



## Fire & Light

Bristol will stage its annual Lumen Celebration on the green this Saturday. See Arts + Leisure



## Wings clipped

The Eagle girls showed flashes, but Fair Haven came away with a big win. See Sports on Page 1B.



## Winter Sports

Schedules, rosters, insights and more for all the county high school teams are in a pullout inside.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 79 No. 51

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, December 18, 2025 ♦ 88 Pages

\$2.00

## Middlebury tightens its budget ask

Latest plan would add 12 cents to tax rate

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury voters at their annual March gathering will likely field a proposed fiscal year 2027 municipal spending plan of \$16,057,539. That would represent a 10.37% increase compared to this year and require an 11.96-cent bump (12.86%) in the current municipal tax rate of 92.99 cents per \$100 in property value.

The term “likely” is used here because the selectboard — with input from the public — still has around a month to make additional changes prior to putting the March 2 town meeting warning to bed.

(See Middlebury, Page 9A)

## Cornwall school in need of big upgrades

By JOHN FLOWERS

CORNWALL — With 83 kindergarten to fifth-grade students, Cornwall’s Bingham Memorial School has one of the larger enrollments among the Addison Central School District’s remaining rural elementary learning hubs.

But while Cornwall currently enjoys a healthy population of pupils, the 70-year-old building that serves them is long past its prime and requires around \$15.4 million in repairs just to properly serve current enrollees. That’s according to a recent study of the facility’s capital improvement needs.

The 13,500-square-foot Brigham (See Cornwall, Page 14A)



Please be advised that the good folks at Bristol American Legion Post 19 will be collecting donations for the Vermont Veterans’ Place in Northfield through Dec. 26. The Veterans’ Place wish list includes bath towels, washcloths, twin blankets, twin sheets (regular or XL) and Walmart or Dollar General gift cards. Due to COVID and safety for the veterans’ health, this fundraiser is only accepting new items. Please drop off donations at the (See By the way, Page 17A)



## Groovin’ and grinnin’

COLIN GUNN PICKS a tune on guitar while Aaron Marcus accompanies on concertina during a recent rehearsal of “Night Fires,” a show that honors darkness and light. The locally written and produced pageant uses storytelling and songs to give a message of hope as days grow longer. Four performances will be staged at Town Hall Theater this weekend. See more photos on Page 18A.

Photo courtesy of Night Fires production team

## Prosecutor pleads no contest to DUI

Vekos rejects calls for her to resign

By ALAN J. KEAYS  
VTdigger.org

BURLINGTON — Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos pleaded no contest Tuesday to a charge of drunken driving and received a six-month deferred sentence, allowing the conviction to be cleared from her record provided she does not commit any violations during that period.

The misdemeanor charge against Vekos, 56, of Middlebury, stemmed from an incident nearly two years ago where she was accused by troopers of showing up to a suspicious death scene in Bridport impaired.

Vermont Superior Court Judge John Pacht agreed during Tuesday’s hearing in Chittenden County Superior criminal court to allow Vekos to plead no contest and allowed the deferment of her sentence over the objection of Vermont Assistant Attorney General Rosemary Kennedy, who prosecuted the case.

Vekos declined an opportunity Tuesday offered by the judge to address the resolution of the case. She did appear to wipe away tears as she entered the no contest

plea. “I know this has been a long two years for you,” Pacht said to Vekos as the hearing came to a close, adding, “I wish you the best moving forward.”

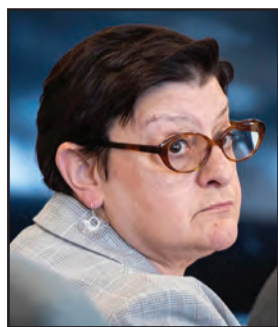
During the six months of the deferred sentence, Vekos will be on probation. The terms of that probation include a condition that Vekos “not drink alcoholic beverages to the extent they interfere with the welfare of herself or any other person or her employment.”

Vekos’s attorney, David Sleight clarified for the *Independent* that her driving privileges remain intact.

The judge said no one had observed Vekos driving, much less any erratic operation on the night leading to the charges against her. Also, Pacht said, his review of the police videos from the scene that night did not reveal any apparent signs of slurred speech from Vekos or impairment while she was walking.

“Ms. Vekos has always said she had one gin and tonic,” Pacht said.

The charge of driving under the influence carries a possible maximum penalty of up to two years (See Vekos, Page 8A)



EVA VEKOS

## ANWSD spending could rise by 1.4%

Plan keeps programs; taxes to vary

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Addison Northwest School District board in two meetings this month continued to wrestle with a spending proposal for the 2026-2027 school year. On Monday, the board looked at a fourth draft that would increase district spending by 1.42%, or \$391,935, to \$28,044,935 million.

That’s a lower increase than the 1.48% ANWSD spending rise in the current fiscal year (FY2026).

District officials also estimate modest homestead tax increases in Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham, though they project taxes could rise more sharply in Addison; see below.

According to the Monday’s latest budget presentation, the proposed FY27 spending plan invests 69% of education funds in either “Direct Instruction” or “Student Services,” which is slightly more than the

(See ANWSD, Page 14A)

## MAUSD spending on rise, tax rates unclear

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board on Tuesday got a closer look at what a spending plan for fiscal year 2027 could look like.

The board also approved an online resource that compiles information on school-related topics for community members.

On the budget, district officials are anticipating an increase for FY27 in total expenses of 8.31%, or \$2,899,803, to \$37,794,246. However, because the district is also expecting a 32.89% increase in non-property tax revenue for the upcoming year (in the areas of transportation special education topics for community members. (See MAUSD, Page 8A)

## Otter Valley board edging away from teacher cut

By J.T. PRICE

BRANDON — The Otter Valley Unified Union School Board on Tuesday faced spirited community pushback toward the prospect of an added year-round curriculum coordinator position in the central office while cutting student-facing jobs, like a middle school social studies teacher.

Many of the 15-20 visitors at

the meeting (plus more attending virtually on Zoom) spoke up in favor of preserving the “student-facing” position of middle school social studies teacher, which is scheduled to be cut, before that teacher himself, Zachary Poynter, stood up to put a face and name to the role that was being discussed in the abstract.

Cutting this position would “not (See Otter Valley, Page 19A)



STUDENTS FROM MOUNT Abraham Union High School and Bristol Elementary School work together on an activity during a guided mentoring gathering last week. The offering was organized by the DREAM Program, an organization that aims to close the opportunity gap with mentoring programs and activities for youth across the Northeast.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

## Mentoring program connecting high school, elementary students

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — As the penultimate bell rang on a recent Tuesday at Mount Abraham Union High School, a group of students met to discuss plans for their visit to Bristol Elementary School that afternoon.

The students gathered that day are mentors for the DREAM Program’s

Guided Mentoring offering, a two-tiered mentoring approach that connects high schoolers with elementary-age mentees in their community. Through the program, older students receive training and support that helps them serve as impactful mentors.

Each week, high school mentors from Mount Abe head to Bristol

Elementary to lead afterschool activities with students enrolled in the Mount Abraham Unified School District’s Expanded Learning Program. Student mentors said the program has allowed them to connect with community members they otherwise wouldn’t know.

“I never would’ve thought I’d be (See Mentoring, Page 17A)

## Index

Obituaries..... 6A  
Classifieds..... 10B-11B  
Service Directory..... 8B-9B  
Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure  
Community Calendar..... 4B  
Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure  
Sports..... 1B-3B



# New Porter Hospital union forms

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Around 80 Porter Medical Center (PMC) workers have formed a new union and will soon sit down with hospital and University of Vermont Health Network officials to hammer out an inaugural collective bargaining agreement.

The new PMC Health Professionals union includes Porter employees in such vocations as advanced practice providers, inpatient and out-patient healthcare providers, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, hospital medicine providers (called hospitalists), certified nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, specialty care, social workers, as well as physical and occupational therapists.

A 66% supermajority of all eligible PMC health professionals voted in favor of forming the union on Dec. 9.

Porter Physician Assistant Jon Ford was a member of the committee that led the union organizing effort through the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) of Vermont.

"Today we voted to form our union to support each other, strengthen patient care and secure a fair and sustainable future for our professions," Ford said in a statement released by AFT. "These are the priorities we've been naming all along, and this vote is a step toward making them real."

PMC Health Professionals becomes the third successful unionizing effort at Porter since 2013. In December of that year, 150 Porter nurses coalesced under the banner of the Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals 5753 (PFNHP). Then, last year, 300 Porter support staff and technical workers voted overwhelmingly to unionize

under AFT and PFNHP.

Physician Assistant and union organizing committee member Hadley Warner said, "We are looking forward to sitting down with management to negotiate our new contract, focusing on securing livable wages, improving safety standards, and expanding professional development opportunities. This is a win for our entire organization."

Phillip Rau, PMC spokesman, said the nascent health professionals unit submitted its union petition in October. That triggered two elections — one among the health professionals seeking to form a new collective bargaining unit, and another among a smaller group of non-Advanced Practice Professional (APP) Registered Nurses on whether to join the existing nurses' union at Porter.

The health professionals unionizing effort succeeded, while the non APP RNs vote ended in a tie and thus failed, according to Rau.

"Porter Medical Center respects the right of our employees to decide whether they want to join a union and strongly encourages participation to ensure every voice is heard. We remain committed to fostering a culture where our people feel heard, respected, and supported," Rau told the *Independent*.

Ford, during a recent phone interview, said it took around 15 months to shepherd the union effort to last week's successful vote. A big reason for the lengthy timeline was the breadth of positions covered and the multiple sites at which they're based. The

health professionals in question are dispersed throughout Porter Medical Center, including at the hospital, Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing, PMC ExpressCare, and around a dozen affiliated primary care practices throughout the county.

Wage and benefits will of course figure prominently into the new bargaining group's first contract negotiation. But Ford said the organizing effort was about more than that.

"I think, overall, we want to be at Porter for a long time, to be able to have a good work-life balance, with safe patient panels and be able to provide great care to the community," he said. "This is a mechanism to do that."

Ford was asked if the union effort was driven by any concerns or perception that PMC management might be resistant to change. He said Porter administrators have been willing to talk, but added, "I think the (collective bargaining) process invites discussion."

Porter Medical Center is one of seven UVM Health Network affiliates, not all of which are in synch on labor agreements, Ford noted.

"With the maturing health network in Vermont, I think there's this desire to have more equity across sites. There are different benefits packages for each site, and I recognize the network as a whole is working on this to unify benefits. But it's a long road, and there's some motivation and interest to expedite that a little bit," he said.

Ford said it's possible the new health professionals union and the PFNHP could someday consolidate under the same banner. But the pair are taking the reins at Tourterelle, with Thomas-Snell staying on for the next year as the transition unfolds.

"We have no changes in mind but are just really excited for this learning opportunity and taking it all in before we add anything or change anything," Mosello said during a recent interview.

Before opening Tourterelle, Thomas-Snell and Snell ran a couple of restaurants in Brooklyn, N.Y. Upon moving to Vermont, Thomas-Snell said they fell in love with the property at 3629 Ethan Allen Highway, as well as the surrounding landscape and Vermont life.

*"I think, overall, we want to be at Porter for a long time, to be able to have a good work-life balance, with safe patient panels and be able to provide great care to the community,"*

— Jon Ford

*"Now that we've had this successful vote and a unit formed, we can get down to the details."*

— Jon Ford



CHRISTINE THOMAS-SNELL, RIGHT, opened New Haven's Tourterelle restaurant and wedding venue with Bill Snell back in 2009. Now, the longtime owners are passing the baton to Shelby Mosello, left, and Austin Ping, who plan to keep business running as usual with the addition of more community events at the site later down the road.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

## Tourterelle owners pass the baton

### New Haven eatery gets new owners, will stay the same

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — It was in 2009 that Christine Thomas-Snell and Bill Snell traded the concrete jungle of New York City for the Green Mountains of Vermont, opening the Tourterelle restaurant and wedding venue off Route 7 in New Haven.

In the years since, the Tourterelle team has expanded the wedding and events aspect of the business, hosted guests in its six-bedroom inn upstairs and welcomed local residents and visitors for countless meals in its dining rooms.

Now, Snell and Thomas-Snell are passing the baton after 16 years of running the restaurant, inn and event space. Shelby Mosello and Austin Ping purchased the business for \$2 million last month.

The pair are taking the reins at Tourterelle, with Thomas-Snell staying on for the next year as the transition unfolds.

"We have no changes in mind but are just really excited for this learning opportunity and taking it all in before we add anything or change anything," Mosello said during a recent interview.

Before opening Tourterelle, Thomas-Snell and Snell ran a couple of restaurants in Brooklyn, N.Y. Upon moving to Vermont, Thomas-Snell said they fell in love with the property at 3629 Ethan Allen Highway, as well as the surrounding landscape and Vermont life.

"We had three kids at the time, so we were ready to kind of go away from the fast pace of New York City," she recalled.

#### GROWING TOURTERELLE

Along with operating its dining rooms, Tourterelle has offered a wedding venue for indoor and outdoor ceremonies over the years. Thomas-Snell noted the team started off hosting a few weddings each year.

"It was pretty limited, and we started growing the wedding business, and it just got better as the years went by," she said.

The team went from hosting a handful of weddings annually to around 30 weddings in 2022. They steadily grew the wedding business and made improvements to the reception space, which over the years transformed from more of a tent into a four-season, wooden barn.

For several years, Snell led Tourterelle's kitchen team while Thomas-Snell oversaw events and the front-of-house staff. The longtime owners and their family lived onsite in the restaurant's upper floor for 10 years.

"So, raising children was a little easier for us; we didn't have to commute," Thomas-Snell said.

Today, Tourterelle's team consists of 10-12 individuals, though that number swells to around 30 people during the events season.

"Christine's pulled together such a wonderful group of people to help support the project," Mosello said.

Hosting weddings has been one of Thomas-Snell's favorite parts of running the business.

"I love weddings," she said. "You have a different experience every weekend. Weddings are happy moments."

She noted Tourterelle offers custom-designed weddings.

"I think that's really part of the business we've tried to advertise, is we are here to create the day, your special day, and that looks different for all of us," she said.

"That's our role, our job, to really create that day for the couples, and I really enjoy that."

In a recent newsletter announcing

the ownership transition, Thomas-Snell highlighted some of the other memorable moments from the past 16 years, such as collaborating with Middlebury College, enjoying outdoor live music and catering a dinner for former President Joe Biden.

Thomas-Snell also pointed to the headwinds she and Snell have weathered.

"I can't say that the past few years have been easy...with a tragic pandemic that very much jeopardized the dining and events scene, followed by a devastating fire, a complete remodeling and as things were finally looking up...a divorce," she wrote.

#### A NEW CHAPTER

Thomas-Snell noted the decision to sell was a hard one, and the team is proud of the business they've grown. Now, Thomas-Snell is looking to pass on what she's learned over the years to Mosello and Ping.

"I love what I do," she said. "I don't want to carry the full thing on my shoulders anymore, but I really love what I do, so if I can help (Mosello), I'll be here."

The lessons she's looked to share so far include how to navigate the seasonal shifts of running a restaurant in rural Vermont.

"You go from really busy to not so busy, and so I think it's very important to be able to juggle, take that time for yourself when you can," Thomas-Snell explained. "Between May and October, yes, you will work really hard, host events, and business is much more profitable."

Mosello credited Thomas-Snell for the support she's offered the incoming owners, who are new to the restaurant industry. Mosello, 30, and Ping, 31, met at a summer camp in New Hampshire. Mosello has worked in outdoor recreation, as a camp director and at a nonprofit, and Ping previously worked as a property manager.

When they got married a year ago, the pair decided to have the wedding in Vermont.

"That was a pretty quick decision that we made," Mosello said. "We knew that more of our family and (See New owners, Page 3A)

Give the Gift of **Tea**

(...and teaware doesn't hurt either)

Open Monday-Saturday, 11 to 5  
and online at [stoneleaftea.com](http://stoneleaftea.com)

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

REACH THE COUNTY  
ads@addisonindependent.com

**ALL OF THE OTTER REINDEER**

'TIS THE SEASON!  
Give those rascals on your list an otterly delightful gift certificate.

**Otter Creek BAKERY & DELI**

REGULAR HOURS  
MON-SAT 7AM-4PM  
DELI OPEN TILL 3PM  
SUNDAY 8AM-2PM  
DELI OPEN TILL 2PM

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS  
12/24: 7AM-2PM  
12/25 & 12/26: CLOSED  
12/31: 7AM-2PM  
1/1: CLOSED

14 College St, Middlebury, VT | (802) 388-3371 | [OtterCreekBakery.com](http://OtterCreekBakery.com)

**CO-OP MEMBER DEALS**

# Co-op Holiday Hours

<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> Closing at 5pm	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> Closing at 5pm
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> Closed	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Closed

**Members Take an Extra 20% Off**

**Blake Hill PRESERVES MAKER**  
SWEET • SAVORY • SPICY

Dec 17 - Dec 24

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

**\$3.00 OFF ANY BASICS ITEM**

(minimum purchase \$3.00)  
(Expires Wednesday, 12/24/25)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276  
[middlebury.coop](http://middlebury.coop)



## New owners

*(Continued from Page 2A)*  
 friends were out here, and Vermont has always been such a special place for us.”

The couple had been living in Colorado for the past six years but was looking for an opportunity to relocate to Vermont. Mosello noted the pair had hoped to one day own a business together.

In their job search, the couple came across Tourterelle.

“(We) really fell in love,” Mosello said.

“Which is exactly what I wanted, for the person that was going to take over to have that feeling,” Thomas-Snell added.

The pair visited the restaurant for dinner and met with Thomas-Snell. “It really started out as a pipe

dream of, ‘Look at this, farm to table, events, weddings, like yes, we do see a life like this for ourselves, but how could we make it happen?’” Mosello recalled.

The couple consulted with a bank and got support from Mosello’s father to make that dream a reality. For the past few months, Mosello has been working with Thomas-Snell, learning the ins and outs of hosting, administrative work and other parts of the business. Ping will join the team full-time in April.

“It’s just been such a special process,” Mosello said.

She noted the pair plans to wear many hats at Tourterelle and work together to oversee different aspects of the business.

“It’s really important to both of us to learn all aspects so that each of us knows every part of it confidently,” she said.

She said the pair plans to keep the business running as is. Tom Morris will continue to serve as the chef de cuisine at Tourterelle, and the rest of the team will stay on as well.

“What was really a huge piece of it was how much of a turnkey operation it is, the opportunity to learn from Christine,” Mosello said. “Really in this first year just getting our feet on the ground, learning everything that has been taking place and really diving into that, digesting all of that.”

Looking farther down the road, *(See Tourterelle 13A)*



### Polar express

SCADS OF KIDS and adults came out to the Middlebury Amtrak station early Sunday evening to drop off some gifts for the less fortunate and to say hello to Santa. It was one of the stops on Vermont Rail System’s effort to help the Marine Corps League of Vermont’s Toys for Kids program. People met Santa, enjoyed a candy cane and donated new, unwrapped toys for children in need across the state.

Photos courtesy of Kathryn Torres and Alyssa Provost



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ADDY INDY!**

Our office will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

58 Maple St., Middlebury  
 802-388-4944  
 addisonindependent.com

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

The Residence at Otter Creek wishes you and your family a joyous holiday and happy new year!

**THE RESIDENCE**  
 at Otter Creek

Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

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

**We are back at 79 Court St!**

Supporting recovery, hope, and connection across Addison County with:

- Mobile Coaching Program**  
 Provides coaching anywhere in Addison County
- Recovery Coaching**  
 Available Mon-Fri 9-5
- Public Safety Vending Machines**  
 Located in Middlebury AND Bristol!

All services free of charge

**Turning Point Center**  
 OF ADDISON COUNTY

For more information visit our website or give us a call!  
 79 Court St., Middlebury | (802) 388-4249 | tpvt.org

## Editorial

## The paradox of taxes: They hurt, but improve our lives

Tis the season for making merry, sharing gifts, offering blessings... and pondering school and town taxes. Ugh. Did I have to conflate the two? Sorry, but yes. Mixed in with the merriment of holiday greetings and thoughts of mistletoe is the angst many taxpayers have when contemplating why local spending continues to climb higher than inflation, sometimes much higher, and how that impacts the taxes on their property.

The root reasons for high spending in our schools and towns are many — both are dependent on increasingly expensive infrastructure (and building or repairing anything today is expensive); health care is skyrocketing and both are labor intensive operations; housing is expensive in Vermont and that drives up wages to be able to afford to live here; and our declining student demographics make education funding less and less cost-efficient. There's much debate in the public discourse addressing those fundamental issues, and hopefully Vermont will make progress addressing them.

But, for the moment, let's flip the conversation and contemplate the why of taxes and what it's all about.

In a few words, taxes are about improving our communities and our quality of life.

The town of Middlebury provides a good example of the improvements public spending can make. Just in the past decade, the town has seen:

- the completion of Middlebury's new \$7.5 million municipal building in 2016, including a park that was created on the former site;
- as part of a federally funded project to build a \$72 million railroad tunnel through the heart of Middlebury's downtown starting in 2021, the town expanded Triangle Park and created a passenger rail platform off Seymour Street;
- more recently, in May 2024, the town approved a \$17 million project to extensively renovate the Ilsley Library, which is slated to be completed this coming summer;
- and this past March, voters approved a \$49.5 million update to the town's wastewater treatment plant — an essential step to meet the residential and commercial needs of the community. While much of that will be paid by water and sewer rates, not property taxes, it's from local pockets.

A half decade before replacing the town's municipal building, the town and Middlebury College jointly financed building the Cross Street Bridge — likely the most transformative investment in infrastructure the town has seen in recent history.

All those investments help inspire others to invest in the community. With the noticeable improvement in Middlebury's downtown, the Town Hall Theater board of directors didn't hesitate to pounce on an opportunity to expand its downtown facility — privately raising and spending another \$8.5 million to the great benefit of us all.

Middlebury College added a helping hand to jump-start the Stonecrop Meadows housing development off Seminary Street Extension to build over 250 new housing units at a cost of tens of millions. The college also helped with the expansion of the Otter Creek Child Care Center — adding 77 new childcare spaces, bringing the total there to 139 daily spots. Both are worthy developments to address two critical issues for Middlebury — affordable housing and childcare availability.

The end result is transformative. Middlebury's downtown has rarely looked better. It's more pedestrian-friendly, traffic flows smoother, sidewalks are wider, parking is easier and once the library is renovated this summer, the area along the riverfront that sits underneath the Cross Street Bridge will be primed for further improvement.

None of it would have happened without community investment, funded in large part by a public willing to pay the requisite property taxes to make the community better.

The corollary is accountability. Taxpayers expect a high value for the money spent with the success of future projects dependent on that fulfillment. And when that high bar is met, it's gratifying.

Reflecting on the impact of many of these projects during his 11-year tenure as chairman of the Middlebury Selectboard, Brian Carpenter captured the downtown's renaissance perfectly: "It's like the butterfly coming out of the cocoon," he told *Addison Independent* reporter John Flowers. "The downtown is reborn. There's always something going on in the community."

\*\*\*\*\*

Importantly, this sentiment is more widely shared than many might think.

Lifelong Republican Aaron M. Renn, who is a consultant in Carmel, Indiana, penned a guest essay in the *New York Times* in early December that opposed those in his party who advocated for significant cuts in property taxes or their very elimination. He notes that large electorates in America, even heavily Republican ones, want to live in communities that offer more than the bare essentials.

Voters, he wrote, "increasingly expect local government to provide high-quality public goods, services and amenities, such as modern playgrounds and trail networks. They want to have a bustling walkable downtown. They want public amenities to match their private ones."

He notes this hometown of Carmel, population 100,000, "has made big investments in infrastructure, amenities and public services. It has built more than 150 roundabouts, virtually eliminating traffic congestion. It has an extensive network of trails and parks, public art installations, events... and millions of square feet of office space, making it a perennial presence on national 'best cities' lists."

Rather than boast about these successes, Renn continues, "some of the most prominent Republicans in the country are waging war on the revenue model that powers them. In doing so, they pander to retired baby boomers who are eager to shift taxes away from their homes and onto those still working." Carmel, he sums up, has succeeded because it "has focused public investment on delivering tangible goods and services... so that the revenue collected from property taxes goes to improving the quality of life."

That's the why of taxation that deserves more of Vermonters' attention, especially during this season of giving. Focusing solely on the cost, as one Dickensian character so infamously did, might lead to seeing ghosts in the night.

Angelo Lynn



## The perfect one

A VERMONT BATTLES snow and cold temps on Sunday to cut her perfect Christmas tree in the Green Mountain National Forest. There are plenty of beauties to choose from, but you must stay in designated areas, need a \$5 permit and can't bag anything taller than 20 feet.

Independent photo/Sarah Pope

## Of butternuts and a happy union

If you have ever shelled butternuts, you know how slow and difficult it is. To get the meat, you must remove the husk and then a hard shell. The name butternut comes from its buttery taste, so the process is worth it to extract this locally grown nut.

My son has cracked them open with a hammer. When I discovered Ernie Cyr and his butternuts at the American Legion craft fair many years ago, I began an annual tradition of purchasing Ernie's butternuts for my son as a present. Each year I wonder if Ernie will still be there. This year I walk into the hall, glad to find him at the wall farthest from the door, as in the past.

After purchasing some nuts and taking them home, I decide to go back and ask Ernie a few questions about his life and he shares the answers.

Ernie is 93 years old. His wife Peg, smiling beside him, is 78.

Ernie has some butternut trees himself, but they are like apple trees, he explains. Maybe they produce one year, maybe not. His friend in New Haven has seven full grown trees where he got these nuts. The crop was so big this year that there are still some on the ground. "Even after we carried away 57 five-gallon pails!" adds Peg.

I wonder how he opened all these nuts as I look at the full quart and pint-sized plastic containers. Using a vice and hammer was very difficult, Ernie found, so he invested in a Carolina cracker nutcracker, a tool made of hand forged cast iron with jaws to apply even pressure on the shell. Instead of smashing the meat, this heavy-duty lever system uses a handle to apply force to crack the nut evenly by squeezing it between

the jaws. At this point, Ernie reaches over for a nut with its meat perfectly detached from the shell.

"Show this to your son," he says. Seeing the beautiful intricate design of the complete nut seems like a miracle. A sculpture. How seldom we see the meat of even a walnut shelled unbroken. I hold it gently in my hand and reverently take it home to include with the present.

"Thinking about those nuts still on the ground," Ernie says, "I hope someone gets them. I hope someone will take over when... I'm on borrowed time here. At 93, I outlived my mother, father, brother, sister and cousins. Outlived them all."

Ernie is a retired military man with 22 and a half years of service. He was in the Army in Japan. After the first two years he came home. He was married ("Not to me," puts in Peg.) and had two little kids. Those kids needed some security, he thought, so he re-enlisted. He tried the Air Force for a change but ended up back in the Army and spent seven years in a war office in Korea and Italy. Ten to 15 years he worked with the new HAWK missiles with semi-active radar homing. When he got back to Vermont, he spent 20 years as a mail carrier in Rutland and worked at a factory in Vergennes.

When I wonder how he and Peg got together, he smiles. "Now, this gets interesting," Ernie says. He has known her since she was six years old, a distant cousin. He went down to her folks' house to go fishing when he was home after his first service stretch. His first wife was not interested in fishing. "I'll go with

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

## Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



## Afghani transplants boost state

I was a senior in high school when 9/11 happened. I will never forget where I was or how the day unfolded. I wasn't yet 18, but my entire adult life would be shaped by that event. Soon after, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, and then Iraq. U.S. involvement in Afghanistan would last 21 years, and at one point Vermont would have the highest per-capita population of servicemembers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq in the nation.

Over the last three years as the Executive Director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance, I've met countless veterans, former aid workers, lawyers, contractors, and others who worked in Afghanistan. U.S. efforts focused on everything from counterterrorism and the rule of law to education and agriculture.

During the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, the U.S. evacuated an estimated 125,000 Afghan allies. That was only a fraction of those who had worked with the U.S. government over two decades. An estimated 145,000 Afghans eligible for Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs) were left behind, along with countless wives and children. Many men evacuated in 2021 were told to leave their families behind with the promise of reunification within a year, yet separation continues.



## Community Forum

This week's writer is Molly Gray, who has served as executive director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance since April 2023, and served as lieutenant governor of Vermont from 2021-2023.

support of U.S. missions abroad. I also felt a strong sense of Vermont's hospitality—that if you welcome someone into your home, at a minimum you provide food, shelter, and safety. Finally, as someone long

(See *Gray*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

## MUMS crowded? Solution offered

A few years ago, the ACSU started sending the sixth graders to MUMS in what many of us in the country schools felt was a move to gut their numbers so that they could justify closing them. Now you are reporting that there is a crisis at MUMS because it is too crowded. I have an idea. Stop sending the sixth graders to MUMS.

Jan Albers  
Weybridge

## Legislators ask Vekos to resign

We, the undersigned members of the Addison County Legislative Delegation, once again call on Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos to resign her position immediately. On April 1, 2024, the majority of the delegation called on Ms. Vekos to resign after her unprofessional behavior at a crime scene and resulting revocation of her law license. At that time, the delegation stated that Vekos's actions had "significantly harmed the trust and respect between the residents of Addison County and their state's attorney."

After nearly 20 months of continued concerning behavior from Vekos, as well as the addition of five new members to the delegation, we are again publicly calling for her resignation. We continue to hear from constituents, advocates and victims and their families who have shared stories about the unprofessional, incompetent and rude behavior of Ms. Vekos. Recent press stories have highlighted these accounts and made it clear that Ms. Vekos does not intend to change her behavior or admit any wrong-doing.

Our constituents deserve better. Victims of crimes, especially young victims of sexual and domestic harm, deserve better. We are, therefore, speaking up again, and adding our voices to more recent calls for her resignation from the governor and Democratic Party leaders.

We also call on the Vermont Judiciary's Professional Responsibility Board to act on the complaints against Ms. Vekos without further delay. They have failed to act in a timely manner, delaying possible justice for victims and others who have filed complaints and accountability for Ms. Vekos. We must take decisive action to restore compassion, competence and civility in our local justice system.

Signed,

Senators Ruth Hardy and Steven Heffernan  
Representatives Matt Birong, Jim Casey, Peter Conlon, Karen Leuders, Jubilee McGill, Rob North, Herb Olson, Robin Scheu and Amy Sheldon

## Say no to death penalty in trials

Thank you for the Dec. 4 article on the film about Rev. Jeff Hood, who serves as a spiritual advisor to death row inmates and their families. We need to be reminded often that the U.S. is one of very few modern "democratic" countries that still practice the barbaric ritual of capital punishment on both the state and federal levels.

President Biden deserves praise for halting federal executions during his term and commuting the death sentences of all but three condemned federal prisoners before leaving office. Donald Trump, on the other hand, wants to expand the list of capital crimes and has instructed his Justice Department lackeys to seek the death penalty whenever possible.

Vermont has executed no one since 1954 and outlawed capital punishment in 1972. However, two federal murder cases will soon be tried in the state, and the prosecution has announced its intention to request death sentences in both. Although the upcoming trials are federal, I assume the potential jurors and judges will be Vermonters; let

(See *Olinick 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

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

## McKibben's book offers hope for humanity's future

I just finished reading Bill McKibben's new book, "Here Comes the Sun," (credit the Beatles with the title). The subtitle is: "A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization". (Hsley Library has eight copies.)

The book is *very hopeful*, (after a series of "darker" books by McKibben warning of the negative effects of unchecked climate change), revealing how much recent progress has been made developing wind and solar energy in a relatively short time, dramatically bringing down the price of solar installations making them competitive, price wise, with fossil fuel. Indeed, he suggests that the familiar label, "alternative energy" is no longer accurate. Some examples: "In the U.S., 80 percent of new generating capacity in 2024 came from solar panels and batteries, and most of the rest from wind." Or "In Germany where new laws allow individuals to hang solar panels from balconies, ... 1.4 million Germans had

hung up the panels, and some were producing a third of their household electricity demands; by Christmas 2024 the country had just passed the 50 percent mark for generating its power from renewable sources."

McKibben points out the huge cost of fossil fuel with mining, drilling, transportation, infrastructure the cost of pollution and the effects of climate change. The energy from the sun is free and without the costs associated with fossil fuel. McKibben is reassuring, presenting data, about having enough rare earth supplies and other required components for a solar and wind buildout.

Of course solar and wind development is much impeded in this country under the current administration, which is closely allied with the oil companies and claims climate change to be a hoax. Bill is careful to say that the possible bright future he envisions, and presents facts supporting, while feasible, is not certain. He acknowledges that political situations on the

planet could steer us in a different direction. China is an exception and currently the world leader by many measures in solar, wind and hydro energy production.

I especially enjoyed the section of the book where he notes how oriented our species has always been toward the sun from time immemorial, (it is, of course, the ultimate source of food and energy for Planet Earth). One example he cites is the number of popular songs about the sun. (He notes that the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" has almost twice the plays on Spotify as "Hey Jude").

I'm currently reading a book about monuments built by early human civilizations ("America Before" by Graham Hancock) and how our species has always had a special relationship to the sun from the orientations of temples in ancient Egypt to Angkor Wat in Cambodia and many, many more.

Thank you, Bill!

**Ron Slabaugh  
Middlebury**

## Olinick letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

us hope that they will uphold Vermont principles and refuse to endorse the ghastly practice of judicial killing.

There is no justification for the horrible murders of which the defendants in the coming trials are accused. I emphatically do not suggest that we should forgive or pardon them, if they

are found guilty. Very long or lifelong sentences would be in order, both as punishment and to protect the public from them. But killing the perpetrators will not restore the victims' lives or serve any purpose beyond revenge — a natural human motive, but one that civilized societies rise above.

The current administration's thirst for killings and executions

is a national disgrace. Trump and his minions personify Americans' lowest instincts in this and every other way. Vermonters are struggling bravely against being dragged down to their level. While we wait and work for better times, we must remain standing firmly on higher ground.

**Judy Olinick  
Middlebury**

## Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

you," Peg said. Another day, his first wife and he weren't getting along and she said, "I wish someone would just take him." Peg overheard this and said, "If I were the right age, I would."

Years passed. Peg grew up.

Even today, after 37 years of marriage, Peg looks over at shining Ernie with a wide smile and glint in her eyes.

My heart feels light holding this story on the way home. It makes

me wonder how many other stories are behind the faces I see.

*Sas Carey loves her work as an energy healer because she gets to hear stories. Find out more online at [www.lifeenergyheal.com](http://www.lifeenergyheal.com).*

## Gray

(Continued from Page 4A)

concerned about our demographics, the truth is simple: we are not going to birth our way out of our workforce crisis. The solution lies in welcoming people—and their talents—from across the country and the world.

Since 2023, the Alliance, together with community partners, has welcomed and served an estimated 650 Afghan allies statewide with employment, driving lessons, housing assistance, immigration legal services, civic education, health programming, and more. We've partnered with dozens of employers across northern Vermont eager to hire Afghan allies and willing to make small workplace adjustments. Through our driving program alone, more than 60 individuals have passed the Vermont road test. From manufacturing to healthcare, education to commercial truck driving, Afghan allies are filling high-demand jobs, strengthening our rural economy, and enriching our communities.

A recent USCRI policy report found that Afghan allies nationwide have contributed an estimated \$1.79 billion in local, state, and federal taxes, including contributions to Medicare and Social Security. Contrary to harmful rhetoric, Afghan allies are not a "drain" on the system—their contributions far outweigh the short-term support provided during resettlement.

A damaging narrative suggesting Afghan allies are "unvetted" or pose a security risk to this country is circulating from Washington. In reality, those fleeing the Taliban are among the most thoroughly vetted individuals in this country—they were screened during employment with the U.S. government, during immigration processing, and again with every status adjustment.

Afghan allies are our neighbors, friends, and colleagues. At the Alliance, the majority of staff and board members are Afghan allies themselves—thoughtful, courageous, emerging leaders

raised in an Afghanistan backed by the U.S. They understand, as deeply as we do, the hope and possibility that come with a free and democratic society. I've been inspired daily by what these young leaders have achieved for Vermont and the talents they've already contributed to our state.

I'll soon step back from the Alliance to make space for new leadership and a new chapter for the organization. What began as an interim role became far more meaningful than I ever expected. As for what's next, I hope to bring what I've learned back into state

government, where I can have a broader impact as we continue to address our demographic crisis and the policies coming from Washington.

To the state and local leaders, community partners, and volunteers I've had the opportunity to work alongside over the last few years—thank you. I'm inspired and amazed by what we can accomplish when we pool our resources and talents around a common purpose. I'm excited for the Alliance's next chapter and for all we can continue to achieve for our newest neighbors and Vermont.

## Zoning OK of Middle Road project ill-considered

December 8, 2025 the Middlebury Development Review Board (DRB) approved a request to build a 35-unit, 4-story apartment building, which will also include a restaurant, on the corner of Middle Road and Route 7 on an extremely small lot adjacent to the Dollar Store and Good Point Recycling. This approval is a knee-jerk reaction solution to an out-of-town investor-development plan.

The architectural design reflects a high density, institutional cubist "barracks" style popping up in many locations in Burlington which is the antithesis of Middlebury style and charm.

Yes, we need more housing... no argument...not in this location! What is the DRB thinking??? It is a poorly designed vision and a short term solution to a long term problem.

It does not reflect the character of Middlebury. It does not reflect consideration to the charming style and historical town of Middlebury, to those who need this housing, and to those neighborhoods and business that will be impacted by this poorly thought out project.

Poor Location - Poor Design - Poor Middlebury! Disappointed!  
**Jean E Carey  
Cornwall**

## Evaluate curriculum before spending \$45M on MUMS

The current building issues at the Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS) are painfully and bitterly ironic.

Asking \$45 million for physical space is ridiculous. Too much money for a superficial use. I say superficial because the proposal changes the building to meet imposed and supposed programmatic needs. Imposed because of the decision to move 6th grade to MUMS to, as promoted, facilitate the International Baccalaureate program, known as IB. Supposed because, perhaps, IB isn't providing the academic excellence for all that was imagined.

I encourage all who care to peruse the Vermont Education Dashboard (Vermont Education Dashboard: Vermont Information on the Agency of Education website) for information on our district's academic performance, other districts', as well as the state's. This data raises many questions (including how it was gathered and its accuracy). I draw your attention to the equity segments of the data. I wonder about the correlation between the imposition of IB and the decline in equity?

The Agency of Education website has graduation rates from 2018-2024 school years. There is no information on what's happening to the percentages that don't graduate, specifically why those students didn't graduate. Graduation rates are *not* just a reflection of a high school; they reflect a pre-K-12 system of opportunities and supports, or the lack thereof.

Graduation rates are ratios — a division problem with the total graduating divided by the total class population. The total class population number ignores those who left public school for private.

If there is an analysis of why students left public school for private, make it available to the public; if there isn't, someone should study that problem.

Understandably, student and family privacy must be protected. At the same time, the public deserves to know how IB is serving all students. The public deserves to understand how all pre-K-12 student needs are being met.

If there are groups of students with unmet academic needs (and I have heard many related anecdotes), let's put that \$45 million into alternative programming, shared with neighboring districts, and using un- or under-used facilities (Ripton comes to mind). If anyone is thinking creatively about how to meet all student needs, please make

those ideas clear to the public — students, parents, taxpayers.

\$45 million to address imposed and supposed needs! Policy makers argue that the rising costs of education are untenable. Yet, no one is offering to address the staggering and rising cost of health care — a huge budget line item that represents a critical employee need.

The current trajectory is to evaluate physical structures and make a plan. Where is the inclusion of those student and family groups whose educational needs are not being met? Where is the data that education at scale produces better results?

These are important questions, and we must hold our policy makers accountable.

**Christina Wadsworth  
Weybridge**

# 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](http://www.elderlyservices.org)



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

**211 Main Street  
Vergennes, VT  
(802) 877-6312  
[www.Hare.dog](http://www.Hare.dog)**

## Stop in & discover our Enchanted Holiday Forest!

The shop is bursting with a huge selection of:

- Thoughtful Gifts ~ for everyone on your list!
- Ornaments & Stocking Stuffers
- Fresh Holiday Blooms
- Terrarium Kits & Fairy Houses
- Gift certificates are always a favorite!

Stop in. Get inspired.

Find the perfect last minute gifts.

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](http://toadhallvt.com) or follow us 






**ADDISON COUNTY**

# Obituaries

## Joel Richard King, 84, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Our beloved husband and father, Joel Richard King, passed away at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Home Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, after a long illness.

Joel was born Aug. 25, 1941, at home in Whitingham, Vt., to Guy and Lois (Fielder) King, the eldest of six siblings whom he helped support after their fathers' untimely passing in 1961.

Joel graduated from Hinesburg High School in 1959 and was a dairy farmer for many years. He married Carol (Meader) King in 1971, and they raised their children on a small dairy farm in Whiting, Vt. After many years of farming for others in Vermont, he changed careers and became a milk truck driver for Holdman's and McDermont's until his retirement. Joel was a man of the outdoors



**JOEL RICHARD KING**

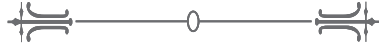
— he enjoyed his yearly deer hunting trips to Pennsylvania and later Missouri. He enjoyed picnics at Texas Falls in Hancock, Vt., and long walks in the woods berry

picking. He was also an avid reader, loved gardening, woodworking and summer BBQs with the family.

Joel is survived by his wife, Carol (Meader) King; children Melanie King, Christopher (Heather) King and Helen (Jeremy) Putnam; his sisters Mattie Scott and Inga Hallett; and brothers Ira and Eric (Gina) King. He also leaves his 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Guy and Lois King, and his sister Rae Scribner.

The King family would like to thank the wonderful people at Helen Porter Rehab and Addison County Home Health and Hospice for their excellent care of our husband and father.

A memorial service will be held at the Whiting Community Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. ◊



## Terra Lin Thomas, 36, of Pittsford

PITTSFORD — Terra Lin Thomas, age 36, passed peacefully Dec. 11, 2025, at her home in Pittsford following a courageous battle with cancer.

Terra was born in Middlebury June 1, 1989. She was the daughter of Michael and Linda (Samuelsen) King. Terra grew up in Orwell, where she received her early education. She graduated from Fair Haven Union High School, class of 2007. She earned her degree in Social Work from the University of Vermont, class of 2011.

Terra was forced to retire in September of this year due to illness. She had worked more than 8 years and was supervisor



**TERRA LIN THOMAS**

of Patient Financial Service at Porter Hospital in Middlebury.

She loved animals, especially cats.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Walker Thomas, whom she married at Parsons Beach in Kennebunk, Maine on July 4, 2014; her parents, Michael and Linda King; and her brother, Dustin King and his wife Caitlin.

Respecting her wishes, a private gathering in celebration of her life will take place at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊

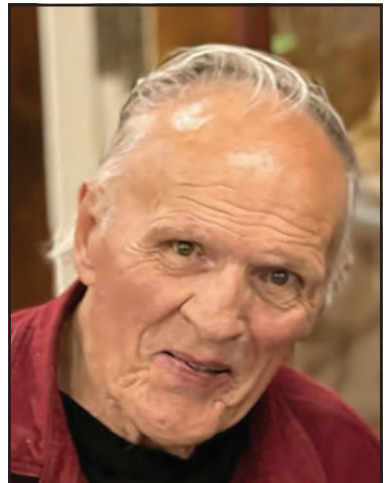


## Leslie H. Sargent Jr., 88, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Leslie H. Sargent Jr., 88, passed away peacefully Dec. 7, 2025, in Vergennes, Vt. surrounded by his loved ones. Leslie was born Feb. 5, 1937, in Weybridge, Vt., to Leslie and Mae (Lamott) Sargent.

As a proud veteran, Leslie served his country as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army, exemplifying courage and commitment. His service was a reflection of the steady character he carried throughout his life. Known for his gentle demeanor and soft-spoken nature, Leslie found great joy in time spent with family. Whether gathered for special occasions or everyday moments, these times brought him deep happiness. He was a true gentleman whose presence brought a sense of warmth and calmness to any room and shall be remembered for generations to come.

He is lovingly remembered by his children, Laurie, Leslie Jr. and his spouse Veronica, and Randy and his spouse Patty. He was a proud grandfather to ten grandchildren and great-grandfather to 14 great-



**LESLIE H. SARGENT JR.**

grandchildren. He also leaves behind his sister Barb Martell and his brother Stanley Sargent.

Leslie was preceded by his parents, Leslie and Mae; his siblings Raymond, James, Charles, Eugene, Donald, Theodore, Saunnie, Viola, Patsy and Nancy; and extended family members.

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

### 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](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com).

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

## Michael Joseph Breyette, 60, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Michael Joseph Breyette, age 60, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away Dec. 4, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with Ocular Melanoma and Uveal Metastatic Cancer.

