



Family talent

An exhibition at Bristol Suites will show art of a local mother and daughter. See Arts + Leisure.



It's a wrap

Successful teams shared a not-so-secret ingredient this fall — togetherness. See Sports, Page 1B.



Craftworks

It's the time of year for holiday craft fairs. See photos from two local ones on Page 16A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 79 No. 49

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, December 4, 2025 ♦ 46 Pages

\$2.00

MUMS repair costs could top \$45 million

Middlebury school is now crowded

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — When it comes to prioritizing future school building repairs and maintenance, Addison Central School District (ACSD) officials are considering several factors, but primarily: “How essential is this facility to the ACSD’s educational mission, particularly in light of declining student enrollment?”

But there’s one outlier among the nine school buildings the ACSD is sizing up for potential upgrades — Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS), which could use more space to accommodate a student body that has swelled since it began receiving the district’s sixth graders three years ago.

District officials recently

reviewed a report — prepared with input from MUMS staff, the firm TruexCullins Architecture & Interior Design, and others — that suggests a range of \$41.9 million to \$45.4 million in repairs and additions to the district’s middle school, which serves children in grades 6-8 from the ACSD-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Built in 1996, the 64,750-square-foot MUMS building was designed for a capacity of 319 students but currently hosts 387. The school absorbed ACSD sixth graders as part of the district’s pivot to an International Baccalaureate curriculum.

(See MUMS, Page 9A)



MARK PERRIN, CO-OWNER of Green Peppers Restaurant in Middlebury, takes a break during morning prep this Monday to reminisce about four decades making pizza. He and his wife, Donna, plan to sell the business.

Independent photo/Steve James

Perrins to pass the pizza peel

Green Peppers to get new owner

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — After 43 years, Mark Perrin can make pizza pies in his sleep.

And after a particularly long day at Middlebury’s Green Peppers Restaurant, it’s no stretch to imagine Perrin’s sleep being invaded by delicious spinning discs of dough topped with pepperoni, veggies, tangy sauce and creamy mozzarella.

It’s been a long, enjoyable and rewarding pizza party for Mark and his spouse Donna, but they’re about to exit their dough-main for a much-kneaded break. They’re selling

(See Pizza, Page 15A)



Middlebury board chair won't seek reelection

Carpenter will focus more on family, biz

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Citing mounting professional and family responsibilities — and his conviction that volunteer boards need regular turnover — longtime Middlebury selectboard Chairman Brian Carpenter has made it official that he won’t seek reelection in March.

“I’ve always been one to believe that it’s important for organizations to renew and have fresh leadership when they are serving the public good,” Carpenter said during a recent interview at the Middlebury home of his business, Champlain Valley Equipment.

“The town needs focus, and my focus is going to be elsewhere for a couple of years,” Carpenter added. “I don’t like not being able to put my all into something, and it’s getting to

(See Carpenter, Page 18A)

LONGTIME MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD Chair Brian Carpenter won’t seek reelection to a fifth three-year term next March. After an 11-year-run on the board, he said he will be devoting more time to his business selling farming and construction equipment.

Independent file photo/John Flowers



AMBER SORRELL SHOT this 159-pound buck with an 11-point rack in Charlotte and had it weighed at Green Mountain Trails End in Bristol.

Photo courtesy of Green Mountain Trails End

Rifle season ends on higher note

County buck numbers rebound after sluggish opening

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — After an opening weekend of rifle deer season in Addison County that was the least productive in a decade, the final two weeks of the season proved to be happier for hunters. A series of successful shots pushed the 2025 season’s total take

ahead of 2024 and out of last place.

In all, hunters took 527 bucks to the seven Addison County wildlife reporting stations between Nov. 15 and 30, eclipsing the 2024 mark of 484.

That improvement came despite the slowest opening (See Deer season, Page 10A)



By the way

New Haven residents are invited to vote on action ideas to prioritize for their town’s future during a community event next week. The gathering will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Town Hall. It’s the second step in an ongoing three-part New

(See By the way, Page 9A)

Partnership will support Bristol chocolate shop and factory

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — It was around 11 years ago that Eliza La Rocca and Erlé LaBounty went fulltime with Bristol’s Farmhouse Chocolates, a business that at the time specialized in making dark chocolate hand-rolled truffles.

Farmhouse Chocolates and its offerings have expanded since then. Today, the team whips up salted caramels and chocolate bars along with its signature truffles at its Mountain View Street factory store. Now the business does \$400,000 in annual sales.

And Farmhouse Chocolates is entering a new chapter. Co-founders La Rocca and LaBounty have partnered with Eat Vermont — a collaboration that will net their company resources and support to modernize its operations, expand its reach, and plan strategically for

(See Chocolates, Page 8A)



Magical moment

AS IF BEAUTIFUL snow geese flying in formation, their ink-tipped wings nearly touching, wasn’t lovely enough, a local photographer timed his shot to superimpose the migrating flock under the moon rising over the Champlain Valley this weekend. See more photos, Page 14A.

Photo by Lee Krohn

Index

- Obituaries.....6A
- Classifieds.....9B-10B
- Service Directory.....7B-8B
- Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure
- Community Calendar.....5B
- Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure
- Sports.....1B-4B



7 18122 07300 9

New film highlights the lives behind executions

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — When Emmanuel Littlejohn took his last breath on the morning of Sept. 26, 2024, Rev. Jeff Hood was standing by his side in the execution chamber. As a spiritual advisor to death row inmates, the Old Catholic priest and anti-death penalty activist has befriended, prayed with and advocated for individuals sentenced to death up until the final moments of their lives.

A new documentary produced by Middlebury College professor James Chase Sanchez follows Hood in the days leading up to the 2024 execution of Littlejohn. “The Spiritual Advisor” captures all that goes into Hood’s role as he petitions the state of Oklahoma to stay Littlejohn’s execution and prepares Littlejohn and his family for the road ahead.

While the 23-minute film unfolds over 1,000 miles away from Vermont, Sanchez noted the events it captures leave questions for local viewers to consider, particularly at a time when death row executions are happening more frequently in the United States under the Trump administration.

“I think it’s very easy to just assume (capital punishment) is dying out; this is something that, ‘Oh, you know, it only happens in the South,’” Sanchez said during a recent interview. “It happens here in the North as well... Even though we can say we live so far away from it, we can distance ourselves from it, even here in Vermont, even here in Middlebury, as a country we have to deal with this.”

“I want viewers to know that in some sense the blood is on all of our hands because what are we actively doing to stop this?” he

continued.

A POUND OF SNOW

Outside of his work as an associate professor of writing and rhetoric at the college, Sanchez has served as a producer on several films in recent years. Those projects include “Unintended,” a documentary directed by Vergennes filmmaker Chris Spencer exploring Vermont’s passage of the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, and “Green Gold,” a documentary produced by Middlebury College alum Ivonne Serna highlighting how Mexican cartels control much of the avocado industry.

In 2021, Sanchez and fellow filmmaker Joel Fendelman — who directed “The Spiritual Advisor” — formed their production company, A Pound of Snow Productions. The pair had previously worked together on “Man on Fire,” a documentary on the 2014 self-

immolation of Charles Moore, a minister protesting racism in Grand Saline, Texas.

The two filmmakers met Hood while working on “Man on Fire” several years ago, as the spiritual advisor was among those interviewed for the film. Last year, Hood reconnected with the pair.

“He gave me a call and said, ‘Hey, you know, I’ve been doing this work with these inmates. I’ve been in the execution chamber now many times... I don’t know what you all are working on, but I think this is something that would be important to film,’” Sanchez recalled. “Joel and I agreed.”

That September, Fendelman and his camera followed Hood from his home in Little Rock, Ark., to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary where Littlejohn was set to be executed. Littlejohn, 52 at the time of his death, had been sentenced to death for his involvement in the 1992 killing of convenience store owner Kenneth Meers. Littlejohn maintained his innocence until his death.

About a month prior to the execution, Oklahoma’s Pardon and Parole Board voted to recommend clemency for Littlejohn. Leading up to Littlejohn’s death, Hood repeatedly called on Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt to accept that clemency recommendation.

“(The film) is really built around 72 hours leading into the death, and so there’s this driving tension of, ‘Will the state of Oklahoma execute this person,’” Sanchez said. “I think for most viewers it will probably feel inevitable, and a quick Google search will tell you what unfolded there, but I think what we are most interested in in filming Jeff... is the resolve and utter love that it takes to do this work.”

BEHIND THE FILM



JAMES CHASE SANCHEZ, left, is an associate professor at Middlebury College and the producer of the new documentary film “The Spiritual Advisor,” which follows the Rev. Jeff Hood in his role as a spiritual advisor to death row inmates leading up to the 2024 execution of Emmanuel Littlejohn. Sanchez is pictured here with Joel Fendelman, director of the film, at the premiere in New York City last month.

Photo courtesy of James Chase Sanchez

Sanchez noted one of the challenges in making the documentary was a somewhat philosophical one, stemming from how executions are largely kept out of the public eye.

“It’s almost like, ‘Oh yeah, we’re OK, and we accept these killings and we accept the blood on our hands, but we don’t need people to engage with this,’” he said. “I think the question of ‘why’ is that I think if people actually watched an execution that may change a lot of peoples’ minds on what it means for a judicial killing.”

Another challenge was capturing Littlejohn’s family in the aftermath of the execution, Sanchez said.

“We get a visceral pain that only a few people ever in this country have ever experienced, and we have to witness that and be uncomfortable with it,” he said. “I think that ethically is hard to put in there, ‘How do you choose to take a family’s worst moment and make it public’ is a big ethical question. But that family told us many times

able to have that resolve and love and be able to share that love with people that it’s very easy for us as a society to dehumanize,” Sanchez said. “Jeff doesn’t care about guilt or innocence; he just cares more about the state not doing capital punishment.”

Sanchez noted that Hood has now stood with around a dozen men as they were executed.

“(Hood) doesn’t get money off of this. He’s often losing money or having to have fundraisers fund him to go to these states and travel,” Sanchez said. “It’s easy to not think about this, but to see someone so caring and loving, it makes you stop and think about just the entire process.”

Along with an understanding of what goes into Hood’s work, Sanchez hopes a takeaway for viewers is a sense of the political implications of capital punishment. President Donald Trump and his administration have sought to expand use of the death penalty and support states in carrying out

executions. So far this year, the state of Florida has executed 17 people — the state record for a single year.

“This isn’t a problem that seems to be going away, and, statistically, we see that it’s been increasing in many states in the South,”

“I want viewers to know that in some sense the blood is on all of our hands because what are we actively doing to stop this?”

— James Chase Sanchez

Sanchez said. “Understanding... that there’s political implications of this, that there are consequences from our president and their administration, that they’re putting pressure to create more of these, is really important to know.”

The documentary will be screened at film festivals in the coming months, after which it will be available on Documentary+ and on Rolling Stone’s website and YouTube sometime in the late spring or early summer of next year. The team is also turning the short film into a feature documentary.

Looking ahead, A Pound of Snow Productions is in the process of working on its next film, a documentary featuring a local resident that centers on the cover-up of sexual abuse at two Connecticut boarding schools. Sanchez said that film is expected to have its festival premiere sometime next year.

“I think the black and white allows us to face those moral questions,” he said.

There’s another question at the heart of the film — what does it take to do the work of a spiritual advisor again and again?

“(That is) one of the important questions in the short because we need people like Jeff Hood who are



THE REV. JEFF HOOD has served as a spiritual advisor for around a dozen inmates on death row, befriending, praying with and advocating for individuals sentenced to death up until the final moments of their lives. His work is captured in a new film called “The Spiritual Advisor,” which was produced by Middlebury College professor James Chase Sanchez.

Photo courtesy of A Pound of Snow Productions

Trees & Wreaths

Fresh Cut Local Christmas Trees
Fragrant Wreaths and Swags
Maple Products & 100's of Cool Gifts

From Charlie Browns to Premiums!

Buy a Tree or spend \$75 and receive two FREE passes to our very popular **EXTREME MINI GOLF** for the 2026 season!

CHAMP'S TRADING POST

6361 VT Route 17 West, Addison, VT 802-759-2566

Christmas Trees & Wreaths, Maple Syrup & Sugar

6 - 8ft. Trees \$30-\$64
Pre-cut trees available until sold out.

Last Day for Choose and Cut - Saturday, Dec. 6th

Open Friday-Sunday, 9am-4pm

Updates and details at sinclairfamilytreefarm.com
367 Selden Mill Road, Ripton 802-388-5499

VERMONT Trade Winds Farm

Maple Bake Shop
Open Saturday and Sunday

Donuts • Maple Danishes
Maple Squares • Creemee
Pies • Coffee • Cocoa

Free Cocoa for family with a purchase of a tree.

Pre-cut Trees up to 15 ft.
Wreaths, Garland and Boughs

Syrup on Tap!

All Things Maple!

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 8am-5pm | Sun 9am-4pm
884 Rte 74, Shoreham, VT | 802-897-2448 | vermonttradewinds.com

Emerald Acres
Christmas Tree Farm

Choose & Cut Trees!
Balsam, Canaan & Frasier Fir

Look for our signs on Route 22A & 74W

Open Friday-Sunday 9-4, or by appointment.
Call: 802-558-7122

Regular trees \$45
Deck, lawn and porch trees \$25
**taxes included.*

142 Hemenway Hill Road, Orwell

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

\$3.00 OFF ANY NOFFP

Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership
DAIRY PRODUCT

(minimum purchase \$3.00)
(Expires Wednesday, 12/10/25)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276
middlebury.coop

CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

Thank you to everyone who rounded up at the register this November.

Your collective donations totaled **\$1,386**, and the Co-op matched that for a total of **\$2,772** donated to support HOPE and CVOEO.

La Panciata
Traditional Italian Bakes

Dec 3 - Dec 9

Property tax may increase by 12%

Early state projections rely on Agency of Education data

By **ETHAN WEINSTEIN**
VTDigger.org

Vermonters could see a nearly 12% property tax increase in 2026, according to early estimates from the state.

The news arrived Monday in the form of the “Dec. 1 letter,” an annual Tax Department projection that represents the first public-facing estimate of the average expected education property tax rates. The estimate relies on data from the state Agency of Education and local school districts, which are already engaged in their budget-making processes, and is produced in collaboration with the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office.

“The rate of increase that we’re talking about is simply unacceptable and certainly defines unaffordability,” Bill Shouldice, Vermont’s tax commissioner, said in a media briefing on Monday.

Education property taxes have risen more than 40% in the last five years, according to the Tax Department, even while student enrollment in Vermont has dropped.

About half of the projected 11.9% average increase is due to anticipated increases in school district spending in the 2026-2027 school year, according to the Tax Department. The other half of the increase comes from not having the one-time allocation of roughly \$100 million used last year to lower tax rates, a common practice in recent years adopted by the Legislature and governor.

Property taxes rose on average by about 1% in 2025, though increases varied in towns and districts across the state. The modest increase resulted from lawmakers offsetting a 5.5% increase in school spending using one-time buy-down funds, a decision that makes this year’s increase appear higher.

Rising property taxes — and the cost of public education

— have been the driving force in Montpelier politics over the last two years. In the 2024 legislative session, property taxes were projected to rise by an average of more than 18%, leading voters to reject a historic proportion of school budgets. Reductions in spending and offsetting funds lowered the tax increase to less than 14%, but that spike fueled a wave of Republican House and Senate victories last November.

Last legislative session, in response to rising education property taxes, lawmakers passed Act 73, setting in motion generational change to how education is paid for and governed in Vermont. But the bill depends on lawmakers approving new, consolidated school district maps this upcoming session.

That requirement hit a speed bump last month, when the group tasked with proposing maps chose to endorse voluntary — rather than mandatory — district consolidation.

Gov. Phil Scott labeled the task force’s recommendation a failure. Education Secretary Zoie Saunders added further criticism on Monday, arguing the state needs to act now to prevent an endless cycle of property tax increases and cuts to school budgets.

“Rising property taxes have not prevented staffing cuts and school closures. Rising property taxes have not facilitated equitable opportunities for students in every community across Vermont, and rising property taxes have not moved the needle on improving educational quality,” Saunders said at the briefing. “Instead,

we are contending with two enormous challenges: property taxes that families cannot afford and an education system that local communities cannot sustain.”

The 11.9% estimate was formulated using preliminary school budgets from about two-thirds of districts, according to the Tax Department. In years past, the Dec. 1 estimate has been higher than the ultimate average tax bill, as lawmakers have used new taxes and one-time money to bring down rates. School districts may also lower their budgets before votes on Town Meeting Day.

Officials said Monday it was too soon to say whether Scott and his team would recommend budgeting money to buy down property tax rates this year.

In the wake of the tax department’s Monday estimate, state political leaders chimed in to decry expected double-digit hike.

“The choice before lawmakers in 2026 is clear: show courage by working together to keep moving forward with our bipartisan transformation plan,” Scott said in a statement, “or explain to Vermonters why yet another double-digit tax increase is acceptable, and why we’ll continue to see them well into the future if we abandon our efforts.” Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth, D/P-Chittenden Central, said in a statement the pattern of property tax increases could not continue.

“The truth is that Act 73’s success depends on even harder (See Taxes, Page 6A)

“We are contending with two enormous challenges: property taxes that families cannot afford and an education system that local communities cannot sustain.”

— Education Secretary Zoie Saunders

Boyle steps down as leader at MNFF

Search for a new executive director is under way

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) is looking for a new executive director, as incumbent Caitlin Boyle will leave the post effective Dec. 31.

The Vermont resident was named executive director in July 2024 and took the reins from festival founder and Producer Lloyd Komesar after the staging of MNFF 10 that August.

Festival board members said Boyle’s overall contributions, and her organization of MNFF11 in particular, have been significant and deeply appreciated. She will spend her final few weeks tending to the organization’s year-end tasks.

MNFF board Chair Serena Kim thanked Boyle and wished her the best for her future endeavors.

“Although we are sad that Caitlin is leaving MNFF, we are filled with gratitude for her outstanding service to the festival and accept her decision,” Kim said through a press release. “Caitlin has been an innovative and forward-thinking leader of the MNFF for the past 14 months, and we are lucky to have had her.”

Boyle is leaving the post to pursue other opportunities in the industry, but said she’s excited to continue to be a booster of the festival from the sidelines.

“My time leading MNFF has been incredibly energizing and rewarding, and I have been so gratified to be part of the vibrant community that makes this festival possible,” she told the *Independent*, “especially its local volunteers, filmmaker hosts, college interns, our

local venue partners and the Middlebury faculty — all of whom bring a special energy to this festival and make it such a valuable stop for new filmmakers.”

The search for a new leader is underway and until one is identified, the MNFF board has asked Komesar to assume interim producer duties. He’ll work with MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven to maintain continuity of festival planning and operations during this interim period, with the full backing of the board.

Beyond the annual five-day festival, the MNFF Selects monthly film screening series in Middlebury will return this January to May, Komesar said.

The MNFF board thanked all sponsors, donors and volunteers for their ongoing support of (See MNFF, Page 6A)

TAX FREE SHOPPING FOR VT MEDICAL PATIENTS ONLY AT FLORA

There has never been a better time to talk with your doctor about enrolling in the Vermont Medical Cannabis Program.

FLORA has been issued a Medical Endorsement, which allows holders of Vermont medical cannabis cards to buy cannabis without the 21% state tax.

You can get your card for any medical condition that causes chronic pain.

More information can be found at <https://ccb.vermont.gov/medical>

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.




What Great Assisted Living Means...

MORE INDEPENDENCE
 Truly great assisted living provides expert care and caters to every detail of life - allowing you to reclaim your independence and enjoy the things you love.

Schedule a visit and ask about our *Exclusive Fall Rates!*

THE RESIDENCE
 at Otter Creek

Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

350 Lodge Road, Middlebury
 802-483-4657 | residenceottercreek.com

An LCB Senior Living Community: *More Than 30 Years of Excellence*

Need Help?



Life saving items. Available 24/7
No cost. No stigma. Easy Access.

Public Health Vending Machines
 Located at 79 Court St, Middlebury, and **NEW** at Bristol Works 72 Munsill Ave., Bristol, behind Building 6 (To the right of the police station — see map above)

Turning Point Center
 OF ADDISON COUNTY



Visit us: 1590 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT | Contact us: info@tpvt.org or (802) 388-4249 | tpvt.org

Editorial

12% is shocking, but don't let the number fool you

One problem with numbers is they can skew a story as much as enlighten it. Consider the headlines this week on rising property taxes, which shouted that rates were projected to jump 12%.

The figure came from the state's Tax Department in its annual "Dec. 1 letter" released Monday. Headlines focused on the shock factor, and rightly so. A 12% hike in taxes is something no one wants.

True to form, the Scott administration jumped on the number to emphasize what they've been supporting for the past year — consolidation — even though information developed by the legislative Task Force formed under Act 73 found consolidation itself isn't likely to reduce much cost.

Nonetheless, Education Secretary Zoie Saunders and Gov. Phil Scott were at it again, championing consolidation of districts as the only way forward and suggesting, again, that not only had the Task Force "failed," but that the 12% projected tax hikes reinforced their bias.

Even Senate President Pro Tempore Philip Baruth and House Speaker Jill Knowinski, both progressive Democrats, chose the politically safe tactic of saying the projected rate was alarming, while steering clear of any solution.

But let's examine the 12% figure.

First, just half of the projected increase is due to anticipated increases in higher school budgets in the 2026-2027 school year. The other half comes from not allocating about \$100 million used last year to reduce the tax rate. Second, the projected tax increase announced in the Dec. 1 letter has historically been higher than the average tax bill ultimately passed. That's because the legislature often uses one-time funds to reduce the rate, and school districts reduce their early budget proposals to meet voters' concerns.

Still, of the almost 6% projected increase due to education expenses, lawmakers and voters should look most closely at the cause. The Task Force presented a list of the Top 5 fastest-growing educational costs — healthcare, construction/maintenance of facilities, support services, duplication/privatization, and agency capacity challenges — and found that consolidating districts would not significantly reduce those costs.

Put aside the 12% shock factor for the moment, and remember what the Task Force did say in what was a well-considered 170-page report. In short, after four months of deliberation, the 11 members of the task force rejected Act 73's notion of forced consolidations and recommended financial incentives that encouraged districts and schools to merge voluntarily.

Their thinking is insightful.

According to a lengthy story of the Task Force's deliberations after its Nov. 10 meeting, the *Mountain Times* reported a few of the members' comments at length. Here's a snippet:

"No one thinks mergers are going to save money," said state Rep. Rebecca Holcombe, who was a former Education Secretary under Scott. "The savings are coming from the new funding formula, which is going to force pretty significant cuts in some regions."

The foundation formula, the *Times* explained, will make tax rates equal across the state and give schools an allocation of funds based on weighted factors. One downside is that it would be a top-down approach that severely limits local control.

"This bill (Act 73) really called for redistricting to support a new funding formula," Rep. Holcombe told the *Times*. "The plan to lower spending is to cap at the state level what districts are allowed to spend... The foundation plan was outside our purview, but the conversation at the Task Force did raise some questions that need to be addressed before implementation of a foundation plan."

The Task Force also heavily favored the idea of shared services through Regional Cooperative Education Service Areas (CESAs, aka BOCES). A map that outlined five service areas would not mandate governance changes but would rather create partnerships of existing supervisory unions and districts to improve buying power and share resources.

According to the *Time's* story, Mountain Views Supervisory Union (MVSU) Superintendent Sherry Sousa told her board the CESAs plan was the only one put forward that would save taxpayers' money — and could be implemented almost immediately.

"Of all the proposals, this is the one that allows for the creativity to combine school districts," Sousa wrote in a letter to district parents. "The underlying potential consolidation beneath the BOCES structures would be voluntary and based heavily on research and local context."

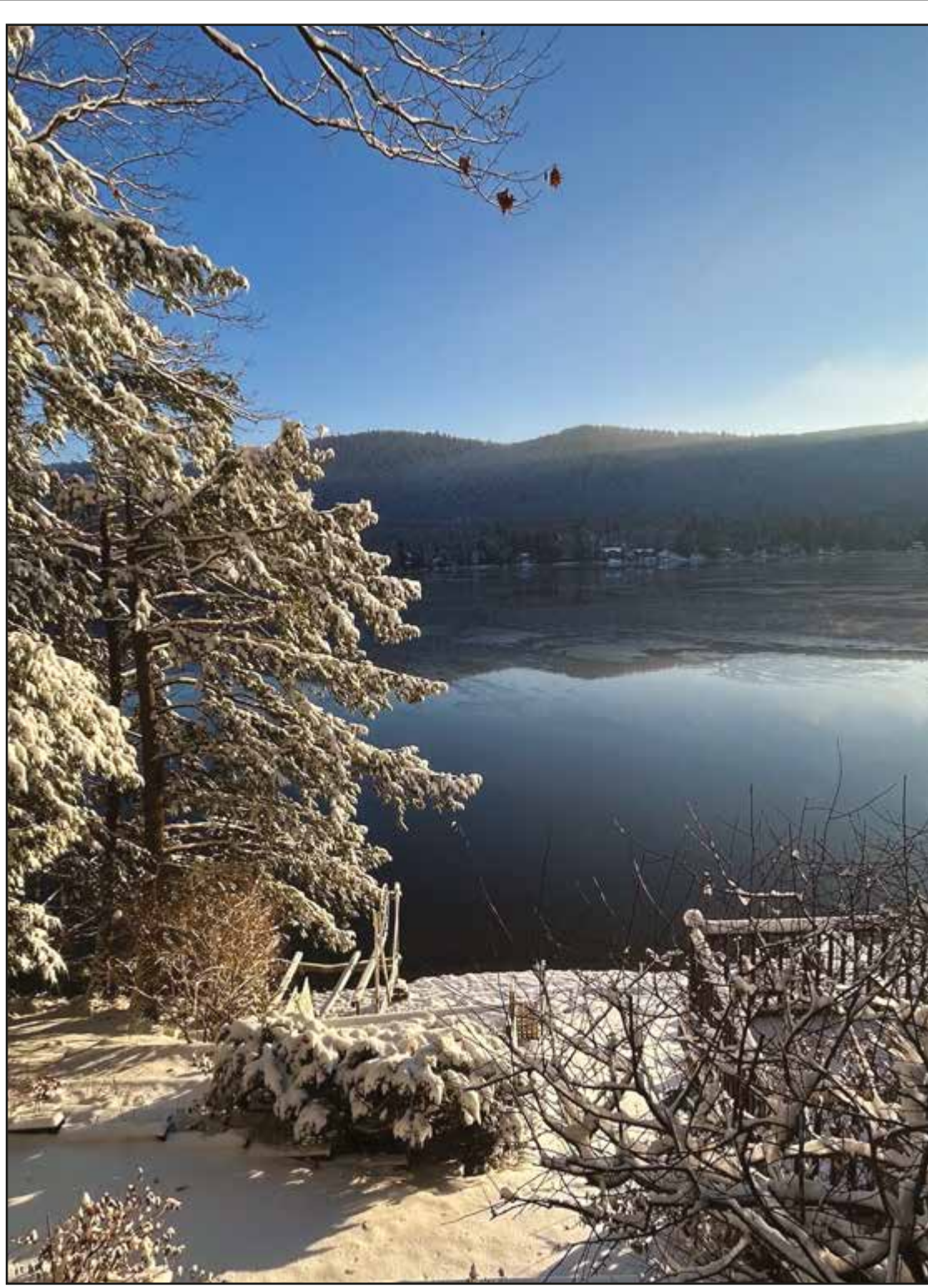
Task Force members also were concerned that any map that forced mergers on school districts would do more harm than good.

"I think we're going down the wrong path if we force mergers," Task Force member Dr. Jay Badams said. "... This is not to say that we don't need big changes. But... it's time for a deep breath before we do damage that's going to be really, really hard to undo... Looking at targeted voluntary mergers is a step in that direction. Admittedly, it doesn't get us anywhere near what was envisioned in Act 73, but it at least sets the stage for real collaboration."

Representative Edye Graning, Task Force co-chair, agreed with Badams. "I think (consolidation) actually will distract from making things better in the state," she said. "I just don't see how these larger districts are going to improve things statewide."

Such reason, nonetheless, can pale against the stark simplicity of a number that screams doom. Hopefully, voters and legislators will get beyond today's headlines and work through the more complex reasons that demonstrate cost savings can be secured in more ways than one.

Angelo Lynn



'Tis the season

THE FIRST REAL snowfall of the year dumped 8 inches of the white stuff up in Ripton, where the Rikert Outdoor Center is already open for skiers. But even down in the valley, as seen here, winter arrived with 4-5 inches of snow on the edge of Lake Dunmore, though the water had yet to freeze over as of Wednesday morning.

Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

Together, we accomplish the most

Driving in these early days of winter can slide even the most seasoned of us into a surprise of snow perhaps deeper than anticipated. Many of us have experienced our car becoming stuck, and our efforts to rock the vehicle or dig around the tires come to naught. Happy are we when another driver or two comes along because often the combined efforts of a small group of people can push the car out and back into business. Most likely everyone stands around for a moment, lauding the successful effort before going their separate ways.

Consider an old tale from many parts of the world, often called "Stone Soup." A traveler lacking both food and money meets up with an old woman. Neither she nor her neighbors have much at all, so she is loath to offer him a meal. The traveler says he does not need much if she has a pot he can use to make his stone soup. She watches curiously as he fills the pot with water, sets it over a fire, and adds a stone. He acknowledges it will only improve if anyone has perhaps an onion or turnip. Does someone else have some garlic? People drop in their bits of vegetable or perhaps a bone and soon a savory aroma is wafting from the kettle. When it is done, they all eat together and declare it a feast.

Some versions suggest the traveler is a sort of trickster, and in a way he is, but what he is tricking them into is sharing the bits that they have so that everyone — including him, of course — might have a robust meal. So often we might look at what we have and see the vast gap between what we have and what might be needed. We forget that few of us can provide

it all on our own, but together ... who knows?

I started thinking about the "Stone Soup" tale a couple of months ago, when people in our town heard that a young boy had just been diagnosed with leukemia. His family was beginning on what was likely to be a very long, demanding journey. They would have to be with him during his lengthy hospital stays while also being with their other children and holding their jobs. What could help them? Maybe gas cards? Money to help with the extra cost of food for

whichever parent was remaining at the hospital? How could we make that happen without the awkwardness in both receiving and offering people's contributions?

We decided to have a party, a potluck, where the community could come together and share food, enjoy music and make donations that would be commingled. It didn't matter if you put in two dollars or two thousand, it would all be combined. Even if you couldn't attend the event, you could still donate. Who knew how much might be raised? Certainly more than any of us as individuals could manage. As the news spread, people even beyond our town stepped forward. Altogether, over \$20,000 was raised, because many people tossed what they could into our "stone soup pot."

Too often we forget the power that we have when we come together to meet a need, to solve a problem. Overwhelmed, we might well give up. And yet, step out of the depression, the hopelessness and look around. Are there others we can join with to start a local food shelf, back a candidate, change a law,

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

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



We must push to end the carnage

By RON RUBIN

End the Carnage Now!

Twenty-four-year-old West Virginia National Guardsman Andrew Wolfe and 20-year-old Sarah Beckstrom are the two most recent victims of the escalating political violence that has occurred in the U.S. during the past 10 years. Deployed to our nation's capital in August 2025, they were shot on Nov. 26 outside a Metro station two blocks from the White House. Sarah died on Thanksgiving Day; as of this writing, Andrew remains in critical condition.

Credible evidence shows that since Trump's inauguration in 2025, acts of political violence have increased dramatically. During the first half of 2025 there have been 150 politically motivated attacks, "nearly twice as many as the same period last year,"

according to researchers at the University of Maryland. Researchers and many Americans struggle to understand the myriad complex causes of the surge in political violence in our country. There are the usual suspects: extreme polarization, the availability of an estimated 393 million guns (nearly two guns for every adult), lax gun regulation, increasing mental health issues, and an uptick in violent rhetoric spewed by politicians on various media platforms.

The rise in political violence is a result of all the above and numerous other contributing factors.

Millions of people and their families are confronting severe economic hardship and discrimination that gives rise to feelings of desperation, helplessness and powerlessness. These emotions produce fear, alienation from others, indifference and anger.

In this milieu, the dehumanizing rhetoric Trump uses to describe his political opponents is incendiary — terms like "enemies of the state," "vermin," "animals," "scum," "savages," "monsters," "deranged" and "radical left thugs," etc., fan the flames. When combined with a campaign of retribution enacted by Trump and his allies against approximately 470 individuals and organizations that includes calling for the execution of lawmakers and military leaders for treason, it's not too difficult to comprehend why some people may act violently against those they've

been led to perceive as threats to themselves, their families and their country.

When feelings of desperation are compounded by the erosion of the rule-of-law evidenced by rampant government corruption, the pardoning of criminals and the enactment of illegal and/or unconstitutional policy decisions — not the least of which is the deployment of the National Guard to our city streets, military executions of Venezuelan nationals without due process and increasing threats against their country — it is

(See *Rubin*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Record payday isn't the problem

The Nov. 27 community forum, "Work no longer matters in U.S." by Larry Moquin, is a bit extreme in discussing Elon Musk. First off, Elon Musk's salary (which he does not take) is \$56,000 per year; not \$100 billion. All of his compensation will be Tesla stock; based on achieving performance goals. His recent compensation package is only worth \$1 trillion if he increases the value of Tesla company stock from about \$1.39 trillion to \$8.5 trillion (and he sells 20 million cars and a million humanoid robots and other difficult-to-achieve goals, then he gets stock that will be worth that).

And the stockholders approved the package because they will all get their stock increasing in value by a factor of six! So he will make many people richer, while also receiving an extraordinary value in stock. Alternatively, if he fails, or Tesla is overtaken by some newcomer, then he could receive nothing.

And another thing to consider is that the people with the big new ideas are the ones that change the world for the better and generate the well-paying jobs Mr. Moquin wants, and more taxes for the government.

The commentary does raise valid concerns for the plight of the average worker. Clearly, inflation has eaten away the buying power of the dollar and it is impossible for most families to live off one income. When I was growing up, cheap houses were available, college was easily affordable with minimal or no loans, and most families had one breadwinner with maybe a part-time working spouse.

However, lamenting record corporate profits is the wrong approach. Record profits means pay can increase, investment can happen and more taxes are paid to our spendthrift governments. We should be cheering that.

Sadly many of the laudable goals in the commentary are defeated by government policies (NAFTA anyone), rules, regulations and money printing. I hope the unions can attack that problem instead of lamenting record profits with high executive pay.

Robert Feuerstein Ferrisburgh

Trump isn't qualified to lead

As an undereducated observer of geo-politics and human behavior, I begin with a handicap, or knowledge gap. Information, current and past, provides the context into which wise, prudent, effective decisions or deductions are reached. A leader with even less ability to absorb, process and retain facts than most of us is ineffective, and potentially dangerous. I was not qualified to lead a platoon. The current Commander in Chief is unqualified to lead a squad. A simple analogy based on reality.

