



## Opera matters

An old Verdi work gets new life in a small town at THT. Read our preview in Arts + Leisure.



## Rivals clash

The Eagle and Tiger baseball nines went head to head in the shire town. See the outcome Page 1B.



## Tasty fungi

May is a good time to find the elusive and delicious morel mushroom. See Page 9A.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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OMG, THIS MIDDLEBURY College nearly-grad is so excited as she walks into Sunday's commencement ceremony amid a regular trickle of rain drops. The tasteful white sweater not only keeps her warm in the unseasonable temperature, but it also perfectly accents her classic black gown.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Off they go; college graduates 558

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A steady rainfall and cool temperatures couldn't dampen spirits at Middlebury College commencement this past Sunday, which celebrated 558 members of the Class of 2026.

"I know it's raining, but it's a good

morning," President Ian Baucom told attendees, many of whom donned rain ponchos and carried colorful umbrellas.

Throughout the ceremony, graduating seniors were recognized for the contributions they've made to the Middlebury community and offered

guidance on how to approach the chapter ahead.

Commencement speakers also honored members of the Class of 2026 who died in recent years: Lia Smith and Ivan Valerio. Student commencement speaker Justin (See *Graduates*, Page 10A)

## MAUSD explores the closure of Beeman

### School choice is key for New Haven

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board on Tuesday heard more about what the closure of Beeman Elementary School could look like and how New Haven residents feel about that idea.

It's an option the board will continue to explore and discuss with the New Haven community. On Tuesday, some board members noted they would specifically like to see modeling of what it'd look like for New Haven residents to have school choice if Beeman closed, something

residents supported in a recent community survey.

"New Haven, I think, was abundantly clear that school choice is more palatable to them than just picking one school and sending all the kids there," MAUSD Board Vice Chair Meredith Rossignol said.

MAUSD officials have been evaluating different education delivery options in an effort to reduce costs while offering quality education in the district. The school board had recently narrowed options to explore further, a couple of which included (See *Beeman*, Page 11A)

## Middlebury water and sewer rates to surge

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday unanimously approved increases of 9.6% and 18%, respectively, in municipal water and sewer charges for fiscal year 2027.

Board members winced as they voted, a scene that will likely play out in many shire town households beginning this summer after the new rates take effect (July 1). But officials noted the increases are needed to bankroll overdue capital improvements, to

reflect contracted wage and benefits hikes for folks who run the systems, and to begin building a financial cushion to reduce an even bigger sticker shock when the bill starts coming due for an already approved \$49.5 million makeover of the Middlebury wastewater treatment plant.

"We're on the right trajectory. We've got to do this. But I'm uncomfortable with the impact it will have on our ratepayers," said selectboard member Dan Brown, who also (See *Middlebury*, Page 16A)

## McGill at a Turning Point

### State rep. takes job near home

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, has been spending a lot of time in her vehicle these days.

Too much. It's a long trek from Bridport to Montpelier during the legislative session. And during the rest of

the year, she has a three-hour commute to her job in Berlin where she's assistant director at Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs.

"I love the work I'm doing; resolving youth homelessness is one of my biggest passions," she said this past Friday during a phone interview from the Statehouse. "But I spend so much time away from my family during the session..." (See *McGill*, Page 13A)



## By the way

Long-distance runner Clifford "Chip" Piper of Salisbury will take on his latest 100-miler this Friday, May 29, at Ripton's Silver Towers Camp. It's part of the Infnitus 2026 "Rugged Trail Races" series. But as usual, Piper won't be running to test his own physical endurance; he's running to raise money for several organizations that assist folks battling substance use disorder, including Turning Point Center of Addison County. Piper began his "trailrun4recovery" effort several years ago in honor of his late son, Michael, whose life was cut short by an opioid overdose. (See *By the way*, Page 13A)

## Senate OKs compromised initiative

By ETHAN WEINSTEIN  
VTDigger.org

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Senate on Tuesday passed an education reform bill that will not force school districts to consolidate after negotiating a compromise with Republican Gov. Phil Scott that likely averts an impasse brewing the past several weeks.

The latest version of the legislation, H.955, is the product of a deal brokered by Democratic (See *Senate*, Page 11A)

## New Haven Rd. eyed for new city fire station

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — As an advisory committee explores options for a new fire station in the Little City, they have identified three possible locations — city-owned land on New Haven Road, commercial land on Pantown Road and land on Armory Lane.

"New Haven Road is favored due to municipal ownership, central location and appropriate size," ad hoc committee chair Bill Benton said. (See *Vergennes*, Page 8A)



## Way to remember

DESPITE THE LACK of sun, locals were beaming during Memorial Day parades in Middlebury and Vergennes this past Monday morning. At right, a star-spangled little girl leans out of a parade float during the shire town's celebration. Above, a patriotic tractor is dressed up special for the Little City's annual, two-mile-long procession. See more photos from Vergennes on Page 15A and from Middlebury on Page 12A.

Independent photos/Steve James



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### Honoring those who served

MICHAEL KANE, COMMITTEE chair & den leader of Cub Scouts Pack 539, watches his son (and Pack 539 member) Benjamin, 6, plant a flag on the grave of a War of 1812 veteran at the Vergennes Burial Ground this past Monday, Memorial Day. Kane's older son and Pack 539 member Theodore, 8, also participated in the flag planting effort. Pack 539, based at St. Peter's Church, draws youngsters from Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Addison, Panton and Waltham.

Photo courtesy of Michael Kane

## Starksboro students ready for nation's 250th

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — Students at Robinson Elementary School have been busy gearing up for the country's semiquincentennial in July.

The Starksboro learning community has been working on a walking path at the school that

will feature student research on the town's connection to the American Revolution and how its residents have found "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

That work will be on display during a school-wide event next week. The Thursday, June 4, event will feature a walk-a-thon on the path, students sharing their work commemorating the 250th anniversary and other festivities. The school's celebration of the semiquincentennial is being supported by funding from the Vermont Humanities Council in

partnership with Vermont's 250th Anniversary Commission.

Students have taken part in several other activities related to the semiquincentennial and exploring local and national history, including placing flags for veterans of the American Revolution in the local cemetery and getting involved in an American Symbols Coloring Contest.

The *Independent* will feature a more in-depth article on the walking path and other activities students have been working on in a future edition.

## Rabid fox found in Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday confirmed a recent case of rabies in a grey fox in Middlebury, though authorities aren't at this point providing the specific location.

Confirmation of the rabies case has prompted state and local health officials to warn area residents to be on the guard. Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals and is fatal to both humans and animals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks. Cats, dogs and livestock can also get rabies if they have not been vaccinated. Rabies virus is spread through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into a bite wound, open cuts on the skin, or onto mucous membranes like the mouth or eyes.

Emily Pareles, a zoonotic & vector-borne disease epidemiologist at the DOH, told town officials rabies was found in the remains of a fox collected from Middlebury on Saturday, March 23.

Health department officials stressed you shouldn't touch or pick up wild or stray animals — even baby animals — or try to make them into pets. Doing so can put yourself or your family at risk of exposure through a bite or scratch. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Interacting with young wildlife may result in them being orphaned or tested for rabies, which requires humanely euthanizing the animal. So, for their own sake, leave wildlife in the wild.

If your pet or farm animal was exposed to a wild or stray animal that might have rabies: contact your veterinarian. State

law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies — even barn cats.

Since wild animals move and interact with each other, a rabid animal detection means there is circulation of the virus and a risk of rabies from wildlife in the greater town area. All residents are urged to take steps to protect humans and domestic animals from rabies.

If you are bitten by an animal: wash the wound very well with soap and water and contact your health care provider. Follow all their instructions.

If you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely, or are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES) or report it to your town's animal control officer.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont — visit [www.healthvermont.gov/rabies](http://www.healthvermont.gov/rabies).

## Vermont House stops short of unmasking ICE

By CHARLOTTE OLIVER  
ViDigger

MONTPELIER — Vermont lawmakers originally looked poised to unmask federal authorities in the state. Then the Vermont House passed a bill Wednesday that stops short of its original ambition, in a move that divided Democrats.

The bill, S.208, would create a statewide policy on masking and identification for local and state police officers. But the legislation would not apply to federal agents.

Lawmakers spent more than two hours debating the bill Tuesday. That included a failed bid by the majority of House Democrats to change S.208 completely through an amendment that would have restricted federal agents in Vermont. After the amendment failed, lawmakers voted 102-39 in favor of the bill on second reading.

An earlier version of S.208, which the Senate passed in February, sought to ban all law enforcement officers operating in Vermont — including federal agents — from wearing masks, with some exceptions.

Then the House Judiciary Committee scrapped those provisions after judges in the 9th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled a similar California law was unconstitutional.

After that ruling, some lawmakers and legal experts say the Senate version of the bill is likely to be found unconstitutional in court. But other representatives say they have a moral imperative to

force officers to identify themselves in Vermont, and they would rather duke it out in court than cower too soon.

Dissent over the bill caused a rare splinter in the Democratic Party. The chamber postponed debate for nearly two weeks because many people still had an appetite to target federal agents in the bill, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, previously told ViDigger.

Two Democrats proposed an amendment on the floor Tuesday to revert the bill back to the version approved by the Senate. The amendment required 71 votes to pass. It failed in a 65-77 vote, during which seven members were absent.

The majority of Democrats disagreed with the House Judiciary Committee's decision to change the bill, with about 50 of the 87 Democrats in the chamber voting in favor of the amendment. A handful of Republicans, for their part, supported the amendment, though some said they couldn't support it because they thought it was unconstitutional. And other Republicans said they didn't support the bill altogether because it unnecessarily restricted Vermont law enforcement.

On the floor Tuesday, many Democrats said they disagreed with the federal government's immigration tactics and felt compelled to challenge how agents operate in Vermont.

"It is our prerogative to advance bills that our constituents are asking for and that we think benefit the broad population of our citizens," said Rep. Teddy Waszazak,

D-Barre City, during the floor debate. It's the role of the Legislature to push the envelope, and it's the role of the courts to interpret the Constitution, Waszazak said.

It's vital to stand up for people who are being harmed by the federal agents, he said.

Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Martin LaLonde, D-South Burlington, said during the debate that he thinks Vermont has weak legal

arguments in defense of a law that restricts federal agents.

"We should save Vermont's litigation resources for laws that have a better chance of being upheld," LaLonde said on the floor.

In an interview Tuesday, LaLonde said he believed the Senate's version of the bill was likely to be found unconstitutional after reading judges' decision on California's law.

California's law required all law enforcement officers in the state to wear identification. The Trump administration sued California, arguing the law violated the U.S. Constitution. A panel of three judges ruled against the state, saying its law violated a clause in the Constitution that prevents states from directly regulating the federal government.

Vermont is part of a different circuit in the federal Court of Appeals, meaning the California decision is not legally binding here. But LaLonde said judges' arguments were convincing enough to sway his opinion.

Along with California, four other states — New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington and Oregon — have respectively passed similar mask bans that apply to federal agents.

(See Unmasking Page 3B)

*"It is our prerogative to advance bills that our constituents are asking for and that we think benefit the broad population of our citizens."*  
— Rep. Teddy Waszazak

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May 27 - June 2

# Sutherland to fill interim superintendent role in Lincoln

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
 LINCOLN — The Lincoln School District has hired a UVM associate professor as the interim superintendent to lead the learning community throughout the upcoming academic year.  
 District officials recently announced Daniella Sutherland will step into the role on July 1 and serve for one year. She follows current superintendent Amy Cole, who will step down at the end of the school year to take on a new role as a professor at Merrimack College in Massachusetts.  
 “I am honored to step into this role with the Lincoln School District,” Sutherland told the *Independent*. “The district is small but essential, and reflects the importance of Vermont’s small, rural community schools. I am looking forward to starting with Lincoln’s committed team of educators, administrators, and community members.”  
 According to the announcement, Sutherland has spent 12 years working in various preK-12 environments. Those roles have

included serving as a technology coordinator at a rural Navajo elementary school, a supervising teacher for pre-service candidates at Smith College’s independent K-6 school in Massachusetts and on the Leadership Team, Student Services Team and School Culture Committee for a public school in Maine.  
 “Throughout the leadership search process, the Board has prioritized stability, impactful collaborative leadership, and a steadfast commitment to the extraordinary qualities of our community-driven school district,” district officials wrote in a May 20 announcement of Sutherland’s hiring. “Dr. Sutherland will bring to our district a unique combination of direct, school-based experience along with a deep understanding of Vermont’s rural educational landscape.”  
 The announcement states that in her role as a UVM associate professor, Sutherland “teaches graduate-level courses required for administrative endorsement



DANIELLA SUTHERLAND

and has instructional expertise in curriculum design and leadership; education policy, data collection, and analysis; organizational management; school-community partnerships; and educational administration in rural communities.”  
 Sutherland also brings to the table experience as a scholar, exploring “how superintendents and principals navigate state

and federal politics, especially regarding educational equity.” Her studies have been conducted in collaboration with superintendents, principals and school boards in Vermont and South Carolina, according to the announcement.  
 Sutherland studied studio art at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and earned a Master of Education from Smith College. She also received a doctorate degree in Educational Policy Studies from The Pennsylvania State University’s College of Education.  
 “The Lincoln School District Board is confident that Daniella’s broad experience, deep knowledge, and passionate commitment to rural schools and districts will help ensure stability and continued progress during the coming year,” district officials wrote. “The Board looks forward to working closely with Dr. Sutherland and our dedicated staff and faculty to support, sustain, and engage students and the wider Lincoln learning community.”

# Unmasking

(Continued from Page 2B)

Vikram David Amar, a law professor at University of California, Davis, who has written columns about California’s law, said he thinks state laws that ban federal agents from masking are unconstitutional.  
 “States cannot tell federal government entities or employees what they can do on the job, period. Unless Congress allows it,” Amar said.  
 When S.208 was under consideration in the Senate, lawmakers tried to engineer it so that it could weather a constitutional challenge. The clause in the Constitution says that states cannot directly regulate the federal government. So lawmakers worded the bill to make its provisions apply to all law enforcement officers in Vermont.  
 But the judges who ruled against California’s officer identification law poked holes in that logic. In their ruling, judges said that although California’s identification law applied to all law enforcement officers, it still attempted to directly regulate the federal government.  
 The federal government can allow states to limit federal employees, according to Amar, as

they’ve done with local personal injury laws in the event that a Postal Service driver hits someone on the road.  
 But there’s no suggestion that the federal government would allow states to regulate immigration agents, he said.  
 “It’s all ultimately performative. It has no chance of success,” Amar said of the laws attempting to regulate immigration agents.  
 Falko Schilling, advocacy director for the Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, disagrees. He believes the original version of S.208, which his organization has advocated for in the Statehouse, would still have a good chance to succeed in court.  
 “This is an area of law where we’ve known from the beginning that these are somewhat untested waters, but we’re also living in an unprecedented time.”  
 — Falko Schilling

# Landlord-tenant bill falls apart in Senate tiebreaker

**By CARLY BERLIN, Vt Digger**  
 A bill that originally sought to streamline the eviction process and rebalance Vermont’s landlord-tenant laws died on the Senate floor this Wednesday afternoon.  
 It was a dramatic turn for a bill the Senate had already largely stripped down to a study. But its remaining provisions proved divisive enough to split the Senate in a rare 15-15 vote after a flurry of amendments. Lr. Gov. John Rodgers issued the tiebreaking no-vote to kill the bill.  
 “This bill... is a mess,” said Sen. Thomas Chittenden, D-Chittenden Southeast, on the Senate floor, explaining why he decided to vote against the bill, H.772.  
 The legislation began as an attempt to “weigh the rights of disparate groups in completely unrelated circumstances” against each other, Chittenden said, amounting to what he called “a false moral equivalency.”  
 Several other Democrats — Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast and Sen. Tanya Vyhovsky, P/D-Chittenden Central — joined Chittenden and a majority of Republicans to oppose the bill, forming an unusual coalition.  
 “I just think this was the wrong way to approach this very complex and thorny topic of landlord-tenant law, and I hope that the next Legislature takes these things on merit,” Chittenden said.  
 H.772 passed the House in March. It sought to shorten the time it takes to evict a tenant

in Vermont when the renter has fallen behind on payments or has breached their lease.  
 The bill contained benefits for tenants, such as longer timeframes when a landlord ends a lease for no cause, in addition to limits on what landlords can charge for a security deposit and how often they can increase rents. But advocates for renters argued the bill’s hastened eviction process for cases where tenants were at fault would increase homelessness.  
 Meanwhile, Vermont’s large nonprofit affordable housing providers lobbied for the bill, arguing its provisions to expedite evictions for people who threatened the safety of others on their properties would help protect the bulk of tenants from the harmful actions of a few.  
 As the bill wound through the Senate this spring, the Judiciary committee removed provisions that would have sped up evictions. That came after court officials raised concerns that hastening evictions could pose problems around staffing capacity and privileging eviction cases over other types of cases. Senate lawmakers instead directed the courts to study the feasibility of creating a dedicated docket for mediating landlord-tenant disputes.

Senators left a few policy changes in the bill, however, which ignited heated debate on the Senate floor on Wednesday afternoon.  
 One such measure would have allowed a landlord to get a no-trespass order against the guest of a renter or a prior tenant if that person has violated lease terms — or state or federal law — while on the property.  
 Sen. Alison Clarkson, D-Windsor, chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, spoke in support of the provision, saying it would help prevent situations like the one that played out at Burlington’s Decker Towers in recent years, in which tenants were intimidated by people buying and using drugs on the premises.  
 But not all Democrats were on board with the no-trespass changes, arguing they were too punitive towards tenants absent other protections. Ram Hinsdale, another member of the Senate’s housing committee whose spouse is the property manager for a prominent Burlington rental business, attempted to push through an amendment to tack on protections for disabled tenants facing eviction. The last-minute change garnered little support

*“I just think this was the wrong way to approach this very complex and thorny topic of landlord-tenant law, and I hope that the next Legislature takes these things on merit.”*  
 — Thomas Chittenden

from fellow lawmakers.  
 “There is a balance of power that’s really important to visualize and protect in this case, where one person is at risk of losing their housing and the other person is at risk of losing financial remuneration,” Ram Hinsdale said on the floor.  
 In the meantime, Republicans disfavored more pro-tenant provisions in the bill, including a measure that would bar a landlord from evicting a tenant who has sought medical assistance for a drug overdose.  
 “We’re talking about substance abuse disorder becoming essentially a tenant protected class. This shifts the risks to the landlords,” said Sen. Dave Weeks, R-Rutland. “My concern is for mom-and-pop landlords, and their law-abiding tenants.”  
 Negotiations on amendments ultimately fell apart within the

Democratic caucus, and the bill failed to pass, to the surprise of observers.  
 Rep. Marc Mihaly, D-Calais, H.772’s original sponsor, expressed his disappointment that the bill died in the Senate.  
 The status quo isn’t working, he said. Potential landlords refrain from offering rental housing because of the specter of lengthy eviction disputes in court, and tenants have little protection in instances where a landlord wants to repurpose a building. He felt

like the bill the House produced — which garnered bipartisan support — took a balanced approach to the issue.  
 “It’s not like we need more testimony. Everything that could be said was said,” Mihaly said. “What we need is people making decisions.”  
 This story, by Report for America corps member Carly Berlin, was produced through a partnership between VTDigger and Vermont Public.

# Notes of appreciation

## Thanks for affordable housing collaboration article

Thank you for the wonderful and informative article by John Flowers highlighting the ongoing collaboration between Silver Maple and Habitat for Humanity of Addison County (Local Builder Makes Habitat Home a Lighter Lift, May 14).  
 Affordable housing is an ongoing national crisis with no real solutions in sight—and we are feeling it right here in Vermont. While HfHAC is only able to build one home a year, it is a commitment we have made to

our community. We are a 100% volunteer organization—every penny we receive goes straight toward building houses—so when companies like Silver Maple step forward to share their valuable time and expertise, it makes an enormous difference.  
 Tim Steele and Sean Flynn led a team that saved our construction crew months of hard labor. The framing and trusses they constructed in their warehouse over the winter (when our crews are often hampered by frigid

outdoor temperatures) expedited the on-site construction and ensured a professional result in keeping with our high standards for energy efficiency. Their expertise and enthusiasm made the whole experience not only productive but fun.  
 We look forward to their continued support. What a lucky community we are!  
 Ken Remsen  
 President of HfHAC  
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## Editorials

## Scott backs off forced mergers

Gov. Scott on Tuesday did what he should have done weeks ago: back off his insistence on mandating school consolidation. Once he did, legislators and members of Scott's administration could work together to craft legislation to take a major step forward on a school reform package that Vermonters can support.

As we wrote last week in this column, better to declare victory and move on to other matters, rather than drawing a firm line in the sand insisting on forced school closures.

Scott's reluctance to concede is worth noting because it shows a blind spot in judgement.

To recap, the bipartisan School Redistricting Task Force's 176-page report released last November suggested abandoning the idea of forced school consolidations. Rather, it suggested the formation of seven Cooperative Education Service Districts to capture economies of scale, while encouraging voluntary school mergers within districts as well as the adoption of a foundation formula — which would be the real key to reining in school spending.

The Task Force interviewed over 5,000 Vermonters and spent four months touring the state to get feedback from school districts and the broader community. Almost no one, they found, supported the idea of forced consolidations, let alone merging the state's 119 school districts into the governor's recommended five.

The governor's reaction to the report was misplayed from the get-go. Rather than giving the Task Force credit for its work, he lashed out, saying they "didn't fulfill their obligation" and that "they failed" their directive. He made matters worse by threatening to hold the session hostage to his demand that mandatory consolidation be part of any package.

He bullied the legislature and the public to adopt his preferred solution.

At this point, it's not difficult to see that a different approach would have been more productive. Rather than dismissing the Task Force's work, he could have recognized the public's resistance to forced consolidation and gone out on the campaign trail to rally support for his plan and explain to the taxpayers why consolidating 119 districts into fewer would work better. He never gave it a shot. It fits a pattern. Scott rarely proposes legislation solutions to major issues, and even when he does — like his initiative on education reform — he doesn't use his political capital to push the issue in every corner of the state.

And it's not the first time Scott has been on the wrong side of a major issue. Before the Legislature passed Act 76, childcare in Vermont was notoriously expensive and hard to access. The issue was plain: because of low pay, there simply weren't enough childcare providers to meet demand. That lack of supply forced prices sky-high and prompted many parents to choose to stay out of the job market, which also hurt the state's dwindling workforce. Act 76 was passed over Gov. Scott's veto, and has since created thousands of childcare jobs, eased the burden for parents, and has proven to be one of the more effective bills of the past decade.

We all like Gov. Scott. He's personable, he does a great job heading up emergencies — like communicating during flooding or managing the Covid pandemic — and he's mostly reasonable. But his mantra to make Vermont affordable clashes with the reality that he has not been effective in making that happen. It's time to consider a change.

Angelo Lynn

## Working for the common good

In this era of narcissistic leaders and misplaced values, it seems more important than ever to honor those who work for the common good.

The thought comes to mind because I had the good fortune of being part of Middlebury College's commencement ceremonies this past weekend and met three other college honorees — all of whom are doing heroic work to improve the lives of the people in their communities.

Among the honorees, area residents will know the amazing work of Shabana Basij-Rasikh, cofounder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA). A Midd graduate class of 2011, she operated the first and only boarding school for Afghan girls in Kabul from 2016 to 2021. She helped lead the flight of many of the school's students outside of the country once the Taliban took over and has maintained her efforts to educate Afghan women ever since.

Honoree Andrea Green is the director of the Pediatric New American program and professor at the Robert Larner, M.D., College of Medicine at the University of Vermont. For many years she has provided high-quality medical care focusing on the needs of refugee and immigrant children. She is a passionate advocate for those children and their families and was honored for the extraordinary work she does to make their lives better.

Science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson has spent a lifetime imagining utopian worlds in which the biggest issues of our time, including climate change, might be resolved — introducing astute and imaginative thoughts to the national conversation.

As I watched the 558 graduates get their diplomas on Sunday, wet and cold but joyous, I recalled the students came from 45 states and U.S. territories, and from more than 20 countries. They were scholars, grant recipients, student-athletes and six absent seniors were members of the women's lacrosse team who went on to win their fifth consecutive NCAA championship. Many students were also volunteers or interns at area nonprofits and businesses during their four-years at the college, caring for neighbors and helping to build a more vital community.

As graduates from Middlebury College, and from colleges and high schools throughout the country, ponder their next steps, we marvel at their promising potential and can only hope as they reach for success, they also follow the examples of those working for the common good and understand the reward that comes from it.

Angelo Lynn

## Newsroom trauma, thankful outcome

Word spreads quickly in small towns, so here's a brief note to report that our beloved sports columnist and retired Middlebury College professor Karl Lindholm had a health scare here at the office Tuesday morning. After exchanging his typical jokes and friendly banter with colleagues, he sat down at his computer to put the finishing touches on this week's column. Then reporter John Flowers noticed Karl had slumped in his chair. What followed was emergency application of CPR, a call to 911, a quick response by Middlebury's excellent first responder team and ambulance care to the medical center. By later that Tuesday, Karl was stabilized and doing much better. With much good fortune, a good outcome is promising. Look for an update next week.

Angelo Lynn

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## Put on a happy face

THE GRAY SKIES filled with rain clouds over the Middlebury College graduation on Sunday were balanced by a sea of brightly colored umbrellas adorning McCullough Lawn in the heart of campus. Everyone got at least a little wet, but no one melted.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Other ideas are worth considering

The semester is over. Grades and evaluations have been posted. I look forward to several weeks without reading work-related emails, books, reports or papers. These words might give you the impression that I don't enjoy my job. I do. I've been a teacher for most of my adult life. I love what I do because I learn so much from my students.

I haven't always had that perspective. Over the years, I've heard in multiple ways that, students learn from me. That's the purpose of lesson plans, curricula and essential objectives. It's nice to have a plan. While covering the objectives of a course, I accept that students teach me.

I've had the privilege to teach college courses that don't require me to be an expert in a specific topic. In recent years, I've been teaching creative writing, as well as research and writing courses. In my courses, students explore important issues in the world and express their views on these pressing concerns. An important goal is to help them consider that their perspectives aren't the only valid ones. To do this, I have to accept and welcome the fact that there is a lot I have to learn.

Through teaching I've worked with people who have recovered from addictions, are adjusting to living in a foreign land, finishing their degrees after years of absence from college, high-school students in a dual-enrollment program, veterans, and other categories of traditional and not-so-traditional students. We might have something in common. Frequently they've had experiences very different from mine. And I'm curious about how they view and navigate the world.

Their current or aspiring careers include healthcare providers, early childhood educators, accountants, law enforcement, media studies, and human services professionals. Through their discussions and written work, I've been introduced to the devastation of the opioid crisis, block chains and bitcoins, adverse childhood experiences, and legal hacking (which seems an oxymoron, but — it's a thing!).

Through teaching, I join a community that includes people who are dismayed at the lack of sustainable business practices by governments and corporations, COVID deniers, people with multiple perspectives on wars and who despair of ever living in a peaceful world.

The students aren't required to have a particular view on a subject. They are required to engage opposing perspectives. Doing so compels them to step outside their comfort zones, to look at gaps in their logic, their assumptions about ... well, everything. My goal is to foster curiosity and to forgo absolute certainty. Even if a student maintains the same perspective, they at least have to acknowledge that there are other ideas worth considering. Engaging their learning process, I have to do the same.

Teaching can be physically and emotionally exhausting. That's why the end of a semester is such a relief. As I consider the budding leaves of trees outside my windows and look forward to rest from the job, I consider the students whose ideas have broadened my perspectives and I can say, "Well done!" to all of us.

Ruth Farmer is a published essayist and poet. She is sole owner of Farmer Writing and Editing (www.ruthfarmer.com).

## Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer



## Far from home, never forgotten

A few years ago, my family and I traveled to the Grand Est region of northeastern France to visit the Epinal American Cemetery, where more than 5,000 American soldiers who died during World War II are buried. Among them were two members of my own family.

One was my uncle Frank Meade, who was killed during the Battle of the Parroy Forest in late 1944, as Allied forces pushed toward Germany through brutal fighting in the Vosges mountains of eastern France. The other was my uncle Amos Plante, whose grandparents were born in Quebec. Amos, an Army doctor, was killed when the aircraft carrying him and the severely wounded soldiers he was treating was shot down before reaching Paris.

What I remember most from that visit was not only the rows of white crosses and Stars of David stretching across the hillside, but the kindness and reverence shown by the cemetery's caretaker.

When we arrived, he brought over a small container of sand gathered from the beaches of Normandy. He gently showed my 8-year-old daughter how to rub the sand into the engraved lettering on my uncles' headstones so their names would stand out more clearly against the white marble. Nearby, my six-year-old son helped his cousins place miniature American and French flags beside the graves. Then, in the stillness of

the cemetery, the caretaker played Taps.

Thousands of miles from home, surrounded by the graves of Americans who never returned, the meaning of Memorial Day had become even more deeply personal for me. My relatives came from the small towns of northern New York, only a few hours from the Lake Champlain Valley. Even today, when I watch the local Burlington newscast, coverage often includes the same communities where my family lived just a generation ago. The landscape, values and rhythms of life in northern New York are not so different from those found across Vermont.

In Vermont and across the North Country, military service has long been woven into community life. Small towns have sent generations of young men and women into uniform, not because war is romantic, but because service to country and community is seen as something larger than oneself. The monuments on village greens throughout the region remind us that even the smallest communities shared in the enormous sacrifices of wars fought oceans away.

During my own 16 years overseas with the United States Foreign Service, my family and I often lived and served alongside military families stationed around the world. From Africa to the Middle East and at embassies, at ceremonies, and on distant holidays

(See Fox, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

## Bird banding was success

I want to give a shout-out to the team at the Crown Point State Historic Site bird banding station.

Master banders Ted and Gordon, along with a team of scientists and volunteers, operate a banding station for the first two weeks of May, from dawn to dusk, weather permitting.

I am putting it in the calendar to visit again next year. It is an awesome way to see birds up close and to learn about the data that they are collecting and how it is used! Visitors are welcome, including school groups.

Holly Fulton  
Middlebury

## Joint effort leads to safer road

On May 13, the Vermont State Traffic Committee approved a recommendation to lower the speed limit on a portion of Route 74 through West Cornwall, including the Bingham Street intersection. This change has been sought by neighbors for over five years based on concerns around speeding and multiple crashes with resulting injuries, and as the population in the village area has grown with new residential construction.

Sincere thanks for the efforts and support of the Cornwall selectboard, to Sheriff Michael Elmore and to Sen. Ruth Hardy. This change will make a difference in safety for our community, especially for pedestrians, cyclists and families who travel through the area.

The responsiveness on the part of the Traffic Committee and the Cornwall selectboard, and dedication to addressing community concerns demonstrate leadership and a commitment to public safety. We are grateful for the collaboration with residents and appreciate the time and consideration that went into requesting and implementing these changes.

On behalf of everyone who values a safer, calmer neighborhood, thank you for listening and taking action.

Elizabeth Karnes Keefe  
West Cornwall

## Get trucks out of Vergennes

Traffic in Vergennes (about 800 trucks per day). Vergennes truck bypass project will never get cheaper! Do something NOW!

Sixty-plus years ago "Faith" complained about Route 22A and now, in 2026, same old, same old issues. Do something!

It appears Democrats and Republicans are not listening to the taxpayers — remember we vote! Some 800 trucks per day seemingly go through this old town with an old bridge. Stop wasting money on studies. Why did the Vermont Agency of Transportation make Route 22A a designated truck route — it never met standards in the first place.

Eileen Wullschlegler  
Vergennes

## Explaining 9th sign of fascism

Over the past months you may have driven by individuals holding up "Signs of Fascism" on the Cross Street Bridge at Triangle Park or along Main Street in Middlebury. This is why.

- **One sign of fascism:** Control of the media.
- **A second sign of fascism:** Using a shared grievance to exert power and control over the masses.
- **A third sign of fascism:** The normalization of corruption.
- **A fourth sign of fascism:** Seeking to expand territory through armed conflict.
- **A fifth sign of fascism:** "Whitewashing" history.
- **A sixth sign of fascism:** Complete and utter disdain for human rights.
- **A seventh sign of fascism:** Adopting and perpetuating ideology over science and facts.
- **An eighth sign of fascism:** "Fixation with perceived national decline, humiliation, or victimhood."

(See Wiger-Grohs letter, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Sen. Heffernan is lacking in cultural knowledge

Having read the notable collection of letters in regard to Sen. Heffernan's comments and lack of previous vote, I have decided to respond here. I suspect the Senator is a well-respected member of the Bristol community. I also would guess, based on his background, that he is on the right committee.

