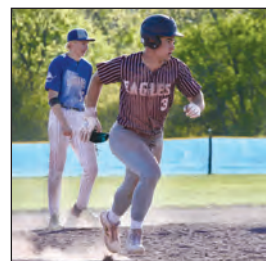




Visual history

A new graphic novel explains the past in a way that other texts can't. See Arts + Leisure.



Base hits win

Mt. Abe baseball beat the VUHS nine recently with singles and doubles. See Page 1B for more.



Home/Garden

From native plants to Habitat for Humanity—read about it all in Section D of today's paper.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Student art spotlighted in Bristol festival

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — From paintings to pottery, self-portraits to sculptures, the Mount Abraham Union High School gymnasium last week was adorned with works of art made by local students.

The gallery was part of the annual Mount Abraham Unified School District Fine Arts Festival — a weeklong tradition that showcases student artwork, features various performances and welcomes visiting artists.

"It's a week of celebration," Leah Hammond, a high school art teacher at Mt. Abe, said of the festival. "We have assemblies, we have programming (at the high school) prepared for elementary students, we have demonstrating (See Student art, Page 10A)



MOUNT ABE 11TH-GRADER Maddie Diop shows off some of the artwork she's made in AP Studio Art. Diop's work was among the countless examples of student artwork on display in the Mt. Abe gym last week as part of the annual MAUSD Fine Arts Festival. Independent photo/Steve James

College to grow its role in housing, jobs

Has big plans in the works for industrial park

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College has spent more than two centuries turning young folks into good thinkers, businesspeople and problem solvers.

And the institution served notice this week that it also sees itself as a local and regional problem-solver. Topping its list — according to the college's just-released strategic plan and an interview with David Provost, its executive vice president for finance & administration — is

creating more housing and jobs in the town and county it calls home.

It's an agenda sparked by college President Ian Baucom and endorsed this past weekend as part of a wide-ranging strategic plan that maps out the institution's priorities for the next several years.

Baucom, according to Provost, has taken "a firm position of 'this is the town's college.'"

The strategic plan is still hot off the press, but the college hou— in (See College housing, Page 15A)

Baucom delivers on a new strategic plan

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Coming up on the close of his first year leading Middlebury College, President Ian Baucom is making his mark on the institution.

Baucom this week said the college would close one chapter with the prospective sale of its California graduate school (see story on Page 2A) and open a new one with a bold new 10-year strategic plan.

Middlebury will look to make strides in its affordability for students, opportunities for the college community and service to the Middlebury area, broader state and globe.

Those are some of the takeaways from "Excellence. Purpose. Joy." — the new strategic plan for the institution that trustees unanimously approved this past weekend.

(See Strategic plan, Page 13A)

Bristol art teacher imparted life skills



DEB MAGER RICKNER

Lessons explored history & science

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Stepping inside Deb Mager Rickner's classroom offers a small window into the countless projects she's completed with students as the visual arts teacher at Bristol Elementary School.

From watercolor paintings to papier-mâché, explorations of color theory and space, Mager Rickner has looked to equip students with life skills and a better understanding of the world around them through the lessons they learn in her classroom.

"My whole philosophy is teaching kids how to learn," she (See Deb Mager Rickner, Page 11A)



HOPE VOLUNTEER SUE Prager tells U.S. Sen. Peter Welch during his visit to the Middlebury food shelf last week that she's seen demand skyrocket as rising prices mean many can't afford life's necessities. The food shelf serves 1,000 people a month. Independent photo/Steve James

Sen. Welch gives, gets intelligence on food aid

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — U.S. Sen. Peter Welch is used to advocating for federal food programs in the Capitol building in D.C.

On May 6 in Middlebury the Vermont Democrat got to see exactly what and who he

was fighting for.

Welch, during a "listening session" in Addison County, was served a heaping helping of knowledge on the Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE) food shelf, which sadly has become a more popular stop among

local residents feeling increased economic pressures.

Jeanne Montross, HOPE's executive director, took Welch on a tour of the nonprofit's food shelf, which has been serving (See Welch, Page 11A)



By the way

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parishioners have been seeing some wonderful returns for their recent installation of heat pumps (with gas backup) at their historic place of worship on the Middlebury town green. An analysis by Green (See By the way, Page 15A)

Mrs. Barrett to retire from Bridport school

'Swiss Army knife' has done it all

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — Linda and Leonard Barrett raised four children of their own while running a successful dairy farm in Bridport.

But four children was just the tip of the iceberg for Linda.

She's helped raise three generations of Bridport children during her more than four-decade relationship with Bridport Central School (BCS).

Her title is "administrative assistant," but that really undersells Barrett's value and job description at BCS. A more apt title would be "Swiss Army knife." When she's not logging attendance, typing up reports, fielding phone calls and being a knowledgeable and compassionate first contact for

those who call or enter the school, Barrett is doing other stuff.

A lot of stuff. "I set up the lunch tables; I plunge the toilets. I'm the plumber, the electrician, the person with the tools," she said with a chuckle.

Jenny Urban, principal of BCS, described Barrett's role thusly: "She the heart of BCS."

A heart that began beating at BCS in 1982, according to Urban, when Barrett signed on as a volunteer.

She and Leonard — both Middlebury Union BCS. A more apt title would be "Swiss Army knife." When she's not logging attendance, typing up reports, fielding phone calls and being a knowledgeable and compassionate first contact for

High School graduates — married in 1975 soon after graduation (class of 1973). "I decided to have a family. That was my one and only goal at that (See Linda Barrett, Page 16A)



LONGTIME BRIDPORT CENTRAL School Administrative Assistant Linda Barrett, seen at lunch with kindergarteners Braelynn Audet and Raegan Whittemore, will retire next month after more than four decades of service that have spanned three generations of Bridport families. Independent photo/Steve James

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Mt. Abe selects middle school principal

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District has hired a middle school principal. District officials recently announced Christopher Nichols will step into the role, which is a new position that's been created for grades 7-8 at Mount Abraham Union Middle School.

"I am excited to be joining the Mount Abraham school community," Nichols wrote in a post announcing his hiring. "What stood out to me about Mt. Abe was a strong sense of alignment — the culture, values, relationships, and the way people show up for one another."

"Finding the right fit matters, and I have found that here," he continued. "I'm looking forward to being part of a community that cares deeply about its students and about each other, and to seeing where that shared commitment takes us."

MAUSD officials last month announced the change in Mt.



CHRISTOPHER NICHOLS

Abe's administrative team, which currently consists of one principal for grades 7-12 and two assistant principals. Beginning this fall, the Bristol school will have one principal for grades 7-8, along with one principal for grades 9-12 and an assistant principal.

The announcement of Nichols's hiring stated he spent many years

serving as a middle school social studies teacher and is currently an assistant principal at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas.

"I come to Mt. Abe after more than two decades in education, and while I have had the opportunity to serve in a variety of roles, what matters most to me is simple: building strong relationships, being present, and contributing to a school that feels like a true community — one where students want to be," Nichols wrote. "Outside of school, I'm a father who cares deeply about creating stability and opportunity for my daughter. I enjoy thoughtful conversations, time outdoors, music, reading, and the arts. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be here and look forward to getting to know the students, staff, and families who make this community what it is."

The *Independent* will have a more in-depth article on Nichols and his previous experience in a future edition.

Middlebury College eyes sale of Monterey campus

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College has entered negotiations that could result in the sale of its graduate school campus in Monterey, Calif.

In a Monday letter to the college community, college officials stated the institution has been in conversation with Soka University of America (SUA) about the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and has now entered into "exclusive negotiations with SUA for their potential purchase of the MIIS campus in Monterey." SUA is a private liberal arts college based in Aliso Viejo, Calif., south of Los Angeles.

"The Middlebury and SUA Boards of Trustees have authorized moving forward, and the two institutions will now enter a period of due diligence to finalize the details to ensure a smooth transition," college officials wrote.

The letter was signed by

President Ian B. Baucom, along with Executive Vice President and Provost Michelle McCauley; Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost; and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Institute Jeff Dayton-Johnson.

College officials this past August announced the institution would be concluding residential graduate programs and certain online degree programs at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (known as MIIS). Those programs and operations would wrap up over the course of two years.

The announcement came amidst efforts to balance the institution's budget and after calls from Middlebury students, staff and faculty for the institution to divest from MIIS. College students and faculty had pointed to financial losses seen by MIIS since it acquired MIIS over a decade ago.

The August 2025 move will ultimately end the master's degree

programs and operations based in Monterey, as well as discontinue the online International Education Management and TESOL degree programs. Other online degree programs were not affected by the decision.

The Middlebury Board of Trustees that month affirmed recommendations continue housing summer programs held in Monterey at that campus at least for 2026. The institution's James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey will also continue to operate there and in other locations.

In their letter on Monday, college officials emphasized the institution's commitment to offering its degree programs "on the Monterey campus through summer 2027 — and to awarding Middlebury degrees to students who complete those programs."

"We will honor the commitments we have made to our students, faculty, and staff," they wrote. "We also have been in touch with our accreditors, city officials in Monterey, and other partners about our plans and will work closely with all of them to fulfill our obligations to our community."

College administrators noted that through the agreement, "SUA will assume ownership of the Monterey campus real estate and begin administering select programs under the name Monterey Institute of International Studies at Soka University of America."

They highlighted the several programs SUA plans to continue, stating SUA will assess its needs for those offerings more in depth.

"We are pleased that this transaction will enable certain MIIS programs to continue their legacy of making a difference in the world," college officials wrote. "As has been the case since MIIS merged into Middlebury, its alumni remain valued members of the powerful network that comprises Middlebury."

Members of the MIIS community were set to gather for a town hall meeting with McCauley, Dayton-Johnson, and General Counsel Hannah Ross on Thursday. Financial terms of the deal with Soka have not been concluded.



LINCOLN HISTORICAL SOCIETY President Lucinda Cockrell, left, and Lauren Parren and Cindy Walcott of the Monkton Museum and Historical Society show off some of the pins residents can earn through the "Around Addison County: A Passport to History" program. The project encourages community members to explore historic sites around the county.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

'Passport to History' encourages people to explore the past locally

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — As we near the nation's 250th Anniversary, local historical societies have teamed up on a project that encourages community members to explore the past and visit some of the historic sites in our own backyard.

"Around Addison County: A Passport to History" was created by a collaborative of local historical societies representing the towns of Addison, Bristol, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro.

A "passport" booklet for the program lists historic sites in each town. Residents who visit all of the sites in a town can collect a special pin, earning up to eight through the program.

The effort is connected to the Vermont 250th Anniversary Commission's goal of inspiring Vermonters to engage with local history.

"It's not only revolutionary era, it's 'What is our story as a town, and how is it continuing to evolve?'" said Cindy Walcott, a member of the Monkton Museum and Historical Society.

Local historical societies behind the program began meeting last year, forming the Around Addison County Historical Collaborative. It was an idea that came out of Walcott's explorations of the Florona Grange No. 540 in Monkton.

"It's an organization that supports agriculture and farming families," Walcott said of the Grange. "Here in Monkton, there was a Grange for decades, and they met every week, and people came, and they had a potluck supper, they had talks on agriculture."

Through her work with the Monkton Museum and Historical Society, Walcott sifted through the museum's materials on the Grange in Monkton.

"What I discovered is that the Monkton Grange was very much

involved with the (others), there were local Granges probably in all of these towns," she said. "It turns out that they were doing what they called 'neighboring' meetings... Say Ferrisburgh was hosting, they would make all the arrangements, they would arrange for a speaker, everyone would bring a potluck and you'd have all these people from neighboring towns that were sharing resources and socializing and having fun."

Walcott thought that structure could be replicated by local historical societies.

"Here we are, all these little towns with limited resources and a limited pool of volunteers, and what could we do if we got together?" she said.

Together, members of local historical societies have met regularly, supported each other's events and collaborated on programming. "A Passport to History" is the collaborative's first project.

Lincoln Historical Society President Lucinda Cockrell pitched the idea for the passport project.

"We said, 'Yes, let's hop on it, and we did,'" Walcott said.

FILL YOUR PASSPORT

Community members can pick up a free passport at these participating locations:

- Addison — Addison Town Clerk's Office and Chimney Point State Historic Site (available late May-early Oct.)
- Bristol — Lawrence Memorial Library
- Charlotte — Charlotte Library and Charlotte Museum (available mid-June to mid-Oct.)
- Ferrisburgh — Rokeby Museum Visitor's Center
- Lincoln — Lincoln General Store
- Monkton — Monkton Town Clerk's Office and Russell Memorial Library
- New Haven — New Haven Community Library
- Starksboro — Starksboro Public Library and Jerusalem Corners Country Store
- Vergennes — Bixby Memorial Free Library

The passport can also be accessed digitally through the Lincoln Historical Society, Bristol Historical Society and Monkton

Museum and Historical Society websites.

Organizers noted printing of the passport was supported by a grant from Vermont Humanities and done by Mary Dearborn of Repro Printing in Winooski.

The booklet identifies six historic sites to visit in each town. Those include spots with ties to the American Revolution, such as Starksboro Village Cemetery, where several Revolutionary War veterans are buried.

Other sites highlight former schoolhouses, meeting halls and industrial spots — including a previous kaolin mining site off Hardscrabble Road in Monkton.

"I think maybe that's what's interesting, is to challenge people to look at the unique examples of things like schoolhouses or industries or stores," Monkton Museum and Historical Society member Lauren Parren said. "We're hoping that people will develop a sense of curiosity and want to do some more research as a result of this."

Commemorative 250th pins are available for residents to collect as they check off each of the towns in the passport. Pins are available until Oct. 31 and can be collected during open hours at locations offering passports.

Parren had already visited five of the six sites in Lincoln last week. She recalled stopping by the Lincoln Lumber Company and Hutchins Bobbin Mill and how the mill is hard to see these days.

"I thought that's an important part of the story," Parren said. "What buildings or items are in towns right now that we cherish, that we take for granted, that won't be here unless the community gets behind supporting them?"

"If a program like this can entice people to get more involved with saving the past, that would be great," Parren continued.

Cockrell pointed to other goals of the project, including engaging different generations of residents around history and helping them understand how history informs the present and future.

"So, many of these things here have that story linked to them," she said.

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CONTESTANTS WHO MADE it to the final round of the Addison and Rutland County Civics Bee included, from left, Jacob T. of Brandon, brothers Statler and Sterling R. of North Chittenden, Charlie F. of Weybridge, Carolyn O. of Pittsford and Sage P. of Pittsford. The finalists were chosen from among 13 middle school students who participated in the bee.

Photo by Kathryn Torres

Local middle schoolers engage in civics bee

VERGENNES — The 2026 National Civics Bee Regional Competition brought 13 middle school students from Addison and Rutland counties together at the Vergennes Opera House this past Saturday to answer difficult questions about government and citizen responsibilities, as well as to read their own essays. The goal was to encourage more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities.

Middle schoolers from Brandon, Leicester, Middlebury, North Chittenden, Pittsford, Rutland and Weybridge were selected for the Regional Final from a large group of area essay submissions. Most of the contestants were 8th-graders, but the winner was a 6th-grader.

The questions that students answered were far from easy. Here's one:

1. "In a direct democracy, all citizens vote on every law. How does the government of the United States differ from this system?"

- A) Citizens elect representatives to pass laws.
- B) A single leader makes all decisions without voting.
- C) A small group of wealthy people holds all power.
- D) Judges are responsible for writing new laws.

Some of the questions were even more difficult:

2. "How did the Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898) resolve the tension between the Fourteenth Amendment's birthright citizenship clause and Chinese Exclusion laws?"

- A) It ruled exclusion laws overrode the Fourteenth Amendment for Asians.
- B) It ruled birthright citizenship applied regardless of parents' race or eligibility.
- C) It ruled the Fourteenth Amendment only applied to formerly enslaved people.
- D) It ruled states could decide citizenship rules for children of immigrants.

Phil Summers, executive director of event sponsor Addison County Chamber of Commerce, said the event went well beyond expectations.

"There were about 100 people in attendance, the audience participated in the first two rounds on their phones, and we had a lot of engagement," he said. "The most interesting observation from my perspective was how well the students were prepared to answer some very

difficult questions."

Judging Saturday's contest were former Gov. Jim Douglas, State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, Prof. Anne Summers of Norwich University, economic development specialist Fred Kenney and National Bank of Middlebury CFO Stacey Brown.

Winning first place was

Sterling R. of North Chittenden, second was Jacob T. of Brandon, and third was Sage P. of Pittsford. Runners up were Statler R. of North Chittenden and Carolyn O. of Pittsford. Jacob, Sage and Carolyn are students at Otter Valley Union Middle School. The top five finalists are invited to complete for the state

championship and a chance for a trip to Washington, D.C., for the National finals next fall.

The state final is June 8 at Stowe Middle School.

The answers to the questions were:

- No. 1: A
- No. 2: B



STERLING R. OF North Chittenden, left, took home the top prize at the Addison and Rutland County Civics Bee, held at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday. Jacob T. of Brandon, below, took home the second place prize and Sage P. of Pittsford, bottom left, placed third in the competition

Photos by Kathryn Torres



St. Stephen's awards \$24,000 in grants to local agencies

MIDDLEBURY — Each year, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Middlebury distributes the proceeds from its popular Peasant Market to help people in need. At an evening reception on April 28, \$24,000 from last summer's Peasant Market was awarded to local organizations.

Tri-Valley Transit was awarded \$10,000 toward its goal of acquiring two new buses. Because of the extraordinary opportunity to use this grant to leverage matching federal and state funds, the Peasant Market grant may generate up to 90,000 additional dollars for the agency. This proposal most thoroughly met the stated goals of St. Stephen's Outreach Committee: transforming lives and communities, curbing isolation, promoting inclusive communities and providing necessary basic services using innovative delivery methods with collaborative funding.

Charter House Coalition was awarded a grant to purchase essential goods not covered under government grants for the emergency shelter and the street

outreach programs. John Graham Housing and Services received funds to provide gas cards to clients. An innovative program winning a grant is Laundry Love, promoted and staffed by volunteers at Vergennes Congregational Church, who provide companionship along with payment for laundromat services and detergent to low-income and unhoused persons. ACORN's Pharmacy: Food is Medicine program received a grant to support fall and winter CSA shares to local families.

St. Stephen's Welcome Home Kits, which received a micro-grant of \$500, offer basic housekeeping necessities to vulnerable persons moving into permanent housing. Caseworkers request a kit, which typically contains towels and bed linens, pots and pans, dishes and utensils and cleaning supplies.

Peasant Market 2026 will be held on the Green Saturday, July 11, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Proceeds will be used to support outreach to the community, especially via non-profit organizations that help people.

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Larry Hamberlin taught music courses at Middlebury College for two decades. The author of *The Curious Listener*, *Tin Pan Opera*, and *An Introduction to America's Music*, he has given presentations at several national and international conferences on music history.

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Editorial

College's strategic plan is as bold as it is optimistic

Two front-page stories in today's *Addison Independent* highlight a bold, encouraging and ambitious 10-year strategic plan for Middlebury College that could be very fortuitous for the town, county and state.

It's also a statement by Middlebury College President Ian Baucom that he firmly believes in author David Stameshkin's historical reference of the 226-year-old institution as "the town's college." That's because just as the town's early settlers founded and nurtured Middlebury College in its early decades, so too is the college giving back to the town in vitally important ways.

To speak in concrete terms, trustees agreed at this past weekend's meeting to continue to help address the area's housing shortage by helping build more housing on some of the hundreds of acres of developable land the college in the town.

The thinking that led the college to that decision is telling. "The overall vision," Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration David Provost said, "is how does Middlebury College leverage its 6,000 acres of land? The current campus is on 300 acres. The question I posed to the board (of trustees) is: 'Why do we control and own those lands, and is that the best thing for Middlebury and Addison County?'"

That the trustees agreed to "strategically leveraging our lands for greater community purpose," is an enormous vote of confidence in the community and in the belief that the college is best served by a vibrant community, and vice-versa. The support also follows the Stonecrop Meadows housing development, begun several years ago, which has 80 housing units coming onto the market this spring and summer out of the 250-unit project. The college was instrumental in making the land available and contributing needed financing to bring the project to fruition.

In addition to helping the town with housing, the college already has worked with town officials and the Addison County Economic Development Corp. to finish \$130,000 in predevelopment work on nine college-owned lots in the town's industrial park. That initiative will get them "shovel-ready" for prospective entrepreneurs by 2027. One of those lots will likely be for incubator space for fledgling student businesses that compliments its proposed "innovation park." Such a park, which is still on the drawing boards, would twin the college's commitment to environmental stewardship while also advancing student entrepreneurship.

Those sites and others would be powered by a 5-Megawatt solar site on the far northern portion of the industrial park the college currently owns. Again, using college-owned land for regional power needs is not only advantageous for the larger community, but smart economics — and good for the environment.

If the college's vision fully comes to be over the next decade or two, could another 100-300 housing units be too much growth for the town and county?

On the contrary, Vermont's economic data suggests a dire need for new affordable housing and lowering the average demographic by creating new jobs for younger Vermonters.

According to the Vermont Futures Project, which ambitiously calls for an increase in population to 802,000 from its current 646,000 by 2035, there are "nearly 100,000 Vermonters between ages 55-65. About 14,800 workers are projected to retire annually through the end of this decade. This is only partially offset by 2,100 high school graduates and 4,500 college graduates staying in Vermont and joining the labor force each year. Vermont needs to add 13,500 new people into the workforce each year," concluding that "recruitment and retention of new working-age Vermonters is critical for our future."

It's been doubly true in Addison County for the past decade or more as listed jobs have gone unfilled, and younger Vermonters have moved elsewhere largely due to a lack of affordable housing.

In many ways the college's ambitious plan couldn't come at a better time. With significant improvements in Middlebury's downtown over the past several years — and a thriving arts community — the town is primed for new entrepreneurs, new ideas, young families to fill our schools and the added energy that would bring.

Imagine the college partnering with the town and state to create an innovation zone that would, as Provost says, "spark the local and regional economy and advance the entrepreneurial spirit of students, strengthening ties between local innovation initiatives and the college."

THE BIG PICTURE

To take a step back from some of the plan's projected outcomes, the root of the conversation began by President Ian Baucom's posing the question: What is Middlebury (College) For?

As he wrote in his address to the college community, "We are, of course, for many things. Above all, we are for our students, and for our world. The strategic plan is dedicated to ensuring that we deliver on those commitments with distinction and excellence. Its ambition is to establish Middlebury as the best liberal arts institution in the world."

To do that, Baucom wrote, the college must "Strengthen Our Core, Serve Our World, and Prepare for our Future."

The story focuses on some of the initiatives to make those goals become reality. The launching of a Vermont Policy Solutions Studio, and the creation of three Middlebury labs — Middlebury Solutions Labs (bringing people together to solve complex problems), Liberal Arts and Artificial Intelligence Labs, and the Career and Life Purpose Lab (which would match students with a mentor to work with from their first semester through graduation) — are concepts that could bring stimulating conversations and forums to the broader community.

It's all part of the vision captured by Baucom in the title of his team's strategic plan: "Excellence. Purpose. Joy."

Each of us in our roles as citizens, business owners and community leaders, could dare to be as optimistic.

Angelo Lynn



Patience

A COLONY OF freckled violets stands tall in this Middlebury yard this week but the blossoms seem to be determined to stay closed until warmer weather sets in. Hopefully they will open in the delicious glory this weekend.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Romania trip didn't disappoint

At a Ukrainian restaurant, a graduate student and I are eating piping hot coconut chicken soup, telling our stories. We met the day before at Indiana University where I am presenting on shamans and healthcare in Mongolia. Alex says, "I am doing research on witches, healers and magic people in Romania during the Soviet period. I was wondering if you would like to join me there for two weeks this summer."

I take a deep breath. When I was younger, I wanted to go everywhere. Yet for years now, I have felt in my heart Mongolia is enough — with its sunny skies, sturdy horses, curious reindeer, smoky tipis and ancient traditions. The smell of artemisia on the steppes, the wide faces, the shamans drumming. It is enough.

But. This invitation is tantalizing. What do the witches do? Who will the healers be? What are magic people? I can never learn enough about the healing arts. Before I think it through, I am saying yes.

The present summer plan is for me to spend six weeks shooting the documentary Migration in Mongolia. Will I be too tired if I add Romania? Since my plane flies through Istanbul, Alex suggests we plan my Romanian visit on my return trip, and I am hooked.

After shooting the footage for the film and before leaving Ulaanbaatar, I receive an email from Alex with a photo of a soft, yellow guest house in Arbore. The outside eating area has pink, white and red hanging baskets of petunias and geraniums.

"Would this be okay?" she asks. I don't say it but compared to the past three weeks of riding reindeer up mountains in snow and living in a tipi with no running

water, it looks like heaven.

It is. Being in the small village of Arbore is like stepping into a fairyland. Each yard has a fancy well with a bucket, an artistic wrought iron fence with an ornate gate and a house painted in soft pastel colors. Even the rain gutters and spouts are cut designs. Above our heads as we walk on the road are nests with storks and their babies. I wake up to the clomp of horses pulling hay wagons.

For Alex's interviews, we travel any way we can — by bus or train or car. We hitchhike and walk to speak with an orthodox priest. When his parishioners visit, his wife meets them before he does, gives them a numerology reading and preps her husband for their meeting.

We travel north by bus past fields of sunflowers to find an herbalist. In his yard are five-gallon glass carboy decanter bottles filled with flowers and herbs of all shapes and sizes. We straddle them as we sit at his picnic table. When we go inside, he hands us a bag of coffee beans to eat one at a time, gives Alex a massage, and tells magical Romanian stories for four hours. Alex translates, yet even munching on coffee beans, I can barely stay awake. As I take notes, my writing becomes smaller and smaller.

Maybe I am here for more than Alex's research. What strikes me when we get back to Arbore are the faces of the babushka women we meet on the road. I want to photograph them. When Alex gets permission, I too have a project! The faces are lovely. Ones that could be in fairytale books.

While visiting a larger city for an interview we come (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



Community is worth the push

One of the things I've enjoyed most about being a local reporter is getting to meet more of the Addison County community.

I'd attended high school in Vergennes and church in Middlebury and knew my corners of the county well but, as a more introverted person, rarely pushed myself beyond them.

Joining the Addy Indy team in 2022 gave me that push. Over the years, I've met farmers and teachers,

I've spoken with people working to tackle the climate crisis, address food insecurity, reform the state's broken health care system and develop more affordable housing.

The best part of those conversations is that the people I'm speaking with are my neighbors. This spring, I got the chance to meet more of them.

I was among a group of community members taking part in this semester's New Perennials Community Roots Apprentice Fellowship at Middlebury College. Through the program, students are paired with people working at organizations in the Middlebury area. It offers students a chance to get off campus and "feel connected to a place and to mentors where they will live and work while they're at Middlebury — and maybe longer, as many Middlebury College alumni demonstrate."

I was paired with Lily Jensen, a sophomore studying

environmental literature at the college. Over the past few months, Lily and I have attended events together, talked about my work as a reporter and explored ways to get more students plugged into local news.

It's been a fruitful partnership that's helped inform my approach to covering Middlebury College and introduced me to people I might not have met otherwise. Practitioners and students gathered a couple times throughout the semester, including for an evening of game wardens and artists.

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Clippings

By Marin Howell



learning what it looks like to show up for each other, to see a person's strengths, to challenge the assumptions we have about the world around us and joyfully pursue work that cares for pollinators and our planet.

That work isn't always easy, and it *is* work. Whether it's the hours spent planting a garden or attending a town meeting, tending to our communities requires our time, our thought, our courage.

That last piece has held me back in the past. When I think of putting myself out there, it's easy to see all of the things that could go wrong. What if I say the

(See *Clippings*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Green Up was a rousing success

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Green Up Day in Middlebury. Despite the dreary weather on May 2, we saw a steady stream of community members of all ages throughout the day picking up bags, cleaning roadsides and dropping off full bags of trash. Your commitment to caring for our community was inspiring.

This year was an incredible success. We ran through of Green Up bags, with the Middlebury Union Middle School students even taking the remaining bags yesterday to continue the effort. By the end of the day, we had collected so much trash that the town's truck was filled to capacity and we began stacking bags beside it.

As someone experiencing Green Up Day in Middlebury for the first time, I found the entire experience remarkably uplifting. Seeing so many people come together to care for our roadsides, parks and public spaces was a powerful reminder of what community stewardship looks like at its best. We were even featured as the lead story on WCAX CBS News in Burlington, helping highlight the incredible work happening here in Middlebury. Please check out the link above.

The word from many longtime participants is that more trash was collected this year than at any point in recent memory. While that certainly shows the scale of the effort, it also reminds us that keeping litter off our beautiful streets, trails and waterways is a year-round responsibility.

Thank you again to everyone who volunteered, organized, picked up trash, distributed bags or supported the effort in any way. Middlebury showed up in a big way this year, and you should all be proud. Great job, everyone!

Kevin Fox
MALT Executive Director

Here's why GOP faces criticism

From the beginning of Trump's second term (when he pardoned 1,500 January 6th insurrectionists including those convicted of seditious conspiracy) to the present, the subversion of the rule of law, and our institutions and norms have become increasingly far worse; as has the detrimental effects on our lives. Cruelty, corruption, and incompetence are taking a dire toll! The major actors in these transgressions are supportive Republican lawmakers who don't seem to care.

War and Our Economy

Trump's war with Iran wasn't begun due to an imminent threat. Its objectives aren't clear or consistently explained. Congress hasn't given its approval, nor is there a strategy to bring it to an end. Pete Hegseth, who calls himself "Secretary of War," leads the military. He has minimal combat experience and is better known as a former weekend FOX newscaster, Christian Nationalist, and culture war autocrat. He has encouraged members of our armed forces to commit war crimes by giving "no quarter, no mercy to our enemy." The war has alienated our allies, depleted our munitions, and weakened National Security.

Peace negotiations with Iran have primarily been left to real-estate magnates Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner — neither of whom have any experience as career diplomats, military strategists, or foreign-policy professionals.

The war has sent gasoline prices skyrocketing, raising the cost of living from fertilizer to groceries. Billions are spent that might instead be used to support health and childcare, food assistance, housing, infrastructure improvements, and education. Meanwhile, the vast majority of Republican lawmakers are silent.

The Injustice Department
Leading the Injustice Department is Acting Attorney General and wannabe Attorney General, former personal Trump lawyer, Todd Blanche. Blanche apparently has no qualms debasing himself and the Department by re-indicting former Director of the FBI James Comey. The alleged crime? Comey's "86 47" (See *Rubin letter*, Page 5A)

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IN A RECENT presentation at Middlebury College, sophomore Lily Jensen shares highlights from her time working with Addy Indy reporter Marin Howell through the New Perennials Community Roots Apprentice Fellowship. The program pairs students with people working at organizations in the Middlebury area.
Independent photo/Marin Howell

Clippings

(Continued from Page 4A)
wrong thing? What if I'm turned down? Ignored?
Sometimes that happens. Being part of any community

inevitably means having awkward conversations, running into disagreements and making difficult decisions. This spring with the Community Roots Apprentice

Fellowship program reminded me of why being in community is worth all of that — worth pushing ourselves for.

Letters to the Editor

Byker is logical choice for Addison-2 House seat

I am writing in support of Tanya Byker's candidacy for the Cornwall Addison-2 seat district in the Vermont House of Representatives.
For the past 3+ years, the Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) committee, including myself as chair, have worked closely with Tanya in her capacity as the Cornwall Selectboard Chair.

Her leadership on the Selectboard has enabled our committee to successfully work through project difficulties. She is a measured leader who is able to quickly assess challenging circumstances and work with others to effectively achieve positive resolutions.
During these past several years, I have come to admire Tanya's

energy and enthusiasm, ability to sort through thorny situations, and maintain a "can-do" spirit. She has been an effective leader for our selectboard.
Though sorry to lose Peter Conlon, I believe we will be well served with Tanya Byker as our next House Representative.
**Gail Isenberg
Cornwall**

Rubin letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
seashell Instagram post was an assassination threat against Trump. Nor does Blanche have any compunction alleging the Southern Poverty Law Center funded informants inside the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations, deceived donors who thought they were funding anti-hate advocacy, disguised the money trail, and therefore committed nonprofit fraud. The allegations are patently absurd, have little basis in law, and the evidence is lacking. Republican lawmakers say nothing.
Voting Rights
The Administration and Department of Justice are making varied efforts to skew the 2026 midterms in favor of Republicans. Everything from gerrymandering, demanding that states turnover voter registration information, seizing ballots, to deploying ICE, Border Patrol, and active-duty military to polling places are being tried or contemplated. The Supreme Court's recent gutting of Section

2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, significantly diminishing Black and minority group voting power, has made things worse. Republican lawmakers are quiet or cheer.
Why?
Why do Republican government officials support and/or ignore the grave harm that these deeply unpopular policies are causing, how can they not care ... political gain, fear of retribution, lack of empathy, insatiable greed for power and wealth?
But I wonder, does the backdrop for Republicans' apparent callousness reveal a rationale that is more sinister and unthinkable? A backdrop that includes a seriously disturbed and defective President who after directing numerous failed attempts sought to overturn the 2020 Presidential election by fomenting insurrection. Who, with the acquiescence of his political cultists, has no problem creating distrust of our electoral system, disrupting

the midterms, and denying the results. (Disrupting the electoral process in two to three states would be sufficient.) Who is willing to disappear dissidents to an expanded detention infrastructure. (Plans exist and are being implemented to establish 34 new or reengineered incarceration facilities. In total they could hold about 135,000 people at any given time, triple the current capacity).
Perhaps Republican actors and lawmakers are silent and don't care about the cruelty, corruption, and incompetence because they don't intend to honor the will of the people in the midterm elections and believe they will not be held accountable. If that is true, all the more reason we must turn out for the midterms. And all the more reason we must be prepared to fill our streets for as long as it takes, making it impossible for autocrats to wield their tyranny and holding them accountable for their actions!
**Ron Rubin
Middlebury**

With sun dawns a new chapter

It has been a month, and I think I can now say that I am through it. Over the past week, I noticed the change has hit. My mood has shifted and I am beginning to visualize the upcoming months. Imagining all the projects I have in store, I can feel my body and mind preparing itself for everything the summer demands of me. I am not sure what to call it. I do not think there is a name for it. But like clockwork, at the end of March, I feel it taking over: the light and the days lengthening to such a degree, the change in time, the loss of dark hours, all of it has a significant effect on my mental state.



Community Forum

This week's writer is Greg Bernhardt of Leicester.

My wife experiences this in the later autumn months, like many do, with the light retreating little by little every day. For me, I welcome that time of year. I can only say that aloud now that we are officially deep into spring. It is not for any sort of conceptual reason that I celebrate the dark months arrival, it is my body itself that awaits the shorter days. I am part of, I guess it's fair to say, a small group of people who still make hay. From June through October, during any of the best stretches of good weather, I sit on a tractor for much of the day, often without a cloud in the sky, if I'm lucky, and a bright and constant sun. My relationship with the sun during these months is tied directly to its power to dry

grasses into becoming hay for our farm. For first cut, which is the whole month of June usually, there is a high yield of hay, and a notable amount of work and I feel thrust into the light of the sun. There are days when I am out raking the moment the dew is off the grass and then baling until the light hikes over the Adirondacks. I rejoice in the coolness of the nine-o'clock hour and feel the balm of the night and the rest it offers me.
By the end of the haying season, which can sometimes stretch deep into October, I feel a similar excitement for the darker winter days and all the calm it has to offer my body and specifically my eyes. Like Frost's "After Apple-Picking," I too "am done with apple-picking now," or in my case, after caring for each bale of hay, I am done with haying for now, despite "the great harvest I myself desired." But this story is not a focus on rest and rejuvenation, it is about that very difficult transition back into the light. About waking. About preparing for the summer-long marathon of that perennial harvest. So, when the clocks shift, and light is added to each day more and more, I feel panic, gloom, and I greet the extra light hours the way the young do being woken too early in the morning by their parents.
But it is worse than that. I can make analogies and instill a bit

of humor nuanced beneath the surface, but when this time of year comes for me, it is as depleting as that time of year for my wife during the fall. The inverse of seasonal affective disorder. And what's worse, everyone around me seems to be basking in the light and all that summer represents for them.
But, like I said, it's been a month now, and I have finally woken, brewed some coffee and have visualized the day set before me. And even more than just that, there is now a very real desire, for good rains and lots of sun, for high yields and those consecutive three-day stretches of dry heat to harvest and make hay. I now want this. All of it. I look forward to meeting my constant companion, the sun, for the long journey of driving over all the acres of earth that need harvesting here. And though sometimes I wish my relationship with the sun was like it was in my youth or it is for others — a warm light to accompany me to the shores of the ocean, for long relaxing days on the lake's edge — at this stage in my life, it is my colleague in the production of food for our animals. And besides, there are many moments on the tractor where I look out at the tall grasses as I'm mowing a field and their sway and movement in the sunlight offers me the same feeling I get when watching the lake or ocean waters billow, roll and sweep in the glistening light.
Greg Bernhardt is a farmer and cheesemaker with his wife Hannah Sessions at Blue Ledge Farm in Leicester. He is also a writer and painter, exploring subjects such as the landscape and animals.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
upon a photo store. I get copies of the photos for the babushka women. But when we get back to Arbore, I realize that we don't have their names and don't know how to find them. Alex suggests we match up the houses in the background. That works. After giving her photo to a Roma woman, she invites us inside the gate to her family's property where they live in a trailer and have a horse and carriage. We sit around an outside table and talk. Another woman kisses my hand and says she has never seen a photo of herself.
On our final day we find our last woman — a small eighty-year-old with a big smile named Maria who invites us to see her weaving and loom. When we step in, she tells us she has been weaving since she was six years old and points to a three-foot high pile of large, folded tapestries. She takes one down to show us, saying she has no idea



MARIA WEARING A blouse she hand-embroidered in front of her house and barn in Arbore, Romania.

Photo by Sas Carey

what she will do with them. They are a thing of the past and her children and grandchildren do not care.
As we visit, she laughs and


points, seemingly pleased that we appreciate her work. There is a tapestry of hot pink and bright blue flowers on her loom, along with a paper pattern she made for the designs. Somehow, we walk up to her attic where fragrant herbs and linen plants hang, and she shows us a sheepskin coat she had embroidered herself. Even though the day is hot, we love modeling it.
As night comes on, Maria takes us out to her picture book barn to see a cow, two calves, two sows, two piglets, a horse and a colt. The tiny woman hefts a five-gallon pail and waters the animals.
That's when we know we are living in our own fairytale.
Sas Carey is an energy healer, documentary filmmaker and author of "Marrying Mongolian" and "Reindeer Herders in My Heart." Visit www.lifeenergheal.com and www.nomadicare.org for more information

"Senior Investment Fraud: New Scams and How to Avoid Them."

Presented by: Eric Giroux, Senior Counsel United States Securities and Exchange Commission

Wednesday, June 3, 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

This special presentation will cover increasingly common scams targeting seniors, including relationship investment scams (which often start with a wrong number text or social media message), affinity fraud, celebrity endorsement schemes, and imposter scams. Attendees will learn practical steps to protect themselves and their loved ones, including how to recognize red flags like pressure to invest quickly, requests for payment via gift cards or cryptocurrency, and too-good-to-be-true promises. We also will discuss how to research investments and investment professionals using free SEC resources like Investor.gov, as well as how to protect their online accounts from fraud.



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Obituaries

Mildred E. Vincent, 88, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Mildred E. Vincent, “Millie,” as she preferred to be called, passed away May 5, 2026, after a brief illness at Helen Porter, surrounded by her family. She was born July 6, 1937, to William and Ruth Foster in Shoreham, Vt. After a few years, the family moved north, and she grew up in the Colchester/Winooski area, where she graduated from Winooski High School.

After school, she went to work for Jack DeGraw at his bar in Winooski as a bartender and waitress. It was there that she met the love of her life, Andy. They were married and remained together until his passing in 2008. After leaving Jack’s, Millie worked in the kitchen at the former Mary Fletcher Hospital. She later worked for many years at the Weeks School in Vergennes as a cottage parent until the state closed the facility. She then went on to work for Shelburne Industries, where she remained until her retirement.

Millie’s loves in life included books — she was known to read a book a day — spending time on the porch when the weather was nice, book in hand, puzzles, and



MILDRED E. VINCENT

chickadees. Anyone who walked into her home would immediately notice the Game Show Network, which was on almost every time you visited. Above all, she cherished her family. Nothing lifted her spirits more than talking about or spending time with them, especially her great-grandchildren, whom she proudly spoke about whenever she had the chance.

Millie was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Andy; and her son, Bruce. She is survived by her son Bill and his wife Anne of

Ferrisburgh; her daughter Linda and her husband Doug Parker of Williston; her grandchildren Chelsea and Eric Rheume of Vergennes, Jon-Taylor and Morgan Vincent of Ferrisburgh, and Tracy Parker of Florida; and her great-grandchildren Addie, Andy, Zoey and Kira.

She also leaves behind a couple of very close neighbors who were like her extended family. Sherm and Karen Grant and their sons, and Jesse and Steph Brian and their two children.

As per her wishes, there will be no public calling hours. Because as she made it well known to the family, “If you can’t come and see me when I’m alive, I sure as hell don’t want you looking at me when I’m dead.” A private interment will be held at a later date.

The family would like to thank the caring and compassionate staff at Porter Hospital, especially the Helen Porter staff, and the Palliative Care Team for their dedicated and professional support during this difficult time.

Donations in Millie’s name can be made to Vergennes Area Rescue Squad or American Legion Auxiliary Post 14 Vergennes. ◊

Sherry Diane Ouellette, 69, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — Sherry Diane Ouellette, 69, of Iroquois Acres in Bridport, passed away peacefully May 4, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Born July 10, 1956, to Sylvia LeClair and Wayland Brace, Sherry lived a life rooted in devotion — to her family, her community, and the land she helped cultivate.

On May 24, 1975, she married the love of her life, Steven Ouellette. Together they shared 50 beautiful years of marriage, celebrating that milestone just last year. Side by side, Sherry and Steven built Iroquois Acres, creating not only a successful dairy farm but a home filled with love, laughter, and tradition. There, they raised their three children, welcomed their grandchildren, and most recently, her great-grandson — who brought her immense pride and joy in her final year.

Sherry was a cornerstone of the dairy community. She served for many years on the New England Promotion Board and was a familiar, welcoming presence at Field Days, where she could always be found handing out ribbons with a smile. She was also a VT State 4-H Quiz Bowl Coach for many years. She and Steven shared a passion for excellence in their herd, breeding numerous All-American and nominated All-American cattle. Among



SHERRY DIANE OUELLETTE

their proudest achievements was breeding a two-time Grand Champion at the World Dairy Expo, as well as the only Dam-Daughter pair to win both Grand and Reserve Grand Champion honors.

Her dedication extended beyond the farm. Sherry served as Past President of the Eagles Aerie 3801 Ladies Auxiliary, was a former member of Townline First Response, and gave her time to the Bridport Fire Department Auxiliary. She believed deeply in community and showed that through quiet service and steady commitment. At home, Sherry expressed her love through food and tradition. Her kitchen was

always open, her table always full. She never missed a holiday or birthday and lovingly made every cake for her children and grandchildren — each one a reflection of her care and creativity.

Sherry leaves behind her devoted husband, Steven; and her children, Nicole and Mark Foster, Aaron Ouellette, and Seth and Stephanie Pope. She will be deeply missed by her grandchildren Ashlynn and Jordan Fleming, Colin Foster, Allegra Ouellette, and Rowdy and Remy Pope; and her cherished great-grandson, Caden. She is also survived by her father-in-law, Harmel Ouellette. She is lovingly remembered by her “sister of the heart,” Lise Fifield; her siblings Tammy, Wendy, Christina, and Scott (Lisa); and her stepmother, Debbie Brace.

Sherry was predeceased by her parents; her sisters Mary, Cindy, and Stacey; her brother Dennis; her mother-in-law, Lila Ouellette; and her special mother, Mary Plouffe.

A celebration of Sherry’s life will be held Wednesday, May 13, at 1 p.m., at St. Bernadette in Bridport, Vt. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bridport Fire Department, an organization close to her heart.

“Your work is done, your home now is Heaven. Your legacy lives on in the love of your family and in the heart of Iroquois Acres.” ◊

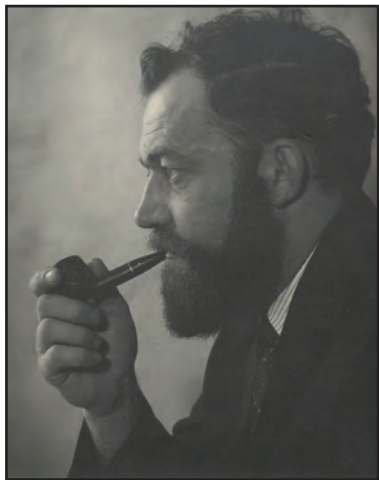
H. Kent Wright III, 90, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — H. Kent Wright III, a lifelong resident of Bridport, Vt., passed away surrounded by the love of his family and community on May 6, 2026. Born July 1, 1935, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury to Horace Kent Wright Jr. and Dorothea Little Wright, Kent built a life rooted in hard work, devotion, and deep Vermont heritage. He graduated from Middlebury High School in 1953.

On Sept. 27, 1953, Kent married the love of his life, Patricia A. Payne, beginning a partnership that spanned more than six decades. Their marriage was a testament to loyalty, grit, and the quiet strength that defined them both. Patricia passed before him, and the reunion they now share brings comfort to all who loved them.

He and his wife operated North Cream Hill Jersey Farm and embodied the work ethic that runs strongly through generations of Vermont families. He also served as Assistant Postmaster in Shoreham and as an Addison County Deputy Sheriff. He retired after thirty-eight years from Polymers Plastics. Earlier in life, he was a reservist with the Vermont National Guard.

A dedicated Mason for 66 years with Morning Sun Lodge No. 5, Kent served as both Master and Secretary, and his brothers in the craft will honor him with a Masonic burial. His commitment to the community extended far beyond the lodge. He was a longtime member of the Middlebury American Legion, Addison



H. KENT WRIGHT III

Bridport Horse Thief Detective Society, Bridport Rescue Squad, Bridport Congregational Church Trustee, Bridport and Shoreham Historical Societies, NRA and Heritage Foundation and many other organizations which are too many to list.

Kent also served on Bridport Central School and MUHS school boards and Addison County Regional Planning Board. He was a Charter Member of Northeast 2 Cylinder Club, he and his wife were members of the Champlain Valley, and Northeast Fiddlers Society, Small City Stepper and — true to his sweet tooth — a proud Addison County Creemee Connoisseur, and considered himself an Old Vermont Woodchuck.

Kent is survived by his children, Suzi Findley and her husband Ron, Cindy Myrick and her husband Steve Sr., and Jerry Wright, along with daughter-in-law, Pat Wright, as well as a special nephew, Kevin White.

He leaves behind a large and loving family of grandchildren: Kel Wright (Ryan), H. Kent Wright V (Jessica), Billy Wright, Jason Barringer (Molly), Atlee Thurston (Taylor), Tim Wright (Tina), Michaela Bushey (Eric), Steve Myrick Jr. (Ashley Lane), Cybil Myrick (Jon Rigg), Silas Myrick, Marla Wright, and Cale Wright; as well as several great-grandchildren who brought him endless joy.

He is also survived by his siblings Bev Leake, John Wright, Edwin Wright, Kurt Wright and Wendy Wright; and brothers-in-law Robert Payne and S. Keith Payne.

He was predeceased by his parents; his beloved wife, Patricia; son H. Kent Wright IV; daughter-in-law Yvette Wright; great-grandson Dylan Bushey; sister Sharman and brothers Larry, Roger and Aaron; and sisters-in-law Linda P. White, Linda B. Wright and Theresa Wright.

A service will be held at the Bridport Congregational Church on May 11, with visitation at 1 p.m. and services at 2 p.m., followed by burial in the Bridport Central Cemetery, in the same community he served, loved, and never left. Following the services the family invites you to the Bridport Masonic Hall for a gathering.

Kent Wright lived a life of purpose — rooted in family, faith, service, and the land beneath his feet. His legacy will continue in the fields he worked in, the organizations he strengthened, and the generations who carry his name and values forward.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to a charity of one’s choice. ◊

Lisa Marie
Bryant graveside
service

FOREST DALE — A graveside committal service and burial for Lisa Marie Bryant, 61, who passed away Feb. 23, 2026, will be held Friday, May 15, at 2 p.m., in the Forestdale Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon.

James Doolan, 90, of Ripton

RIPTON — James “Jim” Doolan passed away May 9, 2026, at his Ripton home surrounded by family. He was a renaissance man, a boatbuilder, storyteller, singer, but most proudly a teacher. He was a blessing to all who knew him. His favorite poet, John O’Donohue sums up his life in this wonderful poem:

Though we need to weep your loss,
You dwell in that safe place in our hearts,
Where no storm or night of pain can reach you.

Your love was like the dawn
Brightening over our lives,
Awakening beneath the dark
A further adventure of color.
The sound of your voice
Found for us
A new music
That brightened everything.

Whatever you enfolded in your gaze
Quickened in the joy of its being,
You placed smiles like flowers



JAMES DOOLAN

On the altar of the heart.
Your mind always sparkled
With wonder at things.
Your spirit was alive, awake,
complete.

Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely
without you.
You want us to find you in presence,

Besides us when beauty brightens,

When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.

When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;

May this dark grief flower with hope

In every heart that loves you.

May you continue to inspire us:

To enter each day with a generous heart.

To serve the call of courage and love

Until we see your beautiful face again

In that land where there is no more separation,

Where all tears will be wiped from our mind,

And where we will never lose you again.

A private family service will be held to honor his life. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, 245 Ethan Allen Hwy., New Haven, Vt. 05472. ◊

Suzanne ‘Sue’ Audy, 74, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Suzanne “Sue” Audy, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend passed away peacefully at home May 11, 2026, with her loving husband, Paul, by her side. She was 74 years old.

Sue was born Sept. 13, 1951, to Bill and Dorothy (Hammond) Nash. A proud graduate of Wallingford High School, class of 1969, she built a life rooted in devotion to family, service to others, and quiet strength.

Sue married the love of her life, Paul Audy in 1973, beginning a partnership that would span more than five decades. Together they built a loving home and raised three children, Tara, Michael, and Steven, who were the center of Sue’s world.

Before dedicating herself to raising her family as a stay-at-home mother, Sue worked for Rutland Optical and later sold Avon. She then began a long and dedicated career with United States Postal Service, serving first in New Haven and then spending 25 of her 27 years at the Middlebury Post



SUZANNE “SUE” AUDY

Office. She retired in 2014 due to health reasons.

Retirement brought Sue what she treasured most — time with family. Over the past 13 years, she especially enjoyed camping with loved ones and traveling alongside Paul, creating memories that will be cherished forever.

Sue’s life was also marked by remarkable courage. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer in April 2013,

she became one of only two patients accepted into a groundbreaking clinical trial at The University of Vermont Medical Center. Thanks to that innovative treatment — and her own extraordinary resilience — she was gifted 13 additional years, time she filled with love, purpose, and gratitude.

A woman of deep faith and generosity, Sue taught catechism at St. Ambrose Catholic Church and devoted countless hours to volunteer service with the American Red Cross, Porter Medical Center, and Round Robin. She was a strong family woman whose greatest joy came from caring for others.

Sue was predeceased by her parents, Bill and Dorothy Nash; her brother, Jerry Nash; and her sister, Linda Weightman. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Paul; her loving children, Tara, Michael, Steven, and their families; seven grandchildren; one great-grandson; and many extended family members and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

Sue is remembered for her strength, kindness, unwavering love, and fierce devotion to her family. Her legacy lives on in all who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, at St. Ambrose Church in Bristol. Interment will be at Mt. St. Joseph Cemetery in Bristol.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Sue’s memory to the New Haven Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 120, New Haven, Vt. 05472

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the nurses, oncology team, palliative care team, and hospice staff whose compassionate care and support brought comfort and dignity to Sue and her loved ones throughout her journey. ◊

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Raymond Cassin, 96, of Middlebury

ESSEX JUNCTION — Raymond Cassin, age 96, passed away peacefully at home with family by his side May 3, 2026, following a sudden decline in health.

Ray was deeply loved by his family, friends, and the staff at Mansfield Place in Essex Junction, where he resided during the last two years of his life. His positive attitude, gift for storytelling, and genuine interest in others made him a wonderful companion and friend. In losing Ray, his family lost a devoted father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend whose presence will be deeply missed.

Ray was married for 56 years to the love of his life, Sheila Cassin, who predeceased him in 2012. Family was at the center of Ray's life, and he especially loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In later years he shared loving relationships with Mary Lew Collins, who predeceased him in 2023, and with Leni Jorschick, whose presence brought him comfort and happiness.

Ray was dedicated to serving both his community and church. He was a past president of Middlebury's Rotary Club, a founding board member of



RAYMOND CASSIN

Addison County Home Health & Hospice, served as a lister for the Town of Middlebury, and volunteered with Saint Mary's Church and Porter Hospital.

Ray worked for 35 years with Metropolitan Life Insurance, earning his Chartered Life Underwriter designation early in his career. After retirement, he founded Cassin Real Estate and enjoyed a second career in real estate sales. He also proudly served his country during the Korean War.

Ray took great pleasure in duck hunting, golfing, canoeing, skiing, traveling, and attending his children and grandchildren's

activities.

He is survived by his four children: David Cassin and his wife Sara of Goffstown, N.H.; Anne Greshin and her husband Adam of Warren, Vt.; Jan Plaza and her husband Scott of Essex Junction, Vt.; and Steve Cassin and his wife Daphne of Franklin, Tenn. He also leaves behind eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, Bernard, and sister, Jacqueline Chapdelaine.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m. at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury. Following the Mass, family and friends are invited to gather at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College for a time of fellowship and remembrance. There will be a private graveside burial at Weybridge Hill Cemetery.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the caring staff at Mansfield Place and BAYADA Home Health Care for their compassion and support.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, Vt. 05753. ◊

Elizabeth Ann 'Bette' McKean, 83, of Monkton

MONKTON — Elizabeth Ann "Bette" McKean, 83, of Monkton, Vt., passed away peacefully May 9, 2026, at McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vt.

Bette McKean was born March 12, 1943, in Shoreham, Vt., to Cassius M. and Marion G. (Fuller) Gosselin. She attended school in Shoreham, before continuing her education at Champlain College. In addition to her office work, Bette enjoyed working as a party planner consultant for Beeline Fashions and Cameo Lingerie.

Throughout her life Bette made homes and memories in Monkton as well as Fort Collins, Colo. and Winter Park, Fla.

On August 20, 1966, she married the love of her life, Thomas McKean Sr. Together they shared more than 59 wonderful years of marriage filled with love, music, family and adventure.

Bette found joy in nurturing her flower gardens, traveling by car with her husband and listening to Tom play his music. She also enjoyed attending the Bristol and Vergennes summer band concerts where Tom performed.



ELIZABETH ANN "BETTE" MCKEAN

She is survived by her devoted husband, Thomas McKean Sr.; her children, Anne Cassidy Godard-Kurek, Valerie Cassidy Sinclair and husband Clayton, Thomas McKean, Jr. and partner Sherri Thibault-Newman, and Nicole McKean Harris and husband Aaron. She adored her 10 beloved grandchildren and precious four great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her siblings, Madeline Gosselin

Sturtevant, George Gosselin, Lena Gosselin Walsh, Cassius "Buck" Gosselin, Theodore Gosselin, John Gosselin, Sherry Gosselin Durant, Jacqueline "Jackie" Gosselin, Audrey Gosselin Hornbeck, Joseph Gosselin, Charles "Chuck" Gosselin, and several nieces and nephews.

Bette was predeceased by her parents, Cassius and Marion Gosselin; her sister, Grace "Tink" Vaughn; her brother, Harold "Pete" Gosselin; and several in-laws.

Visitation will be held at Sanderson Funeral Home in Middlebury, Vt., Monday, May 18, from 5-7 p.m.

A Mass and Christian burial will be held at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Bristol, Vt., Tuesday, May 19, at 11 a.m., with interment to follow at Mount St. Joseph Cemetery on Plank Road in Bristol.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you plant a rosebush, flowering plant or a tree in Bette's memory to honor her love of flowers or a donation to the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester. ◊



Catherine Nagy, 87, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Catherine Nagy died peacefully at home May 8, 2026, after a brief illness.

Cathy was born March 28, 1939, in Clifton, N.J., the first of six children of Henry Van Vooren and Catherine Meyer Van Vooren and the first grandchild of Godfrey and Ella Meyer. For Cathy, growing up in a large extended family shaped enduring relationships and fostered her lifelong love of music and storytelling. From the beginning, she also learned to be independent, taking the train to high school at St. Mary's in Rutherford and later pursuing a bachelor's degree in home economics at Montclair State College.

Piano lessons from a talented local musician, Maryanne Nagy, and later, participation in her Uncle Ted's choir at St. Paul's church, proved providential. In that choir, Cathy, an alto, met Roland "Gus" Nagy, a baritone, who also happened to be Maryanne's brother. Their romance flourished and Cathy and Gus were married June 13, 1964, a day Cathy always recalled as "the beginning of my happy time."

Cathy had a brief career as a high school home economics teacher, but turned her focus to home and family once she and Gus settled in Caldwell, N.J., where they raised their three daughters. She volunteered in her daughters' schools and in the community as a Girl Scout leader and member of the local arts council. Cathy and Gus retired to Williamstown, Mass., in 1992. One of their great joys was singing for some years in the Williams College Choir and performing masterworks like



CATHERINE NAGY

Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Brahms' German Requiem. They moved north again to Middlebury, Vt., in 2011 to be closer to family. Cathy was one of the first residents on Cottage Lane and developed warm friendships with her neighbors as the community grew. Her beloved Gus died in 2014.

In all the places she lived, Cathy took pride in creating a beautiful home. She had a natural talent for interior design and an appreciation for quality materials. She loved setting an elegant table and sharing delicious meals, whatever the occasion. A skilled sewist, Cathy crafted garments, quilts, curtains, and stitched artwork for friends and family. She was also an avid gardener, enjoying the formality of rosebushes and tulips as well as free-form perennial beds, and was a source of trusted horticultural advice for her daughters. Her appreciation of the natural world included animals as well, and she and Gus found their lives enriched

by many beloved dogs over the years.

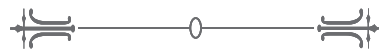
Cathy had a genuine curiosity about the people she encountered; she believed everyone had an interesting story. Whether you were a neighbor, the Meals on Wheels delivery volunteer, the bus driver, her doctor, or her closest friend, she truly wanted to get to know you better.

In 2021, Cathy moved to the Residence at Otter Creek. She made new friends quickly and reveled in the rich intellectual and social opportunities she found there. Her family extends deep gratitude to this community and to the patient and devoted caregivers who attended to her so tenderly in her final days.

Preceded in death by Gus and her sister Mary Ellen, Cathy leaves many to mourn her passing — daughters Adrienne DaPonte (Paul), Madeline Nagy (Donald Gilrein), and Gwendolyn Nagy-Benson (Andrew); grandchildren Ella, Mary, and Rachael Nagy-Benson and Simeon and Seraphina DaPonte; siblings Eileen Stepien, Loretta Pagliaro, Joseph Van Vooren, and John Van Vooren; and countless beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Cathy's son-in-law, the Reverend Andrew Nagy-Benson, will lead a service in celebration of her life Monday, June 1, at 11 a.m., at the Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC, located at 2 Main Street, Middlebury Vt. Reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes contributions in Cathy's name to Vermont Public or to the Congregational Church of Middlebury. ◊



Naomi Evelyn Smith, 77, formerly of Middlebury

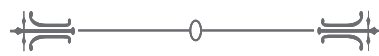
WALLINGFORD — Naomi Evelyn Smith, born April 2, 1949, in Bridgeport, Conn., passed away peacefully in her sleep after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She grew up in Trumbull, Conn., and later in Wallingford, Vt.

A celebration of life will be held June 4, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Boys Camp (Wallingford Lodge) in Wallingford, Vt. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend, share stories, laughter, and memories as we celebrate Naomi's life. Additional details will be shared soon.

For a complete obit www.aldousfuneralhome.com. ◊



NAOMI EVELYN SMITH



Jan de Boer celebration of life

NEW HAVEN — Please come and join us to remember, honor and celebrate the life of our husband, father, Opa, brother, uncle — Jan de Boer. We will gather to share the memories, photos and stories at his favorite place, the home farm. The address is 1779 South St, New Haven, Vt.

There will be food and refreshments. ◊



JAN DE BOER

Eleanor Margaret Lehman, 18, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Eleanor Margaret Lehman (née Asher Emmanuel Lehman) of Middlebury passed away May 7, 2026, at her home. Her memorial service is planned Sunday afternoon, May 31, at CVUUS in Middlebury. A full obituary will appear in next week's issue of the Addison Independent.

OBITUARY Guidelines

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

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



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Letters to the Editor

Contract talks should not have broken down

In response to the recent press release issued by the Addison Northwest School District (ANWSD) Board of Directors, the Addison Northwest Teachers Association (ANTA) would like to clarify several misleading assertions made by the board.

On April 16, contract talks between ANTA and the board came to an abrupt halt after the board unilaterally declared an impasse. ANTA stands ready to head back to the table and stay there until we reach a deal that is fair to educators, supports our schools, and benefits our students and communities.

The current contract expires on June 30, and negotiations had been underway for several months in an effort to reach a new agreement. Fundamental disagreements remain over benefits, seniority and pay. The board proposed to eliminate teachers' sick bank, life insurance plan and slash

sick leave, all while offering raises that would be outpaced by both inflation and rising health insurance premiums. Under the board's proposed salary structure and distribution for next year, nearly half of teachers would receive substantially less than the 3% the board claims to offer. ANWSD teachers are already paid less than educators in surrounding districts.

Teachers are also questioning the district's budget decisions for next year. The administration has cut art and technology offerings, while restructuring its leadership team to add a second high school principal at an additional cost of more than \$35,000. Given that the high school already has more administrators per student than the national average, the board's budget priorities and lack of transparency about which courses are being cut is troubling.

The school board's press release

also addressed teacher seniority, which determines the order of layoffs in the event of a reduction in force. Their proposal creates a separate seniority category solely for middle-level teachers, raising concerns that require careful consideration. Because of the board's unfamiliarity with these issues, teacher representatives and the superintendent met away from the negotiating table to work through them. Based on that discussion, teachers were confident that an agreement was within reach; yet, the board's subsequent counterproposal disregarded hours of prior work and discussions.

ANTA is disappointed but not deterred in our attempt to reach a contract settlement with the board. We implore the board to roll up their sleeves, join us in good faith at the table, and get this job done.

Susan Oliveira Ferrisburgh

Trump's antics have gotten America nowhere

As we continue on the current rollercoaster that is the Trump administration, I continue to be gob smacked at the antics—and yes, they are antics—of the President in his pursuit of his goals for our country. His so-called "America First" goals appears to be making America less than capable, resulting in negative consequences for our economy and our society.

On the home front, he is trying to make America conform to his view of society, especially when it comes to our shared history and how we take into account the needs and desires of people of color and women who have not been treated fairly in the past. Trump's view restricts and narrows the potential benefits, both economic and societal, of treating everyone as equals. Quite simply, he fails to see the opportunity for all Americans.

Trump started a war with Iran with a lack of achievable goals. His motivations have shifted on an almost daily basis as he is confronted by reality. It was for regime change, but his actions have more likely united the Iranian people behind an even more repressive military regime. He wanted to prevent them from gaining a nuclear weapon but has no clear plan to achieve that, just confusing admissions from Hegseth that their stockpile was obliterated... or was it? Saying that Iran's government will have to give up their radioactive material or we will take it seems to ignore the cost in American lives that would have to be expended to forcibly seize the material. Trump's rantings about bombing the Iranians into the Stone Age are just ridiculous.

On immigration, yes Trump has managed to reduce the influx

of people across our border significantly, not completely. However, instead of coupling this with a constructive reform of our immigration laws, he implemented a vicious and racist program of human seizures, aided by his racist-in-chief, Stephen Miller. Trump stated that this was to get rid of the worst of the worst, but they actually existed in very small numbers. All the evidence from the FBI, for example, shows that undocumented immigrants are significantly less involved in violent crime than American citizens. Posting sad videos of terrible crimes on Truth Social is only meant to obfuscate the reality. Trump's minions (ICE in particular) have had to resort to illegal and anti-social actions to try and meet their self-imposed arrest quotas: arrests without warrants, lack of legal counsel, deportation as quickly as possible, seizure of DACA candidates, seizure of spouses and partners of American citizens while ignoring their legal status, etc. Now we hear that all of this has the potential to reduce tax payments to the government by immigrant workers for income and employment taxes, to the tune of trillions of dollars over the next few years—workers who have paid their taxes diligently and keep this country running, with little evidence of them taking jobs that Americans are crying out to do.

A particularly amazing part of this is how republican members of Congress, whose bedrock belief is fiscal responsibility, have abdicated their constitutionally mandated control of the national purse to Trump with nary a whimper. From ridiculous tariffs that have upset the smooth

operation of international trade and not had any significant impact on bringing manufacturing back to America, to the desecration of the White House and building of a stupid arch, to, most importantly, the failure to stand up for the proper administration of government. Constructive government reform is an ongoing and necessary part of the process of administering our laws. Wholesale destruction with no plan, firing employees, cutting off programs mandated by Congress, like USAID, and trying to label it all as fraud is incredibly sad and reduces America's influence in the world and its ability to serve the American people.

Farmers generally vote republican, but now they are confronted by a president who does not understand or care about agriculture. His tariffs have achieved nothing but disruption of the world grain trade, particularly for soybeans, and his war has sent the price of diesel and fertilizer through the roof. Trump's war on government has disrupted the USDA to a point where they are having difficulty meeting the needs of the farming and rural community.

Although I am concerned that the Democratic Party has not fielded a comprehensive plan to move America forward in jobs, building the economy, treating people equitably and with fair justice etc., I am hoping for a reset this fall to, at the very least, provide some checks and balances in our system of government. Interestingly, it took a king, Charles III, to highlight in an eloquent fashion, underlined with subtle humor, some of the things we are missing right now.

John Roberts West Cornwall

Electricity the right choice for Middlebury sewer plant

Thank you so much for publishing Richard Wolfson's fine explainer piece about sewage and climate. As he says, we will never meet our town's goal of reducing greenhouse gases from town operations by 80% if we go with fossil gas rather than electricity to dry our sludge.

There are just two things I would like to emphasize, to expand slightly on the article:

1. The current drying process at our wastewater treatment plant uses a lot of electricity, but no natural

gas. Switching to natural gas when we rebuild the plant would be a step backward in our greenhouse gas emissions.

2. The big reason this is true is that the electricity that Green Mountain Power supplies us is very low in carbon content. Compared to most regions of the country, we generate proportionally much more of our electricity from solar, wind and hydroelectric installations. If our electricity came from burning coal, it would be just as dirty as fossil gas.

I think it's likely that over the next ten to twenty years, running the drying operation at our treatment plant on electricity will both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money. The cost to generate electricity from renewables keeps going down and down, while the current instability in the fossil fuel market because of our ill-advised attack on Iran suggests that fossil gas prices are likely to keep rising.

Richard Hopkins Middlebury

Rest in peace, Ted Turner

Rest in Peace Ted Turner
You, purveyor of
24-Hour News Cycles
You have captured our time with
Truths, half-truths, outright lies
Global, national, 24/7, year after year
CNN and N and N... on into infinity
Rest in Peace Ted Turner while
We are assaulted, bombarded with
Graphs, and analysis, and commentary on our
condition
No longer are we permitted to
Reflect, discuss and debate
There's a new crisis,
A world of tragedy
To draw our attention
And numb our senses

Rest in Peace Ted Turner
Father of immediacy of
'Happening Now'
Our minds are corrupted as
We gaze on viscous frames of
Famine, of poverty, of chaos
Of a president
Tweeting, chirping, dumping on
Humanity... At 3 a.m. with
Millions of likes and followers
Rest in Peace Ted Turner
For the rest of us are on edge
In battle and desperate to
Hold onto our souls

Rob Reiber Lincoln

Byker will fight for you in the Vermont House

I am writing to introduce you to my friend and colleague Tanya Byker, who is running for the Addison-2 House District seat representing folks in Leicester, Salisbury, Cornwall, Ripton and Goshen. I have worked with Tanya in the Economics Department of Middlebury College for many years.

Tanya is a mother of two, but her nurturing doesn't end there.

She is also an educator and mentor to many students. I have seen Tanya's commitment to her family, teaching, and supporting her community firsthand. Tanya is the type of person who stays late to meet with a struggling student, answers emails on weekends, and shows up for people again and again — not because anyone asked her to, but because that's just who she is.

She'll bring that same heart to Montpelier, fighting hard for lower healthcare costs, more affordable housing, public education and other important issues.

Tanya has my vote; I hope she can count on yours as well. If you are interested in supporting her campaign, please visit bykerforvermont.com.

Amy R. Holbrook Salisbury

Gratitude to Rep. Peter Conlon for his service

For Representative Peter Conlon, retiring

gym for March town meeting,

Gratitude and gracias for standing in for us, under our golden dome, its glow.

for every day kickball. No one knows better than you what vote, what fund might

Sitting at your Montpelier, schoolhouse desk, in the old days, raising your hand to vote.

keep it where it is. Before the past is lost. Before there's not a cow left

Representing us back home, down-the-road-a-piece, the old timers were known

to amble over to a recess fence, low loud enough to almost call off class.

to say. Back here, in your town of Cornwall, its fields and hives, our orchards, blossoming.

Knowing, as you do, how things are bound to change. When it's time, to come back

Most likely, you remember, too, Longey's general store, gone now, where we citizens

home, Peter, after all you've done for our town, our state, your family of Conlons. Waiting now for you,

(how local could we get) could say anything, casting our true opinions, picking up a quart

with the pond geese, the bees, the Revolutionary, Red-winged Blackbirds.

of milk, our just desserts. Up the hill, our one elementary school

Gary Margolis Cornwall

We're lucky to have public servants like Byker

I write in enthusiastic support of Tanya Byker's candidacy for the Vermont House of Representatives to represent Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury.

I served with Tanya for two years on the Cornwall Selectboard, where she led as Chair during our second year. An economist by training, I got to see Tanya bring her considerable gifts to bear on the range of municipal

issues that our small town faced. I found her to be broad-minded, fair and principled in her approach to all the matters that came before the Selectboard and a quick study of how Cornwall worked.

Vermont faces a number of challenges at present: rising insurance and health care costs, related school budget increases and tax rates that are on an unsustainable trajectory. We have

an aging population and will face coming tests of our environmental resilience. I can think of no one better suited to help us face those challenges than Tanya. She is smart, organized and hard-working, and will do a great job fighting for all Vermonters.

We are lucky to have people of her caliber called to public service.

Benjamin Marks Cornwall

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Climate matters

Perspectives on Change

Working together in ways large & small creates big change

By GAEN MURPHREE

What do you love most about Vermont? Take a minute and just think about that.

I love that I can see the mountains from almost any spot in Addison County and that a hike in the national forest is only a 15-minute drive away. I love Vermont's history of small farms, stone fences and independence — Move over, Texas! We were the first to establish ourselves as a republic! I love maple trees in every season. Bare leaves in winter, red buds unfurling in the spring, glorious tall shade trees in summer, and startling reds and oranges in the fall. I also love that crazy sound loons make and the virtuoso warble of the hermit thrush (heard once from a hiking hut on the Long Trail at sunrise).

But ideal conditions for maple trees and maple sugaring are moving north as our climate continues to warm. Scientists project they'll have shifted about 250 miles north by the end of this century. That's well north of Vermont. And loons? Well they and 91 other bird species, including our state bird, the hermit thrush, are expected to be gone from our lakes, forests and other landscapes within 25 years because of climate change. We will have more deer — but even fewer moose.

How can we fight to preserve the things we love? How can we take action to address climate change?

Well, that brings me to another thing I love about Vermont: its traditions not just of Yankee self-reliance, but also of neighborliness and civic duty. As we all know, New Hampshire's state motto is "Live Free or Die." They don't even have to wear motorcycle helmets! Ours is "Freedom and Unity."

Addressing climate change leans

heavy on the "unity" part, on our ability and willingness to pull together.

We will reduce the fossil fuel emissions harming us and harming the beloved natural world around us — only by working together in how we choose to heat our buildings, power our cars, and conduct our industries. A case in point is a decision we are facing right now here in Middlebury: how to power the sludge dryer on our wastewater treatment plant.

Addressing climate change is a priority for Vermonters. The Yale Climate Opinion Map shows Vermont as among the states whose residents are most worried about climate change. And, according to that same map, it's an even larger priority for Addison County, whose residents are among the five Vermont counties whose residents are even more worried about climate change than the state's already high average. Clearly, we care and we want to act. It's also the law. Vermont's 2020 Global Warming Solutions Act calls on us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

Yet some of our leaders question whether we're just too small to make a difference.

OK. Sure. If I drive an EV that's just one vehicle — who cares. But what if all of Vermont's estimated 528,000 drivers chose EVs? Transportation is the largest driver of greenhouse gas emissions in our state. It accounts for 40% of our contribution to global

warming. One decision multiplied by hundreds of thousands starts to get us somewhere.

How about heating and air conditioning? If I put solar panels on my roof and switch to heat pumps have I moved the needle? That's just one home. But Vermont has a little over 343,000 housing units and close to 79,000 businesses, each one of which could switch to heat pumps or geothermal, drastically reducing the 32% of our emissions related to buildings, the second-largest driver of greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont (and estimated to become the largest by 2030).

Communities, I think, are a bit like families. I don't know about you, but in the family I grew up in — hard-working, widowed mother, five children — we all did our part. That's what was expected. As the next-to-the-youngest, I don't remember ever getting a free pass because I was younger or smaller than my siblings. We operated on the principle of that famous Revolutionary War slogan: We'd best hang together or we'll all hang separately.

Here in Vermont we see ourselves, and for good reason, as leaders throughout our history in many progressive and inspiring causes. We were the first to outlaw slavery, first to legalize same-sex civil unions — actions that proclaim our commitment to decency and to making a better world for all. But in terms of the fight against global warming, we are dead last amongst other New England states. Our per capita greenhouse gas emissions

are 30% higher than those of Massachusetts, Connecticut or Rhode Island, and roughly 10% higher than those of Maine or New Hampshire. Yes. Even Live-Free-or-Die New Hampshire has lower per capita GHG emissions than Vermont. And elsewhere around the world? Vermont's average annual GHG emissions per person are more than twice the global average.

Given the state of the planet, scientists tell us that every choice we make right now is critical. Our town is facing just such a critical choice over whether to go with a fossil gas or an electric sludge dryer as part of the renovation of the wastewater treatment plant. This decision will either dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions if we go with the electric option or dramatically magnify them if we go with fossil gas.

Can we count on our elected town leaders to understand that each seemingly small decision collectively determines our fate? Can we work together to take each small but critical step to protect the place we love?

Gaen Murphree is a freelance writer and former news reporter here. When at the Independent her favorite beats included energy, agriculture and the environment. She serves on the Middlebury Energy Committee. All opinions expressed here are her own.



GAEN MURPHREE

State police cite a driver for DUI no. 3

ADDISON COUNTY — In what appeared to be a quiet week for Vermont State Police according to the number of cases the New Haven barracks announced, troopers did arrest a Waltham man who they suspect of driving drunk for the third time.

On May 11 at just after 11:30 a.m., state police responded to a motor vehicle crash on North Street in Bristol. They said that the driver, whom they identified as David A. Ouellette, 60, of Waltham, had fled the scene.

Later they found Ouellette, and discovered that he was in violation of his court-ordered conditions of release. Police said that Ouellette was required to have an ignition interlock device installed in a motor vehicle that he was driving.

While speaking to Ouellette, troopers observed indicators of impairment, and arrested him. While searching Ouellette at the

time of his arrest, troopers said they located cocaine on his person.

Police cited Ouellette for driving under the influence, third offense, driving without a required ignition interlock, leaving the scene of an accident, violation of conditions of release and possession of cocaine.

Vt. State

Police Log

Authorities lodged Ouellette at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for lack of \$10,000 bail.

In the only other incident state police reported between May 2 and 11,

On May 5 at a quarter to 5 a.m., troopers responded to a reported conditions violation on Adirondack View in Bristol. Police alleged that Taylor Sheldrick, 23, of Middlebury violated his court-ordered conditions of release by contacting a victim. Sheldrick turned himself in at the New Haven barracks, where he was cited for violation of conditions of release.

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ART TEACHERS - (L-R) DEB RICKNER (BRISTOL ELEMENTARY), RYAN STROBEL AND LEAH HAMMOND, BOTH MT. ABE.



EZAIAS HERBEN, 11TH GRADER



MADDIE DIOP, 11TH GRADE



SCARLETT TARMY, 11TH GRADE



MT. ABE 11TH GRADER ADA FISHER WITH HER ALTER EGO IN A SELF PORTRAIT

Student art

(Continued from Page 1A)
artists; professionals who come in and share their work and their craft and their process.”

The gallery at Mt. Abe was put together by art teachers in the district and remained up throughout the festival. Artwork was organized by school, offering visitors a glimpse at what pupils in art courses across the district have been working on this school year.

Displays included pieces made by students at the district's elementary schools, such as stained glass hearts, clay creations and a mural put together by kindergartners at Bristol Elementary School.

The gallery also featured artwork from the district's oldest students. One section of the gymnasium displayed work by students in AP Studio Art at Mt. Abe.

“They spend an entire year investigating a question that guides their artmaking,” Hammond explained.

Those investigations included exploring the concept of the true self and escapism rooted in comfort and control. Students create several pieces of artwork throughout the course.

Other displays highlighted collaborations between students at different schools, particularly through the Claytastic program. The initiative is inspired by the Glasstastic program at the

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, where K-6 students submit drawings of imaginary creatures that are then turned into three-dimensional sculptures made by professional glass artists.

Through Claytastic, elementary school students provide a drawing and description of a character that gets sent to Mt. Abe, where high school students in Ceramics 2 bring the drawings to life through pottery.

The gallery featured numerous examples of ceramic pieces made by students, from the mugs and animals created by elementary school students to raku pieces fired by students in Mt. Abe art teacher Ryan Strobel's class.

Students in the course get a chance to try out the Japanese firing technique through a collaboration with the Middlebury Studio School.

Walking through the gallery, visitors could see how students' skills have developed through art courses — such as how pupils in ceramics courses at Mt. Abe moved from creating salt pig containers to eventually learning how to use a decorating technique called Sgraffito.

There's a wide variety of art to explore in the gallery. Students in the district produce a range of art pieces throughout the year, from two-dimensional drawings and paintings to the three-dimensional sculptures made with wire,

stockings and wood through an introductory art course at Mt. Abe.

“In Introductory Art they learn to draw, they learn to paint, they learn to draw with color and then they learn to sculpt,” Hammond said. “It's that foundation that then they can build upon in subsequent art classes.”

Along with visiting the gallery, MAUSD students and community members took part in several other events during this year's festival. Those included visits from sidewalk chalk artist Katie Runde, arts educator Lisa Bresler and two drumming groups — the Burlington Taiko group visited Mt. Abe on May 6 and members of the West African Jeh Kulu Dance & Drum Theater ensemble stopped by the school the following day.

Mt. Abe hosted multiple performances throughout the week, including a district concert at the start of the week, a visit from the Vermont Symphony Orchestra winds trio and a production of “The Grunch” featuring students at Mt. Abe. District students took to the stage for a few other performances throughout the week, including a Monkton Central School concert that capped off the festival on May 7.

“The festival) speaks to Bristol's investment, as a town, in the arts,” Hammond said. “As you walk down Main Street, you see so many different studios, and I think it really is a reflection of the broader community's investment and appreciation of the arts.”



CHARLIE PROUTY, A SENIOR AT MT. ABE, WITH A SELF PORTRAIT



MT. ABE 11TH GRADER WILLOW HEATH SHOWS A PAGE OF HER SKETCHBOOK

Deb Mager Rickner

(Continued from Page 1A) told the *Independent*. “Art is where you try things out, where you take risks, where you have to make Magdecisions that will make or break your project, where you have to have the confidence to go the next step.”

After 35 years in the Mount Abraham Unified School District, Mager Rickner will step down from her post at the end of this academic year.

“It’s really getting real now that the (MAUSD Fine Arts Festival) is over; the fact that I’m not going to be in this classroom and the fact that this pattern of my life is going to completely change,” she said.

Mager Rickner didn’t always know she wanted to become an art teacher. She graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., in 1986 as an art drama major.

“Photography was sort of where I was headed, so I was working at photo labs,” she recalled.

She later landed a job as a graphic artist at the former Vanguard Press in Vermont and also spent time working for the former *Vermont Times* newspaper.

Mager Rickner decided to go back to school to become an educator, completing her certification at Saint Michael’s College. She started out teaching at Addison Central School one day a week, a job she held while also working as a baby photographer for a local hospital and a graphic artist at the *Vermont Times*.

In 1991, she was hired as the art teacher for elementary schools in Bristol, Lincoln and Monkton. She taught hundreds of students every week, splitting time between the three buildings.

Mager Rickner stopped teaching in Lincoln about a year-and-a-half later, after having her first daughter. She continued to teach at Monkton for several years and has worked

at BES throughout her time in the district.

She’s steadily developed her curriculum over the years, adding in new projects and ideas.

“That’s what’s so great about it, is I was able to just build on what I was always doing over the 35 years,” she said. “Some of these projects I’ve been doing for 35 years.”

Mager Rickner is intentional when it comes to her approach to teaching, looking to break things down for students and explain the reasoning behind each step of a project.

“You can’t teach art in a void,” she said. “You need to have a reason behind why you’re doing it.”

She pointed to how art classes dive into other subject areas, such as history and learning about science through color theory, for example. Mager Rickner highlighted some of the other skills students are developing through art courses — confidence, risk-taking, perseverance and decision-making.

She underscored how vital the arts are in supporting students’ learning journeys.

“I just think that the arts are where some kids find success where they don’t find success elsewhere, and you need to make that happen,” she said.

Mager Rickner has sought to make that happen through a wide variety of projects — a long list that’s included landscapes, African shields, optical illusions, printing with Styrofoam, cardboard sculptures and fish made from bubble wrap and excess scrap paper. Mager Rickner credited the liberal arts education she received in college with allowing her to dive into a variety of subjects, a foundation she’s built off of when developing projects.

“Pretty much you can give me a subject matter, and I can come up with a project,” she said.

“Art is where you try things out, where you take risks, where you have to make decisions that will make or break your project, where you have to have the confidence to go the next step.”

— Deb Mager Rickner



DEB MAGER RICKNER stands with a banner made by Bristol Elementary School students thanking her for her contributions to the school through the decades. Mager Rickner has served as the visual arts teacher at BES for 35 years and will step down from the post at the end of the school year.

Independent photo/Steve James

She’s tried to connect projects in her class with the lessons students are learning about in other classes. For example, second-grade students earlier this week were studying the human body and learning about proportions of the body with Mager Rickner.

Inspiration for other projects can be found on the walls of Mager Rickner’s classroom, which features the work of famous artists like Henri Matisse and Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Students get a chance to learn about those artists and try out the styles they specialized in through different projects.

Pupils also take part in the annual Vermont Division of Fire Safety’s Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar Project, with BES students often being selected as winners. Through the program, students around the state submit artwork to be featured in a calendar.

Another well-loved tradition is the booklet project. Each year, students are asked to draw a picture that

includes a person, a tree, a house, a car and a sun. Pupils complete new iterations of the drawings throughout their time at BES, with Mager Rickner compiling the pictures into a booklet that’s given to students at their 6th-grade promotion. An extra page will be added for students to complete a drawing upon their high school graduation.

Graduating sixth-graders get to leave their mark on the school through another tradition created by Mager Rickner. Since 1994, students have had the chance to paint one of the cinderblocks that make up the school’s walls. The tradition was adapted during the pandemic, with students painting boards at home that were later affixed to walls in the school.

Students can paint what they want — within reason — and are

asked to be creative. Designs have featured the activities a student enjoys or a place that’s meaningful to them, among other things.

The blocks are a physical reflection of the many students who have sat in Mager Rickner’s classroom throughout the years. The students and the excitement they bring to lessons when something starts to click are among what she’ll miss most about teaching.

“It’s things like that; when they’re into it and when you can go off on a tangent and make real connections with the world and with their lives,” she explained.

She’s also enjoyed being part of the community. Mager Rickner has played a key role in special events like the district’s annual fine arts festival (see related story on Page 1A) and been involved in high

school productions. She’s built connections with volunteers from the community, who have helped support Mager Rickner with the festival and things in class.

Mager Rickner and her husband live in Monkton, and their three children all attended Monkton Central School and Mount Abraham Union High School.

“Bristol is a fantastic community, the five towns are a fantastic community,” she said. “I grew up in New Jersey, where I’d be anonymous. Here, I run into kids everywhere I go... Here, everybody’s involved.”

She’s hoping to continue teaching after-school classes and helping out at the school in myriad ways. Looking toward this next chapter, Mager Rickner also plans to travel, work on various projects and complete a novel and multiple children’s books.

“I’m hoping that I can fulfill all the goals that I have,” she said.

“You can’t teach art in a void. You need to have a reason behind why you’re doing it.”

— Deb Mager Rickner

Welch

(Continued from Page 1A) around 1,000 people per month — a big number and a concerning trend. Inflation, surging gas prices, a reduced federal commitment to both Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and an economy that’s leaving behind anyone who isn’t invested in the stock market, are all adding to the line of people waiting for free food outside HOPE’s front door.

“I’m hearing from people that the need is greater, that many of the people coming into the food shelf have jobs and never, in their lifetimes, thought they’d need food assistance,” Welch said. “But they’ve got to feed their families, they have kids, but they don’t have money to pay their bills — even though they’re working a full-time job. That’s an indictment of our economy; it shouldn’t be that way. This is all about the affordability crisis.”

The HOPE food shelf is almost entirely run by volunteers, who dutifully receive and organize the donated (and purchased) food, then help folks find the products they’re looking for. The provisions include meat, bread, milk, fresh produce

— much of it gleaned from area farms — soup, cereal, condiments, peanut butter, jam and a variety of canned foods.

There’s also a stash of free pet food, thanks to a partnership with neighboring Homeward Bound, the Addison County Humane Society. Montross notes that pups and cats provide tremendous comfort and warmth to those who are struggling to get by.

On this day, only the juice bins were empty at the food shelf. Montross and HOPE volunteers are working to replenish those reserves, along with other categories of sustenance that are getting low. The Vermont Food Bank makes monthly deliveries, area schools conduct food drives, food and monetary donations are appreciated, and HOPE will dip into its limited financial reserves when necessary.

Addison County has historically been generous and conscientious about helping those struggling to get by. Montross has appreciated that support during her 25 years leading the organization, and she’s worked to strengthen HOPE’s safety net. HOPE also hosts and runs “Marion’s Place,” a store

where folks can get great buys on donated clothing, books, crafts, furnishings and other items. Those revenues are pumped back into HOPE’s diverse services, which range from ensuring people don’t go to bed hungry, to providing camping gear to houseless individuals.

Welch listened, observed and marveled as he walked through HOPE’s service area. He was impressed to see the organization’s range of in-house services, including a shower and restroom for those living outdoors.

He lauded the crew of food shelf helpers, which on this day included Middlebury’s Sue Prager. A retired Department for Children & Families administrator, Prager volunteers for a weekly shift at HOPE. She previously assisted at Middlebury’s Charter House Emergency Shelter.

Prager was asked if she’d seen needs of low-income families change during the past few years.

“There’s no comparison. The needs are so much bigger. People are struggling, they can’t afford necessities,” she replied.

And Prager is seeing new faces all the time at the food shelf, and a lot of those folks have jobs that don’t pay enough to keep the lights on or the dinner table set.

“They say things like, ‘I never



JEANNE MONTROSS, HOPE’s executive director, shows U.S. Sen. Peter Welch “Marion’s Place,” a store where folks can get great buys on donated clothing, books, crafts, furnishings and other items. The Vermont Democrat was impressed to see the organization’s range of in-house services.

Independent photo/Steve James

thought I’d have to be here,” I hate to take food away from anyone else’ — and we always tell them, ‘There’s plenty for everyone, we’re glad you’re here,’” Prager said.

HOPE officials said they noticed an uptick in food shelf traffic after the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” — a package of tax and spending policies predicated on President Donald Trump’s second-term agenda — was signed into

law last summer.

Among other things, the 2025 law raises the federal debt ceiling by \$5 trillion, cuts Medicaid health care subsidies by 12%, and will reduce Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding by approximately \$186 billion during 10 years — a 20% cut that marks the largest reduction in the history of the program.

Around one in eight Americans

— including 65,000 Vermonters — currently receives help through SNAP.

At the same time, that law “gives \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the very rich paid for by slashing health care, nutrition and education for the working class,” U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said after the bill was passed.

Welch — a member of the (See Welch at HOPE, Page 13A)



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Two handfuls

JACE JOSHUA WEBB, 14, of Middlebury loves to fish, and it shows as he displays a 10-pound pike he caught in Lake Dunmore this past Saturday afternoon. After photographing the beast, which he estimated at 30-35 inches long, he released it back into the lake.

Photo courtesy of Roxanna Emilo

Attempted ATM theft in Vergennes

VERGENNES — On the heels of a string of three ATM thefts in Middlebury in March, Vergennes police responded to the report of a burglary at Kinney Drugs in the Little City on May 8.

**Vergennes
Police Log**

Police discovered that someone had forced entry into the Monkton Road building but were unsuccessful in removing the ATM. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday, May 11.

Between May 4 and May 10, Vergennes police also conducted 12 traffic stops, one foot patrol, three vehicle identification number verifications and took fingerprints three times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On May 4 took a request to assist in locating a family member. The person was in contact with the police two days earlier, and this information was relayed to the complainant.
- On May 4 arrested Matthew Porcaro, a Vergennes resident in his late 30s, for a failure-to-appear warrant out of Burlington District Court. Porcaro was

transported to the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility until his court arraignment the next day.

On May 4 received a report of a stolen vehicle from the parking lot at Riverside Apartments.

The vehicle was located in Middlebury. Police cited Brittany Aunchman, 31, for possession of stolen property. The investigation was continuing as of Monday. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Vergennes Police Department.

On May 4 took a report from a resident that they were being threatened via text messages by another individual from July 2024 to November 2025. The State's Attorney's Office is reviewing the case.

On May 5 took fingerprints for a nursing license.

On May 5 responded to Northlands Job Corps for the late reporting of two males who had shown up at one of the dorms claiming a student there shorted them on the purchase of a pair of sneakers purchased from

them. The two males left without further issue.

On May 5 assisted the Vermont State Police by locating a missing juvenile out of Starksboro. The juvenile was transported home by a trooper and is in good health.

On May 6 spoke with a resident of Vergennes Grand who was needing assistance from staff. On May 6 looked for vehicle sought by another department but did not locate it.

On May 6 assisted a Vergennes resident who was locked out of her apartment.

On May 7 received a report about an alleged sex offense. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday.

On May 7 responded to a motor vehicle complaint. There was no issue upon arrival.

On May 7 issued a trespass notice to a man on behalf of a convenience store after a disturbance there. He was issued the order without issue.

On May 7 took an informational report regarding fraud from an online purchase.

On May 8 received a report of a person whose behavior was

Police see rash of vehicle break-ins

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police last week were kept busy responding to more than a dozen reports of vehicle break-ins in and around the village area. Police remind residents and visitors to lock their vehicles and secure all items of value.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

Received a report about a drunken man causing a traffic hazard on North Pleasant and High streets on May 4.

Received a report about a man allegedly urinating near the intersection of Court Street and Mary Hogan Drive on May 4.

Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to the Main Street area on May 5.

Served a temporary restraining order on a local person on May 5.

Spoke with a man whose truck was entered and rummaged through while parked in the Court Street area on May 5.

Responded to a multiple-vehicle crash, with injuries, in the Middlebury Natural Foods Coop off Washington Street on May 5.

Were informed of a theft from an unlocked vehicle parked on Court Street on May 5.

Cited Jill Smith, 43, of Rutland for providing false information to a police officer, following an investigation into a stolen vehicle on Court Street on May 5.

Arrested Sierra Senna, 35 of Burlington on an active arrest warrant on May 6.

Assisted with a disabled vehicle on Cross Street on May 6.

Assisted Middlebury firefighters at a fire off Schoolhouse Hill Road on May 6.

On May 7, cautioned a man who had recently been issued an order not to trespass at a Court Street property.

Investigated the untimely death of Ash Eleanor Lehman, 18, of Middlebury in the Drew Lane area on May 7.

Were informed that someone had entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the Twin Circles area on May 7.

Police didn't report anything missing from the vehicle.

Investigated two reports of unlocked vehicles being entered

while parked in the Otterside Court neighborhood on May 7. Police said tools were reported stolen from one of the vehicles.

Responded to a report that someone had rummaged through an unlocked vehicle parked in the Valley View Drive area on May 7.

Responded to reports of someone breaking into multiple vehicles on Washington Street Extension on May 7.

Were informed of the theft of tools from an unlocked car parked off Pinewood Road on May 7.

Were informed someone broke into a vehicle parked on Valley View Drive on May 7.

Received a report that someone had rummaged through a vehicle parked off Buttolph Drive on May 7.

Responded to a report of someone stealing cash from an unlocked vehicle parked off Ledgewood Court on May 7.

Received a report about alleged "suspicious activity" at a Court Street apartment complex on May 8.

Recovered a stolen ATM machine at a location police are keeping private while their investigation unfolds May 8. Police continue to determine from where the machine was stolen. As previously reported by the *Independent*, within a 10-day stretch this past March thieves stole ATMs from three separate Middlebury stores — Kinney Drugs

action was taken. On May 8 took a report of a dog running loose on Monkton Road. Spoke to the owners of the dog and provided education on the city ordinance regarding dogs running at large. On May 9 received a 911 call regarding a suicidal, intoxicated male. Officers were able to calm the person and offered services.

at 40 Court St., Maplefields at 3201 Route 7 South, and Champlain Farms at 25 Court St.

The case remains under investigation.

Cited Timothy G. Farr, 72, of Middlebury for three counts of unlawful trespassing at a Court Street address on May 8.

Served a no-trespass order on a person after an alleged shoplifting incident at a Court Street store on May 8.

Were informed on May 8 of the theft of clothing from an unlocked vehicle parked in the Twin Circles neighborhood.

Investigated a trespassing complaint on Court Street on May 8.

On May 8, located and arrested (on Boardman Street) Brittany M. Aunchman, 31 of Middlebury on an active retail theft warrant from Brandon police.

Conducted a foot patrol downtown on May 8.

Responded to a report of a suicidal woman in the Court Street area on May 9.

Cited John Knauss, 64, of Middlebury for driving under the influence, following a stop near the intersection of North Pleasant and Elm Streets on May 9.

Provided a detail for the Middlebury Union High School prom off Merino Lane on May 9.

Investigated the reported theft of a vehicle from Golf Course Road on May 9.

Responded to a report of "suspicious activity" in the South Village Green neighborhood on May 9.

Investigated a report of illegal burning and littering on the Abby Pond Trail on May 10.

Responded to a report of an aggressive dog loose on Maecliff Court on May 10.

On May 10 checked the welfare of a Vergennes resident and found them to be well.

On May 10 took a report from a Vergennes resident that a bear had gone through their trash on Green Street. The police department urges Vergennes residents to secure trash bins.

On May 10 helped calm a dispute between juveniles.

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DURING A MAY 6 tour of the Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects headquarters in Middlebury, U.S. Sen. Peter Welch talks with one of the nonprofit's food shelf clients, Pam Thomas.

Independent photo/Steve James

Welch at HOPE

(Continued from Page 11A)
Senate Agriculture Committee — voted against the SNAP cuts, as did Sanders and U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt. He said he continues to push for a reversal of the cuts and is working with Senate Democrats to help families and farmers through a multi-year Farm Bill.

Along with new work requirements for SNAP's many recipients, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" currently calls for most states to absorb between 5% and 15% of SNAP benefit costs beginning in 2027 (after the mid-term elections).

"A lot of the burden is being shifted to the states, and it's really going to be devastating," Welch told HOPE officials. "We're having a battle in the Senate Agriculture Committee right now about whether we're going to fund nutrition programs. The Democrats have made it very clear that we will oppose further cuts to nutrition, because it would make the work of this food shelf even more difficult. It would impose burdens on the Vermont taxpayer who would be asked to foot the bill the federal government has generally paid."

FUNDING FOOD OR WAR?

Welch questioned the funding priorities of the GOP majorities in both the House and Senate. He specifically cited the war in Iran and Trump's tariffs.

"We should not be in that war; it was a unilateral decision by the president. It's actually resulted in our national security being diminished, not enhanced," Welch said. "And it's incredibly expensive; it's costing around \$1 billion a day. This administration is going to come in (to Congress) and ask for \$200 billion to pay for this war. They're also going to come in and ask for \$500 billion on top of a \$1 trillion defense budget. That makes me ask the question: 'Why can't we fund the nutrition programs?' Do we really want to spend \$1 million on missile interceptors against a \$35,000 drone, when we can't maintain nutrition programs to help food shelves like right here in Middlebury?"

Denny May is vice chair of the HOPE board of trustees and also works in the social services

trenches, driving his pickup truck to Hannaford supermarket two days per week to collect donated groceries for the food shelf.

He praised Hannaford for making food available when it reaches its "donation" date. It's good food — including bread, meat and other perishables — that might otherwise be discarded. But it — and other donations to the HOPE food shelf — are providing key sustenance for local low-income families who would otherwise go hungry.

And May believes an increasing number of folks might be going to bed hungry, including people who historically have had adequate food shopping budgets.

"There's been a lot more (Hannaford donations) in the last few weeks, and I'm wondering if people are so squeezed by gas prices right now that they're buying less food."

— Denny May

"There's been a lot more (Hannaford donations) in the last few weeks, and I'm wondering if people are so squeezed by gas prices right now that they're buying less food," May said.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont rose by 29.7 cents per gallon last week, to an average of \$4.42 per gallon, according to GasBuddy. The average price per gallon in May of 2025 was \$3.15, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Pam Thomas, 61, has been receiving help from HOPE for more than 15 years. Currently disabled and relegated to part-time work — she's a home care assistant for elderly shut-ins — she currently lives in a camper outside of Middlebury.

Access to free food, she explained, has been critical as her other bills have mounted.

She and her partner — who is also disabled — receive a combined monthly SNAP allowance of \$157. "That's not a lot," she said of her SNAP allotment, adding, "I don't have a place to put a garden right now, otherwise I'd grow my own vegetables."

Thomas said she tries to limit herself to weekly HOPE food shelf visits, but it's becoming more difficult to stay away, largely due to gas prices.

Difficult choices, ones that Welch said Americans shouldn't have to make.

"In this wealthy country that we're in, we can't feed our people? That's not right," he said.

Strategic plan

(Continued from Page 1A)

The plan is the result of several months of contributions from students, faculty, staff and alumni, as well as time spent considering a question posed by Baucom: What is Middlebury for?

"We are, of course, for many things," Baucom wrote in a Tuesday letter to the college community unveiling the strategic plan. "Above all, we are for our students, and for our world. The strategic plan ... is dedicated to ensuring that we deliver on those commitments with distinction and excellence. Its ambition is to establish Middlebury as the best liberal arts institution in the world."

College officials this past fall announced the launch of a new strategic planning process centered around the question, "What is Middlebury for?" That process has been overseen by a 13-member steering committee and included the efforts of 12 working groups made up of individuals from across the 226-year-old institution.

Those working groups engaged with members of the college community and developed recommendations that were later considered by the steering committee for the final strategic plan.

INSIDE THE PLAN

That plan is guided by the three words in its title and organized into three connected strategies: Strengthen Our Core, Serve Our World and Prepare for Our Future.

"Three commitments — to diversity and pluralism, academic freedom, and academic excellence — underpin everything we do and are stated here as foundational commitments," reads the plan.

For each of the three strategies,

the document lists initiatives and key actions in those areas. For example, one initiative to "Strengthen Our Core" centers around "Our People."

"Our college mission begins with our people — students, faculty, and staff on our Vermont campus," the plan states. "We must resolve the question of our long-term goals for our student body size and associated student-faculty ratio. As we do so, we must open our doors to extraordinary students, faculty, and staff from all backgrounds, invest in our students and those who teach and support them, commit to supporting and rewarding a shared culture of excellence, and align our resources accordingly."



PRESIDENT IAN BAUCOM

Key actions to help reach those goals include establishing a world-class mentoring and advising system, enhancing professional development opportunities for staff, and boosting affordability for low- and middle-income families "by making Middlebury tuition-free for families with incomes below \$150,000 in the near future" and aim to do the same for families with incomes below \$175,000.

Another initiative focuses on "Human Intelligence in the Twenty-First Century."

"We must fashion a distinctive 21st-century liberal arts curriculum dedicated to strengthening the forms of human intelligence — across the arts, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, and languages — crucial to living and working in a rapidly evolving and ever more cosmopolitan world," the plan reads. "We will build the campus infrastructure and outreach to support that reinvigorated liberal arts curriculum."

Doing so will include reimagining

the college's core curriculum and first-year student experience, exploring a "Middlebury Plus One" year that would offer graduating seniors access to support for various endeavors, and creating the Middlebury AI Studio, "a secure, institution-hosted platform providing guided, creative, and responsible access to leading AI tools."

Other areas of the strategic plan highlight goals for supporting Addison County and the state of Vermont, such as through expanded efforts to address a need for affordable housing (see related story on Page 1A), tackling various challenges through a Vermont Policy Solutions Studio established with state and local officials, and looking into a loan forgiveness option for graduating seniors "who commit to extended public service or innovation initiatives in Vermont."

The document also outlines goals for the institution's role in the broader nation and globe. "Middlebury will expand its longstanding commitment to public service by opening pathways for educators and professionals across the nation to access our distinctive programs," the plan states. "We will connect students more directly to opportunities in government, policy, and international affairs, while strengthening language learning, global study, and immersive experiences across our worldwide network."

The plan's third strategy centers around readying for what's ahead.

"To say we live in a period of rapid and complex change is an understatement," the document reads. "To prepare ourselves, our students, and our world for that future, we must embrace a spirit of agility and innovation while staking out a distinctive position in areas where Middlebury has the demonstrated capacity to lead."

That work will include the creation of three Middlebury labs — Middlebury Solutions Labs (bringing people together to solve complex problems), Liberal Arts

and Artificial Intelligence Lab, and the Career and Life Purpose Lab (which would match students with a mentor to work with from their first semester through graduation).

The final initiative included in the plan lists key actions in the area of tackling climate change, such as developing a new climate action and resilience plan that builds on Energy2028 and supporting faculty in "strengthening climate and energy education across the curriculum."

NEXT STEPS

In his letter on Tuesday, Baucom pointed to next steps for work with the strategic plan.

"There is much work ahead as we move from the planning phase to implementation, including launching a range of implementation groups and establishing a clear implementation dashboard to mark and track our goals and progress," he wrote. "My goal is for us to take up that work with the same spirit of openness, transparency, and collaboration across our community that you have all brought to the work of building the plan."

Baucom thanked all those involved in the strategic planning process and was expected to follow up on next steps in the coming weeks and months.

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MORE THAN TWO dozen athletes who took part in last Thursday's Girls on the Run 5K in Bristol celebrate their accomplishment after the run.

Photos by Calvin Zubow



RUNNERS IN THE 5K were cheered on by members of the Eagle lacrosse team (above right) when they ran across the Mount Abraham Union High School grounds. The run started and finished at the Bristol Elementary Pavillion.



Monkton

Have a news tip?
Contact Liz Pecor at
lprascal47@gmail.com

NEWS

MONKTON — Community Yoga continues on Saturday, May 16, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Russell Memorial Library. Laurel Kelly will guide you through slow, gentle moves to relax your soul. Bring a yoga mat. Yoga blocks and straps are provided. A donation of any amount is appreciated. Contact Laurel at laurelkelly@yahoo.com with questions.

Join in on the fun at the Russell Memorial Library for Stitch & Spin on Sunday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your knitting, embroidery, crocheting or any other project you have to gab with other crafters while

you work on your piece in this comforting, friendly setting. The library is open for its regular hours so, you can browse also. Call 802-453-4471 for more info.

On Sunday evenings every week, Eugenie Doyle holds yoga classes at the Town Hall from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. This free class walks you through a relaxing course of Ashtanga yoga moves. Contact her at edoyle@gmavt.net or call 802-989-3378 with questions.

I hope all of you Mothers out there had a great Mother's Day and that every day renders special memories!

Library book and bake sale takes place Saturday

NEW HAVEN — Did you know? Our Village Green Store has been in operation for 195 years!! Although not officially the oldest, it is definitely in the top 5 oldest general stores in the state. Stop in to get a creemee in our historic village store!

MAUSD SCHOOL BOARD TO EXPLORE CLOSING BEEMAN SCHOOL

The district school board has voted to explore closing Beeman Elementary and there are meetings where you can voice your thoughts and engage with the board on this important issue. MAUSD's Community Engagement Committee will be hosting an event on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:45 p.m. at the Mt. Abe cafeteria to continue this conversation.

This will be a more interactive and collaborative gathering than a typical board meeting, with a focus on small group discussions and open dialogue about the future of our school and our district. The Committee would love for everyone to attend and encourages New Haven residents to bring friends and neighbors. The more perspectives they receive, the better they can support and serve our students.

CALLING SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS

Are you 50 or older with an interest in playing 3-on-3 half court pickup basketball? If you have a basketball in your closet or trunk and need a place to bounce it, the New Haven Neighbors Committee will look into providing a program that would keep us active.

Stan is 85 and has been playing Vermont and National Senior Games 3-on-3 basketball since he turned 55. He'd like to find players in the New Haven area that need an opportunity to show off their skills. Open to men and women. If you have an interest, please contact Stan at smwilbur1@gmail.com or 802-558-9995.

LIBRARY NEWS

The New Haven Community Library Friends group will hold a Book and Bake sale on Saturday, May 16, at 8:30 a.m. – noon. New this year: starting early and serving coffee. Come right after you drop off your trash and recycling. They are accepting small amounts of adult fiction in very good condition to add to the sale.

The Friends group could use a few more bakers. Let them know if you can donate or just drop off

New Haven

Have a news tip?
Contact Kim Callahan at
kimcallahan99@gmail.com.

NEWS

baked goods at the library between 8 – 8:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Also of note: the Friends group has received a matching grant this year! The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public through its Children's Book Project. The Friends will contribute \$300-\$400 for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

Cookbook Club will feature recipes from cookbooks by Naomi Duguid on Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. Cookbook Club is open to all. Bring a recipe to share and the cookbook chosen to a potluck-style meeting. Email librarian@nhcl.org to get on the email list.

Book Club this month is "The Stranger in the Woods" and will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. at the library. Copies are available for checkout.

LADIES UNION SPAGHETTI SUPPER

The New Haven Ladies Union is hosting a free spaghetti supper on Friday, May 15, at the New Haven Congregational Church from 5 – 6:30 p.m. The meal includes spaghetti with or without meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a beverage. Gluten-free option is available. Take-out is not available. For more information, please call Dawn at 802-349-0382

DEPOT SURVEY: HAVE YOU TAKEN IT YET?

The New Haven Community Trust has been working with the New Haven Neighbors to get input from as many people as possible about the future use of the depot. If you haven't filled one out yet, go to bit.ly/3Pbgd8k.

For more information about the project, go to newhavencommunitytrust.org.

Look for more exciting news to come soon!

SAVE THE DATE:

New Haven Neighbors will be holding a music and family friendly fun event on the town green on Saturday, June 27 during the Fireman's BBQ dinner event. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details.

Bristol cheers on Girls on the Run in May 7 5K

BRISTOL — Empowerment, excitement and engagement filled the streets of Bristol on Thursday, May 7, when Bristol Elementary School hosted the practice 5K for Girls on the Run.

Teachers and students ran the 3.1 miles as cheering was seen from all the sidelines. Townspeople, volunteers, parents, local school athletic teams, MAUSD

administrators, teachers and Bristol police all gathered to cheer these hard-working runners.

"There is no doubt about it, we felt an emotional response from all on Thursday from the girls and coaches," said GOTR coach Hanna Davis, who is also a second-grade teacher in Bristol. "The pride, honor and appreciation was radiating ...

"There is no doubt about it that Bristol town pulled through!"

Twenty girls in grades three to six took part, as well as four teachers and seven coaches. The run started at the BES pavilion, ran through the village to the Mount Abraham Union High School athletic fields and ended back at the pavilion. Eagle lacrosse coaches Ed Cook, Emiko Chrusciel and

Morgan Kathan, their athletes and athletic trainer Meg Quiet lined up at Mount Abe and cheered the girls on!

"So amazing!" Coach Davis said.

She also gave a huge thanks to student photographer Calvin Zubow; the sixth-grader captured images from the 5K.

The motivation was echoing through the town and the girls felt driven to do what Girls on the Run, or GOTR, was made to do: fill them with positive intentions and girl empowerment with a healthy mix of fitness and training. The coaches come from all parts of the community, including teachers, parents, mentors, Bristol town members and more.

The GOTR practices started in March and last till the end of May, when participants will take part in the Girls on the Run 5K in Essex.

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College housing

(Continued from Page 1A)

concert with the town of Middlebury and the Addison County Economic Development Corp. (ACEDC) — has already begun putting into practice what the new blueprint preaches.

The first 80 units of the planned 250-unit Stonecrop Meadows subdivision are being put in place on land available off Seminary Street Extension that the college made available to home builders.

Predevelopment continues for nine college-owned lots in Middlebury's industrial park, lots that could be shovel-ready by next year for businesses looking to plant roots in the shire town.

At the same time, college officials are planning a business incubator space and solar array in the industrial park, while assessing which among its extensive land holdings might host the next Stonecrop housing development.

The institution already has the will and the resources to become a major player in a jobs/housing agenda, which appears in synch with the town's and the ACEDC's aspirations.

Along with a \$1.8 billion endowment, the college owns 350 acres in Middlebury's industrial park, along with hundreds of acres of developable land in and around the village.

Middlebury College has accumulated its lands during the past 226 years, through strategic investments and real estate donations.

Roughly half of its 6,000 acres are in hilly forestland, with the other half in the valley.

"There are a lot of needs in the valley," Provost noted.

And the two highest needs identified by college leaders are new jobs (independent of the college and Porter Medical Center), and housing.

"The overall vision is, how does Middlebury College leverage its 6,000 acres of land? The current campus is on 300 acres. The question I posed to the board (of trustees) is, 'Why do we control and own those lands, and is that the best thing for Middlebury and Addison County?'"

Trustees agreed some of the college's land holdings aren't contributing to its educational mission.

"The board reflected and said, 'We are open to strategically leveraging our lands for greater community purpose,'" Provost said.

TAKING FIRST STEPS

Middlebury College, the town and the ACEDC have already begun a major push on the jobs front.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, the three entities joined forces last year to make around 250 acres at the northern edge of the town's industrial park (along the rail spur) more attractive to entrepreneurs. Specifically, the parties leveraged \$130,000 for a variety of "pre-development" services aimed at getting the nine college-owned lots ready for future businesses.

Those services include base mapping, including wetlands delineation, conceptual site design work, utility design, a topographic survey, conceptual cost analysis, boundary survey, ledge probes, project cost summary and preparation of permitting applications.

Currently underway: a study of



DAVID PROVOST

the infrastructure (access roads, water, sewer, utilities, etc.) needed to serve the lots, after which the town, gown and ACEDC will devise a funding strategy for that new infrastructure.

If all proceeds according to plan, the nine lots could be shovel-ready next year for more entrepreneurs

"If we put in an innovation park, it should have its own solar capacity to power that."

— David Provost

seeking to lay down roots in Middlebury's industrial park, according to Alex Armani-Munn, executive director of the ACEDC.

And the college plans to be among that next generation of Middlebury Industrial Park occupants.

Provost spoke of a new solar array and incubator space for fledgling student businesses. It's an idea that still needs to be

fleshed out, but Provost envisions a project that would embrace the college's commitment to environmental stewardship while advancing entrepreneurship.

"If we put in an innovation park, it should have its own solar capacity to power that. And we would use some of the other 350 acres, that are less desirable from a development standpoint and put a 5-Megawatt solar site up there."

The college in 2024 launched a 5MW solar farm off South Street Extension that was to satisfy 40% of the institution's electricity needs.

It's done better than that. "After the first year of operation, it came in closer to 50%. So one of the questions we've raised is, 'How do we leverage lands where we don't want to build residential, but could leverage for regional solar solutions?'" Provost said.

And having local business incubator space would be a big convenience for students, according to Provost.

He explained that some Middlebury students now must go to Chittenden County for the space and tools they need to develop their business ideas.

Putting the "innovation park" into motion will require town support. The land in question is zoned industrial. "Industrial," in the current Middlebury zoning vernacular, speaks to manufacturing — along the lines of current industrial park tenants like Maple Landmark, Agri-Mark/Cabot, Vermont Hard Cider, Provost noted.

"We've just asked, 'Can (the zoning) be broader?'" he said.

13 KEY ACTIONS

Middlebury College trustees this past weekend approved a new strategic plan for the institution built on three pillars: "strengthen our core," "serve our world," and "prepare for our future." (See story on Page 1A). And pillar two — "serve our world" — is the

section that speaks to the college's relationship with the town. And it comes with two initiatives and 13 "key actions." Among those actions:

- "Partner with the town and state to create an innovation zone to spark the local and regional economy and advance the entrepreneurial spirit of students, strengthening ties between local innovation initiatives and the college."

- "Continue and expand work addressing the urgent need for affordable housing in our town and the surrounding county."

Other key actions include broadening community access to libraries, arts spaces and athletic venues; launching a "Vermont Policy Solutions Studio" in partnership with state and local government to address complex challenges; and expanding access to the college's Language Schools and the Bread Loaf School of English to public school teachers from around the nation.

Provost acknowledged the college would also directly benefit from its housing and economic development investments.

"Trailing spouses of faculty and staff want to live and work here," he said. "To grow the population of Addison County, they need to live somewhere. We currently don't have the (housing) inventory."

Interest in the new Stonecrop units has proved that if you build it, they will come, according to Provost.

"We believe we now need to be thinking where would we build the next 100, 200, or 300 (units)," he said. "We want to be able to build a plan. We are open to conversations and suggestions on how to best use our lands for the good of Middlebury and the good of Vermont."

Provost is a fifth-generation Vermonter who's spent most of his

life in the Green Mountain State. As such, he said he feels motivated to help solve some of the state's problems. He believes the key is boosting Vermont's population, and that will require plenty of jobs and homes.

The nonprofit Vermont Futures Project has suggested the state needs to boost its population (from the current 646,000) to 802,000 people and its housing inventory (from the current 300,000) to at least 350,000 non-seasonal units by 2035.

"We need to go county by county, town by town and tell each town selectboard and city council, 'This is how many people you need to fill your schools back up, how many people your roads can take. And if everyone does that, the grand lists are going to go up, and we'll have the taxes we need to pay for our schools,'" Provost said.

Armani-Munn gave kudos to the college for its economic development agenda and for its business park collaboration.

"I can't overstate how important that type of partnership, unified vision and collaboration is to good, effective economic development," he said. "It's imperative... You

have to have stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors all working together to achieve catalytic and impactful projects."

Armani-Munn said he was fortunate to have joined the ACEDC at a time when his predecessor, Fred Kenney, had launched the predevelopment process for the college's industrial park lots. He said the ACEDC alone couldn't have mustered the \$130,000 predevelopment plan costs, but it proved manageable with the college's and town's buy-in.

"This is a project that will have a regional impact," he said.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

"We believe we now need to be thinking where would we build the next 100, 200, or 300 (units)."

— David Provost

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mountain Power found, among other things, that use of the heat pumps — using electric technology — has offset 4,059 gallons of No. 2 fuel oil. The congregation also completed insulation and waterproofing work improvements to the nearly-200-year-old building's foundation to maximize benefits of the heat pumps project. St. Stephen's received a \$28,642 grant to offset its conversion, further making the project a winner for the church and the environment.

Do you own a musical instrument? Well, dig it out, dust it off, and get ready to join the Vergennes City Band. The group is about to begin its 2026 season. Don't live in Vergennes? Don't use that as an excuse, as the band welcomes any and all musicians from throughout the country. So even if you're in this area on vacation, bring your instrument and come join in. Rehearsals this year will take place at the Vergennes Opera House on May 18 and June 1, 8 and 15, from 7–9 p.m. Can't make the rehearsals? No worries; come to the first concert on June 22. Concerts in the City Green bandstand are every Monday night (weather permitting) from 6 p.m. to around 8 p.m.

Gov. Phil Scott's office is seeking a student representative for the State Board of Education. This appointment will be for a two-year term (first-year as a non-voting member and the second year as a voting member). Rising sophomores and rising juniors are encouraged to apply. Candidates may apply by submitting a resume and letter of interest to EXE. Appointments@vermont.gov. The application deadline is Wednesday, May 20. Questions

about the State Board of Education should be directed to Maureen Gaidys (Maureen.Gaidys@vermont.gov) at the Agency of Education. More information about Vermont boards and commissions can be found at tinyurl.com/53h4yrr7.

If you've entered the front doors of Middlebury Union High School recently, you've noticed an important change: The school has a new "welcome office." This renovation is designed to strengthen school safety while also creating a more welcoming and organized entry experience for visitors and students. All visitors arriving during the school day (8:45 a.m.–3:15 p.m.) now use the updated front door intercom system (a black button, to the right of the front door). A campus supervisor in the welcome office asks for the visitor's name and the purpose of their visit before unlocking the door and directing them to the main office. In addition to improving visitor screening, the new welcome office allows staff to monitor exterior doors throughout the building from one central location.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have risen 9.9 cents per gallon during the past week, averaging \$4.52 right now, according to GasBuddy's survey of 626 stations in Vermont. Prices in Vermont are 42.3 cents higher than a month ago and \$1.47 higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy, the cheapest station in Vermont was \$4.25 early this week while the most expensive was \$4.70. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline has risen 5.1 cents per gallon during the past week, averaging \$4.48 now. The national average is up 37.3 cents from a month ago and \$1.40 higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

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Linda Barrett

(Continued from Page 1A)

point,” Linda Barrett said. “I had no interest in going on to (college). There was this guy in the Future Farmers of America. Between his sister and my sister, they got us together.”

“This guy” was Leonard, former chair of the UD-3 school board and a major booster for MUHS Tigers football. She was enthusiastic about making a life with Leonard on what was then the Payne Farm in Bridport. The couple ran the farm for many years for the Payne family before acquiring it themselves. They sold the operation — now part of the Blue Spruce Farm — to the Audet family in 2012.

The Barretts’ four children — Michael, Kelli Ann, Rebecca and Patrick — would all do their share of chores, as well as attend BCS. Linda was very busy but eventually carved out time for work off the farm. These included stints as a Tupperware salesperson and as an artist and production worker for Cinchpac, a now-defunct, Bridport-based business that used to make promotional materials for businesses, including hotels.

Then, in 1986, she got a chance to work where her children attended school. She had already by this time logged several years as a volunteer there.

“A person who worked at (BCS), who knew me from the food co-op, asked me if I was interested in taking her place as assistant cook,” Barrett said.

And cook she did — for around 150 BCS students. During the mid-1980s, BCS was educating local children ranging from kindergarten through grade 8. The school would eventually send its middle schoolers to Middlebury and add a PreK program.

As with everything she does, Barrett put full effort into her cooking chores. Homemade bread, pancakes, casseroles and other menu items — like “Beatnik cake” — that you don’t generally get in cafeterias these days.

She was heavily invested in the school both as a worker and a parent. Barrett was a chaperone for field trips, was a room parent and a member of the Bridport Residents



LINDA BARRETT

In Education Funding (BRIEF) organization.

Barrett’s BCS workday would expand and diversify when the then-front office person went on maternity leave. She’d serve in the kitchen and as 50% front office. Barrett became the full-time front office worker around 30 years ago, when her predecessor left after having her third child.

Like Bridport students, Barrett has pivoted to new technology as it’s become available. She started off recording attendance and scheduling by hand. She also had a typewriter. Pencil and typewriter have eventually given way to computers.

But dispassionate computers will never replace the humanity that Barrett has shown to those who might be having a bad day.

“You automatically become the mommy or the school nurse, depending on what’s happening,” she said. “You’re the greeter for every event; I used to schedule all the parent-teacher conferences.”

Longevity has allowed Barrett to make lifelong friends, chart school improvements and become the unofficial custodian of BCS history. She knows every square inch of the school, gets to know all students by at least their first names, and is currently serving the grandchildren of some of students who were at BCS when she first started.

She’s learned to dress for the job — usually wearing slacks — to reflect the unknown rigors she might



LINDA BARRETT, WHO has been the heart of Bridport Central School for the past four decades, will retire next month — much to the chagrin of the many students, educators and administrators she’s worked with. Pictured here are Barrett and (L-R) BCS students Mackenzie Lawton, Harper Audy and Bryce Audet.

Independent photo/Steve James

face each day, which might include cleaning up after a sick child or getting on a ladder to install a lightbulb.

CHANGING TIMES

Barrett has seen firsthand the enrollment decline at BCS (now at around 50 K-5 students), a statewide trend. She knows a lot of it’s due to a lack of workforce housing and other economic factors. But she also pointed to the steady decline in family farms. Bridport has always been an agricultural community and local farmers have been fighting against headwinds that saw Vermont shed 313 dairy farms between 2017 and 2022 alone.

“We had large farm families when I first worked here,” Barrett said. “If you had two kids, you weren’t finished yet. Families are now more

“You automatically become the mommy or the school nurse, depending on what’s happening. You’re the greeter for every event; I used to schedule all the parent-teacher conferences.”

— Linda Barrett

mobile and are having fewer children.”

That said, BCS will see a major infusion of around 50 students this fall. That’s because the Addison Central School District board last year voted to blend Shoreham’s K-5 students into BCS beginning next fall, and at the same time convert Shoreham Elementary School into a district PreK hub. Barrett decided to marry her retirement with that transition, and it will allow her counterpart at the Shoreham school to slip into her BCS role.

“If I was going to leave, this was the best time,” she said.

Gone, but far from forgotten. Barrett’s already been asked to sub next year, a request Linda will likely honor. She won’t refuse any reasonable request from her beloved

BCS. But her contributions, in retirement, will be on her own terms.

“I will be able to do what I want to do, when I want to do it,” she said with a broad smile.

What will she do with her newfound time?

Visiting her seven grandchildren and “spending more time in my sewing room” will top this list.

What will she miss most about her job at BCS?

“The interaction with the kids,” she said without hesitation. “I greet them when they get off the bus in the morning, I’m with them in the lunchroom and then I get them on the bus at the end of the day.”

And the students have shown their gratitude, whether it be a simple “thanks,” a hug, or one of the hundreds of drawings they’ve given her to post in her office.

The Bridport community is invited to a special sendoff for Barrett at BCS on Saturday, June 13, from 1-3 p.m.

Urban will be among those

present. While she’s only worked with Barrett a few years, Urban has felt and witnessed the impact her retiring colleague has had on the school and its many stakeholders.

“She takes care of all of us with love, understanding and compassion,” Urban said. “She is the first person people meet when they walk in the building, and her smile and warm demeanor makes everyone feel welcome and that they belong here. She has supported many principals (around 10) in her time at BCS, and I’m so grateful to have started my career as an administrator with her.”

Linda and Leonard currently live in Weybridge. And the Swiss Army knife can also be reached by phone.

“She assured me that she is only a phone call away next year, but I hope not to bother her as she starts a well-earned retirement,” Urban said. “I’m looking forward to celebrating her long-standing dedication and service on June 13. All are welcome who know and love her.”

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SPORTS

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Eagle baseball wins with base hits

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — Eagle baseball reached a four-game winning-streak on Tuesday after defeating the Commodores, 14-5, for a second time this season.

After Vergennes Union High School took a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the second in Vergennes, the Mount Abraham Union High School squad got their bats

cracking.

The Eagles went up 5-4 in the top of the third, and a combination of tough defense plus two rounds of base hits allowed the team to take a 9-4 cushion in the fourth.

“I think it was really nice to see the offense light up,” Eagle junior Abraham Ready said after the game. “Bring a lot of confidence to our hitters. And I think we’re in

a really great spot, rolling into our last final games going into post-season.”

The Eagles’ are 6-1-1 with six more games on tap before the end of the month and playoffs start in June. The team’s sole loss so far is to D-II Otter Valley, though the Eagles hope to get a chance to remedy that. The teams aren’t
(See Base hits, Page 5B)



COMMODORE FRESHMAN ERIK White retreats to first base as Eagle senior Brody Barnard gets ready to catch a throw from his pitcher. Mt. Abe won the Tuesday game in Vergennes 14-5.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS JUNIOR STELLA LENTI hits a clean shot to her U-32 competitor during a match at the Middlebury Rec Park on Saturday, May 9. The Italian foreign exchange student won consecutive sets, 6-3.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger girls’ tennis tallies more wins than losses

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Tiger girls’ tennis team picked up two decisive wins and a loss during a packed 10-day stretch filled with six matches. The squad has two more on tap this week, and played one on Wednesday night after deadline.

Middlebury Union High School started the season with matches on April 28, when they fell to D-I Champlain Valley Union — one of just two season losses so far.

After that, the Tigers have plowed through BFA St. Albans, 7-0, edged Harwood, 4-3, and, this past Friday, overcame Montpelier, 6-1.

As of Wednesday morning, before the Tigers traveled to play in Montpelier, MUHS had only lost to one fellow Division II team — Harwood. They dropped a second meeting with the Highlanders, 6-1, on Monday, in Moretown.

Individually, junior Italian foreign exchange student Stella Lentic, senior Anna Wolosinski and freshman doubles partners Alex and Vicky Garcia have yet to fall to D-II competitors. Lenti and the Garcias have also needed only two sets to overcome all of their foes.

In their win against U-32 in Middlebury on Saturday, May 9, the Tigers showcased their

strength. MUHS defeated the D-II team 5-1, in competition that was cut short due to weather.

Lenti’s sleek serve, which she said is her greatest strength, helped

her overcome Raider Sylvia Emmons 6-3 in both sets.

“When my first serve goes in, it’s usually good,” the No. 1
(See Girls’ tennis, Page 4B)



MUHS NINTH-GRADER VICKY GARCIA winds up to hit a shot during a doubles match with her twin, Alex Garcia. The Tiger pair defeated their U-32 competitors, 6-1, 6-2, during the home match on Saturday, May 9.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther softball takes second NESCAC title

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRUNSWICK, Maine — The Panther softball team became NESCAC champions for the second time in program history over the weekend.

The 7-5 victory over Williams on Sunday also propels the 33-8 Middlebury College softball team to its second NCAA tournament, which the team kicks off today at 1:30 p.m. with a double elimination

semifinal game against Muhlenberg College in Medford, Mass.

“We are excited to be able to continue to play together,” Coach Kelly Bever said of the upcoming games.

“We have so much fun with each other and to be able to do it again, especially when not everyone gets this chance, is incredible.”

Also in Middlebury’s regional group are Alfred University and

NESCAC peer, No. 15 Tufts, who the Panthers haven’t played since the Jumbos handed them two losses in an April double header.

Even before the Panthers won the NESCAC tournament, they made history on the path to the title. During their debut in the quarterfinal against No. 7 seed Bates, Middlebury tallied its 31st 2026 win, beating the previous
(See Title, Page 3B)

Eagle softball thrashes teams

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The defending Division II state champion Eagle softball team picked up three more wins this past week. Two of those were against fellow Addison County schools, Middlebury and Vergennes. The Mount Abraham squad ended both in five innings.

The Eagles are 7-1, the Tigers 3-3 and the Commodores 0-7.

Here are the details of this past week’s games.

Mt. Abe VICTORIOUS

The Eagles tallied three decisive wins, and they only needed five innings in two of those.

The first came on May 7 in Enosburg, where the Eagles overcame the Hornets 5-0. Senior pitcher Gretchen Toy struck out five Enosburg batters. The co-captain, who went 1-for-4 at the plate, also contributed on offense with an RBI. Junior Emmy Rougier drove in two runs and hit 2-for-4. Leah Tierney also got two hits four

of the times she stepped up to bat.

Then on Saturday, the Eagles beat Middlebury 21-4 in five innings in Bristol, with Toy pitching. She also had three hits, including two home runs. Toy brought in five runners and scored two runs herself.

Senior co-captain Brooklyn Ryersbach went 2-for-3 and brought in four runs. Junior Reagan LaFreniere went 1-for-2 and drove in three runs. Junior Brooke Barnard went 2-for-2, had an RBI and made it home three times. Senior co-captain Genevieve Forand went 1-for-2, had two RBIs and scored three times. Tierney went 2-for-4, had an RBI and scored 2 runs. Senior co-captain Morgan Larocque went 1-for-4 and scored two runs. Rougier went 1-for-3, got a run in and scored two herself.

A Tuesday game in Vergennes also ended in 5 innings. The score was 15-2. It was an especially good day for Forand, who nailed a grand
(See Eagles, Page 5B)

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball

5/7 MUHS vs Milton	14-2 (5 inn.)
5/7 Mt. Abe vs Enosburg	5-0
5/8 MUHS vs Rutland	30-1 (5 inn.)
5/8 Rice vs VUHS	17-0 (5 inn.)
5/9 Enosburg vs VUHS	10-1
5/9 Mt. Abe vs MUHS	21-4 (5 inn.)
5/12 Rice vs MUHS	14-2 (5 inn.)
5/12 Mt. Abe vs VUHS	15-2 (5 inn.)

Baseball

5/7 MUHS vs Milton	7-4
5/7 Mt. Abe vs Enosburg	14-4 (5 inn.)
5/8 MUHS vs Rutland	2-0
5/8 Fairfax vs VUHS	9-1
5/9 Mt. Abe vs MUHS	6-0
5/9 Enosburg vs VUHS	10-0
5/12 MUHS vs Missisquoi	14-2
5/12 Mt. Abe vs VUHS	14-5

Boys’ Lax

5/6 MAV vs Lyndon	11-0
5/8 S. Burlington vs MUHS	17-6
5/8 MAV vs St. Johnsbury	8-4
5/9 MUHS vs Essex	14-4
5/12 Harwood at MAV	12-4
5/13 Rice at MUHS	Late

Girls’ Lax

5/6 BFA St. Albans vs MAV	14-9
5/7 MUHS vs CVU	19-16
5/8 MAV vs Hartford	11-10
5/11 MUHS vs MMU	17-12
5/11 MAV vs Stowe	15-3
5/13 S. Burlington at MUHS	Late
5/13 MAV at Spaulding	Late

Girls’ Ultimate

5/7 CVU vs MUHS	15-1
5/11 St. Johnsbury vs MUHS	6-5
5/12 Montpelier vs MUHS	11-2

Boys’ Ultimate

5/8 S. Burlington vs MUHS	15-3
5/11 Milton vs MUHS	15-4

Boys’ Tennis

5/9 MUHS vs Essex	6-1
5/12 MUHS vs Rice	6-1

Girls’ Tennis

5/7 MUHS vs Montpelier	6-1
5/9 MUHS vs U-32	5-1
5/11 Harwood vs MUHS	6-1
5/13 MUHS at Montpelier	Late

COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball

(NESCAC tournament)	
5/8 Tufts vs Midd (semi)	14-7
5/9 Amhst. vs Midd (semi)	7-6 (11 inn.)

Softball

(NESCAC tournament)	
5/8 Midd vs Bates (quarter)	3-2 (8 inn.)

(See Scoreboard, Page 3B)



SENIOR CAROLINE MESSER carries the ball during an NCAA second round game on Sunday, May 10, in Middlebury. The Panthers defeated St. John Fisher 17-4.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger boys’ lax wins one, Eagles nab two

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The boys’ lacrosse team made up of athletes from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools nabbed two wins, and took one loss in the past week.

The Middlebury Union High School squad added a win and a loss to their record.

The Tigers were 3-4 ahead of a game played Wednesday after

deadline. The Eagles are 5-2 with a game on tap Thursday, May 14.

Eagles SPLIT

May 6 was a good day in Bristol for the Eagles. MAV shut out Lyndon 11-0 that Wednesday.

Those goals were scored by eight Eagles: senior Greyson Desilets, freshman Levi Clark and junior co-captain Asa Pratt each scored two; scoring one

each were junior Lincoln Painter,

sophomore Sawyer Visco Lyons, and juniors Rowan Clark, Abraham Camara and Kestrel Edwards.

Additionally, Painter and sophomore Addy Halby had two assists a piece, and Clark, Visco Lyons, junior Nick Churchill and sophomore Jude Grant each had one.

MAV nabbed another win two
(See Boys’ lax, Page 5B)

Middlebury women’s lax in NCAA third round

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Another round of Division III NCAA women’s lacrosse tournament games are on tap for the shire town after Middlebury College won its first 2026 national match, 17-4, on Peter Kohn Field this past Sunday.

St. John Fisher was behemoth Middlebury’s first victim on the national stage this year, as the Panthers try for a fifth straight NCAA title and a third undefeated season in four years.

The second round game was a rout from the start.

A testament to the well-oiled machine that the Panther defense is, No. 1 Middlebury found the back of the net 10 times before St. John Fisher was able to break through with about six-and-a-half-minutes remaining in the second quarter.

The next team to face the defending champions and this year’s NESCAC conference winners is No. 17 Rowan University. That game is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. this Saturday, May 16, in Middlebury.

Playing in the other third round game in Middlebury that day is No. 8 Amherst vs. No. 10 The College of New Jersey.

The winners of the two Saturday games will meet in a quarterfinal on Sunday at 1 p.m. on Peter Kohn Field.

That isn’t the only tournament game this weekend that could end up being a NESCAC showdown. The NCAA bracket is flush with New England Small College Association Conference teams.

In the other half of the 2026 table are No. 4 Tufts and No. 3 Wesleyan, the two teams who
(See NCAA, Page 3B)

Half-marathon kicks off Vermont Sun summer racing season

SALISBURY — Sunday at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore saw the beginning of Vermont Sun's Run and Triathlon Series with a definite tilt toward the female side.

The overall winner of the marquee race of the day — the Vermont Sun Half Marathon — was a woman, and five of the top eight finishers were women as well.

Flora Warr, a 19-year-old first year student at Middlebury College, claimed the crown. She finished the

hilly 13.1-mile course in 1:35:15, which works out to a 7:16-per mile pace.

More than a minute behind her was 29-year-old Jordan Milite of Kingston, N.Y. — the men's champion and second overall.

Milite led for the first 6 miles but Warr was never far behind. Just after the "out and back" course turnaround, Warr eased by Milite and never looked back. Her winning time was 1:12 ahead of Milite's 1:36:34.

Weather conditions were good for racing — cool, mid 50s and clouds. Some light rain fell at times.

Third place overall was William West of Williston (1:37:36). Abigail Irish of North Yarmouth, Maine, was fourth (1:38:05). Samantha Crowther of Belmont, Calif., claimed 5th in 1:38:31, while Josephine Crowther of Hanover, N.H., took 6th.

In the 10K run, Duncan Secore of South Burlington was the men's winner in 43:29. Carl Deroberts of Middlebury claimed second in 45:12. Beth Bostic of Martinsburg, Va., was the women's champ in 51:11.

In the 5K race, Luck Rizio of Wilmington, Vt., won in 19:25. Middlebury's Raymond Mohamed took second in 21:12. The first place women was Cornwall's Ashley Graham in 22:11.

The half-marathon saw 77 runners cross the finish line; 28 competitors finished the 10K, and 41 runners wrapped up the 5K/

For complete results and times of many local finishers in each race, go to vermontsun.com.

The Vermont Sun Triathlon season consists of six events. The sprint distance Vermont Sun Triathlon, a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike and 3.1-mile run will be held on three Sundays: June 28, Aug. 2 and Aug. 30.

The Branbury Classic Triathlon substitutes the swim with a 1.5-mile paddle followed by a 14-mile bike and 3.1-mile run. It will be held twice: June 28 and Aug. 2.

The Olympic distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon (1,500-yard swim, 28-mile bike and 6.1-mile run) will be held on Aug. 30.

The events benefit the Brandon Fire and Rescue squad, Middlebury Union Middle School cross country team, Lake Dunmore/ Fern Lake Association and Branbury State Park.



COMPETITORS IN THE half-marathon included, clockwise from top left, Jordan Milite, who got second place; Avijit Singh of Duluth, Ga.; Rutland's Kristy Bloomer; and 69-year-old Fran Gibson, who won her age group. Below right, Kelsey Hawkins gets a little help near the finish.



COOL TEMPS WITH a little rain on Sunday morning suited 19-year-old Middlebury College student Flora Warr as she won the Vermont Sun half-marathon in Salisbury and Leicester on Sunday morning.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



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PANTHER SOPHOMORE MAEVE Lee shoots during an NCAA playoff game on Sunday in Middlebury. The hosts defeated St. John Fisher 17-4.

Independent photo/Steve James

NCAA

(Continued from Page 1B)

have gotten the closest this spring to stripping Middlebury of its undefeated season.

The Jumbos, the 2025 NCAA runners-up, will face Gettysburg on Saturday in Medford, Mass., and Wesleyan, the 2026 NESCAC runners-up, will play the University of Chicago in Middletown, Conn.

A Middlebury vs. Tufts matchup is possible in the semifinals, and a Middlebury vs. Wesleyan in the finals.

Also playing in third round games on Saturday are No. 9 Trinity and No. 23 Williams. The Bantams play Pomona-Pitzer and the Purple Cows take on Colorado College.

The winners of these four games will play in Sunday quarterfinals as well, meaning the possibility

of three total NESCAC clashes to come this weekend.

Colby made for a fifth NESCAC team to make the national tournament, and is the only to have been knocked out thus far. The Mules dropped their first round debut to Cortland, 14-8.

MIDDLEBURY MEN'S LAX

While this past Sunday afternoon the Panther women's team found the continued success that's come to define the program, that night in Medford, Mass., the Middlebury men's team dropped a third game this season to NESCAC champions, No. 1 Tufts.

In addition to ending the Panthers' 2026 season in the third round of the NCAA tournament, the Jumbos also quelled Middlebury's NESCAC run in the quarterfinals at the end of April.

While the final tally this time was 24-10, Tufts, the Panthers matched the Jumbos' two goals in the first quarter, and even took a 2-1 lead with just under five minutes left in it.

After the second quarter ended 9-4 in favor of Tufts, the game was still within reach for the Panthers.

But Middlebury let it slip through its fingers in the third period. Tufts scored 13 goals in that 15 minutes. The Panthers found the back of the net just twice.

In the final quarter, Middlebury scored 4 goals and Tufts 2, bringing the final score to 24-10.

The No. 17 Panthers upset their way to that game after defeating No. 16 Dickinson, 13-8, a day earlier in a second round tournament game.

The Panthers finished the season 9-8.

Title

(Continued from Page 1B)

Mid-record-holding 2011 team's 30 wins. That squad is also the only other to win the conference and earn a bid to the national tournament.

As the Panther post-season continues with NCAAs, Middlebury has the opportunity to make school history again, this time on the national stage. If the team gets past the double elimination regionals, it will become the first Panther softball team to do so.

The Panthers' path to earning one of the tournament's automatic spots, bestowed upon conference winners, was a hard-fought three games.

"The entire weekend was amazing," Bevere said.

"We were down to our last strike, last out — so many times and found a way to stay alive and keep fighting. Our mantra this season has been 'never say die' and they really lived it during the NESCAC tournament."

On May 8, No. 2 seeded Middlebury narrowly beat No. 7 Bates, 3-2, in an eight-inning quarterfinal.

Two days later, their semifinal against No. 3 Colby was another close, extra-inning battle that only ended in the 11th when with two outs, Panther senior Jen Westphal slammed a two-run homer out of the park, bumping Middlebury to the finals.

A few hours later, the Panthers secured the NESCAC crown in a 7-5 victory over No. 5 Williams, who knocked No. 1 seed Tufts out of the tournament earlier in the day in a 8-7 game.

The Panther vs. Purple Cow championship was scoreless until Middlebury earned five runs in the fourth inning.

The Purple Cows, who the Panthers beat twice and lost to once in the regular season, didn't manage to get on the board until the bottom of the fifth inning with two runs.

Middlebury senior Kristyn Carroll and sophomore Olivia Flemming clapped back in the sixth with critical hits.

With one out, Carroll hit a triple that put her in scoring position, and then scored on a pitch that went past the Williams catcher.

Still with just one out, Fleming hit a home run, bringing the score to 7-2.

Williams scored another three runs that inning, but they couldn't catch up with two more during their last ups in the seventh, in what was a quick, consecutive three-out inning pitched by Emily Ye.

First a Purple Cow flied out, then the sophomore struck out the second batter and a third pop-fly ended the game 7-5, Panthers.

During the three tournament games, first year pitcher Emily Dowd threw 16 innings, striking out 14 batters and allowing 16 hits.

Panther baseball

While the softball team managed to prevail in all three of their tight contests, the Panther baseball team ended the 2026 season on the other side of one of those.

The 2024 and 2025 NESCAC defending champs closed 2026 with a 7-6, 11-inning loss to Amherst on May 9, bringing Middlebury's record

to 21-15.

The Mammoths made it to the final round of the double elimination tournament, but had to settle for runners-up to No. 20 Tufts.

The Jumbos were the Panthers' first guaranteed game of the tournament. Tufts came out on top, 14-7, during that May 8 contest.

"Our mantra this season has been 'never say die' and they really lived it during the NESCAC tournament."

— Coach Kelly Bevere

Commodores, Eagles claim top 10

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — Local track and field athletes proved for another week that they can compete with the best in the state.

Several athletes from Mount Abraham and Vergennes and union high schools placed in the top 10. Not only that, they achieved this with personal best performances.

Here's how the Eagles and Commodores fared this past week.

Eagles IN MILTON

Mt. Abe boys' track and field took second place in a meet at Milton on Thursday, May 7. Only Division I Colchester's 214 points were enough to prevail over the D-II Eagles' 75. D-III Richford (71 points) was third during the six-school meet.

Freshman runner Del Guilmette's 800 meter first place time of 2:14.90 was a personal best by tenth of a second.

Also reaching new speeds and distances that nabbed the top spots were junior Jackson LaMarche, first in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 48.54, and senior James Mount,

first in javelin with a distance of 48.65 meters, a PR by 7 meters.

LaMarche and sophomore Jaret Sturtevant brought in more victories for the Eagles. LaMarche took the top spot in the pole vault (3.35 meters) and Sturtevant in the 110 hurdles (18.93 seconds).

The Eagle girls' team finished sixth with 18 points. Mt. Abe found the most success

in field events, with junior Kassi Garrow and sophomore Charlotte Desilets claiming third place in the shot put (6.46 meters) and the long jump (3.66 meters), respectively.

Also earning top 10 finishes in Milton were Eagle boys:

- Junior Bowen Lutz, 2nd, pole vault (2.59m); 9th, javelin (19.94m)
- Freshman Pax Gundersen, 5th, long jump (4.37m)
- LaMarche, 6th, 100m (12.62)
- Freshman Ethan Tanych, 6th, long jump (4.33m)
- Mount, 6th place, discus, (27.22m); 9th, shot put (9.26m)
- Junior Lincoln Ward, 7th, shot put (9.44m)
- Freshman Ellis Carrico, 7th, long jump (3.99m)

• Freshman Ben Mangini, 8th, long jump (3.88m)

• Freshman Matthew Steele, 9th, 1,500 meters (5:14.63)

• Sturtevant, 10th, 300 meter hurdles (49.12)

• freshman Sawyer Behounek, 10th, javelin (15.60m)

• LaMarche, Behounek, Steele, Tanych 4th, 4x100 relay (53.91)

Eagle girls top finishers:

- Freshman Mickey White, 6th, 100 meter hurdles (20.88)
- Garrow, 7th, javelin (16.60m); 7th, long jump (3.25m)
- Sophomore Sadie Nezin, 8th, 800 meters (4:20.15)
- Freshman Emily Wells, 9th, 100 meters (15.29 seconds); sixth, 200 meters (32.03 seconds)
- Freshman Mathilda Carrico, 10th, discus (10.95m)
- Wells, Desilets, sophomore Juliana Murphy and junior Natalie Smith, 4th, 4X100 relay (1:02.31)

Commodores AT CVU

Both the boys' and girls' VUHS track and field teams totaled enough points to take third place during a five-team competition at Champlain Valley Union on Friday, May 8.

With 48 points, the boys' team fell only to two D-1 schools, CVU (309) and South Burlington (112). VUHS beat D-I Mount Mansfield Union and fellow D-III competitor

places in track & field

Craftsbury.

The same ordering was true on the girls' side: CVU finished (310 points, South Burlington (112), VUHS (42), MMU and Craftsbury.

For the Commodores, Rowan Neffinger had success in short distance, long distance and field events. The sophomore's best finish was in the boys' 1,500 meters, where he took second in 4:52.13, which was also a personal record.

Additionally, Neffinger as sixth in the discus (23.79m) and eighth in the 200 meters (26.13). He PR'd in the latter.

His classmate, sophomore Emerson Morrill took third in the boys' 800 meters with a personal best 2:29.7.

Senior Chance Koenig took second in the boys' triple jump (9.66m).

On the girls' side, junior Isabelle Van Voorst placed third in the 200 meters, with a PR 28.80.

And the Commodore girls' 4x100 relay, featuring Van Voorst, senior Faith McAllister, sophomore Lauren Hill and junior Madeline Shugart, took second (57.30).

Here's who else placed in the top 10 at CVU for the Commodore boys:

- Sophomore Kalder Steen, 4th, javelin (27.44m)

• Freshman Henry Stroup, 4th, 1,500 meters (4:53.16); 8th, discus (23.58m)

• Sophomore David Coburn, 6th, long jump (4.72m)

• Freshman Hudson Wagner, 6th, 800 meters (2:43.01)

• Freshman Quin Dubois, 6th, 110 hurdles (20.47); 9th, 400 meters (1:01.30)

• Sophomore Marwan Liebhhaber, 7th, 400 meters (59.41)

• Senior Sawyer Garthaffner, 9th, 1,500 meters (5:42.72)

• Freshman Connor Trombly, 10th, javelin (23.29m)

Commodore girls:

- Sophomore Georgia Kunkel, 4th, discus (20.88m); 8th, 800 meters (3:01.32)
- Freshman Ava Foster, 4th, 400 meters (1:15.56)
- Freshman Ila Borah, 4th, girls 110 hurdles (22.05)
- Freshman Madeline Shugart, 6th, 100 meters (14.35); 6th, 200 meters (29.55)
- Hill, 7th, 800 meters (2:57.13)
- Van Voorst, 9th, 100 meters (14.49)
- Sophomore Sophia James, 9th, 1,500 meters (7:10.20)
- Freshman Roxanne Griffin, 9th, 400 meters (1:17.15)
- McAllister, 10th, 200 meters (31.75)

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball

5/14 MUHS at Enosburg	4:30 PM
5/14 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/14 Rice at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/16 MUHS at VUHS	11 AM
5/16 Mt. Abe at Milton	10 AM
5/19 MUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/19 VUHS at Rice	4:30 PM
5/19 Enosburg at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/21 Mt. Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/21 Enosburg at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 Rice at MUHS	11 AM

Baseball

5/14 MUHS at Enosburg	4:30 PM
5/14 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/14 Missisquoi at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/16 Mt. Abe at Milton	10 AM
5/16 MUHS at VUHS	11 AM
5/19 MUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/19 VUHS at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/19 Enosburg at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/21 Mt. Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/21 Enosburg at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 Missisquoi at MUHS	11 AM

Boys' Lax

5/14 MAV at Colchester	4:30 PM
5/15 MUHS at CVU	4:30 PM
5/18 BFA St. Albans at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/20 CVU at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/21 Hartford at MAV	4:30 PM
5/22 MMU at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 MAV at BFA Fairfax	11 AM

Girls' Lax

5/15 MAV at U-32	4:30 PM
5/16 BFA St. Albans at MUHS	11 AM
5/19 MUHS at CVU	4:30 PM
5/20 Green Mtn. Valley at MAV	4 PM
5/21 MUHS at Stowe	4:30 PM
5/23 MAV at MUHS	11 AM

Girls' Ultimate

5/14 Burr and Burton at MUHS	4 PM
5/19 MMU at MUHS	4 PM

Boys' Ultimate

5/15 MUHS at Colchester	4 PM
5/20 Essex at MUHS	4 PM

Boys' Tennis

5/14 MUHS at Montpelier	3:30 PM
5/19 Burlington at MUHS	4 PM
5/20 Essex at MUHS	4 PM
5/21 MUHS at S. Burlington	3:30 PM
5/23 CVU at MUHS	4 PM

Girls' Tennis

5/15 MUHS at U-32	3:30 PM
5/16 BFA St. Albans at MUHS	11 AM
5/19 MUHS at Harwood	4 PM
5/22 North Country at MUHS	4 PM

Track & Field

5/14 Mt. Abe, VUHS at MUHS	3:30 PM
5/16 MUHS, VUHS, Mt. Abe at Burl. Invi	
5/20 MUHS at Colchester	TBA

COLLEGE SPORTS

Softball

(NCAA regionals at Tufts, 5/14-16)	
5/14 Midd vs Muhlenberg	1:30 PM

Women's Lacrosse

(NCAA third round at Midd)	
5/16 Rowan at Midd	11:30 PM
5/16 Amherst vs TCNU	2 PM
(NCAA quarterfinal at Midd)	
5/16 Third Round Winners	1 PM

Track & Field

5/14 MIT Qualifier	Cambridge, MA
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Scoreboard

(Continued from Page 1B)

5/10 Midd vs Colby (semi)	6-4 (11 inn.)
5/10 Midd vs Williams (final)7-5

Women's Lacrosse

(NCAA tournament, second round)	
5/10 Midd vs St. John Fisher17-4

Men's Lacrosse

(NCAA tournament second round)	
5/9 Midd vs Dickinson13-8
(NCAA tournament, third round)	
5/10 Tufts vs Midd24-10

Women's Tennis

(NCAA tournament, second round)	
5/9 Midd vs Tufts4-2
(NCAA regional final)	
5/10 Babson vs Midd4-2

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Local girls' lacrosse dominates

ADDISON COUNTY — The Tiger and Eagle girls' lacrosse teams continued dominant performances this past week, amid packed schedules. The Middlebury Union High School, and combined Mount Abraham and Vergennes high school teams nabbed four wins between the two of them.

Eagles
The 5-2-1 Eagles continued to fight through close games this week, and came away with two victories in three contests.

They started with a loss on Wednesday, May 6, when the Eagles stomached a 14-9 loss at BFA St. Albans, who MAV previously defeated 7-4 in their season-opener. Senior co-captain June Yates-Rusch dominated MAV's scoring stats with a hat trick. Sophomore Olivia Sawyer led in the center circle, with six draw controls. She also tallied two assists and a goal herself. Yates-Rusch had three draw controls.

Sophomores Callie Rule and Mattea O'Bryan each scored twice, junior Thompson Davis scored once and had four draw controls.

MAV narrowly won in Hartford on May 8. The Eagles defeated the home team, 11-10. Yates-

Rusch had three goals and three draw controls; Sawyer had three goals, one assist and one draw control; Davis had two goals and six draw controls; Rule had seven draw controls; freshman Delia Park had one goal and two assists; sophomore Mattea O'Bryan had one goal; junior Aubrey Coffey had one goal.

Freshman goalie Jillian Cousino saved the day with four critical saves.

On Monday, the Eagles finally caught a break, winning in Stowe 15-3.

Yates-Rusch led the offensive with six goals. She also had seven draw controls.

Davis had four goals, one assist and two draw controls; Rule had two goals, one assist and one draw control; Sawyer had one goal, one assist and one draw control; senior co-captain Maris LaPerle had one goal.

MAV was due to play Spaulding on Wednesday after deadline.

Up next the Eagles head to U-32 for a 4:30 p.m. game on Wednesday, May 15.

Tigers
MUHS defeated CVU, 19-16, at the Fucile Field on May 7. Eight goals from co-captain Isabel Quinn lifted the Tigers. Half of junior's goals came in the

first quarter. She opened scoring with a goal about a minute and 45 seconds in.

Senior co-captain Quinn Doria elevated her team's lead to 4-0 with three straight goals within the third and fifth minutes of the game.

The Tigers didn't allow the Redhawks a goal until there were just under three-and-a-half minutes left in the first quarter, in between Quinn's third and fourth goals.

After she had put her fourth past the CVU goalie, sophomore Ellie Conklin scored an eighth Tiger goal with a little over a minute left in the quarter.

In the second quarter, Doria and senior co-captain Kenyon Connors matched four CVU goals between them, Doria with one and Connors with three in a row, allowing the Tigers to enter the half with a 12-7 lead.

CVU came back in the third, finding the back of the net six times. Three goals, one each from Quinn, Doria and junior Alice Livesay, maintained a Tiger lead, though much smaller than earlier in the game. Going into the fourth quarter, the score was 15-12.

Quinn kept the offensive pressure up. In the final 15 (See *Girls' lac*, Page 5B)



SENIOR ANNA WOLOSINSKI winds up to hit the ball during a home match on Saturday, May 9. The Tiger defeated her U-32 competitor in two sets, 6-4, 10-8.

Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

singles player said. Lenti is aiming for a strong post-season performance. "I feel like going into playoffs and like going pretty far into playoffs would be really good," Lenti said.

Like her, the Tiger No. 1 doubles pair, the Garcia twins, also have high post-season hopes.

"I hope that we can win the state (championship)," Alex Garcia said.

"It might be a big goal, but we've been winning. We won against every D-II school we've been playing so far, and so I think we have the actual shot (of) winning."

On Saturday, the duo won their first set, against Raider pair Aida Coffey and Shannon McCulloch, 6-1.

Alex and Vicky Garcia snagged a second, dominate set 6-2 to win the match.

Here's how all of the May 9 matches went:

- No. 1 singles Stella Lenti MUHS def. Sylvia Emmons U-32, 6-3, 6-3.
- No. 2 singles Anna Wolosinski MUHS def. Arianna Conti U-32, 6-4, 3-6, 10-8.
- No. 3 singles Addie Pasco U-32 def. Cecilia Luksch MUHS 7-5, 3-6, 10-8.
- No. 4 singles Addie Taylor MUHS v. Valleri Holmes U-32, 3-2 (rain).
- No. 5 singles Maryam Khan MUHS wins by default.
- No. 1 doubles Alex Garcia/Vicky Garcia MUHS def. Aida Coffey/Shannon McCulloch U-32, 6-1, 6-2.
- No. 2 doubles Navah Glikman/Quinn Mackey MUHS def. Lauren Bennett/Sophie Young U-32, 6-1, 6-2.

MUHS VS. HARWOOD

Lenti was the sole individual winner during the Monday Harwood matches. Wolosinski and the Garcia twins weren't in the lineup that day.

Here's how all of the May 11



FRESHMAN ALEX GARCIA makes a move toward the ball during a doubles match with her twin, Vicky Garcia. The Middlebury Union High School pair defeated their U-32 competitors, 6-1, 6-2, during the home match on Saturday, May 9.

Independent photo/Steve James

matches went:

- No. 1 singles Lenti MUHS def. Savannah Fulton HU, 6-4, 6-2.
- No. 2 singles Ella Day Ore HU def. Luksch MUHS, 6-2, 7-5.
- No. 3 singles Aspen Linsky HU def. Taylor MUHS, 7-6 (12-10) 6-1.
- No. 4 singles Nina Henzel HU def. Khan MUHS, 6-4, 6-4.
- No. 5 Haley MacDonald HU def. Sophia Nicolai MUHS, 4-6, 6-1, 10-2.

- No. 1 doubles Clara Whittingham/ Addie Lazorchak HU def. Mitzi Poduschnick/ Thea Porter MUHS, 6-2, 6-2.
- No. 2 doubles Sophia Desanto/Caroline Cox HU def. Rory Cate/Penny Stattel MUHS, 6-3, 6-0.

On tap for the Tigers the rest of the week is a trip to East Montpelier to play U-32 for a second time on Friday, May 15. Then the next day MUHS meets BFA St. Albans again, this time at home, at 11 a.m.

Eagle athletic director position up for grabs

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Union High School athletic director of 10 years recently announced that at the end of the school year he will move on to fill a student activities director position at another Vermont school.

Devin Wendel, a Bristol native and Mt. Abe alum, will depart his alma mater to fill the student activities director post at the Essex Westford School District, he announced in a May 5 letter.

"This is not an easy message to write, because Mt. Abraham is more than just a place where I have worked — it is a community that has shaped me, challenged me, supported me, and ultimately helped define who I am as a person," the 2025 Vermont athletic

director of the year wrote in the letter.

"Over the past decade, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredible group of coaches, advisors, teachers, staff members, and administrators who care deeply about our students and our programs. I feel that, together, we have built something truly special."

As far as hiring a new athletic director, Superintendent Patrick Reen said the district hopes to fill the job in mid-June.

On May 7 the district posted the job listing, which summarizes responsibilities:

"The Athletics & Activities Director provides leadership, coordination, and oversight of all middle and high school athletic and

co-curricular programs. This role ensures that programs are well-organized, student-centered, and aligned with the school's mission."

"The Director is responsible for scheduling, facility coordination, supervision of coaches and advisors, and development of the activities budget. The position also ensures that all programs promote broad student participation, competitive excellence, sportsmanship, civic responsibility, and academic success."

It also states, "Experience in school-based athletics or activities leadership is preferred, along with knowledge of Vermont Principals' Association guidelines and conference structures."

The yearly salary is listed between \$85,000 and \$110,000.

Tiger boys' tennis improves to 3-1 record

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team won their two most recent matches 6-1 against Essex on May 9 and Rice on May 12.

The Tigers are 3-1, with their sole defeat at the hands of fellow Division I school Stowe.

Here are the individual scores from the May 9 match at Essex:

- No. 1 singles Charles Young (M) def. Ian Plasse (E), 6-2, 6-1.
- No. 2 singles Adrien Malhotra (M) def. Kohen Lindsay (E), 6-2, 6-1.
- No. 3 singles Spencer Copeland (M) def. Lewis Pilcher (E), 6-2, 4-6, 1-0 (10-5).

- No. 4 singles Leo Swenton (M) def. Ethan Pringle (E), 6-0, 6-1.
- No. 5 singles Tyler Nguyen (E) def. Arthur Calvi (M), 6-7, 6-2, 1-0 (12-10).

- No. 1 doubles: Nate Cook-Yoder and Xander Lu (M) def. Riley Anger and Ethan Koch (E), 6-4, 7-6, 1-0 (8-6).
- No. 2 doubles Kirin Biancosino and Alex Andersson (M) def. Jakob Niekrewicz and Noah Ashe (E), 6-3, 6-2.

Here are the individual scores from the May 12 home match vs. Rice:

- No. 1 singles Young (M) def. Jaden Binkhorst (R), 6-0, 6-1.
- No. 2 singles Malhotra (M) def. Tristan Schreiber (R), 6-1, 4-6, 1-0 (10-7).
- No. 3 singles Copeland (M) def. Charlie Stinchcombe (R) 5-7, 6-3, 1-0 (10-8).
- No. 4 singles Swenton (M) def. Sam Norris (R), 3-6, 6-3, 1-0 (12-10).
- No. 5 singles Chris Guyette (R) def. Lu (M), 6-0, 6-4.
- No. 1 doubles Nathan Stefani and Cook-Yoder (M) def. Alex Binkhorst and James Waite (R), 6-0, 6-4.
- No. 2 doubles Biancosino and Calvi (M) def. Nako Papayiannis and Bret Stoneman (R), 6-4, 6-0.

The Tigers are scheduled to head to Montpelier today, May 14, at 3:30 p.m. After that they host Burlington on Tuesday, May 19 at 4 p.m.

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EAGLE JUNIOR CLARK Crary heads to third base on Tuesday in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James

Base hits

(Continued from Page 1B)

scheduled to play again, but could meet in the playoffs.

As of late, Mt. Abe has been beating teams handily. In early May they defeated D-III VUHS 14-2 and D-III Enosburg 14-4. And on May 9 the Eagles handed MUHS their sole season loss in a game that ended 6-0.

Their most recent conquest was, again, the Commodores.

The Eagles scored two runs in the first inning of the May 12 game at the Vergennes diamond. VUHS matched those during their first ups.

In the top of the second, a fly ball, a groundout and a strike-out thrown by senior Aiden Fuller made for a quick, one, two, three inning for the Commodores, who seized their next turn on offense to take a lead.

VUHS went up 3-2 after a ball that the Eagle centerfielder had to dive to catch. Commodore freshman Cyrus Clair, who was on third, tagged up and ran home. Freshman Carter McGuire, who originally got on base with a single, tagged up and made it to third.

With two outs, junior Liam McGuire hit a single that split the shortstop and third baseman, getting Carter McGuire home for a fourth Commodore run.

In next inning, the Eagles were in need of two runs to tie the game; junior Cameron Castillo hit a line drive to centerfield that got the bases loaded.

Senior Brody Barnard came up and hit a single that drove in a run, bringing the score to 4-3.

Commodore Fuller struck out the next batter to get a first out for VUHS.

With one out, bases still loaded and more than just the tying run around the diamond, Eagle Coach Jason Barnard yelled from his post at third base to home plate that the team just needed a base hit, a

directive his next two batters took to heart.

Sophomore Calvin Peck hit a line drive to centerfield that drove in a run, tying the game 4-4 and keeping bases loaded.

Jackson Jennings then split the shortstop and second baseman to drive in a fifth Eagle run.

The Eagles made quick work of ending the third, getting back on offense in the top of the fourth after three consecutive outs.

And they kept their coach's message from the last inning in mind.

Junior Stefan Johnson led off with a line drive to centerfield that was good to get him on first base. He stole second on the next pitch, to Ready. While Fuller was still battling Ready, Johnson was able to make it to third on a pitch that went by the Commodore catcher.

Ready hit the ball to right field, getting Johnson in and making the score 6-4, with no outs.

Castillo came up and hit a deep double that fell just before the fence, getting Ready home.

Barnard grounded out, but the play allowed Castillo to get to third. With one out and the score 7-4, senior Evan Corrigan was up. He hit a powerful groundball to third that got Castillo home, and himself on first base.

Corrigan made his way to third. Another base hit, this one from Peck, got the Eagles a ninth run.

The Eagle defense kept the Commodores to just one more run, and their offense accumulated five more by the end of the game.

By the end of the game, Castillo had three singles and a double, Johnson and Ready each had a single and a double, and senior Evan Corrigan, Sophomore Calvin Peck and junior Jackson Jennings each had a single.

For the remainder of the season, the Eagles will primarily face the D-II teams they could see in the

playoffs.

Up next is a home game against Missisquoi on Friday, May 15, at 4:30 p.m.; on Saturday they play at Milton.

"Feeling great about the team, feeling great about the season," Coach Barnard said after the game. "These guys are really, really, really coming together at the right time."

Commodores

VUHS went into the Tuesday game with less than a 24-hour break after a hard-fought extra-inning game the night before in Vergennes, and also coping with two injuries. The Commodores lost 15-10 to Missisquoi on Monday.

The next day against the Eagles, junior Liam McGuire had three singles, sophomore Kaiden LeCompte had a double and senior Ryan Wright, who pitched three innings against Mt. Abe, had two singles.

McGuire was optimistic after the two losses. Of the Monday night match against Missisquoi he said, "I'd say that was a great game for us."

"We played well as a team together. Fell apart a little bit at the end, but stuff happens. And I think it was a fun game for a lot of the guys." Of what went well during the early week games he said, "We're feeling some team chemistry going. So even though it looks on a record, we got two losses there, really, we're rolling into it now."

The Commodores are 2-6 this season, with their next game Thursday, May 14, in Milton. On Saturday, the Commodores host Middlebury Union High School at 11 a.m.

"We're a young team," Coach Andy O'Brien said of his squad, which includes just three seniors. The 14-man roster includes eight-, ninth- and 10th-graders. "We're learning how to win."

two RBIs; Whitney went 4-for-5 and drove in four runs; Wood had another three-hit and three-RBI day; Sophomore Adeline Ritter went 3-for-5 and had an RBI. Junior Heaven Ross went 2-for-4 (2 RBIs); Foss went 2-for-3 (one RBI); LaRoche went 2-for-2 (one RBI).

MUHS lost 14-2 at Rice on Tuesday, May 12.

The Tigers were scheduled to play in Enosburg on May 14, and in Vergennes on May 16 at 11 a.m. **VERGENNES**

It was a tough week for the Commodores, who took back to back losses. The first came on May 8 at home, when VUHS lost 17-0 to Rice. The next day the Commodores traveled to Enosburg, where they lost 10-1.

VUHS was scheduled to play in Milton on Thursday, May 14.

in that time threw seven strikeouts and only allowed three hits.

When he wasn't sending the ball soaring across home plate, he was crossing it himself. Wright scored both of the Tiger runs that game. He also had two hits.

Up next the Tigers play in Enosburg on Thursday, May 14, then travel to Vergennes on Saturday, May 16, for an 11 a.m. start.

Girls' lax

(Continued from Page 4B) minutes she scored another hat trick, and Doria had one more goal too.

Also that night, Doria had four draw controls, Livesay had four assists and nine draw controls, her sister, freshman Dana Livesay, had two assists, and Conklin had one assist.

After a four day break, the Tigers tallied another win. MUHS defeated MMU, 17-12, in Jericho on Monday. Quinn had another six goals that day, and started scoring for her team in each quarter of the game against MMU.

Just like against CVU, the Tigers took an early lead on MMU. Quinn opened scoring

with a goal about a minute-and-a-half in. The Tigers allowed MMU just one goal in the first quarter, which came after Quinn's first. With about six-and-a-half minutes left, Quinn followed up with her second, bringing the score to 2-1. Sophomore Louisa Orten, Livesay and Conklin each followed up with a goal before the first 12 minutes were up.

In the second, the Tigers built on the 5-1 lead they took in the first. Quinn and Conklin both had another, Dana Livesay and senior Ivy Gates had one and Connors had two, bringing the Tiger tally to 11 goals.

MMU found the back of the net three times that quarter, making the score 11-4 going into half.

MMU made a dent in the gap with three goals in the third. Quinn scored two. Going into the fourth quarter, the score was 13-7.

The final 12 minutes were MUHS's best. The team scored five goals to the Tigers' four. Quinn and Orten scored once, and Connors had two more. The game ended 17-12.

MUHS played a game against D-I South Burlington on Wednesday after deadline.

Before that game, the D-I Ivy Gates had one and Connors had two, bringing the Tiger tally to 11 goals.

Up next MUHS plays a home game against D-I BFA St. Albans on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Boys' lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

days later. The Eagles beat St. Johnsbury, 8-4, on Friday. It was a close 4-3 game going into half. The Eagles ran away with the game in the third quarter, putting four goals in the back of the net.

Pratt had a hat trick and an assist; Clark had another two goals; Painter had two goals and an assist; Edwards had one goal. Halby had two assists.

"The MAV team played a very strong defensive game and limited St J's shots and offensive possessions," Coach Ed Cook said.

The Eagles took their second loss of the season on Tuesday to Harwood. MAV fell 12-4.

Painter scored twice; Pratt scored once; junior Abraham Camara scored once.

Halby had two assists and Edwards had one.

Senior goalie Connor Nason had a whopping 13 saves.

Up next for the Eagles is Colchester, where they head on Thursday, and then they host Hartford on May 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Tigers FALL

The Tigers took a 17-6 home loss to South Burlington on Friday, May 8.

But they came back a day later to win a road game against Essex, 14-4. Senior co-captain Ben DeBisschop and junior Rowdy Malcolm both had hat tricks. DeBisschop also had two assists.

Senior co-captain Logan McNulty had two goals and two assists; sophomore Evan Northrup had one goal and one assist; junior Brady Lloyd had two goals and one assist.

MUHS and Rice were due to take the Fucile Field in Middlebury on Wednesday after deadline.

On tap for the Tigers is an away game against Champlain Valley Union on May 15 at 4:30 p.m.

The Tiger, Redhawk matchup will be a repeat of last year's Division I semifinal, when CVU beat MUHS 12-5.

Though the Redhawks ended the Tigers' 2025 season, MUHS added two losses to CVU's 2025

record.

The history goes further back than that.

In 2024, MUHS was state-runner-up to CVU, and in 2023 MUHS stopped the Redhawks from what would have been a 10th straight D-I championship appearance.

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Eagle softball

(Continued from Page 1B)

slam in the second inning. She went 2-2 at the plate. Ryersbach had a hit that brought in two runs. Sophomore Meg Park went 1-4, bringing in an RBI. Sophomore Madison King had a hit that brought in a run.

Rougier pitched that game, and struck out seven Commodores. She allowed no hits.

Rice heads to Bristol to take on the Eagles on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, May 16, the Eagles head to Milton for a match. **MUHS SOFTBALL**

The MUHS softball team overcame Milton, 14-2, on the Creek Road diamond on Thursday, May 7. The game only lasted five innings. Three was freshman Ava Wood's lucky number that day. She led the team's offense with three hits over the course of four at bats, three RBIs and three runs scored.

Other contributors were:

- Sophomore Lillian Paquette: 3 at bats, 2 runs scored, 1 hit

- Sophomore McKenna Whitney: 4 at bats, 2 runs scored, 1 hit

- Senior Skyler Choiniere: 4 at bats, 3 runs scored, 1 hit

- Sophomore Pema Kerins: 3 at bats, 1 run scored, 2 hits, 3 RBIs

- Junior Tenny LaRoche: 2 at bats, 1 run scored, 1 hit, 1 RBI

- Senior co-captain Brianna Foss: 2 at bats, 1 run scored, 1 hit, 1 RBI

- Sophomore Jocelyn Foster: 2 at bats, 1 run scored

The Tigers dominated against Rutland on May 8. MUHS won 30-1. From the mound, Paquette allowed just two hits the entire game. She struck out five batters. On offense, she went 6-6 and brought in three RBIs.

Choiniere went 6-for-6 and had

Tiger nine win three, drop one to Eagles

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School nine is 5-1 after winning three of their last four games.

The Tigers played three days in a row on May 7, 8 and 9.

Their one blip was at the hands of Mount Abraham on the ninth. The game ended 6-0 in favor of Mt. Abe. The Eagles and Tigers are due to go a second round on

Thursday, May 21, at 4:30 p.m. in Middlebury.

The Tigers beat Milton 7-4 on the seventh, Rutland 2-0 on the eighth, and Missisquoi 14-2 on the 12th.

MUHS's tightest contest of the past week came on the 12th in Middlebury.

That day, junior Tucker Wright was clutch on defense and offense. He pitched all seven innings, and

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Regional Eco & Energy Fair to take place June 13

VERGENNES — The annual eco-fair is just around the corner. Are you interested in meeting local energy businesses, contractors, non-profit groups and municipal energy committees? Would you like to learn more about the work they do in our communities to deliver energy solutions?

If so, then please join the Vergennes, Weybridge and Addison County Regional Energy Committees on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the

Vergennes City Green, 179 Main St.

You'll have a chance to meet dozens of vendors who specialize in energy technologies such as heat pumps, solar panels and EVs, who have expertise in home weatherization and energy efficiency, and who are spearheading retrofits of municipal buildings and updates to their towns' energy plans. There will also be food vendors, a raffle and music to keep us energized as well.

Annual town-wide yard sale on tap

LINCOLN — The Lincoln Historical Society is participating in the Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, May 23 and will be accepting donations at the museum on Tuesday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

They are looking for vintage treasures and antiques, household items, toys and collectibles. Items should be clean and in good working order. They cannot accept clothes, bedding, electronics, baby car seats or bicycle helmets. If you have questions, send an email to lincolnvhistory@gmail.com.

The Lincoln Library invites young creators to an afterschool craft session on Wednesday, May 20 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. Join Jacqueline and Wendy for a hands-on afternoon dedicated to the colors of the season. Participants will learn to craft vibrant paper flowers and other spring-themed decorations, perfect for celebrating the warmer weather.

In partnership with the Lincoln Historical Society, the library is hosting a new exhibit titled "Lincoln's Natural Disasters," now on display through the end of June. The showcase serves as the visual centerpiece for the town's Resilient Communities Series, bridging the gap between historical record and modern-day climate resilience.

The exhibit focuses on two pivotal moments in Lincoln's history: the great freshet of July

Lincoln

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

NEWS

1830—where the New Haven River surged 25 feet above its banks—and the hurricane of 1938, which left a trail of destruction at Burnham Hall and the library strikingly similar to the 1998 flood.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the past through a collection of firsthand accounts, rare photographs, maps and archival newspaper clippings.

The Lincoln Library will host its Annual Plant and Book Sale Extravaganza on Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Held in conjunction with the Town-Wide Yard Sale, this event serves as the library's premier fundraising effort of the year.

Gardeners can browse a wide selection of greenery, including perennials, annuals, herbs, culinary plants and indoor houseplants. In keeping with the library's recent focus on biodiversity, the sale will also feature a variety of pollinator-friendly plants to help residents bolster local ecosystems.

Beyond the garden, the event offers a festival atmosphere with live music, a bake sale, face painting and dedicated children's activities. There will also be on-site tool and

(See Lincoln, Page 7B)



may 14 THURSDAY

Ilsley Classic Film Club: "The Seventh Seal" in Middlebury. Thursday, May 14, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join the Ilsley Classic Film Club's "Global 1950s" series for a free screening of Ingmar Bergman's acclaimed 1957 film "The Seventh Seal." Free admission and popcorn.

ACSD's Nelly Collazo about special education in Middlebury. Thursday, May 14, 5:30–7 p.m., MUHS Library. Join the Addison Central Special Education Parent Advisory Council to meet Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services Nelly Collazo, PhD, and learn more about her work supporting students with disabilities in ACSD schools.

"Little Women" in Middlebury. Thursday, May 14, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater in the Maloney Plaza. THT's Young Company presents a newly adapted production of Louisa May Alcott's classic coming-of-age story following the March sisters as they navigate family, friendship, ambition and identity. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

may 15 FRIDAY

Otter View Park garlic mustard and poison parsnip removal in Middlebury. Friday, May 15, 8:30 a.m., parking lot at corner of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join MALT volunteers and staff in caring for Otter View Park by helping pull garlic mustard and poison parsnip. To sign up or for more information contact Holly Fulton at holly@maltvt.org.

Emerging Artists Exhibit opening reception in Bristol. Friday, May 15, 4–6 p.m., Art on Main, Main Street. Celebrate the opening of the exhibit featuring work by Mt. Abraham students at this community reception. Free. Exhibit remains on view through May 28.

Community supper in New Haven. Friday, May 15, 5–6:30 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, 91 Town Hill Rd. The New Haven Ladies Union hosts a free casual community meal with spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, beverages and dessert. Gluten-free options available. No take-out.

Fish fry in Middlebury. Friday, May 15, 5–7 p.m., VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Haddock or butterfly shrimp served with baked potato or fries and coleslaw. Eat in or take out. Proceeds benefit veterans programs. \$16 per person. Open to the public. 802-388-9468.

Lincoln Cooperative Preschool spring auction and music. Friday, May 15, 6–9 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. A lively evening fundraiser featuring a mostly silent auction with select live-auction items, plus live music by Sunday Morning (and possibly the preschool choir). Bid on experiences, local art, gift baskets, memberships and more, with a cash bar and snacks by donation. Suggested \$10 donation at the door. All proceeds support a new ventilation system for the preschool and ongoing programming. Donations and questions: Elizabeth Keenan, 413-250-9334 or ekeenan00@gmail.com.

Trivia night in Cornwall. Friday, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, 2629 Route 30. Join the Cornwall Recreation Committee and the Vermont Historical Society for an evening of trivia with prizes, featuring questions on Vermont history and a special category for Cornwall trivia in honor of the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Questions are designed for all ages and experience levels. Free.

Bixby Library's Depths of Discovery Gala in Vergennes. Friday, May 15, 7 to 11 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. Come join an extraordinary voyage beneath the waves for this year's highly anticipated Depths of Discovery Gala. Inspired by "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne, this annual fundraiser invites you to descend into wonder beneath the library's storied stained-glass dome in the magnificent marble rotunda. There will be nautical melodies by The Grift, dancing on the ocean floor, local bites & libations, deep-sea treasures in a silent auction and timeless memories in a photobooth. Tickets to last year's Secret Garden Gala sold out quickly—don't miss your chance to experience this year's undersea adventure! Buy tickets online at tinyurl.com/BixbyGala2026 or visit the Circulation Desk.

may 16 SATURDAY

New Haven Community Library Friends book & bake sale. Saturday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.– noon, New Haven Community Library. Annual fundraiser featuring books, baked goods and coffee.

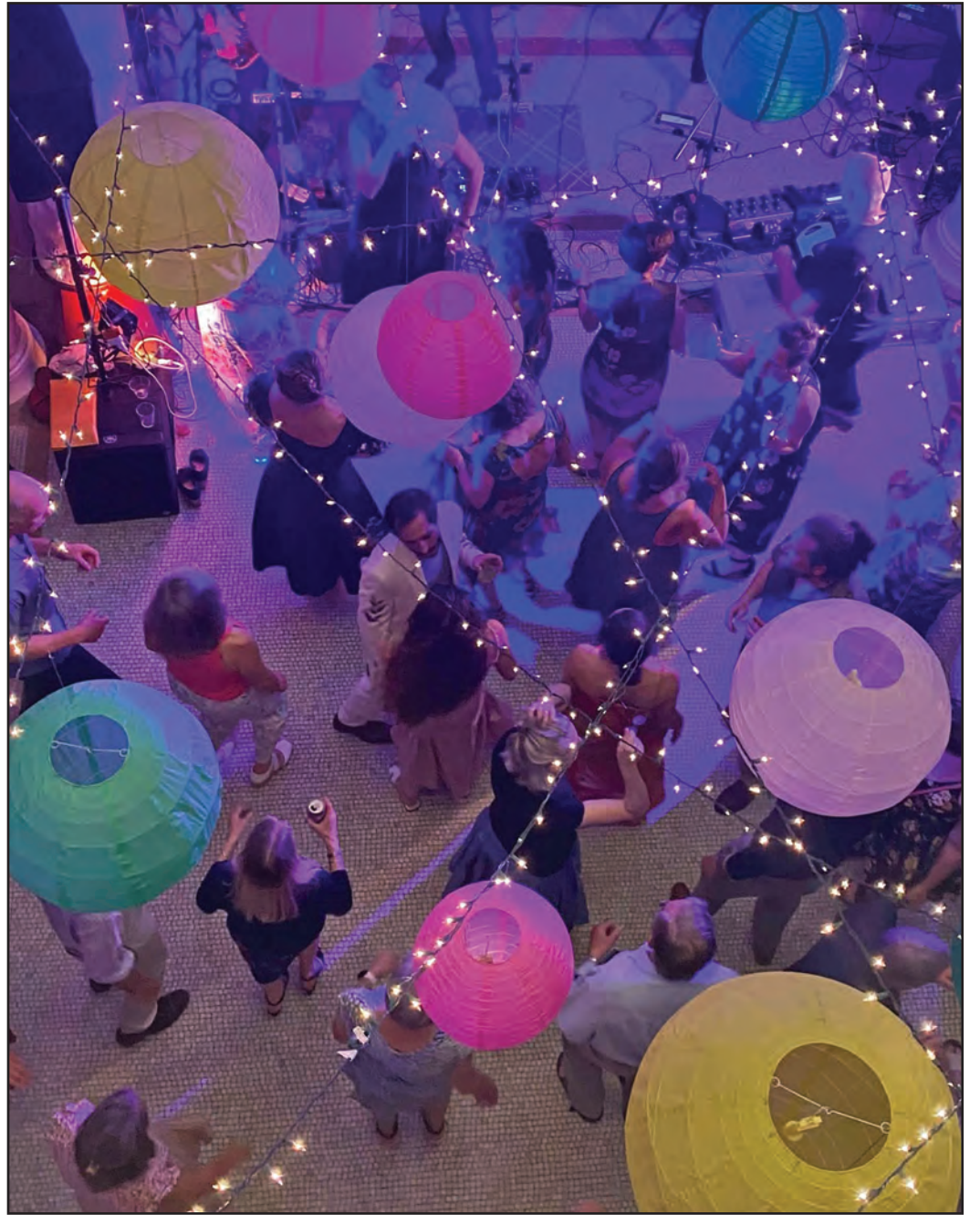
Annual Med47 Foundation Garden Shoppe in Bristol. Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., 3319 South Route 116. Opening weekend for the annual garden shop fundraiser that runs through June 14. Vegetable plants, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, berry plants, succulents and garden décor. Proceeds support community programs and scholarships through the Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation. Direct questions to: med47foundation@gmail.com.

Clean Out Closet Sale in Vergennes. Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. St. Peter's Resale Closet offers a "take what you want, pay what you can" sale featuring gently used clothing for men, women and children, household goods, books and more. The Resale Closet will also be open with regular-priced items. Proceeds benefit community charity partners.

Workshop: Make your own household cleaners in Salisbury. Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 853 Maple St. Join Mirjam and Alissa for a hands-on workshop using basic, non-toxic household products like vinegar and baking soda to make safe, simple, and less expensive cleaners for the home. Free.

Fiber Crafts Collective in East Middlebury. Saturday, May 16, 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. More info at artfulsouventures@gmail.com.

Vermont Homeschool Alternative Prom 2026 in Brandon. Saturday, May 16, 6–10 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Fourth



Bixby Gala

LOW LIGHTS AND high energy set the scene at last year's annual fundraiser for the Bixby Library in Vergennes. Don't miss the oceanic opulence of this year's gala inspired by Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" this Friday, May 15, from 7–11 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Bixby Library

annual statewide free prom for homeschool and alternative school youth ages 12-19. Potluck event with music, dancing, free prom photos and accessible spaces. No RSVP required. More info on Front Porch Forum or by contacting harmonyjvaneaton@gmail.com.

may 17 SUNDAY

Stitch & Spin in Lincoln. Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Russell Memorial Library. Bring knitting, embroidery, crocheting, or other fiber arts projects for a social crafting session with fellow makers in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

Champlain Valley Fiddler's Club jam in Middlebury. Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Middlebury VFW. Come listen to people sing and play. If you know anyone who plays fiddle or any instrument, have them join us. Refreshments available. 50/50 raffle and door prize. Come with your dancing shoes on.

Naturalist Craig Zondag's Guided SpIN Walk in Ripton. Sunday, May 17, 1:30 p.m., Spirit In Nature Paths, Goshen Rd. off Route 125. One-hour guided walk along the Spirit In Nature paths to observe plants, birds, and animals as they celebrate the coming of spring. Meet at the SpIN parking lot. Note: paths are not handicap-accessible due to uneven surfaces and tree roots. SpIN Annual Meeting follows; all are welcome to attend one or both. More info at spiritinnature.org/new-events.

Learn to Save a Life first aid training in Middlebury. Sunday, May 17, 2–4 p.m., Middlebury Regional EMS, 55 Collins Drive. Kick off National EMS Week with this free hands-on class covering CPR basics, AED use, stroke recognition and bleeding control. Reserve your spot: middlebury911.org/learntosavealife.

Spirit In Nature Annual Meeting and Eco-Spirit Award in Ripton. Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m., Ripton Community House, 1283 Vermont Route 125. All are welcome to attend SpIN's Annual Meeting to hear a report on recent path, fence and bridge improvements. The 2026 Eco-Spirit Award will be presented to Mark Nelson of "Standing Trees," who will give a talk. More info at spiritinnature.org/new-events.

Benefit Motorcycle Ride for Williams Syndrome in Hinesburg. Sunday, May 17, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Champlain Valley Union High School. Freedom Vermont V-Twins Cruisers hosts a scenic benefit ride through Hinesburg and Huntington to support local families and the Williams Syndrome Association. Registration begins at 9 a.m., ride departs at 11 a.m. Lunch, prizes and a 50-50 raffle included. \$20 riders, \$10 passengers, \$10 non-rider lunch. Direct questions to Andy Maille at 802-458-1963 or andyma25@yahoo.com.

may 18 MONDAY

Monday night bingo in Middlebury. Monday, May 18, VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. A \$1,000 jackpot with "quickies" starting at 6 p.m. and regular bingo beginning at 7 p.m. The kitchen is open from 5–6:30 p.m. with a regular menu, daily special and homemade desserts. Benefits veterans programs.

Vergennes City Band rehearsals. Monday, May 18, 7–9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Instrumentalists of all experience levels are invited to join the community band rehearsals. For more information, contact Sue O'Daniel at sodaniel27@gmail.com.

may 19 TUESDAY

Bianca Stone on Ruth Stone: A Vermont Poet Laureate Lecture in Middlebury. Tuesday, May 19, 6 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Studio, 72 Merchants Row. Current Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone explores the poetry and legacy of her grandmother, former Vermont Poet Laureate Ruth Stone, through readings and discussion. Bar opens at 5 p.m. Pay what you can for admission.

may 20 WEDNESDAY

Afterschool craft session in Lincoln. Wednesday, May 20, 3–4:30 p.m., Lincoln Library. Join Jacqueline and Wendy for a hands-on afternoon of seasonal creativity focused on the colors of spring. Participants will craft vibrant paper flowers and other spring-themed decorations. Free.

Sheldon Museum opening day celebration in Middlebury. Wednesday, May 20, 4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Celebrate the start of the "26-27" season with six new exhibits and refreshed parlors in the historic Judd-Harris House. Light refreshments and live music. Free admission.

Topic Talk: "The Six Wives of Henry VIII" in Middlebury. Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library NBM Meeting Room. Join this discussion group for Alison Weir's "The Six Wives of Henry VIII." Copies are available at the library's circulation desk.

Mayor Tela's Super Crunchy Hippie Jam Band Benefit Concert for Homeward Bound in Middlebury. Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m., Marquis Theatre, 65 Main St. This fundraiser for Homeward Bound features Burlington-based Phish tribute supergroup Satan's Dogs and Noble Hierarch. \$15 at the door; cash preferred. Bar and food available.

may 21 THURSDAY

Cookbook club in New Haven. Thursday, May 21, 6 p.m., New Haven Community Library. Cookbook Club features recipes from cookbooks by Naomi Duguid in a potluck-style gathering open to all. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish and the cookbook used.

Bristol Historical Society Meeting. Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m., Howden Hall, 19 West St. Monthly meeting featuring Elissa Cobb presenting "Only Ever One Black Man; Reconnecting to Bristol's Lost Black Community—Part 1," sharing research on Black families in Bristol's history. A short business meeting follows. Open to the public and accessible.

Monthly figure drawing at Aleshire Gallery in Brandon. Thursday, May 21, 7–9 p.m., Aleshire Gallery, 29 Union St. Artists of all experience levels are invited to this facilitated open drawing session featuring a live model, with short and long poses in a focused, non-instructional setting. \$20. Bring your own materials. Limited to 10 participants. Reserve by contacting Phil Bowman at qbird8@gmail.com or 802-222-5673.

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Eagle Scouts honored at the Statehouse

VERMONT — On April 24, The Statehouse recognized the Vermont BSA Eagle Scout Class of 2025. Sarah Tolgyesi, one of the only three girls in the 48-person class, is the first female Eagle Scout from Addison County.

Sarah hails from Cornwall and has been a member of Middlebury Troop 536 since it was reactivated by Al Thalen. When Thalen, an Eagle himself, suggested pursuing BSA's highest achievement, Sarah never looked back. She has been very active with her troop and attended every campout, adventure and parade. When volunteers were needed to present at the Middlebury Memorial Day Services, Sarah shared the stage with Bernie Sanders and recited "In Flanders Fields" for the assembled audience.

For her Eagle project, Sarah, with help from her troop and family, directed the installation of sections of split rail fencing along the Interfaith Path within The Spirit in Nature Trail system in Ripton. This ambitious effort involved carrying 60 pieces of heavy lumber and tools over half a mile along rugged trails and digging 30 inches into the ground to place each of the 25 posts. Fortunately, Sarah had experience lugging heavy items along uneven trails after serving for two summers as a Guide in Training for the Girl Scout Canoe Base in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota (just down the lake from BSA's Northern Tier).

With her Eagle project completed, Sarah focused on finishing her remaining required badges before her 18th birthday. After a successful Eagle Board of Review headed by Connie LaRose, Sarah was informed that she was LaRose's first female Eagle. This is a significant milestone since LaRose has 48 years as an active Scout volunteer, led nearly 70 Eagle Boards, chairs the advancement committee for Ethan Allen District and serves as an assistant scoutmaster.

While Sarah has earned the distinction of being the first Eagle in her family and first female Eagle in the county, she owes much to Al Thalen and Connie LaRose for their support and unwavering dedication to Scouts.



VERMONT EAGLE SCOUT class of 2025, top, was honored at the Statehouse recently for its volunteer work and contributions to local communities. Cornwall's Sarah Tolgyesi, pictured directly above with Connie LaRose and others, is one of only three girls in the 46-person Vermont BSA Eagle Scout class, as well as the first female Eagle from Addison County.

Photos by Kristianne Tolgyesi



Porter Medical Center welcomes new Board of Trustees member

MIDDLEBURY — Taylor Morley has joined University of Vermont Health-Porter Medical Center's board of trustees. Morley brings extensive experience in health care leadership, system transformation and community-based behavioral health to the hospital's 13-member volunteer board.

"Taylor's strong record of leadership in health care and experience serving communities throughout Porter's primary service area will be a tremendous asset to our board," said Board Chair Kim Farnham. "She understands the challenges facing behavioral health and community-based care, and brings a thoughtful, person-centered approach that directly supports Porter's core mission of caring for communities and improving the health and wellness of people throughout Addison County."

Morely currently serves as executive director of Counseling Services of Addison County, where she provides strategic leadership for a comprehensive continuum of mental health, substance use, youth and family, developmental and crisis services that reach nearly 2,000 individuals each year. She previously served as chief operating officer and general

counsel for Victory Programs Inc. in Boston.

"Taylor's reputation for collaborative leadership and innovative problem-solving, and her deep commitment to community partnerships directly supports Porter's ongoing work keeping high-quality, patient-centered care close to home," said Bob Ortmyer, president and chief operating officer of Porter Medical Center.

"I am honored to join the Porter Medical Center Board of Trustees," Morley said. "As someone who has spent my career working at the intersection of health care, behavioral health and community services, I value the role Porter plays in supporting the health and well-being of Addison County through accessible, affordable and community-centered care. I look forward to sharing my insight and experience as we continue to respond to the changing needs of patients and communities."

University of Vermont Health - Porter Medical Center is a 25-bed critical access hospital and 98-bed long-term care facility that has been the trusted health care provider for more than 32,000 residents of Addison County and beyond for more than a century.

Lincoln

(Continued from Page 6B)

knife sharpening to get your garden ready for the season.

A highlight of the day is the raffle, featuring gift baskets, certificates and goods donated by local businesses. Tickets are available at the library for \$2 each or three for \$5. Participants can choose which prizes to vie for by placing their tickets in designated

jars for specific items.

Whether you are looking to refresh your garden, stock up on summer reading or simply enjoy the music and food, this extravaganza is a great way to support the library's year-round programming and services.

Until next time...There's Power In Looking Silly And Not Caring That You Do.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Otter Valley Union High School

Harmony Miller

Harmony Miller is Otter Valley Union High School's latest Student of the Week. She lives in Pittsford with her parents and two younger sisters.

At school, Harmony is an honor roll student who most enjoys being around people with diverse personalities and backgrounds. History and math are her favorite subjects. Her favorite teachers are Ms. Kourtney Penatzer in science and Mrs. Hollie Kretzer in English and language arts because they both have pushed her to do her best.

Harmony was an intern at Lothrop School this school year. She supported learners in Mrs. Sadowski's first grade class. Supervisors said Harmony works incredibly well with the kids, and they loved having her in the room. They praised her communication skills and said she became a valuable helper for the teacher.

When not at school, Harmony babysits her sisters, reads, listens to music, and plays video games.

Harmony has some advice for younger students. "Push yourselves out of your comfort zone every once in a while," she said. "I think it helps to learn about yourselves from these experiences, but also get a chance at something that could benefit you in the future."

Harmony plans on attending Keene State College after graduation.

Everyone at OVUHS wish her all the best!



Harmony Miller
OVUHS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Morgan Larocque

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Morgan Larocque as our Student of the Week. Morgan is from Lincoln and has an older sister and four dogs.

Morgan has earned Highest Academic Honors every semester throughout high school and was accepted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Hannaford Career Center. Her favorite classes include Money Matters and AP Calculus, as math has always been one of her strongest subjects. She explained that she likes how it "has structure and definite answers and algorithms." When asked about her favorite teacher, Morgan shared that Mr. Foster stands out because "he is always cheerful and enjoyable to be around. He makes his classes fun and engaging, making it easier to learn, and he is very easy to approach when help is needed."

Along with her academic achievements, Morgan has been highly involved in athletics. She has served as captain of the varsity softball team during both her junior and senior years and was awarded First Team Lake Division and First Team All State for second base in softball. Reflecting on her school experience, Morgan shared that she is especially grateful for "the bonds and friendships formed from playing a school sport and the sense of accomplishment to be a part of a championship team."

Outside of school, Morgan works year-round at Rack 'N Reel, where she helps manage store inventory and products, and during the summer she also works at Goodies Snack Bar. In her spare time, she enjoys going to the gym, barrel racing, fishing, and spending time with friends.

Reflecting on her time at Mt. Abe, Morgan says, "The most important lesson I have learned throughout high school is that it's OK to accept help and to lean on the people that are there for you." She also encourages underclassmen to "do it all, keep yourself busy, and make sure to enjoy your high school years because it goes by way too fast."

Looking ahead, Morgan plans to attend O'Brien's Aveda Institute to complete their nine-month cosmetology program. We are grateful for Morgan's contributions to the Mt. Abe community and wish her continued success in the future.



Morgan Larocque
MAUHS

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

Congratulations, Harmony and Morgan

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Philosurveying.com • References available

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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).

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 vergennefreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

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

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

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 10B + 11B.

Help Wanted

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 texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Services

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

Services

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

J LYNN PAINTING Spring is here time to get your homes looking great again! Interior, exterior, decks, fencing. Give me a call for a free quote, 802-771-5202

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 Ian @802-349-7871

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



TOWN OF ADDISON, VERMONT
1761

**HELP WANTED
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Town of Addison is seeking a full-time **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer**. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week, requiring a flexible schedule which may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime during certain times of the year. The applicant must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test and understand that the position also includes random drug and alcohol testing. Applicant must possess a current valid CDL license, have a clean driving record and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours. Experience with a truck, bucket loader and road grader preferred. Manual labor and some heavy lifting is required. The knowledge and ability to do mechanical repairs is a plus. The job includes starting hourly wage of \$28.50 and a benefit package including vacation, health insurance and IRA.

No phone applications, please. Send resume and references to:

**Town of Addison
65 VT RTE 17W
Addison, VT 05491
Attn: Selectboard**

You may call the Road Commissioner with any questions at (802) 759-2570. Applications can be found online on our website, addisonvt.gov, or by contacting the Road Commissioner or Town Clerk's Office at (802) 759-2020

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

HOUSEHOLD GOODS for sale on the driveway @ 22 Pine St. Bristol 8am-4pm Saturday, May 23rd. Furniture, Kitchen items, Vintage pyrex, mason jars, bicycles, sports equipment, even 2 clawfoot tubs! Major cleanout of multiple households!

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

HUGE PLANT SALE Many perennials (over 50 varieties), native pollinator plants, fruits, trees, bushes (including peonies, forsythia and hydrangea), herbs (culinary and medicinal), vegetables, hanging house plants, annuals. All grown naturally. Friday, May 15 (9-5), Saturday, May 16, 9-1. Just past 399 Jockey Lane, Monkton.

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!

Help Wanted



AUDET'S BLUE SPRUCE FARM
BRIDPORT, VERMONT

Full-Time Farm Position

Blue Spruce Farm is adding a full-time team member this spring. This position involves learning and performing routine chores around the barns and working with animals as part of our daily farm operations.

Ideal candidates will:
Be comfortable operating a skid steer
Be willing to learn how to operate a variety of farm equipment
Be able and willing to drive farm trucks
Hold a valid, clean driver's license

If you're reliable, eager to learn, and enjoy hands-on farm work, we'd love to hear from you.

To Apply:
Call Nick Audet at 802-349-5416 or email bsf@gmavt.net

BLUE SPRUCE FARM
1796 VERMONT RTE. 22A, BRIDPORT
WWW.BLUESPRUCEFARMVT.COM

**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



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.

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Availability to work weekends is a MUST.

Cashier - Customer Service
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Up to 40 hours per week.
Wage commensurate with experience.

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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.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Volunteer Drivers Needed



RSVP of Addison County is searching for volunteer drivers to help Tri-Valley Transit. Flexible schedule to fit a busy life. There are both local and long-distance trips.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver give us a call today at 802-468-7056




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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Addison Independent
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DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

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 - Personals For Sale Cars
 - Services Public Meetings** Trucks
 - Free** For Rent SUVs
 - Lost 'N Found** Want to Rent Snowmobiles
 - Garage Sales Wood Heat Boats
 - Lawn & Garden Real Estate Wanted
 - Opportunities Animals Real Estate Wanted
 - Adoption Vacation Rentals
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PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: \$ _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
Internet Listing: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

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.

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

WAITSTAFF NEEDED for busy family restaurant. Nights and weekends a must. Apply in person, Rosie's Restaurant Rte 7 South in Middlebury

For Sale

RABBIT HOUND 4 year old male beagle runs cottontail and hare. Contact Tim 802-353-6020

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

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.

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

LEICESTER Comfortable three bedroom home, two bath, walk-in shower and tub, washer/dryer, heat and electricity included, private parking, appliances plowing mowing and rubbish included. Furnished, non negotiable. For specifics call 802-247-5280

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

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

SALISBURY BASEMENT APT Fully furnished with internet, washer/dryer, one bedroom. No pets, no smoking, and no vaping. Available June 1st, \$1450 a month. 802-238-6497

For Rent

SUMMER/FALL RENTAL PLAIN waterfront camp. 2 bedroom/dorm style loft sleeping area. 2 bathrooms (shower, no tub). Washer, dryer, mini split heat/cool. Beautiful location off Rte 17 South Starksboro-privacy. Contact: 508-246-0609, owner

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.

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.

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 ads can be found on Pages 10B + 11B.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN INVITATION TO BID SEALED BIDS FOR:

Furnishing and placing asphalt on South St. and Munger St. will be received at the New Haven Town Offices at 78 North Street, New Haven, Vermont 05472 until 3:30 pm on June 2, 2026, and will be publicly opened at the Selectboard meeting on June 2, 2026 on or after 7:00 pm.

Specifications for bidders and bid forms may be obtained without charge at the New Haven Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472; or on our website www.newhavenvt.com

The Town of New Haven, VT reserves the right to waive any informalities in, or to reject any and all bids, or to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Haven.

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

The ACSD Early Education team will be offering spring screenings to preschool children from Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge!

The ACSD Early Education Program provides services to children identified as having disabilities or delays in meeting developmental milestones. We also collaborate with area preschool and childcare programs to address the needs of our local preschool children. Screenings help to identify children who would benefit from additional support before entering kindergarten.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's developmental progress, your district early education program is offering screening for children ages 3-5 who are not enrolled in kindergarten. Screening is conducted in a playful environment, and provides information on your child's speech and language development, motor, social and early academic skills.

Two Options to Participate:

Join us at **Bridport Central School**, 3442 VT 22A, Bridport on **Friday, May 15 or 22, 2026.**

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Linda Barrett 802-758-2331

OR

Join us at **Mary Hogan Elementary School**, 201 Mary Hogan Drive, in Middlebury on **May 8, 15, 22, 2026**

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Deb Martin at 802-382-1761.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING

The Ferrisburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearings on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**, beginning at **7PM**, at the Ferrisburgh Town Office at 3279 US Route 7 and remotely via Zoom:

Application Number 26-059: After-the-fact approval for residential accessory structures including a timber-framed pavilion, a storage shed, & a raised play platform, including waivers for side & rear setbacks; Applicant: Laura Pierce; 217 Ferry Road; Parcel ID 08/01/31; Conservation District (CON-25); Conditional Use & Waivers.

Application Number 26-060: Pop-up mobile plant store; Applicant: Jane Newkirk; 7056 US Route 7; Parcel ID 05/01/11.1; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Conditional Use.

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/8865689345?pwd=jMUHXfNgYwYjA0YkYySjUeV0h9S0d06g.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 = 886 5689 9345 / Passcode = 383534

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADOPTION OF THE ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLAN

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will hold a second hybrid public hearing on the draft 2026-2034 Addison County Regional Plan. This meeting shall be held on June 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

In person meetings will be hosted at the ACRPC Office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury VT 05753. To attend via Microsoft Teams / Virtual Platform:

Join the Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 237 317 794 062 4
Passcode: DR6X4dP7
Dial in by phone +1 347-991-8960, enter Pin ID: 367383384#

These hearings are being held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4348 and §4352. This notice is provided pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4444. Per Vermont Statute, ACRPC seeks general comments and specific comments with respect to the extent to which the plan is consistent with the goals established in 24 VSA § 4302, Vermont's Planning goals and whether the enhanced energy portion of the plan complies with the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4348(a)(3) and §4352(c).

The Addison County Regional Plan examines the economic, social, and environmental factors that shape and support growth and development in the Addison County Region. It serves as a guide for decision-makers, a vision for the region's future, and an action plan to address key regional issues. The Plan also will be used as regulatory review criteria in Act 250 and Section 248 proceedings. All areas within the jurisdiction of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission are affected.

In addition, the draft Regional Plan incorporates revisions required by state legislation enacted in 2024, including the following elements:

- A Regional Future Land Use Map identifying newly designated future land use areas.
- A Map of Areas Eligible for the State Designation Program, which can provide tax credits and other incentives to support revitalization and development.
- A Map of Areas Subject to Tier 1A and Tier 1B Act 250 Jurisdiction.
- Municipal Housing Targets, specifying the number of new housing units needed by 2030 and 2050, as determined by the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

ACRPC proposes the following Chapters of its Plan. It also proposes to adopt the entire Plan. Accordingly, all Chapters of the Plan will be subject to discussion at the public hearing. Chapters include:

- INTRODUCTION**
- CHAPTER 1:** Natural Resources
- CHAPTER 2:** Energy
- CHAPTER 3:** Transportation
- CHAPTER 4:** Community Infrastructure
- CHAPTER 5:** Population and Housing
- CHAPTER 6:** Economic Development
- CHAPTER 7:** Flood Resilience
- CHAPTER 8:** Future Land Use & Substantial Regional Impact
- CHAPTER 9:** Compatibility
- CHAPTER 10:** Equity, Benefits, and Burdens
- ASSOCIATED APPENDICES and GLOSSARY**

Copies of the proposed plan are available from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury Vermont 05753, or online at www.acrpc.org. For further information, please contact Adam Lougee at (802) 388-3141 or alougee@acrpc.org.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

Addison County Clerk (1)	Middlebury College (1)
ACRPC (1)	New Haven (2)
ACSD (1)	New Haven Evergreen Cemetery (1)
Bristol (1)	Starksboro (4)
Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery (1)	State of Vermont (1)
Ferrisburgh (1)	Vorsteveld Farm (1)
Goshen (1)	West Addison Lake View Cemetery (1)
Leicester (1)	
Lincoln (1)	

TOWN OF STARKSBORO REQUEST FOR BIDS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ADA-COMPLIANT ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY TO THE STARKSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Town of Starksboro is accepting bids from landscape architects and design professionals to design and construct a safe, sustainable and functional walkway from the parking lot to the entrance of the Starksboro Public Library located in the historic Town Hall Building located at 2827 Rte 116, Starksboro, VT.

Bid specs and submission details available at www.starksborovt.org/bids or email [kantoketcham@gmail.com](mailto:kantosketcham@gmail.com). Proposals must be submitted to the Town by Friday, June 12th.

TOWN OF LINCOLN WEBSITE: LINCOLNVERMONT.ORG NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF UNIFORM MUNICIPAL EXCESS WEIGHT PERMIT CONDITIONS ORDINANCE

On 5/5/2026, the Selectboard of the Town of Lincoln, Vermont, adopted a "Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit Conditions Ordinance". This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of the adoption and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove this adoption.

The Town of Lincoln's Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit Conditions Ordinance establishes rules for issuing excess-weight vehicle permits to support local commerce while protecting town roads and bridges from damage and ensuring public safety. The ordinance outlines conditions, restrictions, and enforcement measures needed to regulate heavy weight vehicle use, maintain vital transportation infrastructure, and balance business needs with responsible stewardship of public highways.

The full text of the Ordinance may be examined at the Lincoln Town office at 62 Quaker St, Lincoln, Vermont and may be examined during regular office hours.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove an ordinance adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the Ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the Ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit Conditions Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Trish Waugh, Town Administrator at 62 Quaker St., Lincoln, Vermont 05443, or by calling 802-453-4502 during regular office hours.

TOWN OF BRISTOL NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of the real estate in the Town of Bristol, in the County of Addison, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that real estate taxes assessed by the Town of Bristol for the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024-2025 and 2025/2026 property tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid upon the following described real estate in the Town of Bristol as indicated below, to wit:

Steven P. Bright: Delinquent 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Property Taxes

Being .46 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 100 Mountain Street, Bristol, Vermont, and being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Steven P. Bright and Carol A. Nienstedt in a Warranty Deed from Paul A. Neil dated November 2, 2007, and recorded in the Bristol Land Records in Book 125 at Page 133. Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed from Carol A. Nienstedt to Steven P. Bright dated August 4, 2022, and recorded in the Bristol Land Records in Book 175 at Page 427. (Parcel I.D. #215016).

Travis C. Manning: Delinquent 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024-2025 and 2025/2026 Property Taxes

Being .40 acre of land, more or less, with mobile home and any and all improvements thereon, located at 91 Vincent Drive, Bristol, Vermont, and being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Travis C. Manning in a Quit Claim Deed from Bobbie Jo Sawyer and Richard Anthony Sawyer dated April 27, 2016, and recorded in the Bristol Land Records in Book 149 at Page 439. (Parcel I.D. #090240).

Barry O'Connor: Delinquent 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Property Taxes

Being 16.50 acres of land, more or less, with any and all improvements thereon, located on North 116 Road in Bristol, Vermont, and being all the same lands and premises conveyed to Barry A. O'Connor and Alyce J. O'Connor (now deceased) in an Administrator's Deed from Ezra S. Dike, Administrator of the Estate of John H. O'Connor, also known as Harold O'Connor, dated October 25, 1990, and recorded in the Bristol Land Records in Book 69 at Page 229. (Parcel I.D. #030102).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Bristol Town Clerk's office, a public place in said Town of Bristol on the 14th day of July, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.

ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Bristol do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the titles to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable form of bid payment at the day of tax sale is bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted.

Dated at Bristol, Vermont this 29 day of April, 2026.

Sharon Lucia, Town of Bristol Delinquent Tax Collector

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

The Solid Waste Management Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 26P011

AGENCY: Agency of Natural Resources

CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule revisions prohibit combining source separated food residuals with packaged food residuals; prohibit source separated food residual processing by depackaging machines; create operational requirements for mechanical depackaging facilities (required by Act 170 of 2022); allow development soil disposal outside of lined landfills (Act 69 of 2025); require paper and cardboard recyclables be covered at facilities; increase the amount of slaughterhouse waste that can be processed at medium compost facilities; increase the percentage of allowable paper contamination from 1% to up to 5% in processed glass aggregate; adopted PFAS screening standards for biosolids (already in DEC 2024 policy); expanded recognition of all EPA Part 503 Class A biosolids processes to significantly reduce pathogens alternatives which applies to EQ biosolids produced or imported to Vermont; and added regulations for short paper fiber testing, PFAS screening and tracking where applied. Minor typos were corrected too.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Benjamin Gauthier, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Dr, Davis 3, Montpelier VT 05620 Tele: 802-522-5080 E-Mail: benjamin.gauthier@vermont.gov URL: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid>.

FOR COPIES: Dennis Fekert, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Dr, Davis 3, Montpelier VT 05620 Tele: 802-522-0195 E-Mail: dennis.fekert@vermont.gov.

Public Notices
can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

CORNWALL EVERGREEN CEMETERY
Annual Meeting cancelled for Saturday, May 16 at 7:00 pm. Rescheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Official notice to follow.

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.

NEW HAVEN EVERGREEN CEMETERY
New Haven Evergreen Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held May 27, 2026 at 7pm at the home of Roger Boise - 434 North St.

WEST ADDISON LAKE VIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NOTICE
The West Addison Lake View Cemetery Association will hold their annual cemetery meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 7-8 p.m., at the West Addison Community House.

TOWN OF GOSHEN, VERMONT INVITATION TO BID
Goshen Ripton Road – Installation of French Mattress
Project Location: Goshen-Ripton Road North, adjacent to Stewart's Pond
Project Description: Installation of French Mattress drainage application method following VTrans installation methods. Bid packages can be obtained at the Goshen Town Office, 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733 or through the Town website, www.goshenvt.org. Contact Jeff Cathcart at jcathcart@goshenvt.org or 802-345-9736.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING
Dwyer Haney and Emily Fisher submitted application 26-DRB-02SP for an On-Farm Business Site Plan Review on a 26+- acre parcel #10615 at 685 Dan Sargent Road. The proposed subdivision is in the LDRC district. The Site Plan 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 June 11, 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: May 14, 2026

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING
Taylor and Jake Mendell submitted application 26-DRB-03CU-01SP to amend Conditional Use Approval 17-DRB-06CU to build a processing room addition and obtain Site Plan Review approval for an On-Farm Business. The proposed development is located on a 30.95+- acre parcel #11101 at 760 Tatro Road and is located in the FC district. The Conditional Use and Site Plan 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 June 11, 2026, starting at 6:30 p.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: May 14, 2026

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO. 24-PR-02040 IN RE ESTATE OF MARY HUMPHRIES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the creditors of the Mary Humphries a/k/a Mary Lou Humphries, late of Middlebury, Vermont: Kathryn Cooke has been appointed Administrator of the Estate of Mary Humphries. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the decedent's estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to Kathryn Cooke at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**
Dated: 05/18/26
Kathryn Cooke, Administrator
c/o Kevin E. Brown, Esq.
Langrock Sperry & Wool, LLP
111 South Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT 05753
802 388-6356
kbrown@langrock.com
Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 5/14/26
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

Email your Public Notices to legals@addisonindependent.com and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

PUBLIC NOTICE
The State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management & Prevention Division, has issued Hazardous Waste Emergency Permit No. DEC-HW-EP-26-01 to Middlebury College, located in Middlebury, VT. The Emergency Permits are issued for the purpose of allowing on-site treatment of:

Description	Qty	Hazard Designation	Container size
2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	25 gm
Dicyclopentadiene	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	100 ml
Butyl Ether	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	100 ml
20% Ether/Hexane	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	100 ml
10% Ether/Hexane	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	100 ml
5% Ether/Hexane	1	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	100 ml
1,4-Dioxane	2	Potentially Unstable/Peroxide former	2 lt

Chemcept Inc. will conduct the treatment of these wastes under an approved work plan. After treatment, the containers shall be packaged and transported to a permitted off-site hazardous waste facility for disposal.
The Emergency Permit is effective as of May 25, 2026, and will expire on August 23, 2026. Any questions or requests for further information may be directed to William Sisson of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management & Prevention Division, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 3, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521; (802) 461-6603; william.sisson@vermont.gov.

NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING LARGE FARM CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION
Notice is hereby provided that Vorsteveld Farm LLP in the town of Panton, Vermont has applied to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a Large Farm Construction Permit.
Vorsteveld Farm LLP is proposing the following changes at their farm.
• Construction of animal housing
An informational meeting will be held by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets on May 29, 2026, at 1:00 PM. The meeting will be held virtually through the Microsoft Teams platform. Participants can join by phone or video conference. Participants can remotely call into the meeting with the following:
• Call-in Number: +1 802-828-7667
• Conference ID: 332 533 937#
Participants interested in joining through video conference may contact Mianda.Wood@vermont.gov or (802)585-9363 prior to the day of the meeting to be emailed a link to join the meeting. The purpose of the public informational meeting shall be to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed project.
The public comment period regarding the application closes five business days after the meeting date mentioned above. All comments must be submitted by close of business on June 3, 2026. The request for any application materials is considered a public record request. All inquiries or comments regarding the application or the meeting may be submitted to Mianda Wood at Mianda.Wood@vermont.gov.

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following applications:
1. (26-11 DRB), Application 26-11 DRB of Silver Maple Construction for Sarah & Mark Peluso, 53 Lakeview Drive, Leicester, VT, Parcel 202035, for a Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback variance for the removal and reconstruction of a new 52.5' x 38' x 27' (h) dwelling. The south side of the project encroaches approximately two (2) feet closer to south side property boundary than the existing building.
2. (26-10 DRB), Application 26-10 DRB of Nathan Clark, 13 Hooker Road, Leicester, VT, Parcel 2221141, for Section 2.4.3 D and Section 3.4.1 Conditional Uses Permit for a Home-Based Business for the processing of firewood.
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. Interested individuals must appear at the hearing or present written testimony to appeal any decision of the DRB. Written documents may be sent to the Leicester Town Office, Attn: Zoning Administrator, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733.
Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
May 7, 2026

TOWN OF STARKSBORO, VERMONT WEBSITE: www.starksborovt.org NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ROAD NAMING & ADDRESSING ORDINANCE
On May 5th, 2026, the Selectboard of the Town of Starksboro, Vermont, adopted the Road Naming & Addressing Ordinance. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of these amendments and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove these amendments.
The Starksboro Road Naming & Addressing ordinance creates a uniform system for naming roads and assigning street addresses so emergency responders, mail carriers, town officials, and the public can reliably locate properties. It requires roads serving multiple addressable buildings to have an official town-approved name that is not duplicated or confusingly similar to another road. The town assigns or confirms 911 street numbers using a consistent numbering system based on a property's location and access from the road. Property owners must post address numbers so they are clearly visible from the road. If an existing road name or address causes confusion, especially for emergency services, the town may require it to be changed. The ordinance also supports the placement of road name signs and coordination with municipal records and emergency response systems.
The full text of the Ordinance may be examined at the Starksboro Town office at 2849 VT Route 116 and may be examined during regular office hours.
CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE
Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinance amendments adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the amendments signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the amendments. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the adopted Road Naming & Addressing Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.
PERSON TO CONTACT
Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Steve Rooney, Zoning Administrator at PO Box 91, Starksboro VT 05487, or by calling 802-453-2639 during regular office hours.

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, June 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:
1. Application #2026-DRB-08-SP: Site Plan Review, per Section 334 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, for a proposed 3-family dwelling consisting of an existing dwelling, detached accessory dwelling unit, and newly constructed 40' x 60' storage building with attached accessory dwelling on Parcel #245.5 located on 3409 Main Street in the RA-5 zoning district.
2. Application #2026-DRB-09-CU: Request for conditional use approval per Section 329 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, for a home-based auto repair business on Parcel #804.100 located on 2595 Munger Street in the RA-2 and RA-10 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@qmavt.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: <https://www.newhavenvt.com/>
New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516

Sheriff's deputies stop a speeding car in Leicester

ADDISON COUNTY—Addison County Sheriff's Department deputies tried to pull over a car driven by Mason Bullock, 21, of Leicester on May 5, but Bullock fled speeding away. Deputies located Bullock in Leicester a short time later and arrested him. Authorities cited him for attempting to elude police, driving with a criminally suspended license, negligent driving, reckless endangerment, and giving false information to a police officer. Between May 3 and 9, the Addison County Sheriff's Department completed patrols in multiple towns, stopped 65 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, attempted to serve 24 pieces of civil process around the county, twice provided free car seat inspections for families with a new child safety seat and provided VIN inspections for residents of Orwell and Salisbury. The department also congratulated Deputy Adam Bunde for completing his training and becoming a fully certified deputy. In other recent activity, the sheriff and his deputies:

- On May 4 responded to a report of items dumped along Rotax Road in Monkton. The items were picked up before the deputy arrived.
- On May 5 assisted Middlebury police after they arrested a person on a warrant. The suspect was

taken before a judge and ultimately released from custody.

- On May 5 arrested Victoria Tellier, 34, of Vergennes for driving with a criminally suspended license in Leicester.
- On May 5 assisted Middlebury police on a call.
- On May 5 looked into a complaint of trash that was dumped on Old Jerusalem Road in Leicester. The person responsible was found and the trash was cleaned up.
- On May 6 assigned extra deputies to courthouse duties in Middlebury due to a jury draw.
- On May 7 dealt with dog problem on Middlebrook Road in Ferrisburgh.
- On May 7 cited Asa Vessa, 28, of Vergennes for excessive speed after a deputy pulled him over for traveling at 70 mph in a 40 mph zone on Pearson Road in New Haven.
- On May 8 assisted Vermont State Police with a call in Ferrisburgh.
- On May 8 assisted Middlebury police with a person that was arrested on a warrant in Middlebury. The suspect was taken before a judge and ultimately released from custody.
- On May 8 assisted Middlebury police with a person who was arrested and taken to the courthouse, where a judge released them from custody.
- On May 8 gave a helping hand to Middlebury police looking into a trespassing complaint.
- On May 8 took to jail a person arrested by Middlebury police.
- On May 9 deputies participated in a firearms training at the police academy in Pittsford.
- On May 9 participated in a community event at Kinney Drugs in Middlebury to raise funds for the Children's Miracle Network.
- On May 9 assisted with the removal of over 30 cats from an Addison family that had become overwhelmed by them.

Sheriff's Log

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 5/7/26 & 5/11/26

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Rock Bottom	1230	2.10	\$2583.00
Livingston	1315	2.00	\$2630.00
Westminster	1445	1.98	\$2861.10
Blue Spruce	1215	1.97	\$2393.55
Iroquois Acres	1850	1.95	\$3607.50
Four Hills	1755	1.93	\$3387.85
A. Brisson	1460	1.89	\$2759.40
B. Dykema	1650	1.85	\$3052.50

CALVES		\$
W. Brooks		\$2128.00
A. Dutton		\$2008.50
Barnes B&W		\$1995.00
C. Parmalee		\$1980.00
Vorsteveld		\$1980.00
Sunderland		\$1980.00

Total Beef - 127 Total Calves - 146
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

AUCTIONS

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
OPEN HOUSE: Monday, May 18 from 11AM-1PM

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

ONLINE AUCTION FARM EQUIPMENT (#1747)
AUCTION CLOSSES: Tuesday | May 26 | 10AM
PREVIEW: Tuesday | May 19 | 11AM-1PM
ITEM REMOVAL: Thursday | May 28 | 9AM-12PM
ITEMS LOCATED: Morrisville, VT 05661

The Thomas Hirschak Company presents a Farm Equipment Auction featuring over 25 lots of a solid lineup of haying equipment, field implements, and maple sugaring gear.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

ARTS + LEISURE

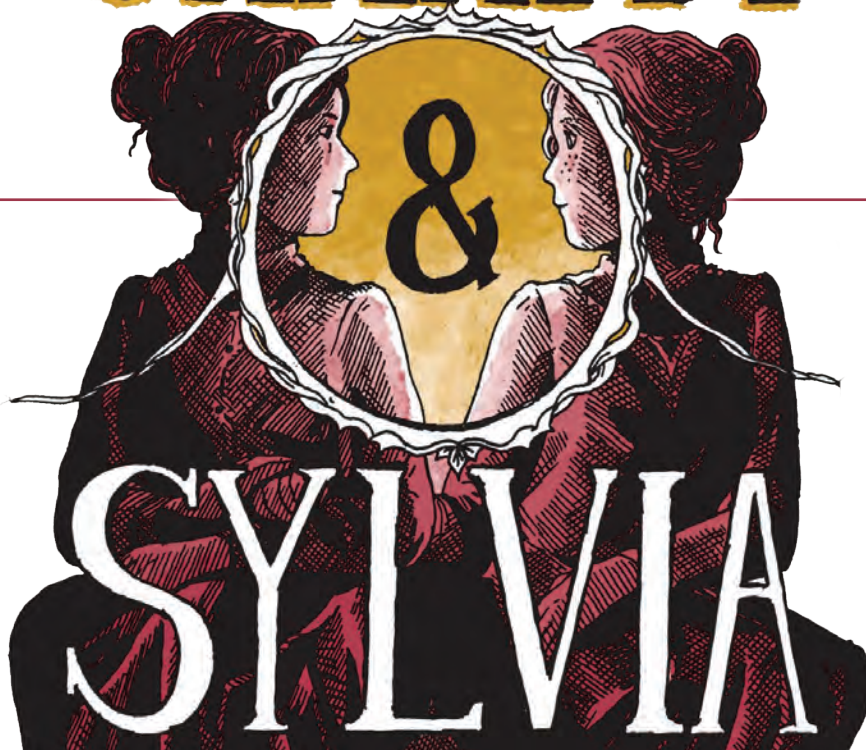
The Addison Independent

May 14, 2026

CHARITY

Tillie Walden, the fifth Vermont Cartoonist Laureate, has spent the past three years researching and crafting the historical graphic novel "Charity & Sylvia."

IMAGE COURTESY OF TILLIE WALDEN



New graphic novel highlights Weybridge history

Pop quiz! Who are Charity and Sylvia? You know, *the* Charity and Sylvia. Here's a hint: they lived in the early 1800s in Weybridge.

If nothing is coming to mind... you should probably keep reading.

By **ELSIE****LYNN PARINI**

If you know Charity Bryant and Sylvia Drake were one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a shared home, tailoring business, and life in Weybridge... you should also keep reading.

Chances are we all have something to learn from way-back-when; and a great place to start is with one of the opening exhibits at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury on May 20.

"Drawing on the Archive" invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and present, pairing the museum's archival and object collections with cartoonist Tillie Walden's highly anticipated graphic novel, "Charity & Sylvia," selected by Vermont Humanities as the 2026 Vermont Reads.

Through original documents, 19th century artifacts, and Walden's artwork, the exhibition reveals not only Charity and Sylvia's story, but also the creative process behind bringing history to life in graphic form.

"I would never have found them

on my own," admitted Walden, who lives with her wife, Emma Hunsinger, (also a cartoonist) and their now three-year-old son in Norwich. "I was named Cartoonist Laureate in Vermont in 2023 — I think I was the fifth one... and I had no idea what to do."

Setting out to talk to anyone and everyone about comics, fate brought her Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, the executive director of Vermont Humanities.

"I took a meeting with him, and he said, 'You have to make a book about Charity & Sylvia.' I said, 'OK, but I don't know who that is!'"

Walden got her hands on a copy of Rachel Hope Cleves's "Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America" (2014), and after just one chapter knew this story needed to be retold as a graphic novel.

She began in the summer of 2023, and through hours, months and years of arduous research and hand-drawing literally "every corner of their life," Walden is set to release her 240-page historical graphic novel "Charity & Sylvia."

"The graphic novel is so wonderful," said Allison Cardon, who's serving as the Mellon Public History Fellow

from 2025-2028 at the Sheldon Museum. "I appreciate the thoroughness of her research and the generosity of her imagination."

Cardon is joined by a curating team who put together "Drawing on the Archive," including Julia Breckenridge, Rev. Caryn Eskridge, Ellery Foutch, Coco Moseley and Walden (of course).

"One thing I really love is that the exhibit is really a conversation between Charity and Sylvia's world, and Tillie's world," noted Moseley, who came on as the executive director of the museum shortly after Walden began her research in 2023. "In Tillie's book the story is told in vignettes... Vignettes are so well suited to archives because archives aren't the complete story either — they are bits and pieces."

Moseley recalled Walden coming to the museum regularly in the summer of 2024.

"She'd be there from the minute the doors opened to the end of the day," Moseley said. "I have been so impressed by her research... She is so curious and capable. She understands the arc of Charity and Sylvia's lives — through faith, love, death and illness... Tillie was able to capture the emotional depth in both the artform and the dialogue — and that is just genius to me. I think she was the perfect person to write this book."

See CHARITY & SYLVIA on page 4

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Ruminations on the Road, again....

A month ago, my stepdaughter P and her partner, C, announced their intention to take a long-deferred six-day vacation, something they have neglected to do in today's over-worked and exhausting ascent into middle age. When I heard they wished to decide what they should plan for their 15-year-old son W, I jumped at the chance to suggest that maybe he and I could spend the week together, preferably free of adult supervision. We could go where W wished and do whatever we decided was worth exploring on a moment-to-moment basis. His mom thought that sounded good and confirmed that W agreed with some enthusiasm.

By **STEVE HARRIS**

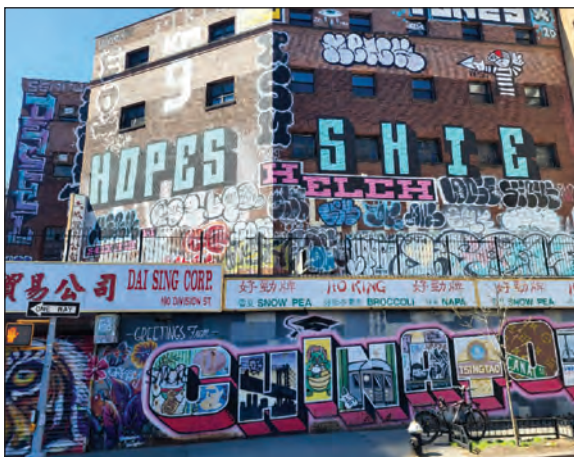
W and I go way back to his beginnings. In the wee hours of his original birth date, I was in the waiting room at the hospital as P went into labor at the birthing center. I had a fresh Boston Globe newspaper (remember newspapers?) and had just been through the headlines in the first section, when I was notified that W had come through his big squeeze just fine. I remember almost skipping through the halls to P's bedside to join her partner C and her mother M, my wife, to celebrate her motherhood. This was a significant and unique occasion for childless me, and I was relieved at the happy health outcomes. I would earn my nickname from the new arrival. "Guppa" was his first attempt to pronounce "Grandpa." It's kind of a family thing.

The next decade witnessed W grow tall and upright, coming through all the stages of early life in a timely and confident manner. He morphed into childhood coincident with my wife and I becoming ardent snowbird travelers and campers, exploring the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of America in our Airstream trailer up to four months each winter. When W was five, he flew to meet us in South Carolina as an unaccompanied minor and spent 10 days living the nomad life where he saw his first surf lines, built his first sandcastle, rode his first beach bike and sat by his first campfire. He would awaken each morning on his daybed at the far end of our 27-foot aluminum tent and call out, "Good morning, everybody, time to rise and shine!" The sincerity of that salutation still makes me tear up.

These intervals became an annual ritual, full of ice cream, dog walks with our pug Gracie, endless card games of War and Go Fish, learning to take a running jump into a



Amtrak Terminal, NYC.



Graffiti, Lower East Side, NYC.



Insectarium at the Natural History Museum, NYC.



Graffiti, Lower East Side, NYC.

campground swimming pool, introducing him to Pepe Le Pew on a compact disc we found in a \$1 bargain bin and too many other sweet memories to keep straight. I cannot recall a tantrum, whine or whimper from any of us during our shared Airstream times together. He was a happy, sunny little boy, providing me with my only relationship with a child I had known since birth.

He spent most of his primary school days locally, where year-round we spent many hours together helping his grandmother in her extensive vegetable gardens, skipping flat stones across the river, building woodland forts or entertaining his school pals. He showed great curiosity and a hunger for learning from the time he could speak. He was reading with comprehension by the time he was six and had read the entire Harry Potter saga by the time he was eight. I introduced him to origami due to my own fascination with paper folding at his age, and his skill and capability shot past anything I ever achieved in very short order. When something caught his interest in school, he would amplify the curriculum on his own at the school library.

His little family moved away in time for his 11th birthday, and since then he has become a black diamond downhill skier, a gifted musician and a highly skilled skateboarder. Our time in each other's orbit has dropped dramatically, and for the last five years I have only seen him for a couple of hours a few times a year. The distance between grandchild and grandfather has widened in customary fashion.

When I heard W was enthusiastic about a week on the road with me, I was thrilled to be given a chance for a reacquaintance well into his teenaged years. I decided to make no arrangements for an itinerary or reservations of any kind before getting together with W the night before our Tuesday morning departure from his home in upstate New York. I used the remaining week to prepare for our time together by reminding myself to listen much and judge little, and share my recipe for a successful adolescence, not at all. The reality is that I don't have a recipe anymore, as I get less confident in the way I negotiated my own path with every passing year. I was further determined not to besmirch the tender memories of our first decade's relationship by offering unsolicited opinions or advice about anything. Once we agreed to conducting a "graffiti and street art survey" of examples down the urban centers of the East Coast, we had our itinerary established and our route predetermined to the extent possible. There were plenty of blanks to fill in on a spur of the moment basis which we worked out together when a decision was required.

Spoiler alert! We had a great time during our

Continued on next page

five nights and six days on the road. We traveled on public transportation and spent two full days in New York City, and another three in Philadelphia. W was the tour leader as much as a passenger. In all, we took four different Amtrak train rides, over fifteen trips on subways, six buses and one cab. W would direct us to the nearest transit stop, where he knew which train or bus we were looking for and could predict the wait with frightening accuracy. We never missed the next available ride and always had our ticket in hand or the turnstile negotiated; we never got on the wrong route or headed off in the wrong direction. All this information was available through W's use of his smartphone. For me, it might as well have been referring to a timetable from Mars printed in Sanskrit. On day two, I dubbed W the "King of Public Transit," with grateful admiration.

The weather cooperated as well. In fact, we had blue skies and the cool days of early spring to enjoy. We saw the season unfold as we traveled south and fold back up again as we returned north. We followed my suggestions for something we might enjoy each morning, leaving adequate time to tour neighborhoods known for concentrated levels of graffiti (see sidebar). The socially main-stream highlights included the Hayden Planetarium where we saw 30 minutes of the most impressive graphics and mind-blowing contemporary images collected from inter-stellar space, we saw Hadestown, a brilliant Broadway musical written and scored by Vermont's own Anais Mitchel from the second row center, we were served our dinners in reserved recliners at a showing

of the film "Hail Mary" and ate our breakfasts at noon in places like the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia, a converted train shed with multiple vendors of delicious street food. We slept when we were tired and ate when we were hungry, and we saw and photographed a great deal of graffiti. We logged over 25 miles of walking, seeing much of Manhattan Island. We were also surprised and delighted at the Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in Center-City, Philadelphia.

In addition to directing our travels by transit, W conducted a five-day crash course on the current styles and meaning of graffiti, answering my naive questions about who is doing this work, what rules they have established within the culture and the practical obstacles to successful envisioning and execution of each piece. He also decided where we would eat; a teenager's dream diet of fat, salt and sugar, combined in clever ways and served in enormous portions and very delicious. We rarely left a crumb on the table, and I gained six pounds in six days, despite the copious walking.

I look upon our time together as a rewarding



GRAFFITI

Warning: The following "authoritative" conclusions are based on scanty evidence and an accelerated introduction to a narrow but deep urban sub-culture. They are presented here in the spirit of an open mind and a judgement-free appreciation of something nearly outside the experience of a rural retiree.

The likely places that inspire graffiti writers are, in approximate order of preference; abandoned buildings, rail yards and trackside rights-of-way, parking lots for trailers and box trucks, bridge abutments, utilitarian structures on non-private land, high steel on bridges and walls adjacent to roofs.

Visibility and audience size is the desired objective. There are walls that have been chosen by writers with rappelling equipment. This means they usually are working in plain sight, and standard procedure is that the infill color is applied on the way down, and the outlining and shading are applied on the way up. Imagine a trapeze artist performing with buckets, rollers and paint cans dangling from his body.

In order of time and complexity, the throw-up is a quick spray can application, that evolves when it becomes larger and more complex, usually three to six bubble letters that represent the artist's tag. A blockbuster is made of legible letters with square corners that are done primarily with rollers. A piece is an elaboration of simpler forms of tags, frequently done with multiple colors and elaborate detailing. Illustrative work of figures and portraiture are migrations into street art, still attributable to an individual but easier for the average consumer to interpret.

Styles have evolved in different regions that are recognizable. However, there are well-known writers that travel widely. While in NYC and Philly, W recognized the hand of specific contributors from Montreal and Albany.

The skills required to plan, organize and implement a successful installation are extensive and the artistic vision and technical demands of working at such a large scale are very advanced. Additionally, the furtive and adventurous sub-culture of graffiti and un-sanctioned street art operates with more social responsibility and moral fiber than most of the politicians we all have currently elected to lead our nation.

See GRAFFITI on page 14



Philadelphia held delicious breakfasts at the Philly Terminal Market, examples of sanctioned art below and graffiti above, endless sidewalk art and the repurposed Reading Terminal headquarters.

CHARITY & SYLVIA

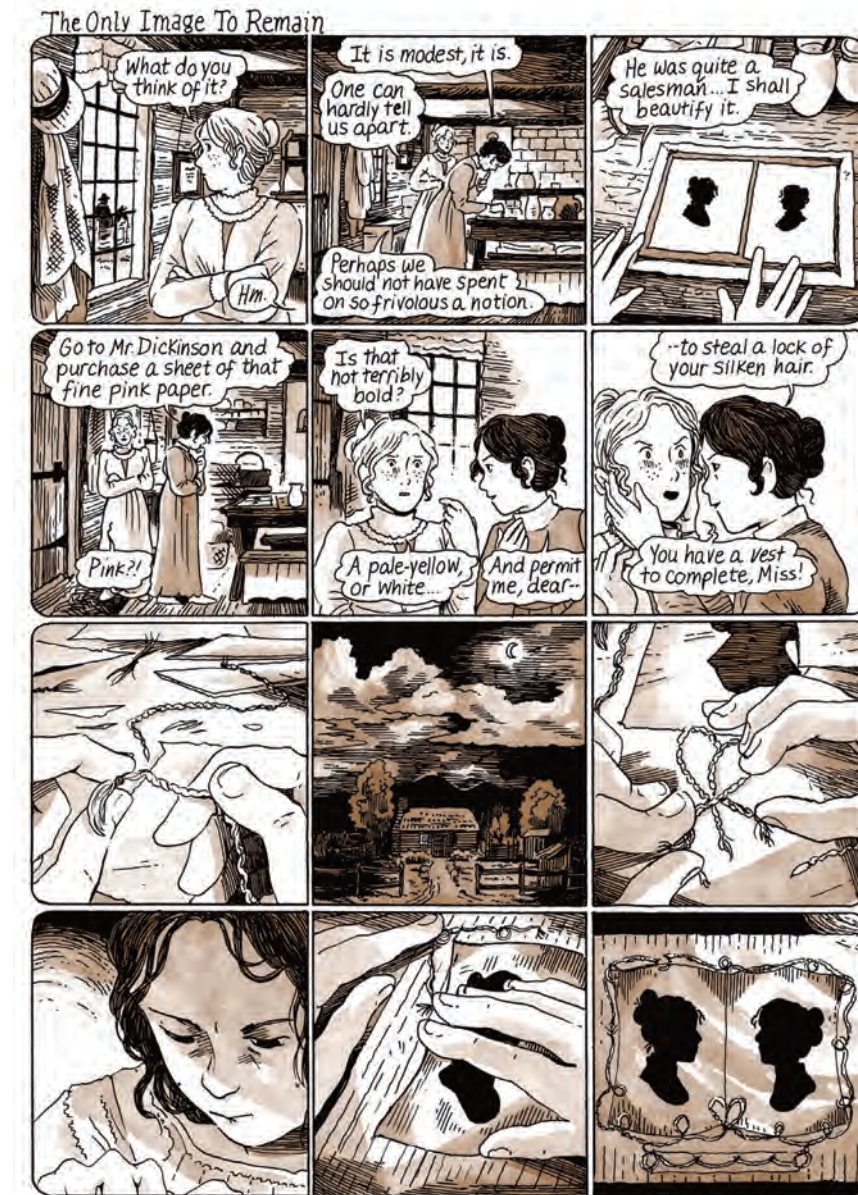
continued from page 1

Among a curating team of scholars, Walden is aware she holds a two-year degree from the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction, and no one “taught” her how to do research.

“I didn’t think I needed anything special to understand Charity and Sylvia,” Walden said confidently. “I felt all I needed to give them was my time... It ended up being true. They spent their time eating, and gossiping, and wanting a nap when there was no time for a nap — they were just people, like us.”

Thank goodness “their papers were saved by sheer luck,” Walden said. “There was one oddball guy who thought we would want to know about the past, and that was Henry Sheldon.”

“While we’ve long treasured the Charity and Sylvia archives — their letters, poems, diaries and the like — their story hasn’t been visible in the museum itself,” said Foutch, president of the Sheldon Board of Trustees, and associate professor in American Studies at Middlebury College. “It’s always a challenge to imagine how to represent the complexity of the lives of people from the past, and to help archival



An excerpt from Tillie Walden's new graphic novel "Charity & Sylvia."

IMAGES COURTESY OF TILLIE WALDEN

documents come to life in a museum gallery... One of the things we loved about Tillie's graphic novel is that it transforms those archival insights into an empathic narrative, and it represents the world of Charity and Sylvia in some

of its complexity and materiality — the clothes they wore and sewed, the pies they baked, the linens they washed, the lamps they worked by.”

Breckenridge started working on the exhibit the week after she

graduated from Middlebury College this past February with an art history degree. She recalls a special moment in the Sheldon archives.

“I found this pin box and inside, as I was pushing through the pins, I found this slip of paper with a pin on it. It said, ‘Poems by Charity Bryant’ and then ‘Sylvia Drake B’ — it wasn’t in the Charity and Sylvia collection and here it was in a box of pins! It brings together their written world and tailoring business. I was so happy, I cried.”

As a historical costume maker in her spare time, Breckenridge knows a thing or two about tailoring.

“I love historical clothing,” she said. “I truly understand what Charity and Sylvia were doing in their tailoring business. They were making everything by hand! I made one dress by hand, and it was excruciating.”

She also feels a connection as a queer woman.

“Every time I see a queer story from the past, it sticks with me,” Breckenridge said. “It feels so empowering.”

The Rev. Caryne Eskridge, pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church, agrees.

“As both a queer person and a person of faith, it can feel pretty

See CHARITY & SYLVIA on page 15



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 17 - 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



Tillie Walden gets a little help as she preps for the May 20 opening of "Drawing on the Archive" a new exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY
HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM

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.

"Mount Abe Student Work." A special exhibit features the work of Mount Abe students. An opening reception will be held Friday, May 15, from 4-6 p.m. Free and open to all. On view through May 28.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury.

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Homer Wells: A Retrospective." The work of Monkton artist Homer Wells will include both wall-based works and sculptural pieces, tracing the evolution of his practice and highlighting the innovation that has defined his career. On view through July 5.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Propagation of Self." Artworks representing the capstone of Middlebury College students' independent studio practice will be on display in the Johnson Exhibition Gallery, Atrium, and the Carlhian Gallery, all located in the Johnson Memorial Building. Featured artists: Alanna Alphonse Saunders '27, Aroesty '26, Caroline DeLeon '26, Charlotte Xu '26.5, Diego Sanchez '26, Grace Sherrill '26, Harry Strafford '26, Lulu Wu '26, Mark McGoey '26.5, Menen Ebrahim '26, Merrill Eastman '26, Noemi Ponce '26, Nora Barnett '27, Nowelle Spencer '26, Olivia Parent '27.5, Skiles Roberts-Salvador '26, Sylvienne Normandeau '26, Willa Sullivan '27, and Winter Heaton '26.5. On view through May 20.

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. On view May 1-30.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Help Each Other," is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The Quaker

See EXHIBITS on page 11

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Slow down to smell the roses, Aries. You've been running at full speed, and your body is asking for a break. A low-key evening at home will recharge your batteries for a big weekend.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Creativity hits you in an unexpected place, Taurus. It might even come while you're doing chores. Explore a new idea thoroughly, as it might be the creative spark you've been looking for.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. A misunderstanding is cleared up by a simple phone call, Gemini. Don't let a text message stew in your mind. Direct communication is the only way to keep your peace of mind this week.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Focus on your workspace, Cancer. A little reorganization and some new decor will shift the energy and help you focus. You'll be surprised how much your environment affects your output.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Your generosity is noted, Leo. Helping a colleague or friend with a thankless task will earn you major karma points. Expect a small, pleasant surprise to come back to you.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, steer clear of over-analyzing a recent social interaction. You did fine, and people enjoyed your company. Focus on the future instead of replaying the past on a loop.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. A financial risk might be tempting, but the stars suggest sticking to the plan for now, Libra. Focus on "slow and steady" gains rather than "get rich quick" schemes this week.

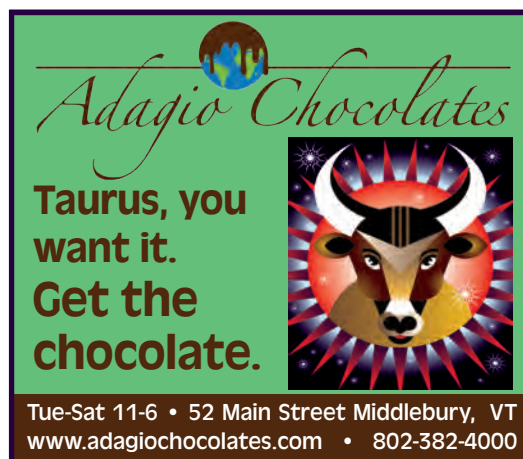
SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You're feeling extra protective of your time, Scorpio, and that's OK. Saying "no" to an invitation isn't a rejection of the person; it's an investment in your own mental health.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Laughter is your best medicine this week, Sagittarius. Seek a person who always makes you giggle. A lighthearted approach to a serious problem will reveal the simplest solution.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your reputation is preceding you in a good way, Capricorn. Someone in a position of power has their eye on your work. Keep your standards high; the payoff is closer than you think.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, an old hobby is calling your name. Dust off those tools or that camera. Reconnecting with a past passion will give you the emotional boost you've been looking for.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Trust the timing of your life, Pisces. Something you wanted didn't work out, but that's because something better is currently in the works. Keep your heart open and your head up.



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MAY 15 — Jasper Johns, artist (95)
MAY 16 — Adrienne Rich, poet (d)
MAY 17 — Taj Mahal, Blues musician (84)
MAY 18 — Tina Fey, comedian (56)
MAY 19 — Michael Che, comedian (43)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 20 — Cher, singer (80)
MAY 21 — Albrecht Durer, artist (d)

CALENDAR

May 14-22

2026

THURSDAY, MAY 14

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB STARGAZING OUTING IN ADDISON. Thursday, May 14, time TBD. Navigate the spring sky and learn some of the major stars, asterisms, constellations and deep sky objects for dates near the new moon. In the event of poor observing conditions, the outing will be rescheduled. Group limit is 10. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ILSLEY CLASSIC FILM CLUB: "THE SEVENTH SEAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 14, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join the Ilesley Classic Film Club's "Global 1950s" series for a free screening of Ingmar Bergman's acclaimed 1957 film "The Seventh Seal." Free admission and popcorn.

"LITTLE WOMEN" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 14, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater in the Maloney Plaza. THT's Young Company presents a newly adapted production of Louisa May Alcott's coming-of-age story following the March sisters as they navigate family, ambition and identity. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Suggested donation: \$5-\$20.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

EMERGING ARTISTS EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION IN BRISTOL. Friday, May 15, 4-6 p.m., Art on Main, Main St. Celebrate the opening of the Emerging Artists Exhibit featuring work by Mt. Abraham students at this community reception. Exhibit on view through May 28.

PIZZA & LIVE MUSIC IN STARKSBORO. Friday, May 15, 6-9 p.m., Common Ground Center, 473 Tatro Road. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and an outdoor family-friendly concert featuring Collin Cope and Chris Page of The Tenderbellies. Venue opens at 5:30 p.m.; music begins at 6:30 p.m. \$20 adults; \$10 children ages 4-12; free for ages 3 and under. Advance tickets at tinyurl.com/CGCPizza2026.

LINCOLN COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL SPRING AUCTION AND MUSIC. Friday, May 15, 6-9 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. A lively evening fundraiser featuring a mostly silent auction with select live-auction items, plus live music by Sunday Morning (and possibly the preschool choir). Bid on experiences, local art, gift baskets, memberships and more, with a cash bar and snacks by donation. Suggested \$10 donation at the door.

All proceeds support a new ventilation system for the preschool and ongoing programming. Donations and questions: Elizabeth Keenan, 413-250-9334 or ekeenano0@gmail.com.

CIRQUE US: "ONE MAN'S TRASH" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. An inventive circus performance that transforms trash into acrobatic adventure. High-flying aerialists, and quirky clowns perform daring circus acts built around teamwork and resourcefulness. Tickets: \$15-\$25.

COFFEEHOUSE IN THE LIBRARY IN STARKSBORO. Friday, May 15, 7-9 p.m., at the library in the village. Doug Anderson comes over from Chelsea to perform this month for a music series that highlights Addison County musicians, organized by Johnne Dickason of Starksboro. Some refreshments will be available. Donations welcome. Let's give these local players some love.

BIXBY LIBRARY'S DEPTHS OF DISCOVERY GALA IN VERGENNES. Friday, May 15, 7 to 11 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. Come join an extraordinary voyage beneath the waves for this year's highly anticipated

Depths of Discovery Gala. Inspired by "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne, this annual fundraiser invites you to descend into wonder beneath the library's storied stained-glass dome in the magnificent marble rotunda. There will be nautical melodies by The Grift, dancing on the ocean floor, local bites and libations, deep-sea treasures in a silent auction and timeless memories in a photobooth. Tickets to last year's Secret Garden Gala sold out quickly — don't miss your chance to experience this year's undersea adventure. Buy tickets online at tinyurl.com/BixbyGala2026 or visit the Circulation Desk.

72 Merchants Row. An interactive comedy invites kids and their adults to help create the show. When the main attraction fails to appear, the audience becomes the star in a joyful, fast-paced theatrical experience performed in English and "Spanglish." Tickets: \$15-\$25.

THE HOKUM BROTHERS DANCE PARTY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 16, 3 p.m., Maloney Performing Arts Plaza at Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. An all-ages outdoor dance party featuring The Hokum Brothers' humorous Americana-inspired music. Pay what you can; suggested donation \$5-\$20. Sweet treats available.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE TO SILVER LAKE AND LENNY'S LOOKOUT IN SALISBURY. Saturday, May 16, time TBD. An easy-to-moderate 3.9-mile hike. Wear appropriate clothing and bring water, lunch and hiking poles if you use them. Elevation change of 650 feet. Contact leader Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116 to register. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"SHOW UP, KIDS!" performance in Middlebury. Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Studio.

"OH FAIR TO SEE: A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH SONG" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 16, 7 p.m., Unity Hall at the Congregational Church of Middlebury. Tenor Drew Young and pianist Ronnie Romano present an evening of music tracing the journey from winter to spring through works by Handel, Finzi, Grieg, Sibelius, Keen and Copland. Donations support Migrant Justice.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB TRAIL WORK. Sunday, May 17, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., various locations. *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, May 14 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 15 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 16 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 Sunday, May 17 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 18 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 19 4 a.m. Democracy Now 5 a.m. Press Conf./Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard</p>	<p>4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Selectboard Wednesday, May 20 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, May 14 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. Pecha Kucha Night 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Friday, May 15 5 a.m. Yoga</p>	<p>6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Thea Alvin 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. High School Sports 7 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night 9 p.m. Robert Wyatt: Duke Ellington Saturday, May 16 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga & Yoga for Kids 7 a.m. Nature and Science Programs 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. High School Sports 9 p.m. Robert Wyatt: Duke Ellington Sunday, May 17 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Thea Alvin 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 8 p.m. Robert Wyatt: Duke Ellington Monday, May 18 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi</p>	<p>6 a.m. Yoga for Kids 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Nature and Science Programs 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting Tuesday, May 19 4 a.m. Thea Alvin 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 12 p.m. Authors and Poets 4 p.m. High School Sports 7:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Wednesday, May 20 5 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2 p.m. Authors and Poets 7 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night 8:45 p.m. Music from Around Vt.</p>	

17, location and time TBD. Looking for an opportunity to give back? Come work on the trails for the day. Plan to hike four to six miles, clear water bars and create drainage structures to keep water off the trail. For more information, contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 or visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

NATURALIST CRAIG ZONDAG'S GUIDED SPIN WALK IN RIPTON. Sunday, May 17, 1:30 p.m., Spirit In Nature Paths, Goshen Rd. off Route 125. One-hour guided walk along the Spirit In Nature paths to observe plants, birds, and animals as they celebrate the coming of spring. Meet at the SpIN parking lot. Note: paths are not handicap-accessible due to uneven surfaces and tree roots. SpIN Annual Meeting follows; all are welcome to attend one or both. More info: spiritinnature.org/new-events.

MONDAY, MAY 18

FRIENDS OF THE TAM NATURE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, May 18, 8:30-10:30 a.m., location provided upon registration. Herpetologist Jim Andrews leads a nature walk focusing on identifying birds, trees and amphibians by sight and sound. Limited to 20 participants. Free. If you have questions: holly@maltvt.org. Register: maltvt.org/Friends.

SAMANTHA ANGSTMAN CONCERT IN SALISBURY.

Monday, May 18, 3 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church. Pianist Samantha Angstman performs a program of works by early 20th-century American composers. Free.

VERGENNES CITY BAND REHEARSALS.

Monday, May 18, 7-9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Instrumentalists of all experience levels are invited to join the community band rehearsals. For more information, contact Sue O'Daniel at sodaniel27@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

LYRACLE EARLY MUSIC CONCERT IN SHOREHAM.

Tuesday, May 19, 3 p.m., Shoreham Inn. Early music duo Lyracle is celebrating America 250 with music for voice and viol from the earliest days of colonial

Massachusetts. This program is free through a Vermont Humanities grant, but tickets are required due to limited space. OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

BIANCA STONE ON RUTH STONE: A VERMONT POET LAUREATE LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, May 19, 6 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Studio, 72 Merchants Row. Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone explores the poetry and legacy of her grandmother, former Vermont Poet Laureate Ruth Stone, through readings and discussion. Bar opens at 5 p.m. Pay what you can.

IRISH MUSIC NIGHT WITH RAMBLETREE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, May 19, 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 20

SHELDON MUSEUM OPENING DAY CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 20, 4 p.m., Henry

Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Celebrate the start of the '26-'27 season with six new exhibits and refreshed parlors in the historic Judd-Harris House. Light refreshments and live music. Free admission.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER'S END-OF-THE-YEAR SALON.

Wednesday, May 20, 6-7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. Students from a variety of studios perform pieces they have been studying in an intimate and supportive setting. Even if you or your child isn't performing, come and listen to connect with this musical community. Free.

TOME TALK: "THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library NBM Meeting Room. Join this discussion group for Alison Weir's "The Six Wives of Henry VIII." Copies

are available at the library's circulation desk.

MAYOR TELA'S SUPER CRUNCHY HIPPIE JAM BAND BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HOMEWARD BOUND IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m., Marquis Theatre, 65 Main St. This fundraiser for Homeward Bound features Burlington-based Phish tribute supergroup Satan's Dogs and Noble Hierarch. \$15 at the door; cash preferred. Bar and food available.

JULIA ALVAREZ LAUNCHES "VISITATIONS" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Studio, 72 Merchants Row. Julia Alvarez discusses and reads from her new poetry collection,

"Visitations," exploring family, migration, memory and resilience. Bar opens at 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$8.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER'S END-OF-THE-YEAR SALON.

Thursday, May 21, 6-7:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. See May 20 listing.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

SENIOR WEEK CHORAL CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, May 22, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall. Middlebury College Choir's final performance of the academic year. Free and open to the public. Lively and entertaining repertoire selected by the graduating senior singers.

READ MORE Online!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



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Pet PHOTO CONTEST

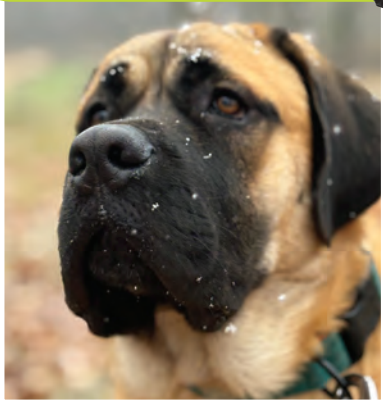
From wagging tails to regal side-eyes and slobbery love, this year's Pet Photo Contest was a full-on fur parade.

A huge thank you to everyone who entered and voted in this year's contest! We received an incredible 107 submissions, racked up nearly 7,500 views of the online contest, and inspired close to 1,300 votes from pet lovers around Addison County. Clearly, this community runs on treats, tennis balls, and unconditional adoration.

Top winners in each category were chosen by popular vote and will each receive a **\$25 gift card to Middlebury Agway**. But choosing favorites was no easy task, so we've also featured a few standout runners-up on the next page because honestly, every pet deserves a standing ovation... or at least their favorite treat and a few extra pats.

Model Shot 🐾

Gabrielle Sullivan, Weybridge 🐾



Moose

Moose is a big lover whose favorite things are a big bone, his little brother Wesley, car rides, and exploring outdoors. Moose is a rescue, and loved so much.

Work Companions 🐾

Ian Gill, Cornwall 🐾



Doofenshmirtz ("Doof")

Remote Supervisor: enforces a 30-yard no-proximity policy and accepts lunch only after I leave. A good coworker... doesn't breathe down my neck, but also not the type to give you a pat on the back.

Best Pals 🐾

Cara Mosier, Addison 🐾



Finnegan

(with our grandson Max)

Finnegan was rescued and he loves to play with Max, when Max comes to visit.

Couch Potato 🐾

Melissa Emmons, New Haven 🐾



Mabel Robinson

So tired after blasting through the fields!

Funny Faces 🐾

Ginger Gould, Forestdale 🐾



Arthur

It's his Birthday Party

Action Shot 🐾

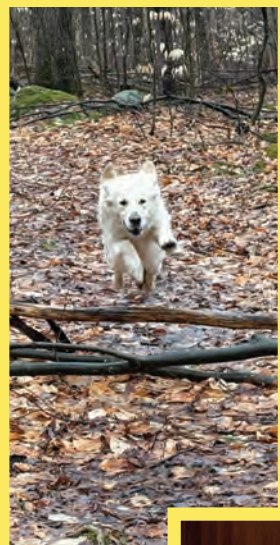
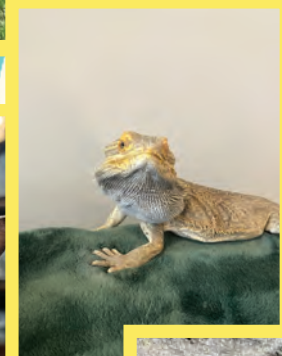
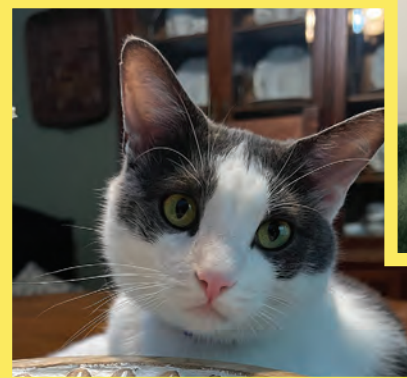
Liz Marcotte, New Haven 🐾



Winnie

Winnie has springs for legs when it comes to catching snowballs!

Runners up!



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Jupiter



* Working cat * Meet Jupiter! She arrived with 5 of her cat friends, who all have been living an outside life. Although they were given a chance at indoor living, they've made it obvious that they want to get back to the great outdoors. Jupiter would make an excellent shop or barn cat, she could even be adopted along with one or both of her friends that are still here. Jupiter can often be found cuddled up together with Mars.

Mars



* Working cat * Meet Mars! He arrived with 5 of his cat friends. They had all been living an outdoor life and even though they were given a chance at indoor living, they all have made it obvious that they want to get back to the outdoors. Mars would make an excellent shop or barn cat, he could even be adopted along with one or both of his friends that are still here.

Whiskers



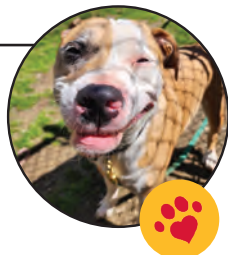
Whiskers is very friendly and is looking for a family that will let her be the affectionate lap cat that she is. She is talkative, sweet and her favorite thing is to watch birds through the window. She has not had any interactions with cats or dogs, so a slow and structured introduction would be advised.

Gemma



Gemma is a sweet girl with a gentle heart and a playful side. While she's happy to play, Gemma has a more laid-back personality and appreciates downtime. She was once unsure about things like boots, hats, and quick hand movements, but with time and exposure, she's become much more comfortable. She'll do best with a patient adopter who can help her feel safe and secure as she adjusts to new situations. Gemma walks nicely on a leash, and she knows basic commands like "sit," "come," and "paw," and is eager to please. Gemma has lived with other dogs, cats and young children. She came to the shelter with brother Jax. They can be adopted separately or go home together.

Jax



Jax is a fun-loving, high-energy pup with a big personality and an even bigger love for playtime. Jax is familiar with basic commands like "sit," "wait," and "paw," and can even balance a treat on his nose! He enjoys car rides and is comfortable navigating stairs. Around the house, he's crate-trained and has lived with other dogs and cats. He came to the shelter with sister, Gemma. They can be adopted separately or go home together. He has also been around young children and tends to give himself space when needed. Jax would prefer a home with older kids and space to run and play.

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Addison County's Humane Society



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PET TRIBUTE

Luna Grace Hunsinger

July 11, 2011-May 9, 2026

Our little grey girl,

We are so lucky you chose us as your family. Thank you for being our constant companion and the absolute best cuddle cat. We hope that you're basking in the brightest sunshine with an endless supply of salmon treats.

Until we meet again,

Mommy, Daddy, Ruby, Ziva, Ella, and Finn



Luna Grace Hunsinger of Ripton.



SUBMIT A TRIBUTE.



Honoring our beloved pets who have passed.

petobits@addisonindependent.com

UPCOMING

MUSIC

Local musicians to celebrate Bob Dylan's 85th

An all-star group of Addison County and Vermont musicians will pay tribute to Bob Dylan on May 24, at Burnham Hall in Lincoln. The event, titled "Forever Young — Addison County Musicians celebrate Bob Dylan on his 85th birthday," will be held on Dylan's actual 85th birthday, which falls on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend.

"There is no more important or influential songwriter in the history of folk or rock music

than Dylan. Maybe he's tied with Lennon and McCartney," said organizer Tom Van Sant, who will perform with his band The Morning Dudes (and is also an advertising sales rep for The Addy Indy). "There's so much love for Bob among both fans and musicians around here, that this seemed like a natural thing to do."

Want to know who will be performing? Here's the lineup:

- Debbie Brisson & Mark Pelletier

- Mr. Charlie Frazier
- The Medicine Tribe
- The Morning Dudes
- Scarlet Annie Nessen
- The Stay-at-Home Wilburys: Cameron Connah/Nate Gusakov
- Aidan Lenihan/Micah Plante
- Additional musicians to be announced

The concert will run from 7-10 p.m., and is free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$10-20 at the door. All ages are welcome. The event is sponsored by Lincoln General Store, and *The Addison Independent*. Lincoln General Store will be on site selling baked goods, snacks and drinks.

Will Dylan be attending his own birthday party?

"We invited him," Van Sant said. "No reply yet."

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

Pirate creates art that challenges us to help one another, to be emotionally and spiritually connected, and to persist and survive in today's world. The exhibit will

open May 16 to the public.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden's Charity & Sylvia," invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary illustrations. Together, these materials illuminate the lives of one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a shared home, tailoring business, and life in early Vermont. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Time Keeping." Artifacts and archival treasures from the 18th century through today will be presented in conversation with New England contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio's 'Clockworks,' the magically crafted worlds of paper theater within vintage clocks and watch housings. Showcasing stories of far-reaching possibilities in layers of time, Luciana Frigerio's captivating mixed media collages mirror Henry Sheldon's own passion for storytelling through paper and material culture. A gallery talk with artist Luciana Frigerio will be held June 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Uncovering Wallpaper Design: 1800 – Present." The wallpaper in the Museum's



This "tempestry" represents 100 years of climate data from Addison County. It was knitted by community members and now hangs on the wall at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury.

collection tells the story of artistic process, globalization, and design tastes from the 1800s to present day. While wallpaper operates as a backdrop, bringing it to the forefront sheds light on the skill and process of creating these designs. Many the wallpapers on display are block printed. In a contemporary world where so much of production is now automated, these wallpapers invite viewers to slow down and consider the process, layers, and method on display in these prints. On view May 2-Nov. 7.

"Remembering the American Revolution."

This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory,

attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacifism, rebellion or resistance, across different historical and political contexts. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Icy Artifacts of the Everyday." These objects and photographs from the past speak with the "Tempestry," an artistic display of Addison County climate data, knitted by the hands of nearly 100 current community members from locally sourced and hand dyed wool. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

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.

PUZZLES

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SPARROW
ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

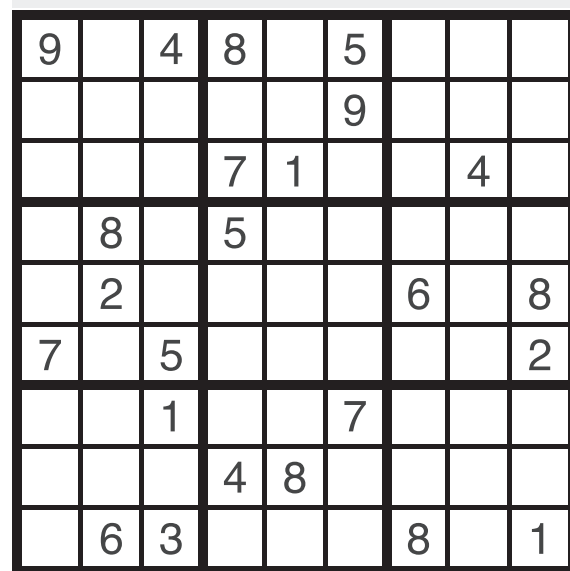
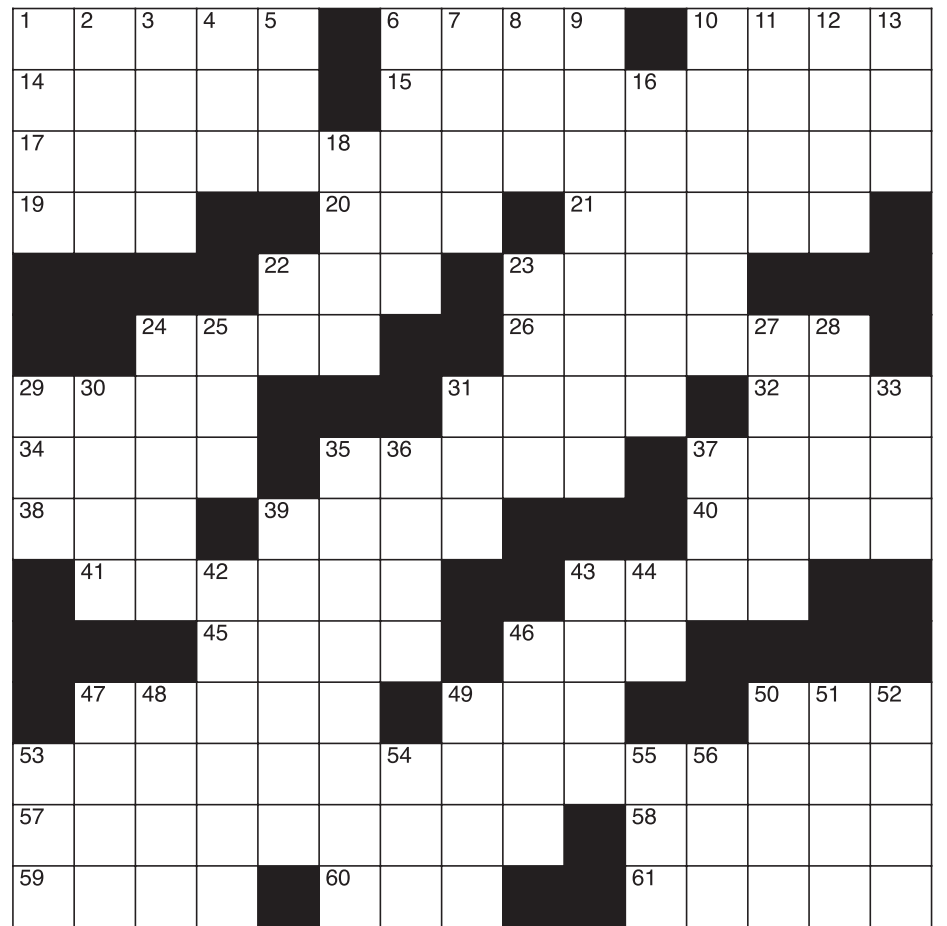
- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula

- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery

- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and __

DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

- 11. Jacob __,
- cheese
- songwriter
- American journalist
- 29. Resistance unit
- 47. Dutch settler
- 12. Vale
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 13. Former CIA
- 31. Cast out
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 18. Exhausts
- 35. Most worn
- 51. From a distance
- 22. South Dakota
- 36. European river
- 52. A monthly expense
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 53. Young women's association
- 24. Kids love him
- 39. Items of food
- 54. Brazilian state
- 25. Singular
- 42. Body parts
- 55. Air freight provider
- 27. Cod genus
- 43. Ireland
- 56. Pointed end of a pen
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy __,

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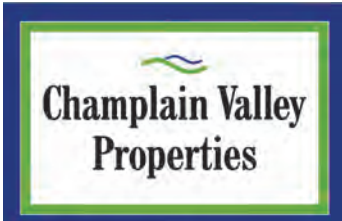
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*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.
More info at champlainvalleyproperty.net.*

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GRAFFITI

continued from page 3

opportunity for both of us, and likely the last time in my life I will have the privilege of his company all to myself. I believe I was largely successful in getting out of my own way and giving my stale convictions about the "right way to prepare for adulthood" an overdue burial. When we parted at the threshold of his home, I told him I would be honored to be his travel companion any day, and he thanked me sincerely, saying he had enjoyed himself very much. Mission accomplished, still pals five years later. I hope that over the coming years, this trip will generate fond memories of increasing appreciation for us both, the best kind of memories anyone could possibly hope to create.

-sbh

Steve and Judith Harris reside in Lincoln where their recently built cabin is the world headquarters of their consulting business. They will not be camping in the relative comfort of the southeast this winter but will instead remain at home while Judith attends to their clients and Steve attempts to create monthly episodes of "Ruminations from the Roost". Steve promises a travelogue, without the travel. Each episode will present a profile of a local "community fixture", folks that Steve has selected, based on criteria that remain unclear even to the author. Furthermore, these sketches will offer examples of the many ways he finds to cherish and be grateful for his life in Addison County.



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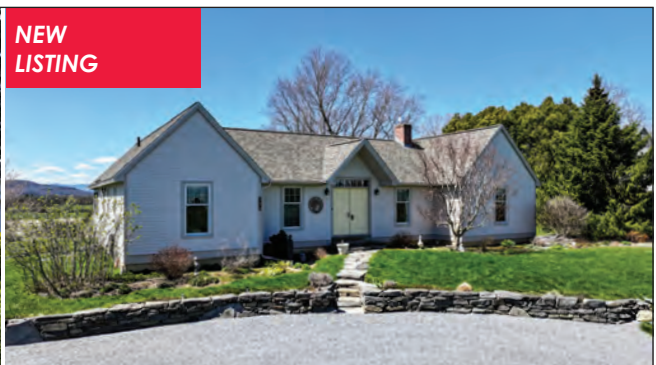
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 ~ Guillermo R.



NEW LISTING

CORNWALL | 1571 Vt Route 30 | MLS #5087427
3 BR | 3 BA | 2668 SF | 0.90 ACRES | \$699,000

Delightfully updated Cape just minutes from Middlebury College and downtown, offering sweeping views of classic Vermont countryside and Green Mountains. Fully-equipped in-law/guest suite!



NEW LISTING

FERRISBURGH | 236 Gilson Lane | MLS #5087074
3 BD | 2 BA | 2344 SF | 10.30 ACRES | \$699,000

Watch the sun crest over the Green Mountains, or wind down with a breathtaking sunset behind the Adirondacks. Beautifully landscaped with stone walls, detached 2-car garage, and a walkout lower level.



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VERGENNES | 5 Bowman Road, #102 | MLS # 5087961
2 BR | 2 BA | 1139 SF | CONDO | \$349,000

Lovely in-town condo, truly move-in ready and featuring numerous upgrades. Newer furnace and windows. One-car garage, back deck with new awning, and a great loft space to make your own!



NEW LISTING

BRANDON | 855 North St | MLS #5087352
2-FAMILY | 2320 SF | 2.29 ACRES | \$295,000

One 1-bdrm, and one 2-bdrm apartment in this incredible investment opportunity. Strong potential, room for customization, or renovation. Close to transportation, schools, and local amenities.

CHARITY & SYLVIA

continued from page 4

rare to find people in history who we know were both also," they said. "When there's such a lack of representation in the past it can be easy to feel isolation. Especially for those of us who look at history as something we can take and update and use."

As part of the curatorial team, Eskridge was able to dig into the Weybridge church records and find two links to Charity and Sylvia that show them coming together with other women to raise money to build the new meeting house in the 1840s (this is what we now know as the church in Weybridge). Both pieces will be on view at the Sheldon Museum's exhibit.

It's not lost on Eskridge that they are gathering and worshipping in the same walls that Charity and Sylvia did.

"I feel Tillie did a wonderful job trying to balance what we know, and the things we can't ever know," Eskridge commented on the novel. "I love the way that she treated faith as a dynamic force in their lives — something that brought them to places they could struggle, but could also be a source of strength and love. I was weeping at the end of the book; there's a spiritual breakthrough that is very loving... I am really glad we now have this book to talk about queerness and faith in a really positive way."

"It's easy to see a lot of hate and to feel disheartened," Breckenridge said of today's culture. "Charity and Sylvia really contributed to their community in big ways. They did so much for everyone around them.

They existed and participated and showed up... They were just a normal married couple. It's a story of hope and a story of love."

Breckenridge — heck, all the curators — encourage everyone to come see the exhibit.

"We put a lot of work into making it feel immersive," Breckenridge said. "The structure of the exhibit is exciting and different."

— Rev. Caryne Eskridge

"It was so much fun to illustrate the walls around the objects," said Walden, who has been hard at work drawing and hand lettering artwork on the walls of the Sheldon Museum. "I'd love for people to come see it. And if the exhibit

sparks your interest, there's a lot more where that came from in my book coming out in June."

Editor's Note: Tillie Walden will be at the opening reception of "Drawing on the Archive" at the Henry Sheldon Museum in downtown Middlebury on Wednesday, May 20, from 4-6 p.m. Walden's "Charity & Sylvia" is available for preorder at the Vermont Book Shop.

Also, the Weybridge Congregational Church was approved to be a Vermont Reads host, which means in early June they'll get a shipment of Walden's "Charity & Sylvia" books to give out to the community. The church also has plans for a community quilt-making day on Sunday, July 19, that will honor Charity and Sylvia.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

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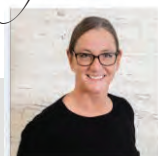
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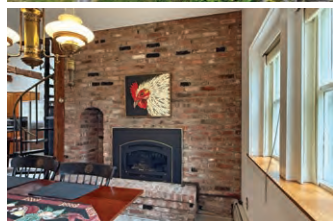
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PUZZLE

May 14, 2026 SOLUTIONS

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2	7	3	9	4	6	1	5	8
4	6	1	5	8	3	9	2	7
8	5	9	7	1	2	3	4	6
7	8	2	3	6	9	5	1	4
3	4	5	8	7	1	6	9	2
9	1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3

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HOME & Garden

<i>Choose perennials for your garden</i>	<i>3D</i>
<i>Leave the leaves in your yard.....</i>	<i>3D</i>
<i>Builder partners with Habitat for Humanity.....</i>	<i>5D</i>
<i>Make your yard a native plant haven.....</i>	<i>8D</i>
<i>Home repair check list.....</i>	<i>10D</i>
<i>Update on heat pump adoption.....</i>	<i>10D</i>
<i>Fix a damp basement.....</i>	<i>11D</i>
<i>Use home space wisely.....</i>	<i>12D</i>
<i>What to do with a popcorn ceiling.....</i>	<i>13D</i>
<i>Plan for a roof project.....</i>	<i>13D</i>
<i>Prepare outdoor spaces for Memorial Day.....</i>	<i>14D</i>
<i>Deal with garden pests humanely.....</i>	<i>15D</i>

**A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT**

Thursday, May 14, 2026



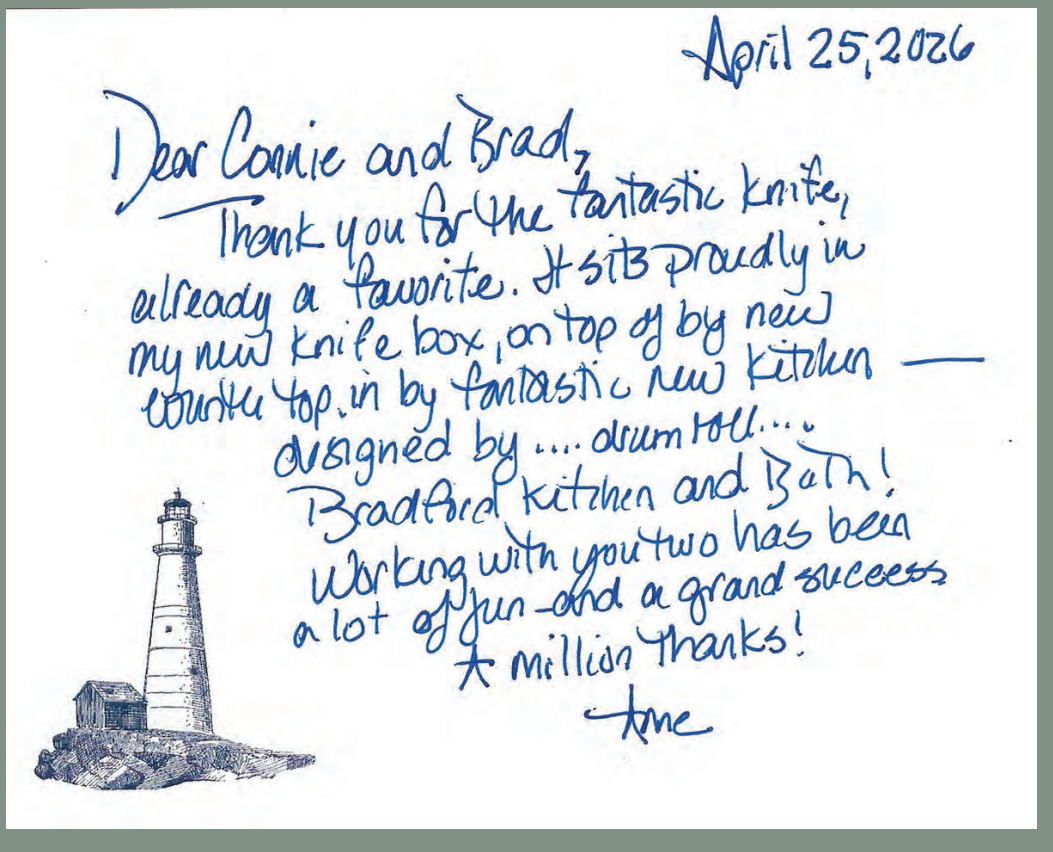
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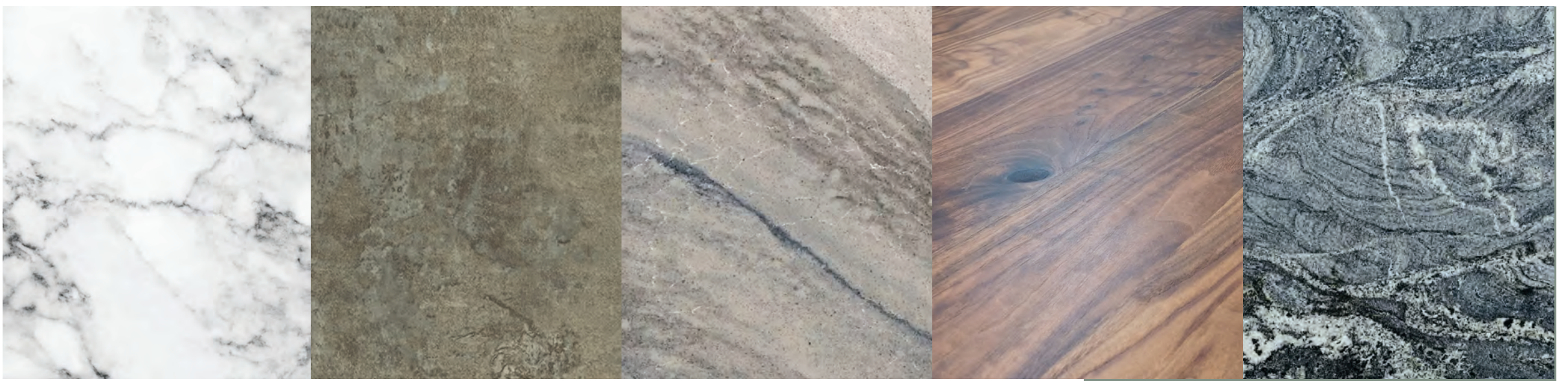
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CONSIDER THESE PERENNIALS FOR YOUR GARDEN THIS YEAR

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that provides a great reason to get outdoors. Getting one's hands dirty in the garden often pays off with a colorful, awe-inspiring and aesthetically appealing finished product.

Perennials are plants that live multiple years. Even though perennials may die back above ground each winter, their roots

remain alive, which is why the colorful blooms typically return anew once warm weather makes a comeback. Gardeners who want to capitalize on the hardiness of perennials can consider these plants for their gardens this season.

- **Coreopsis:** Coreopsis are perennials that thrive in a wide range of conditions, including various types of soil. So gardeners who find their soil is predominantly clay as well as those with sandy

soil may be able to successfully plant coreopsis on their properties. *Better Homes & Gardens* (BHG) notes coreopsis are native to the United States and produce colorful blooms that can withstand hot and dry weather throughout the summer.

- **Russian sage:** Russian sage produces purplish-blue flowers that BHG notes retain their color for weeks. Russian sage can be planted in a variety of the hardiness zones defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and many gardening experts recommend them to gardeners whose local climates tend to be especially hot and dry.

- **Hellebore:** BHG notes hellebore are ideal for gardeners who want some color in the early days of spring. Hellebore, sometimes referred to as "Lenten Roses," have an early flowering season, so their blooms, which can be pink, white, purple, yellow, green, rose, or purple, can be a welcome sign in spring.

- **Baptisia:** Gardening experts note these purple-blooming perennials thrive in sun. Gardeners who want perennials with particularly long life expectancies can consider baptisia, as experts note they can live for many decades. Baptisia are drought-tolerant, and they can grow in soil that may not be considered great for other plants.

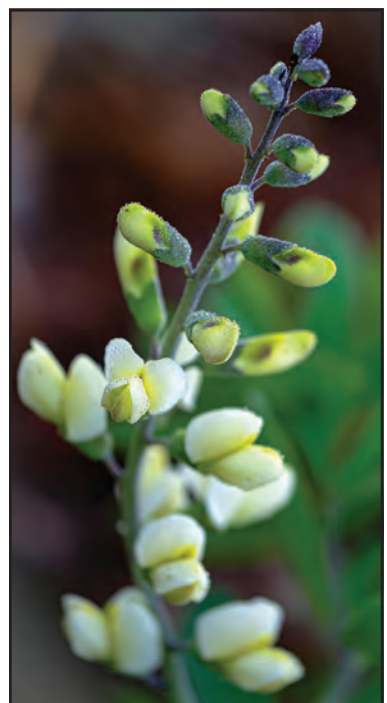
- **Coneflower:** The unique look of coneflowers has generated many enthusiasts of these perennials that bloom from early summer to fall. Coneflowers are highly adaptable, making them capable of growing in various zones and soil types. Once established, coneflowers are considered very drought-tolerant.

Perennials can add aesthetic appeal to landscapes year after year. Gardeners are urged to speak to experts at local gardening centers to identify the perfect plants for their gardens.

— Metro Creative



COREOPSIS



BAPTISIA



RUSSIAN SAGE



HELLEBORE



CONEFLOWER

Do the bugs a favor, leave the leaves

By SUSAN HUMPHREY

To me, gardening feels like one big experiment. Every year I learn new things, and the research is always changing.

Ever since COVID, when I became more bonded to our property from spending so much time at home, I've been trying to garden more for the benefit of wildlife. I'm also aging, and I think now more about what kind of a world I'm leaving for the generations to come. Being a good steward feels important.

Every spring there seems to be this push to clean out the garden beds. I certainly don't want to put any landscape companies out of business, but I do want to mention the latest research on the value of leaving the leaves. Until recently, it was thought that a good time to clean up and remove leaves in our area was in mid-May, when the apple trees were in bloom. We were told that by then, most of the beneficial insects had emerged. Many folks could not wait even that long. They'd clean out their beds at the first stretch of 50 degree days.

However, new research suggests that the best time to get rid of the leaves is likely never! Because it

turns out insects are emerging at different times, right on into the summer. And leaves are an important year-round habitat for all manner of insects.

If interested, I invite you to google and read an interview with Max Ferlauto, the Maryland state entomologist who conducted the study along with Karin Burghardt. Their findings may change how you think about your yard and how you garden.

"When you remove your leaves, you reduce your butterfly and moth populations by about 45%."

This year, along with planting more native plants, I am planning to leave the leaves permanently. Besides providing important habitat, they will mulch the beds, add nutrients to the soil and suppress weeds. Hopefully the plants will thrive, and the birds and other wildlife will be happy too!

Editor's note: Susan Humphrey resides and gardens in Weybridge.






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Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

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- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
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| Acids | Driveway sealer | Mercury thermostats | Rechargeable batteries |
| Adhesives | Dry cleaning solvents | Mineral spirits | Roach traps/poison |
| Algaecides | Flea & tick killer | Mothballs | Rug/upholstery cleaner |
| Aerosols | Fluorescent bulbs* | Motor oil | Solvent-based |
| Antifreeze | Fly killer | Mouse/rat poison | Glues |
| Ant killer | Formaldehyde | Nail polish | Stains |
| Ammonia | Fuel additives | Nail polish remover | Stump remover |
| Auto body filler | Fungicides | Naphtha | Tars or resins |
| Automotive fluids | Furniture polish | Oil-based paint | Transmission fluid |
| Chlorine bleach | Gasoline | Oily waste | Tub & tile cleaner |
| Brake fluid | Hair dyes | Oven cleaner | Varnish |
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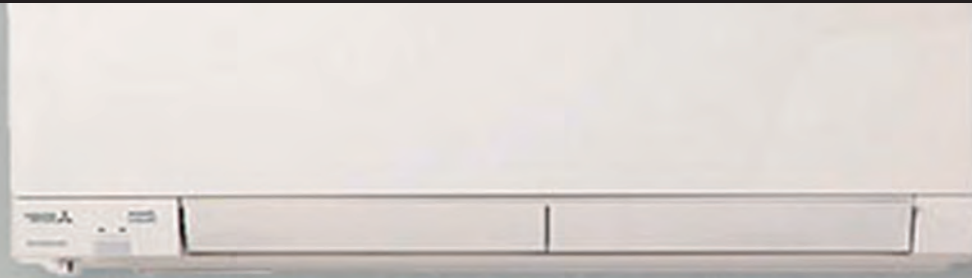
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LOCAL BUILDER MAKES HABITAT HOME A LIGHTER LIFT



Silver Maple Construction and Habitat for Humanity join forces to benefit those in need of affordable housing

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A legendary nonprofit and a top name in the local building industry have joined forces to build a new home that will be made available to a low-income family at a fraction of what it would fetch in Middlebury's current real estate market.

We're talking about a collaboration between Habitat for Humanity of Addison County and Silver Maple Construction, which this week raised the walls and roof on the third of what will be a four-home subdivision off Gorham Lane in Middlebury.

The partnership will expedite construction of the 1,200-square-foot, three-bedroom home and spare what is a senior Habitat volunteer work crew a lot of wear and tear and anxiety.

"It's huge, I can't overstate it," Habitat volunteer Richard McKerr said Monday afternoon of the importance of Silver Maple's help while he was taking a gander at the new homesite. "It's going to save us at least two months of volunteer effort."

Silver Maple has had a congenial relationship with Habitat for a while. It started around three years ago with an assist on cabinetry and labor in the two earlier Habitat builds in the Gorham Lane

subdivision. The nonprofit has also periodically gotten carpentry and building advice from Silver Maple officials, including company President Sean Flynn.

Most of the Addison County Habitat volunteers are dogged and knowledgeable about building basics, and some have previously worked in the construction industry. But virtually all are now retirees in their 70s and are no longer cut out for framing walls and hoisting them into place.

No worries. Silver Maple officials this past winter decided to ratchet up the company's partnership with Habitat to make the nonprofit's latest home a lighter lift — literally. The colder months are a slower time in the construction industry and Silver Maple has ample warehouse space at 227 Pond Lane in Middlebury.

Tim Steele, director of Silver Maple's woodworks, originally proposed allowing Addison County Habitat volunteers use the warehouse to do the framing work during the winter.

Flynn not only endorsed Steele's offer, he sweetened it.

"Sean was eager to grow it into something more. Pretty soon it was Silver Maple framing and erecting the shell of the (home), because that was one of (Habitat's) major

pinch points," Steele recalled.

So, as the lumber came in, the Silver Maple woodworks crew mixed in the framing work for the Gorham Lane home.

Per Habitat's high energy efficiency standards, the new abode's walls will exceed industry standards. It's actually a double-wall system, Steele explained. Picture two layers of two-by-four framing, married across a single two-by-12 plane. This provides more room for insulation and a greater buffer against winter weather.

Plans called for the new home's walls to be erected, linked and sheathed by the end of this week, with a "Silver Maple volunteer weekend" planned for May 16-17 to get a lot of the roof work done.

The wall panels already include openings for the future windows to be set. Habitat volunteers will take on that job and other work that falls in their sweet spot, according to McKerr — including drywall, interior finishes, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, trim, siding, etc. The Habitat crew — which will include future residents of the home — will have enough work to stay busy through the hoped completion date of (appropriately enough) Thanksgiving.

GIVING BACK

The news gets even better. Flynn wants Silver Maple to assist Habitat with at least one home build per year. A lot of that will of course depend on land availability and other factors. Middlebury College donated the land for the Gorham Lane subdivision.

Silver Maple last week marked its 20th year, during which it's married great building services (See *Collaboration*, Page 7D)

"Pretty soon it was Silver Maple framing and erecting the shell of the (home), because that was one of (Habitat's) major pinch points."
— Tim Steele



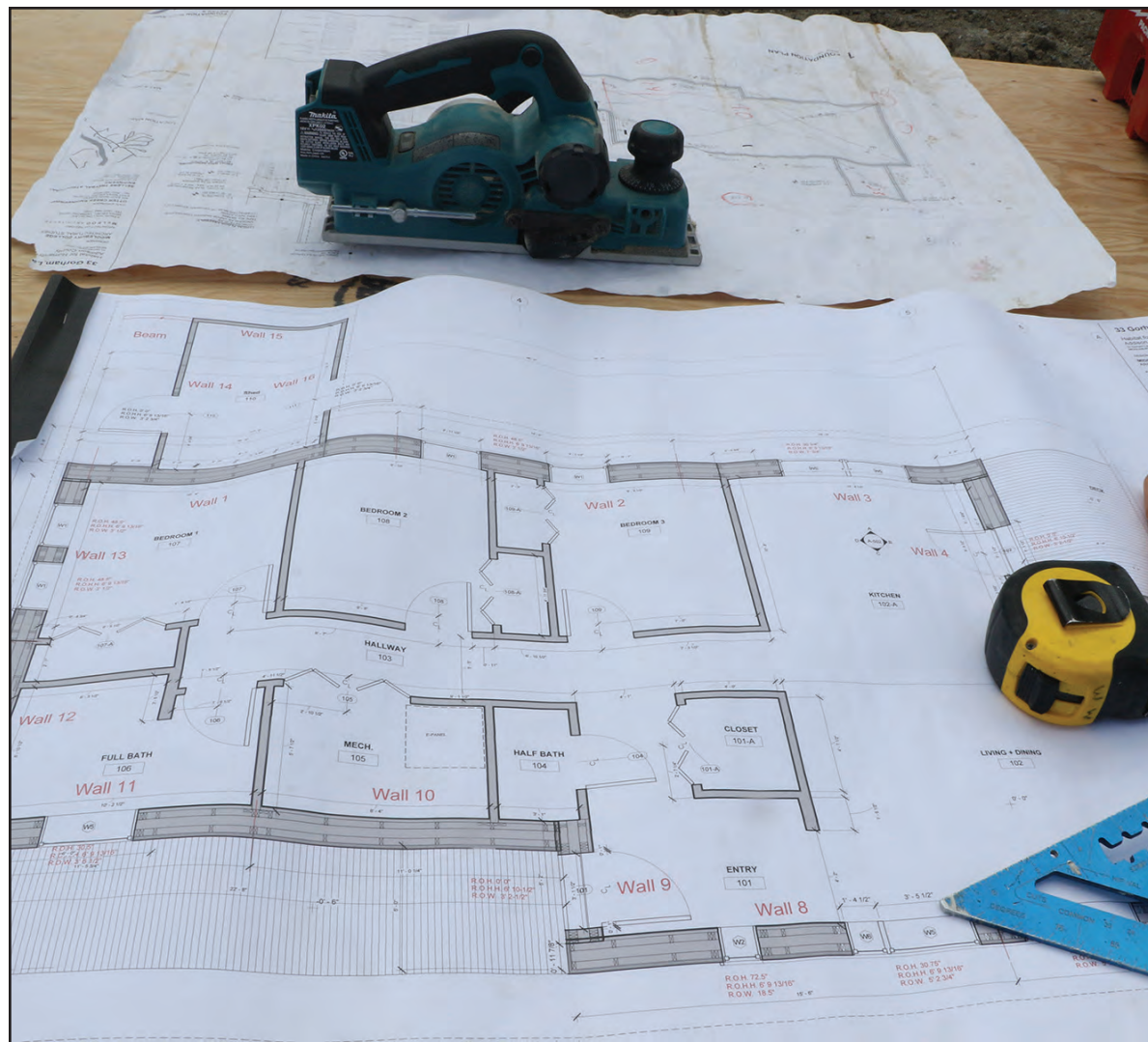
TIM STEELE, DIRECTOR of Silver Maple Construction's woodworks division (left), and Sean Flynn, the company's president, stand next to a stack of wall panels that will form the shell of a new Habitat for Humanity of Addison County home that's being built off Gorham Lane in Middlebury. Silver Maple's provision of the wall panels has been a huge assist to Habitat volunteers.

Independent photo/John Flowers



TRUSSES SIT AT the worksite early this week waiting for installation of Silver Maple's preconstructed wall panels. Once that's done, the site will host a "Silver Maple volunteer weekend" when a lot of the roof work will be done.

Independent photo/Steve James



BUILDER'S PLANS AT the Gorham Lane worksite help volunteers put together the 1,200-square-foot, three-bedroom home that Habitat for Humanity is raising at the site.

Independent photo/Steve James



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Collaboration

(Continued from Page 5D) Silver Maple now counts with philanthropy. “We’ve been given a lot for a long time,” Flynn said. “This has been a great community, and we want to give back.”

And Habitat has emerged as one of Silver Maple’s favorite causes. Both entities are in the business on building abodes, and Habitat makes homeownership more attainable for young families who can’t afford a market-rate home. “I’m a strong believer in the growth of this state. A population of 644,000 — and dwindling — is not awesome when you’re a builder,” Flynn said. Vermont’s stagnant population has been one of the reasons Silver Maple also does business in other states.

“It’s huge... It’s going to save us at least two months of volunteer effort.”
— Richard McKerr

Silver Maple now counts roughly 85 full- and part-time workers and is looking to add more — including carpenters and project managers. Many hands make light work, as Habitat stakeholders are finding. Middlebury College students have also played a role in designing Habitat for Humanity homes, of which there are now 15 sprinkled in Middlebury, Cornwall, Vergennes and Bristol.

By providing free labor and working with vendors to get materials at a substantial discount or at cost, Habitat is able to give qualifying homeowners a manageable mortgage.

A prospective Habitat homeowner family can’t make more than 80% of the median income for Addison County, which in 2025 was \$92,900. Other criteria require the family to have a stable employment history, proven evidence of responsible money management, the ability to make monthly house payments of around \$850, to have lived and worked in Addison County for one year before applying, and a contribution of 200 hours of “sweat equity” in the construction of the new home.

Steele said it’s been a pleasure working with Habitat during the past few years and he’s looking forward to more collaborations. “It’s really nice, as part of my job, to do something that’s for the local community. We do so much beautiful, high-end work, it’s nice to be able to contribute something to local families and individuals,” he said. “And it’s fun.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



MOST OF THE construction volunteers for Habitat for Humanity of Addison County are knowledgeable about building basics, so this Gorham Lane worksite will seem familiar to them. Independent photo/Steve James



GARDEN STARTERS

THE PUBLIC IS invited to fill up their gardens with plants from Orwell Free Library’s plant sale later this month. “This event is absolutely bonkers for our little community,” says librarian Kate Hunter. “The school is running a car wash fundraiser beginning at 10 a.m. on the same day. Should be fun!” The Library’s 19th Annual Plant, Book & Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 473 Main St. in Orwell. There will be annuals, perennials, organic veggie starts and more in a sale that benefits the library. More info online at orwellfreelibrary.org.



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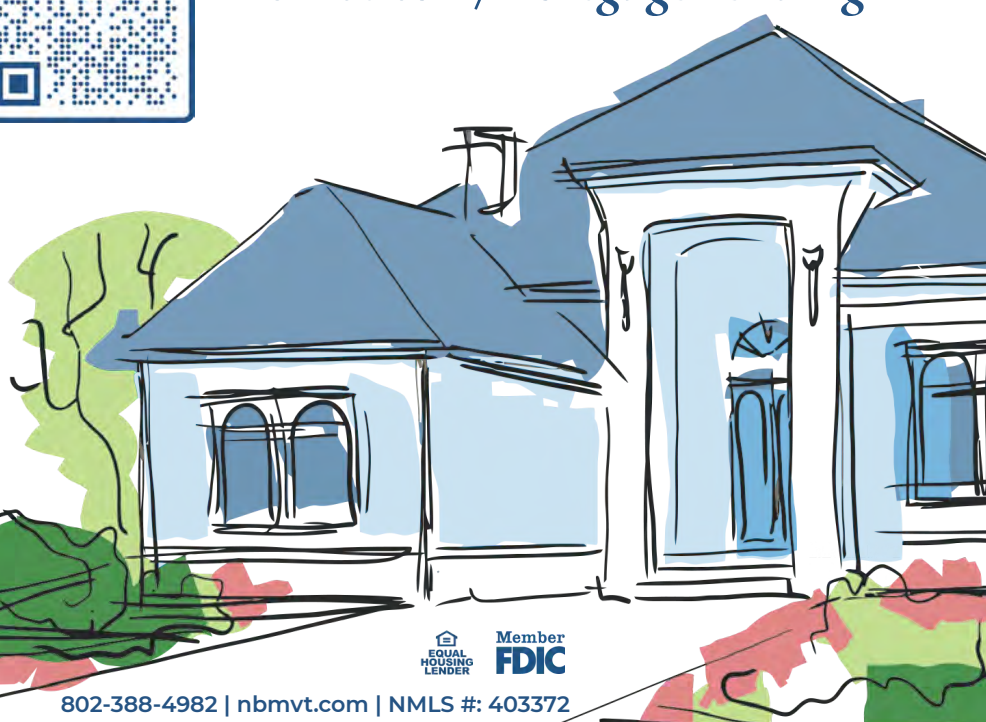
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DIGGER WASPS ENJOY swamp milkweed in the yard of state botanist Grace Glynn. Photo courtesy of Grace Glynn



JOE PYE WEED, native goldenrods, and bee balm thrive in the yard of state botanist Grace Glynn. Photo courtesy of Grace Glynn

HOW TO BUILD A HAVEN FOR NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR YARD

A national movement encourages homeowners to rip up their lawns to cultivate ecological diversity.

By **ERIN PETENKO**
VTDigger.org

Grace Glynn said she's still haunted by the barberry hedges she ripped out when she moved into her current Vermont home. Years after the massive undertaking to remove them, she keeps finding more of their roots. Yet Glynn has both a personal and a professional grudge against the ornamental shrub, which is not native to Vermont. As the state botanist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, she's passionate about turning lawns into havens for native plants.

Conventional lawns are typically dominated by a single species of grass, like Kentucky bluegrass, which provides little sustenance for local pollinators and wildlife, Glynn said. The practice of "No Mow May" suggests letting lawns grow shaggy for a month, on the theory that bees and other pollinators will find food there. But a national movement is encouraging homeowners to go

farther and rip up their lawns, or at least supplement them with native species.

Glynn gave the example of the oak tree, native to Vermont, which can meet the food and shelter needs of more than 550 species of butterflies and moths alone. A ginkgo tree, native to East Asia, can support only five.

Here's a starter kit on how you can introduce native plants to your yard.

FINDING NATIVE PLANTS

Amid a budding interest in native plants, online nurseries have cropped up to offer items labeled "native wildflower seed mixes" and similar fare. Glynn cautioned that while that trend may be well-meaning, many of those sources are actually offering seeds that aren't native species or local varieties that wildlife needs.

She suggested starting by understanding what's around you. Apps like "Seek" can help Vermonters identify what's already growing in their yard or nearby natural areas. Sites like Go Botany

can help you figure out whether a given species is native to your area.

Glynn said the Wild Seed Project, although based in Maine, is a reputable source for native New England seeds.

The Vermont Pollinator Working Group has put together a list of nurseries that specialize in native plants, although some are open only seasonally or provide plants only wholesale.

Full Circle Gardens in Essex is one such nursery. Owner Sarah Salatino said she became interested in offering native plants after attending a conference about the dire situation for pollinators nationwide.

Some pollinator insects, particularly bees, have dropped in

numbers in recent years. Experts say that's due to a combination of several threats: habitat loss, climate change and pesticide usage among them. That has later effects on other plants and animals in the

ecosystem and on agriculture, which relies on pollination for its produce.

Salatino said she asked herself, "What if I grew a balance, and people can still have their peonies or their hostas or whatever, but taking some natives here and there to help our pollinator populations?"

And that's how I started growing more and more natives."

Salatino said potential planters should consider a diverse mix of species, and at least five plants per species, so foraging insects and

other animals can have enough to eat when they come to your yard. "If you're going to be riding your bike around to try and go to a restaurant," she said by way of analogy, "you don't want to have to ride your bike very far."

Glynn said a few key species to consider are oaks, native grasses like switch grass and blue stem, willows, goldenrods, cherries, dogwoods, sweet fern and New England aster.

HOW TO PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Fostering new life might start with death — that is, of the turf grass taking up space in your yard. Glynn said there are a few ways to get rid of grass, including simply ripping it up or turning the sod over and covering it with cardboard to prevent weeds from coming in.

Solarizing, or covering grass with plastic to kill it, is hands-off but can introduce plastics into the soil, she said.

The methods to integrate native plants vary by species. Salatino said many can be propagated

simply by spreading seed in winter, but her nursery also offers seedlings in pots, some of which can be planted directly in the ground in spring.

The next step takes patience, and a certain level of acceptance of whatever comes up. Salatino said she sometimes hears pushback from people who think that native gardens look overgrown.

Glynn said she once got a comment from a neighbor that the previous homeowner's garden looked pretty and tidy — which she took as a dig at her own messier-looking garden. Some homeowners have even taken to putting up signs letting their neighbors know the purpose of their garden's wild appearance.

Salatino said her typical response is to simply suggest that people try planting native species in just a patch, or in part of their yard, and see what insects and other animals (See *Native Plants*, Page 9D)

"Those early flowering plants are really important for early emerging insects and early emerging native bees."
— Grace Glynn

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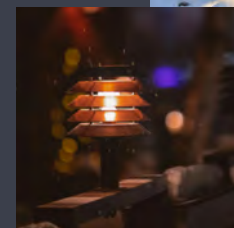
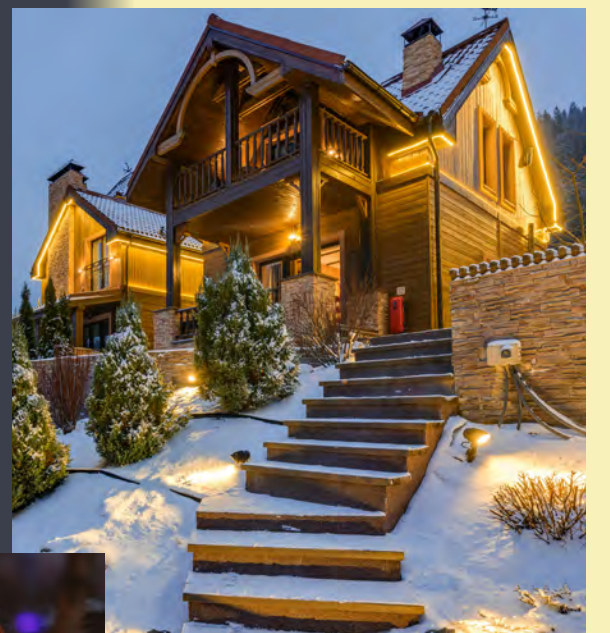
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Native plants

(Continued from Page 8D)
 come in as a result of those new species. Even integrating native species in between non-native ones can have benefits for local pollinators.

And there are additional benefits to a native garden for the landowner. Glynn said native plants typically require less watering and often require less soil augmentation, meaning fewer chemicals in your yard.

Salatino said natives are “so easy” to grow, because they’re adapted to the local environment they’ll be planted in. “(They) hate being fussed over,” she said.

She also loves to observe the wildlife that arrives to take advantage of newfound habitat. Just recently, she saw giant swallowtail caterpillars, odd-looking mottled creatures, grow into beautiful massive butterflies.

What about “No Mow May”? Glynn said that the effort to protect pollinators by skipping a month of mowing is better than nothing, but it often works against pollinators by encouraging dandelions, which do not support local insect species.

She said one benefit is that you might even find some native species coming up that had been suppressed by close-trimmed grass.

“I’ve had a ton of purple violets



STATE BOTANIST GRACE GLYNN

and Philadelphia fleabane, which is a really pretty little aster that has just burst up all across my lawn,” she said. “Those early flowering plants are really important for early emerging insects and early emerging native bees. So there can definitely be benefits to No Mow May, but it doesn’t fix the fact that a lot of these lawns are just monocultures of non-native species.”

BEYOND BACKYARDS

Private homeowners are not the only people who have grown more interested in helping pollinators. Mike Kiernan is the leader of Bee the Change, a nonprofit that has helped plant native fields in the spaces around solar panels in solar farms.

A few years ago, the group set a new goal: to plant pollinator habitats in every town in Vermont. So far, they’ve reached 70 habitats in four states, most of them in Vermont.

He said lawns are a visual demonstration of humanity’s power over the landscape. “But it’s time to examine how we use those spaces,” he said.

Our footprint is “crowding other species out,” Kiernan said. “If we’re having other species disappear at a rate that is accelerating,” because of climate change, habitat loss and other environmental issues, “we have to address it.”

He’s also gotten good feedback from members of the public about the impact of native species on the surrounding area.

“On the boundaries of the fence lines of one of the fields in Hinesburg, a farmer said, ‘I haven’t had apples like this since I was a kid,’” he said.



FORKED BLUECURLS AND flax-leaved aster populate the yard of state botanist Grace Glynn.

Photo courtesy of Grace Glynn



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- Use Vermont **contractor registries** to make an informed decision.
 - **Home improvement professionals registered as a contractor with the Secretary of State** agree to meet Vermont professional standards. Check out the link at tinyurl.com/RegContractors.
 - Contractors on the **Home Improvement Fraud Registry** have been convicted of home improvement fraud. Check out the link at tinyurl.com/HomeFraud.
- Ask for **recommendations** from your community — friends, neighbors, family, co-workers.
- Once you identify a contractor you are considering for your project, do more **research**.
 - Lookup complaint history online, using the name of the contractor and “scam” or “complaint” in your search.
 - Contact the **Consumer Assistance Program, or CAP**, and ask if they have complaints filed against the contractor you are considering, the timeframe and the nature of the complaints. Check out the link at ago.vermont.gov/cap.
 - Review **Better Business Bureau** complaint history. Check out the link at www.bbb.org.
- Ask the contractor to show you their **active registration and insurance policy**.
- Get quotes** from 2-3 other reputable contractors. Quotes should include the expected payment timeline (ideally with a deposit of no more than 10-30%) and ask for references from prior jobs.
- Make sure all project expectations are in writing; request a **written contract** or estimate and do not sign anything you do not agree with.
 - **DO NOT pay all at once!** Request an invoice and offer to pay at completion, by installment, or with a reasonable down payment for labor and materials.

Once hired, keep track of all invoices, bills and communication between you and your contractor.

You can always reach out to Gabriel Taylor-Marsh at the Attorney General’s Consumer Assistance Program directly with any questions you have: ago.vermont.gov/home-improvement-specialist-bio.

— This list was created by Gabriel Taylor-Marsh, Home Improvement Specialist at the Vermont Attorney General’s Consumer Assistance Program.



CODY STEPHENSON, A contractor with Vermont Energy, installs a heat pump in a Vermont home a few years back.
Photo courtesy of Efficiency Vermont

VERMONT IS STRUGGLING TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF HEAT PUMPS

By **ZACHARY MOSS**

Heat pumps could help Vermont reach its climate goals, but several factors are making it hard to take full advantage of their potential, according to the 2026 Annual Energy Report by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Problem number one: Federal tax credits for heat pumps ended in December as part of President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Home weatherization is a second challenge. A well-insulated home allows heat pumps to operate more effectively and efficiently, but Vermont has some of the country’s oldest housing stock and lacks enough weatherization workers.

Finally, people aren’t using their systems as efficiently as they could. Heat pumps are used at higher than expected rates in summer, but people are quick to shut them off in winter, instead relying on traditional fossil fuel systems, the report says.

“This is a long process, taking years and years of education and outreach to really see the behavior change,” said Matthew Smith, a spokesperson for Efficiency Vermont.

Due to these headwinds, heat pump adoption is anticipated to grow at a slower rate than previously projected, according to the report. But experts, including those at energy utility Efficiency Vermont, say they’ll continue to

Customer behavior and workforce issues create challenges for cleaner residential heat.

push technology to reduce the state’s reliance on fossil fuels.

Heat pump adoption is predicted to continue to grow, but at a slower pace. The chart below shows multiple scenarios for potential growth. Source: 2026 Annual Energy Report, Vermont Department of Public Service

A trio of issues

Cold-climate heat pumps are among the least expensive sources of heat for homes, cheaper on average than propane or heating oil. And because they’re powered by electricity, they’re a way to reduce household carbon emissions.

But even in the current moment, heat pumps are not reaching their full potential to save money and energy. According to the report, heat pumps are not only used less but are saving less than state officials expected.

Part of the problem is Vermont’s cold climate. During bouts of cold weather, some customers turn off their heat pumps, the report says, to rely on other fuels. This is due to the systems being pushed to their limit, sometimes leading to unexpected increases in electric bills.

“In single-digit temperatures, heat pumps still work, but

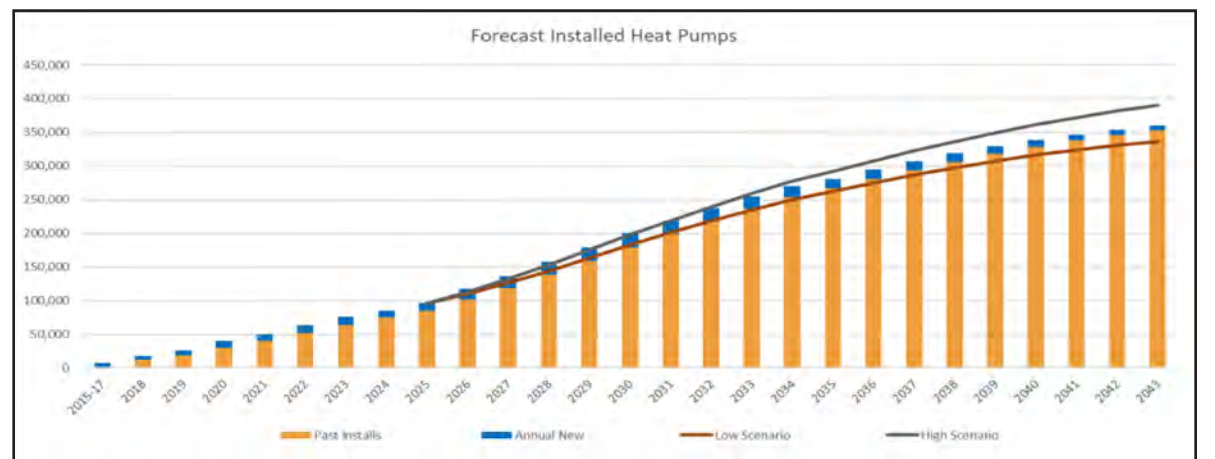
efficiency and output drop, operating costs rise and poorly weatherized homes often require expensive backup heat to stay comfortable,” said Michael Touchette, general manager of Vermont Energy, a heat pump dealer.

But the report argues that the technology alone isn’t to blame, noting that consumer education and behavior are part of the issue. Smith says homeowners need to become more familiar with heat pumps and their limitations before installing them, including that having a weatherized home would help them operate more effectively.

Vermont’s housing stock, however, was “built before there were anything resembling weatherization standards,” Smith said.

Efficiency Vermont, which offers homeowners a wide variety of efficiency-related rebates, also works to inform Vermonters about the importance of weatherization. Smith stressed the importance of “complementary actions” when installing heat pumps, including improved insulation and air-sealing.

To weatherize 120,000 homes (See *Heat pumps*, Page 15D)



HEAT PUMP ADOPTION is predicted to continue to grow, but at a slower pace. The chart above shows multiple scenarios for potential growth. Source: 2026 Annual Energy Report, Vermont Department of Public Service

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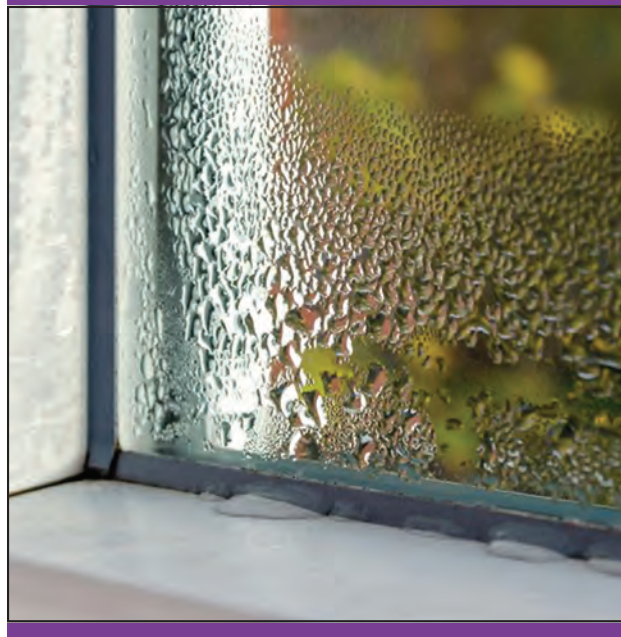
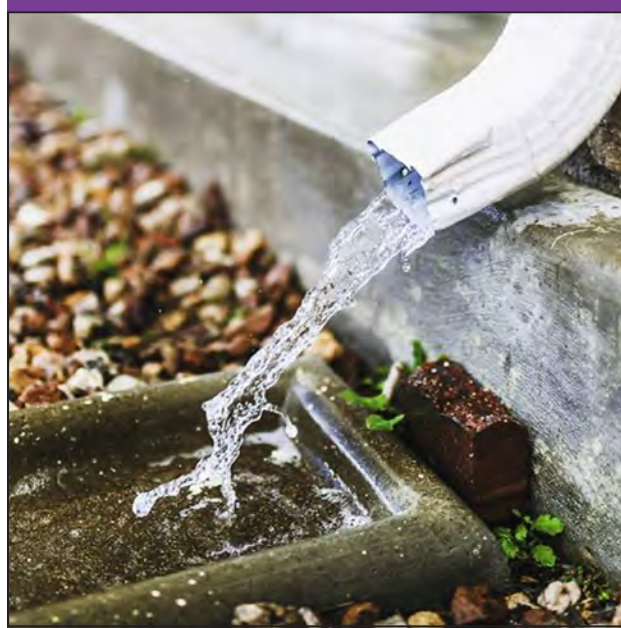
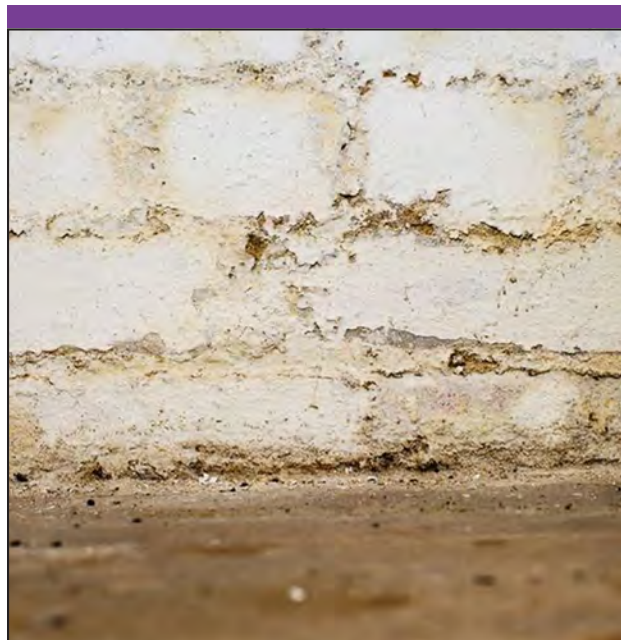
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HOW TO FIX A WET, DAMP, OR DOWNRIGHT LEAKY BASEMENT

Divert water runoff, fix leaks, eliminate condensation & cover damp floors



Winters are long in Vermont, so it's a relief when spring finally arrives. But snowmelt and rainfall can spell trouble for a basement: leaks, dampness, condensation, even standing water. Assuming you haven't had a bona fide flood, Efficiency Vermont reminds us that there's plenty you can do yourself to dry out your basement. Fixing the issue will also help you ready your home for energy efficiency upgrades like air sealing and insulation.

First, pinpoint the location and severity of the problem: is water everywhere or seeping in at just one corner? If it's running water, is it a trickle or a rushing river? Next, identify the type of water issue you have. Most fall under one of three categories.

1. Runoff or surface water

Does your basement get wet only when you have a serious storm or snowmelt event? Then you've got a runoff problem, and the place to start is outside. If you fix the issue at the source, then there's a good chance you won't have to do much inside your basement.

Gutters: these can make a big difference for some houses, but they have to be maintained and can sometimes suffer damage from ice or snow. If you have gutters, clean them regularly and be sure the downspouts lead well away from the building.

Grading: if water tends to pool against your foundation, then consider having a landscaper increase the slope of the grade away from your house. If you don't have enough space to do this (for example, if you're too close to your neighbor's house), the next measure can be just as effective.

Underground "overhang": dig out or excavate a band (about 1 foot deep, 3-4 feet wide) right up against the length of your foundation. Slope the band away from the house, place a membrane such as poly sheeting against the house and over the band, then backfill with stone or another material. Once it's in place, this solution is maintenance free.

2. Condensation

Two things cause condensation: cold surface temperatures and elevated air humidity. So to reduce it, you have to warm up your basement or dry out the air.

Cold water pipes: especially in summer, this is a classic location for

excess basement condensation. If you take the time to wrap cold water pipes with foam pipe insulation, most if not all of the condensation will go away.

Dryer vents: if you have a clothes dryer in your basement, it must be vented to the exterior of the building. Check vent pipes for leaks or clogs, as these can contribute significant levels of unwanted indoor moisture.

Windows and wood: it may seem counter-intuitive on a hot August day, but you should keep basement windows closed. Opening them will increase the air's humidity level. And we don't recommend storing your winter firewood supply in the basement; unless the wood is seasoned to less than 20 percent moisture content, it will release stored water into the air.

3. Subsurface water

So far, we've covered ways to keep out surface runoff (rain, snowmelt) and reduce interior humidity and condensation. But if those don't work and you still have water seeping in below grade, then you'll have to deal with the water where it is — inside. In this scenario, solutions can get more complex and may require assistance from a pro.

French drains: sounds fancy, but it's simply a slender trench resting right up against the inside of the foundation wall. When water gets in, it drops into the trench and is channeled to a covered sump pump or "drain to daylight." A sump pump can work well, but needs regular monitoring to ensure it's working properly. It may also increase your monthly electric bill.

Cover your floors: in conjunction with a French drain, it often makes sense to install a high-grade vapor barrier over the entire floor. This barrier covers the French drain and sump pump, and runs right up the exterior wall to a point above where the water comes in.

Crawlspaces: even if your main basement floor is concrete, you might have a dirt crawlspace under a portion of your house. Don't ignore it, because this may well be where moisture is getting in. To fix, try covering the ground with thick poly sheeting, overlapping and taping the seams.

What about insulation?

To fully realize the benefits of air sealing and insulating your home, Efficiency Vermont recommends you

deal with any sources of moisture or water in your basement first. Once you've done that, applying foam insulation and sealing windows and cracks will make a huge difference in warming up and drying out your basement, which will also eliminate most condensation issues. In Vermont, foundations are typically made of fieldstone or concrete (either poured or blocks). Which type you have dictates what insulation material you or your contractor use.

Fieldstone foundation: irregular fieldstone surfaces are treated with spray foam insulation, which requires professional installation. Because most of the basement's heat loss is at the top of the wall, your installer will want to cover at least the first couple of feet below grade. The more you can cover, the more energy efficient your house will be.

Concrete blocks and poured concrete: you can use spray foam on these foundation types, too. Or you can install sheets of rigid foam insulation, since the application surfaces are flat. Foam sheets cost less than spray foam and can be a DIY install job, depending on your skill and comfort level.

Important to know: any foam insulation you use, whether spray foam or sheets, requires a fire-protective paint coating or other approved covering according to safety code. And regardless of material, it's essential that the insulation be continuous (no breaks or gaps) and cover the band joint all the way up to the underside of the subfloor.

The bottom line

Moisture and water in the basement can be a serious hazard to the health of a building and its occupants. So take care of it sooner rather than later. If you suspect you already have mold, the Environmental Protection Agency has some useful guidelines for dealing with mold online at tinyurl.com/WhatAboutMold.

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Can't I just run a dehumidifier?

Dehumidifiers can be effective at removing moisture from basement air, but they can't fix underlying issues. They can also make for a high electric bill. Consider, too, that they don't work as well at lower temperatures — so you can't expect them to do much in a cold, damp winter basement. In the long run you'll save energy and money by preventing water from getting into your basement in the first place. If you do buy a new dehumidifier, however, make it an Energy Star certified model and check the availability of a rebate on the Efficiency Vermont website.



Editor's note: This story was



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REPURPOSE ROOMS IN YOUR HOUSE AND BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO A HOME

Homeowners do not need to get hung up on room labels as they explore ways to reinvent their spaces. Just because a floor plan labels a space as a formal dining room doesn't mean the area has to remain that way.

Repurposing rooms in a home comes down to aligning the space a person has with their lifestyle needs. Here are a few ways to rethink interior spaces and make a switch to improve utility.

- Identify unused or under-used rooms. Take note of spaces that are cleaned but rarely used. For many people, this is a dining room or a guest suite. Either of these rooms can be transformed into something new.

- Invest in multipurpose furniture. Even people short on space can transform their homes. Replacing a traditional bed with a murphy bed or a daybed can make a room more suitable for a home office or yoga studio, but still provide a space for the occasional houseguest to sleep. A pull-down shelf desk in a bedroom or even a walk-in closet can turn an area into a compact home workstation.

- Claim dead space. The area under the stairs or another small spot often is used to collect junk. Instead, it can be turned into a built-in wine rack, a reading nook for kids or even a pet sanctuary with just a few modifications. Analyze areas around the home that seem like they don't serve a purpose, and then

figure out a way to make them more functional.

- Establish room zones. Some people simply cannot transform an entire room into something else. Visual partitioning makes it possible to create rooms within rooms. An area rug can be used to define a border of a space. Open bookshelves can serve as a wall to separate a sleeping area from a lounging spot. Lighting can add dimension to areas in a space. A pendant light over a crafting or worktable can be used to define the space.

- Look at utility areas. Unless you are a do-it-yourselfer or have a hobby that takes up much of the garage or basement, utility areas are major spots in a home to consider repurposing. A garage can be turned into a home gym, kids' play area or even a hobby shop. Modular flooring and insulated walls can make the room comfortable. Attic lofts are the ultimate quiet zones, and can be serene spots for reading, meditating or doing homework. An unfinished basement can be converted into a finished space to serve many different purposes. From media rooms to a teen lounge to a hobby cave, the opportunities are endless.

A good rule of thumb before converting any room is to give it a test run. Move in a piece of furniture and test how it works with its intended function. Assess lighting, noise and foot traffic for a week, and then move ahead with changes if the result is positive.

— Metro Creative



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Answers on Page 15D



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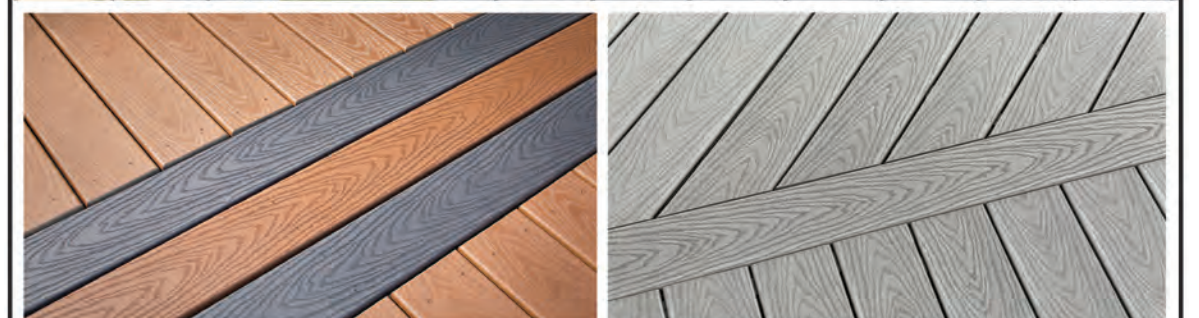
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WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN REPLACING A ROOF

No two home renovation projects are the same. Some projects are highly detailed undertakings that take months if not years from start to finish, while others can be tackled by skilled do-it-yourselfers over the course of a single weekend. Though each project is different, categorizing renovations as needs or wants can help homeowners determine when the time is right to go forward.

Roof replacement projects typically fall into the “need” category. A decaying roof can jeopardize the safety and security of a home and lead to additional issues, like water damage. It’s unwise to delay roof replacement projects when signs of a decaying roof start to appear. Homeowners who are starting to see such indicators can look to this rundown of roof replacement projects as they begin the process of replacing their roof.

Cost

Roof replacement costs vary considerably depending on a host of variables. Materials, location and the cost of labor, dimensions of the roof, and even choice of contractor all affect the cost of the project. The home renovation experts at Angi indicate the average roof replacement project costs \$9,500. Asphalt is among the more affordable roofing materials, costing an average of \$1 to \$1.20 per square foot, according to Nerdwallet. Slate roofs will be more expensive, costing anywhere from \$10 to \$30 per square foot.

Life expectancy

Homeowners may blanch at the cost of a roof replacement project, particularly if they choose a

more expensive material. However, it’s important to keep life expectancy in mind when receiving roof estimates. Many homeowners never replace a roof twice, making this a potentially costly but ultimately one-time expense. Though slate roofs are expensive, homeowners may find it reassuring that estimates from various roofing resources indicate slate roofs come with a life expectancy ranging from 50 to 200 years. By contrast, Nerdwallet estimates an asphalt roof lasts around 10 to 20 years, while others suggest such roofs can last as long as 30 years.

Materials

Choice of materials is arguably the most significant decision homeowners will make when replacing a roof. The experts at This Old House report that materials typically account for 55 to 65 percent of the overall cost of a roof replacement project. Decisions regarding roof materials will be affected by budget, local climate (certain materials are better suited to particular climates than others), aesthetic appeal, and required maintenance. It’s also important that homeowners consider the material warranty of each roofing product. Some materials offer longer warranties than others, which can provide a measure of security to homeowners investing so much in the project.

A roof replacement project is not a renovation that can be delayed when signs the roof is fading start to appear. Homeowners are urged to consider a wide range of variables before committing to a project.

— Metro Creative



Man the spray bottles — full scrape ahead

SOME PEOPLE THINK that “popcorn” ceilings are pretty great. But the number of those folks seems to be getting smaller and smaller. This Middlebury homeowner had had enough of the rough, white, spray-on texture in her circa-1977 house, so last year she and her husband began to remove the acoustic texture ceilings themselves. Here’s how it’s done:

- After testing for asbestos (it was banned in 1963 and replaced with styrofoam), move the furniture and all treatments out of the room, cover the floors and shelving with tarps and take down ceiling fans and light fixtures.

- Don a dust mask or respirator and goggles, plus clothing that you don’t mind getting filthy.

- Use a spray bottle to spritz plain water on a 4’x4’ area of ceiling.

- Standing on staging or a solid old chair, use a four-inch-wide putty knife tilted at an angle to scrape off the old ceiling

- Take care not to soak the drywall underneath, and don’t gouge the drywall because marks will be more obvious without the popcorn texture.

- Let the ceiling dry (shouldn’t take long), prime it, then paint it any color you desire.

— John S. McCright



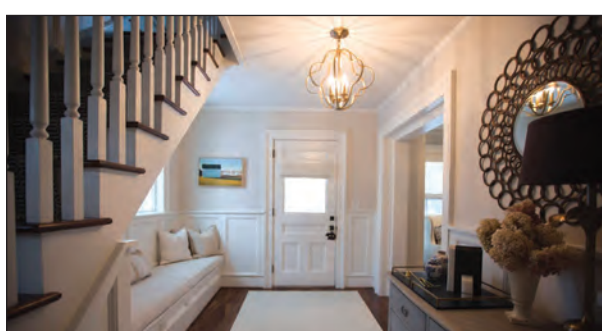
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PREPARE OUTDOOR SPACES FOR MEMORIAL DAY ENTERTAINING

entertaining opportunity of the year, which is certainly something to look forward to.

As outdoor entertaining season begins, homeowners can take these steps to prepare their outdoor living spaces for the first big backyard get-together of the year.

- Break out the power washer. Pressure washing is an important component of spring home cleanup. The warmer temperatures of spring allow water from power washing to dry more quickly, which can decrease the chances that mold and mildew will grow on surfaces like siding. A freshly power washed home also makes for a welcoming entertaining space. A power washer also can be used on outdoor entertaining spaces to remove dirt and debris that built up over the winter. Just make sure to read manufacturer instructions before using a power washer to clean paving stones, decks and outdoor furniture.

- Inspect outdoor furniture. Now is a good time to inspect outdoor furniture if the task was not performed in late fall or early winter before items were moved into the garage or placed in storage. Check to make sure furnishings are still safe to use, addressing any issues before guests come over for a Memorial Day weekend gathering. Wash cushions for outdoor furniture and replace any that might be showing their age.

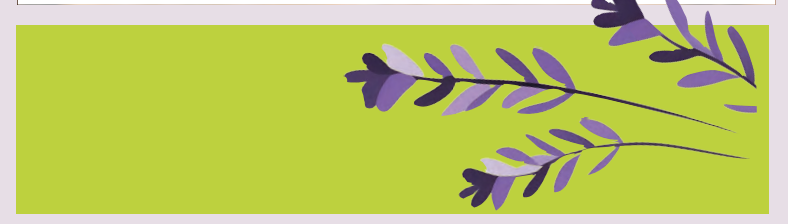
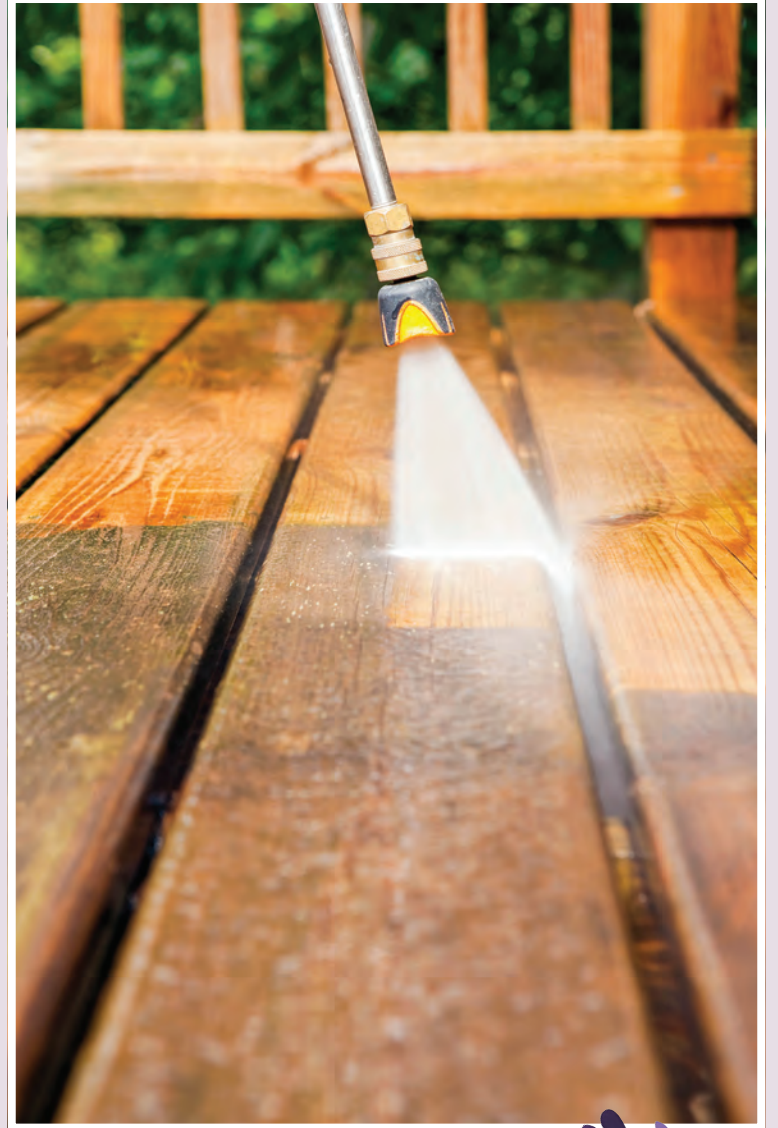
- Clean the grill. A thorough cleaning of the grill also is in order prior to summer entertaining season. Many homeowners do little or no grilling during winter, so now is the time to give grilling surfaces and the interior of the grill a deep cleaning. Check for leaks if using a gas grill, and scrub the interior of any grease that accumulated last season. Many grilling experts advise lighting a grill and letting it burn for roughly 20 minutes prior to putting any foods on the grates for the first time. Such a strategy allows residual fluids like soap,

vinegar and de-greasing products used when cleaning the grill to burn off before food is placed on the grates.

- Inspect the landscaping, too. It's not just seating areas like patios and decks that need some investigation prior to outdoor entertaining season. Take a walk around the landscape and make sure there's no potentially dangerous spots where people could be injured when playing backyard games. Fill in any holes with soil and fresh grass seed, and inspect trees to see if any branches need to be pruned.

Summer entertaining season begins each Memorial Day weekend. Homeowners can take various steps to ensure their outdoor entertaining spaces are comfortable and safe.

— Metro Creative

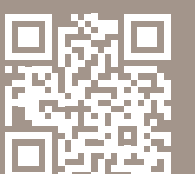


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ADDRESS UNINVITED GARDEN GUESTS HUMANELY

A beautiful garden is a wonder to behold. After a homeowner toils in the yard amending the soil and planting, it's imperative that a garden be given the best chance to thrive. However, the natural wildlife that shares the space might see that newly cultivated land as the perfect place to enjoy an easy meal or gather nesting materials.

Every gardener likely has a tale about chipmunks, squirrels, woodchucks, and rabbits making nuisances of themselves in the garden. Many of these animals seem to have a taste for bulbs and other plants, which can wreak havoc on what gardeners carefully plan and plant. Finding balance so everyone can get along may require patience and some well-crafted deterrents.

- Provide food elsewhere. Try luring the animals away to another area of the yard where the meal is even easier to come by. Squirrels and chipmunks love to dig and bury their caches, so a far-off corner with freshly tilled soil along with some berries, nuts and additional treats might attract them to that area instead of a newly established garden.

- Install fencing. While chipmunks and squirrels can scale fences easily, such acrobatics may be more challenging for lumbering groundhogs or rabbits. Make digging more difficult by

laying chicken wire fencing on top of the soil and stake it down in some areas.

- Use a scent deterrent. Some animals are put off by the smell of other animals or aromas they find unpleasant. The capsaicin in red pepper and cayenne can be off-putting to these animals, so sprinkling it around the garden may ward off pests but not harm the plants. Just reapply after each rain. Similarly, some people have had luck using peppermint. Plant mint around where you do not want the squirrels and chipmunks. Since mint can grow fast and become invasive, it's best to plant in containers and move accordingly.

- Use water or movement. Animals can be scared away if they are sprayed with water, so a well-aimed water gun can chase away the animals when a gardener is able to stand watch. It may be easier to set up pinwheels that blow in the wind, or hang aluminum pie plates or old compact discs from strings near the garden, which may deter animals from getting too close.

- Build a greenhouse. When dealing with tenacious squirrels and chipmunks, the only solution may be to block off all access. Why not try an enclosed greenhouse for the garden, which will keep animals out and even extend the growing season.

Many animals can become nuisances in a yard, particularly in and around gardens. Some humane solutions could remedy the situation.

— Metro Creative

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Heat pumps

(Continued from Page 10D)
 by 2030 — a goal set by the state in the Comprehensive Energy Plan in 2022 — Vermont would need to grow its weatherization contracting workforce from roughly 800, as estimated in 2022, to around 6,000.

“Available workforce, long-term funding and organizational capacity remain insufficient to meet that aspirational target,” the report says.

Even when installers recommend that homes be weatherized, some homeowners fail to prioritize it.

“Without adequate weatherization, much of that

investment is simply lost,” Touchette said.

Builders also aren't always following state rules designed to make homes more energy efficient,

state Rep. Scott Campbell, D-St. Johnsbury, said.

Campbell has a background in construction and is a member of the state's Building Energy Code Working Group, which was formed in 2024 to recommend strategies for increasing compliance with residential building energy

standards.

Consumers and builders alike “aren't aware that we have these mandatory energy codes,” he said.

When competing against other builders, code requirements can get ignored. If the rules go unenforced, systems can be installed improperly, which Campbell said can lead to insulation and moisture concerns.

“We've sort of let builders off the hook,” Campbell said. “Nobody's checking.”

Campbell's working group recommended reforming the enforcement of energy codes by creating effective, yet achievable standards.

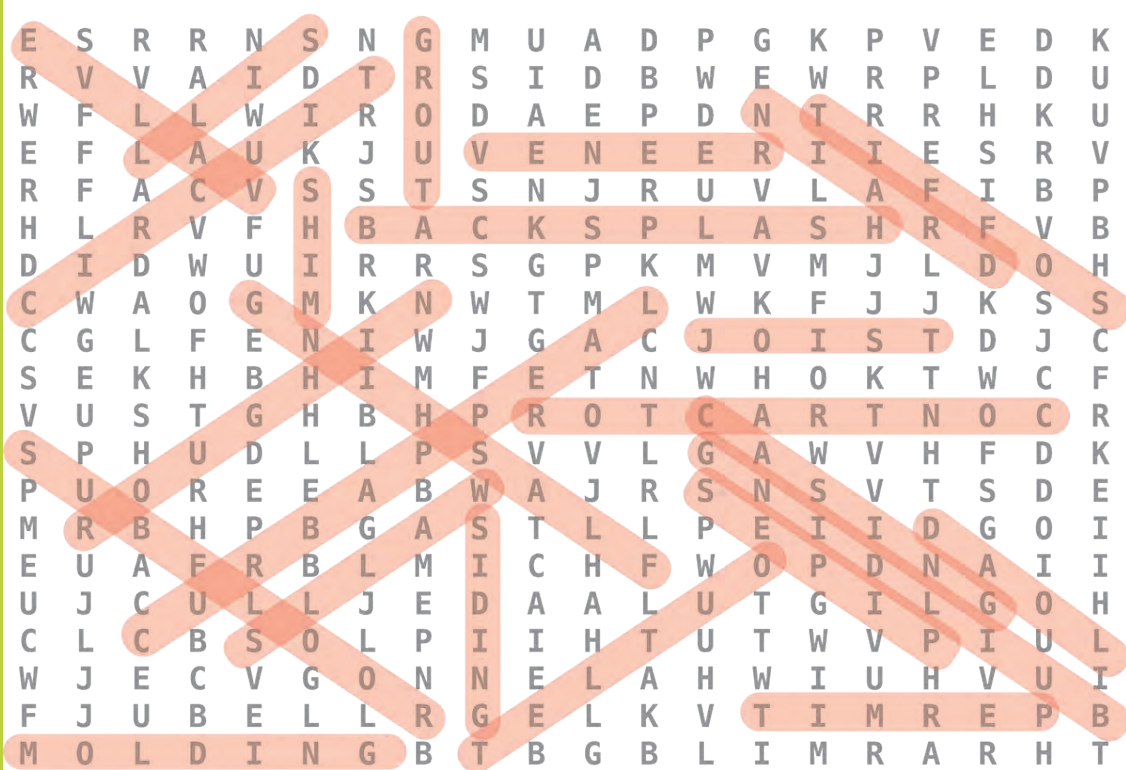
Meantime, Smith said Efficiency Vermont will continue finding ways to promote heat pumps and educate users on strategies to optimize their efficiency.

The organization, he said, is “troubleshooting at every level.”

Zachary Moss is a reporter with the Community News Service, part of the University of Vermont's Reporting & Documentary Storytelling program.



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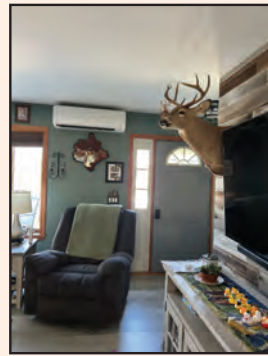
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