Alec Lyall, Middlebury

Rockefeller was OCCC supporter

I just finished reading John Flowers' fine article about the awesome expansion to Otter Creek Child Center. It is wonderful to have a detailed understanding of how the local and statewide community came together with the resources to make this project happen. As a founding member, secretary, and then vice-president of the OCCC board of directors from 1983-1987, it is heartwarming and inspiring to see the original vision for a reliable, safe, developmentally rich place for children expanded and enhanced.

The article took me back to 1983 when one man's vision for a community infant- and child-care center began. Stephen Rockefeller, then Middlebury College Religion Department faculty member and dean of the college, called me at home to ask if I would serve on an informal, non-college committee to explore starting a child daycare center in Middlebury.

The goal was to create a compelling proposal for the (See *Schneider letter*, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Postmaster, send address change to Addison Independent,
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, Vt. • 802-388-4944 • Fax: 802-388-3100 • Web: www.addisonindependent.com
E-Mail: news@addisonindependent.com • E-Mail Advertising: ads@addisonindependent.com

Editor/Publisher: Angelo S. Lynn

Assistant Editor: John S. McCright	Advertising Managers: Christine Lynn Jenna Hunsinger	Digital & Calendar Editor Sarah Harris
Reporters: John Flowers Andy Kirkaldy Marin Howell	Advertising Representatives: Tom Van Sant Katy Foote	Business Manager: Elsie Lynn Parini Graphic Designers: Susan Leggett Sarah Pope Shannon Hart
Photographer: Steve James Front Office: Vicki Nolette Circulation: Sean Dougherty Driver: Dennis Smith	Digital Sales & Marketing Ryan Gabbert	

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include online access. 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$120.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.
Online Only - 1 Week: \$3.00, 1 Month: \$8.00, 1 Year: \$75.00
The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertiser will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

Letters to the Editor

Taxing second homes differently would be fair

Vermont is facing an affordability crisis, and it is time to rethink our property tax system to ease the financial burden on working residents. According to 2023 U.S. Census data from the Tax Foundation, Vermont ranks fifth nationally for property taxes paid by primary homeowners. These high taxes are undermining our economic vitality. Workers who power our local economy increasingly cannot afford to live here, leading to labor shortages that further weaken Vermont's financial health.

But it does not have to be this way. South Carolina offers a compelling example. Ranked 47th in the same Tax Foundation report, South Carolina has, for two decades, taxed primary residences differently from second homes. This approach allows local workers to afford housing while generating substantial revenue from second homeowners to fund public schools. Vermont

could benefit from a similar strategy. Another model worth examining is Montana. Like Vermont, Montana is rural, dotted with small towns, and rich in natural beauty. Both states saw a surge in population during the COVID-19 pandemic, which drove up home prices and property taxes. In response, Montana enacted bipartisan property tax reforms led by Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte. These reforms shifted the tax burden away from residents and toward non-resident property owners and short-term rental operators.

Montana's system creates clear winners and losers. Residents who earn their living locally benefit from reduced taxes on primary homes and long-term rentals. Lower-value properties are protected through tiered rates. Meanwhile, second homeowners, short-term rental operators, and owners of high-value properties pay more. If Vermont adopted a similar

approach, the impact could be transformative. Speculation in the second-home market would slow, easing competition for housing and making it more accessible to local buyers. At the same time, Vermont could maintain — or even increase — its overall tax revenue by redistributing the burden more equitably.

Affordability is the core issue. If Vermont wants to attract young professionals and retain families, we must rethink who pays what in property taxes. Shielding primary homeowners while asking more from second homeowners is the key to restoring balance in our housing market and revitalizing our economy.

If you agree with this approach, contact your state legislators and tell them to rethink property taxes to promote affordability and economic growth.

**Greg Hughes
Bethel**

Libraries can help improve health care

For families in Vermont's rural towns, getting to a medical provider or clinic can be challenging. Long drives, limited transportation and busy work schedules often mean that health care takes a back seat, until a routine health need becomes something more serious.

As a clinical translational scientist and emergency medicine nurse, I see how these barriers affect people every day, and how creative, community-rooted solutions can make a lasting difference.

Navigating state-level hospital oversight and evolving federal requirements can be complex and, at times, frustrating, but it also creates opportunities for new ways of delivering care. Emergency medicine thrives on thinking fast and adapting under pressure. It is this same mindset that is well-suited to addressing Vermont's rural health care needs.

Across Vermont, we are finding ways to deliver care beyond the four walls of our institutions, through libraries, mobile clinics and interprofessional student-community partnerships. Sometimes the toughest constraints spark the most impactful ideas.

One example of this community-centered innovation is VITAL VT (Virtual Integration for Telehealth Access through Libraries in Vermont) funded by the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships. In many rural towns, broadband gaps, unreliable internet, and discomfort with digital tools can make virtual care hard to access. VITAL VT responds by turning local libraries into telehealth hubs, giving residents a familiar, trusted place to connect with health care providers.

For some families this can mean the difference between delaying care and getting timely support. Consider a parent juggling work and three kids, living 45 minutes away from the nearest clinic. A telehealth visit from a local library can mean timely care and fewer missed days of work or school, and provide peace of mind.

It is not just about technology; it's about meeting people where they are and supporting them in ways that make sense for their lives.

What makes projects like VITAL VT powerful is the partnership they create between communities, health care providers and students. University of Vermont students gain hands-on experience while helping their neighbors and

libraries become central players in local health care efforts.

These efforts also strengthen the regional workforce pipeline: students are exposed to rural practice environments and gain practical experience in community-centered care, while counties benefit from the fresh energy and innovative ideas that student teams bring. This model not only improves access today but encourages the next generation of health care professionals to consider careers in rural Vermont.

Another example of Vermont's innovative approach to rural health care is our mobile obstetric simulation program (supported by a UVM health safety and value grant, and a UVM Frymoyer grant). With the recent trend of obstetric units closing in rural areas, more emergency departments are finding themselves on the front line of maternity care, managing labor and delivery scenarios traditionally considered outside their usual scope.

This shift leaves providers with fewer opportunities to practice complex deliveries and neonatal emergencies in a controlled setting. By bringing high-fidelity simulations directly to community emergency departments, clinical teams can rehearse rare but critical scenarios, building confidence and

readiness for moments when every second counts.

These trainings have already reached more than 100 health care professionals across the state, helping teams manage emergencies such as preterm births and postpartum hemorrhage. Programs like this demonstrate how Vermont's health care system can respond creatively to gaps in access while strengthening local teams and improving patient outcomes.

National Rural Health Day doesn't just remind us that rural health care challenges are part of everyday life here in Vermont, it highlights the new approaches that become possible when communities, providers, and students work together. From telehealth in local libraries, to hands-on obstetric simulations, Vermont's small towns are full of innovation, collaboration and resilience.

By investing in community-centered programs and supporting local health care infrastructure, we can strengthen health care access for every Vermonter, regardless of geography. Every local initiative, every community partnership, and every effort to connect patients with care is a step toward a rural health care system that works for everyone.

Editor's note: Roz King is a clinical translational scientist whose work focuses on improving access to care and health outcomes in rural and underserved communities.

Community Forum

This week's writer is Roz King, M.S.N., R.N., of South Burlington. She serves as the chief of research for the department of emergency medicine at the Larner College of Medicine.

Schneider letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

college to agree to become a major supporter. As Collection Development Librarian at the college's Starr Library, I joined other college members — like Mona Wheatley in the development office and Maggie O'Brien, Chemistry Department faculty member, plus folks from the community — to form a working group. (I apologize for not remembering the names of everyone on the committee). Stephen, like Maggie, me, and others, had very young children, and faced the working parents' quandary of the lack of reliable, safe child care.

Within a year and after much research, many consultations, and

financial projections, we made a compelling case to the college, and Stephen arranged the final steps in making OCCC a reality. He worked with local childcare expert Cheryl Mitchell, the director of Middlebury's Parent-Child Center, to become the initial OCCC director half-time while we searched for a permanent director. Amazingly, he and his family moved out of 150 Weybridge St., making his refurbished farmhouse in a central location available to house the center, and Stephen became the founding board president.

Throughout my career as an academic library director, this has served as an outstanding example of two leadership principles: how one

person with a compelling vision and contagious passion can lead a team to reach a much-shared goal, and also that it often "takes a village" for that vision to reach fruition.

OCCC symbolizes the reality of civic engagement that is representative of what Middlebury and the state of Vermont is all about.

So, kudos to all of the staff, the college, the community, the state, and those connected from afar who worked during the past 42 years to make OCCC a vital community resource that continues to serve as a realistic model for high quality childcare, particularly in this very polarized time for our country.

**Joanne A. Schneider
Hamilton, NY**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

provide a pollinator pathway? As individuals, human beings have rarely been able to make it on their own. It is when we join together as communities, setting up networks, giving even momentary acts of aid, like pulling that car out of the snowbank, that we will make our greatest, kindest achievements.

Our strength is in our ability to work together to meet needs and solve problems. Rugged individualism may sound great and strong, but it is a myth akin to the Marlboro man — that hardy

cowboy who died of lung cancer. When we have used the slogan "Vermont Strong" after floods and disasters, what are we talking about? We are referring to people coming together to help their friends, their neighbors, and their communities do the hard work of repairing the damages and taking care of each other.

There have been some tough times recently, and most likely more to come. Rather than pulling the covers over our heads, let's pull together. Let's do what we can to make all our lives better,

our communities better, our world better. Quoting Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." So let's roll up our sleeves or put on our snow boots and get working — together.

Laurie Cox is a retired school counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing, she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.

Rubin

(Continued from Page 4A)

not hard to understand why some people believe their only recourse is "righteous" violence.

Trump and his administration share responsibility for the political violence that is spiking in the US. They may not be pulling the trigger, but they are directing the action and setting the stage that makes some people pick up

arms against government officials and any others they believe are their foes. Rather than damp down the inferno, Trump and his administration add fuel to the fire and watch as it burns. Trump's halting of immigration from "third world countries" serves to demonize people of color and different ethnicities. Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's

decision to send another 500 Guardsmen to D.C. to bolster the 2,300 already deployed there only adds more kindling to the 2,000 deployed in Los Angeles, the 400 in Chicago, and who knows how many that are, or may be, deployed to other American cities.

It took nearly 10 years and 58,000 American lives before we finally tired of conducting funerals

in our hometowns and demanded an end to our conflagration in Vietnam. The funerals being conducted now and the millions of casualties caused by Trump's many forms of war on America are not easy to see. But more and more, they're becoming visible. It is time to peacefully demand accountability and an end to the carnage now.



FIRE & ICE RESTAURANT

This holiday season...
ENJOY YOUR FREE \$20.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
when you purchase \$100.00 worth of Gift Certificates
** sale valid November 28 – December 24 **
Certificates valid forever
Order online, call, or stop by to order yours!
802.388.7166
HOURS: WED-FRI 4-8PM, SAT & SUN 12-8PM
26 SEYMOUR ST., MIDD., VT
FIREANDICERESTAURANT.COM

Come Join Us!



**Fun Activities
Delicious Meals
Friends
and a Loving Community.**

Elderly Services

Supporting Elders and Families since 1981

112 Exchange St., Midd., Vt. | 802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org



TO... SANTA

KIDS!

Send us your letter to Santa and we'll print it in our paper so Santa himself can see!

Be sure to include a return address or email and send your letter to:
**SANTA,
C/O ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 MAPLE ST.,
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753**

You can also email your letter to 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.

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

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Brian Patrick Barber, 69, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Brian Patrick Barber, age 69, passed peacefully on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, at his home in Shoreham.

Born in Burlington on Aug. 22, 1956, Brian was the son of Everett and Florence (Kilpeck) Barber. He grew up in Richmond, where he received his early education and graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School. Brian began his lifelong trucking career as a bulk milk hauler, earning a safe driving award with Farrell's Distributing Corp for 1 million miles of safe driving. He was employed as a driver by Cabot Creamery for more than 25 years.

An avid hunter, Brian often shared his passion for the outdoors by taking his daughter, Gracelynn and nephews on hunting trips. His enthusiasm also extended to tractor pulling, where he was well known for his dedication and love of the sport. He volunteered at the benefit pull, generously contributing his time and energy to support the



BRIAN PATRICK BARBER

community. Frequently, he helped on the family farm by driving the silage truck, demonstrating his skills and deep connection to the land.

Brian is survived by his wife, Sonya (Wood) Barber; his daughter Tara Barber and her husband Joe Tatro; his sons Trevor Barber, Gunther Barber and his wife

Abigail; and daughter Gracelynn Barber. He also is survived by two sisters, Carolyn Ladieu and Gerry Kolaczewski.

He is lovingly remembered by his cherished grandchildren: Lacey, Erick and Casey Barber, and Kendra Tatro of Tara, as well as his grandson Landon Barber of Gunther. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins who held him dear.

Donations in Brian's memory may be made to the Addison County Benefit Pull, P.O. Box 126, Vergennes, VT 05491.

A gathering in celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Woodnotch Farms — Northwood Dairy, 2368 Route 17 East, Addison, VT.

Brian's warmth, dedication, and love for his family and community leave a lasting legacy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ♦

Joseph Howard Hamilton, 81, of Bridport

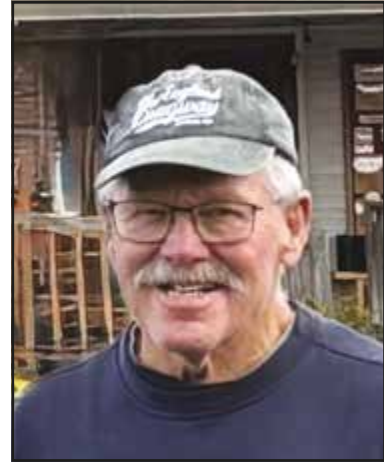
BRIDPORT — Joe Hamilton attended his last high school football game and final car show during the last few days of October 2025. He died from a stroke Nov. 2 with his children and grandchildren at his side.

Joseph Howard Hamilton III was born Nov. 24, 1944, to Bernice E. Benedict and Joseph H. Hamilton Jr.

Growing up in Middlebury, Vt., he was an outstanding high school football player, starting both ways in the 1962 Shrine Game. He was also a graceful and powerful skier. In his final months Joe was training to compete in Masters Track & Field as a shot putter.

Joe attended Norwich University (a very bad fit) and El Cerrito College, where he studied civil engineering. His intellectual curiosity was bottomless. He felt that YouTube was invented specifically for him.

One day in late 1964 he left a handwritten note to his mother



JOE HAMILTON

saying he was going on a trip. A couple weeks later he arrived at his uncle's home in Los Angeles. Joe spent the next half century in California.

He was a surveyor for Los Angeles County and later a sales rep for reprographic products. He owned Blue Streak Reprographics in Roseville, Calif., for more than 30 years.

In recent years he returned to Addison County where, like in California, he attended as many high school football games as possible and every car show within driving distance. Often that required a three-day drive.

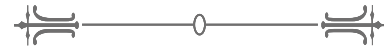
Reconnecting with old friends and relatives around Middlebury was a source of joy for him.

Joe bought his first classic car, a 1940 Ford coupe when he was 16. When he died, he had two perfectly preserved 1940 Fords.

He would tell you that he was a better grandfather/great grandfather than he was a dad. Joe loved to talk about his family almost as much as he liked to shower them with advice.

Joe is survived by daughters Joleen and Jennifer; grandchildren Andrea, Rebecca, Cesar, Joey and Alexandra; great-grandchildren Dominic, Mia, Penelope and Leonardo; and his brother Chris and partner Kathy.

No service will be held.
R.I.P. Big guy. ♦



Robert J. Garthaffner, 74, of Orwell

ORWELL — Robert J. Garthaffner, 74, of Orwell, passed away on Wednesday evening, Nov. 26, 2025. Born on Aug. 30, 1951, he spent his life dedicated to God, family, and service to others.

Bob (Garth) was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served honorably for four years during and after the Vietnam War. It was during that time that he met his wife, Sandra Garthaffner (Giard) of Bridport. This union brought with it three young kids and the responsibility of being a father, a role he embraced that ultimately led to the children's adoption.

After purchasing their home in Orwell, Bob became well known in the community, where he was always reaching out to neighbors, those seen at local stores, restaurants, and churches, striking up conversations and offering help where it was needed. His favorite pastime was hunting whitetail deer, and over the years,



ROBERT J. GARTHAFNER

he earned many trophies for deer in New York, Vermont, and Virginia. He was always ready and willing to discuss hunting, guns, ammunition, and the rules governing the harvest of Vermont wildlife.

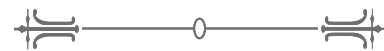
Most importantly, there was his love for God and his firm belief in Jesus Christ. Over the years, his faith grew, and he was always

ready to share his testimony or scripture verses with those who were interested in listening. He held the position of Deacon at several local churches throughout his journey and was often seen working and volunteering there.

Robert was predeceased by his father, Gerard Martin Garthaffner; mother, Agnes Rose (Cetner) Garthaffner; his sister Mary Rita Adams, and brothers, Gerard and Peter Garthaffner.

Robert is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sandra (Giard) Garthaffner of Orwell; his daughter Melissa (Lynn) Harvey of Cleveland, N.Y.; his daughter Shelley (Chris) Lewis of Shoreham; his son Todd (Monica) Garthaffner of Addison; his brother Martin (Linda) Garthaffner of Virginia; his brother William Garthaffner of New York; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Middlebury Regional EMS. ♦



Deborah 'Debbie' (Ash) Hotte, 72, of Whiting

WHITING — Deborah "Debbie" (Ash) Hotte, 72, passed away in her home surrounded by loved ones, Nov. 23, 2025, after a courageous five-year battle with cancer.

She was the daughter of Leonard Ash and Mary Adair (Sevigny) and grew up on a dairy farm in New Haven, Vt., graduating from Mount Abraham Union High School in 1971. She retired from Middlebury College in 2016, where she worked in Dining Services for 29 years.

Debbie was predeceased by her beloved husband of 32 years, Frederick Hotte and her brother Steven. She is survived by her siblings Joanne, Michael, Shari, Cindy and their families; her children Jennifer Boujoulain (Jeff), Amy Bergevin, and Bradley Bergevin (Ruth); her stepchildren Darcie Arensmeyer



DEBORAH "DEBBIE" HOTTE

(Dan) and David Hotte; as well as 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Debbie devoted her life to caring for others, first as a loving older sibling and later as the heart of

every family gathering. She found joy in cooking, feeding those she loved, and creating a warm place for people to come together. Her work in college food service gave her the same fulfillment — nourishing others and offering kindness in everyday moments. She will be remembered for her generosity, her welcoming spirit, and the comfort she brought to so many through her love and her food.

A service will be held at Sanderson Funeral Home in Middlebury, Vt., on Friday, Dec. 5, at 11 a.m. A private burial and celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Debbie's honor to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance or Addison County Home Health & Hospice. ♦



Taxes

(Continued from Page 3A) work being accomplished this session. I am committed to continuing this mission — in collaboration with the Governor, the House and my colleagues in the Senate," he said.

Baruth's counterpart in the lower chamber, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington,

echoed his call to action in a separate statement.

"It's important for all of us to remember that the challenges before us are decades in the making," she said, "and we will continue to see double digit property tax projections and loss of educational opportunities for kids if we do nothing."

MNFF

(Continued from Page 3A) Middlebury's community-based and award-winning festival. They stressed the organization remains in very capable hands as it moves toward its 12th annual event next August.

Please direct any questions or suggestions of qualified candidates for the executive director position to Board Chair Kim at serenakim@swifthouseinn.com, or to board Vice Chair Drey Ward at dreyward@gmavt.net.



Planning

Planning for Your Funeral,
the Smart Thing to Do...

Many people are planning for their funeral in advance in a sincere effort to ease the stress loved ones will face at an emotional time. It takes only a little time and can be handled in the privacy of your home or at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home

117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT
802-388-2311
sandersonfuneralservice.com

Fire Department and was Fire Warden for many years. He was also a familiar figure at Addison County Fair and Field Days every August at the Antique Equipment Barn and was happy to share his knowledge about the old one-lunger engines, farm implements, and tractors. He had an old Maytag washing machine, which he brought to Field Days.

He liked people, despite being shy, and had a good sense of humor. Various Middlebury College students visited him as part of the Community Connections program. Kai was from China, and they sat on his porch and discussed the differences between the countries and culture. He had Meals on Wheels for many years and liked meeting new people. After Peg died in 2011, he lived alone with his beloved black cat, Babe, who also predeceased him.

Larry was predeceased by his parents, Chase and Evelyn Bristol Clark, as well as his sister, Janet Clark Clark (that's not a typo — she married Erwin "Red" Clark from Addison.)

He is survived by his brother, Richard, (Mary Bean Richmond), numerous nieces, nephews, as well as great-nieces and nephews, and five of Peg's sisters.

There will be a celebration of life at the Cornwall Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m., with luncheon afterwards to share stories. ♦

Obituary
Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email obits@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944 for more information.



Planning
Planning for Your Funeral,
the Smart Thing to Do...

Many people are planning for their funeral in advance in a sincere effort to ease the stress loved ones will face at an emotional time. It takes only a little time and can be handled in the privacy of your home or at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home
117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT
802-388-2311
sandersonfuneralservice.com

FUNERAL
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
CREMATION
PRE-PLANNING
SERVICES

**BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES**

BRISTOL **VERGENNES**
802-453-2301 802-877-3321
brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com

Lawrence 'Larry' Bristol Clark, 91, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Larry Clark, aged 91, died peacefully at home, Nov. 22, with family.

He was a lifelong resident of Cornwall, living in the house he grew up in until recently, when he moved in with his brother and sister-in-law, Dick and Mary Clark in Shoreham.

He was born Feb. 20, 1934, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury. His father, Chase, trekked through the snow on snowshoes from their farm on Clark Road to see if he had a son or daughter. He passed Stuart Witherell on the way back and told him "It's a boy!"

Larry went to No. 5 Cornwall School on South Bingham Street for seven years, then to No. 3 Cornwall School, and to Middlebury High School, either walking from Cornwall or riding on Bertrand's Bus.

He worked on the family farm for two years, then joined the U.S. Army in 1958, and was in Germany for 14 months. Larry was a gifted mechanic, and enjoyed fixing engines, so his work at Foster Motors was interesting and fulfilling. He worked there for 31 years, including starting and running "Women On Wheels," a program to bring more women into the business.

He married Margaret "Peg" Swinton, Feb. 10, 1968. They were members of the Cornwall Snowmobile Club, riding together, each on their own Ski-Doo. Larry

LAWRENCE "LARRY"
BRISTOL CLARK

had a camp at Lake Hortonia — he and Peg waterskied there and on Lake Champlain in the summers.

When he retired, he started his own business of repairing lawnmowers at his house, which was perfect for him. He was surrounded by his own tractors, lawnmowers, mini-bikes, and snowmobiles, with people bringing him new mechanical challenges daily! He was a collector of many things, including old bottles, tractor seats and magazines, guns, tools, farm equipment catalogs — whatever caught his eye, and was cheap!

Larry enjoyed history and was a member of the Cornwall Historical Society and the Crown Point Road Association. He helped with the start of Cornwall

Celebrating 95 years | 1930-2025

CLEGG'S
MEMORIALS

Family owned and operated
Addison County's ONLY full
service monument company

EXPERIENCE | QUALITY | VALUE

If you want a monument - get it from a monument dealer!

WE DO OUR OWN

Drafting • Lettering • Sandblast

Cleaning • Foundations
Setting • Restoration57 Main St., New Haven | 802-453-3433
cleggsnewhaven@yahoo.com

Contact Your U.S. Senators



Sen. Bernie Sanders
1-800-339-9834
SRC-2 United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.sanders.senate.gov



Sen. Peter Welch
1-800-642-3193
124 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
<https://www.welch.senate.gov/>
email-peter/



Contact U.S. Rep Becca Balint

Rep. Becca Balint
1-888-293-9874
1510 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4115
BalintPress@mail.house.gov



Contact Governor Phil Scott



1-800-649-6825 (Vt. only)
802-828-3333
109 State Street, Pavillion,
Montpelier, Vermont 05609-
0101 • www.vermont.gov/governor

Feds release \$21 million for heat assistance

By THEO WELLS-SPACKMAN
VTDigger.org

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released nearly \$21 million in long-awaited federal funding for Vermont's heating assistance programs, members of the state's congressional delegation said Tuesday.

"LIHEAP is an essential lifeline for more than 20,000 Vermont households every year," said U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. in a Tuesday release, describing the federal Low Income Home Energy Fuel Assistance Program. "Being able to heat your home is a matter of life and death."

U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., agreed in a similar statement on Tuesday, adding, "let's be clear: these funds never should've been stalled in the first place."

Money from the federal program is dispersed in Vermont through the state's Seasonal Fuel Assistance and Crisis Fuel Assistance programs. Additional state appropriations allow the programs to reach Vermonters whose incomes are up to 185%

and 200% of the federal poverty line, respectively. For a two-person household, that would mean an annual income of about \$39,000 or \$42,000.

Benefit amount depends on a number of factors including income and utility cost, but the average one-time award for the Seasonal Fuel Assistance program was roughly \$1,000 in the last fiscal year.

During the federal government shutdown in October and November, the state dispersed \$11 million in fuel assistance on time to individual households and fuel providers. The arrival of federal funds reimburses the state for that expense, and provides support for future benefits over the course of the winter.

Gov. Phil Scott said last month that he was "confident" that Congress would fulfill its obligation to provide that funding, in contrast with the state's 15-day stopgap measure for food assistance.

In Tuesday's release, Welch said funding for LIHEAP had been incorrectly hindered by President Donald Trump's administration even after the government

reopened Nov. 12.

"Not only was it illegal, but heartbreakingly cruel," Welch said in the statement.

Vermont's congressional delegation also criticized the Trump administration after mass layoffs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services earlier this year, which included the entire federal staff of LIHEAP.

The White House called for the program's elimination in a discretionary budget request in May, saying LIHEAP "is unnecessary because States have policies preventing utility disconnection for low-income households."

Last week, a report from Vermont's Public Utilities commission recommended that the state Legislature allocate more funding to expanding heat assistance for Vermonters, and prepare for potential losses in federal dollars. In particular, the commission was in favor of expanding the state's Crisis Fuel Assistance program, which is designed to provide stopgap funding when a household is about to run out of fuel.



CALLING THEMSELVES RAY Fork and his Knives, this group gathered at a Granville studio to record a classic Woody Guthrie tune and now is selling the record to raise funds in support of migrant farmworkers. Shown, from left, are Russ Lawton, Jane Boxall, Raph Worrick, Kevin Stevens and Ray Paczkowski.

VT musicians stand up for migrant rights

Record and distribute Guthrie's 'Plane Wreck at Los Gatos'

GRANVILLE — Troubled by the treatment of migrant workers under the Trump administration, five Vermont musicians — many of them local — recently got together to record a version of Woody Guthrie's "Plane Wreck at Los Gatos (Deportee)."

In conjunction with this recording, they produced a video of their live performance that launched on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/PNlsjbEcC4k>) late last month, with the song available for purchase on the music sharing website Bandcamp (bandcamp.com/track/plane-wreck-at-los-gatos-deportee).

All of the proceeds — 100% — will be donated to two organizations working to protect migrant workers' rights: the Vermont Immigrant Legal Defense Fund and No Más Muertes (No More Deaths). Purchasing the song on Bandcamp Friday, Dec. 5, will send even more money to these agencies.

Calling themselves Ray Fork and his Knives, the band consists of Raph Worrick of Cornwall, Russ Lawton of Salisbury, Ray

Paczkowski of Ripton, Kevin Stevens of Vergennes and Burlington, and Jane Boxall of Lewis, N.Y. The quintet performed the song live at The Pantry studio in Granville, hewing closely to Guthrie's full original lyrics. The song stemmed from Guthrie's hearing news stories about the crash of a 1948 deportation flight in which 28 Mexican migrant workers were killed. In the news the only names listed were those of the American crew, with the migrants simply referred to as "deportees." The Hispanic victims, mostly unidentified at the time, were buried in a mass grave simply labeled "Mexican Nationals." Guthrie, pained by the dehumanization of these workers, wrote the lyrics that were later set to music by Martin Hoffman.

"From Los Gatos to Granville, for nearly a century, artists and musicians have carried the stories of those too often forgotten — and that is a gift to our democracy," said State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, founder of the Vermont Immigrant Legal Defense Fund, or VILDF. "Here in Vermont, we

are coming together to ensure every neighbor receives the fairness and due process they deserve. These aren't abstract ideals. They are what keep our democracy alive."

The VILDF was established to provide legal support to those caught up in raids by ICE and CBP in Vermont. The Defense Fund seeks to raise \$1 million to strengthen immigration legal defense in Vermont. Every individual, regardless of where they come from, should have access to the high-quality legal support necessary to protect their rights and seek a better future, according to advocates. For more detail, head online to vermontlegaldefensefund.com.

No Más Muertes (No Más Muertes) works to provide direct emergency food, medical and other aid to migrants crossing the deserts in Arizona, as well as witnessing and documenting abusive practices by federal authorities. Volunteers spread out into the desert trying support the basic human needs of those at risk.

State police arrest drivers in drug incidents

ADDISON COUNTY — In separate incidents this past week, Vermont State Police stopped two cars and cited the drivers for drug-related crimes.

In the first case, an officer observed a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Stage Road in Ferrisburgh at around a quarter to 10 p.m. on Nov. 24 and stopped the vehicle. Police said they identified the driver as Rasim Redzic, 49, of New Haven, they found approximately 12.5 grams of cocaine on Redzic's person. They cited Redzic for possession of cocaine.

In the second case, this one on Nov. 26, a trooper saw multiple motor vehicle violations on Route 7 near Greenbush Road in Ferrisburgh a little after 11 p.m. and pulled this car over. Police said Mohamed A. Samb, 21, of Burlington was driving the car and that when talking with troopers he seemed impaired.

State police transported Samb to the Vergennes Police Department for processing and cited him for driving under the influence of drugs.

Vt. State Police Log

Troopers were assisted in the first instance by Middlebury police and in this second case by Vergennes police.

Meanwhile, troopers on Tuesday, Nov. 25, responded to the Lewis Creek Fishing Access in Monkton shortly before 8:30 a.m. to check out a report of an unresponsive male. Police said they found the man — later identified as 62-year-old Frank B. Haddleton of Burlington — deceased at the site. State police said the death is not considered suspicious and there's no cause for public concern.

Haddleton's body was taken to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Burlington for autopsy to determine cause and manner of death.

In a case that proved to be tough luck case for a Bristol man, troopers on Nov. 26 just before 9:30 a.m. were dispatched to a New Haven home. While on the scene looking into an

unrelated incident, troopers learned that a man there named Christopher Bostick, 40, of Bristol, was the subject of an active extraditable warrant from Alabama. Police took Bostick into custody, transported him to the New Haven Barracks for processing and jailed him at Marble Valley Correctional Facility for lack of \$15,000 bail.

In other recent activity, Vermont State Police:

- On Nov. 28 a trooper in Burlington recognized Patrick Cota, 32, of Bristol, who was wanted for speeding away from police, and the trooper and a Burlington police officer arrested him. This led police to citing Cota for retail theft for allegedly taking \$30 worth of merchandise from the Dollar General store in Ferrisburgh on Nov. 3.

- On Nov. 30 just before 11 p.m. looked into a report that a vehicle had gone off the road in Leicester. Troopers identified the driver of the vehicle as Arlyn Sunderland, 30, of Bridport. They cited him for driving with a criminally suspended license and violation of court-ordered conditions of release.

Contact Your U.S. Senators		
	<p>Sen. Bernie Sanders 1-800-339-9834 SRC-2 United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 www.sanders.senate.gov</p>	<p>Sen. Peter Welch 1-800-642-3193 124 Russell Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20510 https://www.welch.senate.gov/email-peter/</p>
		
Contact Governor Phil Scott		
<p>1-800-649-6825 (Vt. only) • 802-828-3333 109 State Street, Pavillion, Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101 • www.vermont.gov/governor</p>		

Business you can trust, and quality you can count on!

Come experience the difference



We care about your job as much as you do

DPI
DISTINCTIVE PAINT AND INTERIORS

802-388-2500 | M- F 7:30-5, Sat. 8-1
1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT
distinctivepaintandinteriors.com
Located next to 7 South Sandwich Company

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.

PROPOSED 4 STORY APARTMENT BUILDING

Corner of Middle Rd. and Route 7 – next to the Dollar Market

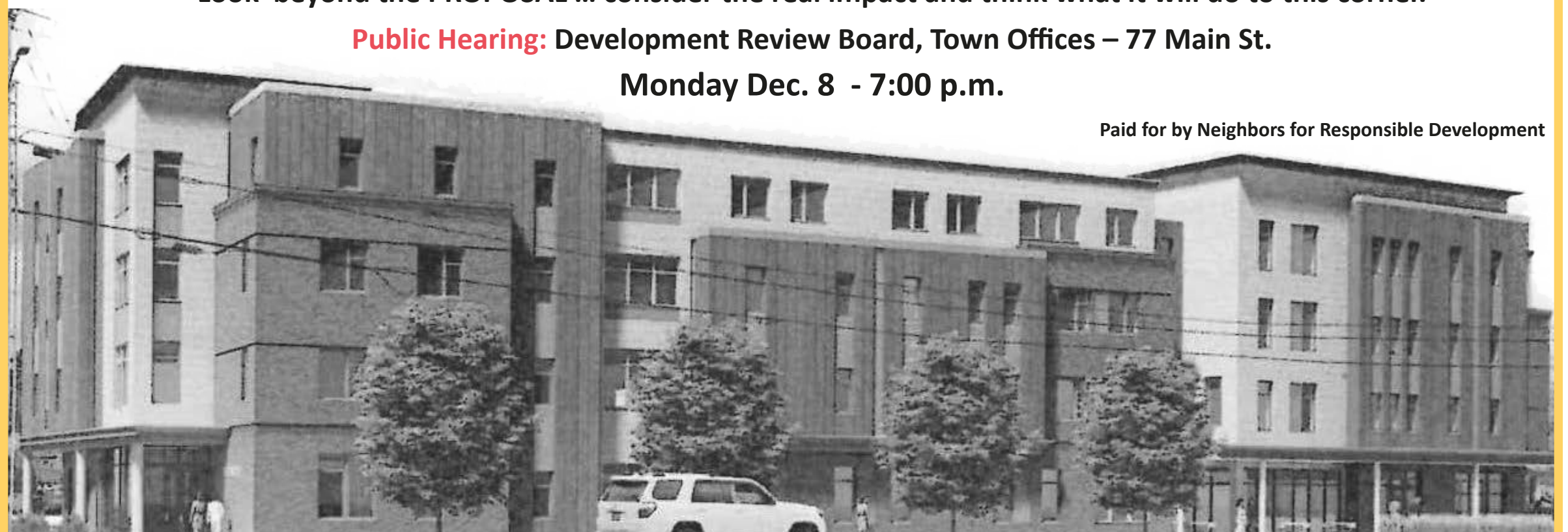
WRONG PLACE FOR THIS PLAN

Look beyond the PROPOSAL ... consider the real impact and think what it will do to this corner.

