



Flower power

Students paint a fabulous floral mural at Gather in Middlebury. See Arts + Leisure.



Lax lessons

The MAV boys' lax team came back from a tough loss to earn a decisive win. See Page 1B.



Lunar legacy

Ken Corey takes a look at the Artemis II mission in his Look Up column, Page 2 Arts + Leisure.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Fire burns 50 acres in Middlebury

Forestland impacted; structures unscathed

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Around two-dozen state and federal workers on Wednesday were diligently working to extinguish the last vestiges of a major fire that had consumed 50 acres of forestland located west of Dragon Brook Road in the town of Middlebury.

At the same time, state and federal investigators were preparing to comb through the scene to determine the cause and origin of the blaze, which drew around 50 Addison County firefighters to the scene during a seven-hour stretch Tuesday afternoon into the early evening.

Middlebury Fire Chief Dave Shaw helped coordinate the assault on the blaze, which was buffeted by low humidity, a southerly wind and dry conditions. Personnel from the Middlebury, Brandon, Salisbury and Vergennes volunteer fire departments helped fight the fire. Bristol and Cornwall firefighters provided station coverage.

Shaw, during an interview Wednesday morning, said no one had been hurt by the fire and no structures were burned, which was called in by several witnesses Tuesday afternoon. Shaw rushed over to inspect the site and summoned help at 2:36 p.m.

When first apprised of the blaze, Shaw wondered if it might be related to a controlled fire that the United States Forest Service had (See *Forest fire*, Page 12A)



SAM PEISCH, MONKTON selectboard chair, and his dog, Lupin, traverse a stream near Piney Woods Road. It was significantly damaged in a July 2024 storm, which carried this culvert around 25 yards from its previous spot to where it now sits in the stream.

Independent photo/Steve James

Flood Repair

Years later, work continues in local towns

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — When heavy rainfall inundated parts of Addison County in July 2024, it didn't take long to see the damage left behind. Towns like Monkton and Starksboro were hit with several inches of rain in a matter of hours, causing substantial damage to local roads and properties.

Nearly two years later, those towns are still working to get roads repaired.

Town officials in Monkton and Starksboro highlighted progress that's been made so far, as well as various aspects of that work municipalities have had to navigate over the past two years on their own — from paying for projects to determining when and how to rebuild.

"A lot of (roads in Vermont) are sited along streams, which is really beautiful to be driving along a stream, but that also presents a lot of risks and costs," said Sam Peisch, Monkton selectboard chair. "As the climate changes and Vermont is projected to become warmer and probably (have) more rain, it raises all sorts of questions about long-term investments and sustainability, while trying to balance the rural character."

National Weather Service data from 2024 showed parts of Monkton received upwards of six inches of rain late on July 10 into the morning of July 11.

"It was significant," Peisch said of damage caused by the storm. "My own personal driveway was like totally (See *Flood relief*, Page 10A)

ACSD report details major work needed at district's schools

\$136M-\$206M in upgrades itemized

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison Central School District board on Monday buttoned up a state-mandated, five-year capital improvement plan that recommends an investment of \$136 million to \$206 million in ACSD-owned buildings to "both meet the statutory expectations of the Vermont Agency of Education and to support the long-term stewardship of public assets."

The \$70 million spread between the two numbers represents the difference between what the district and its consultant believe needs to be done to ACSD school buildings to meet the learning needs of current and projected student enrollment during the next five years, versus how those buildings would need to be upgraded if they were asked to take on more programming — perhaps as part of a pending revamp or further consolidation of Vermont's public education system.

District officials on Tuesday postponed a vote on the plan pending some minor language changes. But they realize the real work will start during the coming months, when they'll need to decide how much of the capital improvement plan they'll be able to pursue in view of taxpayer limitations, student enrollment and

a public education reform effort that appears headed to a showdown in Montpelier.

Members of the ACSD board's facilities committee, chaired by Jason Chance, acknowledged the big numbers contained in the report. They included all the numbers — not just an "economy" version — to give AOE officials a complete picture of the district's two secondary school buildings and four elementary school structures.

As committee member Ellen Whelan-Wuest put it, the nine-figure repair plans reflected in the report are "financially impossible, but it's still what the buildings need, and that's what (the AOE) asked for. It's a huge number, but that's also a product of a lot of deferred maintenance, which in part comes from funding structures or lack of capital funding for many years that has really disadvantaged our district and many other districts."

The ACSD's draft capital improvement plan can be found at tinyurl.com/mtt4kjsv, in the "4-27-26 board materials" folder.

Here are some highlights: • Middlebury Union High School's five-year capital needs are placed at \$46.5 million to \$111.1 million, with the most urgent being security upgrades — some of which have already been completed. (See *ACSD*, Page 13A)



By the way

Volunteer on May 4 & 5 to plant trees in Ferrisburgh. Organizers will be planting along a section of Little Otter Creek to prevent erosion from the farm fields on each side. We are planning to start at 9 a.m. and you can join for as long as you're able. No prior experience is needed. You'll be shown how to plant trees properly for high survival rates and streambank stabilization, and you'll be working with a professional planting crew. Organizers will bring extra shovels based on event RSVP numbers. Please bring snacks, a lunch, lots of water, a raincoat, and clothes for being outside. If you'd like to bring your own shovel, please do. RSVP at tinyurl.com/3sbnhx5e.

The Vermont Judiciary is warning the public about fraudulent text messages and social media (See *By the way*, Page 12A)

No words to describe ART play

'My Sister Heracles' picked for New England showcase

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — After a 33-year drought, an Addison County school will once again represent Vermont at the New England Drama Festival (NEDF).

Addison Repertory Theatre (ART) instructor Eric Reid-St. John had always been confident that one of his classes would earn its way back to that competitive dramatic showcase, slated for April 30-May 2 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre.

It just seemed like the odds were stacked against this year's ART class — one of the smallest and least experienced (theatrically) in recent memory.

Oh, and did we mention that the ART's entry into the show, "My Sister Heracles," was created by the student actors

"I'm not sure the students at first realized what a beautiful show they had; they were used to a certain kind of theater, and this was not that."

— ART instructor Eric Reid-St. John

themselves and uses a script with zero words?

It's testament to the students' creativity and perseverance, as well as the steadfast direction of Reid-St. John, the person who pitched the idea of a wordless show.

"In total, this class had less stage time than most students I get," he explained of the students' learning curve at the beginning of the school

year, "so I wanted them to focus on the physicality of acting. I wanted them to feel comfortable moving on stage."

That meant learning stage presence, using motion, gestures and facial expressions to convey actions and emotions.

Students first got to put those techniques into practice last fall, through a kids' show they performed for local elementary school students.

Then, during the winter, Reid-St. John took it a step further. He asked the students how they'd feel about doing a "wordless" play. It's something he'd organized in 2014 with a student troupe at Spain Park High School in Alabama. The students' original, wordless play, "Amelia the Brave," was (See *ART*, Page 9A)



ADDISON REPERTORY THEATER'S original new play, "My Sister Heracles," was selected as one of two Vermont plays to represent the state in this year's New England Drama Festival, to be staged April 30-May 2 at Rutland's Paramount Theatre. Here we see actors Bailey Antos-Ketcham (chained to a volcano) and Candace Bloom.

Independent photo/Steve James

Monkton residents are adamant in support of elementary school

By MARIN HOWELL

MONKTON — As the Mount Abraham Unified School District Board explores options for the school district's future, Monkton residents have made it clear they want their town's elementary school to remain open.

Around 135 residents attended an April 24 meeting hosted by the Monkton Save Our Schools group. The gathering was organized after an April 14 MAUSD meeting where the school board voted to commission a study of three scenarios for education delivery in the district — a couple of which would include closing Monkton Central School and New Haven's Beeman Elementary School.

During last week's meeting, Monkton

residents expressed opposition to the idea of closing MCS, underscored the important role the school plays in their community and advocated for exploring alternative ways to address challenges faced by the MAUSD without closing schools.

"It just seems like we're talking about the wrong thing when we're talking about closing schools, about having people leave communities because there's less teachers, there's less tradespeople because there's no reason to be in (town) for some people if there's not a school there, especially with young children," Monkton resident Michael Wright said. "I would like to encourage (school district officials) to put something (See *Monkton*, Page 16A)

Gearing up for Green Up!

Towns primed for annual spring cleanup

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — It all started in 1970 with an altruistic idea, a network of dedicated volunteers and trash bags.

A lot of trash bags. Fifty-six years later, Vermont's annual Green Up Day has marshalled the collective efforts of thousands of helpers statewide who've harvested more than 25 million pounds of litter and 500,000 tires from fields, ditches, culverts, forests and roadsides throughout the state.

It's a beautification tradition that begins anew this Saturday, May 2, with a fresh slate of Green Up Day activities that will see folks of all ages dutifully scour the

landscape for any carelessly discarded trash that'll be bagged for delivery to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) transfer station at 1223 Route 7 south in Middlebury.

You're invited to become involved; check out the accompanying sidebar with details on your town's Green Up Day game plan or log on to greenupvermont.org.

Emily Johnston is the ACSWMD's public outreach coordinator and is expecting an eventful 2026 Green Up Day.

Last year, those who participated in Addison County's annual spring cleaning collected a combined 9.84 tons of mixed (See *Green Up Day*, Page 13A)

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Town to acquire Shoreham Congo Church

BY JOHN FLOWERS

SHOREHAM — Three decades ago, it could be a challenge squeezing into a pew at the historic Shoreham Congregational Church for a Sunday service.

“It was often packed with families and children,” recalled Pastor Marion Paquette, who’s led the congregation for the past seven years.

“But we’re not seeing (full pews) anymore.”

Sadly, the church’s flock has diminished significantly during the past quarter century, as Shoreham’s population has steadily grayed while organized religion in the Northeast has struggled to attract younger people the way it used to.

Sunday services at the Shoreham Congregational Church (SCC) now attract only eight to 12 parishioners, ranging in age from early 70s to 96, according to Paquette.

Fewer attendees means less financial support, which means less money to keep the lights and heat on in the venerable 1847 SCC building at 28 School Road. And unlike some congregations, the SCC has no endowment to fall back on.

Faced with these realities, Shoreham Congregational leaders have made the difficult decision to convey their church building to the town of Shoreham beginning Jan. 1, 2027. The SCC will host a community meeting on Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m., to discuss the church’s impending transition and invite ideas on how the building could be used by the greater Shoreham community in its next chapter.

“We’d like to see the town take it over, so it remains a usable building. It’s beautiful and has been around for a long time. It’s in good

shape and has seen a lot of history,” Paquette said.

Erected in 1846 under the supervision of master builder Jacob Lamb, the SCC is located at the southwest corner of School and Main streets. It’s Wikipedia page credits it with being “one of the state’s finest examples of ecclesiastical Greek Revival architecture.” It is a single-story brick building, with a gabled roof and stone foundation. Its front has a tall projecting portico, with four fluted Doric columns that will soon be repainted.

An SCC partnership with the town of Shoreham makes a lot of sense, considering the long, close relationship between the religious edifice and the community.

The town already owns the clock tower that crowns the church, as well as the land on which the building is perched.

The church hosted Shoreham’s annual town meetings for more than a century, until 1956, when those gatherings were shifted to Shoreham Elementary School.

Indeed, the SCC building has proved a very versatile and beloved structure for townspeople. Along with being a place for worship and annual meetings, it has hosted weddings, funerals, a pre-school and kindergarten, celebrations, concerts, Scout troops and other youth organizations, exercise classes (Bone Builders), and countless meals — thanks to a kitchen with a commercial-grade oven.

The shrinking SCC membership has spent the past 10 years making critical repairs to the building to extend its usefulness.

“We could see the writing on the wall,” SCC Moderator and Treasurer Ginny VanHazinga said

of the flock’s ebbing flame. “We wanted to at least give the shell of the building a decent structure.”

So, through a combination of fundraising, donations, loans and the sale of some church-owned land, the SCC invested in a new church elevator, installed new flooring in the kitchen (thanks to donated lumber from Ed James Sr.) and repaired the roof. Contractors also fortified a support post that was helping to stabilize the church sanctuary.

“Our vision is, we’d like to see the town or a group of citizens take over the building as a community center,” VanHazinga said.

COMMUNITY USES

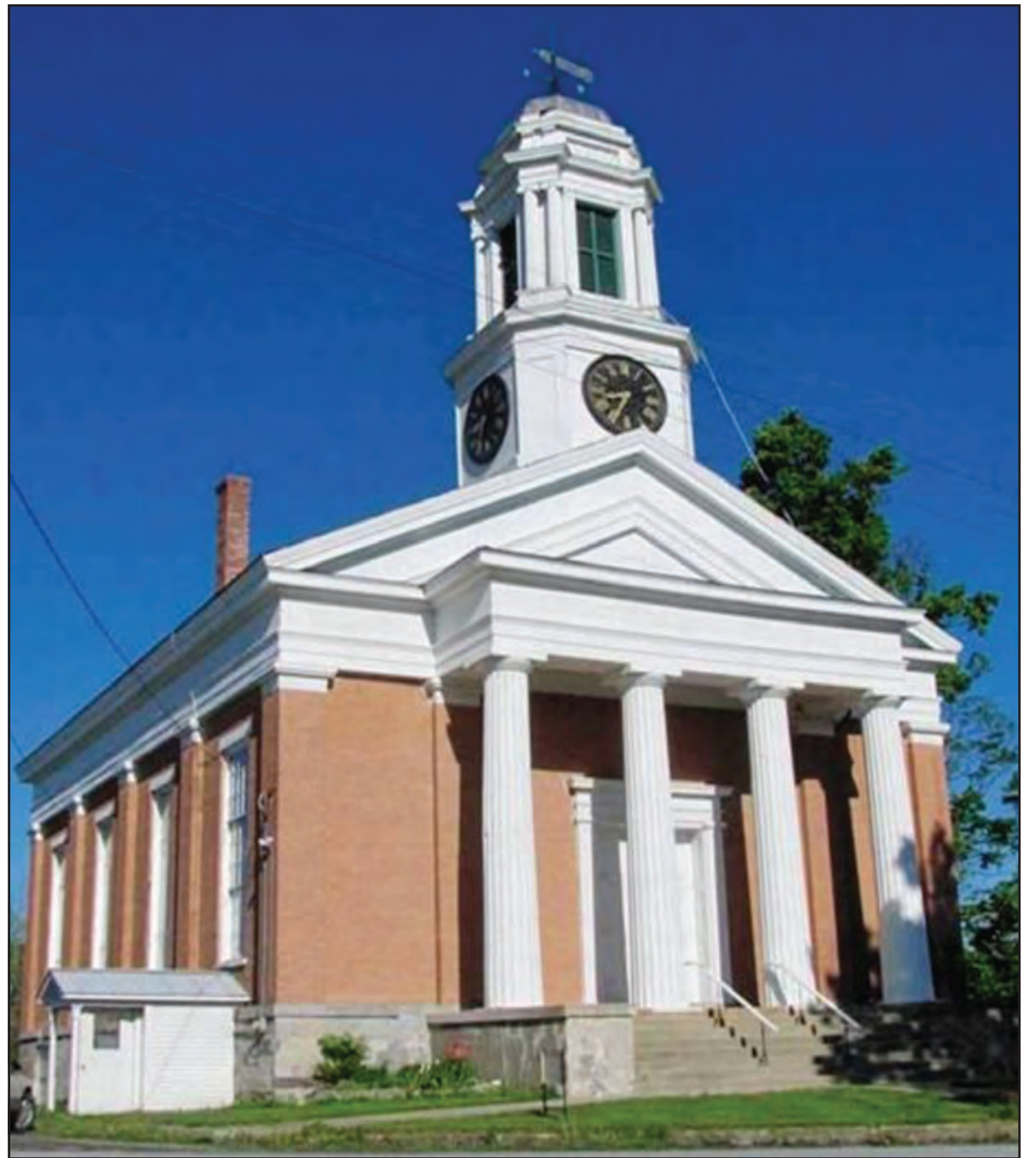
That’s a wish that dovetails with the town leaders’ vision. Shoreham selectboard Chair Steve Goodrich said the town will accept the church’s offer of the building. The selectboard is now looking into grants that could pave the way for broader community use of the structure.

“How can we build more community with this building?” Goodrich said of the main question that will be asked at the May 2 meeting.

Inheriting the Shoreham Congregational Church could set the town up with an embarrassment of real estate riches.

The town already owns the former Masonic Hall on School Road, a facility that’s hosting a growing array of Shoreham Recreation Department programs.

Right next door, at 130 School Road, is Shoreham Elementary School. The Addison Central School District board has decided to send Shoreham’s K-5 students to Bridport Central School beginning this fall. Plans call for the Shoreham Elementary building to instead host a district PreK program. If that PreK program fails to attract enough children, ACSD could decide it doesn’t need the Shoreham school. And that would trigger a clause in the district charter that would allow



THE TINY FLOCK of the Shoreham Congregational Church is asking the town to take ownership of the historic church building at 28 School Road. Independent photo/Steve James

the town to potentially reacquire Shoreham Elementary.

“The town) may end up with the whole street,” Goodrich said of the church, school and Masonic buildings.

Asked if the town of Shoreham (population 1,260) could make use of all three buildings, he quickly

answered:

“No.”

The Shoreham Church congregation isn’t alone in seeking a new life for its place of worship. In 2023, members of the Salisbury Congregational set up a nonprofit that’ll ensure the group’s magnificent, 1838 Greek Revival building at 853 Maple St. will continue to survive as a community asset.

VanHazinga and Paquette hope the SCC building will, in its new incarnation, still host Sunday services for as long as the tiny Shoreham congregation lasts. The building has proved to be too heavy a lift.

“It’s time for other people with more energy to take over,” VanHazinga said.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

For Rutland-9 seat

Brandon’s Jeff Haylon kicks off House campaign

Brandon Selectboard member Jeff Haylon announces his candidacy for State Representative for Rutland-9, which includes the Town of Brandon and the Village of Forest Dale. Haylon will be running as a Democrat.

Haylon is in his second term on the Brandon Selectboard, where he helped rebuild Brandon’s police department and craft a successful ‘26-’27 budget.

“I heard the message

Vermont voters sent in 2024,” he adds. “Vermont has become unaffordable for many. I will bring that message to Montpelier. I want Brandon and Vermont to be safe and affordable for everyone who lives here.”

Haylon’s approach has always been to listen to everyone, to respect the right to disagree, and to learn from others’ experiences.

“I will always take time to listen to all constituents and I

will always take time to respond to their concerns,” he says. “The job of a State Representative is to act as a connection between voters and Montpelier. I won’t make promises I can’t keep, but I will always be upfront and will always let my constituents know what I’m working on. Open communication is key to making the process work.”

Turning 30 this year, Haylon will also bring a younger

perspective to the position, with an eye to Brandon’s future.

“We need to keep young people here. This is my home, and I hope to start a family here myself,” he says. “I’m in it for the long haul.”

“Running for State Rep is a major decision,” he added, “but I know I can do it well. I love Brandon, and I will fight for it every day.”

For more information about the candidate visit jeffhaylon.com.

OVUUS hires two new principals, plus others

BRANDON — The Otter Valley Unified Union School (OVUUS) board at its Tuesday, April 28 meeting hired five new district employees, while bidding farewell to four workers — including two elementary school principals.

Those exiting OVUUS this June will be Neshobe Elementary School Principal Patrick Binder and Stacey Farrington, the Lothrop School’s top administrator. The board officially filled those two vacancies — and three others — at their April 28 meeting.

Binder — who grew up in Rutland City — has been working in education for three decades. He and his family lived and worked at international schools in Panama, Kazakhstan, and Guatemala from 2015-2022 before moving to Vermont, where Binder served as Otter Valley Union High School’s associate principal from 2022-2024. He then took on the Neshobe principalship.

OVUUS directors announced Shauna Lee as Binder’s successor.

Farrington — who also grew up in Rutland City — worked in various roles in Rutland County schools for around 25 years. Before joining RNESU as the home school coordinator, she worked at Mill River Union High School for 11 years with her last role being that of dean of students. Farrington was named Lothrop’s interim principal on Jan. 2, 2024, soon followed by her permanent appointment to that post.

The OV board has hired Nancy Kay to succeed Farrington.

The OV board on Tuesday also accepted the resignations of district educators Ethan Cameron and Kristin Lucas, while hiring Karyn Stannard as new Otter Valley Union High School principal, and two new educators, also for OVUUS: Whitney Nichols as a grades 7-9 Alternative Program educator, and PE teacher MaryJane Hall.




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Apr 29 - May 5

Vermont has joined 49 lawsuits against the Trump administration. What have they accomplished?

Editor's note: This story was originally published by VTDigger, a nonprofit news organization covering Vermont, and reported by Erin Petenko.

During the first Trump administration from 2017 to 2021, the Vermont attorney general's office joined in on 54 lawsuits against the federal government, according to data provided by the office.

Fifteen months into Trump's second term, the state has joined 49 lawsuits against his administration, making Vermont well on track to beat its previous total. In fact, another lawsuit was announced on Friday afternoon just as this story was being edited: Vermont joined a coalition of 14 states and local governments suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over its failure to implement standards governing soot.

Jared Carter, a Vermont Law School professor and constitutional law expert, said the rate was "unprecedented" — but he was clear that it isn't really Vermont that's acting in an unprecedented manner.

"My view is that these are a response to unprecedented actions by the federal government," he said. "The scope of what the Trump administration has attempted to do through executive action, for example, is pretty astounding."

Vermont has joined suits challenging everything from Trump's tariffs to federal workforce layoffs to the rollback of gender-affirming healthcare, cases that, if successful, could preserve tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for state programs and protect services that Vermonters rely on. But in the winding legal system, whether those early courtroom wins translate into lasting results

remains to be seen.

Attorney General Charity Clark and her office have joined in on a wide range of lawsuits generated by multistate coalitions dedicated to pushing back on Trump's allegedly illegal actions.

"Over the past fifteen months, I truly believe that state attorneys general have served as a bulwark, protecting the Constitution and the rule of law, by blocking dozens of unconstitutional and illegal acts by the Trump Administration," said Clark, who has served in the role since 2023, in a statement. Clark declined to be interviewed in the story, citing scheduling conflicts.

"The scope of what the Trump administration has attempted to do through executive action, for example, is pretty astounding."

— Jared Carter, Vermont Law School

In an email, Gov. Phil Scott's press secretary, Amanda Wheeler, said there have been instances where Scott has agreed with Clark's decision to sign onto lawsuits from other states. There have been times when the two conflicted. In 2025, Clark implied Scott had stalled electric vehicle funds stemming from a lawsuit.

"In some cases, we've seen the positive outcomes of those lawsuits which is good news for Vermont," Wheeler said.

She added, "The Governor has been clear that when it comes to the Trump Administration, he'll continue to call balls and strikes and stand up for what's in the best interest of Vermont and Vermonters."

Data from the attorney general shows that the state has joined lawsuits throughout the past 15 months, with activity peaking in mid-2025. Clark has also filed 53 amicus briefs, or "friend-of-the-court" reports arguing in favor of the plaintiffs.

That gender-affirming care lawsuit has become one of the state's most clear-cut successes: A federal judge ruled in favor of the coalition on April 18, blocking a rule that would have restricted

gender-affirming care for minors.

"This decision is a victory in our ongoing fight for bodily autonomy and the rights of transgender youth," said Clark in a statement Monday. "We will continue to fight to ensure that gender-affirming care remains safe, effective, and protected."

But according to a document provided by Amelia Vath, Clark's senior advisor, few lawsuits have had such a definitive victory. In 19 of the 49 cases, federal judges have ruled in Vermont's favor, but most of those still have the possibility of an appeal.

"In some cases, we've seen the positive outcomes of those lawsuits which is good news for Vermont."

— Amanda Wheeler

"In law, we learn never to pop the champagne bottle," Carter said. "It's always going to be an ongoing legal battle."

Yet looking at the lawsuits so far, he said he believes Vermont has a good "batting average" on the suits it's part of.

"When you see things like courts granting preliminary injunctions, what that means is a court is telling the Trump administration, 'You cannot do this,' or they're telling the Trump administration, 'You must do this,'" he said. "So a preliminary injunction is a win for a plaintiff like the state of Vermont and all the other states."

Even after a win, enforcing court orders has been a challenge with Trump, Carter said. The U.S. Department of Justice "does his bidding" to find loopholes in judicial decisions.

"I think the Trump administration has taken that" to another level "when it comes to trying to figure out ways to work around decisions of the Supreme Court," he said.

He gave the example of Trump's tariffs on imported international goods. Vermont was a part of the case in which the Supreme Court struck down the tariffs in March. Trump then immediately attempted to impose new tariffs,

leading to yet another lawsuit Vermont joined.

Only two cases have been total failures, according to the attorney general's records. One was a suit challenging the Trump administration's defunding of Planned Parenthood, which the plaintiffs withdrew in March. The other was a suit attempting to block mass layoffs of federal employees, a decision one circuit court blocked but another overturned on appeal.

Vermont has yet to take the lead on any of the cases it's joined, according to the attorney general's records. It has also joined just a small part of the more than 700 lawsuits against the Trump administration, including 84 led by state plaintiffs, according to Just Security, a law and policy journal.

According to the attorney general's records, 16 of the lawsuits explicitly mention funding for state programs or federal programs that provide services to Vermonters, such as federal food assistance, natural disaster aid and energy programs.

"Because of these lawsuits, my office has brought back tens of millions of dollars that were illegally withheld from Vermont," Clark said in her statement. "I am very proud of the hardworking and patriotic lawyers in my office and our united mission to protect Vermont and our country."

Carter said the direct financial consequences of Trump's actions mean that these lawsuits seem like a good return on investment. Even non-financial lawsuits are important, though, because they rest on principles of equity and the rule of law, he said.

"Even if you just got a preliminary injunction, and it doesn't result in money coming into the state, you still stood up on the right side of history and said, 'What's going on here is not legal,'" he said.

Carter himself has taken part in legal actions against the federal government before. He said that filing a suit against powerful figures like the president could be "intimidating," but he also found it empowering.

"Plaintiffs with strong legal arguments and conviction in their constitutional rights can be more powerful than the president," he said.

Note: This story was republished with permission from VTDigger through its Community News Sharing Project.



BEN OGDEN, WHO won two silver medals at the 2026 Olympics at the Cortina Winter Games, will be among the UVM graduation speakers.

Photo by Gretchen Powers

Ben Ogden to speak at UVM graduation

BURLINGTON — The University of Vermont has announced the speakers for its 225th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16.

UVM President Dr. Marlene Tromp will deliver the traditional address to the graduates as she presides over her first commencement since taking leadership of the university last summer.

"Commencement is one of the most amazing days of the year—a culmination of so much work on the parts of our students, faculty, and staff, and I am thrilled to celebrate with our degree recipients, their families and friends," Tromp said. "It is the launch of a new era of impact for our graduates, and we look forward to seeing all the ways that they will go out into the world and boldly make their mark."

Two-time Olympic medalist cross-country skier Ben Ogden will deliver a special guest address at the ceremony. A fourth-generation Vermonter, Ogden grew up in Landgrove, Vt. He graduated from UVM in 2022 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Ogden will be introduced by Interim Provost Linda Schadler, who was his academic advisor and dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences during his time as a student at UVM.

"I remember Ben as funny, hard-working, and fun," Schadler said.

"The way he balanced his academics with his athletic commitments was really impressive."

Ogden earned two silver medals in cross-country skiing events at the Cortina Winter Games, becoming the first Catamount to score multiple podium spots at an Olympics.

Ogden's silver in the February 10 men's sprint broke a 50-year medal drought for the national XC ski team, making him the first U.S. man to medal in any cross-country event since Vermont native Bill Koch won silver at the 1976 Winter Olympics, in Innsbruck, Austria. Eight days later, on Feb. 18, Ogden and his teammate, Gus Schumacher, earned silver in the men's cross-country team sprint.

The other featured speaker for commencement weekend will be Lewis First at the Larner College of Medicine's ceremony on Sunday, May 17. First is retiring after more than 30 years as professor and chair of UVM's Department of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatrics at Golisano Children's Hospital at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

This year's UVM Commencement will feature a format change from years past: The main ceremony will be held on the university green on Saturday, May 16, instead of the traditional Sunday. Individual school and college ceremonies will be held on campus and at the Champlain Valley Expo Center.



ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARITY Clark discusses a settlement between Vermont and 42 other states with Johnson & Johnson, a company that made baby powder with talc in it, during a press conference in Montpelier in June 2024.

File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Stores, restaurants and downtown businesses will keep doors open into the evening for extended shopping, dining and entertainment.

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Elderly Services Inc. ESI College

The Civil War as It Actually Happened, and Why Heroism Matters Today
 Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
 The Congregational Church of Middlebury

Now more than ever, Americans need to remember the Civil War as it actually happened, devoid of mythology and mollifying memory. This course examines the Civil War as Lincoln and his generation experienced it, looking at the actual causes and consequences of the deadliest conflict in American history. And based on that history, it examines what American heroism really looks like, why it matters today, and how it could impact our future — ensuring that government by the people, of the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Connor Williams teaches history at Middlebury College. He holds a Ph.D. from Yale University and an M.A. from Dartmouth College. In 2021 and 2022, he served as Lead Historian for the United States Congress' Naming Commission, ending Confederate commemorations in the military, and continues to lead public history initiatives on reconciliation.

Tar Pits: Ice Age Ecosystems Preserved in Asphalt
 Thursday, May 14, 10 - 11:30 AM
 The Congregational Church of Middlebury

The La Brea Tar Pits of Los Angeles, Calif., is a site famous for its record of Late Pleistocene megafaunal mammals preserved in naturally occurring asphalt. But, did you know that these fossil deposits contain not just dire wolves and mammoths, but also birds, fish, insects, and even pollen? We will learn about the geological and biological ingredients necessary to form a tar pit and produce their unique taphonomic (fossil preservation) conditions. We will discuss the techniques that paleontologists use to reconstruct past ecosystems and compare tar pits from around the world.

Alexis M. Mychajliw is an Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Middlebury College. She is also a Research Associate at the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum in Los Angeles. She loves small mammals and currently has 10 pet rescue rats.

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Guest editorial

Are we serious about the state's housing shortage?

By Miro Weinberger

The question hanging over the State House this session is simple: Are we serious about solving the housing shortage?

There is no doubt where Vermonters stand. Let's Build Homes (LBH) polling in February found that housing was the top issue on voters' minds, and three-quarters of them want more action from the legislature. Vermonters are very concerned about young households being pushed out of the state by housing scarcity, and 60% of Vermonters either have suffered serious housing challenges themselves or know someone who has.

There is reason to be hopeful. Communities across the state from Fairlee to South Burlington are welcoming ambitious new projects and getting them done, total production is up significantly over the last decade, and for three consecutive years, the Legislature has passed major housing bills. This includes last spring's passage of the Community Housing Infrastructure Program, potentially the most transformative infrastructure investment in Vermont's history.

However, this battle is far from won. We are producing only about half of the state's housing targets. Housing prices remain at or near historic highs. And Vermont's demographic crisis deepens every year, putting immense strain on our education and health care systems.

Worse, two years into Vermont's effort to reform Act 250, without major corrections this session, 2026 will become a year of major housing setbacks.

Here is an ambitious but realistic four-pillar strategy for the remainder of the session that would keep our housing momentum growing:

- **Repeat the New Rules that Will Make the Shortage Worse**

We are in today's housing shortage because for 50 years we have layered restrictive rules on top of each other, making Vermont a very difficult place to build homes. Now, Act 181 is on the verge of doing it again.

A first-of-its-kind geospatial analysis from LBH, <https://letsbuildhomes.org/reports/act-181-exemption-analysis/>, shows that since 2021 60% of Vermont's housing growth occurred *outside* the state's new housing growth areas, much of it built one house at a time. Without immediate action, new rules taking effect later this year will subject many of these small-scale developments to the substantial costs and uncertainty of Act 250 for the first time.

This burden will fall hardest on lower- and middle-income families, those with the least capacity to absorb the legal fees and expert studies Vermont's Act 250 structure demands. To avoid this, before adjourning the legislature must repeal the road rule, and substantially narrow — or repeal — Tier 3 as well. (*Editor's note: both are on track to be repealed.*)

- **Expand and Empower Housing Growth Areas**

Act 181 established an important framework for directing housing growth, but after nearly two years of implementation, it is clear the maps are being drawn too narrowly (and often overruling the growth plans of towns and Regional Planning Commissions) and amendments are too slow and difficult to make.

To get these maps right, the legislature must fix the implementation issues, create a presumption of approval for growth area expansions sought by towns until housing targets are met, and extend the bill's interim housing areas through 2030.

Finally, LBH's geospatial analysis makes it clear that Act 250 exemptions alone are very unlikely to be enough to meet the state's goals for these housing growth areas. The Legislature should also exempt housing construction from state sales taxes on construction materials and remove the cap on downtown and village tax credits.

- **Move from "Discretionary" to "By-Right" Housing**

In most of Vermont, building homes requires a discretionary permit, meaning a project can comply with every quantitative rule and still be blocked by a single neighbor or board making subjective judgments. If housing is truly a human right, there must be a right to build in housing growth areas. Two new "by-right" initiatives should be advanced this session — the Governor's 802 Homes program of pre-approved prototypes, and LBH's ROOT Zones concept.

- **Keep Investing in What Works**

Dedicated state investment in affordable housing is producing real results. Now is not the time to cut and retreat. We must maintain the momentum of our successful programs and continue building on what works.

The clock is running out. With less than a few weeks left in the session, every day of delay is a day that more young Vermonters consider leaving, workers who could fill critical jobs have nowhere to live, and families get outbid on a home by a wealthy person purchasing a second home.

The Legislature faces a clear choice: allow red tape to tighten its grip and watch the housing shortage grow worse or take steps to ensure every Vermonter has a place to call home.

Vermonters are waiting for an answer.

Note: Miro Weinberger is the Executive Chair of Let's Build Homes, a former affordable housing developer, and a former mayor of Burlington from 2012-2024.



A home fit for fairies

ZAHAVI VISCO, 10, and his sister Xenia, 5, use materials found in nature to build a fairy house during an event on the Bristol Trail Network this past Saturday. The fairy house program has been organized by Ella Szczepanski, a UVM student interning with the trail network, and is aimed at getting youth out on the trails and connecting with the natural world.

Independent photo/Steve James

Let's talk 'snow eggs' and vaccines

By LAURIE COX

Driving on Route 125 between Middlebury and Ripton, I see the snow eggs hanging onto the rocky face as I pass through the gorge. It's been warmer, and yet their remnants seem determined to keep their hold. Of course, we just got a bit more snow, so I guess they remain for a reason.