However, I think he is over his head in the senatorial seat. One needs broad cultural knowledge, deep community knowledge, and a strong desire to stay current on issues. My opinion is that his current cultural knowledge appears to not have kept up with the science. See the excerpt that resulted from

a quick Google search. It is a Pub Med abbreviated quote. "Sexual identity and sexual orientation are independent components of a person's sexual identity. These dimensions are most often in harmony with each other and with an individual's genital sex, although not always. The present review discusses the relationship of sexual identity and sexual orientation to prenatal factors that act to shape the development of the brain and the expression of sexual behaviors in animals and humans. One major influence discussed relates to organizational effects that the early hormone environment

exerts on both gender identity and sexual orientation ...." As pointed out in the *Independent*, identity of gender is a human choice or function of biology and does not make one not a human being. Personally, I do not believe in equating a fetus with a person, nor do I think that voting "no" on an equal rights amendment is the right thing to do. And finally, I do think that the misguided comments on the floor of the Senate indicate a backward-looking lack of knowledge. We do not need this view representing us. **Charlotte McGray Starksboro**

### Editorial had valid insights but flawed conclusions

Angelo Lynn's editorial, "Scott Should Grab Victory on Education," (May 21, 2026) makes a reasonable argument for one part of the educational reform bill being considered by the Legislature: the creation of seven Cooperated Economic Service Areas. These magna-districts would make it easier for several school districts to share some of their expenses: perhaps books, supplies; nurses; counselors; teachers with narrow specialties. But the editorial also supports a so-called Foundation Plan that would require the Legislature to determine annually how much all

districts would be allowed to spend per pupil. Vermont has never done anything like this since it became a state! Do you really want the legislature to make such a decision? Will legislators know as much as principals, school board members, and local voters? One amount of money per pupil cannot provide equal educational opportunities for 80,000 students, because uniformity is blind to the differences among schools and pupils. It ignores:

- Individual needs of each student.
- Class sizes.
- Breadth of the curriculum.

- The number of teachers and staff.
- Their seniority, which determines their pay grade.
- The costs to heat and maintain each school building.

Equally important, the envisioned Foundation Plan would abolish income sensitivity, which now enables over half of Vermont's homeowners to base their school taxes on their incomes rather than the market value of their homes. Most Vermonters would pay more than they do now. **John Freidin Middlebury**

## Wiger-Grohs letter

(Continued from Page 4A)  
**• A ninth sign of fascism:**  
 The intertwining of religion and government.

From a historical perspective, the line between church and state in Germany has always been somewhat blurred. The country has been predominantly Protestant Christian since the Reformation in the 16th century. Yet, in 1919 the Weimar Republic's Constitution established religious freedom for all.

However, in 1930s Germany, with Nazi ascendance to power, religious freedom was systematically eliminated. The Enabling Act of 1933 invalidated the Weimar Constitution. The fledgling democracy moved one step closer to a dictatorship. Religious youth groups were replaced by Hitler Youth groups. These groups focused on unconditional allegiance, weapons training, training in how to demean and physically assault non-Aryans and participation in violent events such as Kristallnacht (the "night of Broken Glass"). Over time, many Protestant and Catholic churches either tacitly or explicitly supported the Nazi regime.

Historical evidence shows Jews in Germany and throughout Europe bore the full weight of Nazi indoctrination. This determination to erase all things related to Judaism resulted in the formation of ghettos, the building of concentration camps and the death of over 6 million individuals.

According to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." In essence, the amendment prohibits the government from creating a national religion. It also guarantees U.S. citizens the right to freely participate in the practices and culture of their religious affiliation.

Looking at what is currently taking place in the United States we see the following signs of the intertwining of religion and government. Some states have adopted legislation that restricts the teaching of certain religion-based subjects and requires time for prayer and/or religious expression each day.

One state requires the Ten Commandments be posted in every school classroom.

In a number of states, neo-Nazi youth and young adult groups have formed. These groups have the express purpose of providing instruction in combat sports, a violent lifestyle and physical/mental/emotional preparation for war against neo-Nazi ideology. There are rituals, strict disciplinary requirements and often times, adherence to Christian, white supremacist doctrine.

The above information provides evidence that the separation of church and state as codified in the First Amendment is under attack.

In addition, the above information hopefully explains why some individuals have chosen to stand up and gather frequently in Middlebury with "Signs of Fascism". If you believe these truths to be self-evident, please join as at our next rally.

We're sharing widely recognized warning signs scholars and historians use when studying authoritarian systems because democracies don't disappear overnight. They erode through patterns, compliance and silence.

**Judy Wiger-Grohs Middlebury**

## Senator talks Proposition 4

### Says 'honest inquiry' needed before big changes

My Fellow Vermonters, I firmly believe in both the U.S. Constitution and the Vermont Constitution, which declares:

"That all persons are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent, and unalienable rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety..."



**Legislative Review**  
 by Rep. Steven Heffernan R-Bristol

That foundational language already guarantees equal freedom, independence, and unalienable rights to every person, regardless of orientation, preference, or any other characteristic that may later be defined or interpreted. Liberty is liberty, regardless of who you are.

My comments were never about denying anyone fairness, dignity, or respect. They were about carefully examining how additional constitutional protections may evolve over time through interpretation and legal challenge. After 33 years in uniform defending this nation, I take seriously my responsibility to scrutinize consequential legislation. I swore an oath to defend the Constitution with my life, and I remain committed to that oath today.

I respect every individual's right to live with dignity and

to live their life as they see fit. At the same time, I remain conflicted on several aspects of Proposition 4. I will not pretend to have certainty where legitimate questions still exist. Vermonters deserve representatives who value careful judgment and honest inquiry over political expediency or performative certainty.

During debate, I asked whether changes to the Constitution could open the door to future interpretations or legal challenges extending beyond the stated intent of the amendment. That is not an unreasonable question. In fact, it is precisely the type of question lawmakers should ask when considering permanent changes to our foundational governing document.

Since that debate, I have had substantive conversations with constituents, including one discussion that lasted nearly an hour. I welcome those conversations and continue reviewing the information shared with me. While I am not currently aware of cases that perfectly match the concerns I raised, constitutions are living documents, and legal challenges inevitably test the boundaries of constitutional language over time. Raising those concerns was therefore both responsible and appropriate.

Could I have phrased my question more carefully? Yes. Reflection allows for that acknowledgment. But the substance of the question itself was not wrong, and I stand by both my right and my responsibility to ask it.

Unfortunately, Sen. Hardy chose a different approach. Rather than speaking with me directly, she publicly described my comments as "sickening" and criticized my character in both an editorial and on her campaign page. She later repeated those criticisms on the Senate floor.

I found that disappointing. Colleagues should extend one another the basic courtesy and professionalism of direct conversation before resorting to public condemnation — especially when we work side by side each day and have ample opportunity to speak personally. Whether this was political theater or sincere disagreement is for others to decide.

As your senator, I will continue to vote my conscience and explain my positions openly. I may not always agree with every Vermonter on every issue, but I will always remain available for honest dialogue. My door remains open.

My record of service — both to our nation and now to the people of Vermont — speaks for itself. My questions and concerns were sincere, not malicious. I will continue serving with the same integrity, duty, and commitment that have guided me for more than three decades.

## Fox

(Continued from Page 4A)  
 far from home, we stood together under the same American flag. I came to appreciate how deeply service — whether military or civilian — shapes American families across generations. But Memorial Day belongs especially to those who never returned.

What struck me most in France was how young so many of the fallen were. Many were barely older than my daughter is today, who is now a student at Middlebury Union High School. These young people left the farms, mills, factories, schools and families in places like northern New York and

Vermont, crossed an ocean, and died in towns and fields they had never heard of before the war. Yet decades later, those graves are still cared for with extraordinary dignity and respect by both Americans and French citizens. It reminded me that the intentional act of remembrance itself is a form of service. We owe the dead not only gratitude, but memory.

As the years pass and the generation that fought World War II fades into history, Memorial Day becomes even more important. The stories can disappear if we do not tell them. The names can become distant if we do not speak them aloud.

This Memorial Day, I thought of my relatives buried far from home in the quiet countryside of France. I thought of all the families from Vermont and the North Country who carried the burdens of war across generations. And I remembered that the freedoms and ordinary moments we enjoy today were secured at extraordinary cost by people who never had the chance to grow old.

Memorial Day is not ultimately about war. It is about service, sacrifice, gratitude, and our enduring obligation to honor those who gave everything for the people, towns, and country they loved.

## "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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Pictured (L to R): Ben Fuller, Gretchen Kellogg, Wendy Hunt, Susan Hayes, Kelley Knight, Tammy Leno, Brooke Zeno, Missy Clifford, Heather Barnard, Catherine Bresette

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**ADDISON COUNTY**

# Obituaries

## Ann Shelly Barker, 80, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Ann Shelly Barker was born in Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 12, 1945, to Bob and Betty Barker. She grew up in Connecticut, attended Milton Academy in Massachusetts and earned degrees from Smith College, Cornell University, and Yale University. She was on the English Literature faculties of Yale, Cornell, and Middlebury Colleges.

In 1947, her father, an avid skier, renovated a collapsing 1840's farmhouse without electricity on a remote road in the mountains of Vermont. Ann later lived there for 36 years, close to her friends, with her horses and dogs and her many gardens.



**ANN SHELLY BARKER**

She was both a Buddhist and a Quaker and taught many intensive,

silent retreats in the Theravada Buddhist traditions. When she retired from academic teaching she became the first online teacher of Buddhist practice; her students lived on every continent except Antarctica.

A lover of music, Ann toured as a singer with a chamber music group and was a regular patron of concerts at Middlebury College.

She was preceded in death by her brother Ben and her former husband, Eric Kolvig. She is survived by her siblings Jim and Margaret, her nieces, and her nephews. Nephew Will Barker and his family and her many friends were particularly important to her. ♦

**OBITUARY Guidelines**

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

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

## Robert J. Garthaffner memorial service

SHOREHAM — A memorial service and celebration of life for Robert "Garth" Garthaffner, who died Nov. 26, 2025, will be held Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m., at the home of Shelley and Chris Lewis at 1453 Route 74E, Shoreham, Vt.

Please park vertically along both sides of the driveway. There will be a Memorial Garden flag near the road by the mailbox for location. ♦



**ROBERT J. GARTHAFNER**

## Marian Pollack, 78, of Monkton

MONKTON — Marian Pollack, 78, passed away at home May 20, 2026. She was born Aug. 25, 1947, in Paterson, N.J., to Rita and Charles Pollack. An only child, she was a voracious reader and keen follower of current events. On election nights, even as a young girl, she would keep a running tally of the incoming results, state by state, as they were called.

Upon graduating from Douglass College in 1969 she, like many of her generation followed JFK words "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country" and chose to enter the world of social service.

But first the summer of '69 beckoned and she along with thousands of others headed to Woodstock for the festival of a lifetime.

In the fall of 1969 Marian first worked as a probation officer in New York City and then as a social worker. Taking a break from social work, she and a couple of friends, on a whim, ran a Mexican import store in Provincetown for two summers.

In 1976, Marian was living by herself in Massachusetts on a dirt road on the edge of a town forest. She was working as a social worker in Greenfield when she and Marjorie Susman went to the same Equal Rights Amendment meeting and their eyes met across a crowded room. And so began their life's journey. Within the year, they started growing and preserving their own food and making cheese with milk purchased from a local farmer in their kitchen. They dreamed of someday owning their own small farm — milking a couple of cows, making cheese, and growing beautiful vegetables for local restaurants and markets. It was then they realized Vermont



**MARIAN POLLACK**

was where they needed to be.

They answered a help wanted ad in the Burlington Free Press for a dairy farm job located in Monkton Vt. They moved to Vermont in 1980 into a rather dilapidated house as farm hands. And in 1981 they purchased the house, barn and farmland, their first Jersey cow, Sultana and named their farm Orb Weaver Farm after the industrious garden spider.

Marian had found her true calling. Along with Marjorie, they slowly increased their herd of Jersey cows, built a cheese room and cheese cave, and grew their market garden to three acres.

No one was happier than Marian when she was with her beloved Jerseys. Milking and feeding the cows was her absolute favorite time of day. It was hard for her to leave the barn at night because everyone needed just one more scratch under their chin.

As for cheesemaking, Marian only ever wanted to make a kid-friendly mac and cheese kind of cheese. No herbs, nothing fancy, just plain old Orb Weaver. The cheese became a local favorite with kids and cheese connoisseurs alike. And being the first small

scale artisanal cheese producers in the state really helped the cheese to shine in many cheese cases and restaurants across the state.

It was in the spring and summer that Marian's organizational genius really blossomed. Her rows of vegetables were always straight, the lettuce arranged by color for additional beauty, and the trellised tomatoes carefully pruned.

For her entire life, Marian never wavered in her principles of doing good.

Marian passed away peacefully at home from heart failure following a few challenging years. Marjorie and dear friends were by her side. She was able to gaze on the beautiful Longhorn cattle grazing her lush green fields until the very end. She was so loved by Marjorie, many dear friends, and the community she helped feed for 40 years. As she was passing, the sky blazed with a spectacular sunset of welcoming.

She is survived by her life partner of 50 years, Marjorie; her dogs, Ubu and Whimsy; and her besties, Lauren Clayton, Justin Willis, Annie Claghorn, Catlin Fox, and Cathy Hunter.

Marjorie and Marian could never have navigated Marian's final weeks without the incredible knowledge, wisdom, and kindness of Sarah Frisch and everyone at Addison County Home Health and Hospice. A very special thanks go to her amazing caregivers Gail Serafin, and Meg Langworthy. Thank you for the love.

A celebration of Marian's life is being planned for later this summer.

Donations may be made in Marian's memory to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Hwy, New Haven, VT 05472 ♦

## Raoul Joseph Roy, 99, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Raoul Joseph Roy, age 99, passed away peacefully May 15, 2026, at Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury.

Raoul was born July 19, 1926, in Limoges, Ontario, Canada, to Adelard and Adelaide (Moise) Roy. He was the youngest of 13 children. At the age of 17, Raoul came to the United States, where he worked on a farm and met his future wife, Beatrice Gingras.

Raoul and Beatrice were married July 7, 1948, at St. Mary's Church. Together they raised six children: Anita, Eugene, Albert, Henry, Denise, and David. Tragically, Beatrice passed away on May 13, 1964.

Raoul spent most of his life farming and lived in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Florida before eventually returning to Middlebury. After his years in farming, he worked for 13 years in the custodial department at Middlebury College.

In 1979, Raoul married



**RAOUL JOSEPH ROY**

Margaret Kimball. Together they shared 37 happy years of marriage until Margaret's passing in 2016.

Raoul was predeceased by his first wife, Beatrice; his second wife, Margaret; his son, Henry, who passed away in 2015; and his granddaughter Kristi, daughter of Denise, who passed away in 2025.

He is survived by his daughter Anita and her daughters, Julia and Sunshine, and their families; his son Eugene and wife Jane, along with their sons Wesley and wife Rachael and their family, and Jesse and wife Stephanie and their family; his son Albert and wife Linda, and their sons Mikey and wife Sandra and family, and Matt and family; Henry's daughter Sidney and her husband Chas, his daughter Denise along with son David and his wife Michelle; and his son David and wife Stefanie, along with their son Colt and wife Morgan and their family.

Raoul will be remembered for his strong work ethic, dedication to his family, his sense of humor and laughter that would light up the room, and the simple, hardworking life he lived with love and quiet strength. He also enjoyed playing the harmonica and spoons, bringing music and joy to those around him throughout life. ♦

## Leonard 'Lenny' Scarborough, 89, Salisbury native

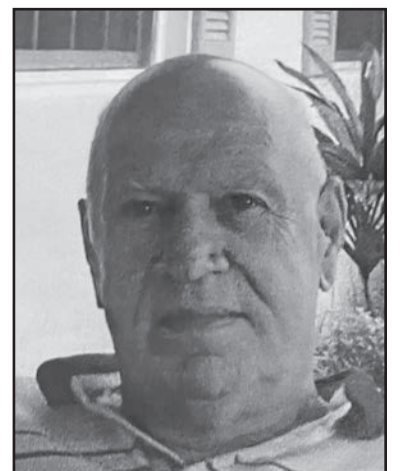
WINCHESTER, N.H. — Lenny Scarborough passed away May 19, 2026, at Applewood Health Center in Winchester, N.H. Lenny was the youngest of eight siblings, born June 11, 1936, to Perley Sr. and Mary Scarborough and grew up in Salisbury and Leicester area.

Lenny was a bit of a pioneer, with the urge to travel, which he surely did, taking multiple trips to Texas and California. On returning to Vermont to visit family he met the love of his life, Edith Bullock. They were married in San Diego, Calif., in 1981.

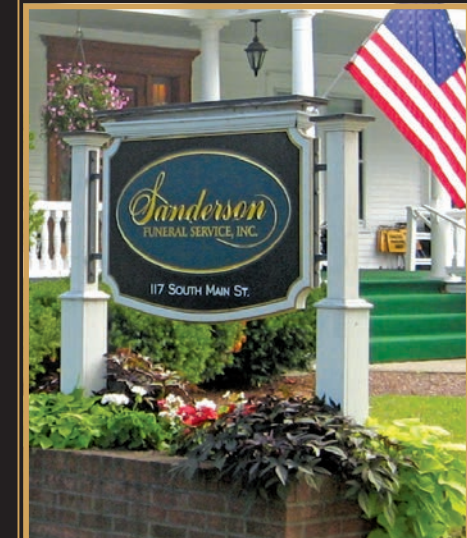
They spent several years living in North Carolina and then Florida. They finally found the place they wanted to spend the rest of their lives in Swanzy, N.H., until Edith died in 2011.

Lenny is survived by a brother, Kenneth "Bucky" Scarborough of Rutland and predeceased by one brother, Perley Scarborough Jr., and five sister, Mrs. Mildred Kah, Mrs. Hazel Bogart, Mrs. Mabel Roque, Mrs. Margaret Gale, and Mrs. Kathrine Gale.

Per Lenny's wishes, there will be no funeral services. There will be a private graveside burial with military honors. ♦



**LEONARD "LENNY" SCARBOROUGH**



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### 2112 MIDDLE ROAD, SALISBURY

This Salisbury country home offers 18 acres of privacy with Middlebury River access and long-range mountain views. Renovated with custom finishes, the versatile interior functions as a single-family or multi-family residence, featuring an expansive living room with a wood fireplace and a high-end kitchen with granite countertops. Each bedroom includes a private bath, with two rooms offering gas fireplaces and mini-splits. Exterior amenities include a horse barn with pasture and an insulated, heated 31' x 70' workshop. Located just 10 minutes from downtown Middlebury, this property combines tranquility with modern convenience. (Land - See MLS # 5072769).

**\$1,150,000** **MLS# 5072767**



### 35 OSSIE RD, MIDDLEBURY

East Middlebury Ranch on 1.20 Acres with Mountain Views Spacious ranch on a beautiful 1.20-acre lot with Green Mountain views. Features include an attached 2-car garage and a detached, powered workshop—ideal for hobbies or a small business. Extensive updates: new roof, windows, siding, heating, electrical, and deck. Bright interior with sunroom and finished lower level for flexible living space. Large yard with subdivision potential. Convenient to village amenities, skiing, hiking, and outdoor recreation.

**\$479,000** **MLS# 5075441**



### 9 RYDON ACRES, BRANDON

A new 3,650-square-foot, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home is currently under construction on a private, wooded lot at the end of Rydon Acres in Brandon, Vermont. The two-story floor plan features an open-concept kitchen with an oversized island and electric appliances, a bonus space above the garage, and multiple porches overlooking a dramatic mountain backdrop. The property offers direct Route 7 access near local amenities and skiing, with rock climbing and hiking accessible right from the backyard. There is also potential for a basement apartment. The builder is available to collaborate on custom finishes or layout adjustments to suit your preferences.

**\$550,000** **MLS# 5051516**



### 51 CRANE VIEW DR, SALISBURY

Nestled in a peaceful and private setting, this spacious 2.65-acre lot comes equipped with a drilled well, septic system, and electricity—ready for you to build your ideal retreat. With minimal clearing, you could open up a beautiful view of Salisbury Pond to enjoy. Perfectly situated just minutes from Middlebury town, Middlebury College Snow Bowl, Lake Dunmore's boating and fishing spots, and an abundance of scenic hiking trails, this location offers both tranquility and convenience.

**\$162,500** **MLS# 5055351**



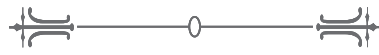
# Obituaries

## Robert Grant celebration of life

ORWELL — Family and friends of Robert “Bob” Grant, who died Oct. 9, 2025, invite you to a celebration of life for him on Saturday, June 6, at 10:30 a.m., at the Addison Community Baptist Church, Route 22A, Addison. A reception will follow at the Addison Fire House across the street. ☐



ROBERT “BOB” GRANT



## Update to Bruce Brown farewell party

NEW HAVEN — Due to unforeseen circumstances Bruce Brown’s graveside committal has been postponed.

The Moose Ride is still happening Saturday, June 6. If you want to join the ride it is leaving from Truth Performance, 183 Colchester Road, Essex Junction. Registration starts at 9 a.m. with kickstands up at 10:30 a.m. You could also join the ride when they stop in Bristol at the park around 11:15 a.m., or at Carrara’s on 116 around noon. The ride will end at Cyclewise around 1 p.m. and everyone will be invited to a catered picnic and afternoon of comradery. ☐



BRUCE BROWN

## Be careful what you shop for when choosing plants

I really appreciated Kevin Fox’s article (May 7th, 2026), “Invasive Plants are a Global Issue.” Until a few years ago, I knew about invasive plants but was not fully aware of the depth of their impact—how profoundly they can “disrupt the balance of native ecosystems.” As Kevin so ably points out, over time the results can be quite catastrophic.

Besides removing invasive plants as we are able, I would also like to add one other suggestion, and a word of caution, too.

I do love and gratefully support our local nurseries. In general, they sell what they believe the public is interested in buying. I’ve come to realize this means that I have a responsibility in this equation—to thoroughly research a plant before I buy it and to

choose wisely. “Do no harm,” as they say. Many of the plants sold in nurseries may be beautiful and appealing for one reason or another, but they are often non-native plants, sometimes referred to as exotics or ornamentals. The problem with buying a non-native plant is the danger that in years to come this seemingly innocuous plant could become a prolific invasive. The noted entomologist, Doug Tallamy, calls this “lag time.” Many of our worst invasive plants, like Japanese knotweed, started out as prized ornamentals sold and promoted by well-respected nurseries. At some point they escaped the gardens. And unfortunately, once their danger was realized decades later, they could not be stopped.

So, besides removing invasive

plants when you can (I’ve been digging out poison parsnip for many years now), I also recommend not introducing new ones. We can choose to plant native plants that we know will benefit wildlife and the ecosystem (e.g. birds need to eat a lot of caterpillars to survive, caterpillars hatch and feed on native plants, not ornamentals). I am heartened to see that local nurseries are offering more and more native plants. And if one is tempted to buy a non-native plant, it’s a good idea to research it thoroughly beforehand. It might be perfectly harmless, but there’s always the chance it could become terribly invasive many years from now.

Susan Humphrey  
Weybridge

## Balance brings common sense

On Friday, the Vermont House of Representatives unanimously approved the final version of the landmark S.325 bill that reigns in the overreach of Act 181. I’m happy to report that we all got what Vermonters asked for and needed: a full repeal of Tiers 2/3 and the Road Rule; a public engagement plan; and both Burt amendments that support accessory on-farm businesses hemmed with some neighborliness guidelines, with a year to give towns time to make any necessary ordinances. This common-sense result happened because of the small amount of rebalancing we brought to the House and Senate in 2024 and is a perfect example of the power of balance and the need for more of it.

Other recent examples of good, balance-driven results include:

- S.323 protects Vermont’s hemp business and properly trains inspectors while eliminating annual fees for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO);
- H.941 provides much needed clarification of municipalities’ ability to regulate farming after a recent Vermont Supreme Court ruling upended decades of precedent;
- S.193 is in negotiation for a “forensic facility” to safely retain and care for those apprehended for the most violent crimes yet found not competent to stand trial;
- S.212 defines efficiency

improvements for the Dept of Environmental Conservation water and wastewater permitting processes to reduce housing construction costs;

- H.915 (bottle bill) retains our beloved beverage redemption system without changing the 5-cent deposit or the containers to which it applies. It incentivizes system efficiency and access upgrades and puts responsibility for its operation into the hands of the producers of the containers rather than state government.

These recent examples, along with bills I’ve previously mentioned, such as military pension tax reductions, land posting, and the Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP), could not have happened without the slightly improved balance in our legislature this biennium. Unfortunately, there were many other opportunities offered for common-sense solutions to Vermonter’s very real problems,

but most were voted down. Thus, the need for even greater balance in the Legislature next year.

As we wrap up the session this week, there are important bills that will hopefully benefit from open-minded negotiations. There were high hopes for significant healthcare cost improvements, but bill S.190 got so watered-down by amendments that it doesn’t really achieve its stated goals. The big bills defining the education transformation, budget, and property taxes are all still in the hopper! Vermonters need these to achieve truly impactful levels of improvement.



Legislative Review  
by Rep. Rob North,  
R-Ferrisburgh

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# Letters to the Editor

## You, me and every taxpayer pays the costs for Donald Trump’s lies

On May 18, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche unabashedly announced that he would be establishing a 1.7 billion dollar “Anti-Weaponization Fund” with taxpayer money.

The fund is the result of settling a bogus \$10 billion lawsuit brought by President Trump against the federal government. Trump claimed that the government failed to protect the confidentiality of his tax records after an IRS contractor leaked them to the media. He also alleged that investigations into links between his 2016 presidential campaign and Russian officials to interfere on his behalf in the election was politically motivated, as was the 2022 search for classified documents at Mar-a-Lago.

Trump agreed to drop his lawsuit in exchange for the fund and the guarantee of sweeping protections from IRS audits and tax enforcement actions concerning past filings. According to Blanche, the fund will provide “redress” for Americans who were unfairly targeted by government investigations or prosecutions, including perhaps January 6 insurrectionists.

Was Trump unfairly targeted by government investigations or prosecutions? Although the government bore some responsibility for not safeguarding Trump’s tax returns from exposure, public records show the IRS

examinations and inquiries into Trump’s taxes were conducted under ordinary IRS legal authority. No court has ruled that the audits were unlawful.

Trump probably had a potentially valid claim for some damages because the disclosure of his tax returns was clearly illegal. But it is highly unlikely that Trump would have been able to prove direct causation by the IRS, massive financial damages and/or legal entitlement to punitive-scale compensation against the government.

Investigations by the FBI, the Senate Intelligence Committee, Special Counsel Robert Mueller and Special Counsel John Durham (appointed by Trump’s former attorney general, William Barr) concluded that Russia did interfere in the 2016 election in Trump’s favor through hacking, leaks and social media. If such interference was politically motivated, it served Trump well and doesn’t need “redress.”

We are well aware that Trump took over 400 classified documents to Mar-a-Lago. Initially, approximately 180 documents were returned to the National Archives

and Records Administration. But after unanswered subpoenas and dubious assurances from Trump representatives that all the documents had been returned, Federal investigators still believed classified material was being stored at Mar-a-Lago.

After presenting probable-cause evidence that classified documents remained at Mar-a-Lago, might be unlawfully retained and obstruction of justice might have occurred, the FBI obtained a search warrant from a U.S. Magistrate Judge. The warrant authorized searches related to violations of the Espionage Act, concealment or removal of government records and obstruction statutes. The search recovered more than 100 additional classified documents, including some marked Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information. Courts that reviewed the matter have determined the search was judicially authorized and legal.

There is little, if any, evidence supporting Trump’s lawsuit claims that he and/or his family were unfairly targeted by government investigations or prosecutions. Their claims are built on lies. But the bigger lie, one that Blanche

repeats every chance he gets and that has become the moniker for the fund, is that it is based on the alleged weaponization of the Department of Justice and FBI. What hypocrisy! Government officials’ adherence to the rule-of-law and due process stands in stark contrast to establishing an “Anti-Weaponization Fund,” that legal experts argue is unconstitutional and improperly bypasses Congress’ “power of the purse.” What hypocrisy!

In addition to being pardoned, January 6 rioters who were found guilty of attacking police officers and attempting to thwart the peaceful transition of power may now apply for and be compensated for their crimes while legal immigrants and their children are detained, separated, treated inhumanely in detention centers and deported without due process — or worse, murdered like protesters Nicole Good and Alex Pretti while ICE and Border Patrol perpetrators aren’t even charged. There are so many other examples. You, me and every taxpayer pay the costs for the lies.

Ronald Rubin  
Middlebury

## SUPPORTING RECOVERY, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

with Jane Lindholm of Vermont Public

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# Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)

The six-member recommendation group began meeting in February after Vergennes firefighters, Fire Chief David DiBiase and other city officials noted several issues with the current 8,500-square-foot station. These include safety concerns related to mold, an inadequate area for the 40 volunteer personnel to decontaminate after calls and the structural integrity of the floor that holds the department's fire trucks.

That floor, the most significant concern, is currently being held up from the basement with a series of metal and wooden posts.

"The station building as currently discussed will be a

*"The challenge will be to build a fire station that can serve our community for the long term and keep the local costs as affordable as possible given the realities of the pressing need for a new fire station."*

— committee chair  
Bill Benton

12,000-square-foot, one-story building which should be able to serve our community for many decades," Benton said.

"Costs are ever changing but at this point the total cost is

estimated to be \$6 million. We do not have any congressional commitments (to cover that bill) but there are grant sources that are being investigated by committee members," he added.

The committee could have a recommendation for the city council sometime this fall, according to Benton. City councilors will make the decisions about a new station.

"The challenge will be to build a fire station that can serve our community for the long term and keep the local costs as affordable as possible given the realities of the pressing need for a new fire station," Benton said.

The committee is scheduled to meet next on Thursday, June 11, at 5 p.m.

# Bristol Libanus Lodge fundraises for lifesaving fire department tools

STARKSBORO — The Starksboro Fire Department has long prided itself on having a very well-equipped heavy rescue operation.

Oftentimes when an accident occurs, a car will go off the road and end up in a ditch or worse. Until now, the heavy rescue squad used a Jaws of Life tool powered by hydraulic lines. These hydraulic lines were limited by their length, so if a vehicle went into an embankment that was too far off the road, it might not have been able to be reached by hydraulic lines, preventing a rapid rescue.

Recently, the Starksboro Fire Department decided to expand its capabilities for saving lives and spent approximately \$25,000 on a TNT cutter and TNT spreader. The cutter can sever almost anything on a car that needs to be displaced. The spreader can be used to push components apart up to 28 inches. This process is called "disentanglement." It allows EMS providers to help and extricate trapped patients. These tools greatly reduce the time it takes to free somebody who is trapped after an accident.

On Sunday, June 14, from 7:30 -10 a.m., members of Libanus Lodge #47 on the corner of Elm and North Streets in Bristol will be donating all of the proceeds from their monthly fundraising breakfast, as well as any donations that anyone wishes to make to the Starksboro Fire Department. The



THE TNT CUTTER and spreader can rescue car accident survivors much faster than tools previously used by the Starksboro Fire Department, which is why the Libanus Lodge is raising money on June 14 to offset the cost.

Photo from Cecil Foster

breakfast includes sausage, eggs, bacon, gravy and biscuits, home fries, pancakes, French toast, fruit salad, apple bread pudding and juices. All this for only \$9, or \$5

for young children. You can help Libanus Lodge in raising funds to offset this very large expense by making donations in the form of cash or checks.

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## 'Taste of Summer' kicks off in Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Celebrate Ferrisburgh's "Taste of Summer" on Sunday, June 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the town green.

This annual event will feature food by El Gato Cantina, Aba's Kitchen & Catering as well as sweet treats by the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall. The green will be jam-packed with over 30 vendors and exhibitors, selling an array of antiques, flowers, jams, stained glass, pottery and more.

The Kervick Brothers, a fiddle and accordion duo, return to the Union Meeting Hall Outdoor Stage from 11 a.m.-noon. Ferrisburgh musicians Eric and Erica Andrus will grace the stage at 12:30 p.m. And, from 2 to 3 p.m. the community is invited to bring their acoustic instruments and join in on an "Old-Time Jam" session.

Visit with first responders from the Ferrisburgh Fire Department, Vergennes Fire Department, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and the Addison County Sheriff's Department. Or, learn more about the important work of Ferrisburgh's Conservation Committee or the Rogers and Hazard Committee.