Public Hearing: Development Review Board, Town Offices – 77 Main St.

Monday Dec. 8 - 7:00 p.m.

Paid for by Neighbors for Responsible Development



Chocolates

(Continued from Page 1A)
the future. Through the partnership, Eat Vermont has invested in the business and acquired a minority stake in Farmhouse Chocolates.
“With small businesses in general being artisanal, you can see how much work everyone is putting in at every stage,” said Eat Vermont Founder Senator Rocket. “We want to make sure that they have a healthy, livable workplace, but also that their effort is going

into creating the best possible outcome, which is a successful business that can continue to feed happy people and employ a happy team.”
Rocket and LaBounty first connected 15 years ago, when the latter was working at Middlebury’s Otter Creek Bakery & Deli and Rocket was attending Middlebury College. That connection led to a longtime-friendship between Rocket and the couple.

In the early days of Farmhouse Chocolates, Rocket would visit the pair at the business’s former homebase on Munsill Avenue. He said those experiences inspired a lot of his work with Eat Vermont and efforts to support small businesses. The Vermont food media and technology platform connects consumers with the state’s local food businesses using its mobile app, social media pages and memberships.

“They’ve done an amazing thing over 11 years,” Rocket said of the Farmhouse Chocolates team. “They did the Burlington Farmers Market, they did the Stowe Farmers Market, they made ice cream, they built this great audience, they’re in some of the best grocery stores in the state.”

Throughout, Rocket and La Rocca noted Farmhouse Chocolates has had to navigate the same challenges other small businesses face, such as having to wear multiple hats with a smaller team.

“We’re really excellent at making delicious things and working directly with people, and everything else we’re a bit less excellent at,” La Rocca explained. “So, growth can be limited by lots of things — your skillsets, your experience, resources, financial and otherwise. We kind of felt like we were hitting a ceiling (with) just the two of us, but we didn’t really know what options were feasible beyond staying kind of the same or selling outright.”

La Rocca and LaBounty had reached a point early this year where they were looking to sell the business and approached Rocket to see if he could help them find a buyer.

“Then I was like, ‘Yeah, me. I’m interested,’” Rocket recalled. “But my vision of it is not for me to just own Farmhouse Chocolates, but to invest in with you and for you to stay on as partners.”

The husband-and-wife team will continue in their roles at Farmhouse



FARMHOUSE CHOCOLATES CO-FOUNDERS Erlé LaBounty, right, and Eliza La Rocca, center, have partnered with Eat Vermont in a collaboration aimed at providing the Bristol business with support to expand its reach, modernize its operations and plan strategically for the future. The couple is pictured here with Eat Vermont Founder Senator Rocket at the Farmhouse Chocolates factory store on Mountain View Street.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

The Annual
Champlain Valley Christian School
COOKIE SALE
Saturday, December 13
10-1:00 (or until sold out)
Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church
73B Church Street, Vergennes
Fancy Christmas cookies & specialty baked goods sold by the pound.

Chocolates, with Rocket and Eat Vermont providing additional support and resources.

“The result is something that we didn’t anticipate even being an option on the table, which is pretty neat,” La Rocca said.

She noted the partnership will help create the bandwidth and resources for the team to simultaneously work “on” and “in” the business. La Rocca said that can be a challenge for small business owners, tasked with focusing on both daily operations and planning for the future.

“In a lot of ways, if you’re in survival mode just waiting for the next cost increase of one, of two hundred costs that you have going into the business, you’re not strategically evolving the business,” La Rocca said.

Actions the team has taken in recent weeks has included hiring two new employees, consolidating order fulfillment into a standardized template, creating a new wholesale ordering platform, updating pricing and launching a marketing program called the Farmhouse Family.

Eat Vermont has been looking for ways to increase efficiency within the operations at Farmhouse Chocolates.

To that end, Farmhouse Chocolates is making some slight updates to its truffles.

“They’re very time-consuming to make, so to become more efficient at making truffles we’re changing them to squares,” LaBounty explained.

Looking ahead, Rocket said the hope is for Eat Vermont to support other small businesses like Farmhouse Chocolates in the future.

“Our dream at Eat Vermont is to find ways to arm our small businesses with tools to compete and to survive and to thrive,” he said.

He said Eat Vermont is looking to support those businesses and their efforts to create products for Vermonters, visitors and all those who love the state.



OVER THE PAST 11 years, Bristol’s Farmhouse Chocolates has evolved from specializing in dark chocolate hand-rolled truffles to offering other confections such as chocolate bars and the salted caramels pictured here. A new partnership between Farmhouse Chocolates and Eat Vermont is aimed at providing the business with resources and support to keep growing, while co-founders Erlé LaBounty and Eliza La Rocca continue in their roles.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

“I think there’s so much opportunity for our artisans to feed those people. It’s just more about how do we make it more sane and more helpful for our artisans, and that’s what (Eat Vermont) wants to solve,” he said. “The first way to do that is to solve it for my two beloved friends and their great team first. And if we do that here then that’s a great case study for us to then say what worked, and how do we apply those lessons to create more opportunity for other small businesses?”

The trio acknowledged how the partnership is rooted in a longstanding friendship, a positive foundation for a process that can bring surprises and challenges.

“I honestly don’t know what a transitional process like this would be like if we couldn’t be ourselves with each other to the extent we can be,” La Rocca said.

As the partnership gets underway, Rocket said the team is looking forward to taking all the

ways that Farmhouse Chocolates has grown over the years and exploring where else it could grow in the future.

“Doing that as friends is a really cool part of that foundation,” he said.

Throughout this next chapter, La Rocca said Farmhouse Chocolates wants to provide a sense of continuity for customers, with an eye for where it makes sense to evolve.

“We want to provide continuity while still questioning and reevaluating the status quo, because it’s just necessary to keep the business alive,” she said.

The team is also hoping to strengthen its relationship with the community and give residents more reasons to come into the shop at 25B Mountain View St.

“We are always happy when people stop by,” La Rocca said.

To learn more about Farmhouse Chocolates visit www.farmhousechocolates.com.



DECEMBER “BRIGHT LIGHTS” SALE

Ask about our Guaranteed Financing Program

2021 TOYOTA RAV 4 LE Hybrid, Auto, AWD, Loaded, 65k miles \$26,995	WIMETT TRADING COMPANY USED CARS AND TRUCKS 802 465 4688	2024 SUBARU CROSSTREK Limited, 4-Cyl, Auto, AWD, 23k miles \$27,995
2017 NISSAN FRONTIER Crew, V6, Auto, 4x4, 60k miles \$21,995	2018 CHEVY SILVERADO 4.3L V6, Auto, 4x4, 116k mile \$20,995	2017 TOYOTA PRIUS Prime, Hybrid, Auto, Only 47k miles \$19,995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments. Call Dave for an appointment.

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 53 Years Experience
David Wimett, 40 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 12 Years Experience
802-465-4688
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

15 years of delivering quality!

REFINANCE YOUR AUTO LOAN & SAVE

At Vermont Federal Credit Union, we can’t plan your next road trip, but we CAN help keep you rolling by refinancing your auto loan at a great rate! Apply now and you’ll make no payments for the first 90 days. And no worries, our loan process is as smooth as the open road! It’s one of the many benefits of joining our credit union.

DON'T MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR THIS SPECIAL DEAL!

- ✓ 1% Cash Back up to \$200*
- ✓ No payments for 90 days*

VERMONT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Call us now at (802) 923-1250 -or- Apply online at vermontfederal.org

*The 1% cash back is only available for auto refinances from another financial institution; Maximum \$200.00. Loan must be open and in good standing for 90 days or 1% cash back will be surrendered. Loan must not be delinquent at the time cash back is awarded. 90 days deferred payments dependent on credit qualifications and existing Vermont Federal Credit Union loans are not eligible. Insurance Verification applies to all secured loans. Monthly premiums for credit insurance purchased and interest will be added to the loan during the deferred payment term. This promotion cannot be combined with other offers. Must be a member of the Credit Union to obtain a loan. All loans subject to approval. Offer subject to change or end at any time without notice.

MUMS

(Continued from Page 1A)

Recent capital improvements have included a new roof in 2011, work on a front entry vestibule in 2016, and repairs to school office and library (along with a new school boiler) in 2024.

The MUMS building, based on the state's Facilities Condition Index, is in "fair condition," according to the ACSD Director of Facilities Bruce Macintire.

While it's the district's newest building at 29 years old, it has some shortcomings, according to those who work there and architects who have evaluated it based on its current layout and enrollment. The biggest MUMS deficiencies, outlined in a report delivered to the ACSD board last month, include:

- "MUMS lacks both the amount and kind of space to adequately serve its middle school students. It has insufficient classroom, gym, cafeteria, library and support services space."

- Poorly configured space for implementation of MUMS's practice of grouping students and educators into teams to more clearly focus on learning and building camaraderie.

"This idea is often reinforced by designing a cluster of classrooms around a common space, a feature with MUMS currently lacks," the report states.

- A "lack (of) any type of purpose-built performance space."

So how do the authors of the MUMS report suggest correcting the deficiencies?

In short, they're proposing expansion of the school's gym, library, kitchen and cafeteria, along with the creation of five team spaces "that include three standard classrooms, one science classroom, one meeting room, one learning specialist space and storage — all surrounding a team's common space."

It's a job estimated at \$41.9 million and would include 25,900 square feet of additions, 14,900 square feet of renovations, and "updates and repairs" to another 53,855 square feet.

The price tag would escalate to \$45.4 million with the addition of new auditorium and stage that would seat 400.

ACSD leaders have spent the late summer and fall reviewing

possible upgrades for the district's seven K-5 schools, MUMS and Middlebury Union High School, as part of a five-year capital plan. The *Independent* on Nov. 13 reported that MUHS's capital improvements list ranges from \$45.5 million — if it's to continue serving roughly 500-600 students — to \$111 million, if it takes on the role of a regional high school serving up to 1,000 students.

Regional high schools are among ideas legislative leaders are considering as a way to trim public education costs that continue to rise even as student numbers statewide decline. Making the ACSD's capital planning trickier is Vermont's

new public education reform law, Act 73, which in the coming years figures to redraw school district boundaries in a way that could force school consolidations and district mergers.

Still, the ACSD board has already made some key decisions on its complement of school buildings. The panel on Nov. 24 began an official closure process for Ripton Elementary (which will culminate in a districtwide vote next March)

and agreed to merge Shoreham and Bridport's K-5 students at Bridport Central School (BCS). Shoreham Elementary will be converted into a new district preschool.

So what happens next?

The ACSD Facilities Committee, led by Jason Chance, was slated to meet on Wednesday, Dec. 2, to review capital improvement evaluations for the Salisbury and Cornwall K-5 schools.

What's next?

"We've scheduled a two-hour meeting on Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. to try to prioritize needs by facility and start to lay them out in a five-year timeframe and probably beyond," Chance said in an email exchange. "Our hope was to bring this to the full board for our Dec. 22 meeting, but it might not happen until Jan. 12. We'll see what the Facilities Committee decides."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

Haven Comes Together process facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development. The process is aimed at helping residents work together to identify priorities for the town and steps to move those priorities forward. The process kicked off on Nov. 6, when residents gathered to discuss successes, challenges and opportunities for the town in various areas. The Dec. 11 event will build off the ideas shared last month, as well as input offered through an online survey. Free childcare and dinner will be provided, and rides to the gathering, as well as interpretation and accommodations, are available. For more information visit bit.ly/NewHavenTogether.

the child regularly, and gathers information from people involved in the child's life to understand the child's needs and advocate for (See Needs, Page 10A)

In releasing the names of the Vermont high school soccer teams that displayed the best sportsmanship in 2025, the Vermont Soccer Officials Association Sportsmanship Committee noted that Otter Valley boys' soccer team was a finalist for the honor, which ultimately went to the team at Sharon Academy. What did a team have to do to win the recognition? "Sportsmanship at its best are players following the rules of the game, respecting opponents, teammates and officials. Players helping an opponent up, congratulating them on a great play, being honest and telling an official that the ball last touched them and for coaches, players, and fans respecting calls or non-calls even if they perceive them to be incorrect," said Frank Martel, a Vermont soccer referee for over 50 years.

The group **Bristol Area Indivisible** is collecting gently used or new warm clothing for members of Addison County's immigrant community. In particular need are medium/large work gloves, heavy socks & sweatshirts, jackets, men's boots (sizes 9-11), jeans (30 and 32) and neck warmers. Food is also being sought, including dried (not canned) black beans, masa, cooking oil, coffee and sugar. Toilet paper, paper towels, laundry & dish soap, shampoo and diapers would also be appreciated. Donations will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 6, at the following locations: in the barn to the left of the home at 69 Maple St. in Bristol; the porch of the Lincoln Library — look for the box; 125 Sherman Lane or 181 North St. in New Haven; the porch of the Town Hall at the entrance to the Starksboro Public Library; or 75 Water Street in Vergennes.

When the Department for Children and Families seeks to take a child into its custody, Vermont law requires the court to appoint a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). GALs are volunteer, court-appointed special advocates who protect a child's best interests in these juvenile court cases, which usually involve allegations of abuse or neglect. A GAL works closely with the child's attorney, meets with



JUST CHILLIN'

**MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG**



It's INDY NEWS Digest

A weekly compilation of news stories from the *Middlebury Campus* and the *Addison Independent*, analyzed by our editors and delivered weekly to your inbox — for free!

Sign up today!

<https://www.addisonindependent.com/newsletter-signup/>



WE'LL GIVE YOU PLENTY OF REASONS TO BE Thankful!

Our dream team will work with you to transform your space to fit your needs.

Give us a call or visit our showroom this season.

We'd love to help you make your home merry and bright!

- OUTDOOR & INDOOR KITCHEN DESIGN
- BATH DESIGN
- PLUMBING FIXTURES
- CABINETS & COUNTERTOPS
- HARDWARE & MORE!

BRADFORD KITCHEN & BATH, LLC

BradfordKitchenAndBath.com

MON-FRI 8-5, SAT 8-12 OR BY APPOINTMENT | 18 CREEK RD | MIDDLEBURY, VT | (802) 458-8999

Deer season

(Continued from Page 1A)
weekend of the past decade: Only 148 bucks were reported shot on Nov. 15 and 16, the lowest since 2015 by a wide margin. Other recent opening weekends have ranged from a low of 179 in 2023 to a high of 244 in 2023.

The opening weekend total moved upward from the 131 initially reported by the *Independent* when a corrected count came in from Fish & Wildlife Project Leader Nick Fortin for Rack 'N Reel's opening two-day total. The New Haven store

had difficulty providing a complete record because Fish & Wildlife officials had weighed deer there over that weekend.

Regardless, the final two weeks of December proved to be better for hunters, adding another 379 bucks weighed locally for the final season total of 527.

But the 527 bucks weighed in the 16-day rifle season this year, while higher than 2024, still trails the totals from every other county rifle season in the past decade. Those numbers range from 554 weighed locally in

2017 to 676 just two years ago.

Fish & Wildlife's Fortin said final statewide rifle numbers are still a while away from being compiled, but he expects them to track closely with those from 2024, but maybe fall a little short of the annual average take of 7,000 over the past decade.

"We're going to be very close," he said.

The count is receiving a boost, Fortin said, from favorable hunting conditions in the northeast portion of the state, where the early numbers suggest an increase of 20% of the harvest in the rifle season. He said consistent snowfall there has allowed tracking of deer, unlike in the Champlain Valley and other areas of Vermont.

The early bow season and Youth/Novice Weekend numbers looked solid statewide, Fortin added, calling them "right on pace" with 2024. Archery numbers appeared decent in Addison County, but local youth weekend results mirrored 2024's low count. Fortin said better numbers elsewhere were "making up for your bad youth weekend."

BIG BUCKS

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

Notably, the largest deer weighed in the county was taken by Austin Lafayette in Huntington, a 201-pound buck with nine antler points that he had weighed at the Lincoln General Store.

Next up was a 198-pound, 8-pointer that Joseph Szarejko shot in Monkton and reported at Green Mountain Trails End.

William Bishop shot a 194-pound, 8-pointer in Shoreham and had it weighed at Rack 'N Reel.

A buck with a nice combination of size and antler points was taken down by Michael Betourney in Salisbury, a 183-pound, 10-pointer he reported at Green Mountain Trails End.

Three bucks topping 200 pounds were reported earlier in Addison County during the first two days of



ELLA POPE'S SMILE helped light up the evening as she reported her 139-pound, 4-point buck at Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport. She also brought the buck down in Bridport. Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

rifle season.

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

Two hunters brought 205-pound, 8-pointers to reporting stations during opening weekend.

Ronald Berthiaume shot his 205-pound, 8-pointer in Salisbury, and took it to Rack 'N Reel.

Wilder Galipeau shot a buck with the same particulars in Shelburne, and reported it at the West Addison General Store.

The following hunters had bucks weighed in Addison County after success between Nov. 15 and 30. They are listed by name, town of kill, and pounds and points:

W. ADDISON GENERAL STORE

Hunter Paquette, Addison, 140 pounds-4 points; John Whitney, Weybridge, 145-6; Jacob Birchmore, Addison, 112-5; Calvin Hogan, Bridport, 115-6; Mitchell Gallison, Shoreham, 147-3; James Payne, Addison, 170-8; Russell Bishop, Shoreham, 184-7; Christopher Gallipo, Shelburne, 151-11; Brian Blake, Cornwall, 148-7; Phillip Stearns, Addison, 130-7; John Campbell, Weybridge, 130-7; and Sean LaFlam, Ferrisburgh, 184-8.

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE

Austin Lafayette, Huntington, 201-9; Thomas Murphy, Lincoln, 100-3; Tyler Malloy, Middlebury, 152-8; Nathan Wallace-Gusakov, Lincoln, 153-4; Benjamin Kent, Lincoln, 137-4; Wade Acker, Middlebury, 121-3; Ada Bean,

Lincoln, 120-2; David Newton, Hinesburg, 120-3; Patrick Albertini, Ripton, 114-4; Louis Brown, Lincoln, 92-2; Brett Sargent, Lincoln, 162-8; Jeremie Fitzgerald, Huntington, 109-3; and Moses Whitcomb, Starksboro, 110-4.

Also, Robert Patterson, Lincoln, 153-7; Geoff Booth, Lincoln, 119-5; Sully Andrews, Shoreham, 120-4; Jody Conant, Lincoln, 122-1; Kyle Bezanson, Lincoln, 132-6; John Buoincontro, Huntington, 151-8; Justin Anderson, Ripton, 93-3; Craig Cheever, Monkton, 130-5; Tyler Ducharme, Huntington, 135-7; Trevor Haskins, Huntington, 130-5; Kurt Naser, Lincoln, 114-6; and Peter Pizzagalli, Charlotte, 175-7.

Also, Nick Lossman, Bristol, 132-3; Cole Sheffert, New Haven, 125-4; Jason Cook, Bristol, 119-7; Ross Norton, Lincoln, 148-11; James Adkins, Brighton, 138-6; Nora Kirchoff, Huntington, 136-7; Jody Conant, Middlebury, 148-7; Eric Jennings, Starksboro, 135-6; Brandon Reynolds, Benson, 117-8; and Jenna Lossman, Bristol, 99-2.

JERUSALEM COUNTRY STORE

Brian Heffernan, Starksboro, 145-8; Daniel Brooks, Huntington, 103-4; Seth Clifford, Starksboro, 145-6; Jay Lestage, Huntington, 160-8; Konrad Graff, Huntington, 109-2; Allen Wesley, Richmond, 84-2; Hilton Place, Huntington, 105-2; Hason Berry, Lincoln, 106-2; Kenneth Russin, Huntington, 137-3; Shawn O'Brien, Starksboro, 160-5; Matthew Titus, Lincoln, 124-8; and Kyle Taft, Huntington, 151-4.

Also, Isaiah Bowen, Huntington,

88-3; Charles Machia, Starksboro, 115-6; David Little, Huntington, 122-4; Charles Spence, Huntington, 139-3; Bradley Boss, Starksboro, 144-6; Samantha Slayton, Starksboro, 107-3; Joey Mashia, Lincoln, 176-8; Patrick Fitzgerald, Huntington, 103-2; Rodney Orvis, Lincoln, 106-2; Ryan Allendorf, Huntington, 108-2; Ryan Whitcomb, Starksboro, 159-11; and Adam Thompson, Buel's Gore, 155-8.

Also Taylor Gingras, Warren, 148-8; Robert Clark, Huntington, 101-4; Charles Gilroy, Richmond, 165-8; Robert Clarke, Huntington, 101-4; Charles Gilroy, Richmond, 165-8; Cole Blair, Brandon, 136-8; Aaron Thomas, Starksboro, 146-4; Jeffrey Fortune, Huntington, 132-4; Cary Tracey, Monkton, 160-6; Andy Degree, Huntington, 160-7; Nathan Begins, Duxbury, 143-8; Matthew Coleman, Shelburne, 160-6; and Michael Chenette, Starksboro, 145-6.

C & S HUNTING SUPPLIES

Howard Slocum, Ripton, 153-6, and Joseph Whitley, Middlebury, 127-6.

BACKWOODS GUNS & TACKLE

Troy Audet, Bridport, 184-6; Dylan Lanpher, Shoreham, 182-9; Ramsey Bronson, Shoreham, 178-8; Mark Torrey, Addison, 176-6; Nathan Warner, Shoreham, 172-9; Keith Betourney, Bridport, 161-7; Seth Pope, Bridport, 160-9; Jeremy Hadval, Shoreham, 160-8; Richard Shimel, Bridport, 158-9; Evan Wood, Orwell, 154-6; Kaleb Shepard, New Haven, 154-10; (See Rifle, Page 11A)



Squishy stuff • Sparkly things
Advent Calendars • Candy to eat
Games to play • Puzzles to solve



Visit our pop-up store at 12 Park St. Brandon! Open 10-5 daily

Playmobil & LEGO to build
Stuffed to hug, Markers, Clay,
Backpacks • Nesting Dolls
Giggles and Fun

A GENERAL STORE FOR KIDS and FAMILIES

12 Main Street, Bristol • 802-453-6945
www.simonsaysvt.com



MIDDLEBURY LIONS CLUB CASH CALENDAR WINNERS

December 2025

Sam & Eric Huestis, Jean Weidman, Steve Riele, Kathleen E. Anderson, Kimberly Bickham, Matt & Brenda Broughton, Josh Newton, George Whitemore, Chris Newkirk, Pat Bezanson, Suzanne Aquistapace, James Greenamyre, Harry Doner, Kathy Atwood, Dan Freeman, Susan Wry, John Nuceder, Caleb Young, Jeff Lee, Debora Eaton, Cindy & Jim Slater, Diane Jackson, Michele Piper, Debra Mallott, Steve Briley, Austin Goodell, Jeffery Mayo, Kelly Devino, Shelly & Jay Johnson, Michael & Sarah McGrath, David Ebner, Margaret Sunderland, Al Miller, Kymberly Breckenridge, Joanne Desabrais

The 2026 Lions Cash Calendars are on sale now.

Buy yours from any Middlebury Lions Club member, or at one of these fine businesses:

American Legion Post 27, Bourdeau Brothers Feeds, Broughton's Big Country Hardware, Champlain Valley Fuels, Desabrais Glass, Greg's Market, IPJ Real Estate, J.D. Fuller Plumbing & Heating, Joy's Lake View Hair Design, LaBerge Insurance, Maple Landmark, Maple Meadow Farm, Middlebury Agway Farm & Garden Center, Middlebury Aubuchon Hardware, Mike's Fuels, Pratt's Store, Rosie's Restaurant, Smith Family Beef, West Addison General Store - or email us at MiddleburyLionsClub@yahoo.com



**260 Court St, STE 3
Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060**

**211 Main Street
Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312**

www.Hare.dog

Needs

(Continued from Page 9A)
their best interests in court. The GAL's goal is to ensure the child has a safe, stable, and permanent home as quickly as possible. Right now, there is an urgent need for volunteers, and too many children risk not having this essential support in their lives. The need is

especially great in underserved communities such as Orleans, Franklin, Grand Isle, Caledonia, Lamoille, Bennington and Essex counties. For more information visit VermontJudiciary.org/GAL, email Jud.VermontGAL@vtcourts.gov, or call 800-622-6359. The Judiciary welcomes

volunteer candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply.

Middlebury is thrilled to welcome the Vermont Rail System's Toys for Kids Train on Dec. 14, as it makes its final stop of the day at the Middlebury Amtrak Station between 6-6.30 p.m. In partnership with the Marine Corps League of Vermont, this special holiday train collects new, unwrapped toys to support children throughout Vermont during the Christmas season. Members of the Better Middlebury Partnership will be there to meet Santa, so come down and join in, enjoy a candy cane, and bring your contributions. It's another wonderful way to engage with all that Middlebury has to offer and to support local children in need.

During this time of giving, it can be tempting to fill up carts at stores with stuff for relatives, friends, and other close folks in life without much consideration of waste. Holidays aren't always wasteful. Here are tips to cut down on holiday waste: Use what you already have for decorations; buy a natural Christmas tree from a local farm, and when you're done bring it to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District off Route 7 south in Middlebury to turn it into mulch; consider buying experiences for friends and family instead of stuff, such as concert tickets or gift cards to local restaurants; package presents in recyclable materials; and attempt to donate any unwanted item before throwing it away. If you have questions about holiday packaging or donation options, reach out to the trash district at 802-388-2333 or acswmd@acswmd.org.

Stop in & discover our Enchanted Holiday Forest!

The shop is bursting with a huge selection of:

- Thoughtful Gifts ~ for everyone on your list!
- Ornaments & Seasonal Decor
- Fresh Holiday Blooms
- Terrarium Kits & Fairy Houses
- So much more!



Gift Certificates Available!

Stop in. Get inspired.
Deck your halls in style.

Open 7 days a week during the holidays • 802-989-0083

228 Maple Street, Midd., VT Down the Alley to Marble Works

For more information about the store and our online offerings, please visit our new website toadhallvt.com or follow us



Rifle

(Continued from Page 10A)

Travis Whittemore, Bridport, 152-4; Gary Payne, Bridport, 144-4; Alan Christian, Orwell, 142-4; Aaron Trombley, Shoreham, 142-9; Victor Fifield, Cornwall, 140-4; Ella Pope, Bridport, 139-4; Ronald Stevers, Middlebury, 138-7; Cody Steele, Cornwall, 137-7; Christopher Payne, Bridport, 135-4; and Matthew Lawton, 135-9.

Also, Nathan Abbott, Shoreham, 121-5; Joseph Bell, Weybridge, 119-3; Allen Plouffe, Bridport, 118-4; Larry Wilbur, Whiting, 111-5; Patrick Deering, Ripton, 111-3; Steven Fifield, Cornwall, 110-4; Avery Austin-Neil, Whiting, 110-3; Jacob Dapsis, Shoreham, 108-4; Maverick Payne, Bridport, 108-4; Daniel Thomas, Bridport, 103-4; and James Nelson, Ripton, 99-2.

CORRECTION: The caption for the Nov. 20 photo of Paul Tewksbury and the buck he shot in Cornwall during opening weekend and weighed at Backwoods Gun & Tackle erroneously stated its antler points. The 169-pound buck had 7 antler points. We apologize for the error.

GREEN MT. TRAILS END

Amber Sorrell, Charlotte, 159-11; Justin Tatro, Bristol, 121-4; Daniel Crossman, Lincoln, 107-4; Ronald Aldrich, Bristol, 94-2; Michael White-Coe, Starksboro, 142-5; Andrew Borgens, Bristol, 132-8; George Carty, Starksboro, 135-7; Daniel Briggs, 116-2; and Michael Betourney, Salisbury, 183-10.

Also, Thomas Lathrop, Starksboro, 138-8; Penny Bennett, Starksboro, 133-7; Shawn Frost, Ripton, 117-2; Joshua Rochon, Monkton, 156-10; Dylan DeVoid, Lincoln, 105-10; Heather Shackett, Cornwall, 158-9; Austin Meader, Starksboro, 166-8; Rhonda Roberts, Middlebury, 188-6; Caleb Tucker, New Haven, 156-7; and Julia Norris, Lincoln, 110-3.

Also, Zachary Fraser, Shoreham, 150-5; James Bouvier, New Haven, 132-3; Joseph Szarejko, Monkton, 198-8; Ryan Smith, Monkton, 136-6; Cory Steady, Ferrisburgh, 154-3; Larry Butler, New Haven, 125-5; Mark Jipner, Starksboro, 139-5; Thadeus Sorrell, Charlotte, 180-8; Tim Butler, Middlebury, 188-6; and Louis Bennett, Starksboro, 100-1.

RACK 'N REEL

Frank Stanley, Monkton, 115-3; Robert Rogers, Lincoln, 109-1; Leon Demers, New Haven, 111-5; Dylan Barrows, Waltham, 167-7; Travis Guillemette, Monkton, 138-7; Andrew Lafleur, Cornwall, 118-6; Bruce Isham, Monkton, 141-8; Kathleen Ambrose, Waltham, 170-10; Ethan White, New Haven, 124-4; Matthew Dupont, Monkton, 123-6; Bruce Smith, Monkton, 105-4; and Tyler Steady, Whiting, 100-4.

Also, Dean Ouellette, Weybridge, 108-3; Raymond Stearns, Ferrisburgh, 157-8; Chrystal Yantz, Waltham, 111-4; James Towle, Panton, 167-6; Richard Kemp, Rochester, 127-10; William Wisell, Panton, 154-8; Edward Campbell, Starksboro, 126-4; Geoffrey Lavalette, Starksboro, 148-2; Stephen Davis, New Haven, 161-5; Gary Hallock, Salisbury, 141-3; Mitchell Jackman, Waltham, 150-6; and John Palmer, New Haven, 138-5.

Also, John Farrell, Sheldon, 149-8; Robert Stearns, Ferrisburgh, 161-6; Randy Boise, New Haven, 109-4; Cody Aube, Charlotte, 144-6; Jeremy Lattrell, Lincoln, 103-6; Bethany Hallock, Salisbury, 148-8; Easton Laroche, Lincoln, 115-1; James Danyow, Ferrisburgh, 138-4; Sharon Crane, Cornwall, 118-8; Peter Lafframboise, Cornwall, 140-6; Eric Raymond, Addison, 148-9; Chris Huston, New Haven, 130-5; and David Giuliani, Weybridge, 134-4.

Also, Stanton Pratt, New Haven, 140-4; Joey Gould, Bridport, 152-7; Roderick Cole, Ferrisburgh, 142-7; Dylan Preston, Ferrisburgh, 128-5; Colin Fletcher, Ferrisburgh, 125-5; Ernest Oakes, Hinesburg, 108-4; Chad Hayden, Hinesburg, 108-3; Kyle Delabruere, Ripton, 168-8; Beau Gevry, Hinesburg, 157-5; Robert Almeter, Bristol, 164-8; Ryan Jennings, Bristol, 125-5; Garrett Boschen, Ferrisburgh, 130-8; and James Gunger, Sudbury, 151-8.

Also, David Fuller, Middlebury, 153-6; Josiah Barnes, Addison, 177-8; Scott LaBerge, Charlotte, 142-5; Colin Eugair, Hinesburg, 156-6; Jonathan Titus, Hinesburg, 114-6; Curtis Cyr, Ripton, 157-8; Ryan Paquin, Addison, 167-7;

Timothy Post, Hinesburg, 134-4; Shane Coyle, Ferrisburgh, 108-3; Callie Jennings, Starksboro, 162-6; Christopher Melendy, Bridport, 117-3; and Craig Newton, Waltham, 138-5.

Also, Tucker Forrest-Kennett, Manchester, 126-6; Zachary Trono, Charlotte, 138-8; Lyle Webb, Ripton, 181-5; Thomas Kilbourn, Addison, 189-8, Dawn Piper, New Haven, 151-4; Morgan Delorme, Salisbury, 130-5; Richard Greene, Charlotte, 130-6; Donna Loiacano, Weybridge, 130-4; Benjamin Kivlen, Bristol, 110-3; Chad Whittemore, Waltham, 125-8; Earl Reed, Ferrisburgh, 115-4; and Garth Gaboriault, Richmond, 183-9.

Also, Adrian Hicks, Starksboro, 138-6; Charles Rule, Middlebury, 155-5; Daniel Stearns, Ferrisburgh, 138-8; Craig Shepard, Starksboro, 157-5; Carl Ellerkamp, Richmond, 118-4; Maxwell Flynn, Waltham, 118-8; Donald Sisters, Starksboro, 144-5; Heath Butler, Starksboro, 179-8; Christopher Fortin, 130-7; Charles Barnum, Bristol, 162-8; Jakob Labelle, Shelburne, 156-6; Patrick Needham, New Haven, 148-7; and Henry Emmons, North Hero, 146-8.

Also, Danny Grace, Bristol, 146-7; Paul Deering, Bridport, 141-6; Myles Courchaine, Johnson, 158-7; Abigail DuBois, Addison, 146-6; Eric Gracie, Cornwall, 148-6; Steven Moulton, Starksboro, 128-5; Logan Ladeau, Bristol, 138-6; Randall Stearns, Ferrisburgh, 140-8; Brian LaRock, Hinesburg, 133-3; Mary Taft, Huntington 188-6; Christopher Ardell, Weybridge, 103-4; Ronald Smith, Richmond, 120-6; and Brad Sprague, New Haven, 150-6.

Also, Brian Kayhart, New Haven, 138-8; Eric Hathaway, Salisbury, 113-2; William Kimball, Weybridge, 138-6; Keith Audy,



NATHAN WARNER TOOK down this 179-pound buck with a 9-point rack in Shoreham and reported it at Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle



AARON TROMBLEY POSED with family members when he took this 142-pound, 9-point buck he shot in Shoreham to Backwoods Gun & Tackle in Bridport to be weighed.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

New Haven, 145-7; Patrick Fifield, Cornwall, 138-7; Christian Zeno, Starksboro, 162-7; Carl Murray, Ripton, 124-8; John O'Brien, Shelburne, 164-7; Dean Gilmore, Addison, 163-6; Mark Livingston, New Haven, 165-8; Patrick Whitley, Weybridge, 163-6; and Eric Baker, Addison, 158-10.

