lana, who made him smile through tough times. Also thanks to Bristol Rescue Squad, and to the staff of Porter Hospital, who showed so much care and empathy for Randy and his family through his last journey. Those wishing to make a donation in Randy’s name are asked to consider Bristol Rescue Squad and Addison County Home Health & Hospice.

We invite all to join us in a celebration of Randy’s life, which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 1-5 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, Vt. ☐

## Olive ‘Marie’ Mohan Whipple, 92, formerly of Middlebury

SALISBURY — Olive “Marie” Whipple, 92, died Nov. 13, 2025, the day after her 92nd birthday, at Porter Medical Center.

Marie was born in New Haven, Vt., Nov. 12, 1933, one of nine children of Francis Barnes and Catherine (Cyr) Barnes. She graduated from Shoreham High School. She was both a homemaker and a tour director at the Middlebury Inn for many years.

She married Raymond E. Mohan on February of 1953 and together they had five children. She was a devoted mother who shared her faith with her children. She loved to garden and paint. She passed her artwork on to her children and grandchildren.

After her husband passed away,



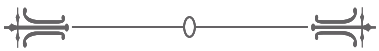
**OLIVE “MARIE” MOHAN WHIPPLE**

she married Jack Whipple. She resided with him on his farm, happily taking care of the animals

before moving from the farm and returning to her previous home in Middlebury.

She is survived by her children Catherine Smith, Joan (Eric) Baker, Edward (Susan) Mohan, Gerald (Stacy Tallon) Mohan and John (Lauren) Mohan; stepchildren Steven (Heidi) Whipple, Joy (Butch) Smith, and Barbara Whipple; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by both of her husbands, several of her siblings, her granddaughter Sabrina, and her stepdaughter Jeanne Whipple Gingras.

Her memorial service will be held Dec. 6, at Victory Baptist Church on Route 7 in Vergennes, at 11 a.m.☐



**RUTH M. HUTCHINS**

## Ruth M. Hutchins, 84, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Ruth M. Hutchins passed away peacefully at Helen Porter Nursing and Rehabilitation Nov. 18, 2025. She was born June 24, 1941, to Andrew and Doris (Hill) Jimmo.

Ruth grew up in Bristol and graduated from Bristol High School in 1959. She married her soulmate, Frank Hutchins July 8, 1960. They made their home in Ferrisburgh with their one daughter.

After their daughter was grown. She worked briefly as Simmonds Precision and then Middlebury Union High School until her husband’s health failed.

Ruth was very quiet and reserved. She enjoyed gardening and canning the harvests. Ruth cherished the years that she and Frank spent at Joe’s Pond. A&W was also a place Ruth loved to visit.

Ruth leaves behind her daughter, Rosalynne; three grandchildren, Geoffrey, Alex and Aaron; and two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Owen. She also leaves behind three brothers, Robert, Richard (Dawn) and Roger (Marsha).

She was predeceased by her husband, Frank, her infant son; her parents, her son-in-law, Ray; and a sister-in-law, Saunnie.

Her daughter would like to express her most sincere thank you to the special nurses, Katie and Shanda.

Ruth will be set to rest in Greenwood cemetery. There will be no services. Donations in her name can be made to Helen Porter Nursing and Rehabilitation.☐

## Justin Scott Billings, 37, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Juston Scott Billings, a forever friend and a heart of gold stopped beating – working, helping hands finally at rest Oct. 24, 2025. God broke our hearts to prove he only takes the very best.

Born Dec. 4, 1987, and raised in Leicester, Vt., Justin was a great electrician and handyman who loved archery, golf, hunting, sports and nature, but his true love and driving aspiration has always been his loving daughter Andrea Billings and his loving son, Camdon Thieme.

Justin enjoyed life and he had the strongest desire to live it to the fullest and to help as many people as he possibly could along the way. He always had a welcoming smile and a friendly conversation for everyone, especially those who needed it most.

A life that touches other goes on forever. Left here to cherish his kindness, his love and our precious time together are his daughter, Andrea Billings; his son, Camdon Thieme; his sister, Shantell Billings and her son (his nephew) Cameron Quinn; his mother, Sally Giard King; father, Scott Billings; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and



**JUSTIN SCOTT BILLINGS**

friends.

Gone before us to help welcome him into heaven are his aunt, Janice Giard Flowers; grandparents on his mom’s side, Bernard Victor Giard and Doris Moulton Giard; grandparents on his father’s side, Thomas Billings and Sue Reed Hutchins; and many other dear friends and relatives.

From Justin’s heart and soul to ours:

*“Please never forget me, for I am still here.”☐*



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<https://www.welch.senate.gov/>  
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*Thank you!*

There is no better time of the year to thank the people who contribute to our success. We appreciate those who donate to us, teach us, collaborate with us and help us provide care to our friends, neighbors and family members here in Addison County. Most of all, we are thankful for the trust you put in us when you invite us in to care for you and your loved ones.

*Best wishes for a very Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season.*





Hymn Sing

THE CHAMPLAIN BRASS Ensemble and the Addison County Gospel Choir & Worship Team were both in fine form during the Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing held at the Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church in Vergennes this past Sunday, Nov. 23. The church hosted this year's Hymn Sing in light of renovations to the usual venue, the Vergennes Opera House, which is being renovated. In the photo directly below, Pastor John Kaufman leads the congregation in a rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Independent photos/Steve James



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You can also email your letter to [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com), submit it on our website, or deliver it to our office in the Marble Works, Middlebury.

Letters received by Monday, December 15th, may be published with names in our December 18th edition.

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# Shoreham students

(Continued from Page 1A)  
PreK hub.

Ron Makleff was the only board member present who voted against the SES-BCS merger; Monday’s gathering saw several of the board’s 13 members absent due to the Thanksgiving vacation week. Makleff opposed the merger citing Shoreham parents’ concerns about the move, and a desire to see more student-performance data.

While the merger earned clear majority support from the board, it drew criticism from some Shoreham residents who had urged district officials to hold off on a decision until student performance under the current multi-grade classroom system at both schools could be assessed.

Shoreham parent Abigail Murphy presented the board with a citizen’s petition urging the panel to not merge the communities’ students at BCS. The petition cited “small schools matter,” community access to local education, the history of elementary education in the town, and the presence of “better solutions” as reasons to delay a merger decision for at least another year.

“(We) urge you to keep SES open and operating as it is — serving the children, families and the broader community for generations to come,” the petition concluded.

“This makes me feel extremely unheard,” Murphy said after the board had recorded its vote on Monday.

Murphy told the board she’d like to see the town evict the ACSD from the SES building at the end of this academic year and decide other uses for it. But that looks like a non-starter; Bruce Macintire, ACSD’s director of buildings and grounds, said while Shoreham owns the 20 acres on which SES sits, the district owns the school building. The district took ownership of all seven ACSD elementary school buildings in 2016 when Middlebury-area voters endorsed the formation of ACSD.

It was earlier this year that

district administrators and Bridport/Shoreham educators had suggested combining the two K-5 populations as a way of ensuring single-grade classrooms at the one K-5 location (BCS), next fall. Both SES and BCS currently serve around 50 students, numbers that require them to each offer multi-grade classrooms to conform to district enrollment policy.

ACSD leaders advocated for single-grade instruction — following a summer study that included multiple public forums — as a strategy for raising student performance that they say has been lagging, of late, at both SES and BCS. Officials specifically pointed to student scores in Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program testing, known as VTCAP.

Last year, 82% of Bridport K-5 students and 64% of SES students weren’t meeting VTCAP standards in English Language Arts. This year (thus far), 64% of BCS students and 59% of SES children still aren’t meeting those standards, according to ACSD data.

Student performance is also lagging in math. Around 84% of BCS students and 75% of SES students currently aren’t meeting VTCAP standards in math.

Shoreham parents acknowledged the need for improvement, put some didn’t want it to come at the cost of losing their K-5 school, which will now be converted into a two-classroom PreK program that will absorb the current BCS PreK offering and open up slots for other ACSD households.

“As a parent of three children next school year, I’m concerned that my girls have continuity in their schooling. (The changing) of school setting, staff and classmates will disrupt their ability to learn. And I don’t think this is only true

for my children,” Murphy said.

She added Act 73, the state’s public education reform law, could force additional disruptive changes in public education. The new law in part recommends school mergers and larger class sizes to create economies of scale amid the current Vermont landscape of declining enrollment and surging school costs. At the same time, Murphy noted Act 73 appears to be losing support even before its implementation.

“Consolidation is a voluntary choice at this time,” Murphy told the board.

Shoreham resident Megan Smits, the parent of three young children, also urged the board to keep SES open beyond this year.

“I ask that you consider the profound impact (closing SES) will have on student stability, readiness to learn and long-term economic success,” she said, noting recent years have seen the school cycle through multiple principals and teachers.

“Shoreham Elementary is not only a school, it’s a cornerstone of our community and a place where children feel known, supported and understood,” Smits added.

### ALL THOSE IN FAVOR

Not all parents who spoke on Monday were against the SES-BCS merger.

Shoreham’s Katie Flagg, another parent of three children, advocated for the change.

“Our family has loved so much about our two older children’s time at Shoreham Elementary School. This is a lovely community school, and my children have been cared for and educated by thoughtful, talented teachers and staff. I want to be very clear that my opinion is in no way a criticism of the kind and hardworking staff and faculty at Shoreham,” she said. “I’m excited about the potential benefits of combining the two

school communities and ideally want this conversation to focus not on what we lose as a community, but what we gain.”

Flagg specifically cited the prospect of adding “desperately needed preschool spots in our part of the county” through the SES conversion; and the chance to provide three- to five-year-olds with “high quality early childhood education, as well as early intervention when needed.”

Going forward, Flagg urged the board to:

- “Provide time, space, and potentially funds for the two communities to gather and begin forging a new learning community.”
- “Commit to enhanced academic support for Shoreham and Bridport students.”
- “Plan for family-supportive programming from day one.”

Linda January, a Bridport parent as well as director of the Otter Creek Child Center, also advocated for the merger. She suggested combining the two K-5 populations under one roof and in single grades could lead to more opportunities and better student outcomes.

Though they’d been evaluating the merger for months, most board members publicly anguished over their decision. Just minutes earlier, at the same Monday meeting, they had voted to launch a formal closure process for Ripton Elementary School (see related story on Page 1A).

In the end, board members said they couldn’t reject the recommendation of ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker and the principals and educators of both SES and BCS.

Baker told the board, among other things, that multi-grade classroom teaching positions are harder to fill; that other student achievement testing for SES and

BCS students appears to track with the VTCAP results; and that Shoreham students will continue to see familiar teachers and classmates at the Bridport School.

Plans call for bringing SES educators to BES to be part of the single K-5 school.

### WHY PICK BRIDPORT

As previously reported by the *Independent*, planners picked BES for the joint K-5 school because it has 18% more space than SES; has more “ease of reconfiguration”; and can accommodate “one room per grade, art & music, and dedicated spaces for other learning, services, and staff,” according to the Bridport & Shoreham Grade Configuration Working Group’s report.

BCS would need some “minor upgrades” (estimated at \$50,000 to \$100,000) to put the plan into motion, including student cubbies in classrooms, dividers in student services for privacy and focus, blacktop and playground equipment, and parking lot improvements to help with increased traffic.

Planners are proposing additional K-5 staffing to “accelerate and support greater student success in math and literacy through single-grade classrooms,” according to the working group’s report. A tentative staffing list reflects 22.3 full-time-equivalent workers to serve the combined Bridport/Shoreham K-5 school, including six single-grade educators, 1.5 principal, an administrative assistant, two special educators, two math instructional specialists, two paraeducators, a Counseling Services of Addison County clinician and a librarian.

Planners are still working on a busing plan for the pivot to a merged school, but are estimating Shoreham kids will spend an extra 10 minutes on the bus.

Projected annual cost for operating the merged school: Around \$2.25 million, which is roughly 7% (\$160,000) less than the current two-school model, according to the working group’s report.

The new preschool at SES would serve 30 children (two classes of 15 children) beginning in the fall of 2026, following around \$40,000 in building fit-up costs. District officials stressed a third classroom could be added, as SES can be licenses for up to three preschool classrooms.

Baker was asked why the district couldn’t wait another year to see if Bridport and Shoreham students’ VTCAP scores improve with the current multi-grade classrooms. Baker pointed to timing; students take the test in the spring, and the results aren’t back until the ensuring spring or summer. That means a merger wouldn’t be able to happen until the following school year — 2028-2029.

“For students in these schools who show an inequitable performance concern, it’s a worry to me that we are not ‘doing everything we can as soon as we can,’ (by potentially delaying the merger),” she said.

Board members said they recognized the importance of a local school to the fabric of a community. But they added the board’s purview is education and maximizing student success.

“The degree to which we focus in the classroom, that’s our responsibility,” board member Mary Heather Noble said.

While she ultimately voted in favor of the merger, board member Ellen Whelan-Wuest urged the board to broaden its evaluation of student learning beyond VTCAP, while also considering stakeholder input.

“I think it’s to our detriment to ignore when families tell us how they feel about where their kids are educated. I think that’s foolish and condescending to treat that as if it’s not important to student success,” she said.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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The average Vermont farmer earns just \$25,000 a year.

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Policy choices in our food system should be grounded in data, with a focus on fairness from grower to consumer.

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Hope is something we build and maintain.

It’s the habits that hold communities together: the neighbor who drops off soup, the volunteer who packs bags, the farmer who keeps planting after a hard year.

We find hope when we actively seek it. Sometimes it’s in the harvest. Sometimes it’s in the effort. Sometimes it’s just being curious about what’s missing.

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# Bank gives shoppers a Thanksgiving boost

MIDDLEBURY — National Bank of Middlebury (NBM) staff members headed to local grocery stores on Saturday, Nov. 22, to help pay for community members' Thanksgiving meals.

The team gave out \$25 gift cards to shoppers at Shaw's Supermarket, Hannaford and Greg's Market in Middlebury; Shaw's in Vergennes; the West Addison General Store in Addison; Pratt's Store in Bridport; Lantman's Market in Hinesburg; Shaw's in Bristol; and Hannaford in Brandon.

"It's so rewarding to uplift the businesses and community members who have supported us all these years," said Laurie Barrett, the bank's vice president and branch operations manager. "This is just a small token of our appreciation for our neighbors and the place we're proud to call home."

The bank's team members spent time at each location, sharing gratitude and excitement for the holiday season. Shoppers were thankful for the gesture, delighted to use the gift card to buy ingredients for their favorite Thanksgiving recipes. The bank launched this initiative to reinforce its position as an important pillar in the Addison County community and beyond.

After a heartwarming day of passing out gift cards, NBM team members reflected on their



LAURA REED IN BRANDON

experiences: "This was an amazing way to give back to the community."

"Had a couple people tear up. One gave me a hug. Said it really means a lot on a rough week. Another was so grateful, she had used personal money to help with gifts for a senior home, and made herself a little tight. Oh, and one guy bought me a candy bar, (he) thought it was so great what we were doing."

"I had a lot of hugs and tears saying thank you! It was an amazing experience."

"Such a fun and heartwarming time!"

"It felt so good. Everyone was very appreciative. It was well received around the store and was the talk throughout the store while I was there. Had a few very emotional shoppers."

The National Bank of Middlebury is a local financial institution with almost 200 years of community commitment. It has locations in Brandon, Bristol, Hinesburg, Middlebury and Vergennes.



KYLIE FILION IN WEST ADDISON



SHAW'S IN VERGENNES



AS A GESTURE of goodwill, National Bank of Middlebury staffer hands out gift cards to shoppers at grocery stores in the area this past Saturday, including here in Vergennes.

## Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open without appointment to residents from member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

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Ant killer	Flea & tick killer	Mineral spirits	icals
Ammonia	Fluorescent bulbs*	Mothballs	Pool chemicals
Auto body filler	Fly killer	Motor oil	Primers or shellacs
Automotive fluids	Formaldehyde	Mouse/rat poison	Rechargeable bat-
Chlorine bleach	Fuel additives	Nail polish	teries
Brake fluid	Fungicides	Nail polish remover	Roach traps/poison
Bug spray	Furniture polish	Naphtha	Rug/upholstery
Button cell batteries	Gasoline	Oil-based paint	cleaner
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THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY Office of Economic Opportunity periodically stocks this Bristol set of food bays with groceries for low-income households in the 5-Town area.

Independent photo/John Flowers

## Food bays provide lifeline in Bristol-area

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRISTOL — The Turning Point Center of Addison County’s public health vending machine (see related story on Page 1A) isn’t the only mechanical device in Bristol helping folks with urgent needs.

Right next to that vending machine, which is installed next to the Bristol police headquarters off Munsill Avenue, is a large, beige, square-shaped band of refrigerated bays that the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) stocks with food for qualifying low-income families.

It’s currently believed to be the state’s only remote, refrigerated food pickup location for families in need, according to local human services providers.

Each of the eight bays contains two separate compartments — one for frozen food, the other with refrigerated food. After being vetted for eligibility, a Bristol-area family can request their food

allotment be delivered to one of the bays, instead of having to pick the groceries up in Middlebury.

It’s an arrangement that’s gaining popularity among qualifying families in the 5-Town area of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro, according to CVOEO food hub supervisor Emmet Moseley.

The receiving family calls in and their grocery list is filled with products available at the CVOEO food hub at 616 Exchange St. in Middlebury. CVOEO officials make deliveries to the Bristol food bays and then text each household a QR key or punch-in code that gives the recipient access to the bay in which their groceries are stored.

Moseley said the receiving households are given roughly 48 hours in which to pick up the groceries, to ensure the produce, eggs and other perishables stay fresh.

The nonprofit CVOEO serves as a federally designated community action agency focused on “ending poverty and promoting economic and social justice.” CVOEO serves families in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties.

To qualify for CVOEO food hub assistance, a household can’t make more than 300% of the federal poverty guideline. That translates to no more than \$46,950 for a single person and up to \$96,450 for a family of four.

CVEOE’s bank of Bristol food bays is being piloted to see if it can become a popular alternative to more costly and arduous home deliveries. If it catches on, Moseley said more food-bay stations could be on the way in other regions.

More information about CVOEO’s food programs can be found at [feedingchamplainvalley.org](http://feedingchamplainvalley.org), or by emailing [addisonfoodhub@cvoeo](mailto:addisonfoodhub@cvoeo).

## By the way

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
HOPE’s assistance to low-income households in Addison County. Marion’s Place is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4:40, at 334 Boardman St. Please be advised both HOPE and Marion’s Place will close at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, and will remain closed through the Thanksgiving weekend. To learn more call 802-388-2522, or visit [hope-vt.org](http://hope-vt.org) or the organization’s Facebook page.

Kudos to members of the Middlebury Union High School community for earning statewide recognition this fall. On Oct. 27, MUHS Language and Literature teacher Ben Krahn was honored as ACSD’s Secondary Teacher of the Year at the Vermont Outstanding Educator Awards ceremony at the University of Vermont. Then, on Nov. 20, MUHS’s Tara Martin was recognized as the state’s “History Teacher of the Year” at the Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies Conference in Montpelier. And the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has just given MUHS junior Raphaël Mitchell a huge shout-out, awarding him a “Coolest Thing Made in Vermont” accolade for modifying a Power Wheels toy into a mobility device for disabled children. Congratulations to all!

Each year, the president of the United States delivers a “State of the Union” speech to the U.S. Congress to report on the state of our country and outline priorities for the coming year. For the past 15 years, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., has invited Vermont high school students to ask themselves: “If I were the president delivering the State of

the Union address, what would I say? What is one major issue facing our country and how would I propose to solve it?” This year is no different: Sanders is asking Vermont high school students to weigh in during his 16th annual State of the Union Essay Contest. Students can submit a 250-500-word essay by Jan. 12, 2026. An independent panel of Vermont educators will judge the essays on how well students explain the issue and offer a thoughtful solution. Following the contest, Sanders will submit the finalists’ essays into the Congressional Record and invite them to join him at a roundtable discussion at the Vermont Statehouse. For more information, visit [sanders.senate.gov/stateoftheunion](http://sanders.senate.gov/stateoftheunion), or call 800-339-9834 or 802-862-0697. Submit your essay to [tinyurl.com/4vwdwtds9](http://tinyurl.com/4vwdwtds9).

Vermont Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark has released the state’s revenue results for October 2025, and they reveal the state’s General, Transportation and Education funds were all below the monthly consensus revenue forecast. Receipts for the state’s three major funds in October were a combined \$287 million, which was \$4.9 million (1.68%) below the target that the state’s Emergency Board had set for the month back in July. Total General Fund revenues for October were \$190 million, \$2.3 million (1.2%) less than expectations. Transportation Fund revenues came in at \$25.9 million, which was \$2 million (7.3%) below target. And the October Education Fund harvest of \$71.1 million was \$600,000 (or 0.85%) below the target. According to Clark: “Continuing a trend held over

from last year, cumulative General Fund performance remains positive despite a slowing in the month of October. The Education and Transportation funds continue to experience pressure.” Expectations for all three funds will be updated in January.

State and federal transportation officials join law enforcement agencies in reminding drivers to buckle up during and around the Thanksgiving holiday. Vermont law enforcement officers are conducting additional enforcement efforts from Nov. 26-30. Sadly, seat belt use in Vermont is declining, according to Vermont Agency of Transportation officials. The current use rate is 87.5%, down from 88.4% last year. Between 2015 and 2024, there were 256 fatalities in Vermont involving unbuckled occupants. Men in Vermont accounted for 19.1% more unbelted fatalities and serious injuries than women during that period. Riding without a seat belt is not only dangerous, but it’s illegal. To learn more about seat belt safety, visit [nhtsa.gov/SeatBelts](http://nhtsa.gov/SeatBelts) or [drivewell.vermont.gov](http://drivewell.vermont.gov).

Average gasoline prices in Vermont rose 3.1 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.13 per gallon, according to GasBuddy. Prices in Vermont are 6.5 cents higher than a month ago and 3.8 cents higher than a year ago. Prices around the state range from \$2.83 to \$3.29. Meanwhile, the national average price is unchanged at \$3.03. That’s down 2 cents per gallon from a month ago, but is 2.5 cents higher than a year ago.

## American heroes

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
the Naming Commission in its work was Connor Williams, a Middlebury College faculty member who served as lead historian for the commission.

“This work has made me an optimist,” Williams said during a recent interview. “Even in times where people say we’re the most divided we’ve been since the Civil War and that our country has no bipartisanship, I always have to come back to them and say, ‘No, bipartisanship is possible, and it’s possible to do really big things.’”

The commission’s work unfolded over the course of 20 months and, among other work, resulted in the recommendation of 10 Americans to serve as the new names of nine military bases that had previously honored Confederates. Those new namesakes included President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lt. Col. Charity Adams — the first Black woman to serve as an officer in the Women’s Army Corps.

The group’s recommendations were accepted and implemented at the nine bases. Though, President Donald Trump announced this past June that his administration would restore the original names of several of those bases, such as Fort Lee and Fort Polk, naming them not after Confederates but rather soldiers with the same surnames as the bases’ original namesakes.

While the names may be changed back, the work of the commission and the lives of the 10 Americans commemorated through its work are detailed in a new book, “A Promise Delivered,” written by Williams and Naming Commission Vice-Chair Ty Seidule. Williams said he hopes the book offers readers renewed faith in bipartisanship and helps Americans evaluate their past “as a complex place with moral truths.”

“Yes, the past is complicated, and, yes, we have to always think about history as a place where people have different knowledge bases, opinions, aspirations, faith, understandings, science, but that there have always been some ethical certainties,” he explained. “It has always been appropriate to endure hardship for the greater good. It has always been appropriate to seek greater equality. It has always

been appropriate to value life and save it where you can.

“I hope (the book) combines these different historical eras with those timeless, historical absolutes,” he summed up.

### WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Williams, a Middlebury College alum, teaches part-time and mentors first-year students at the college. He knew he wanted to be a historian from his time as a student here, an experience that also taught him the complexity of Civil War history and memory.

Joining the commission’s work offered an opportunity to “right a historic wrong, that these military installations had been named after individuals who committed

treason for slavery and who fought United States soldiers,” Williams said.

As lead historian, Williams advised commissioners on historic aspects of their work. He said that involved explaining Civil War and Confederate history, as well as briefing the group on issues like the history of race in America.

“I had the incredible experience of being, essentially, an on-demand historian for a group of eight commissioners that included an admiral, three generals, a sitting member of Congress, defense policy expert, head of the draft,” Williams said.

He was also in charge of developing the process for *(See Williams, Page 12A)*

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# Williams

(Continued from Page 11A)

narrowing down the over 30,000 recommendations the commission received into 87 finalists. Williams had no vote when it came to deciding the new namesakes but rather advised the commission as it worked through the finalists and reached the names it ultimately recommended.

The book notes that when visiting the military bases, commissioners were told they were “changing history” and asked why the bases were being renamed now.

“We aren’t changing history,” we told them. “We’re changing commemoration,” Williams and Seidule wrote.

More often however, the group found many Americans wanted to engage in the work of renaming the bases.

“The large buy-in that we got

from people was these forts are currently places where United States Army soldiers train and live and work, and they’re named after people who killed more United States Army soldiers than any other nation in our history; that doesn’t make sense,” Williams said.

**AMERICANS RECOGNIZED**

The commission received recommendations from all over the country, including from senators, enlisted soldiers, residents living near military bases and families of former soldiers. Williams said the team looked at those suggestions and noted the ones that came from multiple submitters representing different walks of life.

“By looking at who recommended these people we were able to find heroes who had appeal to lots of different kinds of

Americans,” he said.

Ultimately, the commission voted unanimously on 10 names: Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and Julia Moore; General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower; Dr. Mary Edwards Walker; Gen. Richard E. Cavazos; Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams; Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot; Sgt. William Henry Johnson; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Sr.

The stories of those Americans and the contributions they made to their country are detailed in “A Promise Delivered.” Williams noted he and Seidule had the privilege of spending two years thinking about and celebrating the Americans identified.

“We realized that not only did they provide incredible stories of inspiration, but they also provided concrete ways to think about a lot of the broader trends in our nation’s history,” Williams said.



CONNOR WILLIAMS

For example, William Henry Johnson was an African American, 20th-century war hero who lived in the Jim Crow era. The World War I soldier was a member of the Harlem Hellfighters — an all-Black regiment that served with the French army.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for mounting a retaliation during a surprise attack from a German raiding party in May 1918. Johnson’s efforts held back German forces and rescued a wounded soldier.

Despite such efforts, Johnson and other Black soldiers experienced racial discrimination and segregation while serving in the army and after returning home.

Though he received 21 wounds during the 1918 battle, Johnson’s discharge papers listed him as “zero percent” disabled, disqualifying him from disability pay and a Purple Heart (he received the

award posthumously).

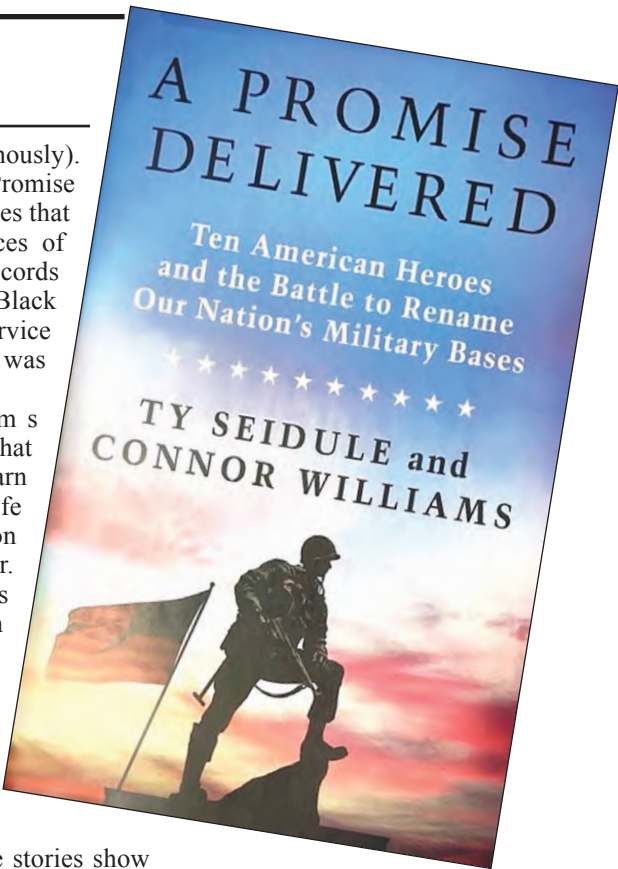
“A Promise Delivered” notes that similar instances of discharge records erasing Black soldiers’ service and sacrifice was common.

Williams pointed to what we can learn from the life of Johnson and that of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, an abolitionist and surgeon who was held as a prisoner of war during the Civil War.

“Both these stories show us Americans who innately knew, as most people do, that they were deserving of full respect and status even though they were Black and a woman, respectively, but whose society did not share those views,” Williams said. “It’s both a reminder of how far society has come but also a statement to people that you can’t just say, ‘That’s the way things were back then,’ because there have always been pioneering Americans who were convinced that we could do better.”

Along with sharing the stories of such Americans, Williams said he hopes the book helps readers walk away with a better understanding of military service.

“I would say that for too many people soldiers are either just flat out heroes who can never do anything wrong, or they’re victims of some kind of militaristic brainwashing that turns them into weapons of war,” he said. “My experience working with many American soldiers is that they’re neither of those things. They are people as complex as you and I, who have all the same hopes, fears, dreams, desires, and that



they happen to have those things in the most dangerous workspace imaginable.”

Williams noted a couple other takeaways he hopes the book provides, including that bipartisanship is still possible.