What are snow eggs, you might ask? It was not a term I knew until the mountains became my home. They are those last bits of snow and ice, clinging to winter even as we think we are fully in spring. The idea is that as long as they are around, there is still the possibility of snow. I may hope they are not going to "hatch," but the weather doesn't care about my hope.

We share sightings of robins and daffodils as the days warm and lengthen, those traditional harbingers of spring. Snow eggs are somehow the opposite. You think you are moving in one direction, and yet, there they are, just waiting to pull you back.

Ah, you may say, those snow eggs do not actually cause the snow, and you would be correct. As human beings, we often confuse causation with correlation. It is called causal fallacy. Those snow eggs remain because we are still at the edge of colder weather and they are in an area of shade. The weather may cause them, but they do not in turn cause the weather. It has taken vast years of scientific observation and discovery to tease apart those things that, while connected by time or circumstance, are not necessarily caused one by the other.

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



The willingness to hold to causal fallacy goes back to our early life as a people. If a powerful hurricane hits right after a new family arrives in town, could it be their presence that made that happen? Highly unlikely, we now can say, because we have an understanding of how hurricanes develop, through years of study and research. However, if many people in a village get sick after the arrival of a new family, that might indeed be causal. This happened to indigenous communities in the Americas when the Europeans came, as they unwittingly or wittingly introduced new germs for which the native peoples had no immunity.

Many of us have experienced a situation where, after eating a certain food, we became ill. Even if we later realized that the illness had a different source, we tend to be wary of that particular food. It is essentially a protective reaction, but one that can lead us astray.

I read about the recurrence of measles in our country — a serious disease that was essentially eradicated after the development of the MMR vaccine. Because some children were diagnosed with autism around the same age as receiving their immunizations, the cause of their autism came into question. Unfortunately, in 1998 a disreputable doctor in the U.K. was paid to publish a fraudulent paper claiming the vaccine caused the children's autism.

In spite of this doctor being soundly discredited, and losing his license to practice medicine, people (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

A rallying call for Green Up Day

By Kate Alberghini

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 2. Vermont roadsides are sure in need of a clean-up. As we pay closer attention to our roadsides it is definitely discouraging how much litter there is to clean up — especially when those cleaning are not the ones who put it there in the first place.

I do get asked every year "what can we do to prevent this littering from happening again?" and believe me I wish I had the solution. Changing a behavior on a large scale is a challenge but beyond Green Up Day we work 364 to share that message with many different age groups. Vermont also gets many visitors that are beyond our message reach, but it is something we will continue to work on. In the moment, we simply must clean up the trash to protect the health of our natural environment.

Our businesses, major tourism economy, property values and our health are all connected to our environment and the Green Up tradition has proven crucial to our success. Vermonters take pride in that mindset. We encourage everyone to get outside and spend an hour or two giving back to your community

by Greening Up.

In 2025, 97.5% of all Vermont town and city roads were cleaned. That's over 12,600 miles. If we each grab a friend or family member or clean an extra half mile — and be sure to report it to your town — we can easily achieve 100%. Green Up Vermont, along with other great Vermont companies, promote fun contests to help encourage people to get involved and to make cleaning up trash fun.

The Golden Gloves Contests will provide four winners with Vermont Glove gloves. Then celebrate the good work after at one of our Kentucky Derby hat contest celebrations throughout the state. Contestants build their hats (at home) out of repurposed, recycled materials to creatively show other uses for waste. Prizes highlight many favorite Vermont companies. Locations and details for both contests can be found on our website, greenupvermont.org.

We hope to have record numbers again on Green Up Day. Find your town details on Greenupvermont.org and together, let's make Vermont shine.

Note: Kate Alberghini is the executive director of Green Up Vermont.

Letters to the Editor

Transportation a real barrier

Families without access to reliable transportation cannot easily access early care and education programs. Unlike the K-12 grades, preschool does not have a bus system, and is much more difficult to access, especially for rural families or families without reliable vehicles.

The first five years of a child's life are crucial for their development. During this time, they learn to walk and talk, socialize, cooperate, share, and have fun. Children thrive on predictability and routine, and the implications of missing a day, a week, even months of early care and education programming can jeopardize their growth, says Doumina Noonan, the Specialized Child Care Coordinator at the Addison County Parent Child Center (ACPC) in Middlebury.

Research backs this up. Children who miss more preschool have lower math, literacy, and social-emotional development skills than their peers, and these effects last well into elementary school (Ehrlich et al. — that is, scholarly research.)

Some may suggest a bus system similar to the K-12 years, or reliance on public transportation for help. However, our community already has an existing solution for some families without transport. The ACPC provides wraparound supports for young children and families, and its vans provide personalized, consistent transportation for families who are unhoused, unable to access or drive a car, or living in rural areas.

"The van ride is really about the kids, it's the start of their day and the end of the day in childcare," says Becky Watters of the ACPC. "[Buses] aren't individually oriented, and for families who are living in crisis or living in generational poverty, it sometimes feels like things are being done to them, as opposed to done for them."

Although the ACPC vans are a solution, the demand for them is higher than the availability. The ACPC vans are nearly always full, and there is next to no wiggle room for children who need one suddenly or inconsistently. It is our responsibility as a community to fix transportation barriers to early care and education.

Toby Baker-Rouse
Middlebury

Hospital visit was reassuring

I have just returned home from eight days at UVM Medical Center. My experience was very positive — doctors, nurses, and other staff were knowledgeable, thoughtful and caring. I want the people in Vermont to be reassured that we have an excellent health network system. How lucky we are.

Catherine Nagy
Middlebury

Energy project raises concerns

I wanted to say thank you for running the piece on the energy project proposed to be installed in Vergennes. I found the story fairly well balanced and appreciated there was validation that the information contained in the pamphlet on possible impacts was deemed factual.

As a 60-year-old grandmother of four who works full-time and is restoring a 1798 brick farmhouse and managing the finances of a construction company in my spare time, I am doing my best to research what this proposal means. I do not want to instill fear: I want Vergennes citizens to be well informed (\$248 processes bypass local public processes for the most part) and support what makes the most sense for a city rooted in Vermont history and beauty.

I was mildly frustrated with the fact that sources were cited whose sole job it is to promote these types of initiatives while my voice (See *Hathaway letter*, Page 4A)

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Letters to the Editor

The value of local schools can't be overestimated

How do you determine the value of a school? How do you quantify its successes or its costs? How do you measure what a school delivers to its local community?

Of course, education in Vermont is expensive and becoming more so. It's reflected in our property tax bill increases each year and the regular struggle to pass the school district budget. But I reject the idea that just because something is expensive, it deserves to be cancelled, closed or merged.

"By the time my kid's old enough to go, our town won't even have a high school anymore," someone from a neighboring town confidently said to me. I'd heard similar things from other folks

about their small local elementary schools — the inevitability of a closure — and now we see the conversation happening in Monkton, and I wonder when it might come to my town.

What if we measured the value of a school based on what would be lost if it closed? The community, the relationships, the belonging you feel when you've spent six years growing and learning in one building?

And what about the increased travel time to the new school if we added up the hours for each student, parent, bus driver. The increased safety risks and climate impacts each day of more people on the roads traveling further than

before. Aren't those costs?

And what if five or ten years from now we've achieved our goals of building more housing in our communities and turning the tide of our aging state towards one flush with young families — but the local schools have closed. What then?

The financial side of this matters. We must look at shared services and find ways to attack the real cost drivers (such as health insurance) that are pushing school budgets up. But let's not catastrophize and capitulate. Let's not lose the magic and character of our small local schools.

Ariel Bolles Ferrisburgh

The Devine Leader's gibberish is concerning

Headlines are rewritten hourly overnight, every night. Professional journalists should find tracking a story frustrating, if not futile. Quoting the White House source, the Devine Leader himself, is like an information lottery. There's the evening truth

and the late-night truth, followed by the morning truth, each one disconnected from, or ignoring, the preceding "truth."

Gibberish is either a mental condition or a bizarre strategy that delays scandal and indictment. Otherwise, why would he

deliberately appear deranged? As the impulsivity grows worse, weird is replaced by unhinged. Should he feel disrespected, nukes could be dropped on Cuba or Hawaii, not to mention Greenland.

Alec Lyall Middlebury

A fifth-grader's perspective on the impacts of war

I am writing to express my opinion about the impact of war on the environment. As a student at Mary Hogan Elementary School, I believe it is important to consider the environment, especially since the U.S is currently at war.

I think that war is a big issue for many reasons. One of those reasons is because it causes a lot of pollution. Depleted uranium and other toxins from bombs pollute the air, and run-off (chemicals that are bad for the

environment) get into the water and might make people sick if they drink it. Did you know that at least 237 million tons of CO2 were generated as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine? Depleted uranium is another concern. Depleted uranium is radioactive, and twice as dense as lead. There are bullets made with depleted uranium, and it is carcinogenic. During the 1991 Gulf War, the U.S. bombed Iraq with 340 tons of depleted uranium, which raised the cancer

rates in Iraq. All of this is a concern because it not only affects humans, but animals and plants as well.

I hope this letter raises awareness about the environment during war. It is time for our military to realize what their impact is on society and the environment and do something about that.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Hugo Long Grade 5, Mary Hogan School

Hathaway letter

(Continued from Page 4A) was the only one represented among the hundreds of individuals who have raised concerns over this project.

I am doing my best to have my comments rooted in facts, though I am no expert. One thing that stands out to me, however, are the statements about safety. We need to look no further back than last month at the Williston school bus fires to understand that lithium-ion batteries bring risk.

And no, people do not worry about gas stations imploding

because they have a long history of not doing so. And no, this project is not like an "electric vehicle" being parked. This is five tractor-trailer sized structures filled with "electric vehicle" batteries. And there is a documented history of tragedy. And, while I appreciate there is earnest effort in improving safety, I point you to these four BESS projects — all constructed after 2020 and all that resulted in peril:

- Peoria, Ariz. (installed in 2021)
- Boulder City, Nev. (installed

in 2022)

- Otay Mesa, Calif. (installed in 2020)
- Warwick, N.Y. (installed in 2023)

As a Vermont fire marshal recently said to me: "these projects are low risk but high hazard."

I ask, if you were in my shoes, would you build a home for your grandbabies less than 100 feet from this? Would you like to live a stone's throw from the facility?

Carrie Hathaway Waterbury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) continue to hold onto his lies all these years later. Currently, about a quarter of adults in the U.S. believe that the link between vaccines and autism is true. It is a sort of magical thinking which gets in the way of the knowledge that would otherwise come about through study, research, and scientific method. And, since there has been no other scientifically determined cause for autism, it remains for many a plausible explanation.

It is also the result, perhaps, of people willingly believing a lie if they hear it repeated often enough.

For all our education, for all our potential sources of accurate information, we often turn to that which requires the least thought: the superstition, the "old wives tale," the whispered suggestion, the blatant lie. It's essentially a comforting, albeit lazy way to resolve the unexplained events and the fears that arise in our world and in our lives.

Those snow eggs might not really convince anyone that we will be getting more snow, but there can be serious consequences resulting from our tendency to grasp at causal fallacies. People get sick, get life-long disabilities, and even die when not receiving scientifically validated, preventative health care

such as vaccines. That can have serious consequences for all of us.

Even though I might decide to hold off changing to my summer tires until the last snow egg has dripped into the ditch, I would never delay getting a necessary, empirically proven vaccine. The vaccine protects both me and those around me (sort of like my snow tires have done this winter).

Over three-thousand years of history, hundreds of millions of

people died from the disease known as smallpox. In 1796, Edward Jenner developed a smallpox vaccine. Before the advent of the smallpox vaccine, one out of every three people who came down with smallpox died. Those who survived were usually left with unsightly pockmarks all over their bodies. Thankfully, a worldwide campaign of vaccination was successful in eliminating smallpox by 1980. Vaccines work. They save lives.

Teamwork, or 'falling in line'?

On Jan. 6, 2026, the first day of the legislative session, Gov. Scott said we have "an opportunity and responsibility to lead by example," emphasizing collaboration over "hyper-partisan activism and political division." He called for putting "people ahead of partisanship, solutions ahead of slogans, and decency over divisions."



Legislative Review
By Rep. Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee

The very next day, in his State of the State address, the Governor drew a firm line: He would not sign a budget, education bill, or tax bill that deviates from Act 73, the education transformation bill passed last year.

Taken together, these statements raise a fair question: What does "working together" actually mean? Is it collaboration — or compliance?

A similar contrast appears in the Governor's approach to Act 181 vs. Act 73. Regarding Act

181, our Act 250 modernization law, the Governor highlighted concerns about the "road rule" and Tier 3 protections and urged the legislature to listen to Vermonters. Lawmakers did just that, heard the concerns, and are now adjusting the policy accordingly.

But his response to Act 73 tells a different story. A redistricting task force conducted extensive public engagement, hearing from more than 5,000 Vermonters — parents, educators, school boards, and community members. The message was clear: there is strong opposition to forced school district

mergers. In response, the task force proposed an alternative — shared services to reduce costs without mandating consolidation.

The Governor's reaction was to say the task force failed.

That contrast is hard to ignore. When public input aligns with

the Governor's position, it's a call to listen. When it doesn't, it's dismissed. Vermonters deserve better than this.

The same pattern shows up in the current budget debate. The Governor has proposed using \$105 million in one-time funds to lower education property taxes in FY27. But that creates a \$105 million gap the following year, with no clear plan to fill it — either through higher property taxes or cuts to essential services like public safety, Medicaid, mental health, housing, infrastructure, or water quality.

The House took a more gradual approach, spreading those funds over two years to avoid a sudden fiscal cliff. That's a more sustainable path, and one that acknowledges the realities of FY28.

Meanwhile, the House-passed budget aligns with over 99% of the Governor's original proposal. It also uses limited one-time funds to support critical programs Vermonters rely on — Meals on Wheels, mental health services, (See Scheu, Page 7A)

Conservation is common ground

By **ABBY WHITE, KATE WANNER, LAUREN OATES**
It's a spring ritual in Vermont to reconnect with the land, as friends head out on their first hike, farmers ready their fields for planting, and families search for their first wildflowers.

This year, though, that spring foray into the outside world will be more than just a chance to get our boots dirty. It will also be a timely reminder of the direct value of our working and natural lands — and the important work done to protect them.

Vermonters are hunters, birders, hikers, paddlers, farmers, loggers, and more. And when it comes to balancing how we care for and use our natural resources, Vermonters have long prided ourselves on being able to find common ground.

Today, that spirit is being tested. Recent debates have raised important questions about how our state should adjust regulations to encourage more housing as well as to protect our natural resources. These issues affect all of us, and they need to be addressed thoughtfully, together. Amidst this

debate, let's remember our shared values and respect for balance. Vermonters need affordable homes and open spaces; vibrant downtowns and clean water; livable wages and healthy forests, to name a few.

For people who live, work, and depend upon the land, the choice to conserve creates real and lasting benefits. We see this every day in every corner of the state through the work of our organizations. Conservation has helped families continue to own the land they love, (See Conservation, Page 7A)

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Spring 2026 Community Education Series

May 6:
"You Are Not Alone"
Caring for an aging loved one with memory loss: signs, symptoms and strategies
Presented by: Eileen Lawson, Geriatric Social Worker, Elderly Services, Center for Positive Aging
Wednesday, May 6, 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

May 13:
Alzheimer's and Dementia: Signs and Symptoms
Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. Come to this program to learn more about how to identify and respond to these warning signs.
Presented by: Jordan Cotto, Vermont Chapter/ Alzheimer's Association
Wednesday, May 13, 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

May 20:
Driving and Aging - Challenges and Strategies
What happens if you or a loved one can no longer drive? Join us for an informative session on the challenges older drivers face in Vermont. Learn about the Yellow Dot Program, a statewide initiative that gives first responders quick access to important medical information during a crash or emergency. Discover helpful tips on staying independent, safe, and mobile behind the wheel. We'll also cover how to approach the difficult conversation about driving retirement and start planning for the future.
Presented by: Julia Sarrasin and Emily Fredette, Vermont Department of Health
Wednesday, May 20, 4:00-5:30 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To RSVP or learn more, call Susan Bruce at Elderly Services:
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Letters to the editor
Can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 7A and 15A.

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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Stephen Alan Butterfield, 77, formerly of Middlebury

BANGOR, Maine — Dr. Stephen Alan Butterfield, 77, affectionately known as “Dr. B,” passed peacefully April 9, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Sept. 10, 1948, in Middlebury, Vt., the son of Stewart E. and Mary E. (Coursey) Butterfield.

Stephen grew up in Middlebury with his parents, Stewart and Mary, and his sister, Nancy. He attended Middlebury Union High School and excelled as a student-athlete, leading the varsity baseball and football teams. He was later inducted into the MUHS Hall of Fame.

Stephen received a B.S. from Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he met the love of his life, Jeanne. His athletic success continued at Springfield as a member of the football team and captain of the lacrosse team. He attained his M.Ed. from Keene State and Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Professor Emeritus of Education and Special Education, Stephen was chair of the Department of Exercise, Sports Science and STEM Education at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. An active researcher, Stephen authored or co-authored 62 articles and 30 abstracts, and his research teams have presented 37 papers at national and international conferences. He was invited to present two keynote lectures at the International Conference of Enhancement of Motor Skills and Physical Activity in Jyväskylä, Finland, and was invited by Beijing Sport University to participate in a national study related to motor proficiency of Chinese children with intellectual disabilities. He was a 33-year member of the Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (Maine AHPERD), where he served as president and journal editor-in-chief. Stephen received many awards, including the Maine AHPERD Honor Award for Distinguished Leadership, Maine AHPERD’s Worthy of Highest Praise Award, and a SHAPE American Eastern District Association Merit Award for Physical Education. He was elected a SHAPE America research fellow and a fellow of the North American Society of HPERSD Professionals. His research team received the John Nash Award for



STEPHEN ALAN BUTTERFIELD

Best Multidisciplinary Abstract at the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians Symposium. At the 2012 AHPERD national convention in Boston, Stephen received the prestigious Alliance Honor Award. Closer to home, he received the All-Maine Women’s Honor Society Distinguished Mentor Award.

Stephen was a passionate advocate for people with disabilities. He leveraged his research and membership on the Governor’s Council of Physical Fitness, Sports & Wellness to influence public policy and authored Maine’s teaching endorsement in Adapted Physical Education. Additionally, Stephen established the National Youth Sports Program in Maine, bringing high-quality sports instruction, education, health services and nutrition to low-income families and underserved communities.

Stephen was quietly most proud of his teaching tenure in his early career at the Vermont State School for the Deaf. There, he assumed the head basketball coaching role and was advised by the headmaster that “a winning program didn’t much matter here.” Being of a different mindset and fluent in American Sign Language, he coached the team to a school-record-breaking 14-6 season against mainstream Vermont high schools and took the team all the way to the state quarterfinals.

Stephen taught at the University of Maine for 32 years. A Black Bear through and through, he considered his colleagues his extended family and was grateful to teach among such esteemed faculty. He adored

his students, who often returned to campus to share their professional journeys and new family lives. A special thank you to Diane Legrande for her years of support, friendly banter and ensuring the department ran smoothly.

A baseball junkie and lifelong New York Yankees fan, Stephen spent countless spring breaks in Tampa with his cousin, Micky, to take in the sun and watch Yankees Spring Training. Anyone wearing a Yankees cap was his invitation to chat about the players, the season, and the franchise’s history. Stephen was perhaps even more fanatical about Ohio State football, passionately watching every game and even tracking the top high school prospects with his son Jason to make sure the “pipeline remained solid.”

Stephen served in the Army National Guard as a tank operator and military historian.

He loved life’s simple pleasures, like country drives, neighborhood walks, 1970s television reruns, 1950s doo-wop and college football.

Stephen loved his family greatly. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; his daughter, Sarah Butterfield Clapp of Hamilton, Mass.; sons, Jason Butterfield and his wife, Brandi, of Brewer, Maine, and Scott Butterfield and his wife, Marie, of Southborough, Mass.; and his cherished grandchildren, Charlie, Emma, Benjamin, Madeline and Juliet, who will miss their “Bub.” In addition to his parents, Stephen was predeceased by his son-in-law, Charles Richard Clapp II.

The family extends its deepest gratitude to the medical staff at St. Joseph Hospital for their exceptional care, kindness and compassion. We are forever grateful.

Relative and friends were invited to a celebration of life held on Sunday, April 26, from 1-3 p.m., at the University of Maine’s Buchanan Alumni House, 160 College Ave., Orono. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dr. Stephen A. and Jeanne A. Butterfield Scholarship Fund, University of Maine Foundation, 2 Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469-5792. Graveside services will be private. Condolences to the family may be expressed at BrookingsSmith.com. ◇

Jane Grace of Addison

ADDISON — Jane Grace passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 22, 2026, in Vergennes, Vt. A fixture in the Town of Addison and the surrounding community for more than 60 years, Jane devoted herself to public service and family.

Jane served as Town Clerk of Addison for over 40 years, retiring amid a grand celebration attended by friends, family, and colleagues. She also served as a dispatcher for the Addison Fire Department and Town Line First Response for more than 25 years.

Jane loved her animals: dogs, cats, and especially her horses, only occasionally the sheep, but the chickens not so much. She



JANE GRACE

took great joy in her flower and vegetable gardens. She loved

attending car shows, and cruising with her Chester High School sweetheart and husband, Phil. Ever present for her family, she supported them with steadfast love and heartfelt advice.

Jane is survived by her husband of 62 years, Phil Grace; her brothers, Tim (Jean) Butler, and Jeff (Abby) Butler; her sons Michael (Margo) Grace of Waltham, Vt., and Christopher (Natalie) Grace of Windham, N.H.; and her granddaughters Julie (Ethan Rice) Grace of Addison, Vt., and Bash Grace of Windham, N.H.

There will be a private burial. Jane’s celebration of life will be May 20, from 4-7 p.m., at the Addison Fire Department. ◇

Spring’s Late Riser: The Meadow Jumping Mouse

By LOREN MERRILL

Spring is often portrayed as the season of rebirth, and for many organisms it is. But spring is also the season of reawakening for species that spend the winter in some form of hibernation or reduced metabolic activity.

We have reached the point in our annual commute around the sun when the increased daylight and temperature act as a physiological alarm, rousing organisms from slumber. Some species are, like teenagers on a Saturday morning, harder to rouse, stirring from their sleep only when the calendar approaches mid-spring.

The meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius*) is, for a mammal, an especially late riser. In the Northeast, they remain in hibernation until late April or May. In 1951, researcher Don Quimby documented that they were the last mammalian hibernators to emerge in his study area in Minnesota, outsleeping other species by an average of three or more weeks.

These 10-to-30-gram mammals spend an astonishing six to eight months hibernating in insulated underground chambers that can be anywhere from a few inches to three feet below the surface. Most of the fall and winter is thus passed in a state of deep sleep, characterized by dramatically reduced body temperature, slowed respiration and heart rate, and consequently little metabolic activity.

Studies show that hibernating jumping mice occasionally rouse from deep sleep, though they do not feed during these bouts. Meadow jumping mice rarely emerge from their hibernacula prior to springtime emergence, and they do not create winter larders. Instead, they subsist entirely off

fat stores they build up in the few weeks before entering hibernation in September or October. Mice that do not accumulate enough reserves die during the winter, and some studies indicate that rates of mortality during hibernation can be as high as 75 percent.

Meadow jumping mice begin preparing for hibernation based on changes in photoperiod (day length), and, to a lesser extent, changes in air temperature. The decrease in photoperiod approaching the fall equinox kickstarts the physiological changes associated with hibernation, and temperature regulates feeding rate; the colder it is, the more they eat.

Their emergence from hibernation is likely most strongly tied to increasing air temperature; hibernating mice are presumably shielded from lighting cues in their underground chambers. This notion is supported by Quimby’s trapping data showing that variation between years in emergence date was associated with other temperature-linked phenological phenomena like leaf break and flower bud development.

Once the temperature of their hibernating chamber reaches some threshold, the mice initiate springtime arousal and bring their bodies back to normal operating speed. They then venture to the surface and turn their attention to making the next generation of meadow jumping mice. Males emerge first, usually 10 to 14 days before females, and head out to replenish their energy reserves and prepare for the appearance of females. Researchers have found that female meadow jumping

mice become pregnant within a few days of their emergence, so males have a strong incentive not to sleep in too long.

Meadow jumping mice are aptly named; they are excellent jumpers and are most often found in moist meadows. They have greatly enlarged hind limbs, a kangaroo-like stance, and they typically leap or jump instead

of scurry. They can jump more than 3 feet in a single bound. For an animal with a 3-inch body, this represents a distance 12 times its body length — the equivalent of a 6-foot-tall person jumping a Superman-like 72 feet. Most of the time, however, these rodents hop only a few inches. They also move on all four limbs, especially when in thick vegetation, and are adept at climbing tall stalks of grass and other short vegetation.

The range of the meadow jumping mouse in the Northeast overlaps with that of its relative, the woodland jumping mouse, but the two species tend to stick to their namesake ecological niches. Meadow jumping mice eat seeds, nuts, berries, leaves, invertebrates, and fungi, and while they are present in appropriate habitat throughout the Northeast, they are rarely seen due to their nocturnal and secretive habits.

As we enter their season of wakefulness, be on alert for these small hoppers in open habitats; you may catch a glimpse of them in your car headlights, or the beam of your flashlight as they bound away towards cover.

Loren Merrill is a science writer and photographer with a PhD in ecology. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

The Outside Story



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Cassandra Reyes Richard memorial service

VERGENNES — A memorial service for Cassandra Reyes Richard, 70, of Vergennes, will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at the First Congregational Church in Vergennes on South Water Street. Richard passed away in early February, but the family waited until spring — her favorite season, when the world returns to color and new life begins — to hold her service.

Burial and a reception will follow at the First Congregational Church. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Cassandra’s life. ◇



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Singing in peaceful resistance

ICE Out Vt. Alliance to mobilize in St. Albans May 8

By LIZA COCHRAN

“Stay busy with beauty as well as outrage.”

That’s how Anaïs Mitchell answered a question I posed to her recently about the power of song to nurture social change.

“I remember going to demonstrations when I was young and noticing how expressions of beauty spoke just as loudly as expressions of outrage,” Mitchell said. “Both are valid, but music and art have a way of saying ‘Listen, look, it could be like this instead!’ That’s been a life lesson of sorts.”

For Mitchell, a renowned musician and playwright, song has been woven into her sense of justice since childhood. But for me, well... I’m a latecomer to this party.

The first time I experienced song as a form of resistance was last spring, on a bright, brisk day outside Burlington’s federal courthouse. A couple hundred of us were gathered there for Mohsen Mahdawi’s hearing. Two weeks earlier, Mahdawi, a peace activist and permanent resident of White River Junction, had arrived for his citizenship exam in Colchester only to be arrested by masked agents. Since then, ICE had been holding him in a cell at the Northwest State Correctional Facility in St. Albans. He was never charged with a crime.

At the court house on Elmwood Ave., we stood in a loose cluster around the front entrance, awaiting the judge’s decision. Leaders from an alliance of nonprofits and student groups spoke on behalf of Mahdawi. Posters and banners and Palestinian flags danced above the scrub. The April sunshine felt glorious (it always does in Vermont), but unease stirred through the crowd. Inside, we knew a federal judge was deliberating.

The decision he was set to hand down that day seemed like a bellwether for the country. Were we really going to allow masked thugs to snatch our peaceful neighbors off the street and shove them into unmarked cars? Was this who we had become?

Enter Joanna Colwell and Grace Oedel, two local song leaders. As the speakers finished their remarks and the breeze picked up, it would have been easy for the crowd to deflate, for people to grow tired of waiting for who knows how long. But Colwell and Oedel began to fill the space with song, teaching us through call-and-response a bevy of tunes — some old, some newly written for this moment of state-sanctioned violence.

As we sang, our nerves metamorphosed. Regardless of the day’s outcome, there was a feeling of something being created that could not be taken away. And that something was fellowship—all of us there together, held in the common cadence of song. Thanks to Colwell and Oedel’s invitation, we had created what Oedel recently referred to as a “pop-up community” sung into being.

I’d been part of plenty of protests before, when chants and songs were yelled amongst marchers. But this felt different. We were singing to the courthouse, hoping that those inside, maybe even Mahdawi himself, could hear us. And the message we were imparting was one of hope and love.

This was the first time I met Colwell and Oedel, women whom I now know as friends. All these months later, what stands out to me still is their luminous faces. As they sang amidst the darkness that had brought us together, and amidst the stakes that felt so very high that day, they smiled. And we

smiled back.

SONG AS ANTIDOTE

“It’s really dramatic how in a tense situation, a song completely transforms the environment,” Colwell reflected recently, “including our inner environment.” Even in the throes of chaos, or police presence, or imminent arrest, as soon as someone starts singing, everything changes. “Before long, everyone is singing,” she explained. “And then we’re all breathing together.”

Singing calms our nervous systems. And that calm travels outward like the ripples of a de-escalation stone tossed into the center of a pond—or protest. For this reason alone, it’s no wonder that song has always been a part of social movements: from Civil Rights anthems to anti-war hymns; from the student-led Otpor Resistance in Serbia to the singing revolution of the Baltic States. Songs keep the calm.

They also help us to carry on.

After Renee Good and Alex Pretti were killed, when thousands of immigrant families in Minnesota hid in their homes, a new chorus of the age-old singing resistance rose up—from the ebullient “It’s Okay to Change Your Mind” sung to ICE agents to the solemn “Hold On” sung to locked-down neighbors (you can learn about the song’s Vermont roots on Rumble Strip). In recent months, the movement has swelled into a massive nation-wide ensemble. Singing Resistance is “building a mass movement of singers to protect and care for our communities in the face of rising authoritarianism,” the coalition explains. “We sing because song is an antidote to fear.”

And here lies the movement’s sustaining power—to “sing not (See Cochran, Page 8A)

Medicaid cuts will hurt schools

By KATRINA MENARD, Public Assets Institute

Last July, Congress cut Medicaid by nearly \$1 trillion over a decade as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Over 150,000 Vermonters — including 60,000 children — receive health insurance through Medicaid. Up to 10% of adults could lose health coverage due to changes in eligibility and enrollment requirements, and kids may also lose coverage.

For Vermont’s schools and students, reduced Medicaid payments could mean budget shortfalls.

Under federal law, states may receive reimbursements for certain health care services provided to students with Medicaid and for related administrative costs. Medicaid is the fourth-largest funding stream for public schools, providing over \$7.5 billion nationally each year.

Each state has its own requirements for what services receive reimbursements and who is eligible. In Vermont, schools receive reimbursements for certain health care services for students enrolled in both Medicaid and an Individualized Education Program (IEP) — a plan for services and accommodations tailored to meet each kid’s specific needs — and for activities that facilitate Medicaid access. Beginning in October 2026, Vermont will expand Medicaid reimbursements to cover students enrolled in Medicaid without an IEP. In 2023 (the last year for which we have data), 16,152 Vermont students had an IEP, nearly three-quarters of them eligible for Medicaid.

In Fiscal Year 2025, Vermont received \$31.7 million for school-based health services through Medicaid, with about

half of that funding going directly to schools. The other half went to the Education Fund, and to state agencies to pay for the program’s administration. While it comprises a small share of total education spending, this funding targets two areas where costs are increasing: special education and mental health. Over the course of the pandemic, some schools reported mental health costs tripling. From 2022 through 2025, statewide special education aid increased by 15%, and the number of mental health service professionals in schools more than quintupled. By comparison, total state education spending increased by roughly 25% over the same period.

If fewer children are insured through Medicaid because of federal changes, schools and the Education Fund stand to lose those reimbursement dollars. But the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires the provision of essential health services to students with IEPs. So schools will have to figure out other ways to cover the increasing costs.

The changes will also complicate the way economically disadvantaged students are identified for budgeting purposes.

Vermont counts — or “weights” — pupils who need additional support as more than one student, including those who are economically disadvantaged. Schools identify economically disadvantaged students using enrollment data from federal benefits programs. In 2025, over 16,000 students — almost half of all low-income students — were identified through their Medicaid enrollment. Another 13,000 were identified because they receive SNAP benefits.

Together, these two programs

identified 85 % of all low-income Vermont students.

Federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP will likely lead to a drop in the number of students directly certified as economically disadvantaged. Schools will need to find alternative ways to identify low-income students to ensure they’re counted correctly to provide support.

Families could fill out a household income form, even if they lose federal benefits. But that is likely to yield less reliable counts, especially since completing the form is not mandatory. Without certification of all eligible students, schools could face a drop in funding while serving the same number of low-income students and providing the same services.

OBBBA also caps taxes on health care providers and payers and prohibits new provider taxes, a change that could cost Vermont a total of \$347 million by Fiscal Year 2032. This funding shortfall could result in cost-cutting measures, such as reducing reimbursements, restricting eligibility, or discontinuing services.

Instead of leaving schools to pick up the tab from federal cuts, Vermont can strengthen funding streams to support the students who need state assistance the most. The state has the capacity to do it.

Along with Medicaid and other program cuts, Congress also granted massive tax cuts to the wealthiest Vermonters. The top 5% of Vermonters — those with incomes above \$320,000 — are expected to reap \$440 million in savings annually. By recapturing some of these funds, the state could help offset the loss in Medicaid funding to schools and ensure that all students get the support they need and deserve.

Letters to the Editor

Green Up sessions reveal sad, intoxicating trend

In two early green-up sessions (better done before bushes obscure and poison parsnip threatens), we collected four garbage bags full of bottles and cans (and a few plastic to-go drink cups, fast food containers, etc.) in the stretch from the upper TAM parking lot to just south of the Morgan Horse Farm.

Statistical analysis of the bottles and cans indicated that 95% were beer, while 5% were Twisted Tea, White Claw, and mini-liquor bottles.

These two green-up sessions

were about two weeks apart. In the second session, a previously cleared section had new bottles and cans that confirmed the earlier analysis. The data suggests that someone is (or people are) drinking an awful lot of Bud Ice while coming and going. Cans were on both sides of the road.

An archeological analysis of those particular cans suggests that this behavior has been going on for a long time—there were fresh cans, old cans, lawn-mower-chewed cans, supplemented

by new Bud Ice cans in the previously cleared section.

A driver heading west on Hamilton Road appears to prefer Bud Light in bottles, because north of that junction on Morgan Horse Farm Road there were no bottles, but many Bud Ice cans.

Community members (and officials) might want to take notice.