Also, Johnathan Hill, Bristol, 130-4; Robert Sturtevant, New Haven, 144-4; Calihan Butler, Bristol, 158-8; Paul Parent, Orwell, 158-8; Adam Gill, Cornwall, 118-4; Christopher Wilson, New Haven, 143-5; Nicholas Webb, Fairfax, 178-8; William Bishop, Shoreham, 194-8; David Wemette, New Haven, 123-3; David Doria, Middlebury, 181-8; Kohlton Flemings, Weybridge, 154-7; and Joseph, Seeley, Middlesex, 134-4.

Also, Kristin Butler, Bristol, 145-6; Charles Holbrook, Salisbury, 152-

4; Adam Bolduc, New Haven, 104-3; Andre Rheume, New Haven, 143-6; Gregory Raymond, Goshen, 118-8; Scott Stearns, Ferrisburgh, 119-4; Robin Whitman, Ripton, 181-8; Lucas Livingston, Lincoln, 163-11; Jacob Johnson, Huntington, 163-7; Trixie Zeno, Starksboro, 132-4; Andre Palmer, New Haven, 143-6; and Andrew Recupero, Ripton, 168-5.

Also, Wyatt Allenson, New Haven, 151-4; Louis Poirier, Salisbury, 149-6; Levi Doria, Ripton, 124-5; Aiden Putnam, Weybridge, 139-4; Taylor Bessette, New Haven, 158-6; Ryan Cornellier, Monkton, 189-8; Cory Jennings, Hinesburg, 112-6; Gabriel LaBerge, Shoreham, 172-8; Alan Whittemore, Ferrisburgh, 172-4; Daren Muzzy, Ferrisburgh, 140-11; Dustin Benoit, Williston, 152-7; and Kristian Ashley, Ferrisburgh, 148-6.

Also, Ronald Dusablou, Charlotte, 160-7; William Smits, Bridport, 145-5; Lance Fleming, Ferrisburgh, 185-7; Tabitha Vincent, Addison, 157-4; Matthew Myers, Bristol, 158-8; Michael Palmer, Salisbury, 103-6; Daniel Bishop, Addison, 120-4; Brad Lambert, Cornwall, 150-7; Robert Goodrich, Bristol, 109-2; Brady New, Bridport, 160-6; Shawn Roscoe, Bristol, 131-6; Randy Cameron, Ferrisburgh 150-6; and Tyler Utter, Charlotte, 118-6.

Also, Allen Mashia, Hinesburg, 148-8; Vincent Comai, Bolton, 137-6; Devin Dwire, Ripton, 110-6; Mary Ringer, Ferrisburgh, 157-8; Kayden LaRock, Hinesburg, 149-7; Ryan Morgan, Middlebury, 137-6; Jeffrey Jerger, Ferrisburgh, 159-6;

Tupper Hinsdale, Ferrisburgh, 148-4; and Tracy Lash, Ripton, 118-4.

Also, Eric Campbell, Addison, 130-4; Brian Moulton, Goshen, 169-9; Ryan Fortune, New Haven, 139-8; Devin Belisle, Starksboro, 181-8; Travis Bachand, Starksboro, 135-5; Shawn Russell, New Haven, 123-7; Michael Norton, Middlebury, 123-4; Raymond Highter, Middlebury, 152-8; Thomas Gates, Charlotte, 157-3; Corey Rougier, Monkton, 144-9; Billy Hurlburt, Bristol, 125-4; Christopher Crane, Salisbury, 77-3; George Pyper, Starksboro, 135-4; Kari Whitman, Ripton, 119-4; Zachary Thompson, Monkton, 154-6; Jeffery Hornbeck, Whiting, 176-9; and Joshua Laroque, Leicester, 99-5.



WINTER LIVING MADE EASY FOR YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES

While neighbors shovel driveways and worry about icy roads, residents at Vergennes Grand are surrounded by warmth, friendship, chef-prepared meals, lively activities, and the peace of mind that comes with personalized care.



Make this winter warm and worry-free. Tour today!

(802) 877-3562 | www.VergennesGrand.com

34 North Street, Vergennes, VT

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care



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:

**Middlebury Lions Club
P.O. Box 5
Middlebury, VT 05753**

The Lions suggest each name be typed or printed so as to be legible. Please use below or attach a separate list for more names.

SPONSORED BY *Laberge Insurance*

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE IS DECEMBER 12.

NAME	NAME

AMERICAN FLATBREAD Middlebury Hearth

Celebrate your holidays with us!

LUNCH!
Wed-Saturday 11-2

fireside seating available

Dinner:
Tues-Thur 5-9 & Fri-Sat 4:30-9

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT HERE!
SPECIAL PRICING TUESDAYS-THURSDAYS

see our website for details

americanflatbread.com 802-388-3300

@ f marble works, middlebury

Santa, start your engines for the tractor parade

VERGENNES — A sleigh pulled by reindeer might be the typical holiday vehicle the many people envision, but Vergennes is reimagining that holiday mode of transportation for this Saturday's Holiday Stroll.

How about a tractor?

The newest thing in this day of old traditions will be the city's first-ever Holiday Roll Tractor Parade!

"It's really coming together despite our team cooking up the idea only five weeks beforehand!" Vergennes Partnership Executive Director Christin Garrow said. "We

have over 20 tractors registered and a special entry by our Grand Sponsors.

"We are thrilled."

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 on Dec. 6. 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 that 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.

The parade will cap a day of festivities in the Little City.

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.

Of course, Santa and all his friends and associates will peak in to Vergennes for a stroll around the city.

Among the activities you'll want to take note of are:

- The annual Holiday Craft Fair and raffle at the Vergennes Union Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Bixby Memorial Library open house, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Activities will include Santa reading a story at 10:30 a.m., used book sale, toy and puzzle swaps, card making, and singing performances by Va-et-Vient (11 a.m.) and Maiden Vermont (noon). It's all free.

- 20th annual Broadway Direct performance of show tunes at the Vergennes Congregational Church on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m.

Once night falls, make sure you come to the green for bon fires and the tractor parade.

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.

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. — 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. (See Events, Page 13A)



VERGENNES HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH
9:00 - 3:00 PM
Vergennes Union Elementary School
43 East Street, Vergennes

Over 70 Vendors

FREE ADMISSION
 Woodcraft, Pottery, Jewelry, Hot Sauces, Candles, Wool Items, Knit/Crochet, Quilts, Blacksmith, Shadow boxes, Pampered Chef, Resin Art and so much more.....

COME TAKE A PICTURE WITH ME!

OVER 50 RAFFLE ITEMS & AN AMAZING CONCESSION STAND

TO BENEFIT THE VERGENNES REC DEPT PAVILION PROJECT

City police arrest two for thefts

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Nov. 28 arrested a local man and a woman, whom they described as homeless, for a series of thefts, two from Vergennes and one from a camper on a local property.

According to the department's weekly media log and a court affidavit, city police cited Will Phillips, 28, of Vergennes and Sabrina Wedge, 42, described as homeless, for grand larceny, providing false information, petit larceny and possession of stolen property. Phillips was held on \$5,000 bail, and Wedge for lack of \$3,000 bail.

Police said Phillips and Wedge were in a van police stopped at the intersection of Stage and

Vergennes Police Log

Greenbush roads in Ferrisburgh after the vehicle was allegedly seen at the scene of one of the crimes, a city home.

Police allege Phillips stole landscaping equipment worth \$950 from his parents' home in Vergennes, and that he and Wedge stole tires and rims valued at more than \$5,000 from another city home and a power tool from the camper at a separate site with which Wedge was familiar.

According to the affidavit, police allege Phillips and Wedge did

not at first provide fully accurate accounts of their activities, and Phillips's parents alleged he had previously stolen from them.

Between Nov. 24 and 30, Vergennes police also conducted 36 traffic stops and four cruiser patrols, processed one fingerprint request, and:

- On Nov. 24: Helped Vermont State Police by removing an unregistered vehicle that had been left at the Ferrisburgh park-and-ride lot.

- Served an abuse prevention order to a Vergennes resident.

- Were notified of a dispute between two city residents and learned the information was unfounded.

- Were asked to serve an abuse prevention order to a Vergennes resident, but learned it had already been served to the individual's attorney.

- On Nov. 25: Calmed a neighbor dispute at an apartment on South Water Street.

- Assisted the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad with a reported drug overdose call at a city residence.

- Cited Christal Dawn Ramos, 42, of Vergennes for unlawful mischief after she allegedly broke a pane of glass on a neighbor's porch door.

- Took a report of a two-vehicle accident on Monkton Road in which a parked truck was struck by another vehicle. Police said the accident is being investigated.

- Responded to a request for records.

- Were told packages had been stolen from an Armory Lane address, but learned later the packages had been delivered.

- On Nov. 26: Went to the state police barracks in New Haven to help determine if a driver in custody there was under the influence of drugs.

- Responded to a resident who believed a neighbor was attempting to enter their apartment to steal medication. Police checked on the resident's welfare and found no signs of forced entry or suspicious activity. The resident was referred to Project Vision North for support and resources.

- Were told that a white truck with two male occupants followed three juveniles to a Thomas Circle home. Police said the men made no comments or gestures to the juveniles, but police said they would patrol the area. Police would also welcome any information about this incident.

- On Nov. 27: Were told of possible coyote activity in the Country Commons area and checked out the neighborhood.

- Spoke with a city resident who was going through a difficult time and needed to talk with a counselor.

- Heard from a South Water Street resident on a 911 call that an individual was trying to enter their residence. Police responded and determined it was a mental health issue.

- On Nov. 28 checked on a motorist whose vehicle had apparently run out of gas on New Haven Road and helped get fuel. When the car still wouldn't start, police helped arrange it to be taken to a repair shop.

- On Nov. 29: Posted notices on cars parked downtown reminding owners that the city's winter parking ban would take effect on Dec. 1.

- Cited Dominic Fleming, 24, of Charlotte for violation of a conditions of release order.

- On Nov. 30 handled a minor two-car accident in the in the parking lot of the Champlain Farms convenience store.



HOUSE FAVORITES

- Reuben Eggroll**
corned beef • Swiss cheese • caraway 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

A HOLIDAY GIFT for you...

FOR EVERY \$50 YOU SPEND ON GIFT CERTIFICATES, RECEIVE A FREE \$10 VOUCHER!
 OFFER VALID THROUGH 12/31/25

TUES.-SAT., 4PM - 8PM
 Order by phone or online for take-out
 UPSTAIRS IN-PERSON DINING AND FULL BAR

161 MAIN STREET • VERGENNES, VT • 802.877.9962 • PARKSQUEEZE.COM



THE BLACK SHEEP BISTRO

Casual atmosphere • Great Food • Exceptional Value

GIVE THE GIFT OF TASTE

FOR EVERY \$100 WORTH OF GIFT CERTIFICATES PURCHASED, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$25 VOUCHER ON US!

VISIT US AT WWW.BLACKSHEEPBISTROVT.COM
 OR CALL TO HAVE YOUR GIFT CERTIFICATES MAILED TO YOU!

VALID NOW THROUGH 12/31/2025

253 Main Street • Vergennes, VT • 802-877-9991 • blacksheepbistrovt.com
 TUES. - SAT., 4:00PM - 8:00PM • Reservations Accepted

Disaster loans available for businesses hit by drought

VERMONT — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of low interest federal disaster loans to small businesses and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations in Vermont who sustained economic losses caused by the drought beginning Sept. 23, 2025.

The disaster declaration covers the counties of Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windsor and Washington, and Grafton in New Hampshire as well as Essex and Washington counties in New York.

Under this declaration, the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program is available to eligible small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, nurseries, and PNPs with financial losses directly related to this disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are available for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the small business or PNP did not suffer any physical damage. The loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills not paid due to the disaster.

"Through a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, SBA provides critical financial assistance to help communities recover," said Chris Stallings, associate administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the SBA. "We're pleased to offer loans to small businesses and private nonprofits impacted by these disasters."

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates as low as 4% for small businesses and

3.625% for PNPs, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

To apply online visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 1, 2026.

Early education leader

JEN OLSON, TEACHING co-director at Middlebury's Quarry Hill School, was recently named Vermont's Emerging Early Childhood Leader, an award that recognizes those who inspire others and make a positive impact on children, families and the childhood education community. A selection committee recognized Olson's work for children and families and participation on the Early Childhood Advancing the Profession Taskforce.

Pictured at the annual conference of the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, where the honor was bestowed, are, from left, association Executive Director Sharron Harrington; Su White, teaching co-director at Quarry Hill School; Olson; and Aly Richards of the Let's Grow Kids Action Network.



ONE LOCATION . . . TWO GREAT STORES!

For women, men and children!

Linda's APPAREL
clothing * gifts * jewelry

Jewelry • Wallets • Lotions • Candles • Socks
Mittens • Scarves • Gloves • Handbags & LOTS more!

MEN'S CORNER

175 Main Street, Vergennes VT • 802-877-2320 • www.lindasapparel.com • Mon-Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun. 11-3

Messiah Sing set for Dec. 21

MIDDLEBURY — Come enjoy the annual Middlebury Messiah Sing, a community tradition since 1984, hosted by the Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St., beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025. Nearly 300 singers and players join us each year to make music together with enthusiasm and joy!

Singers, string players and all who enjoy music are warmly welcomed to sing or play along — or simply come to watch and listen — as we hear soloists from the local community, and together we all sing many favorite choruses from "The Messiah" by George Frederic Handel, composed in 1741. Jeff Rehbach conducts.

Our vocal soloists sing with or conduct choirs throughout Vermont. Adam Hall, Erin Grainger, Joe McVeigh, Leila McVeigh, Jessica Allen, and Wendy Taylor return to sing a number of solo arias at this year's sing. New this year, we will welcome soprano Jane Beaumont Snyder who sings with the Aurora Chamber Singers in Burlington, and tenor Blair Jia, a 2023 graduate of Middlebury College who has returned to town since then to solo with the Community Chorus and the St. Stephen's choir. They will be accompanied by chamber music players David Gusakov and Emily Sunderman, violins, who teach at the Middlebury Community Music Center; Bill Pierson, viola; Dieuwke Davydov, cello; Christopher Foster, trumpet. David and Dieuwke founded the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra 20 years ago. Jeff Buettner and Ronnie Romano, organist and choir director at the Congregational Church, play harpsichord and organ.

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.

We welcome donations at the door to honor our soloists.

Events

(Continued from Page 12A)

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.

DOWNTOWN VERGENNES



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, cookies and marshmallow roasting 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.

GRAND SPONSORS



SPONSORS



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 info on shop specials: www.VergennesDowntown.org/magic-on-main.



VERGENNES PARTNERSHIP

www.VergennesDowntown.org



Geese

WE LOVE TO watch the comings and goings of birds during the fall migration, but the Champlain Valley is blessed with a superabundance of migrating snow geese, which come through in such numbers that they hold a special place in our hearts. The wide open fields and water features around the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison is so popular with the geese that the state built a special area along Route 17 where photographers could pull off and capture stunning photos of some of the thousands of birds that pass through every fall.

Three *Addison Independent* readers share their recent photos of snow geese. Dottie Nelson took the one on the top right, Jeannette Armell snapped the image below, and Lee Krohn captured the other photos on this page.





SALES FOR DECEMBER 2025



Items on sale December 1-31, 2025

 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA 750ML SALE PRICE \$19.99 SAVE \$3.00	 BARR HILL GIN 750ML SALE PRICE \$31.99 SAVE \$6.00	 APEROL APERTIVO 750ML SALE PRICE \$26.99 SAVE \$4.00	 PLATINUM 7X VODKA 1.75L SALE PRICE \$16.99 SAVE \$3.00	 TANQUERAY GIN 750ML SALE PRICE \$20.99 SAVE \$4.00	
 CAPTAIN MORGAN SPICED RUM GLASS 750ML SALE PRICE \$14.99 SAVE \$4.00	 BACARDI SUPERIOR RUM 1.75L SALE PRICE \$22.99 SAVE \$6.00	 GREY GOOSE ORIGINAL VODKA 750ML SALE PRICE \$24.99 SAVE \$3.00	 SMIRNOFF VODKA 750ML SALE PRICE \$11.69 SAVE \$3.30	 JIM BEAM BOURBON 1.75L SALE PRICE \$29.99 SAVE \$7.00	
 JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY 750ML SALE PRICE \$29.99 SAVE \$5.00	 KETEL ONE VODKA 750ML SALE PRICE \$20.99 SAVE \$4.00	 MILAGRO SILVER TEQUILA 750ML SALE PRICE \$29.99 SAVE \$5.00	 MAKER'S MARK BOURBON WHISKEY 750ML SALE PRICE \$27.99 SAVE \$4.00	 CASAMIGOS BLANCO TEQUILA 750ML SALE PRICE \$52.99 SAVE \$6.00	

Visit 802spirits.com for locations and details.

Not responsible for typographical errors.

This ad is paid for by Vt. Liquor Brokers or individual companies.

YOUR APRES PARTNERS, AT THE READY!



**MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG**

Find Us On:




For breaking news and updates wherever you are!
@addisonindependent

Pizza

(Continued from Page 1A)
 their 10 Washington St. business to Christian Bloom, who owns and operates The Retro Realm, an old-school arcade located in the same building as Green Peppers.

"I've talked to a couple of people who have moved on from their livelihoods, and I'm still going full tilt here," Perrin, 64, said on Monday morning during a break from carving out dough globes that would be set aside to proof, stretch, then adorn with toppings for their eventual slide into one of the half-dozen Green Peppers ovens.

"I had to ask myself the question: 'Are you up for starting a new (business) cycle, or is it time to move on?' It's time to move on," he said.

He and Donna have both earned a break and a chance to spin the business off to a new local owner who's pledged to retain the current staff and to maintain the same menu items while adding a few more.

But for a spontaneous food service partnership with his dad and brother Michael, Mark might be retiring his wings instead of packing up his pizza peel.

"I wanted to be a pilot," Perrin recalled of his top career choice, which sent him to flight school in Daytona Beach, Fla., following high school graduation.

But his priorities shifted to a more grounded path that took him to the University of Vermont School of Business. And it was while a student at UVM that he learned a Middlebury pizza restaurant, formerly known as Zachary's, was for sale.

Perrin's brother Mike had just graduated from Champlain College, and he, too, wanted to start a business. The brothers, their dad Robert, and an associate named Dan Ferraris, pooled their resources and acquired Zachary's in 1982. The eatery was located in the former Grand Union plaza, which during the early 1990s was rebuilt into the Shaw's Supermarket complex we see today off Middlebury's

Washington Street. "In the beginning, Mike and I worked every day of the week," Perrin said, noting their dad and Ferraris also pitched in when they could.

"It was back in the day when if you wanted to do something well, you had to work hard at it," he chuckled. "It was fun, and we were young."

PIZZA EMPIRE

It was during these early years that Mark and Mike learned the ins and outs of running a small enterprise. And making pizzas. Lots of them. Small, medium and large, with fresh toppings and dough made from King Arthur flour, yeast, salt and Middlebury water. It produced, along with TLC, a consistent and popular line of pies that drew a happy, hungry clientele.

"We'd sell more than 300 pizzas on a Friday night," Perrin said of those earlier years.

Business was good, and the Perrins' pizza empire grew to include Zachary's Restaurants in Rutland, St. Johnsbury, Barre and Montpelier.

Through it all, they kept their pizzas consistently good, while gradually adding salads, subs and pasta to the menu. In 1993, the Perrins and other, smaller tenants in the Grand Union plaza were invited to relocate into what was then a new building planned at 10 Washington St. The brothers agreed to the move and were graciously given a temporary pizza making spot in Middlebury Bagel & Deli across the street during construction.

When they reopened at 10 Washington St. on Sept. 1, 1993, the Perrins did so as "Green Peppers." At this point, Mark and Donna — who had married in 1989 — had become sole owners of the business, and it became their sole focus (along with a growing family) as the four original partners divided up and sold pieces of the Zachary's chain.

Not that being the hands-on owner of a single business is easy.



MARK PERRIN WANTED to pilot airplanes when he first started training for a career, the entrepreneurial bug bit him and he has been making pizzas — and serving the public in many other ways — for four decades.
 Independent photos/Steve James

At its height, Green Pepper's had a staff of around 30 full- and part-time workers. Donna was fully committed to the restaurant until around 12 years ago, when she began a career as a massage therapist. She still fills in when needed, as she did during the COVID pandemic, when Green Peppers phased out its dine-in seating and went to takeout only.

"She's always been one of my best employees," Mark said of his wife.

Meanwhile, Mark has been omnipresent, even on many Tuesdays, when Green Peppers is closed. There's always prep work and maintenance to do. The Perrins' children have also been stalwart workers through the years, as have a dedicated group of employees that have included Abby Lengel, Phil Bullied and Monica Lussier. Mark's stepdaughter, Amy Sweet, is now the driving force behind the Route 7 South Sandwich Co.

Evolving industry trends have

seen Green Peppers reduce its workforce to fewer than 10 these days. Boosting the drinking age in Vermont from 18 to 21 in 1986 was a contributing factor, according to Perrin, as was the 2020 phase-out of the eatery's seating area.

"We used to move a lot of beer," he said, noting a favorite pizza pairing.

Industry trends have also spread the dough thinner among a growing number of pizza vendors.

Green Peppers (and Zachary's) have always had competition in Middlebury, and Perrin has accepted that as part of entrepreneurship. He's been happy to carve out his own niche and do the best he can to woo customers with a good product at a fair price.

But competition these days is also coming along the freezer aisle at virtually every supermarket. Many stores are now stocking multiple freezers full of pizzas.

And now comes word that a national pizza player, Domino's, will be opening in the 40 Court St. location most recently occupied by Subway Restaurant.

"I've seen cycles in this industry, and I see the beginnings of another cycle," said Perrin, who — while confident in Green Peppers' quality and resiliency — decided that someone younger should steer the ship.

ENTER A NEW FACE

And he found that person in Bloom, who said it's been his lifelong dream to own a pizza restaurant and an arcade — a combo he experienced as a teen employee of a Chuck E. Cheese Restaurant.

He had realized a large slice of his dream opening the Retro Realm; he looks forward to getting the whole pie when he takes ownership of Green Peppers. The deal is expected to close in early January.

Earlier this fall Perrin walked over to the Retro Realm to give Bloom a courtesy heads up that he'd be putting Green Peppers on the market.

Bloom said he asked Perrin three



LONGTIME GREEN PEPPERS Restaurant co-owner Mark Perrin, right, and his wife Donna are selling the popular Middlebury restaurant to Christian Bloom, left, owner of the Retro Realm arcade located in the same Washington Street building.

questions: Was it his preference to pass the business to one of his children? Were his employees keen in staying on? and, "Where do I sign?"

Perrin thought about it and saw Bloom as a good choice to take on Green Peppers. The latter has experience in food service as a corporate training chef for Darden Restaurants and as an executive chef for a company formerly known as Bravo Brio Restaurant Group.

In all, Bloom has spent 35 years in the arcade and restaurant industries and now sees a chance to pair the two Washington Street ventures. For example, birthday parties: Kids could get their fill of pizza at Green Peppers before walking a few paces over to the Retro Realm for some arcade fun.

But Bloom — who's spent the last month training at Green Peppers — stressed he'll retain the current menu, while gradually adding things here and there. He's also thinking about reopening the dine-in section.

And someday, Bloom would like to see one or more of his three children carry on Green Peppers after he retires.

"To me, I feel that a family business — whenever possible — should be generational," he said.

And what about the Perrins?

They'll still have a lot on their plates, including their 77-acre family farm on Creek Road that hosts 27 sheep and goats and 10 beef cattle.

Mark will consult at Green Peppers for as long as Bloom needs him.

It should also be noted that Perrin has become as known for public service as he has for pizza. He has, during the past 40 years, served stints on the boards of the former ID-4 and UD-3 schools, the Addison Central School District, the Patricia Hannaford Career, the State Board of Education, Hunger Free Vermont and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce. And that's just a partial list.

Perrin was asked if he's finally gotten tired of pizza after having been its constant companion for 43 years.

He slides his chair back and points to an ample belly.

"Look at me!" he exclaimed, though he swears the extra padding has primarily come from gobbling up infrequent kitchen mistakes.

Is there life after pizza? Mark knows there is.

"I don't plan on retiring; I just feel I've got another 30 years to start doing something else," he said.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Thank you!

As a company, we were able to raise over \$150,000 to directly support the Alzheimer's Association.

We want to thank you for your incredible generosity:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Middlebury Inn | Henry Sheldon Museum |
| Vermont's Own Gifts & Goods | Ignite Nutrition |
| Lilac Inn | Marquis Theater |
| Jessica's Restaurant at the Swift House Inn | Middlebury Sweets |
| The Quilters' Corner at Middlebury | Mobil |
| Sew-N-Vac Parlour | Rosie's Shaws |
| Waterfall Day Spa | Sweet Cecily |
| Woodware | Vermont Cider Company |
| Middleton | Linda's |
| RK Miles | Daily Chocolate |
| Distinctive Paint & Interiors | Simon Says |
| Agway | Vermont honey lights |
| Middlebury Fitness | Carr Gifts |
| Additional Supporters: | Middlebury Floral |
| Costello's Market | Sparrow Art Supply |
| County Tire | Green Peppers |
| Danforth Pewter | Maple Landmark |
| Fire & Ice | Lincoln Peak |
| Forth & Goal | A&W |
| Frog Alley Leatherworks | Coles |

 **THE RESIDENCE**
at Otter Creek
 Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT
 802-483-4657 residenceottercreek.com

An LCB Senior Living Community: More Than 30 Years of Excellence

'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!**



SCAN TO ENTER

Submit a picture of your receipt using our online form.

Having trouble using the form? Visit a branch for assistance with your online submission.

 **National Bank of Middlebury**

EOE  Member FDIC
 nbmvt.com | 802-388-4982



Crafty companionship

CRAFT FAIR FANS had two good reasons to be out and about this past Saturday, Nov. 29. The Holley Jolly Holiday Market in Bristol's Holley Hall (above) drew a bunch of vendors for convenient shopping. And folks found additional homemade food, lovingly crafted clothing and other items at the always anticipated Med47 Holiday Craft Fair at the New Haven Town Hall. Pictured at the New Haven event are, clockwise from top right: Cindy Cousino and her elfin helper Elizabeth Roy show off Christmas wreaths; Brenda Preston of Starksboro displays an example of her "Life's Reflections" artwork; Meagan MacIntire is justifiably proud of her Belted Frog glasswork; and Pat Morgan of Lincoln holds court with her crocheted Afghans.

Independent photos/Steve James



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.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Common items include:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Acetone | Diesel fuel | Latex paint | Paint thinner/turpentine |
| Acids | Drainer opener/cleaner | Lead paint chips | Parts cleaner |
| Adhesives | Driveway sealer | Lead-acid batteries | Pesticides/herbicides |
| Algaecides | Dry cleaning solvents | Lime/rust remover | Photographic chemicals |
| Aerosols | Flea & tick killer | Mercury thermometers | Pool chemicals |
| Antifreeze | Fluorescent bulbs* | Mercury thermostats | Primers or shellacs |
| Ant killer | Fly killer | Mineral spirits | Rechargeable batteries |
| Ammonia | Formaldehyde | Mothballs | Roach traps/poison |
| Auto body filler | Fuel additives | Motor oil | Rug/upholstery cleaner |
| Automotive fluids | Fungicides | Mouse/rat poison | Solvent-based Glues |
| Chlorine bleach | Furniture polish | Nail polish | Stains |
| Brake fluid | Gasoline | Nail polish remover | |
| Bug spray | Hair dyes | Naphtha | |
| Button cell batteries | Kerosene | Oil-based paint | |
| Contact cement | | Oily waste | |
| Deck sealer | | Oven cleaner | |



Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as

Warning! Danger! Poison! Caution!

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.



Not accepted: laboratory chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fireworks, flares, explosives, smoke detectors, ammunition, and radioactive waste.

HazWaste Center Hours of Operation:
Mon-Fri, 8 AM to 2 PM, and Sat, 8 AM to 1 PM



Addison County
Solid Waste Management District

www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org | 802-388-2333

Happy Holidays

from

The WAKE UP CREW with Amanda Lee

weekday mornings from 5 to 10



921wvtk.com

Police arrest Addison County reckless driver

By MIKE DONOGHUE
Vermont News First

An alert Vermont state trooper from Addison County, who was on special foot patrol in downtown Burlington this past Friday is credited with the apprehension of a wanted dangerous, reckless Bristol driver, named in several pending arrest warrants, authorities said.

Patrick Cota, 32, sped away from both the Addison County Sheriff's Department and the Middlebury police on Friday during separate incidents in Salisbury and Middlebury, officials said.

Cota hit speeds of at least 100 miles per hour putting himself, the public and law enforcement in jeopardy, police said.

Cota has a long history of trying to outrun law enforcement agencies in Addison County as well as Hinesburg police with his reckless driving, officials said. He appeared in the Sheriff's Log for outrunning a deputy on Route 7 on Nov. 19.

He is not even supposed to be on the road because his driving privileges are suspended.

"He was creating so much danger," Addison County Sheriff Michael Elmore told Vermont News First. "Something needs to happen," Elmore said about his constant efforts to outrun police and putting lives in jeopardy. Besides speeding, Cota passes on the left and right and does not care about the community members, the sheriff said.

Citing public safety concerns, the officers in each incident Friday cut short their pursuits due to the reckless nature of the driving by Cota. Elmore said Cota was weaving and driving 100 mph on Route 7. A deputy sheriff had first spotted Cota on Lake Dunmore Road about 12:25 p.m., Elmore said.

It was about 20 minutes later that Middlebury police spotted Cota on Route 116, but they also discontinued the pursuit for safety reasons when Cota was driving at 90 mph, Patrol Sgt. Nathan Hayes said.

It was almost two hours later that State Trooper Taylor Demick, who is assigned to the New Haven barracks, saw Cota on foot in

Burlington, State Police Sgt. Sean Hauter reported.

Demick was working an extra shift with troopers in downtown Burlington on Friday when he happened to spot Cota and was aware he was wanted for various past criminal charges, police said. State police, along with a nearby Burlington police officer, chased Cota and took him into custody near City Hall Park around 2:30 p.m.

The series of pending arrest warrants had bail totaling about \$9,500, Sgt. Hayes said.

Cota also will face new criminal charges from the Friday incidents — likely attempting to elude police, negligent driving, violations of conditions of release and driving while his license is suspended in Middlebury, Hayes said.

Burlington police lodged Cota on the older charges at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans pending arraignment Monday in Vermont Superior Court in Middlebury. Prison records show Cota has criminal charges pending in Addison, Chittenden and Rutland counties.

Cota also received a new court citation on Friday for a charge of retail theft in Addison County, VSP Sgt. Hauter said. He was identified as a suspect in a theft of about \$30 in merchandise from the Dollar General in Ferrisburgh on Nov. 3.

Cota was ordered to appear in court on Jan. 5 for the shoplifting charge.

Coaches sought for Girls on the Run Vermont

VERMONT — Coach registration is officially open for "Girls on the Run Vermont's" spring 2026 season.

Girls on the Run and Heart & Sole are evidence-based programs that foster confidence, joy, and healthy boundaries, while creatively integrating movement. The programs are specifically designed for girls in grades 3-8 and gender-expansive youth.

Prior running experience isn't necessary for coaches or participants.

Volunteer coaches lead teams through lessons twice a week covering topics that help participants learn more about themselves, become independent and critical thinkers, develop skills to make healthy choices, find inner strength through physical activity, and learn ways to be active in their community.

Girls on the Run VT (GOTRVT) provides coaches with comprehensive training, a curriculum that maps out each lesson, and supplies and support for an enriching season. Coaches facilitate 20 impactful lessons spanning the 10-week season, with two lessons a week. Lesson days are determined by each coaching team.

Coach registration is open now at gotrvt.org/coach. Statewide participant registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, and the season begins the week of March 16. A participant interest form can be completed now ahead of participant registration at tinyurl.com/mu7cz7m9.

Participants will explore lesson themes such as speaking courageously, building friendships, strengthening personal values and discovering the power they have to shape their lives. The season culminates with a noncompetitive 5K event that brings together participants, families and supporters to recognize and celebrate each girl's growth.

GOTRVT's spring 2026 5K celebrations will be held on Saturday, May 30 at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction and on Saturday, June 6, at the Manchester Parks & Recreation in Manchester Center.



Give the Gift of **Tea**

Mon-Sat 11am-5pm
stoneleaftea.com

gift with **HE(ART)**

Shop small with big inspiration in downtown Middlebury!

SPARROW ART SUPPLY
MIDDLEBURY, VT

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

We are Here - We are Local!

Your local source for all needs
SEWING & VACUUM

(802) 388-3559
260 Court Street Middlebury, VT
www.middleburysewvac.com

Adagio Chocolates

New England's Largest Selection of **Chocolates**

Bars, Bulk & Gifts

Shop online or visit us at the store!

52 Main St, Middlebury VT
adagiochocolates.com

VBS

vermontbookshop.com
38 main street middlebury

Since 1949
SHOP LOCAL
and help keep us here 76 more years!

TOAD HALL FLOWERS

Where the Holidays Come to Life

802-989-0083
228 Maple St., Middlebury, VT
toadhallvt.com

Midd Night Stroll
DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY

Thursday 12/4
Thursday 12/11
From 5-8pm

Sales, specials, pop-ups, tastings & more!

Experience **MIDDLEBURY** VERMONT

EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM

Explore whiskies from across the United States!
VISIT OUR TASTING ROOM IN VERGENNES

LOST LANTERN

Fridays & Saturdays 1-6pm
11 Main Street Vergennes, VT
lostlanternwhiskey.com

PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS!

THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE YOU SAVE!

LOCK IN THE BEST RATES NOW!
Senior discounts available!

LOOKING FOR A GREAT GIFT?

GIVE THE ADDY INDY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

1ST SUBSCRIPTION \$10 OFF

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

2ND SUBSCRIPTION \$20 OFF

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

3RD SUBSCRIPTION \$30 OFF

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

RETURN TO:
The Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
by mail or in person, or order online at addisonindependent.com

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date ____ CVV ____ Phone # _____

*Prefer sending a check? Write "holly" in the memo line.
Offer ends Dec. 31, 2025*

QUESTIONS?
CALL: 802-388-4944, EXT. 104
EMAIL: SUBSCRIPTIONS@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Carpenter

(Continued from Page 1A)
 the point where there are a few too many tasks. The time and distance to New York has made a difference in my ability to do things locally.”
 The trips to New York are related to his company’s 2024 acquisition of Empire Tractor Inc. Champlain Valley Equipment already included a portfolio of 11 dealerships offering farm, lawn & garden, and light construction equipment. To that, they added Empire, a well-established company whose wares include Kubota and New Holland equipment, with store locations in Batavia, Atlanta, Cortland, Waterloo, Watertown and Canton, N.Y.
 “Some of the days are pretty long,” he said of his expanded range of responsibilities. “I think it’s time that I give someone else that (selectboard) opportunity and focus on trying to get our New York stores the same culture and success that we enjoy here in Vermont.”
 But it’s not all about business.