He is survived by his husband and beloved partner in life, Eric Masterton Mott; his parents, Robert and Loretta Breyette; and his sister and brother, Loretta and Robert. His extended family includes his mother-in-law, Diane Masterton Mott of Middlebury; sister-in-law, Carrie Anderson of San Francisco; and his closest friends, Mark Sloop of West Rutland, John Lezcano of Middlebury, Marshall Pierce of Montpelier, Lacie Grisley of Ellicott City, Md., and Elin Gudmundsdottir of Mosfellsbær, Iceland. There are hundreds more who could be listed, Michael was loved by so many. The outpouring of grief since his passing has been overwhelming. He was deeply loved and adored by all who knew him.

Michael's art was more than color and form; it transcended the page. His work empowered the LGBTQ community. People saw themselves in his subjects



**MICHAEL JOSEPH BREYETTE**

and themes: passion, tenderness, love, landscapes, intimacy, joy and protest. His art helped many gay men see themselves with pride and gave others courage to live authentically and openly.

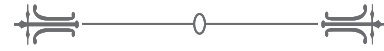
He was also no stranger to fighting for creative freedom and artistic integrity, often challenging censors, copyright pirates and unethical promoters. Few artists master detail, lighting, emotion and connection the way he did. The

dust on his fingertips and the way he blended pigment into canvas created something truly magical. His work will continue to hang proudly in homes and galleries around the world.

His love for animals was central to who he was (with the possible exception of spiders). His affection showed not only in commissions and studies of various animals, but also in his deep love for his dogs, Huxley and Bentley. It's possible he loved Huxley just a bit more.

Ocular Melanoma is a rare and aggressive cancer that often metastasizes. Michael participated in multiple clinical trials at Mass General Brigham and Mass Eye and Ear. His donated samples will contribute to research that may lead to future treatments and cures. If you have light-colored eyes, please schedule yearly eye exams. Early detection matters.

A celebration of Michael's life will take place in the spring, when the gardens he lovingly tended are in bloom. Details will be shared with family and close friends. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Homeward Bound of Middlebury. ◊



## Mary Anne Eddy, 93, of Orwell

ORWELL — Mary Anne Eddy, age 93, passed peacefully on Dec. 11, 2025, with family at her side, at her home in Orwell.

Mary Anne was born in Kingston, N.Y., on April 17, 1932. She was the daughter of Harry T. and Catharine (Cassidy) Merrill. She grew up in Kingston, N.Y., and Rowayton, Conn. She graduated from Norwalk (Conn.) High School and earned her bachelor's degree in music from Danbury State Teachers College (presently Western CT State University).

On Dec. 6, 1952, she married the love of her life Charles Fremont Eddy III, a World War II veteran, and college classmate. She taught private piano lessons, completed college courses, and performed as an accomplished concert pianist, all while raising their young children in Connecticut.

The Eddys moved to Orwell, Vt., with their five children in 1966, where Mary Anne earned her master's degree in Education from Castleton State College. She taught at Shoreham Elementary School for over 20 years, where



**MARY ANNE EDDY**

she adored each and every one of her third-grade students. She also taught Catechism class and played organ at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Orwell.

Mary Anne was very artistic and enjoyed painting, with several of her oil paintings having been publicly displayed and now decorating friends' homes.

Surviving are four children, Chuck Eddy IV and wife Cathy

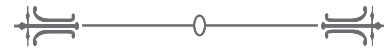
(Shackett) Eddy, Thomas Eddy and wife Anne (Bartlett) Eddy, Beth Eddy Montello and husband Nick, and Nell Eddy Ellis and husband Mike; her sister, Kathy Merrill Worth and husband James V. Worth of Spring Lake, N.J.; brother, James P. Merrill of Palm Coast, Fla.; and several grand- and great-grand-children.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Charles Fremont Eddy III, her precious daughter Catharine Anne Eddy, and grandson Daniel P. Ellis. Also her brother H. Thomas Merrill, and parents Harry T. and Catharine Cassidy Merrill.

A private gathering in celebration of her life will take place at a later date. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place in the Spring at Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



## Klara Calitri, 103, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Klara Calitri, (née Feiner) of Cornwall, Vt., died Nov. 19, 2025, at the age of 103. Klara was born to Mary and Moritz Feiner in Vienna, Austria, in 1922. Klara and her family lived in Vienna until the invasion of 1938, when Moritz, who was Jewish, was arrested by the Gestapo. Klara and a friend (whose father had been arrested), went to the chief of police, and with convincing subterfuge, managed to get their fathers released. The Feiners emigrated to the United States in 1939, sponsored by a cousin, who as a child in Austria during World War I, had been saved by Klara's grandfather.

Klara finished high school in the U.S., and in 1942, won a scholarship to Trinity College, in Burlington, Vt. That summer, she met the love of her life, Junius Calitri. When they married in 1943, Klara transferred to UVM to complete her bachelor's degree — Trinity College would not allow married women to matriculate. Until the end of World War 2, they lived at Fort Ethan Allen, where Junius was a flight instructor for the Army Air Force. After the war, Klara earned a Master of Arts in Comparative Languages from



**KLARA CALITRI**

Cornell University, and taught German at Columbia University and City College in New York.

In 1949, Klara and Junius settled in Putnam Valley, N.Y., where they raised three children. Klara taught French, German and Spanish in Putnam Valley Central School, where Junius was Principal, then Superintendent. Avid skiers, they bought a ski house at Mad River Glen in 1965 and visited Vermont year-round. Klara and Junius retired to Cornwall in 1980.

Klara was a noted artist. She worked in diverse media

including ceramics, pastels, monotypes and oils, sometimes designing larger installations of murals and fountains. She created beautiful gardens wherever she lived. In Cornwall, Klara became part of Vermont's thriving art community. She was also a member of the AAUW, especially attuned to the issues of women's rights. Klara had many solo and group shows, which often highlighted environmental and social causes, including one in Middlebury themed around birds and pollinators that benefitted the Audubon Society. Her creations were displayed in galleries from Canada to California and made their way to Europe and Australia. President Clinton bought one of Klara's bowls for the White House, and Senator Patrick Leahy had Klara's work in his Senate office.

Klara's beloved Junius passed away in 2012, after 69 years of marriage. Klara leaves behind a loving family — children, Ronald Calitri of New York City, Thea Calitri-Martin (Bruce) of North Pomfret, Vt., and Lisa Calitri, of Cornwall, Vt.; grandchildren Meredith Martin Mayhew (Pierce), of Lebanon, N.H., and Nicholas Martin (Emily) of Boston, Mass.; and great-grandchildren Gabriella, Giuliana and Lucas.

The family is planning a celebration of life in the sunshine of 2026. ◊



**RANDALL "RANDY" B. THURBER**

## Randall Thurber celebration of life

BRISTOL — The family of Randall Thurber, who died Nov. 15, 2025, invites you to join us in a celebration of his life Saturday, Dec. 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, Vt. ◊

*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!*

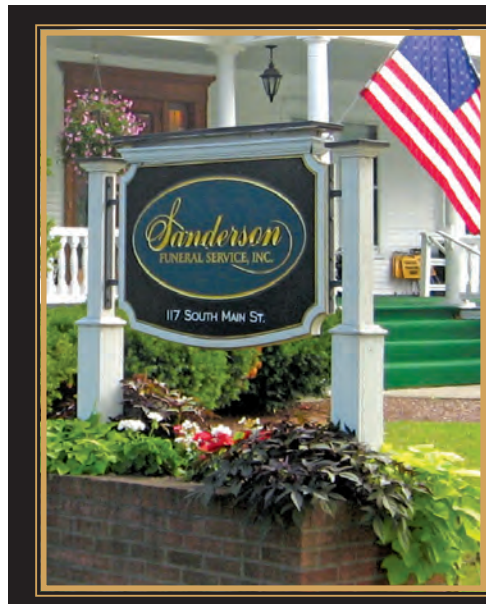
**WE DO OUR OWN**

Drafting • Lettering • Sandblast

Cleaning • Foundations  
Setting • Restoration



**57 Main St., New Haven | 802-453-3433  
cleggnewhaven@yahoo.com**



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

FUNERAL  
MEMORIAL  
SERVICE  
CREMATION  
PRE-PLANNING  
SERVICES

**BROWN-McCLAY  
FUNERAL HOMES**

**BRISTOL VERGENNES**  
802-453-2301 802-877-3321  
[brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com](http://brownmccloyfuneralhomes.com)

**OPINION?**

Email it to:  
[news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

# Meeting house receives historic site designation

CORNWALL — Just in time for its 110th birthday, the Samson Memorial meeting house in Cornwall has earned a stunning gift: inclusion in the Registry of Historic Sites of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a nonpolitical service organization dedicated to historic preservation, education and patriotism.

It was on Dec. 18, 1915, that Martha Elizabeth Samson Porter gifted the Samson Memorial as the official meeting house for Cornwall's Mary Baker Allen Chapter in memory of her great-grandfather William Samson, an early Cornwall settler, deacon of the Congregational Church and Revolutionary War veteran. It was her wish that "this little gathering place may prove to be of some real service and benefit to the people of Cornwall."

For many years it served as



**DAR MEMBERS AND friends gather in front of the Samson Memorial meeting house in the village of Cornwall to celebrate its designation on the Registry of Historic Sites. They also admired the newly painted columns and porches and the new "Never Forget" Memorial Garden, designed by Joan Lynch.**

meeting house and hosted the Cornwall Library.

On Nov. 9, 2025, more than 30 people from across Vermont gathered to celebrate the historic structure and the ongoing fulfillment of Mrs. Porter's vision. Three years ago, that vision was in jeopardy — the chapter was about to close due to waning membership.

But other DAR chapters rallied to create a "Lantern Chapter," in the spirit of sharing the light of DAR service.

Today, there are 34 members and the house is alive with possibility. Thanks to a partnership with the town of Cornwall, the structure now has heat and hot water and can be used year-round.

Outside, guests admired the newly painted columns and porches and commemorative bricks of the "Never Forget" Memorial Garden, designed by Joan Lynch of Cornwall. Inside, they enjoyed the display of cross stitch samplers, pondered debate questions posed by the 1804 Young Gentlemen's Society, perused other library treasures, and admired the quilt made by Sewin' Luv with Vermont Quilters, which will be raffled to benefit veterans' services.

It was also a time to honor those in the United States Armed Forces. JoAnne Reynolds, recent DAR Community Service Award recipient, reflected on her Vietnam experience and her ongoing work with Vermont veterans. Paula Sargent and Janet Franklin coled the service at the "Cornwall Remembers" monument. Anne Haynie Collins shared a poignant letter penned by her father, to her son, recounting his D-Day experience and what service meant to him.

In coming months, the chapter

will develop a plan for public use of the Samson Memorial. Its application for inclusion in the National Park Service's Register of National Historic Sites is pending.

For information about the Samson Memorial and DAR, contact Paula Sargent at paula.sargent60@gmail.com.

*Editor's note: This story was provided by Carolyn Bausch.*

# Leicester man held on \$250,000 bail

ADDISON COUNTY — A man captured by Vermont State Police in Leicester last week must post very large bail if he wants to get out of jail before trial.

Troopers had been notified by the Pennsylvania State Police in October that Robbie Morgan, 33, of Leicester was living in the New Haven barracks coverage area, and they had extraditable warrants for his arrest. Pennsylvania police alleged that Morgan, a convicted felon and fugitive from South Carolina, had threatened a neighbor with a semi-automatic pistol.

On Dec. 10, Vermont State Police located Morgan, arrest him without incident, and jailed him at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland with bail set at \$250,000.

In other recent activity, troopers: • On Dec. 9 at a few minutes before midnight observed motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Route 22A in Ferrisburgh, stopped the car and ended up citing Arlyn R. Sunderland, 30, of Shoreham for two counts of violating his court-ordered conditions of release.

• On Dec. 11 at five minutes before 9 a.m. responded to a two-car crash on Route 7 in the New

Haven Junction. Police report that Max Kinlund, 32, of Bristol was driving southbound and attempting to turn left into a gas station parking lot when he failed to yield to a northbound car driven by Jackson Hanson, 22, of Austin, Texas. Police said Hanson was speeding at the time.

Due to the resulting crash, Hanson's vehicle overturned onto its passenger's side. No injuries were reported. Troopers issued Kinlund a ticket.

Route 7 was closed for a short period while the accident was cleaned up.

Troopers were assisted on scene by the New Haven Fire Department and Bristol Rescue Squad.

• On Dec. 13 at 12:40 p.m. were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash on Burpee Road near Route 17 in Bristol. State police report that the pickup truck that Craig Dumas, 71, of Bristol was driving slowing to make a left turn into a driveway, and the pickup behind him and driven by Benjamin Fitzgerald, 40, of Colchester did not stop, and struck Dumas's truck. No injuries were reported.

Police issued Fitzgerald a ticket for driving without liability insurance.



**PAULA SARGENT, LEFT, Regent of Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter, and Janet Franklin of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution lead a service at the "Cornwall Remembers" monument last month.**

## This community comes through for those in need

In these incredibly challenging times when feeling hopeful can be hard, I am writing to express my profound appreciation to the people of our community — both near and far — for their unwavering and incredible support of our clinic and work at the Open Door Clinic. It has been nothing short of remarkable.

We have just surpassed, for the first time in our history, the

milestone of reaching \$200,000 in our annual fundraising campaign. This outpouring of community support, from those known and anonymous, is truly a tribute to our exceptionally talented and committed staff, volunteers and board.

For those unfamiliar with our work, we are a safety net organization, serving our uninsured community members who often don't have equitable

access to healthcare. The work we do has never been more challenging or more important; and we simply couldn't accomplish what we do without so many friends and partners in this community and beyond.

Thank you for your responsiveness, your generosity, and for letting us know we have friends and hope in you!

**Heidi R. Sulis, MPH**  
Executive Director, Open Door Clinic  
Middlebury

### Notes of appreciation

## Monkton

NEWS

Have you ever been to a "Puzzlepalooza"?

You are invited to this fun event at the Russell Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 18, from 6-8 p.m. Up to five teams will attempt to complete the same 500-piece puzzle first. It's bound to be a fun-filled night to watch participants strive for the win. For more information, contact Catherine at russellmemlibrary@gmail.com, or call the library at 802-453-4471 and leave a message if there's no answer.

On Saturday, Dec. 20 join Poetry Club members from 9:30-10:45 a.m. to share poems and discussions. Bring a poem you've written or one by a favorite author. The meeting will be held in the town office community room. Contact Melanie at cotem@gmail.com, or call 802-425-4441 for questions.

Also on Dec. 20 the yearly excitement of Santa coming to town! He'll arrive at the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department at 1 p.m. Come early. There'll be cookies and refreshments to enjoy while you wait or after he comes. Don't forget to have the children bring their wish lists to give to Santa. All are welcome. For questions contact Logan at logang.young@gmail.com.

On Monday, Dec. 22, the library will host a Silent Reading Party from 6-7:30 p.m. Hot chocolate will

be served in honor of the Icelandic event "Jólabókaflóð," usually translated as "Book Flood" and occurring annually on Dec. 24.

There's still time to get your tree or wreath from Boy Scout troop 525 at 265 Mountain Road. Stop in any time for self-serve and leave your payment in the drop box, or come on the weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for help from this great group of Scouts. Trees are two prices: 6-8 foot are \$55; 8-10 foot are \$65. Wreaths are all \$25 each. This is a great way to get your greenery and to support our local troop. Contact George at 802-989-3993 with any questions.



# J.D. FULLER



## PLUMBING & HEATING INC

MIDDLEBURY • VT

Thank you to all of our customers. Our best to all in 2026!

John D. Fuller Master Plumber    802-989-2251    5118 Case St. • RT 116 Middlebury, Vt. 05753



## 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](http://www.VergennesGrand.com)

34 North Street, Vergennes, VT

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care  

# GOT A SWEET TOOTH?

WE'VE GOT A SWEET CAUSE

Donate to the ADDY ALL-STARS and invite your friends and neighbors to share the sweetness too. Addy All-Star donations go directly to The Addy Indy. These funds ensure everyone can afford a copy of the paper.




SCAN to learn more & donate!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STAR



# Vekos

(Continued from Page 1A)  
years in prison and a \$750 fine.  
The hearing Tuesday took place as Vekos, a Democrat, faced calls to resign last week from the heads of the Vermont Democratic and Progressive parties as well as Republican Gov. Phil Scott.  
All of the legislators from Addison County — both state senators and all nine state representatives — have a letter in today's *Addison Independent* calling for Vekos to resign her position as state's attorney. In addition to the "unprofessional behavior" at the murder scene, they said they "continue to hear from constituents, advocates and victims and their families who have shared stories about the unprofessional, incompetent and rude behavior of Ms. Vekos."

Vekos was unmoved by calls for her to leave.  
"I do not plan on stepping down," she told the *Independent*. "The Democrats are welcome to join me for a meeting to discuss how we can serve the county and maintain public safety — together."  
Those calls followed stories last winter by the *Independent* and this month by *VTDigger* detailing ethics complaints brought against Vekos from crime victims about how they were treated by her and concerns about how their cases were resolved. She has challenged those allegations against her.

According to court records, Vekos was called to meet with state police investigators on the night of Jan. 25, 2024, at a homicide scene in Bridport. Troopers later prevented Vekos from driving away from the scene after a couple of them allegedly detected alcohol on her breath, charging documents stated.

At the scene that night, a trooper asked Vekos how much she had had to drink, and she reportedly replied she had one gin and tonic with a burger for dinner about an hour earlier, according to charging documents.

Vekos was eventually taken to the state police barracks in New Haven for processing for drunken driving.

Before she was taken to the barracks, the charging documents stated, she refused to perform field sobriety tests, telling a trooper, "Are you serious, Ryan, can't you just have a friend come and get me?" according to the documents.

Vekos refused to take a breath test at the barracks and was subsequently charged with drunken driving.

Kennedy, the prosecutor, wrote in a sentencing document filed ahead of Tuesday's hearing that she wanted Vekos to plead guilty to the drunken driving charge and be placed on probation along with a \$300 fine.

Kennedy argued in court that she

doesn't believe Vekos has "owned up" to the incident and urged the judge to not go forward with a deferred sentence for Vekos.

"Our office does feel like she is getting some special treatment," Kennedy said to Pacht.

Also, according to Kennedy, if Vekos truly did consume only one alcoholic drink that night, she shouldn't have been so concerned about taking a breath test at the barracks.

Sleigh, Vekos' attorney, told the judge his client was only exercising her rights, and that her integrity and honesty shouldn't be questioned as a result.

Also, according to Sleight, since Vekos was charged she has faced other punishment. He said Vekos didn't contest the civil penalty of a suspension of her driver's license for six months that stemmed from her refusal to take a breath test.

Sleigh noted people facing a similar first-time drunken driving charge in Addison and Chittenden counties have those cases referred to a diversion program allowing them to avoid criminal convictions.

Sleigh said his client has faced a great deal of public scrutiny, including a recent "hit piece" in the local press, an apparent reference to the article earlier this month in *VTDigger* that prompted calls from some political leaders for Vekos to resign.

In a letter that Vekos sent to *VTDigger* and made available to the *Independent*, she said reporter Charlotte Oliver used misogynic language, and argued her "relationship with law enforcement has never been better."  
She also pushed back on allegations that her office was not running well.

"To say that this office is working its proverbial 'butt' off is an understatement," she wrote. "We're crushing it."

Editor's note: *The Independent* contributed to this story.

## Food, forest businesses can get trade show grants

VERMONT — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is accepting applications for Trade Show Assistance Grants, which would provide Vermont agricultural and forestry businesses with funds to exhibit and sell their Vermont products at trade shows targeting out-of-state buyers.

These matching grants can partially offset the expenses associated with exhibiting at trade shows, which provide excellent opportunities to network with wholesale buyers and expand into new domestic

and international markets.

A total of \$30,000 is available to help Vermont agricultural, food, and forestry businesses exhibit and sell their products at trade shows targeting out-of-state wholesale buyers, offering valuable opportunities to connect with buyers and expand into new markets.

Direct-to-consumer shows are not eligible for funding. Applicants may include up to four trade shows in their yearly marketing plan, requesting a total of between \$2,000 and \$7,500 in eligible reimbursements for shows that take place between

April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027.

Eligible applicants must be headquartered in Vermont, have at least three wholesale accounts, and their products must meet the Vermont Local Definition under Act 129.

Businesses may not apply for funding to support attendance at trade shows they have already attended five or more times.

Get more details and fill out an application online at [agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/tradeshow). Applications are due by Jan. 21, 2026.

## MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)  
and tuition), education spending in the district (total expenses minus incoming revenue) is expected to rise by 2.6%.

However, it's not yet clear what exactly the tax impact will be in the MAUSD member towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro.

Superintendent Patrick Reen on Tuesday presented two sets of draft FY27 budget figures — the first using the district's projected long-term weighted average daily membership (LTWADM) and the other using the most recent LTWADM estimate provided by the Agency of Education, which reflects a drop of around 30 students from the current year.

"Really the only difference between these is the LTWADM count," Reen said.

That difference is impactful. That's because a district's education spending for the fiscal year is divided by its LTWADM (an adjusted count of the district's students) to calculate its spending per pupil, and that figure drives the district's homestead tax rate. Fewer students to divide by would mean a higher cost per pupil.

Reen noted the district is continuing to work with the state to land on an LTWADM that's as accurate as possible.

"The biggest rollercoaster, really, has been the LTWADM fluctuations," he said. "It's trending in the right direction. I hope that drop of 30 is not our final number, and it could be."

Using the district's projection for LTWADM (1,931.75 students), the district's cost per pupil is expected to rise by 3.01%, or \$440.20, to \$15,068.51. Despite a projected decrease in the district's homestead tax rate, MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home are at this point expected to see a rise in their school taxes after Common Level of Appraisals are applied. Those tax rate increases

are currently expected to range from 0.29% in Bristol to 13.11% in Starksboro.

Those numbers rise a bit when using the LTWADM provided by the Agency of Education (1,908.18 students). Using that figure, the district's cost per pupil is expected to increase by 4.28%, or \$626.32, to \$15,254.63. According to Tuesday's presentation, that would translate to estimated tax rate increases ranging from 1.54% in Bristol to 14.52% in Starksboro, after CLAs are applied.

The CLA is a ratio used by the state to make adjustments when assessing education property taxes to make the level of taxation equal among all Vermont towns.

School officials noted the CLAs driving up the anticipated tax rate increases are out of the district's hands.

"I want to see this budget pass, and these are tough numbers," school board member and state Rep. Herb Olson said. "I don't know what to do about that. A lot of it's beyond our control."

An estimated two-thirds of residents pay education taxes based on their income. MAUSD residents who pay based on their income are expected to see a decrease in their school taxes, of 8.4% in the scenario using the district's LTWADM and of 7.3% using the figure from the Agency of Education. Those estimates are based on the Addison County 2023 median household income of \$88,478.

The budget figures presented on Tuesday were based on several other assumptions, including increased revenue, a higher yield (a measure of how much in education taxes the state will collect to distribute to towns), and a 20% reduction in federal funding.

"We have been advised, sort of the common practice that we're hearing around the state, is to budget a 20% reduction in federal funding," Reen explained. "For us, that's a little north of \$200,000."

The school board last month decided it would look to meet its budget target with the use of one-time funds and savings realized through attrition rather than evaluating other potential position reductions. Reen noted the assumed reduction in federal funding has resulted in an increase in the amount of one-time funds needed to meet that target.

"When we last met, we were talking about a \$1.5 million use of one-time funds to buy down the tax rate, you'll see that's now a little over \$1.7 (million)," he said. "The difference is that \$215,000 or so in the federal funds."

District officials on Tuesday also underscored that the decision to use one-time funds to meet the board's budget target isn't one they can count on next year.

"I'm really concerned that we're not driving home the point that this is probably the only year that we can draw this level of one-time funds down," School board member Kathi Apgar said. "If folks are unhappy with the tax rate and what they're going to have to pay, they've got to understand that we're out of choices here, and that we can't continue to draw down from one-time funds that aren't going to be there after this."

The school board is expected to adopt an FY27 budget next month.

**WEBSITE RESOURCE**  
School board members on Tuesday also reviewed a website resource created by the board's Finance & Facilities Committee that's aimed at making information on topics like the district's schools, finances and future plans more readily available to members of the board and community.

The online tool serves as a one-stop-shop for information on those and other topics, such as definitions for key education terms and the local impact of action at the regional, state and federal level.

"We basically created individual webpages dedicated to each of those buckets," Finance & Facilities Committee Chair Mike Dash explained.

The resource also includes links to provide feedback, access board meeting recordings and use an AI-based search tool that can help find relevant school board meeting minutes based on questions.

Board members voted unanimously to move forward with launching the website resource, and Dash will work with district staff to put that in motion.




**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!**






## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR FIBER INTERNET

With Maple Broadband, holiday stress won't be coming from your slow internet connection.





**Check pricing & availability:**  
[maplebroadband.net](http://maplebroadband.net)

MapleBroadband.net | 802-496-2753 | info@maplebroadband.net

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A NEW CAR FROM WIMETT'S!

Ask about our Guaranteed Financing Program

 <b>2021 TOYOTA RAV 4</b> LE Hybrid, Auto, AWD, Loaded, 65k miles <b>\$26,995</b>	 <b>WIMETT TRADING COMPANY</b> USED CARS AND TRUCKS <b>802 465 4688</b>	 <b>2018 CHEVY SILVERADO</b> Ext Cab, 4.3L V6, Auto, 4x4, 116k miles <b>\$19,500</b>
 <b>2023 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE</b> 3-Cyl, Auto, Only 36k miles <b>\$13,995</b>	 <b>2017 NISSAN FRONTIER</b> Crew Cab, V6, Auto, 4x4, Only 60k miles <b>\$20,995</b>	 <b>2024 TOYOTA COROLLA</b> 4-Cyl, Auto, Only 7600 miles <b>\$22,995</b>

**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



# Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)

But board members at their Tuesday meeting seemed poised to stick with an FY27 spending proposal that town staff in the past week whittled down by \$621,274 (through cuts and revenue adjustments) since unveiling it Dec. 9.

“Just about every category (of the budget) was cut in some way,” Middlebury Town Manager Mark Pruhenski told the board as they poured over the revised numbers.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, the board had originally reviewed an FY27 budget proposal of \$16,525,287, which would have represented a \$1,976,752 (13.54%) spending increase compared to the \$14,548,535 FY26 general fund budget that voters approved this past March. That budget would have required a 14.8-cent (15.96%) increase in the municipal property tax rate.

Convinced that an almost 15-cent bump in the municipal rate wouldn't fly with voters, the board asked staff to come back with revenue/spending adjustments of \$300,000-\$500,000. Pruhenski on Tuesday displayed a list totaling \$621,000, including:

- \$224,000 in capital budget reductions, including \$90,000 from various planned stormwater projects, \$10,000 in sidewalk work, \$30,000 in road construction, \$15,000 toward a planned skatepark near Mary Hogan Elementary School, \$25,000 in site planning for an improved public works facility, \$5,000 for improved town office building security, and \$15,000 for planned flood resiliency work on the Middlebury River.

• \$397,274 in operating budget adjustments, including reductions of \$100,790 for administration, \$143,257 for public works, \$82,129 for public safety, \$21,018 for Ilsley Library operations, \$45,480 for recreation and \$4,500 for health and social services.

In addition to the cuts made since last week, officials are proposing to use \$1.45 million in local option tax surplus revenues to soften the tax impact of the budget. That would be \$150,000 more than the \$1.3 million in local option tax surplus that is being applied to the budget this year, according to figures provided

by the town.

Selectboard members on Tuesday pointed to several major FY27 budget drivers over which they have no control. Chief among them is a \$762,240 increase in debt service, of which \$734,979 is related to the second-year principal (\$575,000) and interest (\$159,979) payments for the Ilsley Library renovation and expansion project at 75 Main St.

The \$17 million in project debt is to be covered by \$6.3 million in private donations, \$552,064 in tax credits and rebates, \$5.8 million in surplus Middlebury local option tax proceeds, and a \$4.5 million, 20-year municipal bond.

Other major FY27 drivers, as updated by Pruhenski on Tuesday, include:

- A \$639,626 boost in contracted salary and benefits increases for town employees.
- A \$77,888 surge in needed technology improvements for the town offices.
- A \$64,970 increase in non-wage-related library expenses.

Selectboard members praised town staff for being able to trim the original budget ask by more than \$600,000, given the level of looming fixed costs.

“Believe me, in my heart, I wish it was a single-digit tax increase, but this is amazing, frankly,” Selectman Fred Dunnington said.

At the same time, Dunnington acknowledged that the municipal levy is only part of local taxpayers' overall bill. There will also be the public education tax, and many Middlebury residents will, in the near future, see a spike in their municipal sewer rates, based on a \$49.5 million, voter-approved bond to update the aging facility at 243 Industrial Ave. Middlebury officials continue to apply for grants to blunt the bond's impact on rates. Current plans call for the sewer plant makeover to be completed in 2030.

“It's a tough environment to sell (the FY27 budget increase),” Dunnington said.

Middlebury is among a shrinking

number of Vermont communities that decides its municipal budget on the floor at its annual town meeting. This gives voters an opportunity to amend the spending plan just before voting on it — something that can't be done for budgets voted by Australian ballot.

Selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter said he reviewed the budget carefully with Pruhenski and believes the new bottom line can't be lowered appreciably without cutting staff, programs or capital projects.

He noted roughly 5 cents of the proposed overall 11.9-cent bump in taxes is related to paying debt on the Ilsley project. The remaining 8-cent increase, he said, tracks closely with past municipal tax increases of 8 cents for FY22; 8.2 cents for FY23; 8.3 cents for FY24; 8.6 cents for FY25; and 9.16 cents for FY26.

“The library is a done deal,” he said. “The town voted for it.”

Carpenter — who's not seeking reelection to the board next March — said he's felt more comfortable stepping down because of the quality of town staff Middlebury has been able to recruit. That required adjusting salaries to a reflect the higher cost of living and housing.

“Do we take (this budget) to the taxpayers and let them decide?” Carpenter asked his colleagues. “Because where we would be cutting, is staff.”

Selectboard members didn't offer up new cuts, but said they'll be looking for more information during their last few budget reviews that will include a public hearing on Jan. 13. For example, selectboard members Dan Brown and Megan James said they'd like more clarity on financing of the library project, particularly as it relates to the application of local option tax surplus.

Middlebury wastewater Superintendent Jeremy Rathbun was among those listening intently to the board's budget deliberations. Speaking as a citizen, Rathbun

*“Do we take (this budget) to the taxpayers and let them decide? Because where we would be cutting, is staff.”*

— Brian Carpenter

# Tap into business opps. in your woods

VERMONT — Are you interested in exploring the business potential of your maple woods? UVM Extension is working with forest landowners, maple producers, and entrepreneurs to assess the economic and environmental benefits of sap enterprises.

Through one-on-one guidance, participants can evaluate carbon and economic assessment tools, develop startup budgets, and analyze production costs to determine the feasibility of starting a sap business. This program helps you balance forest health with profitability while exploring opportunities in the maple industry.

Some benefits of a maple sap business include:

- Lower barriers to entry and higher profitability; start-up costs about half the cost for a full sugaring operation.
- Strong demand for sap from an expanding maple products industry.

urged the board not to do any more FY27 budget trimming.

“It's a heavy lift when the tax (bill) comes in,” he said. “The library is being built, and this is the budget we have. I would encourage you to not cut services anymore. I really think there's a minimum level of service you're trying to maintain in the town of Middlebury, while making sure we're not tripping over a dollar to save a dime, that we're not cutting so much this year that we're creating a problem, years down the road.”

In other action at Tuesday's meeting, the board heard a presentation from Kevin Chu, executive director of the Vermont Futures Project. His presentation centered on the impacts that an aging workforce and a lack of affordable housing are having on the Vermont's prosperity, and ideas for turning that around. The *Independent* will present a full report on his presentation, and a complementary one delivered by three Middlebury College students, in a future edition.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



• Potential for economic incentives related to woodland management and forest carbon sequestration. UVM Extension is recruiting Vermont participants to work with UVM Extension Maple Business one-on-one. New funding in 2025 is limited to Vermont participants. If you are a maple sap producer, prospective producer, or a forest landowner you are invited to apply for an assessment. Extension Maple Business will work with you to

assess the productive potential of your maple woods, create investment start-up budgets and perform cost of production analysis, to help you determine the feasibility of starting a sap operation.

If you would like to participate in this project or receive more information, contact Chris Lindgren, UVM Extension Forest Business Educator at Christopher.Lindgren@uvm.edu or 802-656-7583 or 800-281-6977.

**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](http://unboundgrace.org/beef) for a special holiday offer: 10% off sitewide



# \$100 OFF

ENERGY STAR® smart thermostats\*

Efficiency Vermont

efficiencyvermont.com  
(888) 921-5990

## Deck your halls

This winter, come home to a perfectly cozy temperature thanks to a smart thermostat.

Qualifying models save energy by using sensors and automation to respond to your daily schedule.

Learn more:  
[EfficiencyVermont.com/thermostats](http://EfficiencyVermont.com/thermostats)



\*Subject to availability and eligibility. Lifetime limit: 2 per Vermont household and 6 per Vermont business.

# LETTERS TO SANTA

DEAR SANTA,  
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS AN ELF STUFFIE.

JUNIPER

DEAR SANTA,  
I WOULD LIKE BARBIE STUFF PLEASE

RUBY

DEAR SANTA,  
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A BABY DOLL WITH  
A CARRIAGE AND BUCKLE

OLIVE

DEAR SANTA  
PLEASE CAN I HAVE A PUZZLE, A PRETEND CROWN FOR LITTLE  
GIRLS AND A PRETEND TRUCK

LOVE, AMELIA

DEAR SANTA  
I HOPE YOU ARE WELL. I WOULD LIKE TOY MINI BRANDS FOR  
CHRISTMAS.

THANK YOU, ANNIKA

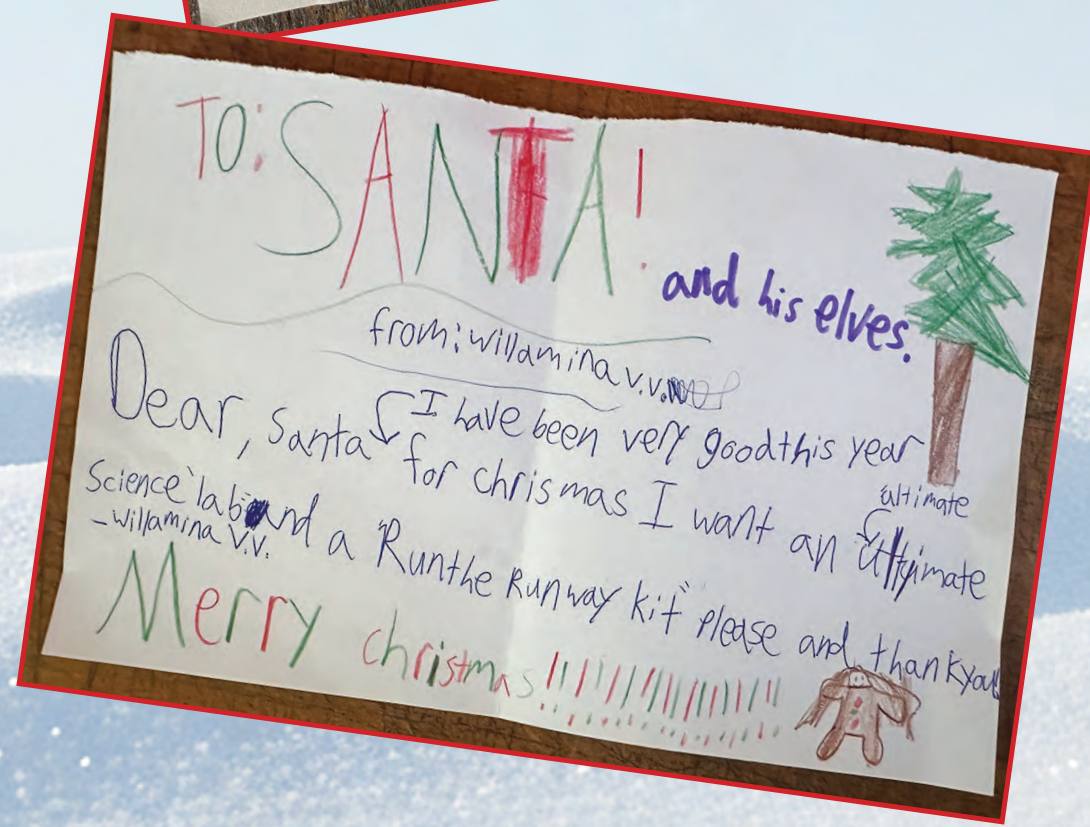
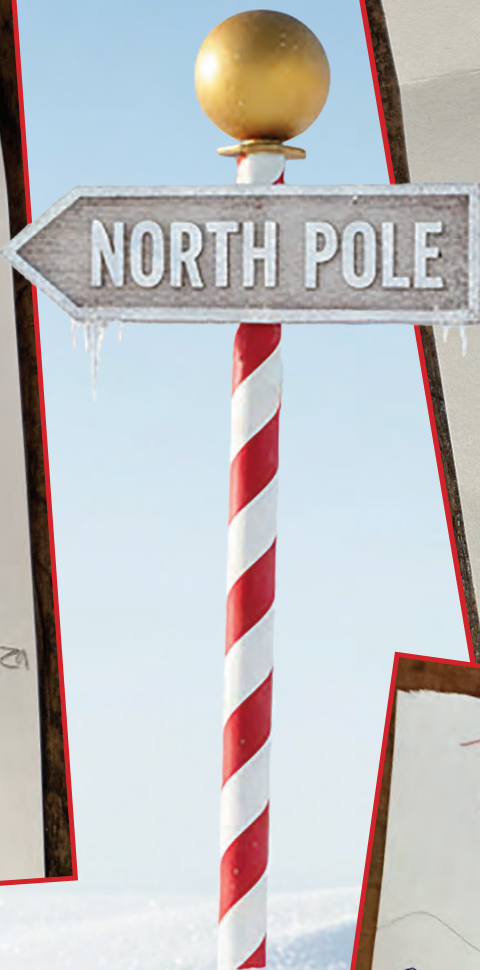
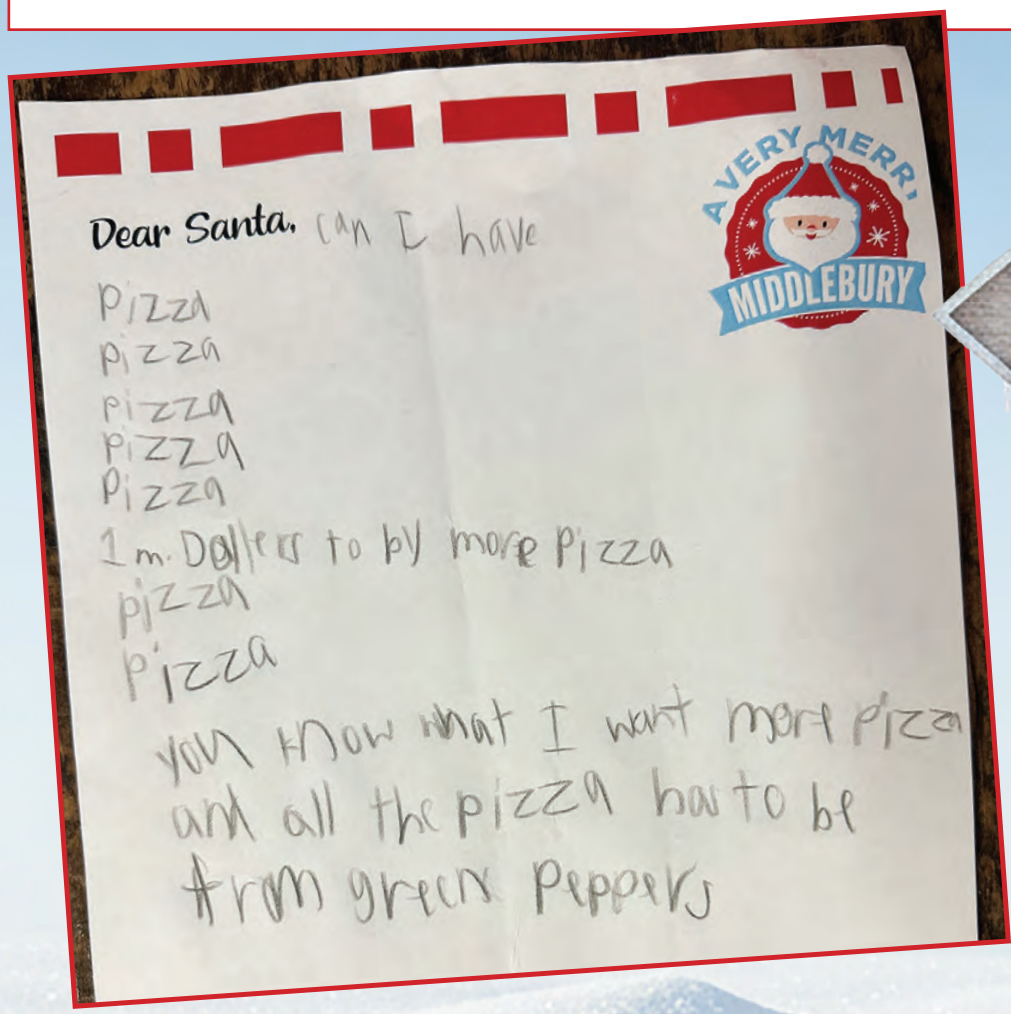
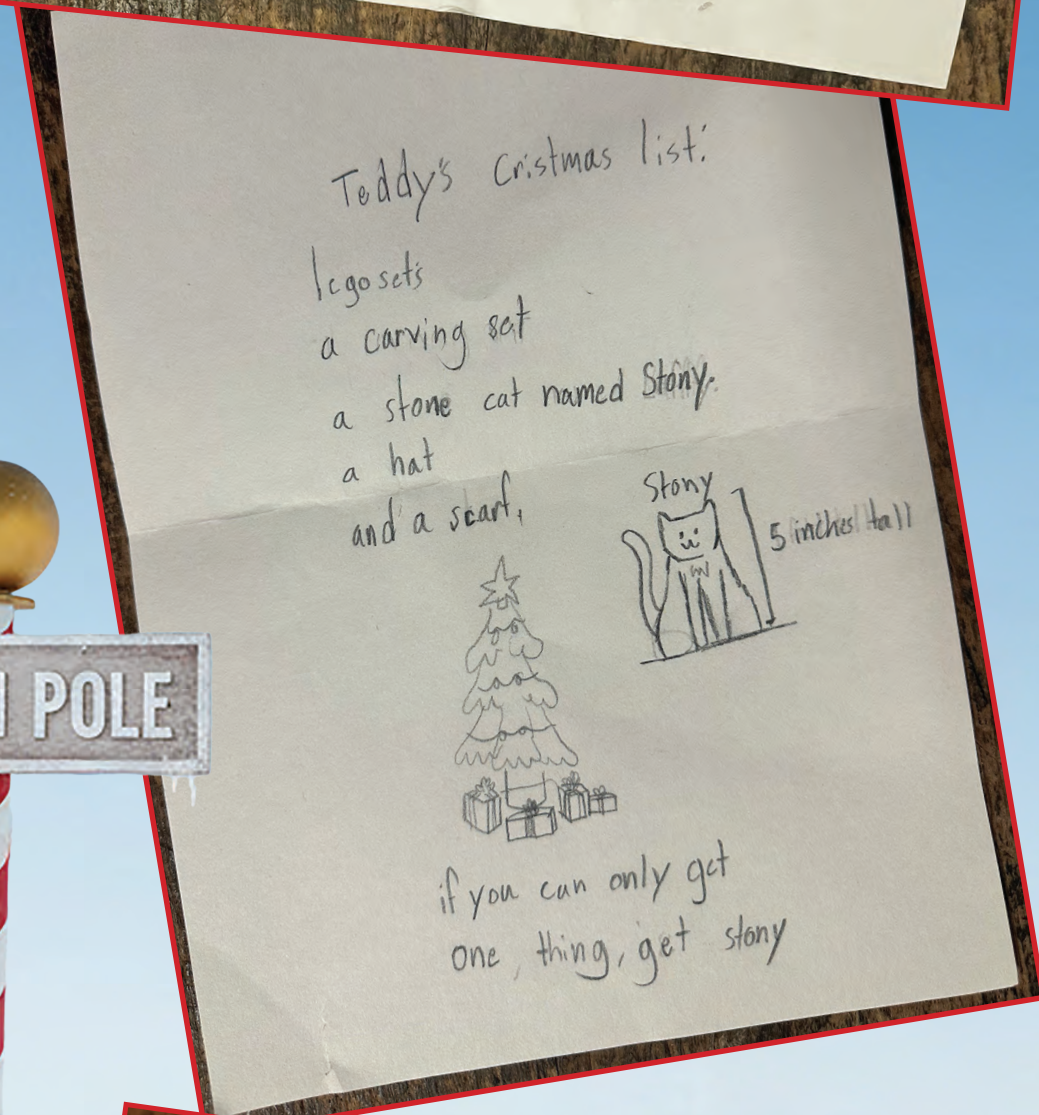
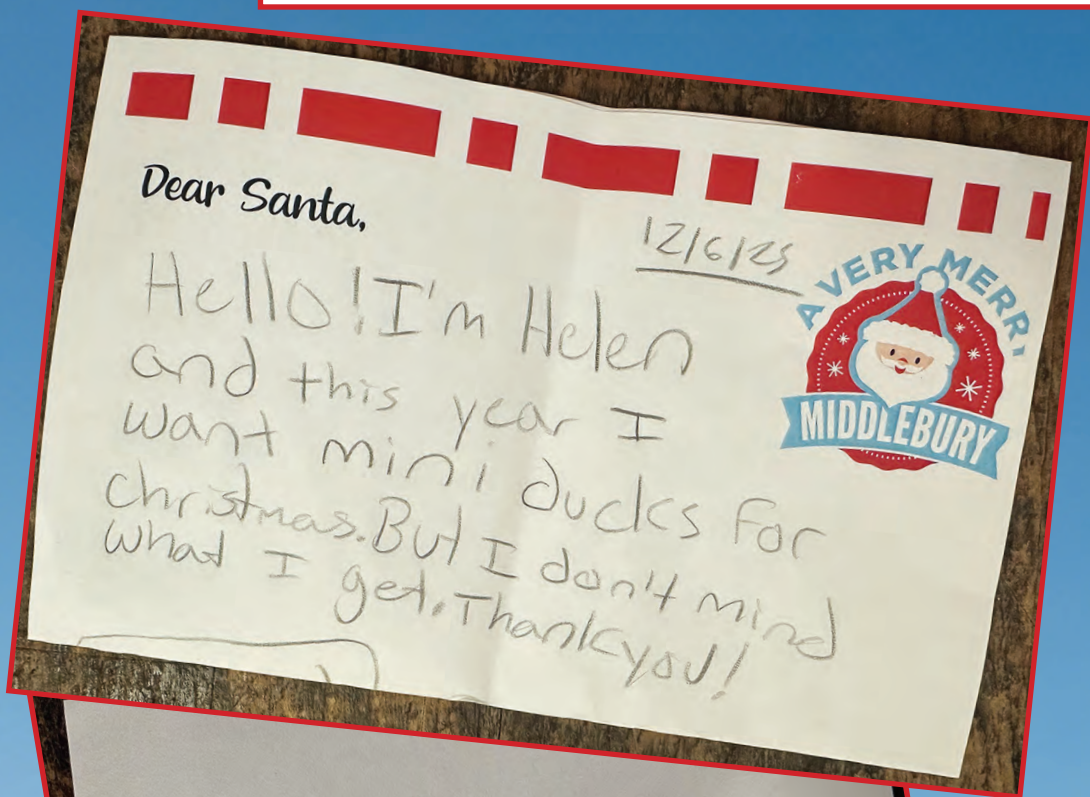
DEAR SANTA  
I WANT A CAT

AVERY

DEAR SANTA  
WHAT I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A ELECTRIC GUITAR  
LOVE, BEATRICE

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:**

Scores of youngsters took the time to write letters and wish lists for Santa during the Better Middlebury Partnership's First Saturday of December holiday kickoff at Town Hall Theater. The Addy Indy was lucky enough to get a peek at those letters, and a few more that were dropped off at our Middlebury offices before one of Santa's elves swung by to bring them to the North Pole. Here are some of the things on local kids' minds this time of year.  
Ho Ho Ho!