“I, myself, was somewhat skeptical when I took that job about what we would accomplish with a diverse group of commissioners, but what I saw in the Naming Commission’s 18 months and what the book shows through its stories is that there are shared values, and there is such a thing as service that appeals to many different Americans, and that there is common ground,” he said. “But it does take the trust and faith that both parties are acting in the common interest and not just their own narrow interest.”

*“A Promise Delivered” can be purchased online and ordered through local bookstores. Community members can also keep an eye out for local events centered around the book, which are expected to take place sometime in the spring.*



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## Military bases cast off traitors’ names

Through the Naming Commission’s work, the following Americans were chosen as the new namesakes of military bases formerly honoring Confederate leaders:

- Fort Benning renamed in commemoration of Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and Julia Moore.
- Fort Bragg renamed for the American value of liberty.
- Fort Gordon renamed for General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- Fort A.P. Hill renamed for Dr. Mary Edwards Walker.
- Fort Hood renamed for Gen. Richard E. Cavazos.
- Fort Lee renamed for Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg and Lt. Col. Charity Adams.
- Fort Pickett renamed for Tech. Sgt. Van T. Barfoot.
- Fort Polk renamed for Sgt. William Henry Johnson.
- Fort Rucker renamed for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel Sr.

President Donald Trump earlier this year announced his administration would restore the Confederate names of several of those bases.

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# Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Middlebury.  
“The vending machines are part of an effort to see less people losing their lives from substance use,” said Turning Point Executive Director Danielle Wallace.  
Turning Point landed a \$100,000 state grant that paved the way for the two vending machines, which are restocked on an as-needed basis.  
Those accessing products from the machines are asked to type in a few demographic details — including age, zip code and gender — before selecting the product they’re seeking. Wallace demonstrated the process and accessed a first aid kit.  
Many of the vending machine items have been available inside the Turning Point office, the Bristol police HQ, and at other nonprofits. But those offices aren’t always opened or staffed. And emergencies don’t always happen during business hours.  
“We asked ourselves, ‘How do we allow people to access when we’re not open?’ For people who are using, it’s not a 9-5 thing. Having (products) available 24/7 gives that access and allows them to use it anonymously,” Wallace said.  
Turning Point’s effort to acquire public health vending machines started around three years ago. Wallace and her human services counterparts were convinced the machine would be needed and used, based on anecdotal and statistical evidence. The county’s two emergency housing shelters in Middlebury and Vergennes are consistently full, with some of those guests dealing with mental health and substance use challenges.  
State statistics show opioid-related overdoses and fatalities are on the decline, and preventative tools like Narcan are part of the reason why, according to human services providers.  
According to the Vermont Department of Health’s Opioid Overdose Dashboard, the Porter Hospital Emergency Department so far this year has seen opioid overdose cases at a rate of 8.3 per 10,000 patient visits. That’s around half of the statewide average of 16.8 opioid overdose visits.  
Addison County had recorded two opioid overdose deaths this year (as of August), two of 75 such deaths statewide. The statewide fatalities number is around half the three-year (2022-2024) average of 153 for the same period of January



TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County officials on Nov. 19 installed a new public health vending machine next to the Bristol Police Department at 72 Munsill Ave. The machine dispenses free Narcan, first aid kits and other essentials. Pictured here are Turning Point’s Will Porter, left, Jim Kirby and Danielle Wallace.

Independent photo/John Flowers

through August of 2025.  
The Department of Health stats draw on reports from Vermont hospitals, which don’t reflect cases in which an overdosing person is revived by a friend, family member or emergency responder out in the field.  
**LOCAL STATISTICS**  
During its roughly six months on the Turning Point porch, the Middlebury vending machine has been used 82 times, with first aid kits (32) and Narcan (25) proving the most popular items, officials said.  
Around 49% of those accessing vending machine items identified as male, with 31% female and another 3.6% as members of the LGBTQ+ community.  
Not surprisingly, most of the machine’s users (30.5%) reported being from Middlebury, with the zip code 05753. A combined 15% reported residing from Bristol and Vergennes. But the second highest number (28%) of product withdrawals was made using the East Dorset zip code of 05253 (Middlebury’s zip code is 05753).  
There’s a lot of traffic on Middlebury’s Court Street, which is home to the Turning Point Center and several nonprofits serving folks with substance use issues. What about a smaller community like Bristol?  
Bristol Police Chief Bruce Nason has no doubts the new amenity will be used.  
“I appreciate all the work Danielle has done with Turning

Point getting this resource here for us,” he said. “Here in Bristol, we don’t have a lot of resources. This is going to be a great benefit for us.”  
Bristol PD has built a good rapport with citizens who are in — or considering — recovery. The town late last year created a new position of community resource specialist, held by Amy Smith. Smith’s duties include providing crisis response services and acting as a referral source.  
“She does a lot of follow-up calls for us to make sure they continue to receive what they need,” Nason said. “We’ve had a lot of these items at the police department. Now they’ll have access 24 hours a day.”  
In addition to periodically dispensing Narcan and other health products, Bristol PD has been referring folks to Turning Point for its suite of substance use recovery services.  
“They do a tremendous job for us at Turning Point. We’ve referred a couple of people there and a couple of them come back to us and said they received compassionate, empathetic assistance,” Nason said. “They couldn’t thank us enough for referring them.”  
**WOUND CARE & HAND WARMERS**  
And Turning Point officials continue to keep track of new trends, and side effects, of substance use.  
Chip Mitiguy is a recovery

coach who works with patients at Porter Hospital’s Emergency Department. He noted some folks battling addiction have presented with serious sores that stem from mixing fentanyl and xylazine. Fentanyl is a powerful opioid, while dealers sometimes mix xylazine (a painkiller prescribed to pets) as a cheap filler to increase the drug’s volume. A byproduct of the xylazine is skin wounds that can appear anywhere on the body.  
“Wound care is becoming a really serious issue here in Vermont, because of xylazine,” Mitiguy said. He noted common A&D ointment has become an effective treatment for the wounds — another addition to the vending machine, which also offer fentanyl and xylazine testing strips.  
But it’s not all about substance use-related products.  
While some of the machines’ offerings will remain consistent (such as Narcan and first aid kits), Wallace said changing seasons and consumer requests will diversify the selections. For example, winter demands include hand warmers and emergency blankets, while summer needs include bug spray and sunscreen.  
“At the Turning Point Center, we are looking at recovery from a wider lens, how we can support recovery beyond substance use. They might need socks or handwarmers or first aid kits,” she said.  
Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Santa to read to children in Salisbury

SALISBURY — Kick off the holiday season at “Santa Comes to Salisbury” on Saturday, Dec. 6.  
The event starts at 4:30 p.m. at Veterans Park, 515 Maple St., with a bonfire tended by the Salisbury Fire Department. Everyone sings carols for about 10 minutes to catch Santa’s attention. When the man in red arrives he will greet the singers and join in a song, then load everyone into a hay wagon, and head to the Congregational Church, where the Library’s Christmas tree needs to be decorated.  
Salisbury Library, housed in the church basement during renovations to its regular home, will have hot chocolate and cookies ready to encourage the children as they hang ornaments on the tree. Following library tradition, Santa will read “The Night Before Christmas” and Librarian Alissa Shethar will read a new picture book dedicated to all the babies born in Salisbury in 2025.  
The event will close with Santa drawing a door prize for two lucky families — a live Christmas tree to take home or a box of beautiful home-made cookies. All are welcome at this village community event.

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# Quality work on sale at holiday art & craft sale

PANTON — The Pantan Arts League is bringing a bit of seasonal spirit to town with its Holiday Art and Craft Sale. The event will take place at the Pantan Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eleven local artists and artisans will offer a wide variety of handmade work, including:

- Large and small-format paintings
- Mixed-media collages
- Monoprints (framed and unframed)
- Bleach-painted T-shirts
- Jewelry
- Felted bags and pillows
- Pottery
- Whimsical painted gourds
- Notecards and environmentally themed bookmarks

Participating artists include Kathy Mitchell, Bonnie Melnick, Pam Swatkins, Marsha Chase, Diana Raphael, Vanessa Hampton,



**POTTER CATHERINE BROOKS** of Vergennes created this ceramic mug, which shows the high caliber of work that will be on sale at the Pantan Art League Holiday Art and Craft Sale on Dec. 6.

Deb Allen, Catherine Brooks, and Gwyneth Beagley. Members of the public are invited to come support local artists and find one-of-a-kind gifts just in time for the holidays. All are welcome.

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### Flocking

A VERGENNES PHOTOGRAPHER captured the amazing sight of this large number of snow geese soaring together in Addison as seen from the viewing platform on Route 17 west of the Four Corners. She made this photo during the golden hour between 3:50 and 4:15 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Photo by Jeannette Armell

## Police say Bridport man was on drugs while driving

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Nov. 17 cited a Bridport resident for driving under the influence of drugs, first offense, an action taken following a traffic stop on West Main Street. Cited into court to answer the allegation was Devan Gonyea, 32.

### Vergennes Police Log

In other actions between Nov. 17 and 23, Vergennes police conducted nine traffic stops, six cruiser patrols, four foot patrols and a property watch; processed four fingerprint requests; responded to three false alarms and one accidental 911 hangup call; and also:

On Nov. 17:

- Looked into the theft of a cell phone at a Walker Ave address.

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- Checked out a complaint about a vehicle in Ferrisburgh heading toward Vergennes. Police contacted the operator and determined that there was no problem.

On Nov. 18:

- Checked the welfare of a Green Street resident.
- Responded to the report of a man acting suspiciously at McDonough Park and determined that there was no issue.

On Nov. 19 began investigating the theft of power tools from a King Street home.

- Responded to a mental health crisis at Vergennes Union High School. Police said the individual was calmed, “and a positive resolution was reached.”

- Received the report of a two-car crash with some damage at the Maplefields store and provided a case number for insurance purposes.

On Nov. 21 responded to a report of a suspicious man near the M&T Bank on North Maple Street. Police couldn’t find him.

On Nov. 22:

- Helped an individual who was struggling with mental health issues

- Went to Walker Avenue to deal with a reported dispute between two residents and determined the report was unfounded.

- Took a report of a dog running loose in the Crescent Drive area, but were soon notified by the caller that the dog was reunited with its owner.

- Were told of an alleged violation of an abuse prevention order in the Macdonough Drive area, and said an investigation is ongoing.

On Nov. 23:

- Referred a Waltham resident who had filed an online report of an incident to Vermont State Police after determining VSP had jurisdiction due to the incident’s location.

- Were unable to follow up on an online report allegedly filed from a West Main Street address because the report did not include a name and did include what police said was false contact information.

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# Hunters

(Continued from Page 1A)  
seasons, and the final muzzleloader count ranged from 98 to 208 deer taken.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Deer Project Leader Nick Fortin told the *Independent* that early seasons appeared to be in line with recent years. But that interview came before disappointing Addison County results for the opening weekend of the rifle season. (See report in the *Independent's* Nov. 20 issue). The *Independent* will wrap up the rifle season upon its conclusion.

Some good news: Bow hunters brought down two bucks that tipped the scales at over 200 pounds during archery season.

Casey Butler found his in New Haven, a 218-pound, 8-pointer that he had weighed at Green Mountain Trails End in Bristol.

Zachary Dragon took down a 209-pound, 7-point buck in Sudbury and reported it at Rack 'N Reel in New Haven.

The full list of early-season hunters who brought deer to be weighed at those two stations or at the West Addison and Lincoln General Stores, Jerusalem Country Store in Starksboro, Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport, and C&S Hunting Supplies in East Middlebury is as follows.

They are listed by hunter's name, town of kill, and by pounds and antler points if bucks, and by pounds otherwise.

**RACK 'N REEL**  
*Early Archery:*  
Eugene Bradford, Ferrisburgh, doe 106 pounds; Joseph McGuire, Hinesburg, doe 115; Zachary Dragon, Sudbury, buck 209 pounds-7 points; Sean Lavin, Shelburne, doe 113; Corey

Hutchins, Ferrisburgh, buck 159-5; Matthew Quinn, New Haven, buck 172-7; Matthew Richardson, Ferrisburgh, doe 122; Derek Campbell, Addison, buck 136-4; Evan Potter, Hubbardton, female 65; Leon Demers, New Haven, doe 79; and Jon Boise, New Haven, buck 137-4.

Also, Cory Jennings, Hinesburg, doe 98; Daniel Barrows, Ferrisburgh, doe 107; Hunter Navari, Waterbury, doe 120; Alan Bessette, Ferrisburgh, buck 110-4; Jay Rogers, Ferrisburgh, doe 93; Lester Little, Ferrisburgh, buck 137-6; Richard Miller, Middlebury, buck 145-7; Jacob Choiniere, Addison, doe 114; Matthew Bartlett, Bristol, buck 174-10; Dalton Smith, New Haven, doe 123; Eric Highter, Middlebury, buck 124-8; and Logan Ladeau, Bristol, doe 132.

Also, Chris Huston, New Haven doe 118; Arvin Sandy, New Haven, male 54; Jacob Rochon, Ferrisburgh, buck 144-4; Nathan Nimblett, Addison, doe 98; Anthony Curtis, Monkton, buck 139-8; John Christman, Huntington, buck 161-8; Cole Shepard, Lincoln, doe 116; James Ball, New Haven, buck 135-5; Devin Bradford, Ferrisburgh, buck 180-7; and Jeremy Lattrell, Shelburne, doe 82.

Also, John Connor, Bridport, buck 130-6; Harper Curtis, Monkton, doe 107; Kyle Charron, Ferrisburgh, buck 117-7; Adam Terry, Bristol, doe 130; Lawrence Leclair, Lincoln, doe 96; Jacob Hanlon, Ripton, doe 91; Tina Morcombe, Addison, buck 147-7; Adam Norris, New Haven, buck 138-5; Devon Campbell, Addison, buck 153-6; Shawn Lacey, Huntington, doe 95; and Benjamin

Wallen, Addison, buck 139-5.  
Also, Adam Paquette, Addison, buck 137-9; Joseph Bell, Weybridge, doe 149; Monte Provencher, Addison, buck 145-6; Matthew Norton, Addison, doe 102; Mary Ringer, Waltham, doe 91; Michael Bingham, Middlebury, doe 96; Caleb Young, Sudbury, buck 90-4; Shawn Frost, Middlebury, doe 98; Nolan Warner, Bristol, buck 126-7; Arvin Sandy, New Haven, male 51; and Eugene Bradford, Ferrisburgh, doe 80.

Also, Harold Masterson, Lincoln, doe 105; Charley Crowley, Cornwall, buck 138-5; Chris Coleman, Charlotte, doe 120; Michael Holler, Addison, doe 143; Richard Packard, Panton, buck 150-4; Matthew Marcelle, Salisbury, buck 142-6; Anna Ouellette, Waltham, buck 140-9; Erik Carruth, Ferrisburgh, buck 187-6; Pierre LaRoche, Weybridge, buck 167-6; and Dylan Stearns, Panton, buck 136-4.

Also, Brian Ladeau, Bristol, buck 119-4; Todd Tarte, Weybridge, buck 125-4; Andy Gendreau, Monkton, doe 118; Ronald Aldrich, Bristol, doe 102; Dan Herriman, Middlebury, doe 116; Sterling Pelsue, Charlotte, doe 147 and female 65; Christopher Fortin, Charlotte, doe 80; Randy Paquette, Sudbury, buck 155-8; James Reynolds, Salisbury, buck 166-4; James Duclos, Cornwall, buck 155-8; and Kevin Brennan, Monkton, doe 98.

Also, Matthew Holland, Bristol, buck 165-6; Travis Kimball, Bristol, doe 157; Frank Raymond, Addison, doe 114; Spencer White, Panton, doe 139; Dewey Barrows, Ferrisburgh, doe 134; Brian Latulippe, Shelburne, buck 123-3; Brooke Perlee, New Haven,



**CASEY BUTLER TOOK** down this 218-pound, 8-point buck in New Haven during the October/November archery season. It was the largest deer shot during the six-week season.

Photo courtesy of Green Mountain Trails End

buck 175-8; and Chad Phillips, Huntington, buck 168-7.

Also, Michael Chicoine, Shoreham, buck 162-8; Brent Navari, Colchester, buck 160-7; Patrick Blaise, Panton, buck 156-5; Thomas Bove, Milton, buck 152-8; Christopher Fortin, Charlotte, doe 87; and Dylan Stearns, Ferrisburgh, doe 138.

*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Evan Audy, New Haven, doe 110; Peter Viau, Addison, female 61; Ryan Fortune, New Haven, doe 113; Brian St. Cyr, Stowe, doe 113; Lawrence Pyne, New Haven, doe 106; Ethan James, New Haven, male 68; Ryan Jennings, Addison, doe 122; Eugene Bradford, Ferrisburgh, doe 110; Timothy Blanchard, Addison, doe 131; Cooper Laroche, Middlebury, male 138; Michael Hurlburt, Monkton, doe 150; and David Rheume, New Haven, doe 105.

**BACKWOODS GUNS & TACKLE**

*Early Archery:*  
Tristan Stearns, Cornwall, buck 161-5; Chelsea Plouffe, buck 130-4; Taylor Patterson, Shoreham, doe 130; Todd Seguin, Weybridge, doe 120; Joshua Ramon, Cornwall, doe 117; Tanner English, Salisbury, doe. 110; George Burnham, Shoreham, doe 107; and Wyatt

Stearns, doe 91.  
*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Wyatt Warner, Shoreham, doe 79.

**W. ADDISON GENERAL STORE**

*Early Archery:*  
Sean LaFlam, Ferrisburgh, doe 80.

*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Melanie Mulliss, Addison, doe 130.

**LINCOLN GENERAL STORE**

*Early Archery:*  
Mark Cousino, doe 135; Donnie Sargent, doe 127; Mark Patnaude, buck 145-8; Edward Lafayette, buck 170-4 and doe 88; Jackson Desautels, doe 90 and buck 121-2; Craig Desautels, doe 103; Carter Antos-Ketcham, doe 132; Alan Brace, 63 pounds; Jason Corrigan, 41 pounds; Kenneth Stockman, 49 pounds; Wilbert Clark, buck 102-4; and Grayson Conrad, doe 96.

*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Sarah Acker, doe 104; Wilbert Clark, doe 95; Greg Tucker, doe 70; Natalie Bassett, doe 90; and Jody Brown, doe 99.

**JERUSALEM COUNTRY STORE**

*Early Archery:*  
Bryan McCarthy, Huntington, 66 pounds; Daniel Brooks, Huntington, doe 96; Nathan

Wallace-Gusakov, Starksboro, doe 103; Robert Bordeaux, Buel's Gore, doe 103; Keith Addis, Bridport, 68 pounds; Adam Whitcomb, Starksboro, doe 84; David Whitcomb, Bristol, buck 150-8; Timothy Cousino, Lincoln, 64 pounds; Brian Peters, Warren, buck 182-11; and Grady Brokaw, Starksboro, doe 94.

**C & S HUNTING SUPPLIES**

*Early Archery:*  
Scott Jarvis, New Haven, doe 91; William Keefe, Bridport, doe 60; Jordan Stearns, New Haven, doe 116; Hans Bruning, Middlebury, buck 129-4.

*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Cory Newton, Ripton, doe 104, Robert Cameron, Salisbury, doe 130.

**GREEN MT. TRAILS END**

*Early Archery:*  
Casey Butler, New Haven, buck 218-8; Jonathan Jennings, Hinesburg, buck 160-6; Michael Lavalley, New Haven, buck 136-6; Nathan Perry, Lincoln, doe 122; Matthew McGuire, Bristol, doe 109; Trevor Lear, Bristol, doe 90; Stephen Fielding, Bristol, doe 86; Dominic Saunders, and Bristol doe 80.

*Early Muzzleloader:*  
Trevor Lear, New Haven, doe 110 and female 77.

# Ripton school

(Continued from Page 1A)  
and community members have already been brainstorming potential new uses for the facility, including as a community center, new town offices, and/or a recreation-workout space.

Ripton Elementary hasn't been used as a K-5 school since this past summer; low enrollment numbers prompted the ACSD board to transfer Ripton's remaining K-5 students to Salisbury Community School, starting this past fall.

Monday's ACSD board vote was cathartic but also somewhat anticlimactic.

It was cathartic due to the potential finality, after two centuries, of a local public school in Ripton, and also because the ACSD board on Monday needed every single one of its 10 members present to vote for the closure process. The articles of agreement that formed ACSD in 2016 stipulate that a supermajority of 10 of the governing board's 13 total members must endorse a school closure for it to advance to the district electorate. This is Thanksgiving vacation week and three of the board's 13 members — Tricia Allen, Ellie Romp and Ripton's Steve Cash — were unavailable.

One of the available 10 board members, Jamie McCallum, voted virtually on Monday from Germany.

"It's not a choice that I'm excited to make or excited to vote on," board member Jess Venable-Novak said before casting their vote.

The decision was also anticlimactic, because local opposition to closing Ripton Elementary began to fade during the past year with the eroding K-5 student numbers. A district effort this past March to recruit out-of-town children to boost the Ripton Elementary ranks failed. And with just a couple dozen students anticipated for the 2025-2026 academic year, Ripton Elementary couldn't conform to a districtwide class-policy requiring classrooms to have "a minimum of 10 students in not more than two grades."

Ripton residents had spent the better part of four years trying to keep their small school open in the face of dwindling enrollment, a problem plaguing virtually every Vermont school district. Riptonites

in May of 2021 voted to leave ACSD and try to form their own preK-12 school system, an effort they ultimately abandoned due to the logistical and financial hurdles of such a move for a town of fewer than 800 residents.

Ripton parents eventually pivoted from lobbying for their local school to ensuring the best possible transition for their children to neighboring Salisbury school.

No Ripton residents chose to speak before Monday's momentous vote; they had done so at a series of hearings held earlier this month, and as part of a consultant-led evaluation of Ripton Elementary options that played out this past summer.

Board members Ron Makleff and Ellen Whelan-Wuest challenged the panel to keep checking in with Ripton to ensure their educational goals for their children are still being met at the Salisbury school.

Whelan-Wuest noted Ripton had made an "incredible community investment" in their students through the years, both financially and in ways that can't be measured in dollars and cents. She acknowledged the "loss and the grief" Riptonites are now feeling by not having their students educated locally anymore.

The district board and Ripton should regularly "revisit and re-engage" in discussions about how "community" is defined, maintained and grown, so the community doesn't lose its investment in its students, according to Whelan-Wuest.

"I don't put that on them; I put that on us, as far as finding new ways to be in partnership with a town that loves its kids and has invested in those kids and that building for many, many decades," she said.

So what happens next?

If the majority of district voters next March agree to close Ripton Elementary, ACSD will offer the school building and property to the town of Ripton for \$1. The town would likely seek approval from its own electorate prior to following through on such a transaction.

If the closure effort advances past the ACSD board and district-wide votes, and Ripton decides it *doesn't* want to reacquire the building, the charter calls for the district to "sell

the property, upon such terms and conditions as established by the ACSD board of directors."



*"It's not a choice that I'm excited to make or excited to vote on."*

— board member  
**Jess Venable-Novak**



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PANTHER SENIOR GOALIE Livia Davidson and junior midfielder Emmy Christopher combine to deny Tufts forward Jordyn Miller's bid during the Middlebury women's soccer team's Saturday third-round NCAA D-III tournament game.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Tufts ousts Panther women's soccer

### Middlebury bows out of NCAA tourney with 0-2 loss

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The 12th-ranked Middlebury College women's soccer team rolled through the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III tournament. But in this past Saturday's third-round game, No. 3 Tufts proved to be too much of a roadblock, as the Jumbos controlled the action against the Panthers and advanced to Sunday's sectional final with a 2-0 victory.

Tufts also won on Sunday over Mary Washington on Middlebury's South Street Field, 1-0 in overtime. The Jumbos will play this coming weekend in the tournament's final four in Salem, Va.

The Panthers, a team with just three seniors — and many of their 14 first-years playing important roles — finished a strong season at 13-4-3. Their fall included taking a third-place finish in NESCAC, earning the right to host NCAA games, and reaching the Sweet 16

of the NCAA tournament for the 12th time.

But Saturday's game belonged to the Jumbos, who made it difficult for the Panthers to move up the field and limited them to two shots, neither of which landed on target. Tufts goalie Gigi Edwards came off her line to field a few speculative balls hit into her penalty area, and the Panthers had a goal called back for offside, but Edwards did not have to make a save.

Middlebury Coach Peter Kim said the Panther defense held up well given the 22 Tufts shots at goal and consistent pressure, and he acknowledged the quality of the Jumbos' effort.

"They were extremely strong and fast and capable of winning a lot of battles," Kim said. "We had to be extremely precise (passing), and when we were not, they made us pay for it."

The teams played evenly for the

first few minutes, after which the Jumbos began to assert themselves. The Panthers were fortunate to escape unscathed in the 11th minute, when Middlebury senior goalie Livia Davidson did well to block Jumbo forward Reese Birch near the right post, but could not control the rebound. Tufts quickly reloaded and seconds later Birch fired again, and Panther junior Mia Feldman blocked the shot on the goal line.

Tufts took the lead in the 15th minute with a Claire Brady goal that was the result of crisp passing. From the top right of the box, Emily Nicholas fed Brady for a close-range tap-in that slid into the left side of the net just out of the diving Davidson's reach. Jumbo Lena Sugru earned a second assist on the play.

Middlebury had a goal called back for offside in the 24th minute. Chloe Swindle sent a through ball

(See NCAA, Page 2B)

## Panther wins national XC title

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Middlebury College junior Audrey MacLean on Saturday claimed the individual NCAA Division III women's cross-country championship. The race was hosted by Converse University and contested on the Milliken Cross Country Course at Converse University.

MacLean took the lead early, and her time of 20:16.8 over 6 kilometers defeated the second-place finisher by over 48 seconds. She also lowered her personal best time by 0.4 seconds. Earlier MacLean won the NESCAC and

Midwest Regional titles.

In addition to her national crown, MacLean became the fourth three-time All-American in program history. The only other Panther to win the individual NCAA title was Middlebury Athletics Hall of Famer Dorcas Denhartog, a 1987 graduate.

MacLean's effort helped the ninth-ranked Middlebury women's cross country team finish eighth out of 32 teams, the program's best finish in seven years.

Middlebury first-year Claire Palmer joined MacLean in earning

All-American honors by finishing 23rd with a clocking of 21:38.3. MacLean and Palmer become the 42nd and 43rd program runners to be named All-Americans.

Sophomore Shea Fajen was the next Middlebury scorer, placing 105th at 22:49.9. Then came freshman Grace Kaelber, taking 139th in 23:06.5 and senior Victoria Fawcett, finishing 163rd in 23:16.

Middlebury's NCAA team finish is its highest since claiming eighth at the 2018 meet. The performance was the program's 17th top-10 finish.



PANTHER WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY runners Audrey MacLean, left, and Claire Palmer pose with the hardware they won at Saturday's NCAA D-III championship race. MacLean won the race, and Palmer earned All-American status by taking 23rd.

Photo by David Beach

## Locals named boys' soccer all-stars

### All four area schools represented in the 2025 roster

ADDISON COUNTY — Members of the Mount Abraham, Vergennes, Middlebury and Otter Valley boys' high school soccer teams have received postseason honors from the Lake Division, Mountain Division and Southern Vermont C Division.

The Lake Division champion and Division II finalist Eagles led the way with the most honors, as senior midfielder James Graziadei, one of six Mount Abe Eagle First-Team Lake All-Stars, was named the league's Offensive Player of the Year, and Mount Abe Coach Chris Coffey was named the Lake Division Coach of the year as the Eagles amassed a 10-1-1 league record.

Joining Graziadei as First

Team Lake All Stars were Waydon Cherington, Maverick Livingston, Zealand Jackson, Rowan Clark and Evan Audy.

Representing Middlebury on the Lake First Team was Theo Fallis.

Four Commodores earned spots on the Mountain Division First team: Ryker Mosehauer, Tiegen Buskey, Aiden Fuller and Garrett Wood. Three, Mosehauer, Buskey and Fuller, were also named D-III All-State players.

Named to the Lake Division Second Team were two Eagles, Abraham Camara and Jaran Griffin, and three Tigers, Annan Duquette-Hoffman and Holden McDowell.

Three Commodores made the Mountain Division Second Team: Joseph Maneen, Liam Paquette and Rowan Neffinger.

Earning Lake Division Honorable Mention were Eagles Johnny Stanley and Evan Corrigan and Tigers Lyle Carey, Judah Matovu and Ben Longman.

Earning Mountain Division Honorable Mention were Commodores Peter Maneen, Andrew Houghton and Colton Reed.

OV's Brody Lathrop was named an SVL C Division All-Star, and Otters Ben Mason and Arlo Lefcourt were SVL C Division Honorable Mention choices.

## Score BOARD

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Women's Soccer

##### NCAA D-III Tournament

###### Sectional at Midd

11/22 Tufts vs Midd .....2-0  
11/22 Mary Washington vs Penn St-Harrisburg .....2-1  
11/23 Tufts vs M Washington .....1-0 (OT)

#### Men's Hockey

11/21 Midd vs Tufts .....1-0  
11/22 Midd vs Conn .....5-2

#### Women's Hockey

11/22 Midd vs Wesleyan .....2-0  
11/23 Midd vs Wesleyan .....3-2 (OT)

#### Men's Basketball

11/20 Midd vs Union .....73-72  
11/22 Midd vs Stevens .....87-74  
11/25 Midd at Plattsburgh .....Late

#### Women's Basketball

11/22 Union vs Midd .....82-75  
11/25 Midd at Castleton .....Late

## Schedule

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Men's Hockey

Layer Eight Shootout at Norwich\*  
11/28 Midd vs Plattsburgh .....4 PM\*  
11/29 Midd vs TBD .....4/7 PM\*  
12/5 Amherst at Midd .....7 PM  
12/6 Hamilton at Midd .....3 PM

#### Women's Hockey

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\*  
12/5 Midd at Utica .....6 PM

#### Women's Basketball

11/30 Oswego at Midd .....3 PM  
12/2 Skidmore at Midd .....5:30 PM  
12/6 Colby-Sawyer at Midd .....2 PM

#### Men's Basketball

11/30 RPI at Midd .....5 PM  
Tourney at Bowdoin\*  
12/6 Midd vs Rochester .....2:30 PM\*  
12/7 Midd vs Carnegie Mellon..... 11 AM\*



TIGER GOALIE HEAVEN Ross, seen here making a point-blank save against Otter Valley, was one of a number of OV, Mount Abraham and MUHS field hockey players who received postseason honors.