As he approaches his mid-60s, Carpenter wants to spend more time with wife Nan, and he noted their children (Olivia and Spencer) each got engaged within the space of two weeks this year.
 “We’ll be planning two weddings, and that takes time,” he said.
 Paring back hasn’t been easy. With his entrepreneurial success and public service background, he’s become a hot commodity and has had to reject several asks of his limited time. For example, multiple people — from Middlebury to Montpelier — have asked Carpenter to run for the state senate.
 “I’ve been recruited heavily,” he said with a smile, saying he’s content to limit his Statehouse visits to the occasional delivery of testimony on agriculture and business issues.
 Carpenter continues to chair the District 9 Environmental Commission, which, among other

things, reviews Act 250 permit applications for our area. He’s also on the Town Hall Theater board.
 His résumé is indeed lengthy and includes 31 years with the Vermont Army National Guard, from which he retired in 2014 as brigadier general and commander. He was a member of the Middlebury Infrastructure Committee for nine years, before successfully competing for one of two three-year seats up for grabs on the selectboard in 2014.
 It’s been a fruitful 11-plus years for the shire town’s governing board, enhancing Carpenter’s comfort level for stepping away.
 “We’ve gotten a lot of our big projects done, and I feel great about it,” he said. “But there’s certainly no end to challenges, and I think the community will benefit from new perspectives, some new energy and new ideas.”
HIGHLIGHTS
 The list of major building projects either approved, launched or completed during Carpenter’s tenure include:
 • Completion of Middlebury’s new municipal building at 77 Main St. in 2016. Middlebury College had agreed to cover \$4.5 million in debt service on the \$7.5 million project, which included a new recreation facility off Creek Road. The deal also saw the town convey property at 6 Cross St. to Middlebury College, on which it placed the Osborne House (which had been located at the municipal building construction site).
 The town ceded 94 Main St. — site of the former municipal building/gym — to the college, land that the institution has converted into a public park.
 • Completion of a complex, \$72 million downtown rail tunnel project during the fall of 2021. It was a massive undertaking that spanned the better part of four years and brought much construction disruption to the heart of Addison County’s shire town. That disruption included detours, which in turn negatively affected downtown businesses.
 It was an economic gut-punch that hit twice as hard due to the



BRIAN CARPENTER’S WORK improving his hometown, Middlebury, netted him the Buster Brush Citizen of the Year Award from the local chamber of commerce in 2024.

• A major renovation and expansion of the Ilsley Public Library at 75 Main St. Voters approved the \$17 million project in May 2024, and the work is slated to be finished next summer. When completed, the inside of the original 1924 Ilsley building will be substantially renovated and endowed with a new, 8,000-square-foot, two-story addition on its northeast side.
 • A \$49.5 million update of the town’s aging wastewater treatment plant. Voters OK’d the project this past March.

Independent of the selectboard, Carpenter played a big role in yet another major construction project, unveiled this past June: A \$8.5 million expansion and renovation of Town Hall Theater at 68 South Pleasant St. Carpenter is a THT board member.
 Carpenter and his selectboard colleagues were supportive of two additional Middlebury projects that have taken shape during the past two years: The Stonecrop Meadows housing development off Seminary Street Extension, and the Otter Creek Child Center expansion/renovation off Weybridge Street.
 Taken in the aggregate, Carpenter believes the tunnel, THT and town office projects — along with the new park at 94 Main St. — have triggered a metamorphosis of the downtown that will soon be complemented by the updated Ilsley Library.
 “It’s like the butterfly coming out of the cocoon. The downtown is kind of reborn. There’s always something going on in the community,” he said.
 Not all of Carpenter’s favorite board accomplishments are bricks-and-mortar-related, however.
 He’s pleased to have seen the selectboard become more diverse in gender, race and opinion.
 “We’ve tried to keep the board balanced ... There is quality to our deliberations. It’s not groupthink, but at the same time, we’ve been very respectful of each other’s opinions,” he said.
 Deliberations have often led to unanimous selectboard votes, after consensus building.

“It’s been really enjoyable to lead a board where everybody understands the importance of taking a decision and making the best of it we can,” Carpenter said. “I feel like the board’s in a great place,” he said, extending that feeling to the town’s current relationship with Middlebury College. It’s a relationship that’s helping to spawn more than 200 new housing units at Stonecrop, more childcare amenities at Otter Creek Child Center, and college students helping area nonprofits tackle hunger, homelessness and other challenges.
 “The (local fight against homelessness) is led by (the Charter House Coalition), but it’s also everybody collaborating while in our own lanes, and not working against each other,” Carpenter said.

MORE HOUSING
 So what does he think the next selectboard will need to tackle in 2026 and beyond?
 Carpenter said creating more housing should probably top the future board’s list.
 “As great as (Stonecrop) is, we have to be looking at the next housing project immediately,” he said, noting the dearth of options — especially affordable ones — throughout the county and state.
 He added the board will also need to help with planning for the wastewater treatment plant makeover, and that will include landing grants to reduce the impact of the \$49.5 million cost on ratepayers.
 Carpenter again stressed his confidence in the town’s brain trust.
 “I think we’re in a great place with our staff and leadership,” he said.
 He’ll leave his post in March with no regrets, and a deeper love for the community.
 “My passion for this community is what drove me to become active; I grew up here, I raised my kids here and invested in my business here,” he said. “I want to see the best for Middlebury.”
Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!



Sentinel Farms supports your desire to share the gift of health with family, friends and your local food shelf, as you strengthen our farm based youth programs.

Welcome to our health focused Vermont small family farm, celebrating 20 years of raising 100% Grass & Browse fed, Heart Healthy Beef.

Wishing Everyone an Enlightening Holiday Season, Overflowing with Joyful, Healthy Happiness

CALL OR TEXT (802) 377-1066

Visit unboundgrace.org/beef for a special holiday offer: 10% off sitewide



AGWAY Customer Appreciation Days

Winter Clothing Sale

20% OFF Select Items

Including: Jackets, Vests, Sweatshirts, Lined Pants/Bibs, Thermal Base Layers, and Flannel/Button Up Shirts!




All Your Fall and Winter Clothing Needs for Men, Women and Kids.

Join us for customer appreciation week

DECEMBER 8th - DECEMBER 14th

with select items 20-40% off!

Including but not limited to:

30% OFF

Garden Décor, Dog Wash Tokens, Kids Toys & Sleds

20% OFF

Firewood & Fireplace/Woodstove Supplies

10 - 30% OFF

Grill Accessories

25% OFF

all pet and bird supplies – Treats, Toys, feeders, cat trees, pet apparel, leashes, collars, pet & horse grooming supplies and more.

40% off

Pet tags and select pottery

Free C+S Suet

with any purchase of \$20 or more

Buy \$25 wild bird food and get a Free bag of Hungrybird Suet Bites

a \$11.99 value

Have a cup of delicious, local Monument Farms Milk, and Christmas Cookies after you shop!

Wild Bird

20lb bag

\$9.99

Reg Price 14.99

All Kringle Daylights

Buy 1 get 2nd 50% off

(free item must be of equal or lesser value)

All LIVE PLANTS

(Free Plant must be equal or lesser value and cannot be combined with any other sale offer.) 12/8/25 through 12/14/25

Excludes Poinsettias which are at a great price

BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE!



MIDDLEBURY AGWAY FARM & GARDEN

338 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT • 802-388-4937

M-F 8-6, Sat 8-5, Sun 9-4

OPEN 9-4

Christmas Eve

Closed Christmas

Sales valid 12/8-12/14. While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, in stock merchandise only.

YOUR YARD, GARDEN and PET PLACE™






SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs



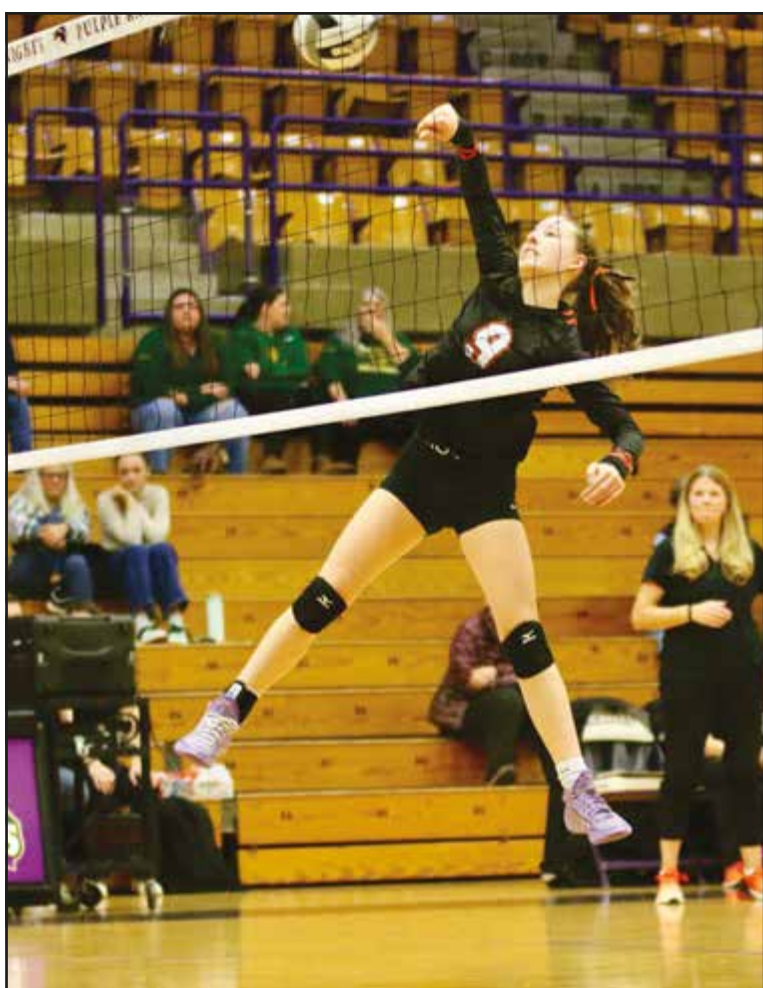
VUHS SENIOR AIDEN Fuller wins style points for gracefully soaring over Oxbow goalie Landon Welch, but Welch makes the save during the Commodores' first-round playoff victory.

Independent photo/Steve James



JUNIOR TIGER RUNNING back Jason Sperry slices through the Rutland defense during a crucial midseason home victory for the MUHS football team.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER SOPHOMORE ADELINE Ritter unleashes a spike against Enosburg in the Division I championship match at St. Mike's.

Independent photo/Steve James

High school sports in fall 2025: A lesson in chemistry

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**
ADDISON COUNTY — Does winning foster team chemistry, or does team chemistry lead to winning?

It's a good question, and this past fall high school sports season helps to answer it.

First, neither half of the question is always true. Some teams get along just fine and come up short, while others are less compatible and win anyway.

For example, I watched the Vermont Commons School girls' volleyball team lose twice this fall and remain upbeat.

On the other hand, the Oakland Athletics and New York Yankees of the 1970s weren't always best of friends (I witnessed the Yankee manager and right fielder come to blows in their dugout), but each won plenty of games.

But the evidence this fall suggests team harmony can help.

This fall I asked athletes on the most successful teams — in chronological order of the championship games they played in, Mount Abraham boys' soccer, Vergennes girls' soccer, Middlebury girls' volleyball and MUHS football — why their teams fared so well.

Each talked about groups of athletes' unity, how they trusted one another.

This is what senior Ava Francis said about her Vergennes girls' soccer team after the Commodores won the Division III final.

"Our communication and our

teamwork is a lot better," Francis said. "We all just love each other, and on the field I think it just helps us work better together."

Even after the Commodore girls lost their only game, up at Mount Abe, they were still all smiles as they posed with Francis and

displayed a banner honoring her for scoring her landmark 50th goal. It was a moment.

More chemistry? MUHS football senior captain Logan McNulty had this to say when asked the same question after his team won the D-I (See *Chemistry*, Page 4B)



EAGLE VOLLEYBALL TEAMMATES Paige Guilbeault, left, and Rhiannon Andrews lead the celebration after the new varsity team opened its season with a home victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

More referees needed for high school sports

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**
MONTPELIER — The Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) and the Vermont State Athletic Directors Association (VSADA) are working together to address and make known what the organization are calling an urgent and ongoing shortage of athletic officials across the state and the nation.

According to a joint press

release from the two organizations, "This shortage continues to impact scheduling, game coverage and the overall experience of student-athletes at all levels."

The joint document states school officials have taken "steps to create more positive, welcoming and respectful environments for officials." Those include athletic directors "actively cleaning up fan

sections, setting clear expectations for sportsmanship and benching poor behavior when necessary."

The VPA is also raising pay "to remain competitive and reflect the importance of the (officials') role." Officials for varsity games will receive \$97.50 plus mileage, for JV games \$75 plus mileage and for middle school games \$57 plus mileage.

"These actions reflect Vermont's commitment to protecting the integrity of school sports and ensuring a safe environment for athletes, coaches and officials alike," according to the statement, which added, "However, at a time when many of our longtime officials are aging out of the profession, and without new officials stepping in, (See *Referees* Page 3B)

Score BOARD

Men's Hockey	
Layer Eight Shootout at Norwich	
11/28 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....	5-2
11/29 Midd vs Norwich. 2-2 Norwich wins Shootout, 1-0	
Women's Hockey	
Panther/Cardinal Classic at Midd	
11/29 Endicott vs Midd.....	3-2
11/29 Wis-Riv Falls vs Plattsburgh.....	3-1
11/30 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....	6-1
11/30 Wis-Riv Falls vs Endicott.....	3-1
Men's Basketball	
11/25 Midd vs Plattsburgh.....	92-89
11/30 Midd vs RPI.....	81-75
Women's Basketball	
11/25 Midd vs Castleton.....	68-40
11/30 Midd vs Oswego.....	50-40
12/2 Midd vs Skidmore.....	62-49
SCHEDULE	
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Hockey	
12/5 Amherst at Midd.....	7 PM
12/6 Hamilton at Midd.....	3 PM
Women's Hockey	
12/5 Midd at Utica.....	6 PM
Men's Basketball	
12/6 Colby-Sawyer at Midd.....	2 PM
Men's Basketball	
Tourney at Bowdoin	
12/6 Midd vs Rochester.....	2:30 PM
12/7 Midd vs Carnegie Millon.....	11 AM

Tiger footballers named as all-stars

ADDISON COUNTY — Many members of the Division I champion Middlebury Union High School football team were named all-stars by the league's coaches after the Tigers captured the D-I title with a 10-1 record and a victory over St. Johnsbur

in the championship game. The D-I football coaches also chose Tiger Head Coach Jed Malcolm as the Division I Coach of the Year.

MUHS football players earning recognition were as follows:

OFFENSE:

First Team:
 Running backs: Logan McNulty and Jason Sperry.
 Tight end: Cooke Riney.
 Lineman: Kam Raymond.
Second Team:
 Wide receiver: Marshall Eddy.
 (See *Tigers*, Page 3B)



TIGER SENIOR LINEMAN and captain Steven Lackard, seen here rushing the passer in the D-I championship game, was one of many Tiger football players who received postseason recognition.

Independent photo/Steve James



EAGLE JUNIOR RUNNING back/linebacker Cole Gagnon, seen here in action against Otter Valley, was one of many Mount Abraham/Vergennes and OV football players receiving postseason honors from the Division III coaches.

Independent photo/Steve James

D-III football players honored

ADDISON COUNTY — A number of athletes who helped the Mount Abraham/Vergennes Cooperative and Otter Valley Union high school football teams enjoy successful seasons this fall were selected as all-stars by the Division III coaches.

The Eagles, who finished 8-2, and the Otters, who wrapped up at 6-4 after an 0-3 start, each reached the D-III semifinal round this season.

The following players received postseason D-III recognition:

OFFENSE

First Team:
 Running back: Cole Gagnon,

MAV.
 Wide receiver: Chase Razanouski, OV.
 Tight end: Max Potter, OV.
 Linemen: Tyson Hallock and Shayne Russell, MAV.
 Athlete: Colby Benoit, OV.

Second Team:
 Quarterback: Zachary Dragon, OV.
 Linemen: Jaydon Connors, Samuel Luis and Derrek Walton, OV; and Juan De La Cruz and Izaak Wolniewicz, MAV.

Honorable Mention:
 Quarterback: Clark Crary, MAV.
 Running back: Drake Felkl, OV.
 (See *D III honorees*, Page 3B)

Readers and fans will miss “By ANDY KIRKALDY”

Can you imagine reading about sports in the *Addison Independent* and not seeing Andy Kirkaldy's byline?

“By ANDY KIRKALDY” has been in the Addy Indy for over 30 years. On the sports beat for the past 25 years he's been reporting on up to three games a week he has seen in person and summarizing others from coaches' reports.

Andy has been a fixture in his baseball cap (or tuque in chilly Vermont weather) and reporter's notebook at hundreds (thousands!) of athletic events at Addison County high schools and also at Middlebury College (though to a somewhat lesser degree as the college has its own Athletics Communication staff).

Andy is retiring at the end of this month.

He and spouse Kristine are “in the process” of buying a house in Harwichport on Cape Cod. Kristine retired this past spring after teaching Spanish and French at Vergennes Union High for the past two decades.

What a gift Andy has been to sports fans in this community.

Andy loves sports and he knows whereof he writes. “We all do things in which we lose ourselves,” he told me when we met last weekend. “When I play sports I forget I am a self-conscious human being.”

At 71, he still plays pick-up soccer with both fellow greybeards and younger folks. He was forced a few years ago to forego pick-up hoops because of a balky shoulder (It's called “aging,” a condition he and I share).

A reporter, Andy is straightforward and

comprehensive, providing essential information early, and describing in absorbing detail the highlights and drama of the contest he is witnessing and reporting on.

He avoids the clichés that can infect sportswriting, bad sports writing.

Andy covers youth sports and takes his job seriously. “We tread carefully,” he said. “These are kids, just developing. We keep it positive, don't criticize much for mistakes they make.”

“I pull for the local team when they play schools from outside the county.” When county teams — Middlebury, Vergennes, Mt. Abraham, play one another, they get top billing.



Sports (Mostly) KARL LINDHOLM



INDEPENDENT SPORTS REPORTER Andy Kirkaldy jokes with his alter ego from Rutland, longtime Rutland Herald sports reporter Tom Haley, and compares notes at a Mount Abraham Union High School softball playoff game this past June.

Photo by Mark Bouvier

The *Independent* news editor, John McCright, his boss, had this to say about Andy's work:

“Andy is a strong writer, consistently turning in stories with a beginning, a middle and an ending. That may sound silly because it seems obvious, but readers might be surprised how difficult it is to do that time and time again.”

“To keep up with it week after week for decades at such a high standard — that's remarkable.”

John Edward Andrew “Andy” Kirkaldy was not born in New England; he was born (1954) in actual England.

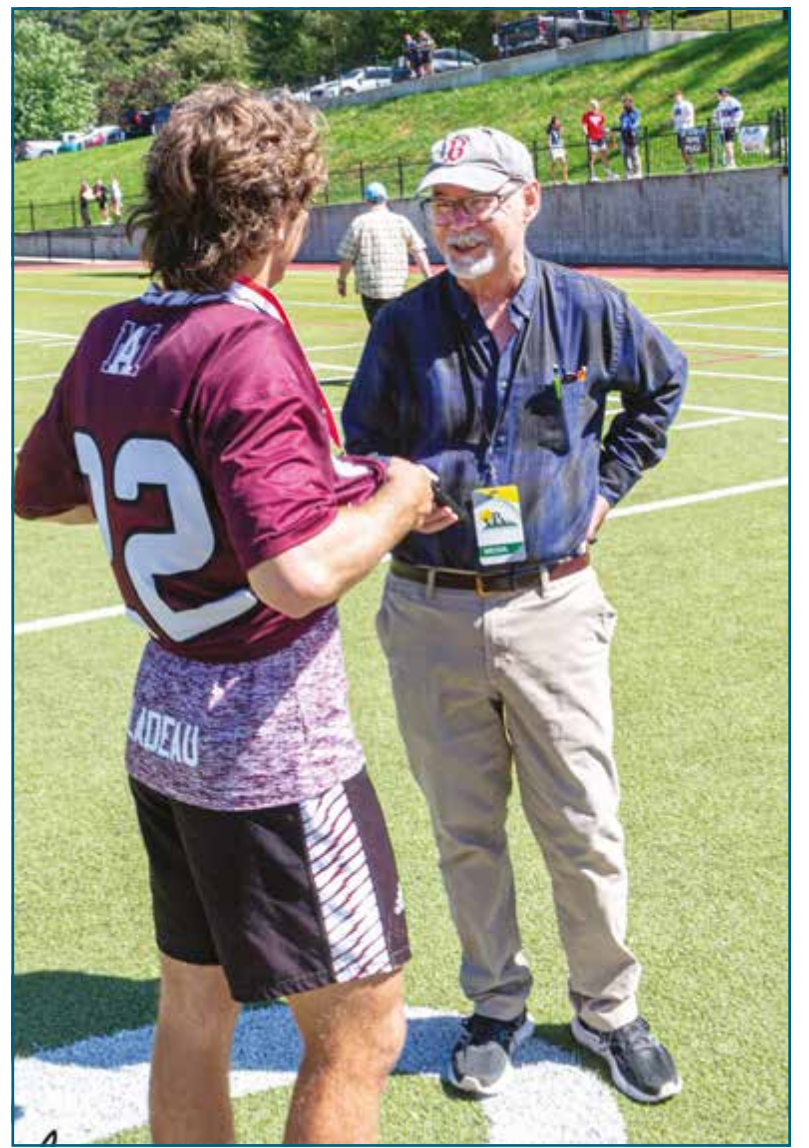
His father, a Scotsman and a doctor, was in the RAF (British Royal Air Force) and stationed in Yorkshire, England. He met and then married Andy's mom, an American lass from Fall River, Mass., when he was interning in the States in Massachusetts.

When Andy was one, their small family relocated to Nova Scotia, where they stayed for four years near Halifax. They came to America, now a family of four, having added Andy's brother Peter, and settled in Westport, Mass., where his dad opened a general medical practice.

From grades 5-8, Andy attended nearby Friends Academy and then spent high school years at Governor Dummer Academy (now just Governor's Academy). In both places, participation in sports was emphasized, which was fine with Andy.

“I had some aptitude for and was reasonably good at sports,” but he was never the star player on a team. In high school, “I got cut from more teams — soccer, baseball, hockey (I'll never forgive the hockey coach!). I was an intramural all-star.” He eventually played varsity soccer at Governor Dummer and two years of B Team soccer at Middlebury.

He has thrived nonetheless in sports competition throughout his life. “I have been on many championship teams,” he explained, “in hockey, basketball,



A PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURED Andy Kirkaldy doing what he loves to do — talking to a kid about sports. Here we see Andy in action interviewing Mount Abe boys' lacrosse player Noah Ladeau after his team won the state championship. Andy has covered sports for the *Independent* for a quarter century.

Photo by Mark Bouvier

baseball, volleyball, softball”... on adult league teams. Playing sports has spent a lifetime enterprise.

“I was the Vermont state foosball champion in 1976,” he said with a smile.

Andy played for 20 years ('70s-'90s) in the Middlebury Adult Men's Basketball League. In fact, he was the founder of the league. “I played a year in the Bristol League and thought ‘I'm gonna start a league in Middlebury.’”

“I approached the rec director and found that the town gym was clear on Tuesdays and Thursdays after 8 p.m. So I advertised to see if there was interest. The first year we had five teams. It was ‘call your own fouls.’”

“The first thing I did was to get the best player I knew for my team, and that was Pete Quinn.”

With Andy at the helm and Pete, Larry Sims, and Rob Brewer leading the way, Woody's Restaurant was one of the best teams in the league for the 20 or so years of its existence, winning the championship 11 times.

Andy is also the father of athletes. His daughters, Kaitlyn and Kiera, played both field hockey and lacrosse at Middlebury Union High — and both played field hockey and lacrosse in college, Kaitlin at Wellesley and Kiera at Simmons. Kaitlyn was All-State in both sports at MUHS.

Andy's path to this full-time position at the *Independent* had some twists and turns along the way.

After graduating from Middlebury in 1976 with a degree in Anthropology-Sociology (“I liked studying how people organize themselves and view the world”), he visited relatives and traveled “up and down” in the U.K.: “I took the ferry to the Orkney Islands.

“I've been back to Scotland many times,” he told me. “In fact, my daughter (Kaitlyn) was married there.”

He worked a year for his hometown newspaper, the *Westport News*, before coming to Middlebury for good in 1978. He

worked many jobs up here, often at the same time: “I was writing for the *Valley Voice*, working in restaurants tending bar, and selling and appraising real estate.”

“My longest stint bartending was at Woody's, but I also worked at Fire & Ice, Mister Ups, and the Rosebud Café,” a popular (raucous?) watering hole when the drinking age was 18, just a stone's throw from the Alibi, a three-story bar/bowling alley/pool hall that occupied all of Star Mill in Frog Alley.

At the Rosebud, Andy met Kristine Barnes, class of '82 at Middlebury, who was a server there. They married in 1987 at the Middlebury Chapel with Andy's dad officiating, followed by a reception at the Snow Bowl lodge.

Eventually, opportunity knocked.

“In 1994, I picked up a copy of the *Indy* and read a ‘Clippings’ column by Steve Costello, the news editor. He wrote that he was leaving. Peter Conlon was a reporter, and I figured he'd get promoted. So I marched into Angelo's office and asked, ‘Are you going to need a reporter?’”

“So I became a reporter. But there was a catch. It was only part-time and had nothing to do with sports. I became the Vergennes correspondent. I have been covering Vergennes since 1994.”

When sports reporter Bob Chatfield left in 1999, “I took over that beat.”

The rest, as they say, is history.

Angelo Lynn, *Independent* editor/publisher, said, “Andy's background knowledge of the coaches and teams and his love of the game made him one of the best sports writers in the region. As he moves into retirement, we can only be grateful he was part of the team for so long.”

Karl Lindholm can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu. He was in a fantasy baseball league with Andy for over 20 years and reports that “Andy's team, the Special Ks, won the league most years.”

GAME READY!

HARE AND THE DOG
LEGENDARY WINE-BEER-SPIRITS

MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

MEMORIAL SPORTS CENTER

Upcoming Events

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

Tuesday, December 9:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:13 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

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

Sunday, Dec. 14th
12:45 - 2:15 PM Public Skate

Tuesday, December 16:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Thursday, December 18:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Sunday, Dec. 21st
2 - 3:30 PM Public Skate

Tuesday, December 23:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:15 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Memorial Sports Center
296 Buttolph Drive • Middlebury, VT
info@memorialsportscenter.org
MemorialSportsCenter.org

Stay Cozy Year-Round

Heat and cool your home, or heat your water with lease and purchase options from VGS!

VGS ReEnergized

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Sign up for our email newsletter

News highlights delivered straight to your inbox, five times per week.

www.addisonindependent.com/newsletter-signup



ANDY KIRKALDY TAKES a break in the old Middlebury Municipal Gym with his pal the late Pete Quinn, a local basketball guru who coached both the Vergennes High girls' and boys' basketball teams. Andy and Pete were teammates on Woody's Restaurant teams in the adult men's league team.

Referees

(Continued from Page 1B)
the system cannot sustain itself.”
Lauren Young, the VPA’s executive director of activities and athletics, said those changes could make a difference, but the best answer will be more people joining the ranks of officials.

“The most important change will come from Vermonters stepping forward to join this profession,” Young said, adding, “Many of our dedicated officials have served for decades, and as they retire we need a new generation to carry this work forward. Officiating is not only vital to school sports; it’s also a meaningful way to stay active, support youth, and give back to your community.”

The *Independent* also asked Mount Abraham Union High School Athletic Director Devin Wendel, the president of the Vermont State Athletic Directors Association, to comment on the issues.

He acknowledged there are issues in recruiting officials, including the aging of existing ranks and the shortage of younger officials signing on to replenish the pool. Wendel made a plea for “something we must all take seriously” — better behavior on

the sidelines and in the stands. “Fan behavior is driving many officials away and causing a barrier to entry. Too many officials have decided it is no longer worth enduring poor sportsmanship from the sidelines — no matter how much we pay, or how accessible we make officiating, enough is enough,” Wendel said. “Officials are essential for us to ensure we can keep contests safe and fair for our student-athletes. It is a simple equation: No officials equals no games.”

“Too many officials have decided it is no longer worth enduring poor sportsmanship from the sidelines — no matter how much we pay, or how accessible we make officiating, enough is enough.”

— Devin Wendel

Wendel also pointed out that official shortages are not a new phenomenon, at least not in all sports. “In sports like field hockey and girls’ lacrosse, we’ve been working through scheduling challenges for years, doing everything we can behind the scenes to make the calendar work, often putting a maximum number of games on a given date, or worst case scenario, moving a game at the last minute due to lack of available officials,” he said.

“The difference now is that we’re feeling the squeeze across nearly every sport — soccer, football, basketball, softball, among many others. Thursday night football is a prime example of one of the

ways we are trying to be creative to ensure teams can play under the lights each weekend in the fall, but it is not a long-term solution.”

Wendel said another example is basketball officials’ assignors have tried a new practice of assigning three-person crews to work both the JV and varsity games on the same night to “keep their legs fresh throughout the week.”

As a result, per the VPA statement, the VPA and the state’s ADs are encouraging adults of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels to consider becoming officials. The statement notes training, mentorship, and ongoing support are provided in every sport.

Wendel said starting at lower competitive levels could be a key step forward.

“Building up our officiating pool at every level — including middle school and JV — is essential to the long-term health of education-based athletics in Vermont. These levels serve as the training ground for future varsity officials, and without them, the entire system falls apart,” he said.

“We need more people to answer the call, and we must create environments where they feel respected, supported, and valued. We have been collaborating closely with the VPA and the Sportsmanship Committee in an effort to provide common best practices to member schools so student-athletes, coaches, and officials feel respected and safe.”

Head-on clash

EAGLE SENIOR GOALIE Evan Audy comes out to make the save on Commodore senior Tiegen Buskey as the two collide in a late-season Mount Abe victory. Eagles Truman Sawyer and Rowan Clark are moving in to help.

Independent photo/ Steve James



Otter soccer players lauded for sportsmanship

BRANDON — In releasing the names of the Vermont high school soccer teams that displayed the best sportsmanship in 2025, the Vermont Soccer Officials Association Sportsmanship Committee noted that Otter Valley boys’ soccer team was a finalist for the honor, which ultimately went to the team at Sharon Academy.

What did a team have to do to win the recognition?

“Sportsmanship at its best are players following the rules of the game, respecting opponents, teammates and officials. Players helping an opponent up, congratulating them on a great play, being honest and telling an official that the ball last touched them and for coaches, players, and fans respecting calls or non-calls even if they perceive them to be incorrect,” said Frank Martel, a Vermont soccer referee for over 50 years.

D-III honorees

(Continued from Page 1B)

Wide receivers: Nolan Quenneville, OV, and Ryan Wright, MAV.

Tight end: Levi Smith, MAV.

Lineman: Eli Schondube, MAV.

DEFENSE

First Team:

Linemen: Juan De La Cruz, Shayne Russell and Tyson Hallock, MAV; and Colin Carroccia and Austin Mallory, OV.

Inside linebacker: Keegan Reid, OV.

Outside linebacker: Logan Stearns, MAV.

Defensive back: Nolan Quenneville, OV.

Kicker and Punter: Zac Dragon, OV.

Returners: Cole Gagnon, MAV and Chase Razanouski, OV.

Second Team:

Linemen: James Alt and Drake Felkl, OV, and Izaak Wolniewicz, MAV.

Inside linebackers: Mason Atkins and Cole Gagnon, MAV.

Outside linebackers: Colby Benoit, OV, and Chase Wright, MAV.

Defensive backs: Max Potter and Dominic Waite, OV, and Dekota Safford, MAV.

Kicker: Lincoln Painter, MAV.

Punter: Levi Smith, MAV.

Returner: Clark Crary, MAV.

Honorable Mention:
Lineman: Chase Razanouski, OV.

Defensive backs: Zac Dragon, OV, and Lincoln Painter, MAV.

In addition, MAV’s Tyson Hallock, Shayne Russell and Logan Stearns were selected to play for the North team in the annual North-South Senior All-Star game, and Otters Colin Carroccia, Austin Mallory and Chase Razanouski were selected for the South team.

Tigers

(Continued from Page 1B)

Tight end: Parker Carl.

Lineman: Steve Lackard.

Honorable Mention:
Quarterback: Brady Lloyd.

Running back: Tucker Wright.

Linemen: Levi D’Avignon and Tim Nop.

DEFENSE:

First Team:

Lineman: Cooke Riney.

Inside linebackers: Jason Sperry and Tucker Wright.

Defensive back: Brady Lloyd.

Second Team:

Lineman: Tim Nop.

Outside linebacker: Parker

Carl.

Defensive back: Logan McNulty.

Kicker: Owen Butterfield.

Returner: Logan McNulty.

Honorable Mention:
Lineman: Steve Lackard.

Outside linebacker: Ben DeBisschop.

Punter: Owen Butterfield.

In addition, Ben DeBisschop, Marshall Eddy, Steven Lackard, Logan McNulty and Cooke Riney were chosen to play for the South team in the annual North-South Senior All-Star Game this coming summer.

SPEND THE WINTER WITH US!

Stay Fit. Stay Healthy.

- Inspiration
- Motivation
- Results

We’ve enhanced the workout experience with a new lobby, renovated pool, and new state-of-the-art equipment!

41 years of original family ownership.

MIDDLEBURY VERGENNES **vermontsun.com** 802.388.6888
TAKE OUR VIRTUAL TOUR!



WHAT DO YOU GET FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY?
THE WOODWARE CREW BRINGS SMILES AND HELPING HANDS
WITH EVERY FURNITURE DELIVERY!

FLEXSTEEL®

Personalized to Perfection

Hundreds of custom fabric options to create a look that’s truly yours.