To commemorate America's 250th birthday, the Friends will be hosting a "Selections of History" Art Show in the historic Union Meeting Hall, featuring pieces by Marianne Orvis, Helen LaFlam, as well as displays

highlighting the Revolutionary War and other local history. Girl Scout Troop 60253 will also be hosting "Historic Field Days Games," where you can play a variety of popular early-American games.

Parking at the Union Meeting Hall is limited, so please park to the south of the property in front of the metal building or behind the Ferrisburgh Historical Society. There will be dedicated handicap parking spots.

All funds raised will support the important work of the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall, which is to rehabilitate the historic building while hosting a growing list of year-round cultural activities and community programming.

For full details about the Taste of Summer, head online to [unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events](http://unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events). Questions? Email [unionmeetinghall@gmail.com](mailto:unionmeetinghall@gmail.com).

## This Week's Specials:

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# Bayette family gathers to celebrate patriarch

**CORNWALL/PROCTOR** — Raymond Beyette Sr. was born in Shoreham, raised in Cornwall and has Addison County family in Lincoln and Middlebury.

On Sunday, May 17, four generations of the Beyette family gathered at Franklin's in Proctor to honor their patriarch, Raymond Beyette Sr. After a long winter at St. Joseph Kervick Residence in Rutland, Raymond Sr. needed a small celebration to look forward to and give him some cheer. Twenty-six family members from age 7 to 96 (and 3/4s) attended from Vermont, New York and Maryland.

At age 17 Ray was a charter member of the Cornwall Fire Department and then went into



**CORNWALL NATIVE RAYMOND** Beyette Sr., with the red hat and cane, is joined by four generations of his family at a recent gathering in Proctor.

the military serving his country in Guam and Panama.

Family says that Beyette has been a pillar of the Proctor

community for his adult life, raising his family there. In 2018

the town of Proctor dedicated their Annual Report to him

recognizing his many years of service to the community.

## May the lucky find morel mushrooms in Vermont

By **CHARLOTTE OLIVER**  
VTDigger.org

A forager scavenging through the Vermont woods in May might be lucky enough to behold the morel mushroom, a particularly tasty variety of fungi that's garnered lots of hype in the state.

Though morels commonly crop up around the roots of Elm and Ash trees as soils thaw and warm after winter. Morels have a symbiotic relationship with those plants, but it also has a mystique for thriving in unexpected places — which makes the prowl all the more fun.

"People kind of go crazy," said Bethany Beech, president of the Vermont Mycological Society.

A keen forager may find a handful of morels at a time, but only someone blessed by the fungi gods finds a "honey hole" where they grow in abundance.

In Vermont, morels typically begin cropping up in early May, peak in the middle of the month and phase out of season in June. Foragers say the mushroom drums up excitement because it's difficult to find, is in season for a short time window and has a delicious umami flavor.

"I just have 'em cooked in butter.

They're so good," Beech said.

One person in a Facebook group titled "Vermont Morels 2026" posted that they sold the fungi for \$40 per pound. Lovers of the mushroom also organized Morelfest, a public event scheduled to happen May 30.

Ari Rockland-Miller, a forager who lives in Richmond, said he loves eating morels. But for him, foraging is more about the "potential": the excitement that a wild mushroom could be right around the corner.

"Everytime I see a morel, I feel a zing of adrenaline hit me," Rockland-Miller said.

Foraging helps Rockland-Miller connect with nature and his childlike sense of wonder, he said. He writes a blog about his foraging finds and leads expeditions into the woods with his wife, Jenna Antonino Dimare, to educate others about foraging.

The couple said they've noticed an uptick in people foraging since the onset of lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which they think drove a lot of people outside.

This year has seen a pretty

abundant spring for morels, according to Terry Delaney, a professor of plant biology at the University of Vermont, who teaches classes on fungi.

Last year morels didn't do too well given dry soil conditions, he said. But this year, a gradual transition between cold and warm temperatures created good soil conditions, he explained. The steady change in temperature combined with frequent, light rainfall created good conditions for morels to grow, according to Delaney.

"They almost have a sense of humor," said Rockland-Miller, talking about morels. In the woods the mushroom can take hours to find, yet a patch unexpectedly cropped up along his neighbor's driveway in Richmond.

### TIPS FROM THE PROS

For amateurs who want to dabble in foraging for the dinner table, experts say that morels must be thoroughly cooked before being eaten.

Someone can identify a morel by its surface, which is covered in dozens of round or elongated craters, according to Delaney. Some morels, dubbed half morels,

have smaller caps and longer stems, he said.

Other mushrooms that look similar to morels, but shouldn't be eaten, look more like a brain on the surface, according to Bethany Beech, president of the Vermont Mycological Society. Those false morels are likely to make someone sick, but are very rarely fatal, according to Delaney.

Anyone foraging for morels should cut the mushroom in half, hotdog style, Beech said. Real morels should be completely hollow inside.

"Some species will have kind of a cobwebby substance in the middle, and some species will be solid. Neither of those are what you want," Beech said.

Foragers have different schools of thought on how to forage responsibly, Rockland-Miller said he thinks it's important to leave the majority of a patch of mushrooms so that the patch can continue to thrive.

Beech points out, however, that because the main organism of the mushroom is underground, it won't really affect the fungi's health to take every mushroom from a patch, she said.



**THESE MOREL MUSHROOMS** were noticed in a Middlebury yard recently and quickly harvested, cooked in butter and eaten.  
Independent photo/John S. McCright

Beech said she has a theory about mushrooms that people tend to craze over.

"I think that it's mushrooms that

are good to eat and have very few confusing look-a-likes," Beech said. And morels have the full package.

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# Graduates

(Continued from Page 1A)

Diaz noted Valerio and Smith helped shape the community being celebrated this past weekend.

During his remarks, Diaz pointed to how graduates had contributed to that community in a variety of ways.

“You may be wondering what I achieved to get this gig. I wasn’t the president of every business club, didn’t dedicate my life to (the Student Government Association), join a dance group or spend every weekend at tournaments,” he said. “That’s the whole point; we all made our mark at Middlebury in our own unique ways.”

## EMBRACE UNCERTAINTY

Diaz highlighted some of the things graduating seniors said they’d miss about Middlebury, including bus rides to Winter Carnival, Atwater parties and the first warm day after a long winter.

“As you can see, after a while the answers began to sound familiar, they all trace back to the same place, the small community and traditions we built over time,” Diaz said. “We found something different here, something quieter and ultimately more meaningful. What makes Middlebury unique is its quirks and the small moments that end up meaning the most.”

He noted that small community took time to adjust to and that there will be more transitions ahead. But a liberal arts education teaches students how to embrace uncertainty, he said.

“We learned how to fail miserably and learn from it, how to explore and how to acknowledge that we don’t have all the answers yet, and that’s OK,” Diaz said. “I share this because life is going to get chaotic, well it already is, but within that chaos we must find joy and meaning in all the ‘What ifs,’ even when you’re interrogated at family dinner what your post-grad plan is.”

Diaz acknowledged the backdrop students had gained their education amidst.

“We went to college during a time when the world is more divided than ever, stained by conflict and hate,” he said. “Yet, while so much was happening beyond this campus, Middlebury quietly shaped and transformed our experience. The most powerful part was the people we met, lived alongside and built our lives around. Within this

community we found solidarity, spaces for empathy, conversation, resilience, as we organized and pushed constructively for change within our own institution.”

Diaz encouraged graduates to have fun and embrace uncertainty as they join new communities and embark on next steps.

“What I do know is that we’ve had the rare opportunity to experience two very different

*“It is a coincidence of history that you’re joining the adult world and your own lives at a moment of unprecedented danger to the earth’s biosphere.”*

— Kim Stanley Robinson

worlds; the tight-knit community we leave behind and the vast world ahead,” he said. “After today, we leave the comfort of the Middlebury bubble, but we should never stay somewhere just because it feels comfortable. Your success will come from courage; the courage to seek what tomorrow holds, because tomorrow will come whether you’re ready or not.”

Along with handing out over 500 undergraduate diplomas on Sunday, Middlebury College also presented honorary degrees to four individuals:

- Shabana Basij-Rasikh, a Middlebury College alum, who is cofounder and president of the School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA). The school was “the first and only boarding school for Afghan girls” and operated in Kabul from 2016 until the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

- Andrea Green, director of the Pediatric New American program and a professor at the Robert Larner College of Medicine at UVM. Green’s career has been spent “providing high-quality medical care and advocating for policies and resources that support the health of children and their families.”

- Angelo Lynn, owner, editor and publisher of the *Addison Independent*. Lynn has worked in the newspaper industry for over 45 years, beginning at a small, weekly newspaper in Kansas. The *Independent* and other publications under its parent company, Addison Press, have received many awards under his leadership.

- Kim Stanley Robinson, an award-winning writer. Robinson’s

*“You can’t pay back the people that helped you adequately, but you can pay it forward.”*

— Kim Stanley Robinson

work includes the international best-selling Mars trilogy and “often focuses on ecological, cultural, and political themes featuring scientists as heroes.” He’s spoken at various climate and science conferences, including the United Nations Climate Change Conference and the UN’s Summit of the Future.

## SCIENCE-FICTION STORY

Robinson also delivered the commencement address, offering a “science fiction story that fits the commencement address format.” He noted the commencement address genre consists of specific elements, the first part of which is a congratulations to graduates for completing four years of college.

He encouraged students to continue using the “cognitive maps” they’ve built over those years.

“The values that you’ve formed here that will guide you as a kind of compass north of your cognitive map are, I trust, good ones and deserve to be held to guide you through the rest of time,” he said. “Also, stick to your people, the friends that you’ve made here. It’s best that you keep in contact as a group that actually knew you when you were young through the rest of your life.”

He shared a moment from a hike with Jesse Oak Taylor, a Middlebury alum and professor at the University of Washington. When Robinson couldn’t make it up a part of Blue Canyon Pass on his own, Taylor offered his foot as a hold for the crux of the climb and pulled Robinson up the rest of the way.

“Let this be your image of the Middlebury graduate, when your friends need you to give them a foot up and, if you have to, pull them up by the hair,” Robinson said.

He said the next part of a commencement address boils down to the speaker reassuring graduates everything in the future will be OK with hard work and good luck.

“Well, I am not a fantasy writer, I’m a science fiction writer, I cannot make you that assurance in good conscience,” Robinson told the Class of 2026. “It is a coincidence of history that you’re joining the adult world and your own lives at a moment of unprecedented danger to the earth’s biosphere.”

He acknowledged the specific circumstances students are graduating into.

“Seldom the possibility existed for humanity to erect the biosphere



MEMBERS OF THE Class of 2026 braved the rain this past Sunday for Middlebury College commencement, where 558 graduates received their diplomas on a particularly cool and drizzly morning.

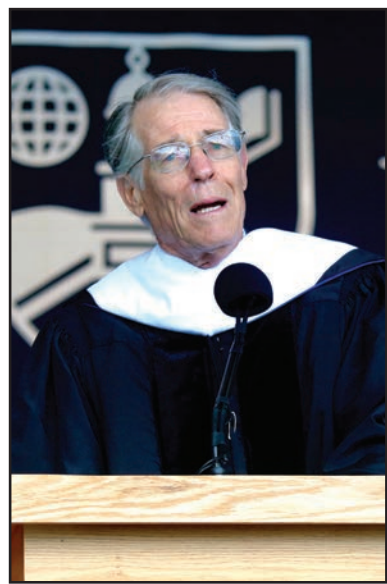
Independent photos/Steve James



A NEWLY-MINTED Middlebury College graduate is all smiles after receiving her diploma and replica of Gamaliel Painter’s cane, a symbolic keepsake given to each graduating senior.



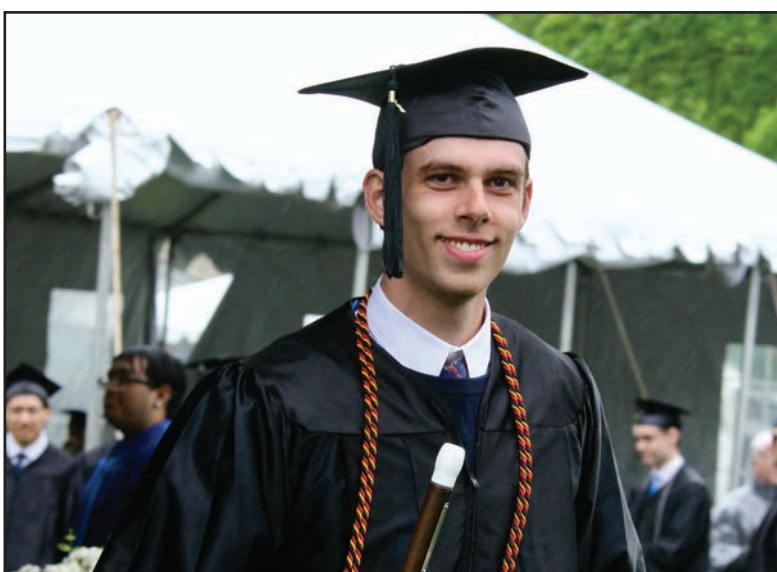
SURPRISED MIDDLEBURY GRAD



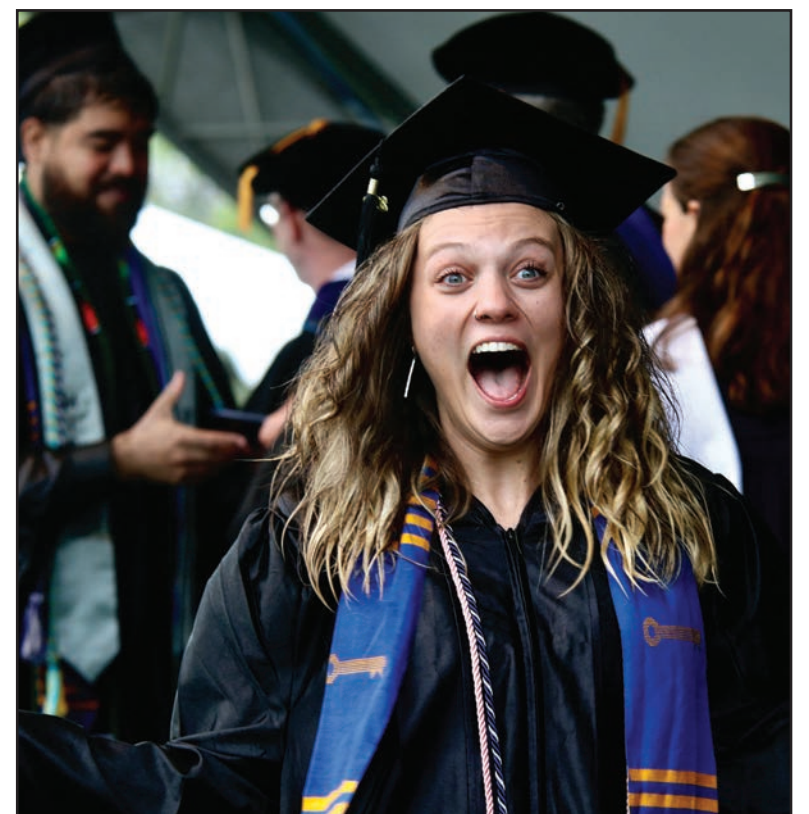
KIM STANLEY ROBINSON



OWEN HAMILTON



HENRY CARPENTER



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School alum Sophie Larocque is ecstatic walking across the stage to pick up her Middlebury College diploma at commencement on Sunday.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Ian Baucom presents an honorary degree to *Addison Independent* Editor and Publisher Angelo Lynn at the college’s commencement ceremony on Sunday.

# Senate

(Continued from Page 1A) legislative leaders and Scott's team last week. Scott, a proponent of forced district mergers, seemed amenable with dropping that request in exchange for accelerating the voluntary merger process and the state's transition to a new education funding formula.

Vermonters don't want Montpelier telling them what to do, Sen. Seth Bongartz, D-Bennington, told his colleagues on the Senate floor Tuesday morning. They instead want to take on the challenge of changing the state's education system themselves.

"Much of H.955 is about creating an atmosphere, a structure, that helps communities make their own tough decisions,"

he said.

The legislation — the most closely watched of the year — outlines a complex process to facilitate voluntary school district mergers. That process would begin this fall, when delegates from neighboring districts would meet to start hashing out potential consolidation plans. Those groups would have more than a year to make recommendations, with residents voting on consolidated districts at Town Meeting Day 2028.

Lawmakers hope future school districts will have at least 2,000 students, and the bill describes a special process to facilitate mergers for "orphaned" districts with fewer than 750 students. But

H.955 does not force districts to merge, instead encouraging them to do so with state oversight and school construction aid incentives.

The Senate voted 27-2 to pass the bill, with Sens. Steve Heffernan, R-Addison, and Russ Ingalls, R-Essex, voting against.

In explaining the bill to his colleagues, Bongartz, chair of the Senate Education Committee, said he hears a question repeatedly from Vermonters: Why are we spending so much money and getting suboptimal results? The future charted by H.955, with "budgeting predictability, greater scale and opportunity for more specialized services," will help address cost and student performance, he said.

The compromise version of H.955 would see the state adopt a new education funding model in July 2029, a year earlier than was considered in an earlier version of the bill. That model, called a foundation formula, is used in most states nationwide. It provides school districts with money based on how many students they have and how expensive those students are to teach. In that way, the state retains significant authority over school district spending rather than letting districts control that process as they do now.

After about two hours of walking through the bill and its latest changes, little debate occurred Tuesday on the Senate floor.

Only Ingalls explained his opposition to H.955, saying it didn't move fast enough and didn't do enough to address spending.

"Our excellence in education has fallen like a rock," he said. Using the rule workarounds often employed at the end of the legislative session, the Senate expedited its passage of the bill, sending it to the House to consider immediately.

The House voted Tuesday afternoon to recommend a joint House and Senate conference committee to hash out final changes to the bill. As of Tuesday evening, it was unclear when that conference committee would meet for the first time — and even

less clear when it would finish up its work.

Pivoting to voluntary rather than consolidated mergers was a significant concession by Scott, who had repeatedly said he'd veto any education legislation that didn't include the policy. But lawmakers, some of whom themselves had tried to put forward plans for forced mergers unsuccessfully, said neither their colleagues nor Vermonters would support the idea.

Tuesday, Amanda Wheeler, a spokesperson for Scott, wrote in an email, "The Senate version of H.955 has made significant progress from the version passed by the House, which is encouraging."

# Beeman

(Continued from Page 1A) closing two of the district's four elementary schools. Residents in Starksboro and Monkton have been adamant in support of keeping their elementary schools open.

The board last month reconsidered that decision and ultimately decided to disapprove of the action to study those options and would not entertain options to close the two schools. Board members said they'd continue exploring cost-saving opportunities that keep all schools open but would also consider moving the central office into a school building. They will also study an option to potentially close Beeman with and without school choice.

On Tuesday, board members sought to clarify the direction they're moving in and passed a "commitment to not close Robinson Elementary and Monkton Central" schools.

"You could change that (commitment) at some future date, but it would bring a lot of clarity both I think to our board and to folks in the community if they had that commitment," School board member and State Rep. Herb Olson said.

School board member Kathi Apgar, a New Haven representative,

offered another perspective.

"You're drawing resources from the smallest school in the district to distribute them to the others that you're now guaranteeing that they're basically sanctified," she said.

## NEW HAVEN FEEDBACK

The board ultimately agreed to pass the commitment, with a couple of oppositions. The two New Haven board members, Apgar and Sarah Louer, voted nay.

Board members on Tuesday also reviewed results of a community survey "regarding the future of Beeman Elementary," put together by New Haven resident Bridget Preston. The survey asked New Haven residents about concerns related to closing Beeman, alternatives to closure and school choice models, among other topics.

The survey received 109 responses. One part of the questionnaire asked residents to rate various concerns regarding consolidation on a scale from one to five. Around 61% of respondents rated their concern over diluted resources and support as "high" or at a four to five out of five. Over half of respondents also reported a high concern over oversized class sizes (53%) and escalating behavioral issues (56%).

New Haven residents have previously raised concerns over behavioral challenges at Beeman.

"I think generally (respondents) were kind of speaking to that, like 'how is (consolidation) going to improve that, it's only going to escalate things,' or 'how are more resources going to be provided so that these behaviors improve if we do do this for the numbers sake and the financial sake?' What about the kids and the other, larger underlying problems that we have currently, too?" Preston explained.

Residents were also asked what they thought was the biggest risk of closing Beeman, with the majority of respondents (61.5%) identifying a "decreased ability to attract young families" as a significant risk of closure. Community members were also concerned about the loss of community space and town identity (37.6%), higher transportation costs for the district (35.8%) and a decline in local property values (9.2%).

When it comes to proposed alternatives to closing Beeman, nearly 69% of respondents supported a community hub model that would lease unused wings of the school for things like childcare and nonprofits. Resource sharing (57%), multi-age local classrooms

(48%), administrative sharing (47.7%) and expanded volunteer programming (47%) were other ideas floated in the survey.

About half of respondents (52%) said they supported intradistrict school choice (within the MAUSD) as a model for the town's students if Beeman closed. Full school choice (48%) and a hybrid of school choice options (44%) were the next-most supported options. Thirty percent of respondents supported having a designated school that New Haven students would be assigned to.

"I think school choice was a really huge piece," Preston said.

The school board also heard a presentation from Superintendent Patrick Reen on what it would like to educate New Haven and Bristol students at Bristol Elementary School. The presentation listed some of the potential instructional and programmatic implications of that move identified by the district's Advisory Council, which included improved extracurricular opportunities for Beeman students,

more collaboration and efficiency in specialized instructional staff — a positive for both students and educators.

Some of the potential challenges identified were other elementary schools in the district possibly having limited access to academic programs and student supports, as well as more complicated lunch/recess/specials schedules if more students are added to an existing school.

The presentation also included expected financial implications of merging Bristol and Beeman and using the district's staffing rules. Doing so could achieve around \$1.8 million in net savings, \$766,311 of which could be realized in the district's current configuration by adhering to those staffing rules, according to the presentation.

## MORE OPTIONS

School board members said they'd like to see other options of what it would look like if New Haven families had school choice. "I'd like to see something else," School board member Sarah Louer

said. "I think all the kids going to Bristol is one option for the community, it does not feel like the robust choice option that we talked about or that I mentioned at the (April 30) meeting or that we've talked about (with) the community members."

Board members discussed how that modeling could be approached and it was requested that more information on a model with New Haven families using school choice be shared in some capacity.

"New Haven has been so clear in two things, they want to hear a plan and they want school choice," Rossignol said. "So, just to be able to give the New Haven community members something."

Reen is also expected to model what it would look like to have New Haven students attend Robinson Elementary School in Starksboro or Monkton Central School. Local superintendents will also be invited to a future Facilities & Finance Committee meeting to discuss their experiences with school closure.

## Library events bring live storytelling to New Haven

NEW HAVEN — The New Haven Community Library is thrilled to be hosting a free live storytelling event on Thursday, June 25, from 6-8:15 p.m. This will be an exciting and entertaining event where community members share their true stories with a live audience.

First popularized by the Moth, events such as these are renowned for their great range of human experiences from the hilariously funny, to the profound and heartfelt. Each event hosts earnest storytellers sharing their true and unique stories for about 5-7 minutes per story.

We are looking for supportive audience members to join us for this community event. Gather to share and listen to true, first-person stories, and connect through the power of storytelling.

Interested in telling a story? Email Samara Anderson at anderson\_samara@yahoo.com.

First time storytellers encouraged!

In our increasingly digital world, this event series keeps storytelling human. We all love a good story, and this is an opportunity to settle in and enjoy listening to live stories for free.

This is part of a larger effort to host a storytelling event at every public library in Vermont (all 185!).

## FUTURE EVENTS:

- July 23 – Alburgh Public Library
- September 23 – Georgia Public Library
- October 22 – Lincoln Library
- November 19 – Fletcher Memorial Library in Ludlow
- December 10 – "Best of" 2026 Library Storytellers in South Burlington Library Auditorium

If you'd like more information about this event, please contact Ruth Bernstein, New Haven

Community Library at 802-453-4015/ librarian@nhcl.org or Samara Anderson at anderson\_samara@yahoo.com.

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### Middlebury remembers

DESPITE CLOUDY SKIES and rain, spirits were bright at Middlebury's Memorial Day Parade through downtown on Monday morning. A smaller than usual, but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed music from traditional bagpipers to the Middlebury Union middle and high school marching bands. At a post-parade wreath-laying ceremony at the soldiers monument, a fourth-grader from Mary Hogan Elementary School read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Many of the children and families who showed up to celebrate the day came outfitted with umbrellas and raincoats.

Independent photos/Steve James



# McGill

(Continued from Page 1A)

and there were weeks of traveling three hours a day. It was time to look for an opportunity closer to home.”

And she’s found it, in a newly created position at the nonprofit Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) in Middlebury. On June 15, she’ll begin her job as TPCAC’s development and community relations coordinator, a role that will see her — among other things — increase community awareness and financial sustainability of the organization.

Based in new digs at 79 Court St., Turning Point Center is a recovery community center dedicated to supporting individuals and families impacted by substance use. It provides a “safe, welcoming and stigma-free environment where people can access peer support, recovery resources, and community programs that promote wellness and long-term recovery,” according to its website, [turningpointaddisonvt.org](http://turningpointaddisonvt.org).

McGill joins a cast of around 12 full-and-part-time TPCAC workers, including recovery coaches and peer support specialists. The commute from nearby Bridport will be a comparative snap, and McGill thinks she should slip seamlessly into Turning Point’s routine and mission.

“Turning Point is an organization I’ve worked with closely across multiple roles, and as a legislator,” said McGill, who serves on the House Human Services Committee. “Housing, homelessness and poverty is so intertwined with the substance use crisis we’re dealing with in our state. You can’t really separate one issue from another.”

McGill’s resume indeed reveals a lot of experience dealing with homelessness — something she faced personally as a young single mother. She persevered, and with help from Addison Housing Works was able to find her footing. She and her husband, Lawrence Yetnick, have three children.

And McGill has made a career out of helping others in crisis. In addition to work in youth homelessness, her past employers have included Addison County’s John Graham Housing & Services (where she served as property manager and coordinator of rental housing) and as senior property manager and compliance chief for Addison Housing Works — the very organization that threw her a lifeline when her family needed it.

“This felt like a perfect opportunity for me — not only to return to my community in terms of work, but also to help strengthen our community,” she said. “I’m where I’m at today



JUBILEE MCGILL

because I had a lot of wonderful people in our community guiding me and supporting me. I’m just happy to be able to return and make the same thing happen for others.”

Danielle Wallace, executive director of TPCAC, was thrilled to see McGill apply for the job. She believes McGill is ideally suited to carry out the job’s duties, which will include developing fundraising strategies, grant writing, expanding relationships

with donors and foundations, networking with community partners, heading up community relations and communications, and enhancing the community’s knowledge of recovery resources.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better person to take on this position,” Wallace said of McGill. “She brings a welcoming approach... and it so integrated into the Addison County community.”

Turning Point recently completed a strategic planning process that saw it explore ways to create a stronger foundation for its services. Given different funding priorities at the federal level and shrinking dollars at the state level, TPCAC officials realized they’ll need someone devoted to making the organization more sustainable.

“We want to make sure we can not only diversify funding (sources) so we can be of service of the people of Addison County for another 20 years but also dispel some of the misinformation about TPCAC,” Wallace said. “There are still a lot of misconceptions.”

For example, Wallace said some folks mistakenly believe there are eligibility requirements for using Turning Point Center.

“We need to do a better job of getting our message out,” she said. “Having someone as part of our

leadership team who understands the direct service our staff is providing and can really pull those stories from that, can really educate that (substance use) is a problem that affects everybody.”

TPCAC’s strategic planning process also showed the organization needs to expand its reach. Most of those using the service currently hail from the Middlebury area. Part of McGill’s job will be to get Turning Point pulling visitors from Bristol, Vergennes and other Addison County communities.

“We want to thoughtfully serve the entire county,” Wallace said.

### ‘SUPPORTING RECOVERY’

McGill’s starting date comes just three days before a free TPCAC event at Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater on Thursday, June 18, from 6–8 p.m. It’s called “Supporting Recovery, Strengthening Community: A Conversation About Addiction and Recovery in Addison County.” Hosted by Jane Lindholm of Vermont Public, the event will bring together people from across the recovery community for what Wallace called “an open and honest conversation about addiction, recovery, and resilience

in Addison County.”

It will include a panel representing individuals in active recovery, recovery professionals, family members, healthcare providers, law enforcement and public policy leaders. Attendees will also view a short film highlighting stories of addiction and recovery happening in Addison County, followed by a community Q&A designed to encourage dialogue, reduce stigma, and deepen understanding around substance use and recovery.

“The goal of the evening is not only to raise awareness, but also to help community members better understand the challenges many of our neighbors face and the peer-led, collaborative solutions that are making a difference across the county and state,” Wallace said. “Whether someone has been personally impacted by addiction, works in healthcare or emergency services, or simply wants to support a healthier community, we hope this event will create space for connection, education, and hope.”

Register for the event at [tinyurl.com/3fwef4ad](http://tinyurl.com/3fwef4ad).

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

## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

There’s still time to support Chip Piper’s 100 Mile Trail Run Fundraiser; check out [trailrun4recovery.com](http://trailrun4recovery.com). You can purchase a raffle ticket (only \$10 each) for a chance to win a pair of META Sunglasses. In addition to Turning Point, money raised by Piper will benefit Jenna’s Promise, Ben’s House, Divided Sky and Turning Point Center of Rutland County.

Local Motion, in partnership with AARP Vermont, the Preservation Trust of Vermont and Front Porch Forum, recently announced funding to help Middlebury (and 20 other communities) hold block parties. The partners provided a combined \$10,000 for the block parties through a program “designed to foster community connections, reimagine neighborhood streets as shared public spaces, and spark lasting local change.” Awardees will receive grants ranging from \$200 to \$500, along with hands-on support from Local Motion to bring their events to life. This includes community organizing guidance, assistance with permits, outreach tools, and access to equipment such as cones, signage, temporary paint, and planter boxes. Town Hall Theater Executive Director Lisa Mitchell announced Tuesday evening that Middlebury will hold two downtown block parties, one on July 3, the other on Sep. 4. Both events will call for closure of Merchants Row and the Battell Block driveway from noon to 9 p.m. The events will feature food trucks, music, and lawn games/activities.

Addison County recorded an unemployment rate of 2.4% in April, up one-tenth of a percentage point from March, according to the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL). Statistics showed 503 people seeking work out of a total county workforce of 20,909, according to the DOL. The department reported a statewide jobless rate of 2.6% in April, unchanged from the prior month. The April unemployment rates for Vermont’s 14 counties ranged from 2.2% in Chittenden County to 5.3% in Orleans County. “The size of Vermont’s labor force continues to steadily decline even as higher costs put pressure on household budgets across the state. While the Department can’t solve those broader economic challenges, we can support individuals looking to increase their income,” said

DOL Commissioner Kendal Smith. “For some, this may mean working with a Workforce Development specialist to assess skills and identify opportunities with higher earnings potential. For others with some extra time, they may need support finding a solid part-time job to supplement household income. Individuals and employers alike are encouraged to contact the Department at <https://labor.vermont.gov/workforce-development> to learn more about how we can work together.” The United States rate in April was 4.3%, no change from March.

Please join the Vergennes and Weybridge Energy Committees as well Addison County Regional Planning Commission for the “Addison County Regional Energy & Eco Fair” on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Vergennes City Park, 179 Main Street. The event will take place rain or shine. The fair will provide an opportunity to speak with local businesses, organizations, and community partners about practical energy and environmental solutions for homes, businesses, and municipalities. Topics will include energy efficiency and fuel switching measures, transportation alternatives, and nature-based solutions that are good for our backyard and the region as a whole.

State revenue collections for this past April reveal that Vermont’s general, transportation and education fund receipts totaled \$537.6 million, exceeding the officials’ expectations by \$8.3 million, or 1.6%, according to Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark. General Fund revenues were \$444.1 million, which is \$10.1 million (2.3%) above the \$434 million monthly consensus cash flow target. Transportation Fund revenues exceeded their April consensus target of \$27.5 million by \$500K (1.9%). And Education Fund revenues for April were \$65.5 million, falling \$2.4 million (-3.5%) short of the \$67.8 million monthly target. According to Clark: “Despite substantial macroeconomic turbulence, state revenues have held up well. With two months remaining in the fiscal year, the General Fund and the Education Fund are tracking above their consensus revenue targets year to date, and the Transportation Fund is only slightly below target. We are watching revenues closely as the year comes to a close.”

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# Big Heart, bigger plans:

## Queer-focused third space coming to Little City

By KELSEY WOOD

VERGENNES — For 15 years, Bar Antidote was a Little City staple, with its dark wood, industrial details and tavern energy. But the gastropub at the corner of Green and School streets closed in October 2024.

Soon, the space's new owner will open a new establishment they hope will feel more like "your queer bestie's living room."

By early July (or sooner, if construction timelines cooperate), Big Heart Social is set to open in at 25 Green St. with cozy seating, a coworking area and a café-by-day, bar-by-night concept.

"We really want to soften the space," owner Shiloh Lawrence said, standing amid construction materials and vintage chairs sourced from estate sales.

*"With everything going on in the world, it's really easy to see queer people as political pawns, and not as people when you don't have the chance to interact with us."*

— Shiloh Lawrence

Once seen as staid and traditional, the downtown has gained chic boutiques, bars and eateries in recent years, as well as a growing social scene. The "queer-forward" community space aims to add something to this evolving mix.

"With everything going on in the world, it's really easy to see queer people as political pawns, and not as people when you don't have the chance to interact with us," Lawrence said. "So, I really



**BIG HEART SOCIAL**, a new café and social space, makes its presence known before doors open this summer with vibrant, welcoming signs on its Green Street location.

Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

do want this to be a community space for all of the community, so long as people are coming in with respect."

The space will serve coffee and breakfast-style food in the daytime, before transitioning to an evening menu, both with inclusive dietary options. A coworking space in the back will operate on a membership model during daytime hours before becoming additional bar seating. On tap, you'll find beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

While she hopes to host live music and other events, Lawrence is leaning into her vision of a cozy,

slow-paced third space with her growing library of board games, planning to keep the music low volume to encourage conversation.

Local business owners have already been helpful in the lead-up to its opening, offering guidance as the project takes shape. "We're trying to be more of a complementary business than a competitive business in the community," Lawrence said.

At its core, her goal is simple: create a place where people feel like they're welcome. If all goes as planned, Big Heart Social will open its doors just as Vergennes heads into peak summer.



### Go Girls State!

VERGENNES UNION HIGH School juniors Madeleine Stroup, left, Lola Rollins and Isabelle Van Voorst — along with Georgia Krause, who is missing from the photo — are being sponsored by Vergennes American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 14 as delegates to Green Mountain Girls State, June 20-25. The week of government activities will be held at the Randolph campus of Vermont State University.

The purpose of Girls State is to provide citizenship training for girls of high school age and to inform them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government.

## Cars collide head-on near downtown Verg.

VERGENNES — On Friday, May 22, Vergennes police responded to a two-car, head on collision that authorities said was caused by a driver crossing over into oncoming traffic.

Two people were transported to the hospital for apparent minor injury as a result of the crash, which occurred on Main Street at Depot Street.

Police issued Vergennes resident Leon Fleming, 73, a ticket for failing to drive on the right side of the highway and a citation for careless and negligent operation.

Between May 18 and May 24, Vergennes police also conducted 17 traffic stops, three directed patrols, two commercial vehicle inspections, and took fingerprints six times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On May 18 settled a neighbor dispute on Main St.
- On May 18 attended a press conference in Crown Point, N.Y., for the kick-off of Buckle Up Vermont and New York for highway safety during the holiday period.
- On May 18 checked the welfare of a Vergennes resident. Officers later found out the resident was traveling and had made contact with their family.
- On May 18 took a report of an injured raccoon. The party called back and said they did not need a response from police.
- On May 18 were told that a package was stolen from a city

## Vergennes Police Log

porch. The retailer was contacted and a refund was issued.

• On May 19 received the report of multiple sex offenses involving juvenile victims. The investigation was ongoing as of Tuesday, May 26.

• On May 19 conducted a local background check for the Naval Academy.

• On May 19 had towed an abandoned vehicle that was parked in an unauthorized location.

• On May 19 assisted a resident from Georgia who was having a conflict with a resident in Vergennes who they met online.

• On May 20 issued a court citation to a Vergennes resident on behalf of Brandon police.

• On May 20 responded to the report of an out-of-control juvenile at Vergennes Union Elementary School after school hours. The parent and child were gone by the time officers arrived.

• On May 20 after an observed motor vehicle violation, arrested Ryan Hall, 30, of Newark, N.Y., and cited him driving under the influence, third offense, and DUI test refusal and resisting arrest. The Vergennes Police Department was assisted by Vermont State Police.

• On May 21 returned to their owners two wallets that had been left at a convenience store.

• On May 21 issued paperwork to a Rutland County defendant on behalf of Brandon police.

• On May 21 received a report of suspicious activity in the Megis Road area. The complainant reported observing several unfamiliar individuals walking near residential properties and around the Shacksbury facility over the past several days. The individuals were described as multiple males and females. Police documented the information and will continue extra patrols in the area.

• On May 21 an officer advised a complainant on how to resolve a possible computer fraud.

• On May 21 attempted to serve a relief from abuse order. The subject is no longer in the area.

• On May 22 an officer stood by at school while staff calmed an unruly student.

• On May 22 issued a relief from abuse order to a Vergennes resident.

• On May 22 checked on a person having a medical event at Champlain Farms. Vergennes Area Rescue Squad also responded and evaluated the person, who was released from the scene and taken home by a relative.

• On May 24 cited into court Ashley White, 28, for driving under the influence.

• On May 24 took a report of possible trespassing at a Vergennes business. The investigation was ongoing as of Tuesday, May 26.

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**Patriotic parade**

VERGENNES HAS LONG hosted one of the state's biggest Memorial Day parades, and this year was no different. Throngs of spectators of all ages lined the streets of the Little City on Monday morning to watch the procession of local school bands, firetrucks, Civil War cavalry reenactors and above all, floats honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Also part of the parade were Miss Vermont (and Middlebury native) Hannah Roque (above left) and Miss Vermont's Teen 2026 Zoey Clopton. Independent photos/Steve James



# Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)  
serves on the town's Infrastructure Committee.

## WATER BUDGET

The board OK'd a proposed FY27 water budget of 2,753,124, representing a \$231,234 (9%) increase in expenses compared to this year. Emmalee Cherington, director of engineering for Middlebury Department of Public Works, explained the budget increase reflects, among other things:

- A 34% increase in water meter purchases, to swap out old/malfunctioning ones currently within the system.
- A 3.57% bump in wages for water department employees, but a 2.6% drop in employee benefits due to an anticipated break on insurance rates.
- A 12.3% hike in maintenance costs for the Palmer Springs water source, along with a 20% increase in water main upkeep.
- A 27% increase in water system capital improvements,

which includes the \$150,000 meter replacement project. "We're internally looking at our rate structuring for tap-on fees and things like that to make sure we are in line with what our actual costs are," Cherington said.

So how will the approved budget affect residential rates?

Ratepayers pay a flat, quarterly fee and a "unit rate" based on 1,000 gallons of water used.

The new budget will result in an 8% increase in the flat quarterly rate, to \$120, for in-town users; and \$132 for out-of-town users, a 13% bump. There will be a new unit rate of \$5.10 per \$1,000 gallons for in-town users (a 13% increase) and \$5.60 (a 15% increase) for out-of-town users.

Public works officials said the new rates are likely to add \$75.42 to the average annual bill for in-town water users and \$109.26 for out-of-town users.

Cherington has, since joining Middlebury DPW in 2022, been chipping away at deferred maintenance projects — which has included aging water infrastructure that was losing around 35% of its water through system leaks. The goal is to bring that loss rate down to around 10%, according to Cherington.

At the same time, she wants to make the flat rate a large proportion of ratepayers' total bill, to reflect greater predictability for fixed charges.

## WASTEWATER BUDGET

The board on Tuesday also endorsed an FY27 Wastewater Fund budget of \$4,502,898, driving an 18% increase in charges.

Major budget drivers include:

- A 4% increase in employee benefits.
- A 12% bump in training expenses, related to new hires for the wastewater department.
- A 6.6% increase in treatment plant maintenance and a 17.6% hike for pump station maintenance.
- A conscious set-aside for upcoming debt service for the \$49.5 million upgrade of the WWTP.

Cherington anticipates annual debt service of \$2.5 million for the plant project by 2030; she's working to leverage state and federal grants to lower ratepayers' exposure as much as possible. But officials want to begin building financial reserves now to reduce the sticker shock later.

"What I've been doing is growing that line at about \$450,000 to \$500,000 a year to get us to that (\$2.5M) number by 2030," Cherington said.



*"We're on the right trajectory. We've got to do this. But I'm uncomfortable with the impact it will have on our ratepayers."*

— Selectboard member Dan Brown



## That perfect shot

THE RAIN FELL, at times quite hard, on Sunday morning during the Middlebury College commencement ceremony, but this new graduate appears to be letting the happiness of the moment wash away any concerns she has about the water falling from the sky.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Middlebury has historically been frugal (compared to other municipalities) in its wastewater budgeting — and that's coming back to bite it right now, DPW officials acknowledged. Cherington showed the selectboard a graph showing the municipal sewer rate had grown by only 85 cents (from \$6.70 to \$7.35) between 2019 to 2025.

"Many a community has flattened its rates and paid dearly

for it," Brown said.

The 18% increase is expected to result in an increase of around \$192 annually for the average household (for a total of \$1,026), based on \$182.5 gallons per day of use. The "average household" in this case is 2.3 humans using 80 gallons per day, according to Cherington.

Also approved on Tuesday were 2-cent-per-gallon increases in the septage, gray water, and sludge rates charged at the

Middlebury WWTP.

It's a plant that could soon be receiving sludge from the city of Vergennes, which has mapped out an improvement plan for its own WWTP. If Middlebury's updated plant becomes a regional go-to for some of its services, that would generate additional revenue for debt service on Middlebury's own WWTP bond.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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# SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
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THE UMPIRE CALLS Tiger Tucker Wright out at home plate Thursday after Eagle catcher Clark Cray successfully tagged him out, depriving the home team of a go-ahead run.

Independent photo/Steve James



EAGLE CLARK CRAY hits a bunt that advances the lead-taking run to third base during a game against the Tigers in Middlebury on Thursday, May 21. Cray was out, but after another Eagle at-bat the runner he got to third scored. Mt. Abe ended up winning 6-1.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Eagle baseball tames Tigers again

### Win over MUHS puts Mount Abe at the top of the table

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — As the 2026 high school baseball season nears playoffs, Mount Abe recently won its second game against Middlebury Union High School.

“We were geared up for this one,” Eagle Coach Jason Barnard said of his team’s 6-1 victory on Thursday.

“We were ready. We wanted to be here.”

While post-season was still a couple games away for the Mount Abraham baseball team, the May 21 battle in the shire town against their local rival took a more serious tone.

“C’mon, this is a playoff game,” one of the Eagle coaches could

be heard hyping starting pitcher Jackson Jennings early in the game.

The junior left the mound after the fifth inning with nine strikeouts and just one hit against him.

The win over MUHS aided the Eagles in earning an 11-1 record and hitting a nine-game winning streak. (See *Eagles*, Page 4B)

## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Softball

5/21 Mt. Abe vs MUHS.....	18-4 (6 inn.)
5/21 Enosburg vs VUHS.....	18-5 (5 inn.)
5/23 Rice vs MUHS.....	15-1 (6 inn.)
5/26 Enosburg vs MUHS.....	8-1
5/26 VUHS vs Milton.....	23-11 (5 inn.)
5/26 Rice vs Mt. Abe.....	7-5

#### Baseball

5/21 Mt. Abe vs MUHS.....	6-1
5/21 Enosburg vs VUHS.....	11-4
5/23 Missisquoi vs MUHS....	4-3 (14 inn.)
5/26 MUHS vs Enosburg.....	3-2
5/26 Milton vs VUHS.....	7-5
5/26 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi....	12-0 (6 inn.)
5/27 MUHS at Fair Haven.....	Late

#### Boys' Lax

5/20 MUHS vs CVU.....	9-6
5/21 Hartford vs MAV.....	11-3
5/22 MMU vs MUHS.....	10-9
5/23 MAV vs BFA Fairfax.....	12-5
5/26 MUHS vs Woodstock.....	11-10
5/26 Montpelier vs MAV.....	8-6

#### Girls' Lax

5/20 MAV vs Green Mtn. Valley.....	15-3
5/21 MUHS vs Stowe.....	14-4
5/23 MUHS vs MAV.....	18-13
5/26 MUHS vs Essex.....	13-10
5/26 S. Burlington vs MAV.....	10-8

#### Girls' Ultimate

5/21 Burr & Burton vs MUHS.....	11-3
5/26 Burr & Burton vs MUHS.....	15-0

#### Boys' Ultimate

5/20 MUHS vs Essex.....	15-6
5/27 MUHS at MMU.....	Late

#### Boys' Tennis

5/20 Essex vs MUHS.....	4-3
5/21 MUHS vs S. Burlington.....	4-3
5/23 MUHS vs CVU.....	6-1
5/26 St. J at MUHS.....	Cancelled
5/27 MUHS at Colchester.....	Late

#### Girls' Tennis

5/22 MUHS vs North Country.....	6-1
5/27 MUHS at U32.....	Late

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Women's Lacrosse

(NCAA Semifinals at RIT)	
5/22 Midd vs Tufts.....	10-9 (OT)
(NCAA Finals at RIT)	
5/24 Midd vs Wesleyan.....	8-6

## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Softball

5/28 VUHS at MUHS.....	4:30 PM
------------------------	---------

5/28 Milton at Mt. Abe.....	4:30 PM
5/30 MUHS at Enosburg.....	11 AM
5/30 VUHS at Caledonia United.....	11 AM
6/2&3 Playdowns.....	TBD
6/5&6 Quarterfinals.....	TBD

#### Baseball

5/28 VUHS at MUHS.....	4:30 PM
------------------------	---------

(See *Schedule*, Page 2B)

## Local softball shaky this week

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The Mount Abraham Union High School softball team took a rare loss this week, and their record now stands at 9-3.

The young Middlebury Union High School team is 4-7 and Vergennes Union High School is 2-10.

Here’s how local teams fared this week.

#### MOUNT ABE

The Eagles started this past week with a six inning, 18-4 victory over the Tigers on May 21. Here are the

Eagle stats:

- Senior Gretchen Toy, 1-for-4, double, RBI.
- Senior Brooklyn Ryersbach, 3-for-4, 3 RBIs.
- Junior Emmy Rougier, 1-for-5, 3 RBI’s.
- Junior Brooke Barnard, 1-for-2, double.
- Senior Genevieve Forand, 2-for-4, double, RBI.
- Senior Morgan Larocque, 1-for-4, double.
- Sophomore Eleanor Hurlbut, 2-for-3, RBI.

(See *Softball*, Page 4B)

## Tiger boys’ tennis splits

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — After losing a close match, the Middlebury Union High School boys’ tennis team picked up two wins in the past week.

The Tigers dropped a round with Essex, 4-3, on May 20, then went on to defeat South Burlington by the same margin on May 21. Then on Saturday, May 23, MUHS dominated Champlain Valley in a match that ended, 6-1, Tigers.

No. 1 doubles partners senior Nathan Stefani and junior Nate Cook-Yoder, who was part of the 2024 championship pair and one of two runners-up in 2025, recently hit a six-match winning streak. And No. 1 singles player junior Charles Young hit a three-match winning

streak.

The recent contests bring the MUHS team’s record to 7-3, with two more back-to-back games this week to close out the regular season.

May 20 home match vs. Essex:

- No. 1 singles Young (MUHS) def. Ian Plasse (Essex) 6-2, 6-1.
- No. 2 singles Lewis Pilcher (Essex) def. Adrien Malhotra (MUHS) 6-3, 6-3.
- No. 3 singles Kohen Lindsay (Essex) def. Spencer Copeland (MUHS) 6-2, 6-4.
- No. 4 singles Riley Anger (Essex) def. Leo Swenton (MUHS) 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (13-11).
- No. 5 singles Arthur Calvi (MUHS) def. Tyler Nguyen (Essex) (See *Boys’ tennis*, Page 2B)



FRESHMAN DELIA PARK scores during a game in Vergennes against South Burlington on Tuesday, May 26. MAV lost, 10-8.

Independent photo/Steve James

## MAV girls’ lax faces tough D-I competition

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — The Division-II Eagle lacrosse team is closing their season and preparing for playoffs with a spate of three games against tough D-I competition.

“Having played some really good teams, especially the good D-I teams this season, we’re really excited to see what we can do in playoffs,” Coach Emiko Bennett

said.

The Eagles started the past week with a 15-3 victory over fellow D-II Green Mountain Valley School, and then took on Middlebury Union High School in the shire town for a second time this season on Saturday, May 23. That game ended 18-13, Tigers.

Then on Tuesday, the Eagles took on South Burlington in a

close contest.

“I thought they played a really good game. This is a really strong D-I team, and we knew coming into today that we needed to play to every ground ball, and draw controls were key, which I think helped with a lot of our success, keeping it a close game,” Bennett said.

(See *MAV*, Page 2B)



SENIOR CAROLINE ADAMS holds up the NCAA championship trophy after the Panthers claimed it for a fifth straight year on Sunday, May 24, in Rochester, N.Y. Middlebury defeated Wesleyan, 8-6, to keep the crown.

Stockton Photo

## Midd wins 5th NCAA title

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Not one of Coach Kate Livesay’s seniors has made it to their Middlebury College graduation ceremony in the last five years.

While for their classmates Memorial Day weekend has been about parading around the campus in regalia, absorbing (or ignoring) the advice of speakers and collecting a replica of Gamaliel Painter’s cane, for Panther women’s lacrosse it’s been reserved for the NCAA championship.

It’s been worth it. Each time the Panthers have closed the weekend adorned in championship merch, covered in confetti and the NCAA title trophy in hand.

This past weekend the Midd women’s lacrosse team closed their

2026 season with a big old goose egg on the right side of their record after defeating Wesleyan, 8-6, in the national championship game.

The 2026 Panthers went undefeated and claimed the NCAA Division III trophy for a fifth consecutive year, in what one player recently described as a “rebuilding year,” on account of losing 14 seniors at the conclusion of last spring.

This is far from the first time the team has gone undefeated. Sunday marked the seventh time in program history a team has achieved the feat. Livesay, a Middlebury alum herself, was part of the 2001 and 2002 rosters that had the same level of success.

The No. 1 Panthers’ path to the (See *NCAA title*, Page 3B)

“Once they understood how good they were, or could be, you know, they really elevated.”

— Coach Kate Livesay

# Tiger girls' tennis wins a pair

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team won a pair of matches against North Country on Friday, May 22. The Tigers swept the Falcons in the first bout, 7-0, and nabbed the second 6-1.

"The well-coached, young North Country team made the MUHS team work for every point and game and the scores do not show the competitive nature of the overall match," Coach Dan Comar said.

"Most matches found MUHS down 2-3 on serve before the MUHS players pulled away."

The two matches left MUHS with a 7-3 record ahead of one scheduled for Wednesday, after deadline, and

one more on tap Thursday, May 28, before post-season rounds begin next week.

Here's how the Tigers fared during the first double header match:

- No. 1 singles Stella Lenti MUHS def. Katelin Booth NC 8-3.
- No. 2 singles Anna Wolosinski MUHS def. Katie Larsen NC 8-3.
- No. 3 singles Cecelia Luksch MUHS def. Ellah Dillon NC 8-1.
- No. 4 singles Addie Taylor MUHS def. Jasmine Wells NC 8-3.
- No. 5 singles Maryam Khan MUHS def. Riley Fresier NC 8-4.
- No. 1 doubles Alex Garcia/Vicky Garcia MUHS def. Abby Shelp/Gracie Cross NC 8-3.
- No. 2 doubles Quinn Mackey/

Navah Glikman MUHS def. Ivy Russell/Morgan Grenier NC 8-1.

Here's how the Tigers did during the second:

- No. 1 singles Lenti MUHS def. Booth NC 8-0.
- No. 2 singles Wolosinski MUHS def. Larsen NC 8-4.
- No. 3 singles Luksch MUHS def. Wells NC 8-4.
- No. 4 singles Abby Shelp NC def. Taylor MUHS 8-2.
- No. 5 singles Khan MUHS def. Dillon NC 9-7.
- No. 1 doubles Alex & Vicky Garcia MUHS def. Fresier/Cross NC 8-6.
- No. 2 doubles Sophia Nicolai/Grace Ritter MUHS def. Russell/Grenier NC 8-0.



MAV SENIOR CO-CAPTAIN June Yates-Rusch carries the ball during a game in Vergennes against South Burlington on Tuesday, May 26.

Independent photo/Steve James

# MUHS girls' lax hits seven game tear

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Tiger girls' lax capped a seven-game winning streak with a close victory in another high-scoring game on Tuesday night. The team has scored more than 10 goals in each of the 10 competitions they've played this season.

The Division I Middlebury Union High School squad has only lost one game so far, to D-II U-32. That early-season game ended 14-13.

With two games on tap ahead of playoffs, as of Wednesday afternoon the only D-I team with a better record than the Tigers was undefeated Rice, 12-0. Burr and Burton is right there with MUHS, with an 11-1 record.

The Tigers preserved their single-loss season with a 13-10 victory over Essex on Tuesday.

"We had eight different players score tonight, which really highlights the team effort," Coach Caroline Wood said. The Tigers went into half leading 8-3, but found themselves in a 10-7 contest going into the final 12 minutes.

Essex got within a goal of MUHS at that time, and the game was frozen at 11-10 for five minutes. Senior co-captain Kenyon Connors ended the drought with a goal with about two minutes and 40 seconds left in the game. Senior co-captain Quinn Doria put one more in the back of the net in the last minute, making the final 13-10.

Here's who scored, had assists and draw controls:

- Junior co-captain Isabel Quinn, 3 goals, 1 assist, 1 draw control
- Doria, 2 goals, two assists, 1 draw control
- Sophomore Ellie Conklin, 3 goals

Junior Alice Livesay, 1 goal, 6 draw controls

- Sophomore Louisa Orten, 1 goal, 1 assist, five draw controls
- Senior Matty Austin, 1 goal
- Connors, 1 goal, 1 draw control
- Senior Lia Calzini, 1 assist

The Tigers entered that game on the heels of dealing the combined D-II team from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools a second loss this season. The May 23 game ended 18-13.

The Eagles went up 4-0 before the Tigers could get on the board.

That lead was helped by a hatrick from Eagle senior co-captain June Yates-Rusch, scored within 40 seconds early in the first quarter. A fourth goal from junior Aubrey Coffey capped the spree roughly two minutes and 15 seconds into the game.

Connors broke through with a goal for MUHS two minutes later, bringing the score to 4-1.

But Yates-Rusch erased her progress with her fourth, the Eagles' fifth, another two minutes later, to make it 5-1.

Sophomore Olivia Sawyer made it 6-1 with about five minutes and 25 seconds to go.

With just under five minutes left, the Tigers went on a five-goal run. Quinn started with a goal, and Connors followed up a minute later, bringing the score to 6-3. Quinn got on the board again just 20 seconds after, shrinking the gap to 6-4.

Senior Ivy Gates put two away within 15 seconds to tie the game, 6-6, with two minutes and 15 seconds left in the first.

Sophomore Mattea O'Bryan got the Eagles a one goal lead with 8 seconds to go.

Both teams scored just one goal in the second quarter, bringing the tally going into half, 8-7, in favor of

the Eagles.

MUHS outscored MAV, 4-3, in the third quarter, making for a tie game going into the final frame.

The Tigers won the game in the fourth, scoring six goals and allowing the Eagles just two.

Here are the Tiger stats:

- Connors, 4 goals
- Quinn, 5 goals, 2 assists, 5 draw controls
- Doria, 3 goals, 1 assist, 4 draw controls

- Conklin, 3 goals, 1 assist
- Calzini: 1 goal, 2 draw controls
- Alice Livesay, 1 goal, 3 assists, 3 draw controls
- Ivy Gates, 2 goals

Here are the Eagle stats:

- Yates-Rush: 4 goals, 1 assist, 6 draw controls
- O'Bryan: 3 goals, 1 assist, 3 draw controls
- Olivia Sawyer, 3 goals, 1 assist, 8 draw controls
- Coffey, 2 goals
- Freshman Delia Park, 1 goal

Two days before that, the Tigers picked up a decisive road win against D-II Stowe. The May 21 game ended 14-4.

Here are the stats from the game:

- Dana Livesay, 6 goals, 1 assist
- Austin, 2 goals
- Quinn, 2 goals, 5 draw controls
- Alice Livesay, 1 goal, 1 assist
- Conklin, 1 goal, 1 assist
- Connors, 1 goal
- Sophomore Willow Heywood, 1 goal
- Doria, 2 assists, 4 draw controls
- Orten, 2 draw controls

The Tigers have two more regular season games. First they take on Mount Mansfield at the Fucile Field on Thursday, May 28, at 4:30 p.m., and the following day they head to Hartford.

Playoffs are planned to begin next week.

# MAV

(Continued from Page 1B)

The Eagles made South Burlington work for a win.

For the bulk of the game, the Seawolves had a one or two goal lead. But it came down to the fourth quarter.

Going into the final frame the Seawolves had a 7-6 edge. But with seven minutes left in the game, the Eagles scored two consecutive goals to make it 8-7, earning their first lead of the game.

Eagle sophomore Mattea O'Bryan made her way to the net after making a move and creating a lane for herself, tying the game, 7-7, with about eight minutes and 17 seconds left.

Roughly a minute later junior

Aubrey Coffey got a close range shot that was good for the 8-7 lead.

The Seawolves tied it again with roughly five minutes and 47 seconds to go.

Senior co-captain June Yates-Rusch won the draw control that followed, a play she repeated on five of the six that quarter, and ran the ball all the way to South Burlington's net for a shot that went in, but was called back because of a dangerous follow through. The game was still locked, and Yates-Rusch was given a yellow card, giving the Seawolves a one-person advantage that they capitalized on.

South Burlington scored twice more, taking a 10-8 lead with about three-and-a-half minutes left.

The team ran out the remaining minutes on the clock.

Here are the Eagle stats from the game:

- Junior Thompson Davis, 2 goals, 2 draw controls
- Freshman Delia Park, 2 goals
- Sophomore Olivia Sawyer, 2 goals, 1 draw control
- Junior Aubrey Coffey, 2 goals
- O'Bryan, 1 goal, 1 assist
- Yates-Rush, 9 draw controls
- Sophomore Callie Rule, 1 draw control

The 7-5-1 MAV team has one more D-I contest to cap the season, this one against Champlain Valley Union in Bristol on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

# Boys' tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

Burlington) 6-4, 6-1.

Here are the results from the home match against CVU on Saturday, May 23:

- No. 1 singles Young (MUHS) def. Dash Tota (CVU) 6-0, 6-0.
- No. 2 singles Malhotra (MUHS) def. Sawyer Lake (CVU) 5-7, 6-4, 1-0 (10-3).
- No. 3 singles Copeland (MUHS) def. Ty Tota (CVU) 6-3, 7-5.
- No. 4 singles Swenton (MUHS) def. Ben Donahue (CVU) 6-0, 6-0.
- No. 5 singles Calvi (MUHS) won by forfeit.
- No. 1 doubles Stefani/Cook-Yoder (MUHS) def. Freddie Boardman/Cal Caputo (CVU) 6-1, 6-2.
- No. 2 doubles River Enser/Max Concewicz (CVU) def. Biancosino/Lu (MUHS) 6-4, 6-2.

The Tigers notched an easy win on Tuesday, May 26. St. Johnsbury forfeited what was supposed to be a home match.

After that, MUHS was due to play in Colchester on Wednesday after deadline.

On Thursday, May 28, MUHS has an away match against Mount Mansfield to close out the regular season.

Post-season matches are scheduled to begin next week.

# Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

5/28 Milton at Mt. Abe ..... 4:30 PM  
5/30 MUHS at Enosburg ..... TBD  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Boys' Lax**  
5/29 Essex at MUHS ..... 4:30 PM  
5/30 MAV at Stowe ..... 11 AM  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Girls' Lax**  
5/28 MMU at MUHS ..... 4:30 PM  
5/29 CVU at MAV ..... 4:30 PM  
5/29 MUHS at Hartford ..... 6:30 PM  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Girls' Ultimate**  
5/28 S. Burlington at MUHS ..... 4 PM  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Boys' Ultimate**  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Boys' Tennis**  
5/28 MUHS at MMU ..... 3:30 PM  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Girls' Tennis**  
5/28 MUHS at Montpelier ..... 3:30 PM  
6/2&3 Playdowns ..... TBD  
6/5&6 Quarterfinals ..... TBD

**Track & Field**  
5/30 MUHS, VUHS, Mt. Abe ..... at Essex  
6/5 State Championship ..... at Burlington

# Commodore baseball prepares for shire town

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — Commodore baseball is 2-10 after two losses this past week.

In the first, played on Thursday, May 21, in Vergennes, the Vergennes Union High School nine fell, 11-4, to Enosburg.

Senior Aiden Fuller went 1-for-4, hit a double and drove

in a run. Junior Liam McGuire went 1-for-3 and had an RBI.

After a break, the Commodores dropped a close 7-5 game to Milton in the Little City on Tuesday, May 26. Fuller went 2-for-4 and sophomore Liam Paquette did as well and had an RBI.

VUHS was up, 5-4, as they

entered the seventh inning, but couldn't come back after Milton scored three runs during their last ups.

The Commodores have one last regular season game, scheduled for May 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the shire town against Middlebury Union High School.

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**NEW HAVEN:**  
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## NCAA title

(Continued from Page 1B)

2026 NCAA title did look much unlike a NESCAC tournament. In this past Friday's semifinal game, Middlebury took on No. 4 Tufts, who they defeated 10-9 in the 2025 national tournament final. The Panthers saw No. 3 Wesleyan, who they stripped of this year's first place NESCAC trophy, in the championship game.

"Honestly, we don't really think about wins and losses much," Coach Livesay said.

"It's super rewarding and a little surprising to get through a full season without a loss. It's certainly not what we set out to do but it does reflect the hard work, the composure and the grittiness of this group. It's not an easy schedule that we play in terms of travel and in terms of quality of opponent so to have navigated that so well, makes us very proud."

In last weekend's semifinal and final, the Panthers put a total of 18 goals in the back of the net. Those were scored by nine different players.

The Panthers were particularly generous with their teammates during the Friday semifinal against Tufts. Eight players scored the 10 goals that topped the Jumbos' nine.

In that game, the Panthers went up 5-0 by 12:22 left in the second quarter. Tufts only managed to get by Midd's defensive unit just over a minute into the second quarter. The Panthers responded with a three goal run, raising the hurdle for the Jumbos to 8-1.

Tufts proved they were up to the task. Between the end of the second and the beginning of the third, the Jumbos scored four consecutive goals.

It would have been an eight goal run, had Middlebury senior co-captain Skylar Lach not broken up the fourth and fifth Tufts goals with a ninth Panther goal about four minutes into the third. Besides Lach's goal, the Panthers didn't score in the second half.

The Jumbos tied the game, 9-9, with three seconds left in regulation,

forcing overtime.

The Panthers finished the game in a first overtime period.

With about four minutes left on the clock and a player up, sophomore Siobhan Colin lofted a pass across the arc to senior Caroline Adams, who was wide open and waiting for the ball on the right. The co-captain had an open lane to sprint to the front of the net for a mid-range shot that propelled the Panthers to their fifth straight NCAA final game.

On Sunday, the Panthers faced off with Wesleyan for a third time this season, and dealt the 19-4 Cardinals a third loss.

The Panthers were down 3-1 early in the second quarter. Goals from Colin and Adams tied the game 3-3 going into half time. The Panthers clinched the game in the third quarter.

Middlebury and Wesleyan traded two goals apiece until there was 8:36 left in the third. The Panthers scored three unanswered goals before the buzzer, and Adams put another in the back of the net in the fourth, giving her team an 8-5 lead with 9:18 left in the game.

The Cardinals managed to score once more, bringing the final score to 8-6, Panthers.

### UNDEFEATED REBUILD YEAR

An undefeated season isn't generally what comes to mind when you think "rebuild year." But the 2026 Panthers showed the two descriptors aren't mutually exclusive.

"Honestly, we thought it might take more time to bounce back from the loss of 14 seniors," Livesay said.

"I think we were all prepared to have some bumps in the road and some learning from losses along the way. But in fact, our learning came from finding success and then grooming those efforts to propel us forward. We gained momentum from every win and kept getting better and better as the season wore on."

It wasn't until shortly before the NESCAC tournament that Livesay said the team realized their potential

following a game against No. 8 Amherst in mid-April.

Already 13-0 by that point and having victories over Wesleyan and Tufts under their belts, the Panthers headed to Massachusetts.

Once they were done, it was back on the road with a 13-7 win over another nationally ranked team.

"We played a really complete game. We did not win draws, but other than that, all the things that we could control, we played really cleanly and really well, and I think they were like, 'oh, OK,'" she said.

Consistency and reliability followed, she said.

"Once they understood how good they were, or could be, you know, they really elevated."

While last year 14 of Livesay's players missed graduating with their academic peers, six were absent from the 2026 commencement.

"We are very excited about next year. We have a good core of our defense back and all of our goalies returning," Livesay said when asked about the outlook for next season.

Her defense was a well-oiled unit that teams had a difficult time breaking through.

"We have a very strong first-year group joining us, which is exciting," Livesay added.

While the absence of the 2025 seniors left a gap in the defense that was successfully filled, next year's challenge will be on offense.

"We lose quite a bit of scoring output from this year's senior class so that will be the area that we will need to develop the most next season," Livesay said.

In addition to Adams, the team's leading goal-scorer and the 2026 attacker and player of the year, the team's second and third highest scorers, Haley Hamilton and Skylar Lach, also just closed their final season on the Peter Kohn Field.

Back next year are Colin and Parker Hanson, two underclassmen who played significant roles in the offense this year. Colin scored 25 and Hanson scored 13, plus had 32 assists this season. The latter put her behind just Adams, who finished the



**SENIORS ON THE** Middlebury College women's lacrosse team pose with the NCAA championship trophy after claiming it for a fifth year in a row on Sunday, May 24, in Rochester, N.Y. Middlebury defeated Wesleyan, 8-6, to keep the crown. Holding the trophy is Caroline Adams, and her classmates are, from left, Britt Nawrocki, Lauren Giuriceo, Haley Hamilton, Caroline Messer, Skylar Lach. This group of seniors only lost a single game in their entire four years on the team.

Stockton Photo

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Mixed week for local boys' lax

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The Eagle and Tiger boys' lacrosse teams both have one more game before playoffs begin next week.

The combined team from Mount Abraham and Vergennes is 8-4, and the Middlebury Union High School team is 7-6.

Here's how the two teams did this past week.

### MIDDLEBURY

The Division-I Tigers tipped the scales of their 2026 season to winning with a 9-6 victory over playoff rival Champlain Valley Union on May 20. The Redhawks are 9-3.

The Tiger versus Redhawk history goes back to 2023 when MUHS ended CVU's run for a 10th straight D-I final appearance. MUHS was runners-up that year.

Despite dropping two regular season games to the Tigers, last year it was the Redhawks that knocked MUHS out of the playoffs in the semifinals. CVU finished on top in 2025.

In last week's matchup, MUHS went down 1-0 about four minutes into the first quarter. With roughly three-and-a-half left before the break, senior co-captain Jaxson Heffernan got MUHS on the board.

The Redhawks broke free of the tie briefly in the last minute of the first, but junior Brady Lloyd locked

the score again with a last second goal at the end of the quarter.

Though CVU opened scoring in the second, MUHS took charge of the game before going into half. Roughly three minutes and 15 seconds into the second, CVU put a third in the back of the net. Less than a minute later, MUHS junior Rowdy Malcolm locked the teams at 3, and within the minute got the Tigers their first lead.

Junior Gabriel Quesnel got MUHS a two-point cushion with a goal with just over three minutes before halftime. Those goals brought the score to 5-3, Tigers.

MUHS built on the momentum and had their best quarter of the game right out of half. The Redhawks made a dent in the deficit, getting within a goal of the Tigers a little over a minute into the third quarter.

Four MUHS goals followed.

Senior co-captain Ben DeBisschop scored in the fourth minute, Lloyd scored in the sixth minute, senior co-captain Logan McNulty scored in the ninth minute and Heffernan scored in the 10th

minute.

The Redhawks bookended the third, with a closing goal in the last minute.

Besides one goal from CVU, the fourth quarter was scoreless.

That brought the final score to 9-6, Tigers.

(See Boys' lax, Page 4B)

**BOATING SEASON IS HERE - HOP ON IN!**

# Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)  
 streak on Tuesday after an easy six inning, 12-0 victory over Missisquoi.

That Tuesday win kept the team at the top of the Division-II standings, a position they took after defeating the Tigers on Thursday and vanquishing D-III Enosburg, 7-3, on May 19. The Eagles have one regular-season game left — on May 28 at 4:30 p.m. in Bristol — ahead of the playoffs next week.

Mt. Abe's May 21 victory over MUHS, who the Eagles previously defeated 6-0, was a show of solid base running, senior Evan Corrigan said after the game. It's an observation Barnard made sure

to emphasize.

"Base running was awesome," he said.

"These guys, we work on this stuff in practice, and they take it to the game. Everything we do, situational stuff, our pitching is strong tonight," he added.

"Usually we get a lot more hits, but we proved we could win in other ways, and I think that's huge when it comes to playoffs."

The Eagles had to get crafty around the diamond; like the Tigers, they also had only one hit.

Mt. Abe got on the board in the first inning off an error. Then in the bottom of the third, Tiger senior Owen Butterfield hit a shallow

single that dropped behind second base and the outfield, driving in the tying run for MUHS.

Had it not been for Eagle catcher Clark Crary's defense at home plate, the Tigers might have taken a 2-1 lead.

In an effort to secure a third out, he slung the ball to second base to try to catch Butterfield, who was stealing. During that play, which didn't result in an out, Tiger co-captain Tucker Wright took the opportunity to dart home from third.

Crary got the ball back and successfully tagged out the junior on the slide, keeping the two teams locked at one.

The Eagles didn't break the 1-1 tie until the fifth inning.

With no outs, Crary got Eagle junior Wyatt Giroux to third base on a bunt.

Then with just one out, junior Stefan Johnson came up and pulled the same move, getting Giroux home, giving the Eagles a 2-1 edge.

After a pair of walks and a stolen base, Eagle runners on first and second advanced to second and third due to a balk.

Corrigan was up and got a hit that landed in roughly the same spot as Butterfield's earlier, getting two more runs in and widening the Eagle lead to 4-1.

The Eagles managed two more runs, bringing the score to 6-1, before the Tigers could manage a final out.

Jennings threw three strikeouts in the bottom of the fifth to cap his time on the mound.

Johnson pitched the rest of the game.

Coach Barnard was fired up as the Eagles enter their final spate of regular season games and prepare for playoffs.



**EAGLE JACKSON JENNINGS** slings a pitch to a Tiger during a game on Thursday, May 21. The junior struck out nine MUHS batters and allowed them just one hit.

Independent photo/Steve James



**TIGER TUCKER WRIGHT** sends a pitch across home plate during a home game on Thursday, May 21 against the Eagles. The junior allowed a Mt. Abe team that has proven prolific at the plate just one hit.

Independent photo/Steve James

"We're gonna go hard," he said. "We're gonna be ready."

**TIGERS**  
 MUHS baseball stood in fourth among D-II teams after Thursday night, and had five more on tap before the playoffs.

Like the Eagles, Tiger Coach Tim Paquette said his team wants a D-II title at the end of the season.

"I'm hoping we can come out of there with five wins," Paquette said of his hopes for the Tigers' remaining regular season games.

He commended his starting pitcher, Wright, who kept an Eagle team that has become known for their hot hitting to just one success in that department.

"I thought Tucker pitched a good game, and he got in a little bit of a

tight squeeze," Paquette said.

"The defense got on their toes, and we just didn't get that big hit when we needed to get the hit when we had runners in scoring position."

While the Eagles breezed through their following competition, the Tigers found themselves in two tight home contests with Missisquoi and Enosburg.

MUHS dropped the first, against the Thunderbirds, in a 4-3, 14-inning loss on May 23.

It was a tie game, 1-1, going into the eighth, the first extra inning. Missisquoi got a two-run single in the top of the 14th to win.

Tiger Junior Ryan Brouillard pitched 8.2 innings, struck out 14 batters and allowed two hits. He

also went 3-7 at bat.

Here's who had hits and runs:  
 • Ezra Bliven, 4-for-7, double, 2 RBIs.

• Owen Butterfield, 1-for-4, double, RBI.

• Tucker Wright, 2-for-6.

• Lucas Wing, 1-for-5, double.

The Tigers found themselves on the opposite side of a second narrow game on Tuesday, beating Enosburg, 3-2.

Senior co-captain Gabriel Velez went 2-for-3 and had a double, and Brouillard went 2-for-4, had a double and drove in two runs.

After those two games, the Tigers sit at sixth, with a home game against Vergennes on May 28 and a game in Enosburg on May 30.

## Boys' lax

(Continued from Page 3B)

Here are the Tigers' game stats:

- Malcolm, 2 goals
- McNulty, 1 goal, 1 assist
- DeBisschop, 1 goal
- Lloyd, 2 goals, 1 assist
- Quesnel, 1 goal, 2 assists
- Heffernan, 2 goals
- Sophomore goalie Tanner English, five saves.

Two days after that triumph, the Tigers fell, 10-9, to Mount Mansfield in Middlebury. Brady Lloyd was the top offender for MUHS, with two goals and three assists. Other game stats were not available by deadline.

On Tuesday, May 26, the Tigers defeated Woodstock 11-10 after dropping one to them earlier in the season. Game stats were not available by deadline.

That game brought Middlebury's record to 7-6, with one more game on tap: Essex in Middlebury on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

## MT. ABE-VUHS

On Thursday, May 21, MAV stomached a third season loss. The Eagles fell, 11-3, to Hartford in Bristol.

During that game, senior Greyson Desilets, junior Lincoln Painter and sophomore Addy Halby each put a point up for the Eagles. Painter also had an assist. Sophomore goalie Mason Forand had nine saves.

The Eagles picked up a road win against BFA Fairfax two days later.

The Saturday, May 23 game ended 12-5, MAV.

With four goals, junior co-captain Asa Pratt was the Eagles' top scorer. He also assisted teammates twice.

Other goals and assists:  
 • Painter, 3 goals, 2 assists

• Junior Kestrel Edwards, 2 goals

• Desilets, 1 goal

• Sophomore Otto Sigfried, 1 goal

• Senior Cooper Cook, 1 goal

• Freshman Levi Clark, 5 assists

• Halby, 1 goal  
 Sophomore goalie Mason Forand had five saves in the first half of the game. Senior goalie Connor Nason, who protected the net in the second, had seven.

The Eagles are 8-4 as they look to pick up 1 more win to close the season and enter Division II playoffs next week.

An 8-6 loss to Montpelier closed the past week for the Eagles on Tuesday, May 26.

Here's who scored and had assists:

• Pratt 2 goals, 1 assist

• Painter, 2 goals

• Desilets, 1 goal

• Edwards, 1 goal

• Clark, 2 assists

• Baxter Montgomery, 1 assist

• Halby, 1 assist

Nason had 11 saves.

The Eagles are scheduled to close the season on Saturday, May 30, in Stowe.

## Softball

(Continued from Page 1B)

For the Tigers, senior Skyler Choiniere went 1-for-3, hit a double and drove in a run. Sophomore Lillian Paquette went 1-for-3 and hit a double. Junior Tenny LaRoche went 1-for-3 and brought in two runners.

On Tuesday, Rice dealt Mount Abe their third loss of the season. The Eagles had previously defeated the Green Knights in Bristol during a game that ended Rice's undefeated season. Rice won this week, 7-5.

Here are the game stats:

• Toy, 1-for-3, RBI.

• Rougier, 1-for-4, homerun, RBI.

• Barnard, 2-for-2, two doubles, 2 RBIs.

• Junior Leah Tierney, 2-for-3.

The Eagles play their last regular season game on May 28 in Bristol against Milton.

## MIDDLEBURY

The Tigers also lost to Rice this past week. On May 23, MUHS

stomached a 15-1, six inning loss. Paquette went 2-for-3, and senior Brianna Foss went 1-for-3 and drove in a run.

MUHS dropped a game on Tuesday, May 26, to Enosburg. It ended 8-1. LaRoche went 1-for-1 and drove in the sole Tiger score.

MUHS played a game on Wednesday, May 27, after deadline.

After that they are due to close the season with a home game against VUHS on May 28 at 4:30 p.m. and a game in Enosburg on Saturday.

## VERGENNES

The young Commodores lost 18-5 in a five inning home game against Enosburg on Thursday, May 21. The highlight of the game was freshman Ayla Kittredge's first homerun.

Here are the game stats:

• Kittredge, 2-for-3, homerun, RBI.

• Sophomore Laci Almeida, 1-for-3, RBI.

• Junior Acaisa Visser, 1-for-3.

• Junior Trinity Angle, 1-for-3.

• Freshman Reese Muzzy, 1-for-3, double.

• Junior Ryenn Wisell, 1-for-3.

• Eighth grader Addie Zimmerman, 2-for-3.

• Freshman Jordan Hutchins, 1-for-3, triple.

The Tuesday, May 26, game was a far better outcome for the Commodores, who defeated Milton, 23-11, in five innings.

Here are the game stats:

• Kittredge, 3-for-4, triple, 3 RBIs.

• Muzzy, 1-for-4, 3 RBIs.

• Almeida, 1-for-2, RBI, 4 runs.

• Angle, 1-for-3, RBI.

• Wissel, 1-for-5, RBI.

• Freshman Ella Maneen, 2 RBIs.

The Commodores, which have just three juniors as upperclassmen representation, has two more regular season games: on May 28 in Middlebury at 4:30, and at Caledonia United on Saturday.

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## Novelist casts light on Revolutionary War in a Shoreham conversation

SHOREHAM — Author Paul Andriscin will discuss his recent historical novel in Shoreham next Wednesday, June 3.

The talk at 6:30 pm in The Old Stone School House on Route 22A, is hosted by Shoreham Historical Society Program.

Andriscin will talk about “The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall,” which follows a fictional Continental Army soldier during the Revolutionary War

from 1776 to the Battles of Saratoga. The book uses the experiences of the fictional Kendall to provide a personal look at the hardships of 18th-century soldiering, drawing on real historical details from Orwell’s Mount Independence and other sources.

There will be a short business meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7. Send questions via email to [jdstevens802@gmail.com](mailto:jdstevens802@gmail.com).

### may 29 FRIDAY

**Emily Sunderman student recital in Cornwall.** Friday, May 29, 5:30–6:30 p.m., The Meeting House at Cornwall, 2598 Route 30. Violin, viola and cello students of Emily Sunderman present their annual recital featuring solo and group performances.

**Mt. Abe Middle School Musical: “Seussical Jr.” in Bristol.** Friday, May 29, 7 p.m., Mt. Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. MAUSD ELP middle school performers bring Dr. Seuss favorites to life in this colorful musical adventure featuring Horton, the Cat in the Hat and the Whos. Tickets: \$5. More info: [cur8.com/22548/project/137332](http://cur8.com/22548/project/137332).

### may 30 SATURDAY

**Shoreham Community Coffee Hour.** Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church. Stop by the church basement for coffee and pastries. Visit with neighbors and friends. All are welcome.

**Middlebury Garden Club annual plant sale in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m.–noon, former Taylor Rental building, Route 7 South. Shop annuals, perennials, dahlia tubers, vegetable starts, herbs and shrubs, along with gardening accessories. Plants are labeled with care information, and trays and boxes will be available for carrying purchases.

**Rhubarb Festival in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. Celebrate spring and community with rhubarb pies and other treats, a plant sale, book sale, music and children’s activities. Proceeds support the wider community.

**Artist’s reception for Debbie Smith in Salisbury.** Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–noon, Salisbury Free Public Library 853 Maple St. Come to Salisbury Library one last week to bid on Debbie Smith’s quirky and wonderful Shadow boxes. Debbie will be on hand with oreo cookies and milk. At 11 the bidding will close. Winners not present will be notified and can make arrangements to purchase their prize. A portion of the sales is a donation to the library.

**Watercolor Paint-Along in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 30, noon–2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Follow a step-by-step nature watercolor painting video in this free session. Space is limited; reservations required. Contact: [mirandadegreenia@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:mirandadegreenia@bixbylibrary.org).

**Homeward Bound’s community open house in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 30, 1 p.m., 236 Boardman St. Meet kittens, shop our pet supply yard sale, enjoy refreshments and music, say hello to staff and learn about our affordable services. Sign up to be a foster volunteer, get psyched for Woofstock, and more. Please park at the American Legion.

**Gardening for kids in Brandon.** Saturday, May 30, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Miller Hill Farm nursery and garden. Co-hosted by the Brandon Free Public Library, this family-friendly program introduces children to gardening, pollinators and environmental stewardship through story time, a scavenger hunt and planting wax begonias to take home. Free; registration required. Call 802-247-8230 or email [info@brandonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:info@brandonpubliclibrary.org).

**Ann Story historic marker unveiling & performance in Salisbury.** Saturday, May 30, 2 p.m., Shard Villa Road & Story Drive. Unveiling and dedication of historic marker to celebrate the heroism and legacy of the “mother of the Green Mountain Boys” Ann Story. World premiere live performance of “Ann Story: A Place Among You,” wreath-laying at cabin site and picnicking. [crownpointroad.org/home/calendar](http://crownpointroad.org/home/calendar).

**Quarry Hill School Spring Celebration in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 30, 2–5 p.m., Happy Valley Orchard. Potluck fundraiser with great food, company and live music. Caitlin and Adam Sausville, and Richard Worsman will perform. Leading up, there will be a silent auction to benefit the school with many exciting items to bid on.

**Dance and Karaoke with D.J. John in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 30, 2–5 p.m., Addison County VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Dance and karaoke afternoon; open to the public. The kitchen open 2–4 p.m. The music is Free.

**Mt. Abe Middle School Musical: “Seussical Jr.” in Bristol.** Saturday, May 30, 7 p.m., Mt. Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. See May 29 listing.

### may 31 SUNDAY

**Run into Summer 5K in Vergennes.** Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m., Vergennes Union High School. Charity 5K hosted by Better Tomorrow Projects. Proceeds benefit Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, supporting outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. Sign up: [forms.gle/i7A4HUnVzTJXfB3p9](http://forms.gle/i7A4HUnVzTJXfB3p9).

**Recovery in color: mocktail paint & sip in Middlebury.** Sunday, May 31, 11–1 p.m., Turning Point Center, 79 Court St. Alcohol-free paint & sip with guided art, mocktails and community. Open to all in recovery. Supplies provided. Free.

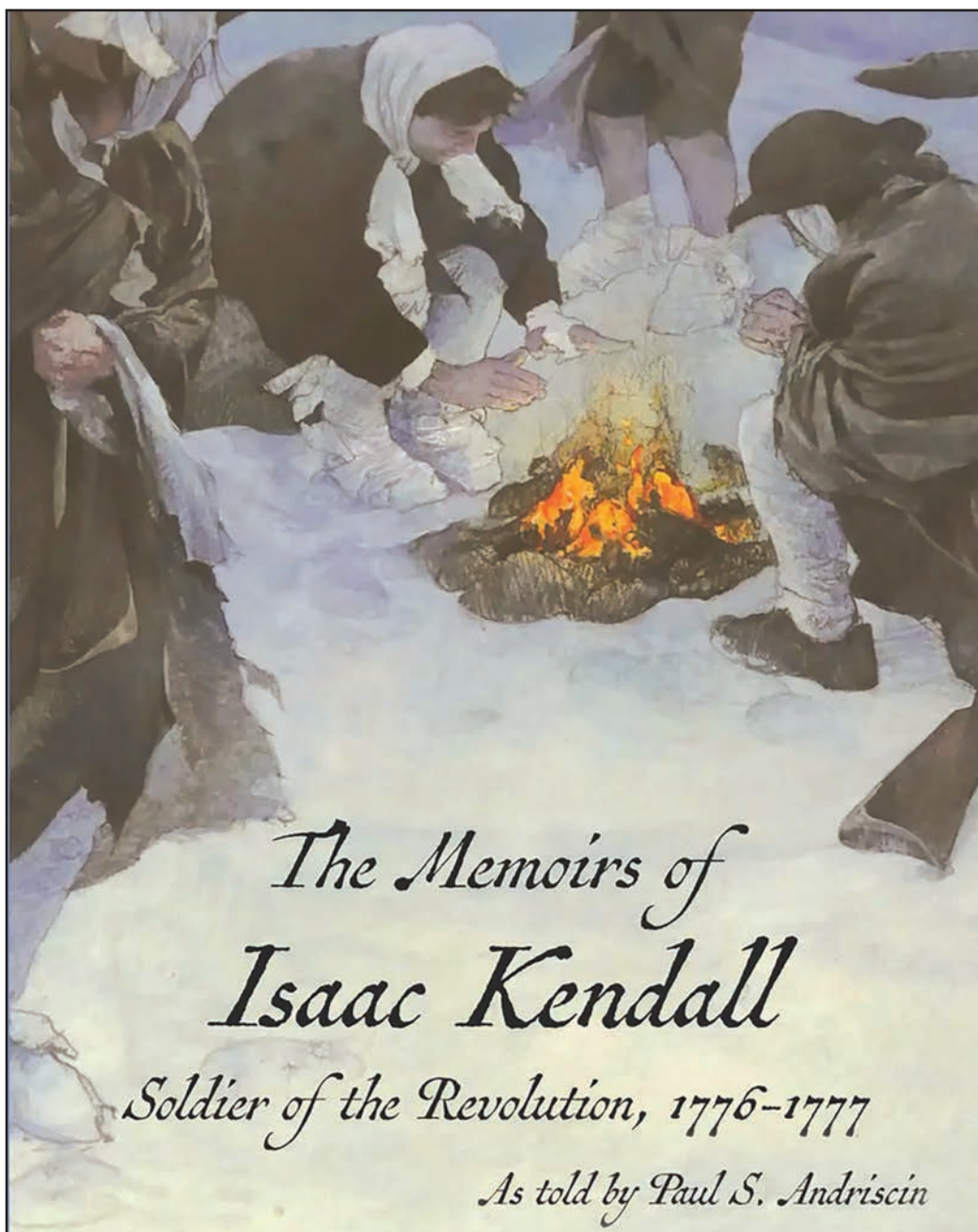
### jun 1 MONDAY

**Vergennes City Band rehearsal in Vergennes.** Monday, June 1, 7–9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Instrumentalists of all experience levels are invited to join the Vergennes City Band for community rehearsals. For more information, contact Sue O’Daniel at [sodaniel27@gmail.com](mailto:sodaniel27@gmail.com).

### jun 2 TUESDAY

**Homeschool information night in Ferrisburgh.** Tuesday, June 2, 6–8 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Homeschool-curious families are invited to learn about Vermont homeschooling requirements and registration, hear from a parent panel and connect with local homeschool families, services and educational resources.

**Presentation: “Supporting Healthier Outdoor Spaces: What to Know About Mosquitoes, Pesticides and Pollinators” in Middlebury.** Tuesday, June 2, 7 p.m., Unity Hall Congregational Church of Middlebury. Talk by Emily May of Xerxes Society’s pesticide program. She will share ways to help pollinators in peril and discuss alternative solutions to pesticide usage and mosquito



### Summer reading adventure

**JUST IN TIME** for America’s 250th, journey back to the wilds of Lake Champlain and the Battle of Saratoga with author Paul Andriscin. His historical novel, “The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall,” captures the perils, battles and inner struggles of a Revolutionary War soldier. Join him for an evening of storytelling as he discusses his book on Wednesday, June 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Stone School House in Shoreham.

fogging. She will also show the steps for making mosquito dunk bucket traps at home. Email: [pollinatorpathway.addisoncity@gmail.com](mailto:pollinatorpathway.addisoncity@gmail.com).

neighbors at this non-gendered contra dance. Richard Hopkins will teach and call dances for people of all ages. Enjoy lively music by Northern Sugar. Experienced dancers and first-timers welcome. Free.

### jun 3 WEDNESDAY

**Great Decisions Lecture: “Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy” in Middlebury.** Wednesday, June 3, 2:30 p.m., EastView at Middlebury. Presented by Middlebury College Associate Professor Obie Porteous. Offered in-person and via Zoom. Please call 802-989-7501 for Zoom link.

**Author discusses historical novel in Shoreham.** Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 p.m., The Old Stone School House, 3130 Route 22A. The Shoreham Historical Society Program hosts Paul Andriscin, who will talk about his historical fiction novel, “The Memoirs of Isaac Kendall,” which follows a fictional Continental Army soldier during the Revolutionary War from 1776 to the Battles of Saratoga. The book uses the experiences of the fictional Kendall to provide a personal look at the hardships of 18th-century soldiering, drawing on real historical details from Mount Independence and other sources. There will be a short business meeting beforehand at 6:30 p.m. before the talk at 7 p.m. Questions? Contact [jdstevens802@gmail.com](mailto:jdstevens802@gmail.com).

**Informational Meeting about the BESS Energy Storage Project in Vergennes.** Wednesday, June 3, 6–8 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Meeting includes an introduction to Lightshift Energy, overviews of the proposed project, Energy Storage Industry and the Vermont permitting process, followed by a Q & A Session. Presented by the City of Vergennes. For more information or questions please contact Ron Redmond, [manager@vergenes.org](mailto:manager@vergenes.org) or 802-238-5598.

### jun 4 THURSDAY

**Artist’s reception with Zarrah Shethar in Salisbury.** Thursday, June 4, 4 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library 853 Maple St. See Zarrah Shethar’s vibrant and whimsical paintings and drawings. Primarily working in gouache, she likes to add ink, acrylic paint and colored pencils in her work.

**Tech help night in Salisbury.** Thursday, June 4, 6 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 853 Maple St. Have an issue with your phone or laptop? Bring your device and your questions to the library the first Thursday of the month. Tech guru Dino Jandric will be on hand to field questions about PCs and Android devices, while Alissa will help you with Apple products.

### jun 5 FRIDAY

**Gallery Talk: Luciana Frigerio in Middlebury.** Friday, June 5, 5:30–6:30 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum 1 Park St. Join contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio and curator Kelly Hickey for a special talk. Step into magically crafted worlds of paper theater nestled in vintage clocks and watch housings, where each piece reveals stories of time, imagination, and possibility. [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org).

**Contra dance in Middlebury.** Friday, June 5, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. (Park at MUHS). Join the fun, get some exercise and meet your

### jun 6 SATURDAY

**Crafternoon in Brandon.** Saturday, June 6, 1–3 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. A monthly crafting afternoon for all ages. Bring your own project or create something using library supplies. A different craft will be featured each month. Free.

**NER Alumni Reading at Reunion 2026 in Middlebury.** Saturday, June 6, 1 p.m., Axinn Center 229, Middlebury College. In celebration of Middlebury’s reunion weekend, *New England Review* will host a reading for six alumni authors: Susan Fritsch Hunter ’71, Jeneva Burroughs Stone ’86, Katherine Ferrier ’91, Jeffrey T. Price ’01, Emily K. Lackey ’06, and Isabelle Stillman ’16. Free.

**Book and bake sale in Salisbury.** Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m., 647 West Salisbury Road. The library is hosting its annual book and bake sale to coincide with Jack Beasley’s estate sale. Check out the books, the furniture and fixtures and don’t forget to pick up some delicious baked goods.

### jun 8 MONDAY

**Great Decisions Lecture: “Islamophobia, the War on Iran, and the Heart’s Mirror” in Middlebury.** Monday, June 8, 3 p.m., EastView at Middlebury. Presented by Middlebury College Associate Muslim Chaplain Zahra Moeini Meybodi. Offered in-person and via Zoom. Call 802-989-7501 for Zoom link.

**Cribbage night in Bristol.** Monday, June 8, 7–8:15 p.m., Masonic Lodge on the corner of Elm and North streets. The Masons’ semi-monthly Cribbage Night. Now that nicer weather is coming, crowds are improving. They say they look forward to seeing you.

**Vergennes City Band rehearsal in Vergennes.** Monday, June 8, 7–9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Instrumentalists of all experience levels are invited to join the Vergennes City Band for community rehearsals. For more information, contact Sue O’Daniel at [sodaniel27@gmail.com](mailto:sodaniel27@gmail.com).

### jun 12 FRIDAY

**Sparrow Plein Air Festival weekend begins in Middlebury.** Friday, June 12, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., Sparrow Art Supply. Sign up for a choose-your-own-adventure weekend of outdoor art-making with optional demonstrations and on-site guidance each day. Kickoff at The Blue Bar at Swift House Inn from 5:30–7 p.m. for all registered artists. Kids prices and supply bundles available. \$45–\$80. Registration required: [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com).

### SUPPORTING RECOVERY, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

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This is a free event hosted by the Turning Point Center of Addison County

**Turning Point Center OF ADDISON COUNTY**

Pre-registration encouraged. Scan code to register now!

With special thanks to: **ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**



### RECOVERY IN COLOR: MOCKTAIL PAINT & SIP

Sunday, May 31, 11 am–1 pm

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Scan to RSVP & for more info

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# Sparrow Plein Air Festival returns in June

MIDDLEBURY — An outdoor painting festival next month will transform Middlebury into a vibrant open-air studio where artists and visitors can experience the creative process in real time.

In partnership with Better Middlebury Partnership, painters will work across downtown streets, riverbanks, gardens and historic sites, capturing Vermont's landscape en plein air — directly from life. The Sparrow Plein Air Festival is free and open to the public, inviting visitors to explore the town, watch artists at work, and engage with demonstrations and programming throughout the weekend. Participating artists register through a paid festival pass and families with young artists are also encouraged to join.

"Events like Sparrow Plein Air Festival highlight what makes Middlebury so special," said Kathryn Torres, co-director of the Better Middlebury Partnership. "It brings together local businesses, artists, and visitors in a way that energizes our downtown and celebrates the creative spirit of our community."

Now in its second year, the festival builds on the creative community surrounding Sparrow Art Supply, an independent, woman-owned art supply store and gallery. The inaugural event brought together nearly 100 artists of all ages and more than two dozen local businesses, establishing a town-wide celebration of the arts.

"Plein air painting is a powerful way to experience Vermont," said Beth Bluestein, owner of Sparrow Art Supply and Sparrow Plein Air Festival organizer. "You're immersed in nature — the light, the sounds, even the wind become part of the work. It's both meditative and energizing. At Sparrow, we



AN ARTIST IN Middlebury's Riverview Park paints a picture during last June's first Sparrow Plein Air Festival. The outside painting event returns next month.

Photo courtesy of Sparrow Art Supply

believe creativity is for everyone, and this festival is about bringing people together to create, connect with their surroundings, and celebrate the start of summer."

Throughout the weekend, programming blends painting with community engagement designed for all experience levels. The festival begins Friday, June 12, with artist check-in at Sparrow Art Supply, followed by workshops led by Jennifer Sampson and Annelein Beukenkamp, and a welcome gathering at 5:30 p.m. at

The Blue Bar at Swift House Inn. Participants will enjoy a free drink ticket for beer, wine or a special watercolor cocktail. Then on that Saturday and Sunday, artists paint throughout town, with daily Plein Air Ambassador demonstrations at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., along with community events including a Creemee Social at Shiretown Marketplace and a Cookie Hour at The Stone Mill, featuring treats from Cookie Love.

A centerpiece of this year's festival is the Wet Paint Exhibit and

Sale, where artwork created during the weekend will be displayed and available for purchase at Sparrow Art Supply through the July 4th weekend, extending the life of the event beyond its three-day run.

Festival support is provided by Table 21 and a network of more than two dozen community partners.

Sparrow Plein Air Festival passes for participating artists are available through June 1 at [sparrowartsupply.com/plein-air-festival](http://sparrowartsupply.com/plein-air-festival).

# Monkton

Have a news tip?  
Contact Liz Pecor at  
[lprascal47@gmail.com](mailto:lprascal47@gmail.com)

## NEWS

MONKTON — It's time for the Monkton Friends Monkton Church Annual Plant Sale! On Saturday, May 30, starting at 9 a.m., come to the church to find a wide variety of wonderful hardy perennials from area gardens consisting of plants, bulbs, berry bushes, shrubs, lilac bushes, shade plants, flowering plants, herbs and much more! Check out the bake sale for some wonderful, tasty treats or pick up a beautiful baby gift, potholders and much more at the craft sale. Plus it's a great opportunity to see old friends, make new friends, shop local and support this icon of Monkton church. If you have more questions, contact Marilyn Cargill at 802-453-5192.

Also on Saturday, May 30, join Laurel Kelly from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Town Hall for Community Yoga. This weekly event is suitable for all levels of experience. Bring your yoga mat. She provides yoga blocks and straps. A donation is requested but any amount is accepted. This class benefits the Russell Memorial Library. For more information contact Laurel at [laurelkelly@yahoo.com](mailto:laurelkelly@yahoo.com).

On Sunday, May 31, join Eugenie Doyle to experience a class of Ashtanga Yoga from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Community Room. This slow movement relaxing and easy movement class is free. For more information contact Eugenie at 802-989-3378, email [edoyle@gmavt.net](mailto:edoyle@gmavt.net).

Plastic Film recycling is now being offered at the Monkton Recycling Center. Nora Woolf is joining the recycling volunteer

team. "I'm excited to be joining the Monkton Recycling Center volunteer team!" Nora said. "Recycling is important to me and my family. One thing we recently did was to add a bin in our kitchen for plastic film recycling (this plastic is single-layer plastic, and can be up-cycled into many things including Trex decking). I can't believe how much it reduced our trash quantity! We are going to start offering this recycling option at the Monkton Recycling Center — read on to find out what can be recycled."

What can be recycled?

Any stretchy clear plastic bags — wrap around products, bread bags, shopping bags, ziplock and cereal bags.

What doesn't count? Anything with color (this means it's multi-layered).

Cellophane — Wrap that is crinkly (cereal bags are the one exception, so that's tricky).

Non-stretchy. Look for signs for a collection bin and guidelines at the Monkton Recycling Center in case you want to recycle clear plastic materials.

There will also be a special and separate bin for the stretchy film if you wish to recycle these plastics, so please keep separate from your other recyclable items.

From the desk of Sam Champagne:

Free Taekwondo Intro Classes — Champagne's Black Belt Academy LLC! Curious about Taekwondo? Come try a free introductory class and see what we're all about! Learn basic stances, kicks, movement, (See Monkton, Page 11B)

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Leann Thomas

Leann Thomas is one of Otter Valley Union High School's final Students of the Week for the 2025-2026 school year. She lives in Brandon with her mom, stepdad, sister and brothers.

She says she enjoys the classes offered at her school and likes being around her teachers. Her favorite class is Advanced Anatomy and Physiology because she is interested in learning how the human body works.

One teacher who has had a positive impact on her is Ms. P. "I could talk to her about anything, and she taught me not to fear failure and never give up," Leann said.

Leann has received several awards for excellence in her classes, has been captain of the varsity softball

team for two years, and has earned multiple sports awards.

Leann works at Hannaford and Kampersville, and during the summer, she volunteers at Rutland Regional Medical Center. In her free time, she enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.

Her advice to others is simple: "The biggest mistake you can make in life is to be continuously fearing you will make one. Growth is impossible to achieve without making mistakes."

After graduation, she plans to attend Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts to earn a bachelor's degree in Radiologic Technology. We wish Leann all the best!



Leann Thomas  
OVUHS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Jack Anderson

Mt. Abraham Union High School is proud to recognize Jack Anderson as our Student of the Week. Jack lives in Lincoln with his Mom and Dad, his brother, Chuck, and his dog, Biscuit.

Jack has received transferable skills and academic honors throughout his high school career.

He has really appreciated the variety of course options and clubs that are offered at Mt. Abraham. Jack credits the music and art programs for helping him realize what he wants to pursue in college. His favorite classes are Music and Media, Ceramics and AP U.S. History. When asked who his favorite teacher was, Jack replied, "Ms. Thompson treats you with a certain level of respect and honesty that is few and far between when it comes to high school teachers. She views you not just as a student but also a member of the community."

Jack has served as the audio tech lead for Mt. Abraham musicals, as well as an audio tech for school concerts. In addition, he is the coxswain on the rowing team and works at the Lincoln General Store. In his spare time he enjoys playing guitar and spending time with friends.

When asked what advice he would give to underclassmen, Jack commented, "I would say that rowing club was the most impactful experience in my time at school. Meeting people in a smaller and more diverse extracurricular really helped me become social and overall a more well-rounded person. Don't be afraid to try new things on your own. Being able to make yourself comfortable in new environments is a really important skill."

After graduation, Jack will attend UVM in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is hoping to major in audio engineering and design or film studies. We wish Jack all the best in his future endeavors!



Jack Anderson  
MAUHS



Roni O'Brien  
OVUHS

### Roni O'Brien

Roni O'Brien is one of Otter Valley Union High School's final Students of the Week for the 2025-2026 school year. She lives in Brandon with her mom, dad, sister Sally, and cat Mia.

Her favorite subjects are math- and science-related courses. Her favorite teacher at Otter Valley is Mr. Thomas. "His classes are fun, and he's a very kind and understanding person," she said.

This year, Roni took advantage of the opportunity for seniors to take classes through Vermont State University, Castleton, where she's earned President's List honors both semesters. At Otter Valley, Roni received the Sportsmanship Award for the 2024-25

softball season and made the honor roll.

Her advice to younger students is, "Don't be afraid to challenge yourself, but don't be afraid to take a break, either."

Outside of school, Roni works at Eastwood Animal Clinic in Rutland. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, going to the gym, doing her nails, and baking. She is also "really into sharks."

After graduation, Roni plans to attend University of New England to study marine science and animal behavior. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

**CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!**

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

**Congratulations, Leann, Roni & Jack**

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**Cheers to the Students of the Week!**

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**Congratulations, Leann Roni and Jack**

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\* Per 13-week campaign

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**INDEPENDENT**

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

# Thursday & service Business & service DIRECTORY

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plumbing & heating

real estate appraisers  
renewable energy  
roofing  
septic and water

surveying  
tree service  
water delivery  
window treatments

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### a tidy place

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Looking for reliable, high-quality groundskeeping and property maintenance?

Our Services Include:

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- Free Estimates
- Land Clearing & Brush Removal
- Bush Hogging & Ongoing Maintenance

Contact Blake Emilo-Webb today!  
Call: 802-398-7105 | Fully Insured | Serving Middlebury, Ripton, and Surrounding Areas

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### FINE DRY STONE MASONRY



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802-233-4670  
jmasefield@gmavt.net

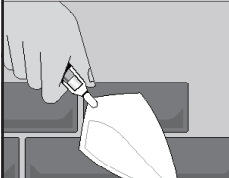
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## MASONRY

NEW & REPAIR

Residential • Lake Camps (Dunmore)  
**Brick – Block – Stone**

Chimneys, Fireplaces, Outside Barbecues, Steps, Patios, Stone Walls



35 Years Experience  
Honest & Fair Pricing  
Free Estimates  
Fully Insured

Call Bruce  
Salisbury, VT 802-352-6050

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### HESCOCK PAINTING



A friendly, professional, and affordable family business.  
Interior Painting

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Kim or Jonathan Hescock  
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Serving the Champlain Valley  
Since 1887  
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Main St., Vergennes, VT

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PLUMBING & HEATING INC.  
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INCORPORATED 1989

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Reach thousands of local customers every week with a B&S Directory ad. Low rates, big exposure!

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When you're ready for a solar, heat pump or battery installation, we're here for you!  
Since 1972!

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802 • 453 • 2500  
BristolElectronicsVT.com

## ROOFING

roofing  
**Michael Doran**  
as seen at Addison County Field Days!

- Standing seam
- Asphalt shingles
- Slate

Free estimates • Fully Insured  
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Phone (802) 537-3555

## SEPTIC AND WATER

**LINCOLN APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.**  
Celebrating 40 Years  
Environmental Consultants – Licensed Designers  
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- Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
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- Property Development & Permitting
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802-453-4384  
Fax: 802-453-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com  
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443  
www.lagvt.com

## SURVEYING

**SHORT SURVEYING, INC.**  
Serving Addison County Since 1991  
Timothy L. Short, L.S.

Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys  
FEMA Elevation Certificates

135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT  
802-388-3511  
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com

## SURVEYING

**Philo. Surveying LLC**  
Serving all of Vermont!

ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat  
Commercial and Residential Subdivisions  
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(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT  
Philosurveying.com • References available

## TREE SERVICE

**SARGENT'S TREE SERVICE**  
349-7459

- Tree Removal
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- Storm Damage Clean up
- Stump Grinding

Serving all of Addison County

Over 30 Years Experience  
Fully Licensed and Insured  
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459  
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## WATER DELIVERY

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Residential Water delivery for Swimming Pools and Wells  
Also offering: Timber Harvesting • Field Mowing  
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Power Washing • Sand and Gravel

Call (802) 353-6846  
Tracy Wyman, Brandon, VT

## WINDOW TREATMENTS

Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.  
**Free in-home consultations!**

**Vermont Window Treatments LLC**  
M-F: 8am-5pm  
Hours by appointment only  
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802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury  
vermontwindowtreatments.com

# YOU DON'T NEED A BIG BUDGET TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT

We know what it's like to wear a lot of hats. You're running your business, serving customers, answering the phone, doing the books...

who has time to worry about websites and online marketing?



That's where Independent Digital Marketing, the digital services branch of the Addy Indy, comes in.

Let's get your business online!  
Simple. Affordable. Local.

Contact us today!

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

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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 [vermontalananonlateen.org](http://vermontalananonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

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

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

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

**Public Meetings**

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

**Services**

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

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

**Services**

**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 lan @802-349-7871

**Free**

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

**Garage Sales**

**GARAGE SALES AT** Cottage Lane in Middlebury (Development behind M&T bank). Friday and Saturday May 29 and 30, 8-3. White weather resistant wicker chairs (2) with table, women's golf clubs, small Weber tabletop grill, wooden breadbox w/tin insert, hutch, DVD player, tablecloths, toaster, bar stool, queen size coverlet w/pillow shams, rugs, pillows, handbags, shoes, beautiful women's clothing, jewelry, outdoor chair cushions, picture frames, small tools, drawing supplies, books, jazz cds, dvds. Other household items and free stuff! Hope to see you there.

**Help Wanted**

**EVENING FRONT DESK/ CONCIERGE.** Swift House Inn - Middlebury, Vermont. We're hiring a front desk professional to anchor our evening shift. This position plays a pivotal role: greeting arriving guests, fielding questions, supporting restaurant reservations, and ensuring the property is secure and guest-ready for the next day. If you thrive on creating memorable experiences and want to grow in the hospitality industry, this is for you. Swift House Inn has 20 guest rooms across three historic buildings, and is home to Jessica's at Swift House Inn, one of Vermont's most celebrated fine dining restaurants. Responsibilities: Welcome

**Help Wanted**

**MAUSD ATHLETIC & ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR**  
Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School

Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School, serving 550 students in grades 7-12 from four Addison County towns, seeks a highly motivated Athletic & Activities Director to lead our athletic and cocurricular programs.

Our picturesque campus includes outstanding athletic fields, renovated facilities, and an indoor pool, providing exceptional opportunities to support students in their important "third space."

Apply through SchoolSpring.

Questions may be directed to Principal **Shannon Warden**, [shannon.warden@mausd.org](mailto:shannon.warden@mausd.org) or 802-453-2333.

**Help Wanted**

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

**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](http://addisonvt.gov), or by contacting the Road Commissioner or Town Clerk's Office at (802) 759-2020

**Help Wanted**

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](http://swifthouseinn.com)

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**RESPIRE CARE BRANDON** Seeking an individual who would be willing to provide respite support/care in your home. This is a per diem flexible position for an elderly lady. Flexible employer and excellent pay. For more information 802-398-5657 or [respite2022@yahoo.com](mailto:respite2022@yahoo.com)

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**SALES DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE** Vermont Soap in Middlebury is looking for a motivated, outgoing and highly organized individual to join our sales team. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Previous sales experience is preferred. Paid vacation time, paid holidays and 401k with employer match. Submit cover letter and resume to [nichole@vermontsoap.com](mailto:nichole@vermontsoap.com).

**Help Wanted**

**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.

**Help Wanted**



**Warehouse and Yard Worker**  
**FT Position available**

Duties: Loading and Assisting with Customer Orders from the Yard, Warehouse and Store, Stocking Shelves and Filling Propane Tanks. Up to 40 hours per week.

**Weekends and dependability a MUST!**

Qualified Candidate must have a dedicated work ethic, the ability to lift 50lbs repeatedly throughout the day, and work hard in the spring and summer seasons.

**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](mailto:info@middleburyagway.com)**

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

**Head Start is Hiring!**

**Head Start is a federally funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families.**

Services for children promote school readiness, and include early education, health, nutrition, mental health, and services for children with special needs. Services for parents promote family engagement and include parent leadership and social service support.


**Current Opportunities**

**Early Head Start Toddler Teacher Associate - Addison County Early Learning Center**  
As an Early Head Start Toddler Teacher Associate, you will work in an outcome oriented, team environment, and assist the classroom team in planning and implementing a developmentally appropriate environment and experiences for infants and toddlers. Motivated Head Start educators improve the trajectory of children's lives, including children's learning outcomes, living standards, and later academic and professional success. If you want to make a difference in the lives of young children and their families, consider joining the Head Start community.  
Full-time: 40 hours/week, year-round (52 weeks).  
Pay: \$22.96 - \$24.07/hour (based on qualifications)

**Substitute Teacher**  
On-call, as-needed positions. Pay: \$20.00/hour.  
Opportunity to support early education classrooms on a flexible basis

**Apply Today!**  
Ready to join a mission-driven organization dedicated to children and families? Visit [CVOEO.org/careers](http://CVOEO.org/careers) to view full job descriptions and submit your application.

We're one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont!  
Join us to find out why!



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**



**Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program**

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

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



## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**RATES**

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

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

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

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

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

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spotlight Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## Help Wanted Help Wanted

### Removal Technician

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Homes is seeking a dedicated and professional Removal Technician to join our compassionate care team. In this role, you will be responsible for the dignified transportation of decedents from their place of death to our funeral home.

**What You'll Do:**

- Respond promptly to calls at residential homes, hospitals, and care facilities.
- Maintain the highest level of professionalism and empathy when interacting with grieving families.
- Safely operate company vehicles and specialized equipment.
- Ensure all necessary documentation and identification procedures are followed precisely.

**What we're looking for:**

- Professionalism:** A clean, polished appearance and a respectful demeanor.
- Physical Stamina:** Ability to lift 75+ lbs and navigate stairs or tight spaces.
- Availability:** Must be willing to participate in an "on-call" rotation, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Per diem.
- Requirements:** A valid driver's license and a clean driving record are essential.

**Why Join Us?**

We offer a supportive work environment where your contribution truly matters to the community.

**To Apply:**  
Please send your resume to sandersonf@comcast.net or visit us in person at 117 South Main Street Middlebury, VT.



**SANDERSON FUNERAL HOME**

## 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

## Help Wanted



### Help Wanted

**1-2 Seasonal Positions**  
Open immediately through mid October.

Join a family-owned local business welcoming visitors from near and far!

**Hospitality • Office Work**  
**Retail Store staffing**  
**Cleaning and maintenance**

Email: [reservations@riversbendcamping.com](mailto:reservations@riversbendcamping.com)  
Call: (802) 388-9092

## For Rent

orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD, Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

## Help Wanted

## For Rent

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

**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

**SUMMER/FALL RENTAL** 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.

## For Rent

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

**VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/ no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

## Wood Heat

**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

## Att. Farmers

**1ST CUT, SMALL** square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

# Police make two DUI citations at one crash

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Vermont State Police responded to a one-vehicle crash in New Haven last Saturday and ended up issuing two citations for impaired driving.

On May 23 at around 10 minutes before 11 p.m., troopers responded to a single-vehicle crash on South Street south of Main Street in New Haven. Police said they found Michael Findley, 59, of New Haven operating the truck when they arrived. While speaking with Findley, the trooper detected indicators of impairment, screened Findley, placed him under arrest, and transported him to the New Haven barracks where they cited him for driving under the influence of drugs.

The trooper reports that during the investigation he found that, although Findley was behind the wheel when police arrive, Alexander Amory, 27, of New Haven had been operating the truck at the time of the crash. Police found Amory, screened him, and took him to the barracks, where they cited him for driving under influence, second offense.

## Vt. State Police Log

Traffic tickets are also pending. Separately, a recent car crash in Ripton drew state police attention and resulted in several charges against a Middlebury man.

On May 19 at a quarter after 7 p.m. state police responded to a one-vehicle crash on Goshen Road in Ripton. Troopers arrived on scene and found that the driver had left, so they investigated and determined that Alton Brown, 47, of Middlebury had been the driver of the crashed vehicle, described as a 2008 Saturn Aura.

Officers found Brown, did a little more investigation, and came away believing that Brown had committed several offenses.

They took Brown to the barracks and cited him for criminal threatening, negligent driving and giving false information to a police officer.

Meanwhile, a third car crash resulted in a DUI charge for a local driver.

On May 25 at 1:43 a.m., state police got a report someone had crashed off Main Street in New Haven. Troopers ended up citing Paker T. Gero, 23, of Monkton for driving under the influence.

Finally, also on May 25 state police were notified of an illegal burning on Route 7 in Salisbury at around a quarter after 8 p.m. Troopers arrived on scene and met with the homeowner. Police ultimately cited Maranda L. Aunchman, 25, of Salisbury for illegal burning.

Vermont State Police were assisted on scene by the Salisbury Fire Department.

# AUCTIONS

## MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 5/21/26 & 5/25/26

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	COST	\$
Rolling Meadows	1580	2.04	\$3223.20	
Nop Bros	1160	2.19	\$2540.40	
Rowell Farm	1530	1.96	\$2998.80	
Westminster	1645	1.90	\$3125.50	
Barnes Bros	1185	1.86	\$2204.10	
Goodrich	1710	1.80	\$3078.00	

CALVES	\$
W. Brooks	\$1995.20
H. Degraaf	\$1921.00
Sunderland Farm	\$1921.00
Barnes Bros	\$1948.10
Correia	\$1867.60
Ethan Allen	\$1854.00
Deer Valley	\$1853.00

**Total Beef - 103 Total Calves - 148**  
We value our faithful customers.  
**Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.**  
call 1-802-388-2661

# Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.**

Addison (1)	Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery (1)
Addison County Clerk (1)	Ferrisburgh (1)
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)	New Haven (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Slate Valley UUSD (2)
	Tri-Town Water (1)
	Vergennes (2)

## 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 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

• Application #2026-DRB-10-CU: A conditional use request submitted by Multy Builders, LLC for Lot #2 in the Deer View Park development located on Deer View Lane on Parcel #612.32 in the Highway Commercial zoning district.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Offices, or by remote:

<https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09>

Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190

Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing: [newhavenzoning@gmavt.net](mailto:newhavenzoning@gmavt.net); a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.newhavenvt.com/>

New Haven Zoning Administrator, (802) 453-3516

## SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

**To:** Parents, Teachers, Employees, Other Personnel or their Guardians  
Parent-Teacher Organization Presidents

**From:** Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent of Schools  
Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
33 Mechanic Street  
Fair Haven, Vermont 05743  
Telephone: (802) 265-4905

**Date:** May 2026

**Re:** Designated Persons for Asbestos

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763.93 (g)(4)) requires that written notice be given that the following schools have Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administration office of each facility listed below.

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Benson Village School	Benson, VT 05731	802-537-2491
Castleton Elementary School	Bomoseen, VT 05732	802-468-5624
Fair Haven Grade School	Fair Haven, VT 05743	802-265-3883
Fair Haven Union High School	Fair Haven, VT 05743	802-265-4966
Orwell Village School	Orwell, VT 05760	802-948-2871
Slate Valley Central Office	Fair Haven, VT 05743	802-265-4905

### DESIGNATED PERSONS:

**Patrick Goodwin**  
Benson Village School  
Orwell Village School

**David Ward**  
Fair Haven Grade School

**Mark Cassidy**  
Castleton Elementary School

**Aaron Kerber**  
Fair Haven Union Middle & High School

**Chris Cole**  
Director of Operations  
Slate Valley Unified Union School District

# ONLINE AUCTION

## GENIE LIFT, TELEHANDLER, CONSTRUCTION TOOLS (#1738)

**AUCTION CLOSURE: Monday | June 8 | 11AM**

**PREVIEW: Monday | June 1 | 11AM-1PM**

**ITEM REMOVAL: Thursday | June 11 | 9AM-4PM**

**ITEMS LOCATED: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT**



Featuring over 380 lots, including heavy equipment, windows & doors, contractor tools, electrical testing equipment, generators, ladders, building materials, and shop items from several consignors and commercial inventories.

**THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY**  
**THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Shoreham Municipal Planning Consultation

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will meet on **June 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM**, for a public hearing with the Town of Shoreham's Planning Commission during their regularly scheduled PC meeting time.

The meeting will take place in person, with a hybrid option, at the Shoreham Town Offices, 297 Main Street, Shoreham, VT 05770. Virtual log-in directions below.

As per 24 V.S.A. §4350, ACRPC will consult with Shoreham in regard to the municipality's planning efforts, ascertain Shoreham's planning needs, identify needed assistance from ACRPC, and confirm that the municipality is:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title;

(2) is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and

(3) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

**Topic:** Shoreham Planning Commission Municipal Planning Consultation with ACRPC Time: Jun 15, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86023270934?pwd=SqaC7bUjRhDa6mzaEJHsgDsNwVlpE.1>  
Meeting ID: 860 2327 0934  
Passcode: 101905  
One tap mobile

+16469313860,,86023270934#,,,\*101905# US  
+19292056099,,86023270934#,,,\*101905# US (New York)

**Contacts and Info:**  
Town of Shoreham website: [www.shorehamvt.us](http://www.shorehamvt.us)  
Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
802-388-3141, cell 802-989-4134

Tim Steady, Planning Commission Chairperson  
Town of Shoreham  
802-897-5841

## KEEWAYDIN



### SUMMER CAMP NURSE POSITION

Interested in working at a summer camp on beautiful Lake Dunmore in the Green Mountains of Vermont? Do you enjoy working with kids in a vibrant and warm summer camp community? Consider working as a nurse at Keewaydin Dunmore for Boys or Songadeewin of Keewaydin for Girls! Our summer season runs from June 19 to August 23. This is a great opportunity for experienced nurses or for those just starting a nursing career—especially for those considering a career in pediatric nursing! Three nurses run each Health Center and work with a consulting physician at a local medical practice.

Salary for RN is \$12,000 (tuition free for first child, 75% discount for second child). Room and board is included.

For more information, please contact Daria Carden at [daria@keewaydin.org](mailto:daria@keewaydin.org).

Visit our website at [www.keewaydin.org](http://www.keewaydin.org).



## Join the Administration team at the Counseling Service of Addison County.

### TWO OPENINGS BILLING ASSOCIATE

to manage billing entries, submit claims, apply payments, and facilitate clinician credentialing. 40 hours/week at \$20/hour.

### RECEPTIONIST

at 89 Main to welcome visitors and clients, manage a multi-line phone system, relay messages, collect client information, and coordinate appointment schedules. 37.5 hours/week at \$20/hour.

Seeking detail-oriented team players who thrive in a fast-paced environment. We offer a workplace culture grounded in mutual respect, support and inclusion.

Come join our community where you can make a difference every day. Comprehensive benefit package included.

Learn more and apply at [csac-vt.org/careers](http://csac-vt.org/careers).



### VUHS/Vermont leaders

VERGENNES AMERICAN LEGION Post No. 14 is sponsoring these four Vergennes Union High School juniors — Colton Reed, left, Cole Gagnon, Jude Bragg and Noah Smits — as delegates to the Green Mountain Boys State. The week of mock government will be held June 21-26 on the campus of St. Michael's College in Colchester. These students were nominated by faculty and staff based on leadership, scholarship, character, loyalty and service to their school. Green Mountain Boys State is a leadership laboratory for rising high school senior boys. The main focus is Vermont town, county, and state government, and its organization, policies and procedures. They will work on issues relating to Vermont, and debate and discuss these issues during a session at the Statehouse in Montpelier.

### Antlerless deer permits available

MONTPELIER — Vermont's antlerless deer permit applications are now available online at Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website and from license agents. The Fish and Wildlife Board met on May 20 and set antlerless deer permit numbers for the fall deer hunting seasons. An antlerless permit allows a hunter to take one antlerless deer during the muzzleloader seasons on Oct. 29-Nov. 1 and Nov. 30-Dec. 13 or during the regular deer season on Nov. 14-29. Antlerless permits are available for 19 of Vermont's 21 Wildlife Management Units. Landowners who do not post their land may apply for a landowner

priority antlerless deer permit. Landowners who do post are still eligible to apply in the regular lottery for an antlerless deer permit. The deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit is July 22, and the lottery drawing for permits is Aug. 19. "The number of antlerless permits available this year is much lower than recent years," said Nick Fortin, deer and moose project leader for the Fish and Wildlife Department. "Due to new regulations taking effect this fall and some uncertainty about how those regulations will affect antlerless harvests, we're taking a conservative approach and reducing permit allocations in all WMUs."

### Monkton

(Continued from Page 6B) and beginner techniques. It's fun in a structured environment. Great for building confidence, focus, discipline, and fitness. Location: Morse Park Pavilion and Green off of Pond Road in Monkton. Kids Intro Class (Ages 6-12) Monday, June 15, 5-5:45 p.m. Adult Intro Class, Wednesday, June 17, 6-6:45 p.m. BONUS: The first 10 students to officially enroll in a 45-minute kids or adult program receive a free uniform and waiver for first rank testing. Spots are limited, so reserve yours now by completing the Intake form, which is linked on the website champagnesbba.com. For more information call 802-730-3015 or email info@champagnesbba.com.

Don't forget to clean out your craft closet to donate to the Monkton Friends Methodist Church event — Share Your Craft Stash — on Saturday, June 13. Donations of quilting, sewing, knitting or crocheting items, embroidery, plus crafting supplies and more. Unfinished crafts or new patterns are welcome along with supplies you no longer use. This includes yarns, embroidery floss, needles, hoops, pattern books, machines and any accessory that is associated with crafting. Contact Priscilla Pierce to arrange drop off of your donation or if you have questions. Stitch and Spin continues on the third Sunday of every month at the library, June's meeting being on the 21st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Watch for more info as the time nears or call the library at 802-453-4471.

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO. 26-PR-01537  
IN RE: ESTATE OF JANE VERA**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Jane Vera, late of Vergennes, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated 05/22/26

William Donnelly  
10900 Montgomery Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
301-931-8103

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 5/28/26  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**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](http://www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com) or call 802-388-1966.

**Find Us On:**

For breaking news & updates wherever you are!  
@addisonindependent

**ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR JUNE 2026**

Monday, June 1	9:00 - 10:00 AM	Superintendent Evaluation Committee Mtg., ANWSD Central Office Conference Room & Virtual
Monday, June 8	4:00 - 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	Board Retreat, VUMHS Library ANWSD Board Mtg., VUMHS Library
Monday, June 22	9:00 AM	Facilities Committee Mtg., Virtual Only

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT  
YOUR DRINKING WATER  
Tri Town Water District, VT 0005001  
Levels of Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)  
& Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)  
Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system recently violated drinking water standards. Although this is not an emergency, customers have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Test results from the four quarters ending with the **First Quarter 2026** show that our system violated the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) & TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES. The standard for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) is 60 µg/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) was **65 µg/L**. The standard for TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) is 80 µg/L. The running annual average from the last four quarters of results for TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) was **90 µg/L**.

**What should I do?**  
The drinking water standard (MCL) is based on lifetime exposure to TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) & TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES (TTHM) which may increase your risk of getting cancer. Continuing to drink the water is a personal decision that you must make for yourself by considering the health risk, cost, and convenience. You may choose to use bottled water or water from an alternate source. You do not need to boil your water. You can continue to use the water for showering, bathing, washing your food and dishes, brushing your teeth, and other household uses. If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water.

**What does this mean?**  
This is not an emergency. Drinking water containing TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5) & TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES at this concentration will not lead to any short-term effects such as vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pains. Haloacetic acids and trihalomethanes are organic chemicals that form when chlorine disinfectants react with natural organic matter in the water. Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some haloacetic acids have been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

**What happened? What is being done?**  
See attached letter.

For more information, please contact Darwin Pratt at 802-758-2202 or Chairman, PO Box 85, Bridport VT 05734

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

May 5, 2026  
Tri-Town Water District No. 1  
PO Box 85  
Bridport, VT 05734

Dear Customer,

We want to let you know that our recent water tests showed higher than normal levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) in the drinking water. These acids form when chlorine—used to disinfect and keep your water safe—reacts with natural materials found in the water. This is not an emergency, and your water is safe to use. If there were an immediate health concern, we would notify you right away. The levels we found are just above the limit set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over a one-year average. You don't need to take any action. You can continue to use and drink your water as usual. If you have specific health concerns, you may wish to speak with your doctor. Please note that a standard carbon filter is designed to remove both Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) from drinking water. We understand the continued frustration with these test results. We take water quality very seriously and are committed to keeping your drinking water safe and reliable. The District is working on ways to combat these higher levels through flushing and plant improvements. We expect the HAA5 and TTHM levels to return to normal soon and will keep you updated. If you have any questions, please call us at 802-758-2202. Thank you for your understanding and for being our valued customer. Sincerely, Darwin Pratt, Chairman Tri-Town Water Board of Commissioners

**Public Notices** can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

**TOWN OF ADDISON  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The regular monthly meeting of the Addison Planning Commission will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:30PM at the Addison Community Center.

**Agenda**

- Open the meeting.
- Roll call given.
- Public Comment Time.
- Introduction of Marti Haitz, who was appointed to the open Planning Commission seat.
- Discussion about next steps for the Planning Commission. This may include partnership with the ZA and/or DRB to review any areas of the current Zoning and Development Regs that may need clarification/ amendments. This may include the possibility of working to develop an enhanced energy plan.
- Discussion about ways to support the implementation of the revised Town Plan.
- Approve the meeting minutes for May 18, 2026 if time allows.
- Discuss any remaining miscellaneous Planning Commission business or concerns.
- Public Comment Time.

Michael Hollis, Chair  
Starr Phillips, Secretary  
Addison Planning Commission

**STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT  
ADDISON UNIT  
7 Mahady Court  
Middlebury VT 05753  
802-388-7741  
www.vermontjudiciary.org**

**CIVIL DIVISION  
DOCKET NO. 26-CV-02217**

Date: May 18, 2026

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
ACCT Mobile Home Parks LLC v. Gordon Noble**

This is to notify you to appear at the Court named above in connection with the above-named case on:

DATE: **July 02, 2026** TIME: **9:00 AM - 9:30 AM** DURATION: **30 Minutes**

HEARING RE: Bench Trial - Abandoned Property  
Civil Division Clerk

Any individual with a disability requiring assistance accessing the services, programs, and/or activities at the Courthouse should contact the Clerk's office at the above address for further assistance.

You may appear in person or remotely via Zoom (Zoom ID: 161 085 0087; Passcode: Addison). For further Zoom instructions, please contact Attorney Lesley Deppman at [ldeppman@middlaw.com](mailto:ldeppman@middlaw.com).

**STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT  
ADDISON UNIT  
In re: Abandoned Mobile Home of Gordon Noble  
83 Hermit Thrush Lane, Bristol, Vermont**

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES ACCT MOBILE HOME PARKS, LLC, Plaintiff, by and through its attorneys, Deppman Law PLC, and, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6249, hereby files this action for sale of abandoned mobile home, and hereby complains of and alleges against Defendant as follows:

1. ACCT Mobile Home Parks, LLC, a Vermont non-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Addison County, Vermont, is the owner of the mobile home park located at Hermit Thrush Lane, Bristol, Vermont.
2. The name and last known address of the owner of the mobile home which is the subject of this action is believed to be: Gordon Noble, 83 Hermit Thrush Lane, Bristol, VT 05443
3. The mobile home is, on information and belief, a 2015 Commodore/1A107AD2, serial no. CN53015A. Plaintiff credits Defendant with a security deposit of \$300. See Exhibit 1, a true and correct copy of the Lease Agreement related to the subject mobile home.
4. There are no known creditors, holders of housing subsidy covenants, or others having an interest in the mobile home based on liens or notices of record in the town offices of Bristol or the Office of the Secretary of State.
5. The facts supporting the claim that the subject mobile home has been abandoned are as follows: on information and belief, Defendant passed away in December 2025. A reasonable person would believe that the mobile home is not occupied as a residence; rent is more than 30 days delinquent; and the park owner has attempted to contact the resident at his last known mailing address without success.
6. A disinterested party such as Thomas Hirschak Company, located at 1878 Cady Falls Road, Morrisville, VT 05661, is able to sell the subject mobile home at public auction.
7. The amount of rent due through the date of this action is \$929.00. Rent continues to accrue at the rate of \$415.00 per month. Plaintiff has also incurred (and will continue to incur) attorneys' fees and court costs, and will incur costs in connection with the sale of the mobile home.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court grant the relief requested herein and all such other and further relief as to this Court may appear just and equitable.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont this 9th day of April, 2026.

Plaintiff, ACCT MOBILE HOME PARKS, LLC,  
by DEPPMAN LAW PLC, its attorneys  
By: /s/ Lesley B. Deppman  
Lesley B. Deppman, Esq  
56 Court Street  
Middlebury, Vermont, 05753  
Email: [ldeppman@middlaw.com](mailto:ldeppman@middlaw.com)  
Telephone: (802) 388-6337  
Telefacsimile: (802) 382-8840

\*FOR EXHIBIT 1, PLEASE CONTACT ATTORNEY LESLEY DEPPMAN AT [ldeppman@middlaw.com](mailto:ldeppman@middlaw.com).

**VERIFICATION**

Tori Marukelli, duly authorized representative of ACCT Mobile Home Parks, LLC, Plaintiff herein, states the contents of the foregoing Complaint are true to the best of her knowledge, information and belief, and to the extent based upon information and belief, she believes such information to be true.

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont, this 2nd day of April, 2026.  
/s/ Tori Marukelli  
Tori Marukelli

STATE OF VERMONT  
COUNTY OF ADDISON, SS.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of April, 2026.

/s/ Sasha Bradford  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: 1/31/27  
Commission No. 157.0015527  
State of Vermont

# Vermont Coverts expands stewardship through cooperator and bear ambassador trainings

VERGENNES — Nearly 45 Vermonters from across the state are stepping into leadership roles in forest and wildlife stewardship following the completion of two cornerstone programs offered by Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife. Together, the programs are strengthening a growing peer-to-peer network dedicated to healthy forests, wildlife habitat and community-based conservation solutions.

This spring, Vermont Coverts graduated 23 new Coverts Cooperators and welcomed 20 newly trained Bear Ambassadors representing 11 counties statewide. Participants now join a statewide community of volunteers equipped to share practical stewardship knowledge with neighbors, landowners and local communities.

“With 78% of Vermont’s forestland in private ownership, the decisions individual landowners make have an outsized impact on forest health and wildlife habitat,” said Lisa Sausville. “By training people from across the state, Vermont Coverts ensures stewardship knowledge spreads community by community. These programs empower local leaders to help others care for forests,

Cooperators, extending the organization’s peer-to-peer model into wildlife coexistence education. Developed in partnership with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, the Bear Ambassador Program equips volunteers with tools to reduce human-bear conflicts and promote practical coexistence strategies within their communities.

Since the program launched in 2024, 57 Vermonters have completed the training. Participants learn about black bear biology and behavior, attractant management and effective ways to communicate with neighbors about reducing conflicts.

“Many people who experience a bear visiting their home turn to their neighbors and friends to share the

*The name “Coverts” comes from an old English word meaning cover or thicket, reflecting the organization’s long-standing commitment to creating healthy, diverse forests that support wildlife.*

Comeau, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Biologist. “This program gives community members the tools to share helpful information that can improve coexistence.”

Bear Ambassadors are trained to provide community presentations, offer site-specific suggestions to reduce bear conflicts and connect residents with appropriate agencies and resources for additional assistance.

“Community outreach is key to reducing human-bear conflicts,” added Sausville. “When neighbors share simple actions like taking down bird feeders, securing garbage and being bear-aware, we can make a real difference.”

One new Bear Ambassador graduate noted, “I look forward to responding with new knowledge to help a neighbor understand the reasons for doing things like taking in your bird feeder.”

Because over 78% of Vermont forests are privately owned, programs like Vermont Coverts play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and connecting wildlife habitat across property boundaries. Through education and neighbor-to-neighbor outreach, participants help ensure long-term benefits for forests, wildlife, and future generations.

The next Coverts Cooperator Training will take place August 28–30, and registration is now open. The program is designed for landowners and conservation-minded community members interested in learning about forest and wildlife stewardship while joining a statewide network of engaged citizens.

To learn more about Coverts programs, upcoming training or living responsibly with black bears, visit Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife ([vtcoverts.org](http://vtcoverts.org)) or VT Fish and Wildlife Living with Black Bears ([vtfishandwildlife.com](http://vtfishandwildlife.com)).

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

**NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**  
Saturday, June 4 at 7:00 PM  
Cornwall Town Hall

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026**, beginning at 6PM, at the Ferrisburgh Town Office at 3279 US Route 7 and remotely via Zoom.

**Application Number 26-051:** Two-lot subdivision; Applicant: Todd Huestis; 1721 Sand Road; Parcel ID number 13/01/03; Rural Residential District (RR-2) & Conservation District (CON-25); Final Plat Review.

**Application Number 26-064:** Two-lot subdivision; Applicant: Diane Shortsleeve; east side of Robinson Road; Parcel ID 05/02/55; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) and Conservation (CON-25) districts; Final Plat Review.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Applications will also be posted to the town website ([ferrisburghvt.org](http://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](mailto: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/87443240737?pwd=ZKhS3NVRxRavBkS4mkfCcl-4GuoKyNd.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 = 874 4324 0737 / Passcode = 756232

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[instagram.com/addisonindependent](https://instagram.com/addisonindependent)



**Senior Senator**  
SEN. RUTH HARDY, a Democratic state senator representing Addison County, Rochester, Huntington and Buel’s Gore, strides down South Maple Street getting to know some of her constituents during the Vergennes Memorial Day Parade on Monday.  
Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

# Man cited following confrontation with police

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police assisted Vermont State Police at the scene of a crash on Case Street on May 19. As a result of the interaction between Alton Brown, 47, of Middlebury and Middlebury officers and state troopers, police said Brown was arrested for criminally threatening police.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a “juvenile problem” in the Seminary Street area on May 18.
- Responded to a report of a man refusing to leave a South Pleasant Street home on May 18.
- Assisted with a “juvenile issue” at Mary Hogan Elementary School on May 18.
- Took into protective custody a drunken man on North Pleasant Street on May 18. Police said the man was taken to Rutland to receive detox services.
- Spoke with a local businessperson about a potential embezzlement case on May 18.
- Responded to a report of a woman walking on Route 7 North at around 2:50 a.m. on May 19.
- Responded to a report of a man threatening a local person by phone on May 19.
- Responded to a two-vehicle crash on Court Street on May 19.
- Were informed of a theft in the

## Middlebury Police Log

- College Street area on May 19.
- Responded to a report of a potentially impaired driver at the A&W Restaurant on Route 7 South on May 20.
- Received a report about illegal dumping at a Court Street location on May 20.
- Spoke with housing authorities about recent alleged criminal activity in the Vaughn Court/Hollow Road area on May 20.
- Responded to a vandalism complaint in the Bakery Lane area on May 20.
- Helped Middlebury Regional EMS with a man who was having a medical emergency on Munger Street on May 21.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the Bakery Lane area on May 21.
- Investigated a report of a fight near the intersection of North Pleasant Street and Methodist Lane on May 21.
- Served a local person a temporary restraining order on May 21.
- Cited Timothy Farr, 72, of Middlebury for violating his conditions of release and

trespassing in the Court Street area on May 21.

- Conducted a foot patrol in downtown Middlebury on May 21.
- Tried to stop a driver on East Main Street who ultimately eluded police on May 22.
- Took into protective custody a drunken man who had been yelling in downtown Middlebury on May 22. Police released the man to a sober party.
- Checked the welfare of a woman discharged from Porter Hospital at around 1 p.m. on May 22.
- Received a report about a man found sleeping in the bus shelter on Academy Street with an open container of liquor on May 22.
- Received a complaint from a local resident who on May 23 alleged their neighbor was distributing “malicious material.” Police said the resident was unable to provide enough evidence for an

investigation.

- Separated two homeless women who were having an argument under the Cross Street Bridge on May 23.
- Investigated a two-vehicle crash in The Centre parking lot in May 23.
- Investigated a report of two people allegedly bitten by a fox in the Halladay Road area on May 23.
- Checked on the welfare of a Creek Road resident on May 23. Police said the resident was OK.
- Helped a Route 7 South farmer whose cows had gotten loose on May 23.
- Responded to a fireworks-related complaint in the Munger Street area on May 24.
- Assisted a resident who on May 24 alleged they were threatened via social media.
- Cited Timothy Farr, 72, for unlawful trespassing at a Court Street property on May 25.

## SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on June 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and take action on the following policies:

- To Adopt:
- A21 Public Participation at Board Meeting
  - B3 Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace
  - B5 Employee Unlawful Harassment
  - B22 Public Complaints About Personnel
  - C2 Student Alcohol and Drugs
  - C3 Transportation

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at [slatevalleyunified.org](http://slatevalleyunified.org).  
Brooke Olsen-Farrell  
Superintendent of Schools

**Public Notices** can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

## CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on June 15, 2026, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Application# 2026-07 by Scott Hardy seeking an Amendment to Permit# 2025-02 Decision Item #3 which requires the construction of a concrete sidewalk at the Applicant’s expense along the entire frontage of Lots 5, 6, and 7 located at 0 Comfort Hill within the City Right of Way on Comfort Hill. Applicant is requesting that this condition be removed or modified. Review under Article VII, Article IX, and Article XVI Section 1605

Please note that the hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held at Vergennes City Hall located at 120 Main Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;**  
**Meeting ID: 666 140 8733**  
**Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099;**  
**For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press \*9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press \*6**

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

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

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

May 22, 2026  
David Austin  
Zoning Administrator

## CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

**May 27, 2026**  
**City of Vergennes**  
**120 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with 32 V.S.A § 4111, that the undersigned Listers within and for the City of Vergennes have completed on this day the Abstract of Individual Lists of Property Owners as of the first day of April 2026.

The Listers of the City of Vergennes have this day lodged the Abstract of the Grand List in the office of the Clerk of said City for the inspection of taxpayers. All properties with value changes have been mailed individual Change of Appraisal notices via first class mail.

On the 10th day of June, 2026 beginning at 5:00pm in the Vergennes City Hall Conference room, the undersigned Listers will meet to hear appeals of taxpayers, aggrieved by the actions of such Listers from whom timely appeals have been received.

To be considered a timely appeal, such request for grievance must be submitted in writing and received in the Vergennes City Hall by 5:00pm on the 10th day of June 2026. Postmarks are not accepted as timely.

Owners can, but do not have to appear in person if a written appeal is timely filed. All timely filed appeals will be acted upon during the grievance process regardless of attendance.

**Property owners do not have to wait until June 10th to review their property with the City. Please contact the Vergennes City Clerk as soon as possible with questions or concerns which will then be forward appropriate person.**

Please call the Vergennes City Clerk’s Office at (802) 877-2841 for assistance.

At the close of grievance hearings, the Listers shall make such corrections to the Abstract as were determined upon hearings or otherwise.

Unless cause to the contrary is shown, the contents of said abstract will, for the year 2026, become the Grand List of said City and of each taxpayer named therein.

William Benton, Lister  
Sarah Cowan, Lister  
Danelle Birong, Lister

# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

May 28, 2026



DOES  
OPERA  
STILL  
MATTER?

**SEE LA TRAVIATA!**

Avery Boettcher plays Violetta in Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata," presented by Opera Company of Middlebury June 5-13 at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID DEVINE

**I**s opera obsolete? Many people think it's a high-priced pastime for big city rich folk. But anyone who follows the Opera Company of Middlebury knows better. Now more than ever, opera matters. OCM's artistic mission, skillfully achieved over the past 12 years here in small-town Vermont, is to stage opera that is powerfully and joyously related to our modern lives and times. This June's production at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury of Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata" promises to be a high point in that mission.

First produced in 1859, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" tells the story of Violetta Valéry.



## Theater preview

By **DAVID WEINSTOCK**

Violetta (sung and acted in this production by soprano Avery Boettcher) is a beautiful young courtesan, or "traviata," a fallen woman, who today we might call a sex worker. Day by day she makes her own way in Paris while secretly suffering from tuberculosis. Then quite

unexpectedly a man, Alfredo (played by tenor Jared Esguerra) falls in love with her, despite powerful opposition from his family. Violetta changes her life for a chance of love with Alfredo, and loves him until the end.

"I could sing this for the rest of time," said Boettcher, who has been studying the role for 20 years. "It's my soul music. I can't downplay it. I am absolutely obsessed. Not just with the opera, but with the source material, with the historical context."

See *OPERA* on page 3

# LOOK UP

ASTRONOMY LESSONS WITH  
KEN COREY

*Ken Corey, Ph.D., is a retired professor and science teacher, and conducted research for NASA in the field of Astrobiology. He now resides in Vergennes. Look for his column on the last Thursday of the month in Arts+Leisure!*



Artwork showing a collision of a Mars-sized object with the Earth early in solar system history according to the GIH. Such an impact may have caused debris which eventually formed the Moon.

GETTY IMAGES/LYNETTE COOK

## Learn about the Moon: past, present and future

As a follow-up to last month's column about the Artemis II mission, this column will provide a brief history of what we have learned about the Moon and some of the questions that will be addressed in the future.

### HISTORICAL

Calendars based upon lunar cycles date back to prehistoric times (30,000 to 10,000 BCE). During those hunter-gatherer times, notches were carved into tusks and bones of animals, tracking the days marking the lunar phases. Chinese and Babylonian civilizations made calendars and predicted eclipses by studying the motions of the Moon. The word month derives from various cultural roots meaning to measure, and is directly tied to the lunar cycles, the time for the Moon to go from the new moon to new moon phase; 29.5 days (synodic month).

When the Greek astronomer Hipparchus (2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE) analyzed how the Earth's shadow moved across the Moon during a lunar eclipse, he deduced that the Earth is spherical, helping to explain its phases. In 1609, British scientist Thomas Herriot, studied the Moon using a primitive telescope invented by Dutch lens maker Hans Lippershey in 1608. His sketches revealed mountains, craters, and lava fields

referred to as maria (Latin for seas). A year later, Galileo published his landmark book *Siderius Nuncius* ("Starry Messenger") detailing those features. Less than a half century later, the first maps of the Moon were made. In the early 1800s, craters were attributed to impacts by meteorites.

A major step for astronomers was Louis Daguerre's development of the process of the daguerreotype in 1839. The first surviving photo of the moon was a daguerreotype produced by John Draper in 1840, thus replacing the need to make sketches from observations. During the late 1900s and early 20th century, modern lunar science advanced greatly with the advent of large telescopes such as the 40-inch refractor at Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin, the largest refractor in the world.

When we do not see the Moon (New Moon), it is because the Moon is between the Earth and the Sun and the sunlit side is facing away from the Earth. Solar eclipses would occur every month if the three bodies were perfectly aligned. However, they are rarely perfectly aligned because of the 5-degree inclination of the Moon from the orbital plane. Conversely, when the Moon is on the other side of the

Earth, the sun's rays move past the Earth and we see the reflected light of the full Moon rising as the sun sets. The reason we always see the same face of the Moon is because it is tidally locked to the Earth, where the period of rotation is the same as the time for it to make one orbit around the Earth with respect to the stars (sidereal month); about 27.3 days. We actually see about 59% of the surface over time due to libration. Libration is a wobbling caused by the Moon's elliptical orbit and the accompanying speeding as it approaches perigee, its closest point to the Earth, and slowing down as it approaches apogee. Tidal locking is common in the solar system with all of the 19 large moons tidally locked with their parent planet. For details about the phenomenon of tidal locking go to the NASA science tidal locking overview at [science.nasa.gov/moon/tidal-locking](https://science.nasa.gov/moon/tidal-locking).

According to the Giant-Impact Hypothesis (GIH), the Earth was struck a glancing blow by a Mars-sized object (Theia) about 4.5 billion years ago. The hot debris field that resulted from the high-speed impact coalesced and reshaped into a sphere as it cooled (see [science.nasa.gov/moon/formation](https://science.nasa.gov/moon/formation)). Evidence for the GIH comes from rock samples returned from Apollo missions that showed a mineral composition (e.g. basalt) similar to the Earth's mantle. Basalt is volcanic in origin, like materials found on Earth in Hawaii and ocean basins. The impact also may have caused the 23.5-degree axial tilt of the Earth. With the Earth's poles pointing toward the same regions of space as it revolves around the Sun, the axial tilt leads to changes in the sun angle and the amount of illumination received by different regions of the Earth, thus giving rise to the changes of seasons. In 2017, new ideas challenged the GIH in order to explain the near identical isotopic composition of Moon rocks and those of the Earth, rather than a difference between the Earth and the impactor ([spj. science.org/doi/10.34133/space.0153](https://science.org/doi/10.34133/space.0153)).



Scientist and astronaut Harrison H. Schmitt stands next to a huge, split lunar boulder during the Apollo 17 mission at the Taurus-Littrow landing site in this photograph from Dec. 13, 1972.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA/EUGENE CERNAN

See LOOK UP on page 8

## OPERA

continued from page 1

Verdi's inspiration for the opera was a novel by Alexandre Dumas fils, "The Lady of the Camellias," which recounts his infatuation with Marie Plessis.

OCM founder and Artistic Director Douglas Anderson has set this show not in 19th century Paris but in New York City in the 1920s, a time when women's role in society began to change and modern feminism emerged.

"Women broke away from all the Victorian mores, and they broke away from all of those clothes," Anderson said. "They were wearing sexy short things, they were smoking and drinking, and tried to take control of their lives, which is what I see Violetta doing. I see her as a heroic figure. So it seemed very appropriate that she's breaking the rules."

Middlebury College music professor Danielle Simon, a member of the OCM board, supports Anderson's approach. "What Doug is doing to make this opera timely and meaningful to the audience is what Verdi would have wanted: turning the opera into a vehicle for the thing that it's really about, which is the kind of universality and profoundness of human emotion."



Simon also notes the importance of our local opera house.

"*Traviata* is an ambitious choice for a small-town opera company. But there's something very appropriate for 19th century opera to be performed in small towns," she said. "Back then, this is how opera was experienced. It wasn't only in big cities like Milan and Rome. A small town in Italy had three main buildings

"I COULD SING THIS FOR THE REST OF TIME. **IT'S MY SOUL MUSIC... I AM ABSOLUTELY OBSESSED.**"

— Avery Boettcher

— the church, the town hall, and the opera house. People would go to the opera and then they'd walk out of the opera singing the songs, they'd go down the street humming it. This was the pop culture of the time."

### PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Verdi's "La Traviata" will take the Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, June 5-13. On opening night (Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m.) a prosecco reception will follow the performance. All are welcome. Non-alcoholic option available. Shows will be staged on June 5 and 11 at 7:30 p.m., and June 7 and 13 at 2 p.m. Pre-performance talks will be held one hour before each show in the new wing at Town Hall Theater. These talks are free and open to all ticket holders.

For tickets and more info visit [townhalltheater.org/ocmspring2026](http://townhalltheater.org/ocmspring2026) or contact the box office at 802-382-9222, email [tickets@townhalltheater.org](mailto:tickets@townhalltheater.org) or visit Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m.



From left to right: Avery Boettcher (*Violetta*) also pictured above, Nicholas Tocci (*Baron Douphol*) and Matthew Soibelman (*Doctor Grenvil*) rehearse at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury for opening night of "La Traviata" on June 5. Stay after opening night for a prosecco reception.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID DEVINE

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**Tania**  
**Léon**

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# UPCOMING MUSIC

## Five Fridays Concert Series kicks off June 5

FREE CONCERTS TAKE OVER OUTDOOR MALONEY PLAZA THIS SUMMER

Starting Friday, June 5, Town Hall Theater in Middlebury will host the free Five Fridays Concert Series in its Maloney Plaza on the Tilly Stage. Local and internationally celebrated performers will play a range of music genres, including rock, folk, blues, Americana, and even chamber music. This live music series will host food offerings and a bar and run weekly on the first Friday of the month from June through October. It's free, thanks to a generous grant. These concerts intersect with the popular downtown Middlebury First Friday series when Middlebury businesses stay open late and downtown is hopping.

This grant-funded series is free, and does not require registration. Go to [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) for more information.

### FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT SERIES

#### Dwight + Nicole Band Friday, June 5, 5-6:30 p.m.

Genre-defying Dwight Ritcher and Nicole Nelson's musical roots connect to blues, R&B, and soul with a little roots rock, alternative, and Americana sprinkled in. They have been nominated for 10 Boston Music Awards, 10 New England Music



Dwight + Nicole will perform a free concert on June 5 in Middlebury. PHOTO / JOSH STEELE

Awards, and 11 Daysies awards, winning multiple "Band of the Year," "Vocalist of the Year," "Best Blues/R&B Band," "Female Vocalist of the Year," "Blues Act of the Year" and "Video of the Year." As Christina Aguilera of NBC's The Voice says: "There are good voices, and then there are GREAT voices; Nicole Nelson is definitely the latter." Good Times Co. charcuterie & bar offerings available for purchase.

#### BLOCK PARTY with Vermont National Guard Band & Redd & The Paper Flowers Friday, July 3, 3-8 p.m.

Sponsored by a National Endowment

See MUSIC on page 12

## More Tunes

The Tillerman's big red barn gets ready to host another season of weekly free music

Dust off your lawn chairs and bring your appetite... The Tillerman's Summer Live Music Series is back to prove that Wednesdays are awesome! Starting June 3, the historic inn and restaurant (at 1868 North 116 Road, in Bristol) will host its weekly community gathering in the big red barn, featuring a rotation of local musicians, craft cocktails, and the highly anticipated return of Las Hermosas tacos.

The series runs every Wednesday through Oct. 7. Doors open at 5 p.m. for food and drinks, with the music kicking off at 6 p.m., and wrapping up by 8 p.m. Admission is free, and the events are held rain or shine.

While the restaurant requires dinner reservations, the music series is a casual, first-come, first-served affair. Attendees can expect a diverse lineup including the soulful sounds of the Albany Sound, the honky-tonk vibes of Brett Hughes, and the high-energy zydeco of Ernest James.

Do bring cash. Don't bring your pup. Do bring blankets or chairs. Don't BYO food and drinks.

For more information, visit [thetillermanvt.com](http://thetillermanvt.com).

### 2026 SUMMER LINEUP:

- June 3: Albany Sound
- June 10: Wild Leek River
- June 17: Albany Sound
- June 24: Queen City Cut Ups
- July 1: Albany Sound
- July 8: Connor Young & Friends
- July 15: Albany Sound
- July 22: Beg Steal or Borrow
- July 29: Brett Hughes & the Honky Tonk Crowd
- Aug. 5: The Shady Trees
- Aug. 12: Sunday Morning
- Aug. 19: Albany Sound
- Aug. 26: Remember Baker
- Sept. 2: Albany Sound
- Sept. 9: Alum Ridge Boys & Ashlee and Steam Machine
- Sept. 16: Albany Sound
- Sept. 23: Ernest James Zydeco
- Sept. 30: Albany Sound
- Oct. 7: TBD Jamboree

SWIFT HOUSE INN

## JUNE NEWS

Jessica's is open on Wednesday evenings all summer!

Deck's open: Outdoor dining now available. Weather permitting.

Sunday Supper continues all summer.

We're collaborating with Middleton for our June 5 First Friday DJ night: gather your friends, sip something festive, browse beautiful clothes, and find the outfit that makes you feel like going out. Then make your way to Swift House for cocktails, music, and a very stylish start to summer.

25 STEWART LN. MIDDLEBURY, VT [SWIFTHOUSEINN.COM](http://SWIFTHOUSEINN.COM) @SWIFTHOUSEINN

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury.

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"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.

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-989-7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"To Belong,"** a new body of work by Rory Jackson that moves between two landscapes he calls home: the mountains and fields of central Vermont and the coastal fishing villages of western Ghana. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. On view May 23-June 21.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"Abstractions."** Created over decades, this exhibit shows award-winning Burlington architect Tom Cullins's art in tandem with his prolific career. Shape and shadow, negative space, and carefully chosen color palettes are distilled into abstractions that illustrate the essence of the place and time that inspired him. The exhibition will include works in watercolor and mixed media, photographs and wooden assemblages. On view May 26 through Aug. 8.

## LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes

For more info contact [info@lcmm.org](mailto:info@lcmm.org) or 802-475-2022.

**"Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain."** Combining archaeological research, shipwrecks, original artifacts, and first-person accounts, visitors can reflect on the events of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain, including the Battle of Lake Champlain, and the impact it had on people from multiple perspectives. On view May through Oct. 18.

**"Parley and Protocol, War and Peace."** This exhibition by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association brings together historical documents, maps, and art with work by present-day American Abenaki artists, sharing Indigenous perspectives on the founding of the United States. On view June through Oct. 18.

## PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Water: Element of Change,"** juried by Lee Anne  
See EXHIBITS on page 12

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Your energy is infectious this week, Aries. This is the perfect time to launch a passion project. Expect a surprise compliment from someone you admire.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Taurus, treat yourself to a little luxury. You have earned a slow morning of coffee and a crossword puzzle. A cozy discovery brings you a smile.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Your social calendar is buzzing with exciting new connections. Use your natural wit to spur the conversation and you'll be the star of every chat you have with others.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Creative inspiration hits you mid-week, Cancer. Be sure to keep a notebook handy. Your intuition is very sharp right now, leading you to a special breakthrough.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Whether you are looking for it or not, the spotlight is finding you, Leo. Shine bright and share your ideas. The world is ready to applaud your vision.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Organization will be your superpower this week, Virgo. Everything finally clicks into place. Examine the small details around you. You will find peace in them and productivity.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, balance will come easily as you blend work and recreation in perfect ways. An invitation to a local event adds some sparkle to your weekend.

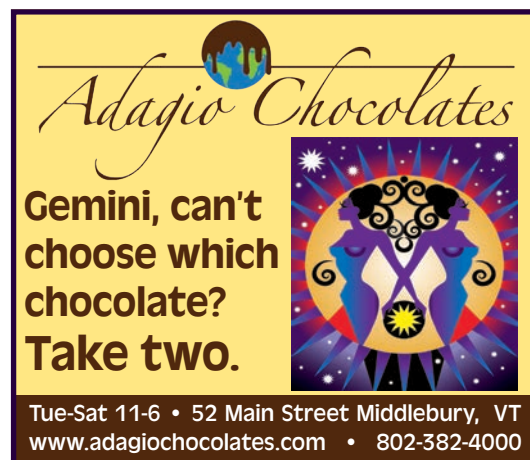
**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Your magnetism is at an all-time high, Scorpio. Exciting opportunities are being drawn toward you, so you will need to trust your gut on a new venture.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Adventure is calling your name this week, Sagittarius. An optimistic outlook can turn a minor detour into a grand adventure. Get ready for some exciting days ahead.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Take a moment to celebrate your wins with a favorite treat or a good book, Capricorn. You have been hitting your stride and smashing goals with impressive ease.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Your big ideas are drawing some attention, Aquarius. Many people are ready to help you build on them. Stay curious and open to a clever suggestion from a friend.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Your imagination is taking the driver's seat this week, Pisces. A heartwarming moment with a loved one reminds you how much others care.



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**OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4**

**MAY 30** — Countee Cullen, poet (d)  
**MAY 31** — Walt Whitman, poet (d)  
**JUNE 1** — Alannis Morrisette, Singer-songwriter, (52)  
**JUNE 2** — Thomas Hardy, novelist and poet (d)  
**JUNE 3** — Allen Ginsburg, poet (d)  
**JUNE 4** — Alexei Navalny, Russian opposition leader (d)

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**JUNE 5** — Laurie Anderson, performance artist (79)

# CALENDAR

May 28-June 7

2026

## THURSDAY, MAY 28

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES: SALLIE MACK AND ROSI GOWDEY IN VERGENNES.** Thursday, May 28, 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, entrance opposite the bandstand on the green. Come hear guitarists and vocalists Sallie Mack, co-founder and former co-director of the Ripton Community Coffee House, and Rosi Gowdey, storyteller and social change advocate, in a concert of eclectic music with a repertoire of folk, blue grass and ballad as well as original compositions. Feel free to bring your lunch. Free.

**ILSLEY CLASSIC FILM CLUB: "BLACK ORPHEUS" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 28, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater. Join the Ilsley Classic Film Club's "Global 1950s" series for a free screening of the celebrated international film "Black Orpheus." Free admission and popcorn.

**ARTISTS RECEPTION: JANET FREDERICKS'S "INSPIRATIONS AND FIELD NOTES" IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, May 28, 5 p.m., Bristol Suites Lobby, 19 Main St., Bristol. Join for wine and cheese at the reception celebrating Janet Fredericks's show.

STEPHEN KIERNAN

**DISCUSSES "POLLOCK'S LAST LOVER" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 28, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater Anderson Studio, 72 Merchants Row. Novelist Stephen Kiernan discusses his new novel, "Pollock's Last Lover: A Novel of Art and Deception," about art, ambition and authenticity. Books available for purchase and signing. Bar opens at 5:30 p.m. Pay what you can for the talk.

**DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: "THE LITTLE THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library NBM Meeting Room, 30 Main St. Free screening of this award-winning documentary exploring the vital role of bees, butterflies, beetles and other pollinators in sustaining ecosystems. Free.

## FRIDAY, MAY 29

**FRESHIE FRIDAYS CONCERT: LAST TRAIN TO ZINKOV IN BRISTOL.** Friday, May 29, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North St. An evening of good food, live music, and joyful gathering around the greenhouses. Old-time music with an Eastern European accent; fiddle and banjo family duo blending Appalachian, gypsy jazz, & klezmer influences. [bristolcollaborativecampus.com](http://bristolcollaborativecampus.com).

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN.** Friday, May 29, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Enjoy live music by The Deb Brisson Trio, food from Gene's Chili Hut and the release of three vintage wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

**EMILY SUNDERMAN STUDENT RECITAL IN CORNWALL.** Friday, May 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m., The Meeting House at Cornwall, 2598 Route 30. Violin, viola and cello students of Emily Sunderman present their annual recital featuring solo and group performances.

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

**FRIENDS OF THE TAM CHIPMAN HILL BIRD WALK WITH RON PAYNE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 30, 7:30 a.m., Chipman Hill. Otter Creek Audubon President Ron Payne leads a walk focusing on bird identification while also observing other fauna and spring wildflowers. MALT Executive Director Kevin Fox will join in, as well. Details and registration: [maltvtorg/friends-of-tam-chipman-hill](http://maltvtorg/friends-of-tam-chipman-hill).

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE ON BRISTOL TRAIL NETWORK IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, May 30, 9 a.m. Plan for 2.5-3 hours for the 3.4-mile section around Bristol's historic areas. Elevation gain

under 100 feet. Excellent options for snacks/lunch locally. To register contact Porter Knight at [knight@gmavt.net](mailto:knight@gmavt.net) or 802-343-3920.

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

**SUNDAY SESSIONS: NICK BREDICE LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, May 31, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). An evening of live music with Vermont singer-songwriter Nick Bredice. Known for his raw, indie-folk sound and improvisational style, Bredice brings a mix of heartfelt originals and familiar influences—from Bob Dylan and John Prine to John Butler and Mihali Savoulidis. Free.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

**SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL.** Wednesday, June 3, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. [thetillermanvt.com/live-music](http://thetillermanvt.com/live-music).

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

**NOONTIME ORGAN RECITAL IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, June 4, 12:15 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal

Church, 3 Main St. Organ Scholar Madison Thompson of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, and McGill University presents a recital on the church's 150-year-old pipe organ. Works by Bach, Sweelinck, Vierne, Whiting and Florence Price. Free.

**ARTIST'S RECEPTION WITH ZARRAH SHETHAR IN SALISBURY.** Thursday, June 4, 4 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library 853 Maple St. See Zarah Shethar's vibrant and whimsical paintings and drawings. Primarily working in gouache, she likes to add ink, acrylic paint and colored pencils in her work.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

**LIVE MUSIC FROM THE MORNING DUDES IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, June 5, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). A special Reunion Weekend show with acoustic duo The Morning Dudes. Songs from the repertoire of Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead, blending folk, blues, country, bluegrass and improvisational rock. Free.

**FRESHIE FRIDAYS CONCERT: REMEMBER BAKER IN BRISTOL.** Friday, June 5, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North St.. An evening of good food, live music, and joyful gathering

*Continued on next page*



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- Democrats Kick-Off Party - 06/04 - 5PM
- MUHS Graduation Live! - 06/06 - 10AM
- ACSD Schoolboard Live! 06/01 - 6PM
- HCC Celebration of Learning - 06/02 - 5PM
- Democracy Now! - Weekdays - 8AM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent

# Top Pick

## Scholar to play 150-year-old pipe organ in Middlebury next Thursday afternoon

Madison Thompson, Organ Scholar at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal and a graduate student at McGill University will present a recital on the St. Stephen's 150-year-old pipe organ on Thursday, June 4, at 12:15 p.m. Thompson, who holds a degree in Music and French from Trinity College, Hartford, will play music by J.S. Bach, Sweelinck, Vierne, Whiting, and Florence Price. Free admission. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main Street in Middlebury. For more info call 802-388-7200.



at MUHS). Join the fun, get some exercise and meet your neighbors at this non-gendered contra dance. Richard Hopkins will teach and call dances for people of all ages. Enjoy lively music by Northern Sugar. Experienced dancers and first-timers welcome. Free.

### "LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY

**IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. A full production of Verdi's "La Traviata," reimagined in the roaring '20s. Pre-show talk with Maestro Filippo Ciabatti at 6:30 p.m. townhalltheater.org.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: HIKE THE TRAIL AROUND MIDDLEBURY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, June 6. Hike a 6-mile section of the TAM. Section to be determined by leader. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com for more information. gmcbreadloaf.org.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: JOIN THE TRAIL CREW IN HANCOCK.** Saturday, June 6. Looking for an

opportunity to give back? Come work on the trails for the day. Plan to hike about 5 miles, clear water bars and create drainage structures to keep water off the trail. Contact Ellen Cronan with questions and for more information, 908-595-2926. gmcbreadloaf.org.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB RIDE IN CHARLOTTE.** Saturday, June 6, 9:15 a.m., Charlotte Central School. MUP #3 (gravel). 28 miles on low-traffic country dirt roads including Prindle, Rotax, Lewis Creek and Monkton with at least two covered bridges. All riders must wear helmets and obey the rules of the road. Led by Jon Shenton (jon@jonshenton.com) and

See *CALENDAR* on page 15

around the greenhouses. Remember Baker plays a blend of bluegrass, old time, and New Orleans jazz. bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

**FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT: DWIGHT + NICOLE BAND IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, June 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant St. Dwight Ritcher and Nicole Nelson bring a genre-defying sound rooted in blues, R&B, soul, roots rock, alternative and Americana. The series features local and internationally celebrated performers as part of Middlebury's First Friday downtown festivities, with food and bar offerings available. townhalltheater.org.

**GALLERY TALK: LUCIANA FRIGERIO IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Friday, June 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum 1 Park St. Join contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio and curator Kelly Hickey for a special talk. Step into magically crafted worlds of paper theater nestled in vintage clocks and watch housings, where each piece reveals stories of time, imagination, and possibility. henrysheldonmuseum.org.

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN.** Friday, June 5, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Enjoy live music by The Grift, food from La Chapina and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

**CONTRA DANCE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, June 5, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. (Park

## PRIDE. RECOVERY. COMMUNITY.

# PRIDE MONTH FILM SERIES

WHEN: Saturdays in June, 2pm

WHERE: Turning Point Center of Addison County

**JUNE 6**  
**But I'm a Cheerleader**  
1999, 16+. Campy, colorful, and unforgettable. Explores identity, belonging, and the courage to challenge expectations.

**JUNE 13**  
**The Half of It**  
2020, 13+. A quiet, heartfelt story about connection, loneliness, and self-discovery.

**JUNE 20**  
**The Miseducation of Cameron Post**  
2018, 16+. A moving story of resilience and reclaiming identity in the face of harmful systems.

**JUNE 27**  
**Moonlight**  
2016, 17+. A deeply human story exploring identity, vulnerability, and emotional survival.

### LOGISTICS

- FREE, but advance tickets are required.
- Light refreshments provided (while supplies last)

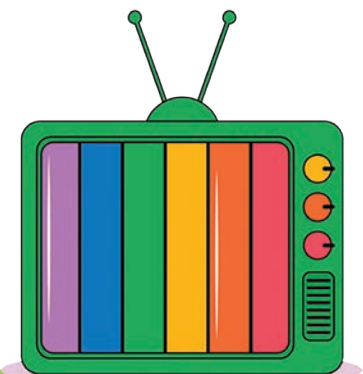
### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- People in recovery (all pathways)
- LGBTQ+ community members
- Allies, friends, and family
- Anyone seeking connection and community

Questions: fable@tpvt.org



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JUNE 14-16

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## LOOK UP

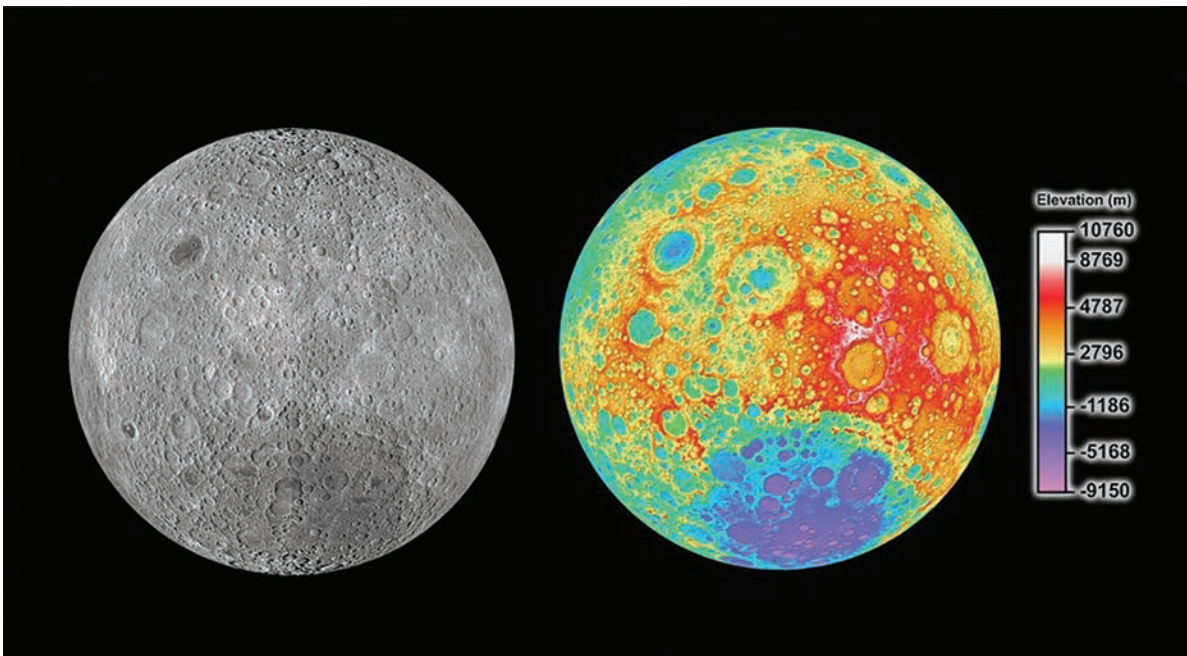
continued from page 2

### MODERN LUNAR SCIENCE

Twelve American astronauts walked on the Moon between 1969 and 1972. No

humans have set foot on the Moon since. However, there have been over 105 robotic probes sent to the Moon (U.S., Russia, China, India, Japan, and ESA), with 20 successful soft landings, and even more crash landings. The earliest mission was a flyby of the USSR craft Luna I. The Luna 9 mission in 1969 was the first soft landing, placing the USSR ahead of the U.S. in the 'space race' days of the cold war. During the Apollo lunar landing missions (1969-1972), 842 pounds of soil and rock samples were returned, which have yielded results showing common mineralogical composition with the Earth. Other things learned from the Apollo missions: the Moon was once an ocean of magma, melting and shattering of rocks were caused by meteorite impacts, lava flows through cracks in the Moon's crust filled impact basins, and impacts caused rocks to be pulverized into lunar "soil."

Future Artemis missions may provide data that will help answer some of the basic questions in lunar science. Such questions include the following: *What is the origin of water on the Moon?* A leading hypothesis is that it was deposited by cometary impacts. *What causes the unpredictable bright flashes of light, referred to as transient lunar phenomena (TLP's)?* TLP's have been observed for centuries and ideas



Comparison of two views of the far side of the Moon captured by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, with the one on the right in false color to highlight topography. Note the massive blue feature at the south pole called the Aitken Basin.

IMAGE COURTESY OF NASA

include scattering of light by dust, meteor impacts, and artifacts caused by observing instruments. *Why did the magnetic field of the Moon disappear?* Magnetic fields such as the one around the Earth require moving charge (electrons) in a molten interior and the Moon may have a mostly solid mantle, the region between the crust and the core. *What is the cause of the magnetic anomaly found near the south pole?* The heavily cratered Aitken basin in the region of the south pole is the largest known structure in the solar system and it exhibits magnetic and gravity anomalies.

When astronauts set up shop on the moon,

construction of a lunar base will require the development of life support systems for prolonged visits. Since energy costs to launch equipment and supplies to the Moon would be enormous, water and other resources will need to be mined in situ. Hydrogen for fuel and oxygen to sustain astronauts can be obtained by splitting water. Radiation exposure will be a major hazard to astronaut health and will require the use of caves to create safe habitats or the use of a thick layer of lunar regolith over habitats to provide protection. Advanced life support systems for the Moon, Mars, and space colonies will be the subject of a future column.



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Focused Martial Art

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- Experience a vigorous and dynamic workout



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June 8-July 31: M/W/F 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Middlebury Rec Center

Age 14 and Up

No experience needed

For more info: [zenbudokaieast.org](http://zenbudokaieast.org) or Call: (860)488-0429

### SKY WATCH EVENTS

**MAY 31** – Blue Moon and a micro moon, a full or new moon when it is at or near farthest from Earth (apogee). It appears about 14% smaller and 30% dimmer than a perigee or supermoon.

**JUNE 7** – Last quarter Moon is a few degrees north of Saturn.

**JUNE 8, 9** – The two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter will be just 1.5 degrees apart (about 3 moon widths) in the western sky.

**JUNE 14** – New Moon; will need to stay up past astronomical twilight (after 10:30) to view the heavens under dark skies.

**JUNE 21** – Happy Summer Solstice! Daylength in Middlebury = 15 hr, 29 min.

**JUNE 29** – Full Moon (Strawberry, Rose, or Hot Moon)

A false color view of southern latitudes. The large blue area at the bottom of the frame is the South Pole-Aitken Basin, an enormous and very old impact feature on the far side of the Moon.

IMAGE COURTESY NASA

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER SCIENTIFIC VISUALIZATION STUDIO



# PUZZLES

Sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

## ACROSS

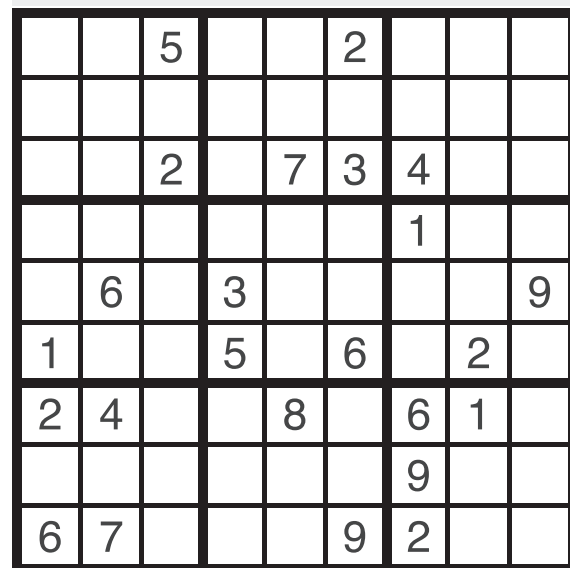
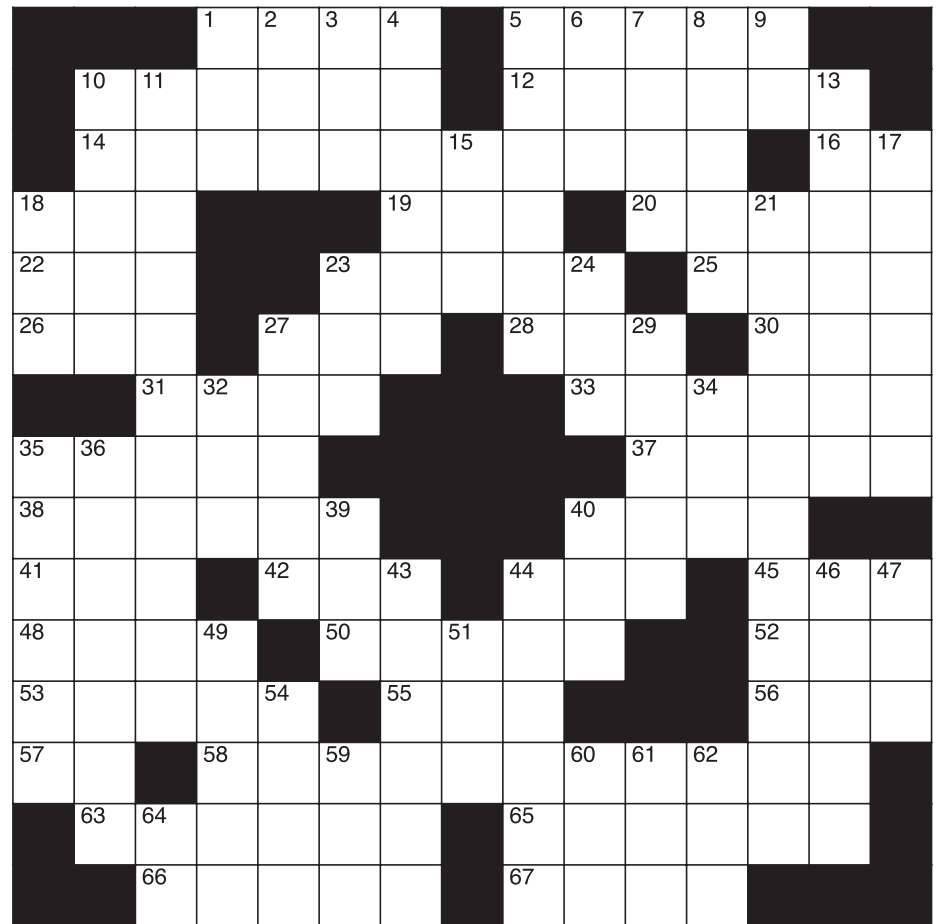
- 1. Streetcar
- 5. Take \_\_ of it!
- 10. SW Asia peninsula
- 12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
- 14. One who revitalizes
- 16. Indicates position
- 18. Dishonorable man
- 19. Singer King Cole
- 20. Short-tailed marten
- 22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
- 25. Dirt
- 26. Superconducting super collider
- 27. Not good

- 28. A way to sink
- 30. Unwell
- 31. Follow orders
- 33. Deep ravine
- 35. Perfumery practice
- 37. Indian film director Sultan
- 38. Member of U.S. Navy
- 40. Wing-like
- 41. Very fast airplane
- 42. Slang for cigarette
- 44. Most cars still need it
- 45. Political war chest
- 48. Cools down
- 50. Diminish toward one end
- 52. Indigenous person of Thailand
- 53. Combined
- 55. Container
- 56. Expression of

- satisfaction
- 57. Thou
- 58. Return a favor
- 63. Go over once more
- 65. Removed
- 66. "Silence of the \_\_"
- 67. Comedian Rogen

## DOWN

- 1. Children's game
- 2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 3. Own (Scottish)
- 4. Female follower of Bacchus
- 5. Subsides
- 6. Protects from weather
- 7. Spanish municipality
- 8. Supermarket chain
- 9. Domain name
- 10. Semitic peoples



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

- 11. Designs anew
- 13. City associated with Jesus
- 15. Cool!
- 17. Bank employee
- 18. Central nervous system
- 21. Standardized piece of text
- 23. A type of fever
- 24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Threaten persistently
- 29. Aspirations
- 32. Baby's eating accessory
- 34. Actress Thurman
- 35. Turn into bone
- 36. One who saves you
- 39. Consume
- 40. Swiss river
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Categories
- 46. Expressed amazement
- 47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
- 49. Greek war dance
- 51. Bland, semi-liquid food
- 54. Regard in a specified way
- 59. Taxi
- 60. Naturally occurring solid material
- 61. Feline
- 62. Post-burning residue
- 64. Elevated railroad



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## PAINT WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY!

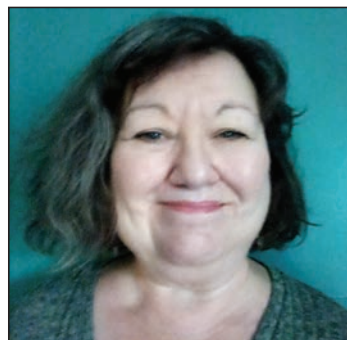
**Sparrow Plein Air Festival • June 12-14**  
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REGISTER BY JUNE 1



# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## TIPS FOR PLANTING UNDER TREES



Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.

If you've ever tried planting something beneath a tree — or grow grass there for that matter — you've probably wondered if it was actually possible to grow anything successfully in such a shady, full-of-roots location.

By **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

While it's true that planting under a tree does present challenges, that doesn't mean it's more trouble than it's worth.

Any plants sharing soil will compete with one another for resources, whether that's water, nutrients, or even a place to spread their roots. Since trees are just very big plants, they're likely going to win that competition compared with those of much smaller size growing beneath them. The trick is to provide enough of what they need for both a tree and its companions to share and grow successfully.

Sometimes, the problem isn't just competition for resources. Some trees are allelopathic,

meaning that they produce a substance that actively discourages the growth of other plants. Black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*) — roots, leaves, and nut hulls — secrete a toxin called juglone which does just that. Even so, plants such as wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*) are suitable to grow beneath black walnut trees.

Of course, if your tree is not among those that are allelopathic, you'll have more options in choosing shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers that are shade-tolerant, drought-tolerant, and have shallow root systems.

Consider small spring-blooming bulbs such as snowdrops (*Galanthus*), grape hyacinth, (*Muscari armeniacum*), and squill (*Scilla siberica*) for flowers and color in early spring before trees are fully leafed out. Small bulbs, planted individually, can be easily nestled

among tree roots with little disruption.

Shade tolerant perennials such as hosta (*Hosta*), lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*), fringed bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*), foamflower (*Tiarella*), or coral bells (*Heuchera*) can produce attractive displays as a mass planting or as part of a mixed group with a variety of color, leaf shape and texture. Selecting perennials, rather than annuals, can avoid the need to repeatedly disturb roots by replanting each year.

Once you've selected what you'd like to plant beneath a tree, hand-pull any weeds and use a hand trowel to remove grass.

Keep in mind that the planting area may be congested with roots of various sizes and that the health of the tree depends on them. Avoid using spades, shovels, or other large digging instruments that could cut, nick, or otherwise damage those roots. Don't cut or remove larger roots. While thin, fibrous roots can regrow, damage to larger roots takes much longer and risks the health of the tree through disease or insect infestation.

For best results, select starter-sized plants and dig a hole just large enough to accommodate the root ball. If the tree's roots present a barrier to digging, try another area nearby. Plant, then fill the hole with soil and water well.

After you've finished planting beneath the tree, apply a thin layer of mulch to help retain moisture. Be sure to avoid covering any above-ground roots and leave an area at least 3 inches (or more) from the trunk free from mulch to protect the root flare.

During the hot summer months, a weekly, deep watering will help ensure there will be enough water to satisfy thirsty young plants and the tree, too.

When you're done, pull up a chair, sit back, relax, and enjoy the shade and the new plants there.

For answers to your home gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners Helpline online at [go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline](http://go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline) or by phone at 802-656-5421 on Thursdays from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.



A garden established under a mature tree can create interest to a home landscape.



Cordie, aka Cordelia, is a sweet, attentive, and loyal Belgian Trevuren. She loves to cuddle on the porch swing and explore the wilderness of the Leicester swamp with her dearest companion, Suki. (Happy Birthday Mom!)

Submitted by Annabelle Maroney of Leicester.



**Pet of the  
WEEK**



**Make your pet famous!**

Submit your pet by scanning the code or emailing a photo and short description to:

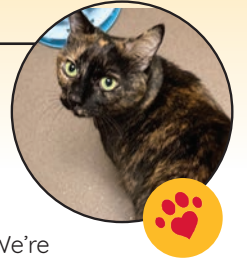
[elsie@addisonindependent.com](mailto:elsie@addisonindependent.com)

## Pets In Need

### HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

#### Blaze



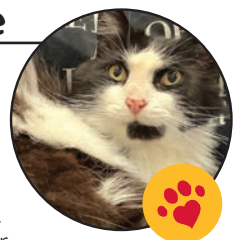
**Blaze** is a beautiful tortie who is ready to meet her new family. Her previous owner said she was scared of dogs and grudgingly co-existed with another cat, but would probably be happiest as an only pet. We know that saying a shelter animal needs to be an only pet can be restrictive with their adoption prospects. We're hoping to learn more about her likes and dislikes as the days go on. A slow and structured introduction to other animals would be discussed with interested adopters. Once you meet her, it's very easy to fall in love with her!

#### Sassy



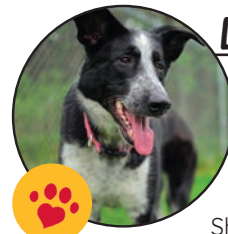
**Sassy** is a cat that truly lives up to her name. She is affectionate and loving with people, but also has a sassy personality. She has a mixed history with other cats and dogs. She has previously lived with multiple other cats and a small dog just fine, but in another home, she was quite intimidating to the dog. She is also not good with small children. We feel she wants to be "top cat" in a home, and so we are looking for a family who can let her live out that dream. If you're looking for a beautiful cat to make your one and only, Sassy is your girl!

#### Silvie



**Silvie** is a beautiful senior who came to us after her owner passed away. She is sweet and gentle, and the thing she wants more than anything is to curl up in someone's lap. She has lived well with other cats in the past and was quite scared of the one dog she has met. She's a sweet girl who is ready to find her new family!

#### Lennox



**Lennox** is a 2-year-old, unique-looking girl. She absolutely loves to play fetch with tennis balls and would like an active home with place to run. Lennox has lived with other dogs in the past, but we're unsure of her history around cats. She's been around children but has never lived with a child. Lennox can be cautious when meeting new people, but warms up quickly when yummy treats are involved. Lennox is a smart girl and we're looking for an adopter willing to fulfill her needs and wants in life. She's great at solving puzzle toys and enjoys the outdoors.

#### Misty



**Misty** is a very loving senior lady who loves to play with toys and greet people with a wagging tail. This 9-year-old still has a lot of energy but enjoys a good snooze here and there. Misty loves food and will happily gobble up both breakfast and dinner. She likes walks and is housetrained as far as we know. Misty has some skin issues that are being treated in the shelter. Due to her medical condition and age, Misty is special needs with a donation-based adoption fee.

Homeward Bound  
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## MUSIC

*continued from page 4*

for the Arts grant, THT will host a block party celebrating America's 250th anniversary. The event kicks off at 3 p.m. with 5 Above, a woodwind ensemble from Vermont's Own 40th Army Band, playing a full spectrum of chamber music tied to the theme "Heroes: A Musical Journey of Courage." At 5:30 p.m., Redd & The Paper Flowers, an Appalachian folk-grass group from Knoxville, Tenn., will take the stage, featuring upright bass, cello, mandolin, guitar and stunning vocals. The celebration will be complemented by a festive bike parade. Food trucks, Good Times Co. charcuterie, and bar offerings available for purchase.

**Atom & the Orbits****Friday, Aug. 8, 5:30-7 p.m.**

Led by Vermont musician Noah Hahn, Atom & the Orbits brings an electrifying blend of danceable modern rock, roots rhythms, and high-energy live performance to the stage on Friday, Aug. 8, from 5:30-7 p.m. After spending the last decade playing in two-step bands from Vermont to Louisiana, Hahn assembled Atom & the Orbits as a "rocket ship" for his expansive musical vision — fusing groove-driven Americana, rock, and cosmic energy into a sound built for dancing. Audiences can expect a summer concert packed with soaring musicianship, irresistible rhythms, and an atmosphere that feels equal parts dance party and musical journey. Good Times Co. charcuterie & bar offerings available for purchase.

**BLOCK PARTY with Billy Wylder****Friday, Sept. 4, 3-8 p.m.**

Acclaimed art-rock ensemble Billy Wylder, led by singer-songwriter Avi Salloway, brings together global influences, adventurous musicianship, and electrifying live performance. Drawing inspiration from travels spanning Standing Rock, Jerusalem, the Sahara, and stages from Coachella to Carnegie Hall, the band blends American folk and rock with African rhythms, art-rock textures, soaring violins, synths, and groove-driven percussion. Salloway is also the creator of the acclaimed All Rivers project, a cross-cultural musical collaboration that recently sold-out performances at Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, further cementing his reputation for building powerful, community-centered musical experiences that bridge cultures and traditions. Food trucks, Good Times Co. charcuterie, and bar offerings available for purchase.

**Aysanabee****Friday, Oct. 2, 5:30-7 p.m.**

Aysanabee is a multi-Juno Awards-winning Indigenous (Oji-Cree) artist whose powerful blend of alternative, indie-folk, and rock has established him as one of Canada's most compelling contemporary voices. Celebrated for his emotionally resonant songwriting, haunting vocals, and magnetic stage presence, Aysanabee has earned widespread acclaim through songs like "Nomads," "Somebody Else," "Home," and the fan-favorite "Dream Catcher." Whether performing in intimate theaters or on major festival stages, his live shows are known for their raw honesty and profound emotional connection with audiences. Continuing his remarkable rise, Aysanabee recently announced "Timelines," a new EP reimagining beloved songs from his catalog, featuring stripped-back acoustic versions that offer an intimate glimpse into the artistry and storytelling that have made him a breakout star on the international music scene. Good Times Co. charcuterie & bar offerings available for purchase.

## EXHIBITS

*continued from page 5*

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](http://Rokeby.org) or call 802-877-3406*

**"Help Each Other,"** is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The Quaker 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. On view through Oct. 11.

**SHELDON MUSEUM***1 Park Street, Middlebury**For more info visit**[henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://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 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 pacificism, 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](http://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.



\$1,499,000

705 CEDAR BEACH ROAD  
**CHARLOTTE**

# THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## Wake up at this waterfront retreat

Nestled in the historic Cedar Beach neighborhood, this rare waterfront retreat offers 300 feet of lakeshore with the opportunity to own your very own camp perched above beautiful Converse Bay. This unique mid-century A-frame captures stunning water views from every room, creating a peaceful setting filled with natural light to enhance the natural wood interior. The large 2.7-acre lot provides exceptional privacy along with plenty of space for gardening, outdoor entertaining, or simply enjoying the surrounding landscape. Relax on the spacious deck while listening to gentle waves roll in below or gather with friends and loved ones to take in the spectacular scenery. Conveniently located near the Charlotte–Essex Ferry, just 30 minutes from Burlington International Airport and 35 minutes to Downtown Burlington, this special property offers the perfect balance of escape and accessibility.



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY** | VERMONT REALTY GROUP  
HOMESERVICES

*This week's property is managed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. More info at vtregroup.com.*

# REAL ESTATE

Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.

802-388-4944

advertising@addisonindependent.com

## 4351 Crown Point Road, Bridport

New Price \$618,000

Come see this 3,700+ sq. ft., 5-bedroom 3-bath renovated farmhouse with large addition nestled on 4 magical acres. Boasting stunning views, an enviable front porch, and retaining many original features, balcony, sun room, radiant floor heating, and solar panels. Peaceful setting located close to Middlebury College and Vergennes, with easy access to New York and in Addison Central School District.



Open House:  
Saturday, May 30,  
10 AM - 12 NOON



**Michael O'Dowd, Realtor** <sup>®</sup>KW Vermont  
 Cell: 802-598-7169  
 Office: 802-654-8500  
 michaelodowd@kw.com  
<https://michaelodowd.kw.com/>  
**KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY**

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**IRENE POOLE, REALTOR**<sup>®</sup>



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When you call us about a loan, you talk to a person who lives here, understands the local market, and will be with you through every step.

I love this bank. When you call an actual person answers the phone and is always helpful. They hold our mortgage, and most of our personal accounts. Having been a customer at bigger banks... we really appreciate the contrast and [NBM]'s more personal style. —Andrew M.

802-388-4982 | nbmvt.com | NMLS #: 403372

# PUZZLE

May 28, 2026

SOLUTIONS

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2	4	9	7	8	5	6	1	3
3	5	1	2	6	4	9	8	7
6	7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5

Stay Sharp

Exercise your mind.

With the Addy Indy puzzles every Thursday!

## the

# REAL ESTATE COMPANY

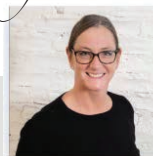
of VERMONT

**204 West River Rd, Lincoln**

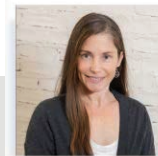
This 3-bed, 2-bath Lincoln village home has undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic charm through the beautiful integration of modern design elements including a stunning new kitchen and baths! Close to endless outdoor recreation including scenic hiking, biking & river swimming holes.

MLS No. 5084107 | \$ 449,000

for more information, contact:



Tammy Petersen  
Agent/Realtor<sup>®</sup>



Jill Fraga  
Broker/Owner/Realtor<sup>®</sup>



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# CALENDAR

continued from page 7

Brian Howard (bjhowd@gmail.com). Register and find out more: thegmbc.com.

## NER ALUMNI READING AT REUNION 2026 IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, June 6, 1 p.m., Axinn Center 229, Middlebury College. In celebration of Middlebury's reunion weekend, *New England Review* will host a reading for six alumni authors: Susan Fritsch Hunter '71, Jeneva Burroughs Stone '86, Katherine Ferrier '91, Jeffrey T. Price '01, Emily K. Lackey '06, and Isabelle Stillman '16. Free.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7

### "LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater. A full production of Verdi's "La Traviata," reimagined in the roaring

'20s. Pre-show talk with Danielle Simon at 1 p.m. townhalltheater.org.

### SUNDAY SESSIONS: DEEP THINK LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, June 7, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). Deep Think is a dynamic instrumental neo-jazz trio based in Middlebury. Their sound is the product of diverse musical roots and shared curiosity, blending genres to create something distinctly their own. Free.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

### SLOW ROLLERS SOCIAL BIKE RIDE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, June 10, 6-9 p.m., Meet outside Little Seed Coffee Roasters, 24 Merchants Row. These casually paced community bike rides explore local neighborhoods and the Trail Around Middlebury while bringing people together for fresh air and conversation. More info on Instagram @ SlowRollersMiddlebury.

### SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: WILD LEEK RIVER IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, June 10, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails

and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. we

also set up some tables and chairs. thetillermanvt.com/live-music.



### 194 South Bingham Street, Cornwall

Custom-Built in 2023 ~ 3 Bdrms 3 Baths Vermont Character & Craftsmanship! 5 Ac Former Orchard ~ Garage/Workshop ADK View ~ Minutes to Downtown Middlebury

**\$819,000 ~ MLS #5088246**  
Sue Walsh & Galina Mencil  
802-989-3435



### 335 Valley View Drive, Addison

Exceptional Architecture ~ 3 Bdrms 3 Baths Impressive Open Lvg ~ Expansive Windows! Snake Mtn 9+ Acres ~ Oversized Garage ADK & Champlain Valley Views Solar Panels

**\$943,000 ~ MLS #5090619**  
Listing Agent Jan Bark  
802-989-0002

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY GROUP

the real estate experts  
good to know!



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IPJREALESTATE.COM

34 MAIN STREET | MIDDLEBURY, VT  
EMAIL: INFO@IPJREALESTATE.COM  
CALL: 802.388.4242



"...a sound knowledge of the Middlebury market and community, thereby bringing us through the purchasing and listing process smoothly and efficiently."

~ Walt & Alison K.

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 2337 Vt Route 7 | MLS #5089983  
COMMERCIAL | 1960 SF | 0.48 ACRES | \$549,000

Simple, versatile, carefully updated, multi-use property with 5 office spaces that share a conference room, reception area, full bath and small kitchenette, plus 2 studio apartments. Rent out the 2-bay garage, too!

NEW LISTING



BRIDPORT | 1276 Swinton Road | MLS #5090626  
6 BD | 5 BA | 5600 SF | 40.70 ACRES | \$1,250,000

Sweeping views in every direction! Sunroom, wraparound deck, in-ground pool, 3-car garage with guest suite above. Detached building with workshop, heat, bath, and both finished and utilitarian spaces.

NEW LISTING



SHOREHAM | 261 School Street | MLS #5090677  
3 BR | 2 BA | 1531 SF | 1.09 ACRES | \$449,000

Brand new home on a full foundation with a full unfinished walk-out basement. Town sewer, Tri-Town water, and fiber internet. Less than 20 mins on paved roads to Midd, Vergennes, and Lake Champlain!

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 6 Nedde Lane | MLS #5090723  
CONDO | 3 BD | 3 BA | 2398 SF | \$649,000

Living space on three floors, but with a primary suite on the first—you'll find one-level living is easy here. Fireplace, deck, attached garage, extensive trail network and downtown amenities from Battell Hill!

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