Christina Wadsworth
Weybridge

Scheu

(Continued from Page 5A)
housing supports, and more — while being transparent that this funding may not continue in the future.

That is what compromise looks like.

Despite this, the Governor has threatened to veto the entire budget unless his preferred approach to education reform is adopted. That raises another fundamental question: How is that consistent with the call to “work together”?

There is also concern about the lack of direct engagement. While the Governor has urged others to listen to Vermonters, he

has not personally participated in community conversations with educators, school boards, and families, despite repeated invitations over the past two years. Instead, he dictates his position from the podium at weekly press conferences.

Finally, the stakes of a veto are significant. Vermont has no precedent for a government shutdown, but without an enacted budget, the state cannot spend any funds — including federal dollars. That would disrupt payments to state employees, service providers, schools, and vulnerable Vermonters who rely on programs

like SNAP and Medicaid.

The ripple effects would be immediate and severe, impacting everything from grocery stores to healthcare providers to seniors depending on Meals on Wheels. Longer-term consequences could include legal challenges and damage to the state’s credit and reputation.

In short, the consequences are real — and avoidable.

If “working together” is the goal, it has to mean more than insisting on a single outcome. It requires listening, compromise, and shared responsibility for the decisions that affect all Vermonters.

Conservation

(Continued from Page 5A)
grow their businesses, steward the woods and fields, and plan for retirement. These lands are nestled throughout our communities: our local farms, sugarbushes, habitat refuges, and trail networks. To all the Vermonters who steward their land, thank you!

Moreover, the benefits of conservation extend to us all, driving some of the largest sectors of our state’s economy. Annually, this includes our \$11.3 billion food economy, \$4.2 billion tourism industry, \$2.2 billion outdoor recreation economy, and \$1.9 billion forest products sector. Conserved lands also offer an economic hedge against climate change by protecting our towns against future floods and safeguarding investments in housing and infrastructure. Taken together, the economic benefits of conservation return \$9 for every \$1 invested.

In 2025, Vermont lost more residents, as a percentage of its total population, than any other state in the nation. In addressing this shared challenge, let’s keep

in mind what motivates people to move here: access to the outdoors and our clean environment. To grow our workforce, sustain our farms and forests, bring more families to our state, and increase our tax base, we cannot forget the many ways that conservation supports our growth.

Vermont’s farms, forests, and natural areas face an uncertain future, driven by economic headwinds, cuts to government programs, climate change, and more. Now is the time for Vermonters to stand together.

So, this spring—as the syrup gets bottled and trails begin to dry out — let’s take a moment to celebrate our state’s ongoing commitment to conservation and stay united in our love of land.

Lauren Oates,
The Nature Conservancy
Kate Wanner,

Trust for Public Land
Abby White,
Vermont Land Trust

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Monkton

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

NEWS

This year's Green Up date is May 2, hopefully with great weather to green up your community! Bags, gloves and map information are available at the Monkton Town Clerk's office during normal hours. Pick up your bags and gloves, then mark the location on the map that you plan to clean up so that others won't do the same area and hopefully all roads will be cleaned up.

park-and-ride near the Monkton Central School from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday to pick up bags also. These bags are Greencore and made of 70% post-consumer recycled plastic, an earth-friendly choice. According to coordinator Deb Gaynor, almost every Monkton road was cleaned up last year, which shows the love given to keep our town beautiful.

litter includes only roadside and waterways debris, which must be brought to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District's transfer station in official Green-up bags during the six days following Green-Up day, which the road crew will pick up and deliver to the transfer station. This gives them time to get all bags picked up and delivered, so be sure to have bags beside the road and tied.

There will be a kiosk in the

Note that free disposal of

Cochran

(Continued from Page 7A) only for the world we want to create, but to create that world right here and now." Listen, look, it could be like this instead. Or, as Alice Walker once said: "Look closely at the present you are constructing: it should look like the future you are dreaming."

SINGING "NO MORE" TO ICE
Next Friday, on May 8, thousands of Vermonters will gather in St. Albans to say "No More!" to ICE's inhumane and unconstitutional actions. Hosted by ICE Out Vermont Alliance, the day's demonstration will have two parts. First, we'll convene at noon at Taylor Park in downtown St. Albans for a large, legal, and peaceful demonstration with speakers (including Lincoln's beloved pastor Co'Relous Bryant), Bread & Puppet, and 1,000 singers. Next, there will be a non-violent sit-in at the nearby Customs and Border Patrol offices (participation limited to affinity groups that have attended the required training).

Singers from all over Vermont are converging to take part in the demonstration at Taylor Park, and we hope you'll come, too—to sing or cheer or listen. With our crooning ancestors at our backs, we'll be raising our chorus of voices to:

Put pressure on ICE to change their practices of arresting and detaining immigrants. Raise public awareness about ICE's illegal practices in Vermont and nationwide. If you are interested in joining us in song, we would love to have you. Please know that: You don't need to "be a singer"! (I've never thought of myself as a singer, but have been singing with abandon at protests this past year.) The song leaders will teach the songs as we go. Please arrive at Taylor Park at 11:30. All are welcome. When I asked Anaïs Mitchell, who will take part in the singing on May 8, why she's going to St. Albans, she talked about the

courage of Minnesota. "I was so inspired by the brave resistance to ICE in Minneapolis, especially the clips I saw of folks singing together. I want to be part of this beautiful, creative, communal expression of resistance in my home state of Vermont!"

And these (soon to be) Green Mountains are still home to Mohsen Mahdawi, too. He was released that day last spring, into the singing crowd that was waiting for him outside the courthouse. He said he could, indeed, hear the songs drifting in—perhaps someone had opened a window to let in the April air. Free at last, he requested one of his favorites, "We Shall Overcome," and lifted his voice along with ours. Let's sing together this spring, too, dear Vermonters. We hope to see you in St. Albans. Note: Liza Cochran is a writer, teacher, and mother of two young daughters. A community organizer with Indivisible, she co-authors the Substack *Brave Little Voices*.



A mother-daughter first!

Miss Vermont 2026 is Hannah Roque, a native of Middlebury and a graduate of St. Michael's College with a degree in English and Secondary Education. She is the daughter of Miss Vermont 1996 Nikki Juvan, also a Middlebury resident. This is the first time the daughter of a former Miss Vermont has captured the state title. Roque was crowned Miss Vermont on April 26 at the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization's event in Stowe. Placing the crown on her head was Miss Vermont 2025, Sophia Parker of Addison. *The Independent* will do an interview with Hannah and her mom in next week's *Independent*.

Photo courtesy Jon Adams Photography

Police respond to a fatal car fire

Bristol

Police Log

BRISTOL — In police activity between March 29 and April 18, Bristol police completed 73 foot patrols, conducted 22 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 21 times, at Bristol Elementary School 22 times and at local businesses 13 times. Police also processed seven fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number and conducted two welfare checks. In specific incidents, police responded to family fights on April 4 on Garfield Street and on April 8, also on Garfield Street. Police in the second instance determined no action rose to the level of an offense and provided information for resources. On April 10, police responded to a vehicle on fire near the intersection of South Street and Hewitt Road. After firefighters extinguished the blaze, police determined that Jean Clark, 74, of Bristol, had died in the fire. In other activity, Bristol police:

- On March 30 served court paperwork to someone on Main Street; and responded to an animal complaint on Stoney Hill Road.
- On April 1 issued a ticket to someone under the age of 21 who was in possession of tobacco on Airport Drive; investigated an incident involving juveniles on Munsill Avenue; and assisted a

motorist who had run out of gas on East Street.

- On April 2 responded to a traffic hazard and removed wires from the roadway; and assisted Bristol Rescue on West Street.
- On April 3 assisted the Vermont State Police on Orchard Terrace; and investigated a report of a suspicious person on Main Street.
- On April 6 helped someone with five loose horses on River Road.
- On April 8 responded to a noise disturbance on Main Street and determined no action rose to the level of an offense.
- On April 9 assisted the Bristol Public Works Department with locating the owner of a vehicle that was parked on the roadway and interfering with road grading on Lower Notch Road; also assisted Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School with a truancy concern.
- On April 10 responded to an incident involving a threatening interaction between a group of juveniles — an investigation is ongoing; also on April 10

responded to a car fire in which a Bristol resident died.

- On April 12 helped someone on North Street get medical assistance.
- On April 14 assisted the Bristol Fire Department on Morgan Horse Lane; monitored traffic and helped students cross the street during a Mt. Abe relocation drill; were told of a loose dog on Prince Lane — police contacted the owner, retrieved the dog and warned its owner for a dog at large; and helped someone with a disabled vehicle on Airport Drive.
- On April 15 assisted Mt. Abe with a truancy concern; helped the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office check the area for someone and determined they no longer live in Bristol; were told of a violation of a court order on Mountain Street; and assisted Bristol Elementary School and Mount Abe with truancy concerns.
- On April 16 responded to a vehicle left unoccupied on Burpee Road; and helped someone on Maple Street with postal service concerns.
- On April 17 investigated an assault on Sugar Maple Lane in Bristol. After investigating, police determined no assault had occurred; and assisted another agency with attempting to locate someone in Bristol. Police said the person wasn't located.

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ART

(Continued from Page 1A)
ultimately showcased that year for the Atlanta Fringe Festival.
“It got a great reception,” he said of the “Amelia” play, the story of a young girl who must find the courage to help her grandfather confront his serious illness.

Rather than words, Amelia required the students to use music, pantomime, masks, shadow puppetry and animation to steer audiences through the heard warming story.

Reid-St. John harkened back to that 2014 play when considering a format for the ART’s signature play for 2026. Her reasoned it would give the cast another chance to emote through movement, rather than speech.

His students were game for the challenge and began brainstorming themes for their wordless play.

They agreed on the theme of a young girl who faces the loss of

an older sister who was battling substance use disorder. Like 2014’s “Amelia,” the actors tell the story of “My Sister Heracles” through shadow puppetry, animation, live music and pantomime.

As part of their research, the students gained insights from Fable Hawthorne, a peer support specialist with Middlebury-based Turning Point Center of Addison County, which helps folks struggling with addiction.

“We wanted to make sure we weren’t dishonoring the struggles that people feel,” Reid-St. John said, adding that Hawthorne proved “very helpful.”

Students then mapped out their play, electing to steep a portion of it in a Greek mythology dreamworld. “Heracles,” according to such mythology, is a Greek demigod, son of Zeus and Alcmena, renowned for his strength, passion and the “12 Labors of Hercules” imposed by King Eurystheus.

“The story changed as we put (the play) on its feet,” Reid-St.

John said. “Although I helped the students with the roadmap, they came up with the elements that filled in the story.”

The play shifts from a “real world” — staged in black and white — to a dreamworld (staged in color) — in the telling of the story, as the cast of characters moves subtly, and at times forcefully, through music-laden mood changes. More than a play, “Heracles” is an invitation for audience members to confront and soothe their own grief.

True, the young actors didn’t have lines to memorize. But rest assured, staging “Heracles” is no walk in the park.

“If you’re not using words, your movement becomes your lines,” Reid-St. John said. “You need to learn how to be expressive, to clarify what you’re saying and to let us know [a thought] has ended so another one

can begin.”

That means making motions very big, distinct and clear, often in synch with fellow actors.

It’s not easy, especially for the masked “Heracles” actors. A mask takes away one of the actor’s most emotive tools: One’s face.

Reid-St. John believes his students passed the test.

“I think they worked very well together, and individually, in making sure the audience is able to understand what the characters are going through,” he said.

True to its minimalist ethos, few of the characters in “Heracles” have formal names. Bailey Antos-Ketcham plays “the sister,” Candace Bloom plays “the girl,” Lily Ryersbach plays “the mom/sibling,” Es Voorhees plays the “bad kid/harpy/sibling,” Steven Lackard plays the “bad kid/doctor/Zeus and bull,” Kendyl Gosselin plays the “bad kid/nurse,” and Jeremy Holzhammer plays “the musician.”

Antos-Ketcham, a Mount

Abraham Union High School senior from Starksboro, has thoroughly enjoyed her run as “the sister” in the play. This year’s small ART class has pressed actors into more action than they usually see.

“Everyone is really able to contribute an equal amount, and everyone’s voice is heard,” she said during a break from a recent rehearsal.

Her favorite part of “Heracles” — a bullfight scene, performed to Flamenco music.

And speaking of the music, it’s all been composed by Holzhammer, a Middlebury Union High School senior. He wrote the music as the script was being built, painting with lulls and crescendos depending on what the particular scene is trying to impart.

Holzhammer’s main instrument is a synthesizer, its versatility allowing him to generate a variety of sounds — some simultaneously to create tension, joy, sorrow — whatever mood the character or scene is seeking to dramatize.

Like Antos-Ketcham, Holzhammer is partial to the bullfighting scene. Matching music to choreography is always a challenge, one that Holzhammer took on and vanquished.

“I was just having fun with it, and it all came together beautifully, I think,” he said.

It certainly did.



ACTORS FROM THE Patricia Hannaford Career Center’s Addison Repertory Theater will perform their new original play, “My Sister Heracles,” on April 30-May 2 at the New England Drama Festival at Rutland’s Paramount Theatre. It’s a wordless play; music, pantomime, masks and shadow puppetry to convey its messaging. Here, Es Voorhees, as an angry bird, threatens Candace Bloom.

Independent photo/Steve James

The ART troupe earlier this month took “Heracles” to the Vermont Drama Festival, which is the state high school theatre festival. Up against seven other schools from across the state, “Heracles” was picked as one of two shows that will represent the Green Mountain State at the NEDF for April 30-May 2. The other Vermont competitor will be

Dorset’s Long Trail School.

Regardless of how they do at the NEDF, Reid-St. John will be proud of his students.

“I’m not sure the students at first realized what a beautiful show they had; they were used to a certain kind of theater, and this was not that,” he said. “I’m really hoping people from the Middlebury community will get

a chance to see this show. I want the students to understand the art they make, the theater that they make, is appreciated by this community.”

In addition to playing at the NEDF, the ART will stage “My Sister Heracles” at Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. on the Rothrock Main Stage.

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Flood relief

(Continued from Page 1A)

gone, and that was the case for a lot of people around town.”

In the weeks that followed, Monkton officials received a list from the Vermont Agency of Transportation assessing highway damage at 17 different sites. The town’s highway department was already busy with culvert and washout repairs.

Peisch noted the highway department completed a lot of work on Old Stage and Davis roads, ditching and putting in erosion stone to help with drainage and prevent future washouts.

“The challenge for Monkton, and for a lot of towns, is when the washouts happen to big culverts in streams because the requirements either of (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) or the state or both are often for upsizing culverts, which require specialized engineering, which is often beyond what local highway departments can do,” he said. “The town’s highway department does an incredible job, but some of these things are very specialized.”

Peisch pointed to the use of box culverts, for example. The structures are often made of concrete and eyed as a more resilient option for managing water flow.

“The challenge, obviously, is they’re really expensive, and you need specialized engineers to do it,” he said.

Such projects also come with other considerations, Peisch noted, like how upsizing culverts would change the look of a rural road.

“It’s hard to balance all these things because sometimes they are in conflict with each other,” he said.

A DIFFICULT DECISION
Monkton officials have recently been trying to strike that balance with repairs to Piney Woods Road, which was severely damaged in the July 2024 storm and has been closed since.

Town officials in 2024 determined that FEMA aid should be pursued rather than using town funds to repair the road. Town officials applied for FEMA funding and have engaged with residents and various experts about what work would be required.

“That road has washed out a number of times in the last 10 years, and when it washed out with that storm...I think the consensus was we should pursue FEMA money to rebuild it in hopefully a better way, so that’s a different grant process than rebuilding the road as it was,” Peisch said.

According to a town presentation, the scope of work would include installing three larger culverts at the bottom of the road and replacing lost gravel, as well as digging,

upsizing and re-siting cross culverts. Town officials have noted the road wouldn’t have to be widened as much as originally expected, just in spots leading up to the box culvert. The stretch of road in need of repair is about 1.3 miles.

Repairing the road in line with state and FEMA standards has been estimated at around \$1.2 million, with FEMA paying for 75% of the project and the state supporting another 12.5%. Monkton’s 12.5% share would be around \$150,000, based on those estimates.

While the selectboard has authority over maintaining Class 3 roads, Peisch said the board decided to warn a vote on the project at Monkton’s annual town meeting to gauge how residents felt about it. An article on the warning asked voters to authorize no more than \$150,000 for repairs to the road.

The article generated a lot of discussion at the Feb. 28 gathering, with several residents asking whether improvements would change the character of the road and actually be able to withstand future storms. Others were in favor of repairing the road and noted it’s used by many to get around town.

Voters ultimately rejected the article by paper ballot, 64-54.

“We got a lot of really great feedback, and there are strong arguments on all sides about the different options that we could pursue with roads,” Peisch said.

Following town meeting, Monkton officials hosted two informational meetings on options for Piney Woods Road. Along with pursuing repairs, those options included decommissioning the road, redesignating it as Class 4 road and making it a legal trail.

“We want to embrace as many people within the town as possible,” selectboard member Walter Crandall said at an April 8 informational session.

Around 50 residents turned out to those meetings, asking questions about the options and offering feedback. The selectboard also reached out to property owners on the road, asking whether the town should try to open the road or pursue another option. Peisch said of those that responded, 60% wanted the road reopened, with 20% opposing.

The selectboard mulled next steps for Piney Woods Road at its April 14 meeting. Board members reflected on what they’d heard and noted the town had already received around \$800,000 from FEMA for the project.

“Some towns have major roads that they’re deciding to fix and they’re still waiting to hear back whether or not FEMA’s going to give them money,” Peisch said at

the meeting. “We’re in a bit of a different position in that we have the money already in our accounts.”

The board voted unanimously to authorize engineering firm Dubois & King “to conduct the initial survey, design, and permitting work required to evaluate the cost of opening the closed section of Piney Woods Road.” Once that is completed, the board could request bids to see how much it would cost to repair and re-open the road. Board members noted the \$1.2 million project estimate was done in 2024.

“This was a difficult decision for the Board,” reads an update on the town website. “This initial step was reached after a significant amount of research, analysis, and input from the community over many weeks as well as extensive consultations with experts at the Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Department of Transportation, and Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).”

Selectboard members noted the conversation isn’t over. Town officials still have decisions to make about the future of the road, particularly after determining how much the project would cost.

“I think we will have an even harder decision if the construction bids come in way above what we have for grant money and the potential impact to taxpayers is higher than what we initially anticipated,” Peisch said “I think that will be a really difficult decision.”

IN STARKSBORO

Flood repair efforts continue in nearby Starksboro, which was also hit by the 2024 storm. Selectboard members Koran Cousino and Eric Cota said about 10 homes along the Lewis Creek saw damage from the storm, and some residents sustained damage to their driveways that altered access to their homes for a substantial period of time.

“The Freedom Acres Development is a good example of that. For one family on Ireland road, it was over a year before their bridge could be rebuilt and during that time they only had footbridge access to their home,” Cousino and Cota wrote. “Town infrastructure also took a major hit in the Ireland Road and States Prison Hollow Extension corridors as well as a bridge on Brown Hill East. There was sporadic damage to culverts and other washouts in South Starksboro as well as on Big Hollow and other roads in that area of town.”

They said many culverts were upgraded right after the storm, along with fixing washouts and re-establishing ditches.

“The town is very grateful for the help from VTRANS and other state partners who helped clean up the debris and material that settled downstream from Ireland



MONKTON SELECTBOARD CHAIR Sam Peisch shows part of Piney Woods Road that was damaged in a July 2024 storm. Town officials have engaged with various experts and residents to determine how to move forward with repairs to the road.

Independent photo/Steve James

Road after the flooding event,” Cota and Cousino wrote. “It was a major task that took a few weeks to complete and removed thousands of yards of material. This effort has helped tremendously with potential flooding issues in that area.”

The town has also worked with homeowners applying for a buyout, an option for the voluntary purchase of properties damaged in the July storm or those at risk of flooding. Municipalities apply to Vermont Emergency Management “for grant funding to cover the purchase price and other eligible buyout costs.” FEMA supplies states with the funding to operate such programs.

“The buyout process and timeline has been greatly impacted by the change in administration and the various shutdowns/partial shutdowns,” Starksboro Town Administrator Amanda Vincent said. “We are attempting to be proactive and gather updated forms from homeowners so the process can continue to move forward.”

Vincent said the town’s applications are in the review process. If approved, Starksboro could receive up to around \$5 million for the “purchase, demolition and restoration of the floodplain for 14 properties.” She noted the buyout process comes with pros and cons for Starksboro and its residents.

“On one hand, if the town reclaims these properties and returns them to wetlands, we are keeping our residents safer by keeping them out of harm’s way,” she said.

“On the other hand, buying out these properties reduces the overall grand list and displaces Starksboro residents, some of whom really want to stay. Given the housing shortage that is happening here and in the rest of the state, the reduction of 14

homes certainly has an impact.”

She said the town has tried to explore creative strategies like providing information for residents on subdividing to keep their neighbors in town “but it has been challenging to move forward with those strategies when everything is in limbo.”

Vincent noted the buyouts are completely voluntary and homeowners can back out at any time.

“The buyout process has dragged on, and many homeowners are wondering if this is still the best route for them to go,” she said.

Like in Monkton, Starksboro officials have also been working to secure FEMA funding for projects around town. Vincent said the town will receive a 12.5% match for those projects from the Vermont Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund. The town will be eligible for a 17.5% match from the fund once it adopts river corridor bylaws, something the Starksboro planning commission is incorporating into a broader revision of zoning bylaws.

The town is on the hook for 12.5% of costs associated with flood repairs.

“When the 2024 storm hit, it was decided to create a separate fund for all FEMA expenses and reimbursements,” she said. “This makes it easier to track how much is being spent as well as allows us to sure up that fund once the projects have been completed.”

Vincent said it will likely take a few years for money from the state to come in. She said the town within the past year received the last of FEMA, ERAF and Category Z (admin time) money for flooding the town experienced in 2019.

“Our highway fund was in a deficit for many years due to bills (being) paid out of the highway fund while waiting on revenue from FEMA and the State of Vermont,” she said. “I believe our highway fund is finally in a good place, but there will be taxpayer dollars needed to close the gap in the FEMA fund once these projects are behind us.”

The selectboard at its April 21 meeting reviewed engineering proposals for two structures damaged in the 2024 storm — replacement of a bridge on Brown Hill East Road and a culvert on Ireland Road serving around 95 residences. Both structures were significantly damaged in the storm

and are listed in the town’s FEMA disaster inventory, according to the request for proposals.

The Starksboro selectboard voted unanimously to accept a proposal from environmental consulting firm Stone Environmental.

“In an ideal world, it would be great to do one of the two outstanding projects this construction season and one next construction season,” Vincent said of the timeline for those projects.

Along with those efforts, she said town officials will continue to work with homeowners interested in pursuing buyouts.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

When it comes to preparing for future extreme weather events, Vincent pointed to several steps Starksboro has taken, such as being mindful about emergency shelters, exploring opportunities to get more town buildings connected to generators and the planning commission’s work with river corridor and flood hazard bylaws.

“We are lucky to have Charlene Phelps and Dan Kuzio on our Emergency Management Team,” she said. “There are many opportunities to prepare for future extreme weather events, but the challenges we face are the capacity and funding to implement these opportunities.”

Looking ahead, Peisch said the town plans to complete some culvert replacements before paving work, along with ongoing maintenance to prepare for future storms.

He sees collaboration among municipalities as another aspect of readying for extreme weather events to come. Monkton was one of several local towns to sign onto a draft “Resolution of the Communities of Addison County, Vermont.” The document embraces the spirit of regional collaboration and conveys a willingness for town officials in the region to work together and explore possible cooperation where appropriate.

Peisch noted collaboration among departments and mutual aid relationships are already in place around the county and could be further built upon.

“We need to be prepared to handle as much as we possibly can, but there’s a recognition that we can’t have everything and there are efficiencies to be gained from shared relationships with towns,” he said.

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LIBBY MASON AND her sister Claire, 3, are hoping to see fairies fly into the houses they are building.



BRISTOL RESIDENT DANIEL Lyons and his nephew Zahavi Visco build a fairy house on the Bristol Trail Network this past Saturday. The fairy house program has been organized by UVM student intern Ella Szczepanski and is aimed at getting community members out on the trails and connecting with the natural world.

Independent photos/Steve James



SULIEN GUSAKOV, 5, shows his grandmother Anne Walker, of Bristol Village, the house he built for fairies.

Fairy houses bring residents to Bristol trails

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Bristol Trail Network is often used for things like exercising and exploring the outdoors. This past Saturday, the trail welcomed community members of all ages for a different kind of outdoor activity — building fairy houses.

The fairy house program has been organized by Ella Szczepanski, a student at the University of Vermont interning with the Bristol Trail Network this spring. Events this past Saturday and on May 2 are aimed at getting youth out on the trails and connecting with the natural world.

“When I was a kid, at the trails near our house, we had a program

where every fall we would build fairy houses and have a nature walk,” Szczepanski said of the inspiration for the program. “I loved doing it as a kid; it’s what got me to enjoy being outside and being in nature and where my interest in the environment started.”

Szczepanski is interning with the trail network through a UVM course that pairs students with different environmental organizations around the state. Her internship has been focused on trail work and an independent project designed to engage the Bristol community with the trail network. The Bristol Trail Network is made of six segments that total 2.7 miles

of trails around town.

“I was thinking of ideas to get people outside and connecting with the trails in a creative and fun way,” Szczepanski continued. She landed on the fairy house program, which invites residents to build the whimsical homes on sections of the trail network. Szczepanski noted there are just two rules when building fairy houses — to use only what you find in nature and do not disturb wildlife.

During the events, attendees have a chance to learn more about fairy house building and environmental topics like biodiversity and principles of conservation. The April 25 event attracted community members

from around the Bristol 5-Town Area and beyond.

“For a lot of people it was their first time being on the Bristol trail, or they had been in the area but hadn’t been a lot,” Szczepanski said. She noted the events are intended to highlight what the Bristol Trail Network has to offer, as well as help community members engage with nature.

“It’s been really cool for me especially to see kids enjoying it and having fun,” Szczepanski said. “It reminds me of my childhood.”

The fairy house program will host another event on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Business Park Loop — located off Fire House Drive.



LILY WORSMAN, 4, of Vergennes, sits atop her house hoping to catch a glimpse of a fairy.



UVM STUDENT ELLA Szczepanski shares secrets of fairy house building with brothers Olen and Sulien Gusakov during an event on the Bristol Trail Network this past Saturday. Another morning of fairy house building will take place on the trail Saturday, May 2.

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Fire

(Continued from Page 1A) scheduled for the same day in the general vicinity. But he quickly determined this was a different animal.

“Our goal yesterday... was to sweep the entire 50-acre (border) of the fire inside that perimeter, so that it would be unlikely to spread outside of that perimeter,” Shaw said.

Thousands of hours of training, technology, willpower and cool headedness helped guide the firefighters’ actions in a tricky environment where there were no hydrants to tap. Rather than hoses, firefighters brandished super-charged leaf blowers to create berms that could contain the fire. The blowers were able to separate organic material from the forest floor along the perimeter, thus ensuring the berms were inflammable.

Middlebury police provided invaluable eyes in the sky — drones with thermal imaging — allowing scene commanders to more effectively deploy personnel.

“We knew exactly where we were going,” Shaw said gratefully. “As the night played out, I had



A TUESDAY AFTERNOON fire burned 50 acres along the East Middlebury-Ripton town lines, drawing over 50 firefighters from five area departments. It was contained Tuesday night and extinguished the next day.

Photo courtesy Louise Prescott

them taking drone shots every hour, on the hour, so we could see whether we were gaining or losing the battle.”

Firefighters left the scene at around 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, setting the stage for roughly 26 state and federal workers to return Wednesday to extinguish the remaining hotspots within the 50-acre perimeter.

Shaw said this was the biggest backwoods forest fire he’d ever seen in the town during his more than three decades as a firefighter. Most of the forestland consumed by the fire was owned by the Green Mountain National Forest, though some private landowners were also affected, according to Shaw.

The incident underscored the

fire hazard conditions that exist this spring. Shaw urged people to check with their town’s fire warden before setting a match to anything outdoors. He noted each town has its own fire ordinance. In Middlebury, burning — by permit only — is confined from Nov. 1 through the third Sunday of April, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Addison County Firefighters awards scholarships

The Addison County Firefighters Association’s Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce awards to area students Genevieve Forand, Paige Guilbeault and Ila Crowley. A formal presentation was made at the association’s quarterly dinner, held April 15 at the Vergennes fire station. The scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000 each.

Genevieve is the daughter of Eric and Cathleen Forand of Bristol. Genevieve is graduating from Mount Abraham Union High School and will attend Roger Williams University in Rhode Island seeking a degree in Marine Biology.

Ila is the daughter of Matthew

and Heather Crowley of Ferrisburgh. Ila is graduating from the Vergennes Union High School and will attend the University of Vermont seeking a degree in Nursing.

Paige is the daughter of Elizabeth and Nicholas Guilbeault of Bristol. Paige is graduating from Mount Abraham Union High School and will attend the University of Vermont seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

The Ray E. Davison Scholarship fund was established in 1992. The Addison County Firefighters Association is pleased and proud to be assisting families of Addison County Firefighters with their college education.



ACFA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS Ila Crowley, Paige Guilbeault and Genevieve Forand with Scholarship Chair Bob Patterson.

Photo from Addison County Firefighters Association

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A) posts that purport to come from the Vermont Judiciary. These fraudulent messages have been threatening arrest warrants, license suspensions, increased fines and/or possible wage garnishment. These messages are not from the Vermont Judiciary, which doesn’t communicate with parties to a court action via text messages or social media posts. The Vermont Attorney General’s Office advises that you not click or reply to the links in such messages. Please report such messages to the AG’s Consumer Assistance Program via the Consumer Assistance Program Scam Reporting Form.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have risen 7.9 cents per gallon during the past week, averaging \$4.12 per gallon right now, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations in Vermont. Prices in Vermont are 23 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.07 per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Vermont was priced at \$3.75 per gallon earlier this week, while the most expensive was \$4.39 per gallon, a difference of 64 cents. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline has risen 7 cents per gallon during the past week, averaging \$4.04 per gallon right now. The national average is up 5.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 94.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

The American Legion Post #14 in Vergennes has announced new details about the annual Memorial Day Parade it will host on Monday, May 25, beginning at 11 a.m. The parade will follow a 1.5-mile route through the city and conclude on the Vergennes Green, where a solemn

ceremony will be held to honor the men and women who have served our country. This year’s parade theme, “The Last Full Measure of Devotion” (from the Gettysburg Address), reflects the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of those who served during times of conflict. The event is designed to bring together Veterans and community members in remembrance and gratitude. Following the ceremony, a chicken barbecue will be held at Post #14, located at 100 Armory Lane, from noon until sold out. The public is encouraged to attend. Parade Marshal Travis Scribner served in both the Army and Air National Guard, retiring in 2024 as a Master Sergeant after 22 years of service. Guest Speaker Dennis Armell served in the Vermont Army National Guard for 44 years. To register as a parade participant, go to tinyurl.com/5cz7pzjh. For more information, contact Martha DeGraaf at marsulli75@gmail.com or 802-349-0229.

The town of Lincoln is looking for volunteers to pull poison parsley and wild chervil — both invasive plants. Thanks to the hard work of many helpers, Lincoln has had good success in the past removing these plants along Lincoln’s roads. The town still needs 2026 “road adopters” for the following roads: Cold Spring, Geary, Guthrie, Lincoln Gap above Geary, Masterson, and Ripton Road — from the corner of West Hill up to Bristol Notch. You would just have to visit these roads a few times between mid-May and early August, as the two species — and also individual plants — flower and go to seed at different times. The idea is to pull each plant up by its roots or cut it a couple of inches below ground before it goes to seed (sharp spades can be borrowed from the Lincoln Library). Training and support are available. Enquire at the Lincoln town offices or call 802-345-2980.

Saving Lives

Turning Point Center
OF ADDISON COUNTY

The Community of Bristol now has a free, self-serve, public health vending machine offering items like:

- Naloxone (Narcan®)
- Fentanyl & xylazine test strips
- First Aid & Hygiene Kits

Narcan reverses life-threatening overdoses caused by Fentanyl poisoning. It might be a friend, it might be a stranger. You can help save a life.

Scan for more info

Visit the Public Health Vending Machine, located behind the Police Station at

Bristol Works, 72 Munsill Ave., behind Building 6 (see map)

Contact us: info@tpvt.org or (802) 388-4249 | tpvt.org

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Green Up Day town by town

Addison: To pick up bags, contact Starr Phillips at 802-759-2421. Drop off full bags behind Addison Baptist Church; a dump truck will be there from Friday evening to early Monday morning. If you have questions, email sandtphillips@gmavt.net.

Bridport: Bags available at the Town Clerk's office; Drop off full bags at the trucks parked outside. If you have questions, contact Julie Howlett: 802-758-2483 or bridporttown@gmavt.net.

Bristol: Bags available at the Town Office or the Town Green the morning of Green Up Day. Drop off full bags along public roadsides no later than dusk on Sunday for the road crew. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Dash: 802-881-7341 or thecarolyndash@gmail.com.

Cornwall: Bring full bags to the Cornwall School; town trucks will be parked from Friday evening to midday Sunday. Do not leave bags along roadsides. If you have questions, contact 802-462-2775 or townclerk@cornwallvt.com.

Ferrisburgh: Bags available at the Town Clerk's office. They are also available on Green Up Day from 9-10 a.m. at Ferrisburgh Central School. Drop off full bags across from the Town Garage from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Green Up Day only. Site will be monitored. Direct questions to Kate Rowland: 508-736-7791 or catherine.anne.rowland@gmail.com.

Goshen: Leave bags along roadsides for the road crew. BBQ for all volunteers from 12 - 2 p.m. Direct questions to Dave Sabatini at 802-247-6350 or dwsabatini1@gmail.com.

Granville: Volunteers can check in and drop off full bags at Moss Glen Grange Hall. Direct questions to Kelli Eckroth at 802-767-4403 or emeckroth@yahoo.com.

Hancock: Bags and gloves available at 8 a.m. in front of Town Hall. Direct questions to Wendy Stender at 802-767-3660 or townclerk@hancockvt.org.

Leicester: Pellet stove owners are asked to reuse their pellet bags. Drop off full bags on roadsides or bring them to the Town Garage on Fern Lake Rd. Cookout and raffle with

prizes. Direct questions to Diane Benware at 802-247-3786 or dianembenware@gmail.com.

Lincoln: Bags available at the Lincoln General store. Drop off filled bags at the dumpster in the Lincoln Fire Station/Lincoln Sports parking area on May 2. Do not leave bags by the side of the road. Direct questions to Katie Manaras at katie.manaras@gmail.com or Jon Mingle at jonmingle@gmail.com.

Middlebury: Bags available at the MALT office or Town Offices, or on Green Up Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at College Park, adjacent to Academy Street Bus Stop. Drop off full bags at College Park. Direct questions to 802-388-1007, info@maltvt.org, Rachel@maltvt.org, or kevin@maltvt.org.

Monkton: Bags available at Town Hall between 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and the library during typical hours. Full bags can be left on the roadsides or dropped off at the Town Garage. Direct questions to Deb Gaynor at 802-425-2178 or townclerk@monktonvt.com.

New Haven: Bags available at the Town Office and library from 9 a.m. - noon. Leave full bags along roadsides for the crew to pick up the Monday after. Direct questions to Suzy Roorda at 802-453-5978 or skroorda27@gmail.com.

Orwell: Bags available at the Town Clerk's office, Buxton's and Orwell Gas & Co. Leave full bags along roadsides for the crew to pick up. Direct questions to Cindy Watrous at 802-948-2751 or saywatfarm@gmail.com, or Barbara Young at 802-948-2537 or byoung@shoreham.net.

Panton: Bags available at Town Hall, the Town Garage and at 1480 Hopkins Rd. Drop off full bags at the town garage or leave by the side of the road on Green Up Day. Direct questions to Louise Giovannella at 802-349-0347 or louseg@gmavt.net, or Paula Moore at 802-989-4632 or prmoorevt@gmail.com.

Ripton: Bags available at the Town Office, Ripton Country Store, or the town shed on Green Up Day. Drop off full bags at the Ripton Recycling Shed (Kingdome) Saturday through Monday. Direct questions to Steve Zwicky at 802-388-2301 or stevenzwicky@

yahoo.com, or Bryan Waters at 802-989-3551 or bry802@gmail.com.

Salisbury: Bags and routes will be distributed to early bird list. Remaining bags and routes available on Green Up Day at Kampersville Store, Route 53, from 8 - 10 a.m. Drop off full bags on main roads to be picked up on Monday. All bags will be counted for our town tally. Direct questions to Christine Turner at 802-352-4778 or geojewel@yahoo.com.

Shoreham: Bags available at Halfway Diner, Shoreham Elementary School, Golden Russet Farm, Champlain Orchards, the Town Office, the post office, or the library. Drop off full bags on the north side of the fire station starting April 25, through May 2nd at noon. Volunteers will be available from 9 a.m. - noon on Green Up Day to help with bags. Do not leave bags on the roadside. Direct questions to Laura Siebecker at 802-897-5841 or shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us.

Starksboro: Bags and gloves available at the Town Clerk's Office, the library, and the Jerusalem Store. Drop off full bags at the Town Garage between the hours of 9 a.m. - 3pm. Direct questions to Becky Trombley at 802-453-7350 or trombh@accessvt.com.

Vergennes: Bags available now at City Hall or the city park on Green Up Day from 7 a.m. - noon. Leave full bags near intersections of city streets. Direct questions to Lowell Bertrand at 802-458-1052 or lowell.bertrand@utas.utc.com.

Waltham: Bags available at Town Hall. Drop off full bags back at Town Hall. Direct questions to 802-877-3641 walthamvtOfficers@gmail.com.

Weybridge: Bags, map, and info available at the Town Recycling Center. Leave full bags on roadsides to be picked up by the road crew. Direct questions to Peggy Lyons at 802-545-5966 or snowywool@gmail.com.

Whiting: Bags available at the Town Clerk's office on Mondays and Wednesdays during typical hours, or at Steve Quinn's house by calling ahead: 802-236-3044. Direct questions to Steve by phone or Sactquinn@gmail.com.



Gulp!
A GREAT BLUE Heron catches a meal in a marshy area along Creek Road in Middlebury on Tuesday evening.

Photo by Dottie Nelson

ACSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
\$111.1 million would fund, among other things, a new wing addition, gym and auditorium, should MUHS be designated by the state as a regional school.

- Upgrades ranging from \$41 million to \$45.4 million for Middlebury Union Middle School. The work would include classroom reconfigurations to emphasize team teaching; and expansion of the gym, library and cafeteria. The higher price tag reflects a larger auditorium and new wing.

- \$20.8 million in repairs and upgrades to Mary Higan Elementary, addressing air quality and classroom reconfigurations.

- \$15.4 million to \$25.2 million in upgrades to Cornwall's Bingham Memorial School. Work would include a secure entry, circulation improvements and a new gym, while the higher price tag calls for building a new six-classroom school.

The district and its consultant, TruexCullins, have prioritized the upgrades in five tiers. The top-tier priorities deal with security upgrades, followed by critical building systems and envelope; academic reconfiguration; building additions; and sitework/repairs.

Board members have no idea how much of the work they'll be able to get done, nor if the Vermont's eventual public education makeover will include state aid for school construction. But officials vowed to try to whittle away at the bottom line, beginning with priorities. Getting figurative and literal buy-in — most likely through one or more bonds — will be critical from residents of the ACSD-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

"If money weren't an issue, it

would be tricky to do this in five years. But unfortunately, money is an issue," Chance said.

Board member and facilities committee member Mary Heather Noble urged her colleagues to make a capital improvement strategy one of the panel's 2026 goals. The board will soon convene at its annual retreat at which goals are often set.

"The takeaway from this, in my opinion, is the 'next steps' process... and that will involve significant discussion and will need to involve significant community outreach," she said.

Among other things, she said the board will need to ask itself what district taxpayers can afford, what financial strategy it should employ, and which specific projects rise to the top of the list.

In other action on Monday, the ACSD board:

- Received an overview of the district's literacy programming for the district's elementary school students.

- Received a forecast that the ACSD might end fiscal year 2026 with a \$58,000 deficit. Matt Corrente, the district's business manager, said the final number could end up lower, or higher, depending on such factors as special education reimbursement.

- Heard from members of the Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area board, who voiced concern that the servicing and/or future removal of an existing wind turbine on the Bingham Memorial School property could conflict with a new pavilion structure that's slated to be erected at the property later this month. The Independent will have a more comprehensive report on this in its May 7 edition.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Green Up Day

(Continued from Page 1A)
solid waste, along with 386 discarded tires.

"Anyone who participates can have a cost-free experience," Johnston said, noting the trash — as long as it's placed in an official Green Up Day trash bag — will be processed by the district for free. That said, the ACSWMD spent \$4,249.44 on Green Up Day last year, including supplies and disposal costs at the state's lined landfill in Coventry.

Individual towns either designate specific drop-off locations for the filled Green Up Day bags or instruct residents to leave them roadside for pickup (or both options). Again, make sure to check your town's policy for details on where to get empty bags and where to place them when they're full.

Chantal Bolduc, Addison County's Green Up Day coordinator and an ACSWMD employee, said she's passed out a combined 4,420 Green Up Day bags to the 23 towns in our county. She's amazed at how the Green Up Day tradition has caught on.

"I think everyone looks forward

to it every year," Bolduc said, adding, "we couldn't do it without our coordinators and volunteers. Addison County looks great when everyone comes together."

Some towns have elevated Green Up Day to a community experience.

Julie Delphia is Leicester's town clerk and its Green Up Day co-coordinator.

"We are on target to 'green up' 100% of our roads, again," Delphia said with pride on Monday. "We're on it, when it comes to Green Up Day."

Indeed, Leicester already has all its roads assigned to teams of volunteers who'll be out in force on Saturday. Green Up trash bags have been available at the town office and have even been sent home with school children.

Folks can drop their filled bags off in a designated dumpster at the town garage off Fern Lake Road or leave them roadside.

Anyone who participates can then pick up a lunch/raffle ticket from the easel by the trailer at the town shed on May 2. A free lunch (hot dogs, chips, drinks and

brownies) will be available at the town office from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The raffle will be drawn shortly thereafter. Prizes include restaurant gift cards, Agway and TJ Maxx gift cards, maple syrup, and more.

Delphia has seen a lot of "interesting" trash liberated from the countryside by Leicester folks through the years. She's seen power line cables, car fenders, suitcases and kiddie swimming pools.

"You never quite know what you're going to get," she said with a chuckle.

Asked why she believes her neighbors have been such avid Green Up Day helpers, Delphia replied, "I believe people in Leicester are very proud of their town and want it to look good."

The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) will host Middlebury's Green Up Day effort this year. Official Green Up bags will be available at College Park (across the street from Shire Town Market) on Green Up Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or beforehand at the MALT office at 298 Maple St. or the Middlebury town offices

at 77 Main St. Filled bags can be dropped off at College Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the time, MALT staff will be on hand at College Park helping with bag pick-up and drop-off, according to Rachel Klatzker, MALT's education director.

You can also pick up Green Up Day bags the Addison Independent headquarters in the Marble Works from 9 a.m. to noon on May 2. At that same time, the Independent — in association with the Better Middlebury Partnership — will host a "recycled treasures" sale of chairs, tables, desks (many from Middlebury College) and all sorts of wonderfully random gems ready for a second life. The event will feature coffee from Little Seed and music from WVTK.

If you plan on volunteering, please be safe.

Green Up Vermont officials urge participants to watch for traffic, wear bright clothing, wear protective gloves, don't touch any hypodermic needles and check for ticks on your body when you're done.

Have a great Green Up Day!

Middlebury Tree Committee

Celebrate Trees!

2026 Arbor Day Events Sat., May 2

10am-12pm	Arbor Day Fest at Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op	Find out about trees in Middlebury, insect pests and enjoy a tree seedling giveaway
10:30am-11am	Ilsley Public Library Reading of "The Lorax" 30 Main St.	Join Chris Olson for a reading of "The Lorax" by Dr. Suess' & other stories; tree seedling giveaway
12pm-1:30pm	Rec Park Pruning Workshop 77 Mary Hogan Dr. Parking Lot	Chris Zeoli teaches how to prune trees during this hands-on workshop.
2pm-3:30pm	Vermont Tree Talk College Park	Tim Parsons talks about the varieties of tree species that do well in VT

In Vermont, we celebrate Arbor Day on the first Friday in May.

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Vegetables-Annuals-Perennials Hanging Baskets-Herbs

We will be open

Friday, May 1 - Friday, May 15, 2026

Monday-Friday, 9 am-2 pm and Saturdays (5/2 and 5/9 Only), 9 am-2 pm

Supplies are limited, so shop early for best selection.

Plants will also be available at Aubuchon Hardware in Middlebury for the same prices during their regular store hours.

The Garden Patch

Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center
51 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT | (802)-382-1073
Proceeds Benefit Middlebury FFA Chapter

Spotlight on Vergennes

VCF arts funding is available

VERMONT — The sense of belonging and connection people feel in their communities has a powerful influence on mental and physical health. At a time of polarization, disruption and disconnection, the arts can help bring people back together to work, play, create and solve problems at the community level with meaningful impacts on wellbeing.

The Vermont Community Foundation has new funding available for projects and events in the visual, performing, musical and literary arts that create opportunities for positive social interaction, engagement and collaboration. The foundation invites Letters of Interest (LOI) from nonprofits, schools, libraries, and other community and cultural organizations. Projects should strengthen belonging and

community cohesion in ways that are likely to persist and grow.

This grant program is made possible by a Vermont Community Foundation fundholder and aligns with the Foundation's goals to improve health and wellbeing and close the opportunity gap that leaves too many Vermont residents struggling to thrive.

Grants are expected to average \$7,500, with awards of up to \$12,000 to support a range of project types and sizes across the state.

LOIs will be accepted between April 14 and May 11, 2026. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, May 11 to be considered. LOIs will only be accepted through the online grants management platform available at vermontcf.org/for-nonprofits.

Following a review of all LOIs,

a smaller number of organizations will be invited to submit a full application for funding consideration. Organizations will be notified of their LOI status by May 18.

For more information and to submit a Letter of Interest, visit vermontcf.org/arts-social-cohesion.

The Vermont Community Foundation was established in 1986 as an enduring source of philanthropic support for Vermont communities. The Foundation and its partners put nearly \$80 million annually to work in Vermont communities and beyond. The heart of its work is closing the opportunity gap—the divide that leaves too many Vermonters struggling to get ahead, no matter how hard they work.

Kruger Brothers to play at VOH, May 1

VERGENNES — The Kruger Brothers are full of anticipation for this return visit to the little city of Vergennes and the VOH stage, on Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. This show will officially close out the 2025-2026 season at the Vergennes Opera House. The Kruger Brothers truly are a fixture within the world of acoustic music with their unique ability to infuse classical music into folk music.

The Kruger Brothers have received numerous honors and

awards not only in the US, but internationally. Another milestone was met for the group on August 6, 2024, when they performed on the Grand Ole Opry stage. In March 2025 the Kruger Brothers were inducted into the Blue Ridge Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in Europe, brothers Jens and Uwe Kruger started singing and playing instruments at a very young age. The two brothers were performing regularly by 1973; their full

professional career began in 1979. CBS Records contracted with the brothers when Jens was just 17 years old. In 1989, the brothers teamed up with bass player Joel Landsberg, a native of New York City. Since 2003, the trio has been based in Wilkesboro, NC. Joining their ranks full-time in 2025, mandolinist Jonah Horton adds to the group's unparalleled sound.

Tickets are \$40. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m.



Creativity takes wing

LEFT, LILY WORSMAN USES a splash of color and a little sparkle to give her duck some personality at the Bixby Library's rubber duck decorating event on Saturday. Right, Zoë Anderson shows a decorated rubber duck.

Independent Photo by Kelsey Wood

Civics Bee to be held in Vergennes

VERGENNES — The Addison County Chamber of Commerce will host a 2026 National Civics Bee Regional Competition that is open to the public on May 9, from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Vergennes Opera House.

The event is aimed at encouraging young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Middle school

students from across Addison and Rutland counties will demonstrate their civics knowledge, discuss how they would solve a problem facing their community, and compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to move on to the Vermont State Championships on June 8th in Stowe.

Fifteen area middle school students from Brandon, Leicester,

Middlebury, North Chittenden, Pittsford, Rutland, and Weybridge were selected for the regional final from a large group of area essay submissions.

Regional final judges include former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak and other prominent business and academic leaders in Vermont.

Unlocked vehicles ransacked in Verg.

VERGENNES — Last week the Vergennes Police Department received reports of a string of car ransackings.

All four break-ins, which occurred on April 22 and April 23, were from unlocked cars. The only items stolen were a hunting knife and change from one of the vehicles.

Vergennes police also conducted 12 traffic stops, seven directed patrols, one foot patrol, one vehicle identification number inspection and took fingerprints four times.

Vergennes Police Log

In other recent activity, city police:

- On April 20 conducted speed enforcement on West Main Street and contacted two violators.
- On April 20 took a report from a Vergennes resident of a possible violation of a relief from abuse order. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday, April 27.
- On April 20 conducted a business check. There was nothing to report.
- On April 20 received a report of a shoplifting incident at Kinney Drugs. Desiree Garrison, a Vergennes woman in her early '40s, was issued a citation for retail theft and unlawful trespass.
- On April 20 received another shoplifting report from Kinney Drugs. An unknown woman walked out without paying for merchandise. As of Monday the investigation was continuing.
- On April 21, the Vergennes Police Department was notified of an incident involving a resident who had started multiple campfires in their yard, prompting a response from the fire department. During that response, the person reportedly became confrontational when advised to extinguish the fires. Following the incident, it was determined in coordination with the fire department that officers will

respond alongside fire personnel to any future calls at the location to ensure safety. The person has had recent interactions with multiple services related to mental health concerns, and efforts to provide assistance are ongoing.

- On April 21 issued a temporary abuse prevention order to a defendant in a case.
- On April 22 assisted a resident with a motor vehicle complaint.
- On April 22 assisted Vermont State Police with a call in Addison where there was a reported threat of a firearm. Police determined it was a prank/swatting call.
- On April 23 located a vehicle that was parked in a closed parking area. The vehicle moved along.
- On April 24 responded and quieted an argument between roommates.
- On April 25 assisted Vergennes rescue.
- On April 25 assisted the Bristol Police Department.
- On April 26 responded to a motor vehicle crash on West Main Street involving a vehicle that struck a telephone pole. Police determined the vehicle was stolen and a total loss. Two people fled the scene. As of Monday the investigation was ongoing.
- On April 26 served a subpoena at the request of the Addison County Superior Court.

A Remembrance of Karen Ann Pettersen

Saturday, May 16
5-8 PM -- Presentations at 6
Ferrisburgh Town Hall



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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Student letters

Students at Vergennes Union Middle School finished a civics unit by writing open letters. Our driving question was: What makes democracy work?

To create this final project, teachers and students used *The New York Times* open letter contest framework. Students could choose any topic they felt passionate about. The letters are being published in several different venues: in our school newsletter, on Front Porch Forum, in the *Addison Independent*,

and on school bulletin boards. Two students submitted their letters to the NYT contest!

Our students did a wonderful job writing these letters, and we hope you enjoy reading the ones that appear here. We expect these students will continue to use their voices to highlight issues they care about!

**Libby Payeur and
Nan Guilmette
VUMS Humanities Teachers**

Letters to the Editor

Mental health programming can curb violence

Mental health and violence is a problem. It can cause a ripple effect. First, someone has bad mental health and takes it out on someone else. Second, all the people that knew the victim are also affected. Family, friends, and loved ones all get really sad and that lowers their mental health. That is why we need to make a change for people who have bad mental health and are choosing violence. People should be able to feel better about themselves so they don't feel the need to harm someone.

Do you want the world to be a safer place? Probably. Do you want to lose a loved one from violence? Probably not. If this has happened to you, first, I'm so sorry, and second, I feel your pain. My cousin got shot because someone was mad at him last year. After it happened my mental

health lowered because I was really sad. It also might have happened to you. According to the "Mental Health" and "Mental Illness and Violence" articles from Gale Opposing Viewpoints, in 2023, 23% of adults in the U.S. had a mental illness along with 33% of teens having a major depressive episode that year. Also, normally, 25% of people can expect at least one disorder in their life. So there needs to be easier ways to seek help.

A solution to this problem can be more specific mental health programs and rehab facilities to help raise your mental health. Another way is to make sure everyone knows the hotline to call if they need help. I will admit I did not know what it was in Vermont until last year. If you do need to call for help the Vermont hotline is 988. It should be more engraved in

people's minds like 911 is. Maybe if these people called the hotline or went to someplace to help their mental health, they would not have done these things.

So, before you go and hate the person who killed your loved one, think about their story and background. Just to be clear, I am not saying that you should not be mad at the person who shot someone you cared about because you have the right to have all the emotions. All I'm saying is that you should just take a second to think about what that person's mental health could be. Also look at your mental health and try to keep it good. So, in the end, we need to make it easier for people to seek mental health help so they do not feel the need to hurt someone.

**A Concerned Middle Schooler
VUMS Student**

Pressure, stress can weigh heavily on teenagers

It feels like I hardly have time for myself anymore. I spend all my time doing what the people I'm supposed to look up to tell me to do. Is any of this going to matter in the future? Teachers expect us to work even more after the school days are already over, coaches expect us to always be at our best, no matter how much we're hurting, and parents expect us to still be perfect and obedient no matter what.

The amount of teenagers that are mentally exhausted is concerning. There shouldn't be anyone that feels this way. It would be easier if you, the adults, had more empathy. Teenagers feel so much pressure to be perfect. According to a CNN Health article, 81% of teens ages 13-17 feel pressure that leaves them feeling badly about their achievements, appearances, social lives, and friendships as of Fall 2024. The article also reported that teens feel that the most pressure comes from other adults.

School is already hard enough for most students, so having to do more work at home makes things even harder. After seven cruel hours of school, when you finally think you can relax, you still have to do homework for multiple different classes.

Personally, I don't understand the purpose of homework, and

most of my peers feel similar. I do get that you want us to study more so we can understand what we're learning, but that's not what being at home is for. Being at home is a time to relax, it's meant to feel safe and comfortable. If that many teens find school stressful, then why would we bring more school to home?

Everyone deserves breaks, but it seems like we never get them. I know I'm just one person, but no matter how much sleep I get (which is pretty much impossible because of the amount of work cutting into our nights) I never truly feel rested.

Most teenagers have an outside of school activity, like a practice or rehearsal. A lot of the time it can take up most of the afternoon, leaving not a lot of time at home. According to a *New York Times* article, once kids start to reach their teens they start enjoying sports less because of overused injuries and overtraining which leads to burnout. Pressure from parents and coaches also leads to not enjoying sports as much. A win-at-all-costs culture can affect a young athlete's development and well-being.

Lots of teens are very passionate about the things they like to do after school, but the constant pressure that comes with it makes what's supposed to be a fun

activity feel like a job. Having all of this pressure coming from so many different areas of teenagers' lives can cause unneeded stress. The teenage years are supposedly the best years of your life and spending them constantly feeling like you're not good enough might take away how you view the purpose of life.

**A Burnt Out Teen
VUMS Student**

City deserves better sidewalks, please fix them

Cracked sidewalks are a problem I experience almost every morning on my bike ride to school. As I ride, I'm constantly going up and down over uneven pavement, sometimes nearly falling off my bike just trying to stay balanced.

However, falling off a bike isn't the only risk cracked sidewalks create. They can cause people to trip, leading to serious injuries like head trauma. They also make it difficult—or even impossible—for people who use wheelchairs or walkers to get around safely. The Grand Assisted Living Center is right there! On top of that, damaged sidewalks can lower the property

value of nearby homes. For all of these reasons, I believe the cracked sidewalks in Vergennes should be repaired.

There are several common causes of cracked sidewalks. Sometimes the issue is as simple as unstable soil underneath. In other cases, tree roots grow and push the pavement upward. Poor installation can also lead to cracks over time. Additionally, extreme temperature changes—when weather shifts from very hot to very cold—can cause sidewalks to expand and contract, eventually cracking. This is similar to how a mug can crack if it goes from boiling hot water to the freezer too quickly.

Some people might argue, "If we fix them, they'll just crack again." However, there are ways to reduce this problem. Adding an extra protective layer to sidewalks could help increase their durability. Installing proper edging can provide support and using sidewalk bumpers can minimize damage if a car accidentally hits the edge.

All things considered, it's clear that improving and repairing our sidewalks is important for safety, accessibility, and the overall quality of our community. Vergennes deserves sidewalks that everyone can use safely.

**Dorothy Coburn
VUMS Student**

Time to abolish daylight savings time in the U.S.

I want daylight savings to be abolished. In the U.S., Arizona and Hawaii don't do daylight savings, and also other countries including most of Asia. Those parts being China, India, and Japan, and all of Africa doesn't even do it. I am not trying to come at you aggressively at all because I know that there is a bill (VT H0538) being considered for daylight savings time to be abolished. But I am also not asking for this to happen just because I want it to.

I am also sending this letter because it has been scientifically proven that changing times is unhealthy. There have been studies proving that it leads to more heart attacks and fatal car crashes. It is also harder for students to learn because it makes us tired. I have noticed the kids in my school, including me, tend to make worse choices, therefore leading to us getting in trouble more often.

There are many more reasons that daylight savings makes people's everyday lives harder. For instance, the changing of the clocks can be a large struggle for people who use analog clocks and analog wrist watches. These struggles may vary from either getting to work or a job interview

late, or if someone needs to get somewhere that is very important for this person or to another person who is hoping they show up. Daylight savings could make said person be late by an hour or even miss it completely, which could be a very big problem.

As you can see there are many reasons that daylight savings should be abolished. Please do what you can to fix this problem. Thank you for your time regarding abolishing daylight savings.

**Colvin Killon
VUMS Student**

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The economics of pro basketball

There is a problem I want to talk about: the complaints regarding WNBA players not getting paid enough by the organization. However, I wish people were more educated on the situation before making claims that sexism is the reason for the WNBA wage gap.

The reason is that the WNBA does not have as much money as the NBA. People are getting angry at those in charge because they believe the only reason WNBA players are paid less is sexism, but the truth is that WNBA has almost 5x less the amount of money they are able to hand out compared to the NBA, and the reasons for this are complicated.

Why do I care about this? Because I see people around me, even at my school, putting up posters that say, "pay less, do more". I also see people on Instagram saying that the people in charge are sexist and will not pay the women more. And I do understand that sexism might play a role in this, but not big enough to where it's stopping the players from being paid as much as possible.

According to Adam Silver (the league's commissioner) in 2018, "The WNBA's losses were roughly \$10 million a year. And reports last fall said the WNBA was due to lose \$40 million in 2024. Adjust the 2018 figures for inflation, and the WNBA is supposedly losing three times as much as it was a few years ago."

I do want to say congratulations to the WNBA players for getting paid more. According to Sabreana Merchant and Shannon Ryan from the *New York Times*, "Players have been asking for money since the league started in 1997, and now they have gotten a big increase in pay. For the time being, professional women's basketball players in the US can make more than \$1 million, and the average salary will be almost \$600,000 after the players' union and the league agreed to a new contract."

I understand that WNBA players look at what NBA players get paid and know they do work, but get paid a lot less. We cannot expect them to get paid as much as LeBron James. The money that people pay to watch the NBA is roughly twice the money that people pay to watch the WNBA.

There are some solutions to this problem. The WNBA could increase the price of WNBA tickets, which are currently almost half the price of NBA tickets. The WNBA could consider raising the ticket prices and bringing in Adam Silver. They could also try to get companies to sponsor the WNBA and offer special seats to fans who are willing to pay more. In the end, fans want the players to get paid more. The organization does not have enough money. It will take some time to make big changes. But it's possible.

**Gabriel Hale
VUMS Student**

Monkton

(Continued from Page 1A) else on the agenda besides ‘What school is going to close next?’ and start focusing on how we can save money by keeping these schools open for our kids.”

MAUSD officials have been evaluating different education delivery options in an effort to reduce costs while continuing to offer quality education. The three options the school board agreed to study were:

- Operating two elementary schools with grade banding, using Bristol Elementary School and Starksboro’s Robinson Elementary School. In a grade-banding model, students are grouped in schools based on their grade level rather than the town they live in.
- Operating two elementary schools — one preK-5 school and one K-5 school — using Bristol and the Robinson School in Starksboro.
- A contingency model where Bristol, Robinson and Monkton Central School all remain open.

The school board was set to host a special meeting on Thursday, April 30. The meeting agenda featured several action items, including initiating a deeper study of both Robinson and Monkton being paired with Bristol in options

operating two elementary schools; engaging with New Haven residents more deeply about potential school closure; and studying moving the district’s central office into a school as soon as the summer of 2027.

Along with the typical public comment period at the start and end of the meeting, the agenda noted community members “will be invited to share thoughts and engage with the board during each item on the agenda.”

“Start coming to the meetings and speak up so we know what’s important and so that everybody knows what’s going on, really to help guide the district as we move forward.”

— Kielee Pelland

Ahead of that meeting, Monkton residents had begun organizing and expressing their opposition to the potential closure of MCS. Residents formed a Monkton branch of Save Our Schools — similar groups have previously organized efforts to protect local schools in Starksboro and Ripton. Lincoln, which was once part of the MAUSD, withdrew two years ago to form its own independent school district.

Efforts in Monkton are being supported by the Starksboro SOS group, which has voiced its support for studying cost-saving opportunities that keep all schools open.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Monkton and Starksboro school



AROUND 135 MONKTON residents attended an April 24 meeting at the Monkton Central School (MCS) to show their support for the elementary school and speak with local school board members and elected officials. Monkton residents shared their opposition to the idea of closing MCS and advocated for exploring ways to address challenges faced by the Mount Abraham Unified School District without closing schools.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

board members attended the April 24 meeting, along with Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol, and Addison-4 state reps. Herb Olson, D-Starksboro, and Karen Lueders, D-Lincoln. After hearing from school board members and elected officials, the moderator opened the floor to Monkton residents.

Many spoke of MCS’s importance to the community. Monkton resident Jane Low read a letter prepared by the Monkton SOS group, pointing to examples of community involvement at MCS. Those include the parent-teacher organization’s Read-A-Thon fundraiser, which she said

has raised \$12,000 in each of the past two years.

“Local residents also volunteer in the mentoring program, the PTO and the Four Winds Nature Program at Monkton Central,” she said. “The amount of support the community provides to the school is substantial.”

The letter also highlighted signs of growth in Monkton and a goal of supporting high quality education for the town’s students included in its town plan.

“Over the past seven years, student enrollment at Monkton Central has remained stable with hopes of a slight increase, one

cannot use shrinking enrollment as a reason to close our school right now,” Low read.

“While public engagement is essential, decisions of this scale should not be shaped disproportionately by where the opposition is strongest, but instead guided by consistent, transparent criteria,” Low continued later on. “We ask the (MAUSD Board) to halt any study regarding the closure of Monkton Central School. It is a waste of taxpayer money to proceed with this study. The board should present evidence-based suggestions, it should look at ways to save money that do not disrupt

schools and families within our communities.”

Multiple speakers stated Monkton residents would never vote to close MCS. Closing one of the district’s schools requires an affirmative vote of residents in the town the school is located in.

Marilyn Cargill referenced the Monkton Town Plan, which in each of its iterations has included a goal of supporting “Monkton Central School as a vital community service.”

“So, when we say this town will not vote that down it’s not wishful thinking, it’s evidence-based that we know this town supports that in the town plan and has since 2007, and the only reason it’s not before that is we didn’t have town plans,” she said.

Multiple attendees said closing schools hasn’t proven to save money and that challenges in the area of health care — a major driver of school budgets each year — need tackling.

“That’s the issue that has to be addressed, or we’re going to do this again, and we’re going to do it again, and we’re just going to keep closing the schools until there’s no more schools and guess what, there’s no more people,” Monkton resident Lee said.

Legislators shed light on work being done in the Statehouse to reform the state’s health care system, with Lueders stating Vermont saved \$230 million this year “by reducing what could be charged for drugs by hospitals.”

Lawmakers also discussed efforts to transform Vermont’s public education system. The House recently passed H.955, a bill that would create Cooperative Educational Service Areas (CESAs) for districts to share services, as well as explore voluntary school district mergers. The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Education.

Community members asked what could be done in the meantime to respond to recent school board action. Several residents shared frustration with the school board’s Policy Governance model, specifically limits on the school board’s power and ability to engage with community members at meetings.

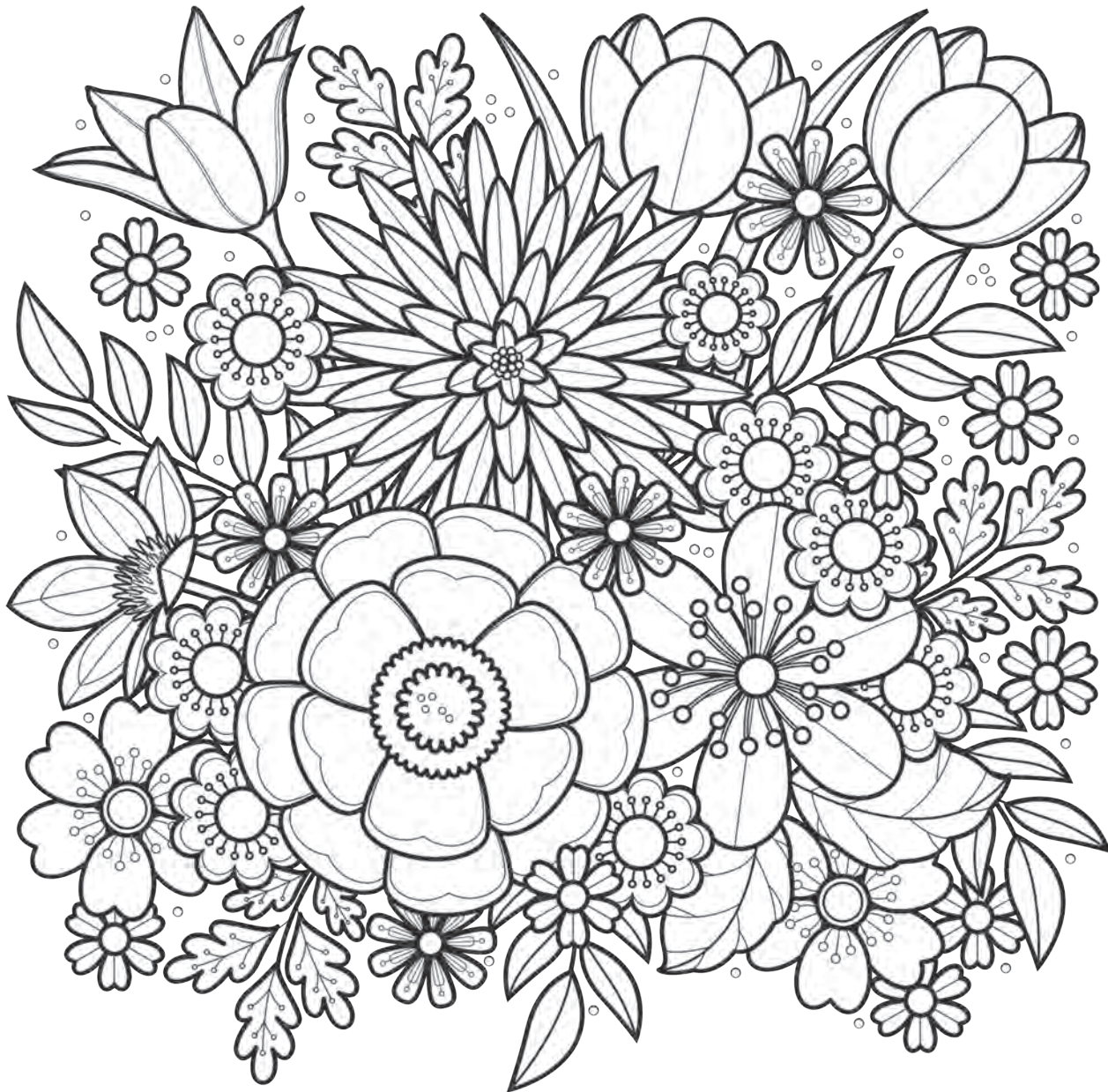
School board members encouraged residents to attend meetings and share their perspectives, including at the April 30 gathering.

“Start coming to the meetings and speak up so we know what’s important and so that everybody knows what’s going on, really to help guide the district as we move forward,” Monkton school board representative Kielee Pelland said.

Members of the Monkton SOS group highlighted other ways for residents to get involved, such as by joining a letter-writing campaign to the school board that can be found on the Monkton SOS website (<https://savemcs.org>).

Monkton resident Eugenie Doyle said petitions to “Keep Monkton Central School Open” had received more than 600 signatures as of Monday. She noted next steps include having residents attend the April 30 special meeting and collaborating with the district’s other member towns.

“The key to the next steps is working together with Starksboro, with Bristol, with New Haven, if they would like to, with any town in the district, to keep the elementary school open and to work with our school board members to convey the will of people in the town that’s what we would like, and that we would not vote to close our schools,” Doyle said.



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MAV SENIOR CO-CAPTAIN **Asa Pratt** rips a shot during a home game against Milton on April 24. The Eagle boys' lacrosse team dropped the game 9-2 to the Yellowjackets.

Independent photo/Steve James

After tough loss, MAV boys dominate 9-2

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRISTOL — The MAV boys' lacrosse team came back from a tough 9-2 loss to Milton last Friday with a decisive 14-2 triumph over Spaulding four days later.

That win over the Crimson Tide on Tuesday brings the combined squad, made of players from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools, to 2-1 on the season, with many games left to go.

The offensive prowess the team

showed Tuesday night was an improvement from their prior April 24 game, when the Eagles struggled to find their flow on attack.

"I told the guys at the end of the game ... our effort was great. I think our (defense) played phenomenal," Coach Ed Cook said after the game.

Of what went wrong, he noted, "our execution was not great. We threw the ball away a ton, a lot of unforced turnovers."

The Eagles spent the bulk of the

game on the defensive, trying to keep a composed Milton offense from the goal. By the final buzzer, sophomore goalie Mason Forand had stopped 11 Yellowjacket shots.

He was tested from the onset of the game. Forand had two saves within the first two minutes.

But Milton managed to get on the board a little over three minutes in, making it 1-0. The Yellowjackets got a second goal not long after.

Focused Eagle defense and

Forand's goaltending got MAV through the rest of the first quarter unscathed. They even managed to get one goal past the Yellowjackets with a burst of momentum in the final minute.

With about 44 seconds left in the first quarter, the Eagles were fiercely fighting for a goal. The Milton goalie deflected a MAV shot, and the ball ended up behind the net rolling toward out of bounds. (See MAV boys, Page 4B)

NESCAC semifinal on tap for Midd women's lax

MIDDLEBURY — The undefeated Middlebury College women's lacrosse team is advancing to the NESCAC semifinals this coming weekend.

The No. 1 seeded Panthers will take on Trinity, who they beat 10-4 in March, on Saturday on the Peter Kohn Field. That match comes on the heels of dealing bottom-seeded Bates a second 2026 blow, this time in the quarterfinals on April 25.

For the past four years every NESCAC semifinal and final round

has been played in Middlebury.

And this year is no different. The Panthers, who haven't lost a regular season game since 2019, retain home field advantage for the duration of the tournament as the highest remaining seed.

Just hours after nabbing their 15th win on Wednesday, April 22, it came as no surprise when the New England Small College Athletic Conference announced that Middlebury secured the top (See Panther women, Page 3B)

Panther baseball to host conference quarterfinal

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The 2024 and 2025 defending NESCAC champion Panther baseball team is starting the conference tournament on Friday as the second-seeded team in the West division.

The 19-12 Middlebury nine play Bowdoin, which earned the third East Division seed and enter post-season 15-19, in one of four best-of-three quarterfinal series this week. The two teams have yet to play this season.

The last time the Panthers and Polar Bears met was in 2024. Middlebury swept Bowdoin in the three-game regular season series.

The Panthers and Polar Bears will take to the South Street baseball field May 1 at 3 p.m., May 2 at 11 a.m., and again at 2:30 p.m. if the teams split the first two

games. This isn't Middlebury's first time at the top of the pack. In 2024 and 2025 the Panthers sat atop the West division standings going into the NESCAC tournament, and triumphed both years. The Panthers took the title from Williams in a 10-6 final last year, and from Tufts the year prior in a game that ended 9-2.

The Panthers have appeared in six of the last eight finals held since 2017, and came away with the title one other time in addition to the 2024 and 2025 triumphs. In 2022 Middlebury defeated Hamilton 12-8.

If Middlebury makes it past Bowdoin this weekend, the Panthers move on to the championship weekend at Trinity College, planned for May 8-10.

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball

4/28 S. Burlington vs MUHS18-7
4/28 Bellows Falls vs VUHS.....17-2
4/28 Mt. Abe vs Harwood.....21-0
4/29 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi.....Late

Baseball

4/27 Mt. Abe vs BFA Fairfax.....16-4
4/28 MUHS vs S. Burlington.....7-5
4/28 Mt. Abe vs Harwood.....5-3

Boys' Lax

4/24 Milton vs Mt. Abe.....9-2
4/25 MUHS vs BFA St. Albans.....20-6
4/28 Mt. Abe vs Spaulding.....14-2
4/29 MMU at MUHS.....Late

Girls' Lax

4/27 Mt. Abe vs MMU.....14-11
4/29 MUHS at Mt. Abe.....Late

Girls' Ultimate

4/28 Burlington vs MUHS.....14-4

Boys' Ultimate

4/27 MUHS vs Rice.....10-5

Girls' Tennis

4/28 CVU vs MUHS.....7-0

COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball

4/22 Castleton vs Midd..... 14-13 (10 inn.)
4/24 Midd vs Williams 6-5 (10 inn.)
4/25 Midd vs Williams 5-1 (7 inn.)
4/25 Williams vs Midd7-6

Softball

4/25 Williams vs Midd6-1
4/25 Midd vs Williams11-2
4/26 Midd vs Amherst.....8-6
4/26 Amherst vs Midd.....3-0
4/29 Midd at Castle. (DH).....Late
4/29 Midd at Castle. (DH).....Late

Women's Lacrosse

4/22 Midd vs Williams15-6 (NESCAC Quarterfinal)

Men's Lacrosse

4/22 Williams vs Midd8-7 (NESCAC Quarterfinals)

Women's Tennis

4/25 Midd at Colby7-0
4/26 Bowdoin vs Midd.....4-3

Men's Tennis

4/25 Midd vs Colby7-0
4/26 Bowdoin vs Midd.....4-3

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball

4/30 MUHS at Fair Haven..... 4:30 PM
5/2 VUHS at Spaulding..... 3 PM
5/2 Mt. Abe at OV..... 3:00 PM
5/4 VUHS at Mt. Abe..... 4:30 PM
5/5 Rutland at MUHS 4:30 PM
5/5 Rice at VUHS..... 4:30 PM
(See Schedule, Page 4B)



JUNIOR ABRAHAM CAMARA runs with the ball during a home game against Milton on April 24.

Independent photo/Steve James

Wolves down Tigers 18-7

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Despite getting their bats swinging, the Tiger softball team took an 18-7 loss on Tuesday night, April 28, to South Burlington.

"We ran into some problems, but that's expected," Coach Jordan Broughton said. "We have a young team, we learn every single day, and we just have to be ... better for the next game."

The Tigers, a team comprised primarily of sophomores and juniors, kept fighting back on offense and were able to get within a run or two of the Wolves, but were unable to come back after South Burlington took a 16-6 lead in the sixth.

The Wolves were ahead from the onset. At the top of the second, South Burlington led 4-0. But that didn't discourage the Tigers, who managed to close the gap to just one run by the end of the inning.

Co-captain Skyler Choiniere started off the Tiger offense by narrowly beating an infield throw to first. The senior successfully

stole second on the next pitch, putting herself in scoring position.

With one out and Choiniere on third, sophomore Pema Kerins hit a single that looked like it would be good for a second South Burlington out, but which was thrown over first base. Kerins was able to get to second, and Choiniere scored.

With two outs, senior co-captain Brianna Foss put the ball into play, and another Wolves error made the hit good for a single. That brought Kerins home from where she was waiting at third.

Junior Tenny LaRoche came up next and hit another Tiger single, bringing in Foss to make it 3-4.

The Wolves gave themselves a cushion with a fifth run in the third that was unanswered by the Tigers.

In the top of the fourth, South Burlington made it 8-3, with all of their runs scored with two outs.

In the bottom of the fourth, another Kerins single, plus a hit from junior Heaven Ross that landed just behind second base,

(See Tiger softball, Page 3B)

Three locals inducted into 2026 Vt. Hall of Fame

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Two athletes from Cornwall and another from Orwell were among the 10 newest inductees of the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame at its induction ceremony on April 25 in South Burlington.

The inductees are lacrosse standout Sarah Dalton Graddock of Cornwall; Susan Dunklee of Barton who was a three-time Olympic biathlete and a multi-sport standout in high school and college; Saint Michael's College basketball star and longtime high school coach Dick Falkenbush of South Burlington; the first-ever wrestler inducted, Steven Forrest of Bennington, a champion and national team member; track and field star Mary Heitkamp of Orwell; Olympic moguls skiing medalist Hannah Kearney of Norwich, Vt.; Swanton's Matt Raleigh, a standout player and successful coach at all levels of baseball; and legendary collegiate coaches Mickey Heineken of Cornwall and Middlebury College and Mike McShane of Norwich University;

award-winning sportswriter Tom Haley of Proctor is this year's Mal Boright Media inductee.

With this year's class, the membership in the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame has 153 inductees since its first class was inducted in 2012. The inductees now represent 64 towns in the Green Mountain State and 13 of the state's 14 counties, missing only Essex County.

To view previous classes and for more information on the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame, log on to its official website, www.vermontsportshall.com.

Below is more about the three Addison County inductees:

- Sarah Dalton Graddock, Cornwall, women's lacrosse: The most decorated lacrosse player the state of Vermont has ever produced, Dalton went from a multi-sport high school star at Middlebury Union High School to two All-America selections at Boston University, where she led the Terriers to four consecutive America East championships. (See Hall of Fame, Page 3B)



SOPHOMORE MCKENNA WHITNEY makes contact with the ball during a home game against South Burlington on Tuesday, April 28. The Tiger softball team lost 18-7, bringing their record to 1-1.

Independent photo/Steve James

'My mom would tell you I have a screw loose'

He is a picture framer with a shop and studio in Middlebury, right in the middle of town.

Brian has owned Otter Creek Custom Framing for 21 years. Before that, he worked for Shirley Neal, the previous owner, for 15 years. "After graduating from Mt. Abe," he told me in a conversation last week in his shop, "I was building custom furniture with my grandpa and we heard she was looking for some help.

"I thought with my woodworking skills and experience, I might be good at it." His grandfather, Clayton, was the owner and proprietor of Deerleap Furniture in Bristol.

Now, his other identity, his avocation: It's quite different —

night and day different!

Brian is an endurance athlete, an ultramarathoner — an "obstacle course racer (OCR)," to be more precise.

In June of last year, Brian competed in the Infinitus 100, held at Silver Lake Campground in Goshen, Vt., hosted by the Endurance Society. In last year's event, the 100-mile race with about 17,000 feet of elevation gain and loss, was run "through mud, relentless rain, and some of the worst conditions the race has seen," according to the website of the Bristol Fitness Center.

It took Brian 36 hours, and he finished seventh of 34 competitors. He has participated in this event

six times and finished four times, his DNFs (Did Not Finish) resulting from "trench foot and extended nausea."

The Endurance Society is the brainchild of Andrew "Andy" Weinberg, a member of the physical education faculty at Vermont State University at Castleton and an ultra marathoner *par excellence* himself.

He once completed the Quintuple Ironman: 12-mile swim, 560 miles on the bike, and 121 mile run over four days.

I spoke with Brian, 55, last week at the frame shop. "I have probably done 150 or so of these OCR races, mostly when I was in my 40s. Now I probably do two a year."

He was an athlete in high school at Mt Abraham High, class of '89, and enjoyed conventional team sports at that time, playing baseball under Bill Stetson and basketball with Coach Bill Leggett.

He has always been fit, combining weight training and running and hiking before concentrating on these endurance challenges. He loves to hunt and be in the woods.

Though his roots run deep in Bristol, Brian lives in Vergennes now, with his wife Megan Allen Ladeau, a photographer, and their son, Cameron, 6, and her daughter, Averie, 14. His parents, Brian and Pam, still live in Bristol as do Brian's two sons from his first marriage, Noah 20 and Logan 21, both graduates of Mt. Abe and accomplished athletes themselves.

Ten years ago, Brian and his friend, Steve Beckwith, saw a "Spartan" race in Killington and decided to compete in a forthcoming event called "the Beast." (Spartan is the world's leading obstacle course racing organization: Joe De Sena, its founder and CEO, a legend in this area of endeavor, lives with his family on a farm in Pittsfield, Vt.)

The Beast is a 13-mile race, with a number of obstacles, military style: sandbag and bucket carry, barbwire crawl, rope climbs, monkey bars, a

Tarzan swing over water, and so on.

"We thought it would take us about three hours — it took us nine. Our wives thought we had died. But I was hooked and so was Steve. He and I race a lot together, with a good core of friends!"

Since then, Brian has competed in the Spartan Ultra Beast (two laps around the course) on four occasions, two with Steve. That's 30 miles with about 60 obstacles.

In 2015, Brian and Steve attended the World OCR Champions in Dayton, Ohio — and traveled together with six friends to the World Championships in Toronto in 2016 and 2017, competing in all three events there, the short course, the long course, and the team event.

This kind of enterprise is good for building camaraderie. "It's a family," Brian said. "I see a lot of the same people year to year. The majority of my best friends are the result of OCR."

At the moment, Brian is training his friend, Tim O'Toole, who is competing in the next Endurance Society activities at Silver Towers coming right up in May. Tim is running in the 50-mile event, his first race of over 18 miles. Brian will run the whole way with him, as his "pacer."

I asked Brian if he were being paid for this training and support, and he scoffed. Silly question.

Okay, now we must ask the question which is being begged: Why? Why punish yourself so? To what end?

"It makes me realize that the body is capable of," Brian answered. "You want to quit, you're sleep deprived: your brain wants you to stop . . . but I like the mental aspect, testing what I can and cannot do. I race for me. For the satisfaction of finishing. I don't care if I win."

"I'm only doing a 100-mile race. Others are crazy — they're doing so much more. My mom would say I have a screw loose."

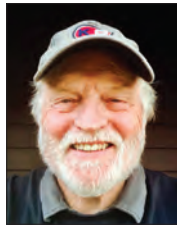
That said, I asked about his DNF in the 100-mile Endurance Society race in Goshen two years ago when he was 53.

"I don't know what was wrong," he said. "From mile 20 to 70, I couldn't keep anything down. It was probably about nutrition. I lost 13 pounds. You know what your limit is. You have to live the next day. I had family and work responsibilities."

"Failures are a good thing. You don't always succeed."

As for me, upon finishing this piece, having exhausted my physical and mental limits with all this cogitating and keyboard tapping, I headed down to Shiretown in Middlebury for a creemee.

And a little nap in my car. Karl Lindholm Ph.D is the Emeritus Dean of Advising and Assistant Professor of American Studies (retired) at Middlebury College. He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu



Sports (Mostly) **KARL LINDHOLM**



BRIAN LADEAU AT the finish of the Infinitus 100 last May at Silver Towers Campground, a 100-mile obstacle course race hosted by the Endurance Society.

Photo by Megan Allen Ladeau



BRIAN LADEAU AT his shop, Otter Creek Custom Framing, with his son Cameron, 6. Brian's vocation and his avocation are distinctly different.

Photo by Karl Lindholm



BRIAN LADEAU SURMOUNTING one of the obstacles in a 24-hour obstacle course race (OCR) at Shale Hill in Benson, Vt. This tire of approximately 500 pounds had to be flipped twice.

Photo by Jennifer Paquette

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MAV girls' lax defeats MMU

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRISTOL — The MAV girls' lacrosse team earned an early-season road win on Tuesday night, bringing their 2026 record to 2-0.

The combined squad, with players from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools, defeated Mount Mansfield 14-11 on Monday, April 27. Three Eagles had hat tricks.

Just like MAV's season-opening 7-4 defeat of BFA St. Albans on April 18, co-captain June Yates-Rusch was a force on offense. She scored four times, earning her second hat-trick — and then some — for the season, and had eight

draw controls.

Also garnering an impressive number of goals was junior Thompson Davis, who put four past the Cougar goalie as well and had an assist.

Like Yates-Rusch and Thompson, Callie Rule, who with five draw controls dominated that stat in the Eagles' first 2026 game, had another two on Monday night, plus an assist and three goals.

Also scoring for the Eagles were freshman Delia Park and sophomore Olivia Sawyer, with two and one goals, respectively. Junior Aubrey Coffey had an assist.

Freshman goalie Jillian Cousino

saved eight Cougar shots.

MAV's schedule is picking up with a spate of four games slated every two days for the next week starting on Saturday.

The frenzy kicked off with a local showdown on Wednesday night, played after deadline. On April 29, the Middlebury Union High School team headed to Bristol for what was the Tigers' second game of the season. MUHS won their first, a home game against Burlington on April 13, 14-12.

Like MAV, MUHS has a busy few days ahead, with three games scheduled for the first week of May.

Third time the charm for Tiger boys' ultimate

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — One, two, three times was the charm for the Middlebury Union High School boys' ultimate frisbee team. The Tigers, who are now 1-2, defeated Rice 15-10 to nab their first 2026 win.

"The win marks a strong early-season step for a young Middlebury squad continuing to build cohesion and confidence," Coach Drew McDowell said.

He gave kudos to senior Nick Carpenter and sophomore Miles Goetz, who scored five goals apiece, and sophomore Holden McDowell, who had three.

At the helm of the offense was senior Callan McDowell.

He "guided the offense with steady control from the handler position, using resets and quick movement to open the field for deep shots and give-and-go attacks," Drew McDowell said.

The Tigers and Seahorses entered halftime tied, the coach recalled.

But that midway break proved important for MUHS — the team won the game in the second. Four unanswered goals to end the match helped the Tigers to the victory, according to their coach.

MUHS opened the season on

April 13 with a loss to Montpelier. Two days after that they faced the same outcome, but against St. Johnsbury.

Up next MUHS has a home game against Champlain Valley Union at 4 p.m., Thursday, April 30.

That same day, the MUHS girls' ultimate team plays at the same time at Mount Mansfield.

The Tiger girls' ultimate team was unable to repeat the success they found earlier in April, when the team defeated St. Johnsbury, 10-8. MUHS dropped a Tuesday, April 28 home game to Burlington, 14-4, bringing their record to 1-2.

Panther women

(Continued from Page 1B)
spot in the league tournament. It's a familiar position for the ambitious Panther program — Middlebury has sat at the top of the tournament standings come tournament time in seven of the previous eight brackets. Middlebury, ranked No. 1 nationally, last claimed the NESCAC championship in 2024 in an 11-5 victory over Wesleyan. The Panthers have appeared in three of the last four finals, and won two of those. After the Panthers, the NESCAC team with the next-best record this year is 13-2 Tufts, who plays Wesleyan in the other semifinal

game in what will be a repeat of last year's NESCAC final. The Jumbos, this year's No. 2 seed, came out on top in 2025, defeating the Cardinals, this year's No. 3 seed, 13-7. Wesleyan got to the 2025 finals after overcoming the Panthers 13-10 in the semifinals. The winners of each Saturday semifinal will play in the final on Sunday at noon in Middlebury. If Trinity defeats Middlebury on Saturday, the Bantams will be the first team other than the Cardinals, Panthers and Jumbos to play in a NESCAC final since 2018, when Middlebury defeated Bowdoin to earn the crown. Every iteration of

the championship game after that has featured some combination of the latter three. Middlebury and Tufts have claimed the title in that span three times each, while Wesleyan has been relegated to runners-up each of the three times they've appeared in the finals during those years. If Trinity or Wesleyan claim the 2026 title, they will be the first team other than Middlebury or Tufts to do so since 2017, when Colby beat Trinity, 13-9. In past years, NESCAC rivalries have bled into the D-III NCAA tournament as well. The Panthers came back last year to defeat Tufts 10-9 in the 2025

Division III NCAA tournament, which Middlebury is on a quest to claim for a fifth year in a row. The team achieved perfect seasons in 2023, another year they defeated Tufts in the final, and 2024. The Panthers haven't lost more than a game in a single season since 2018, another year in which they won the NESCAC tournament and made it to the NCAA final. Middlebury ended that year 20-3 and the NCAA runners-up, behind Gettysburg. On Saturday, the No. 7 seed Middlebury College men's lacrosse team also played in a NESCAC quarterfinal, but lost 21-11 to No. 2 seed, Tufts.



MICKEY HEINECKEN AND SARAH DALTON GRADDOCK

Tiger softball

(Continued from Page 1B)
got the inning started. Kerins tried to get home on Ross's hit, but was tagged out on her slide into home plate. While that was unfolding, Ross got to second. She subsequently

stole third. Foss made contact with the ball that was good to bring Ross home for a fourth Tiger run, though Foss was thrown out at first. The Wolves earned a second out before Lillian Paquette came up

and hit a ball down the first base line, bringing in a teammate who was walked. The sophomore's RBI made the score 8-5. In the top of the fifth, the Wolves managed another four runs before the Tigers could get back on

offense. Freshman Ava Wood was up first in the bottom of the fifth, and she singled to start things off. With one out, Wood found herself on third base and took a pitch that went by the South Burlington catcher as an opportunity to run home. Her run made it 12-6. The Wolves ran away with the game in the sixth inning, making the score 16-6. During their next at-bats, the Tigers weren't able to score.



SENIOR CO-CAPTAIN BRIANNA Foss is tagged out at home plate during a home game on Tuesday, April 28. The Tiger softball team lost 18-7, bringing their record to 1-1.

Independent photo/Steve James

Hall of Fame

(Continued from Page 1B)

After helping MUHS to four straight trips to the D1 state title games, including the 2001 and 2004 championships, she went on to set several BU single-season and career scoring marks, earning a spot on the U.S. National Development Squad. She has been the head coach of the UVM women's lacrosse team since 2016, leading the Catamounts to its first-ever NCAA tournament in 2022.



MARY HEITKAMP

Mickey Heinecken, Cornwall, football, coach/contributor: From the day Heinecken became the head football coach at Middlebury College in 1973, he has built a legacy in developing the sport at all levels in Vermont. An all-American Delaware receiver in the early 1960s, he went on to be the head coach of the Panthers for 28 years, compiling a 126-95-2 record, including seven one-loss seasons.

The state's winningest collegiate football coach, he was the first at a Vermont college to reach 100 career wins and was twice named New England Division III coach of the year. In 1993 he established the Vermont Chapter of the National Football Foundation that promotes the sport, awards scholarships to high school players and honors the state's individual contributors to the game. He helped with the creation of the successful annual North-South senior all-star game, played since 2001.

Mary Heitkamp, Orwell, track and field/cross-country running: A high school All-American and a New England champion,

Heitkamp also was the two-time Gatorade Vermont Track Athlete of the Year (2003 and 2004) winning a then-record combined 23 Vermont individual state titles in cross country, indoor and outdoor track at Fair Haven Union High. In high school she finished with a state-record 14 individual outdoor titles across middle-distance races, relays, and jumps, setting multiple state and division records, including three that still stand. Heitkamp also qualified for the 2002-3 national indoor championships in the 600m in New York City. She had three-straight podium finishes in the state pentathlon meet, winning the title in 2004, shortly after winning the New England 800 meters with a record time. She went on to compete as a scholarship athlete at Boston College in the ACC for the Eagles track and field teams, indoor and outdoor, and the BC cross country team.

Local track teams collect gold, silver and bronze

ADDISON COUNTY — There were plenty of top three finishes for runners on all three local high school track teams — Middlebury, Vergennes and Mount Abraham Union High Schools.

Freshman Josephine Ives was the best Tiger finisher during the Tuesday, April 28 meet at Mount Mansfield. She took first (5:19.94) in the 1500-meter run.

While the Tigers competed against four other teams at MMU (the boys' took fourth and the girls' fifth), Mt. Abe hosted Vergennes and Randolph on Tuesday, April 28 in Bristol.

The Eagles took first as a team at their home meet.

Individual Eagle winners for the girls were sophomore Eliza Ruble with a time of 14.09 seconds in the 100-meter sprint; freshman Mickey White in the 100-meter hurdles (21.16); junior Kassi Garrow in the shot put and girls' javelin; freshman Emily Wells in the high jump; and

sophomore Juliana Murphy in the long jump.

First-place finishers for the Eagle boys were: Del Guilmette in the 1500-meter run (4:38.49); junior Truman Sawyer in the 300-meter hurdles (49.58) and triple jump; senior Carson Baldwin in the shot put; senior James Mount in discus, and sophomore Jackson LaMarche in pole vault. The 4x400 relay team of Sawyer, Guilmette, sophomore Jaret Sturtevant and freshman Matthew Steele also took top honors.

Girls winners from Vergennes were freshman Madeline Shugart in the 200 meters (31.21); sophomore Isabel Miguel in the 400 meters (1:31.72); junior Isabelle Van Voorst in the 800-meter run (2:45.68); sophomore Lauren Hill in the 1500-meter run (6:30.82); and sophomore Georgia Kunkel in the 300-meter hurdles (1:01.10) and discus.

For the Vergennes boys, junior

William Clark earned first in the 400-meter run (56.53), and freshman Quibois in the 110 hurdles (20.32). The 4x800 relay team of sophomore Emerson Morrill, sophomore David Coburn, freshman Henry Stroup and sophomore Roward Neffinger also finished first.

The other top three finishers from each school were:

Tigers:

- Junior Sawyer Malzac, 2nd place, 200 meters (25.05), 3rd place 100 meters (11.98).
- 2nd place 4x100 relay team of senior Jonathan Kafumbe, sophomore Raine Evans Nash, junior Judah Matovu and Malzac.
- Freshman Josephine Ives, 2nd place in the 800 meters (2:40.25).
- Vivian Mott, 2nd place long jump.

Commodores:

- Junior William Clark, 2nd place, 100 meters (12.71).
- Sophomore Emerson Morrill,

3rd place, 800 meters (2:35.92).

- Freshman Henry Stroup, 3rd place, 1500 meters (5:03.24).
- Dubois, 2nd place, 300-meter hurdles (50.76).
- 2nd place 4x400 relay team of Morrill, Clark, sophomore David Coburn and senior Chance Koenig.
- Neffinger, 2nd place discus.
- Koenig, 3rd place triple jump.
- Junior Isabelle Van Voorst, 2nd place, 100 meters (14.34).
- Freshman Madeline Shugart, 3rd place, 100 meters (14.48).
- Sophomore Lauren Hill, 2nd place, 200 meters (31.61).
- Sophomore Vivienne Audy, 3rd place, 200 meters (33.75).
- Junior Madeleine Stroup, 2nd place, 1500 meters (6:44.56).
- Sophomore Sophia James, 3rd place, 1500 meters (7:24.51).

Eagles:

- Sophomore Jaret Sturtevant, 2nd place, 400 meters (1:01.22).
- Junior Bowen Lutz, 2nd place, 800 meters (2:30.42), 3rd place

discus, 3rd place pole vault.

- Junior Lincoln Ward, 2nd place shot put.
- Senior James Mount, 3rd place shot put, 2nd place javelin.
- Junior Jackson LaMarche, 2nd place, high jump, 2nd place long jump.
- Junior Garrett Duell, 2nd place pole vault.
- Freshman Ellis Carrico, 3rd place long jump.

• Sophomore Sadie Nezin, 3rd

- place, 800 meters (4:26.22), 3rd place discus.
- Sophomore Eloise Newman, 2nd place, 100-meter hurdles (23.43), 2nd place shot put.
- Freshman Mathilda Carrico, 2nd place discus, 2nd place javelin.
- Sophomore Charlotte Desilets, 2nd place high jump.
- Ruble, 2nd place long jump.
- Garrow, 3rd place long jump.

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Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

5/7 Milton at MUHS 4:30 PM
 5/9 VUHS at Enosburg 11 AM
 5/9 MUHS at Mt. Abe 11 AM

Baseball

4/30 MUHS at Fair Haven 4:30 PM
 5/2 VUHS at Richford 3 PM
 5/2 Mt. Abe at OV 3 PM
 5/4 VUHS at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM
 5/5 Rutland at MUHS 4:30 PM
 5/5 Missisquoi at VUHS 4:30 PM
 5/7 Milton at MUHS 4:30 PM
 5/7 Mt. Abe at Enosburg 4:30 PM
 5/8 VUHS at Fairfax 4:30 PM
 5/9 MUHS at Mt. Abe 11 AM
 5/9 VUHS at Enosburg 11 AM

Boys' Lax

5/1 Mt. Abe at Burlington 6:15 PM
 5/2 Woodstock at MUHS 11 AM
 5/5 MUHS at Essex 4:30 PM
 5/6 Lyndon at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM
 5/8 MUHS at S. Burlington 4:30 PM
 5/8 Mt. Abe at St. Johnsbury 4:30 PM
 5/9 OV at Mt. Abe 11 AM

Girls' Lax

5/2 MUHS at U32 11 AM
 5/2 Essex at Mt. Abe 2:30 PM
 5/4 MMU at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM
 5/5 MMU at MUHS 4:30 PM
 5/6 Mt. Abe at BFA St. Albans 4:30 PM
 5/7 CVU at MUHS 4:30 PM
 5/8 Mt. Abe at Hartford 6:30 PM

Girls' Ultimate

4/30 MUHS at MMU 4:00 PM
 5/2 MUHS at Milton 3 PM
 5/7 CVU at MUHS 4 PM

Boys' Ultimate

4/30 CVU at MUHS 4 PM
 5/4 Burlington at MUHS 4 PM
 5/6 S. Burlington at MUHS 4 PM

Boys' Tennis

4/30 Stowe at MUHS 4 PM
 5/2 MUHS at Brattleboro 3 PM
 5/5 MUHS at MMU 3:30 PM
 5/6 Essex at MUHS 4 PM
 5/9 MUHS at Essex 10 AM

Girls Tennis

4/30 MUHS at BFA St. Albans 3:30 PM
 5/2 Harwood at MUHS 11 AM
 5/5 MUHS at North Country 3:30 PM
 5/7 Montpelier at MUHS 3:30 PM
 5/9 U-32 at MUHS 11 AM

Track & Field

5/2 VUHS, Mt. Abe S. Burlington meet
 5/5 VUHS, Mt. Abe at CVU 3:30 PM
 5/6 MUHS at Burlington 3:15 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball

(NESCAC quarterfinals best of three)
 5/1 Bowdoin at Midd. 3 PM
 5/2 Bowdoin at Midd. 11 AM
 5/2 Bowdoin at Midd. (if needed) 2:30 PM
 5/8-10 NESCAC Champs at Trinity

Softball

5/2 Wesleyan at Midd (DH) 12&2PM
 5/8-10 NESCAC Champs at Bowdoin

Women's Lacrosse

(NESCAC Semifinals)

5/2 Trinity at Midd 12 PM
 5/2 Wesleyan vs Tufts at Midd 3 PM
 5/3 NESCAC Championship 1 PM

Women's Tennis

(NESCACs at Midd)

5/1 Quarterfinals 9 AM
 5/2 Semifinals 11 AM
 5/3 Championship 11 AM

Men's Tennis

(NESCACs at Wesleyan)

5/1 Quarterfinals 9 AM
 5/2 Semifinals 11 AM
 5/3 Championship 11 AM

Track & Field

5/1&2 New England's at Springfield
 5/8&9 ... Farley Inter Regional at Williams
 5/9&10 ... NEICAAA Champs. at Stonehill

REACH THE COUNTY
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Eagles, Tigers earn wins



BASEBALL
Wrap-Up

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury and Mount Abraham Union High School teams had a successful week, garnering three wins between them.

While the Tigers and Eagles got a couple more games under their belts, the Vergennes Union High School team has been preparing for its second of the season, which is coming up on May 2.

An Eagle Record?

"This was one for the record books," Mt. Abe Coach Jason Barnard said after a Monday night home game against BFA Fairfax that gave the Eagles a 16-4 win. One home run wasn't enough for Abraham Ready. The junior hit three against the Bullets.

His two-run, and two three-run homers were good for eight of the Eagles' 16 runs on Monday. BFA Fairfax was only able to get four runs that night.

Also generating offense was junior Stefan Johnson, who had a double and a single. The game was won in the sixth inning, with the Eagles driving in 11 runs.

His home game the next day against Harwood was much closer. Still, the Eagles prevailed, 5-3.

Ready was again prolific at the

plate. He had two hits and two RBIs. Junior Cameron Castillo had the same. Junior Clark Crary had two hits and brought in three runs.

Up next, the Eagles head to Otter Valley for a game May 2 at 3 p.m.

Tigers OVER SB

The Tigers played a clean game with no field errors during their 7-5 triumph over South Burlington on Tuesday, April 28.

The two teams went back and forth for the duration of the game.

The Wolves took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first, then the Tigers quickly tied it up during their next at bat.

The second inning was scoreless, and so was the third, aside from one Tiger run that made the score 4-3.

South Burlington took a 5-4 lead in the top of the fifth, which the Tigers matched and exceeded during their at-bat to bring the score to 7-5. The final two innings were scoreless.

That win brought the Tigers' record to 2-0 as they prepared for their third game of the season, in Fair Haven, on Thursday, April 30.



MAV SENIOR CO-CAPTAIN Nathan Lester controls the ball during a home game against Milton on April 24.

Independent photo/Steve James

MAV boys

(Continued from Page 1B)

After sprinting to keep up with it, both an Eagle and Yellowjacket made a last-ditch diving effort to earn the ball.

That chase paid off for the Eagles, who got another chance on offense.

MAV got two more shots off but didn't convert. Though a third shot was on the way shortly.

While the Yellowjackets were working on getting the ball back into the other end of the field, the Eagles recovered it around midfield, then senior Joe Sullivan got the ball to junior co-captain Lincoln Painter, who got a low shot off and past the Yellowjacket goalie with about 10 seconds left in the quarter, which ended 2-1.

While that offensive high note made a comeback look possible, Milton came off the field at half with a hefty five-goal lead on the Eagles.

Though the spread wasn't so much that a comeback wasn't out of the question, the Yellowjackets

secured the game in the third with two more goals, making it 8-1 with about five minutes left in the quarter.

During that 12 minutes, one Eagle player could be heard calling to his teammates to "slow it down," on offense.

With just under three minutes left in the third Forand saved another well-placed low shot. Not long after, junior co-captain Asa Pratt broke through the Milton defense for a close range shot that was good for a second Eagle point.

Milton scored one more time in the fourth quarter, bringing the final tally to 9-2.

"I think Milton has a good team," Cook said. "They're coached well, they probably could have run the score up on us, and the coaches really know how to coach the game the right way."

When asked what Cook hopes his Eagles take from the Milton game going forward he said, "I think just working through the transfer of practice into games. We

have to go a little harder in practice so that we're ready to go in games."

Whatever drills the Eagles ran ahead of Tuesday's game worked.

MAV's defense shut down Spaulding's offense, allowing them only four shots the whole game, all of which came in the second half. By comparison, the Eagles had 37.

That count translated to goals from eight players.

Pratt's four goals were unsurprising, given the 11 shots he took on frame over the course of the game. Sophomore Otto Sigfried was successful four of the five times he tested the Crimson Tide goalie.

Senior Greyson Desilets, junior Kestrel Edwards, junior Baxter Montgomery and sophomore Mazin Sweptson each scored once.

Painter had three assists, sophomore Addy Halby had two and Clark had one.

The Eagles' next game is on Friday, May 1. They head to Burlington for a second bout with the Seahorses that day.



Forehand Fire

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE FIRST year Anand Sahasrabudhe sends the ball back to his opponent during a match at the Panther tennis courts on Saturday, April 25. Middlebury swept Colby 7-0 that day, but fell 4-3 to Bowdoin at home on April 26.

Independent photo/Steve James



JUNIOR ROWAN CLARK controls the ball during an MAV home game against Milton on April 24.

Independent photo/Steve James

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community calendar

apr 30 THURSDAY

Lecture: "A Poetic Response to Conservation" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 30, 12:40-1:30 p.m., Middlebury College Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103, 531 College St. Singer-composer Moira Smiley and dance professor Laurel Jenkins present a part lecture, part performance integrating music and movement to explore presence, connection and conservation. Free.

Ilsley Classic Film Club: "La Strada" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 30, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join the Ilsley Classic Film Club's "Global 1950s" series for a free screening of Federico Fellini's classic "La Strada." Free admission and popcorn.

Spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Thursday, April 30, 1-7 p.m., Burnham Hall. Browse a wide selection of seasonal clothing and household goods at this annual fundraiser hosted by the Ladies Aid Industria.

Nourish & Normalize Workshop in Bristol. Thursday, April 30, 6-7:30 p.m., Bristol Federated Church, 37 North St. Registered dietitian Emily Piazza leads a supportive workshop for mothers on body changes, nutrition and building confidence through compassionate care. Free. More info at nourishedjourneyvt.com.

Gardening Round Table in Salisbury. Thursday, April 30, 6 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House (upstairs), 853 Maple St. Bring your questions to this informal gardening round table. Chris Turner and Kris Andrews share tips and tricks for success. Free. More info at salisburyfreelibrary.org.

Ulysses Reading Series: Installment 4 in Middlebury. Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m., Middlebury College's Humanities House, 115 Franklin St. The spring lineup includes writer and Bread Loaf coordinator Jason Lamb, poet and educator Stephen Cramer and New England Review contributor Meg Reynolds. Light fare and specialty mocktails inspired by "Visualizing Ulysses." Free event.

may 1 FRIDAY

Spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Friday, May 1, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Burnham Hall. Browse a wide selection of seasonal clothing and household goods at this annual fundraiser hosted by the Ladies Aid Industria.

Vermont Forest Cemetery Q&A in Bristol. Friday, May 1, 10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m., Howden Hall, West Street. Join the Bristol Elder Eagles for an enlightening information session on Vermont Forest Cemetery. Jim Hogle of VFC will discuss the concept of natural burials and the logistics involved, followed by a Q&A. Light refreshments and snacks provided. Open to anyone 50 or older; adult children may attend with you.

Cards and boardgames with Steve and Lee in Middlebury. Friday, May 1, 3-4:45 p.m., 17 Court St. Enjoy some afternoon cards or games. Hosted by the Community Bridges Project and Counseling Service of Addison County. Drop-ins welcome. Parking in back; use the front door facing the TenneyBrook convenience store. For questions, call Zylpha at 802-388-3093.

May Day Rally in Brandon. Friday, May 1, 4-6 p.m., Brandon Central Park. Indivisible Brandon and partner organizations host a peaceful rally as part of a nationwide day of marches and actions focused on democracy. Food sharing and music.

Little Seed's Adult Recess in Middlebury. Friday, May 1, 5-8 p.m., Little Seed Coffee Roasters, 24 Merchants Row. Celebrate Middlebury's First Friday at Little Seed with wine from Lincoln Peak Winery, creative snacks, nonalcoholic drinks and a welcoming social space designed to help adults meet new people and build community.

Middle School Musical: "Seussical Jr." in Bristol. Friday, May 1, 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 2, 2 p.m., Mt. Abraham Union High School Performing Arts Center. MAUSD Expanded Learning Program students in grades 6-8 present the 60-minute musical adaptation of Dr. Seuss's beloved characters and stories. Tickets: \$5.

may 2 SATURDAY

Green Up Day across Vermont. Spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Saturday, May 2, 8-10 a.m., Burnham Hall. Browse a wide selection of seasonal clothing and household goods at this annual fundraiser hosted by the Ladies Aid Industria.

Green Up Day: A Big Deal in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. - noon, Marble Works. Clean up the streets, then pick up some treats. Join the Addison Independent in a morning of Green Up Day shopping for unique second-hand finds. Discover useful and delightfully odd used treasures from all corners of the community. Enjoy coffee from Little Seed, groove to music from WVTK, and pick up your Green Up bags and routes.

Mountain View 4-H Craft and Plant Sale in Bridport. Saturday, May 2, 9 - 2 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Rte. 22A. Spring sale featuring plants, crafts, a bake sale, lunch and a raffle. Vendors will offer jams, jellies, jewelry, crafts and plants. Shop for Mother's Day and support local community members.

Middlebury Bike Swap. Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-noon, Cannon Park, near Frog Hollow Bikes. Drop off your bikes and indicate if you want sale proceeds to go to you or be donated to Middlebury Safe Routes. People turn in bikes they no longer want and then buy a different used or new bike. You can just sell or buy a bike. A percentage benefits Frog Hollow Bikes.

Green Up Day and Spring Celebration with MALT in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., College Park, intersection of South Main St. and Academy St. Take part in Vermont's annual Green Up Day by helping clean up Vermont roads and waterways. MALT staff will be at College Park for bag pick-up and drop-off. Light snacks and water provided. Appropriate for all ages. Free. More info at maltvt.org.

Vermont Old Cemetery Association Spring Meeting in Vergennes. Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall. Community members are invited to a social hour, business meeting and lunch before a program on Northern Vermont's rare Gothic and Greco cast-iron graves presented by scholars Nicholas Brown and Miles McCallum. Lunch is \$20 per person, payable at



Get pruning!

SPRING WEATHER MEANS it's time to get into the yard. Don't miss the many outdoor learning opportunities coming up, such as the Saturday May 2 tree pruning workshop with Tree Warden Chris Zeoli from noon-1:30 p.m. at Middlebury Recreation Park. Master proper pruning techniques to ensure a long life for your trees.

Photo by Christian Riedl

the door; reservations required. Reserve by contacting Jeanne Jackson at jjacksonvt@gmail.com or 802-989-2957.

Fairy House Building on the Bristol Trail Network in Bristol. Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Business Park Loop. Children of all ages are invited to welcome spring with outdoor exploration, learning about local ecology and biodiversity, story time and hands-on fairy house building. Best suited for ages 5-10. Registration is free. Direct questions to Ella.Szczepanski@UVM.edu.

Fiber Crafts Collective in East Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m., Sarah Partridge Library, 431 East Main St. A welcoming fiber crafts gathering focused on creativity, shared learning and community connection. Participants work on knitting, crochet, weaving, spinning, sewing, embroidery, felting, macrame and more. All skill levels welcome. Free. More info at artfulsoventures@gmail.com.

Tree and invasive species education in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-noon, Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op. Learn about Vermont's trees, invasive plants, and insect pests. Free tree saplings while supplies last.

Lorax Story Time in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 10:30-11 a.m., Mini-Ilsley Library. Chris Olson, former Addison County forester, reads "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss, followed by stories about growing up with nature. Tree-themed coloring activities available. Free tree saplings while supplies last.

Spring Fling sidewalk sale in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Marble Works. Porter Auxiliary hosts a sidewalk sale featuring vintage and one-of-a-kind clothing from Round Robin upscale resale. Family-friendly activities: lemonade stand, yard games, "doctor visits" for dolls and stuffed animals, and a flowerpot bar.

"Reaping What She Sows: How Women Are Rebuilding Our Broken Food System" lecture with Nancy Matsumoto in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, noon, Middlebury College Axinn Center at Starr Library, Room 232. James Beard Award winner Nancy Matsumoto discusses her new book on women rebuilding food systems through community building and ecosystem regeneration. Free.

Tree-pruning workshop in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, noon-1:30 p.m., Middlebury Recreation Park. Middlebury Town Tree Warden Chris Zeoli leads a hands-on workshop on proper tree-pruning techniques to promote tree health.

Ecology, Theology, and Climate Change Discussion in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 1-2:15 p.m., Unity Hall at the Congregational Church of Middlebury, 30 North Pleasant St. Authors Andi Lloyd and Andy Nagy-Benson will lead a discussion inspired by "Letters from the Ecotone," exploring spirituality, ecology and climate change through reflections on forests and faith. Find more at midducc.org/home/happening-in-our-church.

Craftnoon in Brandon. Saturday, May 2, 1-3 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. A monthly crafting afternoon for all ages. Bring your own project or create something using library supplies. A different craft will be featured each month. Free.

Tree walk in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 2-3:30 p.m., College Park, Middlebury College. Horticulturist Tim Parsons leads a free guided walk discussing tree species suited to Vermont's climate. Wallet-size information cards on insect pests available.

Sake lecture with Nancy Matsumoto in Middlebury. Saturday, May 2, 2:30 p.m., Middlebury College Axinn Center at Starr Library, Room 232. Sake expert, author, and James Beard Award winner Nancy Matsumoto discusses sake craft, brewing, sustainability and umami, followed by a Q&A. Free.

Middlebury Wind Ensemble spring concert. Saturday, May 2, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Middlebury College Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Road. The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble performs a spring program featuring blues-inspired works, Ripton composer Jerome Shedd's "Addison Peaks," and MUHS senior Jonathan Kafumbe as trumpet soloist in Alfred Reed's "Ode for Trumpet." Free.

may 3 SUNDAY

Breakfast Buffet in Middlebury. Sunday, May 3, 8-10 a.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Open to the public, this benefit breakfast for veterans programs features pancakes, eggs, omelets, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, hash browns, toast, coffee and juice. \$13 adults;

\$7 children.
Invasive Plant Talk and Removal Demo in Charlotte. Sunday, May 3, 1-4 p.m., Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge, Greenbush Road. Vermont Invasive Species Coordinator Noah Hoffmann will lead a beginner-friendly talk on identifying common invasive plants followed by a hands-on demonstration of proper removal techniques. No experience necessary; wear gloves and protective clothing. RSVP: dkahm@townofcharlotte.com.

Spring art market in Middlebury. Sunday, May 3, 2-4 p.m., Old Stone Mill, 82 Weybridge St. Student artisans sell ceramics, jewelry, crochet, greeting cards, prints, crepes and more at this Middlebury student-run craft market. Includes a clothing swap, M Gallery's "Tools for the Future" exhibition and live music by Two Shakes of a Lamb's Tail. Venmo or cash accepted.

The Charlotte Flea Market. Sunday, May 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Charlotte Central School parking lot, Hinesburg Rd. Embracing Charlotte Flea's history and community, and finding new homes for previously loved items. Browse antiques, vintage goods, clothing, furniture, art, jewelry, textiles, sporting goods and more. Rain date is Saturday, May 9.

may 4 MONDAY

African Drumming for Beginners with Shelly in Middlebury. Monday, May 4, and weekly on Mondays, 2-3 p.m., 17 Court St. Learn West African drum rhythms. Some drums available or bring your own. Leave feeling energized! Hosted by the Counseling Service of Addison County, free and open to anyone. Drop-ins are welcome. Parking in back; use the front door opposite the TenneyBrook convenience store. For questions, call Zylpha at (802) 388-3093.

Food Hub Open House in Middlebury. Monday, May 4, 4 - 6 p.m., ACORN Food Hub, 616 Exchange St. A casual, fun afternoon of good food, conversation and connections. We are welcoming our community a peek behind the scenes of the local food system. Free to attend. Register at lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/z3c5gem.

Undercover Quilt Guild in Bristol. Monday, May 4, 6 p.m., Bristol American Legion, 56 Airport Dr. Undercover Quilters and Crafters meet on the first Monday of each month to share quilting, sewing, knitting and other fiber arts, along with friendship and community. All are welcome. Bring a show-and-tell item if you have one. For more information, contact stacie.ayotte@yahoo.com.

Writers for Recovery in Middlebury. Mondays, starting May 4, 6:45-8:15 p.m. Turning Point Center, 79 Court St. Bianca Amira Zanella, The Paper Poet, leads this free hybrid poetry-writing workshop series for people recovering from substance or process addictions, as well as those impacted by a loved one's addiction. Free dinner. Register on the events page at thepaperpoet.com.

Undercover Quilters & Crafters meeting in Bristol. Monday, May 4, 6 - 8 p.m., American Legion, 10 Airport Drive. Do you quilt, knit, crochet, or have interest in fiber arts? We welcome anyone who wants to share and learn to our friendly and relaxed group. If you have questions, call Stacie at 802-363-4937.

may 5 TUESDAY

Working with Yarn and Other Crafts with Marie in Middlebury. Tuesday, May 5, and weekly on Tuesdays, 3-4:30p.m. Bring your own projects to work on in the company of others. Hosted by the Counseling Service of Addison County, free and open to anyone. Drop-ins are welcome. Parking in back; use the front door opposite the TenneyBrook convenience store. For questions, call Zylpha at (802) 388-3093.

may 6 WEDNESDAY

"Restoration Matters" with Ron Wanamaker in Charlotte. Wednesday, May 6, 2-3 p.m., Charlotte Senior Center, Ferry Rd. Ron Wanamaker will discuss preservation and adaptive reuse, exploring the cultural, environmental and community value of maintaining older buildings through quality craftsmanship and sustainable care. Register by calling 802-425-6345.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Lincoln's invasive plant pull group is gearing up for the season and seeking road adopters to help control the spread of poison parsnip and wild chervil. They are looking for volunteers to manage the following roads: Cold Spring, Geary, Guthrie, Masterson, the upper section of Lincoln Gap Road, and Ripton Road from the corner of West Hill to Bristol Notch.

Adopting a road is a flexible commitment. Volunteers only need to visit their assigned stretch a few times between mid-May and early August to catch plants as they flower and before they go

to seed. The process involves pulling the plants by the roots or cutting them a couple of inches below ground. For those who need equipment, sharp spades are available to borrow from the library. Once removed, plants should be left to dry out near the shoulder, safely off the road bed.

For new volunteers, the group provides full training and ongoing support to ensure everyone feels confident identifying and removing these species.

Until next time...We May Encounter Many Defeats But We Must Not Be Defeated.

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THE GROUP OF four students were: Eliana Venables-Vogel, Beowulf Yarborough, Elke Yarborough and Emerys Yarborough.

Vt. students compete in History Day

High school students throughout Vermont competed in the annual Vermont History Day competition at St. Michael's College on April 11, 2026, Vermont History Day competition. The event drew 363 students, the largest number to date, in what is considered a "science fair for history kids," according to Andrew Liptak of the Vermont Historical Society, which sponsors the event.

The students presented on dozens of topics, all along the theme "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History." The students competed in categories ranging from documentaries to performances, websites, exhibits and papers. Prizes are broken out into individual and group categories, as well as junior and senior tiers.

The top two winners in each category are eligible to attend the National History Day Competition, which will take place at the University of Maryland in June.

Students are also competing for special category prizes, which are often sponsored by organizations or individuals along specific themes, such as military history, civic participation, architecture, and more.



WILDER JACOBSON

Teachers Coffey and Joshu Brooks were honored with the Architectural History Prize.

Students who placed among Addison County schools were under the tutelage of Rebecca Coffey at the Addison Northwest Supervisory District (Vergennes Union High School.) Those who placed were:

• Junior Group Documentary
Third Place: "The Vermont Marble Company Wildcat

Strikes of 1935"

Students: Eliana Venables-Vogel, Beowulf Yarborough, Elke Yarborough, Emerys Yarborough

• Junior Individual Documentary
Third Place: "The Impact of the Bixby Memorial Free Library"

Student: Tess McGuire
• Junior Individual Exhibit
Student: Wilder Jacobson

• Senior Individual Website
First Place: "So it Goes: How WW2 Veteran Kurt Vonnegut Revolutionized Literature"

Student: Georgia Kunkel

• Senior Paper
Student: Quincy Sabick
• George F. Edmunds Memorial Prize

Junior 1st Place
Junior Group Documentary
"The Vermont Marble Company Wildcat Strikes of 1935"

Students: Beowulf Yarborough, Eliana Venables-Vogel, Elke Yarborough, Emerys Yarborough

Junior 2nd Place
Junior Individual Exhibit
"Revolution Reform in Firefighting: Reacting to the Vergennes fire of 1958"

Student: Wilder Jacobson
Senior 2nd Place
Senior Paper

"Revolution in Regulation: Vermont's Act 250"
Student: Quincy Sabick

• Vermont History Award
Vermont Historical Society
Senior Award, Senior Paper

"Revolution in Regulation: Vermont's Act 250"
Student: Quincy Sabick

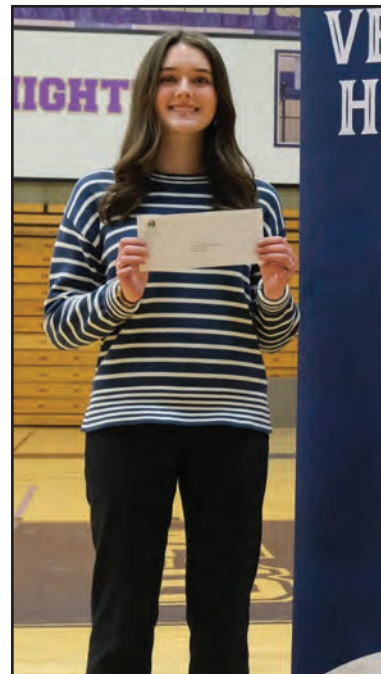
• Teacher Awards
Architectural History Prize
Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation
Addison Northwest Supervisory District
Teachers: Rebecca Coffey and Joshua Brooks



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QUINCY SABICK

Mt. Abe team competes in national Quiz Bowl

ROSEMONT, Illinois — On the weekend of Saturday, April 25, Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School joined 153 of the top quiz bowl teams from small public high schools at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago for the 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. It is the national version of the game that is often locally called Scholars' Bowl.

Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports, and popular

culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

The Mount Abe team, in the Traditional Public Schools Division, was captained by Reed Cousino and Ada Fisher, who were joined by Sawyer Behounek and Eliza Ruble. The team was coached by Vicki Bronson and Simone Skerritt. Mt. Abraham was the only Vermont team at the national championship, and finished the preliminary rounds with a 4-6 record.

Treasurer Pieciak warns of unclaimed property scam targeting Vermonters

VERMONT — Today, Treasurer Mike Pieciak warned Vermonters about a scam posing as a service to return unclaimed property.

The Federal Trade Commission recently alerted that scammers are calling and texting individuals, requesting money and personal information to reclaim their lost financial assets. The Treasurer's Office reports that several Vermonters have been targeted.

To capture an individual's attention, scammers might provide a specific dollar amount, use a fake government name, or urge to act quickly.

Anyone who receives a suspicious notice about unclaimed property should search the national database, MissingMoney.com, to verify the claim. Vermonters should then report the fraudulent outreach to the Treasurer's Office.

Treasurer Pieciak emphasized that his office will never call or text Vermonters—or request payment for returning unclaimed property. The free consumer protection service ensures Vermonters can always claim their forgotten assets, which are held by the State in perpetuity.

"These scams prey on Vermonters who need the money most and can least afford the loss," said Treasurer Pieciak. "The safest way to check for unclaimed property is by searching MissingMoney.com. If you have a claim, contact our office and we'll help you recover it—free of charge."

Unclaimed property includes lost checks, forgotten bank accounts, safety deposit boxes, and other financial property. Entities are required to annually turn these assets over to the State, and the Treasurer's Office safeguards them until claimed by rightful owners or their heirs.

Unclaimed property can belong to individuals, businesses, nonprofits, government entities, and more. Over \$150 million in unclaimed property is held by the Treasurer's Office. Every day, the office's Unclaimed Property Division works to get that money back to Vermonters.

"When we return unclaimed property, that's money back to small businesses, non-profits, and working families," said Treasurer Pieciak. "We'll continue to find new ways to promote the program across the state—so more Vermonters can safely reclaim what is rightfully theirs."

To build trust and boost familiarity of unclaimed property held by the State, the Treasurer's Office has produced TV ads with local figures, including former meteorologist Tom Messner (2024; 2025).

All Vermonters are encouraged to visit missingmoney.com to check for unclaimed property. For inquiries regarding a claim or assistance with the claims process, contact the Treasurer's Office Unclaimed Property Division at (802) 828-2407 or unclaimed.property@vermont.gov.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Cole Shepard

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Cole Shepard as its Student of the Week. Cole lives in Lincoln with his mom, dad, sister, and two dogs.

Cole has earned honor roll recognition for the majority of his high school career and is currently a member of the National Technical Honor Society at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center. He values the variety of opportunities available at Mt. Abe and appreciates that "there is a path for success for everyone." Cole's favorite classes have ranged from math and social studies to courses at The Hannaford Career Center. He especially enjoyed classes like Integrated Math 2 & Integrated Math 3, as well as social studies courses that encouraged him to form his own opinions on a wide range of topics. His favorite courses, however, have been through the Hannaford Career Center, where he is currently enrolled in Construction Technology and previously completed Mechanical Science.

Cole credits his Hannaford Career Center teacher, Nick Cantrick,

as his favorite teacher. "Nick is always looking for ways to help his students, like taking them to events to connect with employers and setting up job shadows to help students decide what they want to do after school."

Outside of school, Cole helps with his family's maple sugaring business and recently began working as an electrical apprentice. In his free time, Cole enjoys spending time with family and friends, hunting and being outdoors.

Reflecting on his high school experience, Cole stated, "You need to follow the path that you want to follow, not the one that others want you to follow. You'll get a lot more enjoyment and value out of school if you take the classes that interest you."

After graduation, Cole plans to continue his electrical apprenticeship full-time with Newton Electrical Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. We appreciate Cole's strong work ethic and dedication to his academics. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



Cole Shepard
MAUHS

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

Congratulations, Cole!

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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

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

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

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

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 created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to

share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennes-freethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

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

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or

Public Meetings

texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

ALWAYS HIRING?

Keep your business in front of local job seekers with a discounted year-round help wanted ad.

A 52-week display ad campaign starts at just \$50/week!

advertising@addisonindependent.com

Help Wanted

**Town of Salisbury
Town Clerk**

Salisbury is currently looking to fill the position of Town Clerk. Duties include conducting all elections; local, state and federal, recording and management of land records, issuing licenses, permits and other official documents. Management of the town office along with customer service to our residents is an important facet of this job. Adequate training time will be provided along with the support of a skilled assistant. Part time position with flexible hours, totaling roughly 20 hours per week.

The applicant must be a Salisbury resident.

If this sounds like you and you'd like to learn more, please contact Patrick Dunn, Select Board Chair (802-352-4432) or Jonathan Blake, Vice Chair (802-349-7431).

Town of Salisbury

25 Schoolhouse Road, P.O. Box 66, Salisbury, Vermont 05769
Phone: 802.352.4228 ☎ Fax: 802.352.9832
townclerk@townofsalisbury.org

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

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

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

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

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

RATES

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: \$ _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
Internet Listing: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Greenhouse/Nursery Sale Associate

20-30 hrs per week position (Seasonal)

Responsibilities include Care and Sales of Greenhouse and Nursery Plants, Seeds and Bulbs, plus a genuine interest in providing knowledgeable customer service. Extensive Plant knowledge preferred!

Any Cashier experience is a plus.

Qualified Candidate must have a dedicated work ethic and be able to perform physical lifting as required, and work hard in the spring and summer seasons.

Excellent Perks and a Flexible Schedule

Availability to work weekends is a MUST.

Cashier - Customer Service

Part-time and Full-time Positions

Must be able to work until 6pm
Availability to work weekends is a MUST.
Up to 40 hours per week.
Wage commensurate with experience.
All of our positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses and employee discount on all products.

Please stop in to pick up an application or send Resume to:
Middlebury AGWAY Farm & Garden,
Attn: Jennifer Jacobs
338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753
or by email to info@middleburyagway.com

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Assistant Store Manager

Position Based in Bristol, VT

Position Description

The primary role of the Assistant Manager/ Manager in Training is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.

For additional benefits and further job description apply to:
Maplefields.com/employment

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



HOPE is looking for a full-time Food Programs Coordinator to oversee our large, busy food shelf, place food orders, ensure smooth operation of our gleaning program, and more.

The ideal candidate is passionate about working to increase food security, has experience in food safety protocols, familiarity with local farms and produce, excellent organizational and communication skills, a valid drivers' license, experience driving a truck, and the ability to lift up to fifty pounds.

We offer a dynamic, supportive, fun working environment, competitive salary, life, dental and medical insurance, paid time off, and some fun perks.

To apply, email resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, or mail or bring to us at 282 Boardman Street, Middlebury.

The Addison County Parent/Child Center is looking for a NURSE to join our team

About the Role
We are looking for a nurse to provide services in homes, schools, community settings, and at our center, with a focus on reproductive, maternal, and infant health.

- The Job**
- Provide support and education to pregnant or postpartum individuals and groups
 - Lead classes and groups on reproductive health, safe sex, consent and healthy relationships
 - Partner with medical providers, social services and community organizations to address health disparities
 - Communicate effectively, demonstrate cultural humility and work independently in diverse settings
 - Work with the Addison County Doula Project

- What We Offer**
- Meaningful work in a supportive environment
 - Competitive salary and generous paid time off
 - Comprehensive medical insurance and benefits
 - Eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- Requirements**
- Active RN or Certified Nurse Midwife license
 - Valid driver's license and reliable vehicle (mileage reimbursed)

Send cover letter, resume/CV, and three references to [Becky Watters](mailto:bwatters@addisoncountypcc.org)



Addison County Parent/Child Center



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

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Services

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

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

LAWN CARE Mow lawns, gardening, and other odd jobs. Low rates. Call John 802-999-2194.

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

SOFT LANDING EQUESTRIAN. Horse boarding, riding lessons. Experience with horses since 2012. Call 802-398-7361 or 802-307-2930.

SPRING GUTTER CLEANING: call or text lan @ 802-349-7871

Free

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

Garage Sales

LAWN SALE 4 family lawn sale. Hunting supplies, 3D targets, household furniture and clothing. 76 Schoolhouse Hill Rd, Middlebury. 8-4 May 2nd

Cars

WIFE SAYS GOT TO GO 1986 Corvette, bill of sale only. 1991 Corvette, title in hand. 1992 Corvette, title in hand. 1993 Ford Bronco 302V8, title. 2007 Mercury Mountaineer, title/parting out. 1997 Toyota Forerunner, foreigner, title. 2007 Mustang convertible, title, excellent shape. 518-546-7025

Help Wanted

CDL DRIVER R&L Rubbish is looking to hire a CDL driver. Full time and part time. If you are a B-CDL driver looking for a new truck to drive, come join our team! Call the office today at (802)388-6288.

CLEANING PERSON once every 2 or 3 weeks, Cornwall. 802-377-0280

HOPE seeks a part-time front desk receptionist, noon - 4 on Thursdays, with occasional fill-ins on other days. Duties include greeting walk-in clients and others, answering a multi-line phone, completing basic purchase orders, and more. To apply send resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, or mail or bring to us at 282 Boardman Street, Middlebury.

HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED at Common Ground Center, Starksboro. CGC Housekeepers work to clean during events and flip spaces in between events. Hours vary seasonally with the bulk of events taking place from May - October. \$18-\$20/HR. Reply to Tabitha-sitemanager@cgcv.org

MARION'S PLACE The unique resale store at HOPE, seeks two new team members. A warehouse assistant will help with pickups and deliveries, preparing items for the sales floor, light cleaning, customer service and more. Hours for this position are 9 - 1, Tuesday through Saturday. A store associate will operate the cash register, restock racks and shelves, do light cleaning, assist customers, and more 20 hours a week, schedule negotiable. We offer competitive wages, paid time off, and some fun perks. To apply, email resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, or mail or bring to us at 282 Boardman Street in Middlebury. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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. Learn more about us at swifthouseinn.com

For Sale

RABBIT HOUND 4 year old male beagle runs cot-tontail and hare. Contact Tim 802-353-6020

For Rent

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

For Rent

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

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.

SALISBURY: Share home 10 minutes to Middlebury with independent retiree who enjoys singing, gardening. Looking for compatible housemate to share occasional meals. \$650/month. Must be cat-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

VERGENNES DOWNTOWN APARTMENT 1BR/1BA apartment in quiet downtown Vergennes building. Bright living space with large windows, open concept kitchen, and off-street parking. Walkable to cafes, restaurants, and local businesses. \$1,525/month. Security deposit \$1,525. 1-year lease. Available May 1. No smoking. Pets allowed with landlord permission. Call or text (317) 379-1587 for details or to schedule a showing.

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.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

WEYBRIDGE: Share home with active woman in her 80s who enjoys theater, film, concerts. Enjoy sharing company, attending events together, providing occasional help around the house in exchange for low or no rent. Must be dog-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

Wood Heat

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

Real Estate

NEW HAVEN; OLDER HOUSE on 12 acres. House needs work but lots of potential for single dwelling or duplex. Asking \$175,000. 802-989-0733.

Att. Farmers

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

GRAZING AVAILABLE Intensively rotational grazing available. Pastures in Charlotte. Daily management. 50 cows or 2 groups of 25. Dairy or beef. 22 years experience. Call with questions, Wendy 802-363-4984

Public Notices Index

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

Addison Country Clerk (1)	Leicester (1)
Addison (1)	New Haven (2)
Bridport (1)	Prospect Cemetery Association (1)
Cornwall Central Cemetery (1)	Salisbury (1)
Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery (1)	Shoreham (1)
Ethan Allen Highway Storage (1)	Starksboro (2)
Ferrisburgh (1)	VTrans (1)
Green Mountain Power (1)	Weybridge Cemetery Association (1)

PROSPECT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING PUBLIC NOTICE

The Officers and all Persons interested in the Prospect Cemetery Association are hereby warned to meet at the Sarah Partridge Community House in East Middlebury on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 P.M. for the following purpose:

1. To hear the reports of the officers.
2. To hold election of officers for the following year.
3. To vote on fees for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
4. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Elaine Newton, Secretary

TOWN OF SHOREHAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **May 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM** at the Town Office (297 Main St) to consider application #25-004 submitted by **Brandon Streicher & Tanya Scuteri** for a subdivision in accordance with Shoreham's Unified Development Regulations.

The location of the proposed project is **654 School St** and involves **subdivision to create four new lots for single-family homes**.

The application is available at the Town Office and on the town website for review. Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

Use the following login information to attend the hearing by videoconference or by phone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85717217883?pwd=8wlpbf721oeNlDZm3xbyOkCoSMwqS6.1vqUsonR225.1>

Meeting ID: 857 1721 7883 Passcode: 284929 Phone: (312) 626-6799

John Kiernan, Chair
Applicant: Brandon Streicher & Tanya Scuteri
654 School St.
Shoreham, VT 05770

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Hammerbeam Holdings, LLC submitted application 26-DRB-04SDA-04CU for an amendment of the building location in Subdivision Decision 2012-DRB-02, and a Conditional Use Review for development on steep slopes per SLUDR Section 334.C, on a 6.4+/- acre parcel #11082 at 75 Meadowbrook Drive in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed subdivision is in the LDRC, ASRR, FC, and HDRC districts. The Subdivision Amendment and Conditional Use Review Hearing on this application will be held per the 2020 Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on **May 28, 2026**, starting at 7:40p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The full application is available to review by request of the Starksboro zoning office, and on the website at <https://www.starksborovt.org/agendas-and-minutes>

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

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617415124>
Meeting ID: 896 1741 5124
Or by Phone: +13052241968

Warning Date: April 30, 2026

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Bradley and Alexandra Thompson submitted application 26-DRB-02WVR for a Waiver to build a garage addition on set-aside land located on a 5+/- acre parcel #11061 at 140 VT Route 116 in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed subdivision is in the ASRR district. The Waiver Hearing on this application will be held per the 2020 Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on **May 28, 2026**, starting at 6:30p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The full application is available to review by request of the Starksboro zoning office, and on the website at <https://www.starksborovt.org/agendas-and-minutes>.

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

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617415124>
Meeting ID: 896 1741 5124
Or by Phone: +13052241968

Warning Date: April 30, 2026

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING


The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**, beginning at **6PM**, at the Ferrisburgh Town Office at 3279 US Route 7 and remotely via Zoom.

Application Number 25-072: (continued) Transfer 1.25 acres from lot with existing house to lot with existing camp; Applicants: Glen & Donna Macri; 242 Spencer Farm Road, Parcel ID number 12/01/09, Shoreland District (SD-2) and 136 Spencer Farm Road, Parcel ID number 12/01/10, Shoreland District (SD-2) / Rural Agricultural District (RA-5) / Rural Residential District (RR-2); Boundary Line Adjustment.

Application Number 26-045: Two-lot subdivision; Applicant: Diane Shortleeve; east side of Robinson Road; Parcel ID 05/02/55; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) and Conservation (CON-25) districts; Sketch Plan Review.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Applications will also be posted to the town website (ferrisburghvt.org) by the Friday before the hearing. Written comments may be submitted before the hearing at the Town Office or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org. **NOTE: Participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.**

Remote access via Zoom: Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88549799262?pwd=RakXnjUW3iglH3TQfcQfDtr3JZ809.1>
Or go to Zoom.com, select "Meet" from top menu bar, then "Join Meeting;" or call 646-558-8656 to join by phone. Meeting ID = 885 4979 9262 / Passcode = 792704



Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 9B and 10B.

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

ACPCC is seeking a temporary Early Childhood Educator to join our team.

This position is from April - August 2026, 40 hours per week.

We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through five and their families. If you love playing with children and collaborating with a team come join us.

Please send resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to

Becky Watters at bwatters@addisoncountypcc.org



A RIVER WATCH volunteer is seen last May planting a tree near a tributary to Dead Creek.

Watch seeks volunteers to plant trees in Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Addison County River Watch Collaborative is getting ready to plant trees and shrubs at a riparian site along Otter Creek in Weybridge and is eager to share the experience with volunteers.

The conservation organization has purchased or received by donation more than 200 trees, and a similar number of “live stakes” have been clipped and collected and are ready for driving into the bank of the river. Live stakes are clippings from willows and dogwoods that will be pushed/pounded into the ground and will sprout over the course of the season.

River Watch invites citizens to join in this invigorating outdoor work that aims to improve water quality, provide wildlife habitat

and boost flood resiliency. The planting is scheduled to take place Friday, May 8, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 9, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dates are subject to change due to weather and on-the-ground conditions.

The Addison County River Watch Collaborative is a community water monitoring group that has been operating since 1997. It brings together volunteers who are passionate about protecting water quality in our communities by monitoring water quality and organizing riverbank restoration projects, especially in areas that lack woody vegetation.

For details and for directions to the planting sites, contact River Watch at acrwcvt@gmail.com or go online to www.acrwc.org.

Middlebury man cited for repeated trespassing

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Timothy Farr, 72, of Middlebury, for two counts of unlawful trespassing, following investigation of a complaint on Court Street on April 26. Farr was cited four times with unlawful trespass within the span of four days, according to police.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a noise complaint on Court Street on April 20.
- Helped a local identity theft victim on April 20.
- Helped a Seymour Street business take out a no-trespass order against a person on April 20.
- Received a shoplifting complaint from Hannaford’s Supermarket on April 21.
- Investigated the untimely death at a Buttolph Road residence on April 21. Police said Alfred Person, 75, had died from natural causes.
- Responded to a complaint about a barking dog in the Seminary Street area on April 21.
- Investigated a shoplifting complaint at the Stewart’s Shop on Court Street Extension on April 22.
- Responded to an alleged road-rage incident near the intersection of Route 7 and Rover Road on April 22.
- Launched an investigation into an alleged assault at McDonald’s Restaurant on April 22.
- Cautioned a man who had allegedly been jumping into the travel lanes of Cady Road while on a walk on April 22.
- Helped a Court Street resident

remove an unwanted guest on April 22.

• Returned a runaway juvenile to Department for Children & Families custody on April 22.

• Conducted a foot patrol of the downtown area on April 22.

• Checked on a report of a disabled tractor trailer in Court Square on April 23.

• Investigated a trespassing complaint on Court Street on April 23.

• Helped remove a “severely injured” raccoon from Painter Hills Road on April 24.

• Served a no-trespass order on April 24 on a person who wasn’t wanted in the Porter Hospital lobby.

• Helped a Court Street business with a disorderly customer on

April 24.

• Received a report that a firearm had been stolen from a Valley View resident on April 24.

• Helped remove a person who had violated a no-trespass order in the Court Street area on April 24.

• Responded to a report of driver in need of help near the intersection of Route 7 and Exchange Street on April 24.

• Responded to a domestic disturbance at a South Village Green home on April 25.

• Received a report about two Washington Street housemates not getting along on April 25.

• Checked on the welfare of a South Village Green resident on April 25.

• Responded to a noise complaint

on South Main Street on April 26.

• Tried to find a suspected drunken driver operating a vehicle on Mill Street on April 26.

• Interviewed a Court Street resident on April 26 who had voiced concerns about a homeless person residing near his home.

• Helped a local man obtain a restraining order on April 26.

• Assisted a local woman who said she’d been assaulted on Court Street on April 26.

• Responded, with Middlebury Regional EMS officials, to a medical call on Court Street on April 26.

• Received a report about a man allegedly passed out in a vehicle on College Street on April 25. Police said they couldn’t locate the vehicle.

• Responded to a noise complaint at 59 Court St. on April 26.

Public Notices

can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B and 11B.

TOWN OF BRIDPORT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Bridport Developmental Review Board will hold a public hearing on May 20, 2026 at 6pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Rd, on each of the following applications:

At 6:05 PM on Application (#26-05) by Bradford Simmons. Applicant requests a 2-lot subdivision on Parcel ID #03-032, 1685 Rattlin Bridge Road.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling 802-758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Developmental Review Board proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Dinah Bain, Chair
Louis Cocci, Zoning Administrator

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472 on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. Application #2026-DRB-06-VAR: Request for Variance regarding side yard setback by landowners Stanley and Lorene Wilbur, per Section 330 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, to build a 2-car garage on Parcel #180.200 located at 833 North Street in the RA-2 zoning district.
2. Application #2026-DRB-07-SP/PUD: Request for Site Plan Review of Planned Unit Development (PUD) by applicant Bridget Preston, per Sections 334 and 622 of the New Having Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, to be located at 965 South Street on Parcel #347.2 in the RA-2, RA-10 and FD zoning districts.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Offices, or by remote:

<https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09>
Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town’s website at www.newhavenvt.com.

New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516

TOWN OF SALISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, to consider the following:

Application 2026-01

An application from property Owner/Applicant, Mason West, in connection with a proposed amendment to DRB Decision #2023-12, issued November 7, 2023, and under Permit #22-20-SD, issued December 7, 2023. The decision and permit sited above was issued for a 6-lot subdivision with conditions. The subdivision sited above was further amended under DRB application #2025-06 approved October 27, 2025. The current application, submitted by Mason West, requests further subdivision of Parcel ID #0753012, Lot #2, to create one 2.36-acre lot and one 2.07-acre lot from a 4.42-acre lot, located on Lake Dunmore Road. This property is zoned in the Rural Mixed Use District, which requires DRB Review under §3.2 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.2E §7.0.1(4), §7.1, §7.5.2 & §7.6.1-7.6.14 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations and is classified as a Major Subdivision.

Application 2026-02

An application from property Owner/Applicant, Jared West, in connection with a proposed 2-Lot subdivision (total 3 lots) of Parcel ID #0705040, located on Upper Plains Road in Salisbury, Vermont. The existing lot contains 22.20 acres, and the proposed subdivision will create Lot #1, 7.40 acres, Lot #2, 7.40 acres, and Lot #3, 7.40 acres. This property is located in the Rural Mixed Use/Forest Conservation District, which requires DRB review under §3.2 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.2, §2.4.6, §7.0.1(5), §7.3-§7.3.4, & §7.6-§7.6.14 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations and is classified as a Minor Subdivision.

Application 2026-03

An application from Property Owner Robbie Devoid (parcel ID #0207009), 1258 US Route 7, located in the Business/Agricultural 2 Districts, in connection with an application for a Site Plan Review/Conditional Use for a Commercial Business, to construct a 30’ x 50’ x 16’ garage structure, a 24’ x 48’ x 16 three-sided material shed, and to build a gravel parking area.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.5D (2) & (8), §2.4.3D (8), & §3.4.2, §3.5.3. of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person’s right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB’s decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for online or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on May 19, 2026. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck, DRB Clerk

ETHAN ALLEN HIGHWAY STORAGE NOTICE OF SALE

John Perry - Unit 154

To be sold at public auction on Saturday, May 9 at 9:00am to the highest bidder.

All sales are final. Unit must be broom cleaned.

CORNWALL CENTRAL CEMETERY

Annual Meeting 7pm on Friday, May 8th at the Town Hall. For info call 802-324-9499.

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - Closed
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Cornwall Town Hall
Contact Sue Johnson with questions. ssquared62@gmail.com or 802-349-7338

WEYBRIDGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Weybridge Congregational Church. For info call 802-545-2502

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following application:

1. (26-05 DRB), Application 26-05 DRB of Shaw Kipp & Melinda Bessette, 1697 U.S. Route 7, Leicester, VT, Parcel 020061, for Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback variance for the rear property boundary of approximately 25’ from the district requirement of 50’ for the construction of 40’ x 60’ building that includes 15’ x 40’ one (1) bedroom rental unit and a 40’ x 45’ storage space with a small office.

The parcel is a pre-existing small lot of .7 acres in Residential Agricultural Commercial District.

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
April 21, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDES

Green Mountain Power Corporation, 2152 Post Rd Rutland, Vermont 05701 has applied for a permit from the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture to apply herbicides. All herbicides will be applied by ground-based, hand-held equipment. This notice constitutes a warning to residents along the right-of-way that water supplies and other environmentally sensitive areas near the right-of-way should be protected from spray and that it is the resident’s responsibility to notify the contact person of the existence of a private water supply near the right-of-way. The contact person at GMP is Jarod Wilcox, (888) 835-4672. Further information may also be obtained from the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets Plant Industry, 116 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901, telephone (802) 828-1732.

Operations will commence on or about June 15, 2026 using one or more of the following herbicides: Garlon 4 Ultra, Vastlan, Milestone, Escort XP, Arsenal AC, Arsenal Powerline, Polaris & Polaris AC.

Maintenance will be conducted on the following transmission lines in the following towns:

LINE(S):
HUNTINGTON FALLS – FLORENCE

TOWN(S):
WEYBRIDGE, NEW HAVEN, MIDDLEBURY, SALISBURY, LEICESTER, BRANDON, PITTSFORD

SALISBURY - BRANDON

SMEAD ROAD - LEICESTER JCT
SALISBURY - VM TIE LINE
SMEAD ROAD - QUARRY RD.
MIDDLEBURY UPPER - LOWER
MIDDLEBURY LOWER - WEYBRIDGE
WEYBRIDGE - NEW HAVEN
NEW HAVEN - BRISTOL
AGRIMARK TAP
QUARRY RD. - MIDDLEBURY LOWER
SMEAD ROAD - SALISBURY
SMEAD ROAD - SILVER LAKE

SALISBURY, LEICESTER
BRANDON
SALISBURY, LEICESTER
SALISBURY
MIDDLEBURY, SALISBURY
MIDDLEBURY
MIDDLEBURY, WEYBRIDGE
WEYBRIDGE, NEW HAVEN
NEW HAVEN, BRISTOL
MIDDLEBURY
MIDDLEBURY
SALISBURY
SALISBURY



Green Mountain Power
2152 Post Rd Rutland, VT 05701

ACI-26

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food & Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris, Roundup Custom and AquaMaster to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways. Operations are authorized to start approximately May 15th, 2026, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits, and to avoid entering the ROW as spray trucks pass and until products dry. Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State’s ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1 - Bennington - (802) 447-2790, District 2 - Dummerston - (802) 254-5011, District 3 - Mendon - (802) 786-5826, District 4 - White River Junction - (802) 295-8888, District 5 - Colchester - (802) 655-1580, District 6 - Berlin - (802)-917-2879, District 7 - St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670, District 8 - St. Albans - (802) 524-5926, District 9 - Derby - (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Brandon Garretto, Vegetation Management Admin, 2178 Airport Rd, Dill Bldg Unit A, Barre, VT 05641 or brandon.garretto@vermont.gov. Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations>.

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Plant Industry at 116 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-1732. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/>

Sheriffs cite drivers for cell phone use

ADDISON COUNTY — Sheriff Michael Elmore reported his department completed patrols in multiple towns during the weeks of April 12 to April 25 and stopped 76 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations. The department also attempted to serve 28 pieces of civil process around the county.

Driving while on your cell phone? Beware. The sheriff department also cracked down on driving while talking on a cell phone via a “high visibility patrol” during which 63 vehicles were stopped between April 9-13. Fourteen tickets were issued.

Sheriff’s officers provided traffic control while a cow was herded off the road on East Main Street in East Middlebury, met with staff at MUMS for a truancy issue, assisted with the rescue of two boaters who fell into Lake Champlain near Orwell, and issued an \$800 ticket for illegal dumping of trash.

The activity report included:

April 13, 2026:

Middlebury — Provided a transport to Burlington.

Middlebury — Conducted 3 background investigations.

Salisbury — Arrested Thomas Moore, 59, of Rutland for driving with a criminally suspended license.

E. Middlebury — A deputy found a cow in the roadway on E. Main St. Assisted with traffic control while it was rounded up. Ossie Road was shut down briefly due to the safety concern.

Sheriff’s Log

Shoreham — Arrested two juveniles for attempting to elude. They were spotted in the roadway on an ATV and a dirtbike and when a deputy attempted to pull them over, they drove away at a high rate of speed. They were eventually tracked down and identified.

04/15/2026

Middlebury — Provided a transport for a person from the jail in Springfield to their court hearing and back.

Middlebury — Due to the number of hearings at court, extra deputies were assigned to provide security.

Bristol — Conducted a welfare check on a person. No issues were discovered.

Brandon — Assisted a Rutland County deputy on a traffic stop after he requested assistance with an unruly driver.

04/16/2026

Weybridge — Conducted a welfare check on a person sleeping in their vehicle.

Middlebury — Sheriff Elmore met with staff from MUMS about a truancy issue.

Starksboro — Followed up on a dog bite incident.

Middlebury — Conducted a background investigation.

04/17/2026

Orwell — Assisted rescue with two boaters who fell in the water

on Lake Champlain.

Middlebury — Provided extra deputies at the courthouse due to two people being brought in for hearings after being arrested earlier in the day. Transports were eventually provided for these individuals as they were ordered to be held in jail.

04/18/2026

Orwell — Assisted a person with a broken-down vehicle.

Panton — Assisted VSP with a rollover crash on Jersey Street.

Ferrisburgh — Assisted a person with a broken-down vehicle.

Addison — Assisted VSP with a lost hiker. They were found safe.

04/20/2026

Middlebury — Transported a person to jail at the request of Middlebury Police Department.

Brattleboro — Sheriff Elmore attended the monthly VT Sheriff’s Association meeting.

Middlebury — Provided a transport to jail for a person who was being held in custody after their court hearing.

04/21/2026

Middlebury — Provided a standby for an eviction.

Middlebury — Conducted two background checks.

04/22/2026

Bristol — Investigated a dumping complaint. The owner of the trash was advised to pick it up and was issued an \$800 ticket.

04/23/2026

Monkton — Assisted a motorcycle that had gone off the road.

04/24/2026

Pittsford — A deputy attended training to learn how to take fingerprints and check VIN numbers.

New Haven — Transported a juvenile from the VSP Barracks to secure housing in Bennington.

Orwell — Provided a VIN verification for a resident.

04/25/2026

Weybridge — Provided a VIN verification for a resident.

Orwell — Assisted rescue with a medical call.

Salisbury — Investigated a burning complaint. Contact was made with the person that was attempting to burn things they should not and was warned not to continue.



Storybook moment

Cinderella decided to make an appearance to help Zeno Family Sugarworks close out their season. Skylar Zeno, from Starksboro is the granddaughter of owners, Chris and Trixie Zeno. She sure brought some “sweetness” with her too!

Photo by Trixie Zeno

ATTENTION FARMERS!!!

ANNUAL SPRING MACHINERY/ FARM AND GARDEN CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY MAY 9TH - 10 AM

HELD AT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES BARN
RT 125 EAST MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

All Good Consignments Welcome!

Please No Household Items / No Tires

WE ARE ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS NOW!

THIS ANNUAL SALE ATTRACTS MANY – DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CASH IN!!

LARGE SELECTION OF TRACTORS,
FARM EQUIPMENT, LAWN AND GARDEN,
A MUST SALE TO ATTEND!

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

ACCS 802-388-2661 OR 802-989-1507

T.G. WISNOWSKI & SONS AUCTIONEER-JOHN NOP
www.accscattle.com

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 4/23/26 & 4/27/26

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Westminster	1405	2.00	\$2810.00
Malnati	1105	1.95	\$2154.75
Goodrich	1735	1.94	\$3365.80
Whatley	1415	1.90	\$2688.50
Bourdon	1580	1.86	\$2938.80
Degraaf	1780	1.83	\$3257.40

CALVES	\$
Townsend	\$1953.00
Nop Bros	\$1920.00 (HOL)
River’s Edge	\$1864.30
Elysian Fields	\$1862.40
L. Terrier	\$1848.00
M+L Quesnel	\$1833.40

Total Beef - 104 Total Calves - 140

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

Annual bike swap set for May 2

By LAURA ASERMILY

MIDDLEBURY — The annual Middlebury Bike Swap will be on Green Up Day Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to noon at Middlebury’s Cannon Park near Frog Hollow Bikes, rain or shine. The event allows people to find the right new-to-you bike, sell that old bike that’s been taking up space in your garage, or better yet, do both.

The swap is hosted by Frog Hollow Bikes and Middlebury Safe Routes with support from the Town of Middlebury and runs concurrent with Better Middlebury Partnership activities for a vibrant kick off to Green Up Day.

Drop off bikes, bike trainers and

bike cases for the swap at Frog Hollow Bikes before noon May 1 and indicate if you want sale proceeds to go to you or be donated to Middlebury Safe Routes. Items will not be accepted on the day of the sale.

Upon dropping off items, your name, contact info, item info and price you are looking to get will be taken. Items must be in decent working order. Any item that is \$100 and under will have a \$10 fee, items over \$100 will have a 10-15% fee that goes to Frog Hollow Bikes and Middlebury Safe Routes for running the swap and the free e-bike loan program. Frog Hollow Bikes is available year-round to accept used bikes

for consignment sale, to buy new or used bikes and to service and assemble bikes, but will have a larger selection of used bikes at the swap due to unclaimed missing and stolen bikes released to them by the Middlebury Police Department, which the public is reminded to check by April 29.

Middlebury Safe Routes monitors traffic patterns and student travel behavior, plans activities to teach bike skills and rules of the road, and recommends improvements to roads, parking lots, drop offs, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lights, signage, bus routes, bike routes, bike racks, and more.

Learn about upcoming events in May, which is bike month, including rides on the new Triangle Bike Loop of Addison County and the free e-bike loan program which

100+ Women Who Care donates to nonprofits

By JUDY KOWALCZYK

On Tuesday, April 21st, 100+ Women Who Care Addison County

held their second-quarter meeting of 2026 at Notte in Middlebury. (Thanks so much to Two Brothers Tavern for hosting us downstairs in Notte.)

Local non-profits received \$18,000 – the most 100+ Women has distributed since its start. The three finalists for this quarter were New Community Project (for sustainable practices to help feed food-insecure families), New Haven Volunteer Fire Department (to purchase a machine to scrub firefighting gear of chemicals after emergency calls) and Addison County Readers (in partnership with Dolly Parton’s “Imagination Library” to send free books to children up to age 5).

New Haven Volunteer Fire Department was the top vote recipient receiving 70 percent of the funds. The runners-up both received 15 percent of the

available funds. 100+ Women Who Care, Addison County is a charitable giving circle gathering quarterly to choose three non-profits to receive our collective donations. Since 2023, our local 100+ Women chapter has gifted close to \$285,000 to Addison County charities (this figure includes matches from the Richard M. Schulze Foundation to whom we extend much gratitude). We welcome new members. Come learn about the non-profits in Addison County and enjoy a cocktail together. We are grateful for the women who share this commitment to supporting each other and our community. Find us at www.100wacvt.org to learn more. Our next meeting will be in July 2026 at a local establishment with cocktails and appetizers.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

FORECLOSURE: 3-BD, 2-BTH HOME ON 0.13 ACRES IN PITTSFORD, VT

LIVE AUCTION: Friday | May 29, 2026 | 11AM

ADDRESS: 815 Arch Street, Pittsford, VT 05763

This 2-story home is located in Pittsford, VT and offers approximately 1,550± square feet of living space along with a full unfinished basement on a 0.13± acre lot.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

2-BED, 1-BATH MANUFACTURED HOME IN COLCHESTER, VT

LIVE AUCTION: Thursday, May 14 @ 11AM

ADDRESS: 27 Third Steet, Colchester, VT 05446

Estate: Single-wide manufactured home, located in the Breezy Acres Cooperative, Inc. park. Built in 1994 the home has 784± sq. feet. Within walking distance to restaurants, stores, churches and more!

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

ARTS + LEISURE



GATHER TO SEE A FABULOUS FLORAL MURAL IN MIDDLEBURY

Gus and Arlo Chiaravalli, Nate Lyon, Peter Houskeeper and Pearl Ratcliff (and Lily Isham not pictured) are the creative artists behind the newest mural in the craft room at Gather on Court Street in Middlebury. The four students in *The Walden Year* envisioned, sketched and painted this floral scape during their weekly visits to this community space.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / ELSIE LYNN PARINI

Looking at what was the mechanical room for a past podiatry office, four students pondered how they could make a white-washed, concrete room with no windows a little more inviting... Hmmmm.

By **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

"I think I started," said Pearl Ratcliff from Bristol, pointing up to a bright and colorful mural that decorates what is now the craft room at Gather — Middlebury's community

living room on Court Street, with "the clover. I chose the red clover because it's Vermont's state flower."

Nate Lyon from South Burlington, brothers Gus and Arlo Chiaravalli from North Ferrisburgh, and AmeriCorps staff member (and Walden alum) Lily Isham collaborated with Ratcliff to envision, sketch and paint a colorful mural of flowers above a set of cabinets that hold an

equally bright array of crafting materials for creative guests to use.

These four students are part of *The Walden Year* — a flexible pathway program for 16-19-year-olds that is run in partnership with Monkton's Willowell Foundation. It's directed by Peter Houskeeper of Lincoln.

The Walden Year is a tuition-free program for "learning outdoors, focusing on a creative, compassionate, interdisciplinary education in arts, ecology, writing, civic engagement, and wellness," reads the description on Willowell's website (willowell.org/the-walden-year-1).

Part of their curriculum is to find a way to give back to community. The students this year have been coming to Gather weekly on Thursdays and spent an estimated 12-15 hours creating this mural.

"This project has felt particularly in line with this group's skills and interests in art," said Houskeeper, who is himself a 2026 alum of Walden.

Why did they choose flowers?

"Was it to bring the outside in?" asked Lyon quizzically. Yeah, probably, that makes sense for a dark room with no windows. "They're all native flowers, too."

All the usual meadow-loving suspects are up there: orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), columbine (*Aquilegia*), thistle (*Asteraceae*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), dandelion (*Taraxacum*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*).

"We wanted to add nature to the room to make

See MURAL on page 3



The Artemis II crew — Mission Specialist Christina Koch (top left), Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen (bottom left), Commander Reid Wiseman (bottom right), and Pilot Victor Glover (top right) — use eye protection to view the solar eclipse they experienced during their lunar flyby.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA

Let's investigate this lunar legacy: The Artemis II Flyby

Christmas Eve 1968: As the Apollo 8 crew swung around the Moon, they viewed the Earth as never before. It was the iconic "Earthrise" image taken by astronaut Bill Anders that helped spur the environmental movement through its display of the Earth as a fragile, blue marble in the blackness of space (visit [nasa.gov/image-article/apollo-8-earthrise](https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/apollo-8-earthrise)). Unprecedented images of the Moon were plastered on the covers of countless newspapers and magazines. The Apollo 8 crew of Jim Lovell, Bill Anders and Frank Borman read the first 10 verses of the book of Genesis with the intention of promoting hope and unity.

The year 1968 began with a Tet offensive in the Vietnam war that resulted in over 111,000 casualties and 42,267 total fatalities, including the loss of several thousand American servicemen. In April, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, followed by the assassination of Robert Kennedy two months later. There was a heightening of war protests and peace movements leading to the summer of love, and a presidential election which led Richard Nixon's *law and order* platform to a huge victory. Those were tumultuous times with parallels to the present. The timing of the Artemis II launch

was a welcome respite from the recent blasts of exposure to the dark side of humanity. We could clearly see what amazing things humans can do with the spirit of curiosity, reaching high and far with great science and engineering, and teamwork.

Artemis II Mission

On April 1, at 6:35 p.m., the Artemis II Orion spacecraft was launched and went on to complete a captivating and action-packed mission that sent the crew of four on a lunar flyby to the far side of the moon. It was the first human mission to the moon in over half a century when Eugene Cernan of the Apollo 17 lunar landing (1972) last stepped foot on the Moon. The four-person crew of Artemis II consisted of Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover (first black astronaut in deep space), and Mission Specialists Christina Koch (first female lunar explorer), and Jeremy Hansen (first Canadian to the Moon). They embarked on their 10-day mission to the far side of the Moon when NASA's massive, super heavy lift rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), lifted them from the Kennedy Space Center launchpad (see a short mission and launch overview video by NASA: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=_](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eeZQwgPBco)

[eeZQwgPBco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eeZQwgPBco)). Taller than the Statue of Liberty, the astronauts riding atop the 322-foot tall SLS rocket experienced forces of several G's during the ascent, something they had been subjected to during Earth-based training in large centrifuges. The main rocket, called the core stage, is fueled by liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen (LOX) as an oxidizer. Over 700,000 combined gallons of those propellants power four engines and produce mostly water as an exhaust. The two solid rocket boosters strapped to the core provided over 7.2 million pounds of thrust and were jettisoned over the Atlantic two minutes after launch at an altitude of about 30 miles and travelling at 3,100 mph. The spacecraft was inserted into high Earth orbit, where the crew tested flight systems and deployed solar arrays in preparation for the translunar injection burn to leave Earth's orbit. They would complete a figure-eight-shaped journey around the Moon, using the moon as a gravitational slingshot for the journey home.

During their journey around the Moon, the crew of "Integrity" reached the farthest a human mission has ventured; 252,757 miles. They spent about seven hours observing the far side of the Moon, which included a 40-minute communications black out when lots of work was getting done. The crew and craft did extensive imaging of the lunar surface that will aid in landing site selection and studies of lunar geology. Planned event captures were a spectacular first viewing of a solar eclipse from the far side of the moon and a first observation of an "Earthset!" The solar eclipse was an astonishing 54 minutes long (longest solar eclipses from Earth are about eight minutes; see a short video at [youtube.com/shorts/W-LTuoCKxLU](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/W-LTuoCKxLU)).

The Artemis II mission had numerous scientific goals. Some of those goals were to test systems in preparation for subsequent missions



An Earthset as Artemis II astronauts approached the dark side of the Moon.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA

See LOOK UP on page 8

MURAL

continued from page 1

it nicer," Arlo Chiaravalli said.

"And flowers were something we were comfortable drawing," Gus Chiaravalli added.

"Plus, we try to make nature a lens for our learning," Houskeeper plugged. "It's cool to have a group this year that's so visually inclined."

"It feels very satisfying to finish this," Ratcliff said.

The feeling is mutual.

"People come into Gather carrying hard things like loneliness, uncertainty, disconnection. Now the first thing they see when they go to the crafts room is something made by young people who showed up and took an interest in them, and turned that interest into creating something beautiful and that brings joy," said Joshin Byrnes, Guiding Teacher and Founder of Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community (which is the home of Gather).

"WATCHING THE WALDEN YEAR STUDENTS CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND THEN GIFT TO US SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL INSPIRATION."

— Joshin Byrnes

"That's what we're trying to do here," Byrnes continued. "Create the conditions for something good, wholesome and beautiful to emerge between people who would otherwise never cross paths. Watching The Walden Year students connect with our community and then gift to us something so beautiful has been a wonderful inspiration, and it gives me a lot of hope for the future of our community."

"It has been fun to watch [the students] working together," added Colleen Jishu Brown, who co-founded the Zen community with Byrnes on a

Cornwall barn in 2017. "They clearly respect and like each other."

"It's been really cool to develop a relationship here at Gather," Houskeeper said. "And to come to a space to be creative and connect with community."

The students will continue to come to Gather (which is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.) on most Thursdays throughout the school year.

Stop in to say hi, see the mural, have a meal and connect with community.

Editor's note: For more information on Gather of the Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community visit breadloafmountainzen.org. To inquire about The Walden Year and enrolling in the next session connect with Peter Houskeeper at 802-453-6195 or waldenyear@willowell.org.

EUREKA DAY

The Eureka Day School in Berkeley, California, is a bastion of progressive ideals: representation, acceptance, social justice. In weekly meetings Eureka Day's five board members develop and update policy to preserve this culture of inclusivity, reaching decisions only by consensus. But when a mumps outbreak threatens the Eureka community, facts become subjective and every solution divisive, leaving the school's leadership to confront the central question of our time: How do you build consensus when no one can agree on truth?



WINNER OF THE
2025 TONY AWARD
FOR BEST REVIVAL

MAY 1-10
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"Eureka Day is so brilliantly yoked to the current American moment - its flighty politics, its deadly folly - that it makes you want to jump out of your skin...The plays most astonishingly accurate moment comes when the board convenes a livestream...I'm still trying to figure out how hard is appropriate for a critic to laugh at the theater; this night, I made myself hoarse." - The New Yorker



BY JONATHAN SPECTOR, DIRECTED BY REBECCA STRUM

UPCOMING MUSIC



The Almendros — from left: Mark Pelletier, Pete Ryan, Naunau Beloha, Liz Cleveland, John Wallace, Addison Tate, Doug Wilhelm, and Kemi Fuentes-George — will perform on May 6 at the Marquis in Middlebury to benefit Migrant Justice.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Almendros to rock the Marquis for Migrant Justice

In a benefit for the nonprofit Migrant Justice, the popular Addison County band The Almendros will rock the Marquis Theater in Middlebury on Wednesday, May 6, from 7-9 p.m.

Migrant Justice works to build the voice and capacity of Vermont's 1,200 immigrant

farmworkers, helping them organize for economic justice and human rights. The nonprofit has been working at the forefront of resistance to ICE in Vermont.

The Almendros are an eight-piece multinational group whose repertoire ranges from rock, soul, hip-hop and blues to reggae,

ska, calypso and West African styles. Their second album, "Destination Unknown," is available on streaming services, and on their website almendrosband.com.

With a \$10 cash admission for Migrant Justice at the door, the evening will include the Marquis Theater's Mexican cantina and bar.

More Tunes

A cappella brings harmonies to Middlebury and Cornwall

There are two opportunities to hear Middlebury College students sing a cappella coming up in Middlebury on May 1 and in Cornwall on May 6.

The first show is a spring a cappella Jamboree featuring the Dissipated Eight and Middlebury Mischords. That show will run from 7-8 p.m., at the Middlebury

See A CAPELLA on page 14

Middlebury Wind Ensemble Spring Concert features high school senior

The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble will perform its spring concert on Saturday, May 2, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall in Middlebury. The program will feature a number of pieces influenced by the Blues, a uniquely American form of music. Middlebury Union High School senior Jonathan

See WIND on page 9



SWIFT
HOUSE
INN

MAY NEWS

May 1 - First Fancy Friday with DJ Serena in the Blue Bar

May 3 - Sunday Supper: Seasonal Prix Fixe Dinner

May 6 - Wine Wednesday: The Many Faces of Pinot Noir

May 10 - Sunday Supper: Seasonal Prix Fixe Dinner

May 13 - Wine Wednesday: Oaked vs. Unoaked

May 10 - Sunday Supper: Seasonal Prix Fixe Dinner

May 20 - Wine Wednesday's Farrell Takeover Part 2: Rose

May 27 - Jessica's Reopens for Wednesday Dinner

25 STEWART LN. MIDDLEBURY, VT SWIFTHOUSEINN.COM @SWIFTHOUSEINN

Hinesburg Artist Series presents Mother's Day concert, May 10

The Hinesburg Artist Series (HAS) will celebrate spring and Mother's Day with a concert full of beautiful music on Sunday, May 10, at 4 p.m., in the CVU auditorium. The concert will feature the Hinesburg Community Band and South County Chorus, both under the direction of Rufus Patrick.

"Since it is the 250th birthday of America, we have put together a wonderful mix of music with familiar tunes," Patrick said. "Folks will recognize the choral presentations of 'Shenandoah' and 'If I Had a Hammer,' as well as 'I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing' and 'Dancing through Life' from 'Wicked'.

See HINESBURG on page 15

ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Call 802-453-4032, email aom@gmavt.net or visit artonmainvt.com for more info.

"Ekphrastic – Art and the Word." Ekphrastic writing is a vivid, imaginative literary description of or response to a work of visual art, such as a painting, sculpture, or photograph. These pairings are the result of a workshop held last month in honor of Bristol's inaugural Poem Village. On view through April. (BTW: April is celebrated nationally as Poetry Month.)

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon.

For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"Refresh and four new artists." BAG has four new members and has done its twice-annual "refresh" check out the new look and fresh work from Aiden Rose Palmer, Lisa Steckler, Margaret-Desiree Mug, and Susan Wacker-Donle. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 8, from 5-7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"From the Collection" highlights a group of artists, including Max Ginsberg, James Blair, TJ Cunningham, Liz Gribbin and Tracy Burtz, offering visitors an opportunity to view works by some of Edgewater's foundational artists who have helped shape the gallery over the years. On view March 21-May 16.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Water: Element of Change," juried by Lee Anne White, explores water as a force that shapes landscapes and evokes movement, memory, and emotion. Featuring work from photographers around the world, the exhibition includes 35 images on view in the gallery and 40 additional works in the online gallery. From oceans and rivers to rain, ice and abstract interpretations, the show highlights the many ways artists engage with water as both subject and metaphor. There will be an opening reception on Friday, May 1, from 4-7 p.m., with complimentary mead tastings. Free and open to all. On view May 1-30.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Spotlight on Denise Letendre" is the featured artist for the month of May. Come see mixed-media works inspired by Vermont's light, landscape and wildlife. On view through May 31.

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, your energy is at an all-time high. If you've been sitting on a wild idea, Tuesday is the day to pitch it to someone. Your charisma is your superpower right now.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Expect a spotlight moment, Taurus. Whether it is a compliment from a stranger or a win at work, the universe will validate your hard work this week. Keep your chin up.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Adventure is calling you this week, Gemini. Even if it is a new coffee shop or a different route home, no voyage is too small. A spontaneous conversation midweek could lead to an opportunity.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Treat yourself, Cancer. The stars suggest that a little luxury could go a long way for your mental health right now. A small investment in your comfort will pay off in productivity.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. The mental or physical clutter in your life is finally clearing out, Leo. You will find a lost item or a solution to a nagging problem by the end of the week. The relief will feel good.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, your discipline is producing tangible results. Take a moment to look back at where you were three months ago. You have climbed higher than you realize. Celebrate the progress.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Your social calendar is buzzing right now, Libra. You are the main character in your friend group this week, and your ability to connect people will spark a brilliant new collaboration.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. A lingering tension with a loved one melts away this weekend, Scorpio. It will be replaced by laughter and mutual understanding. It's a great time for a reset.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, your brain is a lightning bolt of innovation right now. Write down every thought you have, even if they seem weird. One of them will be a game changer.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, your intuition will be 100% accurate this week. Trust your gut on a new opportunity; it's leading you toward something that feels like home. Comfort is coming your way.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, this week you are shedding an old skin and it feels amazing. A boost in your confidence makes you feel untouchable in the best way possible. Own your power this week.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, creativity is overflowing. Whether you are painting, cooking or solving problems, your flow state is easy to find. Expect a sweet message from someone you are missing.



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Scan Code to Check Out Our Awesome Upcoming Classes

260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753 (802)388-3559
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

- MAY 1 — Wes Anderson, filmmaker (57)
- MAY 2 — Christine Baranski, actor (64)
- MAY 3 — Pete Seeger, folk singer (d)
- MAY 4 — Audrey Hepburn, actor (d)
- MAY 5 — Adele, singer (38)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- MAY 6 — Gabourey Sidibe, actor (43)
- MAY 7 — Johannes Brahms, composer (d)

CALENDAR

April 30-May 10

2026

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

ILSLEY CLASSIC FILM CLUB: "LA STRADA" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 30, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join the Ilesley Classic Film Club's "Global 1950s" series for a free screening of Federico Fellini's classic "La Strada." Free admission and popcorn.

ULYSSES READING SERIES: INSTALLMENT 4 IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m., Middlebury College's Humanities House, 115 Franklin St. The spring lineup includes writer and Bread Loaf coordinator Jason Lamb, poet and educator Stephen Cramer and NER contributor Meg Reynolds. Light fare and specialty mocktails inspired by Visualizing Ulysses. Free event.

LUKE BULLA CONCERT IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m., Private residence (address provided with ticket purchase). Virtuoso fiddler, guitarist and vocalist Luke Bulla returns for an intimate house concert as part of the Music Up Close Series. Bulla has performed with artists including Brandi Carlile, Alison Krauss and Bela Fleck. Tickets: \$30 via venmo @don-sheldon-4. Send questions to don@valleystage.net. valleystageproductions.com.

"NUNSENSE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. When 52 sisters are accidentally poisoned, the remaining Little Sisters of Hoboken stage a musical revue to raise money for funeral costs. This Middlebury Community Players production features song, dance and comic performances in a vaudeville-style show. Special pricing \$17. Tickets: addisonarts.org/event/nonsense.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS "OUR TOWN" BY THORNTON WILDER. Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. Set in a fictional small town from 1901-1913, "Our Town" is a powerful meditation on the beauty in everyday existence and the universality of human experience. Tickets: \$5-\$15.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

PAUL WINTER IN CONCERT: THIS GLORIOUS EARTH, A MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 1, 7 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC, 2 Main St. Seven-time Grammy winner Paul Winter presents a concert of his earth music featuring soprano sax with recorded whales, wolves, wood thrush and other members of "the

greater symphony of the Earth." \$40 general admission, \$10 students. More info at paulwinter.com, in-fo@paulwinter.com.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE THEATRE: "OUR TOWN" BY THORNTON WILDER. Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. Set in a fictional small town from 1901-1913, "Our Town" is a powerful meditation on the beauty in everyday existence and the universality of human experience. Tickets: \$5-\$15.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. A timely comedy about truth, community and conflict. At a progressive Berkeley school, board members face division when a mumps outbreak forces difficult decisions. Tickets: \$15-\$39. Tickets: addisonarts.org/event/eureka-day.

"NUNSENSE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. Details in April 30 listing.

THE KRUGER BROTHERS IN VERGENNES. Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. The Kru-

ger Award-winning bluegrass with a distinctive sound. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE AT KINGSLAND BAY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, May 2, time TBD. Take an easy, two-mile wildflower walk around Kingsland Bay and see trillium and other spring ephemerals. Contact David An-drews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com for details. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TREE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 2, 2-3:30 p.m., College Park, Middlebury College. Horticulturist Tim Parsons leads a free guided walk discussing tree species suited to Vermont's climate. Wallet-size information cards on insect pests available.

SAKE LECTURE WITH NANCY MATSUMOTO IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 2, 2:30 p.m., Middlebury College Axinn Center at Starr Library, Room 232. Sake expert, author, and James Beard Award winner Nancy Matsumoto discusses sake craft, brewing, sustainability and umami, followed by a Q&A. Free.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio

at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. More details in May 1 listing.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE THEATRE: "OUR TOWN" BY THORNTON WILDER. Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, 96 Chateau Rd. See details in April 30 listing.

"NUNSENSE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. Details in April 30 listing.

THE TENDERBELLIES BLUEGRASS PARTY IN LINCOLN. Saturday, May 2, 7:30-10 p.m., Burnham Presents Music Series. An evening of bluegrass and roots music with Vermont's award-winning Tenderbellies, known for their instrumental skill, tight harmonies and high-energy performances. More info at burnhampresents.org.

MIDDLEBURY WIND ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT. Saturday, May 2, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Middlebury College Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall, 72 Porter Field Road. The Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble performs a spring program featuring blues-inspired works, Ripton

Continued on next page

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
<p>Through the Night: Bulletin Board, VT Media Exchange Channel 1071 Thursday, April 30 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Gov. Scott 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Eckankar 11 p.m. Democracy Now Friday, May 1 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs Saturday, May 2 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 9 p.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs Sunday, May 3 5 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 11 p.m. Democracy Now Monday, May 4 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 11 p.m. Democracy Now Tuesday, May 5 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar</p>	<p>10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Selectboard Wednesday, May 6 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard 7 p.m. Selectboard 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 11 p.m. Democracy Now Channel 1091 Thursday, April 30 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Brains Belong 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Friday May 1</p>	<p>6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 4 p.m. Yestermorrow 6 p.m. All Brains Belong 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Saturday, May 2 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga, Yoga for Kids 8 a.m. Beavers, Beavers, Beavers 12 p.m. State Board of Education 3 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Vermont Dance Alliance 8 p.m. Yestermorrow Sunday, May 3 4 a.m. Beavers 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Yoga for Kids 7:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:30 a.m. Yestermorrow 1 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6:30 p.m. Meet the Author Monday, May 4</p>	<p>5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting Tuesday, May 5 4 a.m. Yestermorrow 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Meet the Author 8 a.m. State Board of Education 11 a.m. All Brains Belong 7:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Wednesday, May 6 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2 p.m. Meet the Author 5 p.m. All Brains Belong 10 p.m. Yestermorrow</p>	

composer Jerome Shedd's "Addison Peaks," and MUHS senior Jonathan Kafumbe as trumpet soloist in Alfred Reed's "Ode for Trumpet." Free.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

"NUNSENSE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m., Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. Details in April 30 listing.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 3, 2 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. More details in May 1 listing.

MONDAY, MAY 4

AFRICAN DRUMMING FOR BEGINNERS WITH SHELLY IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, May 4, and weekly on Mondays, 2-3 p.m., 17 Court St. Learn West African drum rhythms. Some drums available or bring your own. Leave feeling energized! Hosted by the Counseling Service of Addison County, free and open to anyone. Drop-ins are welcome. Parking in back; use the front door opposite the TenneyBrook convenience store. For questions, call Zylpha at 802-388-3093.

UNDERCOVER QUILT GUILD IN BRISTOL. Monday, May 4, 6 p.m., Bristol American Legion, 56 Airport Dr. Undercover Quilters and Crafters meet on the first Monday of each month to share quilting, sewing, knitting and other fiber arts, along with friendship and community. All are welcome. Bring a show-and-tell item if you have one. For more information, contact stacie.ayotte@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

IRISH MUSIC NIGHT WITH RAMBLETREE IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, May 5, 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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

GREAT ART WEDNESDAY FILM SERIES: GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, May 6, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A documentary screening exploring Vermeer's iconic painting and the mys-teries

surrounding it. \$15.

THE DISSIPATED EIGHT A CAPPELLA PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., the Meeting House at Cornwall. Middlebury College's oldest a cappella group performs a mix of barbershop classics, contempo-rary pop and original arrangements. Sliding-scale tickets: \$10-\$20. Find out more at themeeetinghousevt.org.

THE ALMENDROS PLAY FOR MIGRANT JUSTICE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 6, 7-9 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. The eight-piece, multinational Addison County band brings a wide-ranging repertoire, from rock and soul to reggae, calypso and West African songs. Migrant Justice helps to build the voice of Vermont's migrant farm-workers. Admission is \$10 cash at the door.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 7, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. A timely comedy about truth, community and conflict. At a progressive Berkeley school, board members face division when a mumps outbreak forces difficult decisions. Tickets: \$15-\$39. Tickets: ad-disonarts.org/event/eureka-day.

FRIDAY, MAY 8

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD GALLERY OPENING RECEPTION. Friday, May 8, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street. Celebrate the Guild's biannual gallery refresh and welcome four new member artists with new works in painting, sculpture, mixed media and glass. Meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments. Free. Contact Hel-lo@BrandonArtistsGuild.org with questions.

"FERAL: A PIECE ABOUT WOMEN & WOLVES" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 8, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A multimedia performance by Sandglass Theater blending puppetry, music and visual theater, follow-ing a woman's transformation as she navigates instinct, identity and societal expectations. Part of the New England Family Theatre Festival.

Tickets: \$15-\$40. More info: townhalltheater.org.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. More details in May 7 listing.

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN" MUSICAL IN ROCHESTER. Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Valley Hub Theater. Featuring beloved characters like Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Lucy, the White River Valley Players' lively produc-tion brings the world of the Peanuts comic strip to the stage. Admission by donation. Find out more at WRVP.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 9, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park. Meet at the parking area of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust lead a morning survey of birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities wel-come. Free. For more info, call 802-388-6019.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN ELIZABETHTOWN, N.Y. Saturday, May 9, time TBD. Hike Mount Inez, the newest of the Champlain Area Trails on the Adirondack side of the Champlain Valley and enjoy views of the lake and Adi-rondack high peaks. This moderate hike is 3.2 miles roundtrip. The first part of the hike is gentle, but the last mile is steep, with 600 feet of elevation gain to the summit. Carpooling encouraged. Contact Barry Francis at barryfran-cis@gmavt.net for details. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SHADOW PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m.-noon, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A hands-on workshop exploring shadow puppetry, projection and sound looping with the Sandglass Theater ensemble behind "Feral." Participants will experiment with light, masks and layered sound techniques. Free with registration; donations welcome.

MUSIC, STORIES AND BOOK SIGNING IN BRISTOL. Saturday, May 9, 3-5 p.m., Art

on Main, 25 Main St. Musicians Rick Ceballos and Lausanne Allen present an afternoon of folk music and stories, with a book signing for Ceballos's "The Rising Steam," a collection of original tunes for banjo and accordion. Light refreshments served. More info: artonmainvt.com.

JAZZ CONCERT: BOLLING NIGHT IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, May 9, 6 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Pianist Christopher McWilliams and friends present an evening of jazz-inspired music from Joplin, Gershwin and Schocker to Debussy, centered on Claude Bolling's "Suite No. 1 for Flute and Jazz Piano." Admission by donation.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 9, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. More details in May 7 listing.

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN" MUSICAL IN ROCHESTER. Saturday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., Valley Hub Theater, 222 S. Main St. See May 8 listing.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

SCIENCE MAGIC! WORKSHOP IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row.

Explore light, color and optical illusions through hands-on activities. Free with registration. See ad-disonarts.org/event/science-magic.

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. A high-energy family performance blending robotics, comedy and invention. \$15-\$25. More info: ad-disonarts.org/event/mario-the-maker-magician.

"EUREKA DAY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m., Anderson Studio at Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. More details in May 7 listing.

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN" MUSICAL IN ROCHESTER. Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m., Valley Hub Theater, 222 S. Main St. See May 8 listing.

HINESBURG ARTIST SERIES' MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT. Sunday, May 10, 4 p.m., Champlain Valley Union High School auditorium. The South County Chorus and Hinesburg Community Band, directed by Rufus Patrick, perform a spring concert featuring Americana, choral favorites and band classics in celebration of Mother's Day and America's 250th anniversary. Free; donations accepted.

READ MORE Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



The white River Valley Players present
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN
A MUSICAL!

at the Theater
at Valley Hub
(former School Auditorium)
222 S. Main St,
Rochester

Admission by Donation! More info at wrvp.org

FRI MAY 8 7:30 PM
SAT MAY 9 7:30 PM
SUNDAY MATINEE MAY 10 2:00 PM

Illustration by Joe Schenkman © 2026

LOOK UP

continued from page 2

missions that will construct and establish a research base. Evaluation of terrain from visual data will help identify safe landing sites and possible hazards in the permanently shadowed and heavily cratered, polar region rich with ice. Examination of visual features and colors will aid understanding of lunar geology and origins. NASA's broad goals are to show the benefits of innovation, technology development, inspiration, STEM workers, economic development, and how hard work together as a team can lead to ultra historic achievements.

A very emotional and touching part of the Artemis II mission was when Commander Reid Wiseman named a bright crater after his late wife Carroll, who died in 2020 after a five-year battle with cancer. Another crater was named Integrity, the name chosen for the Orion spacecraft and used to represent trust and teamwork; great lessons for everyone.

On April 20, after travelling over two-thirds of a million miles, Integrity reentered the Earth's atmosphere traveling 24 thousand mph (>30 x speed of sound). Reentry was followed by a six-minute communications blackout as mission control and the world watched anxiously for splashdown. The capsule heat shield withstood temperatures of about 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit, half the temperature of the surface of the Sun. Resumed communications were a relief and a few minutes later the first parachutes deployed at 22,000 feet, with others slowing

the craft to 20 mph for a perfect splashdown in the Pacific Ocean at 7:07 p.m. EST, precisely the time predicted by NASA. The crew was extracted by divers, picked up by helicopters, and transported along with the recovered capsule by the U.S.S. John P. Murtha off the coast of San Diego, Calif. (Watch it here: youtube.com/watch?v=-lPflHplPdo).

The extraordinary images of the earth from hundreds of thousands of miles away against the blackness of space are something to behold (nasa.gov/artemis-ii-multimedia/#images). Who could not be moved and humbled by them. Gratitude is extended to all that made the Artemis II mission a success beyond measure and especially for the dedication of four brave astronauts. It was a triumph of what humans can do when

there is a scientific curiosity about the Universe, the will to push the boundaries of what is possible, and to take risks to explore places where no people have gone before. The return to the Moon will continue with a preparatory mission to test rendezvous and docking maneuvers in Earth orbit (Artemis III) and a lunar landing mission planned for 2028. Construction of a lunar base is planned to begin in the 2030s, which will prepare for the next step of sending humans to Mars in the late 2030s, contingent upon budget constraints.

**“IN ALL OF THIS
EMPTINESS — THIS
WHOLE BUNCH OF
NOTHING WE CALL THE
UNIVERSE — YOU HAVE
THIS OASIS [OF EARTH],
THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE
THAT WE GET TO EXIST
IN TOGETHER.”**

— Victor Glover

NASA's funding (0.4% of budget) is scheduled to be cut by 20% in the next federal budget. During the heydays of the Apollo program in the 1960s, it was 4% of the budget. The needs to fund healthcare, childcare, and other forms of care for human needs should be priorities, but spending hundreds of billions on wars of choice is robbing funds that could be used for those purposes and a small, but important allocation for the space program. It is important to invest in space for reasons that go beyond individual inequalities. What is the price of inspiring billions of people and spreading childlike wonder, regardless of age and status? What is the price of science, exploration, and discovery with potential economic benefits? And, what is the price of seeing things as never before, with the potential, however lasting, of changing the way we view the Earth, Moon, and beyond. Achievements like those of Apollo and Artemis tend to have a unifying effect that crosses the boundaries of human difference, if only for a short time. Perhaps those triumphs of human achievement can help us to be more in touch with something greater than ourselves, and that we will be better stewards of our fragile Earth.



NASA's Orion spacecraft with Artemis II crewmembers is seen under parachutes as it lands in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California. 4.10.26.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA/BILL INGALLS

SKY WATCH EVENTS FOR MAY

May 1 — Full Flower Moon

May 3 — The waning gibbous Moon is a half degree from Scorpio's brightest star, Antares.

May 6 — Early Morning sky: Eta Aquarids meteor shower at peak (50 max/hr), but waning gibbous Moon interferes.

May 14 — Pleasant pairing of Mars and the waning crescent Moon are a few degrees apart above eastern horizon in morning

May 16 — New Moon — get dazzled in the dark!

May 18 — Brilliant Venus just 2 degrees from the young waxing crescent moon, west-northwest at dusk

May 20 — Gorgeous line-up of the waxing crescent moon, the 2 brightest planets Venus and Jupiter across Gemini with the bright stars Castor and Pollux. Look west at dusk.

May 22 — First quarter Moon few degrees from Leo's brightest star Regulus high in the west at dusk.

May 26 — Look south at dusk to see Spica, Virgo's hot blue-white giant a few degrees from the waxing gibbous Moon.

May 31 — Blue Moon and a micromoon, a full or new moon when at or near farthest from Earth (apogee). It appears about 14% smaller and 30% dimmer than a perigee or supermoon.



The Moon, backlit by the Sun during a solar eclipse, as photographed by NASA's Orion spacecraft during the Artemis II mission. Earth is reflecting sunlight at the left edge of the Moon. Saturn can be seen at the bottom right edge of the Moon. Beyond that is Mars.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA

ART ON EXHIBIT

Brandon Artists Guild welcomes four new artists and a refresh

The Brandon Artists Guild welcomes four talented new artists and a sweeping refresh of its member collection. The community is invited to celebrate at an opening reception on Friday, May 8, from 5-7 p.m., where guests can meet the artists, and explore new work throughout the gallery. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

A Gallery Transformation

Twice yearly, the Brandon Artists Guild undertakes a gallery refresh — an anticipated tradition in which member artists rotate in new bodies of work, transforming the gallery from top to bottom. This year's spring refresh promises an exciting mix of painting, sculpture, mixed media, and more, spanning a broad range of styles and perspectives. Whether you're a longtime supporter of the Guild or discovering us for the first time, this is a wonderful moment to visit.

The refresh reflects the Guild's commitment to keeping the gallery a living, evolving space — one that always offers something new to discover, no matter how many times you've walked through our doors.

The Four Newest Members

Aiden Rose Palmer

Aiden Rose Palmer, a porcelain potter from Williston, brings a fresh and captivating voice to the Guild. Aidan is one of the few potters in Vermont still making her own clay. Her work explores the intersection of color and memory, drawing viewers into intimate, richly layered compositions.



Pottery by Aiden Rose Palmer.



Mixed media and glass by Lisa Steckler.

Lisa Steckler

Lisa Steckler's art practice in Rutland spans mixed media and glass. Working with various substances to create mosaic art adds a level of creativity that integrates the old with the new, the expected with the unexpected, and cautiousness with risk-taking.

Margaret-Desiree Mug

Margaret-Desiree Mug creates work that is bold, thoughtful, and rooted in a deep love of craft. Her latest work is a love letter to Poultney, Vermont. She finds inspiration in every inch of the town and beauty found in the everyday.

Susan Wacker-Donle

Susan Wacker-Donle of Pittsfield creates work that is characterized by its expressive energy and careful attention to detail. Her fused glass table wear designs are hand cut kiln melted glass on glass.

WINDS

continued from page 4

Kafumbe will be the featured soloist in Alfred Reed's "Ode for Trumpet." The program will also include "Addison Peaks" by Ripton composer Jerome Shedd.

Can't make it in person? This concert will also be streamed, with access to the performance stream available starting at showtime at youtube.com/@robisonhall.

COMMUNITY DANCE

EVENTS

See the Spring Dance Concert



SCAN FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE

Dancers in the Middlebury Dance Department's Spring Dance Concert will perform an evening of original choreography, music, and improvisation on Thursday, May 7, from 7:30-9 p.m., in the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre (72 Porter Field Road) in Middlebury

(DANC 0461), and McLean Macionis' Advanced Electronic Music (MUSC 0212) courses. The performance will also feature live music by Ron Rost and Deborah Felmeth along with original lighting design.

The concert will feature students from Daniel Miramontes' Choreography & Performance (DANC 0360), Lida Winfield's Advanced Improvisation

Tickets range from \$5-\$15, and are available by contacting boxoffice@middlebury.edu or 802-443-6433, or visiting middlebury.edu/college/box-office. All are welcome!

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ACROSS

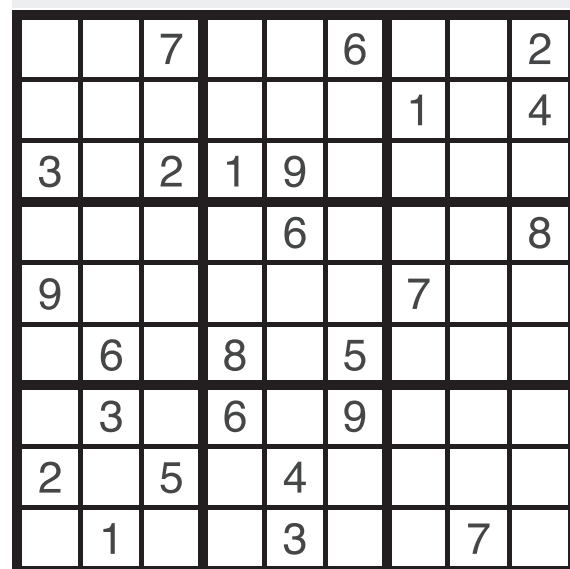
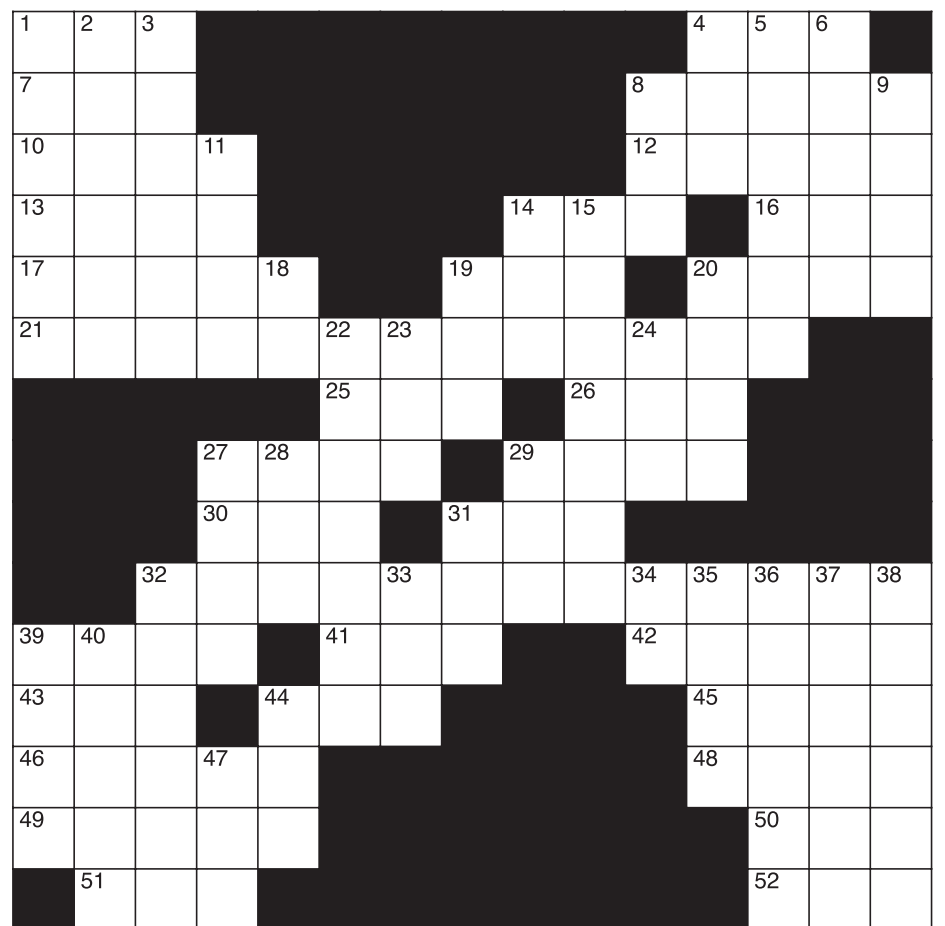
- 1. Purchase
- 4. British news organization
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. Language specialist group
- 10. Fancy automobile
- 12. Small loop or series of loops
- 13. Exploiter
- 14. Don't know when yet
- 16. Group of languages
- 17. One who's finished
- 19. After B
- 20. Angled

- 21. A place to adopt pets
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Young boy
- 27. Unexciting
- 29. American comedian Vidale
- 30. Peyton's little brother
- 31. Corporate higher-up
- 32. "All in the Family" star
- 39. Strike something forcefully
- 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 42. Clay earth pigments
- 43. Means to record brain activity

- 44. Small constellation
- 45. Embraces
- 46. Brief description
- 48. Exclude
- 49. White (French)
- 50. Insect
- 51. A major division of geological time
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. In tune
- 3. A citizen of Yemen
- 4. Actress Ling
- 5. One who supports
- 6. Circus performer



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

- 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 9. Quantitative fact
- 11. Utah city
- 14. Where a golfer begins
- 15. Attendant
- 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 20. Benedictine monk
- 22. Not turbulent

- 23. Car mechanics group
- 24. Buffer used in chemistry
- 27. Fall heavily
- 28. Pie _ _ mode
- 29. The Brits love it
- 31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- 32. Jacksonville footballer
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. _ _ and behold
- 35. A way to

- resemble
- 36. Fingers
- 37. Excessive indulgences
- 38. You might be an "empty" one
- 39. "How the West Was Won" writer
- 40. European river
- 44. They begin the alphabet
- 47. The body's messenger

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Pet of the Week



Hi, I'm Lucy

This is our Saint Bernard Lucy. She is eight months old. She loves to take naps and snuggle her humans. She is a constant provider of comic relief for our family!

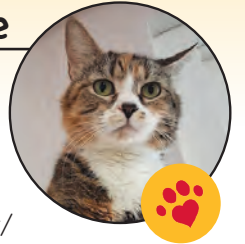
Submitted by the Van De Weert Family in Addison.

Pets In Need

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Addison County's Humane Society

Callie



Callie was an outdoor cat living the farm life before ending up at the shelter. Every day she's here she gets more comfortable with receiving affection and we're getting to see the sweetheart that she really is. She would most likely enjoy having an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. She gets along with other cats and has been around various types of livestock.

Cassie



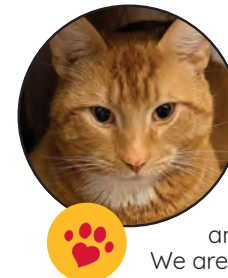
Cassie is the sort of cat that melts your heart when you lay eyes on her. She's a bit timid and shy, but you can see that she really wants to be brave and receive affection. She's young but has a look in her eyes that makes you think she has lived a much longer life and experienced a lot in her short time. She may need some time and patience in the beginning, but we are confident she is a sweet girl who wants to both give and receive love. Unfortunately, we don't have any history on how she does with other animals, so a slow and structured introduction would be recommended.

Lacey



Lacey is a gentle senior cat who was found left behind by her previous family. She was in rough shape when she first came to us, but with a lot of love, TLC, and good food, she is feeling so much better! We're hoping someone with a big heart will be willing to take her in and help make up for the hardships she's been through.

Todd



The handsome Mr. **Todd** arrived to us as a stray, but don't let his mysterious background scare you, this boy is a charmer! He is outgoing, affectionate and wants to be the center of attention. We are unsure of his history with cats and dogs, so a slow and structured introduction would be recommended.

Hercules



Hercules is a 3-year-old boy with a lot of love to give. He can be timid when meeting new people but warms up quickly through play. Hercules loves to play fetch and bounce around in the yard with his favorite toys. He enjoys car rides and has previously lived with other dogs. Hercules is working on confidence-building as he can easily be unsure in new situations. For now, he would do best in a home with older teenagers and no young children.



Pet of the WEEK



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THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Modern mountain abode borders forest

A 4.7-acre property bordering the Green Mountain National Forest is now on the market, offering a modern retreat with direct wilderness access. The four-bedroom main residence features an open-concept first floor with wide oak flooring, a pellet stove, and a kitchen equipped with a double oven and central island. Large glass doors lead to a full-length covered porch overlooking local mountain views. The second floor includes a primary suite with a four-piece bath, three guest bedrooms, an office, and a laundry room. An attached garage with oversized doors provides utility access and storage. The estate includes a separate two-bedroom guest chalet with its own wraparound deck, detached garage, and independent utilities. This property serves as an ideal base for outdoor recreation, balancing contemporary comfort with a scenic forest setting.

the
REAL ESTATE
COMPANY
of VERMONT

This week's property is managed by The Real Estate Company of Vermont. More info at therealestatecompanyvt.com.



'Homer Wells: A Retrospective' exhibit opens in Middlebury

The work of Monkton artist Homer Wells will be on display at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls in downtown Middlebury May 9-July 5, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 9, from 3-5 p.m. The exhibit, "Homer Wells: A Retrospective," celebrates the remarkable career of Wells.

Before turning fully to fine art, Wells spent years as a master sign-maker in Burlington — creating iconic work for brands like Bruegger's Bagels and Burton Snowboards, as well as the sign for Edgewater Gallery on the Falls. That background continues to inform his practice today.

Working on handmade aluminum panels, Wells engraves, etches, and paints his surfaces using specialized tools and automotive paint — techniques rooted in his sign-making past. The result is work that is both industrial and atmospheric: luminous landscapes that shift with light, revealing depth, motion, and reflection as the viewer moves.



Monkton artist Homer Wells will have a retrospective exhibit on the walls at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls in Middlebury from May 9-July 5. SUBMITTED PHOTO

This retrospective will include both wall-based works and sculptural pieces, tracing the evolution of his practice and highlighting the innovation that has defined his career.

For more info visit edgewatergallery.co, call 802-458-0098, or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

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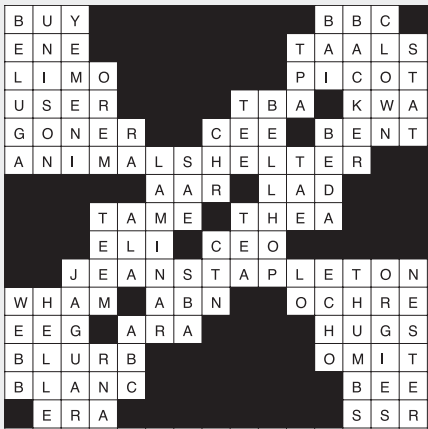
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PUZZLE

April 30, 2026

SOLUTIONS



1	4	7	3	8	6	5	9	2
8	9	6	5	2	7	1	3	4
3	5	2	1	9	4	6	8	7
5	7	1	9	6	2	3	4	8
9	2	8	4	1	3	7	5	6
4	6	3	8	7	5	2	1	9
7	3	4	6	5	9	8	2	1
2	8	5	7	4	1	9	6	3
6	1	9	2	3	8	4	7	5

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A CAPELLA

continued from page 4

College Chapel and is free and open to all.

Then Dissipated Eight will take the show to

Cornwall, where they'll perform on Wednesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m., at The Meeting House. This show is ticketed from \$10-\$20. Tickets can be purchased at themeetinghousevt.org/d8. If ticket prices are a barrier to attendance email

benjamin@themeetinghousevt.org.

About the singers

Middlebury College's oldest acapella groups, Dissipated Eight founded in 1952, and Middlebury Mischords founded in 1962, both sing and arrange all their own music. Styles range from barbershop classics all the way to contemporary pop hits. One thing for certain, both groups know how to have fun with each other and with their audiences.

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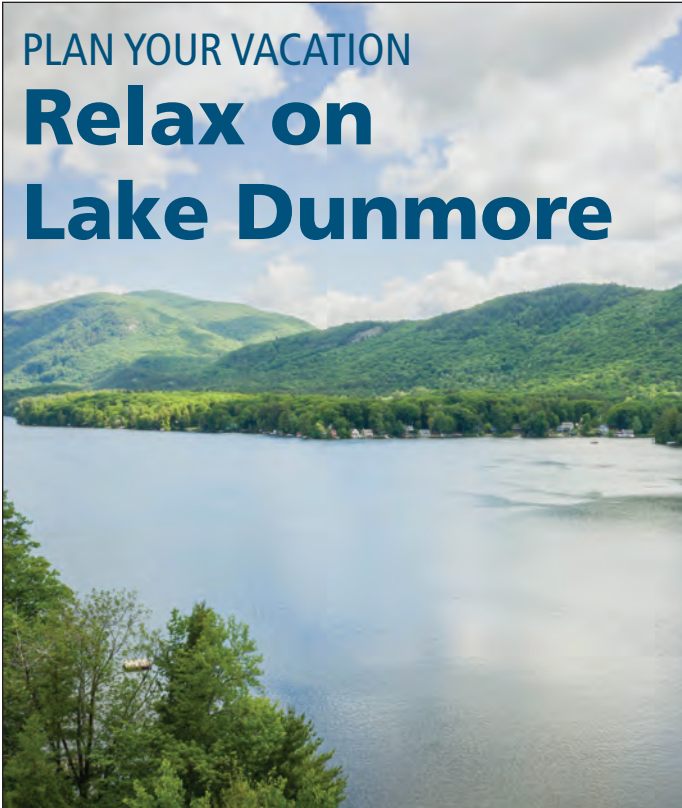
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HINESBURG

continued from page 4

To round out the choral portion, we will perform 'An Americana Songbook,' 'Ezekiel Saw the Wheel,' and the very touching 'Set Me as a Seal.'"

The Hinesburg Community Band will present "Woodlands Overture," "The Trace," "American Jubilee," "The Invincible Eagle," by John Philip Sousa, and a stunning arrangement of "Appalachian Spring," by Aaron Copland. The band will also be performing a selection composed by band member and Essex High School senior Holden Friesel. Friesel will be conducting his piece, entitled "Expedition Overture" that was originally written for orchestra. He has skillfully arranged it for the Hinesburg Community Band to perform.

"We love our spring tradition of bringing a free concert to the community," Patrick said. "Our audiences are quite enthusiastic and really appreciate the music. We are so grateful for the tremendous support from the many local businesses who advertise in our program."

The concert is free, with donations gratefully accepted. Visit hinesburgartistseries.org for more information.

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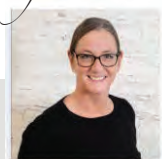
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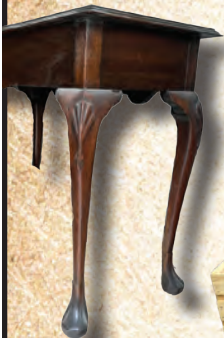


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Coffee
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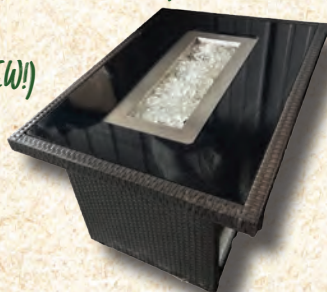


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