WOODWARE

www.woodwarevt.com

802-388-6297

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

Chemistry

(Continued from Page 1B)

losing an overtime heartbreaker to a probably inferior team in a final played in rainy, windy conditions on an unfamiliar surface. But they, too had chemistry as well as talent. Goalie and senior captain Evan Audy spoke after the Eagles' convincing semifinal win: "We're really close. We come into

practice with a lot of enthusiasm, and not one of these boys can say they don't like someone on this team. Everyone's friends." The takeaway? A lot can be accomplished when all the ears are pulling in the same direction at the same time. Of course, there was more to this past season than teams winning titles. Photographer Steve James caught some great moments in the photos that accompany this piece. Notably, an early event Steve and I covered this fall was the first varsity match ever played by the Mount Abe girls' volleyball team. Possibly to even their own surprise, they won, defeating the Flying Turtles of Vermont Commons in a spirited match. Senior Paige Guilbeault, who was instrumental in getting the sport off the ground at Mount Abe, helped spark the victory. The Eagles would win a few more in a nice debut campaign. Other athletes based in Bristol did well, including the Mount Abe/Vergennes cooperative football team. The Eagles finished the regular season at 8-1 and hosted and won a playoff game to reach the D-III semifinal. It was the program's best results since Mount Abe fielded a 7-man team two decades ago. Coach Jen Myers' field hockey team thrived after a move to D-III and earned the No. 2 seed, but were upset in double overtime in the quarterfinal round. Coach Dustin Corrigan's Eagle girls' soccer team was seeded sixth in D-II and similarly bowed out with a tough loss in a penalty kick shootout. They finished 7-6-2, including the win over the Commodores, despite graduating 10 seniors for last year's team and losing standout Isla Underwood to an ACL tear. Finally, Mount Abe freshman Del Guilmette burst on the cross-country scene and became the county's best male runner. He finished 12th in D-II. Good seasons all. At MUHS the most successful team after football and volleyball was girls' cross-country, which



MOUNT ABE FRESHMAN Del Guilmette was Addison County's top male cross-country runner this fall. He is seen here at a meet at the Middlebury Union Middle School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Give the Gift of **Tea**
 (...and teaware doesn't hurt either)

Open Monday-Saturday, 11 to 5
 and online at stoneleaftea.com

It's **INDY NEWS** Digest

A weekly compilation of news stories from the *Middlebury Campus* and the *Addison Independent*, analyzed by our editors and delivered weekly to your inbox — for free!

Sign up today!

<https://www.addisonindependent.com/newsletter-signup/>

Monkton, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

For over 20 years we have had a goal of owning a solar system. Bristol Electronics helped us to reach that goal by installing a (16) panel system. All of our goals were met. The price was right. The installation and quality of work was professional. Most importantly, we have not had to pay an electric bill since the installation.

Chris mentioned that I could use a roof rake to remove snow from my array but I taped a cloth mop to a 20' closet rod that I had hanging around. I store it under the array and when the array is covered with snow I use it to gently brush the panels off. My array starts producing power quicker and I am very happy with my electric bills.

If we buy the electric car that we have been thinking about, we will have Bristol Electronics return and add to our system, and cover the cost of the added electricity. Solar has been a good investment for us.

John & Beverly Teer — Monkton, VT

BRISTOL ELECTRONICS
 802-453-2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com
 FREE SITE EVALUATIONS



MAV JUNIOR DEFENSIVE back Clark Cray goes airborne to pick off a fourth-quarter pass intended for OV's Colin Carroccia during the Eagles' win in the September clash between the teams.

Independent photo/Steve James



SENIOR MARY HARRINGTON, right, and sophomore Louisa Orten, running here at a midseason meet, were the top competitors on an MUHS girls' cross-country team that finished third in Division II.

Photo courtesy of Joe McVeigh



VUHS SENIOR AVA Francis has her eye on the ball just before she sends sophomore teammate Sophia James into the Peoples box for the clinching goal in the Division III final.

Independent photo/Steve James

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Hinesburg writes:

"Love it! Best local in state."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

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.

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.

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.

Tech Night: Bring your own device in Salisbury. Thursday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, downstairs in the library, 853 Maple St. Have an issue with your phone or laptop? Bring your device and your questions to the library the first Thursday of the month. More info at salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com, 802-352-4198.



Santa Claus is coming to town

THERE ARE MULTIPLE opportunities to see Santa this weekend — he'll be at Town Hall Theater, story time at the Bixby Library in Vergennes, Brandon Town Hall, Veterans Park in Salisbury and breakfast at the Middlebury VFW. Pets like Otto, pictured here, can stop by Homeward Bound in Middlebury to take a photo with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 12-2 p.m. Good girls and boys, indeed.

Photo courtesy of Homeward Bound

dec 5 FRIDAY

Addison Housing Works Community Food Drive in Addison County. Friday, Dec. 5, 2-4 p.m., 45 Armory Lane, Vergennes; Firehouse Drive, Bristol; and 428 Court St., Middlebury. Community food drive to stock the resident food pantries at Vergennes Community Apartments (45 Armory Lane, Vergennes), Stone Hill (428 Court Street, Middlebury), and Firehouse Apartments (Firehouse Drive, Bristol). Stop by one or all three locations to donate nonperishable foods, household items and personal hygiene products.

Winter Village in Brandon. Friday, Dec. 5, 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.

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 stargazing 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.

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.

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

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, 9:30-11:30 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.

Free Holiday Craft Day in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Middlebury Studio School studio, 94 Court St. Families are invited to drop in and make seasonal crafts with guided activities for all ages, including painting and ornament making, plus cookies and cocoa. Free. All ages welcome.

Holiday Art and Craft Sale in Pantton. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Pantton Town Hall. The Pantton Arts League is hosting this event featuring 11 local artists and artisans offering a wide variety of handmade work.

Holiday Art Fair in Orwell. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Stafford House Pottery, 294 Route 22A. Meet local artists, shop quality handmade art and gifts, and support local business at the sixth annual holiday art market in Orwell. Shop pottery, paintings, weaving, jewelry, fabric arts, wool felting, ornaments, cards, prints and more.

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.

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.

Baked Goods Sale & Open House in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Union Meeting Hall, 41 Middlebrook Rd. Enjoy a selection of baked treats and warm drinks while viewing the Union Meet Hall's restored windows. Proceeds support ongoing restoration of this historic building. Visitors are invited to add a note of gratitude to the "Thankful Tree" display. Atkins Tree Stand will have trees available on-site on weekdays from 3-6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Homeward Bound Holiday Open House in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 12-2 p.m., 236 Boardman St. Visit shelter animals and bring your pet for a photo with Santa (well-behaved dogs on leash and cats in carriers). The Lights of Love tree honoring pets past and present will also be on display. Free. More info at homewardboundanimals.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.

Winter Village in Brandon. Saturday, Dec. 6, 12-7 p.m., Green Park, Center St. See Dec. 5 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.

Museum of the Multiverse: Insects in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m., The Great Hall, McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury College, 276 Bicentennial Way. Middlebury students present an immersive,

all ages event featuring insects from "Avatar," "Dune," "Star Wars," "Harry Potter" and more. Visitors can interact with live insects, ask questions, play games and collect prizes by speaking with student experts. Costumes welcome. More info at gpask@middlebury.edu.

Santa Comes to 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.

Bristol Elementary School Class of 2032 winter festival fundraiser in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Winter festival with Magic Man Tom Joyce at 4:30 p.m., live music by Remember Baker, photo booth, silent auction and activities. Full pasta bar, Farmhouse Chocolates and baked goods available for purchase. Proceeds support the Bristol Elementary School Class of 2032. Free admission. More info at besclassof2032@gmail.com.

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. Free. More info at vergennesdowntown.org/holidayroll.

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.

King Pede card party in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, 3279 Route 7. Enjoy a sandwich supper and an evening of King Pede card games, hosted by the Ferrisburgh Grange. Bring your strategic thinking — this longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition requires tactics and skill.

dec 7 SUNDAY

Breakfast with Santa in Middlebury. Sunday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Families are invited to eat breakfast with Santa and create holiday crafts. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, made-to-order omelets, bacon, sausage, hash, sausage gravy and biscuits, plus orange juice, hot cocoa and coffee. Free for ages 10 and under; \$13 for all others. Open to the public.

Holiday Art Fair in Orwell. Sunday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Stafford House Pottery, 294 Route 22A. See Dec. 6 listing.

Ugly Christmas sweater party in Vergennes. 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.

"Trail of Dreams: Into the Yukon, Chasing the Ghosts of Klondike Gold" in Monkton. Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall Community Room, 92 Monkton Ridge. Ivor Hughes will discuss his trek across Alaska and the Yukon, retracing the steps of a young prospector who over a century earlier set out seeking gold. More info at brhughes@accessvt.com, 802-453-4412.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Get your local Christmas tree and handmade wreath from Scout Troop 525 once again this year. They are located at 265 Mountain Road (that's the northern end of Mountain Road). Self-service started last Friday using the honor system, so you can stop by and help yourself to a tree or wreath any time. There's a drop box to leave your pay for whatever you pick. If you prefer help getting your items, the troops will be available on Saturday and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices are as follows; Trees 6 to 8 feet cost \$55 each; 8 to 10 feet cost \$65 each. Wreaths are \$25 each. Get your tree/wreath for the holiday and support your Monkton troop. For questions, contact George at 802-989-3993.

FROM THE DESK OF LAUREN PARREN
Welcome Winter at the historic East Monkton Church Association's celebration, held on (See Monkton, Page 6B)



Sending fresh cut flowers brings joy all year long!

Set up a standing order and let Cole's Flowers do the rest.

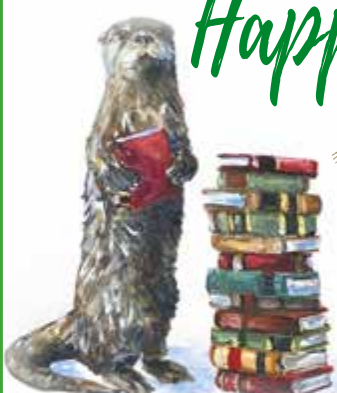
ColesMiddleburyFlowers.com
 **802.388.4003**
 18 Creek Rd., Unit #4, Middlebury
New Location!



Happy Holidays

OTTER CREEK USED BOOKS

99 Maple St., Historic Marble Works
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-3241
ottercreekusedbooks.com
Tues-Sat 10am-5pm



BRANDON



Shop, eat, drink and Make Merry

Moonlight Madness

Thursday December 11th - Shops open till 8:00pm

20+ Vendors in the Town Hall those 2 nights

Brandon's Moonlight Madness is for shoppers looking for unique gifts and exceptional customer service. Come for an experience that can't be found at the mall or over the Internet! There will be bargains, sales, specials, doorprizes, exceptional dining and a terrific shopping experience. Many shops offering 20% off storewide and a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks!

NEW this year; Brandon's Outdoor Winter Village
where holiday magic meets local charm in Green Park!
Gifts, crafts, food, drink, music & fun!

Open 4-7 pm Dec-5, 11, 12, 19
and 12-7 pm Dec- 6, 13, 20

Shop local! info@brandon.org or 802-247-6401
Go to brandon.org for lots more detail!

BRANDON-UNHURRIED, UNSPOILED, UNFORGETTABLE!








Addison County Parent/Child Center
info@addisoncountypccc.org • addisoncountypccc.org
388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 4 PM & 7:30 PM

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 AM



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

802-388-7634 www.midducc.org @midducc

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR
CALENDAR
ONLINE
addisonindependent.com

Around TOWN

In Monkton

Armchair Adventure series kicks off

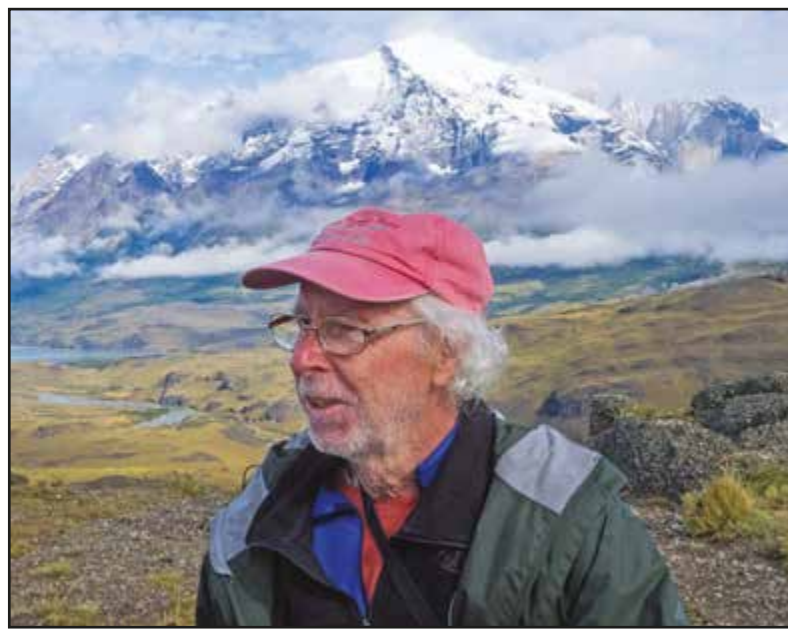
MONKTON — On Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m., Monkton's Russell Memorial Library (Community Room) will host its Armchair Adventure series of presentations. It is kicking off the season with local resident Ivor Hughes, who will present his backpacking trip where he followed in the path of the Klondike gold stampede on their quest for gold up in the Yukon Territory.

Nothing stirred the people more in the 1800s than a cry of "gold strike," and when the newspapers in 1897 reported a new strike near Dawson in the Klondike, the race was on. The world went gold mad. More than 100,000 dreamers, drifters and fortune-seekers surged north towards the icy heart of the Yukon, chasing a glimmer of hope buried in the frozen rivers. One of those was a young man from Bridport who joined the stampede to try his luck at prospecting for gold: "I am here to get all I can."

Come listen to his fascinating story as over a century later Hughes shouldered a backpack and followed his trail up the coast of Alaska, through rain-soaked forests then over the snow covered Chilkoot Pass and the haunting remains of the greatest gold rush the world has ever known.

The stampede drew people from all walks of life, including the young man from Bridport. Most of these stampedeers had no idea what they were in for, having little idea how to prospect for gold. First, they had to make their way to the West Coast to Seattle and then book passage on one of the many usually overloaded ships and sail 1,000 miles up the coast to Skagway, Alaska.

From there the going became really tough, as they had to hike



LOCAL RESIDENT IVOR Hughes will present on his backpacking trip through the Klondike in a talk at Monkton's Russell Memorial Library on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

Photo by Barry Francis

over the mountains by way of the Chilkoot Pass with all their gear and enough food to last them a year. The next section of the route was another 500 miles by lake and river. This necessitated the building of boats or rafts to brave the river rapids and weather until they arrived at Dawson City. Those that made it had to stake a claim and start the hard work of mining for the elusive gold.

Hughes has been hiking as long as he can remember. Having lived in the U.K. during the war years, he remembers being evacuated from the city of Liverpool, which was heavily bombed, to live with his grandparents out in the countryside of Wales. Food was severely rationed, and butter, cheese, bacon and eggs were hard to come by. He remembers regular walks of some five miles with the encouragement

of his mother up to one of the mountain farms to pick up some of these precious commodities. Since then, "walking and hiking has been in my blood."

He is a member of the Green Mountain Club and participated in many enjoyable hikes with them in the Green Mountains, Adirondacks and White Mountains. He has travelled widely, having visited six continents. He has backpacked extensively in the Southwest, the Grand Canyon, Alaska and Patagonia in South America, Europe and Iceland. He is also a keen kayaker, having paddled through the ice flows and glaciers of Antarctica and north to sea kayaking in Iceland.

Watch for more presentations in the future in this series of Armchair Adventures hosted by Russell Memorial Library.



Caring quilters

ADDISON COUNTY'S MILK & Honey Quilters Guild isn't just about crafting and camaraderie. The group routinely earmarks proceeds from quilting activities to local charitable causes. The guild recently presented Tri-Valley Transit — a nonprofit organization that delivers public transportation to our area — a check for \$1,642, the proceeds from a "Giving Project" boutique at the guild's recent quilt show. The gift will allow TVT to leverage additional funds to serve its low-income clients. Pictured, from left, are Mary-Claire Crogan of TVT, quilt show Chair Joyce Dicianna, and Dorothy Mammen, quilt show committee member and a TVT volunteer.

Photo courtesy of Joyce Dicianna

Housing group holding food drive Friday

ADDISON COUNTY — Addison Housing Works, a nonprofit that provides affordable housing to build a stronger community in Addison County, will host a Community Food Drive this Friday, Dec. 5, from 2-4 p.m.

In the spirit of giving and gathering, the Community Food Drive will take place at three AHW

properties. The organization is collecting nonperishable items to support the resident food pantries and all those who stop by will be offered cocoa, cookies and the chance to connect with AHW residents, staff and board members.

The donation drop-off locations:

- 45 Armory Lane, Vergennes.
- Firehouse Drive, Bristol.
- 428 Court St., Middlebury.

Items they are collecting:

- Canned vegetables and fruit.
- Pasta, rice & grains.
- Peanut butter & canned protein.
- Household items (soap, laundry detergents, paper products, etc.).
- Personal hygiene products.

Come to one or visit all three! Organizers would love to spend time with you and show you the work your support makes possible.

Monkton

(Continued from Page 5B)
Sunday Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. Bundle up! We'll be outside, unless the weather is really frightful when we can move into the unheated building. There will be a fire pit, music, hot cider and cookies. We'll have a reading by Eugenie Doyle of her delightful children's book Sleep Tight Farm, family friendly activities from making paper

lanterns, to a Scavenger Hunt, to making a scent of the season bag that "brings the outside in." You'll leave with some handouts for activities to do at home, as well. A suggested donation of \$10 will help keep the doors open and allow us to continue these multi-generational offerings at 405 Church Road, Monkton. Thanks to our local sponsors, listed on our

web page eastmonktonchurch.org: Layn Farms, Vic Cousino Property services, Wahl Landscaping, Pond Brook Builders, Nitty Gritty Grain Company, Karey French farmer, florist. For questions contact Lauren at laurenparren@gmail.com. Watch for upcoming information on Monkton's Poetry Club to be held later in December.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Vergennes Union High School

Phoebe Raphael

Vergennes Union High School is proud to recognize Phoebe Raphael as this week's Student of the Week. Phoebe lives in Vergennes with her parents, younger brother, dog, and three cats. One of her favorite things about her hometown is how walkable it is, and she especially enjoys strolling down Main Street and thrifting at Your Turn.

At VUHS, Phoebe enjoys the strong sense of community and spending time with her friends. This semester she is especially excited about Law & Justice, AP Psychology, and Music Theory. Her favorite class so far has been Statistics, and she gives a special shoutout to Mr. Schechter for fostering a learning environment built on conversation and curiosity.

Music is a major part of her high school experience. Phoebe has been a member of Band and Chorus for all four years, calling it an anchor in her day-to-day life. She's also active in the school's performing arts scene. Each spring, she performs in the school musical, with roles including Judy in "9 to 5," Sophie in "Mamma Mia," Race in "Newsies," and Belinda in "Dido & Aeneas." This winter marks her third year performing in Middlebury Acting Company's production of "A Christmas Carol." As a junior, she also participated in the A.R.T. program at the Hannaford Career Center. Phoebe is a member of Commodore Singers, Jazz Band, Green Team, and Math Team. Phoebe also enjoys sports and has spent three years on the softball team and plans to join Track & Field this spring.

Beyond school, Phoebe is committed to giving back. She volunteers with The Better Tomorrow Projects, a student-run nonprofit that raises money for causes important to Vermont teens. She also works on Main Street at Malabar, a job she has held for four years.

When she's not studying or performing, Phoebe loves to play the ukulele, record and share singing videos on social media, craft, read, ski, and play pickleball with her dad.

Her advice to other students is simple, "Do everything. Join every club, class, or activity you want to. Don't limit yourself!"

Phoebe is currently applying to colleges and plans to major in sociology, with definite plans to study abroad in the future. Congratulations, Phoebe!



Phoebe Raphael
VUHS

Middlebury Union High School

Marolyn Bingham

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize Marolyn Bingham as its latest Student of the Week. She is the daughter of Nathan and Bethany Bingham and has one older brother. Marolyn grew up in Weybridge before moving to Cornwall. Having been raised on a farm, she has spent countless hours with cows and has owned livestock since she was nine years old.

Marolyn says she has always loved learning and being in the classroom. English and math are among her favorite subjects, and she has long enjoyed her core classes. She credits her elementary school teacher, Maggie, with helping her grow both academically and personally. Throughout her years at MUHS, Marolyn has made the honor roll several times and has earned IB honors in Individuals and Societies as well as English.

A dedicated athlete and musician, Marolyn played field hockey all four years of high school. She is also an active member of the marching and concert bands, where she plays percussion — most often the timpani. Her father works at Monument Farm, and over the years, Marolyn has helped him with various tasks.

In the winter, Marolyn skis at the Middlebury Snowbowl at least once a week. She enjoys field hockey year-round and participates in an adult league. In her free time, she loves writing and is currently working on a book. She also enjoys writing poetry and crafting; friends can often spot her embroidered designs on jeans she sews herself.

When asked about influential people in her life, Marolyn shared, "I think being in class with Ms. Billings in 7th grade and hearing how she struggled with math and went on to teach math was inspiring." That experience helped spark Marolyn's goal of becoming a middle school English teacher.

Her advice for younger students is simple but heartfelt: "It is OK to not have things figured out. As long as you do the work and keep moving forward, things will get figured out even when things are scary."

Looking ahead, Marolyn plans to apply to Saint Michael's College, where she hopes to continue playing field hockey. She intends to double major in English and education.

MUHS congratulates Marolyn on her many accomplishments and wishes her continued success throughout her senior year and beyond.



Marolyn Bingham
MUHS

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Telecommunications Sales & Service
Data Cabling • Fiber Optic Solutions
Security Surveillance Systems
John and Jim Fitzgerald
www.bts-vt.com • 802-388-8999

Full CIRCLE
BUILDING AND REMODELING, LLC
ESTD 2023
(802)488-4315

New Haven, VT • fullcirclebrvt.com

Congratulations, students!

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

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

Congratulations, Phoebe and Marolyn

JACKMAN FUELS

1 Main Street, Vergennes
802-877-2661 • jackmanfuels.com

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

Your hard work is really paying off!

802-877-3118
Vergennes, VT

JOHNSON LAW OFFICES

Congratulations!

Affordable & client-focused legal services

- Business Law • Wills, Trusts and Estates
- Government Contracting • Elder Law
- Property and Tenancy Issues

802-489-5099 or
Brad@LawDCVT.com

28 North Street - Bristol Village

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Way to go,
Phoebe and Marolyn!

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • JackmansInc.com

Want to help celebrate these students and support this page?

Please contact Jenna at advertising@addisonindependent.com to advertise.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, VT, Since 1964

Keep your Eye on your future goals!

Open every other Monday 8-4:30 and Tues-Fri 8-4:30

Peak View
EYE CARE

27 Main Street, Vergennes

Congratulations Marolyn and Phoebe!

Rainbow Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT

Congratulations, Marolyn and Phoebe!

FRIEND CONSTRUCTION
Your friendly neighborhood Roofing Contractor
802-453-2255 • friendconstructionvt.com

Thursday & service Business & service DIRECTORY

auto registration assistance
auto repair
carpentry/contractors
cleaning services

computers
construction
duct work & duct cleaning
lawn care

flooring
hot tubs
landscaping
contractors
masonry

AUTO REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE

BREAKING: dmv.vermont.gov IS OFFLINE THROUGH JANUARY!

we register for you! **REG HERE** Don't drive to Rutland or Montpelier! Register your car, truck, camper, trailer, RV or boat here in Addison County!

(802) 349-8483 **ROAD READY SERVICE LLC**
roadreadyserviceinc@gmail.com
2877 Ethan Allen Hwy New Haven, VT. 05472 **JEANNE MILLER**
SINCE 2020

AUTO REPAIR



WESTSIDE AUTO REPAIR LLC

General Car and Truck Repair
State Inspections for Cars Trucks and Trailers
Tires and Tire Changeovers • Brakes/Oil Changes
Trailer hitches • Rough country lift kits & off road products

Open Tue-Sat • Call or text for appointment
Gary Brown
523 Middle Rd., Salisbury • 802-771-4936



DO YOU REPAIR OR CLEAN FURNACES?

YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS



Specializing in: (802)488-4315

- New Builds
- 4 Season Rooms
- Specialty Tile Work
- Bath & Kitchen Remodeling
- And more!

Call us or visit our website today!
Full Circle Building and Remodeling LLC
471 East Street New Haven, VT 05472
(802)488-4315 | fullcirclebrvt.com



RAYMOND RENOVATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Handling all phases of residential and light commercial carpentry since 1992

Mark Raymond, Middlebury, VT
802-388-0742
raymondrenovationvt.com
FULLY INSURED

Golden Ruler Construction

AFFORDABLE & HONEST
Residential & Agricultural Construction
Old Home Renovations
Custom Homes • Barns
Interior Painting • General Repairs
Call Jonathan Hescock
649 Harrington Hill Rd., Shoreham
802-462-3737



VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS
www.vermontcustommoldings.com

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

Quaker Village CARPENTRY

We have immediate availability!

Siding, Windows, Garages, Decks & Porches, New Construction, Renovations and Repairs

Maurice Plouffe • 802-545-2251
1736 Quaker Village Road | Weybridge, VT 05753

David Walker Construction

298 Biddle Road
Lincoln, Vermont 05443

cell: 802-989-0320
email: dwconstruction@gmavt.net

Small projects
Entry doors • Decks • Porches


CLEANING SERVICES

Melissa's Quality Cleaning Services

Residential & Commercial
GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED
Reliable & Thorough

802 345-6257

COMPUTERS



The PC Medic of Vermont now offers both on-site and remote computer services for your PC.

Call today to see which type of appointment you need, and get your PC running correctly again!

For an appointment, call The PC Medic of Vermont at 802-734-6815
www.pcmedicvt.com

CONSTRUCTION

Vantage Point Homes

Salisbury, VT
989-3974

New Construction
Additions
Renovations
Project Design

Like us on Facebook! 

DUCT WORK & DUCT CLEANING



Specializing in Duct Cleaning
And Duct Work for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
We use 5,000+ cfm HEPA Vacuum Cleaning Systems

We can design, fabricate, seal, insulate, clean, anything to do with your ducted systems.

Buy Local! 802.989.0396
Commercial/Residential • Owner Operated • Fully Insured • Neat & Clean

PREMIUM BUSINESS SHOWCASE AD

Stand out from the competition when you upgrade your B&S Directory ad with our Premium Business Showcase!

Purchase a quarterly B&S ad package and get one large, full-color ad for only \$200! Place it here or anywhere else in the Addy Indy!



Don't miss this special opportunity to promote your business. Contact your ad rep today to secure your premium B&S package:

christy@addisonindependent.com
jennah@addisonindependent.com
katyf@addisonindependent.com
tomvs@addisonindependent.com



Premium Business Showcase ads are 3-columns wide x 6 inches tall. Regular open rate is \$250+. Premium Business Showcase ads cannot be placed in the Classifieds.

FLOORING

Chris Mulliss FLOOR & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Stripping - Waxing - Buffing
Carpet Cleaning & Emergency Water Removal

802-759-2706
phone or fax
or
802-349-6050
cell phone

email: cmulliss@gmavt.net
1900 Jersey St., S. Addison, VT 05491



HOT TUBS

Killington Hot Tubs

Locally owned
Family owned
• Sales • Service
• Delivery • Installation
• Financing Available

TROPIC SEAS SPAS™
TRULY THERAPEUTIC TUBS!

(802) 282-7398
1967 Route 4, Killington
killingtonhottubs.com



LANDSCAPING CONTRACTORS

DON'T LOSE YOUR LANDSCAPE TO THE NIGHT!

RAINBOW ACRES, LLC
SPECIALIZING IN LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING
MULTI-COLORED DISPLAYS,
CONTROLLED BY YOUR SMARTPHONE
FOR DETAILS CALL MIKE AT 802-759-2225

JACK OF ALL TRADES?

CALL 802-388-4944 OR EMAIL
ADVERTISING@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.



MASONRY

FINE DRY STONE MASONRY

JAMIE MASEFIELD
CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

802-233-4670
jmasefield@gmavt.net



Let people know about YOUR Business!

Advertise in the B&S Directory to launch your business to new heights.

Affordable pricing, stellar placement!

802-388-4944



ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, VT, Since 1946

Thursday & service Business & service DIRECTORY

painting
plumbing
property services
renewable energy
roofing

rubbish & recycling
siding
snow removal
surveying
taxes

tile work
tree service
water delivery
window treatments

PAINTING

HESCOCK PAINTING
A friendly, professional, and affordable family business.
Interior Painting
462-3737 or 989-9107
Kim or Jonathan Hescock
hescock@shoreham.net

ARE YOU A HOUSE PAINTER?
ADVERTISE HERE THIS FALL!



PLUMBING

J.D. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
MIDDLEBURY
John Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019
Serving Addison County since 1989

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN INC.
Vergennes, Vermont
Timothy C. Ryan, P.E.
Serving the Champlain Valley
Since 1887
877-3118
Main St., Vergennes, VT

PROPERTY SERVICES

CHIPMAN HILL
Property Services
THE EXTRA HAND
We offer customized services for your home and property, looking after our clients' properties as if they were our own.
Please contact us to learn what we do and how we do it.
Tim Hollander 802.989.3857
Geoff Conrad 802.355.7426
ChipmanHillPropertyServices.com

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Soak Up The Sun!
When you're ready for a solar, heat pump or battery installation, we're here for you!
Since 1972!
Go Green with us - Call for a FREE on-site evaluation
BRISTOL ELECTRONICS
802 • 453 • 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

GET RESULTS!
ADVERTISE HERE
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

ROOFING

roofing
Michael Doran
as seen at Addison County Field Days!
• Standing seam
• Asphalt shingles
• Slate
Free estimates • Fully Insured
mpdoransr@gmail.com
Phone (802) 537-3555

ROOFING

LINCOLN APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.
Celebrating 40 Years
Environmental Consultants – Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BW
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BW
• Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
• On-Site Wastewater Design • Single & Multiple Lot Subdivision
• Property Development & Permitting
• State and Local Permitting
• Underground Storage Tank Removal & Assessment
802-453-4384
Fax 802-453-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443
www.lagvt.com

SURVEYING

SHORT SURVEYING, INC.
Serving Addison County Since 1991
Timothy L. Short, L.S.
Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys
FEMA Elevation Certificates
135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT
802-388-3511
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com

Philo Surveying LLC
Serving all of Vermont!
ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat Commercial and Residential Subdivisions
Light Boundary Work and Boundary Line Staking
Easement Surveys • Elevation Certificates
LOMA Surveys • Topographic Surveys
(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT
Philosurveying.com • References available

Boost Your Visibility
Advertise in the B&S Directory to launch your business to new heights.
Affordable pricing, stellar placement!
advertising@addisonindependent.com
802-388-4944

TREE SERVICE

SARGENT'S TREE SERVICE
349-7459
Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

- Tree Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Storm Damage Clean up
- Stump Grinding

Serving all of Addison County

Grow Your Business with Us
Reach thousands of local customers every week with a B&S Directory ad.
Low rates, big exposure!
advertising@addisonindependent.com
802-388-4944

WINDOW TREATMENT

Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!
Vermont Window Treatments LLC
M-F: 8am-5pm
Hours by appointment only
Visit our Facebook page or check us out on Instagram!
802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury
vermontwindowtreatments.com

YOU DON'T NEED A BIG BUDGET TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT

We know what it's like to wear a lot of hats. You're running your business, serving customers, answering the phone, doing the books...
who has time to worry about websites and online marketing?

That's where Independent Digital Marketing, the digital services branch of the Addy Indy, comes in.

Let's get your business online!
Simple. Affordable. Local.

We specialize in simple, effective digital solutions for hardworking local businesses.

From plumbers and electricians to landscapers, mechanics, painters, and solo entrepreneurs.

We can help you:

- Get found online with a professional, cost-effective website
- Build customer trust by helping monitor digital listings and creating an up-to-date Google presence
- Reach local customers through email newsletter and website ads

Contact us today!

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.

independentdigitalmarketing.com




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 for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://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 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, dry-wall, 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.

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

Free

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

FREE COOKBOOKS
Some new 518-942-3325

E-Mail Us!
News Articles
news@addisonindependent.com
Advertising
ads@addisonindependent.com
or
classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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

Help Wanted

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 swift-houseinn.com

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

Help Wanted

SPRAY FOAM TECHNICIAN Looking for a hard-working, physically fit individual to spray foam and cellulose on renovation and new construction projects. Will train the right individual. Starting wage \$22 an hour with room for

Help Wanted

growth. Please email your name, any relevant experience or why you are interested and available start date. Please contact Gina. rgale@mgalebuilders.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Highway Department Road Crew Member

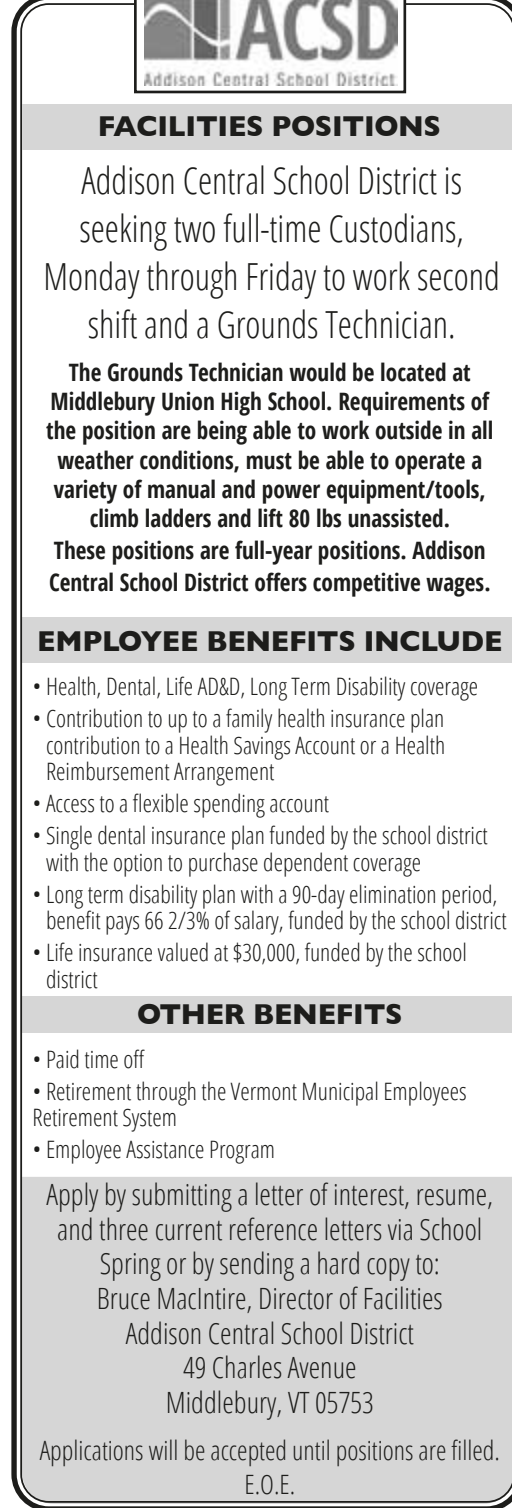
The Town of Monkton is seeking qualified applicants to join the Highway Department road crew. This position requires experience in highway maintenance and repair, mechanical ability, record keeping and communication skills. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week, requiring a flexible schedule which may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime.