Independent photo/Steve James

## HS field hockey stars honored

ADDISON COUNTY — Many members of the Otter Valley, Mount Abraham and Middlebury union high school field hockey teams received postseason honors from either the Capital Division or the Southern Vermont League B Division.

Honored as SVL B Division First-Team All-Stars were Otters Breanna Bovey, Hannah Desabrais, Marissa Dick and Michaela Hobbs. OV Coach Jodie Keith was also named the Division's Coach of the Year after leading OV to a Division II semifinal appearance. Otter Sophia Parker earned SVL B Division Honorable Mention.

Earning berths on the Capital

Division first team were Eagles Maris LaPerle and Eleanor Hurlburt and Tigers Quinn Doria and Heaven Ross.

Receiving Second Team Capital Division honors were June Yates-Rusch and Jillian Cousino from Mount Abraham and Maya Breckenridge and Sophie Simpson from MUHS.

Receiving Honorable Mention from the Capital Division coaches were Tigers Jocelyn Foster and Kenyon Connors, and Eagle Gwen LaPerle.

Also five of those players successfully tried out for the 2026 Twin State Team: Otters Dick and Bovey, Tigers Doria and Connors, and Eagle Maris LaPerle.



MOUNT ABE SENIOR goalie Evan Audy, seen here defending a corner kick in a playoff victory, was one of six Eagles named a Lake Division First-Team All Star.

Independent photo/Steve James





**PANTHER FRESHMAN FORWARD** Lauren Tracey races down the left wing, while Tufts’ Anna Griffin defends during the Middlebury College women’s soccer team’s Saturday third-round NCAA D-III tournament game.

Independent photo/Steve James

# NCAA

(Continued from Page 1A)  
to Taya McClennen, who buried the ball inside the left post from near the penalty stripe. But the sideline official was properly positioned to rule McClennen was a step ahead of the last defender.

The Panthers’ first shot that counted in the books came from freshman back Wynne Braemer in the 33rd minute. It drifted to the right, and Tufts goalie Edwards scooped it up.

The Panthers came out with good energy in the second half, and Braemer served a promising long ball to Swindle running into the Tufts box. But it soared a couple yards too long with the trailing wind pushing it.

Davidson made her toughest save in the 64th minute. Elsi Aires ripped a low, hard shot from the top of the box that was ticketed for just inside the right post, but Davidson dove to get a hand on it and tip it wide. She finished with nine saves, tying her career high.

More danger for Middlebury came in the 65th minute. After Davidson punched away a Tufts corner kick, Jumbo defender Maggie Rogers ripped a shot at the center of the goal with Davidson still out of position. But senior defender Roshann Purcell blocked the shot on the goal line and cleared it away.

Nine minutes later the Jumbos’ Audrey Cromet doubled their advantage. Cromet cut into the Panther box, took a touch on a Maren Jones feed near the penalty stripe, and buried the ball in the lower left corner.

The Panthers had a couple chances down the stretch. They got their second and final shot at goal nine minutes later. Freshman Mari Rode was well positioned to head a long serve from Braemer, but pushed the ball wide right. Rode also served a strong ball to classmate Lauren Tracy two minutes later, but the Jumbos defended it well.

Soon time and chances ran out, and the Panthers’ season came to a close.

Kim spoke afterward about his three seniors, forward/midfielder Carolina Espinosa as well as Davidson and Purcell. He pointed out they chose Middlebury during the COVID pandemic without the benefit of a campus visit, and

eventually shouldered a leadership burden for a team that became a close-knit group.

“They’ve been through everything. They couldn’t play soccer. They couldn’t leave their homes,” he said. “It speaks volumes about who they are, especially with three seniors and 14 freshmen.”

Kim also praised his young team for its performance this season.

“They’ve got quality. They’ve got heart. The strength of the team has always been the togetherness. We’ve been one group all the way through,” Kim said. “And our first-years have come on pretty strong. I think it bodes pretty well for us looking forward.”



**PANTHER FRESHMAN LEFT** back Wynne Braemer bolts upfield with the ball during the Middlebury College women’s soccer team’s Saturday third-round NCAA D-III tournament game against Tufts.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Outdoor writer teaches outdoor writing outdoors

It’s a Tuesday afternoon. I’m sitting on the bank of a wooded stretch of Otter Creek. Spread along the river in both directions are 16 first-year Middlebury College students currently enrolled in a class I am teaching, plus a sophomore working as both my extra van driver and as a peer writing tutor. The students are sitting on logs, rocks and patches of grass, some right at the river’s edge and others back a few strides into the shade. Most have notebooks and pens out, and they are writing. A few are still poking around in the water, looking at or for aquatic creatures: stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies and other aquatic macroinvertebrates as well as crayfish and even the occasional small fish. It’s the sort of thing I might do if I were fly fishing or camping along a river.

A great blue heron soars past, looking both majestic and also somewhat prehistoric like it might be comfortable in a Jurassic Park film. Several students pause and look up. For those within who aren’t familiar with wading birds, I identify the heron. I also name some of the familiar trees along the shore. But mostly I try to stay quiet and let them write.

The class is titled “Writing Rivers.” It’s a non-fiction writing class combining elements of environmental writing, outdoor writing, nature writing and personal essay. The balance between these various elements is up to the individual students as they find or develop their own narrative voices. The central element is for the students to learn to be attentive and curious. This is important both for good writing and for ecology; good writing is in the details even as a start to ecology is in the careful observations.

The course readings have included books on river ecology and science, works of nature writing, and essays by philosophers, along with Norman MacLean’s beautiful novella “A River Runs Through It,” which has given us a chance to consider the imaginative and personal importance of rivers in our lives. These works have provided not only a solid background in stream ecology and environmental philosophy, but also several models of excellent writing.

But as noted, it is the visit to the rivers and the chance to be outdoors — the opportunity to combine writing with practices of attentiveness to nature — that is at the core of the class. Which is why almost every Tuesday afternoon all fall, the 18 of us have piled into two college vans for a two-hour-and-45-minute field trip. We have worked our way along the connected watersheds of Middlebury River and Otter Creek from the confluence with Middlebury River downstream. We have visited quiet little tributaries small enough to leap over up on thickly wooded slopes of the Green Mountain National Forest, and also visited Otter Creek in Frog Hollow when it barely trickled over the falls during our prolonged summer drought as well as when it thundered over Belden Falls after heavy autumn rains finally



**HERE’S ONE THING** the columnist’s students found poking around in the river — a fascinating specimen that could prompt a world of natural writing.

moved in. We have visited the location where a derelict old dam was removed and a stream has been given a chance to rewild, and locations where bridges, dams, hydroelectric projects and human development have significantly un-wilded a river.

One of the best side-benefits of the field trips is that students are not using Generative Artificial Intelligence (programs like ChatGPT) to do their writing for them. This was intentional on my part. At the start of the semester, the class discussed many of the high costs of using generative AI.

These include both tremendous environmental costs in terms of both water consumption and energy use, and upstream and downstream costs in both the manufacture of computing equipment and waste stream of used equipment needed for large data plants. The meteoric increase in generative AI also seems almost certain to come with high social costs, as it will significantly increase the wealth divide in the world. And as some important scientific studies have shown, it comes with high personal costs in the form of brain atrophy. Which is to say, replacing our own creativity and language use with computers slowly makes us dumber and less creative.

But the wonderful thing about doing our writing along rivers is that students are writing with pen on notepad, and not with digital devices. And many of the places we spent time were outside cell service anyway (it’s rural Vermont, after all). And so there is no access to internet in order to use those tools. Nobody could use generative AI even if they wanted to.

Of course, I didn’t need any additional reason to take students out to local rivers other than the

obvious value of actually spending time along rivers in order to write about rivers. One cannot learn to be attentive to beech trees and brook trout when sitting at a desk in a classroom.

The experience has been fantastic. I’ve been profoundly impressed by how excellent the student writing has become in just a few weeks — a fact I attribute far more to their learning to be attentive, and to what we’ve been reading and discussing on the syllabus, than to anything I might have taught them. Several students have made connections between things they have been learning in a variety of other classes to what they were learning in my class. More than anything, though, I attribute the creativity of their writing to the inspiration of the places we have spent time: the rivers and their riparian corridors and the forests through which they flow and all the myriad varieties of trees and grasses, insects and crayfish, flowers and ferns and fungi, and even just the water itself and the many ways it shapes the land. Spending time outdoors inspires us, refreshes us, restores us, and teaches us. Not surprisingly, therefore, their writing is informed, thoughtful, and often also personal and vulnerable, as it draws readers into the scenes through their narratives and careful description.

By the time you read this column, we will have completed our last field trip of the semester with a visit to the falls in Vergennes — ostensibly to see where the waters flowing from that tiny tributary in the mountains that we visited weeks ago, and thence down into Otter Creek through Middlebury and over Belden Falls, finally reaches the connected waterways of Lake Champlain. Though I have to admit that wrapping up and celebrating the semester by taking the class for a stop for some delicious artisan ice cream at LuLu might also have motivated the location of our final field trip. I am looking forward to what wonderful flavor Laura has for us when we arrive. I’ll admit, it is one of the several reasons I hope to teach the class again.

## Have you heard?

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## South Starksboro, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

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**THE BANKS OF** Otter Creek in Middlebury serve as a peaceful and engaging setting for Middlebur College students’ writing class. Focused on non-fiction, the class combines elements of environmental writing, outdoor writing, nature writing and personal essay. The balance between these various elements is up to the individual students as they find or develop their own narrative voices.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson





EAGLE PAYTON SHEPARD shields the ball from Commodore Ava Francis in a game played in Bristol late this fall. Both were named all-stars by their leagues.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Girls’ soccer all-stars picked

ADDISON COUNTY — Girls’ soccer players from the Vergennes, Mount Abraham, Middlebury and Otter Valley high school teams have received postseason recognition from the Mountain League, Lake Division and the Southern Vermont League B Division.

Most notably, VUHS Senior Ava Francis was named the Mountain League’s Co-Offensive Player of the Year, and she is one of five of the D-III champion

Commodores named as Mountain League First Team All Stars.

Joining Francis on the Mountain League First Team are Ashtin Stearns, Adrienne Smits, Faith McAllister and Sophia James.

Three more Commodores earned Second Team Mountain Honors: Ayla Kittredge, Amelia Giroux and Ella Romond.

Two Eagles earned Second Team Lake Division recognition, Payton Shepard and Sophie

Underwood. Joining them on the Lake Second team are two Tigers, Lia Calzini and Isabel Quinn.

Earning Honorable Mention from the Mountain League were Commodores Adeline Smith and Eva Borah.

Named SVL B Division All Stars were Otters Allie Charbonneau, Michelle Hendee and Tegan Boynton.

OV’s Piper Cubell, Tori Benyik and Lily Bassage received Honorable Mention.

## Sheriff’s deputies find 34 FedEx packages

ADDISON COUNTY — Deputies with the Addison County Sheriff’s Department recovered 34 packages that appear to have been dumped out of a FedEx truck in Shoreham on Nov. 17. Officers contacted FedEx and started an investigation to learn what was going on.

Between Nov. 16 and 22, Sheriff Michael Elmore and his deputies completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 36 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, fingerprinted 10 people for background checks, provided a free car seat inspection to a Ferrisburgh family, provided VIN inspections for residents of Addison and Ferrisburgh, and attempted to serve 25 pieces of civil process around the county.

Three times during the week, deputies transported people for the Middlebury Police Department — once on Nov. 17 to take an intoxicated person to Grace House in Rutland to sober up, and twice on Nov. 18 to take people to jail who had been arrested by Middlebury officers.

Sheriff Elmore took part in newsworthy meetings this week. The first was on Nov. 19, when the sheriff participated in a quarterly meeting with others from around the state to improve curriculum at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford. Later that day, Sheriff Elmore met with school officials in Middlebury to refine the truancy process for the school district. Then on Nov. 21 he met virtually with other Vermont sheriffs for the monthly Sheriff’s Association meeting.

In other recent activity, Elmore

## Sheriff’s Log

and his deputies also:

- On Nov. 17 provided security at a state building in Middlebury due to threats to staff.
- On Nov. 17 assisted a tractor trailer that had blown a tire on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh.
- On Nov. 17 participated with other first responders in a full-scale simulated bus crash on Route 116 in Bristol.
- On Nov. 17 assisted with a rollover crash on Stage Road in Benson.
- In two instances on Nov. 18 unlocked a vehicle for people who had locked their keys in cars.
- On Nov. 18 assisted with traffic control on Route 116 in Starksboro for cattle in the road.
- On Nov. 18 arrested Kaleb Germaine, 19, of Ferrisburgh and cited him for driving in Ferrisburgh with a criminally suspended license.
- On Nov. 18 followed up on a call from a Ferrisburgh resident who was concerned about a hunter on his property.
- On Nov. 19 attempted to stop a vehicle on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh,

but the vehicle failed to pull over. The blue Honda Civic with a temporary license plate fled at a high rate of speed and headed south. In connection with this, the Sheriff’s Office is interested in speaking with Patrick Cota, 32, of the Bristol area. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Office at 802-388-2981.

- On Nov. 19 gave Vermont State Police a hand at a two-car crash on Route 125 in Ripton.
- On Nov. 20 assisted state police by securing an ATM that had been discarded on Vail Road in Orwell.
- On Nov. 20 investigated the report of illegal burning on Shellhouse Mountain Road in Ferrisburgh. Officers discovered that a resident had burned refuse and issued the offender a ticket.
- On Nov. 20 participated in a truancy meeting in Middlebury.
- On Nov. 20 notified a Starksboro resident of the death of an out-of-state family member.
- On Nov. 20 served a criminal citation and no-trespass order in Fair Haven on behalf of Middlebury police.
- On Nov. 21 sent a deputy to help teach the “Responding to People Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis” class to new recruits at the Vermont Police Academy in Pittsford.



## Heads up

PANTHER JUNIOR MIDFIELDER Gigi Day goes up high to head the ball during the Middlebury College women’s soccer team’s Saturday third-round NCAA D-III tournament game against Tufts.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Troopers need help finding crashed truck

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police are asking for the public’s assistance in identifying a white pickup truck that drove off Gore Road in Starksboro sometime on Nov. 23 and then struck a vehicle parked in a driveway and drove away.

The owner of the car in the driveway contacted police a little before 8 p.m. that Sunday to report the crash. Now police are looking for anyone involved in the crash and for the owner of the truck, which they described as a white, single-cab style truck with contact damage on its front end. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact state police at 802-388-4191.

Troopers in Addison County only reported two other incidents in the week leading up to

## Vt. State

Police Log

Thanksgiving.

On Nov. 19 at around 2:30 p.m. troopers from the New Haven barracks went to a two-car crash on Route 125 near Lincoln Road in Ripton. Police report that Lucy Parker, 40, of Ripton was driving a 2022 Subaru Crosstrek on Route 125 when she had to stop because a truck coming at her had gone over the center line. Brenda Foley, 63, of Manchester, N.H., was driving a 2018 Subaru Outback behind Parker and did not stop in time to avoid a collision. No one was injured, but both cars were damaged.

State police were assisted by the Addison County Sheriff’s Office and the Ripton Fire Department.

Troopers this week also wrapped up a case that began earlier this month. On Nov. 11, just before 8:30 p.m., a trooper observed a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Hunt Road in New Haven and stopped the car. Police ended up citing Dana J. Drown, 52, of Middlebury with driving under the influence of drugs. On Nov. 20, troopers executed a search warrant on Drown’s vehicle, in which they said they discovered cocaine that had been in Drown’s possession. So they added a possession of cocaine possession citation to the earlier citation for driving under the influence of drugs. Troopers were assisted by Vergennes and Middlebury police.

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**Upcoming Events**

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

**Thursday, November 27:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**Friday, November 28:**  
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Tuesday, December 2:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating  
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Thursday, December 4:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

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

**Thursday, December 11:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating



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Champlain Farms Hannaford  
Jiffy Mart  
Junction Store & Deli  
Morningside Bakery  
Union Street Grocery  
Walgreen's
- BRIDPORT:**  
Broughton's Big Country Hardware  
Pratt's Store
- BRISTOL:**  
Bristol Country Store  
Bristol Discount Beverage  
Champlain Farms Maplefields

- Shaw's  
Walgreen's
- EAST MIDDLEBURY:**  
Goodro Lumber  
Jiffy Mart  
Maplefields  
Otter East Bakery & Deli
- FERRISBURGH:**  
Jiffy Mart
- LEICESTER:**  
Leicester General Store
- LINCOLN:**  
Lincoln General Store
- MIDDLEBURY:**  
Addison Independent Office  
Champlain Farms  
Costello's Market  
Greg's Market  
Hannaford  
Hare and the Dog  
Kinney Drugs  
Maplefields

- Middlebury Discount Beverage  
Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op  
Middlebury Short Stop  
Otter Creek Bakery  
Rosie's  
Shaw's  
Stone Mill Public Market  
Vermont Book Shop  
Vermont's Own  
Village Depot  
Walgreen's
- NEW HAVEN:**  
Village Green Market
- N. FERRISBURGH:**  
N. Ferrisburgh Short Stop  
Russell Memorial Library
- ORWELL:**  
Orwell Free Library
- RIPTON:**  
Ripton Country Store

- SALISBURY:**  
Kampersville Store (seasonal)
- SHOREHAM:**  
Shoreham Service Center
- STARKSBORO:**  
Jerusalem 4-Corners Store
- VERGENNES:**  
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nov 27

**THURSDAY**

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

**Stone Motors Stuff a Truck holiday toy drive in Middlebury.** Ongoing through Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2149 Route 7 South and 36 Boardman St. Drop off new holiday toys or cash donations to Stone Motors stores to help HOPE deliver Christmas presents to Addison County kids.

**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.

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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.net, 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.

**Thankful Tree in Ferrisburgh.** Monday, Dec. 1-Jan. 7, Union Meeting Hall, 41 Middlebrook Rd. The Friends of the Union Meeting Hall present their annual Thankful Tree display, featuring messages of gratitude collected from local elementary schools and community members in a lighted outdoor exhibit. On display through Jan. 7.

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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.

**Discoveries About Planets Outside of Our Solar System in Orwell.** Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Did

## A Thanksgiving meal

IN AN EFFORT to make Thanksgiving special for everyone, Nate Perry of the Bristol Masons helps deliver 85 turkeys to the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf this past Friday. The food shelf serves residents of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro. Meanwhile, the Middlebury VFW will host a free community Thanksgiving dinner this Thursday, Nov. 27, from noon-2 p.m. Reserve your spot by calling 802-345-1451 or emailing 802cares@gmail.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Photo courtesy of Cecil Foster

you know that there are thousands of planets outside our solar system? Kendall Sullivan, postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at UC Santa Cruz, will discuss exoplanet science, recent results from the James Webb Space Telescope and the prospect of life on other worlds.

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.

**Red Clover Ale Company Holiday Art Market in Brandon.** Wednesday, Dec. 3, 4-9 p.m., Red Clover Ale Company, 43 Center St. Enjoy a cozy vinyl DJ set while browsing pottery, art prints, holiday cards, ornaments, textiles and other handmade wares from local artists.

**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.

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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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dec 5

**FRIDAY**

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 3 listing.

**Salisbury Mills family full moon hike in Salisbury.** Friday, Dec. 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Salisbury Mills Preserve, 1660 W 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.

**Memory tree lighting in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Memory tree lighting with the Bristol Elementary School chorus, followed by a reading of the names. Register an honoree by Dec. 2. More info at bristolvtrec.com.

**The Chocolate Walk in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m., downtown Bristol. Shops stay open late with chocolate treats, community spirit and holiday shopping. Browse, nibble and support local businesses during this Bristol CORE event.

**Community supper in New Haven.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, 91 Town Hill Rd. The New Haven Ladies Union invites you to enjoy a casual dinner with neighbors. Menu includes shepherd's pie, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. All are welcome. No takeout. Served until the food is gone.

dec 6

**SATURDAY**

**Friends of the Bixby Library book sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Otter Creek Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Used book sale offering gently used fiction, nonfiction, children's, YA, gardening, sci-fi/fantasy, Vermont books and more. Proceeds support Bixby Library programs. Entrance from the back parking lot. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

**American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 133 Valley View Drive. See Dec. 2 listing.

**St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar in Orwell.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Orwell Town Hall, 480 Main St. Beautiful handmade gifts and crafts, Christmas decorations, ornaments, wreaths, quilt raffle, basket raffle, silent auction and baked goods. No flea market or lunch and refreshments this year due to ongoing renovations to the town hall kitchen and cafeteria.

**Vergennes Holiday Craft Fair in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Vergennes Union Elementary School, 43 East St. More than 70 vendors offer woodcrafts, pottery, jewelry, candles, knit and crochet work, quilts and more. 50 raffle items and full concession stand. Free admission. Benefits the Vergennes Recreation Department Pavilion Project.

**Santa & Mrs. Claus in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus and share holiday wishes.

**Holiday card making in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Half Round Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Make festive holiday cards during the Holiday Stroll. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

**East Middlebury Craft Fair in East Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sara Partridge Community House and Library, 431 E Main St. Local vendor and book sale sponsored by the East Middlebury Historical Society.

**Carriage rides in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Cannon Park, Main St. and Park St., Middlebury. Enjoy a cozy ride through town and warm up with a cup of cocoa at the hot cocoa hut on Cannon Park.

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THE NEW HAVEN Train Depot has been eyed as a future gathering space for the community and a home for the New Haven Historical Society. The town was recently chosen to take part in the second round of the statewide Village Trust Initiative, which will provide support for that vision.

Courtesy photo

## New Haven gets boost for depot renovation

NEW HAVEN — The town of New Haven has been selected as one of five Vermont communities to participate in the second round of the statewide Village Trust Initiative (VTI). The town was chosen based on its plan to complete the renovation of the historic New Haven Train Depot—envisioned as a welcoming gathering space in an expanded town center and a home for the New Haven Historical Society.

“We are thrilled and grateful to have been chosen for this program,” said Kim Callahan, a member of the newly formed New Haven Community Trust Board, which will oversee the project. “Our community has been working hard to bring together the right mix of input and resources to make this building something that truly serves everyone.”

The Village Trust Initiative is a partnership among the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV), the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD),

and the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF). Over the course of three years, the program will support 20 small towns in creating or strengthening local community trust organizations that lead projects aimed at village revitalization.

“The most important outcome of our participation in the Village Trust Initiative is the creation of a Community Trust that will continue to support community and economic development projects in New Haven,” said Chris Granstrom, a member of the local committee. “The trust will live beyond this first project and help with other important efforts in the years ahead.”

Community involvement will be central to the depot project. Engagement opportunities will be integrated throughout the process, and the Community Trust will work closely with VTI to establish a clear and inclusive system for gathering input from residents.

As a keystone of New Haven’s

emerging town center, the restored depot is expected to serve both as a historic landmark and as a vibrant hub for community connection, events, and activity.

“By helping our community define its vision for the future and complete a major revitalization project, the Village Trust Initiative will build our town’s capacity, preserve our sense of place, and ensure that New Haven remains a dynamic village for generations to come,” Callahan added. “We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to make a lasting difference.”

The Village Trust Initiative is funded through a \$10 million Congressionally Directed Spending award secured by Senator Patrick Leahy’s office in 2023. Participating communities receive technical assistance from all three partner organizations, as well as planning support, predevelopment funding, and major capital investment to advance their projects.



## Vending machine serves art

BRANDON — When you think of a vending machine, you probably think of candy and chips, not art. But a new project is bringing exactly that — an art vending machine — to Brandon. This full-size snack machine full of local art, gifts, and other surprises will be making its debut downtown Brandon at The Bookstore on Saturday, Nov. 29, with a launch party at 4 p.m.

Leicester artist Caitlin Gildrien got the idea while browsing Facebook Marketplace last summer. “I was looking for bookcases,” she said, “and for some reason it served me up a listing for a \$200 vending machine in Lake George. I thought to myself, ‘Somebody should buy

that and fill it with art.’ Two hours later, I decided that someone would be me.”

With the help of a neighbor with a trailer, she brought the 650-pound machine, a solid-steel model from the late 1990s, back to her garage in Leicester, and Joy and Sundry Vending was born. Over the next few months, she cleaned it, painted the outside like a small mural, installed a credit card reader, and began soliciting art to fill it.

“The response was really wonderful,” Gildrien said. “People are so excited to have their work in a fun and accessible venue.”

Items in the machine now include several artist cards and prints, original block prints, hand-

died bandanas, cassettes from a local band, earrings, stickers, and handmade ornaments, as well as tiny jugs of maple syrup and a few other joyful sundries.

Finding a home for the project was the final step. After talking with a few local businesses, she decided that The Bookstore would be a perfect fit. “We all need a bit more joy and sundry in our lives right now; and I can’t think of a more whimsically retro way to do that than by helping Caitlin realize her creative vision with her amazing vending machine!” said Barbara Ebling, owner of The Bookstore at 8 Conant Square.

The opening event is free and open to the public.

## Shoreham to host a big cookie swap

SHOREHAM — Calling all cookie bakers! Join the Community Cookie Exchange to be held at the Shoreham Congregational Church. This holiday event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., or until the cookies run out.

This social event is open to everyone, with just a few simple rules. Bring at least three dozen

### Shoreham

NEWS

cookies. Get a box to fill with a variety of cookies to take home. There is no fee beyond your donation of a tray of at least three dozen homemade Christmas cookies. So get out your recipes and contribute to this social event and join in the holiday spirit. The more cookies people contribute, the more assortment there will be to choose from.

There will also be a limited number of craft vendor tables. Vendors looking to rent a table for \$20 should email shorehamucc@gmail.com to reserve a spot; tables will be assigned on a first-come,

first served basis.

Monetary donations toward the

Church Building Fund will also be accepted.

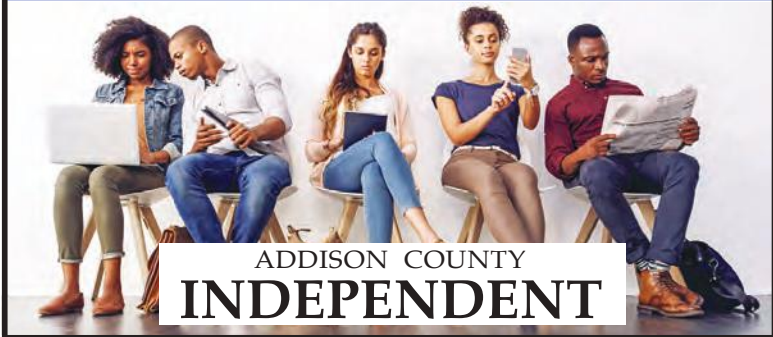
## Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Vergennes writes:

“Love what you do and appreciate your hard work.”

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Zachary Dragon

Zachary Dragon is Otter Valley Union High School’s Student of the Week. He lives in Sudbury with his parents and two cats, Tonka and Reese.

At OV, Zac says some of his favorite parts of the school day are getting to see his friends, the strong school spirit, and the opportunity to learn something new every day. When it comes to teachers, he doesn’t choose favorites; he appreciates what each of them brings to the classroom.

Zac is proud to have made the Principals’ List and to serve as varsity football captain. A longtime football player, Zac quarterbacked the Otter football team the past two seasons, earning a good measure of success. For instance, he led his team to a win in the Division III semifinal game this year with three successful touchdown passes. The team finished a winning season with six victories

He’s earned a measure of wisdom during his years at OVUHS, and his advice to younger students is simple: “Learn all you can while the opportunity is in front of you.”

Outside of school, Zac works at Hayes Pallets in Brandon and enjoys hunting, hanging out with friends, and playing sports.

After graduation, Zachary plans to attend Vermont State University Castleton. We wish Zachary all the best!



Zachary Dragon  
OVUHS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Maris LaPerle

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Maris LaPerle as our student of the week. Maris lives in New Haven with her parents, Sarah and Adam, and her younger sister, Gwen, who is a sophomore at Mt. Abe.

Maris has earned high and highest honors for academic and transferable skills each semester of high school. Her favorite classes include Money Matters, Statistics, French IV and AP Environmental Science, an online course she completed through Virtual High School. When asked about her teachers, she explained, “My favorite teachers are Mr. Foster and Ms. Jacobeit. Mr. Foster always wants the best for everyone and will stay after school or come before school to help you with work. He grades quickly and understands how to help students independently. Ms. Jacobeit listens to each student individually and understands that French is a hard subject. She knows how to teach in a way that is caring and easy to understand. I have also had two really important support people at school, my advisor Ms. Little and our athletic trainer Meg Quiet.”

Along with her academic achievements, Maris is an integral member of the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She has been on varsity for both sports since 9th grade and was captain of the field hockey team junior and senior years. In addition to athletics, Maris is involved in several student groups. She was a cast member of the fall production of “Anastasia,” a member of the Eagle Leadership Society, the Environmental Action Group and Morgan’s Message Club. In addition, she was selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State this past summer. Outside of school, she works weekends as a host at Fire and Ice restaurant in Middlebury. In her spare time, Maris enjoys working out, reading, playing board games, hanging out with friends and playing sports.

Reflecting on her time at Mt. Abe, Maris states, “The most important lesson I have had while at Mt. Abe is learning how to be a better leader and a better friend. I would say, don’t be afraid to expand your friend group. High school has taught me that people grow and change so don’t be afraid to make new friends along the way.”

Looking ahead, Maris plans to attend Washington College in Maryland and will play for the field hockey team. We will miss Maris’s strong commitment to the Mt. Abraham community and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Maris LaPerle  
MAUHS

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### Congratulations, students!

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

Want to help celebrate these students and support this page?



### Cheers to the Students of the Week!



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Maris!

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### Congratulations, Zachary and Maris



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21 Years Experience

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We offer flexible pricing and local support, so you can grow at your own pace,  
no tech experience needed. We're real people, right here in Addison County,  
and we're ready to help you take the next step.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

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

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

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

Public Meetings

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

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

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

Services

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

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

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

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

Help Wanted

**EVENING FRONT DESK/CONCIERGE.** Swift House Inn – Middlebury, Vermont. We're hiring a front desk professional to anchor our evening shift. This position plays a pivotal role: greeting arriving guests, fielding questions, supporting restaurant reservations, and ensuring the property is secure and guest-ready for the next day. If you thrive on creating memorable experiences and want to grow in the hospitality industry, this is for you. Swift House Inn has 20 guest rooms across three historic buildings, and is home to Jessica's at Swift House Inn, one of Vermont's most celebrated fine dining restaurants. Responsibilities: Welcome and check in arriving guests with warmth and professionalism. Answer phones, manage room and restaurant reservations. Provide local recommendations and concierge-style service. Troubleshoot guest concerns and offer proactive solutions. Liaise with Jessica's restaurant team for smooth communication. Keep common areas tidy, cozy, and well-presented. Follow nightly checklists and procedures. Lock up buildings and hand off to the overnight security team.

Help Wanted

You Are...Deeply interested in the hotel and lodging industry, A natural host who loves creating great guest experiences in Addison County, Communicative, warm, and gracious under pressure, Obsessed with details and good systems, Reliable, punctual, and self-directed. Shift & Compensation. Hours: 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Schedule: Part-time, includes some weekends and holidays. Pay: \$20-\$22 Hourly, commensurate with experience, bonuses and tips. Apply Today. Email your resume and a short note to owner@swifthouseinn.com. Learn more about us at swifthouseinn.com

**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

## 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

**PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT** Wanted to help 77 year old man in Addison on Saturdays and Sundays for 3-4 hours a day. Help with cooking, housework, and chores. \$25 an hour. Contact [ellenresnik@gmail.com](mailto:ellenresnik@gmail.com)

Free

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

### SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### FY26 VACANCIES

Slate Valley School District is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year (\*\*unless otherwise indicated).

**Long-Term Substitute for Academic Interventionist**

For more information, contact Casey at (802) 265-4905 or [comeara@svuvt.org](mailto:comeara@svuvt.org)

**Anticipated Physical Therapist, Part-Time School-Based Position**

**Special Education Teacher, K-6 Alternative Classroom (anticipated January 2026)**

For more information, contact Kris at (802) 265-4905 ext. 2551 or [kbenway@svuvt.org](mailto:kbenway@svuvt.org)

**Anticipated Long-Term Study Hall Monitor**

**\*\*Driver's Education Teacher (2026-2027 school year)**

For more information, contact Ben at (802) 265-4905 or [bworthing@svuvt.org](mailto:bworthing@svuvt.org)

**Coaching Positions:**

For more information on the following coach openings, contact Eric at [eramey@svuvt.org](mailto:eramey@svuvt.org)

**Head Coach for Varsity Softball**

**Coach for Middle School Boys Basketball (2 positions available)**

**Coach for 5th & 6th Grade Girls Basketball (2 positions available)**

For all positions, apply at: [slatevalley.tedk12.com/hire/ind:ex.aspx](http://slatevalley.tedk12.com/hire/ind:ex.aspx)  
Position will remain open until filled.  
EOE

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@smithmclain.com](mailto:admin@smithmclain.com).



**Come build with us!**



Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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



[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



### Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking classroom aides to assist in educational settings throughout Addison County. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a federally funded program that has successfully placed thousands of volunteers in educational settings nationwide. Individuals must be at least 55 and willing to work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Participants receive travel reimbursement, fifty paid vacation/sick days, and a tax-free hourly stipend if they are income eligible.

**If you are interested or would like more information, please contact RSVF at 802-468-7056.**



**AmeriCorps Seniors**

## 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](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE:** Monday at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Free



**FREE COOKBOOKS**  
Some new 518-942-3325.

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.

Help Wanted

For Rent

**BEAUTIFUL 2 BEDROOM HOUSE** Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished. \$1800/month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call/email for photos. 802-897-2448 hescock@sover.net

BRANDON ESTATE

5 Bedrooms 3 bath \$4800 Furnished See Craigslist at <https://vermont.craigslist.org/apa/d/forest-dale-bedroom-updated-stone-home/788936398.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

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 BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS

is currently taking waitlist applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

**MIDDLEBURY ONE BEDROOM** Small, ground floor. Very nice, very convenient in-town location, perfect for person who does not drive. \$795 plus heat and electric. Non-smoker, no pets. 802-388-5474.

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

MONKTON

Monkton — 4,600 sq ft commercial workshop. Open plan, office plus 2 workrooms; kitchenette (tenant provides fridge). Power: 110/220 & 3-phase. Oil heat, 4 zones. Minutes to Burlington, Middlebury, Vergennes & Hinesburg. Contact Ricky 802-636-0127 or visit northstarpropertiesvt.tenantcloud.com/listings/181951.

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.

Help Wanted

For Rent

**ROOM FOR RENT** in Forestdale – \$700/mo (All Included) Quiet, clean room available with your own private bathroom. Home is shared with a 67-year-old man and a friendly small dog. Includes all utilities, Wi-Fi, access to a yard, and driveway parking. Ideal for a responsible, clean tenant. Available now – Call Mark for details or to schedule a viewing. 802-558-8006

Public Notices

can be found on  
**Pages 9B and 10B.**

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/20/25 & 11/24/25

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Goodrich	1800	1.65	\$2970.00
Rowell Farm	1800	1.45	\$2610.00
Blue Spruce	1400	1.45	\$2030.00
Vorsteveld	1630	1.44	\$2347.20
M. Davis	1290	1.41	\$1818.90

CALVES

\$

Deer Valley	\$1262.50
Sunderland	\$1196.80
Livingston	\$1184.50
Vorsteveld	\$1156.40
Iroquois Acres	\$1111.00

Total Beef - 168

Total Calves - 143

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.  
call 1-802-388-2661

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



ONLINE AUCTION

(1719) COMMERCIAL TRUCKS

ONLINE AUCTION: Wed., Dec. 10 @ 12PM

•PREVIEW (Lot #1): During Business Hours | Mon-Fri | 8AM-5PM

LOCATION: 298 James Brown Drive, Williston, VT

•PREVIEW (Lot #2-4): Tues. | Dec. 9 | 11AM-1PM

LOCATION: Waterbury Center, VT




This auction is an outstanding chance to secure quality fleet additions and hard-to-find specialized equipment built for serious work.

NAA Auctioneer

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY

THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-06590

IN RE ESTATE OF: MARJORIE DICKSTEIN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marjorie Dickstein, late of Starksboro, 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: 11/20/25

Matthew Dickstein  
181 Maple Street,  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 274-1203  
mirabelasunshine@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 11/27/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division

Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

CITY OF VERGENNES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on December 15, 2025, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Application #2025-38 by the City of Vergennes to site two (2) 20 ft. x 8 ft. shipping containers on an existing concrete pad located at 47 East St. Reviews will consider Article III Section 311, Article VII, Article VIII, and Article XVI Section 1611. \*Containers are already on the Property under Temporary Permit# 2024-61 issued December 30, 2024.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the One Credit Union Conference Room located at 48 Green Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

Meetings are accessible via Zoom;

Meeting ID: 828 0065 2431

Meeting password: 5CKEsb

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:

To raise your hand during the meeting, press \*9.

To mute/unmute during the meeting, press \*6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at [zoning@vergennes.org](mailto:zoning@vergennes.org).

November 18, 2025  
David Austin  
Zoning Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PETITIONS FOR ELECTION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR FOR THE OTTER CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all landowners residing within the boundaries of the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD), notice is hereby given that on December 1, 2025 petitions for the position of supervisor for the conservation district will be available. An election will be held on December 9, 2025 for one supervisor for the district. Petitions must be completed and returned to the local conservation district office by close of business onDecember 1, 2025.

Only persons, firms and corporations who hold title in fee land and residing within such an organized district are eligible to sign a petition or vote.

Conservation districts are local subdivisions of state government established under the Soil Conservation Act of Vermont.

An eligible voter may contact Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District at 802-771-3037 for a petition or more information:pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net

Dated: November 27, 2025

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](mailto:addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com) or 802-388-1966.

Patricia Ross, Assistant Judge  
Nicole Wilkerson, Assistant Judge

ANWSD BOARD

MEETING NOTICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

Monday, Dec 8	4:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg.	VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting	VUMHS Library
Thursday, Dec 11	8:30 AM	Negotiations Committee Mtg.	Virtual Only
Monday, Dec 15	4:00 PM	Facilities Committee Joint Mtg.	VUMHS Library
	4:00 PM	Finance Committee Joint Mtg.	VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Mtg.	VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Dec 17	5:30 PM	CEC Meeting	Virtual only
Thursday, Dec 18	4:30 PM	Negotiations Meeting w/ANTA	VUMHS Library

TRI-TOWN WATER DISTRICT NO. 1

P.O. BOX 85 BRIDPORT, VERMONT 05734-0085

802-758-2202

[tritownwater@gmavt.net](mailto: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

- Moderator
- Clerk
- 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

TOWN OF ADDISON

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM. (regular monthly meeting)

Please note date of "SPECIAL MEETING " being held on Monday, December 01, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Addison Community Center to interview (3) candidates for the open vacancy on the PC Board & will continue at our regular meeting on 12/15/25.

- Open the meeting.
- Roll call given.
- Public Comment time allowed (beginning & end if deemed necessary). Continue to work with Katie Raycroft-Meyer on the Town Plan revisions, finalizing details & progressing with the next steps for the Town Plan. Katie will discuss the sections on "NATURAL RESOURCES", "LAND USE", and "CONSERVATION". We will continue the discussion for goals & objectives for the different sections. and discuss what goals & objectives we would like to implement in the Town Plan.
- We have an open position on the board & will interview them on 12/01/25 at 6:00PM.
- The maps we want to put in the Town Plan.
- Approve the meeting minutes for November 17, 2025.
- Discuss any remaining miscellaneous Planning Commission business or concerns.
- If needed, allow additional public comment time before adjourning.

Michael Hollis, Chair  
Starr Phillips, Secretary  
Addison Planning Commission

ACT 250 NOTICE

MINOR APPLICATION #9A0325-6

10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

The Keewaydin Foundation, Songadeewin of Keewaydin, has filed application #9A0325-6, deemed complete on November 18, 2025, for a project generally described as (1) construction of a new ±180 square-foot bathroom for Camp Songadeewin campers and staff, with associated leach field and sewer line and (2) demolition, relocation, and replacement of the existing Beenadeewin building. The project is located at 500 Rustic Lane in Salisbury, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's Act 250 Database (<https://anr-web.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/default.aspx>) by entering project number "9A0325-6."

**No hearing will be held, and a permit may be issued unless, on or before December 12, 2025,** a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 9 Office at: [Act250.Essex@vermont.gov](mailto:Act250.Essex@vermont.gov). Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact the District Coordinator listed below.

Josh Donabedian  
District 9 Coordinator  
111 West Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
[Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov)

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# Public Notices

can be found on **Pages 9B and 10B.**

## Email your Public Notices

to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com) and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

### STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET # 24-CV-00690

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC. (Plaintiff)  
v.  
TONYA E. BABIARZ and GREGORY J. BABIARZ  
OCCUPANTS residing at 309 THOMAS DRIVE, BRISTOL, VT 05443 (Defendants)

#### NOTICE OF SALE

According to the terms and conditions of the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale (the "Order") in the matter of Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. V. Tonya E. Babiarz and Gregory J. Babiarz Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit, foreclosing one mortgage given by Gregory J. Babiarz and Tonya E. Babiarz, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Century 21 Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated September 19, 2013 and recorded in Book 143, Page 70 of the Town of Bristol Clerk's Office Land Records, and thereafter assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by Assignment of Mortgage dated December 14, 2018 and recorded on December 20, 2018 in Book 156 at Page 609, respectively, the real estate with an address of 309 Thomas Drive, Bristol, VT 05443 will be sold at 11:00 AM public auction at on December 19, 2025 at the location of the Property.

Property Description. The Property to be sold is all and the same land and premises described in the mortgage, and further described as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Gregory Babiarz, Jr. and Tonya Babiarz by Quit Claim Deed of Beneficial Homeowner Service Corporation of near or even date herewith to be recorded prior hereto l the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Beneficial Homeowner Service Corporation by Order Confirming Sale dated April 22, 2013 and recorded in Book 142 at Page 224 of the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Daniel J. Holcomb and Lisa A. Hodgdon by Warranty Deed of Terrence E. Thomas, individually and as Trust-ee of the Terrence E. Thomas Revocable Trust dated May 12, 2006 and recorded in Book 119 at Page 216 of the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

"A parcel of land containing, by estimate, 3.5 acres, more or less, together with the dwelling house and other improvements constructed thereon. Said lands and premises are identified, in part, as House No. 8 on Plans entitled, "As Built Plan, Hardscrabble Road, Bristol, Vermont, Owner Terry Thomas, 58 Pine Street, Bristol, VT 05443, Site Plan, House Sites 7 and 8, Sheet 2 of 3" by McCain Consulting, Inc. dated January 16, 2002, revised August 28, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan") and on a Site Plan prepared by Phelps Engineering, Inc. dated March 1980 and last revised in October, 1980. Said lands and premises are more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point marking the northwesterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and the southwestery corner of Lot No. 7 which was conveyed by the Grantor to Joel and Kristy Bilodeau by Warranty Deed dated September 22, 2005 and recorded in Volume 116 at Page 456 of the Bristol Land Records; thence,

Proceeding in a generally easterly direction along the southerly line of lands of the said Bilodeau, a distance of approximately 575 feet, more or less, to a point, said point marking a southeasterly corner of Lot No. 7 and the northeasterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and lying in the westerly line of lands now or formerly of Heffernan; thence,

Turning to the right and proceeding in a generally southerly direction along the westerly line of lands of the said Heffernan, a distance of approximately 280 feet, more or less, to a point, said point marking the southeasterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and the northeasterly corner of Lot No. 9; thence,

Turning to the rights and proceeding in a generally westerly direction, along the northerly line of the said Lot No. 9 and a southerly line of the parcel described and conveyed hereby, a distance of approximately 585 feet, more or less, to a point marking the northwesterly corner of Lot No. 9 and the southwestery corner of Lot No. 8; thence,

Turning to the right and proceeding in a generally northerly direction along the westerly line of the parcel described and conveyed hereby, a distance of approximately 240.00 feet, more or less, to the point and place of beginning.

Containing by estimate, 3.5 acres, more or less.

Also conveyed is an easement and right of way over and upon the existing roadway running to and from Hardscrabble Road, to be used in common with the Grantor and others, for ingress, egress and access to said lot and to other lands of the Grantor and others, as shown on the above referenced Site Plan. The owner of Lot 8 shall have the obligation to share in the ongoing maintenance and repair of said roadway, including snow removal, as set forth in the Road Maintenance Agreement between Terrence E. Thomas and Thomas J. Wynn and Carol S. Johnson, dated February 18, 1985 and recorded in Volume 57 at Page 157 of the Bristol Land Records. By acceptance of the delivery of this Deed, the Grantees also agree to share in the cost of improving the road to Town standards if, in the event it is turned over to the Town in the future, as set forth in Paragraph 3 of the Road Maintenance Agreement.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to and the Grantor expressly reserves and retains, the easement and right of way over and upon the existing roadway running through Lot 8 as shown on the above referenced Site Plan for the benefit of others, including the Grantor, his successors and assigns.

Reserved unto the Grantor, for himself, his successors and assigns is an easement and right of way for purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing and replacing utility services, including utility lines (both above ground and under ground), and utility poles running to other lands, including lands retained by him. Said easement and right of way shall not adversely affect or interfere with the dwelling house and improvements on the subject property.

In order to comply with the State of Vermont Potable Water Supply and Wastewater requirements, said lands and premises are conveyed subject to a "Well Shield" as appears on the Site Plan. Included in the restriction within said "Well Shield" is that there shall be no wastewater system of any kind constructed within said area.

Subject to utility line easements and rights of way of record.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to an benefited by the terms and conditions of State of Vermont Land Use Permit No. 9A0102, dated November 14, 1980 and recorded in Volume 51 at Page 275 of the Bristol Land Records, and State of Vermont Potable Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal Permit No. WW-9-0457 dated January 3, 2003 and recorded in Volume 104 at Page 530 of the Bristol Land Records.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to and benefited by the following restrictive covenants, which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantees herein and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns:

- 1. Use Permitted.** Each lot conveyed shall contain only one private residential dwelling with attached or detached garage building. There shall be no commercial use of the property in any fashion.
- 2. Structure Size.** Each dwelling shall contain not less than 1000 square feet of living space, exclusive of any unfinished porches, basement or garage.
- 3. Other Structures.** No trailer, tent, shack, basement, garage, barn or other outbuilding shall at any time be used as a residence, either temporarily or permanently.
- 4. Livestock.** Only domestic animals may be maintained, provided that they are not bred, kept, or maintained for any commercial purpose, including a kennel of any type.
- 5. Architectural and Site Approval.** All site plans and exterior house plans shall be submitted to, filed with and approved in writing by Grantor, his heirs and assigns, before construction of any house. Approval shall not be unreasonable [sic] withheld and shall be approved or disapproved within 15 days.
- 6. Completion Date.** All structures approved shall be completed within one year from the start of construction.
- 7. Unlicensed Vehicles.** Unlicensed or unregistered vehicles shall not be kept in the development.
- 8. Local Regulations.** In the event a question arises regarding any differences between those covenants and the Town of Bristol ordinances, then the Town of Bristol ordinances shall take preference.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are a portion of the same lands and premises conveyed to Terrence E. Thomas by Warranty Deed of William H. Cardell and Lura M. Cardell, dated October 31, 1979 and recorded in Volume 50 at Page 45 of the Bristol Land Records.

Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed of Terrence E. Thomas to the Terrence E. Thomas Revocable Trust, dated May 7, 1992 and recorded in Volume 72 at Page 225 of the Bristol Land Records.

Reference is hereby made to the above mentioned instruments, the records thereof, the references therein made, and their respective records and references in aid of this description.

Terms of Sale. The Property shall be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS", to the highest bidder for cash or wire funds only. The sale of the property is subject to confirmation by the Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit. The Property is sold subject to unpaid taxes, municipal assessments, and superior liens, if any. 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.

Mortgage Property Deposit. \$5,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of auction, with the balance due at closing. The balance of the purchase price for the Property shall be due and payable within the latter of 10 days from the date of confirmation of said sale by the Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit, or 45 days from the date of public auction. If the balance of the purchase price is not paid within the period set forth herein, the deposit shall be forfeited and shall be retained by the Plaintiff herein as agreed liquidation damages and the Property may be offered to the next highest bidder still interested in the Property.

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the Property 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 the sale or inquire at Korde & Associates, P.C. at (802) 393-4184.

Dated: November 17, 2025

/S/ Daniel Young, Esq.  
Daniel Young, Esq.  
Attorney for Plaintiff

# Middlebury police arrest Bristol resident

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Jason Cousino, 34, of Bristol for three counts of violating his conditions of release and for interference with access to emergency services. The citations followed an investigation at a Seymour Street location on Nov. 17.

Middlebury police were assisted at the scene by the Vermont State Police.

Cousino was held at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for lack of bail pending a

Nov. 18 arraignment.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Were informed of the theft of two pumpkins from the porch of an East Main Street home on Nov. 17.

- Responded to a juvenile issue at Middlebury Union Middle School on Nov. 17.

- Investigated a report of vandalism outside a Main Street business on Nov. 17.

- Served a no-trespass notice on Nov. 17 on a person unwanted at a Perkins Lane property.

- Cited Jason Vaught, 28, of Middlebury for suspicion of driving under the influence, following an investigation in the Cobble Road area on Nov. 18.

- Served a no-trespass order on Nov. 18 on a person who wasn't wanted at a Seymour Street property.

- Were informed of a fox sighting on Main Street at around 1:15 p.m. on Nov. 18.

- Responded to a car-versus-deer animal accident on Halladay Road on Nov. 19.

- Tried in vain to find a man who had allegedly been seen drinking alcohol in the Shaw's Supermarket parking lot on Nov. 19.

- Responded to an alleged student-related alcohol offense at MUMS on Nov. 19.

- Helped an intoxicated man get back into his Main Street home on Nov. 19.

- Received a junk ordinance-related complaint about a North Pleasant Street home on Nov. 19.

- Euthanized an injured deer near the intersection of Route 7 and Foote Street on Nov. 20.

- Received a complaint about the alleged abuse of an animal in the Jayne Court neighborhood on Nov. 20.

- Responded to a two-vehicle crash, with no reported injuries, on Cobble Road on Nov. 21.

- Responded to a report of a person attempting suicide on the railroad tracks off Seymour Street on Nov. 21. Police said the person was taken to Porter Hospital for support.

- Helped MREMS on a medical call to the Morse Road area on Nov. 21.

- Received a report about harassing phone calls placed to Middlebury Union High School on Nov. 21.

- Helped Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS) on a call to the Painter Hills Road area on Nov. 22.

- Returned a wallet to its owner on Nov. 23.

- Helped find two missing dogs in the Munger Street area on Nov. 23.

- Served a no-trespass order on a man who had allegedly been harassing workers at a Court Street business on Nov. 23.

- Assisted a local resident who on Nov. 23 had reported receiving harassing phone calls.

- Helped MREMS on a medical call to the Case Street area on Nov. 23.

## Bristol Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Nov. 14 attempted to stop two ATVs driving on Burpee Road unsafely. Police said the operators failed to stop and continued driving unsafely.

Between Nov. 2 and 15, Bristol police completed 45 foot patrols, conducted five traffic stops, and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 13 times, at Bristol Elementary School 13 times and at local businesses 10 times.

Police also processed 14 fingerprint requests, verified one VIN number, conducted a welfare check, facilitated the return of a debit card and responded to an alarm activation on West Street.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Nov. 2 and Nov. 4 assisted Vermont State Police on Hardscrabble Road.

- On Nov. 4 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a truancy concern.

- On Nov. 5 received a report of a theft on Main Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On Nov. 6 responded to Prince Lane for a report of a stolen bag. Police determined the bag had rolled across the parking lot in a wayward cart, and it was recovered.

- On Nov. 7 received a report of a lost wallet from a resident. Police said the wallet had not been turned in as of last week.

- On Nov. 7 assisted the VSP on Vincent Drive.

- On Nov. 8 received a report of a possibly impaired driver on Main Street. Police located the operator and found no impairment.

- On Nov. 8 assisted state police on Monkton Road.

- On Nov. 8 responded to North Street for a possible trespass. Police learned the person was at the wrong address and that no criminal activity had occurred.

- On Nov. 10 responded to a minor two-car crash at the intersection of Prince Lane and Main Street.

- On Nov. 10 assisted a local business with serving a notice against trespass.

- On Nov. 12 issued a notice against trespass to two people on West Street.

- On Nov. 13 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a juvenile problem.

- On Nov. 14 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a truancy concern.

- On Nov. 14 responded to a minor two-car crash on West Street.
- On Nov. 14 assisted Middlebury police on Charles Drive.

### ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF ADOPTED 2026 RATE CHANGES

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors adopted its 2026 Annual Budget, including the Rate Schedule for Calendar Year 2026, on November 20, 2025. The new rates will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

The rate changes at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury are:

- (1) Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) & Construction/Demo Debris (C&D): \$171/ton;
- (2) Single Stream Recyclables from Commercial Haulers: \$130/ton;
- (3) Passenger Tires – Per Piece Recycling Fee: \$5/each;
- (4) Large Truck Tires – Per Piece Recycling Fee: \$15 each;
- (5) Car & Light Truck up to 20" – Large Quantity by the pound: \$0.13/lb.;
- (6) Asphalt Shingles Recycling (by appt.): \$250/ton;
- (7) Drywall Recycling: \$200/ton;
- (8) Clean Wood, brush, branches, Residential, up to 1 regular pick-up truck or small trailer: \$10/load
- (9) Clean Wood, brush, branches, Large Loads or Business: \$100/ton;
- (10) Fluorescent Light Bulbs – Straight Tubes to 4ft.: No Charge (or \$0.50/ea<sup>3</sup>);
- (11) Fluorescent Light Bulbs – Straight Tubes over 4ft.: No Charge (or \$1.00/ea<sup>3</sup>);
- (12) Fluorescent Light Bulbs – HID/HIS Lamps: No Charge (or \$1.50/ea<sup>3</sup>);
- (13) Fluorescent Light Bulbs – UV, Neon or other Specialty Lamps: \$2.75/ea;
- (14) Oil Filters (Business) Individual filters: \$1.00/ea;
- (15) Oil Filters (Business) 5-gallon pail full: \$15/5-gal. bucket;
- (16) Asbestos, Non-Friable (packaging requirements apply): \$300/ton

For a copy of the 2025 Annual Report and / or CY2026 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or e-mail the office at [acswmd@acswmd.org](mailto:acswmd@acswmd.org). Both are also available on the District's website at [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).

<sup>3</sup>VT Mercury Lamp Law – No charge for general purpose lamps if 10 or </ per day

### WARNING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. DECEMBER 09, 2025

The legal voters of VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. are hereby notified and warned to meet at the V.P.W.D. business office building on 63 School Street in the City of Vergennes in said District, on the 9th day of December, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in person to transact the following business to wit:

**ARTICLE I:** To elect by ballot the following officers:

- (a) a moderator
- (b) a clerk
- (c) a treasurer

**ARTICLE II:** To hear and act upon the reports from the officers of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC.

**ARTICLE III:** To have presented by the Board of Commissioners of the VERGENNES- PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. their estimate of expenses for the ensuing year and to appropriate such sum as it, the VERGENNES- PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. deems necessary for said expenses together with the amount required to pay the balance, if any, left unpaid expressing said sum in dollars in its vote.

**ARTICLE IV:** To establish salaries for the Commissioners and other elected officers of the Water District.

**ARTICLE V:** To see whether the voters of said Water District will authorize its Board to borrow money pending receipt of water rents, by issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one(1) year to date.

**ARTICLE VI:** To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

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

### TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARINGS

The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 6PM. The hearings will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website ([ferrisburghvt.org](http://ferrisburghvt.org)) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

**Application Number 25-111:** (continued) 4-lot residential Planned Unit Development; Applicant: Anthony Handy / Iceberg LLC; 192 Bird Haven Lane; Parcel ID number 05/01/42.1; Conservation District (CON-25), Rural Agricultural District (RA-5), & Rural Residential District (RR-2); Preliminary Plat Review.

**Note: The Planning Commission will conduct a site visit for the Iceberg application at 3pm on Wednesday, December 3. Contact Zoning Administrator for details.**

**Application Number 25-117:** 2-lot subdivision; Applicant: Sam Cutting / Green Mountain Direct LLC; 5797 US Route 7 (Dakin Farm) and land across Route 7 from 5797 US Route 7; Parcel ID number 05/02/09; Rural Agricultural District (RA-5), Rural Residential District (RR-2), and Conservation District (CON-25); Sketch Plan Review.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to [zoning@ferrisburghvt.org](mailto:zoning@ferrisburghvt.org).

**Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.**



# ARTS & RECREATION

The Addison Independent

November 27, 2025



## MIDDLEBURY ACTING COMPANY LOCKS IN A NEW YULETIDE TRADITION

Andrew Cassel will perform as the Spirit of Christmas Present in Middlebury Acting Company's upcoming production of "A Christmas Carol." Middlebury Acting Company plans to make this a biennial tradition.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

In 1843, author Charles Dickens became so troubled by the plight of England's poor that he considered publishing a pamphlet. A pamphlet!! What can save the world better than ... a pamphlet?

Lucky for us, Dickens suddenly got a better idea. He wrote his story "A Christmas Carol," about a wealthy London miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, who has a startling spiritual awakening, and changes his mind and heart about Christmas and everything



### theater preview

BY **DAVID WEINSTOCK**

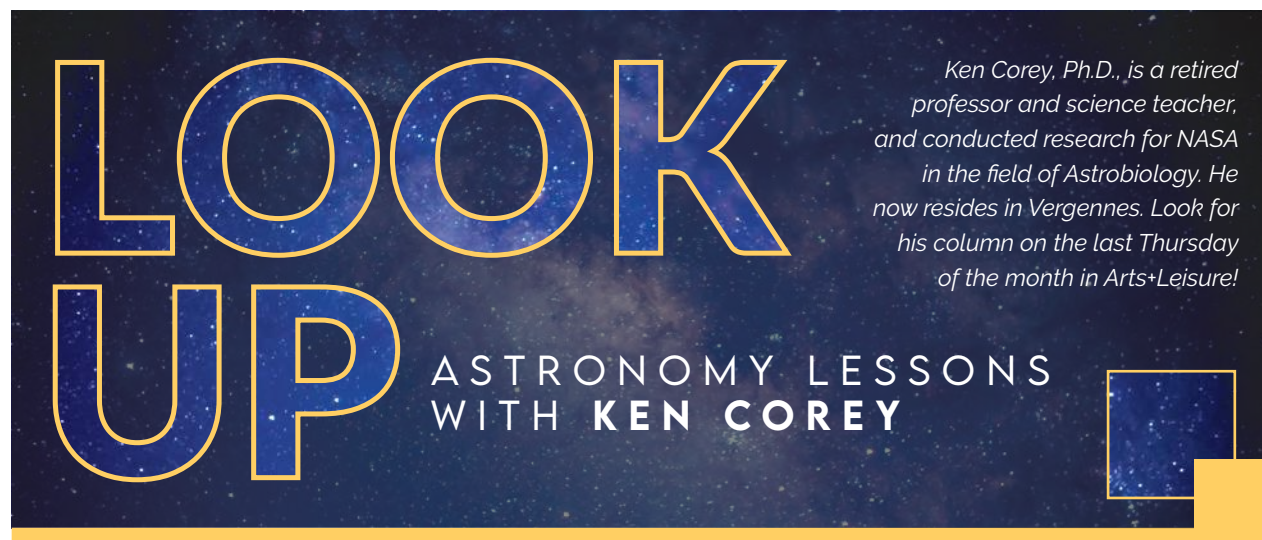
else. Scrooge's overnight journey from "Bah, humbug!" to "God bless us, every one!" continues to enchant and to teach.

Local audiences will get a chance to revisit that journey when the Middlebury Acting Company stages the Dickens classic at Town Hall Theater during the first two weekends of December.

And today, of course, the story matters as much as ever. Should hard-working farm workers be deported? Should the government cut off food stamps to the poor? Actor Andrew Cassel, who appears in several roles in the MACo edition of the play, including the ghost

SEE CAROL ON PAGE 3





## Jovian Gems and Galileo: A look at Jupiter and Saturn

Seeing Jupiter and Saturn rising higher and higher in our evening skies reminded me of the time when I first observed the Galilean moons of Jupiter and the awe-inspiring rings of Saturn. Bright star-like objects were now disks showing banding patterns. And there were tiny points of light all in a line near the disk of Jupiter. Those images were seen through a 2.4-inch Unitron refracting telescope purchased with money earned from delivering newspapers. At the age of 10, those images, indelibly imprinted, were enough to ignite a lifelong interest in Astronomy, which has slowly evolved to become a passion. Today's column will feature the two beautiful and largest gas giant planets in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn.

### HISTORICAL

The five planets visible to the naked eye were named by the ancient Romans. Jupiter was named after the king of the Roman gods, and Saturn, father of Jupiter, was named after the Roman god of agriculture and time. They are the largest two planets in the solar system and have been observed since ancient times because of their brightness and wandering paths among the stars.

Galileo Galilei, in January of 1610, pointed his primitive little refracting telescope at Jupiter

and noticed four points of light moving across the disk of the planet, disappearing behind the planet, and then reappearing. Those points of light we now call the Galilean moons Ganymede, Europa, Callisto, and Io, all lovers of the Roman god Jupiter. The significance of his observations of the moons of Jupiter was that they were like a mini solar system with Jupiter at its center. Analogously, the planets move in orbits around the Sun as a center. Planet Earth had been ousted from its central position. Heresy! It was Nicholas Copernicus who published his revolutionary treatise on the heliocentric model in a book titled "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" (1543). His ideas had already been shared with other Astronomers decades earlier. Copernicus had a good relationship with church prelates, and he dedicated the book to Pope Paul III. It was decades later that the church condemned the book due to public pressure.

Galileo's discovery was confirmatory evidence for the heliocentric model. However, his adherence to that model contradicted the belief in the geocentric model long held by the church. His work and beliefs in the Copernican model were heresy to the Catholic church and Galileo was tried, made to publicly recant his views, and then sentenced to stay under house arrest (1633) until his death in 1642. In 1992 under Pope John Paul II, the Vatican made a formal acknowledgement that Galileo was mistreated by the church.

### FORMATION AND FEATURES

At the center of a dense, swirling, and contracting cloud of gas and dust, a protostar formed. When the temperature and pressure were high enough to support nuclear fusion, the Sun was born and shone brightly from the energy released during nuclear fusion. The planets formed from collisions and accretion of countless rocky and icy bodies that ultimately led to the formation of the solar system. After about 10 million years, solid cores of rock and ice formed in the outer, colder part of the solar system. When the cores reached a critical mass, they began accumulating huge amounts of hydrogen and helium gases from the

surrounding nebula, thus becoming gas giants. Captured by the large gravitational pull of the gas giants were many other rocky, icy bodies that became part of a system of moons. Jupiter is now known to have at least 95 moons and Saturn 274 confirmed moons!

Both planets have ring systems and magnetic fields that produce aurorae, though Saturn reigns supreme with those features. Saturn's ring system consists of seven main rings lettered A through G (not in order), thousands of ringlets, and a gap between the A and B rings discovered and named after the Italian astronomer Giovanni Cassini. The rings are comprised of billions of pieces of predominantly water ice that range in size from dust and grain size to house size. In the thin F ring, there are actually "shepherd moons" that provide a gravitational nudge to objects and which keeps the ring in place.

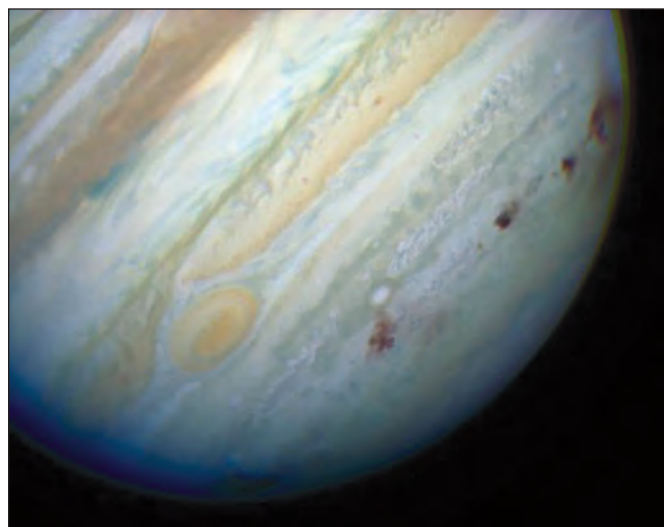
Formation of ring systems are likely caused by collisions and shattering of moons by other moons, comets, and asteroids. Another possible mechanism is that the tidal forces from Saturn's gravity tore the moon apart as its orbit decayed and it spiraled toward the planet's surface. Jupiter's rings are faint and comprised mainly of dust. A distinctive feature on Jupiter is a massive storm called the Great Red Spot, a storm that has been raging for centuries, is almost twice the size of the Earth, and may have wind speeds up to 400 mph (wind speeds of category 5 hurricanes are 157 mph or higher).

The many moons of Jupiter and Saturn show a broad range of unique characteristics. NASA's Europa Clipper mission — launched in 2024 and due to arrive in 2030 — will seek evidence for a water ocean beneath the crust. It will sample and analyze the surface shell and the subsurface ocean for their chemical compositions and evaluate whether there might be conditions suitable for life. Another candidate for the existence of life is Saturn's moon Titan, which is shrouded in a haze and covered with liquid methane lakes.

The Voyager I and II robotic probes launched in 1977 did a grand tour of the gas giants including Uranus and Neptune. The craft used planets as gravitational slingshots to the next planet (imagine the physics and math behind that feat). This grand tour produced a treasure trove of information and the Voyager's even carry a 90-minute gold-plated record with music, languages, and images of Earth's cultures to any would be encounters with advanced extraterrestrial beings. The Voyagers are now travelling through interstellar space and are still transmitting data.

In 1994, a historic first came when Comet Shoemaker-Levey 9 approached Jupiter and broke up into 21 main pieces from the

SEE LOOK UP ON PAGE 11



Hubble image showing Jupiter with multiple impacts from the fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levey in 1994.

CREDIT / HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE COMET TEAM AND NASA





## SHOW DETAILS

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from Charles Dickens by Gary Smith & Mary Adams-Smith  
Directed by Gary Smith and Melissa Lourie

Eight performances at Town Hall Theater,  
68 South Pleasant St., Middlebury

**Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.**

**Thursday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.**

**Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.**



Andrew Cassel (right) shows Scrooge Jordan Gullikson (left) how rich his life is during Middlebury Acting Company's rehearsal at the Weybridge Elementary School on a recent Sunday evening.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

## CAROL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Scrooge's late partner Jacob Marley, hopes the audience will see Scrooge in modern terms.

"He is capitalism — all the things that are the worst parts of capitalism — greed, selfishness, bigotry," Cassel said. "And he goes through the journey of confronting what that means. The play reminds us to take the time to think about it, wanting to encourage others to be generous."

From its founding, Middlebury Acting Company has been respected for constantly finding new plays, staging original work and moving on to more. But after first staging Gary Smith and Mary Adams-Smith's unusual version of "A Christmas Carol" in 2021, MACo decided to repeat the production in 2023, and now expects to make it a regular biennial event.

The 2025 series opens next week for eight performances pm THT's main stage in Middlebury. Ticket pricing is flexible, pay what you wish. And as a special treat, singers from local a cappella chorus Maiden Vermont will appear on the THT front steps before several performances.

For tickets and information, call 802-382-9222 or go to [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).



**MIDDLEBURY  
PERFORMING ARTS  
SERIES**



**ISAIAH J. THOMPSON JAZZ TRIO  
"A GUARALDI HOLIDAY"  
WEDNESDAY, 12/3 • 7:30 PM**

\$30/20/10/5  
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# UPCOMING MUSIC

## Jazz pianist Isaiah J. Thompson debuts in Middlebury with a swinging holiday concert

Rising star jazz pianist Isaiah J. Thompson will make his Mahaney Arts Center debut on Wednesday, Dec. 3 with a delightful holiday treat. His concert "A Guaraldi Holiday" is a spirit-lifting tribute to the eclectic music of Vince Guaraldi, the composer who introduced generations to jazz with his iconic Charlie Brown TV special scores. For many families, those music-filled shows turned into annual traditions, and for Thompson, they helped inspire the beginnings of a fast-rising career.

"Vince Guaraldi was an amazing jazz musician, and it was such a phenomenon that he was able to influence generations of people to hear jazz," Isaiah Thompson was quoted in *UK Jazz News*. "People say, 'Oh, I don't like jazz' — but they love Charlie Brown. And if you like Charlie Brown, you probably do like jazz!"

For this concert, Thompson will play alongside drummer Matthew Lee and bassist Sebastian Rios. Presented by the Middlebury Performing Arts Series.

SEE PIANO ON PAGE 15



Jazz pianist Isaiah Thompson will play "A Guaraldi Holiday" program with his trio at the Mahaney Arts Center on Wednesday, Dec. 3.

PHOTO / EVELYN ZFREJA

## MORE TUNES

### SWING INTO THE HOLIDAYS WITH TED PERRY, DEC. 7

Celebrate the season in style at Town Hall Theater's new Anderson Studio, overlooking the river, with a holiday jazz concert featuring The Ted Perry Trio and special guest Ryan Montbleau on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Arrive early for happy hour beginning at 4:30 p.m., in Jean's Place Lounge.

The Ted Perry Trio Holiday Show invites audiences to enjoy classic holiday favorites alongside heartfelt, genre-blending tunes that highlight both Perry's

SEE TRIO ON PAGE 14

### SOUND INVESTMENT JAZZ ENSEMBLE TO PLAY DEC. 2, SINGERS FEATURED DEC. 6

Middlebury's own **Sound Investment Jazz Ensemble** will perform a free concert on Dec. 2, from 7:30-8:45 p.m., in the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall in Middlebury. The college band will play a broad range of jazz and jazz-adjacent music, from the 1930s to the present day. Free and open to all.

BTW, there is also a **vocal concert** coming up Saturday, Dec. 6, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Robison Concert Hall that's free and open to the public, too. Voice students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck cap off a semester of study with a lively program of classical and Broadway repertoire.

Both concerts will also be streamed online at [youtube.com/@robisonhall](https://youtube.com/@robisonhall).

# VERGENNES HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>  
9:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Over 70 Vendors**

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# ART ON EXHIBIT

## HOLIDAY SHOWCASE AT JOHNSON

Support the Fall 2025 Studio Art & Architecture students at a reception on Friday, Dec. 5, from 4-6 p.m. Come enjoy refreshments and lite bites while viewing student artwork and architecture projects in Johnson, classroom 204, 78 Chateau Road in Middlebury. Free and open to the public.

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956.

"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](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto: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](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Shadow, Light, and In Between." Thomas Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works in this new exhibit. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. On view Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026.

## MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit [middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions](http://middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions)

### "Eighteenth-Century Room from Paris to Vermont."

The exhibition follows the journey of "Le Petit Salon" from Paris to Middlebury via Manhattan, where for 50 years it formed part of the decor of the Bliss family's Gilded Age mansion. At Middlebury, the Petit Salon became part of Le Château, the college's French language dorm, itself a fanciful recreation of a 16th-century Norman manoir. The exhibition incorporates 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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 16



**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Your energy is contagious this week, Aries. Expect bursts of creativity and spontaneous fun to ensue. Perhaps an unexpected adventure will pop up? Take the lead in social situations.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. It might be a week for indulgence in the best ways possible, Taurus. Treat yourself to something delicious or cozy, and don't feel guilty about it. Patience will pay off in work projects.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Curiosity is your superpower this week, Gemini. Choose a new hobby or explore a class at the community college. You might discover hidden talents or interests.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, this is your week to shine emotionally. Reach out to friends or family who you haven't spoken with in a while. Small acts of kindness can come back to you in surprising ways.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. It's time to hear that roar, Leo. Your charisma is unstoppable right now and you're ready to step into the spotlight. Share your ideas and achievements with anyone who will listen.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Your knack for organization is a ticket to smooth sailing this week, Virgo. A little planning goes a long way right now. However, don't forget to add some fun, too.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. This week you may find yourself effortlessly charming all of those people around you, Libra. Social events or collaborations may be particularly festive.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, this week brings opportunities to dive in deep with something you are passionate about. Your intensity attracts attention, so embrace your magnetic personality.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. Whether it's a small trip over the weekend or a new hobby, your week is packed with excitement and energy. Your optimism is contagious.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Determination and hard work this week will have personal or work projects moving along faster than expected. Remember to reward yourself along the way.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, innovation is on your mind right now. Ideas and originality shine through in all you do. Expect some playful debates or

spontaneous collaborations.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. It is alright to let your imagination run wild this week, Pisces. Creativity flows easily, and your intuition can guide you to some unexpected things along the way.

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Christmas Day 12/25 - Closed  
New Year's Eve 12/31 - 10-3pm  
New Year's Day 1/1 - Closed

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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 29 — Billy Strayhorn, Jazz musician (d)  
NOV. 30 — Gordon Parks, photographer (d)  
DEC. 1 — Zoë Kravitz, actor (37)

DEC. 2 — Gianni Versace, designer (d)  
DEC. 3 — Joseph Conrad, writer (d)  
DEC. 4 — Fred Armisen, comedian (59)  
DEC. 5 — Joan Didion, Writer (91)



# CALENDAR

NOV. 26-DEC. 11  
2025



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](http://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](http://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 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](http://ocmvermont.org/events/youth-opera-cabaret-on-46th-1), [production@ocmvermont.org](mailto: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](mailto:dwight.griesman@gmail.com) to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://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](http://middlebury.edu/college/box-office).

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

**POETRY AND MUSIC IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 4, noon-12:45 p.m., Unity Hall, Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone will read her work, accompanied by Ronnie Romano on piano, in this quiet and reflective midday program celebrating themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Free. All are welcome.

**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](http://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.

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](http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org), for c in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many p online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3067.

**Channel 1071**  
Through the Night and in-between: Vermont Media Exchange, Bulletin Board  
**Friday, November 28**  
6:30 a.m. Democracy Now  
7:30 a.m. Congregational Service  
10 a.m. Selectboard  
5 p.m. Democracy Now  
6 p.m. Addiction Recovery Channel  
7:30 p.m. Yestermorrow - Making Home Ownership Work  
**Saturday, November 29**  
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  
8:30 p.m. Home Ownership  
**Sunday, November 30**  
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  
7:30 p.m. Addiction Recovery  
11 p.m. Democracy Now  
**Monday, December 1**  
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, December 2**  
5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ  
6 a.m. Democracy Now  
7 a.m. Addiction Recovery  
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  
**Wednesday, December 3**  
5 a.m. Addiction Recovery  
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  
10 p.m. Celebrate Life - Rik Palieri  
**Thursday, December 4**  
5 a.m. Democracy Now  
8 a.m. Congregational Service  
12 p.m. Selectboard  
5 p.m. Democracy Now  
6 p.m. Addiction Recovery  
9:30 p.m. Eckankar  
10 p.m. The Talk  
**Channel 1091**  
**Friday, November 28**  
5 a.m. Tai Chi  
5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
6 a.m. Yoga for Kids  
7 a.m. Take a Swipe at the Future  
8 a.m. Deborah Lee Luskin  
8:45 a.m. St J Town Band  
11 a.m. School Boards  
5 p.m. Me2 Burlington Orchestra  
6:15 p.m. Green Mtn Iron Dog  
**Saturday, November 29**  
5:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
6 a.m. Chair Yoga

6:45 a.m. Yoga for Kids  
7 a.m. Kim's Art Show  
7:30 a.m. School Boards  
3 p.m. Iron Dog  
3:30 p.m. Kim's Art Show  
4 p.m. Foltz Studio  
5:15 p.m. Deborah Lee Luskin  
6:30 p.m. Me2 Burlington Orchestra  
8 p.m. The Feather Detective  
9 p.m. 2050-VT  
**Sunday, November 30**  
5:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
6 a.m. Yoga & Yoga for Kids  
7 a.m. Kim's Art Show  
1 p.m. School Boards  
5:30 p.m. Iron Dog  
6 p.m. Foltz Studio  
7:00 p.m. 2050-VT  
8 p.m. Deborah Lee Luskin  
8:45 p.m. Me2 Burlington Orchestra  
**Monday, December 1**  
5:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
6 a.m. Chair Yoga  
7:30 a.m. School Boards  
2:30 p.m. Yoga for Kids  
3 p.m. Foltz Studio

4 p.m. Kim's Art Show  
4:30 p.m. St J Town Band  
6:30 p.m. ACSO Board  
**Tuesday, December 2**  
5:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
6 a.m. Yoga  
7 a.m. School Boards  
1 p.m. 2050-VT  
2 p.m. Me2 Burlington Orche  
5 p.m. Deborah Lee Luskin  
6 p.m. St J Town Band  
**Wednesday, December 3**  
5 a.m. Tai Chi  
5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
8 a.m. School Boards  
4 p.m. Kim's Art Show  
4:30 p.m. Foltz Studio  
5:30 p.m. 2050-VT  
6:30 p.m. Local Sports  
9 p.m. St J Town Band  
**Thursday, December 4**  
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



# TOP PICK

## TRY NEEDLEFELTING ON MONDAY, DEC. 1, AT A WORKSHOP IN SHOREHAM

led by local fiber artist Wendy Ann Durkee. Come make your own needle-felted snow person! Best for adults and teen-crafters.



### 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](http://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 [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.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](http://addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol). Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email [melissa@middleburyactors.org](mailto: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.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 6

### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB NEW MEMBER HIKE/ SNOWSHOE IN RIPTON.

Saturday, Dec. 6. A morning Water Tower Trail hike on rolling terrain at an easy pace with snowshoes or micro-spikes, covering a few miles of the Ripton lowlands. Well-behaved dogs welcome on leash. More info at 908-595-2926, [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

### PANTON ART LEAGUE HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SALE IN PANTON.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Panton Town Hall, 3176 Jersey Street. Eleven local artists and artisans offer handmade work including paintings, collages, monoprints, bleach-painted T-shirts, jewelry, felted bags and pillows, pottery, whimsical painted gourds and more. All are welcome. More info at [woodbrooks@gmail.com](mailto:woodbrooks@gmail.com), 802-377-5252.

### HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM HOLIDAY OPEN

**HOUSE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual Holiday Open House with live holiday music, a decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, the Trains exhibit for all ages and seasonal crafting in the Makerspace. Free. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

### "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.

### BROADWAY DIRECT 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW IN VERGENNES.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. See Dec. 5 listing.

### COMBUSTOMATICS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 886 Route 7. Rosie's Restaurant hosts live music with CombustOMatics as part of its December live music series.

### "AM AHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS" IN BRANDON.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. The Downtown Brandon Alliance, in partnership with Opera Vermont, presents two performances of this holiday opera. Free.

### "THE JOURNEY OF THE SAINT BY CÉSAR DE MARÍA" PLAY AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 7

### "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.

### TED PERRY HOLIDAY TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The Ted Perry Trio presents a special holiday jazz performance with guest vocalist Ryan Montbleau, performing classic holiday songs and other heartwarming tunes.

\$30 standard; \$40 generous. Tickets at [addisonarts.org/event/ted-perry-trio-holiday-show](http://addisonarts.org/event/ted-perry-trio-holiday-show).

## TUESDAY, DEC. 9

### "ON EGGS-HIBIT"

**OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Dec. 9, 3 p.m., Davis Family Library, Middlebury College, 110 Storrs Ave. Curated by Lief Temple, Middlebury '25.5, this exhibit features author and poet Nancy Willard's collection of wooden eggs signed by Bread Loaf attendees during the 1980s and 1990s. Each egg is paired with a corresponding literary work.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

### FOUR CALLING BIRDS IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy drinks and music by the fire as Four Calling Birds sing acoustic, folksy winter tunes and favorite Christmas carols with rich vocal harmonies. Guests are welcome to sing along. More info at [thetillermanvt.com](http://thetillermanvt.com).

## THURSDAY, DEC. 11

### POETRY AND MUSIC IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Dec. 11, noon-12:45 p.m., Unity Hall, Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Senior pastor and poet Andrew Nagy-Benson will read his work, accompanied by Ronnie Romano on piano, in this quiet and reflective midday program celebrating the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love. Free. All are welcome.

### ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Dec. 11, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Lynette Combs of Montpelier will

play seasonal music of Bach, Berlioz and the mid-20th century composer Hugo Distler. Free.

### CLASSIC FILM CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, Main Street. Screening of "The Thomas Crown Affair" starring Faye Dunaway, followed by discussion. Free. Popcorn provided.

### "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 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](http://addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol). Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email [melissa@middleburyactors.org](mailto:melissa@middleburyactors.org).

### "THE ROOMMATE" IN BRISTOL.

Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, presents this Broadway comedy. Open seating; all tickets \$10, cash or check only. Reservations are not required, but to be added to a reservation list call 802-377-3540. More info: [middleburycommunityplayers.org](http://middleburycommunityplayers.org).

## SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!

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All Menu Items  
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12/4 and 12/11**

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# Midd Night

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**OVER 40 MERCHANTS**  
will be offering extended evening shopping,  
special deals and promotions from 5-8p.m.  
on **Thursday, Dec. 4 and 11.**


Be Very Merry with the help of holiday lights  
on the falls, lit-up SD Ireland and  
VTrans snow plow trucks,  
hot cocoa hut, holiday  
discounts, pop-up vendors,  
artisan market and  
free gift wrapping!



Find updated info  
**EXPER**

**december 4  
stroll with the  
midd kids**

or shop our website  
between noon and midnight and use  
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**Holiday Cheer, Exclusive Offers,  
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# Stroll

## DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY VISIT THESE SHOPS ON DEC. 4<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup>

A tree-lighting ceremony will be held at Triangle Park on Dec. 4, at 6 p.m.

**MIDDLETON**  
66 Main St  
middletonvermont.com

**MORGAN'S TAVERN**  
14 Court Sq  
middleburyinn.com/home/  
morgans-tavern

**MR UPS**  
25 Bakery Ln  
misterupsvt.com

**MY KIM NAIL**  
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Facebook@MyKimNail

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**OTTER CREEK CUSTOM FRAMING**  
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Thank you for supporting these & other Middlebury businesses during the holiday season & all year long!

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**SWEET CECILY**  
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sweetcecily.com

**TASTE OF INDIA**  
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tasteofindiavt.com

**THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP (FORTH N GOAL)**  
68 Main St  
middleburyshop.com

**THE STONE MILL MARKET**  
3 Mill St  
stonemillvt.com

**THE VERMONT BOOK SHOP**  
38 Main St  
vermontbookshop.com

**TINKER AND SMITHY**  
72 Main St  
tinkerandsmithy.square.site

**TOAD HALL FLOWERS**  
228 Maple St  
toadhallvt.com

**TWO BROTHERS TAVERN**  
86 Main St  
twobrotherstavern.com

**VERMONT COOKIE LOVE**  
40 Main Street  
vermontcookielove.com

**VERMONT'S OWN GIFTS AND GOODS**  
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vermontsowngiftsandgoods.com

*Midd Kid Night on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>*

Thank you Middlebury College, for providing students with Middlebury Money and investing in Middlebury businesses!

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about the strolls and other Very Merry Middlebury happenings at  
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**December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Midd Students**  
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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

1. Popular wine \_\_  
Spumante  
5. Greatly impressed  
11. \_\_ and that  
12. Uttered with  
passion  
16. Boats  
17. Veteran actor  
Harris  
18. Casserole with  
game  
19. Reprehensible  
acts  
24. They precede C  
25. Says under one's  
breath  
26. Taxis  
27. It transfers genetic  
info  
28. NFL great Randy  
29. Where college  
students sleep

30. Major European  
river  
31. Taco condiment  
33. -frutti  
34. Polish city  
38. Astronomy unit  
39. Khoikhoi peoples  
40. Bears QB Williams  
43. Scrambled, fried,  
boiled  
44. Price indicators  
45. One-time world  
power  
49. When you hope  
to get somewhere  
50. Farm building  
51. Choose carefully  
53. Magnum was one  
54. One who  
combines  
56. Nursemaids  
58. Partner to Pa  
59. Notable river

60. Officially honors  
63. Colorless  
compound  
64. A fancy chair  
65. Email function
- DOWN
1. The central area in  
a building  
2. Religion of Japan  
3. Leggings  
4. Officially  
distributes  
5. Arabian Sea  
seaport  
6. Spanish doctors  
7. It cools your house  
8. Currency of  
Poland  
9. Slowly moves into  
10. Days (Spanish)  
13. Unit of volume  
14. Emit

1	2	3	4				5	6	7	8	9	10			
11							12						13	14	15
16							17				18				
19				20	21			22	23					24	
25							26						27		
28							29					30			
				31	32						33				
34	35	36	37						38						
39							40	41	42						
43							44					45	46	47	48
49					50						51	52			
53					54					55					
56					57				58				59		
60						61	62						63		
				64								65			

4							1	
6	5			3				9
	2					4		
					6		2	5
1	9		7					
		6		2	3	5		
		7	8		9			
	8				5	3		

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

15. With two replaceable hydrogens  
20. Title for a man  
21. Equally  
22. Scarlett's home  
23. One-time tech titan  
27. Subway dwellers  
29. One-tenth of a liter  
30. Central European river  
31. Distress signal  
32. Expression of sympathy  
33. The bill in a restaurant  
34. Football equipment  
35. Dance music  
36. Russian river  
37. Cosmetics giant Mary \_\_  
38. Gym class  
40. Automobiles  
41. Roman honorific  
42. Losses in sports  
44. Skin tone in summer  
45. Distant planet  
46. Critical humor  
47. Illegally obtained  
48. Go back over  
50. Home appliance brand  
51. Unit of radioactivity  
52. Home of the Flyers  
54. Short official note  
55. Emit coherent radiation  
57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)  
61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)  
62. Toward

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

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Happy Thanksgiving from Sparrow!



# COMMUNITY DANCE EVENTS



SCAN FOR  
THE FULL  
SCHEDULE

E V E N T S

## Dance students showcase their work

There are several opportunities to check out what the dance students at Middlebury College have been working on this semester. All these events are open to the public, and will be held in the Mahaney Arts Center, Dance Theater.

### TECHNIQUE AND COMPOSITION

Join Laurel Jenkins' Technique and Composition DANC0260 for an informal sharing of student choreography on Monday, Dec. 1, 5-6 p.m. Musical accompaniment by Ron Rost and Deborah Felmeth and lighting design by Bert Crosby. Free.

### IMPROVISATIONAL PRACTICES

This informal showing on Tuesday, Dec.

2, 5-6 p.m., demonstrates the research of Improvisational Practiced DANC0261 led by Professor Lida Winfield and musicians Ron Rost and Deborah Felmeth. Lighting will be improvised by Bert Crosby. Free.

### FALL DANCE CONCERT "WITH THE ENERGY OF SPRING"

The Fall Dance Concert will showcase original student choreography by Gabrielle Anchondo, Odette Castillo-Pinto, Evelyn Rodriguez, and Lief Temple, with a new piece by Artist-in-Residence Daniel Miramontes. See this performance on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets are \$15/\$10/\$8/\$5. Email [boxoffice@middlebury.edu](mailto:boxoffice@middlebury.edu) or call 802-443-6433 to reserve tickets or for more info.

## LOOK UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

gravitational forces. It was the first collision of an object with another solar system body

observed outside of the bounds of Earth (see image). Today, in the search for exoplanets, astronomers have found hundreds of gas giants, some of them hot and with masses comparable to or greater than that of Jupiter.

In December, Jupiter can be seen shining brightly in the eastern evening sky through midnight and then shifts toward the west in the morning sky. Saturn can be seen in the southern evening sky and is in the west around midnight.

### SKY WATCH EVENTS

Continue to check in for auroral sightings as the sun is still very active and may expel more coronal mass ejections. Look up!

The interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS will be visible in December, but a telescope with a 6- to 8- inch diameter mirror or lens or long, time exposures with smaller equipment will be needed to see it. It recently broke up into a couple large fragments and several

small ones as it approached the Sun and its deep gravitational well.

**Dec 3** – The Moon passes through the Pleiades star cluster.

**Dec 4** – The Geminids meteor shower begins and is expected to produce up to 150 meteors/hour and will peak on the 14th when there is only a crescent moon's light to interfere with observing. It is worth bundling up and watching for a half hour on clear nights. The radiant is in Gemini which contains the two bright stars Castor and Pollux and is located northeast and adjacent to the prominent constellation Orion.

**Dec 4** – Super Full Moon variously called Cold Moon, Long Night Moon, and Snow Moon. For the second month in a row, this moon will be a Super Moon, so named as it is a closer perigee than other full moons. Super moons can appear 30% brighter and 14% larger than other full moons.

**Dec 7** – Close grouping of Moon, Jupiter, and the star Pollux in Gemini.

**Dec 14** – Peak of Geminids

**Dec 19** – New Moon – bundle up, get out, and look up.

**Dec 21** – Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year (> 15 hrs. in Middlebury).

**Dec 26** – Saturn is close to the waxing crescent moon in the southern sky after dusk.

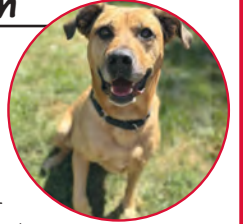
## Pets In Need

### HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

#### Abileen

I'm **Abileen**, a 7-year-old, 64-pound girl with a happy smile! If you're looking for a smart pup, you will be amazed at what I can do. I am an excellent puzzle toy solver and will find ways to play fetch by myself in the yard. I love to learn new things and would like for you to be the one to teach me! I've previously lived with children but need to be in a pet-free home. I'm crate-trained and housebroken. A fenced-in yard is preferred!



#### Manuel



**Manuel** is a gentle little guy who has a thoughtful approach to forming meaningful connections. Manuel would love to go home with a new pig friend to share adventures, though he could possibly be happy on his own as long as he gets plenty of daily love. Once he feels comfortable, he shows his playful side and enjoys exploring his space. Manuel would thrive in a calm, patient home where he can build a strong bond with his humans.

#### Katy



**Katy** was living an indoor/outdoor life before arriving at the shelter. Once she gets comfortable with you, she flops over and gives you her belly. She finds comfort in other cats but avoids dogs. Anyone interested in making her a part of their family should be prepared for her perhaps still wanting access to the outdoors.

#### Maureen



**Maureen** is one lucky lady. She grew up outdoors and was a bit on the feral side. A wonderful woman decided to take her (and her sister) in and start socializing them with the hopes that they could one day be someone's cherished house cat. Well, she succeeded! The last step of their amazing journey is finding an adopter to choose them (ideally together).

#### Moana



**Moana** is ready for her next adventure. She had found a family to call her own, but the other cat in the home did not tolerate her presence. She's a typical calico girl, curious, a bit sassy, and affectionate. She has let us know that she does not appreciate her hind end being touched; she's not in pain, just a personal preference.



**Homeward Bound**  
Addison County's Humane Society



**Want to learn more?**

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!  
802-388-1100 | [HomewardBoundAnimals.org](http://HomewardBoundAnimals.org)  
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT





VT ROUTE 125, BRIDPORT  
\$699,000

# THE LAND

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## Stunning lakeside land on Champlain

Discover the rare opportunity to own 17.25 acres of pristine land nestled along the shores of Lake Champlain in Bridport. This exceptional property boasts 377 feet of private lake frontage, offering breath-taking panoramic views of the Adirondack Mountains and shimmering waters. Perfectly positioned for a future dream-home or retreat, the property features town water and power available at the street, making development convenient and cost-effective. Whether you're envisioning a tranquil getaway, a family compound, or a lakefront estate, this unique parcel offers endless potential. Enjoy serene sunrises, direct lake access, and the beauty of Vermont's natural landscape — all in one extraordinary setting.



*This week's property is managed by Emilo Real Estate. Visit [emilorealestate.com](http://emilorealestate.com), call 802-349-9837 or email [emilovtrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:emilovtrealestate@gmail.com).*





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### Brandon - Great Location, Super Views



Located in a beautiful country setting with stunning mountain and pastoral views. 4.69 acre lot is mostly wooded. 1st floor consists of large living room with brick fireplace, office/den area, dining room with built-in hutch, kitchen, laundry/mudroom, 2 bedrooms, and full bath. 2nd floor consists of hall/office area, full bath, spacious bedroom w/walk-in closet, and attic storage room with large wall fan. Barn/garage offers 2nd floor additional storage. Convenient location near village/schools/golf/lakes. **Great new price - \$395,000.**

[WhittakerRealEstate.com](http://WhittakerRealEstate.com) 802-247-6633

(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)

Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com  
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.

IPJ  
Real  
Estate



### CORNWALL **NEW LISTING!** 1332 CIDER MILL ROAD

MLS #5069213 | MLS #5069212  
7.20 ACRES | \$625,000

This location does not come along often, sited on the east side of Cider Mill road looking towards Middlebury College and the Green Mountain, and just 2.5 miles to downtown. Over 7 acres of land has been opened up to make use of the incredible easterly views! To complete the classic Vermont setting, a barn sits further back on the property adding to the possibilities. The c. 1860 farmhouse (5 bedroom, 2 bath, 2236 square feet) is not currently livable; financing will not be available as a residence. Whether you renovate the existing home with cash, or use this site to create something entirely new, this location holds a lot of potential!



### MIDDLEBURY **NEW LISTING!** 4 WOODBRIDGE LANE

MLS #5070485 | \$275,000  
3 BD | 1 BA | 1122 SF | CONDO

Completely remodeled including systems. New laminate flooring and a gas heat stove in the living area. New cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, and granite countertop in the kitchen. Fresh paint, new carpeting, and an updated bath with marble tile floor and a custom tile tub/shower. A slider leads to a freshly painted back deck. You'll love the basement - clean, dry, spacious, and ready to finish if you'd like. It also houses the newer (2022) natural gas boiler and hot water heater, plus the washer/dryer. Located near Wright Park for excellent walking and biking trails, and just minutes to downtown Middlebury.



**NOW UNDER CONTRACT**

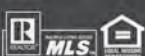
### BRISTOL **NEW LISTING!** 5 PLEASANT STREET

MLS #5070056 | \$475,000 | 4-UNIT  
Multi-family | 3468 SF | 0.35 ACRES

This four-unit apartment building offers steady income. Located near downtown Bristol, each unit features two bedrooms and one full bath. All apartments are currently leased on a month-to-month basis.

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**82 Ossie Road, Middlebury**

This affordable 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath East Middlebury village home with a charming vibe, nice layout, good bones, and many newer systems it is ready for you to bring your vision an make the mostly cosmetic updates that would bring out its full potential. Some new flooring and repair of cat damage needed.

MLS No. 5068676 | \$ 315,000



**204 West River Road, Lincoln**

Tastefully restored, this 3 bedroom, 2 Bath Lincoln village cape has just undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic character through the seamless integration of modern design elements including new kitchen, baths and limestone veneer plaster walls! Come see it in person.

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# Roommates... tell me about it!

**H**ave you ever met someone whose words and experiences move you so completely, that they open up possibilities for your life that you've never imagined? Come visit a small kitchen in Iowa and watch as two strangers change each other's lives!

Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, will present the hit Broadway comedy "The Roommate," by Jen Silverman, Dec. 11-13, at the historic Holley Hall in downtown Bristol.

Sharon, who is recently divorced and lives in Iowa, invites Robyn, a total stranger relocating from New York City, to be her roommate. As the two get

to know each other better, secrets are revealed and they learn more about themselves in the process.

The performances will be held Dec. 11-13, at 7:30 p.m., with an additional 2 p.m. show on Saturday, Dec. 13. Tickets are \$10, cash or check only. Open seating. Reservations are not necessary, but you may reserve a spot by calling 802-377-3540.

Family note: This production may not be suitable for children under 13. It contains adult language and simulated recreational drug use. Parental discretion is advised.

For more info about The Middlebury Community Players, visit [MiddleburyCommunityPlayers.org](http://MiddleburyCommunityPlayers.org).

## TRIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

expressive piano artistry and Montbleau's acclaimed vocals.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Ted Perry** is known for his warm, lyrical style that fuses jazz, blues, folk and storytelling. A composer, pianist, and educator, Perry's music reflects a deep appreciation for melodic expression and groove. He has performed with renowned artists including Ernie Watts, David Spinozza, and Drew Gress.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where he focused on arranging and performance, Perry has written for solo piano, jazz ensembles, and orchestral groups. Now based in Burlington, he continues to perform, teach, and compose. His new EP of original compositions for piano trio — featuring Drew Gress and Conor Meehan — was released in May 2024.

**Ryan Michael Montbleau** is an American singer-songwriter and guitarist who tours extensively across the U.S. with the Ryan Montbleau Band. His musical journey began at Villanova University, where he honed his craft in songwriting and performance. Since his early days at Boston's House of Blues, Montbleau has built a devoted following with his soulful voice, poetic lyrics and genre-spanning sound that blends folk,

The Ted Perry Trio will perform with special guest Ryan Montbleau on Dec. 7, at Town Hall Theater. Happy hour opens at 4:30 p.m. The show will start at 5:30 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

R&B, Americana and rock.

He has shared the stage with artists such as Ani DiFranco, Martin Sexton, and Rodrigo y Gabriela, and continues to perform hundreds of shows annually. His collaborations include the theatrical music project Yes Darling with Hayley Jane. Montbleau's accolades include Best Local Male Vocalist at the Boston Music Awards (2007) and recognition in the International Songwriting Competition.

Tickets for The Ted Perry Trio Holiday Show with Ryan Montbleau are \$15 (student), \$25 (standard) and \$40 (generous) and can be purchased online at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at the Town Hall Theater Box Office, open Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m.



The Isaiah J. Thompson Trio will perform "A Guaraldi Holiday" at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Wednesday, Dec.

# PUZZLE

NOV. 27, 2025

## SOLUTIONS

**the real estate  
experts good  
to know!**

## A two-story house with a central gable and a side wing. The house has light-colored siding and dark shutters on the windows. A front porch with white railings is on the left. A dormer window is visible on the side wing. The house is surrounded by green trees and a lawn.



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## Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol

adapted by Gary Smith directed by Gary Smith & Melissa Lourie

**December 5 - 7 & 11 - 13**



**Town Hall Theater**

Tickets & Info: 802-382-9222  
townhalltheater.org



## EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit  
photoplacegallery.com.

**"Monochrome: Light, Shadow, Form, and Texture."** Stripped to its

essentials — light, shadow, form, and texture — black-and-white photography invites viewers to see differently. It distills the world into tone and emotion, allowing mood and meaning to rise to the surface. This exhibit was selected by juror Jason Landry. On view through Nov. 28.

### SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

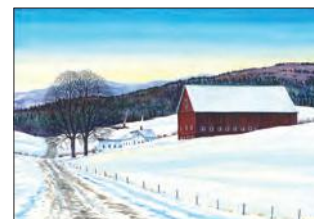
For more info visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org)

**"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 Sassini'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.

### DEBORAH HOLMES WATERCOLORS



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### SPARROW ART SUPPLY

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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.



# Holiday Guide

Addison Independent

Thursday, November 27, 2025



## INSIDE:

- Friends & Neighbors share traditions, Page 3
- What a baker makes this season, Page 10
- Chocolate and more in Bristol, Page 16
- Tractor parade in Little City, Page 13
  - Keep yourself balanced, Page 7
  - Calendar of Events, Pages 25-29
- Area Holiday Worship, Pages 30-33
  - Dining Out, Pages 34-39





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# Family, food and festivities:

## How your neighbors celebrate the holidays

By IAN CURRY

ADDISON COUNTY — For many, the winter holidays are a time of tradition and ritual, whether they've been handed down generation after generation since time immemorial, or simply a matter of habit. These traditions strengthen our connections to each other and with our community.

In light of the holiday season, several county residents shared how they spend their special days.

For many, the holidays are spent in the kitchen. Jessica Teets, a Bristol selectboard member and Middlebury College professor, said her clan likes to prepare holiday cookies that originate in her family's Czechoslovakian heritage.

"We make a holiday cookie that requires a special griddle with a hinge, so you flip the cookie over on the stove to cook both sides. You need more than one person to do this, so this is a fun family activity (with a hint of danger from accidents and burns!)," Teets said.

"Making the same cookies helps us feel connected to our family history, and starting a new tradition lets us create something new with our son. Old and new traditions are how we've blended what we inherited from our families with what we want to create with our son in our Vermont family. This blended Christmas tradition makes us feel connected to each other and those who came before us," she added.

Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor is another county resident who feels at home in the kitchen. He said that one of the highlights of his holiday season is baking Dog Team Tavern sticky buns with his two daughters.

"We deliver them to our family and friends," he said. "This was an especially special way to connect with our family and friends during COVID, when we couldn't be together."

That spirit of sharing takes other forms for the Bearor family too.

"This year will mark the 11th year my wife has organized 'Cookie Day' — a special day where friends and family come to our house and spend the entire day making all kinds of holiday treats," he said.

The list of treats is extensive, ranging from gingerbread people, frosted sugar cookies, chocolate-covered pretzels,

“

“Though we couldn't bake together (during the pandemic), **we did a virtual Cookie Day** where everyone Zoomed in while baking our favorites. Then we did a porch swap with the treats.”

— Chris Bearor

shortbread and peppermint patties. Not even COVID could put a halt to Cookie Day.

"Though we couldn't bake together, we did a virtual Cookie Day where everyone Zoomed in while baking our favorites. Then we did a porch swap with the treats," Bearor said.

### SHARING THE SPIRIT

The spirit of giving is prevalent in Addison County during the holidays. For Catie and Mark Raishart, owners of Foxglove Farm in Leicester, that spirit takes on a special form.

"One December morning, 12 years ago, when my children were quite young, our family received our first visit from our now beloved friend, Piper the Kindness Elf... Every morning in December for the last 12 years, Piper has shown up at our breakfast table bearing a piece of chocolate for each of my kids and a mission for the day...Piper wants to relay one message — this season is at its best when we think about each other," Catie Raishart explained.

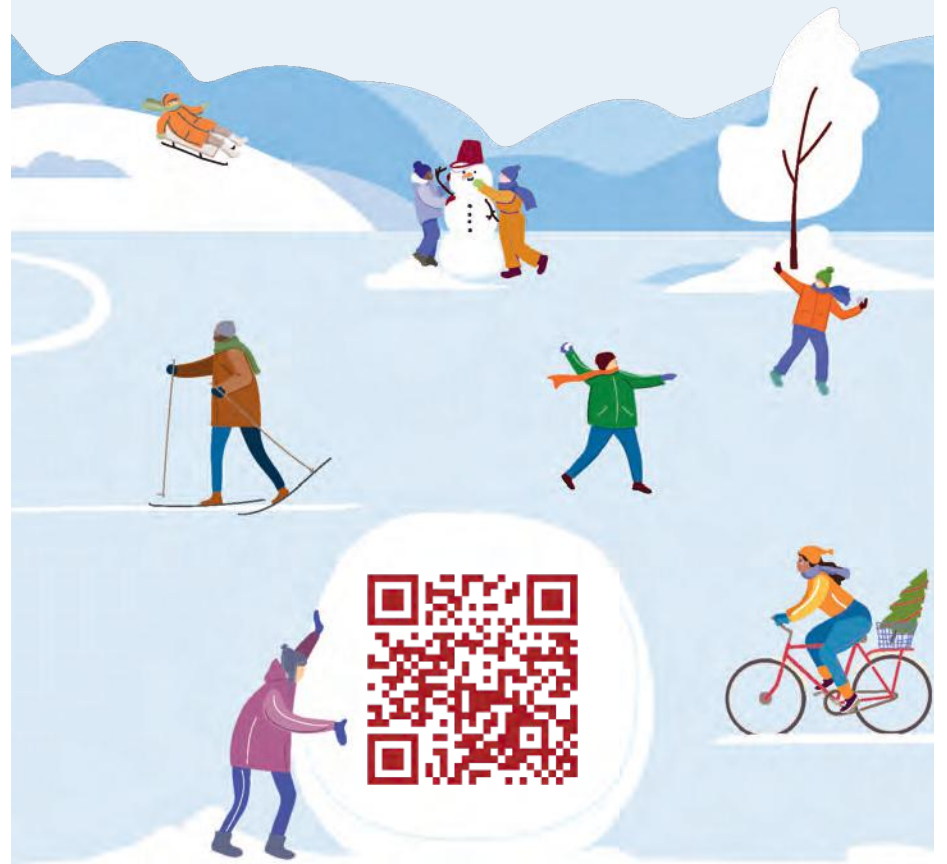
"Piper's missions have inspired donations to Homeward Bound and Atria, she's explained why we donate to toy drives even while believing in Santa, she's sent my kids around the Hannaford lot to put shopping carts where they belong and on especially tired days she somehow knows to bring bubble bath to teach my kids to be kind to themselves," she added.

Raishart said that even with her children now teenagers, Piper allows her family to believe in a powerful kind of magic that stems from thinking about the wellbeing of others.

Family remains at the core of the holidays, even when other commitments might present challenges. Legislator (See Traditions on page 4)

# 'tis the season TO Shop local & WIN BIG

From November 28 to December 18, 2025, every purchase from a locally-owned retail business in Brandon, Bristol, Hinesburg, Middlebury, and Vergennes gives you and the merchant a chance to win a weekly drawing of **\$250 each in local currency!**



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# HOLIDAYS AT THE HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM



## Rolling Down the Tracks: Holiday Trains!

**Nov. 28, 2025 – January 3, 2026**

Wednesdays: 2:00pm-4:30pm

Thursdays: 10:30am -1:00pm

Fridays: 11:00am -3:00pm

Saturdays: 11:00am -3:00pm

## Special free admission days:

Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 6th: 10am-4pm.  
The trains will be running all day!

Mid Night Strolls - Thursday, December 4th & Thursday,  
December 11th: 5-8pm. The trains will be running!

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## Annual Holiday Trees and Wreaths Raffle

Featuring one-of-a-kind miniature trees and wreaths decorated by talented local friends of the Sheldon. Tickets are available at the Museum & online.



**Every Saturday through January 3rd.**

## Drop-in Holiday Crafts in our Makerspace

Nov. 15-30: Winter Calendars

Dec. 1-7: Mini Snowglobes

Dec. 8-14: Train Ornaments

Dec. 15-21: Mini Wreaths

Dec 22-31: New Year's Headbands

## Visit the Museum Store

**Check out all the new local crafts and gifts  
in our store for your holiday shopping!**

**Museum and Store hours: Weds. – Sat. 10 am – 4 pm**



**Henry Sheldon Museum**

One Park Street ~ Middlebury ~ 802-388-2117

[www.HenrySheldonMuseum.org](http://www.HenrySheldonMuseum.org)



*Kids at the McGill-Yetnick home in Bridport enjoy a night of fondue, pajamas, games and holiday movies each Christmas Eve. Shown here are, from left, Marella, Aislynn, Amias and Callum digging into the edible treats of the evening.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUBILEE MCGILL

## Traditions

(Continued from Page 3)

Jubilee McGill said that even amid chaotic schedules, her family still spends plenty of quality time together.

“With my husband working shifts outside the normal 9-5, Christmas morning wasn’t always something we could share,” McGill said. “Christmas Eve became our safe, cozy space, the night we knew we’d all be under the same roof. Over time, the fondue, the pajamas, the games, and the movies grew into a ritual that we all look forward to each year.”

Christmas Eve is a big night for her, her husband, Lawrence Yetnick, and their four kids. Celebrations involve all sorts of food, including cheese and chocolate fondue accompanied by bread, apples, pears and pretzels. Food is followed by a night filled with board games and Christmas movies, and finally “before bedtime, the kids leave out cookies and milk for Santa, and then everyone heads to sleep to wait for the magic.”

## GETTING THE TREE

Jonathan and Cassandra Corcoran of Bristol echoed those sentiments. For them, family is the source of the many holiday traditions and customs they carry on today.

“We usually cut a tree on the solstice to mark the beginning of the holidays. Sometimes, we cut a tree at a farm or in the forest or buy one from the Boy Scouts in our town who source them nearby from a farm,” the Corcorans told us in an email.

Over time, that tree is decorated with lights, ornamental balls and bangles, and sometimes with white candles they light

“Christmastime is a time out of time, of turning inward from the world. It is **special and precious, a time of thanks and gratitude for life.**”

— Jonathan and Cassandra Corcoran

in the evenings. The whole process is communal, involving lots of singing and listening to different kinds of music.

“Christmastime is a time out of time, of turning inward from the world. It is special and precious, a time of thanks and gratitude for life: the darkest nights, the white snow, the stillness, the clean and clear smell of the freshly cut balsam fir, hot fires, the love of family and friends, sharing good food, drinks and conversations, playing silly, loud games of all kinds,” the Corcorans said.

Karl Lindholm knows a few things about games. The retired Middlebury College professor and regular sports columnist said his holidays have long been marked by football.

“When I was growing up in Lewiston, Maine, I lived in a neighborhood of (See Traditions on page 9)



# Kids & adults alike will enjoy holidays in Middlebury

One big day, then lots more to take part in

MIDDLEBURY — Holiday magic is once again coming to Middlebury. The shire town will once again be a hub of activity, with the exciting stretching from Thanksgiving through the New Year.

A traditionally very busy time will be the first Saturday in December, when the folks at the Better Middlebury Partnership have lots of activities planned to keep downtown bustling.

The first thing many youngsters will want to do on that Dec. 6 is to come get your photos taken with **Santa** and **Mrs. Claus** from 10 a.m.-12 noon indoors at Town Hall Theater. Children can fill out a Letter to Santa (available while you wait) to share their wish lists and then get their photos snapped by parents or caregivers. Get some fresh air time on **Free Horse and Wagon Rides** around town with our friend Macey. Board the wagon in from of the Middlebury Community Music Center (the stately old yellow house next to the post office) from 10 a.m. to noon. And while you are waiting for the wagon, there is a free open house and hands-on musical explorations and workshops at MCMC until 2 p.m.

Other activities to spread the holiday cheer include caroling on the steps of the Congregational Church of

Middlebury. This will also be a good day for free access to the marvelous winter trains exhibit at the **Sheldon Museum** up at Cannon Park. Enjoy live music, the decorated trees & wreaths raffle and seasonal activities in the makerspace between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

And of course the **Hot Cocoa Hut** is back in Cannon Park and will be serving cocoa with all the fixings from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The minimum donation is only 25 cents per cup (so you don't fill up on cocoa). If you don't get your fill this day, the cocoa hut will be open on two more Saturdays (Dec. 13 and 20, noon-4 p.m.) and two Thursdays during Midd Night Stroll (Dec. 4 and 11, 4:30-8:30 p.m.).

## MORE GREAT FUN

There is so much going on in Middlebury this holiday season that we don't know how to cram it into one story. So here is a listing of some other things to get you into the holiday spirit and keep it humming along:

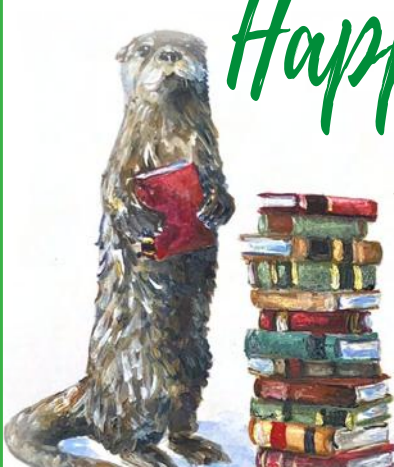
- Come to downtown Middlebury for the **Midd Night Stroll** on two separate Thursday evenings. On Dec. 4 and 11 to enjoy late-night shopping, carolers, festive lights and holiday magic throughout downtown. The Henry Sheldon Museum and store open so

(See Merry on page 9)



Four-year-old Lucas Zeno was one of many children who came to Town Hall Theater in Middlebury this past December to meet with Santa. It looks like the two got along famously.

PHOTO BY KOLLEEN HOBBS



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## EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

*December 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>*

**'TIS THE SEASON FOR LOCAL CELEBRATION!**

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA + MRS CLAUS ON DECEMBER 6 AT  
TOWN HALL THEATER**

**HOT COCOA HUT IN CANNON PARK**

**CHARACTER CUT-OUTS**

**ARTISAN MARKETS**

**LIGHTING OF THE TREE DEC 4**

**FREE HORSE AND WAGON RIDES DEC 6 10AM-12PM**

**HOLIDAY CHOCOLATE BAR SALE**

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As they are every year, youngsters this past December were mesmerized by a model train exhibit at the Sheldon Museum. INDEPENDENT FILE PHOTO/STEVE JAMES

## Merry

(Continued from Page 5)

you can visit the Trains exhibit and enter the decorated Christmas tree & wreath raffle. Free. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org). During the first Stroll there will be a Christmas Tree Lighting in Triangle Park. And shop handmade gifts from local artisans during the second stroll night.

- Take a break and enjoy free music at the **Advent Noontime Concerts** on three Thursdays at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. On Dec. 4, Robert Ludwig presents organ music of the Advent and Christmas season; Dec. 11 sees Lynette Combs playing seasonal music of Bach, Berlioz and Hugo Distler; and Dec. 18 is a community carol sing-along with sacred and secular songs of the season.

- The Middlebury Acting Company presents Charles Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim in **"A Christmas Carol"** at Town Hall Theater. There are performances on Dec. 5-7 and 11-13.

- There will be a **Toys for Kids Train Stop** at the Middlebury Amtrak Station on Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. The Vermont Rail System's Toys for Kids Train makes its final stop of the day. Meet Santa, enjoy a candy cane and donate new, unwrapped toys for children in need across Vermont.

- **"Night Fires,"** a tradition since 1982, weaves together song, story, poetry

and dance to honor the Winter Solstice. This year's performance at Town Hall Theater on Dec. 19-21, imagines the first-ever Interdependence Day celebration in a Vermont park on the longest night of the year.

- Another long-running tradition on Sunday, Dec. 21, is the **"Messiah Sing"** at the Congregational Church of Middlebury. All are welcome to this joyful community sing-along of selections from Handel's stirring musical work.

- If that's not enough winter kick-off for you, that same day is **"Solstice in the Shire: The Shortest Day."** Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day.

Some other things to fill in around the big events this season include:

- **Christmas tree and wreath raffle** at 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 at 1 Park St. during museum hours and purchase raffle tickets in person or online. Ends Dec. 17.

- Stone Motors will hold its **"Stuff a Truck"** holiday toy drive through Dec. 23 at two Middlebury locations: on Route 7 South and 36 Boardman St. Drop off new holiday toys or cash donations to help HOPE deliver Christmas presents to Addison County kids.

## Traditions

(Continued from Page 4)

boys, all older than I... The Cliffords had a big field next to their house where on Thanksgiving morning the Turkey Day Classic, a touch football game, was played," Lindholm recalled.

It wasn't until he got to junior high that the older boys invited Lindholm to play. But even then, "no one ever threw me the ball. I was still the youngest, the pecking order had long been established. 'Billy, I was wide open,' I'd complain, after the play. 'Sorry I missed ya,' he'd apologize. 'Do it again.'"

Those days of holiday football in Maine were one thing that contributed

to Lindholm's love for his hometown. After getting married to Brett Millier 35 years ago, and they began to make holiday plans, he realized how home and family were central to the holidays.

"I had never in my 45 years of life spent a Christmas Day anywhere but at my childhood home," Lindholm told his new wife.

So, it was decided.

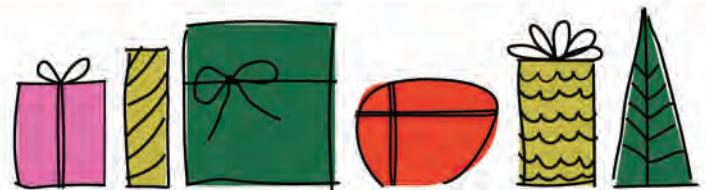
"For 65 years straight, the Lindholms (and assorted spouses, kids, grandkids, and dogs) enjoyed Christmas Day right there in that same spot in Maine, 65 years straight for me," Lindholm said.

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# Some make baking a holiday tradition

By IAN CURRY

MIDDLEBURY — The holidays are always a time for families and friends to gather and share memories, laughs and perhaps most importantly, food. For local bakers and chefs, there's no better time to shine in the kitchen, whether it be with popular favorites or with personal twists on classic dishes.

Nikki Bowdish runs Thistle & Honey Baking, a Middlebury home-bakery she launched during the fall of 2019. Bowdish has more than 15 years of professional baking experience and specializes in handmade wedding cakes and desserts.

*The Independent* spoke with Bowdish about some of the special dishes she likes to prepare for the family and friends who gather to celebrate the end-of-year holidays.



"Food and cooking are so important to my own holiday celebrations, because that's how we share traditions," Bowdish said.

When cooking for holidays, she's reminded of the days spent in her grandmother's kitchen with her cousins, "all wearing too-big aprons, baking holiday cookies together to bring home when the weekend was over."

Those experiences have helped her navigate cooking for the holidays ever since she and her husband first hosted family members for Thanksgiving 14 years ago.

"Adding seven extra people, all with personal traditions, we decided that rather than try and make everybody's favorite, we'd focus on making the basics the best. Pumpkin pie has long been my personal favorite dessert, and after that first big meal with everyone, it was formally requested by multiple people, with my older brother often requesting I make a few extra for him to take home," Bowdish said.

While she's sticking to the basics, Bowdish is not dumbing down her holiday dishes.

Her classic pumpkin pie includes a personal twist; Bowdish adds cracked black pepper "to help enhance the spicy nature of the pie."



Those who don't consider themselves pie-lovers would be happy to hear that Bowdish's oatmeal chocolate chip cookies are also a hit, especially among the kids.

"The oatmeal chocolate chip cookies get a dash of cinnamon and both semi-sweet and dark chocolate chunks to elevate them from a lunchbox favorite to a holiday treat," she said.

Bowdish's cooking isn't limited to desserts. While she says the Thanksgiving stuffing "is very much my husband's game," she provides the tastiest bread she can for the dish. But this year, she says she's parting from tradition slightly; rather than prepare a simple, no-knead rustic loaf, she's going a step further.

"Getting into sourdough this fall, I'm finding myself wanting to make specialty stuffing bread for it this year, infusing it with herbs and spices that



"We decided that rather than try and make everybody's favorite, we'd **focus on making the basics the best.**"

— baker Nikki Bowdish

will complement his cooking... This year, I'm making sourdough loaves and seasoning the dough prior to baking to intensify the flavor of the final dish even further," Bowdish told the *Independent*.

While a seasoned baker like Bowdish might feel at home preparing holiday treats in the kitchen, she said she likes to remind herself and her kids that being together is the most important ingredient.

And she'll continue baking her holiday classics for as long as they make her family, and herself, happy.

"I can only hope when they think of holiday celebrations, they picture baking in the kitchen, too," she said.

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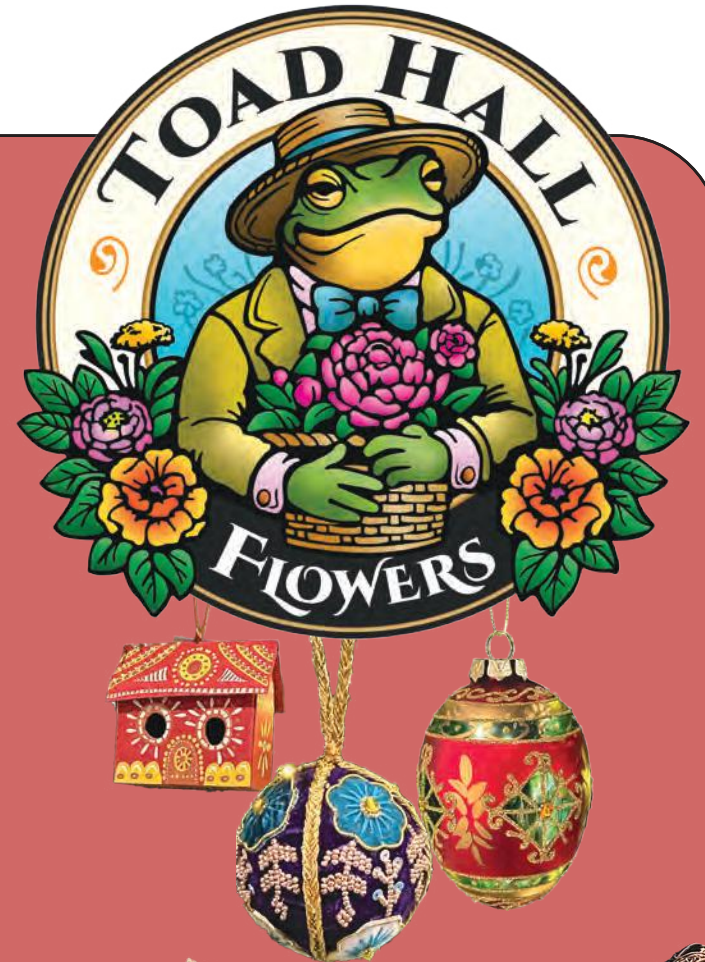


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# DOWNTOWN VERGENNES



## Black Friday, Nov. 28

Enjoy breakfast in downtown Vergennes and then begin your holiday shopping along Main Street & Green Street where you will be warmly welcomed by shopkeepers ready to help you with your gift list!

## Small Business Saturday, Nov. 29

Support your neighbors and shop SMALL! Downtown Vergennes is a Makers Community where highly-skilled artisans are selling their exceptional handmade ice cream, chocolate, women's fashions, natural wine, furniture, flowers, pottery, candles, jewelry, and wellness products directly to you!



## Ho Ho Ho Holiday Roll Tractor Parade, Saturday, 4:30pm-6pm, Dec. 6

Join us for our First Annual Lighted Tractor Parade! Festivities will begin in Vergennes City Park with hot chocolate and cookies while we await the arrival of the S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck. Then the Tractor Parade (with Santa!) will roll through the downtown streets and finish at the Park. For details and to register your tractor (no entry fee): [www.VergennesDowntown.org/holidayroll](http://www.VergennesDowntown.org/holidayroll).

**Grand Sponsors: Feed Commodities International & Bourdeau Bros.**

## Magic on Main, Thursday, Dec. 11

Can't shop during the day? Join us in the Little City where the shops will be open until 7pm! Enjoy special treats as you stroll through downtown Vergennes and discover a variety of perfect gifts for yourself or others around every corner. Enter at each shop for a chance to win a \$100 in Vergennes Green! Wrap up your evening with a glass of wine at 10 Green Street or dinner at Black Sheep Bistro, Park Squeeze, or Rockers Pizzeria. For shop specials: [www.VergennesDowntown.org/magic-on-main](http://www.VergennesDowntown.org/magic-on-main).



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# Lift up your holiday spirits in Vergennes

VERGENNES — Tradition returns to the Little City as Vergennes readies to kick off the holiday season.

With major renovations in progress at the Vergennes Opera House, There will be events spread around town, with activities at the Commodore Club, elementary school, Congregational Church, Bixby Library and, of course, on the City Green.

Before we get into the December madness, the Vergennes Partnership is looking to light a little fire with a Small Business Saturday promotion this Saturday, Nov. 29. Touch the goods,

meet the shop owners and keep your local downtown strong. Vergennes area merchants are encouraging people to shop locally and build up our local capital.

The following Saturday, Dec. 6, will see Santa and all his friends and associates peak in to Vergennes for a stroll around the city. A good place to start might be the annual Holiday Craft Fair at the Vergennes Union Elementary School. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and feature 70 vendors — woodcraft, jewelry, pottery, quilts and a lot more. More than 50 items

will be raffled, and look for an amazing concession stand. Proceeds to benefit the Pavillion Project. Also, take a photo with Santa.. Free admission.

As is often the case, a lot of the activity will take place at Bixby Memorial Library, which will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And — tradition again — Santa himself will be on hand to read Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the little tykes at around 10:30 a.m. It's great to see their eyes light up and their mouths go quiet as they settle in to listen to the Holiday Celebrity. Plus there will be a book sale downstairs all day, an a toy swap between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., a puzzle swap until 3 p.m., and holiday card making in Bixby's Half Round Room until 3 p.m.

And what would a Bixby Holiday be without some excellent singing? Up first, just after Santa finishing reading at 11 a.m., will be Va-et-Vient, the local trio that sings lively, heartwarming French tunes. Then at noon, it's Maiden Vermont, a women's a cappella chorus specializing in barbershop-style harmonies. It's all free.

The newest thing in this day of old traditions will be the city's first-ever Holiday Roll Tractor Parade!

A festive lineup of tractors, riding mowers and side-by-sides decked out in holiday lights — with costumed drivers behind the wheels — will bring extra sparkle and cheer to downtown. The parade route will start at Champlain Valley Christian School and end at City Park, where Vergennes Recreation volunteers and Northlands Job Corps students will serve up hot chocolate, cookies, and marshmallows for roasting over fire pits from 4:30-6 p.m. Once the much-anticipated S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck has made its appearance downtown around 5 p.m., the parade will commence. Be sure to look for Santa and a very special entry from the Grand Sponsors.

Prizes will be awarded to parade entries for Best Lighting Design, Best Costume, and Best Theme. Join the fun by entering your favorite tractor — register online at vergennesdowntown.org/holidayroll or in person at the



National Bank of Middlebury at 29 Green St.

If Broadway tunes are more to your liking, get a taste of that Midtown Magic right here in Vergennes with the 20th annual performance of Broadway Direct. Vergennes resident and owner of the Emerson Guest House on Main Street Bill Carmichael is a Broadway veteran, and he's been bringing a show he calls "Broadway Direct" to the Vergennes Opera House stage for two decades. Carmichael and several of his Broadway friends are once again going to bring the sounds of Broadway to Vergennes for two spectacular evenings on Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6. With the opera house tied up, the show will take place at the Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. The curtain is at 7 p.m.

If that doesn't get you ready for the holiday, there is still Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church Christmas cookie sale on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Look for a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale. Enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop.

And here's a couple other Vergennes holiday events to sample:

**Candle Making and Cocoa** on Sunday, Dec. 7, 2-5 p.m. at the Commodore Club. This fun event is for anyone 18 years and up and is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

**Ugly Christmas sweater party** on Saturday, Dec. 7, 7-10 p.m., at the American Legion. Wear your most festive or outrageous holiday sweater. Dance cover band Nickel & Dime will play favorite hits from the 1970s to today. Admission by donation.

(See Vergennes spirit on page 18)

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## Despite work at Opera House, the show must go on!

VERGENNES — Broadway veteran Bill Carmichael Walsh first hatched the idea 20 years ago of inviting some of his Broadway friends to come to Vergennes to perform in the historic Vergennes Opera House. At the time, Bill and his wife Susan, and their then toddler daughter Caitlin were newcomers to the Little City after purchasing the Emerson Guest House B&B. What started as a fun way to help raise support funds for the theater, turned into a much-anticipated annual event that has consistently drawn a large, diverse, and enthusiastic audience.

This year's 20th anniversary show will be special in many ways, not the least of which is the fact that it will be performed in the Vergennes Congregational Church, rather than on the Vergennes Opera House stage while the theater undergoes renovation to add an elevator tower and other access improvements.

The 20th Anniversary Broadway Direct Show will take place on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m.

Gerianne Smart, president of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, told Broadway World that Broadway Direct is such a highly anticipated and popular show that there was no way they could skip a year, despite the construction.

"The Vergennes community is so terrific that we had no trouble at all

finding an alternative site for this year's show and we are so looking forward to this special 20th Anniversary production," Smart said.

For the 20th anniversary of Broadway Direct, Bill Walsh will be joined by fan favorite Elisa VanDuyne along with Brian Golub, who performed last year. Joining Brian from NYC will be Madison Micucci who will be enjoying her first trip to the Little City. Caitlin Walsh, who is no stranger to Vergennes or the Opera House stage, will also be heading north from NYC and bringing her talented friend, David Postlewaite to add to the evening's entertainment.


Ronnie Romano, versatile pianist and music director for the Middlebury College Community Chorus, Congregational Church of Middlebury, and the Wellspring Hospice singers, will once again accompany the performers.

As in years past, the Broadway Pros will be welcoming high school students to the stage. This year the cast is joined by two Champlain Valley Union High School seniors, Marin Walsh and Rowan Williams. Both students have performed extensively both in their school plays and in regional theater productions.

*Editor's note: This story was written by Stephi Wild and comes courtesy of "Broadway World."*




Starring in this year's "Broadway Direct" show in Vergennes will be, from left, Elisa VanDuyne, Bill Walsh, Brian Golub and Madison Micucci. The singing will take place at the Congregational Church on Dec. 5 and 6.



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# The holidays are sweet and light in Bristol

BRISTOL — When it comes to the holidays, Bristol does it right. For the end-of-year celebrations, everyone looks forward to the Chocolate Walk (who doesn't like chocolate).

But even before December begins, the holidays arrive in Bristol with the Holley Jolly Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 29, at Holley Hall. The market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., transforms the big public space into a vibrant hub of artisanal talent. Embrace the holiday spirit with a curated selection of high-end handmade goods from local vendors.

And then there is the sweet stuff — well, sweet and sentimental.

Events start on Friday, Dec. 5, with two of the locals' favorites: the Chocolate Walk downtown and the annual lighting of the Memory Tree on the Bristol green.

During the Chocolate Walk, from 5-8 p.m., everyone is invited to come to Bristol and experience a complimentary chocolate treat at downtown businesses. Move from store to store, sampling the decadent chocolate offerings, while browsing for gifts. Shops stay open late. There is no charge to participate, just an

appreciation for the various attributes of chocolate, such as to lift spirits, dispel economic woes, satisfy a craving, send the stock market soaring ... can chocolate really do all that?

Take a break from the chocolate to take part in the Memory Tree lighting at 5 p.m. There will be songs and hot chocolate for everyone.

The tree is sponsored by the Bristol Recreation Department. If you would like to purchase bulbs as symbols of loved ones present or past, the cost is \$5 each. You can purchase bulbs at the town clerk's office or Bristol Recreation Department office. Make checks for \$5 per honoree out to the Bristol Recreation Department and list your honoree on the memo portion. The deadline to order tree bulbs is Dec. 2.

Names of all honorees will be read aloud and displayed next to the Memory Tree on December 5th on the Town Green.

The holidays aren't all about chocolate. December also sees the annual candy cane hunt with Santa, on Friday, Dec. 12.

Bundle up the kids and make sure they have their flashlights, because the free Santa Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt



CIRQUE DE FEUGO takes center stage with a fire dancing performance during Bristol's Lumen celebration on Dec. 20. There will also be lantern-making in Holley Hall.

Photo courtesy of Bristol CORE

starts at 5 p.m. on the green. Santa has hidden candy canes all around the park. Who will be the most prized candy canes? Kids who find five candy canes will win, and a special prize will be awarded to the person who finds the rainbow candy cane!

Santa will be available for photos afterwards.

If you've had enough sweets for the time being, why not try the theatre? Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, on that second weekend in December

will stage the Broadway comedy "The Roommate" at Holley Hall on Dec. 11, 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Have you ever met someone whose words and experiences move you so completely, that they open up possibilities for your life that you've never imagined? Come visit a small kitchen in Iowa and watch as two strangers change each other's lives in "The Roommate." Sharon, who is recently divorced and lives in Iowa, invites Robyn, a total stranger relocating from New York City, to be  
(See Bristol on page 17)

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## Bristol Recreation Holiday Events

### Dec. 5, 5:00 PM:

Memory Tree Lighting with BES Chorus, followed by reading of names on Town Green. (Register honorees by Dec. 2).

### Dec. 12, 5:00 PM:

Candy Cane Hunt with Santa, Town Green

### Dec. 19, 5:20PM:

S. D. Ireland Holiday Truck, Town Green

### Dec. 20, 10-11AM:

Story time with Mrs. Claus, Crafts and Cocoa, Holley Hall



[www.BristolVtRec.com](http://www.BristolVtRec.com)

Bristol Recreation Department

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The Chocolate Walk	12/5
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Lumen: Celebration of Fire & Light	12/20

For more details and a complete schedule, visit [discoverbristolvt.com/blog/cool-yule-2025](http://discoverbristolvt.com/blog/cool-yule-2025)

BRISTOL CORE





# Bristol

(Continued from Page 16)  
her roommate. As the two get to know each other better, secrets are revealed and they learn more about themselves in the process. It's open seating; all tickets \$10, reservations are not required.

On Dec. 14, The Tillerman up on Route 116 north of the village will offer a cozy afternoon of holiday cookie decorating. They will have fires going in the parlor and dining rooms, holiday music on, beer, wine and a special cocktail available at the bar. The restaurant will be closed this evening.

For every ticket you purchase, participants will receive a dozen sugar cookies to decorate in a variety of holiday shapes. They will provide royal icing (white, red, yellow, blue), and some decorative goodies for you to choose from. Feel free to bring in your own decorations as well — maybe you have some old items in the back of your pantry or you have a specific vision for your cookies. FYI: this event is for age 12 and up.

If you need a shot of light as the days grow shorter, the SD Ireland Holiday Truck — the cement mixer covered in lights — will be at the Town Green on Dec. 19 at 5:20 p.m. and then will drive around the streets of Bristol before it makes its way back north.

There will be another Clause in Bristol on Dec. 20. Come to story time



DOWNTOWN BRISTOL IS a hub of activity with shops open late and a special treat for customers during the annual holiday Chocolate Walk. This year it's on Dec. 5.

Photo courtesy of Bristol CORE

with Mrs. Claus in Holley Hall from 10 to 11 a.m. You don't need to register.

The holidays get near to climax that evening with Lumen — Bristol's

annual celebration of fire and light. Celebrations will kick off with a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall at 4 p.m. At 6 p.m. there will be a

fire dancing performance from Cirque de Feugo on the Town Green. There will be fire pits and delicious foods throughout the evening.

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# Vergennes spirit

(Continued from Page 14)

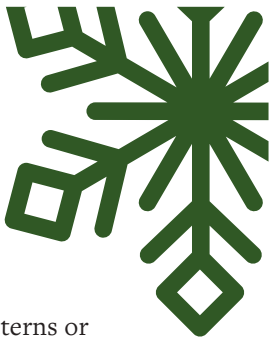
**Kids' holiday ornament decorating** on Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Bixby Memorial Library. Drop in to decorate a holiday ornament to hang on the tree or give as a gift.

**Wreath making workshop** on Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m., and again on Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — both at Bixby Library. Bring greenery into your home this holiday season with a custom-made wreath. Limited space; reserve your spot by emailing miranda.degreenia@bixbylibrary.org.

**Kids' gift crafts: button machine**

on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3-4:30 p.m., at Bixby Library. Design a one-of-a-kind button with fun designs, patterns or messages. Perfect to wear or give as a handmade gift.

**Kids' make your own snow globes workshop** on Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-noon, at Bixby. Create a snow globe and bring winter magic into your home using jars, glitter and tiny decorations. Limited space.



# Fireworks!

Once you make it through the holiday season, there's one more bit of holiday joy so you can end the season with a BANG!

It's the town of Middlebury's New Year's Eve fireworks and ice skating event. Sponsored by American Legion Post 27 and the town of Middlebury, all can watch fireworks set off from the Middlebury Recreation Fields next to Mary Hogan Elementary School beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31.

At the conclusion of the fireworks show head over to the Memorial Sports Center and enjoy free ice skating from 7 to 8:30 p.m. That should tie a nice bow on your holiday season in Middlebury.

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Members of the public come together each Christmas season at the Congregational Church of Middlebury to sing Handel's "Messiah" together.

# Chorus

(Continued from Page 7)

Music scores are provided (or bring your own) for singers; if you play a string instrument, flute, oboe, or bassoon, orchestra parts are also available at the reading. Donations gratefully accepted at the door (\$5-10 adult / \$10-\$25 family). For more information, reach Jeff jeff.rehbach@gmail.com or 802-382-7493.

This is a performance not to watch, but to be a part of.

"The reward, the joy in this tradition, for me, is simply that it allows the

community to come together and to make music together and to enjoy doing it," Rehbach said. "It's just a delight that people are willing to take the risk of coming out and not necessarily knowing the music inside out, as we haven't rehearsed it, and simply have that sound fill this incredibly beautiful space and have that sense of joy — as a community — that music can bring."

Come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of joyous music-making, a holiday tradition since 1984.



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December						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ROSIE'S AT [ROSIES@ROSIESVT.COM](mailto:ROSIES@ROSIESVT.COM)

# Happy Holidays!

from



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### Porter Medical Center

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# Family friendly opera returns for holiday performance in Brandon

BRANDON — Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl & the Night Visitor" — a cherished holiday tradition that has brought warmth, joy and unity to the Brandon-area community each December — will return this holiday season. In Salisbury for years, (this year with your help) the beloved production will be at the Brandon Congregational Church with two performances on Saturday, Dec. 6, as recently announced by the Downtown Brandon Alliance, in partnership with Opera Vermont (known as OVT).

The performances are advertised as beginning at 5 and 7 p.m.

This magical evening of music, lights, and celebration will be the centerpiece event for the DBA's Brandon Holiday Market and will surely draw families from all over Rutland and Addison counties and beyond to experience the spirit of the season in our vibrant downtown. More than just a performance of the family-friendly opera, "Amahl & The Night Visitors" is a moment for us all to come together as a community, in hope, harmony, and the spirit of generosity.

While it will be the same beloved performance as in years past, organizers will be introducing some new performers to the cast, beginning with Opera Vermont favorite Kathleen Echols as Amahl's Mother. You will

have seen Kathleen originate the role of Nancy Clutter in OVT's World-Premiere of "Truman and Nancy" or in a powerhouse performance as Nedda in OVT's performance of "Pagliacci" in February at the Highland Center for the Arts.

In addition, Baritone Liam Shannon, most recently seen as the Wizard of the mountains in OVT's September production of "La Fata del Nord," will take on the role of the wise King Melchior.

As the music director of this production, Brandon resident Tim Guiles will lead the principals and ensemble from the piano for this production. This marks Tim's debut with Opera Vermont, and the company so looks forward to more.

If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of the chorus for "Amahl & the Night Visitors" this year, please reach out to Joshua Collier at [collier@operavermont.com](mailto:collier@operavermont.com), or Tim Guiles at [timothyguiles@gmail.com](mailto:timothyguiles@gmail.com). They'd love to have you!

In preparation for this year's performance, OVT is reaching out to all community leaders, businesses, and Opera Vermont family to ask for support in the endeavor to make this production, both performances, ticket-less to the public, so that anyone, regardless of means or ability, can come



The holiday performance of Opera Vermont's "Amahl & the Night Visitors" will come to Brandon Congregational Church for two performances on Saturday, Dec. 6.

to the performance in Brandon and experience the beauty and the magic of this production in this beautiful space.

Any donation you're able to make to these efforts will help cover essential expenses, including minimal performer fees, staging, lighting, sound equipment and community outreach.

The ultimate objective is to provide, for the first time in the Barn Opera/Opera Vermont history: free and accessible tickets to all. Opera Vermont's motto is "All of opera, for all of Vermont," and with this step they attempt to make that not just a saying but a reality.



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**Saturday, Nov. 29th**

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**Shops open till 8:00pm**

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**NEW this year, Brandon's Outdoor Winter Village where holiday magic meets local charm in Green Park!**

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or 802-247-6401

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**A Christmas Carol**  
Dec 5 - 7 & 11 - 13  
2 & 7pm  
Tickets: Sliding Scale



Town Hall Theater Presents  
**Ted Perry Trio Holiday Show**  
Sun Dec 7 5:30pm  
Happy Hour 4:30-5:30  
Tickets: \$15 - \$40



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Dec 19 & 20 4 & 7:30pm  
Dec 21 4pm  
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Town Hall Theater Presents  
**Solstice in the Shire**  
Sun Dec 21 2pm  
Free with Registration



Town Hall Theater Presents  
**New Years Eve w/ Soule Monde**  
Wed Dec 31 7 - 10pm  
Tickets: \$15 - \$35  
price includes champagne toast

[townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) | 72-76 Merchant's Row Middlebury, VT | 802.382.9222

Season Sponsor:







nov  
28

## FRIDAY

**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](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**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.

**Stone Motors Stuff a Truck holiday toy drive in Middlebury.** Ongoing through Tuesday, Dec. 23, at 2149 Route 7 South and 36 Boardman Street, Middlebury. Drop off new holiday toys or cash donations to Stone Motors stores to help HOPE deliver Christmas presents to Addison County kids.

**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.

**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](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

nov  
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## 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. Proceeds support firefighters, EMTs and their families. More info at [cmcousino@gmavt.net](mailto:cmcousino@gmavt.net), 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.

**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 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](http://ocmvermont.org), via email at [production@ocmvermont.org](mailto:production@ocmvermont.org) or call 802-388-7432.

nov  
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## SUNDAY

**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](mailto:dwight.griesman@gmail.com) to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org). Free.

**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

**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.



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## 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or 1-800-RED CROSS.

**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.

**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

**Art and creative writing in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 3 and weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m., Counseling Service of Addison County, 17 Court St. Work on your own projects or try prompts with Nate; supplies available or bring your own. Park in back, use the door facing the convenience store. Free. Drop-in. More info at 802-388-3093.

**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](http://brandon.org), [info@brandon.org](mailto: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](http://peoplevsbigtech.com).

**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](http://middlebury.edu/college/box-office).

## dec 4 THURSDAY

**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.

**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](http://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.

**"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



**DOUG SINCLAIR OF the Sinclair Family tree farm in Ripton dutifully trusses up a tree with plastic mesh wrap during the farm's December 2024 season.**

Independent photo/Steve James

a holy relic to revolutionaries. More info at [middlebury.edu/events/event/journey-saint-cesar-de-maria-0](http://middlebury.edu/events/event/journey-saint-cesar-de-maria-0).

## dec 5 FRIDAY

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 3 listing.

**"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](http://vlt.org/events/salisbury-mills-family-full-moon-hike).

**Memory tree lighting in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Memory tree lighting with the Bristol Elementary School chorus,

followed by a reading of the names. Register an honoree by Dec. 2. More info at [bristolvtrec.com](http://bristolvtrec.com).

**The Chocolate Walk in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m., downtown Bristol. Shops stay open late with chocolate treats, community spirit and holiday shopping. Browse, nibble and support local businesses during this Bristol CORE event.

**Community supper in New Haven.** Friday, Dec. 5, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, 91 Town Hill Rd. The New Haven Ladies Union invites you to enjoy a casual dinner with neighbors. Menu includes shepherd's pie, salad, roll, dessert and beverage. All are welcome. No takeout. Served until the food is gone.

**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 [vergennessoperahouse.org](http://vergennessoperahouse.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.

**A Christmas music night in New Haven.**

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Celebrate

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- Send leftovers home with friends and family
- Freeze leftovers
- Donate food that meets guidelines
- Dispose of any food waste properly (compost!)



From the Addison County Solid Waste Management District



# Calendar

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](http://addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol). Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email [melissa@middlesburyactors.org](mailto:melissa@middlesburyactors.org).

**"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.

## dec 6 SATURDAY

**St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar in Orwell.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Orwell Town Hall, Main St. Handmade gifts and crafts, Christmas decorations, ornaments, wreaths, raffles, silent auction and baked goods. No flea market or lunch this year due to town hall kitchen renovations.

**American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 133 Valley View Drive. See Dec. 2 listing.

**Holiday Craft Fair in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Vergennes Union Elementary School, 43 East St. There will be over 70 vendors, proceeds to benefit the Pavillion Project. Free admission. Email [progress8773761@gmail.com](mailto:progress8773761@gmail.com) to register and reserve your spot now.

**Friends of the Bixby Library book sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Otter Creek Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Used book sale offering gently used fiction, nonfiction, children's, YA, gardening, sci-fi/fantasy, Vermont books and more. Proceeds support Bixby Library programs. Entrance from the back parking lot. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Santa & Mrs. Claus in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus and share holiday wishes.

**Henry Sheldon Museum Holiday Open House in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum hosts its annual Holiday Open House with live holiday music, a decorated Christmas tree and wreath raffle, the Trains exhibit for all ages and seasonal crafting in the Makerspace. Free. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**Holiday card making in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Half Round Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Make festive holiday cards during the Holiday Stroll. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**East Middlebury Craft Fair in East Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sara Partridge Community House and Library, 431 E Main St. Local vendor and book sale sponsored by the East Middlebury Historical Society.

**Carriage rides in Middlebury.** Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Cannon Park, Main St. and Park St., Middlebury. Enjoy a cozy ride through town and warm up with a cup of cocoa at the hot cocoa hut on Cannon Park.

**Storytime with Santa in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:30-11 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy a special storytime with Santa Claus during the Holiday Stroll.

**Toy swap in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6,

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bixby Hall, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Find new-to-you treasures at the community toy swap in Bixby Hall. More info at [bixbylibrary.org/event/toy-swap](http://bixbylibrary.org/event/toy-swap).

**Va-et-Vient performance in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy lively, heartwarming French tunes from Addison County female trio Va-et-Vient during the Holiday Stroll. Free. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Maiden Vermont performance in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, noon-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enjoy a Holiday Stroll performance by Maiden Vermont, a women's a cappella chorus specializing in barbershop-style harmonies. Free. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 3 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.

**Broadway Direct 20th Anniversary Show in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. See Dec. 5 listing.

**Ho Ho Ho Holiday Roll Tractor Parade in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30-6 p.m., City Park, 179 Main St. Vergennes' first Holiday Roll Tractor Parade features tractors, riding mowers and side-by-sides decked out in holiday lights, plus an appearance by the S.D. Ireland Holiday Mixer Truck. Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, marshmallow roasting over fire pits and music, with downtown shops open until 7 p.m. Free.

**Santa Comes to Salisbury in Salisbury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m., Veterans Park, 515 Maple St. Bonfire, carols and Santa's arrival, followed by a hay wagon ride to the Congregational Church for tree decorating, cocoa, cookies and stories. Door prizes for two families. Free.

**CombustOMatics in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 886 Route 7. Rosie's Restaurant hosts live music with CombustOMatics as part of its December live music series.

**"Amahl & the Night Visitors" in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. The Downtown Brandon Alliance, in partnership with Opera Vermont, presents two performances of this holiday opera. Free.

**Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 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 Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.

**"The Journey of the Saint by César De María" play at Middlebury College.** Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

## dec 7 SUNDAY

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 5 listing.

**Ted Perry Holiday Trio in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 7, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The Ted Perry Trio presents a special holiday jazz performance with guest vocalist Ryan Montbleau, performing classic holiday songs and other heartwarming tunes. \$30 standard; \$40 generous. Tickets at [addisonarts.org/event/ted-perry-trio-holiday-show](http://addisonarts.org/event/ted-perry-trio-holiday-show).

**Ugly Christmas sweater party in Vergennes.**

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Saturday, Dec. 7, 7-10 p.m., American Legion, 100 Armory Lane. Wear your most festive or outrageous holiday sweater. Dance cover band Nickel & Dime will play favorite hits from the 1970s to today. Admission by donation. Open to the public. More info at [ajs802@comcast.net](mailto:ajs802@comcast.net).

## dec 9 TUESDAY

**Milk and Honey Quilters Guild holiday potluck and gift exchange in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. In-person meeting featuring a holiday potluck and Yankee gift exchange for guild members. Bring a dish to share, your own place setting and a gift-wrapped sewing or quilt-related item to participate in the exchange. More info at [milkandhoneyquilters.com/guild-meetings](http://milkandhoneyquilters.com/guild-meetings).

**Bixby Book Club in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. December's pick is "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle. Didn't finish the book? No problem — this is a no-judgment book club. Copies available at the circulation desk; email [martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org) to reserve.

## dec 10 WEDNESDAY

**Holiday wrapping spot in Shoreham.** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5-7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Need a place to wrap gifts? Stop by the library! Gift wrap for Christmas and Hanukkah provided, plus large tables, tape, scissors, ribbons and help if needed. Bring your gifts and a festive spirit.

**Grief Group with La Dimora in Brandon.** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Support group gathering with end-of-life doula Becki Lund of La Dimora for people navigating any kind of grief. Free.

**Four Calling Birds in Bristol.** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6-8 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy drinks and music by the fire as Four Calling Birds sing acoustic, folk winter tunes and favorite Christmas carols with rich vocal harmonies. Guests are welcome to sing along. More info at [thetillermanvt.com](http://thetillermanvt.com).

**A to Z Book Club in Shoreham.** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Monthly hybrid book club where readers choose a book based on a challenge letter. December's letter is "X": find a title word or author's name starting with X. Attend in person or contact the library for the Zoom link.



## dec 11 THURSDAY

**Advent noontime concert in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Lynette Combs of Montpelier will play seasonal music of Bach, Berlioz and the mid-20th century composer Hugo Distler. Free.

**Classic Film Club in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, Main Street. Screening of "The Thomas Crown Affair" starring Faye Dunaway, followed by discussion. Free. Popcorn provided.

**Moonlight Madness in Brandon.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 4-8 p.m., downtown Brandon. Shop local this holiday season and take advantage of opportunities throughout town. Many shops will offer 20% off and be open 'til 8 p.m. More info at [brandon.org](http://brandon.org), info@brandon.org, 802-247-6401.

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 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.

**Wreath making workshop in Vergennes.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bring greenery into your home this holiday season with a custom-made wreath. Limited space; reserve your spot by emailing [miranda.degrenia@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:miranda.degrenia@bixbylibrary.org).

**Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 5-8 p.m., downtown Middlebury. Shop handmade gifts from local artisans, including at National Bank of Middlebury, during the second stroll night.

**Henry Sheldon Museum and store open during Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 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](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**"Bringing Up Beaver" presentation in Salisbury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. Licensed wildlife rehabilitator John Aberth will discuss "Bringing Up Beaver," his book about raising an orphaned beaver kit and the two-year journey to release it back into the wild.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 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](http://addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol). Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email [melissa@middleburyactors.org](mailto:melissa@middleburyactors.org).

**"The Roommate" in Bristol.** Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Middlebury Community Players' Company Be, in collaboration with Bristol Recreation Department, presents this Broadway comedy. Open seating; all tickets \$10, cash or check only. Reservations are not required, but to be added to a reservation list call 802-377-3540. More info: [middleburycommunityplayers.org](http://middleburycommunityplayers.org).

## dec 12 FRIDAY

**Wreath making workshop in Vergennes.** Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. See Dec. 11 listing.

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 12, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing.

**Candy cane hunt with Santa in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 12, 5 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Candy cane hunt with Santa on the town green. More info at [bristolvtrec.com](http://bristolvtrec.com).

**Free hot chocolate and carols on Main Street in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m., Main Street. After the candy cane hunt, enjoy a free cup of hot chocolate and holiday entertainment from Bristol CORE. Free. More info at [discoverbristolvt.com](http://discoverbristolvt.com).

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 11 listing.

**Krampusnacht "Touch the Wild" in Rochester.** Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Road. The fireside solstice gathering returns to explore how we can touch the wild through song, story and ritual in the frosty night air. Tickets on sale in early November at [baldmountaintheater.org](http://baldmountaintheater.org).

**"The Roommate" in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See Dec. 11 listing.

## dec 13 SATURDAY

**Mountain View 4-H craft and vendor sale in Bridport.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. The annual sale features vendors and crafters along with 4-H members selling handmade crafts, baked goods and lunch. Free admission.

**31st annual Christmas cookie sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (or until sold out), Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, 73 Church St.

The cookie sale features a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies and other treats for sale. Choose and package your favorites and enjoy hot cider and festive music while you shop. More info at 802-417-4300.

**Kids' holiday ornament decorating in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Half Round Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Drop in to decorate a holiday ornament to hang on the tree or give as a gift. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cuss and Cut Block Printing in Brandon.** Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Learn linoleum block printing and let the profanities fly as you create. Ages 18 and up, no experience necessary. Spots are limited, please email [info@brandonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@brandonpubliclibrary.org) to register.

**Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**The Met: Live in HD "Andrea Chénier" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Giordano's passionate tragedy stars tenor Piotr Beczala as the virtuous poet ensnared by the French Revolution, with soprano Sonya Yoncheva as Maddalena di Coigny and baritone Igor Golovatenko as Carlo Gérard. Tickets \$10-\$24 at [addisonarts.org](http://addisonarts.org).

**Cookies and a Craft with Mr. Claus in Shoreham.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. A quieter, simpler visit with Mr. Claus. Write your list for Santa, make a holiday craft, enjoy cookies or a candy cane, and pick up a free book in the cozy library. Free and open to all.

**"The Roommate" in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See Dec. 11 listing.

**"A Christmas Carol" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 11 listing.

**Bingo at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 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.

**Bob Gagnon Trio in Middlebury.** Saturday,

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Dec. 13, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from the Bob Gagnon Trio at Rosie's Restaurant. Part of Rosie's December live music series.

**Christmas decorating contest in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 5 p.m., around Brandon. String up your lights in preparation for the contest. Judges will tour Brandon starting at 5 p.m. and evaluate decor across four categories: residential traditional, residential whimsical (includes inflatables), civic and commercial. Call in your own place or someone else's to ensure judges see the display. Judges may also nominate favorites. More info at [info@brandon.org](mailto:info@brandon.org), 802-247-6401.

**Krampusnacht "Touch the Wild" in Rochester.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., 185 Brandon Mountain Road. See Dec. 12 listing.

**Kat Wright & Brett Hughes Holiday Show in Lincoln.** Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Kat Wright and Brett Hughes bring their 12th annual holiday show back to the Burnham Hall stage for a magical evening of music that embodies all the holiday feels. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets at [sevendaystickets.com](http://sevendaystickets.com).

**High Horse house concert in New Haven.** SOLD OUT. Saturday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., private home, New Haven (address provided with ticket purchase). Progressive acoustic string band High Horse plays an intimate house concert. Attendance limited to 46.

## dec 14 SUNDAY

**Audubon Christmas bird count in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 14, all day, all of Bridport and Cornwall and parts of Addison, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Whiting. Backyard bird watchers who live within a 15-mile radius of the Lemon Fair River are invited to report the maximum number of each species of bird they see at their birdfeeders. Field watchers will also count birds in the vicinity. For more details, contact Kris or Jim Andrews at [jandrews@VtHerpAtlas.org](mailto:jandrews@VtHerpAtlas.org). Free.

**Breakfast buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 14, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Menu includes omelets, scrambled eggs, French toast, plain and blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, cornbread, home fries and mini muffins. Juice, tea and coffee available. \$13 adults, \$8 children 8-12; under 8 free. Sponsored by Vergennes Council of the Knights of Columbus.

**Brandon Festival Singers in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. Annual concert that brings together singers and musicians from area communities for a joyous Christmas celebration. Free, a portion of donations will go to charity.

**Darkness to Light: A preparation for Christmas in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. The Choir of St. Stephen's presents a Lessons and Carols service that moves from darkness to light and features choral music from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Free.

**Toys for Kids Train stop in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 14, 6-6:30 p.m., Middlebury Amtrak Station, 30 Middle Seymour St. The Vermont Rail System's Toys for Kids Train makes its final stop of the day. Meet Santa, enjoy a candy cane and donate new, unwrapped toys for children in need across Vermont.

## dec 16 TUESDAY

**Kids' gift crafts: button machine in Vergennes.** Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3-4:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Design a one-of-

a-kind button with fun designs, patterns or messages. Perfect to wear or give as a handmade gift. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

## dec 17 WEDNESDAY

**Brush Hour in Brandon.** Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. See Dec. 3 listing.

## dec 18 THURSDAY

**"Christmas in the Air" in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 18, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Community carol sing-along. Music Director Robert Ludwig will lead sacred and secular songs of the season and share stories about the history of several favorites.

**Cookbook Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month's cookbook. Free.

## dec 19 FRIDAY

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 19, 4-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing.

**"Night Fires" in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. A magical Winter Solstice dream play created and directed by Marianne Lust, now in its fourth decade, featuring a mix of new performers and "old-timers" with a wholly new story each year. Tickets \$15-\$45 at [addisonarts.org/event/night-fires-2](http://addisonarts.org/event/night-fires-2).

**SD Ireland holiday truck in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 19, 5:20 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Visit from the SD Ireland holiday truck on the town green. More info at [bristolvtrec.com](http://bristolvtrec.com).

## dec 20 SATURDAY

**Kids' make your own snow globes Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library. Create a snow globe and bring winter magic into your home using jars, glitter and tiny decorations. Limited space: RSVP by emailing [shelby.gagne@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:shelby.gagne@bixbylibrary.org). More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 11 listing. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m. Neshobe School students will sing in the park.

**Build a Solar Robot in Shoreham.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Kids ages 8 and up can build a solar-powered mini robot in honor of the winter solstice. Ms. Abby will lead the

build. Limited to 11 participants, stop by the library or call 802-897-2647 to register.

**"Night Fires" in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

**Lumen: Bristol's Celebration of Fire & Light in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 4-7 p.m., Bristol Town Green and Holley Hall, 1 South St. Free community celebration featuring a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall at 4 p.m. and a fire-dancing performance by Cirque de Feugo on the Town Green at 6 p.m., plus fire pits and delicious food. Free.

**O & Schu in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from O & Schu as part of Rosie's December live music series.

**Reverse Parade in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. A reverse parade where spectators drive by to enjoy the covered bridge illuminated with lights, festive decorations, elves awaiting Santa and Barn Opera well-wishers spreading holiday cheer.

**Holiday music at the Tillerman in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy joyful holiday music in the barn by the band Sunday Morning. Drinks available. More info at [thetillermanvt.com](http://thetillermanvt.com).

## dec 21 SUNDAY

**Annual Messiah Sing in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Joyful community sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah, led by Jeff Rehbach. All are welcome to join and sing favorite choruses or play in the orchestra. Suggested donation \$5-10 adults, \$10-\$25 families. More info at [jeff.rehbach@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.rehbach@gmail.com), 802-382-7493.

**Solstice in the Shire: The Shortest Day in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day. Surprise performances by local actors and musicians. Free; donations accepted.

**"Night Fires" in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

**Reverse Parade in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. See Dec. 20 listing.

**Shannon Wright & Friends holiday concert in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. A holiday concert for everyone with music to herald the season. Free.

## dec 27 SATURDAY

**Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 27, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/

crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Spencer Lewis in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 27, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from Spencer Lewis as part of Rosie's December live music series.

## dec 29 MONDAY

**Family Game Night in Shoreham.** Monday, Dec. 29, 5-7:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Bring the whole family to play from the library's growing board game collection or bring your own games to play or share. Arrive by 5 p.m. for pizza.

## dec 30 TUESDAY

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

## dec 31 WEDNESDAY

**Fireworks and ice skating in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Dr. Fireworks begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by free ice skating at Memorial Sports Center.

**New Year's Eve with Soule Monde in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. An early New Year's Eve concert with avant-funk duo Soule Monde, featuring dynamic melodies and bold improvisation. Family-friendly. Tickets \$15-\$35 at [addisonarts.org/event/soule-monde-new-years-eve](http://addisonarts.org/event/soule-monde-new-years-eve).

## jan 2 FRIDAY

**"Filling the Frame" opening reception in Middlebury.** Friday, Jan. 2, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a fine art photography exhibition selected by juror Dallas Crow, showcasing layered compositions and richly textured scenes that embrace visual abundance. Exhibition runs Jan. 2-31.

## jan 3 SATURDAY

**Henry Sheldon Museum Community Day in Middlebury.** Saturday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Saturday, Jan. 3 is the last day to see the holiday trains and museum exhibitions for the season, with special events throughout the day and after-holiday bargains in the museum store. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).



LIGHTS PROJECTED ONTO Middlebury's falls add a festive glow to downtown during the holiday season.

Photo by Jonathan Blake





THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC

CHRISTMAS GUIDE

DECEMBER 2025

3	Advent Taizé Service 7:00 p.m. in Unity Hall
6	"A Very Merry Middlebury" Caroling 10:00 a.m. on the Church Steps
7	Second Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
14	Third Advent Worship Service 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
21	Fourth Advent Worship Service & Christmas Pageant 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary Messiah Sing 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
24	Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

802-388-7634

www.midducc.org

@midducc

Worship

**ADDISON COUNTY** — A number of Addison County-area churches have set their schedules for special Christmas events and services. Note that these plans may change. If your church service isn't listed, please email the information to [calendar@addisonindependent.com](mailto:calendar@addisonindependent.com) and we will run it in the weeks coming up to the holidays.

ADDISON

**West Addison United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. This service replaces the regular morning worship service that day. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day.

BRANDON/FOREST DALE

**St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church** will hold Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

BRIDPORT

**Bridport Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service in the Meeting Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

**Saint Bernadette's Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25. Christmas Eve masses will be held at St. Mary's in Middlebury (see Middlebury listing).

BRISTOL

**Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Church** will celebrate the

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**Sunday, December 14**  
4:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols

**Wednesday, December 24**  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist  
8:30 pm Carol Prelude\*  
9:00 pm Holy Eucharist \*

**Christmas Day, December 25**  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Carols

**Sunday, December 28**  
10:30 am Christmas Lessons and Carols Service \*

\*These services will also be broadcast on Zoom



St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Church

802.388.7200

3 Main St. on the Green • Middlebury, VT  
**STSTEPHENSmidd.org**  
Please visit our website for the latest updates on Christmas worship and life at St. Stephen's



# Worship

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m. Rorate Mass will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 a.m. Confession schedule during Christmas week is as follows: Sunday, Dec. 21, from 7:30-8:15 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 7-7:45 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 6:30-8 am and Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Christmas Day Mass is at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

## EAST MIDDLEBURY

The **East Middlebury United Methodist Church** and the **Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church Street and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

## MIDDLEBURY

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary's) Catholic Church** will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Dec. 8, at 12:05 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's will hold two Christmas Eve Masses on Wednesday, Dec. 24: Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. and Mass at Night at 7:30 p.m. (choral prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.). Christmas Day Mass will be held at St. Bernadette's in Bridport at 9 a.m. (see Bridport listing).

The **Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society** will hold two Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The 4 p.m. service will feature an all-ages pageant with group candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night." The 7 p.m. service, "We Are the Light of the World!" will explore the Christmas Spirit with songs, music, poetry and candle lighting. All are welcome. Attend either service in person or online via Zoom link at [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org).

## HAPPY CHANUKAH

Chanukah begins the night of Sunday  
December 14th and ends Monday the 22nd



## HAVURAH OF ADDISON COUNTY

56 N. Pleasant St. Middlebury  
[havurahaddisoncounty.org](http://havurahaddisoncounty.org)

## Shoreham Congregational Church



The Shoreham Congregational Church welcomes  
you to its Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
at 5 PM on Wednesday, December 24.

All are invited to celebrate Advent during our worship services  
at 10 AM on Sundays, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.

28 SCHOOL ROAD, SHOREHAM



Assumption of the  
**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
ST. MARY'S - ST. BERNADETTE - ST. GENEVIEVE



## Solemnity of Christmas

Vigil Mass - Dec. 24, 4 pm - St. Mary's  
Mass at Night - Dec. 24, 7:30 pm - St. Mary's  
Mass During Day - Dec. 25, 9 am - St. Bernadette  
[www.stmaryvermontcatholic.org](http://www.stmaryvermontcatholic.org)  
Parish Office 802-388-2943

## Bridport Church

Please join us  
Christmas Eve  
At 6:30 PM

54/72 Middle Road,  
Bridport, Vermont



(Meeting Hall)





# Worship

**The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC** will hold weekly Sunday services at 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.

**Memorial Baptist Church** will hold weekly Advent Sunday services at 10 a.m. A Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. A Christmas Day service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

**The Middlebury United Methodist Church and the East Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church St. and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** will hold Advent noontime concerts on Thursday, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 12 noon. Concerts are free and all are welcome. On Sunday, Dec. 14, there will be an Advent Lessons and Carols service at 4 p.m. On Wednesday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve pageant and Holy Eucharist will be held at 4 p.m.; and at 8:30 p.m. there will be a Carol Prelude followed by a Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 9 p.m. The Christmas Day Holy Eucharist takes place on Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 28, there will be a 10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols service. All services are in person; some will be broadcast on Zoom. Please visit [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org) for Zoom links and more information.

## ORWELL

**First Congregational Church of Orwell** will hold a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

**St. Paul Catholic Church** in Orwell will hold a Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

## SHOREHAM

**Shoreham Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Advent services will be held at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21.

## VERGENNES

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church** will hold a Christmas Eve Festival Service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

**Vergennes United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day.

## WEYBRIDGE

**Weybridge Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve worship service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.

# Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalists



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**Help HEAL** our world.

**Sunday worship at 10 am onsite and online.**

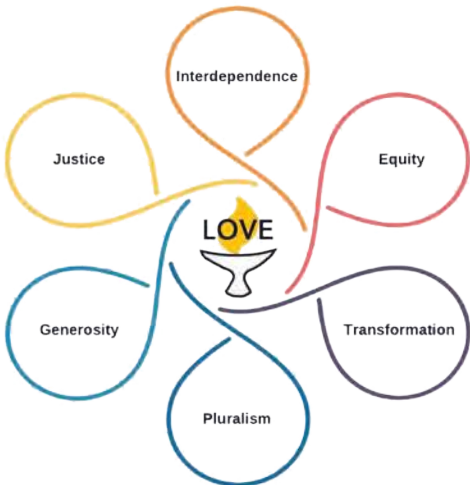
Stay for Social Hour in Fellowship Hall.  
See [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org) for pathways to connect, more on our award-winning religious exploration programs for children and to reserve space.



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Rev. Tricia and Rev. Christina







**ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

FR. STEVEN R. MARCHAND, PASTOR

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

Monday, December 8th at 5:30pm

**Christmas Eve Mass**

Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30pm

**Rorate Mass**

Saturday, December 20th at 6:30am

**Christmas Day Mass**

Thursday, December 25th at 8:30am

**Christmas Week Confession Schedule**

Sunday, December 21st 7:30-8:15am

Tuesday, December 23rd 7:00-7:45am & 6:30-8:00pm

Wednesday, December 24th 1:00-1:30pm

11 SCHOOL STREET, BRISTOL ♦ (802) 453-2488  
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**MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

Sundays, December 7, 14, 21 at 11:00 a.m.

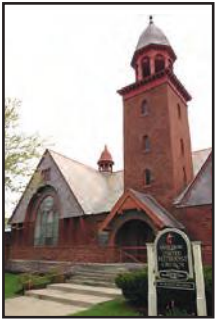
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at Middlebury United Methodist Church on Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. to benefit Charter House.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT**

**SERVICE** at 4:00 p.m. together with East Middlebury United Methodist Church at 2 Church Street, East Middlebury.



**REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Sundays at 11:00 . A.M.



43 North Pleasant Street (corner of Seminary Street), Middlebury • 802-388-2510  
Pastor: John Chico Martin  
Minister of Music: Dr. Kevin Parizo

**Weybridge Congregational Church**  
**Celebrate Advent and Christmas on Weybridge Hill!**

**Advent Worship**

is at 10am on Sundays  
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21

**Christmas Eve Worship**

is at 5pm on  
Wednesday, December 24

Services are in person  
at 2790 Weybridge Road  
and on Zoom - email  
weybridgechurch@gmail.com  
for the Zoom link.



**Weybridge Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ

Visit [weybridgechurch.org](http://weybridgechurch.org)  
for more info  
about our church.

**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

97 S. PLEASANT ST, MIDDLEBURY

ADVENT SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

Learn more at  
[MemorialBaptistVT.org](http://MemorialBaptistVT.org)  
[membaptistvt@gmail.com](mailto:membaptistvt@gmail.com)  
802-388-7472





## GLÜHWWEIN

### Ingredients

- 1 bottle of Marquette or Ragtime Red
- 1/4 cup of honey or maple (1/2 the sweetener if using Ragtime Red)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 6-8 whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced into rounds

### Instructions

Pour wine into a small pot or slow-cooker and begin to heat. Add orange slices and honey, or your preferred sweetener. Tie up a cheesecloth bundle of allspice and cloves, or add straight to the pot along with the cinnamon sticks. Heat the wine gently but do not let it boil, as it will cook off the alcohol! Heat for 20-40 minutes and enjoy.



## MESQUITE PENICILLIN

### Ingredients

- 2 ounces Lost Lantern Gentle Giant Texas Single Malt Whiskey
- 3/4 ounce honey-ginger syrup (see below)
- 3/4 ounce fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 ounce Lost Lantern Flame Mesquite-Smoked Whiskey

### Instructions

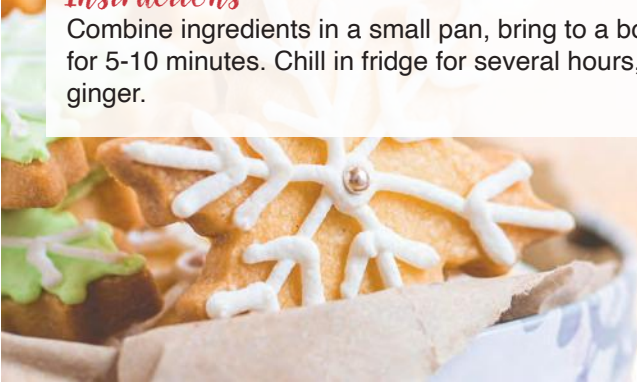
- Combine Gentle Giant, honey-ginger syrup, lemon juice, and ice in a cocktail shaker
- Shake and strain into a rocks glass filled with one or two large ice cubes
- Float Flame and garnish with candied ginger

### Honey-Ginger Syrup

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 3-inch chunk of ginger

### Instructions

Combine ingredients in a small pan, bring to a boil, then simmer for 5-10 minutes. Chill in fridge for several hours, then strain out ginger.



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## COTTON-HEADED HINNY MUGGINS

### *Rocks*

ice sphere

### *Ingredients*

2 oz Piggyback Rye

½ oz spiced simple

Bar spoonful Allspice dram

2 dashes cardamom bitters

### *Garnish*

smoking cinnamon stick and star anise

### *Instructions*

Light cinnamon stick and put under glass to “smoke”, pour ingredients over ice sphere,  
Stir, Strain



  
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## MAPLE CRANBERRY SAUCE

### Ingredients

12 oz Fresh Cranberries  
1 Cup Apple Cider  
1 Cup Pure Vermont Maple Syrup (Dark Robust works best)

### Instructions

1. Place ingredients in a large pot over medium heat.  
2. Allow the ingredients to

simmer, stirring occasionally.  
3. When the cranberries begin to pop and sizzle use a potato masher to crush the berries.  
4. The sauce is ready when it coats the back of a spoon and begins to jell.  
5. Serve warm from the stove or cool from the fridge.

## LOIS'S MAPLE BAKED BEANS

### Ingredients

2 lbs. Dried Yellow Eye Beans  
½ lb. Salt Pork or Bacon  
½ tsp. Baking Soda  
1 tsp. Dry Mustard  
1 tsp. Dry Ginger  
1 Medium Sized Onion, Quartered  
2 Cups Pure Vermont Maple Syrup

### Instructions

1. Wash and pick over beans. Cover with cold water, add baking soda and soak overnight.  
2. In the morning, rinse beans and boil gently in fresh water until

skins blow off the beans.  
3. Preheat oven to 325 degrees or get the crock pot ready.  
4. Drain off bean water and keep.  
5. Place onion in the bottom of crock pot or casserole dish and add remaining ingredients.  
6. Score the salt pork and place on top of beans. Pour in enough bean water to just cover the beans.  
7. Bake covered in oven until done or in a crock pot for about 8 hours.  
8. Check periodically, adding bean water as needed.

*Serves 10 or more*

## FIRE & ICE FETTUCCHINI ALFREDO

### Ingredients

8 oz pasta of choice  
2 cups Monument Farms Heavy cream  
1 Tbsp chopped garlic  
½ tsp kosher salt  
½ tsp black pepper  
Kraft grated parmesan cheese

### Instructions

Cook the pasta and set aside. In a sauté pan add two cups Monument Farms heavy cream, a tablespoon of chopped garlic, half teaspoon of kosher salt and half teaspoon of fresh cracked black pepper. Bring to a full rolling boil, add cooked pasta, and a half cup of grated Kraft parmesan cheese, stir until thickened. Serve in a bowl with garlic butter.



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## THAI BBQ CHICKEN

### Ingredients

1 Whole Chicken  
Sticky Rice

### Marinade

1 tsp. Chopped Lemongrass  
1 tsp. Chopped Garlic  
1 tsp. Grated Orange Rind or Orange Juice  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
1/2 tsp. Black Peppercorns  
1 tsp. Cilantro Root  
1 tsp. Soy Sauce  
1 tsp. Oyster Sauce  
1 Tbsp. Brown Sugar

### Dipping Sauce

1 Tbsp. Lemon Juice  
1/2 tsp. Brown Sugar  
1 Tbsp. Fish Sauce  
1/2 tsp. Chopped Cilantro or Spring Onion  
Chili Powder to Taste

### Instructions

1. For the recipe to be at its finest, it's best to marinate the chicken overnight and grill it the next day, but if you don't have the time, marinate the chicken for at least a few hours.
2. Mix marinade ingredients.
3. Butterfly cut the whole chicken, starting from the breast side down to the end. Flatten chicken out and lightly prick with a fork.
4. Rub the marinade into all parts of the chicken.
5. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
6. Grill over a low, even heat, turning every 20 minutes until the chicken is cooked through to the bone and the skin is dark golden brown — or bake into a 350° F oven until the internal temperature reaches 165° F.
7. After grilling, cut chicken apart. Cut off the drumsticks and wings, and chop the rest of the chicken into strips or pieces.
8. Serve with sticky rice and dipping sauce.



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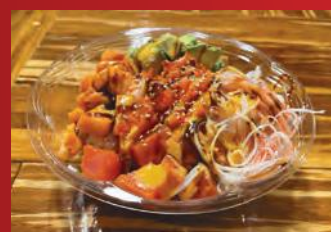
dinner • dine in • take out



Egg Rolls



Pad Thai with Chicken & Shrimp



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and will reopen on Wednesday, December 3rd.**

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OR ON INSTAGRAM: Sabaimidd



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## ARTICHOKE DIP

### Ingredients

- 2 cans of artichoke hearts
- ½-1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp granulated garlic
- 1-2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

### Directions

Drain the artichokes — it's okay to have a little juice. Chop them into small pieces. In a 9x9 inch baking dish, mix all ingredients together. The measurements are a rough estimate — you can increase or decrease to taste. Wing it, add love, and have fun!

Bake at 350 degrees for about 27 minutes, until golden brown and bubbly on the sides.

To dip, you can use corn chips, baguette, Ritz crackers, or any other favorite cracker or bread product! YUM!



## GREG'S MARKET HOLIDAY ONION DIP

### Ingredients

- 2 (8oz) blocks cream cheese
- 1 large white onion chopped/diced
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2-3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- A splash of milk
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Instructions

Serve immediately with Ruffles potato chips. Or, for deeper flavor, let chill for 24 hours before serving.

## GREG'S QUICK QUESO

### Ingredients

- 2 hothouse tomatoes, diced
- 1 large red onion, diced
- 2-3 jalapeños, diced (remove seeds for less heat)
- Juice from one lemon
- 1 32oz (2lb.) brick of Velveeta cheese, cubed.

### Instructions

Mix all ingredients together in a large microwave safe bowl. Microwave in 1-2 minute intervals, stirring between each round. Enjoy with tortilla chips or your favorite cracker or bread!





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sauerkraut • 1000 Island dressing



#### White Bean Bruschetta

warm white bean salad • asiago cheese  
• garlic oil crostini



#### Roasted Veggie Salad

roasted bell pepper, onion, & mushrooms  
• baby greens • fresh tomato • lemon  
balsamic vinaigrette

#### Chicken Schnitzel

pan fried chicken cutlet • cider braised  
red cabbage • warm bavarian potato  
salad • mustard cream sauce



#### The Squeeze Burger

pickled onions • roasted peppers  
• greens • bacon • cheddar cheese  
• fried egg

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\*December 7, 14, & 21

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Cheri Rattle



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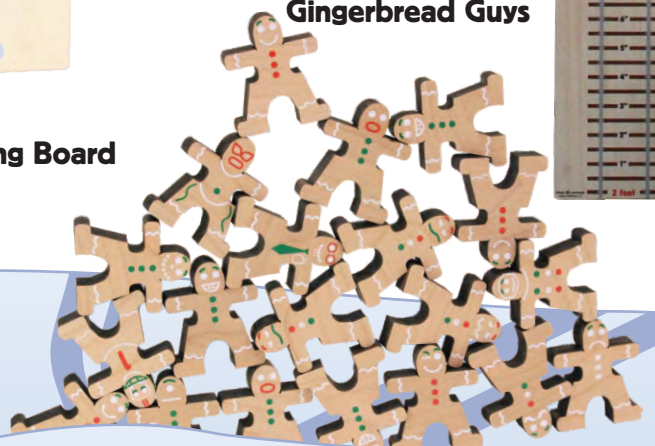
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