*Still looking for the perfect gift?  
You just might find it at Marion's Place!*

From the practical to the whimsical, useful to just plain beautiful, we've got it all.  
New and used clothing, books, antiques and collectibles,  
furniture, games, kitchen ware, the list goes on.



Store hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 - 4:30  
closing at noon on Christmas Eve, see website for holiday hours.  
334 Boardman Street, Middlebury



please support local stores

## VERMONT BOOKS

# Make Great Gifts

find a great selection in the shop  
and online at [vermontbookshop.com](http://vermontbookshop.com)

**38 Main Street | 802.388.2061**  
[vermontbookshop.com](http://vermontbookshop.com) | We're available however you'd like.

# LETTERS TO SANTA

DEAR SANTA,  
I WANT A TABA SQUISHY AND A CINNAMON ROLL SQUISHMALLOW  
MAY

DEAR SANTA,  
FOR CHRISTMAS I WOULD LIKE A KITTEN, A NEW CAMERA, A NEW  
DESK AND STUFF TO USE AT MY DESK  
TILLY

DEAR SANTA,  
I WANT A LEGO POLICE CAR PLEASE  
FROM, CALVIN

DEAR SANTA  
I WOULD LIKE MAKEUP FOR LIPS AND AN APPLE WATCH  
SOPHIA

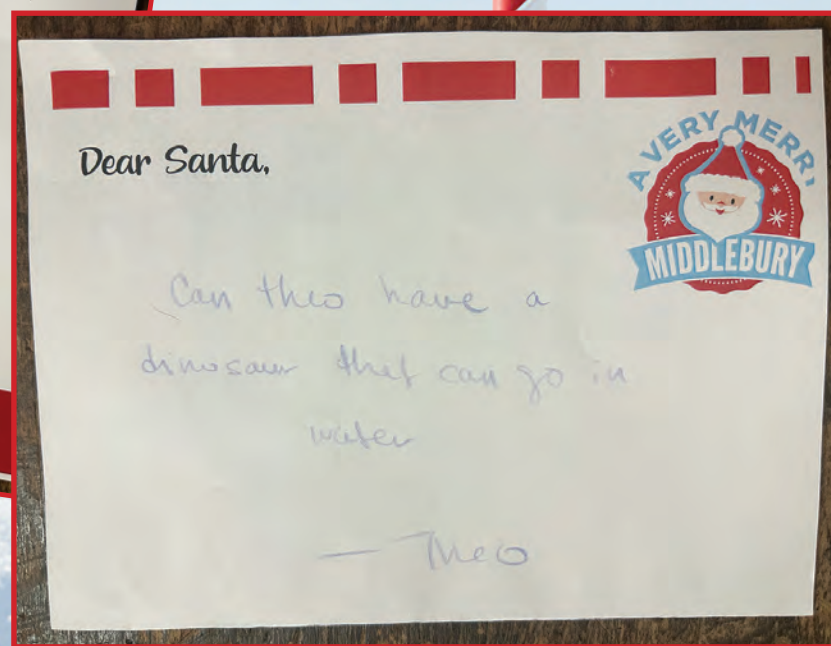
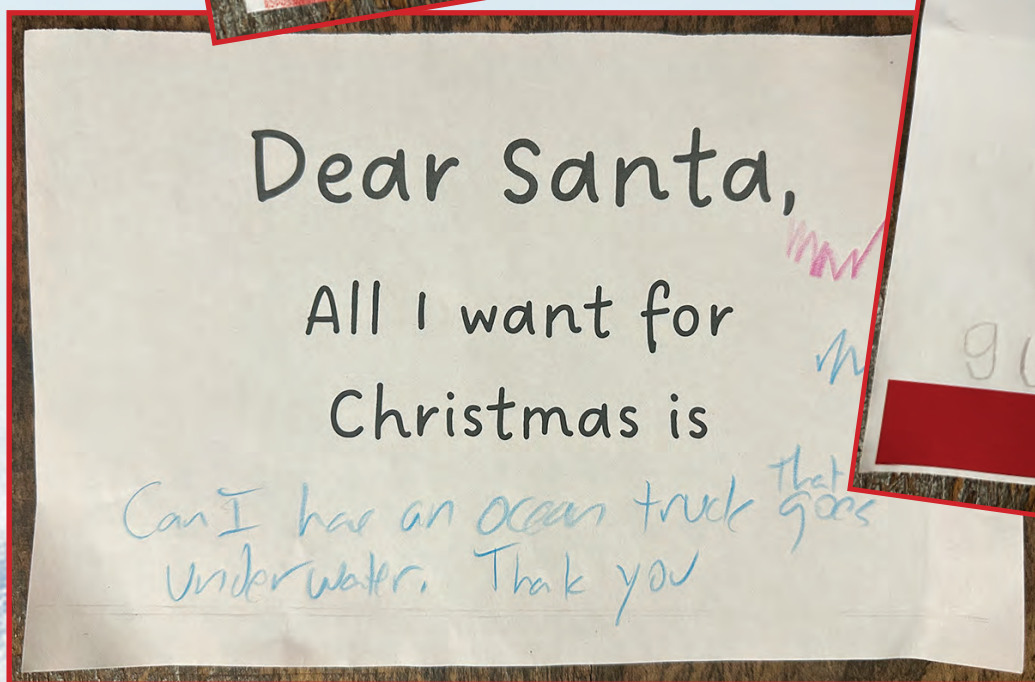
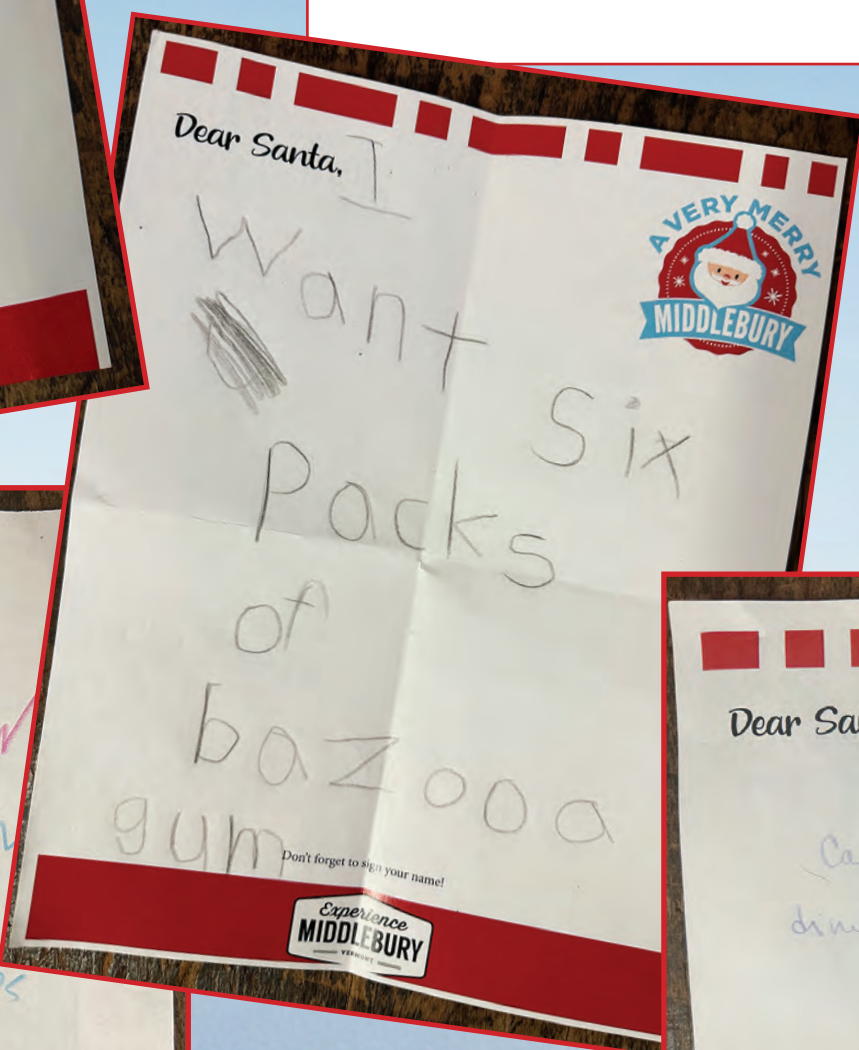
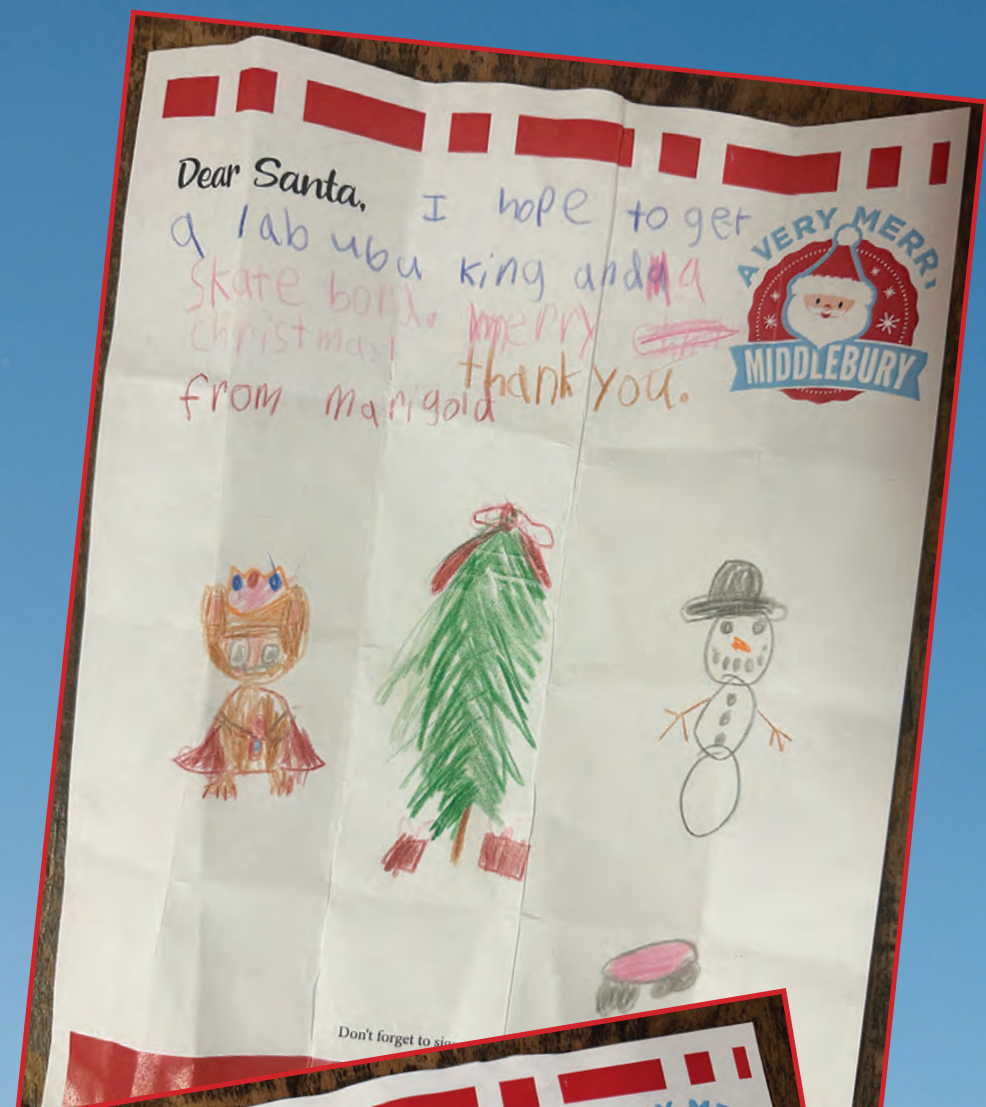
DEAR SANTA  
I WOULD LIKE A STUFFED REINDEER AND ARTIC FOX. I WOULD  
ALSO LIKE SNOWGLOBES.  
ETHAN

DEAR SANTA  
I WANT A YOYO  
THEO

DEAR SANTA  
FOR CHRISTMAS I WANT DOMINOES AND A HEATED VEST  
FROM, KORA

DEAR SANTA  
I WOULD LIKE A DOLL HOUSE!  
LIAM

DEAR SANTA  
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A HAMSTER  
ZOE



Plumbing & Heating  
**J.W. & D.E. RYAN**  
Incorporated  
Vergennes, Vermont

We are grateful to have amazing employees, loyal customers, and a supportive community.

Wishing you all **Peace, Love & Good Health** this holiday season and always.

Serving the Champlain Valley Since 1887  
155 Main Street, Vergennes • 802-877-3118

From our Family to yours  
Happy Holidays!

**JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL**  
INC.  
SINCE 1930  
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

www.JackmansInc.com • 64 Jackman Drive, Bristol  
802-453-2381

THE INDEPENDENT MAKES A GREAT GIFT! CALL 388-4944

# LETTERS TO SANTA



**Happy Holidays**

**OTTER CREEK USED BOOKS**

99 Maple St., Historic Marble Works  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-3241  
ottercreekusedbooks.com  
Tues-Sat 10am-5pm

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS from our families to yours!



*In the spirit of giving, EastView is hosting two giving trees this holiday season.*

We welcome donations of unwrapped toys or gift cards for the Middlebury Police Department to distribute to families in need.

Also accepting donations to Homeward Bound for support of their sheltered animals: canned cat and dog food, treats and chew toys. Visit [www.homewardboundanimals.org](http://www.homewardboundanimals.org) for a full wish list.

Please drop off gifts between 8am-8pm daily.

**Warm thanks for your generosity!**



100 Eastview Terrace  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753  
802-989-7501  
[www.EastViewMiddlebury.com](http://www.EastViewMiddlebury.com)

INDEPENDENT LIVING • RESIDENTIAL CARE • MEMORY CARE

# Happy Holidays

from



weekday mornings from 5 to 10



[921wvtk.com](http://921wvtk.com)

# Tourterelle

(Continued from Page 3A)

Mosello said the couple is excited to host more community events. "Being a camp director, I love doing things with children and hosting fun, collaborative events within the community," she said. "I definitely see some of that down the line, whether it be crafts in the barn or a holiday party in the barn or a holiday market."

Other ideas for future events include yoga classes, sip and paints, and live music. Mosello said the new owners also hope to rent out the inn upstairs more, such as by exploring opportunities to host guests in the space throughout the winter.

Mosello said the pair, now Shoreham residents, is most looking forward to joining the surrounding community.

"Where we were in Colorado it was so beautiful, so lovely, and we really enjoyed where we were, but it definitely lacked a strong, tight-knit community," she said. "While we were looking for houses once we got married, we were just really craving to go somewhere where it was more community-oriented, and that's really what Vermont is



**SHELBY MOSELLO, LEFT, and Austin Ping purchased New Haven's Tourterelle restaurant and wedding venue from longtime owners Christine Thomas-Snell and Bill Snell last month. The pair doesn't have plans for any changes, and Thomas-Snell will stay on at the business for the next year as the transition unfolds.**

Photo courtesy of Shelby Mosello

all about."

As for Thomas-Snell, she said she's excited to have more flexibility with her children now

grown and her mother in France. Though, she'll remain tied to the Green Mountain State.

"My home is Vermont," she said.

## 2026 Bristol 4th fireworks face financial hurdles

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Summer feels like a long ways off, but preparations for Bristol's well-loved July Fourth celebrations are already underway, and those efforts are facing some headwinds. The Bristol 4th of July Committee is looking to raise funds to support next year's fireworks show in the face of an unexpected increase in costs for the display.

The committee has noted that the cost of the annual fireworks show has risen to \$20,000 for the upcoming year, an increase that Bristol 4th of July Committee member Christine Lathrop said has been caused by tariffs and Bristol's usual fireworks vendor being bought out by a larger company.

"Two things we have no control over unfortunately," she told the *Independent*.

The annual fireworks show is part of a two-day Independence

Day celebration held in Bristol, which is coordinated by a group of community members on the Bristol 4th of July Committee. Next year's celebration should have a special resonance since it will coincide with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The committee in recent months has worked to secure sponsorships and community donations to support next year's display, though Lathrop noted the group is still looking to raise \$6,000 by Dec. 31.

The group has said that if it can't raise those funds, the fireworks display is in jeopardy of not happening next year.

Donations can be made online at [gofund.me/bda9b8093](https://gofund.me/bda9b8093) and [www.venmo.com/u/BristolVT4th](https://www.venmo.com/u/BristolVT4th). Community members can also donate through the Bristol 4th of July website, Facebook page and

by mailing a check to Bristol 4th of July Committee, PO Box 71, Bristol, VT 05443.

The committee is also looking to collect signatures from community members to support an effort to ask the towns of Lincoln, New Haven, Monkton and Starksboro to consider an appropriation of \$1,500 for the celebration. Bristol voters have supported such appropriations at previous town meetings, most recently approving \$8,500 for the committee's work this past March.

Petitions have been started to get the question on the ballot in four other nearby towns and more information can be found on the 4th of July Bristol Vermont Facebook Page.

Any questions or comments can be directed to [bristolvt4thofjuly@gmail.com](mailto:bristolvt4thofjuly@gmail.com), which is monitored by Lathrop.

# Happy Holidays!

from



## Volunteers Wanted at Porter Medical Center

Join our volunteer team! We need you - Volunteers support our staff, patients, and families. If you are looking to engage in your community, we will find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests. From greeters to crafters, there are so many ways you can be part of our Volunteer Team!

If interested, please complete a Volunteer Application at [www.portermedical.org](http://www.portermedical.org), send an email to [PMC-Volunteers@portermedical.org](mailto:PMC-Volunteers@portermedical.org), or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444.





A CONSULTANT HAS estimated it would take a \$15.4 million capital investment in Cornwall's Bingham Memorial School to enable it to properly serve its current enrollment of 83 kindergarten to fifth-grade students.

## Cornwall

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 Memorial was erected in 1955 and equipped with an addition in 1987. The building hasn't undergone any substantial renovations since then, except for an update of its electrical system, according to district officials. Its condition is ranked "poor" by state metrics for school facilities.

"My perspective ... is that this is one of, if not the most significantly challenged buildings (in the ACSD)," said ACSD board member Steve Cash, who's also a member of the district's facilities

committee. The Cornwall elementary building is rated for up to 121 students, based purely on classroom space, but the configuration and limitations of the structure tell a different story, according to those who learn and work there. Bingham School Principal Nadya Bech-Conger, ACSD Facilities Manager Bruce Macintire, ACSD Business Manager Matt Corrente and district Superintendent Wendy Baker this month explained the building's biggest shortcomings to the ACSD board. They include:

- Inadequate space to meet program needs.
  - Front offices that are remote from the building entrance.
  - "There's no line of sight, (which) represents a security concern," Corrente told the board.
  - A multi-purpose room that's too small for its current role as a cafeteria and instructional space for PE, art and music. The multi-purpose room also serves as the main connector between classrooms (instead of a hallway), which is disruptive to instruction.
  - Inadequate room for administrative staff offices, health services, staff planning or conference space.
- "There are no conference spaces for meetings or small group instruction/intervention. Students currently receive intervention services in the hallway, and there are no private places for Individual Education Plan meetings. Some offices are converted storage spaces," reads an analysis of the building recently performed by the firm TruexCullins Architecture & Interior Design.

(See Baker, Page 19A)

## ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 about 68% in the current budget.

According to the presentation to the board from administrators, the latest budget draft:

- "Preserves a full spectrum of advanced coursework, world languages, robust arts programming, clubs, activities, and competitive sports
- Centers instructional excellence with targeted strategies to reduce disparities in student outcomes (and) strengthens systems of academic assistance and behavioral intervention
- Continues investment in behavior-focused initiatives that cultivate social-emotional growth and whole-child development."

Factors influencing district spending in FY27 will include:

- A lower-than-expected increase in health insurance rates of 7.4%.
- Reduction of 11.3 full-time equivalent positions. Per the presentation, 7.3 jobs went unfilled, and four were reduced "based on program need."
- Four behavioral intervention specialists were added to the payroll after previously being grant-funded positions. Superintendent Sheila Soule defended the need for these positions when questioned at the Dec. 8 meeting.
- Technology and athletics budgets were reduced by 2.5%.
- The district's revenues were lowered due to declining enrollment. State revenue for school districts is calculated on the number of students they educate.

However, the Agency of Education (AOE) last week recalculated ANWSD's weighted daily average student count, according to Superintendent Soule in an email to the *Independent*, adding the equivalent of nine students.

### SURPLUS DECISION

This AOE decision increased the district's projected revenue and lowered its per-pupil costs from the Dec. 8 budget presentation to either \$15,377 or \$15,557. Those numbers depend on how much of a \$1.2 million surplus the board opts to use as revenue to offset spending. Either way, it's a slight increase from the current level.

And the board has discussed

using two-thirds of the surplus, or \$800,000, while putting the rest toward replacing two sections of Vergennes Union High School roofing over the school's library and high school gymnasium.

"We talked about what we might need for facilities," Board Chair Mark Koenig told the *Independent*. "There are some roofs we might need to be thinking about. The discussion was we have X amount in the Capital Improvement Fund. We would like to top that off to be able to do some major projects next year ... We would like to ask the voters to move some money into capital improvement."

Members might be reluctant to put all the money into tax relief "because we might be creating a financial cliff for the next budget round," Koenig said, while adding the district could use "half to two-thirds" of the surplus to keep taxes in check and fix the roofing with the rest.

That could save money in the long run, he said, because "it's a cost savings to do (the roofs) all at once."

At issue is if the two sections of high school roofing are done separately, the board has an estimate of \$700,000. But if the company can come once and do both at the same time, the price drops to \$550,000. The Capital Improvement Fund now has close to \$400,000 in it, according to Koenig.

"It's just going to be a discussion in January trying to figure out what makes the most sense," he said.

Koenig noted that even with the use of two-thirds of the surplus, ANWSD would be well under the per-pupil spending threshold after which districts are financially penalized.

"I think there's no way we're not going to be better than the state average," he said.

### TAX ESTIMATES

Preliminary estimates of tax increases vary among the communities due to how accurate their property assessments for taxation purposes are and the ANWSD board's decision on how much of the surplus to apply to lower taxes.

ANWSD tax rate projections suggest communities that have

recently completed town-wide property appraisals and thus have up-to-date Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs) will fare comparatively well. Thus Pantton, Vergennes, Ferrisburgh and Waltham could be looking at school tax rate increases of between 4 and 7 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, depending on whether the surplus is applied to tax relief or roof repair. On the other hand, Addison could be looking at a rate rising between 17 and 19 cents.

Those numbers are preliminary. Final rates are subject to how much of the surplus the board applies, school funding actions the Legislature and Gov. Phil Scott could take this winter, and final determination by the state of the ANWSD's weighted student count and where the Legislature sets the basic yield rate.

The Legislature sets the homestead property-tax yield rate to raise enough property tax revenue for the Education Fund to pay off statewide education costs.

Regardless of these factors that are of the district's control, Soule told the board at its Dec. 8 meeting — even before the news of extra revenue for nine more students — she believed it was a responsible budget for students, with a modest spending increase.

"So far I feel pretty good about our budget," she said.

Still, some board members were concerned selling the budget would be problematic even with an increase of less than the rate of inflation and, in most cases, modest tax hikes.

They worried about the publicity generated by the annual letter released by Tax Commissioner Bill Shouldice on Dec. 1 predicting average statewide property tax hikes of around 11.9%.

Some board members debated the wisdom of including tax estimates in publicity leading up to the March 3 vote, and said it was unfortunate law ballot language must include per-pupil costs, which tend to higher in smaller districts such as ANWSD.

Board member Michael Kane seemed to settle the question.

"If we don't do it, they (voters) will just assume their taxes are going up 12%," he said.

**MIDDLEBURY**  
 Discount Beverage BEER • WINE • CIDER

All your **15% OFF**  
**HOLIDAY** favorites

Any wine purchase of \$100 or more  
 In-stock bottles only  
 Limit one coupon per customer  
 Not valid with any other discounts  
 Only valid with coupon in hand

Offer expires January 1, 2026  
 Middlebury Discount Beverage Coupon

Mon - Sat 7am - 8pm, Sun 7am - 7pm  
 802.388.6068 • 21 MacIntyre Lane • Middlebury, VT

**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC**  
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Efficiency Excellence Network  
 Efficiency Vermont

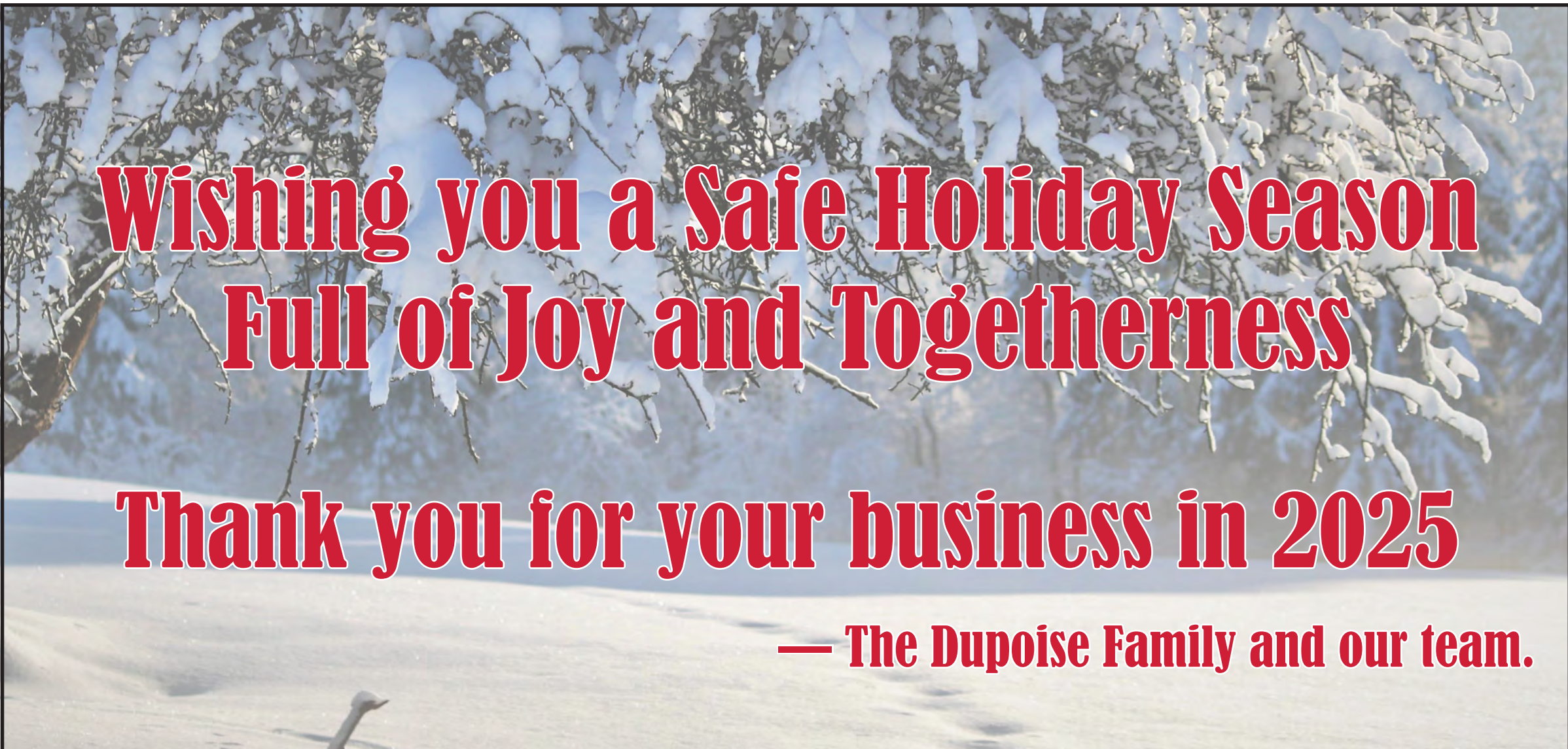
**DIAMOND CONTRACTOR ELITE**

**Newton** ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATION AIR CONDITIONING INC

dennis@newtonerac.com • 802-388-1431  
 www.newtonerac.com

Your local dealer for Mitsubishi Electric Cold Climate Heat Pumps and Ductless Air Conditioning Systems

*Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season!*



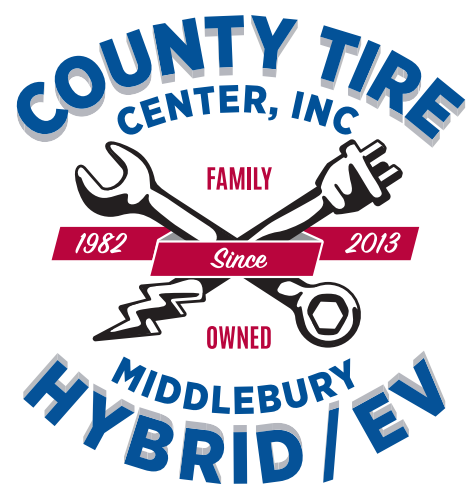
# Wishing you a Safe Holiday Season Full of Joy and Togetherness

## Thank you for your business in 2025

— The Dupoise Family and our team.



7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1,  
New Haven VT  
802-723-2227



33 Seymour Street  
Middlebury, VT  
802-388-7620

# Happy Holidays



**Standing:** Brenda Jaring, John Snyder-White, Liz Marino, Lisa Sargent, Amy Young, Mandy Hodson.  
**Seated:** Nancy Foster, January Stearns, Heather Foster-Provencher. **Not pictured:** Kellie Peters.

**Thank you to all the wonderful clients, colleagues and friends we have worked with throughout the year!**

We appreciate you and hope you always think of us as a resource for your Real Estate needs and questions.

## Champlain Valley Properties

70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT | 802-989-7522 | [champlainvalleyproperty.net](http://champlainvalleyproperty.net)



# Officers track trailer with missing tires, come up empty

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Addison County Sheriff's Department deputies on Dec. 12 attempted to find a vehicle that came over the Champlain Bridge on Route 17 and had lost three tires on a trailer it was towing. The empty rims were causing damage to the roadway, Sheriff Michael Elmore reported. Officials tracked the vehicle to Route 125 in Ripton but were unable to locate it. Between Dec. 6 and 13, the sheriff's department completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 52 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, fingerprinted 12 people for background

## Sheriff's Log

checks, provided VIN inspections for residents of Cornwall and New Haven, attempted to serve 20 pieces of civil process around the county, and a deputy completed the basic use of force training at the Police Academy. In other recent activity, Elmore participated in the final county budget meeting.

- On Dec. 8 Sheriff Elmore participated in the final county budget meeting.

- On Dec. 8 dealt with a truancy issue at Vergennes Union High School.
- On Dec. 8 transported an intoxicated person to Grace House in Rutland for Middlebury police.
- On Dec. 9 assisted a Monkton resident with tracking down a refrigerator that had not been properly delivered.
- On Dec. 9 again took an intoxicated person to Grace House in Rutland for Middlebury police.
- On Dec. 10 assisted a driver whose vehicle went off the road on Route 22A in Orwell.
- On Dec. 11 transported a person to jail after they were arrested by Middlebury police for

two warrants.

- On Dec. 12 Sheriff Elmore met with others from around the state to discuss issues regarding animal cruelty.
- On Dec. 12 corralled a horse that was loose on Jersey Street in Pantton and returned it to its property.
- On Dec. 13 provided security for a private event on Main Street.
- On Dec. 13 responded to a crash on Old Stage Road in Orwell. Due to the road conditions, the driver slid off the roadway and crashed into a tree. The driver and an infant passenger were both transported to the hospital for evaluation.

# Middlebury Police Log

**MIDDLEBURY** — Middlebury police cited Ronald A. Dragon, 52, of Ripton for driving under the influence, following a stop at the intersection of Court Street and Creek Road on Dec. 14. Police said they measured Dragon's blood-alcohol content at 0.153%; the legal limit for driving is 0.08. In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Helped a driver start their disabled car on Park Street on Dec. 8.
- Responded to a reported car-versus-deer accident on Route 7 South on Dec. 8.
- Helped two stranded men find shelter for the night of Dec. 8.
- Took into protective custody a drunken man found in the North Pleasant Street area on Dec. 8.
- Served a no-trespass order on Dec. 8 on a drunken man who had allegedly threatened staff at Shaw's Supermarket.
- Responded to a reported argument between two Jackson Lane residents on Dec. 8.
- Responded to a report on Dec. 8 of a vehicle found flipped on its roof near the intersection of Routes 7 and 53.
- Arranged to have multiple vehicles towed that were in violation of the town's overnight winter parking ban downtown at 12:40 a.m. on Dec. 8.
- Responded to a reported argument between some people at the town green gazebo during the afternoon of Dec. 9.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to a Weybridge Street address on Dec. 9.
- Served an outstanding arrest warrant on Sierra Miller, 39, of Middlebury on Dec. 9.
- Investigated a "suspicious activity" complaint on North Pleasant Street on Dec. 9.
- Received a call to help remove an unwanted person from a Court Street home on Dec. 10.
- Responded to a single-car rollover at the intersection of Quarry Road and Case Street on Dec. 10.
- Reunited a stray dog with its owner on Dec. 10.
- Based on a 911 call, took into protective custody a drunken woman found in the Seymour Street area on Dec. 10. Police said the woman was later taken to Rutland to receive detox services.
- Gave a ride to a person who was stranded on Porter Hospital campus on Dec. 10.
- Assisted with traffic control on Route 125 West on Dec. 11, related

to a vehicle that had gone off the road.

- On Dec. 11, arrested Brittany M. Aunchman, 31, of Salisbury on two outstanding warrants from Rutland and Addison counties.
- Passed out popcorn at the Midd Night Stroll event downtown on Dec. 11.
- Investigated a dispute on Dec. 11 between some neighbors residing in a Court Street apartment complex.
- Helped Mary Hogan Elementary School officials deal with a "juvenile issue" on Dec. 11.
- Conducted a health and welfare check on a person at a Cobble Road residence on Dec. 11.
- Assisted a driver whose vehicle had slid off Case Street on Dec. 11.
- Investigated a theft complaint at a Court Street business on Dec. 11.
- Responded to a report of a car that had slid off Happy Valley Road on Dec. 11.
- Investigated a domestic disturbance at a Cobble Road home on Dec. 11.
- Enforced the town's overnight winter parking ban downtown on Dec. 11.
- Cited Jorge Castro, 23, of Weybridge for driving under the influence following a stop near the intersection of Court Street and Mary Hogan Drive during the early evening of Dec. 12. Police said they measured Castro's blood-alcohol content at 0.06%.
- Helped Middlebury Union High School officials deal with a "juvenile issue" on Dec. 12.
- Served a temporary restraining order on Dec. 12 on a woman at a Cobble Road address.
- Responded to a reported domestic assault at a Cobble Road address on Dec. 12. Police reported no arrests and said the investigation is ongoing.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with a noise complaint near the intersection of Swamp and Creek roads on Dec. 13.
- Checked on a woman who appeared to be under the influence in the Court Street area on Dec. 13.
- Investigated an alarm at a Court Street business on Dec. 13. Police reported no break-in had occurred.
- Assisted a local person who on Dec. 13 reported receiving concerning emails.
- Responded to an untimely death report at a South Street Extension address on Dec. 15. Police identified the deceased as 45-year-old Margaret Allard, and said the circumstances of her death remain under investigation.

# City police cite shouting woman for disorderly conduct

**VERGENNES** — Vergennes police arrested a city resident on Dec. 11 and cited her for aggravated disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. The actions were taken after police responded to a report just after 7:30 p.m. that evening that an apparently intoxicated woman in the Main Street area was "yelling racial slurs and other obscenities at two juveniles one of whom she allegedly "charged at." Police cited Christal Dawn Ramos, 42, for the offenses and transported her to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility with conditions of release, and bail was set at \$400, according to the city police department's weekly media report. In other action between Dec. 8 and 14, Vergennes police conducted a dozen traffic stops, including one commercial vehicle inspection, five cruiser and one foot patrols and one VIN inspection; processed three fingerprint requests; responded to two false alarms; and also:

- Checked the welfare of a Thomas

## Vergennes Police Log

High School and opened an investigation that is ongoing.

- Took a complaint from a Walker Avenue resident of harassment from a neighbor. Police recommended that the resident seek a court order to prevent further issues and said an investigation continues.
- On Dec. 10:
  - Conducted a background investigation for a third party.
  - Responded to a report that a truck had taken down a power line. Police said Green Mountain Power (GMP) responded and moved the downed line.
  - Helped VUHS officials with a student who had reportedly exhibited violent behavior at home and was alleged to have shown a knife to a child at the Commodore Club. Officers met with school staff, counselors and the student's parents. Police said they remain available to intervene if the student became unruly or posed an immediate threat. The Commodore Club allegation has been assigned to an officer for further investigation.
  - Notified GMP of power lines

Circle resident on behalf of a family member and found the individual to be safe and in good health.

- Helped a South Water Street resident back to her apartment.
- Checked out a report of an injured deer at the side of the road at the intersection of Routes 22A and 7, but did not find it.
- Responded to a complaint from a Main Street resident and they learned the complainant had already filed with other agencies. The complainant said her teenage son was being held against his will. Police confirmed the child was safe and attending school.
- On Dec. 9:
  - Helped Vermont State Police at a traffic stop near the intersection of Routes 22A and 7.
  - Were informed of an alleged sexual assault at Vergennes Union

High School and opened an investigation that is ongoing.

- Took a complaint from a Walker Avenue resident of harassment from a neighbor. Police recommended that the resident seek a court order to prevent further issues and said an investigation continues.
- On Dec. 10:
  - Conducted a background investigation for a third party.
  - Responded to a report that a truck had taken down a power line. Police said Green Mountain Power (GMP) responded and moved the downed line.
  - Helped VUHS officials with a student who had reportedly exhibited violent behavior at home and was alleged to have shown a knife to a child at the Commodore Club. Officers met with school staff, counselors and the student's parents. Police said they remain available to intervene if the student became unruly or posed an immediate threat. The Commodore Club allegation has been assigned to an officer for further investigation.
  - Notified GMP of power lines

on School Street.

- On Dec. 11:
  - Checked a report of two juveniles out on the ice at Falls Park. Police said when they arrived the youths were off the ice and safe.
  - Checked out a report of a dispute between Walker Avenue neighbors and determined it was unfounded.
  - Were told of a theft from Kinney Drug that remains under investigation.
- On Dec. 12:
  - Took a report of a vehicle passing a school bus on Monkton Road when its lights were activated; the incident is under investigation.
  - Began an investigation of a report that a Tri Valley Transit bus struck the eaves of a Main Street building and left the scene; police are investigating.
  - Took a report of a vehicle stolen from a First Street home. Police said it is an ongoing investigation.
- On Dec. 13:
  - Toured the reopening Valley Vista rehab facility at Alden Place. According to the media log, police were provided information on how and when they would be called for services.
  - Received a report from a South Water Street resident that someone was attempting to enter their apartment. The department has received similar reports from this individual recently, and found the issue to be mental-health related. Police said additional support services have been involved to help.
  - Helped Vermont State Police at a traffic stop involving an impaired driver near the intersection of Routes 22A and 7.

## INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

by the Addison County Independent

# THE ADDY INDY DIGITAL TEAM HAS BEEN BUSY.

CHECK OUT THE RECENT WEBSITES WE'VE DESIGNED!

To learn more about Independent Digital Marketing, visit our new website or reach out to us directly. We'd love to chat!

**Ryan Gabbert**  
ryang@addisonindependent.com

**Jenna Hunsinger**  
jennah@addisonindependent.com

independentdigitalmarketing.com

Hale  
GROVES

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!

NOW \$29.99

+\$7.99 shipping

#485X Hale Select Gift Box

Call 855-510-1316 or visit [HaleGroves.com/H6YP20](https://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

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

Email your Letter to the Editor to: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

# Mentoring

(Continued from Page 1A)

friends with a fifth-grader this year, and now I'm hanging out with him once every week," said Benji Havey, an 11th-grader at Mount Abe involved in the program.

DREAM — which stands for Directing through Recreation, Education, Adventure and Mentoring — is an organization that aims to close the opportunity gap with mentoring programs and activities for youth across the Northeast.

The organization runs a few offerings in Addison County, including a Village Mentoring program, through which area youth are matched with a mentor from Middlebury College. The DREAM Program is currently raising funds for its holiday drive, which will support that local program.

DREAM's Guided Mentoring program enables high school students to both be mentored and serve as mentors. Students commit to the program for two years, during which high schoolers receive guidance to support their mentoring of younger students.

"I think what it helps create is those community connections for the younger elementary school youth," said Bruce Perlow, DREAM's Guided Mentoring Program Director for northern Vermont. "That connection to their community beyond just what their regular connections would be is one of the biggest benefits that I've seen here in this program."

Perlow meets weekly with high school mentors at Mount Abe during their Flexible Instruction Time, or FIT Block, at the end of the school day. On a recent afternoon, students split into two groups and were asked to come up with activities for Bristol Elementary students to take part in that day. While they handled

the task on their own, Perlow was available to answer questions and offer suggestions.

"As they think of those activities that they do, it's just about, 'How can they build connection, how can they learn about one another, even if it's something as simple as who likes cats and who likes dogs,'" Perlow explained.

The two Bristol schools are among several learning communities involved in DREAM's Guided Mentoring program. The organization runs a similar offering at Middlebury Union High School, where a group of senior peer leaders works with ninth-graders.

In Bristol, 30 students take part in the program — 15 high school mentors and 15 elementary mentees.

"We go for that one-to-one ratio, where we have one high school youth to one elementary school youth," Perlow said.

*"Outside school, our students sometimes see their mentors performing in musicals, out on the field or on a court, or moving through our community with friends. I believe that means something to our students."*

— Meg Greenleaf

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

To offer the program, DREAM works with MAUSD Mentor Program Director Anna Howell and the team at MAUSD's Expanded Learning Program, or ELP.

"The mentoring program is unique in that each mentee is paired with a high school mentor and stays in that partnership for at least two full school years," explained ELP Co-Director John Amory. "This is different than our other enrichment offerings that are offered through the year but most often last for a seven-week workshop session. This longitudinal model that Bruce and Anna started with us last year

is starting to build in the way it was designed and we're excited to see it continue to cycle as mentees and mentors continue to grow."

Amory noted Bristol ELP Site Coordinators Meg Greenleaf and Amy Chesley play a key role in the partnership, working to "pitch the program to families and students to recruit new mentees, find classroom spaces for the program to meet for activities, gather supplies for projects, and support as needed with behavioral support."

"For me as a co-coordinator of Bristol ELP, the DREAM program has evolved from 'a great sounding activity that happens on Tuesdays' to a more robust relationship between our programs," Greenleaf said. "In ELP, student voice is what we strive to empower, to listen to, to honor. I've come to see DREAM as more than just an activity. It invites all students, on both sides of the relationship, to engage more fully, to find and use their voice, and to impact the outcomes."

She noted the program offers a chance for elementary students to build relationships with local high schoolers in consistent and meaningful ways.

"Outside school, our students sometimes see their mentors performing in musicals, out on the field or on a court, or moving through our community with friends. I believe that means something to our students; it's more intimate than seeing a teacher or administrator out in the community," she said. "These mentors seem to feel accessible to our students, like they aren't quite peers, but definitely not authority figures either. DREAM is helping to build these connections in supported ways."

*"These mentors seem to feel accessible to our students, like they aren't quite peers, but definitely not authority figures either."*

— Meg Greenleaf

## STUDENT CONNECTIONS

Building such relationships was part of what motivated Havey to get involved in the program.



THROUGH THE DREAM Program's Guided Mentoring offering, student mentors at Mount Abraham Union High School visit with mentees at Bristol Elementary School for after-school activities once a week.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

"I feel like I never had somebody like that in elementary school, and it feels like it would be nice to give back," Havey said.

Each week, Havey and other mentors take part in a variety of activities with Bristol Elementary students, some one-on-one and others offered in a group setting. Those can include playing outside at games that help participants get to know one another better.

"A primary aspect of our activities a lot of times revolves around arts and crafts," said high school mentor Charlie Prouty, a senior at Mount Abe. "We do a lot of different things and last year we had the opportunity to work with (Bristol Collaborative Campus) ... they kind of had art projects for us ready to go, so we'd go on a walk and get to know

everyone more every day, and then we'd do our activities."

Prouty noted incoming mentors are trained on the main pillars of DREAM's developmental framework, such as expressing care and exploring identity, which mentors look to incorporate into the activities they plan.

"Playing a lot of games and doing a lot of things I feel like I haven't done since I was their age, it's almost nostalgic getting to do all the activities and getting the same level of enjoyment as I did then, now," he said.

Perlow explained the Guided Mentoring program aims for about 10-20 mentors and 10-20 mentees involved in each two-year cycle of the offering, though capacity varies by site. With that in mind,

the Bristol program has capacity to grow a bit more, depending on the level of interest by high school mentors.

In the meantime, Greenleaf said program partners work together to ensure the offering is serving all those involved.

"Bruce and Anna show curiosity in how they can best show up as leaders in the guided mentoring, how we can all make the most of this, and ways in which we can best support one another," she said. "We've moved into deeper discussions over time about what we can all do in order to support the relationships that these students are making with one another, how to make those relationships meaningful, and how to keep it fun and exciting for all involved."

# By the Way

(Continued from Page 1A)

Bristol Post 19 at 56 Airport Drive on weekdays between noon and 8 p.m. Please email Brenda Barsalou at bbarsalou@comcast.net if you have donations and are unable to deliver them.

Good deeds, camaraderie and caring don't take any days off, and organizers of Middlebury's Community Suppers will put that concept into practice on Thursday, Dec. 25, with a Christmas Day Dinner from 4-5 p.m. in the Congregational Church of Middlebury at 2 Main St. If attending, please enter the church from its Seymour Street doorway (across from the Middlebury Firehouse). The meal is free and all are welcome to meet in the fellowship hall on the church's lower level. Then, on Friday, Dec. 26, the church will host a regular community supper from 5-6 p.m. The menu varies — meat and vegetarian offerings are available.

Addison County logged an unemployment rate of 2.3% this past September, a drop of a tenth of one percent compared

to the prior month, according to the Vermont Department of Labor. The statewide jobless rate for September was 2.5% — unchanged from August. The statewide civilian labor force participation rate for September was 64.4%, down two-tenths of a percentage point from the prior month. The September jobless rates for Vermont's 14 counties ranged from 2.3% in Addison, Caledonia and Chittenden counties to 3.2% in Essex and Orleans counties. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate in September was 4.4%, an increase of one-tenth of a percent from August. Vermont Labor Commissioner Kendal Smith said, "In the September data, the household survey shows continuing downward pressure on the Vermont labor force. The DOL is continuing its ongoing workforce development and training activities statewide. Recently, the department hosted a successful statewide part-time job fair that connected 230 jobseekers with over 30 employers representing retail, logistics, healthcare,

manufacturing, food service and more, and we will be offering other such activities in the new year." Jobless stats for October have not been released.

There's a new American Sign Language (ASL) resource that makes 3SquaresVT nutrition information accessible to more Vermonters. Check it out online at tinyurl.com/ASL3Squares, and please share with your friends, neighbors, and clients. Each month, more than 36,000 older adults and people with disabilities use the 3SquaresVT program to buy food. The new ASL resource makes it easier for folks to apply for and maintain benefits. The application is simplified, decisions to distribute benefits last for three years with no additional paperwork, and individuals can connect with a caseworker for support. Through this, older adults and people with disabilities also can receive fuel assistance. Here's an ASL 3Squares video.

State of Vermont revenue collections for the month of November have been compiled,

and they show the state's general, transportation and education fund receipts were a combined \$214.4 million, representing \$17.2 million (7.4%) less than the monthly target the Emergency Board established this past summer. Total general fund revenues for November were \$128.7 million — 10.6% below the target. That shortfall was driven by lagging collections in the Corporate Income Tax, according to the Scott administration. Transportation fund revenues were \$24.3 million — 0.9% above target, driven primarily by vehicle purchase and use tax. The education fund harvest of \$61.4 million was 3.4% less than the target. According to Administration Sarah Secretary Clark: "November receipts reflected some downside pressure, although the reduced number of banking days at the end of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend may have had an impact. As a result, December's revenue results may provide a clearer picture of where receipts stand."



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  
Stuffedies 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.simsaysvt.com

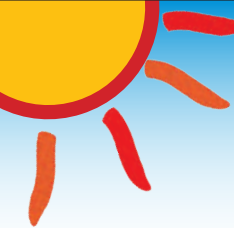
## SHOP VERMONT HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Made by hand ...  
made by your neighbors!

Art on Main,  
25 Main St. Bristol  
(802) 453-4032  
Open: Mon-Sat 10-5  
Sundays 11-3






## Addison, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

Bristol Electronics installed our solar panels early this summer and all the sunny days have been pushing our meter backward at a good rate. It feels good to be contributing to "the grid". Working with Chris, Steve, Dave and the other B.E. employees was a pleasure. They were well informed, patient and flexible as we worked through some early unforeseen roadblocks. We strongly recommend this company if you are interested in having solar energy at your home installed by a responsive, responsible company.



The Fishers — Addison, Vt

802 . 453 . 2500  
BristolElectronicsVT.com  
FREE SITE EVALUATIONS





**Solstice sensation**

NIGHT FIRES HAS been delighting Addison County audiences since 1982 with its weaving together of song, story, poetry and dance to honor the Winter Solstice. This year's Night Fires celebration will be staged at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater with performances on Friday, Dec. 19, Saturday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 21. Featured performers include, clockwise from top-left: Tom Verner and Scarlet Annie Nessen; Colin Gunn; Nessen and Stephanie Gallas; and (L-R) Tom Obomsawin, Ammy Martinez and Suzanne Germain. For more info, go to [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

Photos courtesy of Night Fires production team



**WHAT DO YOU GET FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY?**

*THE WOODWARE CREW BRINGS SMILES AND HELPING HANDS WITH EVERY FURNITURE DELIVERY!*



**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](http://FIREANDICERESTAURANT.COM)

THE INDEPENDENT MAKES A GREAT GIFT! CALL 802-388-4944



INTRODUCING THE REIMAGINED

*Beautyrest*  
BLACK®



[www.woodwarevt.com](http://www.woodwarevt.com)

**802-388-6297**

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

**FINE FURNITURE**



**THE MIDDLEBURY SHOP**

SKIDA  
goodr  
DARN TOUGH VERMONT

**MiddleburyShop.com**  
Formerly **FORTH & GOAL**  
68 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-3444

# Baker

(Continued from Page 14A)

Baker explained that the lack of available closed-door spaces has prevented the school from having the same number of fulltime equivalent clinicians and guidance personnel as other like-sized schools.

“There’s just not a place for those types of private professionals to be able to meet with students simultaneously,” Baker said.

Bech-Conger further described the challenge.

“The lack of private space to have a conversation ... is palpable,” said Bech-Conger, who noted recently having to commandeer a janitorial closet for a confidential exchange.

- A library that’s “undersized for the population of students.”

- A generally “poor” building condition, including (a contained) asbestos tile floor in the multi-purpose room and elsewhere, older plumbing that “limits availability of potable water,” inadequate insulation in the attic, and a roof that needs to be replaced.

Bech-Conger told the board her staff have been creative and flexible in working around the building’s limitations. Still, physical education classes must end early to get the multi-purpose room ready for lunch, and the space can’t be scheduled for art classes on PE days.

### WHAT’S NEEDED

TruexCullins, with input from Brigham Memorial staff, the district’s central office and the ACSD Facilities Committee, has mapped out a series of suggested improvements that include:

- A new building addition that would accommodate art & music, a learning support center, new bathrooms, and new gym with stage and storage.
- A new secure entrance and relocated administrative offices near building entrance.
- Turning the current administrative spaces into hallway to connect classrooms.
- Turning the current multi-purpose room into a cafeteria.
- Moving and expanding the library within the existing building footprint.
- Updates and repairs to include new windows, doors, lights & ceiling, and other systems upgrades.

The estimated price tag of \$15.4 million includes \$10 million for 10,400 square feet of additions; \$2.8 million for 4,000 square feet of renovations; \$2.2 million for miscellaneous repairs and system upgrades, and a \$400,000 site work allowance.

TruexCullins was also asked to estimate what it might cost to build an entirely new school. Company officials provided a rough estimate of \$25.2 million, which assumes no additional land acquisition.

It should be noted that the assessment of Brigham Memorial’s needs is part of a five-year capital planning process for all nine of ACSD’s school buildings. The facilities committee is leading that process, which is expected to culminate in a bond request — as soon as next spring — for what the board determines to be the most important fixes among the school buildings it figures will continue to serve the district’s education mission. Student enrollment in ACSD and throughout most regions of Vermont has been in decline for two decades; younger Vermonters — many of them boxed out by the tight housing market — have been seeking their fortunes elsewhere.

So the Cornwall elementary school, in any districtwide bond proposal, will have to compete with other ACSD schools’ capital needs.

The ACSD board this year has already made two big facilities decisions, opting to close Ripton Elementary School (a decision that will be put to a districtwide vote next March) and to merge Shoreham and Bridport’s K-5 students at Bridport Central School beginning next fall. Shoreham Elementary will be converted into a new district preschool.

Will there be any state aid for a Bingham School makeover?

Mary Heather Noble, a member of the ACSD board and the facilities committee, isn’t optimistic. Gov. Phil Scott and a majority of the state Legislature appear resolved to encourage consolidations of smaller school populations, through Act 73.

## What’s needed in Cornwall

10,400-square-foot addition:	<b>\$10 million</b>
4,000-square-foot renovations:	<b>\$2.8 million</b>
miscellaneous repairs & system upgrades:	<b>\$2.2 million</b>
site work:	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>total price tag:</b>	<b>\$15.4 million</b>

Noble said she believes it’s “pretty unlikely” the state will help build a new school serving any fewer than around 250 students. Given the state’s desire (through Act 73) to see economies of scale in public education and budget factors, the district isn’t “going to build a new school for 80 kids or 100 kids; it’s going to have to be a much larger number, and involves a much bigger conversation of how we determine who will go there,” Noble said.

And while Cornwall’s current K-5 count is good by ACSD standards, its numbers are projected to decline. Baker said an incoming kindergarten class of three children is expected for 2027.

“This is an opportunity to have more deliberate conversations with the town of Cornwall on where we are, what that looks like, and what they’re seeing for their kids,” Baker said. “There are a lot of moving parts.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Otter Valley

(Continued from Page 1A)

be a new experiment,” social studies teacher Katie Sherry told the OVUU Board, noting that Poynter’s position was added only a few years ago in light of exactly that same type of overwork and negative effects for students.

“Please reconsider this cut,” Sherry said. “Once lost, it will be difficult to rebuild.”

Given multiple letters of concern that the board had received in advance of the Dec. 16 meeting, officials were prepared to announce that plans for such a position have been set aside, in favor of extending out a current position and offloading other responsibilities to an administrative assistant at a cost savings of over \$80,000 to the FY27 spending plan.

But community members and other teachers at Otter Valley Union Middle/High School needed to give their input.

With wife and infant beside him, Poynter spoke of initiatives these past few years as a transplant to Vermont, the multiple curriculums he has designed in the absence of a received framework, the trust he has built, his role in tech leadership at the middle school, and the education in civic engagement he has sought to instill for his students.

Sherry pointed out that with the proposed cut to Poynter’s position, the school would be left with fewer teachers for middle school social studies, which would likely lead to the remaining teachers having to

teach during their planning periods, which would hurt the quality and equity of the education provided.

Part-time nurse Calley Hewes spoke up via Zoom to remark that much important work happens in the background through support staff positions that may be on the chopping block given current budgetary concerns. It is these “invisible roles” that carry the knowledge of which students might be dealing with unstable housing or food insecurity.

“When we cut student-facing positions,” Hewes said, “the burden doesn’t disappear; it shifts.”

The OVUU school board signaled a willingness at least to explore other budgetary options than cutting the middle school social studies position held by Poynter. And it seemed that Poynter’s job was safe, though a final decision on a school spending proposal won’t happen until the board meets in January.

Three crucial administrators — Otter Valley Union Middle/High School Principal Michael Ruppel, board Chairwoman Laurie Bertrand and RNESU Superintendent René Sanchez — discussed how it was that the social studies position was ever placed in jeopardy.

In a moment of polite disagreement, Bertrand suggested that it had ultimately been a choice made by the principal. Ruppel responded that it was only one of multiple options that he had presented in light of the board’s targeted 3% spending increase for

FY27, which would be down from the 4.87% increase of riding out the status quo.

“No reduction, either of (student-facing) positions or of central office staff, is in the interest of students,” Ruppel said. “The question is, where is the least impact?”

Each position cut, Sanchez clarified, amounts to decreasing around one-third to one-half a percentage point in overall spending.

Three courses of action on the budget were discussed at last week’s board meeting: 1) maintaining the status quo, 2) converting all classrooms to multi-age, or 3) seeking a voluntary merger. The OV school board did dismiss option 2, deeming it simply not feasible for the middle school and high school.

Board member Brett Mullin clarified that option 1 is what undergirded the FY27 budget presented last week by Director of Business & Finance Brenda Fleming. He wondered whether the Burditt Fund, which was created for the benefit of Lothrop School children, might be leaned on at this uncertain moment.

If the OVUU school board were to vote to go ahead with the proposed move of the Whiting preschool to Leicester, then the Caverly Preschool move to nearby Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford would also necessarily have to happen, Bertrand said. Given uncertainty around the fate of the new school redistricting law — Act 73 — in Vermont’s legislature, she addressed the possibility of holding

the status quo for another year to see what develops.

Fleming remarked that it is “hard to look at a budget from every angle at every school.”

Sanchez explained an upside of combining schools. He said it would lead to more resources for students, more in-school services, and support staff. Bertrand added that “while (she) hated to say it, at some point Leicester kids are going to end up somewhere else.”

Asked for comment by the *Independent* as he departed from the meeting, middle school teacher Poynter reiterated what Principal Ruppel had said: “There’s no good reduction. Hopefully, they’ll make the right decision.”

**YOUR APRES PARTNERS, AT THE READY!**



**HARE AND THE DOG**

MIDDLEBURY, VT  
VERGENNES, VT  
[WWW.HARE.DOG](http://WWW.HARE.DOG)

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
- CABINETRY & 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

# Middlebury Lions Christmas Memory Tree



James L. Aldrich  
Mary Jane Aldrich  
Jean Anderson  
Nils "Andy" Anderson  
Bernie Andrews  
Faith Angier  
Gel Armstrong  
Jack Armstrong  
Phyllis Armstrong  
Joyce Bedard Aschoff  
Brian Atherton  
Donald Atherton  
Fred Atherton  
Katherine Atherton  
Romona Atherton  
Arland Atkins  
Sandy Atwood  
Stanley P. Atwood  
Mary Rose Audet  
Norman Audet  
Ken Ayers  
Kieth Ayers  
Denise Bagdon  
Stanley Bagdon  
Zebber Bagley  
Ann Bagley  
Rufus Bagley  
Cleo Bagley  
Grace Bagley  
Lisa Bagley-Morse  
Anne Baldwin  
Edna Ball (Tucker)  
Florence Banner  
Frank Banner  
Janet Banner  
Megan Louise Barber  
Megan Barber  
Paul Bark  
Julia Barnett  
Leon Barnett  
Leslie "Popper" Barnett  
Dr. Lyndon "Bill" Barnett  
Ruth "Nana" Barnett  
Nat Barsky  
Roger Bassett  
Florence Bearor  
Francis Bearor  
James Bearor  
Maryanne Bearor  
Monique Bedard  
Ellen Beecher  
Geraldine Beecy  
William Beecy  
Arthur Benedict  
Edith Benedict  
Edith Benedict  
Leonard Bergeron  
Marie Rose Bergeron  
Ann Berry  
Charles E Berry  
Jim Berry  
Cory Bickford  
Cleon Bigelow  
Clifford Bigelow  
Helen Bigelow  
Regina Mae (Charron) Bigelow  
Rosaline Bigelow  
Ruth Bigelow  
Frank Bigelow  
Frank Bigelow  
Burton Billings  
Tom Billings  
Blaise Bilodeau  
Wilfred Bilodeau  
Gramma & Grandpa Bingham  
Chris Bishop  
Ken Bishop  
Margareta Bishop  
Lawrence J. Bishop, Sr.  
Lawrence J. Bishop, Jr.  
Maudie M. Bishop  
Norman E. Bishop  
Roger E. Bishop  
Eileen Bodette  
Michael Bolduc  
Jim Booker  
Charles "Chuck" Booska  
Michael R Booska  
Robert Booska  
Anna Booska-Butsford  
Bruce E. Bourdon  
Ernest Bourdon  
J. Andre Bourdon  
Juilette Bourdon  
Karen Bourdon Gorin  
J. Andre Bourdon, Jr.  
Michael Brace  
Rodney Brace  
Leslie Brace  
Lester Brace  
Skate Brace  
Wayland Brace  
Eugene Bradford  
Charles Brakeley  
Patti Brakeley  
Arthur Brassard  
Harris Brassard  
Zenna Brassard  
Msgr Bresnehan  
Altha Broughton

Blandine Broughton  
Martin Broughton  
Mary Jane Broughton  
Oliver Broughton  
Albert Brown  
Irene Brown  
Lorenza Brown  
Mae Brown  
Ellen Brownell  
Richard Bullock  
Frank Buonocontro  
Edward Burke  
Miriam Burke  
Irene Burns  
Bernice Bushey  
Dale Bushey  
Denise Bushey  
Paul Bushey  
Melvin Bushey  
Bud Butterfield  
Marie Butterfield  
Dora Butterfield  
Mildred Butterworth  
Barbara Buttolph  
Edward Buttolph  
Alice Candido  
George Candido  
George Candido III  
Cecile Cawley  
Walter Cawley  
Guy Chicoine  
Cheryl Chizmadia  
Walter Cibulski  
Clancy (dog)  
Burton Clark  
Edith Clark  
Neri Clark  
Ruth Y Clark  
Sandra Clark  
Tim Clark  
Ray Clark Jr.  
Ernest Cloutier  
John Cloutier  
Rolande Cloutier  
Jeanette Cole-Rowe  
Matthew Coleman  
Ray W. Collins, MD  
Elizabeth R. Collins  
Randy Comes  
Douglas Condon  
Elizabeth Condon  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Condon  
Jim Condon  
Lawrence Condon  
Michael Condon  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Condon  
Elizabeth J. Conley  
John T. Conley  
Robbie Cook  
Bette Coons  
Jim Coons  
Jennifer Beth Coons  
Morton Coons  
Frederick Cope  
Gladys Cope  
Oliver Cope  
Sarah Cope  
Sharon Cope  
Stephen Cope  
Betty Counter  
Bertha Counter  
Henry Counter  
Stanley Counter  
Amanda Coursey  
John Coursey  
John Cousino  
Joyce Cousino  
Ruth Cousino  
Wayne Cousino  
Winfred Cousino  
Clarence Cox  
Ruth Cox  
Jane Creaser  
Jennifer Cromett  
Edgar "Bub" Crosby  
Jeff Crossman  
Patti Curtis  
Dolly Cyr  
Kate Cyr  
James Cyr  
Leonard P. Cyr  
Doris Cyr-Pelkey  
James D'Avignon, Sr.  
Patricia D'Avignon  
Ernie Dahlin  
Jessie Dahlin  
Patricia Danyow  
Bertha Danyow  
Arthur Danyow, Jr.  
Arthur Danyow, Sr.  
Ann & Junior Davis  
Grandpa and Gramma Davis  
Uncle Walt Davis  
Maud Dea  
Gerald Degray Sr  
Julia Desabrais  
Lucien Desabrais  
Norman Desabrais  
Moses J. Desabrais  
Thea Desabrais

Roger Desabrais, Sr.  
Carmen Desforges  
John Desforges  
Roland Desforges  
Bertha Desjadon  
Walt Desjadon  
Rebecca DiPanni  
Clifford 'Bucky' Douglas  
Bernard 'Chiefie' Dubois  
Marcel Dubois  
Sonny Dufrense  
Theresa Dufrense  
John Dunne  
David Dupoise  
Frank Dupoise  
Heath Dupoise  
Joyce Dupoise  
Marilyn Dupoise  
Michael Dupoise  
Sophronia Dupoise  
Jane Eddy  
Katherine Eddy  
Marshall Eddy  
Maxon Eddy  
Virginia Eddy  
Stanton Eddy, Jr.  
Stanton Eddy, Sr.  
Ethel Edwards  
Thomas Edwards  
Rebecca Erents  
Bob Euber  
Gene Evans  
Careen Farnsworth  
Lori Farnsworth  
Lucien Farnsworth  
Lynn Farnsworth  
Elaine Farrell  
James Farrell  
Sidney Fenson  
Joel Fifield  
Rebecca Fifield  
William Fifield  
Clarence "Bub" Fisk  
Sheldon Fisk  
Rena Fisk  
Sylvia Fisk  
Elizabeth Fiske  
Jack Fiske  
Thelma Flachsland  
William Flachsland  
Larry Fleming  
Nancy Foote  
Ralph Foote  
Patricia Forbes  
Barbara Forguites  
Janice Forguites  
Leslie Forguites  
Robert Forguites  
Frenchie Fournier  
Wanita Fournier  
Leslie 'Les' Fuller  
Lorenzo Gagnon  
Peter Gagnon  
John Gailmore  
Dolly Gara  
Jack Gara  
John Gebo  
Bertha Gemmill  
Wallace Gemmill  
Edward Gervais  
Shirley Gervais  
Dusty Godfrey  
Vera Godfrey  
Harry Goodroo  
Mildred Goodroo  
Brian Gorton  
Emma Gorton  
Leon Gorton  
Rick Gowen  
Lyle Greenwood  
Peggy Greenwood  
Mary Grennon  
Robert Guertin, Sr.  
Barbara Hadur  
Blanche Hallock  
Jesse Hallock  
John Hallock  
Gladys Hallock  
Olga Hallock  
Wayne O. Hallock  
Andrea Halnon  
Ruby B. Hanmer  
Walter F. Hanmer  
Ernestine Hawkins  
Lynn W. Hinman  
Jessica Hoagland  
Guy "Lucky" Hoague  
Marlene Hoague-Lyman  
Kenneth Hopper  
Susan Hopper  
Inez Hubbell  
Louise Hubbell  
Robert Hubbell  
Lynn Huestis  
Jane Huizenga  
Erma Humiston  
Nellie Humiston  
Sidney Humiston  
Frederick Humiston II  
Frederick Humiston III

Howard Humiston, Sr.  
Laurie Humiston-Raymond  
Jaquinla Jackson  
Agnes James  
Bryce James  
Lynn James  
Mary Jane James  
Stephen James  
Meridith Jermain  
Leonard Jerome  
Andrew Jewell  
Ralph "Chet" Jewell  
Anna Johnson  
Stanley Johnson  
Fred Jones  
Rita Jones  
Don Keeler  
Julie Keeler  
Harold Kelley  
Char Kelton  
Eric Kemp  
Ginny Keyser  
Darwin Kimball  
Ada Kirby  
Dave Kittridge  
Beatrice Laberge  
Becky LaBerge  
Donald Laberge  
Charlie Laberge  
Charles Laberge  
Charles F. Laberge III  
Liz Laberge  
Laura L. Laberge  
Marilyn L. Laberge  
Mary Laberge  
Mary Laberge  
Michael Charles Laberge  
Robert W. Laberge, Sr.  
Steven P. Laberge  
Thomas Laberge  
Ray LaBlanc  
Aline LaFountain  
John E. LaFountain  
Joseph LaFountain  
Maggie LaFountain  
Raymond LaFountain  
Robert J. LaFountain  
Minda LaFountain-Brown  
Clifford Lagrow  
Donald Lagrow  
Hugh Lagrow  
Irene Lagrow  
Robert Lagrow  
John Langfeldt  
Ursula Langfeldt  
Joyce Laperre  
Robert K LaPlant  
Harris Larocque  
Leo Larocque  
Roger Larocque  
Joey LaRocque  
Emeline LaRose  
Melvin Larrow  
Roland Laverdiere  
Tee Laverdiere  
Victor LaVoie, Sr.  
Donna Lawton  
Leann  
Dolly Lebeau  
Helen Lebeau  
Marge Lebeau  
Paul Lebeau  
Lena LeLage  
Jeffrey W. Lienhard, Jr.  
Sandy Lilly  
Sandra Liska  
Floyd Litch  
Gisele Litch  
Helen Litch  
Jim Litch  
Tim Litch  
Bradford Seabury Littlefield  
Richmond G Littlefield  
Theo Fuller Lowell  
Bud Lundrigan  
Rhodalee Lundrigan  
Joani Maloy  
Joe Malzac  
Nora Malzac  
Brian Manchester  
Ferdinand Mayer  
Rael Mayer  
Steve McG.  
Timothy McAllister  
Sidney McCartney  
Wilma McCartney  
Jack McKinley  
John McKinley  
Mrs. Jack McKinley  
Ron McKinnon  
John McWilliams  
Daffadil Monty  
Napolen Monty  
Ray Monty  
Bootsie Morris  
Edith Morse  
John Moynihan  
Marion Moynihan  
Joseph Munson  
Paul Munson

Rena Munson  
Thomas Munson  
Bonnie Murray  
Howard Murray  
Rita Murray  
James Muzaca  
Ruth Muzzy  
Gert Needham  
Scott Needham  
Warren Needham  
Janice Neilson  
Angie Neri  
Drew Neves  
Audrey Newton  
Bernard Newton  
Douglas Newton  
Mildred Newton  
Regina Nickerson  
Tim Nolan  
David Nuceder  
Doris O'Brien  
Phil O'Brien, Jr.  
Phil O'Brien, Sr.  
Judy O'Donnell  
Lee O'Donnell  
Ted Okerlund  
Brian P. Oski  
David W. Oski  
Glenice Oski  
Glenn W. Oski  
James Oski, Sr.  
Maureen C. Oski  
Charles Ouellette  
Delia Ouellette  
Lucien Ouellette  
Simone Ouellette  
Alma Palmer  
Chester Palmer  
Casey James Paquette  
Betty Parizo  
Matthew Parizo  
Beverly Parker  
Jeffrey Parks  
Alfred Payne  
Marion H. Payne  
Rachel F. Payne  
Stanton F. Payne  
Christy Peck  
Reena Peck  
Nora Peck  
Eula Pedro  
Vern Pedro  
Leo Percival  
Ezra Perez  
Neveah Perez  
Harold Perkins  
Kenneth Perkins  
Marguerite Perkins  
Patrick Perkins  
Priscilla Perkins  
Jo Anne Perron  
Pete  
Frank Petrosino  
Robin M Pierce  
Nancy Pietruszkiewicz  
Brian Piorek  
Shirley Plouffe  
Jane Porcheron  
Maud Porcheron  
Raymond Porcheron  
Dick Preble  
Don Preble  
Neola Preble  
Parker Preble  
Peg Preble  
Edna Puls  
Robert Puls  
Arthur Putnam  
Christa Quenneville  
Albert Quesnel  
Alice Condon Quesnel  
Matt Quesnel  
Tom Quesnel  
Hans Raum  
Laurie Raymond  
Betty Lou Rheume  
Don Richer  
Albert Ringey  
Carol Ringey  
Jeffrey Ringey  
Paul Ringey  
Carol Rivers  
Dylan Rondeau  
Gary Rossignol  
Adele Rounds  
Lee Rounds  
Robert Rounds  
Shirley Rounds  
Alan Russett  
Lynn B. Ryalls  
Ada Safford  
Steven Sanborn  
Michael Sander  
Sarah Sander  
RADM Allen G. Schnable  
Roberta Schwan  
Daisy Scott  
Bruce Seaburg  
Gertrude L. Seaburg  
Harold E. Seaburg

David Sears  
Walter Sears  
Deb Shackett  
Mary Shackett  
Mike Shackett  
Joe Shackett, Jr.  
Joe Shackett, Sr.  
Butch Shaw  
Butch Shaw  
Jourdy Shaw  
Jourdaine Shaw  
Robert Shaw  
Ted Sheldrake  
Harold Shepard  
Lena Shepard  
Susan Shepard  
Andrew Sherman  
Ethel Sherman  
Robert P. Sherman  
Robert P. Sherman, Jr.  
Sheila Sherman  
Dewey Shiverette  
Flora Shiverette  
Father Shortill  
Ronald Silcer  
Dewey & Eleanor Smith  
Emma Smith  
Wayne Smith  
Hilda Spaulding  
Irene Steady  
Pauline Steady  
Randall Steady  
Randall E Steady  
Randy Steady  
Randy S Steady  
Theresa Steady  
Kathy Stearns  
Nancy A. Stearns  
Dick Stillings  
Joel Strout  
Robert Taylor, Jr.  
James S. Thayer  
John Thayer  
Bill Thomas  
Joan Thomas  
Terry Thomas  
Carlotta Tippet  
Diane Torrey  
Duane Torrey  
Donna Touhey  
Jim Towle  
Lindy Towle  
Jere Urban  
David Volkert  
Mary Volkert  
Tom Volkert  
Rose Marie Wakefield  
James B. Walker  
James B. Walker  
John R. Walker  
Kathrine M. Walker  
Bob Wallace  
Hazel Wallace  
Joseph Wallace  
Rick Warner  
Nicholas Warren  
Sandra Warren  
Ida Wash  
Albert Watson  
Ann Watson  
Richard Watson  
Robert "Red" Watson  
Cynthia Weiss  
Michael Weiss  
Sheldon Weiss  
Ed Wells  
Crystal Wells  
Katy Wells  
Barbara Wheelock  
Donna Wheelock  
Edward Wheelock  
Gary Wheelock  
Rodney Wheelock  
Linda Payne White  
Pat White  
Rollie White  
Doug Williams  
Phil Williams  
Don Williamson  
Ellen Williamson  
Barbara Wimet  
Edward Wimet  
Ronald Wimet  
Leo Wisell  
Helen Wisell  
Tom Wisell  
Peter J. Wissell  
Sarah Wissell  
Emery E. Wissell II  
Jean Litch Withington  
Patricia Payne Wright  
H. Kent Wright IV  
John Zaluki  
Lorraine Zaluki  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zawistowski  
Edward A. Zawistowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Zawistowski

In memory of Lions listed below who started in 1952 and have served unselfishly.  
Their work will live on as we fellow Lions follow in their footsteps to serve our Middlebury area community.

**"Not above you, not beneath you, but always with you. We serve."**

## Merry Christmas

Lion Forrest Lowell  
Lion Bert Demarais  
Lion Harris Thurber  
Lion Martin Broughton  
Lion Stan Payne  
Lion Bob Frett  
Lion Ray Mason

Lion Frank L. Cutler  
Lion Erie Volkert  
Lion Stan Lazarus  
Lion Harry Browe  
Lion Paul Munson  
Lion Sid Ward  
Lion George Saul III

Lion Tom Brown  
Lion Ron Knief  
Lion Bill Clark  
Lion Francis Haggarty  
Lion Roscoe Pratt  
Lion Floyd "Supe" Peck  
Lion Chet Ketchum

Lion Dr. Ray Collins  
Lion Bob Brooks  
Lion Greg Lyons  
Lion Irwin Brent  
Lion Gerald C. DeWitt  
Lion Roger Desabrais, Sr.  
Lion Maurice Desautels

Lion Don Hunt  
Lion Al Stillman  
Lion Dave Van Vleck  
Lion Ray Giroux  
Lion Jim D'Avignon  
Lion Rollie White  
Lion Steve Ketchum

Lion Paul Schroeder  
Lion Don Swenor  
Lion Helen Bigelow  
Lion Cleon Bigelow  
Lion Michael Livingston  
Lion Michael Pixley

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

## Sports BRIEFS

### Tiger wrestlers excel in N.H.

SOUHEGAN, N.H. — Middlebury Union High School's wrestling team fared well this past weekend at the Tom Sawyer Invitational in Souhegan, N.H., as all six Tiger wrestlers who competed compiled winning records, two won their weight classes, and the Tigers overall finished sixth out of 16 teams.

Winning their weight classes with 4-0 records were Jason Sperry at 157 pounds and Tucker Wright at 215 pounds.

- Also:
- Miles Goetz at 120 took second with a 3-1 record.
  - Parker Carl at 165 took third with a 5-1 record.
  - Trevor Wright at 175 took second with a 3-1 record.
  - Steven Lackard at 285 finished just off the podium with a 4-2 record.

### Rutland hockey tops MUHS boys

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' hockey team opened its season on Dec. 12 with a 5-1 loss to visiting Rutland.

Five Rutland players scored a goal apiece: Zach Melen, Jayden McKeighan, Brogan Moran, Bryce McKeighan and Colin Rider. RHS goalie Noah Dake made 18 saves.

Sutton Rubright found the back of the net for the Tigers, and goalie TJ Baron made 23 saves.

The Tigers were scheduled to visit Woodstock on Wednesday after the deadline for this issue.

## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Girls' basketball

12/12 MUHS vs VUHS .....	43-36
12/12 Harwood vs Mt Abe .....	44-29
12/15 Fair Haven vs Mt Abe .....	52-20
12/15 VUHS vs Danville .....	69-39

#### Boys' basketball

12/13 Mt Anthony vs Mt Abe .....	54-49
12/13 VUHS vs Colchester .....	52-42
12/15 Randolph vs Mt Abe .....	70-36
12/15 Harwood vs MUHS .....	77-69 (OT)

#### Boys' Hockey

12/12 Rutland vs MUHS .....	5-1
12/17 MUHS at Woodstock .....	Late

#### Girls' Hockey

12/10 MUHS at Stowe .....	Canceled
12/13 MUHS vs Stowe .....	6-0

## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Girls' basketball

12/18 Mt Abe at FH Tourn .....	5:30 PM
12/19 St Albans at MUHS .....	7 PM
12/22 Mt Abe at FH Tourn .....	7 PM
12/23 Enosburg at MUHS .....	7 PM
12/23 VUHS at Williamstown .....	7 PM

#### Boys' basketball

12/18 St. Albans at MUHS .....	7 PM
12/18 CVU at VUHS .....	7 PM
12/18 Mt Abe at U-32 .....	7 PM
12/20 Harwood at VUHS .....	2:30 PM
12/22 MUHS at S Burlington .....	7 PM
12/23 Mt Abe at Harwood .....	7 PM
12/27 Rice at MUHS .....	12:30 PM
12/27 OV at Mt Abe .....	12:30 PM
12/27 VUHS at Spaulding .....	12:30 PM

#### Boys' Hockey

12/20 Hartford at MUHS .....	7 PM
12/22 MUHS at S. Burlington .....	7:40 PM

#### Girls' Hockey

12/20 Rutland at MUHS .....	5 PM
12/22 MUHS at Sealakers .....	4:20 PM

#### Wrestling

12/19&20 .....	VUHS/Mt Abe at Lowell Tnt.
12/23 Colch & MMU at VUHS .....	6 PM
12/27 .....	Mt Abe at Fair Haven Duals

#### Indoor Track & Field

12/21 VUHS/Mt. Abe at UVM .....	8 AM
---------------------------------	------

#### Nordic Skiing

12/30 MUHS at Sleepy Hollow .....	TBA
-----------------------------------	-----

#### Gymnastics

12/19 Burlington at MUHS .....	6 PM
12/27 MUHS at Brattleboro .....	2 PM



EAGLE SOPHOMORE MATTEA O'Bryan powers past Fair Haven's Ryleigh Murray during Monday night's basketball game in Bristol. Image by Mark Bouvier Photography



MT. ABE SOPHOMORE OLIVIA Sawyer attacks the paint while Fair Haven's Quinn Murphy defends during the two teams' tilt in Bristol on Monday evening. Image by Mark Bouvier Photography

## Fair Haven cruises past Mount Abe girls' basketball team

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
BRISTOL — Visiting Fair Haven buried the young Mount Abraham girls' basketball team with an early barrage of three-pointers on Monday. That offensive outburst coupled with tough man-to-man defense allowed the Slaters to roll to a 52-20 victory over the Eagles.

Slater sophomore Quinn Murphy (three) and junior Audrey Perry (two) combined for five three-pointers in the first period, and Murphy hit two more in the first 2:16 of the second period as Fair Haven bolted to a 25-10 lead.

Eagle Coach Koran Cousino called for time at that point and switched the Eagles from a zone defense to man-to-man, and that proved more effective the rest of the way, but the damage was done.

"Fair Haven is a tough team to play zone against. I think if we had been more aware of who the shooters were, and not been caught chasing their non-shooters into the corner, it would have been all right. But we didn't do a great job with that. I think it's just going to

come with experience," Cousino said. "There's only one kid on the team (senior guard Gen Forand) who got significant time last year on the varsity."

At the same time, Cousino credited the Slaters for their sharpshooting.

"I'm curious to know what their three-point shooting

percentage was. They were easily over 50% on threes," she said. "They had 33 points on threes. It's kind of unheard of in (See Eagle girls, Page 2B)



EAGLE SENIOR GENEVIEVE Forand drives the baseline against Fair Haven during Monday night's girls' basketball game in Bristol. Image by Mark Bouvier Photography



TIGER SKIER JORGEN Pirrung leads CVU's William Wallace in the early stages of Tuesday's race at the Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton. The Middlebury Union High School sophomore pulled away and won by more than five seconds. Photo by Laura McIntosh

## Tiger boys' Nordic wins season debut

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
RIPTON — The Middlebury Union High School boys' Nordic team on Tuesday won a season-opening sprint race on home snow at Rikert Outdoor Center, while the girls' team took fifth.

With Jorgen Pirrung leading the way with a first-place individual

finish, the Tiger boys edged Champlain Valley, 35-40, to prevail. They were followed by Mt. Mansfield (43), Montpelier (44), St. Albans (70) and Woodstock (86).

The Tiger girls were fifth despite Mary Harrington's second-place individual effort. Woodstock won

with 24 points, followed by MMU (31), Montpelier (47), CVU (54), MUHS (90), Burlington (122) and St. Albans (136)

In individual boys' results, Pirrung finished first overall among 57 skiers in 2:56. The other Tiger scorers were Gabe Perchemlides in (See Nordic, Page 2B)

## VUHS only victor in boys' hoop

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
ADDISON COUNTY — Vergennes was the only winner as the local high school boys' basketball season got underway. Mount Abraham opened with a pair of setbacks, and Middlebury lost in overtime on the road.

### COMMODORES

The Commodores opened their season with a solid 52-42 victory at Colchester on this past Saturday. Coach Eric LeBeau called it "a full team effort" in an email, noting 10 VUHS players saw action and scored. The Commodores took a 23-7 lead midway through the second period before the Lakers began to fight back, but that was the only period in which Colchester outscored the Commodores, who led by 28-23 at the half.

Four Commodores scored at least eight points: **Cohen Howell** (11 points), **Theo Elzinga** (10 points, seven rebounds), **Aiden Fuller** (eight points, seven rebounds) and **Jude Bragg** (eight points, two steals).

### TIGERS

On Monday at Harwood the MUHS lost a tough one, 77-69 in overtime, in their season opener.

The Tigers trailed by 15 points late in the third period and surged to take the lead late in the fourth quarter. But the Highlanders hit a game-tying three-pointer with 10 seconds to go, and then outscored MUHS in overtime, 12-4. Harwood also outrebounded the Tigers, 43-24.

**Colin Chicoine** lead the Tigers with 21 points. **Taylor Altomero** had 15 points and seven assists, **Cooke Riney** had 17 points and nine rebounds, and **Jonathan Kafumbe** added five points and seven boards.

### EAGLES

On this past Saturday visiting Division I team Mount Anthony edged the Eagles, 64-59. Mount Abe led at the half by 33-29, but the Patriots took a 62-59 lead in the late going when Colby Hill sank a three-pointer and then one of two free throws. The Eagles couldn't respond, and Kelly Callahan sealed the win for Mount Anthony with two free throws with nine seconds to go.

Callahan led the Patriots with 18 points, and Kaleb Ordway scored 17.

The Eagles' **Charlie Germon** (See VUHS hoop, Page 2B)

## MUHS girls' hockey blanks Stowe in opener

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team opened its season on this past Saturday with a 6-0 home victory over Stowe.

The Tigers got first-period goals from Nova Bojanowski and Quinn Doria, and then they broke the game open in the second period with three goals, two from Lia Calzini. Calzini added a third-period goal for a hat

trick and also had an assist.

Also contributing to the offense were Kate Kozak, with a goal and an assist; Sawyer Witscher, with three assists; Ireland Hanley, with two assists; and Julia Morrissey, with one assist.

Tiger goalie Heaven Ross worked a 16-save shutout, while Raider goalie Ella McAllister blocked 32 shots.

## Tiger and Commodore girls earn hoop wins



### BASKETBALL Wrap-Up

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' basketball team won at Vergennes on Friday, Dec. 12, in the opener for both teams to highlight the start of the local high school hoop season.

Elsewhere, the Commodores bounced back with a home victory on Monday, while Mount Abraham came up short in its opener on the road on Feb. 12.

The Eagles also hosted Fair Haven on Monday; see story on Page 1B.

### MUHS at VUHS

The Tigers opened with 43-36 win over the host Commodores. **Louisa Orten** tossed in 21 points to spark the MUHS offense, and **Willow Heyward** added eight points.

**Ashtin Stearns** paced the Commodores with 18 points, and **Georgia Krauss** chipped in eight

points.

### COMMODORES

On Monday, VUHS erupted on offense to defeat visiting Danville, 69-39. Stearns (21 points) and Krauss (19) combined for 40 of the Commodore points as the team evened its record at 1-1 in the early going.

Peyton Winn led Danville with 13 points.

### MOUNT ABE

On Friday the 12th, host Harwood defeated the Eagles, 44-29. Highlanders Maddy Ryley (18 points) and Roanha Chalmers (17 points) did most of the damage for the Highlanders.

For Mount Abe, **Brooklyn Ryersbach** (12 points) and **Genevieve Forand** (11 points) reached double figures.

# Growing older, warming climate changes baselines

When I was young, I thought of them as mere caricatures: the old folks who went around talking about the old days when the snow was deeper, the blizzards wilder and the air colder. Those were the days of real outdoors people who knew how to tough it out. Of course, the kids by necessity were much tougher then, too. They had to walk three miles to school through four feet of snow, uphill in both directions.

To be honest, I liked the nostalgia. I was drawn to those caricatures. They gave me a baseline for what the outdoors was supposed to be. Perhaps it was because I grew up reading, and then raised my own kids reading, the outdoor humor stories of the late great Patrick McManus, whose stories featured either kids (like Crazy Eddie Muldoon or the author's version of his younger self) growing up in those bygone days learning to camp and fish, or older folks (like Rancid Crabtree or the author's older version of himself) looking back on — and talking about — those days.

Then I woke up one morning and looked in the mirror and discovered I had become the old person. I walk out into my living room where my Christmas tree stands in a corner, and I find little people running around. I look closely and see that they aren't my friends from school, nor even my kids and their friends; they're my grandkids. Along with the sense of relief that I won't have to pay for their college education or teach them to drive, is the delightful realization that I could now be the old character in the stories.

Except at the same time, I also realized with horror just how much the baseline of expectations of weather (and the nostalgic stories we tell about it as we sit around the tree at Christmas) has changed as our ever-warming climate has propelled itself into, and a quarter of the way through, this new century.

It was only 20 years ago that my son Mark as a young teenager decided to be the first youth at the Nordic ski center at Blueberry Hill to complete 250 kilometers of skiing on their trails in a single season. He wanted to progress through all 10 rounds of incentive prizes (offered for every 25 kms completed), earning not only a pin and a hat and a box of their famous chocolate chip cookies, but the free pair of (used) skis for doing the whole challenge. In order to meet that goal, my wife or I had to take him up once or twice a week all season, and put in a lot of 20 to 30 km weeks. From late December through early February, that meant a lot of days in sub-zero temps. I remember one week — a school vacation week — when we were able to get out skiing several times, and it turned out to be 15 below zero the entire week. That was a year of skiing with facemasks and scarves.

The thing is, those temps felt pretty normal back in those "old days" of two decades ago. It wasn't that long prior to that, in the winter of 1990, that temps hit 30 below at our

house. I remember reading of a thermometer reading of 45 below at the old Crown Point Bridge. That was our measure of "butt cold." Whereas a mere -15 in January seemed ordinary.

Last year, at our house in Bristol, we had a couple mornings where the outdoor temp tipped down and touched zero. We never got below that. We haven't hit 15 below in a few years.

Now if I'm to be honest, I'll admit that as an older cross-country skier I've gotten soft. Although I enjoyed skiing with my kids, I don't look back with any fondness on the sub-zero temps with the facemasks and multiple layers of scarves. I enjoy skiing when it's sunny and 25.

But then I walk my woods and I look at my trees. I'm not old enough to remember the years when elms and American chestnuts were abundant in North American forests. But I remember fondly less than 30 years ago when we had a modest population of productive butternuts around our house. They were the first to go. Now their fallen trunks sit like bleached skeletons along our forest floor, with but a single living and sickly specimen left at the bottom of our hill. Next to go were the beeches, which began succumbing to blight about 15 years ago. The ashes are following, thanks to the emerald ash borer that has moved into the area thanks to the warmer climate.

Now I worry about our hemlocks. They may be our

favorite trees on our property. But the hemlock wooly adelgid has hit Vermont and is slowly but inexorably making its way north. The only thing to slow it or knock it back a few years is cold. The exact temperature needed to have a high mortality rate of adelgids varies from study to study. Temps of 30 below seem to do a good job killing off nearly all of them. I've also read that prolonged periods of 15 below can knock them back. But we get so little of that now. Winter temperatures are warming faster in New England than most places in the world.

In the Champlain Valley, where the baseline has changed so much in just the first quarter of this century, you need to find some nostalgic old person like me to remember those days of 15 to 30 below zero. So when the temperature drops below zero — which to my delight it has done at our house twice this winter already — I don't complain. I think of the ash trees that still survive on our property, and of the thriving stands of hemlocks. And when I'm up at the Rikert Outdoor Center skiing in the glorious snow conditions we've had this week, enjoying them before the 50-degree rain that is predicted to be falling the day this paper hits mailboxes, and I ski through one of the beautiful groves up hemlocks in the Ripton hills, I pause and admire them. And I hope that my grandkids won't be forced to listen to my stories of the old days when Vermont still had hemlocks. And I think about how I can lower my carbon footprint a little more.



**MATTHEW DICKERSON**  
Outdoor Columnist



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School senior Mary Harrington puts some distance between herself and MMU's Astrid Longstreth at Rikert on Tuesday. They finished 2nd and 3rd, respectively.

Photo by Laura McIntosh

## Nordic

(Continued from Page 1B) sixth (3:08.1), Nate Cook Yoder in 12th (3:31) and Kaden Hammond in 26th (3:42.1).

Harrington came in second place out of 50 girls in 3:12.9. Also scoring were Meredith Carr-Perlow in 24th (4:13.2), Avery Thompson in 29th (4:25.2) and Montana Gray

in 44th (5:56.9).

Two independent skiers who practice with MUHS cracked the top 20 in the girls' race. June Yates-Rusch from Mount Abe was 15th in 3:48.9 despite skiing with a broken hand and only one pole, and Vergennes skier Ellie Eckles was 16th in 3:52.7.



MOUNT ABE SKIER June Yates-Rusch, who trains with the Middlebury team, competes at Rikert on Tuesday with a broken hand and missing a pole, and she still managed to earn 15th place.

Photo by Laura McIntosh



MUHS BOYS' NORDIC ski team captain Kaden Hammond cruises during the Solstice Sprints race at Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton on Tuesday. The Tiger senior finished in 26th.

Photo by Laura McIntosh

## Eagle girls

(Continued from Page 1B) a high school game."

The teams played on even terms for the first few minutes. The game was tied at 6-6 with 4:50 gone, with Mount Abe getting buckets in the lane for Forand and sophomore guard Olivia Sawyer and in the post from senior forward Brooklyn Ryersbach to offset threes from Murphy and Perry.

But the Slaters closed the period on a 13-3 run that included eight points from Murphy — two threes and a transition bucket.

The Eagles opened the second quarter with two turnovers. Meanwhile senior Slater post player Victoria Kelly blocked two shots while Murphy continued to light it up from behind the arc with two more threes. That prompted Cousino to call time with Fair Haven up 15.

The Eagles made life harder on the Slaters with their man-to-man defense, but struggled on the attack. For the rest of the period they managed only a free throw apiece from Ryersbach and sophomores Sophie Underwood



MT. ABE SENIOR Brooklyn Ryersbach puts up a shot in the lane during Monday night's girls' basketball game vs. Fair Haven in Bristol.

Image by Mark Bouvier Photograph

and Sam Guilbeault as the Slaters pushed their lead to 34-13. Kelly added four points inside for Fair Haven in that stretch.

The Eagles and the Slaters each scored six points in the third period. Guilbeault did all the damage for Mount Abe, scoring twice inside, once on a nice feed from Forand, and hitting two free throws. But Mount Abe couldn't score in the final period, missing four free throws, and the Slaters

pulled away.

Murphy led the Slaters with 21 points, and Perry hit three from behind the arc and scored nine. Kelly finished with eight points and at least three blocked shots. Madi Hayes scored six points, and Orianna Kerr added four.

Guilbeault's seven points led the Eagles, and she added five rebounds. Forand chipped in four points and two assists. Sawyer scored three points and added

three steals and two assists. Ryersbach had three points and seven rebounds, helping the Eagles hold their own on the boards. Underwood had two steals in a strong defensive effort, and senior Sierra Roberts chipped in two points and a steal.

Cousino said she expects a team with four seniors, (forwards Isla Underwood, who is injured, and Molly Mangini are the other two), seven sophomores, no juniors, and a good attitude to grow and improve.

"This is an incredibly supportive team of one another. They're very willing to learn. They're coachable. They're a great group of kids," she said. "Our captains (Forand, Ryersbach and Underwood) are really great leaders and have other-season experience, so I'm not discouraged by this at all."



**Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, December 21:**  
2:00 - 3:30 PM Public Skating

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

**Sunday, December 28:**  
12:45 - 2:15 PM Public Skating

**Tuesday, December 30:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

**New Year's Eve**  
Wednesday, December 31:  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
**Free Public Skating!**  
Beginning immediately following the town's fireworks display.  
Concessions open  
Limited # of skates available  
Bring your own if you can

**Thursday, January 1:**  
12:00 - 2:00 PM - Public Skating

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

**VERMONT**Sun  
FITNESS CENTERS

**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.**

**www.vermontsun.com 802.388.6888**  
**TAKE OUR VIRTUAL TOUR!**

MIDDLEBURY VERGENNES

**NEED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GATHERING?**



**HARE AND THE DOG**

**WE LOVE TO ASSIST!**

**www.Hare.dog**

## VUHS hoop

(Continued from Page 1B) led all scorers with 24 points. Germon scored 12 in the fourth quarter, including making 10 of 11 free throws.

On Monday host Randolph led

wire-to-wire in a 70-36 victory over the Eagles. The Ghosts led by 22-9 after one period and 38-13 at the half. Eli Messier (15 points) and Jack White (13) led a balanced Randolph effort.

**LOCAL SPORTS | WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**



Sophia Keshmiri

**Welcome to the team, Sophia!**



Steve James



Matthew Dickerson



Karl Lindholm

# AG Clark sues Trump Admin for excessive H-1B visa fees

MONTPELIER — Attorney General Charity Clark late last week joined a coalition of 19 states in suing the Trump Administration over its unlawful policy imposing a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions. H-1B visas allow U.S. employers to hire highly skilled foreign national workers in roles that require specialized skills, including as physicians, researchers, nurses, and other vital workers, to alleviate nationwide labor shortages.

The new fee would create a costly barrier for employers, especially public sector and government employers, trying to fill these positions. In Vermont, public and private employers rely on the services of hundreds of H-1B visa-holders to fill critical roles in research, health care, education, and technology that would otherwise go unfulfilled.

In the lawsuit, Attorney General Clark and the coalition allege that the policy, which has been implemented by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is a clear violation of the law because it imposes a massive fee outside of the bounds of what is authorized by Congress and contrary to Congress's intent in establishing the H-1B program, bypasses required rulemaking procedures, and exceeds the

authority granted to the executive branch under the Administrative Procedure Act.

"Vermont has an aging population, and we need health care workers and other skilled professionals to fill many of our job openings," said Attorney General Clark. "While Vermont is focused on recruiting talented professionals and welcoming new neighbors, President Trump is exacerbating the problems with unlawful and exorbitant fees."

The H-1B visa program allows employers to petition for high-skilled foreign workers to temporarily fill positions in specialty occupations that require at least a bachelor's degree. Congress limits the number of H-1B visas available each year for most private employers, with the current cap set at 65,000, with an exemption of 20,000 for individuals with a master's degree or higher.

Since its inception, the H-1B visa program has been continually tailored by Congress to carry out its purpose of meeting employers' labor needs, while protecting the interests of American workers to ensure that they are not wrongfully

*"We need health care workers and other skilled professionals to fill many of our job openings. While Vermont is focused on recruiting talented professionals and welcoming new neighbors, President Trump is exacerbating the problems with unlawful and exorbitant fees."*

— Vt. Attorney General Charity Clark

displaced. Congress has repeatedly enhanced enforcement, increased penalties, and legislated on fees for H-1B petitions to prevent misuse of the program. Congress has also adapted the program to ensure that it is especially beneficial to many government and non-profit organizations in fulfilling their public service missions, exempting them from the 65,000-person cap.

On Sept. 19, President Trump issued a proclamation ordering an unprecedented \$100,000 fee for new H-1B visa petitions, undermining the very purpose of the H-1B visa by making it harder to address severe labor shortages in critical fields such as education

and health care, and ultimately worsening the staffing crisis.

As implemented by DHS through a series of written documents, the policy affects any application filed after September 21, 2025, and grants the Secretary of Homeland Security broad discretion to determine which petitions are subject to the fee or for an exemption, raising concerns that the enforcement could be applied selectively against employers disfavored by the Trump Administration.

The \$100,000 visa fee is devastating for all states, including Vermont, and threatens the quality and availability of education, health care, and other core services. For example, the United States faces a nationwide teacher shortage and in the 2024-2025 school year, 74% of school districts in the U.S. reported having trouble filling open positions, particularly in special education, physical sciences, ESL or bilingual education, and foreign languages.

Educators are the third-largest occupation for H-1B visa holders, with nearly 30,000 educators on the visas, and nearly a thousand colleges and universities employ hundreds of H-1B personnel to support their research and education missions. Because K-12 schools,



ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARITY CLARK

colleges, and universities are generally government or non-profit entities, they are incapable of absorbing an additional \$100,000 for each H-1B hire.

Hospitals and other health care centers also rely on the H-1B visa program to hire physicians, surgeons, and nurses, often in low-income and rural communities. Nearly 17,000 H-1B visas went to workers in medicine and health occupations

in the 2024 fiscal year, and half of those were physicians and surgeons.

Attorney General Clark is joined by the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, and Wisconsin in filing the lawsuit.

## Lower fees, more options now offered for VT529 education savings plan

WINOOSKI — This coming year, the nearly 31,000 students and families who save for education and training through VT529 will collectively save an estimated \$1.5 million in fees, according to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC). VT529 is Vermont's official college and training savings plan, administered by VSAC and now managed by Vestwell.

The savings reflects a 50% reduction in program fees, one of the biggest benefits that Vestwell will bring to account owners.

"Students and families trust us to help them invest in their future," said Scott Giles, president and CEO of VSAC. "Lower fees are key to helping families make the most of their money as they save for college and job training. Students spent nearly \$62 million on college and training from VT529 accounts in the last fiscal year, and more than 15,000 students have used over \$422,000,000 to cover qualified education expenses since VT529 started in 1999. Every dollar counts as investments grow."

Vermont residents are also eligible for a 10% tax credit for VT529 contributions (up to \$250 per beneficiary per year, or \$500 per beneficiary per year for joint filers).

People wishing to save for college or training (on behalf of themselves or anyone else) may

open an account with \$25 and set up recurring contributions and payroll deductions, as well as load funds onto a prepaid VT529 VISA debit card that can be used for qualified purchases anywhere that VISA is accepted.

The transition to Vestwell brings VSAC's VT529 account owners a slate of other benefits that help them optimize and customize their savings experience:

- Invite family and friends to contribute: Share the URL to your unique gifting page so friends and family can easily contribute to your account. Whether for a birthday, baby shower, holiday, graduation, or just because, a gift page provides a meaningful way for friends, family, and community to help with savings goals.
- More options to allocate investments: Choose from among five different investment options and 12 beneficiary age bands to make sure your selections meet your needs.
- Create savings goals: Add goals and set up recurring contributions to make it easier to reach your savings targets.
- Fun ways to save: Enable the "weather booster" to make a contribution when the daily precipitation forecast is higher than 50% in your selected zip code.
- An app and website chat function.

Funds in VT529 accounts grow tax-free, with the flexibility to apply savings toward a variety of education-related expenses. VT529 savings can help pay for tuition, computers, housing, meals, travel, fees, and the costs for qualified programs or training at institutions throughout the U.S. (as well as at schools in Canada and around the world). Borrowers can even use the funds to pay back student loans.

In addition, new financial aid rules allow that a withdrawal (used for qualified education expenses) from a VT529 plan owned by a grandparent will not reduce a student's eligibility for need-based financial aid under the FAFSA. In other words, distributions from VT529 accounts owned by grandparents are no longer reported as student income on the FAFSA—yet another incentive for a grandparent to maximize long-term college savings through a VT529 account.

VT529 funds are flexible and can be used for qualified two- or four-year colleges, apprenticeships, certifications, technical education, college and grad school, and more. There is no time limit to using funds, and funds can be transferred among beneficiaries.

To learn more about saving for college and training with VT529, visit VT529.org.

## Find us on



For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

## Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"This paper is a gem, and absolutely crucial to the well-being of our community."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

# JOIN THE MIDDLEBURY SNOW BOWL SKI BUM LEAGUE!



Starting Friday, January 9, 2026

For more information email

Margaret Eagan at [middskibum@gmail.com](mailto:middskibum@gmail.com)

Do you like to ski and snowboard? Join the league! Fun, friendly, races where you can flex your inner competitor!

Only \$25 league fee for the season!

All levels welcome (as long as you can make it down the Allen!)

## Energy efficiency programs that help your family stay warm and cozy!

[vgsvt.com/efficiency](http://vgsvt.com/efficiency)



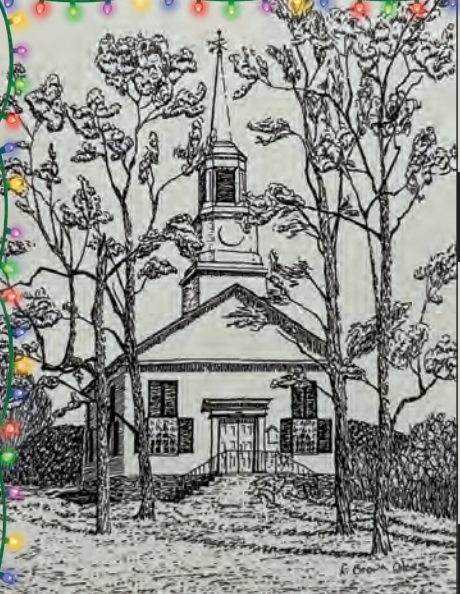
VGS



**Addison County Parent/Child Center**  
 info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org  
 388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

**Helping Young Families  
Get The Right Start**



Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service

**December 24th  
7pm**

at the **Salisbury Congregational Church**

853 Maple Street, Salisbury, VT

All are welcome

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

**Wednesday, December 24**  
 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist  
 8:30 pm Carol Prelude\*  
 9:00 pm Holy Eucharist\*


**Christmas Day, December 25**  
 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Carols

**Sunday, December 28**  
 10:30 am Christmas Lessons and Carols Service\*


**Sunday, January 4**  
 The Second Sunday after Christmas Day  
 8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist\*

\*These services will also be broadcast on Zoom

**802.388.7200**  
 3 Main St. on the Green • Middlebury, VT  
**STSTEPHENS.MIDD.ORG**  
 Please visit our website for the latest updates on Christmas worship and life at St. Stephen's



**Assumption of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
 ST. MARY'S - ST. BERNADETTE - ST. GENEVIEVE



**Solemnity of Christmas**  
 Vigil Mass - Dec. 24, 4 pm - St. Mary's  
 Mass at Night - Dec. 24, 7:30 pm - St. Mary's  
 Mass During Day - Dec. 25, 9 am - St. Bernadette

www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org  
 Parish Office 802-388-2943

**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

Keep up to date with all the action, read **Arts + Leisure** every Thursday in the Addy Indy!

# community calendar

## dec 18 THURSDAY

**Holiday Trains in Middlebury.** Ongoing through Saturday, Jan. 3, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual holiday tradition, delighting visitors of all ages. Trains run Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**Henry Sheldon Museum Makerspace in Middlebury.** Ongoing during museum hours, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Makerspace activities are available when the museum is open, with hands-on crafting, play for kids and ornament making throughout the holiday season. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Museum admission applies. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**Cookbook Club in Brandon.** Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:30-7 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Share dishes and discuss the month's cookbook. Free.

**Christmas Benefit Concert and Hymn Sing in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, 43 North Pleasant St. Christmas concert featuring a wide variety of music performed by artists from Addison County and beyond. All are invited to sing cherished seasonal hymns. Free. Donations benefit the Charter House Coalition and CVOEO's Addison Food Hub.



## Lighting the night

What can set the mood for the holidays better than a cement mixer? Actually, the cement company SD Ireland decorates a truck for the holidays and it's really cool. See the holiday truck in Bristol this Friday, Dec. 19. It's scheduled to be next to the Bristol Town Green at 5:20 p.m.

## dec 19 FRIDAY

**Art & Merry Making in Ferrisburgh.** Friday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Craft an accordion book, create a torn paper landscape or stitch a bookmark. All supplies provided. Free event, admission is free to the main exhibit.

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 19, 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.

**SD Ireland holiday truck in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 19, 5:20 p.m., Bristol Town Green, intersection of West and North St. Visit from the SD Ireland holiday truck on the town green. More info at bristolvtrec.com.

## dec 20 SATURDAY

**Holiday Market in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW Post 7823, Exchange St. Shop local and support farmers, crafters, businesses and musicians. Music by Michael Stridberg. Hosted by the Middlebury Farmers Market.

**Monkton Poetry Club meeting in Monkton.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 9:30-10:45 a.m., Community Room, Monkton Town Offices, 280 Monkton Ridge. Enjoy a morning of poetry and camaraderie. Participants are invited to bring one or two poems to share, either original work or poems by another author. More info at cotem@gmail.com, 802-425-4441.

**Local author and wildlife rehabber John Aberth in Salisbury.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, downstairs in the library, 853 Maple St. This licensed wildlife rehabilitator will discuss his book, "Bringing Up Beaver," which chronicles how he raised an orphaned beaver kit and released it back into the wild.

**Kids' make your own snow globes Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library. Create a snow globe and bring winter magic into your home using jars, glitter and tiny decorations. Limited space: RSVP by emailing shelby.gagne@bixbylibrary.org. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

**Winter Village in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 12-7 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. On Saturday, Santa will visit the Brandon Town Hall, where there will be family games, crafts and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m. Neshobe School students will sing in the park.

**Santa in Monkton.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 1 p.m., Monkton Volunteer Fire Department, 3747 States Prison Hollow Rd. Meet Santa at the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department and share Christmas wishes. Cookies and refreshments available. Free. More info at logang.young@gmail.com.

**Build a Solar Robot in Shoreham.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Kids ages 8 and up can build a solar-powered mini robot in honor of the winter solstice. Ms. Abby will lead the build. Limited to 11 participants, stop by the library or call 802-897-2647 to register.

**Lumen: Bristol's Celebration of Fire & Light in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 4-7 p.m., Bristol Town Green and Holley Hall, 1 South St. Free community celebration featuring a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall at 4 p.m. and a fire-dancing performance by Cirque de Feugo on the Town Green at 6 p.m., plus fire pits and delicious food. Free.

**Annual memory tree lighting in Leicester.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m., Leicester Meeting House, 19 School House Road. Join the Leicester Historical Society for its annual memory tree lighting on the Meeting House steps. To submit a name to include on the memory tree, email Diane Benware at dianembenware@gmail.com or mail to 1594 Old Jerusalem Rd., Salisbury, VT, 05769.

## Good Time Line Dancing with Joe & Jackie Music in Middlebury.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 5:30-9 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Evening of live music and line dancing with instructor Jenna of Good Time Line Dancing and Joe & Jackie Music. All ages welcome. Beginner-friendly line dancing lessons offered during the first break. \$15 cover charge, cash or Venmo at the door.

**Reverse Parade in Brandon.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. A reverse parade where spectators drive by to enjoy the covered bridge illuminated with lights, festive decorations, elves awaiting Santa and Barn Opera well-wishers spreading holiday cheer.

**Christmas Candlelight service in Starksboro.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m., Starksboro Village Meeting House, 2875 VT Route 116. A special non-denominational Christmas candlelight service of lessons and carols, led by Michael Blakeslee. Holiday cookies, treats and hot cider will be served at the end of the service. Free.

**King Pede card party in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 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 21 SUNDAY

**Annual Messiah Sing in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Joyful community sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah, led by Jeff Rehbach. All are welcome to join and sing favorite choruses or play in the orchestra. Suggested donation \$5-10 adults, \$10-\$25 families. More info at jeff.rehbach@gmail.com, 802-382-7493.

**Solstice in the Shire: The Shortest Day in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day. Surprise performances by local actors and musicians. Free; donations accepted.

**Welcoming the Light: A Winter Solstice Gathering in Ripton.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Spirit In Nature Path Sanctuary, Goshen Road. Follow the lantern-lit path to the Sacred Circle and gather with friends and neighbors around a fire. Enjoy tea, poetry, stories, music, song and shared reflections, and decorate a tree with edible ornaments for birds and animals. All ages and beliefs welcome. More info at spiritinnature.org.

**Reverse Parade in Brandon.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m., 1386 Pearl St. See Dec. 20 listing.

## dec 22 MONDAY

**Luncheon concert in Vergennes.** Monday, Dec. 22, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Vergennes. Guitarists and vocalists Sallie Mack, former co-founder and co-director of the Ripton Community Coffee House, and Rosi Gowley, storyteller and social change advocate, offer an eclectic concert of original compositions, bluegrass, ballads and more. This hour of music is free and open to all.

## dec 24 WEDNESDAY

**Candlelight Christmas Eve service in Ripton.** Wednesday, Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m., Ripton Community Church, Route 125 in the village center. Bill McKibben will preside over an hour of Lessons and Carols and seasonal music. Light refreshment contributions encouraged. More info at 802-388-0338.

## dec 25 THURSDAY

**Community Supper Christmas Day Dinner in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 25, 4-5 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. (enter at Seymour Street across from

the firehouse). Enjoy warm fellowship and a traditional Christmas Day dinner. Free. All are welcome. Meet in the fellowship hall on the church's lower level.

## dec 26 FRIDAY

**Holiday Trains in Middlebury.** Ongoing through Saturday, Jan. 3, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual holiday tradition, delighting visitors of all ages. Trains run Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**Henry Sheldon Museum Makerspace in Middlebury.** Ongoing during museum hours, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Makerspace activities are available when the museum is open, with hands-on crafting, play for kids and ornament making throughout the holiday season. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Museum admission applies. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**Community Supper in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 26, 5-6 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Regular Friday night community supper. Menu varies, meat and vegetarian offerings available.

## dec 27 SATURDAY

**Fiber Arts Circle in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 27, 12-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bixby's Fiber Arts Circle every other Saturday. Bring a work-in-progress or use yarn and knit/crochet kits from the Library of Things. All experience levels and ages welcome. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

## dec 28 SUNDAY

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 28, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Vergennes American Legion Post 14, 100 Armory Lane, downstairs. Community bingo open to the public. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.; bingo begins at 1 p.m. Game packets \$15; special "winner take all" games \$1 per sheet. 50/50 raffle. Cash payouts based on attendance. Food available for purchase.

**Lessons and Carols service in Vergennes.** Sunday, Dec. 28, 3 p.m., St. Peter's Church, 85 South Maple St. The traditional service of lessons and carols accompanied by organ, choir and brass ensemble. Cookies and Christmas cheer follow in the parish hall. Free, all are welcome.

## dec 29 MONDAY

**Family Game Night in Shoreham.** Monday, Dec. 29, 5-7:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Bring the whole family to play from the library's growing board game collection or bring your own games to play or share. Arrive by 5 p.m. for pizza.

## dec 30 TUESDAY

**American Red Cross blood drive in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Vermont Cider Company, 1321 Exchange St. Community blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS.

**American Red Cross blood drive in Waltham.** Tuesday, Dec. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 862 Route 7. Community blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 1-800-RED CROSS.

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

**CALENDAR ONLINE**  
 addisonindependent.com

## Special Holiday Services

**ADDISON COUNTY** — A number of Addison County-area churches have set their schedules for special Christmas events and services. Note that these plans may change. If your church service isn't listed, please email the information to [calendar@addisonindependent.com](mailto:calendar@addisonindependent.com) and we will run it in the weeks coming up to the holidays.

### ADDISON

**West Addison United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. This service replaces the regular morning worship service that day. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day.

### BRANDON/FOREST DALE

**St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church** will hold Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

### BRIDPORT

**Bridport Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service in the Meeting Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. **Saint Bernadette's Catholic Church** will hold Christmas Day Mass at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25. Christmas Eve masses will be held at St. Mary's in Middlebury (see Middlebury listing).

### BRISTOL

**Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Church** will hold Rorate Mass on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 a.m. Confession schedule during Christmas week is as follows: Sunday, Dec. 21, from 7:30-8:15 a.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 7-7:45 a.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 6:30-8 a.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Christmas Day Mass is at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

### EAST MIDDLEBURY

**The East Middlebury United Methodist Church and the Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church Street and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

### MIDDLEBURY

**Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Saint Mary's) Catholic Church** will hold two Christmas Eve Masses on Wednesday, Dec. 24: Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. and Mass at Night at 7:30 p.m. (choral prelude begins at 7:15 p.m.). Christmas Day Mass will be held at St. Bernadette's in Bridport at 9 a.m. (see Bridport listing). **The Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society** will hold two Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The 4 p.m. service will feature an all-ages pageant with group candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night." The 7 p.m. service, "We Are the Light of the World!" will explore the Christmas Spirit with songs, music, poetry and candle lighting. All are welcome. Attend either service in person or online via Zoom link at [cvuus.org](https://cvuus.org). **The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC** will hold weekly Sunday services at 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. **Memorial Baptist Church** will hold weekly Advent Sunday services at 10 a.m. A Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. A Christmas Day service will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

**The Middlebury United Methodist Church and the East Middlebury United Methodist Church** will hold a combined Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. at the East Middlebury Church, located at the corner of 2 Church St. and Route 125 in East Middlebury.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** will hold an Advent noontime concert on Thursday, Dec. 18, at noon (free, all are welcome). On Wednesday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve pageant and Holy Eucharist will be held at 4 p.m.; and at 8:30 p.m. there will be a Carol Prelude followed by a Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 9 p.m. The Christmas Day Holy Eucharist takes place on Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 28, there will be a 10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols service. All services are in person; some will be broadcast on Zoom. Please visit [ststephensmid.org](http://ststephensmid.org) for Zoom links and more information.

### ORWELL

**First Congregational Church of Orwell** will hold a Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m. **St. Paul Catholic Church** in Orwell will hold a Christmas Eve Mass on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m.

### RIPTON

**Ripton Community Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols and seasonal music on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 p.m.

### SALISBURY

**Salisbury Congregational Church** will hold its traditional Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

### SHOREHAM

**Shoreham Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Advent services will be held at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21.

### STARKSBORO

**The South Starksboro Friends Meeting** will hold a Quaker Christmas Day Service on Thursday, Dec. 25, at 4 p.m., with carol singing and silent meeting for worship. All are welcome.

### VERGENNES

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church** will hold a Christmas Eve Festival Service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. **Vergennes United Methodist Church** will hold a Christmas Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. No service on Christmas Day. **Saint Peter's Catholic Church** will hold confession will be held at the following times during Christmas week: Friday, Dec. 19, from 12:30-1:45 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20, from 3:30-4:15 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 22, from 9:30-11 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass is at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Christmas Day Mass will be held at midnight and 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 25.

### WEYBRIDGE

**Weybridge Congregational Church** will hold a Christmas Eve worship service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m.



**BRANDON TOWN OFFICIALS** and Nifty Thrifty volunteers celebrate Nifty Thrifty's \$50,000 gift of solar power to the town on Dec. 12. Pictured at the town office, from left, are front row: Brandon Energy Committee members David Martin and Joyous Emerson; Brandon Selectboard Chair Doug Bailey; Nifty Thrifty representatives Laura Peterson, Dorothy Bird, Leanne Tyminski, Melly Flynn and Lynn Wilson; and back row: Town Manager Seth Hopkins and Community Development Director Bill Moore.

## Nifty Thrifty donates \$50,000 to Brandon

**BRANDON** — A year ago, the Brandon selectboard dedicated the 2023 town report to Nifty Thrifty for its members' volunteerism, philanthropy and resilience. Founded in 1975 and led from the beginning by a talented team of community-spirited women running Brandon's thrift shop, Nifty Thrifty celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. And the organization is choosing to mark the occasion in an amazing way.

When Nifty Thrifty's leadership reached out with a suggestion that they would like to make a substantial anniversary gift in support a solar energy project benefiting the community, this

led to a series of conversations including the town management team and current and past members of the Downtown Brandon Alliance and Brandon Energy Committee. A proposal with a number of components was offered for consideration of the donor.

In early December, the town received the welcome news that the Nifty Thrifty board of directors had voted to give the Brandon Energy Committee \$50,000.

Nifty Thrifty approved four projects for their directed gift:

- Rooftop solar array on the police station (purchase and install new panels) to credit police station Green Mountain Power (GMP) account.

- Move 28 solar panels from floodplain restoration buyout house to town-owned Conant Square Park & Ride to credit e-car charger GMP account.

- Rooftop solar on the existing highway garage (purchase and install new panels; can be relocated if a new garage is built) to credit highway garage GMP account.

- E-ink / E-Paper solar-powered displays for posting of meeting agendas and announcements at locations throughout town.

At their Dec. 8 meeting, members of the Brandon selectboard voted to accept this gift with thanks, and to authorize the town management to proceed with the projects.

## MALT adds new board members, ramps up efforts

**MIDDLEBURY** — Four new members recently were elected to the Middlebury Area Land Trust Board of Directors. Each will serve a three-year term, bringing their own expertise, community leadership, and passion to MALT's mission to "Connect our community with the lands we protect through conservation, recreation, and education."

MALT has conserved over 3,500 acres of land in Addison County and manages the Trails around Middlebury, known as the TAM. It

expands its board as MALT launches a new three-year strategy to expand its efforts in conservation, recreation and environmental education.

The new directors are Stacey Rainey, Emily May, Andrea Scott and Eben Punderson.

Rainey is the co-founder of Stone Mill and Community Barn Ventures — two enterprises that have enriched the town's economic and cultural landscape. May is a conservation biologist and pollinator ecologist based in Cornwall, as well as a Middlebury College graduate. Scott,

a Shoreham resident and co-owner of Champlain Orchards, brings deep knowledge of sustainable farming, land stewardship, and local food systems. And Punderson is a lifelong Vermonter and has been a practicing attorney in Middlebury since 1999.

MALT Executive Director Kevin Fox was thrilled with the new board members.

"Each of them brings an extraordinary level of commitment, expertise, and heart to this work," he said, in a press release.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Ellie Wilkinson-Sachs

Ellie Wilkinson-Sachs is Vergennes Union High School's latest Student of the Week. She lives in Vergennes with her mom and her mom's partner, as well as three cats and a dog.

English classes have always been Ellie's favorite, along with visual art classes. She loves writing and reading, especially poetry. Ellie's favorite visual art mediums are drawing and painting. This year, she's especially enjoying AP Literature & Composition. Ellie also loved her experience in AP Biology last year. She is a member of the National Honor Society, has received Outstanding Achievement Awards in writing and visual arts, and has been on high honor roll.

Beyond academics, Ellie is a part of the VUHS Symphonic Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Commodore Singers. She has also participated in the school musical. Once an ice hockey and lacrosse player, Ellie is now focused on cross country and track & field. On the arts front, she is currently involved in an independent study through school with a local artist, John Vincent, who runs the non-profit organization called A Revolutionary Press. Ellie notes that, "John has done incredible work in our community and has been generous with his time, resources, mentorship and knowledge. Our creative collaboration has brought me a lot of joy and insight."

Outside of school, she enjoys meditation and participating in meditation retreats. Her mom has encouraged her to explore meditation and wheel-throwing pottery, for which Ellie is grateful. Ellie has participated in studio art workshops over the past few summers, at the Governor's Institute of Vermont arts program, the SMFA at Tufts University, and The Putney School. For three years, she has been part of the annual winter solstice pageant, "Night Fires," which she describes as "a spectacular celebration of song, poetry, storytelling and dance, written and directed by Marianne Lust, and everyone should consider joining us to witness the magic!"

Ellie claims that the uncertainty of senior year has made her realize how connected her class is at VUHS. "We're together in this place of transition, going through the process of ending high school and beginning new journeys. Reflecting on what our time in this school has meant has given us this common foundational experience, and has made me so curious about all of the people I am sharing space with. In the final moments of our high school career, we are all pretty terrified and excited, and it is really wonderful to see that reflected in others. My advice is to let yourself be bored. Give yourself the space and time to become curious about yourself and others, because that interest is where you will find the inspiration to keep learning more about your community, your passions, and the world at large. Find and follow the threads that light you up, even when it feels terrifying, messy or lonely. Exploring your relationship to yourself and your environment is what will feed your soul and help you land in the places you belong. I truly believe that this type of investigation is as important for your health as basic necessities like food and water, and boredom is where it begins."

Next, Ellie will be going to college and hopes to major in Studio Art and English. One day, she would love to get a master's degree and join as many creative communities as she can find. The VUHS community wishes Ellie all the best!



Ellie Wilkinson-Sachs  
VUHS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Kaden Hammond

Middlebury Union High School is proud to recognize Kaden Hammond as its latest Student of the Week. Kaden, the son of Elaine and Chris Hammond, lives in Middlebury and is the youngest of three siblings. His brother Colby graduated from the University of Maryland, and his sister Viviana is currently a senior at Duke University.

Reflecting on his time at MUHS, Kaden shared, "I love the teachers here. You can tell they are passionate about what they do and they are good at what they do." Among his favorite classes are Spanish with Ms. Causton and Global Politics with Ms. Slater — courses that he says have opened his eyes to the world beyond MUHS. Kaden is also taking Introduction to Latino Studies at Middlebury College and is grateful to Professor Roberto Lint Sagarena for the opportunity to participate.

A dedicated and high-achieving student, Kaden is the recipient of the UVM Green and Gold Award, has earned High Honors all four years, and has received department awards in Individuals and Society as well as Language Acquisition.

Kaden stays exceptionally active within the school community. He served as Captain of the Cross Country Team in the fall and of Nordic Skiing in the winter. Beyond athletics, he is involved in numerous clubs, including serving as President of the BIPOC Affinity Space, Co-President of Model United Nations, and a Peer Leader.

Since his freshman year, Kaden has also worked at the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, where he stocks inventory and assists customers. Additionally, he volunteers with the Better Middlebury Partnership. Outside of school and work, he enjoys traveling, skiing, hiking and spending time with friends and family.

Throughout his years at MUHS, Kaden has learned the value of self-advocacy. His advice to younger students is simple but powerful: "Advocate for yourself. You do not know until you ask. They may not know about a situation until you ask."

Next fall, Kaden plans to attend college at Princeton University and intends to major in International Relations or Race Relations.

MUHS congratulates Kaden on his many accomplishments and wishes him continued success throughout his senior year and beyond.



Kaden Hammond  
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](http://www.bts-vt.com) • 802-388-8999

*Full*

**CIRCLE**  
BUILDING AND REMODELING, LLC  
ESTD 2013  
(802)488-4315

New Haven, VT • [fullcirclebrvt.com](http://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, Kaden and Ellie!**

**JACKMAN FUELS**  
SINCE 1945

1 Main Street, Vergennes  
802-877-2661 • [jackmanfuels.com](http://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](mailto:Brad@LawDCVT.com)

28 North Street • Bristol Village

**JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.**  
SINCE 1930  
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Way to go,  
**Ellie and Kaden!**

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol  
802.453.2381 • [Jackmansinc.com](http://Jackmansinc.com)

Want to help celebrate these students and support this page?

Please contact Jenna at [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com) to advertise.

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**  
SERVING ADDISON COUNTY SINCE 1948

**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  
Ellie and Kaden!

**Rainbow**  
Pediatrics

802-388-1338  
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT

**Congratulations, Ellie and Kaden!**

**FRIENDO CONSTRUCTION**  
Your friendly neighborhood Roofing Contractor

802-453-2255 • [friendconstructionvt.com](http://friendconstructionvt.com)



A WORKER LOOKS at a Farmblox monitor that supports a Vermont maple farm. Photo courtesy of Farmblox

## Small farmers turning to new tech tools

By KATE KAMPNER  
Community News Service

For 11 years, Brian Kussel woke up at 2 a.m. to tend to the facilities that keep maple syrup flowing on his farm around-the-clock.

But since January, that's all changed for the Rutland producer.

That's thanks to Farmblox, an app-based automation system that

detects farm equipment issues and productivity. Now, all Kussel has to do is check his phone to ensure his operation is running smoothly.

Although he still has to wake up early, he can now tend to his production from the comfort of his bed.

### PEACE OF MIND

Farmblox is one of a growing

number of agrotechnology, or "agritech," companies that promise to streamline farmwork and boost efficiency.

These innovations vary from farm to farm. Some operations use sensors to manage water use, while other farms survey crop coverage with drones. In 2024, the global Agritech market was valued at about \$24 billion, and is projected to reach \$49 billion by 2030, according to ResearchandMarkets.com.

Now, farmers in Vermont are taking advantage of these innovations to ease labor shortages and resist the impacts of climate change.

Kussel said installing Farmblox has greatly improved his quality of life — from more sleep to higher production. He installed the system in January after receiving a development grant from Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

Since then, the system sends him alerts if syrup lines leak, animals damage machinery or sap lines freeze.

In the past, his five-person crew spent four days a week surveying his maple tapping system for damages. Now, he said, the crew only has to manually check the tubing for about three days of the entire season.

"It's labor savings," said Kussel. (See *New tech*, Page 7B)

## Summit opens eyes on dairy innovation

VERMONT — Vermont's Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets this week announced that interested farmers and others interested parties can take part in early bird registration for the Northeast Dairy Innovation Summit, which will take place March 10-11 in Albany, N.Y. Early bird registration is open now through Jan. 16.

People are invited to join the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) for two days focused on innovation, modernization, and growth across the dairy sector. The Northeast Dairy Innovation Summit brings together dairy farmers, processors, and stakeholders from across an 11-state region.

From dairy farming to processing to workforce development and policy, the summit gives you an opportunity to learn from those who are innovating now and to hear from experts on what's coming in the future.

This year's theme is "Dynamic Dairy: Opportunities at Every Scale."

Sessions will cover a range of subjects. Topics include:

- Brand Breakthrough: Growing Your Dairy Brand in a Competitive Market. How you make one brand of milk stand out among others.
- Cultivating Talent: Attracting and Training Employees for a Positive Workplace.
- Grazing Innovation: How a Regionally Proven Low-Overhead Dairy Grazing Model Can Work For You.
- Navigating Mold Challenges in Cheesemaking.
- Building a Regional Value-Added Dairy Training Center Together.



ADELINE DRUART



KRYSTA HARDEN

• Farm Innovation Lightning Round – Stories from the field.

The keynote speakers will be Adeline Druart and Krysta Harden.

Druart is the CEO of Lawson's Finest Liquids of Waitsfield, which is one of the country's leading B Corp-certified craft breweries. She previously spent nearly 20 years at Vermont Creamery, starting as a cheesemaking intern before rising to president, and later served as vice president at Land O'Lakes following the acquisition.

Druart is known for her passion for agriculture, purpose-led business ecosystems, inclusive team cultures, and driving lasting social and environmental impact. She is the chair of the executive committee of Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and serves on the Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Harden serves as president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, where she leads global initiatives to promote U.S. dairy exports and advance the industry's

commitment to sustainable nutrition worldwide. A trailblazer in agricultural leadership, Harden made history in February 2021 by becoming USDEC's first female chief executive and only the third president to lead the organization since its inception in 1995.

She previously served as deputy secretary at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she led implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill. In 2019, Harden joined Dairy Management Inc as executive vice president of Global Environmental Strategy.

A passionate advocate for expanding agricultural opportunities, Harden has championed inclusion for women, young people, immigrants, socially disadvantaged producers, and veterans throughout her career. Her leadership was recognized with induction into the 4-H Hall of Fame in 2024.

Head to the Summit website at [tinyurl.com/dairysummit2026](https://tinyurl.com/dairysummit2026) to check out the agenda and breakout sessions. You can register to take part there, as well.

**SERVING LOCAL FARMERS SINCE THE 1970'S.**

**We carry these major brands and more!**

**HUESTIS FARM SUPPLY, LLC**  
3877 Crown Point Rd., Bridport, VT • 802-758-2289

**FULLY FOCUSED ON SUPPORTING YOUR VISION.**

At Farm Credit East, the future has never been clearer.

Today, there are plenty of distractions in agriculture to sway producers and their partners from the task at hand. But Farm Credit East maintains the same mission-driven strength that helps both our teammates and customer-owners stay focused on the future. We're proud to meet the credit and financial needs of Northeast farming, forestry, fishing and agribusiness, all while gaining new perspective ourselves.

Loans & Leases

Accounting Services

Profitability Consulting

Tax Preparation & Planning

Appraisals

Estate Planning

Beginning Farmer Programs

Crop & Livestock Insurance

[farmcrediteast.com](https://farmcrediteast.com) | 800.562.2235

Crop Growers crop insurance from Farm Credit East is an equal opportunity provider.

WOOD PELLETS FOR EVERYONE'S NEEDS!

HARDWOOD  
SOFTWOOD  
BLENDS

Pick up or Delivered Pricing!

Call us today to place your order!

88 Seymour St., Middlebury • 802-388-7000

Engineering for a better world.

*Season's Greetings*

*from everyone at*

REED'S EQUIPMENT

Thank you for your business in 2025. We look forward to working with you in 2026!

Todd & Dawn

Chris • Kevin • Mark • Tom • Terry

4373 VT Route 17 West, Addison • 802-759-2562

# New tech

(Continued from Page 6B)

“It’s the peace of mind.”  
**TOOLS FOR FARMERS**  
 Farmblox started off as an indoor-growing company, but found the cost of production too high.

That changed when the company’s founders visited a maple farm in Vermont supported by a different monitor system, said Will Brigham, a senior sales engineer for the company.

Following that trip, they realized they had the technology to make their own, improved solution.

Brigham himself is a maple producer in Vermont and uses the technology for his operations.

The system works via wireless devices scattered throughout a farm. They gather data, such as fertilizer tank levels, equipment temperature, and soil moisture levels. The collected information gets sent back to a main monitor for the farm to access.

Farmers also can attach the monitoring devices to farm equipment such as tanks, vacuums, and pressure sensors and receive notifications when there’s a problem.

Farmblox is now used on 70 farms in 10 states. The company’s goal is to make their technology usable for any crop. A sensor for sap level can also be used to monitor water tanks in orchards, for example.

Farmblox can also monitor carbon sequestration levels — the storing of carbon dioxide in soil — indicating soil health and showing amounts of carbon saved on a farm. “We aren’t here to tell farmers

how to do things,” Brigham said. “We’re here to give them a platform and tools to allow them to build the system that they want, that is useful to them.”

**GETTING THE WORD OUT**

This influx in technology can be overwhelming for the predominantly older workforce in farming, Brigham said.

One Vermont group is trying to help with the introduction.

The Agritech Institute for Small Farms, a Montpelier non-profit, provides financial, technical, and monitoring support for farmers who implement the technology.

Agritech tools can enable small farms to be a part of long-term climate solutions, said institute co-founder, Dan Smith.

“The idea is to promote agritech tools to assist their financial and operation sustainability,” he said.

Smith understands firsthand how challenging operating a small-scale farm can be. He has owned and managed a beef farm in East Montpelier for the past 20 years.

“You don’t have hired labor, so you’re dependent on yourself,” he said, “So, you look for agritech tools that will make your job easier.”

The organization has partnered with eight Vermont farms to test a virtual fencing system called Nofence, and has plans to do additional trials over the next two years.

Nofence was founded in Norway by goat farmer, Oscar Hovde, who struggled to fence in his herd in the country’s mountainous topography.

Hovde created a virtual fence



**A FARBLOX MONITORING system used by a small farmer is supported by solar power.**

Photo courtesy of Farmblox

using a combination of a high-pitched ringing audio as well as electric pulses to contain his herd. He put collars on his goats and trained them to associate the sounds and pulses with the fence.

The company went fully commercial in the U.S. in early 2025 and is now used by over 400 farmers, including 15 in Vermont.

**NO MORE WALKING THE FENCE LINE**

Matt Vermeersch, a salesperson for the company, said the technology has been beneficial for managing his own herd of cattle.

Prior to using Nofence, Vermeersch relied on an electric fence, which required hours of management.

With a full-time job and a family to care for, he didn’t have time to

worry about the fence line. Now, he doesn’t have to.

Nofence offers an easier way to start rotational grazing — moving livestock between pastures to regrow grazed areas, which builds climate resilience.

Vermeersch found the fencing allowed him to quickly adapt to weather change and kept his cattle comfortable.

“In the past I wasn’t really able to adapt to different things rapidly,” he said. “You’re spending all this time doing a low-value activity.”

Now with technology like NoFence and Farmblox, farmers say they can focus on higher priorities.

*Community News Services is a local news project of the University of Vermont.*

# Proposed milk bill would help dairy farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) this week celebrated the U.S. House’s passage of their bipartisan, bicameral Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, legislation to support America’s students and dairy farmers. The Senators’ bipartisan bill would allow schools participating in

ensures our children have access to the nutrients they need to grow strong and healthy,” he said. “I’m proud to see this bipartisan bill head to the President’s desk.”

As Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Credit, Sen. Welch has championed efforts to support Vermont’s dairy farmers and strengthen the state’s dairy industry. Last week, Sen. Welch



*“Dairy is at the heart of Vermont’s culture and local economy, which is why our bipartisan bill to expand access to whole milk and inclusive alternatives in our schools is a major win for Vermont’s students and farmers.”*

— Sen. Welch

joined students, educators, and farmers at St. Albans City Elementary School to celebrate the Senate’s unanimous passage the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. This Congress, Sen. Welch reintroduced the Organic Dairy Assistance, Investment, and Reporting Yields Act (O DAIRY) Act, legislation to expand federal support for organic dairy farmers by extending emergency assistance to farmers facing losses due to factors like feed shortages and increased costs.

Sen. Welch also recently introduced legislation to help more Americans access SNAP and improve child nutrition, including the Local School Foods Expansion Act, Improving Access to

“I’m thankful for the partnership of Sen. Marshall and to my House colleagues for their support in getting this bipartisan bill to the President’s desk.”

Sen. Marshall was equally enthusiastic.

“This is a win for kids, parents, and common sense. The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act puts nutrition back in the lunchroom, gives families more choice, and

Nutrition Act of 2025, Student Loan Deduction Act of 2025, and the School Lunch Debt Cancellation Act. Last Congress, Sen. Welch introduced several bills in the 118th Congress to support Vermont’s dairy, organic, and specialty crop farmers. These bills were included in Senate Democrats’ draft Farm Bill, the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act.

# Manure spreading

(Continued from Page 6B)

to waterways when the snow and ground finally thaws.

For more than 35 years, restrictions on winter manure spreading in Vermont have been in place to protect water quality. These restrictions have minimized spreading and potential runoff during winter, when field conditions may be particularly susceptible to it. The annual

spreading ban requires farmers to either have a storage structure that can hold all agricultural manure and runoff that is required to be collected between Dec. 15 to April 1, which is 107 days, or they must be able to stack all manure produced in a way that meets RAP standards and will not lead to adverse water quality impacts.

Manure spreading is a common and widespread practice in

Vermont agriculture — it enhances soil health and fertility for optimal crop production, plays a pivotal role in the nutrient cycle, and reduces imported nutrients.

Per the RAPs, farms are required to use nutrient management planning to minimize any adverse environmental impact. This includes keeping records of applications that occur including the date, time, amount,

field location and weather and field conditions at the time of application.

Questions about the manure spreading ban, spreading before the ban, requests for assistance in the selection of appropriate manure stacking sites, or to request an emergency exemption contact Nate Sands at 802-224-6850 or Laura DiPietro at 802-595-1990.



**Be a MEMBER, not just a NUMBER.** Middlebury, VT 802-388-7917 co-opinsurance.com



At Co-op, we’re member owned and member committed. Since 1915, we’ve been providing protection for individuals, farms, and businesses with a large network of local agents, fast and fair claims service, loss control expertise, and affordable rates. At the Co-op, you’re a member, not just a number.



**HOME • BUSINESS • AUTO • FARM**  
 Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-7917 • co-opinsurance.com

**MEMBER OWNED. MEMBER COMMITTED.**



# CHAMPLAIN VALLEY EQUIPMENT

We Are The Local Dealer For All Your Snow Equipment Needs!

## Winter Fix

**FROM NOW - DECEMBER 31, 2025**

Bring your equipment in for inspection & service before winter storage. Save time & money with less downtime next Spring. Contact your service manager to learn more today.

- FREE ONE-HOUR INSPECTION\*
- 5-10% PARTS DISCOUNT\*
- 10% SERVICE LABOR DISCOUNT\*

\*Service work must be committed by 12/31/2025 and paid for after repairs are completed. One hour inspections only valid when you bring your equipment into the shop. Parts discount may vary based on repair amount and parts shipping. Service labour discounts only valid for inspection & basic maintenance work, larger jobs, will be discussed and billed separately. Offers not valid on accounts with overdue balance.

# Thursday & service Business & DIRECTORY

auto registration  
assistance  
auto repair  
carpentry/contractors

cleaning services  
computers  
construction

duct work & duct  
cleaning  
flooring

## 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

Your ad  
could  
be here!



## CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS



**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 Hescoock  
649 Harrington Hill Rd., Shoreham  
802-462-3737



**VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS**  
www.vermontcustommoldings.com

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
**ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM**

**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

## CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

**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

## 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

Oh the weather outside is frightful...but these ad prices aren't!

Advertise your home heating business  
in the weekly B&S pages  
for less than \$20/week.

Contact:  
advertising@addisonindependent.com  
to get started!



ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

# Thursday & service Business & DIRECTORY

hot tubs  
landscaping  
masonry  
painting

plumbing  
property services  
renewable energy  
roofing

septic and water  
surveying  
tree service  
window treatments

## HOT TUBS



Locally owned  
Family owned  
• Sales • Service  
• Delivery • Installation  
• Financing Available



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

## MASONRY

FINE DRY STONE MASONRY



**JAMIE MASEFIELD**  
CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS  
ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN  
**802-233-4670**  
jmasefield@gmavt.net


## PAINTING



**HESCOCK PAINTING**  
A friendly, professional,  
and affordable family business.  
**Interior Painting**  
**462-3737 or 989-9107**  
Kim or Jonathan Hescock  
hescock@shoreham.net

## 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

**CHECK US OUT  
ONLINE AT  
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM**

## 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  
802 • 453 • 2500  
BristolElectronicsVT.com

## 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

## SEPTIC AND WATER




**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

## TREE SERVICE



• Tree Removal  
• Tree Pruning  
• Storm Damage  
Clean up  
• Stump Grinding  
Serving all of  
Addison County  
Over 30 Years Experience  
Fully Licensed and Insured  
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459  
sargentstreeservice.com

## WINDOW TREATMENTS

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 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](http://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](http://vermontalanonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon

**Public Meetings**

member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

**Public Meetings**

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

**Public Meetings**

**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.

**Public Meetings**

**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

**Public Meetings**

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

**Public 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 [vergenes-freethinkers@gmail.com](mailto:vergenes-freethinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

**Public Meetings**

**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

**Public Meetings**

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.

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 10B and 11B

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**



## Vermont Afghan Alliances Seeks an Executive Director

Burlington, Vermont


**DESIRED EXPERIENCE:**

- Fundraising
- Program Management
- Organizational Development
- Communications

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH US!**

**APPLY ONLINE:**  
[VTAFGHANALLIANCE.ORG](http://VTAFGHANALLIANCE.ORG)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
**JANUARY 15, 2026**

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



**Come build with us!**



**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

# Thank you!

UWAC would like to wish all corporate, organizational and individual volunteers a warm and safe holiday season. Thank you to the countless hours of service that you all have put in, to better our wonderful community.



## Got a seasonal gig? Find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.



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

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto: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](http://addisonindependent.com)

**RATES**

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

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

- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |
- \*\* no charge for these ads    Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spotlight Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## Services

**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](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities - check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

## Help Wanted

**EVENING FRONT DESK/ CONCIERGE.** Swift House Inn - Middlebury, Vermont. We're hiring a front desk professional to anchor our evening shift. This position plays a pivotal role: greeting arriving guests, fielding questions, supporting restaurant reservations, and ensuring the property is secure and guest-ready for the next day. If you thrive on creating memorable experiences and want to grow in the hospitality industry, this is for you. Swift House Inn has 20 guest rooms across three historic buildings, and is home to Jessica's at Swift House Inn, one of Vermont's most celebrated fine dining restaurants. Responsibilities: Welcome and check in arriving guests with warmth and professionalism. Answer phones, manage room and restaurant reservations. Provide local recommendations and concierge-style service. Troubleshoot guest concerns and offer proactive solutions. Liaise with Jessica's restaurant team for smooth communication. Keep common areas tidy, cozy, and well-presented. Follow nightly checklists and procedures. Lock up buildings and hand off to the overnight security team. You Are... Deeply interested in the hotel and lodging industry, A natural host who loves creating great guest experiences in Addison County, Communicative, warm, and gracious under pressure. Obsessed with details and good systems. Reliable, punctual, and self-directed. Shift & Compensation. Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Schedule: Part-time, includes some weekends and holidays. Pay: \$20-\$22 Hourly, commensurate with experience, bonuses and tips. Apply Today. Email your resume and a short note to [owner@swifthouseinn.com](mailto:owner@swifthouseinn.com). Learn more about us at [swifthouseinn.com](http://swifthouseinn.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 [ellenfresnik@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfresnik@gmail.com)

## For Rent

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

## For Rent

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

**BRANDON ESTATE** 5 Bedrooms 3 bath \$4800 Furnished See Craigslist at <https://vermont.craigslist.org/apar/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

**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](mailto:krnorthcove@gmail.com); 802 352-4236

**LINCOLN:** Attractive home to share with retired professional gentleman. Avid reader who appreciates the outdoors. Reduced rent of \$300/month in exchange for support around the house, light snow shoveling, and "just in case" presence at night. Loveable small dog! Sorry, no additional pets. Private bedroom, office, bath. 802-863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](mailto:HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## For Rent

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

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY:** Rent separate space on the outskirts of town from retired professional couple in their 70s. Apartment has kitchenette, W/D, large combined living room/bedroom area. \$850 plus utilities. Home-share Guest responsible for shoveling walkway and stairs to the unit. Available after March 1. Sorry, no pets. 802-863-5625 or [HomeShareVermont.org](mailto:HomeShareVermont.org) for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**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](mailto:John@Hubglass.com) to schedule a viewing.

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

## Wood Heat

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

## Att. Farmers

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

**CORN SILAGE** for sale. Excellent quality and large quantity available. 518-307-3941

MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 12/11/25 & 12/15/25				
		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
K. Rousseau	1235	1.60		\$1976.00
Rowell	1185	1.60		\$1896.00
Vorsteveld	775	1.55		\$2751.25
Goodrich	1710	1.52		\$2599.20
Deer Valley	1815	1.50		\$2722.50
J. Fifield	1900	1.40		\$2660.00
Gosliga	830	1.40		\$2562.00
CALVES				\$
D. Phillips				\$1272.00
Sunderland				\$1262.50
Gm Mtn Dairy				\$1287.00
B. Dykema				\$1197.00
Vorsteveld				\$1170.00
M+L Quesnel				\$1128.00
<b>Total Beef - 185 Total Calves - 157</b>				
We value our faithful customers.				
<b>Sales at 3 pm - Mon. &amp; Thurs.</b>				
call 1-802-388-2661				

**DON'T MISS OUT!**  
[www.addisonindependent.com](http://www.addisonindependent.com)

# AUCTIONS



**CONSIGNMENTS WANTED**

**(1712) & (1713) WINTER FIREARMS & SPORTING GOODS ONLINE AUCTIONS**

ONLINE AUCTIONS: Tues. & Wed., Feb. 24-25 @ 10AM  
PREVIEW DATE: Monday, February 23 from 11AM - 1PM  
ITEMS LOCATED: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT



**DEADLINE TO CONSIGN IS FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 2026.**  
To Consign, Email/Call us at: [ffl@thcauction.com](mailto:ffl@thcauction.com) | 802-888-4662

Don't miss your chance to bid on some of the most sought-after collector and sporting firearms on the market!

**CONSIGN NOW - @ WWW.THCAUCTION.COM**

**THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY**  
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

# Public Notices

can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on  
Pages 11B and 12B

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

**ETHAN ALLEN HIGHWAY STORAGE NOTICE OF SALE**  
Travis and Jenn White - Unit 189  
To be sold at public auction on December 27th at 9:00 AM to the highest bidder.  
All sales are final.  
Unit must be broom cleaned.

## 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 Tennifer 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

## NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING LARGE FARM PERMIT AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Notice is hereby provided that Champlainside Farm in the Town of Bridport, Vermont, has applied to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a Large Farm Operation Permit Amendment.

Champlainside Farm is proposing the following changes at their farm, located at 3139 Lake Street, Bridport, VT and 237 Holstein Drive, Bridport, VT:

- Increase in permitted maximum number of animals
- Inclusion and use of an additional facility for animal housing
- Inclusion and use of a waste storage facility

An informational meeting will be held by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets on December 30, 2025, at 9:00 am. The meeting will be held virtually through the Microsoft Teams platform. Participants can join by phone or video conference.

Participants can remotely call into the meeting with the following:  
Call-in Number: +1 802-828-7667, 817506539#  
Conference ID: 268 113 646 300 09

Participants interested in joining through video conference may contact mianda.wood@vermont.gov or 802-585-9363 prior to the day of the meeting to be emailed a link to join the meeting. The purpose of the public informational meeting shall be to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed project.

The public comment period regarding the application closes five business days after the meeting date mentioned above. All comments must be submitted by close of business on January 7, 2025. The request for any application materials is considered a public record request. All inquiries or comments regarding the application or the meeting may be submitted to Mianda Wood at [mianda.wood@vermont.gov](mailto:mianda.wood@vermont.gov).

**TOWN OF MONKTON  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, January 26, 2026, beginning at 7:30 PM. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

**a. Final Application #2025-01-DRB Riverflow Community, Inc., Proposed residences and accessory structures, 57 Cedar Lane, Monkton, VT**

An electronic copy of the application can be obtained by emailing zoning@monktonvt.com. A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/8024533800> \* Passcode: 1762  
 Phone In: 1-646-558-856 \* Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 \* Passcode: 1762

**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
NEW HAVEN'S AMENDED TOWN PLAN**

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.  
 New Haven Town Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT

Following the adoption process leading to voter approval in March 2025 of the New Haven Town Plan, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission later determined that in order to be regionally approved, the Town Plan should include the following elements, which have subsequently been incorporated into the New Haven Town Plan:

- Element 2: A Land Use Plan consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses (pp. 37-38)
- A description of New Haven's forest blocks and land use goals related to forest blocks, and also re-label Habitat Map to read "Forest Block Map" (pp. 29-32)
- Element 7: An Implementation Plan (pp. 49-51)
- Element 8: A Statement of Compatibility to indicate how the plan relates to development trends and plans for adjacent municipalities (pp. 4-5)

NOTE: While a duly adopted plan can be used to guide development and serve as evidence in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings, only municipalities with regionally-approved plans are eligible for Municipal Planning Grants. The amended Town Plan with highlighted changes is available on the Town's website: [www.newhavenvt.com](http://www.newhavenvt.com).

The public hearing on the amended New Haven Town Plan will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Clerk's office, or by remote:

**Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.**  
<https://zoom.us/j/98387642466?pwd=V0VYazNjU2plSHBzU2ItaDFN-QW43QT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8764 2466 Passcode: t0MFty  
 Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)  
 Meeting ID: 983 8764 2466 Passcode: 570414  
 Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/axMqGlxYB>

**ADVERTISE**

Email us at: [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com)

**STATE OF VERMONT**

**SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION  
CALEDONIA UNIT DOCKET NO. 25-CV-01071**

FARM CREDIT EAST, ACA  
 Plaintiff,

v.

COREY T. CAYIA and  
 MARCEL P. LECLAIR  
 Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

By virtue and in execution of the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale dated September, 26, 2025, for a breach of a Mortgage dated October 28, 2024, and recorded in Book 65, Page 188 in the of the Town of Sheffield Land Records (the "Mortgaged Property"); and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the Mortgaged Property will be sold at public auction on **Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.** at the Mortgaged Property, located at 1636 Blake Pond Road in Sheffield, Vermont, more particularly described as follows:

"... a parcel consisting of 213.00 acres, more or less, together with any other improvements thereon or appurtenances thereto, located at 1636 Blake Pond Road in the Town of Sheffield and being all and the same lands and premise conveyed to Corey Cayia and Marcel LeClair by warranty deed from Karl R. Johnson and Lisa T. Johnson dated June 24, 2022 and recorded in Book 65 at Page 188 of the Sheffield land records..."

Please note that this is a Class 4 Road and if the road is impassable, the auction will be held at the intersection of Drake Place Road and Blake Pond Road.

**TERMS OF SALE:** The Mortgaged Property will be sold "AS IS WHERE IS" to the highest bidder for cash or wire funds only. The sale of the Mortgaged Property is subject to confirmation by the Vermont Superior Court, Caledonia Unit, Civil Division. The Mortgaged Property will be sold subject to unpaid taxes, municipal assessments, and superior liens, if any.

The commercial equipment at the Mortgage Property will be sold separately in an online sale from January 29, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. until Monday February 2. Additional information regarding the auction for the commercial equipment can be found at <https://www.thcauction.com/02022026-secured-creditor-sugaring-sheffield-vt-1725>.

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. Notice of the new sale date shall also be sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the mortgagors at the mortgagors' last known address at least five days before the new sale date.

Defendants Corey Cayia and Marcel LeClair are entitled to redeem the Mortgaged Property at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the Mortgage referenced above, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

**MORTGAGED PROPERTY DEPOSIT:** A non-refundable deposit for the Mortgaged Property in the amount of \$10,000.00 shall be paid by the high bidder by cash, certified check or bank draft to Thomas Hirschak Co., which shall hold the deposit until the closing. The balance of the purchase price for the Mortgaged 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, Caledonia Unit, Civil Division or 45 days from the date of public auction. If the balance of the purchase price for the Mortgaged Property is not paid within the period set forth herein, the deposit shall be forfeited and shall be retained by Plaintiff herein as agreed liquidation damages and the Mortgaged Property may be offered to the next highest bidder still interested in the Mortgaged Property.

**PURCHASE AND SALE CONTRACT:** The high bidder for the Mortgaged Property shall be required to sign a no contingency contract of Purchase and Sale at the public auction, agreeing to purchase the Mortgaged Property in its "AS IS WHERE IS" condition, as a result of being the successful and high bidder at the sale.

**OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT SALE:** Inquiries can be made to Thomas Hirschak Co., 1878 Cadys Falls Road, Morrisville, VT 05661; (802) 242-2245. Additional information regarding this auction can also be found at <https://www.thcauction.com/01292026-farm-credit-east-cayia-sheffield-vt>.

Dated: December 12, 2025.

**FARM CREDIT EAST, ACA**

By: **Ryan M. Long**  
 Ryan M. Long, Esq.  
 Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC  
 30 Main Street, Suite 500  
 P.O. Box 1489  
 Burlington, VT 05602-1489  
 (802) 864-0880  
[rlong@primmer.com](mailto:rlong@primmer.com)



**RIPTON FIRE & Rescue members take a break from training to show off the new Automated External Defibrillator purchased through grant support from Neat Repeats.**

Courtesy photo

**Neat Repeats grant strengthens Ripton emergency response**

RIPTON — According to the American Heart Association, when someone experiences sudden cardiac arrest with a shockable rhythm, their chance of survival decreases by seven to 10 percent for each minute defibrillation is delayed. Ensuring first responders have early access to Automated External Defibrillators, or

AEDs, and proper training can significantly increase a patient's chance of survival.

Ripton Fire and Rescue recently received a grant from Neat Repeats to purchase a new AED. With this support, the team now has AEDs on all fire and rescue vehicles, and several responders are equipped with AEDs and carry them when responding to calls.

The AED purchased through this grant includes enhanced features that directly support lifesaving efforts. It provides real-time feedback to help responders maintain effective CPR, specifically the proper depth and rate of chest compressions.

The device also includes longer-lasting batteries and defibrillation pads, improving reliability during emergencies.

Ripton Fire and Rescue is deeply grateful to Neat Repeats for its continued commitment to supporting local organizations. This grant strengthens Ripton Fire and Rescue's ability to deliver high-quality emergency care to the community. Next time you're passing by Neat Repeats, please stop in and thank them for supporting the department. Help spread the word, and donate, shop, and volunteer if you can. When you support Neat Repeats, you're supporting the entire Addison County community.

**TOWN OF LINCOLN  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Office (62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT) and virtually using Zoom**

The Lincoln Development Review Board will hold public hearings for:

1. Subdivision Application #25-054 as requested by Elliot Diana for his property located at 377 Bull Run Road in Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID# 04-03-01-47.000. Description: To create two lots from one.
2. Subdivision Application #25-044 as requested by Katharine Shepherd and Bern Terry for their property located at 151 Purinton Road West in Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID# 04-04-01-59.100. Description: To create two lots from one.

Participation in local proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeals. Please call the Zoning Administrator at (802) 453-2980 to arrange a time to view complete applications.

The Zoom link will be included in the agenda which can be found on the Town's website the week prior to the hearing: <https://lincolnvermont.org/2025-DRB-agendas-minutes>

Nicole Lee, Lincoln DRB Vice Chair

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Ferrisburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearings on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 7PM. The hearings will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website ([ferrisburghvt.org](http://ferrisburghvt.org)) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

**Application Number 25-114:** After-the-fact approval for two storage sheds built in the front setback; Applicant: Amy Tewksbury; Owners: Damien & Michaela Dubie; 354 Quaker Street; Parcel ID number 05/02/05; Rural Residential District (RR-2); Waiver.

**Application Number 25-121:** New bank branch in existing building; Applicant: James Farrington for Vermont Federal Credit Union; Owner: F.I.C., LLC; 113 Monkton Road; Parcel ID number 15/02/26; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Change of Use/ Conditional Use.

**Application Number 25-123:** Replace existing residence, relocate stairs to lake, and reconfigure driveway; Applicant: Geoffrey Kerr for Kerrplunks Revocable Trust; Owners: Kerrplunks Revocable Trust & Daniel G. Flanagan Trust; 662 Woods Road; Parcel ID number 21/21/02; Shoreland District (SD-2); Conditional Use.

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

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

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following roadways are located on the property of Middlebury College:

1. Porter Field Road - The roadway which serves Porter Field and extends from South Main Street to South Street.
2. South Service Road - The roadway which serves the upper campus of Middlebury College and extends from Hillcrest Road to South Main Street.
3. Hepburn Road - The roadway which serves the upper campus of Middlebury College and extends from College Street to South Service Road.
4. Le Chateau Lane - The roadway which serves the upper campus of Middlebury College and extends from College Street to Le Chateau.
5. Freeman Way - The roadway which serves the site of the Freeman International Center and extends from Weybridge Street to Gorham Lane and to the Freeman International Center.
6. Old Chapel Road - The roadway which serves the lower campus of Middlebury College and extends from College Street to the Service Building parking area.
7. HMKL Way - The roadway which serves the upper campus of Middlebury College and extends from College Street to Kelly/Lang Dormitory.
8. Golf Course Way - The roadway which serves the Golf Course, Kirk Alumni Center and Hadley House, and extends from Route 30 to the Hadley House and the Alumni Stadium.
9. Ridgeline Road - The roadway which serves the houses of Middlebury College known as Prescott, Palmer, Brooker, Brackett and extends from Route 125 to Hillcrest Road.
10. Adirondack View - The roadway which serves the Adirondack View houses, Ridgeline Town Houses, and Ridgeline Suites of Middlebury College and extends from Route 125 to Hillcrest Road.
11. Bicentennial Way - The roadway which serves the western campus of Middlebury College and extends from Route 125 to Bicentennial Hall.

The above listed roadways have never been set apart, surrendered or otherwise dedicated by Middlebury College to the public use. All persons using said roadways do so in subordination to the rights and by permission of Middlebury College and are subject to this notice.

These roadways will be closed to public use from midnight Wednesday, December 24, 2025, until midnight Thursday, December 25, 2025. They will be reopened the following day for public use with the permission of Middlebury College.

Middlebury College  
 By: Luther Tenny  
 Director, Facilities Services

**Public Notices**

can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-01920  
IN RE ESTATE OF: DIANE CUSHMAN**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

Dated: 12/15/25

Mary Cushman  
 192 Hill Rd.  
 Ashfield, MA, 01330  
 (413) 628-3866  
[mcushman21@yahoo.com](mailto:mcushman21@yahoo.com)

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 12/18/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
 Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**TOWN OF MONKTON  
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 7:30 PM. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

- a. Conditional Use Application #2026-01-CU, Kathleen Bushey, 102 Meader Road. Seeking a permit to rent out an existing shop to a contractor for light woodworking.
- b. Preliminary Application #2025-01-DRB Riverflow Community, Inc., Proposed residences and accessory structures, 57 Cedar Lane, Monkton, VT.
- c. Continued Final Hearing 2025-09-DRB Jon Binhammer for the Nature Conservancy/Estate of Beverly Latreille. 2-lot subdivision located at 785 Rotax Road (Parcel 02.114.003.001) in the RA5 Zoning District.

An electronic copy of the application can be obtained by emailing [zoning@monktonvt.com](mailto:zoning@monktonvt.com). A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/8024533800> \* Passcode: 1762  
 Phone In: 1-646-558-856 \* Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 \* Passcode: 1762

**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).

**Reportable and Communicable Diseases Rule.**

**Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P043**

**AGENCY:** Agency of Human Services, Department of Health  
**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The purpose of these regulations is to protect public health through the control of communicable and dangerous diseases. These regulations require the early and prompt reporting of listed diseases so that the Department of Health may take any necessary protective action. This rulemaking does the following: 1) Modifies and reorganizes the lists of required reportable findings in humans and animals; 2) Changes the required reporting period for Brucellosis from "immediately" to "within 24 hours" and Rubella virus from "within 24 hours" to "immediately"; 3) Adds information about how to report positive tuberculin skin test (TST) results; 4) Clarifies the reporting of blood lead results.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Natalie Weill, Agency of Human Services, Vermont Department of Health 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 E-Mail: [natalie.weill@vermont.gov](mailto:natalie.weill@vermont.gov) URL: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/laws-regulations/laws/rules-public-comment/>.

**FOR COPIES:** Jessica Schifano, Agency of Human Services, Vermont Department of Health 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 E-Mail: [jessica.schifano@vermont.gov](mailto:jessica.schifano@vermont.gov).

# ARTS & LEISURE

The Addison

December 18, 2025

## LIGHT IT UP LUMEN

BRISTOL CELEBRATES  
FIRE & LIGHT WITH  
ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE  
FESTIVITIES, DEC. 20

Bristol's annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light will be held on the Town Green and Holley Hall on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 4-7 p.m. Fire dancers from Cirque de Fuego will perform on the green at 6:15 p.m.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND FOOD &amp; FARM

**I**t's that holly, jolly time of year and wow—there are some excellent festivities to attend in Addison County this year. Bristol's gonna light it up this weekend, first with the SD Ireland Holiday Truck — that will stop at Bristol's Town Green on Friday, Dec. 19, at 5:20 p.m., on its way north — followed by the annual Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light on Saturday evening, from 4-7 p.m.

BY **ELSIE  
LYNN PARINI**

Saturday will start with a lantern-making workshop in Holley Hall led by Julie Almeter of Bristol.

"I started participating years ago by making large glowing paper maché globes at home and dangling them from my home willow branches and marching downtown with my young kids," remembered Almeter. "Now, based on fabulous, adaptable, easy-to-follow patterns from Carolyn Ashby (formerly of Art on Main), we offer lantern making through Bristol



A lantern workshop will be held in Holley Hall and a parade will walk down Main Street at 5:45 p.m. For the youngest friends, Mrs. Claus will host a cozy storytime at 10 a.m. in Holley Hall on Saturday.

CORE free of charge."

The lantern-making workshop is an all-ages

event, with materials and instruction provided. Participants will take their lanterns on a small procession around Main Street starting at 5:45 p.m., and to the community firepits across the street from Holley Hall.

The glowing lanterns will light the way to community gatherings at the Town Green where Lumen-goers will find Lincoln Peak Vineyard with hot mulled wine and bottles for sale, Lu Lu with their famous s'mores kits, Lucky Star Kitchen & Catering with hot cocoa and drop donuts, Stone Corral Brewery with cold ones and a special seasonal tradition... and of course the annual tradition of a fire dance performance from Cirque De Fuego will begin at 6:15 p.m.

"We've been part of the Lumen since 2016," said Cirque de Fuego founders Kim & Chris Cleary. That was actually the first year Lumen began.

SEE LUMEN ON PAGE 3



**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!

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUBSCRIPTION**

**\$10  
OFF**

Name of recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUBSCRIPTION**

**\$20  
OFF**

Name of recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**3<sup>RD</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:SUBSCRIPTIONS@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



# LUMEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"With the exception of a quick blip for COVID, this event has stayed an annual staple for the Bristol community," explained Courtney

Radford, Director of Bristol CORE and owner of Main Street Stationer.

Cirque de Fuego is excited to mark a decade with this Bristol tradition next year.

"We love returning to this special celebration year after year," the Clearys said. "The community vibe is so vibrant and welcoming, it's always one of the highlights of our December. Some years we have done shows in so much snow that it feels like a snow globe!"

Cirque de Fuego has brought many different acts over the years, "from fire eating to fire juggling to fire acro and beyond," they said. "No two years are exactly the same. And of course, the kids always cheer the loudest for the fire breathing!"

Something new at this year's Lumen Celebration will be courtesy of Stone Corral Brewery based out of Richmond.

"Bierstacheln, or Beer Poking," shared Radford.

What? Beer Poking?

"It's a centuries-old tradition of creating a warm, caramelized brew by poking beer with a hot metal rod straight from the fire pit," she explained.

Hmmm... This might be one of those things we need to see to believe.

"Beer poking has been around since the 17<sup>th</sup> century — or so the story goes," said brewer Brett Seymour. "German blacksmiths would poke iron rods into cold lagers to warm them up. What it actually does is caramelize the



A free lantern-making workshop will be held in Holley Hall to start the festivities for this year's Lumen Celebration in Bristol, on Dec. 20, from 4-7 p.m. The workshop is free and open to all ages. Participants may take their lanterns home at the end of the evening.

"GERMAN BLACKSMITHS WOULD POKE IRON RODS INTO COLD LAGERS... [IT] CREATES THIS **TOASTED MARSHMALLOW HEAD ON THE BEER.**" — Brett Seymour, brewer

beer's sugars pretty instantly, and creates this toasted marshmallow head on the beer."

Seymour and co-brewer Ryan McKeon have been brewers and beer enthusiasts for some time.

"We're old friends," said Seymour, explaining that they started as homebrewers, worked together at Otter Creek Brewing for years and then reconnected at Stone Corral Brewery.

"When we heard about beer poking, we said 'this seems like something we should try.'"

The duo tested it for the first time last winter at the Richmond brewery and it was "an instant success." The brewery now hosts a monthly beer-poking event.

Beverages will be served in a designated area on the green — and, no, you can't poke your own beer at the event. That'll be done by the professionals.

"Lumen creates a special night lit by fire, laughter, and the joy of being together on a dark winter night," Radford said, nodding to AllEarth Renewables for sponsoring the event and the Bristol Rec Department.


So, dress warm, bring a friend, and light it up in Bristol.

Happy Solstice!

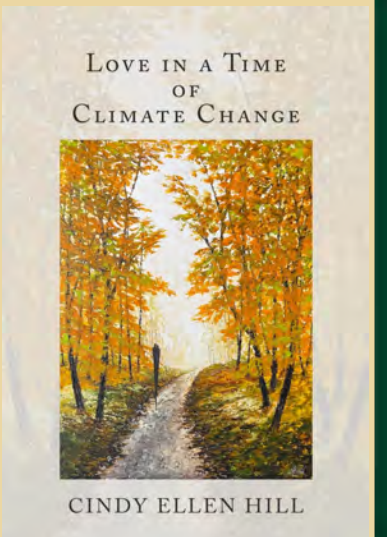


Fire dancers from Cirque de Fuego have performed at Lumen in Bristol since the first year in 2016.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW ENGLAND FOOD & FARM




## Give the Gift of Poetry



Find the poetry of Cindy Ellen Hill and other Vermont poets at...

*The* Vermont  
38 Main St.



Book Shop  
Middlebury

or at  
[VermontBookShop.com](http://VermontBookShop.com)

# Submit to Zig Zag Lit Mag's Issue.20

**Z**ig Zag Lit Mag is accepting submission now through Jan. 5, 2026, for Issue.20. Anyone who "lives, labors or loiters" in Addison County is welcome to submit up to three pieces of writing and/or art. Email submissions to [submit@zigzaglitmag.org](mailto:submit@zigzaglitmag.org). Selections will be made by early February.

**WRITING:** If you make it, we'll take it: fiction, non-fiction, dramatic forms, poetry — any genre, any topic.

Put all written submissions in one document with your name as the title. Must be submitted in .doc or .docx format. For dramatic forms, .pdf format is acceptable. Word Count: A maximum of 3,000 words per submission.

**ART:** Art must be submitted in high-resolution black-and-white format. Let it be known that vertical images look much better in our print publication.

Submissions should include full name; the town where you live, labor, or loiter; your preferred email address (if not the address from which you are submitting); and any other information you would like to give, including bio details. For more details visit [zigzaglitmag.org](http://zigzaglitmag.org).

## A book about skiing and being 'Just Exactly Perfect'

**E**dward Brennan's "Just Exactly Perfect" is a nonfiction book about skiing in Vermont's Mad River Valley, which includes two of the state's premier and legendary ski areas: Mad River Glen and Sugarbush.

"Ed Brennan is a master of flow. He elevates skiing from the realm of mere physical activity to a state of balance between mind, body, and Earth," said author and well-known backcountry skier David Goodman. "Skiing at its best is a state of flow. Ed has the rare talent of being able to flow on skis and also on the printed page. In 'Just Exactly Perfect,' he takes us along on a grand adventure. We meet the rich characters who inhabit and love the Mad River



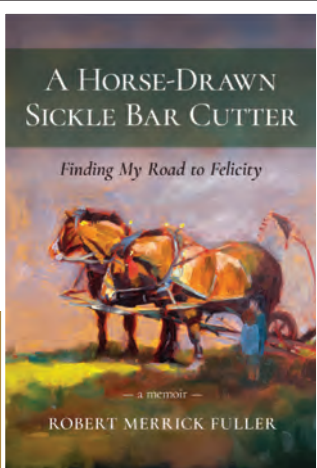
**Just Exactly Perfect**  
Cautionary Tales of Skiing  
and Being in the Mad River Valley  
**Edward Brennan**

Valley. And we get to keep up with Ed on the deepest days and the dog days. Enjoy flowing along with him. I certainly did."

**"SKIING AT ITS BEST IS A STATE OF FLOW. ED HAS THE RARE TALENT OF BEING ABLE TO FLOW ON SKIS AND ALSO ON THE PRINTED PAGE."**

— David Goodman

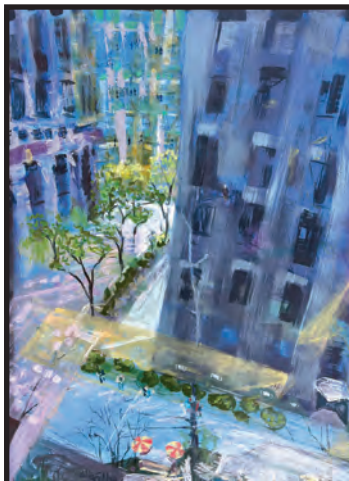
"Just Exactly Perfect" is available for purchase in paperback by special order at independent bookstores or online via [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org). Brennan is a former ski instructor, a Masters ski racer, and a long-time ski columnist. He lives in Duxbury and works in fundraising in Vermont.



**"If there is one thing that Robert Fuller wants readers to grasp while reading his memoir, it is that anyone can make their life what they want it to be. After all, as he states throughout, if he can do it, anyone can."**

— Independent Book Review

Available now at Vermont Bookshop in Middlebury, Recycled Reading in Bristol, Phoenix Books in Burlington, [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org), and other online stores.



**Alice Eckles**  
Solo Show  
On view December 1-31

December 11 & 20, 1-5pm  
Wine Tastings & Artist Visit

Village Wine and Coffee  
Gallery, Shelburne

Scan the QR code to  
preview the show



Hey Rob, what's for  
Sunday Supper?

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

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956.

**"Merry & Bright"** a Holiday Art Market of original artworks by more than 35 Vermont artists and artisans. Free and open to all. On view through December.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Impressions"** brings together three local printmakers — Matt Brown, Daryl Storrs and William Hays — whose work demonstrates how this process of image-making can yield distinct languages. On view through Dec. 31.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury  
Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Shadow, Light, and In Between."** Thomas Munschauer will display 18 oil paintings and two watercolors, most of them new works in this new exhibit. He will also include a collection of his popular small format framed pieces. On view Nov. 7-Jan. 17, 2026.

## PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"FROZEN: Cold, Quiet, Pure."** This photography captures the distilled essence of winter — its clean lines, soft textures, and silent spaces. Think snow-covered hills at dawn, delicate frost crystals, breath turning to mist, frozen rivers, or the quiet geometry of ice. This exhibit was selected by juror Paula Tognarelli. On view Dec. 5-27.

## SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org)

**"Stitching Memories: Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records."** The six samplers on display in the Judd Harris House were all made by girls whose father or grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. This local exhibit was curated by Middlebury College student Julia Breckenridge. On view May 21-Jan. 3.

**"Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity."** Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College, this exhibition is the result of meticulous research and thoughtful curation. Students assembled a diverse collection of objects that show how adornment across centuries and cultures both shapes and reflects the human experience. On view through Jan. 3.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. If you are feeling half-hearted about what you are working on, then put it off for a little bit and focus on something more interesting this week, Aries. You can use the rest.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Make it your business to remind others not to take life so seriously this week, Taurus. The best way to do that is to show them how to laugh by example.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Your thoughts are on an important decision that you need to make, Gemini. It's best to wait a few days before you get into the thick of things. You need to mull all possibilities.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, you may have the courage and the confidence to deal with whatever life throws at you right now, but not everyone is as dedicated as you. Make allowances for others this week.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Sensitive feelings are coming to the surface this week and you are not sure what to do about them, Leo. You won't find peace of mind until you have dealt with them thoroughly.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, some unexpected news could come your way between now and the weekend. It may seem like a lot, but in the grand scheme of things, it will only be a minor issue.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. You have reason to be suspicious of someone's motives this week. Just don't go to extremes and start reading into every message or nuance, Libra.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you might look super confident on the outside, but underneath you get anxious like everyone else. At some point this week you may need to ask for some help.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It is easy to believe you have enemies around every corner, Sagittarius. Although you might have rubbed a few people the wrong way, most people actually are on your side.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, usually you couldn't care less what other people think about you. But this week it seems important to get another person's approval for your actions.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, be careful when dealing with someone in a position of power. They may have sights on a promotion you also hope to earn. Keep your cards close to the vest.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, some people believe the world is full of doom and gloom, but you know that every day is what you make of it. Brighten the days of others with your positivity.



**Adagio Chocolates**  
Happy Holidays!  
Give the Gift of Chocolate  
This Holiday Season!

Tue-Sat 11-6 52 Main Street Middlebury, VT  
[www.adagiochocolates.com](http://www.adagiochocolates.com) 802-382-4000



**Middlebury FLORAL & GIFTS**  
Great selection of gifts for everyone on your list!  
802-388-2800  
M-F 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 South, Middlebury  
[www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com](http://www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com)



**QUILTERS' CORNER**  
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC  
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4  
260 Court Street Middlebury, Vt. 05753  
(802)388-3559  
Gift Cards are always the right size!  
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 19 — Ronan Farrow, journalist (38)  
DEC. 20 — Billy Bragg, singer-songwriter (68)  
DEC. 21 — Samuel L. Jackson, actor (77)

DEC. 22 — Diane Sawyer, journalist (80)  
DEC. 23 — Chet Baker, Jazz musician (d)  
DEC. 24 — Joseph Cornell, artist (d)  
DEC. 25 — Louise Bourgeois, artist (d)

# CALENDAR

DEC. 18 - JAN. 31  
2025 - 2026

## THURSDAY, DEC. 18

**HOLIDAY TRAINS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Ongoing through Saturday, Jan. 3, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual holiday tradition, delighting visitors of all ages. Trains run Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM MAKERSPACE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Ongoing during museum hours, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Makerspace activities are available when the museum is open, with hands-on crafting, play for kids and ornament making throughout the holiday season. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Museum admission applies. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**POETRY AND MUSIC IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 18, noon-12:45 p.m., Unity Hall, Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Middlebury College writer-in-residence and professor emeritus Jay Parini 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.

**"CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 18, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Community carol sing-along. Music Director Robert Ludwig will lead sacred and secular songs of the season and share stories about the history of several favorites.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB STARGAZING IN ADDISON.** Thursday, Dec. 18. Learn some of the major stars, asterisms, constellations and deep-sky objects on a night near the new moon. In the event of poor observing conditions, the outing will be rescheduled. Group limit eight. To register, contact Ken Corey at [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) or 802-349-3733. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## FRIDAY, DEC. 19

**ART & MERRY MAKING IN FERRISBURGH.** Friday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Craft an accordion book, create a torn paper landscape or stitch a bookmark. All supplies provided. Free event, admission is free to the main exhibit.

**GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH.** Friday, Dec. 19, 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](mailto:mzdavis@gmavt.net) or visit [maxinedavisglassart.com](http://maxinedavisglassart.com).

**"NIGHT FIRES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. A magical Winter Solstice dream play created and directed by Marianne Lust, now in its fourth decade, featuring a mix of new performers and "old-timers" with a wholly new story each year. Tickets \$15-\$45 at [addisonarts.org/event/night-fires-2](http://addisonarts.org/event/night-fires-2).

## SATURDAY, DEC. 20

**GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2257 Fuller Mountain Road. See Dec. 19 listing.

**"NIGHT FIRES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

**O & SCHU IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from O & Schu as part of Rosie's December live music series.

**HOLIDAY MUSIC AT THE TILLERMAN IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., the Tillerman, 1868 N. 116. Enjoy joyful holiday music in the barn by the band Sunday Morning. Drinks available. More info at [thetillermanvt.com](http://thetillermanvt.com).

## SUNDAY, DEC. 21

**GLASS STUDIO OPEN HOUSE IN NORTH FERRISBURGH.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 2257 Fuller Mountain Road. See Dec. 19 listing.

**SOLSTICE IN THE SHIRE: THE SHORTEST DAY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Create edible ornaments, enjoy holiday treats and beverages and take part in an interactive performance of solstice stories celebrating the shortest day. Surprise performances by local actors and musicians. Free; donations accepted.

**ANNUAL MESSIAH SING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Joyful community

sing-along of selections from Handel's Messiah, led by Jeff Rehbach. All are welcome to join and sing favorite choruses or play in the orchestra. Suggested donation \$5-\$10 adults, \$10-\$25 families. More info at [jeff.rehbach@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.rehbach@gmail.com), 802-382-7493.

**"NIGHT FIRES" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. See Dec. 19 listing.

**SHANNON WRIGHT & FRIENDS HOLIDAY CONCERT IN BRANDON.** Sunday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. A holiday concert for everyone with music to herald the season. Free.

## MONDAY, DEC. 22

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT IN VERGENNES.** Monday, Dec. 22, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Vergennes. Guitarists and vocalists Sallie Mack, former co-founder and co-director of the Ripton Community Coffee House, and Rosi Gowley, storyteller and social change advocate, offer an eclectic concert of original compositions, bluegrass, ballads and more. This hour of music is free and open to all.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753	Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a> , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
<b>Channel 1071</b> <b>Through the Night:</b> VT Media Exchange, Bulletin Board <b>Friday, December 19</b> 5:30 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 9 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Democracy Now 6:30 p.m. Development Review Board <b>Saturday, December 20</b> 4:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Press Conferences 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Development Review Board 11 p.m. Democracy Now <b>Sunday, December 21</b>	5:30 a.m. Development Review Board 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Press Conferences 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Development Review Board 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 8:30 p.m. Selectboard <b>Monday, December 22</b> 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 <b>Tuesday, December 23</b> 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	5:30 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard 9 p.m. Yestermorrow - Retrofitting Passive House <b>Wednesday, December 24</b> 5 a.m. Press Conferences 6:30 a.m. Democracy Now 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Democracy Now 7 p.m. Selectboard 9 p.m. Yestermorrow <b>Thursday, December 25</b> 5 a.m. Democracy Now 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. Democracy Now 9:30 p.m. Eckankar <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, December 19</b> 5:00 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga	7 a.m. Yoga for Kids 11 a.m. School Board Meetings 5 p.m. 10th Grade Projects <b>Saturday, December 20</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 8 a.m. 10th Grade Projects 11 a.m. School Board Meetings 7 p.m. "A Christmas Memory" <b>Sunday, December 21</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 11 a.m. School Board Meetings 5 p.m. "A Christmas Memory" 6 p.m. 10th Grade Projects <b>Monday, December 22</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. School Board Meetings 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting (LIVE) <b>Tuesday, December 23</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi	6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. School Board Meetings 7:30 p.m. A Child's Christmas in Wales <b>Wednesday, December 24</b> 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4 p.m. VYO Trailhead Youth Orchestra 5:30 p.m. Colchester Community Chorus 6:30 p.m. Bill McKibben 7:35 p.m. The Night Before Christmas <b>Thursday, December 25</b> 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. VYO 9:30 a.m. Colchester Community Chorus 10 a.m. Bill McKibben 7:30 p.m. "A Christmas Memory"

# TOP PICK

## LUNCH-TIME CONCERTS CONTINUE AT ST. PAUL'S IN VERGENNES

Monday, Dec. 22, at 12:15 p.m.

Guitarists and vocalists Sallie Mack, former co-founder and co-director of the Ripton Community Coffee House, and Rosi Gowley, storyteller and social change advocate, offer a concert of eclectic music that will delight those born in the '50s, as well as fans of bluegrass and ballad, and original compositions. This hour of music is free and open to all.

followed by free ice skating at Memorial Sports Center.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH SOULE MONDE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 72-76 Merchants Row. An early New Year's Eve concert with avant-funk duo Soule Monde, featuring dynamic melodies and bold improvisation. Family-friendly. Tickets \$15-\$35 at [addisonarts.org/event/soule-monde-new-years-eve](http://addisonarts.org/event/soule-monde-new-years-eve).

### THURSDAY, JAN. 1

**FIRST DAY HIKE IN CROWN POINT, N.Y.** Thursday, Jan. 1, 11 a.m., Crown Point State Historic Park Museum, 21 Grandview Dr. A two-mile guided hike exploring the grounds of the site and the area's rich history. Appropriate footwear, warm clothing and water recommended. Free. More info at [facebook.com/CrownPointSHS](http://facebook.com/CrownPointSHS), 518-597-3666, [Thom-as.Meyering@Parks.NY.Gov](mailto:Thom-as.Meyering@Parks.NY.Gov).

### FRIDAY, JAN. 2

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

**HIKE IN SALISBURY.** Friday, Jan. 2, time upon registration, Salisbury Town Forest, Plains Road. Take a leisurely walk of about 2 miles through a local town forest containing an uncommon tree species, the pitch pine, on an easy trail with minimal elevation gain and a scenic wetland view. Contact leader David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or [vtrevda@yahoo.com](mailto:vtrevda@yahoo.com) for meeting time.

**"FILLING THE FRAME" OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Jan. 2, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Celebrate the opening of a fine art photography exhibition selected by juror Dallas Crow, showcasing layered compositions and richly textured scenes that embrace visual abundance. Exhibition runs Jan. 2-31.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 3

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM COMMUNITY DAY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. See a hand-crank printing demonstration and make your own museum-inspired print with local artist and

printer John Vincent. Enjoy the final day of holiday trains and seasonal museum exhibitions. All ages are welcome.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 6

**IRISH MUSIC NIGHT WITH RAMBLETREE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m., Two Brothers Tavern, 86 Main St. A high-energy mix of classic Irish tunes, sea shanties, world music, rock, funk, reggae and original material. Free.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 10

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HOGBACK MOUNTAIN SNOWSHOE IN GOSHEN.** Saturday, Jan. 10, Blueberry Hill Inn, 1245 Goshen-Ripton Road. Snowshoe for about 3 miles around Hogback Mountain at Blueberry Hill Inn. Great views! Dogs welcome on leash only. Contact Morris Earle at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984. More info at [gmc-breadloaf.org](http://gmc-breadloaf.org).

### SUNDAY, JAN. 11

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE/SNOWSHOE IN KEENE VALLEY, N.Y.**

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15

### FRIDAY, DEC. 26

**HOLIDAY TRAINS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Ongoing through Saturday, Jan. 3, Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual holiday tradition, delighting visitors of all ages. Trains run Wednesdays from 2-4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

### SATURDAY, DEC. 27

**SPENCER LEWIS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 27, 5-8 p.m., Rosie's Restaurant, 887 Route 7. Live music from Spencer Lewis as part of Rosie's December live music series.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31

**FIREWORKS AND ICE SKATING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Dr. Fireworks begin at 6:30 p.m.,



## 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...*

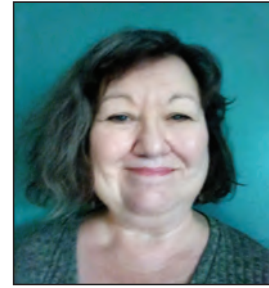


TUES.- SAT., 4PM - 8PM  
Order by phone or online for take-out  
UPSTAIRS IN-PERSON DINING AND FULL BAR



# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

OH, CHRISTMAS TREES!



Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.

**T**he Christmas tree is a well-known symbol of the holiday, but it wasn't always so. Decorating with evergreen boughs dates back thousands of years to celebrations during the winter solstice, a reminder that life continued even in the coldest months.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

Decorating a tree at Christmastime originated in Germany. In the 1700s, Martin Luther brought an evergreen tree indoors and decorated it with lighted candles. Immigrants to America brought the tradition with them. In the mid-1800s, England's Queen Victoria made Christmas trees fashionable, and their popularity grew.

Early trees were decorated with strings of popcorn, fruit, nuts and cookies. By the

end of the 19th century, glass ornaments imported from Germany began to decorate American Christmas trees. In the early 1900s, electric lights added a glow that was safer than candles. As demand for trees increased, conservationists grew concerned about depletion of evergreen forests, leading to the establishment of Christmas tree farms.

Today, there are many options when choosing a Christmas tree. These include a harvested, natural tree to be disposed of at the season's end, an artificial tree you can reuse year after year, or a living tree you can plant outside (when weather permits) after the holidays.

Around 30 million natural Christmas trees are purchased annually across the United States, most sold by commercial growers. It takes 6 to 10 years to grow a tree ready for market. Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Fraser fir (*Abies*

*fraseri*), and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) are among the most popular choices.

When choosing a tree, you should look at it from all sides, checking for broken branches or unsightly spaces. No matter how seemingly perfect a tree may be, be wary if its needles break or fall easily. The tree you purchase at a roadside stand was likely harvested weeks earlier and has traveled many miles. A fresh cut made at the base of a pre-cut tree's trunk about an inch from the bottom will remove dried sap and allow the tree to take in water. If you choose to visit a cut-your-own Christmas tree farm, you'll be assured your tree is fresh.

Before the time comes to go Christmas tree shopping, it's a good idea to measure the space your tree will occupy. Keep in mind that the tree will look smaller outdoors than it will indoors. Once home, place it away from heat

SEE TREES ON PAGE 10

## 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](http://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](http://blacksheepbistrovt.com)  
TUES. – SAT., 4:00PM – 8:00PM • Reservations Accepted

# PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

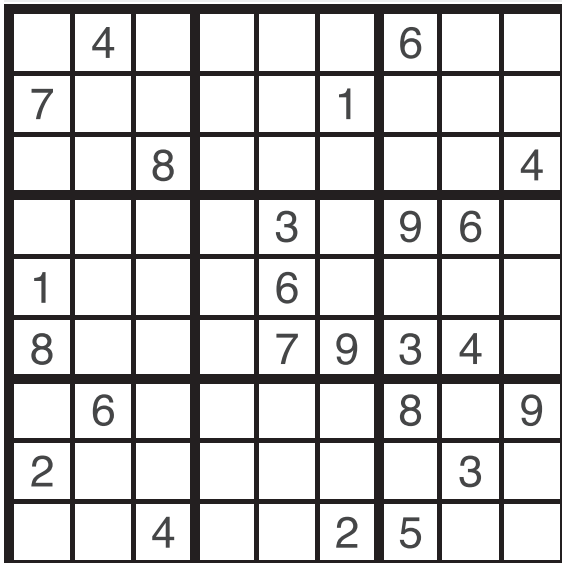
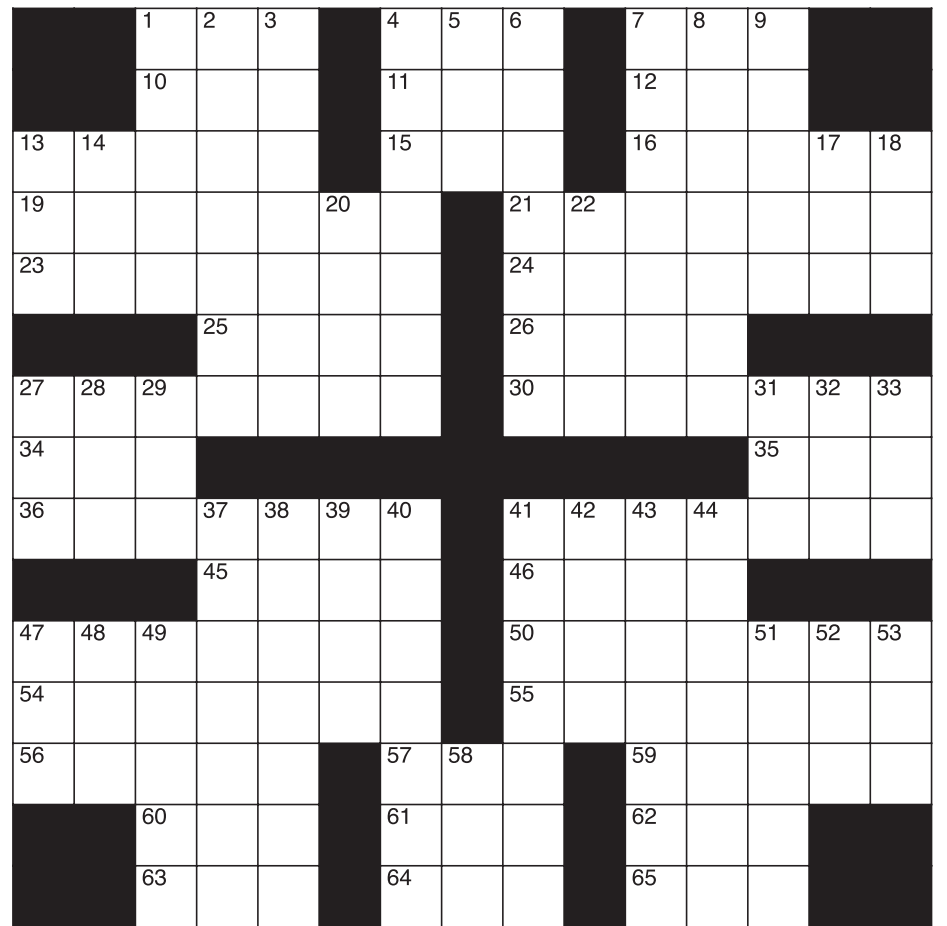
## ACROSS

- 1. American automotive titan
- 4. Tire term
- 7. Two-year-old sheep
- 10. Indigenous people of Thailand
- 11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group
- 12. Actress de Armas
- 13. Not moving
- 15. Cool!
- 16. Plants of the arum family
- 19. Connected with touch
- 21. Pen stain
- 23. Monetary units
- 24. School kids' art project
- 25. Early Bell Canada executive
- 26. Sword
- 27. Hates
- 30. Fixed in one place
- 34. Pie \_\_\_ mode
- 35. Moved swiftly on foot
- 36. Carrier on vehicle
- 41. A path to get through
- 45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 46. Spiritual leader
- 47. Flowing
- 50. Respectful compliments
- 54. Cure
- 55. Soft, lightweight fabric
- 56. Building material

- 57. Japanese delicacy
- 59. A way to cause to be swollen
- 60. One and only
- 61. You might get one in summer
- 62. Wreath
- 63. Thus far
- 64. They \_\_
- 65. Employee reference number

## DOWN

- 1. Policemen (French)
- 2. Toy dog
- 3. Intestinal condition
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Helps little firms
- 6. Alphabetical lists



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

- 7. Takes down
- 8. Facilitates
- 9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. Explorers group
- 17. Written account
- 18. Consumed
- 20. Opposite of first
- 22. No (slang)
- 27. Government lawyers
- 28. NY Giants great
- 29. Small amount
- 31. A way to save for your future
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Head pain
- 38. Wildly popular sport
- 39. "Princess Diaries" actress Hathaway
- 40. Boat race
- 41. About fish
- 42. Nursemaid
- 43. Able to be marketed
- 44. Not as large
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Paddle
- 49. Oneness
- 51. Bitter chemical
- 52. Not around
- 53. Very fast airplane
- 58. Main tributary of the Rhine

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

**SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

Middlebury, VT  
Open 7 Days a week  
sparrowartsupply.com

### 3 REASONS WHY ART SUPPLIES MAKE A GREAT GIFT

- 1) They inspire creativity  
Art supplies spark ideas, imagination, and hands-on play.
- 2) They offer an experience, not just an item  
Art supplies become a moment of calm, joy, and exploration.
- 3) They encourage wellness and downtime  
Creativity supports relaxation, mindfulness, and stress relief.

**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!**

**TOYS & TREATS** **Accessories & Grooming Supplies** **SELF SERVE**




Leashes • Harnesses  
Collars • Clothing  
Food Dishes  
Storage Bins  
Beds & Baskets

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!

**Large & Small Animal Products** **Wild Bird Supplies**




Feed • Supplements • Training & Grooming Supplies  
Cages, Foods, Treats & Bedding  
Bird food, toys and cages  
Basics for fish, too!

Feeders, Seed & Suet, Houses & Accessories.

**MIDDLEBURY AGWAY** Open 7 days

338 Exchange Street, Middlebury  
388-4937 • [www.MiddleburyAgway.com](http://www.MiddleburyAgway.com)  
Mon - Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sundays 9-4

Join our email list for preferred customer savings!

YOUR YARD, GARDEN AND PET PLACE™ • [www.middleburyagway.com](http://www.middleburyagway.com)



A freshly cut tree from your local Christmas tree farm makes for a fun outing and long-lasting natural tree.

PHOTO / DEBRA HELEBA

## TREES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

for market. Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), Douglas fir

heat sources. Be sure it has a constant supply of water to help prevent it from drying out and needle drop. A cut tree requires daily attention and has a voracious thirst. It may consume more than a gallon of water each day.

(*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*), and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) are among the most popular choices.

When choosing a tree, you should look at it from all sides, checking for broken branches or unsightly spaces. No matter how seemingly perfect a tree may be, be wary if its needles break or fall easily. The tree you purchase at a roadside stand was likely harvested weeks earlier and has traveled many miles. A fresh cut made at the base of a pre-cut tree's trunk about an inch from the bottom will remove dried sap and allow the tree to take in water. If you choose to visit a cut-your-own Christmas tree farm, you'll be assured your tree is fresh.

Before the time comes to go Christmas tree shopping, it's a good idea to measure the space your tree will occupy. Keep in mind that the tree will look smaller outdoors than it will indoors. Once home, place it away from

Selecting a potted tree could allow you enjoy it during the holidays this year and for many years to come. Be warned, the root ball and container will add significantly to the weight of the tree, so smaller may be better. If you do opt for a living tree, be sure to follow the care instructions, including post-holiday needs and planting outdoors.

When the holiday is over and decorations have been stored away, what do you do with a natural Christmas tree? Don't burn it in a fireplace, as sap can create a rapid burning fire and a buildup of creosote, leading to a chimney fire. Instead, remove all lights, tinsel, and anything that isn't part of the tree. Compost the tree at home or check with your town regarding scheduled tree pickups. You might check with local farmers about donating your tree as a treat for their goats or sheep. For more information and creative ways to recycle your tree, see [uvm.edu/extension/news/recycle-your-christmas-tree](http://uvm.edu/extension/news/recycle-your-christmas-tree).




**PRINT OR DIGITAL**  
**READ THE**  
**ADDY INDY**  
**SUBSCRIBE**

[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)

# Pet of the Week



## BB the birdie

BB is an Amazon parrot who lives in Rutland. His owner Sarah Cosgrove works at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

This is BB. He is a 47-year-old Amazon parrot we inherited several years ago from my father-in-law. BB is the same age as my husband, Chris Cosgrove, and they grew up together. He can still do a baby cry he learned from my husband as an infant.

BB came to live with my family where he has a huge cage, spends most of his time perched on it looking out the window and engaging with his puppy and kitty. BB loves to greet people with a big hello and their names, whatever is his favorite phrase, as well as a loud jolly laugh. He has a fairly large vocabulary and still picks up new words and phrases.

He holds a special place in his heart for my daughter Emma, 20. He was with us the day she came home from hospital and perched himself atop her bassinet. She is the only one he gets down and follows. BB isn't much of a flier at this point in his life, though he does like to go outside with me and perch on my hammock, and can run across the floor like a tiny dinosaur.

Sarah Cosgrove  
Rutland (works at Porter Medical Center)

Nominate your pet!

Psst! It's free.

Email: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

## Pets In Need

### HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

#### Francine

Francine is a shy kitten who is hoping to find someone who will show her the love and patience she needs to feel safe. She has spent a few weeks in a foster home to work on her confidence, and she has done so well. She is still initially shy when meeting people, but will warm up and become a playful purring mush. She takes a lot of comfort in other cats and would most likely appreciate the presence of another cat in a home.



#### Lola



Lola is a sweet, gentle kitty with big, expressive eyes. Lola was previously hit by a car and treated at a local emergency hospital. She was abandoned there, and the staff reached out to us to help this sweet girl with her recovery and to find a new home. She is doing better, but is still on cage rest. Because Lola will need special care, we want to make sure she goes to a home that will be right for her needs until she fully recovers. We believe Lola will be best suited to a quiet home where she is the only pet until her recovery is complete.

#### Nick

Nick is super playful and energetic. He would really do well to be adopted with one of his siblings or to have another cat in a home that can help entertain him and give him a wrestling buddy!



#### Cookie



Meet Cookie! She's a lab/mastiff mix looking for a safe environment where she can get a chance to be her own, playful self. Cookie has not had an easy time lately, but is ready for a home full of love and set routines. She's quite timid around other dogs but has happily lived with a rabbit in her previous home. Her history with cats is unknown. With slow and steady introductions, it's possible she can live with a mellow dog in the future. Cookie has been around children frequently but never lived with them. Her new family can expect a loving, playful, and goofy girl ready for all the snuggles!

#### Nanu

Nanu is a charming, curious gentleman who loves to explore his surroundings and see what's going on. He's quick to come check things out — especially if veggies are involved — and isn't shy about showing off his personality once he feels comfortable. He enjoys gentle interaction and would be happiest in a home where he can soak up daily attention and companionship from his people. Nanu's easygoing, inquisitive nature makes him a delightful friend who's sure to bring joy, entertainment, and plenty of heart to share with his new family.



Homeward Bound

Addison County's Humane Society



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!  
802-388-1100 | [HomewardBoundAnimals.org](http://HomewardBoundAnimals.org)  
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



3958 VT ROUTE 30, CORNWALL  
\$655,000

# THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## Charming farmhouse full of opportunity

Historic, c. 1810 farmhouse with an abundance of original detailing, natural light, live- and work-spaces, and mindful updates. Welcome friends through a spacious foyer and visit over tea in the sitting room. Your usual entrance may be through the attached garage, into the mudroom, and into the living area — complete with a fireplace, it's ready for game night or a long winter's nap. You'll love the wainscoting, warm-toned hardwood floors, and built-ins, gracious dining room, and updated kitchen. A first-floor office might best serve as a bedroom/guest bedroom, with a full bath just down the hall. With four bedrooms upstairs, three with ensuite 3/4 baths, you may find friends and family visiting frequently. Over the garage space is a one-bedroom in-law suite with its own kitchen and laundry for their longer stays. From the front porch/sunroom sip your morning coffee looking towards the Green Mountains backdrop and plan your use of the manageable 2.75 acres, adorned with fruit trees and plenty of space for gardens. A partially finished barn could be used for storage, a workshop or studio, or maybe even an event space. Just minutes from Middlebury and Middlebury College, this Cornwall property is close to amenities while offering compelling charm at the intersection of opportunity.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.  
More info at [middvermontrealestate.com](http://middvermontrealestate.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**

## 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



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



**IPJREALESTATE.COM**

34 MAIN STREET | MIDDLEBURY, VT  
EMAIL: INFO@IPJREALESTATE.COM  
CALL: 802.388.4242



**MIDDLEBURY | 68 Court St | MLS #5067388**  
4BR | 2BA | 1652SF | 0.30 ACRES | \$410,000

Close to town and move-in ready with charm, character, and convenience! Updated galley kitchen, parking, covered front porch, rear porch with a pergola and patio, and a small fenced yard.



**MIDDLEBURY | 91 Old Pasture Ln | MLS #5035239**  
6BR | 5BA | 4503SF | 10.73 ACRES | \$989,000

Expansive home with a flexible layout and 820 SF second floor apartment. Inviting spaces including an expansive deck to watch the wildlife from. Great storage barn, and acreage to roam!



*"Very knowledgeable and well-connected firm! Easy and fun to work with amidst what can be a difficult process!"*

~ Client Testimonial



**MIDDLEBURY | CONDO: 70 Maple St, Unit 205**  
MLS #5068214 3BR | 3BA | 1653SF | \$850,000

Located in the heart of Middlebury and within walking distance to shopping, restaurants and rec/entertainment. Private balcony, two indoor garage spaces, storage locker. Sold fully furnished.



**NOW UNDER CONTRACT**

**MIDDLEBURY | 42 Lower Plains Rd | MLS #5063418**  
4BR | 3BA | 1875SF | 38.31 ACRES | \$399,000

East Middlebury home with scenic acreage including both pasture & woods, and a horse barn with 4 stalls, electric, a frost-free water pump, and a hayshed. Abundant wildlife and potential surrounds!



## CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Sunday, Jan. 11. Enjoy a 4.6-mile round trip hike up Snow Mountain. Easy and moderate terrain with an elevation gain of about 1400 feet. Snowshoes and/or microspikes may be required depending on conditions. Group size limited to 8. Plan to meet at the parking area across from the entrance to Crown Point State Historic Site, followed by a 45-minute drive to the trailhead. Contact Barry Francis at [barryfrancis@gmavt.net](mailto:barryfrancis@gmavt.net) for further details. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

### THURSDAY, JAN. 15

**HELEN WHYBROW AUTHOR TALK: "THE SALT STONES" IN VERGENNES.** Thursday, Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Vermont author Helen Whybrow will discuss her newest memoir and reflect on raising a family, tending a herd of sheep and fully inhabiting a piece of land. The book was recently longlisted for the National Book Award and featured on NPR.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 16

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE/SNOWSHOE IN CHARLOTTE.** Friday, Jan. 16, Charlotte Wildlife Refuge, 1489 Greenbush Rd. Chill out and experience some of the many jewels of the Charlotte Wildlife Refuge, a biodiverse park with beautiful views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Easy three miles. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) to register. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

### SATURDAY, JAN. 17

**LIVE MUSIC BY DETOUR IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Jan. 17, 6-10 p.m., Vergennes American Legion Post 14, 100 Armory Ln. Live music by Detour featuring hits from the 1950s and 1960s and classic rock and roll. Come dance the night away and enjoy friends, music and community spirit. Admission by donation. Open to the public.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 20

**IRISH MUSIC NIGHT WITH RAMBLETREE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Jan. 20, 7-9 p.m., Two Brothers Tavern, 86 Main St. A high-energy mix of classic Irish tunes, sea shanties, world music, rock, funk, reggae and original material. Free.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 23

**VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS IN CORNWALL.** Friday, Jan. 23, 5 p.m., Cornwall Congregational Church, 2598 Route 30. Middlebury Community Music Center String Ensembles, directed by Emily Sunderman, present Vivaldi's "Winter" from The Four Seasons. Free. More info at [mcmcv.org](http://mcmcv.org).

### SUNDAY, JAN. 25

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE/SNOWSHOE IN LINCOLN.** Sunday, Jan. 25. Difficult hike/snowshoe up the Battell Trail to the lean-to and possible ascent of Mt. Abraham. Plan for full winter conditions, snowshoes required. At least 3-6 miles with more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 for more information. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB BREAD LOAF SECTION ANNUAL MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Business meeting followed by a talk from Keegan Tierney, GMC's Director of Field Programs. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., meeting starts at 6:30. All are welcome. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

### SATURDAY, JAN. 31

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SKI/SNOWSHOE IN GOSHEN.** Saturday, Jan. 31. Cross-country ski to the Sugar Hill Reservoir from Chatfield parking. Round trip will be about 6 miles. Dogs welcome on leash only. Contact Morris Earle at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984. More info at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!**

[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)



## Rokeby offers craft day and free entry

Come to Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh on Friday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., to make art and merry memories with friends and family. Craft an accordion book, create a torn paper landscape, stitch a bookmark. All supplies furnished by Rokeby Museum. The gift shop will be open, and there will be free admission to the main exhibit, "Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist Family." Also, did you know you are welcome to walk, ski, or snowshoe the trails this winter.

*Walk, snowshoe or ski the trails at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh this winter. Free and open to all.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAITH REVELL, ROKEBY MUSEUM DIRECTOR



## GUIDING YOU HOME

We take enormous pride in consistently outperforming the market averages - but even more importantly, our clients' expectations with a 99% satisfaction rating.

Contact us today to experience it for yourself.



Addison | \$1,499,000  
Michael Johnston  
(802) 846-9518

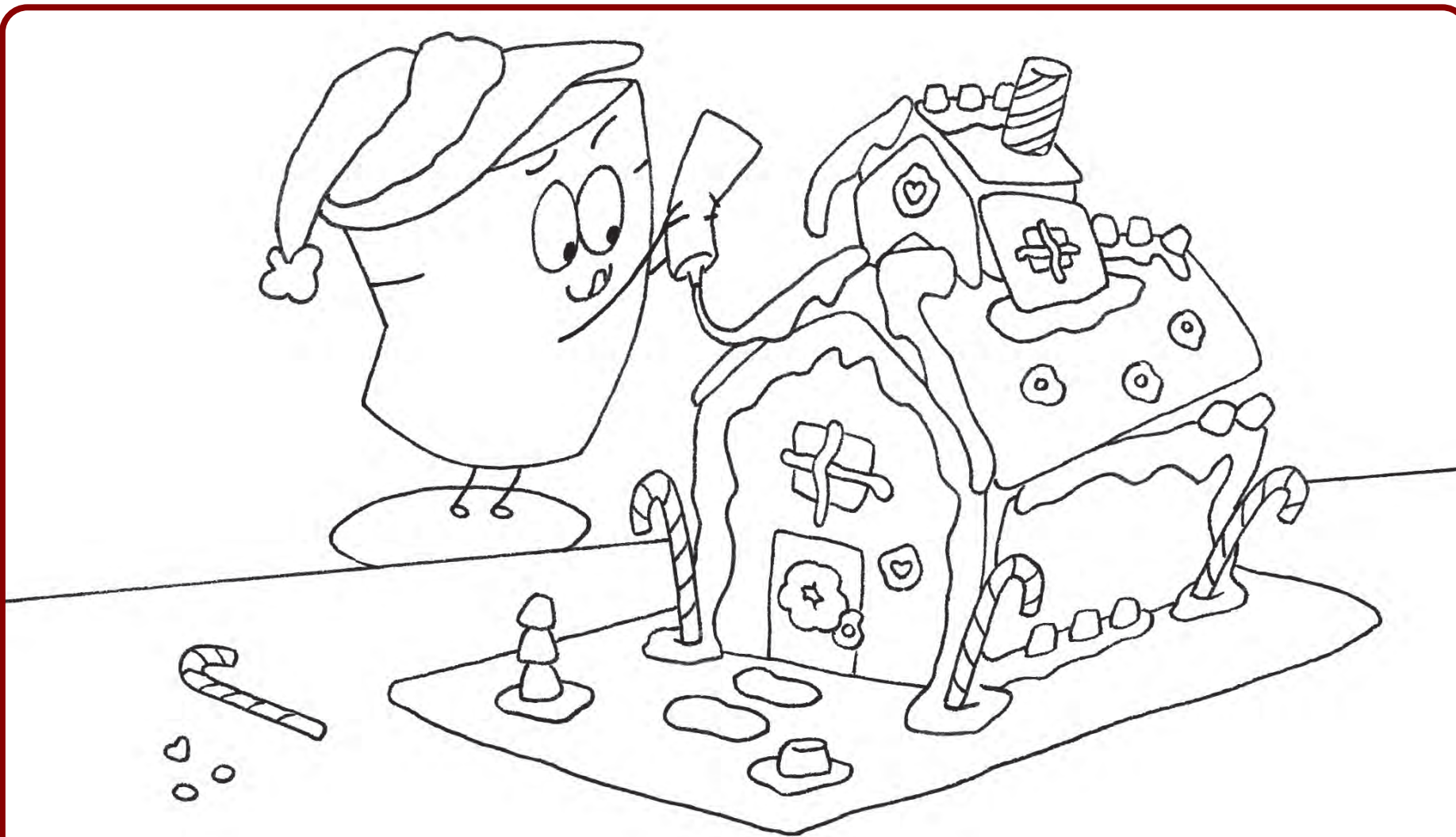


Ferrisburgh | \$625,000  
Heather Morse  
(802) 861-4766



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

268 Main St, Vergennes | [HickokandBoardman.com](http://HickokandBoardman.com) | 802-863-1500



# HOLLY JOLLY COLORING & DECORATING CONTEST

Grab your festive art supplies and bring this tasty scene to life!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group: Under 5  5-6  7-8  9-11  12-15  16-Adult

This sweet Sappy Bucket drawing was provided by:



**Thank you to our sponsors:**

Everything you need to draw, paint, color and express yourself.

**GENERAL STORE FOR KIDS and FAMILIES**

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

Show us your masterpiece!  
Enter the contest for a chance to win a Sparrow Gift Card!

**SPARROW ART SUPPLY**  
MIDDLEBURY, VT

**Submit your entries by Friday, January 16th:**

**Email:** [contests@addisonindependent.com](mailto:contests@addisonindependent.com)

**Mail/In Person:** Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to [addisonindependent.com/contests](http://addisonindependent.com/contests) for a printable version.

Winners will be announced in the January 22nd edition of the Addison Independent.

Two winners from each age group will win a prize from one of our sponsors that can be picked up at the Addy Indy office through February.

**Proud sponsors of the Addy Indy's Coloring Contest!**

**MIDDLEBURY AGWAY**

338 Exchange Street, Middlebury • Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4  
802-388-4937 • [www.MiddleburyAgway.com](http://www.MiddleburyAgway.com)

Open 7 days!

**eCHO LEAHY CENTER FOR LAKE CHAMPLAIN**

Open daily for curious minds of all ages

Vermont's Science + Nature Museum  
[echovt.org](http://echovt.org)

*Winter*

# Sports Report



**Mt. Abraham | Vergennes | Middlebury | Otter Valley**  
**A Publication of The Addison Independent | Thursday, December 18, 2025**

# Let's make a power move!

You drive the vision:  
we'll execute



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

Our dream team is ready to help make the home of your dreams into a reality. **Come visit our kitchen and bath showroom where we will work with you to create the space you want.** We also provide in-home consultations which helps in the process of creating the perfect design for your space. We're here for it all!



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

**BradfordKitchenAndBath.com**

# MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

## Tigers hope for another successful winter run

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Most Middlebury Union High School sports teams enjoyed successful seasons this past winter, and there are reasons to hope for more of the same in the 2025-2026 campaign.

The top results: The wrestling team nearly made history before settling for second in the state; the Tiger girls' Nordic skiing and girls' hockey teams each took second in Division II; the dance team tied for second statewide; the Nordic boys were third in D-II; and the girls' hoop team reached Barre for the first time in years by upsetting a rival in the playoffs.

Will they or other Tiger teams repeat or exceed those accomplishments?

Good luck to all, and let the games begin.

### WRESTLING

- Coach Ethan Raymond returns to lead the MUHS wrestling program for a 13th year. He is a former Vermont high school and New England college champion. Assisting him are former head coach Jon Ashley, Ben Cook and Nate Gebo.

- This past winter the Tigers excelled on the mat, coming within a dozen points at the state meet of ending Mount Anthony's multi-decade stranglehold on the Vermont team title.

- Returning after winning individual titles for the MUHS team are juniors Tucker Wright and Wyatt Kennett. Also back after reaching the podium last winter by virtue of a top-six finish are sophomore Miles Goetz, juniors Jason Sperry and Parker Carl and senior Steven Lackard. Returning after competing for MUHS in the state meet, but not placing, is Colton Murray.

- Among the projected starters are freshman Walter Farnsworth, 113 pounds; Goetz, 120; junior Sawyer Malzac, 144; junior Luke Galera, 150; Jason Sperry, 157; Parker Carl, 165; Wyatt Kennett, 175; Trevor Wright, 190; Tucker Wright, 215; and Steven Lackard, 285.

- Raymond hopes the Tigers can pick up where the left off.

“We will be looking to step right back in the path of last year,” he said. “We’re working hard and looking to get better. We will have a solid team.”

### GIRLS' HOCKEY

- Coach PJ Lalonde is back to lead the girls' hockey program, with Raven Payne and Timm Hanley again assisting him. That entire group returns for its third year behind the Tigers' bench.

- This past winter the Tigers were seeded No. 3 in D-II and

reached the championship game. There, they faced No. 4 Hartford, which also upset its way to the D-II final. In a tight contest the Hurricanes prevailed, 2-0. The Tigers ended up with 12 wins, Hartford with 13.

- MUHS last won the D-II championship in 2021 as a No. 6 seed.

- Only three seniors graduated, but they included the team's leading scorer and starting goalie.

- There are more seniors on this year's team, all of whom are expected to start: defenders Ireland Hanley and Quinn Doria, and forwards Lia Calzini, Kenyon Connors and Sawyer Witscher. Junior Heaven Ross takes over in goal after an all-star level season as a field hockey goalie.

- Hanley, Calzini and Doria are the Tigers' captains.

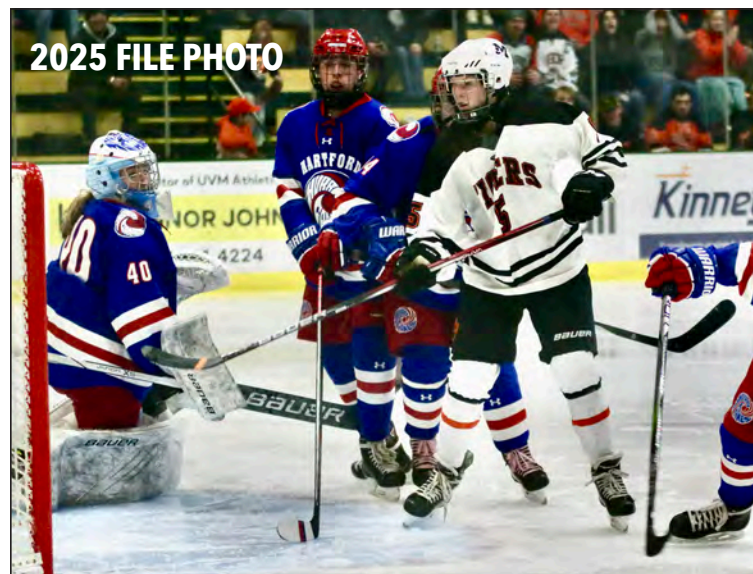
### NORDIC SKIING

- Co Head-Coaches Jay Harrington and Keith Wilkerson return to helm the MUHS Nordic program, with Laura Murphy McIntosh assisting.

- A year ago, the Tiger girls' and boys' Nordic ski teams posted second- and third-place finishes at the two-day D-II championship meet, respectively.

- On the girls' side only one of the four skiers who scored points in that title meet returns, senior Mary Harrington. She finished second in both the classic and freestyle individual races and helped the Tiger relay teams to a pair of second-place results in the relays.

- There are more returners on the boys' side. Jorgen Pirrung, *(See MUHS, Page 9)*



# MUHS

# WRESTLING



### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Wrestling

Coach: Ethan Raymond

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Steven Lackard	12
Parker Carl	11
Luke Galera	11
Wyatt Kennett	11
Try McTavish	11
Sawyer Malzac	11
Colton Murray	11
Jason Sperry	11
Tucker Wright	11
Miles Goetz	10
Jeremiah Bougor	10
Trevor Wright	10
Walter Farnsworth	9
Brayden Litchfield-Friend	9

### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Wrestling

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/17	@ Spaulding	6 p.m.
12/29&30	Tournament host	
1/3	@ MAU Tournament	
1/7	@ Fair Haven	6 p.m.
1/14	Duals host	6 p.m.
1/15	@ Colchester	6 p.m.
1/21	@ OV	6 p.m.
1/29	@ BBA	5:30 p.m.
2/4	@ VUHS	6 p.m.

# MUHS

# GIRLS' HOCKEY



Middlebury Union High School Varsity Girls' Hockey	
Coach: PJ Lalonde	
Name	Grade
Lia Calzini	12
Kenyon Connors	12
Quinn Doria	12
Ireland Hanley	12
Sawyer Witscher	12
Ida Blackwell	11
Kate Kozak	11
Julia Morrisey	11
Heaven Ross	11
Nova Bojanowski	10
Maggie Collins	10
Becka Seeley	10
Della Connor	9
Josephine Ives	9
Violet Lenihan	9
Stella Lenti	9
Reese Muzzy	9

Middlebury Union High School Girls' Varsity Ice Hockey		
Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/10	@ Stowe	7:15 p.m.
12/13	Stowe	5 p.m.
12/20	Rutland	5 p.m.
12/22	@ Sealakers	4:20 p.m.
12/29	U32	5 p.m.
12/30	Burr & Burton	5 p.m.
1/3	@ Rutland	6 p.m.
1/7	@ Stowe	7:15 p.m.
1/14	Brattleboro	7 p.m.
1/17	Woodstock	5 p.m.
1/21	@ Harwood	6:30 p.m.
1/24	Missisquoi	7 p.m.
1/28	@ N Country	6 p.m.
1/31	CVU	7 p.m.
2/4	@ Rice	5:15 p.m.
2/7	Spaulding	7 p.m.
2/11	@ Hartford	5:45 p.m.
2/14	@ Essex	3 p.m.
2/21	Sealakers	5 p.m.
2/28	St Albans	7 p.m.



*Wishing you a season of growth and fun!*



802-388-1338

99 Court Street, Middlebury, VT



**all natural  
wood-fired pizza  
local ingredients**

fresh salads & housemade desserts  
craft cocktails & beer, select wines  
indoor and outdoor seating,  
space for large groups, take out available

WED/THU LUNCH 11-2 DINNER 5-9  
FRI/SAT LUNCH 11-2 DINNER 4:30-9

[americanflatbread.com](http://americanflatbread.com)



Our staff would like to wish the athletes of Addison County the best of luck in the winter sports season!

We are here to cheer you on the sidelines and support your recovery should your hard work require some TLC.



Matt Horne, PT, CSCS  
Tracy Horne, PT  
Jodi Belisle Eddy, PT

**PHYSICAL THERAPY**

231 Court Street, Middlebury  
802-388-3533 • [www.addisonwellnesspt.com](http://www.addisonwellnesspt.com)



# MUHS

# BOYS' HOCKEY



**Middlebury Union High School  
Varsity Boys' Hockey**

Coach: Jordan Stearns

Name	Grade	Name	Grade
TJ Baron	12	Case Pitner	11
Jaxson Heffernan	12	Asa Root Pratt	11
Adrien Malhotra	12	Otto Seigfried	11
Logan McNulty	12	Jude Grant	10
Ethan Mulcahy	12	Evan Northrup	10
Sutton Rubright	12	Will Warren	10
Joseph Sullivan	12	Parker Austin	9
Gabriel Quesnel	11	Colin Chamberlin	9
Jase Kozak	11	Watson Malcom	9
Reaney McKinley	11	Leo Swenton	9
Tyler Munson	11		

**Middlebury Union High School  
Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey**

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/12	Rutland	7 p.m.
12/17	@ Woodstock	6 p.m.
12/20	Hartford	7 p.m.
12/22	@ S. Burlington	7:40 p.m.
12/29	N Country	7 p.m.
12/30	Woodstock	7 p.m.
1/3	@ St J	4:45 p.m.
1/10	@ Saranac	1 p.m.
1/17	CVU	7 p.m.
1/21	@ Missisquoi	7:45 p.m.
1/24	@ Milton	7 p.m.
1/28	Burlington	7 p.m.
1/31	@ N Country	3 p.m.
2/4	Brattleboro	7 p.m.
2/7	@ Stowe	6:45 p.m.
2/14	@ Hartford	2 p.m.
2/18	Missisquoi	7 p.m.
2/21	St. J	7 p.m.
2/25	Milton	7 p.m.
2/28	@ Burlington	4:50 p.m.

# MUHS

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Girls' Basketball

Coach: Eric Carter

Name	Grade
Solstice Binder	12
Josie Gaiotti	12
Leah Duguay	11
Alice Livesay	11
Isabel Quinn	11
Willow Heywood	10
Ellie Orten	10
Lousia Orten	10
Lilliam Paquette	10
Ginger Riney	10
Sophie Simpson	10
Morgan McNulty	9
Emma Quinn	9
Millie Tenny	9
Ava Wood	9

### Middlebury Union High School Girls' Varsity Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/12	@ VUHS	7 p.m.
12/19	St Albans	7 p.m.
12/23	Enosburg	7 p.m.
1/2	OV	7 p.m.
1/5	Harwood	7 p.m.
1/7	@ Missisquoi	7 p.m.
1/10	Mt Abe	12:30 p.m.
1/13	@ Colchester	7 p.m.
1/19	VUHS	7 p.m.
1/24	Winooski	12:30 p.m.
1/27	@ Milton	7 p.m.
1/30	Missisquoi	7 p.m.
2/2	@ Spaulding	7 p.m.
2/4	@ Mt Abe	7 p.m.
2/7	Colchester	12:30 p.m.
2/10	@ Enosburg	7 p.m.
2/18	@ Winooski	7 p.m.
2/20	Milton	7 p.m.

# MUHS

(Continued from Page 3)

now a sophomore, placed in the top 10 in both the freestyle and classic races. Also scoring for the Tigers in one of the two races or in one of their two third-place relay teams at states were Nate Cook Yoder, now a junior, and Gabe Perchemlides, now a sophomore.

- The coaches expect several newcomers and veterans to step up and fill the openings. On the girls side the coaches said sophomore Meredith Carr-Perlow would join Harrington, along with some athletes “among a big crew of promising new 9th-and 10th-grade skiers.” On the boys’ side they expect senior Kaden Hammond to join Pirrung, Nate Cook Yoder and Perchemlides as the primary starters.

- Harrington and Hammond are the young team’s only seniors. They are joined as captains by Cook Yoder.

## DANCE

- Coach Ashley Smith is entering her seventh year leading the perennially contending dance program at MUHS.

- The Tiger dancers were, along with wrestling and girls’ Nordic and hockey, the most successful MUHS teams this past winter. They essentially tied for second in the state behind champion Mount Mansfield at the championship competition,

taking second in both their chosen disciplines, Hip Hop and Pom.

- The numbers of dancers dropped a bit for the program this past winter, and reinforcements from Mount Abraham on a member-of-member basis were a welcome addition. Mount Abe students, plus one from Vergennes Union High School, join the Tiger ranks again this winter.

- Observers agreed the team showed great improvement over the course of this past winter.

- Senior Madelyn Brochu and junior Jordyn Rushton are the team’s captains.

- The Tigers are young. Oprea Littlefield is the only other senior on the roster besides Brochu.

## GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

- Coach Eric Carter returns for his third year leading the MUHS girls’ hoop program. Assisting him are Deborah Holler and Emma Carter.

- Last winter was the best season in a long time for the program as the Tiger girls made it to Barre for the first time since 2011 before coming up short as a No. 5 seed in the semifinal round.

- The Tigers’ 16th and final win of the 2024-2025 campaign came in the quarterfinal round in Bristol over rival Mount Abraham, the No. 4 seed, after two close losses in the regular

(See MUHS, Page 11)



**Let Us Host Your Event!**

Weekend or Weekday Ice Time Available to Rent.  
Open times can be seen on the schedule page  
at [www.memorialsportscenter.org](http://www.memorialsportscenter.org)

Hockey Skate Rentals (youth size 8 to adult size 13)  
Hockey Programs for All Ages  
Reduced price Family and Small Group Rentals  
Public Skating and Stick & Puck  
For full calendar, visit:  
[www.memorialsportscenter.org](http://www.memorialsportscenter.org)

296 Buttolph Dr, Middlebury  
[info@memorialsportscenter.org](mailto:info@memorialsportscenter.org)



THE  
**MIDDLEBURY  
SHOP**

FORTH  IN GOAL

---

since 1983

**GO  
TIGERS**

[MiddleburyShop.com](http://MiddleburyShop.com)

# MUHS

## BOYS' BASKETBALL



### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Boys' Basketball

Coach: Chris Altemose

Name	Grade
Jonathan Kafumbe	12
Cooke Riney	12
Taylor Altemose	11
Colin Chicoine	11
Ryan Brouillard	11
Connor Gordon	11
Landon Hunt	11
Timmy Laframboise	11
Brady Lloyd	11
Judah Matovu	11
Daniel Power	10
Adam LaRose	10
Arthur Calvi	9

### Middlebury Union High School Boys' Varsity Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/15	@ Harwood	7 p.m.
12/18	St. Albans	7 p.m.
12/22	@ S Burlington	7 p.m.
12/27	Rice	12:30 p.m.
1/6	OV	7 p.m.
1/13	Rutland	7 p.m.
1/17	Missisquoi	12:30 p.m.
1/20	@ VUHS	7 p.m.
1/23	@ Mt Abe	7 p.m.
1/28	Milton	7 p.m.
1/31	@ Enosburg	2:30 p.m.
2/3	@ Winooski	7:30 p.m.
2/11	@ Missisquoi	7 p.m.
2/17	Mt Abe	7 p.m.
2/19	@ Milton	7 p.m.
2/21	@ VUHS	12:30 p.m.
2/23	Enosburg	7 p.m.
2/26	Winooski	7 p.m.

# MUHS

*(Continued from Page 9)*

season to the Eagles.

- Like the MUHS girls' soccer team this fall, the Tigers will have to navigate the season without standout senior Solstice Binder, who is out with an injury suffered this past summer.

- Returning starters include sophomore guard Louisa Orten and junior guard/forward Isabel Quinn.

- The team's seniors are forward Josie Gaiotti and versatile three-year starter Solstice Binder, who is not expected to play due to an injury suffered before her soccer season. The Tigers are young, with only two juniors on the roster besides Quinn, guards Leah Duguay and Alice Livesay.

- Isabel Quinn and Binder are the captains.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

- Coach Chris Altemose is in his second stint as the head coach of the Tiger boys' basketball team and has a total of 20 years as a head basketball coach at MUHS. Two former head coaches of Tiger hoop programs are assisting, Cindy Atkins and Kyle Lussier.

- This past winter the Tigers won a playoff game for the first time since 2020. As a No. 6 seed they defeated visiting No. 11 Spaulding in a tight contest that ultimately hinged on a missed free throw with no time left on the clock. Then they gave No. 3 Harwood a battle in the quarterfinal round and wrapped up a successful season at 13-9.

- Several seniors graduated, but starting senior center Cooke Riney returns along with classmate Jonathan Kafumbe, a guard.

- Expected starters along with Riney include four of the following five: Kafumbe and four juniors: Ryan Brouillard, Taylor Altemose, Colin Chicoine and Brady Lloyd.

Coach Altemose said he was looking forward to the season.

“Our team is working hard, being good teammates, and improving each day,” he said. “We’re having fun playing this great game.”

## BOYS' HOCKEY

- Coach Jordan Stearns is back for his fifth year leading the Tiger boys' hockey program. Helping him coach are Brendan Collins, Sean Goodell and Giles Heilman.

- The 2024-2025 season was not the best for the team. It ended when the No. 8 seed Tigers lost at home to No. 9 Colchester in the first round of the D-II playoffs. The young Tigers were competitive at times, but finished at 4-16-1. The Tigers this season will be seeking the program's first playoff win since 2022 and first title since 2011.

- The team graduated only two seniors. This year's squad is more seasoned, rostering seven seniors — defensemen Sutton

Rubright, Jaxson Heffernan, Ethan Mulcahy and Logan McNulty; goalie TJ Baron; and forwards Adrien Malhotra and Joe Sullivan

- Team captains are seniors Rubright and McNulty, with TJ Baron and junior Gabe Quesnel the assistant captains.

Stearns said he will make sure plenty of players see time on the ice, but one goalie will likely carry the load.

“We will have a rotation of starters this year for forwards and defense,” he said. “TJ Baron will consistently be the starter in net.”

- In all, the coach expects a step forward this winter for the Tigers.

“We have an older and more experienced team this year, which should lead to a faster, more skillful, and overall stronger team than last year,” Stearns said. “With a strong class of first-year players to add to the mix, we should have a great blend of experience and youthful talent.”

## GYMNASTICS

- Coach Natalia Little has coached the gymnastics team for six years.

- The Tiger gymnasts compete well against other teams outside of the state's larger population centers that can offer student-athletes year-round access to gymnastics clubs and facilities.

- Little focuses on honing her athletes' skills and fostering their love of the sport.

- Returning as high scorers from a year ago are senior Alexia Williams, juniors Lila Hescoek and Nataly Johnson, and sophomore Anni Broderson.

- The team's seniors are Mady Richard, Alexia Williams and Emily Johnson. Richard and Emily Johnson are the captains.

- Little said the younger athletes on a larger roster than in recent years show potential: “Most come with a solid gymnastics background,” she said.

- Little expects to enjoy working with the team.

“I’m most looking forward to seeing the kids grow this season,” she said.



# MUHS

# DANCE



### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Dance Team

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
1/17	@ Lamoille	1 p.m.
1/31	Hosts	1 p.m.
2/7	@ Burr & Burton	1 p.m.
2/14	@ S Burlington	1 p.m.
2/21	State Competition at VUHS	5:30 p.m.

### Middlebury Union High School Varsity Dance

Coach: Ashley Smith

Name		Grade	
Madelyn Brochu	12	Bea Deering	10
Emily Fritz	12	Ray Fallon	10
Oprea Littlefield	12	Fiona Harrington	10
Cora Blair	11	Harper Hendy	10
Kayla Haugan	11	Akirah Lalumiere	10
Isobela Osborne	11	Thea Porter	10
Jordyn Rushton	11	Ava Whelan	10
Ellie Conklin	10	Kayla Kilburn	9
Coralyn Conrad	10	Grace Mical	9

# MUHS

# GYMNASTICS



**Middlebury Union High School  
Varsity Gymnastics**

Coach: Natalia Little

Name	Grade
Emily Johnson	12
Mady Richard	12
Alixis Williams	12
Gaby Araujo	11
Lila Hescok	11
Nataly Johnson	11
Anni Broderson	10
Leah Warner	10
Ariana Blodgett	9
Chloe Krechel	9
Willow Mongeon	9

**Middlebury Union High School  
Varsity Gymnastics**

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/19	Burlington	6 p.m.
12/27	@ Brattleboro	2 p.m.
12/29	Harwood	6 p.m.
1/5	Montpelier	6 p.m.
1/15	@ Essex	6 p.m.
1/19	S Burlington	6 p.m.
1/30	@ CVU	7:30 p.m.
2/7	St J	11 a.m.
2/14	@ Burr & Burton	4:30 p.m.

# MUHS

## NORDIC SKIING



**Middlebury Union High School  
Boys' and Girls' Varsity Nordic Skiing**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent/Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
12/16	Rikert	3 p.m.
12/30	@ Sleepy Hollow	TBA
1/19	@ Sleepy Hollow	10 a.m.
2/19	Rikert	TBA
2/24	@ Craftsbury	TBA

# MUHS

# NORDIC SKIING



### Middlebury Union High School Nordic Ski Team

Coaches: Jay Harrington, Keith Wilkerson

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Kaden Hammond	12	Gabriel Perchemlides	10
Mary Harrington	12	Jorgen Pirrung	10
Nate Cook Yoder	11	Cameron Vose	10
Amelie Richter	11	Emerson Blair	9
Graeham Zieger	11	Sarah Duplissis	9
Alex Andersson	10	Montana Gray	9
Meredith Carr-Perlow	10	Penny Lickun	9
Sadie Jette	10	Rupert Suhr	9
Pema Kerins	10	Avery Thompson	9



*Wishing you a safe  
and successful  
Winter sports season.*



# Mt. Abraham Union High School

## Eagle teams have plenty of enthusiasm for winter season

**BY ANDY KIRKALDY**

BRISTOL — In the winter of 2024-2025, Mount Abraham Union High School sports teams welcomed a new varsity program, indoor track and field, and saw some good results from among the existing teams, notably the girls' basketball squad, with 17 wins including one in the postseason, and the wrestling team, which placed four wrestlers on state tournament podiums.

As usual, there was plenty of enthusiasm at the Bristol school this month to accompany the short run-up to the season, with practices starting on Dec. 1 and action starting for all the teams within two weeks in the school gyms and wrestling rooms and the University of Vermont's indoor track facility.

Best of luck to the following Mount Abe teams and athletes and their coaches.

### **GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

- Coach: Koran Cousino, herself a former Mount Abe standout, is entering her fourth year leading the Eagle girls' basketball program. She is assisted by Bonnie Huizenga, Kari Jipner and Erin LaRose.

- In the 2024-2025 season a veteran Eagle girls' hoop team posted a 16-4 regular season record that included two wins over Middlebury, a three-win improvement over the prior season. It was a performance that was good for the No. 4 seed in Division II. But the No. 5 Tigers upset them in Bristol in the quarterfinal round.

- After many athletes graduated, returning starters are few, and this season the Eagles will be relying on athletes who came off the bench this past winter and younger players to play important roles.

- The Eagles' seniors are Genevieve Forand, Molly Mangini, Sierra Roberts, Brooklyn Ryersbach and Isla Underwood. Among that group Forand saw the most time a year ago, while Underwood is not expected to play due to injury.

- The perennial contending program's last D-II title came in 2022 under then Coach Connie LaRose, when as a No. 6 seed the Eagles defeated the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds on the way to the championship. Cousino was an assistant to LaRose at that point.

### **BOYS' BASKETBALL**

- Coach Martin Clark is entering his 11th year leading the Eagle boys' basketball program, making him the second-longest tenured Mount Abe coach. He is assisted by Troy Paradee, Shawn Oxford, Ed Cook and Trent Roleau.

- This past winter the Eagle boys posted an 8-13 record for the second straight season, but finished the regular *(See Eagles, Page 22)*



**2025 FILE PHOTO**

# Mt. Abe

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



### Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Girls' Basketball

Coach: Koran Cousino

Name	Grade
Genevieve Forand	12
Molly Mangini	12
Sierra Roberts	12
Brooke Ryersbach	12
Isla Underwood	12
Adrianna Earle	10
Samantha Guilbeault	10
Gwen LaPerle	10
Mattea O'Bryan	10
Olivia Sawyer	10
Edda Twyman	10
Sophie Underwood	10

### Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Girls' Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/12	@ Harwood	7 p.m.
12/15	Fair Haven	7 p.m.
12/18	@ FH Tour	5:30 p.m.
12/22	@ FH Tour	7 p.m.
1/5	@ VUHS	7 p.m.
1/7	Milton	7 p.m.
1/10	@ MUHS	12:30 p.m.
1/13	@ Missisquoi	7 p.m.
1/16	Burr & Burton	7 p.m.
1/21	@ Colchester	7 p.m.
1/24	Enosburg	12:30 p.m.
1/27	Winooski	7 p.m.
1/30	@ Milton	7 p.m.
2/4	MUHS	7 p.m.
2/7	Missisquoi	12:30 p.m.
2/9	VUHS	7 p.m.
2/13	Colchester	7 p.m.
2/16	@ OV	7 p.m.
2/18	@ Enosburg	7 p.m.
2/21	@ Winooski	2:30 p.m.

# Mt. Abe

## BOYS' BASKETBALL



Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Boys' Basketball	
Coach: Martin Clark	
Name	Grade
Oliver Cogswell	12
Cooper Cook	12
Charlie Germon	12
Will Gustin	12
John Stanley	12
JaeQuin Tomasi	12
Jaran Griffin	11
Jackson Jennigs	11
Bowen Lutz	11
Dustin Abbott	10
Waydon Cherington	10
Noah Germon	10
Kai Ludka	10

Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Boys' Basketball		
Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/13	Mt Anthony	12:30 p.m.
12/15	@ Randolph	7 p.m.
12/18	@ U-32	7 p.m.
12/23	@ Harwood	7 p.m.
12/27	OV	12:30 p.m.
12/30	Randolph	7 p.m.
1/2	Fair Haven	7 p.m.
1/9	@ OV	7 p.m.
1/14	@ Missisquoi	7 p.m.
1/17	Winooski	12:30 p.m.
1/23	MUHS	7 p.m.
1/28	@ Enosburg	7 p.m.
1/31	@ VUHS	2:30 p.m.
2/3	@ Milton	7 p.m.
2/6	Missisquoi	7 p.m.
2/11	@ Winooski	7 p.m.
2/17	@ MUHS	7 p.m.
2/19	Enosburg	7 p.m.
2/23	VUHS	7 p.m.
2/26	Milton	7 p.m.

# Mt. Abe

# WRESTLING



### Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Wrestling

Coach: Alex Peterson

Name	Grade
Mason Atkins	11
Abraham Camara	11
Kassondra Garrow	11
Hailey Isham	11
Isayah Isham	11
Zachary Montgomery	11
Lincoln Painter	11
Mike De La Cruz	10
Andrew Doherty-Konczal	10
Mason Forand	10
Bradley LaVangie	10
Forest Turner	9

### Mount Abraham Union High School Varsity Wrestling

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/13	@ NAC Tournament	
12/20&21	@ Lowell Holiday Tournament	
12/27	@ Fair Haven Duals	
12/29 & 30	@ MUHS Tournament	
1/3	@ Mt. Anthony Tournament	
1/7	@ Mill River	10 a.m.
1/10	@ Mill River Tournament	
1/13	@ Fair Haven	6 p.m.
1/16&17	@ Essex Tournament	
1/21	@ OV	6 p.m.
1/24	@ VUHS Tournament	
1/28	Hosts	6 p.m.
1/31	@ OV Tournament	
2/7	@ Mt. Mansfield Tournament	



# INDOOR TRACK & FIELD



Mount Abraham Union High School Indoor Track & Field	
Coach: Dustin Corrigan	
Name	Grade
Jackson LaMarche	11
Truman Sawyer	11
Tanner Cross	10
Charlie Desilets	10
Sloane Grzyb	10
Juliana Murphy	10
Eloise Newman	10
Karson Norris	10
Julian Schuler	10
Jaret Sturtevant	10
Del Guilmette	9
Pax Gunderson	9
Benjamin Mangini	9
Matthew Steele	9
Ethan Tanych	9
Emily Wells	9

Mount Abraham Union High School Indoor Track & Field		
Date	Opponent/Event	Time
2/13	@ UVM	8 a.m.
12/21	@ UVM	8 a.m.
12/27	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/4	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/10	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/10	Championship Meet at UVM	

# Eagles

(Continued from Page 17)

season strong.

- The Eagles were seeded ninth for the D-II playoffs and after a long bus ride gave No. 8 North Country a battle before coming up just short, 56-50.

- Many key players graduated, and the Eagles will be relying on returners to play expanded roles and newcomers to make an impact. The team's returning players who saw significant minutes a year ago include seniors Cooper Cook, Charley Germon and Johnny Stanley.

- The team's other seniors are Oliver Cogswell, William Gustin and JaeQuin Tomasi.

- Cook, Germon and sophomore Waydon Cherington are the Eagles' captains.

## WRESTLING

- Coach Alex Peterson, a Mount Abe teacher, is entering his fourth year in leading the Eagle wrestling program. His assistants are Carroll Isham, Eric Forand and Patrick Pfenning.

- At the state championship meet this past winter, four Eagles reached the podium, all of them then sophomores: Baxter Montgomery (third at 120 pounds), Isayah Isham (third at 138), Mason Atkins (sixth at 157) and Lincoln Painter (sixth at 165). All of them return, but not necessarily at the same weight classes.

- The Eagles were a young team a year ago, with no seniors and only two juniors on the roster, and finished 10th overall at the championship meet hosted by Spaulding.

- There are no seniors on the roster this season, but there are seven juniors.

- Several weight classes feature competition this winter for the starting spots.

- Atkins and Isham will serve as the team's captains.

- Program numbers took an upturn in 2023 and remain stable this season at 12 wrestlers.

## INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- Mount Abe's indoor track and field team enters its second year as an official varsity program after being upgraded from club status.

- Physical Education teacher Dustin Corrigan, who as the longtime girls' soccer team head is the school's longest tenured coach, returns to lead the indoor track and field team.

- In the 2025 state meet, Ruby Connell, Cameron Vose and Hazel Stoddard submitted individual top-10 finishes on the girls' side, as did Truman Sawyer and Elliot Senecal on the boys' side. Also, the boys' 4x200 relay team of Jaret Sturtevant, Jackson LaMarche, Sawyer and Lincoln Ward finished eighth with a personal record.

- Returning from among those athletes are LaMarche, Sawyer and Sturtevant. It's also fair to look to freshman Del Guilmette to make his presence known — at the state cross country meet this past fall he was the top male runner in Addison County.

- The team is young: It consists entirely of sophomores and freshmen except for juniors Sawyer and LaMarche.

- The team's roster count doubled a year ago to 20, and this year's count stands at a still healthy 16 after a number of athletes graduated.

- The University of Vermont hosts the team's entire schedule, five regular season meets between mid-December and mid-January, and the championship meet on Jan. 17.



**BRISTOL FINANCIAL**  
Personal Planning, Retirement & Insurance

Put us on your team for the future

36 Main Street, Bristol, VT • 802-453-2378 • www.bristolfinancial.com



**Good luck to all our Addison County athletes this winter!**

**ADDISON UNITED**

Youth Soccer Winter & Spring Programs for Grades K-12

[www.addisonunitedvt.com](http://www.addisonunitedvt.com)

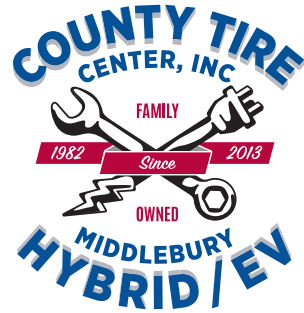
Questions? [info@addisonunitedvt.com](mailto:info@addisonunitedvt.com)

# COUNTY TIRE KEEPS YOU IN THE GAME

We Support All of Our High School Teams!

Your Under Car Care Specialists

Qualified Hybrid & Electric Service



Family operated since 1982

33 Seymour Street, Middlebury, VT • 802-388-7620  
www.countytirecenter.com • info@countytirecenter.com  
Monday – Friday 8am-5pm



Supporting all MAUHS, VUHS, OVUHS & MUHS student athletes!



7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1,  
New Haven VT 05472 • 802-723-2227

We'll be cheering on all local sports teams this season!



Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 7pm • Sunday 9am-5pm  
Redemption Closes 1 Hour Prior  
21 Prince Lane, Bristol • 453-3990



# GOOD LUCK TO ALL WINTER SPORTS TEAMS!

HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION WILL MAKE YOU CHAMPIONS!



64 Jackman Drive • Bristol, VT 05443  
For information on all your energy needs, please call us at:  
802-453-2381 or www.JackmansInc.com



**MAPLE RUN**

**FALL, 2026**

**5K 10K HALF MARATHON**

**MIDDLEBURY, VT**

**REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON!**

**VERMONT'S "SWEETEST" HALF MARATHON**

**MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN**



**PLAN EARLY FOR NEXT YEAR'S RACE!**

- Ideal foliage race for families, novice runners **AND** seasoned athletes!
- Courses offer varied surfaces of **PAVED AND GRAVEL ROADS AND TRAIL SECTIONS!**
- Beautiful views of rolling **PASTORAL VISTAS**, Green Mountains, and Middlebury College
- Race proceeds shared with **LOCAL NONPROFITS AND THE ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**

Sign up for email notifications when registration opens at:

**MIDDLEBURYMAPLERUN.COM**



*Proud supporter of Addison County sports!*



As a member-focused insurer, we offer financial security and trusted protection through personal, commercial, and farm insurance—delivering on our promise with integrity and care.

**HOME • BUSINESS • AUTO • FARM**  
Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-7917 • co-opinsurance.com

**Ci** Committed to our MEMBERS, protecting what matters most.

*Proud to support Addison County Student Athletes!*

**rk MILES** SINCE 1940  
BUILDING MATERIALS SUPPLIER






**LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS  
HARDWARE & TOOLS • DOORS & WINDOWS**

88 Exchange Street • Middlebury, VT  
802 388 2721 • rkmiles.com



Scan to visit [rkmiles.com](http://rkmiles.com)

# Vergennes Union High School

## Strong Commodore teams aims for post-season berths

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union High School sports teams fared pretty well overall in the winter of 2024-2025, even if championship hardware was largely elusive — only two wrestlers, one who graduated this past spring, earned state titles.

The wrestling team should fare well again, and key players return to bolster the boys' and girls' basketball teams, each of which won playoff games last season.

And the indoor track and field program returns a number of athletes who performed well up at the University of Vermont's facility this past winter.

Here's a closer look at the Commodores' campaigns.

### WRESTLING

COACH: Eugene Stearns, a former Vermont Wrestling

Coach of the Year, stepped down after a successful tenure leading the program. Taking over as co-coaches are former head coach and state champion Nate Kittredge and longtime youth coach Travis Scribner. They are assisted by Eli Brace.

- Vergennes was seventh as a team at the state meet last year, a solid result considering injuries and the school's status as one of the smaller schools competing in the all-division meet.

- Four Commodores stood on the podium at the end of the meet in Barre, one of whom, Isaac Preston, graduated.

Then-junior Payton Lavoie won at 190 pounds and was voted by the coaches as the tournament's outstanding wrestler after defeating higher seeds on the way to his title.

Also reaching the podium for VUHS were sophomore

*(See Commodores, Page 27)*



2025 FILE PHOTO

# VUHS

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



### Vergennes Union High School Varsity Girls' Basketball Team

Coach: Billy Waller

Name	Grade
Ava Francis	12
Amelia Giroux	12
Summer Gosliga	12
Faith McAllister	12
Libby Ringer	12
Ashtin Stearns	12
Georgia Krause	11
Isabel Miguel	10
Ayla Kittredge	9

### Vergennes Union High School Girls' Varsity Basketball

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/12	MUHS	7 p.m.
12/15	Danville	7 p.m.
12/23	@ Williamstown	7 p.m.
1/2	@ Blue Mt	7 p.m.
1/5	Mt Abe	7 p.m.
1/7	Stowe	7 p.m.
1/14	Richford	7 p.m.
1/16	White River	7 p.m.
1/19	@ MUHS	7 p.m.
1/21	@ Fairfax	7 p.m.
1/23	@ Twinfield	7 p.m.
1/26	Williamstown	7 p.m.
1/28	@ Danville	7 p.m.
1/30	Blue Mt	7 p.m.
2/2	@ Stowe	7 p.m.
2/7	Winooski	2:30 p.m.
2/9	@ Mt Abe	7 p.m.
2/11	@ Richford	7 p.m.
2/18	Fairfax	7 p.m.
2/20	Twinfield	7 p.m.

# Commodores

(Continued from Page 25)

Stephen Kittredge, second at 126, and freshman Jackson Scribner, fourth at 138. Also of note, Addie Smith, now a sophomore, was second in the state in her weight class in the girls-only tournament, qualifying for a regional event.

- The coaches expect others to join them stepping onto the podium this winter, possibly by junior Izaak Wolniewicz, the only upperclassman on the team as well as Lavoie, the team's only senior.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

- Coach Eric LeBeau is in his third season leading the VUHS boys' hoop program. Assisting him will be Will Benton, Ben Smith, Lance Bergmans and Ben Curtis.

- The Commodore boys finished at 14-7 this past winter after their third consecutive close loss in Division III quarterfinal, this time as a No. 3 seed.

- This season VUHS will be looking to make its first trip to Barre since the 2022-23 season, when the Commodores lost to playoff nemesis Winooski in a semifinal.

- Unlike the boys' soccer team, the VUHS boys' basketball team will remain in the competitive Lake Division and play mostly D-II competition.

- Several key players were undergraduates a year ago. Seniors on the team this year are Ryker Mosehauer, Theo Elzinga, Aden Fuller, Ryan Wright and Logan Thibault.

- Returners who started or played key roles off the bench a year ago include Mosehauer, Wright, Cohen Howell and Quinn LeBeau.

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

- Coach Billy Waller enters his 19th season leading the Commodore varsity girls' basketball program. Steve Barsalou and Erin Reed assist him.

- The Commodores finished at 10-12 a year ago, a record that included a first-round D-III playoff win on the road before a loss to the top seed in a quarterfinal.

- The VUHS girls' squad has played in the Lake Division against a mostly D-II schedule in past winters, but this season will play more games against D-III competition after a switch to the Mountain Division, a move that could improve their tournament seeding.

- The Commodores lost only one player to graduation from this past winter, while this year's roster includes six seniors: Ashtin Stearns, Ava Francis, Summer Gosliga, Libby Ringer, Faith McAlister and Amelia Giroux. All but Gosliga played on the championship VUHS girls' soccer team.

- Returning starters include Stearns, Francis, Giroux and junior Georgia Krause.

- The program will be seeking its first trip to the Barre Auditorium since reaching the championship game in 2021.

## INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- Coach Brad Castillo is in his 17th year leading the Commodore indoor track and field program, which he helped found. Castillo also heads the VUHS cross-country program in the fall and the school's spring outdoor track and

(See Commodores, Page 31)

## JACKMAN FUELS, INC.

Serving Addison & Chittenden Counties Since 1945

**Best of Luck to all of our  
Student Athletes this Winter!**



**PROPANE • ULTRA LOW SULFUR FUEL OIL • KEROSENE  
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**1 Main St. Verg. • 802-877-2661 • jackmanfuels.com**

**Proud members of your fitness team since 1985!**

**VERMONT** Sun  
FITNESS CENTERS

**Enjoy:**

- Two bright pools with a slide and great natural light
- State-of-the-art exercise equipment and multiple cardio rooms
- Fun and engaging classes • Multipurpose cross-training room
- Racketball & Basketball courts • Saunas, tanning... and more!

Middlebury • Vergennes

**388-6888**

vermontsun.com

# VUHS

## BOYS' BASKETBALL



Vergennes Union High School Varsity Boys' Basketball Team	
Coach: Eric LeBeau	
Name	Grade
Theo Elzinga	12
Aiden Fuller	12
Ryker Mosehauer	12
Logan Thibault	12
Ryan Wright	12
Jude Bragg	11
Juan De La Cruz	11
Cole Gagnon	11
Benjamin Hale	11
Cohen Howell	11
Quinn LeBeau	11
Liam McGuire	11
Liam Paquette	10

Vergennes Union High School Boys' Varsity Basketball		
Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/13	@ Colchester	2:30 p.m.
12/18	CVU	7 p.m.
12/20	Harwood	2:30 p.m.
12/27	@ Spaulding	12:30 p.m.
12/29	Hazen	7 p.m.
1/06	Fair Haven	7 p.m.
1/14	@ Winooski	7 p.m.
1/17	Milton	2:30 p.m.
1/20	MUHS	7 p.m.
1/23	@ Missisquoi	7 p.m.
1/26	@ OV	7 p.m.
1/29	Crown Pt.	6 p.m.
1/31	Mt Abe	2:30 p.m.
2/03	@ Enosburg	7 p.m.
2/06	Winooski	7 p.m.
2/10	@ Milton	7 p.m.
2/17	Missisquoi	7 p.m.
2/21	@ MUHS	2:30 p.m.
2/23	@ Mt Abe	7 p.m.
2/26	Enosburg	7 p.m.

**VUHS**

**INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**



**Vergennes Union High School  
Varsity Indoor Track & Field**

Coach: Brad Castillo

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>		
David Coburn			10
Sawyer Garthaffner	12	Petra Fearon	10
Chance Koenig	12	Lauren Hill	10
Carter McGuire	12	Georgia Kunkel	10
Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs	12	Marwan Liebhaber	10
Ryan Johnson	11	Emerson Morrill	10
Connor Simison	11	Rowan Neffinger	10
Madeliene Stroup	11	Ila Borah	9
Isabella Van Voorst	11	Quin Dubois	9
Vivienne Audy	10	Ranen Howell	9

**Vergennes Union High School  
Varsity Indoor Track and Field**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent/Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
12/13	@ UVM	8 a.m.
12/21	@ UVM	8 a.m.
12/27	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/4	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/10	@ UVM	8 a.m.
1/10	Championship Meet at UVM	



# WRESTLING



**Vergennes Union High School  
Varsity Wrestling Team**

Coaches: Travis Scribner & Nate Kittredge

Name	Grade
Payton Lavoie	12
Stephen Kittredge	11
Izaak Wolniewicz	11
Gavin Couture	10
Izaiha Deyette	10
Joseph Maneen	10
Jackson Scribner	10
Adeline Smith	10
Caleb Stearns	10
Maddox Davis	9
Bella Emerson	9
Adrien Provencher	9
Liz-Marie Fuentes	9

**Vergennes Union High School  
Varsity Wrestling**

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/13	@ ConVal Tournament	
12/16	Essex & SBHS	6 p.m.
12/19 & 20	@ Lowell Holiday Tournament	
12/23	Colchester & MMU	6 p.m.
12/29 & 30	@ Noble Tournament	
1/3	@ Keene Tournament	
1/8	MAU & OV	6 p.m.
1/10	@ Mill River Tournament	
1/14	@ MUHS	6 p.m.
1/16 & 17	@ Essex Classic	
1/21	FHS, RHS & BBA	5:30 p.m.
1/24	Commodore Invitational	
1/28	@ Mt Abe	6 p.m.
1/31	@ Mt. Greylock Tournament	
2/4	MUHS & Mt Abe	6 p.m.
2/7	@ Plymouth Tournament	
2/14	@ State Dual Tournament	
2/27 & 28	State Championship Meet at CVU	

# Commodores

*(Continued from Page 27)*

field program.

- The Commodore program saw a multi-season streak of winning at least one event in the D-II indoor championships snapped this past winter, but relay teams set several personal bests and placed in several events.

- On the girls' side, two runners return from a four-by-800-meter girls' relay team that placed third this past winter, junior Isabelle Van Voorst and sophomore Lauren Hill, and they were joined by junior Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs on a team that placed sixth in the 4x400 relay. Hill also finished in the top 10 at 1,000 meters.

- On the boys' side, four runners return from relay teams that posted top-10 finishes in the 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800, including two seventh-places just off the podium, setting personal bests in each event. Those returners are seniors Chance Koenig and Carter McGuire, junior Ryan Johnson, and sophomore Rowan Neffinger.

- Interest in the program remains high, with 19 students signed up this winter.



# Don't Miss a Moment — Be a Champion for Local Journalism!

From game-winning shots to in-depth reporting, the Addison Independent delivers the sports stories that matter most to you.

Help keep the action alive by joining the ADDY ALL-STARS!

**No athletic skills required—just a love for local news.**

Visit [addisonindependent.com/all-stars](http://addisonindependent.com/all-stars) or scan the code to set up your regular donation today!



**SCAN**

TO SIGN UP ONLINE!

[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS)

Go get 'em,  
teams!



2025 FILE PHOTOS


**OVUHS**
**BOYS' BASKETBALL**
**Otter Valley Union High School  
Varsity Boys' Basketball**

Head Coach: Mike Stark

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Riley Connaughton	12
Connor Denis	12
Logan Denis	12
Zachary Dragon	12
Jackson Howe	12
Brody Lathrop	12
Brayden Meza	12
Jacob Warrell	12
Marek Heitmann	11
Jonathan Johnson	11
Ayden Wingfield	10

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Boys' Varsity Basketball**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/13	@ Fair Haven	2:30 p.m.
12/18	@ Proctor	7 p.m.
12/27	@ Mt. Abe	12:30 p.m.
1/3	@ Springfield	1:30 p.m.
1/6	@ Middlebury	7 p.m.
1/9	Mt Abe	7 p.m.
1/14	@ Windsor	7 p.m.
1/16	MAU	7 p.m.
1/23	@ White River Valley	7 p.m.
1/26	VUHS	7 p.m.
1/29	Windsor	7 p.m.
1/31	@ Bellows Falls	1 p.m.
2/5	Fair Haven	7 p.m.
2/7	Bellows Falls	7 p.m.
2/10	White River Valley	7 p.m.
2/12	Hartford	7 p.m.
2/17	Mill River	7 p.m.
2/19	Burr & Burton	7 p.m.
2/23	@ MAU	7 p.m.
2/26	@ Brattleboro	7 p.m.


**OVUHS**
**CHEERLEADING**
**Otter Valley Union High School  
Varsity Cheerleading**

Head Coach: Kassidy Buley

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Alyssa Wade	11
Leah Chapin	10

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Cheerleading**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent/Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/13	@ Essex, VCCA Clinic	
1/31	@ Rutland, CVCC	
2/7	@ S. Burlington, NVAC	
2/14	@ Essex, VCCA	
2/21	@ States, Vergennes	
3/21	@ @ New Englands, Worcester, Mass.	



# WRESTLING

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Varsity Wrestling**

Coach: Cole Mason

Name	Grade
Maisa Allen	12
Colin Carroccia	12
Drake Felkl	12
Thomas Given	12
Ethan Ross	12
Blake Allen	11
David Bertrand	11
Ayden Larocque	11
Max Potter	11
Keegan Reid	11
Colby Benoit	10
Aiden Graham	10
Chase Herrick	10
Ethan Kenyon	10
Tyson Lanza	10
Mason Markowski	10
Brady Babcock	9
Brooklyn Coburn	9
Declan Gallipo	9
Jordan Loso	9
Andrew Sweeney	9
Landon Wilcox	9
Caleb Woodward	9

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Varsity Wrestling**

Date	Opponent/Event	Time
12/13	@ NAC Tournament	9:30 a.m.
12/17	Duals Host (Open)	6 p.m.
12/20	Essex, Springfield	10 a.m.
12/27	@ Berkshire Tourney	
1/3	@ Keene, NH Tourney	9 a.m.
1/8	@ Vergennes	6 p.m.
1/10	@ Pelham, NH	9 a.m.
1/16 & 17	@ Essex Classic	
1/21	Mt. Abe, Middlebury	6 p.m.
1/23	Hosts Duals (Open)	6 p.m.
1/24	Hosts Tourney	9:30 a.m.
1/29	@ Mill River	6 p.m.
1/31	@ Mt. Greylock	9:30 a.m.
2/4	Host Duals (Open)	6 p.m.
2/7	@ Mt. Mansfield	9:30 a.m.
2/11	Host Duels (Open)	6 p.m.
2/14	@ State Dual Tourney	10 a.m.
2/27&28	@ CVU, State Tourney	
3/7&8	@ New England Tourney	

**Proud supporter of local student-athletes**

**CARRARA** 2464 Case St • Middlebury, VT  
JPCARRARA.COM

*Slam dunk  
your home  
interior this  
winter!*

**802-388-2500**  
M- F 7:30-5:30, Sat. 8-1  
1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT  
distinctivepaintandinteriors.com

**DPI**  
DISTINCTIVE PAINT AND INTERIORS


**OVUHS**

# GIRLS' BASKETBALL

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Varsity Girls' Basketball**

Head Coach: Ray Counter

<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>
Breanna Bovey	12
Hannah Desabrais	12
Marissa Dick	12
Jazalynn Madrigal	12
Leann Thomas	12
Allie Charbonneau	11
Isabella Bovey	10
Tegan Boynton	10
Shayla Frain	10
Lucy Howe	9
Lydia Keith	9
Georgia LaPorte	9

**Otter Valley Union High School  
Girls' Varsity Basketball**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent/Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
12/16	MAU	7 p.m.
12/18	@ Fair Haven Tourney	7 p.m.
12/22	@ Fair Haven Tourney	5:30 p.m.
12/27	@ West Rutland	2:30 p.m.
12/30	@ Woodstock	7 p.m.
1/2	@ Middlebury	7 p.m.
1/5	Springfield	7 p.m.
1/8	Fair Haven	7 p.m.
1/12	@ Green Mountain	7 p.m.
1/15	@ Windsor	7 p.m.
1/17	Hartford	12:30 p.m.
1/24	@ Springfield	1:30 p.m.
1/27	Poultney	7 p.m.
1/30	@ Burr & Burton	7 p.m.
2/3	Windsor	7 p.m.
2/6	West Rutland	1 p.m.
2/11	@ Hartford	7 p.m.
2/13	Proctor	7 p.m.
2/16	Mt. Abe	7 p.m.
2/20	MSJ	7 p.m.





**Have a great  
season!**



**2025 FILE PHOTOS**

# Good luck, area athletes!



2025 FILE PHOTOS

# WELCOME

**SOPHIA KESHMIRI**  
**THE NEWEST ADDY INDY NEWS &  
SPORTS REPORTER!**



Angelo Lynn  
Editor/Publisher



Steve James  
Photographer



Sophia Keshmiri  
Sports Reporter



Karl Lindholm  
columnist



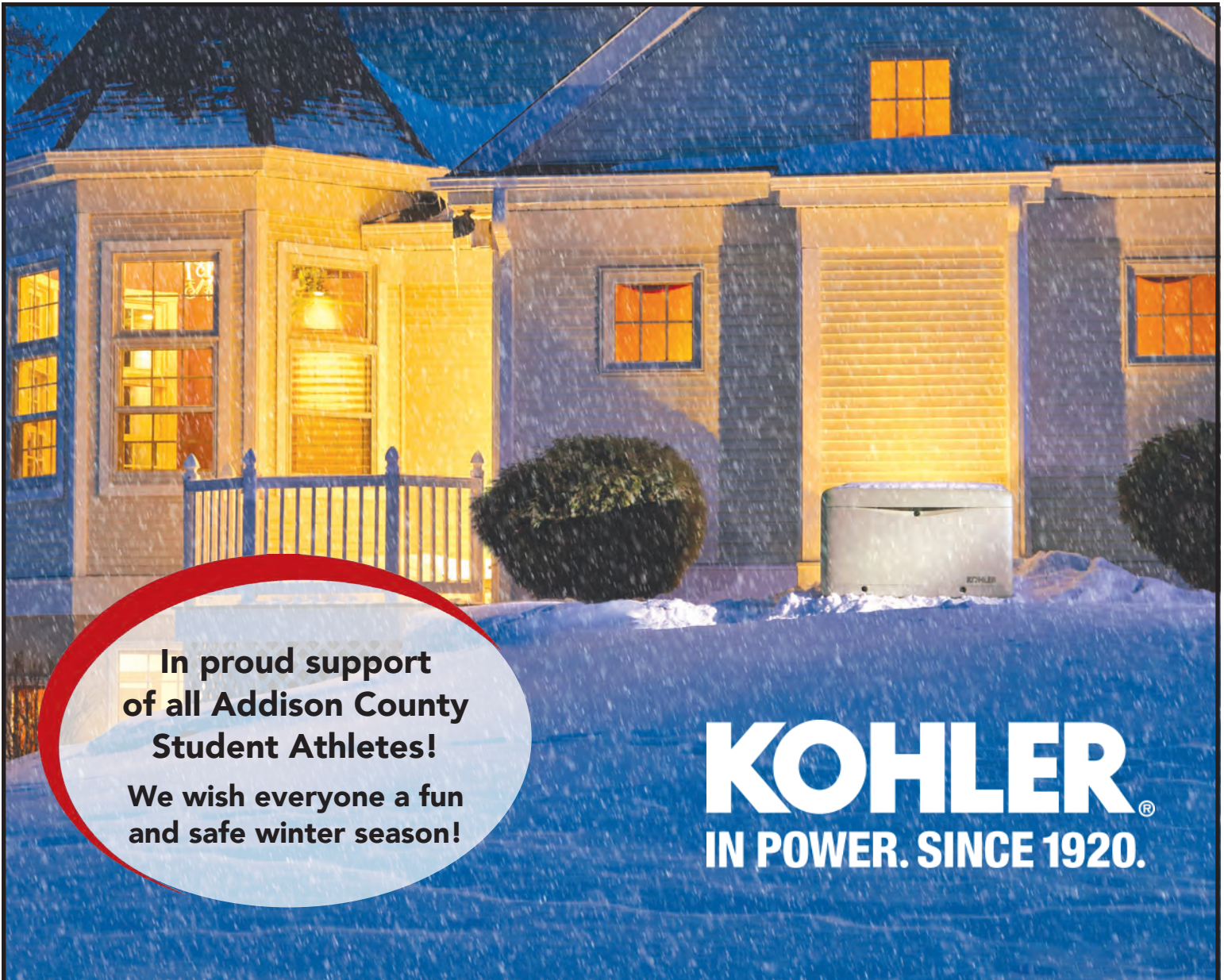
Matthew Dickenson  
Outdoor Columnist

## SPORTS COVERAGE...

**RESULTS, ANALYSIS, OPINION AND ACTION PHOTOS EVERY WEEK IN  
PRINT, ONLINE, AND IN YOUR INBOX**

**FROM THE SLOPES TO THE COURT, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!**

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**



**In proud support  
of all Addison County  
Student Athletes!**  
**We wish everyone a fun  
and safe winter season!**

**KOHLER®**  
**IN POWER. SINCE 1920.**

**LET IT SNOW.  
BLIZZARD.  
OR FREEZE.  
YOUR POWER IS  
PROTECTED.**

Whenever there's a power outage, your KOHLER generator keeps your lights on, your home warm and your family protected.

**Newton** ELECTRICAL  
REFRIGERATION  
AIR CONDITIONING INC

**dennis@newtonerac.com • 802-388-1431**

**[www.newtonerac.com](http://www.newtonerac.com)**