CDL is preferred, must pass a drug test, and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours.

Hourly rate \$25 - \$30.

For more information or to apply, please attach a letter of interest outlining your experience and qualifications for the position with three references to the Monkton Selectboard (selectboard@monktonvt.com), the Town Administrator (townadministrator@monktonvt.com), and Road Foreman (highway@monktonvt.com).

The Town of Monkton will be considering applicants until the position is filled. Full job description is available at Town Hall or online at Monktonvt.com.



ACSD
Addison Central School District

FACILITIES POSITIONS

Addison Central School District is seeking two full-time Custodians, Monday through Friday to work second shift and a Grounds Technician.

The Grounds Technician would be located at Middlebury Union High School. Requirements of the position are being able to work outside in all weather conditions, must be able to operate a variety of manual and power equipment/tools, climb ladders and lift 80 lbs unassisted.

These positions are full-year positions. Addison Central School District offers competitive wages.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Health, Dental, Life AD&D, Long Term Disability coverage
- Contribution to up to a family health insurance plan contribution to a Health Savings Account or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement
- Access to a flexible spending account
- Single dental insurance plan funded by the school district with the option to purchase dependent coverage
- Long term disability plan with a 90-day elimination period, benefit pays 66 2/3% of salary, funded by the school district
- Life insurance valued at \$30,000, funded by the school district

OTHER BENEFITS

- Paid time off
- Retirement through the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System
- Employee Assistance Program

Apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, and three current reference letters via School Spring or by sending a hard copy to: Bruce MacIntire, Director of Facilities
Addison Central School District
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. E.O.E.



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@smithmccclair.com.

Come build with us!

Smith & McClain
A BUILDING COMPANY



Got a seasonal gig? Find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Opportunities

Opportunities

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

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

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

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

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

RATES

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: \$ _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
Internet Listing: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For 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.

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/7889936398.htm> or call 802 377 9394

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

For Rent
COMPANY COMING? 2-bedroom rustic lakefront winterized cottage available for short-term rental on Lake Dunmore, 10-15 minutes to Middlebury and Brandon. Sleeps 4, comfortably furnished, heated, fully equipped kitchens, bathrooms with showers, TV, WiFi. krnorthcove@gmail.com; 802 352-4236

EAST MIDDLEBURY APARTMENT 3 Bedroom Apartment, with office: \$2250 per month. Heat - Water - Trash - Lawn Mowing included in the rent. You pay Electricity. Washer and Dryer in Unit Off street parking. (3 spaces) 1st Month Rent and security deposit can be paid in installments, no smoking, quiet pets possible upon approval. Available on November 15th. Text (802) 349-7464

MIDDLEBURY ONE 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.

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.

ONE BEDROOM Bristol, no smoking, pets upon approval, heat included, walking distance to town, first month plus deposit \$925. 802-352-1031

For Rent
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.

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

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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

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

Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
Email [Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net](mailto:Sally.Kerschner@smwkersch.comcast.net)

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of Dec. 6 and Dec. 20.

These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper

and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede requires tactics and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking in this

longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition.

Rokeby Museum will hold its annual holiday sale on Sunday, Dec. 7, 12-4 p.m., when the museum store will be open for gift shopping. Rokeby will also offer sessions on holiday crafting on Friday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Although the museum’s general exhibitions are closed for the season, we are all invited to walk, ski, or snowshoe on Rokeby’s extensive trails — access the trail map at www.rokeby.org.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum invites us to attend the book release of “The Champlain Canal: Two Hundred Years of Change” on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Join the museum’s staff at Phoenix Books on Church Street in Burlington for the celebration of this newly published anthology. The sixty-mile Champlain Canal has never had the fame of the larger Erie Canal, yet the North Country’s own artificial waterway played a vital role in the region’s development. The book features chapters by historians, archeologists, and biologists on the past and present evolutions of the Champlain Canal which celebrated its bicentennial in 2023.

The Bixby Book Club meets on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.– 7 p.m. to delve into space and time travel with “A Wrinkle in Time,” Madeleine L’Engle’s beloved 1962 science fantasy classic and winner of the Newbery Medal. All readers are welcome, whether or not you’ve read the book. New participants are always encouraged. Copies are available at the circulation desk or (*See Ferrisburgh, Page 11B*)

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 on on December 19, 2025 at the location of the Property.

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

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 1 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 Trustee 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 southwesterly 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 right 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 southwesterly 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.

Email your Public Notices

to legals@addisonindependent.com
and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

TOWN OF BRIDPORT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Bridport Developmental Review Board will hold a public hearing on December 17, 2025 at 6pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Rd, on each of the following applications:

1. At 6:05 PM on Application (#25-32) by Helen Giard Rev. Trust. Applicant requests a 2-lot subdivision on Crown Point Rd.
2. At 6:10 PM on Application (25-33) by Andre Bordeleau. Applicant requests a Conditional Use Permit to operate a diesel repair shop on Frosty Lane.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling 802-758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Developmental Review Board proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Dinah Bain, Chair
Al Zaccor, Secretary
Tim Howlett, Acting Zoning Administrator
Louis Cocci, Zoning Administrator

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

10 V.S.A. Appendix §15a, Fees for the use of Fish and Wildlife Department Lands and Facilities.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P041

AGENCY: Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Wildlife
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule amendments would update Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC) tuition rates from \$250 to \$300 per week and modify the Day Use and wedding facility rental fees at Buck Lake and Kehoe Education Centers. Day use rentals of Buck Lake and Kehoe would increase to \$300 per day for partnering organizations, and \$600 per day for private entities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Hannah Smith, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive - Davis 2, Montpelier VT, 05620-3802 Tel: 802-461-8187 E-Mail: hannah.smith@vermont.gov URL: <https://www.vfishandwildlife.com/about-us/commissioners-office/commissioners-rules>.

/S/ COPIES: Alison Thomas, Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive - Davis 2, Montpelier VT, 05620-3802 Tel: 802-371-9975 E-Mail: alison.thomas@vermont.gov.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B**

116 Self Storage (1)

Brandon (1)

Bridport (1)

Bristol Stor-Mor (1)

Bristol (1)

Middlebury (2)

Orwell (1)

State of Vermont (1)

Tri-Town Water (1)

Vergennes Pantown Water District (1)

BRISTOL STOR-MOR

508 Burpee Rd., Bristol, Vt
Linda Rochon
206 Morgan Horse Lane,
Bristol, VT 05443
Unit 3D, 10'x15'
Household items
Minimum bid required
Saturday, 12/13 at 9am

NOTICE OF SELF-STORAGE LIEN SALE

116 SELF STORAGE, BRISTOL, VT
Notice is hereby given that the contents of the self-storage unit listed below will be sold at public auction by sealed bid at the 116 Self Storage facility. This sale is being held to collect unpaid storage unit occupancy fees, charges and expenses of the sale.

The entire contents of the self-storage unit listed below will be sold, with the proceeds to be distributed to 116 Self Storage for all accrued occupancy fees (rent charges), attorney's fees, sale expenses in relation to the unit and its sale. Any proceeds beyond the foregoing shall be returned to the unit holder.

Contents of the unit may be viewed on 12/26/2025 commencing at 10 a.m. Sealed bids are to be submitted on the entire contents of the self-storage unit. Bids will be opened one-quarter of an hour after the unit has been viewed on 12/26/2025. The highest bidder on the storage unit must remove the entire contents within 48 hours after notification of their successful bid. Purchase must be made in cash and paid in advance of the removal of the contents of the unit. A \$50.00 cash deposit shall be made and will be refunded if the unit is broom cleaned. 116 Self Storage reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

Unit #38 - A. Bill

Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 10B)
email Martha at martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org.

The Bixby is hosting many fun events during the Vergennes Holiday Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 6 beginning at 9 a.m. with their book sale and on to offerings such as a toy and puzzle swap and holiday card making. As a special treat, Santa will be reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Clement Moore at 10:30 a.m. The Va-et-Vient trio will be performing traditional French culture music at 11 a.m. Then, at noon, there will be a concert by Maiden Vermont, the locally famous women's a Capella chorus. For details visit www.bixby.org.

Bixby will hold a children's holiday ornament decorating event on Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. All are welcome to decorate an ornament for your family tree or as a gift.

If you've been curious about My Dentist's Son and haven't joined us yet, we'd love to have you at our final gathering of the year on Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. This is a place for folks in our community to share their experiences of magic and miracle. All are invited to listen and share and there is never pressure to speak out. It's free and it's really nourishing. For more information, visit www.mydentistsson.com.

The Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall (UMH) is alive with activity this holiday season. For more information on all their events, visit: <https://unionmeetinghall.org/> Please note that the UMH elevator is being repaired and so some accessibility will be affected. The UMH will host a "Baked Goods Sale and Open House" on Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Enjoy a delicious assortment of baked treats and warm drinks

and view the beautifully restored historic windows. All proceeds support ongoing restoration efforts of this treasured iconic building.

The Bixby is hosting many fun events during the Vergennes Holiday Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 6 beginning at 9 a.m. with their book sale and on to offerings such as a toy and puzzle swap and holiday card making.

Each year The Union Meeting Hall gathers messages of gratitude from our local elementary schools and community members and showcases them in a lighted outdoor exhibit. These messages will be on display from Dec. 1 to Jan. 7 in front of the Union Meeting Hall. Everyone is welcome to compose a short message of thanks (please include your first name and last initial.) You can submit your message via email at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com, by mail to the "Friends of the Union Meeting Hall," 41 Middlebrook Road, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456, or electronically at the button on <https://unionmeetinghall.org/>

or/programming-and-events. Or stop by and deliver you message in person at the Dec. 6 open house.

The Atkins Tree Stand will be setting up shop at the Union Meeting Hall this holiday season. Opening day is Nov. 28 and the tress will be for sale on Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m. and weekdays, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall will host Tunes and Treats on Tuesday, Dec. 16 beginning at 7 p.m. This festive event will feature holiday music by the Commodore Jazz Band and Singers with treats to share. Visit www.unionmeetinghall.org for updates on this community get-together.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have news that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh town website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.

Public Notices can be found on Pages 10B, 11B & 12B.

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 ensuring 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

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-07039 IN RE ESTATE OF: DAVID DIPENTIMA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: David DiPentima, late of Lincoln, 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: 11/25/25

Dylan DiPentima
826 Tonya Road, Victor, ID 83455
(802) 383-8232
dylan.dipentima@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 12/04/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-07077 IN RE ESTATE OF: JOHN PENWARDEN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: John Penwarden, late of Orwell, 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: 12/02/25

Katherine L. Couch
c/o Meub Associates, PLC, 65 Grove Street, Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 747-0610
meub@yourvtlawyer.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 12/04/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

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

TOWN OF BRISTOL NOTICE OF ADOPTION REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BRISTOL WATER USE ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Bristol Selectboard voted to adopt substantial revisions and amendments to the Bristol Water Use Ordinance at its meeting on November 24, 2025. The ordinance will become effective 60 days after its adoption, or at such time following the expiration of the 60 days from the date of its adoption, as determined by the Town of Bristol Selectboard per 24 V.S.A. § 1973. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. § 1973, that statute shall govern the taking effect of this ordinance.

The purpose of the ordinance is to: regulate the installation, operation, and use of water service connections; protect and ensure the efficient operation of the Water System of the Town; provide potable water to buildings occupied by users in the Bristol Water District; and to promote and protect the provision of water for fire protection.

- 1.0 Definitions
- 2.0 General Authority, Administration, and Effect of Application
- 3.0 Service Connection Operation, Requirements, and Restrictions
- 4.0 Application for Service Connection, Repair, or Replacement
- 5.0 Installation or Repair of Water Service
- 6.0 Construction Specifications
- 7.0 Ownership Responsibilities
- 8.0 Temporary Service
- 9.0 Extension of Water System to New Service Locations
- 10.0 Fire Hydrants
- 11.0 Sprinkler Systems
- 12.0 Prohibitions
- 13.0 Assessment and Collection of Water Service Fees
- 14.0 Enforcement
- 15.0 Town Responsibilities and Limitation of Liabilities
- 16.0 Miscellaneous
- 17.0 Effective Date

Appendix A: Water Supply Emergency Rules and Regulations

Appendix B: Schedule of Rates and Charges

Appendix C: Construction Specifications

Appendix D: Easement Template for Water Lines Outside of the Public ROW

Appendix E: New Owner Form

Appendix F: Inspection, Testing, and Certification Specifications

The full text of this ordinance is available at www.bristolvt.org, the Town Office, Lawrence Memorial Library, Holley Hall, Martins (Aubuchon Hardware), and Bristol Beverage. An ordinance or rule adopted by a municipality may be disapproved by a vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the municipality voting on the question at an annual or special meeting duly warned for the purpose, pursuant to a petition signed and submitted in accordance with subsection (b) of 24 V.S.A. § 1973: "A petition for a vote on the question of disapproving an ordinance or rule shall be signed by not less than five percent of the qualified voters of the municipality, and presented to the legislative body or the clerk of the municipality within 44 days following the date of the adoption of the ordinance or rule by the legislative body."

Comments or questions should be directed to Town Administrator Gregory Faust at (802) 453-2410 x1, townadmin@bristolvt.org, or Town of Bristol, PO Box 249, 1 South Street, Bristol, VT 05443.

TOWN OF BRANDON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of the real estate in the Town of Brandon, in the County of Rutland, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that real estate taxes assessed by the Town of Brandon for the 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024-2025 property tax years, and delinquent sewer fees assessed by the Town of Brandon, remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid upon the following described real estate in the Town of Brandon as indicated below, to wit:

Kenneth Baron and Sara Engle: Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .14 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 16 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Kenneth Baron and Sara J. Engle and Timothy C. Engle and Robin R. Engle in a Warranty Deed from Timothy C. Engle and Robin R. Engle dated August 8, 2005, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 177 at Page 366. Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed from Kenneth Baron and Sara J. Engle and Timothy C. Engle and Robin R. Engle to Kenneth Baron and Sara J. Engle dated April 9, 2008, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 196 at Page 393. (Parcel I.D. #0087-0016).

Robert J. Bunnell: Delinquent 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024-2025 Property Taxes and Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .76 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 71 Maple Street, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Robert J. Bunnell in a Quit Claim Deed from Paula A. Krauss dated September 20, 2012, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 217 at Page 783. (Parcel I.D. #0039-0071).

Community Ventures LLC: Delinquent 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024-2025 Property Taxes

Being 1.80 acres of land, more or less, a mobile home park with twelve (12) sites, located at Conway Terrace, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Community Ventures LLC in a Warranty Deed from Joseph Bresette dated August 2, 2019, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 243 at Page 653. (Parcel I.D. #0102-0001).

Beverly Cram: Delinquent 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes and Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being a 1973 Fantasy mobile home with serial number 299111, located at 81 Conway Terrace, and being more particularly described in a Vermont Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale from Tennile Flores to Beverly Cram dated March 9, 2018, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in the Mobile Home Bill of Sale Book. (Parcel I.D. #0102-0081).

Michael A. Gerow: Delinquent 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes and Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .23 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 225 Furnace Road, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Michael A. Gerow and Sadie E. Gerow by Warranty Deed of David A. Larock dated September 22, 1995, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 123 at Page 35, and a Vermont Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale from Bean's Mobile Homes, Inc., d/b/a Bean's Homes, to Michael Gerow dated May 21, 2018, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in the Mobile Home Bill of Sale Book, which references a 2019 Redman Model F35225 14x52 mobile home with serial number 122000HA007092A. Reference is made to a Final Order and Decree in the matter of Sadie Gerow v. Michael Gerow, Rutland Family Court Docket #16-1-07Rddm, dated October 2, 2007, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 226 at Page 615.(Parcel I.D. #0007-0225).

Eric Grenier and Bobbie Sue Grenier: Delinquent 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes

Being 2.0 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 818 High Pond Road, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed in a Warranty Deed from Florence Smith to William Dutton and Brendon Dutton and Eric Grenier and Bobbie Sue Grenier dated December 3, 2015, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 229 at Page 385. Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed from William Dutton and Brenda Dutton to Bobbie Sue Grenier dated November 18, 2021, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 252 at Page 643. Also included is a mobile home described in a Vermont Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale from Foster Brothers Farm, Inc. to William and Brenda Dutton and Bobbie Sue and Eric Grenier dated December 4, 2015, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in the Mobile Home Bill of Sale Book, being a 1981 Hallmark Homes Benchmark Columbus 14x60 mobile home with serial number BP21567 56142FDJ. (Parcel I.D. #0074-0818).

Patricia Lafayette: Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .40 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 69 Carver Street, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed in an Executor's Deed from Sean Stearns and Christopher Stearns, Co-Executors of the Estate of Nancy M. Stearns to Patricia Lafayette dated September 22, 2017, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 236 at Page 704. (Parcel I.D. #0087-0069). The mobile home originally on the property at the time of purchase by Patricia Lafayette was destroyed by fire and was replaced with a single-family dwelling that is also subject to this tax sale.

Lucas R. Manchester and Beth G. Manchester: Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .72 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 89 Furnace Road, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed in a Warranty Deed from David F. Davis and Margie Davis to Lucas R. Manchester and Beth G. Manchester dated August 9, 2011, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 213 at Page 42. (Parcel I.D. #0007-0089).

Roberta Palshan: Delinquent 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes

Being a 1985 Titan 14x52 mobile home with serial number RAD314068, located at 25 Pratt Road, and being more particularly described in a Vermont Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale from Albank, a division of Charter One Bank, FSB, Successor of Albank, FSB, to Roberta Whittemore, also known as Roberta Palshan, dated January 28, 1999, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in the Mobile Home Bill of Sale Book. (Parcel I.D. #0108-0025).

Phillip A. Stannard, Jr. and Chris R. Stannard: Delinquent 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes and Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .17 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 35 Maple Street, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Philip A. Stannard, Jr. and Chris R. Stannard in an Executor's Deed from Brian G. Austin, Executor of the Estate of June Austin, late of Brandon, Vermont, dated May 21, 2021, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 250 at Page 476. (Parcel I.D. #0039-0035).

Patricia M. Tuliano: Delinquent 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Property Taxes

Being 10.00 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 640 Slab Fence Road, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Patricia M. Tuliano in a Warranty Deed from Irving J. Smith and Brian P. Smith dated December 15, 1975, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 83 at Page 17. (Parcel I.D. #0026-0512).

Richard J. Weldon and Karen M. Weldon: Delinquent Sewer Fees

Being .20 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 33 Carver Street, Brandon, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Richard J. Weldon and Karen M. Weldon in a Warranty Deed from Judith T. Walden and Donna T. Burt dated July 12, 1988, and recorded in the Brandon Land Records in Book 99 at Page 265. (Parcel I.D. #0087-0033).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Brandon Town Clerk's office, a public place in said Town of Brandon on the 26th day of February, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes and sewer fees with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Brandon do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the titles to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable form of bid payment at the day of tax sale is bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont this 24 day of November, 2025.

Seth Hopkins, Town of Brandon
Delinquent Tax Collector

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 11/26/25 & 12/1/25

	COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Four Hills	1990	1.65	\$3283.50
Nop Bros & Sons	1120	1.61	\$1803.20
Conants	1415	1.60	\$2264.00
Barnes Bros	1285	1.60	\$2056.00
Iroquois	1835	1.55	\$2744.25
Westminster	1715	1.55	\$2658.25
Gosliga	1560	1.50	\$2340.00

CALVES		\$
Goodrich		\$1230.50
P. Livingston		\$1221.00
Gilead Farm		\$1248.00
Barnes Bros		\$1101.60
Degraaf		\$1094.40
Gm Mtn Dairy		\$1008.80

Total Beef - 141 Total Calves - 179

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

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

FORECLOSURE: 3-BD, 2-BTH HOME ON 1.88 ACRES IN ALBURGH, VT
LIVE AUCTION: Thursday, Jan. 8 @ 11AM
TENTATIVE OPEN HOUSE: Thurs., Dec. 18 from 11AM-1PM
ADDRESS: 19 VT Route 129, Alburgh, VT 05440



The home features 1,680± sq. ft. of single-level living space, including a spacious layout with a primary bedroom suite. Set on a rural lot with easy access to Route 2, this property is ideally located just minutes from the village center, local schools, Lake Champlain, and the Canadian border.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

THE INDEPENDENT MAKES A GREAT GIFT! CALL 802-388-4944

Bristol man cited after eluding police

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Patrick Cota Jr., 32, of Bristol, for attempting to elude police, negligent operation, driving with a criminally suspended license, and violation of his conditions of release, following pursuit of his vehicle in East Middlebury on Nov. 28. Police said it was at around 12:44 p.m. that they initially tried to stop a vehicle that had just eluded an Addison County Sheriff's Department deputy. Middlebury police said they briefly took on the chase but abandoned it "due to concern for the operator's unsafe operation."

Cota was later located and arrested in Burlington, according to police (see related story in this edition).

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Loaned the department's K-9 team to Vermont State Police for a sniff on a vehicle that troopers had stopped at the intersection of Route 7 and Stage Road on Nov. 24. State police ended up citing a person in that vehicle with possession of drugs.

Middlebury Police Log

- Along with members of the Middlebury Fire Department, Vergennes Fire Department, Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS), the Addison County Sheriff's Department, and Vermont Fish & Game, conducted a night training and search-and-rescue session at Wright Park on Nov. 24.
- Responded to a report of some disorderly juveniles in the Buttolph Drive neighborhood on Nov. 24.
- Helped a woman gas up her vehicle so she could return to Fair Haven on Nov. 25.
- Were informed of the theft of a license plate from a vehicle that had been parked on Porter Drive on Nov. 25.
- Helped a driver whose vehicle broke down in the intersection of Washington and Seminary streets on Nov. 25.
- Investigated a report of a

disoriented man in the Happy Valley Road area on Nov. 26.

• Checked on the welfare of a Buttolph Drive resident who ultimately needed no assistance on Nov. 26.

• Assisted MREMS in responding to a medical call on Belden Falls Road on Nov. 27.

• Helped MREMS tend to an unresponsive man at the Residences at Otter Creek on Nov. 27.

• Assisted Middlebury firefighters on a call to a Benedict Lane location on Nov. 27.

• Cited Marie Roberts, 26, of Middlebury for petit larceny, providing false information to law enforcement, and violation of her conditions of release, following a domestic dispute-related investigation on North Pleasant Street on Nov. 28.

• Received a report of an ongoing dispute between some Danyow Drive neighbors on Nov. 28.

• Conducted a health and welfare check on a person in the Lindale Circle neighborhood on Nov. 28.

• Investigated a report of someone allegedly entering and using a Park Street outbuilding without the owner's consent on Nov. 28.

• At Porter Hospital's request, asked a man to leave the facility's parking lot on Nov. 28.

• Cited Sarah Whitney, 41, of Bristol for driving under the influence of drugs, after responding to a report of a woman slumped over inside her vehicle off Wilson Road on Nov. 29. While on the scene, officers said they saw Whitney show signs of impairment. Police said they collected an evidentiary blood sample, and the results are pending. MREMS also responded to the scene.

• Advised a local man on how to apply for a no stalking order, after he had expressed concern on Nov. 30 that his life might be in danger.

• Investigated what turned out to be a hoax bomb threat on Middlebury College campus on Nov. 30.

Public Notices

can be found on Pages 10B, 11B & 12B.

★★

This draft Selectboard meeting agenda is subject to change.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85326839855>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 853 2683 9855

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVT>
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- 7:00**
 1. Call to Order
 2. *Approval of Agenda
 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 3a. *Approval of the Minutes of the November 25, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting
 - 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
 - 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any)
 - 3d. *Approval of Check Warrants
 - 3e. *Second December Selectboard Meeting - Confirming New Date/Time (12/16, 7pm)
 - 3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3g. **Town Manager's Report
- 7:05** 4. **Citizen Comments (opportunity to raise/address issues not otherwise included in this agenda)
- 7:10** 5. *Town Energy Committee - Two Applications for Possible Nomination
- 7:15** 6. **Presentation of First Draft of Fiscal Year 2027 (7.1.2026-6.30.2027) - Overall Budget Proposal & Budget Requests
 - Departmental Budgets - Review & Questions/Answers
- 7. Agenda Placeholder
- 8:30** 8. **Board Member Concerns
- 9. **Executive Session - Labor Relations Agreement
- 8:35** 10. *Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 11. *Adjourn

*Possible Decision **Discussion



Pet of the week
Send us your pet!
news@addisonindependent.com

Hale GROVES

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

SAVE 37% includes shipping

#483X | Hale Select Deluxe Gift Box

This gift box is the ideal gift for fruit and snack lovers alike. Perfect for sharing or gifting, this box brings a taste of sunshine and sweetness straight to your door.

REG. \$49.99

NOW \$34.99 +\$7.99 shipping

SAVE 30% BONUS DEAL! REG. \$99.99 **NOW \$29.99** +\$7.99 shipping

#485X Hale Select Gift Box

Call 855-510-1316 or visit HaleGroves.com/H6YP20
Mention Code H6YP20 for your savings on Items #483X or #485X.
*\$7.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 19, 2025 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 12, 2025.
SINCE 1947 - HALE GROVES, VERO BEACH, FL 32966 IC: H6YP20

NEED A NIGHT OUT?
Read the Calendar and Entertainment Pages every Thursday.

HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF ORWELL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.
By Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129886127> or phone 1-646-558-8656, use meeting ID: #881 2988 6127 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #8-44-25: David Martin for a 2-lot Subdivision located at 16 Horton Road, Orwell, VT.
2. Permit #9-53-25: Matthew Bushee & Carol Shaw for a 2-lot Subdivision Sketch Plan located on Fisher Road, Orwell, VT.
3. Permit #9-54-25: Horace Carpenter for a Waiver for lot frontage and side setbacks located at 283 North Orwell Road, Orwell, VT.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th & F 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Daniel Redondo, Chair
Orwell Development Review Board

PUBLIC NOTICE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tri Town Water District, VT0005001
Levels of HAA5 Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, customers have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results from the four quarters ending with the Third Quarter 2025 show that our system violated the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5).

The standard for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) is 60 UG/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) was 64 UG/L.

What should I do?
The drinking water standard (MCL) is based on lifetime exposure to TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) which may increase your risk of getting cancer. Continuing to drink the water is a personal decision that you must make for yourself by considering the health risk, cost, and convenience. You may choose to use bottled water or water from an alternate source.
You do not need to boil your water. You can continue to use the water for showering, bathing, washing your food and dishes, brushing your teeth, and other household uses.
If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

What does this mean?
This is not an emergency. Drinking water containing TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) at this concentration will not lead to any short-term effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pains.
Haloacetic acids are organic chemicals that form when chlorine disinfectant reacts with natural organic matter in the water.
Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some haloacetic acids have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.
What happened? What is being done?
See attached letter for further explanation

For more information, please contact Darwin Pratt at 802-758-2202 or Chairman, PO Box 85, Bridport VT 05734

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

November 5, 2025
Tri-Town Water District No. 1
PO Box 85
Bridport, VT 05734

Dear Customer,
We want to let you know that our recent water tests showed slightly higher than normal levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) in the drinking water. These acids form when chlorine—used to disinfect and keep your water safe—reacts with natural materials found in the water.
This is not an emergency, and your water is safe to use. If there were an immediate health concern, we would notify you right away. The levels we found are just above the limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a one-year average. You don't need to take any action. You can continue to use and drink your water as usual. If you have specific health concerns, you may wish to speak with your doctor.
We understand the continued frustration with these test results. We take water quality very seriously and are committed to keeping your drinking water safe and reliable. Like the rest of Vermont, our district and supply of water has been impacted by the severe drought and we are doing our best to combat this issue. We are not the only water provider drawing from Lake Champlain facing these test results. In October, the District invested in filter replacements and will continue to prioritize this matter. We expect the HAA5 levels to return to normal soon and will keep you updated.

If you have any questions, please call us at 802-758-2202.
Thank you for your understanding and for being our valued customer.

Sincerely,
Darwin Pratt, Chairman
Tri-Town Water Board of Commissioners

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing(s) at the Middlebury Municipal Offices, Large Conference Room, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT on Monday, December 22nd, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following permit appeal application(s). The hearing will be available to participants via a Zoom video link. The Zoom link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website.

1. Application (file #2025-024028.000-Appeal) is an appeal by James and Carma Fitzpatrick of the administrative decision by the Middlebury Planning and Zoning Department to approve the zoning permit numbered 2025-112. The zoning permit application was approved for the construction of a driveway in a 22-foot corridor to access the rear of the property at 163-165 Shannon Street and create 3 off-street parking spaces. The property is identified as parcel #024028.000 in the Residential-8 Zoning district.
The applications will be heard in the order listed. Plans and additional information may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100, Ext 226. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal as an "interested person(s)". Interested persons wishing to participate in this hearing may do so by contacting J.R. Christ at 388-8100, Ext 226 or email to jrchrist@townofmiddlebury.org.

J.R. Christ
DRB Coordinator, Zoning Administrator

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

December 4, 2025

AN ARTISTIC LEGACY

BRISTOL EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHTS WORK FROM MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

Bristol artist Brenda Myrick has teamed up with Bristol Suites on a new exhibition that features Myrick's artwork alongside that of her late mother, Barbara Lane, who was also a local artist.

PHOTO / FIONA SMALL

People often say, "Like mother, like daughter."

There are times when the popular adage rings true — like when viewing the work of Bristol artist Brenda Myrick alongside that of her late mother, Barbara Lane. Lane was a largely self-taught artist who specialized in watercolor, and her love of the craft was something she passed on to her three daughters.

BY **MARIN HOWELL**

"She would just put everything out on the kitchen table because she didn't have a space, and she used to use the sink; I remember that as an early memory," Myrick recalled. "I just grew up seeing her painting."

Myrick learned all about watercolor from her mother, lessons that became the foundation of her own work as an artist. Today, Lane's artistic legacy lives on in her daughters and the plethora of paintings she left them.

Community members now have a chance to



Local artist Barbara Lane painted a multitude of watercolors capturing the Vermont landscape throughout her life, including this piece called "Going South."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDA MYRICK

see several of those pieces in a new exhibition at Bristol Suites, which features art from Lane's estate along with some of Myrick's recent work. Lane's and Myrick's paintings fill the inn's lobby and adorn its suites.

All are invited to view their work and meet with Myrick during a free open house and artist reception at Bristol Suites at 19 Main St. on

Friday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.

"When I heard about this opportunity, I just thought to myself that it was a time really to bring my mother's artwork forward," Myrick said.

It was also a chance for the team at Bristol Suites to invite community members into the space, something that owner Justin Sandherr has been looking to do more of since purchasing the Dunshee Block property that houses the inn this past February.

"It's an opportunity to welcome the community...to connect with other artists," Sandherr said. "It's an opportunity to bring warmth during a cold part of the year when the sun goes down early, and we have the lights on, and we have cheese and wine available for people to connect and talk and just see what's going on in this space."

Myrick and the Bristol Suites team credit Bristol CORE and fellow artist Lily Hinrichsen of Vermont Marketplace — the inn's lobby

SEE ART ON PAGE 2

ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

store — with helping connect them. That connection led to a trip to Myrick's basement, where the group perused a treasure trove of paintings made by

Lane and Myrick over the years.

"To see the creative space and the passion and the intensity of the time that was spent on so many different types of artwork was not only fun, but for me it was moving," Sandherr said.

Sandherr and Bristol Suites innkeepers Niko Pruesse and Mark Adams pulled pieces from that collection for the exhibit.

"They curated this grouping that I didn't even know existed down there," Myrick said of the process. "I just felt honored, acknowledged for all the work that I've done and my mother has done, her life. It felt treasured and so honest."

Myrick said her mother took up painting in her 30s.

"She literally painted every day," she said. "Especially once she stopped working; she retired when she was 50, so she was lucky to be able to paint."

Lane continued to paint up until her death two years ago. She was 93. Mostly self-taught, she'd studied with artists Tom Lynch, Zoltan Szabo and Arthur Healy, Middlebury College's first "Artist in Residence."

She was also a member of the local artists' group known as the Middlebury Artists.

"She would have a show with them, maybe two or three, and a couple (paintings sold), but then she always said, 'Oh, I'm just keeping all these for my girls,'" Myrick said. "And here we are."

A favorite subject of Lane's was the Vermont landscape, capturing barns and farmland that in some cases are long gone.

"She documented barns in Cornwall, Charlotte, Bridport," Myrick said. "She went around taking photographs, and she was just really inspired by the Vermont scenery."

The Bristol Suites team acknowledged how Lane's paintings encapsulate the place that the inn's guests have come to visit.

"There's so much life in them," Midori Batten, new co-innkeeper at Bristol Suites, said of the paintings. "It's definitely the medium and the color, but it also feels to me very Vermont-y."

The artwork not only introduces guests to



A collaboration between Bristol Suites and local artist Brenda Myrick (right) has led to new exhibition at the inn, which features paintings by Myrick and her late mother, Barbara Lane. All are invited to see their artwork during an open house at Bristol Suites on Dec. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / MARIN HOWELL

Addison County, but also to two artists who have called the region home. The exhibition includes 54 paintings, placing Lane's watercolors alongside Myrick's oil and acrylic works.

The exhibition includes paintings reflecting Myrick's first turn toward more abstract pieces, as well as from her bird series.

"I try to do maybe five or six to 10 (paintings) of the same theme, but then I like to move on to something else that's inspiring me in my life," Myrick said of her work. "It's kind of a mirror of whatever is going on in my life."

Pieces from a series of horse paintings on hand-stretched canvas are also featured in the exhibition. Prior to the series, Myrick had done a lot of commissioned animal portraits.

"That gave me the background to loosen up with the horse paintings," she said. "I was thinking of geometrics and the spirit of the horse."

Hanging in the inn's lobby and suites are some of Myrick's latest creations — a series of peonies painted on raw canvas. Two of those paintings are displayed next to a watercolor peony piece by Lane, placing mother's and daughter's distinct works in conversation.

The Bristol Suites team said the curation process was collaborative and done with an eye for what would work well in the inn.

"One of my favorite spaces... is up in Haymarket (Square Suite) where we've got these gold-



accented paintings in the kitchen and on the wall, and we've got the gold sconces in the kitchen and the natural light coming in from the window," Sandherr said. "It just gives this effervescent feel to the kitchen and living space."

All paintings included in the exhibition are available for purchase and will remain on display in the coming months. Community members can also sign up for a chance to win a free print of "Soft Prizes," a painting from Myrick's peony series.

Those interested in signing up for the drawing can do so during the Dec. 12 open house, and the winner will be announced before the holidays. Next week's event will also feature refreshments, snacks and an opportunity to gather with neighbors.

Sandherr said Bristol Suites hopes to host similar collaborations in the future, highlighting other community members and what they bring to the region.

"This is a great first opportunity to see how else can we build on this," he said. "My hope is that we have these conversations frequently about how we can continue to expand this conversation."

UPCOMING MUSIC

MORE TUNES

FREE CHRISTMAS CONCERT MARKS 43RD YEAR IN BRANDON

The 43rd Annual Christmas Concert by the Brandon Festival Singers will take place on Sunday Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. at the Brandon Congregational Church.

This year, the concert features a full program of original Christmas choral music written for the choir over the years by conductor, Gene Childers. Many of the selections to be performed appeared on a 2005 CD recorded to celebrate 25 years and as a fundraiser for charity.

This popular annual community event is free and open to all. A free-will offering will be received with a portion going to charity.

Wind ensemble features 45 local musicians

Come hear the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble's winter concert, conducted by Catherine Ott, on Monday, Dec. 8, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall. The concert is free and open to all.

The program will feature audience favorites like "Amazing Grace" and George Gershwin's "American in Paris," alongside music reflecting the diverse perspectives and cultures of the Japanese, Arabic, Latin and American

musicians who composed them.

The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble is comprised of 45 amateur musicians from Addison County and surrounding areas. Come celebrate local music in your community with this rousing program. Approximate run time 60 minutes, no intermission.

WHEN: Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury



The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble will perform their winter concert on Dec. 8 at Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury.

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

Ilsley Library's Classic Film Club Fall/Winter 2025 Session At the Marquis Theater!

Join fellow community film lovers to watch this session's films at the Marquis Theater, followed by a short discussion of the film. What a great opportunity to treat yourself to a delicious southwestern lunch before or even during the film. As always, the popcorn is on us!

This session, our theme is Strong Female Characters.
This is the final film of the series!



December **11**
1:00 pm
Thomas Crown
Affair **1968**

FREE ADMISSION courtesy of Ilsley Public Library.
Marquis is open for lunch beginning at 11:30am.



Brandon business sells art in a full-sized snack vending machine

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

"PEOPLE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE THEIR WORK IN A FUN AND ACCESSIBLE VENUE."

— Caitlin Gildrien

have their work in a fun and accessible venue."

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



The Hinesburg Artist Series will host their free annual holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Hinesburg Artist Series hosts annual holiday concert on Dec. 14

The Hinesburg Artist Series will present its annual holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 14. There will be two performances, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., at St. Jude Catholic Church in Hinesburg. The concert will feature the South County Chorus and the Hinesburg Artist Series Orchestra under the direction of Rufus C. Patrick.

"This concert is a great way to get in the holiday spirit," said Patrick, HAS Founder and Music Director. "We will have holiday favorites and other inspiring selections. We love performing these pieces, and we know it is a highlight of the season for many in our community."

The featured choral works this year include "Gloria," a festive suite for choir and orchestra; "Christmas on Broadway," a medley of Christmas favorites; "Hine Ma Tov," a delightful Hebrew folk song; "Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain," a traditional spiritual; "Ose Shalom," a moving piece with traditional Hebrew text; "Festival Gloria," an exciting anthem; and "GRINCH," a Christmas choral medley.

The HAS orchestra will perform "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "A Hanukkah Festival," a medley of traditional Hanukkah songs skillfully arranged by Chris Bernotas. Featured guest soloists will be cellist Simon Webber and flutist Brooke Carleton.

This concert is a much-anticipated event that will also include a sing-along.

The concert is free. Donations to HAS are always welcome and the audience is also encouraged to bring something for the food shelf. Visit hinesburgartistseries.org for more information.



SUNDAY SUPPER

A comforting three-course prix fixe dinner at a special price! Regular menu also available.

Follow @swifthouseinn on Instagram to get the latest menu.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 Stewart Ln. Middlebury, VT
802-388-9925
swifthouseinn.com

ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit 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, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Impressions" brings together three local printmakers — Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs and William Hays — whose work demonstrates how this process of image-making can yield distinct languages. On view through Dec. 31.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury
Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Shadow, Light, and In Between." Thomas Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works in this new exhibit. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. On view Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury
For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

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.

"Where Absurdity Meets the Mundane: Memories Uncovered." The Fall 2025 ART700 class presents their capstone thesis exhibition of art works, including painting, photography, illustration, design, sculpture, installation and more! On view Dec. 5-12.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Eighteenth-Century Room from Paris to Vermont." The exhibition follows the journey of "Le Petit Salon" from Paris to Middlebury via Manhattan, where for 50 years it formed part of the decor of the Bliss family's Gilded Age mansion. At Middlebury, the Petit Salon became part of Le Château, the college's French language dorm, itself a fanciful recreation of a 16th-century Norman manoir. The exhibition incorporates Pâris's 1776 exquisite watercolor elevations of Aumont's mansion, as well as studies from his long

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, this week is all about momentum. Your boldness helps you break through obstacles like a professional. A surprise opportunity might crop up. Embrace this chance.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. The week starts off slow and steady, but then a sprinkle of excitement is added to your routine. A sweet surprise from a loved one could make your week even better.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Your social butterfly wings are flapping, Gemini. Engage in fun conversations with all of the people who come your way. Who knows, even a spontaneous adventure might present itself.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, your nurturing side shines through this week. You might find yourself acting as the go-to person for support or advice. Just be sure to tend to your own needs as well.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you are ready for action even if everyone else isn't. They will look to you as a leader, but you probably won't mind having a few chances to lead over the next several days.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Clarity and calm are the words of the week for you, Virgo. Those little details that you've been puzzling over for a bit finally click into place, leaving you feeling amazing.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, this week is all about harmony and how you can organize things to achieve it. You may be in the mood to connect and collaborate, helping to bring people together.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. People may be drawn to your playful and magnetic side this week, Scorpio. Make time for socialization, but don't hesitate to book some alone time if you think you need it.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, your adventurous side is unstoppable right now. You are still being fueled by discovery and others want to join in the fun. Remember to slow down and recharge.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Hard work pays off in little victories this week, Capricorn. While you love being productive, remember to celebrate every success, even if it is a small one.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. A change of scenery could be good for you, Aquarius. If work had you feeling tired and worn out, book a short trip somewhere to enjoy some much-needed rest and relaxation.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Don't brush aside the creative sparks that seem to be popping into your brain one after another, Pisces. Trust your intuition, as it's guiding you toward fun things ahead.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 5 — Werner Heisenberg, theoretical physicist (d)
DEC. 6 — Judd Apatow, film director (58)

DEC. 7 — Willa Cather, writer (d)
DEC. 8 — Sinead O'Connor, singer (d)
DEC. 9 — Judi Dench, actor (91)
DEC. 10 — Emily Dickinson, poet (d)
DEC. 11 — Big Mama Thornton, Blues singer (d)

CALENDAR

DEC. 4-13
2025



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.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Friday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.,

2257 Fuller Mountain Road. Discover kiln glass, including jewelry, wall panels, drawer knobs, mirrors, dishes, name plates, platters and more, at Maxine Davis's home studio. All products made on site. For more information, contact mzdavis@gmavt.net or visit maxinedavisglassart.com.

"FROZEN: COLD, QUIET, PURE" OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 5, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a winter-themed fine art photography exhibition exploring clean lines, soft textures and silent spaces. Selected by juror Paula Tognarelli. Exhibition runs Dec. 5-27.

SALISBURY MILLS FAMILY FULL MOON HIKE IN SALISBURY. Friday, Dec. 5, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Salisbury Mills Preserve, 1660 West Shore Rd. Family-friendly evening hike with Vermont Land Trust and Middlebury Area Land Trust on a 0.75 mile trail. Learn about nocturnal animals, play a game and enjoy storytime at the trailhead plus hot cocoa and a snack. Bring water, snacks and a headlamp or flashlight; dress for the weather. Register at vlt.org/events/salisbury-mills-family-full-moon-hike.

BROADWAY DIRECT 20TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW IN VERGENNES. Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Broadway

veteran Bill Carmichael Walsh and guests from Broadway join local talent for a special anniversary concert. Tickets \$20 adults, \$10 students. Part of the Vergennes Opera House "Off Stage" series. Tickets at vergennesoperahouse.org.

A CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Route 7 (4 miles north of Middlebury). Christmas songs, readings and refreshments to prepare for the holiday season. All are welcome. Snow date Saturday, Dec. 6. More info at 802-877-2486.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Acting Company presents Dickens's witty, socially conscious and heartwarming tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey from miser to benefactor, guided by ghosts and unforgettable characters. Tickets at addisonarts.org/event/a-christmas-carol. Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email melissa@middleburyactors.org.

TINA FRIML & FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 5 (rescheduled from Nov. 14), 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. World-famous comedian and Middlebury native Tina Friml returns home to headline a

night of stand-up comedy. Tickets \$10-\$20.

"THE JOURNEY OF THE SAINT BY CÉSAR DE MARÍA" PLAY AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m., Wright Theatre, 96 Chateau Rd. See Dec. 4 listing.

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.

FREE HOLIDAY CRAFT DAY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Middlebury Studio School studio, 94 Court St. Families are invited to drop in and make seasonal crafts with guided activities for all ages, including painting and ornament making, plus cookies and cocoa. Free. All ages welcome.

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, 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.

GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2257 Fuller Mountain Road. See Dec. 5 listing.

"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

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753	Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Through the Night: VT Media Exchange, Bulletin Board Friday, December 5 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. Democracy Now 6 p.m. Yestermorrow 8 p.m. Storytelling and Creating Change Through Documentary Films Saturday, December 6 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Documentary Films Sunday, December 7 4:30 a.m. Yestermorrow 9 a.m. Catholic Mass	9:30 a.m. Addiction Recovery Channel 2 p.m. Yestermorrow 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. Energy Week 11 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, December 8 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 9 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Democracy Now 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard LIVE Wednesday, December 10	5 a.m. Documentary Films 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. Job Talk Thursday, December 11 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. Democracy Now 6 p.m. US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Job Talk Channel 1091 Friday, December 5 5:00 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Yoga for Kids 11 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Kim's Art Show	5 p.m. Romeo & Juliet 6 p.m. Foltz Studio Saturday, December 6 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 11 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Foltz Studio 5:30 p.m. Kim's Art Show 6 p.m. Romeo & Juliet Sunday, December 7 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 11 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Kim's Art Show 5 p.m. Romeo & Juliet 6 p.m. Foltz Studio Monday, December 8 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 3:30 p.m. Kim's Art Show	4 p.m. Foltz Studio 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board (LIVE) Tuesday, December 9 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 10:00 a.m. Foltz Studio 11 a.m. Kim's Art Show 11:30 a.m. Songwriter's Notebook 12 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 3 p.m. State Board of Education Wednesday, December 10 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4 p.m. Kim's Art Show 4:30 p.m. Foltz Studio Thursday, December 11 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. State Board of Education 10:30 a.m. Author Talk 12 p.m. ACS Board Meeting

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

GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2257 Fuller Mountain Road. See Dec. 5 listing.

"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.

"TRAIL OF DREAMS: INTO THE YUKON, CHASING THE GHOSTS OF KLONDIKE GOLD" IN MONKTON. Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall Community Room, 92 Monkton Ridge. Ivor Hughes will discuss his trek across Alaska and the Yukon, retracing the steps of a young prospector who over a century earlier set out seeking gold. More info at brhughes@accessvt.com, 802-453-4412.

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.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE WINTER CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Robison Concert Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College, 72 Porter Field Rd. Conductor Catherine Ott leads 45 local musicians in a winter program featuring "Amazing Grace," George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" and works by Japanese, Arabic, Latin and American composers. Free.

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

LUNCHTIME CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6 Park St. The St. Paul's Vergennes lunchtime concert series continues with Darren Donovan playing acoustic guitar with a holiday twist. All concerts are free and all are welcome.

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.

LEWIS FRANCO & THE MISSING CATS CONCERT IN WEYBRIDGE. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., 3345 Quaker Village Rd., Weybridge. Vocalist, songwriter and guitarist Lewis Franco joins acoustic jazz combo the Missing Cats for originals, jive swing, tight three-part harmonies and lively improvisation. A \$25 contribution is recommended.

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. Pay what you can; for assistance with pricing email 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.

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Friday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2257 Fuller Mountain Road. See Dec. 5 listing.

OPEN HOUSE AND ARTIST RECEPTION IN BRISTOL. Friday, Dec. 12, 4:07 p.m., Bristol Suites, 19 Main St. Acrylics and oils by Brenda Myrick and watercolors from the estate of her mother, Barbara Lane, on view throughout the inn; all work for sale year-round. Complimentary wine and small bites, plus a drawing for a free print. Free and open to all.

"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 available at baldmountaintheater.org.

"THE ROOMMATE" IN BRISTOL. Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See Dec. 11 listing.

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE/SNOWSHOE TO WORTH MOUNTAIN IN HANCOCK. Saturday, Dec. 13. Snowshoe to Worth Mountain near the Snowbowl. Expect to cover 4-5 miles with around 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Dogs welcome on leash only. More info at morrisearle@gmail.com, 802-734-0984, gmcbreadloaf.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 Beczata as the virtuous poet ensnared by the French Revolution. Tickets \$10-\$24 at addisonarts.org.

BOB GAGNON TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, 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.

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.

SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

DEBORAH HOLMES WATERCOLORS



Holiday Open House!
at the studio
and home of

DEBORAH HOLMES
December 6 & 7, 2025
Saturday & Sunday 10-4
24 Garfield St., Bristol, VT

Framed watercolors, matted and framed giclee prints, calendars and ornaments; featuring watercolors of Vermont Farms in all seasons!

REFRESHMENTS!

AND OPEN Saturday,
December 13 & 20 from 10-4

802.453.8511
deborahholmesart@gmail.com

DEBORAHHOLMESART.COM

Grab a bite, catch a show, beat the darkness!

This Week's Matinees:

Showtimes:
Thursday - Both films at 1 pm
Friday - 2:45 & 3:15 pm

WICKED FOR GOOD

ZOOTOPIA 2

MARQUIS

Please visit our website for current showtimes. Showtimes subject to change.

Food & Drinks Available

65 Main St. Middlebury | 802-388-4841
middleburymarquis.com

Southwestern Cafe Open Wed evening 4:30-7:30 & Thurs - Sat 11:30-7:30



Gifts for Everyone, Holiday Bulbs, Centerpieces, and Seasonal Decor

228 Maple Street, Midd., VT
Down the Alley to Marble Works
802-989-0083



New England's Largest Selection of Chocolates

Bars, Bulk & Gifts

Open 5-8 during the Midd Night Strolls!



52 Main St,
Middlebury VT
adagiochocolates.com



FLORA

CANNABIS

2 PARK STREET, MIDDLEBURY

\$5 Pre-rolls & THC Beverages

MIDD NIGHT STROLL SPECIAL

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age and older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside of the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222.

Midd Night Strolls

ADAGIO CHOCOLATES

52 Main St
adagiochocolates.com

AMERICAN FLATBREAD

137 Maple St
americanflatbread.com

AUTUMN GOLD

61 Main St
Facebook @autumngold

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

HOMESERVICES
VERMONT
REALTY GROUP
32 Merchants Row
vtregroup.com

BUY AGAIN ALLEY

10 Washington Street
Facebook @buyagainalley

COBWEB ANTIQUES

60 Main Street
cobwebantiques.com

CROOKED LADLE

CATERING
51 Main St
crooked-ladle-catering.square.
site

DANFORTH PEWTER

46 Main St
danforthpewter.com

EDGEWATER GALLERY

1 Mill St
6 Merchants Row
edgewatergallery.co

FIRE AND ICE

26 Seymour St
fireandicerestaurant.com

FLORA CANNABIS

2 Park St
floravt.com

FROG HOLLOW BIKES

74 Main St
froghollowbikes.com

GREEN MOUNTAIN

ADVENTURES
(MIDDLEBURY
MOUNTAINEER)
56 Main St
middleburymountaineer.com

HAYMAKER BUNS | ARCADIA

7 Bakery Ln
haymakerbuns.com

HONEY WAX

48 Main St.
honeywaxbarmiddlebury.com

IPJ REAL ESTATE

34 Main St
middvermontrealestate.com

JUICE AMOUR

16 Merchants Row
juiceamour.com

LITTLE SEED COFFEE

ROASTERS
24 Merchants Row
littleseed.coffee

MAC THE BARBER

Merchants Row

MIDDLEBURY MARQUIS

65 Main St
middleburymarquis.com

MIDDLEBURY STUDIO

SCHOOL ARTISAN
MARKET @ NATIONAL
BANK OF MIDDLEBURY
32 Main St
middleburystudioschool.org

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

Open 5-8pm for Midd Night Strolls
12/4 and 12/11

HOLIDAY COOKIE DECORATION STATION
AND COOKIE BOXES FOR SALE!

Otter Creek
BAKERY & DELI

14 COLLEGE ST. | MIDDLEBURY, VT | 802-388-3371

OtterCreekBakery.com

storewide
DISCOUNTS
up to **50% OFF**
on December 4th & 11th

74 Main Street, Middlebury
802.388.6666
froghollowbikes.com

THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP

SKIDA

5-8pm
MIDD NIGHT STROLL SPECIALS
Dec 4th & 11th
JOIN US FOR FUN...!
STOREWIDE DISCOUNTS
SAVE MORE WITH
MIDDLEBURY MONEY!

Formerly
FORHILL'S GOAL

MiddleburyShop.com
68 Main St., Middlebury, Vt • 802-388-3444

Stroll

DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY VISIT THESE SHOPS ON DEC. 4TH & 11TH

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
73 Main St
Facebook@MyKimNail

ONE DAY IN JULY
48 Main St
onedayinjuly.com

OTTER CREEK BAKERY
14 College St
ottercreekbakery.com

**OTTER CREEK CUSTOM
FRAMING**
3 Park Street

OTTER CREEK USED BOOKS
99 Maple St #12
ottercreekusedbooks.com

PARLOUR
57 Main St
parlourvt.com

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY
3 Park St
photoplacegallery.com

RETRO REALM
10 Washington Street
retrorealmarcade.com

SABAI SABAI THAI CUISINE
22 Merchants Row
sabaisabaithai.com

SHELDON MUSEUM
1 Park St
henrysheldonmuseum.org

SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE
54 College St
shiretownmarketplace.com

SPARROW ART SUPPLY
52 Main St
sparrowartsupply.com

STONE LEAF TEA
111 Maple St
stoneleaftea.com

SWEET CECILY
42 Main St
sweetcecily.com

TASTE OF INDIA
1 Bakery Ln
tasteofindiavt.com

**THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP
(FORTH N GOAL)**
68 Main St
middleburysshop.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**
64 Main St
vermontsowngiftsandgoods.com

Thank you for supporting these and other Middlebury businesses during the holiday season and all year long!

about the strolls and other Very Merry Middlebury happenings at
SCIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM

Holiday Shoppers,
we have just what she wants.




Autumn Gold
Fine Jewelry & Gifts

Complimentary champagne & cookies while you shop on Dec. 4th & 11th

december 11
experience
mid night stroll

or shop our website
between noon and midnight and use
promo code STROLL25 for 10% off*
*some restrictions apply



vermontbookshop.com

Vermont's Own

Draw Your Own Discount!

One drawing per purchase
from 5-8 pm on 12/4

From 5-50% off!

64 MAIN ST, DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY
802-388-7711 • VTSOWN.COM



stroll with
HE(ART)

Creative finds for every artist.
Free goodie bag with
\$50+ purchase!

SPARROW ART SUPPLY



Sabai Sabai
Thai Cuisine


Fresh and Sumptuous
Thai Cuisine

dinner • take-out • gift certificates
appetizers • soups • thai salads • stir-fries
curries • noodles • daily specials
no msg added • vegetarian options • gluten free

Mid Night Stroll Special
5% OFF
All Menu Items
(Beverages not included, eat-in only, not valid with any other offer)

22 Merchants Row • Middlebury • 802-989-7376

Unique Gifts Await at The Stone Mill Market!
Fun finds for everyone on your list.



3 MILL ST. | MIDDLEBURY, VT
STONEMILLVT.COM

PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

ACROSS

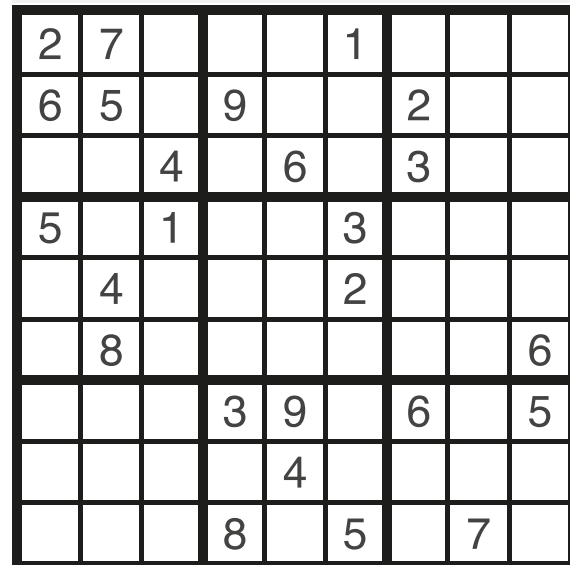
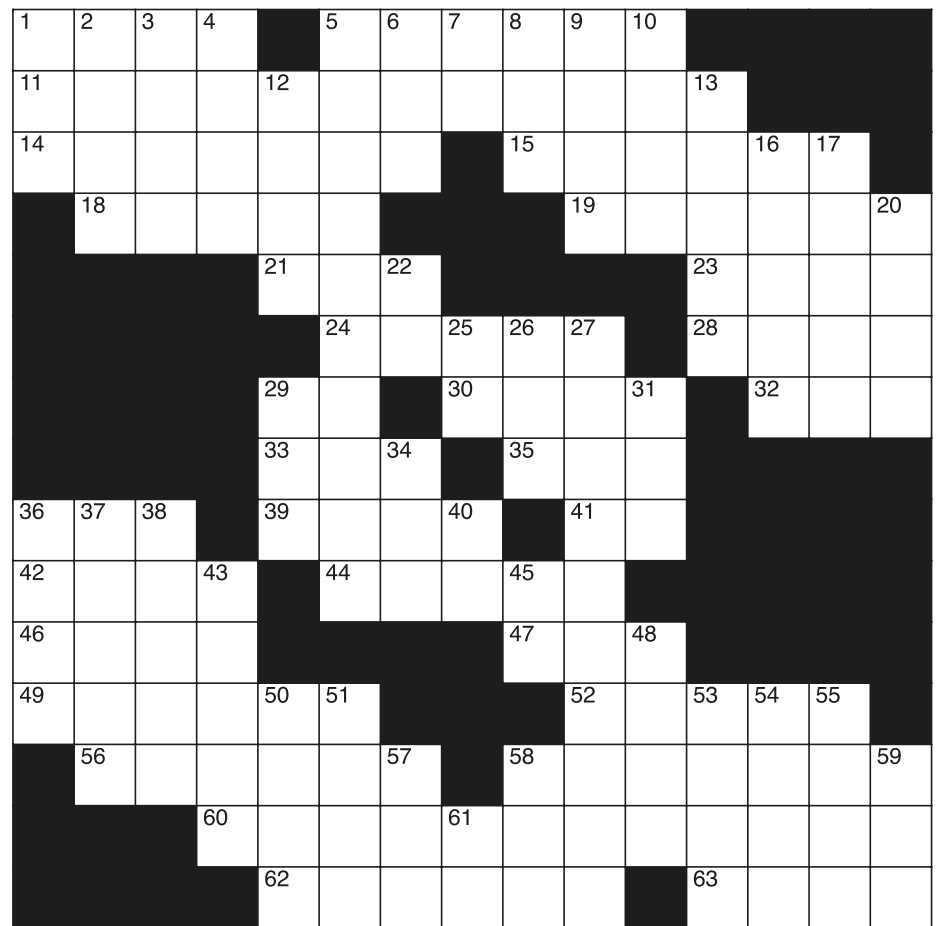
- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner

- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's heartbeat
- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian
- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits

- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore

DOWN

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour
- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird



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

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15 .

- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)
- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty
- 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station
- 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing
- 61. ___ and behold

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

Middlebury, VT
Open 7 Days a week
sparrowartsupply.com

stuff with HE(ART)!

Skip the socks and toothbrush!
Find the best stocking stuffers at Sparrow

Mini art sets, fairy diaries, bead jars, tiny embroidery kits, and more!

Scan for gift ideas!

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

GIFTING PLANTS THIS HOLIDAY

During the hectic holidays, an eye-catching display of plants may seem like the perfect gift solution, particularly at the last minute. But is it?

Is the intended recipient a plant lover? Will they welcome the gift, or will it be something they'll feel obligated to water (when they remember) and feel guilty when it dies? Maybe the best choice is a "disposable" plant — one that's part

of the holiday décor then gone. Millions of poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are sold during the holidays. Most don't survive through January, but they're enjoyed while they last.

Many people would likely welcome a plant as a gift, but before adding one to your cart, ask yourself some questions.

Would they know how to care for it? Someone with a busy schedule may not have time to deal with a plant requiring frequent attention but might appreciate one that's easy to care for. Whatever their level of experience with plants, including a card with information about the plant and its care will not only be helpful but also appreciated.

Consider whether there'll be adequate light and space to accommodate your gift. How big and how fast will it grow? While an African violet (*Saintpaulia*) won't require much space and can do fine in the bright, indirect light of a northern window, a jade plant (*Crassula ovata*) can eventually grow to over three feet high and requires at least four hours of direct sunlight daily. Bigger and more expensive is not always better — a smaller

SEE PLANTS ON PAGE 14



BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

AGWAY Think of Agway when you think of your pets!

Proud to help you provide quality care for all of your pets, we know your animal companions are a central part of your life!

PET FOOD

ASK ABOUT OUR **Pet Food Club**
Earn rewards for your purchases!

Quality Brands Including:

Everything you need for pet support!

<p>TOYS & TREATS</p>	<p>Accessories & Grooming Supplies</p> <p>Leashes • Harnesses Collars • Clothing Food Dishes Storage Bins Beds & Baskets</p>	<p>SELF SERVE</p> <p>DOG WASH</p>
---------------------------------	---	---

Brushes, shampoos, skin treatment, ointments to keep your pets' coats healthy and problem free!

Kennels, Dog Houses & Carrying Cases
Come in and check the variety we have in stock!

<p>Large & Small Animal Products</p> <p>Feed • Supplements • Training & Grooming Supplies Cages, Foods, Treats & Bedding Bird food, toys and cages Basics for fish, too!</p>	<p>Wild Bird Supplies</p> <p>Feeders, Seed & Suet, Houses & Accessories.</p>
---	---

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY Open 7 days

338 Exchange Street, Middlebury

Join our email list for preferred customer savings! **388-4937 • www.MiddleburyAgway.com**

Mon - Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sundays 9-4

YOUR YARD, GARDEN AND PET PLACE™ • www.middleburyagway.com

Pets In Need HOMEWARD BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Ayana



Ayana is a sweet 1-year-old mixed breed looking for a new start. She's playful with other dogs and loves to solve puzzle toys. We don't have much history of Ayana so we're unsure of how she would do in a home setting with other dogs, cats or children. She's a bit shy getting to know new people, but with reassurance, she warms up fast and shows off her goofy personality. She walks well on leash and is food motivated.

Beau



Beau is a smart Australian shepherd/cattle dog mix at almost 2 years old. Looking for a herding dog? Beau began his training at a goat farm and enjoyed it very much. He's highly energetic and would love a job or a dog sport of some sort. He's agile and loves to use his nose to push objects around. Beau has lived with many different animals. He can be dog selective but absolutely loved his cat sibling. He's done well around young children. He walks great on a leash, knows a few basic commands, and has spent most of his time outdoors.

Charley



Charley was well-loved by her previous family, and due to life circumstances, ended up needing to come to Homeward Bound. She loves to watch birds from the window and prefers to be the one to initiate affection. She would do best in a lower-energy home, although when her previous home used to get too crowded or loud, she was good at removing herself from the commotion. She was mainly an indoor cat, but did get to have summertime excursions in the backyard. She is an excellent mouser!

Chow Mein



Chow Mein was adopted from us as a kitten with his brother General Tso. Unfortunately, their owner passed and there was no one who could take them in. Chow and Tso are bonded and we require that they be adopted together. Not only are they both handsome, but they are wonderful companions. They are shy and a bit confused in the shelter, so we will continue to help them settle in until their new family comes through our doors.

General Tso



Tso was adopted from us as a kitten with his brother Chow Mein. Unfortunately, their owner passed and there was no one who could take them in. Tso and Chow are bonded and we require that they be adopted together. Not only are they both handsome, but they are wonderful companions. They are shy and a bit confused in the shelter, so we will continue to help them settle in until their new family comes through our doors.



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
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



2493 LAKE STREET, ADDISON
\$1,499,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Get cozy in this custom-designed home

Wake up to breathtaking panoramic views of Lake Champlain, the Adirondack Mountains, and the Green Mountains on this 142-acre home in Addison. Soaring cathedral ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows flood the open-concept Great Room with natural light. The kitchen has granite countertops, a center island, stainless steel appliances, and gas range. The first-floor primary suite features a spa-like bath with soaking tub, tiled shower, and convenient laundry. Upstairs, two additional bedrooms, a full bath, and cozy loft provide plenty of space for guests or family. The finished walk-out basement includes a game room, theater area, and bonus room for work or play. Outdoors, explore miles of private trails, open meadows, and peaceful woods. The three-bay heated garage/barn adds versatility for storage, workshop or pickleball court.



This property is listed and marketed by Michael Johnston, and managed by Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. For more info, please call Michael directly at 802-846-9518 or visit hickokandboardman.com.



**WRAP UP
THE YEAR!**

**REAL
ESTATE**



**THE BEST GIFT THIS SEASON?
A PLACE TO CALL HOME.**

Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.

advertising@addisonindependent.com

**IPJ
Real
Estate**



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
ROUTE 7 SOUTH**

**MLS #5070675 | \$220,000
9.80 ACRES**

Great piece of land in a great location! A feeling of seclusion when you wander up the old road/driveway. Easy access to Rutland or Burlington while close to everything Middlebury has to offer.



**MIDDLEBURY
376 SOUTH RIDGE DRIVE**

**MLS #5068284 | \$199,000
SOUTH RIDGE | 0.60 ACRES**

Build-ready lot in the South Ridge neighborhood served by town water and sewer. Well-spaced homes in this careful development with mature landscaping, a 7.5 acre public park, and great access to amenities.



**MIDDLEBURY
MIDDLE ROAD NORTH**

**MLS #5068334 | \$149,000
0.49 ACRES**

Electric, natural gas, public water, and sewer, at the street for this rare in-town building lot just across the road from Middlebury Union Middle School. You'll be close to everything!



**BRIDPORT
FORREST ROAD**

**MLS #4995061 | \$145,000
2.97 ACRES**

Tuck your new home into this beautiful meadow with a backdrop of trees and a stone wall. Build your home toward the mountain views to the west! A State wastewater permit is in place for a 3-bdrm home.



**MIDDLEBURY
LOT 1C, DAISY LANE**

**MLS #5046645 | \$139,000
0.46 ACRES**

A flat building lot waiting for the right-sized house, situated in a small East Middlebury neighborhood near Brown Ball Field. Municipal water, power at the street, septic design and permitted. Are you ready to build?

ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242



**EQUAL
HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**



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.



creating real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®



802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com

the REAL ESTATE COMPANY
of VERMONT



144 Fields Road, Middlebury

This 4-bed, 3 bath home offers the option of comfortable single level living, with a nicely finished lower level for additional space. Located on the outer ring of Fields Road, this home is nicely situated to enjoy western exposure, privacy and wetland views in the back in a convenient in-town neighborhood.

MLS No. 5070346 | \$625,000



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 and 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.

MLS No. 5055620 | \$ 495,000

for more information, contact:



Tammy Petersen
Agent/Realtor*



Jill Fraga
Broker/Owner/Realtor*



www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com

3 MAIN STREET | BRISTOL, VERMONT 05443 | 802.453.6161

PLANTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

large plant that demands a place of its own.

Does the recipient have other plants? Perhaps they've avoided owning plants due to concerns about nibbling pets or curious children. It's wise to know if a plant is toxic. Even plants not considered poisonous can cause stomach upset, so a hanging plant that will be out of reach or an enclosed terrarium may be a good choice.

When in doubt, consider asking the recipient what plant they'd like. While your gift won't be a surprise, there's no doubt it'll be welcomed.

One last consideration: How will you care for the plant between its purchase and when you gift it? To deliver it in as good condition as when it left the store, be sure it's adequately protected from cold during transport from the store to your home and

plant that fits the available space is often a better choice than a

then from your home to its recipient. Icy drafts can damage foliage or shock a plant into dropping leaves or buds. Be sure to package it with care. An open gift bag may not offer enough protection against cold temperatures, particularly if the plant you're giving has its roots in a tropical climate. Be sure it's completely covered, and don't leave even a covered plant in your vehicle for an extended period. You'll want your gift not only to arrive in pristine condition, but to stay that way without the aftereffects of a brush with freezing temperatures.

While at your home, if there's foil covering the pot, remove it at least temporarily to allow excess water to drain. Water as needed and provide adequate light until it's time for the plant to move to its new home.

Giving the right plant to the right person can be a great gift option for the holidays and will be a reminder of the gift giver that the recipient can enjoy for years to come.

Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.



Houseplants may make thoughtful holiday gifts when matched to the recipient's space and lifestyle.

PHOTO / DEBRA HELEBA.



National Bank
of Middlebury

Buying a home in Vermont?
**Work with a lender
that lives here too.**

Local decisions. Personal service. Since 1831.



802-388-4982 | nbmvt.com | NMLS #: 403372



Every ad published in Arts + Leisure helps support local artists. Call us today and ask about advertising in The Addy Indy!

PUT YOUR AD TO
WORK
802-388-4944



Celebrate the Season with TOWN HALL THEATER



Middlebury Studio School Presents
Holiday Craft Fair
Thu Dec 4 5-8pm
16 Artisan Crafters
Beer, Wine, Cocktails
Hot Chocolate Bar



Theater Group, Ltd. Presents
Night Fires
Dec 19 & 20 4 & 7:30pm
Dec 21 4pm
Tickets: \$15 - \$45



Middlebury Acting Company Presents
A Christmas Carol
Dec 5 - 7 & 11 - 13
2 & 7pm
Tickets: Sliding Scale



Town Hall Theater Presents
Solstice in the Shire
Sun Dec 21 2pm
Free with Registration



Town Hall Theater Presents
Ted Perry Trio Holiday Show
Sun Dec 7 5:30pm
Happy Hour 4:30-5:30
Tickets: \$15 - \$40



Town Hall Theater Presents
New Years Eve w/ Soule Monde
Wed Dec 31 7 - 10pm
Tickets: \$15 - \$35
price includes champagne toast

townhalltheater.org | 72-76 Merchant's Row Middlebury, VT | 802.382.9222

Season Sponsor:

