



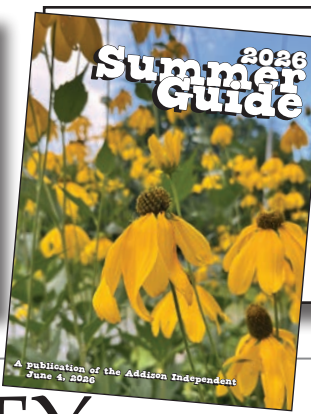
Community

A road race in Vergennes was more about helping others than about competition. Arts + Leisure.



Smash!

Tiger boys' tennis breezed through the first round of playoffs, but look what's ahead. See Page 1B.



Summertime!

This season in Addison County has so much to offer. Read our 72-page guide to what's happening.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Richards takes swings at Scott

Pledges data-driven results if elected

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Aly Richards spent a decade successfully lobbying for the expansion and fortification of Vermont's childcare industry as CEO of Let's Grow Kids, a statewide nonprofit.

Now she wants to grow more jobs, housing, and more sustainable healthcare and public education systems in Vermont as its chief executive.

Richards, a Montpelier Democrat, is in a race for governor that will first pit her against Burlington's Amanda Janoo in an Aug. 11 Democratic primary, with the victor advancing to

a Nov. 3 showdown against longtime incumbent Republican Gov. Phil Scott, who's seeking an unprecedented sixth, two-year term in office.

Richards, during a far-ranging interview at the *Independent* on Tuesday, suggested Vermont voters ask themselves a fundamental question as they go to the ballot box this fall: "Has your life gotten any better in the last 10 years?" If not, it's time for a new approach. I don't see what's so magical about two more years (of Phil Scott), where we'll have the same dynamic."

And Richards believes she's (See Richards, Page 10A)

County to elect 4 new reps, new state's atty

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Addison County voters on Nov. 3 will at the very least pick four new Vermont House members and a new state's attorney.

The first salvo of election fireworks will begin on primary day, Aug. 11, when county residents will be asked to winnow down a three-person Republican field for two available state Senate slots on the general election ballot,

and Vergennes-area voters will do the same for a three-person Democratic contingent seeking to advance and compete for the two seats representing the Addison-3 House district.

Addison County's mid-term election picture became clearer on Thursday, May 28 — the deadline by which major party candidates had to file the necessary pre-primary paperwork to get on the (See Elections, Page 14A)



KATHY ALEXANDER, CENTER, talks with Robinson School kitchen staff Amy Johnson, left, and Doreen Bortz before students arrive for lunch on Tuesday. Alexander has spent 26 years working in local schools, overseeing and sometimes cooking meals for children across almost half of Addison County.

Independent photo/Steve James

Local school meals ambassador set to retire

Alexander has had a lot on her plate

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Kathy Alexander has spent more than two decades working in local schools, but you won't find her in a classroom or grading papers.

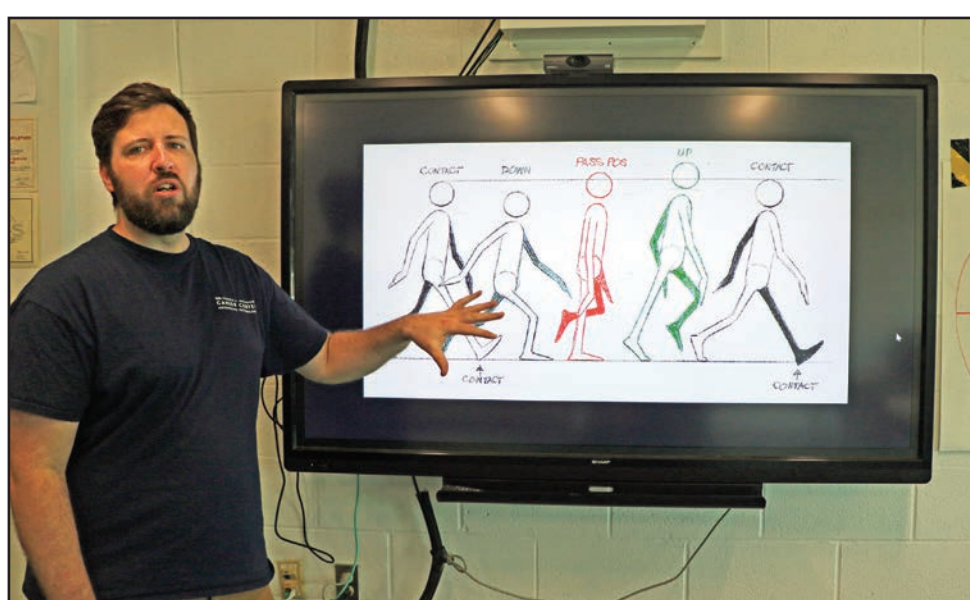
Rather, her service to students has unfolded in school cafeterias — a place she believes is at the heart of a child's education.

"I feel like we can do such a good job at setting children, students, up

for success if we provide this very basic need (food) and we design education around that," Alexander said during a recent interview.

Alexander has dished out meals for students at Ferrisburgh Central School and more recently served as director of the food service

cooperative for the Bristol-area Mount Abraham Unified and Vergennes-area Addison Northwest school districts. As such, she has touched the lives of almost all of the youngsters in the northern half of Addison County (See Alexander, Page 11A)



CHRIS MENDENHALL, EXPLAINING how animation software works, will lead a new program at the Patricia Hannaford Career Center that will teach students how to make video games.

Independent photo/Steve James

Career Center builds programs in nursing and in video gaming

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series previewing new and expanded programming at the Patricia Hannaford Career Center.

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Patricia Hannaford Career Center (PHCC) is toggling its fall offerings to reflect a new, out-of-this-world program, while an existing — and decidedly more grounded course — is drawing twice as many students as were (See Programs, Page 14A)

Carry on

Newsroom medical crisis accents need for CPR know-how

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — "Carry on."

Two short-but-profound words we will always associate with our friend and colleague Karl Lindholm. Those words gained even greater symbolism last Tuesday, May 26, after Karl — our award-winning sports columnist and the Emeritus Dean of Advising and Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College — made our collective hearts skip a beat due to a health scare.

Karl is someone you might call a "loquacious raconteur."



KARL LINDHOLM

In other words, Karl likes to chat.

And at the age of 81, Karl has banked considerable knowledge and life experiences that make his stories well worth a listen. On one day, it might be about a trip to Maine to see a dear high school buddy; on another day, it might be an insightful account of how Middlebury College dumped its fraternity system.

A lover of baseball and student of the Negro leagues, Karl might randomly offer a mesmerizing recap of the no-hitter (See Lindholm, Page 16A)



By the way

The Department of Children and Families has significant placement needs for children in foster care here in Addison County. The state agency is looking for help to recruit new (See By the way, Page 10A)



ARTIST TODD DRAKE, whose street name is "Quaker Pirate," paints graffiti on a chair at the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh. The one-time home of a Quaker abolitionist family, the Rokeby is hosting a summer show of Drake's challenging artwork.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Quaker pirate brings graffiti to Ferrisburgh

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

FERRISBURGH — In a town with limited real estate for graffiti, tucked in a corner of Ferrisburgh all summer is an explosion of street art.

Among the Rokeby Museum's current exhibits is "Help Each Other," a collection of Todd Drake's relief prints that he started plastering around New York City amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and which he continued to spread around the Big Apple for the past six years.

"Todd has a contemporary view. He is a Quaker, so we have a lot of common ground in that way, and he's

also an activist, and that was one of the things that we added to the core values of the organization a few years ago was art, abolition, agriculture, and activism," said Faith Revell, executive director of the museum.

It was that activism that prompted the organization to bring Drake to Ferrisburgh.

"We thought that this in a modern show might broaden our audience, and then also get people out there doing things in support of social justice and the like."

On May 16, Drake's prints, a graffiti wall and (See Graffiti, Page 9A)

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Vermont becomes first state to ban paraquat

By OLIVIA GIEGER
VTDigger.org

Vermont last week became the first state in the country to ban the sale and use of paraquat, an herbicide that has shown strong association with the onset of Parkinson's disease.

"Governor (Phil) Scott signed this bill into law because he understands the harmful impacts paraquat has on the health of Vermonters," Amanda Wheeler, a spokesperson for the governor, wrote in a statement. "Many farmers have already transitioned to alternatives, and the phase out of the usage over the coming years will help those who do currently use it, identify alternative options."

"It's always on my radar that I need to do this in a careful way. I want to be able to hang out with my kids when I'm old, but at the same time, if we're going to do this, (let's do it) in a manner that sets the right precedent, where we're not eliminating tools out of our toolbox unnecessarily."

Rep. Greg Burt, R-Cabot

weeds and grasses in the cultivation of crops like apples, berries and cotton.

"In Vermont, paraquat is used very little," said Steve Dwinell, the director of the Plant Industry Division at the state's Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. "So it's not going to have much of an impact at all — except for those few farmers who use it for some very specific things."

Those few farmers are primarily apple and berry growers, who use it on young trees that are competing against grass to establish themselves in the ground. They may also use it to fight dogwood borers, which chew around the base of young

the volume of water that goes into flushing a toilet about 80 times.) The most common form of the chemical comes in 2.5 gallon bottles. Because farmers use so little, in such concentrated amounts, it's likely, Dwinell said, that a farmer can go through a year without needing to re-up their supply.

Though he did not have an exact number, Dwinell estimates that there are only about 20 farmers who use paraquat in Vermont.

Vermont has 1,300-1,500 acres of apple orchards, according to testimony from UVM extension school fruit tree specialist Terrance Bradshaw. Apples are Vermont's third largest agricultural product, after dairy and maple.

In March, the company that produces Gramoxone, the most common version of the herbicide, announced that it would stop producing the chemical by the end of June; the company faces thousands of lawsuits for the chemical's purported link to Parkinson's disease.

Still, the use of the chemical in the United States has grown. About 35% of large commercial farms in the country use the herbicide. It tripled in prevalence between 2006 and 2017, according to reporting in the New Orleans news outlet The Lens. Though Gramoxone will no longer be on the market, generics will be.

Its popularity is largely attributed (See Paraquat, Page 3A)

Rep. Esme Cole, D-Hartford, who sponsored the bill, agreed, calling it a "beautiful step in the right direction." Yet, she hopes other states follow soon.

"We're the first in the nation, but the last in the world, so it's kind of a mixed feeling," she said.

More than 70 countries — including China and those in the European Union — have banned the chemical, which is used to kill

trees. The new law leaves room for those fruit growers to receive exemptions from the secretary of agriculture to continue buying and using the chemical until the end of 2030.

Still, the prevalence is small — in 2023, the agency reported sales of the chemical totaled merely 14.5 gallons. In 2024 they totaled 107.5 gallons. (For a sense of scale, that's

Protect grassland birds by mowing later

VERMONT — Bobolinks, Savannah sparrows and eastern meadowlarks enrich our summers with their songs, but their populations continue to suffer long-term declines due to the loss in quantity and quality of their grassland habitat.

Across North America, birds that use grassland habitat have experienced the steepest population decline among all bird groups in the past five decades. Over that time 95 percent of our native grasslands, largely in the Midwest, have disappeared. Vermont has a unique opportunity



support grassland birds due to our diverse landscape with a long history of agricultural use that remains today.

Landowners can make a difference by altering the times of year they mow their fields, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Landowners can help grassland species by waiting to mow their fields, giving the birds a chance to rear their young," said Jillian Kilborn, biologist for Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

"People maintain open, grassy fields in Vermont for a variety of reasons, from producing hay to providing pasture for grazing, to simply maintaining scenic beauty," said Kilborn. "For those who can afford it, the timing of mowing or brush hogging can be adjusted to allow grassland birds to successfully raise young."

Bobolinks, Savannah sparrows, eastern meadowlarks and wild

turkeys build their nests right on the ground, among the grasses and wildflowers. Deer fawns and other animals take refuge in grass fields, and other birds such as bluebirds, kestrels, whip-poor-wills, and northern harriers rely on grass fields for food.

According to Kilborn, landowners who do not need to mow for animal forage can accommodate nesting birds by cutting late in the summer, preferably after August 1. When you do mow, Kilborn advises to keep an eye out for unwanted plants.

People concerned about invasive plants such as parsnip, bedstraw or chervil may choose to rotate mowing earlier and more frequently on a portion of their field each year, to keep these plants in check.

"The birds don't like fields dominated by invasives any more than we do," says Kilborn. "Mowing before unwanted plants go to seed can help prevent them

(See Mowing, Page 3A)

A FEMALE BOBOLINK takes a lunch break in an unmowed grassy field.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife photo by John Hall



Patriot spy

A STATE HISTORIC site roadside marker was publicly unveiled and dedicated on Story Drive in Salisbury on May 30 by Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Trieschmann.

The unveiling of the marker for the Revolutionary War hero Ann Story, known as the "mother of the Green Mountain Boys," attracted four of her direct descendants: Kriss Budno of South Carolina, Shelly Taylor Doran and Sharon Harmon of Missouri, and Karlene Parker of South Dakota. Trieschmann is at the center of the above photo.

Below, 100 guests at Saturday's unveiling watch the premiere live performance of the one-act play "Ann Story: A Place Among You," written by James Thatch of Bennington and directed by Kevin Commins of Weybridge. Thatch attended the event, which was hosted by Friends of Ann Story, dressed in Revolutionary War garb.

Photos courtesy of Tom Hughes



State Legislature caps 2026 session

By SHAUN ROBINSON
VTDigger.org

MONTPELIER — After a week of fits and starts with negotiations that at times dragged into the night, the Vermont Legislature adjourned its 2026 session on Friday, just shy of five months after lawmakers first filed into the Statehouse in early January.

The Senate gavelled out for the year at 5:51 p.m., and the House closed up shop at 7:46 p.m.

Friday brought an end to a session that, like last year's, was in overtime compared to years past. And, as in 2025, the holdup was largely a result of debate over legislation that would overhaul how the state's schools are governed and paid for.

For nearly all of the session, Gov. Phil Scott had insisted that lawmakers pass a bill that would force school districts to consolidate with the goal of lowering costs. But as the months wore on, lawmakers made it clear they would only support a framework in which consolidation, which would in all likelihood lead individual schools to close, was voluntary.

Scott eased his demands at nearly the eleventh hour last week, clearing the way for the version of the bill, H.955, that passed both chambers Friday. Many of the bill's details were hashed out during closed-door meetings of a

few lawmakers and administration officials last week, followed by a public-facing conference committee this week.

"I didn't get everything I wanted, and neither did you," Scott told the Senate, and then later the House, in remarks before each chamber adjourned. "But that's the way compromise works."

In her own remarks, Senate Majority Leader Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden Southeast, who's served in the Legislature since 2009, called the protracted negotiations over education "one of the

hardest ends to a legislative session that any of us can remember."

Here's a sampling of the many other bills lawmakers passed this year — or didn't.

BUDGET, PROPERTY TAXES

Education costs were also a key factor in debates over this year's budget bill, which lawmakers sent to Scott on Friday after another conference committee reached a deal on the \$9.4 billion spending package late Thursday. The budget bill, H.951, will fund the state government for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts in July.

The budget includes \$101 million that lawmakers intend to use — together with this year's property tax rate-setting bill, H.949 — to lower a projected increase in property taxes across the state for the new fiscal year.

The plan would result in a 3.5% average increase in education tax bills, though the actual amount of change people see will vary based on local school spending decisions.

Their decision marks yet another year that the state will use surplus revenue to "buy down" looming property tax increases, largely at Scott's urging.

LAND-USE LEGISLATION

Although the Republican governor changed course on school consolidation, it was leaders in the Democratic-controlled Legislature who made perhaps the most surprising U-turn of the session, in their case over a sweeping land use law from 2024, Act 181.

Opposition to key provisions in Act 181, which were slated to take effect this year, spurred a large protest on the Statehouse steps in March and drew such vitriol online that it prompted the House's Democratic and Republican leadership to issue a statement condemning what they called "truly reprehensible" personal attacks.

In response to the swell of opposition, lawmakers passed S.325, which repeals portions of Act 181 that sought to beef up environmental protections around development in sensitive natural areas.

IMMIGRATION

Activists, many of a different political stripe from those opposed to Act 181, also pressed (See Legislature, Page 3A)

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GOV. PHIL SCOTT addresses the House of Representatives at the Statehouse in Montpelier as the Legislature prepares to adjourn on Friday, May 29.

VT Digger photo/Glenn Russell

Legislature

(Continued from Page 2A)

lawmakers this year to respond to widespread concerns over federal immigration enforcement operations in Vermont and around the country.

Those were heightened by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation in South Burlington in March, which prompted lawmakers to host hearings with state and local law enforcement officials and members of the public who had protested at the scene of the raid — and in some cases alleged they were injured by police.

Lawmakers passed H.849, which creates a new legal pathway for people to sue federal officers whom they allege have violated their constitutional rights. Scott opposed the bill because he argued it could be found unconstitutional in court, but he allowed it to become law last month without his signature.

Legislators also approved a bill, S.209, prohibiting civil arrests — which include some immigration arrests — in specific types of locations including healthcare facilities, schools and places of worship.

But another bill, which proposed to bar federal agents from wearing masks, S.208, faltered at the 11th hour.

The House stripped the bill, which originated in the Senate, of that key provision earlier this month. The federal mask ban was added back in by a conference committee, with a caveat delaying its implementation. But the chambers did not take up a final version before adjourning, over the objections of many Democrats and Progressives.

HEALTHCARE

Lawmakers also spent much of this session grappling with how to respond to changes the federal government has made to healthcare policy over the past year. Early in the session, they passed H.545, which lessens Vermont's reliance on federal vaccine recommendations and instead gives state health

officials authority to issue recommendations on their own. Scott signed the bill into law in March.

Changes, in the form of an influx of federal dollars for rural healthcare projects and the end to expanded Affordable Care Act subsidies, also influenced many healthcare conversations in the Statehouse. One bill passed in result was S.190, which is aimed at lowering costs by specifically focusing on teachers and those buying healthcare coverage through the ACA marketplace.

During last year's session, much of lawmakers' focus was on hospitals and hospital budgets. But this year, they spent more time focusing on how to expand access to primary care and how that access could reduce costs in the healthcare system overall. They passed S.197, which aims to create payments for primary care providers throughout the state, so patients can get preventive care more readily.

CLIMATE CONCERNS, THE CONSTITUTION

Scott flexed his veto pen a handful of times over the course of the session, including on a bill aimed at reducing road salt contamination in state waters and another proposing a new regulatory framework for large data centers. The House tried on Friday to override Scott's veto of the data center bill, H.727, but fell short by just seven votes.

A veto threat was the reason at least some legislative leaders gave for why they did not pursue any policies that would help the state get on track to meet its carbon

emissions reduction goals this year.

The Senate voted to put the final nail in the coffin for the Clean Heat Standard, a much-hyped 2023 law aimed at reducing carbon emissions that come from heating and cooling buildings in Vermont. Lawmakers entered this year's session already in agreement that the policy was dead. But many Republicans, who cited concerns over the costs of the policy on the campaign trail in 2024, continued to push for a formal repeal this year.

Senators tacked the repeal language, which was largely symbolic but carries political significance, onto a bill that would direct the Agency of Natural Resources to collect data from fuel dealers about the types of fuel they sell and where they sell it. But the House did not take up that bill, H.740, before adjourning.

Another significant measure lawmakers approved this year still needs a final sign-off, but not from Scott.

Lawmakers approved a proposed amendment to the state's constitution, PR.4, which will now go before voters this fall. The proposal would add a clause to Vermont's founding document guaranteeing people equal protection under the law regardless of their race, gender, disability or other identity.

Paraquat

(Continued from Page 2A)

to the fact that it is less abrasive on the plant than a glyphosate, like Roundup, said Rep. Greg Burt, R-Cabot, who sat on the committee that originally weighed this bill. Glyphosate penetrates a young plant's bark, killing the plant alongside the weeds.

Burt runs his own orchard in Cabot and uses paraquat on his plants.

"If anybody's going to get Parkinson's, it's going to be me," he told VTDigger.

But, he argued, there's just not enough evidence that establishes the link between the pesticide and the illness to justify removing such an essential part of his operation. He ultimately opposed the bill when an amended version came back to the House floor from the Senate, though he voted for the version that his committee passed.

"It's always on my radar that I need to do this in a careful way. I want to be able to hang out with my kids when I'm old, but at the same time, if we're going to do this, (let's do it) in a manner that sets the right precedent, where we're not eliminating tools out of our toolbox unnecessarily."

The EPA has strict guidelines on how to use the chemical because it has such immediate toxicity to humans — separate from the potential long-term harms.

The state agency of agriculture regulates pesticide use along these federally prescribed guidelines. Four field inspectors work to monitor compliance for paraquat and other chemicals, so incorporating these additional regulations should not be a large lift for the agency, Dwinell said.

Farmers like Burt need a special license to buy paraquat and apply it on their land. Every three years, they need to take a special online training course.

When Burt applies the herbicide, he wears special protective equipment and keeps the spray close to the base; he doesn't spray when it's windy, for fear of the volatilized compounds killing the tree he's trying to protect, and to keep it from reaching neighbors.

Burt feels like the exemption does leave sufficient room for growers to adapt, although he said that whatever the alternative becomes, it is likely to be something more costly — like chip mulching or hand-weeding.

"It's just one more thing to make it more difficult to be profitable," he said.

Dwinell, with the agency of agriculture, said that between now and the exemption's

end in 2030, his department is going to work with the University of Vermont to try out different products and recommend alternatives to paraquat.

Burt worries about the relative advantage growers in upstate New York or elsewhere in the Northeast will now have over Vermont's growers. It would be better, he thinks, if there were a nationwide ban that could even the field.

"If you buy peanut butter, you're helping to continue to have paraquat," he said. "If you buy cotton, you're going to continue to promote the use of paraquats, so

Vermonters will still be (interacting with it) as long as it's on the market."

Cole, the lawmaker who sponsored the bill, thinks that the ban can give Vermont's growers a relative marketing advantage as certified paraquat-free growers.

She thinks the evidence linking use of the chemical to Parkinson's disease has been overwhelming. Though direct causation is challenging to show — since humans are exposed to a litany of environmental toxins and hazards, and it would be unethical to isolate a clear control group — a number of studies have shown strong association for exposure and the onset of the disease.

Beate Ritz, a professor of epidemiology at UCLA, recently spoke with the radio program Science Friday and explained that the chemical prompts a type of oxidative stress in

cells, which then impairs cells' ability to turn food into energy.

"You can compare (it) to rusting of a car, where molecules are rusting, or the membranes of cells are, basically, becoming rancid, like fat becomes rancid when it's out in oxygen for too long," Ritz told Science Friday, which is syndicated on National Public Radio.

When asked specifically about Vermont's pending law, Ritz said, "I think it's really time that somebody has the courage in the U.S. to do what you just said, which is ban paraquat. Paraquat should have been banned 25, 30 years ago."

"I think it's really time that somebody has the courage in the U.S. to do what you just said, which is ban paraquat. Paraquat should have been banned 25, 30 years ago."
— Beate Ritz, UCLA

Mowing

(Continued from Page 2A)

from spreading. Although this means temporarily sacrificing some nesting habitat, it will help maintain the entire field over the long term."

Landowners who face a loss of income from delaying mowing can apply for assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP program or The Bobolink Project.

You can learn more about conserving Vermont's grasslands on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's

website. You can also help grassland bird conservation in Vermont with a donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. Every dollar donated leverages up to three dollars of federal funds to help protect wildlife species at risk, including birds, bats, orchids, and bumblebees.

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Editorials

Is Vermont more or less affordable under Gov. Scott?

By one objective measure, Gov. Phil Scott's 10 years as governor has been a failure. That's particularly true if you gauge his five two-year terms on the one word that has defined his tenure — affordability.

The undeniable fact is that Vermont has become less affordable for most Vermonters since Scott's first term; that's doubly true for younger Vermonters trying to set roots here.

The facts are stark. Vermont's health care is the highest in the nation, yet Scott has avoided the issue each year in office. Education costs have soared over the past decade, while student outcomes have tanked. Housing costs has spiraled out of control and continue to climb higher. Energy costs have spiked, yet the Scott administration has resisted moves to make cheaper renewable energy more accessible to all.

To top it off, the governor hasn't had a coordinated economic development plan for the past decade. Rather, he has ruled by batting down ideas from the Legislature. His idea of offense is to make vague pledges to make Vermont affordable, then when he fails to deliver, blame it on the opposing party.

Democratic candidate for governor, Aly Richards, sees obvious shortcomings in the governor's approach.

"He diagnoses the problems correctly," she told the *Independent* this Tuesday, but puts "a vague idea or priority out and then almost enjoys watching the Legislature go in a million different directions on it... I don't understand who wins in that case."

"We all agree on the problems," Richards continues. "The question remains, 'What are we going to do about it? He offers no solutions. He's blames the Legislature. That's not delivering results. When you are blaming, you are not leading."

Richards, who is known as a "pragmatic, optimistic" leader "who gets things done" from her 10 years as CEO of Let's Grow Kids, would tackle the state's biggest issues differently.

"Leadership. Deadlines. Metrics. Priorities. We don't see that in the state of Vermont," she told the *Independent*.

It's a blueprint Richards followed for what became Act 76, Vermont's landmark childcare law of 2023. Act 76, through a small statewide payroll tax, leveraged money to significantly increase Vermonters' access to childcare services, while also helping centers create new slots and offer their workers better pay and professional development. The legislation not only lowered costs for Vermont families, but created a larger workforce.

As a comparison, she notes Gov. Scott never issued concrete plans for his proposal to consolidate Vermont's schools into five large districts. "He is leaving the Legislature to have to do the detail work, part-time and without staff. It's really a set-up. It's not fair, and the conversation is tearing our communities apart."

Richards' point helps define Scott's tenure. Rather than use the administration's full-time workforce to work out the details of proposals and set them in motion, he relies on the part-time Legislature to do the heavy lifting. It's a backwards approach to governing and one that continues to put Vermonters on a downward slide.

"It's like a five-alarm fire everywhere you look," Richards said, and posed this simple question for Vermonters to ask themselves: "Are you better off than you were 10 years ago?"

If not, where does the buck stop?

Gov. Scott blames others, but he's the guy with the full-time paycheck and the one person authorized to mobilize the state's workforce to tackle the big issues.

Here's another remarkable point. For 10 years, Richards said, the governor's office has not had a vision or a plan that actually led to a result. He did a fine job leading the state through the pandemic. He's likeable and personal, but putting policy into action is not something Scott does well — and it is something the state desperately needs.

Voters can expect that another two years under a Scott administration would produce the same result — inaction with Vermonters falling further and further behind.

To change the status quo, Vermont needs a new leader with deliberate, data-driven plans of action to achieve specific goals on a deadline. It's time Vermonters tune in to this important election and ask themselves which candidates have the skills necessary to move Vermont forward. It's not a popularity contest; it's choosing the candidate who will make needed changes.

Angelo Lynn

Crucial choices require committed voters

It's not often that local elections for House and Senate candidates present voters with such significant choices. This year is the exception. Four area House members from the county's delegation are stepping down, there's a competitive race for the Senate, and the county's embattled state's attorney is stepping down.

The details are provided in a front-page story in today's *Addison Independent*, but it's worth noting that incumbent Reps. Matt Birong, D-Vergennes, Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, and Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury have served multiple terms and were all chairs of influential committees.

In the county's Senate race, three Republicans are vying for two seats in the Aug. 11 primary. They are: incumbent Sen. Steve Heffernan of Bristol, Andrew Klein of New Haven and Andrea Treadway of Orwell. The two who prevail will take on Democrat incumbent Sen. Ruth Hardy of Middlebury, and Leicester Democrat Hannah Sessions.

There's also a Republican primary race for Sheriff; and a race for High Bailiff between incumbent Dave Silberman, D-Middlebury, and Cornwall Republican Steve Willson. Middlebury's Peter Bevere, a former Addison County deputy state's attorney and current deputy prosecutor in Rutland County is the lone candidate so far in the race for the county's state's attorney.

With Vermont facing tough challenges in the years ahead, it's imperative Addison County send its best and brightest to Montpelier, knowing that they too could lead committees that shape tomorrow's legislation. To that end, the citizens' duty is to learn about the candidates, get to know them personally by attending candidate forums and other events where the candidates listen to your concerns, and encourage friends and neighbors to do the same. The more we all know, the more likely it is the best candidates will prevail — and the state will be the better for it.

Angelo Lynn

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A little chat

KATHY ALEXANDER, WHO heads up the food service cooperative for the Bristol- and Vergennes-area schools, takes a moment during lunch at Robinson Elementary School on Tuesday to talk with Starksboro kindergartner Lincoln Monty.

Independent photo/Steve James

'Togetherness' takes many shapes

I'm a group person. Not the exclusive kind of cliques that offer an empty status, but rather those that welcome and encourage. I enjoy being a small part of something larger. I like groups where there's space to breathe, where one can be quietly present.

I recently participated in a performance with a group of women I've danced with weekly for six years. We're all over sixty. Over the course of a month of sessions, we conceived, choreographed and rehearsed several improvisational pieces that together formed a 30-minute presentation.

We dance the stories of our lives.

The unique aspect of this experience is that in all the years we've danced with each other, most of us have never met in person. We get together in cyberspace.

We've become a close-knit group. Through the experience of collaborative choreography structured by skilled facilitators, we've come to know a great deal about each other. One of us has heart issues. Another has a granddaughter struggling with a seizure disorder. One woman who was a professional dancer is now unable to walk. Still another danced through her treatment for lung cancer. There is one dancer none of us has ever seen or heard. We know her only through her texts and emojis. But she is fully present and embraced by all of us.

We laugh a great deal. We share silly and serious stories and express them through movement.

Participating in this group each week is deeply satisfying.

There are other groups I value.

Every Sunday morning, I attend a Bristol-based

meditation circle (in person). Spending regular time together in silence is healing. Though we welcome all ages, the current average is well into our 70s. We're a group of elders who, for the most part, no longer work, enjoying that luxurious portion of life where we're masters of our time, healthcare appointments notwithstanding.

We've been teachers and artists, herbalists and politicians, actors and directors, town planners and waitresses. But these identities have mostly fallen by the wayside. We're just ourselves, the sum of all our life experiences and connections. Our once public personas no longer define us.

Like most elders, we have our challenges. Among us we've experienced dementia, decreased mobility and life-altering illnesses. Some of our group have already crossed the great divide; others have lost their life partner. We're learning to make friends with death. Several of us recently read the book, *Walking Each Other Home* by Ram Dass and Mirabai Bush. The title has become a recurring theme of our group.

Universal human themes are also connected to another group I value.

Since the tragic events in Minneapolis, song circles are emerging across the country, several of them right here in Addison County. Leaders guide the group through simple uplifting songs that unite us during this time of so much injustice. We are all ages, all backgrounds. Intoning meaningful words and lovely melodies within a circle of voices is a healing balm.

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

Ways of Seeing

By Alice Leeds



What is America at 250 years?

With the boom boom of main street parades, flapping flags and the kaleidoscopic spray of fireworks bejeweling the night sky now on the near horizon, there is no better time to take a measure of exactly what and how we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from the British monarchy.

Few Americans, however politically affiliated, geographically located or financially fixed, would claim the Republic is experiencing a golden moment. Our seemingly unbridgeable political dividedness intensifies with each news cycle. Volatility and uncertainty define the national mood as our semiquincentennial (yes, look it up) approaches, a mood that dampens, if not extinguishes, the inclination to celebrate.

So how will we do it? What will it look like? Feel like? One much heralded opening salvo might give us a preview.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of June 14, preliminary matches between Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fighters will begin on the south lawn of the White House. The event, which will require the installation of an octagonal cage and a temporary stadium seating 4,300 spectators is intended to honor both President Trump on the occasion of his 80th birthday



Community Forum

This week's writer is Ripton resident Richard Hawley, a retired educator and active writer.

and, under the banner Freedom 250, our declaration of national independence. At 8 p.m., the premier matches will begin, featuring top-ranked and highest-paid UFC combatants.

That these all-in fights are more than a birthday treat for the President began to register when his attendance, along with a few cabinet members, at a high stakes UFC fight in Miami received considerable press coverage. Trump and companions were photographed cage-side that evening, April 11, as peace negotiations with Iran were collapsing in Pakistan.

Trump is far from alone in his enthusiasm for watching Ultimate Fighters fight. Since its founding in 1993, the UFC has emerged from a shadowy novelty in which fighters combined boxing, wrestling and various martial arts to knock out or otherwise reduce opponents to "submission," determined by an in-cage referee. Since 2000, with the establishment of clear rules, the UFC has grown dramatically worldwide. It is now estimated that in the United States UFC fighting is the third or fourth most watched professional sport, after the NFL, the NBA, and (maybe) Major League Baseball. At present the best estimates are that younger fans prefer ultimate fighting to baseball, while older viewers are sticking

(See *Hawley*, Page 8A)

Letters to the Editor

Scott has had enough time

Enough is enough! Ten years in office should be ample time for a governor of Vermont to serve. The news that Governor Scott plans to run for a 6th term leads me to believe that we should thank him for his service and elect someone new to the position. Perhaps it's time to vote for term limits as well!

This governor has had plenty of opportunities to lead Vermont through the many challenges that we face. This newspaper has chronicled those challenges, including climate change, the cost of health care, a lack of affordable housing, our biodiversity crisis and the need to realign our education system, just for starters. To date, Scott's leadership has been lacking, consisting mainly of scolding the Legislature instead of using his influence for positive change.

Two Vermonters, Amanda Janoo and Aly Richards, are running to replace Scott this year. I look forward to hearing their ideas and what they would bring to the role. I will not be voting to re-elect Governor Scott under any circumstances.

Fran Putnam
Weybridge

Bevere touted for state's attny

May this commend the skill and dedication of Attorney Peter Bevere, Deputy State's Attorney for Rutland County, in his prosecution of Harry Wagner for the death of Stanley Borucki. Mr. Borucki suffered horrible injuries and died on October 28, 2023, at Castleton Corner when Mr. Wagner drove his truck into the north-bound lane of Route 30 as Mr. Borucki was traveling on his motorcycle to attend a celebration of life as a member of the "Patriot Riders."

Attorney Bevere represented the State at Mr. Wagner's sentencing on May 15 as reported by Gordon Dritschilo in the *Rutland Herald* on May 16-17, 2026.

The family and friends of Mr. Borucki and fellow riders are grateful for the hard work of Attorney Bevere and his advocacy for the victims in this matter and for a just sentence for this criminal.

Attorney Bevere would serve well the people of Addison County as its State's Attorney.

Thomas Costello
Brattleboro

The Sheldon is a must-see

The Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury is a delightful destination!

I recently attended the season opening reception where six new exhibits were introduced. Executive Director Coco Moseley and her very talented and creative team have seriously revamped the entire museum. It is colorful, interesting, unique and shares historic stories from many unusual vantage points.

This museum is far from any image you might have of a museum being a collection of old relics in glass cases. The artistic and often unusual exhibits like the "Community Tempesty" draw you in with eye-catching displays and provide many talking points.

I encourage everyone to go enjoy this Middlebury gem. Well worth the visit. Great job, museum folks!

Marilyn Ganahl
Lincoln

Bank should dump Trump

Sometimes it feels like we are being sprayed daily by a fire hose of corruption, lies, incompetence, cruelty, rule-breaking, ignorance and delusion by President Trump and his administration. It is exhausting.

It is also important to keep speaking up and resisting, as millions of Americans are doing on a daily and weekly basis at

(See *Willis* letter, Page 5A)

Sen. Hardy reflects on legislation pushing education reform

The Legislature adjourned last week after passing major legislation to advance the transformation of our PK-12 education system. In January, the governor threatened to shutdown state government and keep the legislature in session all summer if we didn't pass legislation that forced school districts to merge into a small number of mega-districts. After weeks of negotiations, where I played a key role, we reached a compromise between the Governor, House and Senate leaders that creates a voluntary, locally-directed, but tightly scheduled, process for merging school districts.



Legislative Review

by Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison County

You might recall that last year, although I helped improve the initial education transformation legislation, Act 73, I wasn't able to support it in the end due to major concerns about content and process. This year, I strategically worked to prevent a similar outcome, communicating regularly with education leaders and colleagues in both houses of the legislature to advocate for a bill that would follow many of the recommendations of the School Redistricting Task Force and move forward with the tax and finance reforms in Act 73. I kept the Senate Democrats together and most Republicans followed when the Governor signed off on the deal I helped negotiate; only two senators and 10 representatives voted against the compromise. Below is an outline of the major provisions of the bill, H.955.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICE AREAS (CESAS)

The bill creates seven CESAs, including one already established in southeast Vermont, to provide regional services to school district, including special education, business, IT, professional development, and transportation, with the goal of creating economies of scale, lower costs, and more uniform quality for these shared services. The CESAs are formed around existing school district boundaries, with most of the schools in the Addison Senate District assigned to the Champlain Valley South CESA. CESAs are common in many other states, including most rural states, and provide significant cost-savings and more comprehensive services than a single school district can do on its own.

MERGER COMMITTEES & PROCESS

H.955 creates 21 merger committee groups to analyze and propose potential school district mergers. The committees, made up of school board members from local school districts, will be kept on track by facilitators hired by CESAs and are required to start their work this fall. The groups are organized around existing school district relationships, with the main Addison County school districts (ACSD, ANWSD, Mount Abraham and Lincoln) together; Huntington with MMUUSD and CVSD; and Granville-Hancock and Rochester with WRVSU. Districts can ask to join another merger group, but all districts must participate in these discussions in good faith, with local communities deciding how to make it all work.

The process for recommending mergers is largely based on existing law and will be familiar to local communities that merged under Act 46 about a decade ago. As part

of negotiations with the Governor, however, we agreed to a fairly aggressive timeline for the merger process — merger committees will form in October 2026; their merger recommendations are due September 2027; final State Board of Education approvals are by December 2027; local votes on merger proposals will be March 2028; and new school districts will become operational July 2029. Given the level of attention to this issue and the expertise in the field, I am optimistic that communities are ready to make this process work. Mergers are not required, but the financial and programmatic realities in small school districts with declining enrollment mean that merging with neighbors is likely the right choice for many school districts in Vermont.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Act 73 reestablished, but didn't fund, a state school construction program that's been dormant since the 2008 financial crisis. H.955 provides staffing and further details for the program, which will not start until new school districts come online in 2029. Importantly, H.955 also identifies funding sources for school constructions needs, which is desperately needed for Vermont's crumbling school buildings. State aid for new and legacy construction debt will be tied to whether districts merge, plan to expand student offerings, and are addressing building health and safety needs. Local funding for school construction will be allowed on top of the regular foundation formula amount and will generally require voter approval. Vermont's school buildings are the second oldest in the nation, with major structural, programmatic and health concerns; some larger districts will also need to accommodate more students in existing buildings, so facility renovations and new school construction are desperately needed for education reform to work.

FOUNDATION FUNDING FORMULA

Act 73 created a new foundation formula to fund schools that will go into effect, replacing our current tax capacity funding formula, in July 2029 after school district mergers. Act 73 commissioned a professional study to provide further data to ensure an analytically sound funding formula to include funding for special education, pre-kindergarten, career and technical education, secondary education, and geographic cost differences.

This report will be completed in December 2026, so H.955 includes contingencies requiring the Legislature to enact updates to the foundation formula to account for this new information before it goes into effect.

We want to be sure that Vermont's funding formula provides the amount of funding necessary to provide an excellent education to all Vermont students, while also ensuring a predictable, stable budget for schools and tax rate for Vermonters.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

H.955 ensures that CTE is integrated into CESA services,

merger committee discussions, the foundation formula, regional high schools and new school districts, and school construction plans. It's clear that CTE cannot take a backseat as we transform our education system, so H.955 reiterates the importance of CTE.

EDUCATION TAX REFORM

H.955 advances the tax changes enacted in Act 73, better defining property classifications to accurately create a "second home tax." This tax, which won't go into effect until new school districts are established in 2029, will help moderate property taxes for average Vermonters. The bill also advances the formation of regional assessment districts meant to maintain a more uniform property appraisal system in Vermont. These tax changes, plus a new income sensitive property tax exemption, go hand-in-hand with the new school districts and funding formula, and should result in more stable and predictable tax rates.

As my friend and colleague House Education Chair Peter Conlon, said, "We've given school districts across Vermont a huge homework assignment." School leaders and community members must now take on the

"We've given school districts across Vermont a huge homework assignment."

— House Education Chair Peter Conlon

task of analyzing and planning for school district mergers. While mergers are not required, many will be necessary for schools to be financially viable moving forward. There will be people who push back on mergers and education reform to protect the structure and options they currently have, but it's crucial that everyone come to the table with an open mind and the willingness to make tough decisions to strengthen our public education system for all communities. Declining enrollment, crumbling infrastructure, and increasing student needs and educational costs demand action.

If policy makers in Montpelier can come together across party lines, branches of government, and differing priorities, local leaders can do the same. I know our communities are up for the task. H.955 moves education reform forward by respecting local democratic decision-making, addressing real education cost drivers, and ensuring equitable tax changes are implemented. I am proud of the role I played in crafting this major legislation and I stand ready to help.

Letters to the Editor

Janoo can help fix state's health care challenges

Everyone in Vermont has a legal right to health care, not just a moral one. That legal right was enacted into Vermont law in 2011 in Act 48. That law says that the State of Vermont "must ensure universal access to and coverage for high-quality, medically necessary health services for all Vermonters." (18 V.S.A. § 9371). But Vermont has not kept

that promise. Vermont does not provide health care for all. Over 187,000 Vermonters can't afford primary care because their annual deductible is \$4,000 or greater. So, they don't see a doctor when they need to. And they suffer serious illnesses needlessly. Some die. This isn't just a moral failure. It's a breach of a legal duty. And it is what economists call "failure

demand" — spending big money downstream to fix harms we could have prevented with small money upstream. Every emergency room visit that replaces a primary care appointment. Every costly illness that a timely checkup would have caught. Thousands of Vermonters suffer from diabetes, hypertension, depression or heart disease (See Palmer letter, Page 8A)

Willis letter

(Continued from Page 4A) demonstrations and honk and waves, by speaking and writing to legislators, registering people to vote, providing mutual aid to those marginalized or in need and more. If we hope to hold on to our democracy, to elect leaders who believe in and honor the Constitution and the rule of law, and find our way back to a civic life and conversation which is respectful, inclusive and reality-based, we cannot remain silent or inactive.

This Saturday is an opportunity for action for those concerned about human rights and the rule of law. From 9:30 – 11 a.m. we can join thousands of people across the country to send a strong message to

Citizens Bank that financing private prison and immigration detention facility operators (The GEO Group and CoreCivic) is bad for business. The two largest prison companies in the country are earning record profits operating dozens of ICE detention facilities. Most major banks have cut ties with them, but Citizens Bank is bankrolling these efforts and deepening their support. These detention centers already hold 70,000 immigrants and the goal is to detain 100,000 by next year. Most of these detainees are not criminals nor do they have records. Many are here legally or are in the process of obtaining legal status. They work, pay taxes and contribute to our communities. Citizens Bank talks about a

commitment to "strengthening our communities." Financing detention centers which are often understaffed and provide little medical care does not strengthen our communities! All are welcome to join us as we send a message to the corporate leadership of Citizens Bank: cages aren't communities! Saturday, June 6, 9:30 – 11 a.m. at the corner of Rte. 7 and Middle Road North. Please do not park in the bank parking lot. This event is sponsored by Indivisible Middlebury and, as with all Indivisible events, it is a peaceful, non-violent event. See you there!

Heidi Willis Salisbury



50 Years in Porter's Emergency Department

Porter Medical Center extends its heartfelt gratitude to Barbara Wagner, RN for 52 years of dedicated service to our community.

Across five decades, Barb became far more than an emergency nurse. She became a mentor, educator and trusted guide for generations of patients, families and caregivers throughout Addison County.

A community celebration in Barb's honor is planned for later this month.

THANK YOU, BARB!



Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) Singing can also be a form of resistance.

Songs have long been an important aspect of peaceful public protest. When we gather to support a cause and speak out against injustice, singing brings us together as a form of solidarity that has gone on for generations around the world. Raising our voices together with hundreds of others, we become part of a unified cause.

These songs stay with me, and I find myself sliding into them as I carry out chores or walk around Bristol. One spinning in my head this week was sung at the May 8 rally in Saint Albans to honor and support families targeted by ICE. "Our hope is greater than

our fear...We see the path before us, and we are not afraid..." Song circles provide support to continue actively participating in our democracy.

Singing, dancing and holding silence together are more than gratifying. There's great power in gathering together. As poet activist June Jordan said in the 1970s and Barack Obama repeated more recently, "We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change we seek."

Alice Leeds, of Bristol, taught in a variety of private and public schools and colleges for forty years. Presently retired, she tries to engage in some useful endeavor each day. She enjoys hearing from readers at aleeds@gmavt.net.

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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Captain John W. Weber III, 64, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — John Weber's passion for aviation began early and never left him. A sixth-grade book report on becoming a pilot marked the start of a lifelong dedication to flying. Known for his calm demeanor, sharp instincts, and deep understanding of aircraft and weather, Captain Weber built a remarkable aviation career spanning decades. Over the course of more than 38,000 flight hours, he safely guided countless passengers through the skies with skill, steadiness, and professionalism.

John began his career as a flight instructor in Lincoln Park, N.J., before spending 12 years flying for regional airlines including East Hampton Air and Business Express, which brought him to Vermont. He later flew one of TWA's final routes before continuing with Northwest Airlines and ultimately Delta Air Lines, where he spent the final 28 years of his career.

Above all else, John was devoted to his family. He shared 36 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Holly, and together they raised their daughters, Emily and Sydney, in a home filled with warmth, generosity, and constant activity. John loved sharing the things that brought him joy, especially boating, rowing, cars, and traveling with his daughters. Their home became a gathering place for Halloween hayrides, birthday parties, potluck dinners, and lifelong friendships.

For the past eight years, John lived with terminal prostate cancer. During periods when treatment



CAPTAIN JOHN W. WEBER III

grounded him from flying, he found renewed purpose through the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, where he poured his energy into serving others and eventually became president of the board. He also served with the Shelburne Fire Department beginning in 1993 and became a lifetime member.

Whether in the air or on the ground, John was someone people trusted in difficult moments. John also quietly gave his time wherever it was needed. Through the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, he hauled pilot gigs through difficult winter conditions so local rowing teams could travel to compete in Boston. Before sunrise on snowy mornings, neighbors could count on seeing him out on his tractor clearing roads and driveways so others could start their day safely. John was disappointed to miss his

ceremonial final landing into JFK, which would have marked the close of his aviation career. His family takes comfort in imagining him on one final approach, cleared for a visual landing onto Runway 13 Left, welcomed home by the fire trucks he loved and the skies that defined so much of his life.

John will be remembered for his humility, kindness, steady presence, and unwavering dedication to others. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched through every safe landing, every emergency answered, every neighbor helped, and every moment shared with those he loved.

Captain John W. Weber III passed away at home on Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, surrounded by his family and an immense amount of love. The significance of the day felt fitting for a man who dedicated so much of his life to serving others. He is survived by his wife, Holly; his daughters, Emily and Sydney; Emily's fiancé, Sam Catalano; Sydney's partner, Hunter Baker; and his vast circle of friends in the emergency response community and beyond.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, an organization that became deeply meaningful to John throughout the later years of his life.

A celebration of life will be held June 5 at the Old Lantern, 3260 Greenbush Rd, Charlotte, Vt. from 3-6 p.m.

David Bumbeck, 85, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Father, husband and artist David Bumbeck passed away peacefully at home among family May 6, 2026, in Middlebury, Vt. He was 85 years old.

David was born in 1940 to parents Michael and Elizabeth in Framingham, Mass. As a young man David took interest in drawing, painting and philosophy, graduating from Framingham High in 1958.

He followed his passion for the visual arts to the Rhode Island School of Design, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1962. In 1963 he married Connie, his loving wife of 63 years. He graduated from Syracuse University with a Masters' of Fine Arts and had his first one-man gallery exhibition in 1966. He taught printmaking, painting and drawing at the Massachusetts College of Art for the following two years.

In 1968 David accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Art at Middlebury College. Along with teaching studio art he directed the Christian A. Johnson Gallery and was influential in the establishment of the Friends of the Art Museum organization. He became a Professor of Art in 1973. After 34 years of guiding hundreds of students and over 20 one-man exhibitions, he retired as



DAVID BUMBECK

Professor Emeritus in 2002.

In retirement David found joy in the studio, immersing himself in a series of paintings, sculptures and collages that explored vibrant color and incorporated found objects, marking a departure from his earlier black and white printmaking works. He built on his extensive library of art books and catalog of classical music, and continued his lifelong zeal and dedication to his art until the end.

David will be remembered as a loving father, devoted husband, influential educator and prolific artist who inspired creativity and greatness in his children, students, colleagues and friends. He

cherished spending time with his grandchildren and loved traveling with Connie to visit friends and enjoy the ocean on the New England coast, stopping at antique stores, galleries, museums and flea markets along the way.

David was preceded in death by his mother, father and brother Jack. He is survived by his wife, Connie; children, Michael, Natasha and her partner Johnny, Stefan and his wife Sue; and grandchildren Max and Charlotte.

His artwork is part of numerous public and private collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and Boston Public Libraries, the Smithsonian, Carnegie Museum of Art and the Library of Congress. The National Academy of Design nominated and named him a National Academician and he served as a show juror and member of the Boston Printmakers International Association of Artists.

At his behest, a funeral will not be held. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Aug. 22, from 1-3 p.m., at the Johnson Memorial Building in Middlebury, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in his name to Addison County Home Health and Hospice in New Haven, Vt., or directly to the charity of your choice.

Joseph Arvo Ekroos, 70, Middlebury native

BENNINGTON — Joseph "Joey" Ekroos, age 70, died Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at the Bennington Veterans' Home. Joe was born in Middlebury, Vt., Jan. 29, 1956, to Toivo and Jessie (McMurtry) Ekroos.

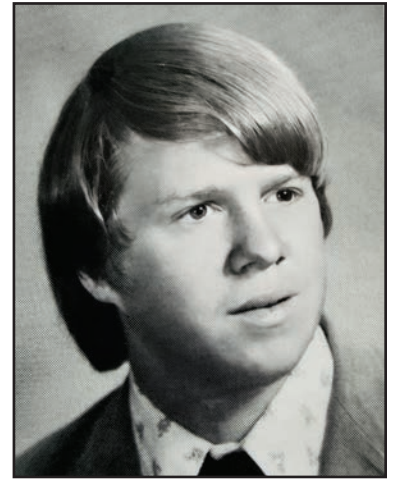
Joe attended Middlebury Union High School, where he played on the varsity basketball and football teams. After graduating high school in 1974, Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he was deployed to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. After serving his country honorably for 21 years, Joe retired and moved back to Addison County, Vt. Joe

became a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Action Team.

Years later Joe also became a school bus driver for Betcha Transit and served as coach for the Mount Abraham High School football team.

Joe is predeceased by his parents, Jessie and Ted, and his four brothers, Ted, Ralph, Bill and Raymond. He leaves behind his wife; his only sister, Helen; his daughter, Erica; three granddaughters; and many nieces and nephews.

A service was held at Saratoga Memorial cemetery in Schuylerville, N.Y.



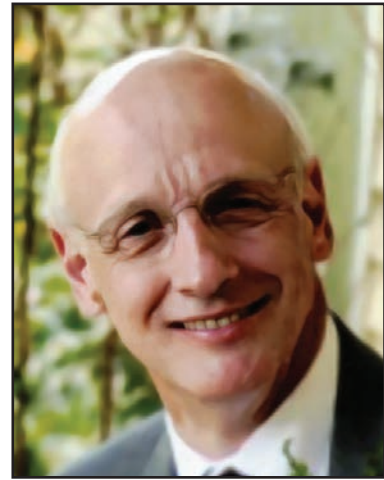
JOSEPH ARVO EKROOS

Daniel Wallace Bachand, 68, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Daniel Wallace Bachand, known as Danny, passed away peacefully at McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vt., surrounded by loving family and friends after a courageous battle with Glioblastoma. Danny embraced this battle with a beautiful smile, great sense of humor, courage, grace and faith.

Danny was born April 22, 1958, to the late Wallace and Marie Bachand. Danny grew up on the family farm in Swanton. He may have left the family farm on the Bachand road in Swanton in 1979, but the skills he learned from his father and time on the farm remained with him. He was a very meticulous landscaper, who enjoyed working outdoors. He also was a detailed carpenter who could use tools to fix anything. Danny was known for his hard work, integrity, loyalty, kindness and generosity. He had a deep love for his family.

Danny attended St. Anne Elementary Catholic School in Swanton, Vt., graduated from Missisquoi Valley Union High school in 1976, Vermont Technical College in 1979 and Trinity College in 1995. He began his career at Simmonds Precision Products in Vergennes. In 1980, he joined Digital Equipment, as a field service engineer. This job led him to Sunnyvale, Calif., for four years and Buffalo, N.Y., for two years before returning back to Burlington, Vt. Upon the



DANIEL WALLACE BACHAND

closing of Digital Equipment in 1998, Danny embraced the career roller coaster of a subcontractor, working for Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics, assigned to many locations by each. Danny was hired by Collins Aerospace/Raytheon as an electronic technician, where he retired in May 2025.

On Oct. 9, 1982, he was married to Sue Bachand (née Vaudrin). They lived in Mountain View, Calif., from 1982-1986, and Buffalo, N.Y., from 1986-1988, when they returned to Vermont and settled in to raise their family in Georgia, Vt. They moved to Vergennes, Vt., and settled into their current home in 2017.

Danny is survived by his wife, Sue of 43 years; his children, Jessica (Bachand) and Maxwell

Post of Lyndeborough, N.H., and Sean Bachand of Maiden, N.C.; two sisters, Nancy (Bachand) and Jim Ballard of Parish, Fla., and Lisa Bachand and her significant other, Rosaire (Chaz) Larose of Winoski; and nephew Scott Ballard of South Burlington, Vt. Danny was predeceased by his parents, Wallace and Marie Bachand; in-laws, Daniel and Rosemary Miner; and nephew Steven Ballard.

Danny's family would like to express its tremendous gratitude to the wonderful Oncology Team at Dartmouth Hitchcock, the UVM Infusions Team, Livingston Landscaping, the staff at the McClure Miller Respite House, the staff at Addison County Home Health & Hospice, friends and neighbors for their support during this journey.

Friends and family are invited to Dan's life celebration, including visitation Tuesday, June 9, from 5-8 p.m., at the Goss Life Celebration Home, 89 Grand Ave., Swanton, Vt., 05488. A Mass of Christian burial will be held Wednesday, June 10, at 1 p.m., at the Church of the Nativity, 65 Canada St., Swanton, Vt., 05488. Interment will take place June 11, at 3 p.m., at St. Mary's Cemetery, 65 Canada Street, Swanton.

For those who wish, donations can be made in Daniel's memory to McClure Miller Respite House, 1110 Prim Road Colchester, Vt., 05446, or give online at uvmhomehealth.org/give; Addison County Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, Vt., 05753, or online at achhh.org; or Camp Ta-Kum-Ta online at takumta.org/donate.

Condolences, photos and favorite memories may be shared through www.gossfs.com



KRISTIN ANN BARROWS

Kristin Ann Barrows graveside service

VERGENNES — A graveside burial service for Kristin Ann Barrows who passed on March 26, 2025, will be held June 18, 2026, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter's Cemetery in Vergennes, Vt., on what would have been her 50th birthday. If you're so inclined, please wear red as it was her favorite color.



ROBERT "BOB" GRANT

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.



GERALDINE CASS EASTLER

Geraldine Cass Eastler, 92, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Geraldine Cass Eastler, age 92, died, completely at peace and held closely by family, Friday, May 15, at home in Weybridge, Vt. Gerry moved to Vermont in February, after living in the seacoast area of New Hampshire for over 42 years. She enjoyed a 30-year career as a licensed counselor who loved her work and her clients.

Gerry is survived by Jon, Melissa, Clark, and Will, and their children and grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Leslie. There will be a private graveside service at a later date. For the full obituary, go to obits.csnh.com/geraldine-eastler.

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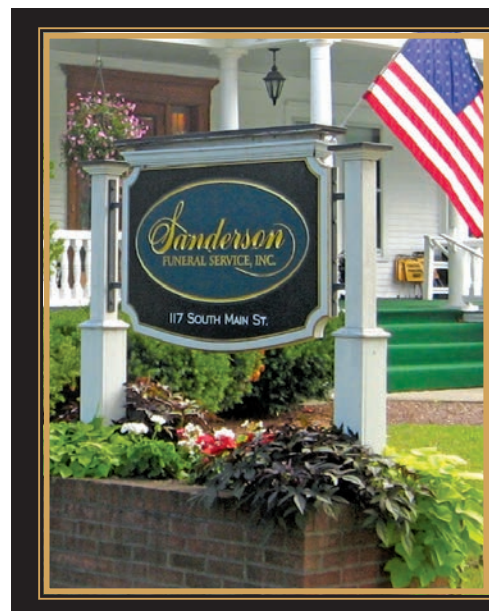
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Michael John Pratt, 55, MUHS graduate

COLCHESTER — Michael John Pratt passed away at his home in Colchester, Vt., that he shared with long-time girlfriend Suzanne LaDuc. He was born in Burlington Vermont and attended Middlebury Union High School. He then began his security adventures starting with Middlebury College.

He was predeceased by his father, Gerald R. Pratt; grandparents Lucien and Thea Desabrais; and his aunt Lisa Desabrais.

He is survived by his mother, Marion Desabrais; sisters April Desabrais, Jessica Hayes, Tanager Polowchak, Corinne Doherty and Danielle Kennedy-LaReau; brother Andrew Pratt; his aunts Lucie Noble and Rebecca Desabrais; nieces and nephews Jenna Bergeron, Julia Fitzgerald, Alexander Dragon and Sophia Fleming; and grandnieces and grandnephews Landyn Bruce, Westyn, Holdyn and Kalvyn Bergeron, Annabelle and Myles Fitzgerald, and Kinley and Owen Fleming.

Michael will be remembered for his large dedication to his family. He was a very loving and caring man who was an artist



MICHAEL JOHN PRATT

at heart — shown through his poetry and painting. Michael was known for the many books he read and lots of knowledge about history. He was a man of many jokes and a large amount of humor.

Michael will be deeply missed and held near and dear to our hearts.

A private burial will be held with immediate family members.

A celebration of life will be held at the VFW in Middlebury, Vt., Thursday June 25, from 3-7 p.m. ♦



JACQUELYN "JACKIE" DUFFANY SCHMIDT

Jacquelyn Duffany Schmidt memorial service

WEST ADDISON — There will be a memorial service for Jacquelyn "Jackie" Duffany Schmidt, who died Oct. 1, 2025, at Lake View Cemetery in West Addison Sunday, July 5, at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, we will gather for a luncheon at the Schmidt Camp at 223 Wolfe Road, West Addison. If you were a friend, neighbor or classmate of Jackie's and would like to attend, please RSVP to Gretchen Conkey at 904-403-1361 or gsconkey1@gmail.com, no later than July 1. ♦

Letters to the Editor

Naomi Smith leaves a lasting mark on our county

There are people whose impact on a community can never fully be measured. Naomi Smith was one of those people.

For decades, Naomi dedicated her life to supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Vermont. Through her leadership at WomenSafe, now Atria Collective, where she served as Executive Director for 15 years from 1999 to 2014, she cultivated a culture of advocacy rooted in dignity, empathy and respect. During her tenure, Naomi championed and embodied ecofeminism in both her leadership and everyday practice, ensuring survivor voices and experiences remained at the center of the work.

Though many in our community knew Naomi through her advocacy work, her first career was as an accountant. After raising her children, she returned to school to earn her Master of Social Work degree and began her social work career at what is now STEPS, then known as Women Helping Battered Women, where

she ran the shelter program. That commitment to service and justice would go on to shape the rest of her life's work.

Naomi believed every person deserved to be heard, supported and treated with humanity. She brought that belief into every part of her work, mentoring advocates, strengthening partnerships, supporting survivors and helping improve systems across Vermont while ensuring that vulnerable voices, especially those too often overlooked or silenced, were listened to and valued. Her leadership was thoughtful, sincere, and deeply compassionate. She also worked to ensure that survivor needs were represented in broader economic and social service policies throughout the state.

Naomi understood that advocacy is ultimately about community. She cared deeply about Addison County and the people who call it home. She showed up for others, not for recognition, but through a lifelong commitment to working in service

of others.

In recognition of her extraordinary impact, Naomi received both the Vanguard Award in 2015 for her contributions to ending domestic and sexual violence in Vermont and the Middlebury Rotary's Buster Brush Community Service Award in 2018. While no award could fully capture the depth of her impact, her legacy continues through the countless people, organizations, and communities she influenced over the years.

At Atria Collective, we continue to see Naomi's impact reflected in this work every day. As our community reflects on her life, we celebrate a legacy defined by generosity, mentorship, intentionality and an unwavering commitment to others. Her work mattered. Her life mattered. And her impact on this community will continue for generations to come.

Jena Santa Maria
On behalf of the Atria
Collective Staff & Board of
Directors
Addison County

Letters to the Editor

RNESU leadership issues can't be ignored

I am writing in regard to the issues that RNESU staff are having with the superintendent and the central office. The number of questions I have would be more space than would be allowed in a letter to the editor. That said, I must wonder why the refusal to set up a sick bank was denied in the current contract. By the sound of the article, family leave and other issues were ignored. I can fully understand the frustration of teachers and staff.

First, regarding the requested extra sick days, how pathetic is it that that issue was not dealt with quickly? A twenty plus year teacher ignored at a very difficult time in their life. This tells me something about Mr. Sanchez. And what it tells me is not very good at all.

Mr. Sanchez states that systems are now in place that didn't exist before. First, if you implement a new system with the same people who are currently running the system, why should anyone believe that same results won't occur?

With regards to not being able to address a specific issue because it is a personnel issue, why not tell the public what the normal process is or how it should have been followed? Because it is easier to not answer questions. Or maybe because it might make

Mr. Sanchez look worse than he currently does. And if central office staff don't do their jobs properly what is being done about that?

Mr. Sanchez stated that there are times when information must come from a third party. Fine, I have no issue with this. Apart from that Mr. Sanchez should communicate better with staff. However, if staff can't get hold of the central office, they would have no way knowing what is going on. A simple email to staff giving them an update saying they are awaiting more information would go a long way and might allow staff to help get third party information that is needed.

In the Neshobe Current, on this same issue of teacher frustration, it talks about a student's letter to Mr. Sanchez. What a way to make a person disillusioned and feel unheard and not important. Good way to ruin a student's self-esteem and future involvement in affairs such as voting, for example. But I saw a picture of Mr. Sanchez in a classroom. Maybe because it was good publicity for him, he did this.

In the end Mr. Sanchez is ultimately responsible for what does and doesn't get done. The buck stops at his desk. He can try to make excuses, but he is the superintendent. That is why he

makes the big dollars he makes.

Teacher morale must be at an all-time low. Issues like professional development, family and medical leave are being played around with. How horrible. The education field is coming under enough problems because of low test scores and not enough people wanting to fill these positions along with bus drivers and other positions.

According to Neshobe Current, the school board chair stated that public comments are received without an immediate response. Sometimes this needs to be changed. Had I been on the board, I would have made a motion that this matter be investigated by the appropriate committee or form one to do so to include teachers and have an answer for the next board meeting. Of course, like Mr. Sanchez not wanting to answer questions, I can understand the board not wanting to either. But, like how Mr. Sanchez is responsible for certain areas, the school board is responsible for Mr. Sanchez.

Another topic that was brought up at this meeting was the board needing to rebuild trust. Good luck with that given everything that has happened here.

Brian Fillioe
Proctor

Jam out at the Strawberry Festival on June 17

SHOREHAM — The Shoreham Strawberry Festival returns again for its final season. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 17 from 6 – 8 p.m. (or until the berries run out) at the gazebo on the Shoreham Town Green. As it has for decades, the Shoreham Congregational Church is proud to offer its famous strawberry shortcake with fresh Vermont strawberries, biscuits, and real whipped cream. The regular generous portion of shortcake made with one biscuit costs \$7, while a smaller portion made with half a biscuit costs \$4. Bottled water will be available for an extra \$1.

Buy your tickets near the side door of the church, proceed through the kitchen to get your shortcake, and exit through the back door to enjoy it by the Gazebo. Bring your lawn chairs or picnic blankets for seating on the lawn to socialize and listen to the music provided by Nick Thornblade and his accordion. Please be generous with your free will offering in the basket for the musician.

Join us for a great evening of good music and good food. Since the church will close in December, this is the last Strawberry Festival that the church will sponsor, so you need to take advantage of this opportunity!



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Lincoln

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NEWS

LINCOLN — As the Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School Class of 2026 prepares for Commencement Exercises on Saturday, June 6, I will be sitting in the audience with a very full heart—and a few tears—watching my own son and his classmates receive their diplomas. It truly feels like just yesterday we were dropping them off for their very first days of school.

For many of these kids, this journey started more than a decade ago as toddlers at the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool. I can still picture them playing, making their very first friends and building the tight-knit bonds that would carry them right across the road to the Lincoln Community School.

Congratulations to all of the graduates on this achievement. You have worked so hard to get here and we are incredibly proud of the individuals you are today.

At LCS, they discovered the wider world through studying different cultures and cultivated a deep sense of respect for themselves, each other, and their surroundings. They also found their voices early on, bravely standing up before parents, community members and their school mates at Friday

assemblies to practice public speaking and share the creative ways they were using their minds well.

Then, just as they were looking forward to sixth grade promotion, the pandemic turned the world upside down. Instead of the traditional graduation ceremony, we rallied as a town to give them a historic, socially distanced elementary send-off. Even back then, during a time of so much uncertainty, these kids showed us the resilience and adaptability that would come to define their years at Mt. Abe.

Now, six years after that sixth-grade milestone, those same kids have navigated middle school, high school and everything in between. We have watched them grow from energetic elementary schoolers into remarkable leaders, dedicated athletes, gifted artists, brilliant scholars and above all, genuinely kind young adults. They have spent their high school years pushing boundaries, supporting one another and giving back to the community. Their hard work, passion and determination have brought them to this well-deserved finish line, and they have so much to be proud of.

Congratulations to all of the graduates on this achievement. You have worked so hard to get here and we are incredibly proud of the individuals you are today. As you step onto that stage Saturday, know that we are cheering you on, confident and excited for the bright futures you are about to build.

Until next time...The Future Belongs To Those Who Believe In The Beauty Of Their Dreams - Eleanor Roosevelt.

Share Your Craft Stash event on June 13

MONKTON — If you have items that you would like to contribute to Monkton Friends Methodist Church's Share Your Craft Stash Event on Saturday, June 13, there is still time. Contact Priscilla Pierce at 802-453-2870 about arranging to drop off your donation. Any supplies pertaining to quilting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, embroidery or any other craft items you may no longer use will be greatly appreciated. It's a good time to clean out your craft room or closets to contribute to this great idea of passing on items you no longer need. This includes odor free fabric, yarns, thread, embroidery flosses, quilting mats and the like. Even working sewing machines, sergers, paint supplies, canvases, jewelry making items and anything else related to a craft.

Check with the library for many

Monkton

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

NEWS

weekly and monthly events. The library is open from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Call 802-453-4471 during open hours or leave your information and question if you call on off hours and someone will get back to you.

Many events continue in the Town Hall Community room including weekend morning yoga with Laurel Kelly which benefits the library. Contact her at laurelkelly@yahoo.com. Also, an evening yoga class with Eugenie

Doyle on Sundays is a weekly event. Contact Eugenie at edoyle@gmavt.net for more information.

Beginning Thursday, June 11, the Russell Memorial Library will take book donations for the upcoming Annual Strawberry Festival and Book Sale. Your book donations are greatly appreciated to keep this wonderful event going from year to year! Bring in up to two small boxes of books for your donation until June 23. Remember that they cannot accept any religious books, encyclopedias or dictionaries, no damaged or musty books will not be accepted. Also, it takes a lot of hands to sort books and to pick strawberries for this event. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, call the library at 802-453-4471. The festival will be held on Sunday, June 28. Watch for more details as the time nears.

Hawley

(Continued from Page 4A)
with the once national pastime.

While the UFC now maintains an estimated 30 million fan base, the great majority of Americans have never seen a UFC fight. To understand what UFC fighting on the White House lawn might indicate about our present national condition requires a clear picture of what actually transpires in the course of an Ultimate Fight.

What actually happens in the cage?

The fights proceed over a series of five-minute rounds with a minute-long break between them. The number of rounds ranges from three to five, depending on the tier of competition and the prominence of the match. Fighters at their respective weight levels are barefoot. They wear unpadded leather fingerless gloves to protect bones in their hands from breaking, while allowing enough finger dexterity to enable grabbing and grappling. Punching, kicking, kneeing and elbowing are allowed. Eye-gouging, groin-grabbing, and blows to the back

of the head are not.

Because the gloves are not padded, punches strike with the impact of a bare fist. High kicks to the face and head can land with even greater force. Severe injuries are common to the point of being expected. Injuries borne by UFC fighters include compound fractures of arms and legs, shattered knees and shoulders, facial trauma, including broken orbital bones around the eye, broken jaws and severe facial lacerations. Some bleeding is endured and viewed in most fights, with heavy bleeding in an estimated 5% to 10% of them.

The UFC reports no fight-related deaths to date, though in non-UFC levels of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighting, a number of fighters have died in the cage.

The physical risks of ultimate fighting combined with its rising popularity have made leading fighters wealthy. Fighters in title and other prominent matches earn millions per bout. Alex Pereira, a contender in one of the two featured matches at the White House, has recently signed an eight-match

contract in which he will earn 10 million per match.

So in a number of ways, the UFC birthday party and kick-off of the nation's celebration of 250 years of political independence will showcase big money. Cage-side VIP packages are on offer for a million and a half dollars to event partners who want to help Trump celebrate his birthday.

But back to what happens in the cage. I am a person of fairly broad and varied acquaintance. I don't know if any of them could watch a minute of ultimate fighting and not turn away in revulsion. I am clearly out of touch with at least 30 million of my fellow citizens. I am not sure if I am a reliable guide to this rising sport.

So I strongly recommend seeing for yourself. Take a few minutes to watch a UFC match on YouTube. Maybe watch a "highlights reel." More important, perhaps, is to watch the men and women cheering in the crowd.

What do they tell us about what we have become, or are becoming, at 250?

Palmer letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
because they could not afford a doctor who could have detected and prevented those chronic conditions.

Per capita, Vermont has the most expensive health care in the world. According to Blue Cross Blue Shield Vermont, average Vermonters spend 19.6% of their income on health care — almost two and a half times the national average of 7.9%. No wonder young people are leaving Vermont. No wonder businesses aren't paying higher wages. No wonder our school budgets are exploding and property taxes are growing by double digits.

More than anyone else, Governor Scott is responsible for Vermont's dereliction of its

legal duty to provide the health care it promised in Act 48. In the nine and a half years he's been in office, Governor Scott has not proposed implementing legislation. He has not called for a financing study. He has not explored a phased-in process starting with universal primary care. Governor Scott has done nothing to effectuate the law that grants all of us a legal right to health care.

Governor Scott has no plan for health care in Vermont. Under Governor Scott, our legal right to health care has languished, while more and more Vermonters get sick or die needlessly. Governor Scott has failed us. Health care is his to lead on, and he has done nothing.

As Governor, Amanda Janoo will lead the effort to implement our legal right to health care in Vermont. Not only has she made this promise; but she also has the experience and expertise to get it done.

Amanda was born, raised and educated in Stafford, Vermont — a town small enough that decisions about it are still made by neighbors in a room together. She earned a master's degree in development studies from Cambridge University, where she studied directly under the renowned Ha-Joon Chang, whose work documents how every wealthy country built its prosperity through deliberate economic policy choices. She was a Fulbright researcher in India. She then spent nearly a decade as an industrial policy and economic systems expert for the United

Nations Industrial Development Organization, the German Development Agency, and the African Development Bank, helping to design economies that serve the people who live in them. She has done this work across Africa, Asia, India, Europe and the United States.

It's not that she has all the answers. Rather, she knows how to ask questions and listen. She knows how to bring together ministers, business owners, farmers, workers, civil-society leaders and legislators and put their collective wisdom to work on the problem.

The countries that have successfully built wellbeing economies — Iceland, New Zealand, Finland, Scotland, Wales — are small nations. Vermont's size is a strength. It enables us to grow productive relationships among leaders from all sectors and develop innovative ways of solving problems.

Some say Vermont is too small to afford universal health care. Iceland has 400,000 people. Malta, 574,000. Montenegro, 626,000. All have state-funded universal health care. Don't tell me we're too small. We have enough money. We just need to marshal the will.

If we nominate and then elect Amanda Janoo to be our next governor, Vermont will turn the corner. We will be on the path to the universal health care to which we already have a legal right — and to the Vermont we know we can be.

Mike Palmer
Cornwall

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Graffiti

(Continued from Page 1A)

outdoor installations went up in and around the Route 7 museum, which was once a part of the Underground Railroad and home to the Robinsons, a Quaker family who were also abolitionists.

"The way I'm staying sane in my life is I try to take the concerns I have and make art about them, recognizing that if I care about it or if I think it's a good idea, other people might as well," Drake said of what inspired the exhibit's theme.

"Right now, I feel like we're in a position where we got to take care of each other, and so it's a call to do that," Drake said of what inspired the exhibit's theme.

The Robinsons' core beliefs weren't lost on him, either. Drake's "Help Each Other" theme comes back to the tenets his posthumous hosts practiced.

"When I was thinking about coming to Rokeby, I was like, well, what were these Robinson Quakers doing? They were helping other people," he said. "This history challenges us. What are we going to do? Are we going to help people that are running from ICE? Are we going to do something about the environment, right?"

Drake's stint as a graffiti artist in New York City, where he's found facades to stick more than 500 of his pieces, is just one period in his artistic career. Before delving into that scene, the North Carolinian completed a Master of Fine Arts in 1990, pursued painting for 10 years, participated in international collaborative photography projects, was an art teacher and was dubbed Rockefeller Fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Drake recently closed the New York City chapter, and in the last four months returned to his home state, North Carolina. As he is pondering how to bring some of New York City's graffiti scene south with him, Drake is giving

Vermonters an opportunity to be immersed.

"I think that this exhibition may be irritating for some people, and I think it may be exciting for others," he said. "I encourage people, if they're irritated by it, to think about what it is that irritates them."

He elaborated by drawing similarities between graffiti artists and dandelions.

"Nobody invited them to be in the yard, they're beautiful, they're adding something, you can eat them, but other people look at them and go, 'damn pest, I gotta spray them' ... or 'they're spreading,'" Drake said.

"I think that this exhibition may be irritating for some people, and I think it may be exciting for others. I encourage people, if they're irritated by it, to think about what it is that irritates them."

— Todd Drake

"And so the show's like that, you can look at the show and go this has got chaos, and this guy's breaking the law, damaging private property, and you know, I think of it more like a quiet individual continual protest, like you would do walking across Selma Bridge, or doing a sit-in, or something like that."

"This is what I can muster in my life."

PANDEMIC POSTERS

While a spontaneous move to New York City is more commonly associated with 20-somethings,

Drake and his wife, Robin, made the move in their mid-50s.

"We packed up and moved. (We were) empty nesters, buried our parents. Instead of hanging out on the golf course, we decided to start a life in New York," Drake said.

After apartment-living for three years, and just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the couple moved into and began running the Penington Friends House, a Quaker collective in Manhattan.

When Coronavirus cases in the United States started ticking up, masks became mandatory and "social distancing" became part of the country's vernacular, the Drakes found themselves smack in the middle of a hotspot sharing a residence with 24 other people.

While communal living might



ROKEBY MUSEUM'S CURRENT exhibit "Help Each Other" displays a collection of artist Todd Drake's relief prints that appear almost as a collage on the Ferrisburgh museum's walls. Drake said he "loves a good graffiti wall better than anything you see in a museum."

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

not have been ideal for many during the pandemic, Drake said it's what kept him and his wife in New York City through Covid.

In addition to avoiding potentially hazardous situations in the Penington House, Drake was staying away from possible threats outside, such as the subway. Traveling on his own two feet opened his eyes to a new canvas.

"We're walking everywhere, and that's when I started discovering these little hidden corners, these little spaces that people started filling with graffiti," Drake said.

"So I said I'll participate."

His goal was to nudge New Yorkers along. "The plywood windows and doors that the city had put up during the pandemic were so stark and depressing," he said. "So, I put up symbols of hope and persistence to try to spur the people that were left in New York to continue."

He chose a fence in lower Manhattan that other graffiti artists had also marked as his first site. While at the time it was a backdrop for many, "now it is a pristine, sterilized park," Drake said of the area.

In addition to the many colors, styles and signatures already there, the fence became adorned with Drake's "Persistence," which, "shows a person that's been cut like a tree," he described.

"There's rings, and then there's a

person growing out of it ... and it has black blobs in it that represent Covid. The buildings are on fire, the chaos of what we're going through, and this person is walking forward."

Once Drake became a graffiti artist, he picked a street name, adding that it didn't seem wise to use his own on public pieces. Like his work, Drake's new moniker — Quaker Pirate — drew on his beliefs.

"Quaker Pirate" comes from a children's Quaker book. In it, a little boy considers that pirating could be his passion. "And his parents said, 'Well, Obadiah, if you're gonna be a pirate, be a good Quaker pirate,'" Drake recalled.

"And when I heard 'Quaker' and 'pirate' put together, I was like, that's my street name, because I'm busting the law every time I go out and I'm walking around saying I'm a Quaker and these are my values. So it was just perfect, and people get such a kick out of it."

UNSPOKEN RULES

While Drake found himself shaking and having his wife stand guard the first time he put up a piece of graffiti, he's since become privy to the unspoken rules of the underground art world.

Though the craft is technically illegal, it doesn't seem to be the top priority of law enforcement in New York City. Drake chooses to put his prints up in broad daylight. "Nobody's stopping me. I've had police walk right past me," Drake said, noting that private homes or businesses are off limits for him.

"I'm doing good trouble here," he said. "It is illegal, but in New York City there are areas like the East Village where graffiti is integrated into the style of the neighborhood."

Forgotten areas are another opportunity. "In the city, there are mailboxes that are no longer being used by the postal service, they're rusting, they're painted green, they just sit on the street. Now, in some neighborhoods those are kept pristine and green, and the rule is, as a graffiti artist, you realize if I put something up there, it's gonna get painted over green ... if there's other stickers and stuff, then it's like, okay, I can put my stuff up, nobody's gonna come right behind and nobody's paying attention."

Since there's only so many spots for graffiti, there are also courtesies around space, such as finding "a spot where you're being the least damaging," Drake explained. "Most graffiti has a three month

to a nine month life cycle," he said. "You try not to cover up other graffiti artists' work ... if something gets put up you leave it alone for a bit, come back three months later, you can cover it up."

The process can even become collaborative and similar to collaging.

"I love a good graffiti wall better than anything you see in a museum," Drake said.

"Because it's democratic, it's not being filtered, there's freedom of speech, you can put up what you want," he said.

While there are unspoken rules, graffiti also gives artists an opportunity to create outside of the confines of the written rules of institutions.

"I put up hundreds of anti-war pictures and statements, and that doesn't happen in spaces where there's a lot of money involved or levels of approval," he said.

There is a fine line, though. According to Drake, the impermanence of graffiti can have an influence on artists.

"Graffiti artists have figured out 'if I'm really political or really poignant, somebody's gonna hate it and take it down,'" he explained. "Most graffiti art is in that middle zone, because artists just want their work to stay up."

He said given his dual position as an activist, he runs into the dilemma.

"As an activist, I'm a more pointed artist, I'm saying, 'war sucks,' and so that pisses somebody off at me," he said. "And I try to figure out ways to get around that."

Despite his efforts, the outcome has still been controversial.

"I did a work against the Gaza, Palestine conflict and Ukraine, and it showed a string of cut-out children being decimated. So it starts blue, and then they start breaking apart, and then they start

turning red, and then the rubbish, and the bottom it says ceasefire. And the message is, 'don't kill kids,'" he said.

"(It was) one of my most hated — hated, and ripped down, written on."

SOUTHERN GRAFFITI

Now that Drake is back in North Carolina, he's wondering how to keep pursuing graffiti in his new environment.

"I'm trying to figure that out," he said. Ferrisburgh's nonexistent graffiti culture was part of what drew him to the Green Mountain State. "I thought, 'okay, I'm in nature, what am I going to do?'"

His exhibit includes folding chairs painted with his art. "The chairs are going to be an ongoing answer — look, they're mobile, you can take them down, they're waterproof, they're windproof, you can put them out, put them up," he reasoned.

"The interesting thing is in New York, I had to put stuff up that I knew people would have difficulty stealing. So these are gonna get set out, and I have very little worry about them being stolen, but I can't use them everywhere ... so it's not going to be the complete answer to what I do next, but it's part of the answer."

And though "graffiti" isn't the first thing that comes to mind when you think "North Carolina," Drake said there's a tradition of street art in the southern United States.

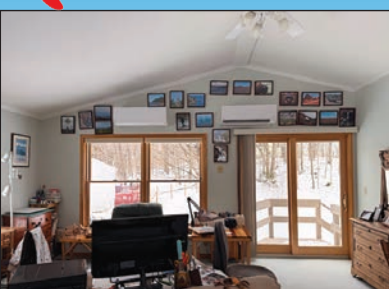


"The other thing I keep toying about, and I haven't solved, you know, down south there's been graffiti for decades, but it was the Jesus saves type thing. You drive down the road, you look over, and there's a Jesus saves sign," he said. "So, I'm thinking, how could I — because artists do this, we take and redo stuff like that — so I'm like, how could I take that and redo it?"



ON HIS WAY from New York City to North Carolina, street artist Todd Drake stopped at Rokeby Museum to create and install some art that he hopes will challenge viewers.


Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Middlebury, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

"Bristol Electronics installed heat pumps in our home, and we had a great experience working with them. They first came to evaluate our home and explained everything we would need. When they returned with the quote, they took the time to go over it thoroughly and answered all of our questions. Everyone was very professional and friendly throughout the entire process. Once we decided to move forward, they handled everything, including applying for all of the rebates, which made the process much easier for us.

The installation crew was respectful of our home and cleaned up at the end of each day before leaving. The work was done very well, and everything is working great. We have hardly run the furnace at all. It was truly a pleasure working with all of them."




BRISTOL ELECTRONICS

Rick & Judy Cole, Middlebury VT

SERIOUSLY CLUTCH Way to go Ben!

We proudly congratulate **Ben Longman** on his graduation from MUHS. Ben has been with Nino's Pizza since the fall of 2024 and we are fortunate and pleased to have a couple more months before he heads off to Bryant University in Rhode Island. When he is not tossing pies at Nino's he is spending time with his friends, playing soccer and skiing. His favorite subject in school was the auto tech program — a passion of his. Ben is inspired by music and listens to it everywhere he goes. You'll find him singing along with the music while he tosses pies. His memory for complicated lyrics is impressive (think Grateful Dead and Phish). Ben owns his mistakes with humility and grace. The most humble and sincere apology I've ever heard came from Ben. He is seriously helpful in chaotic moments, like the time water was pouring into the building from the roof to the baseboards during a winter thaw and downpour. He handled the crisis, rallied the forces and maintained his composure. Ben, your desire to give your best effort in all circumstances shines through all you do. You deliver great results under pressure — when it matters the most. That's clutch! Thank you, Ben. We appreciate you! Your bright future is lucky to have you!






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Richards

(Continued from Page 1A)

the best alternative in a state with no shortage of challenges, many of them a bioproduct of its small population:

- The highest health care premiums in the country.
- A housing shortage that's preventing younger people from laying down roots.
- Not enough workers to fill a panoply of job openings.
- An expensive public school system in a state that's been steadily losing children during the past 30 years.

Richards, 40, is underscoring those problems — and pitching solutions — with a no-nonsense, get-it-done message.

No excuses. No reports with recommendations gathering dust on a shelf.

"Understand the goals, look at the tradeoffs to get to the goal," Richards said, tapping her knuckles, for emphasis, on the wooden table at which she sat for the interview.

"Leadership. Metrics. Priorities. We don't see that in the state of Vermont."

It's a blueprint Richards followed for what became Act 76, Vermont's landmark childcare law of 2023.

Act 76, in large part through a statewide payroll tax, leveraged money to significantly increase Vermonters' access to childcare services, while also helping centers create new slots and offer their workers better pay and professional development opportunities.

Here in Addison County, Act 76 helped pave the way for the launch of the Red Clover Childcare Center in the Congregational Church of Middlebury, facilitate a major renovation and expansion at Middlebury's Otter Creek Child Center that created 77 new slots, and is allowing for expansion



ALY RICHARDS

of Middlebury's Mary Johnson Children's Center.

"As the leader of Let's Grow Kids, I had to be the spokesperson and say, 'Childcare is essential to our economy. The return on investment is three-to-one immediately and that's just the tip of the iceberg on what we can measure. It is worth our effort, patience and the tradeoff of an investment,'" Richards said. "And the business leadership, to me, is what pushed Act 76 over the finish line. They weren't just bystanders; they led that effort."

Richards, who with husband James Pepper have twin boys of their own, took a well-deserved breather after passage of Act 76. Earlier this year, she began getting calls from folks encouraging her to run for governor.

She thought about it and felt the passion to lend her Let's Grow Kids experience to the broader portfolio of state problems.

Committed to winning, Richards cleared her schedule of all other commitments.

"I'm not a one-issue (candidate) with childcare. It's the approach we took with childcare that I'm now looking to bring to economic development," she said, calling it the overarching issue Vermont needs to take on to solve its housing, healthcare and education challenges.

Richards already knows her way around Montpelier. In addition to being a resident, she served as the deputy chief of staff for former Gov. Peter Shumlin, worked on the 2008 Obama presidential campaign in the nation's capital, and was former chair of the UVM Medical Center Board of Trustees. She also co-chaired the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resiliency, which formed in response to the devastating floods of 2023.

She has served on the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees and was the vice chair of the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

Here are the chief planks of

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

foster homes, respite caregivers, mentors and transportation helpers, and to identify those who may be willing to foster-to-adopt. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved in Addison County's foster care community, please complete this form (see story online for link).

Mark Demers, director of Addison Community Action/Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, is gauging public interest in establishing a Laundry Love program in Middlebury. Laundry Love helps homeless and low-income folks do their laundry at no cost. It's already being offered in Vergennes, on the fourth Tuesday of each month. It requires a willing laundromat, two or three volunteers, and some community commitment for funding. You can learn more by visiting laundrylove.org, and/or reach out to Demers at 802-388-2285 if you'd like to help out.

Please join the Vergennes and Weybridge energy committees, as well as 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 St. The event will take place rain or shine, so bring an umbrella if conditions warrant. 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.

The \$17 million Ilsley Library makeover will be completed and introduced to the Middlebury community at a grand opening slated for Saturday, Aug. 29, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. (the rain date is Sept. 5). The anticipated last day of Ilsley operations in the National Bank of Middlebury's Duclos building will be Aug. 8. The ensuing three weeks will see the library closed as Ilsley officials move the bulk of the collection from Vergennes, unpack, and set up the newly renovated and expanded library. During this time, the Sarah Partridge Branch Library in East Middlebury will offer extended hours. Ilsley Executive Director Dana Hart asks that you hold onto any library books you might have checked out during that period, as they won't be able to be returned during the move.

The New Haven Neighbors are planning a fun Summerfest gathering in conjunction with the New Haven Fire Department's BBQ on June 27, from 4-7 p.m. The village green and gazebo will be the site for enjoying your dinner, music and creemees at the Village Green Market and a small array of local vendors.

Organizers are looking for any individuals or groups who'd like to provide activities, food, crafts or other types of engagement. New Haven Library will be celebrating its 125th anniversary with an exciting local video project and birthday cake for all. There will be electricity on site with no fee to participate. Summerfest will celebrate the New Haven community and support local firefighters. If you're interested or have questions, contact Mike Tecca at matecca@pm.me.

In a show of religious solidarity, parishioners from all eight of Addison County's United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations gathered for a singular service this past Sunday, May 31, at the Vergennes Congregational Church at 10 a.m. It was believed to have been the first time in recent memory — and possibly ever — that all Addison County UCC churches had worshiped together on a Sunday morning, noted Elizabeth Gleich, associate pastor of the Congregational Church of Middlebury.

The service united the Congregational Churches of Weybridge, Middlebury, Vergennes, Salisbury, Bristol, Shoreham, Cornwall and New Haven. The pastors of each congregation participated in leading worship, and the choirs from each church joined together in song. Conference Minister, Rev. Lynn Bunjak, preached.

Richards's 2026 gubernatorial platform:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Richards is candid that one of the incumbent's failings is the absence of an economic plan. "We haven't had a statewide economic plan for a decade," she said.

"Vermont is the best place in the world to raise a family, but right

now, it isn't growing," she says on her website. "Families can't find homes they can afford. Young people are leaving. Businesses can't find workers. Health care costs are out of control. Rural communities are being asked to do more with less. These aren't separate problems; they're symptoms of an economy that isn't

working for Vermonters.

"That's why I'm running for Governor on a simple premise: do what we know works. My top priority is to develop a Vermont Economic Action Plan — a serious, coordinated strategy to make Vermont a place where everyone can afford to stay, work, and

(See Aly Richards, Page 15A)

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WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER WITH US. IT'S YOUR ADDY INDY.

Alexander

(Continued from Page 1A)

She'll retire from her post at the end of this month, capping 26 years of feeding local youth.

"I just love seeing a beautiful, colorful meal being handed to a child," she said. "Being able to invite children to see and experience and appreciate, and hopefully eat, this really beautiful food that our staff lovingly prepare is really amazing, and I feel really proud of it."

Alexander started as manager of the Ferrisburgh Central School lunch program back in 2000. She'd previously worked in special education and then in childbirth education as a midwife assistant and doula. The job in Ferrisburgh offered a chance to work closer to home for Alexander, who had three kids of her own by then.

"It really felt like this sort of culmination of years of working with families in one way or another and supporting kids, and now this was just a different version of that and really felt right and important," she recalled.

WORKING TOGETHER

Alexander worked in Ferrisburgh for about 10 years, connecting with others working in school nutrition in the region.

By the 2010s, changes in federal school nutrition regulations and emerging farm-to-school efforts in Vermont meant there was a lot to be learned from one another.

"That was all happening, and it just led me on this path of broadening my spectrum of what I understood school nutrition to be, beyond my little kitchen and our little group of students," she said. "It really became apparent to me that school nutrition is an incredible part of education, and it's happening in every school across the country, and I really started to develop a passion for what that meant for kids and how they were educated."

She noted that at the time, Bristol-area schools were interested in shifting from management companies running food service programs to a more consolidated effort focused on farm-to-school opportunities and delivering quality school nutrition.

"I heard about that, and I thought, 'This is my next step, that's where I want to be,'" Alexander said. Alexander began working with the former Addison Northeast Supervisory Union Food Service Cooperative, comprised of Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School and five elementary schools in the Bristol area. Within a couple of years, the cooperative started looking at joining forces with its neighbors in the Vergennes area. Today, the MAUSD-ANWSD Food Service Cooperative serves students in both school districts.

It's a somewhat unique partnership, Alexander said. She noted the districts don't share finances but the program operates in a way that helps maintain the best financial situation possible. The cooperative allows the districts to align in other ways that offer some advantages — a unified menu embracing local products, having all 30 members of the team train together and lots of collaboration.

"All in all what that provides is just a better product, a better service to children and to the school community in general because we are very committed to one job and to doing it really well and to having standards around that job," she said. Alexander oversees the whole operation, working with a direct team that includes an assistant director and executive chef.

"Our team is committed to setting up our programs for success every day, so whatever that takes," she said of the work, noting that could include visiting school kitchens or substituting for kitchen staff.

Another key part of her role is working with state and federal regulations — such as adhering to a specific meal pattern — and completing the reporting and documentation needed to secure federal funding. Alexander said federal and state funds makes up around 75% of the program's funding, supplemented by money

from schools.

Other day-to-day tasks can include planning trainings, writing grants and keeping up with bills.

"It really runs the gamut from feeding kids to educating staff to doing finances, to coming up with a marketing campaign for something or doing a fun activity," she summed up.

LOCAL, FREE FOOD

Alexander has seen multiple changes in school nutrition during the course of her career. She spent a long time advocating for universal school meals. Breakfast and lunch are now served to students at no cost to families. The program was temporarily implemented in Vermont during the pandemic and became a permanent offering in 2023.

"That is something that I have been fighting for since probably my second year working in school nutrition when it dawned on me, the whole idea that we were running basically a restaurant in a school and trying to get funds for meals from kindergarten children," she said. "It never sat well with me, it just never made sense."

In addition to providing students with two meals a day during the

academic year, schools also ensure pupils have access to meals throughout the summer. The summer meals program has evolved and now includes "Meal Kits for Kids" — boxes filled with enough food for seven breakfasts and lunches.

Alexander has also been involved in Vermont's farm-to-school efforts, helping incorporate more local products into students'

meals.

"Buying local and providing the freshest, most local food ticks that box; that we're doing right by children when we do that," she said. "I also think it's important for us to understand that when we buy local food we're giving back to our community."

She recalled a local foods forum held at Mt. Abe around 15 years ago. At the event, a local dairy farmer and parent told Alexander the milk his farm produced went to Cabot Creamery and wanted to know if the district was buying from that company.

"From that day forward, we buy a lot of Cabot products because we know that the farmers that live down the street and who send their kids to our schools are working hard to get that milk to that production site and to produce a variety of cheeses with local milk," she said.

Alexander acknowledged some of the challenges of farm-to-school efforts, such as finding enough of the products needed to feed the districts students and the distribution of those products. She said those challenges aren't insurmountable, though, and the cooperative has found ways to get local food into cafeterias.

The team has a focus on protein, such as chicken from New Haven's Misty Knoll Farms and local beef.

"We've been able over the last six years to establish pretty much 100% local ground beef in all of our meals (that use



KATHY ALEXANDER, DIRECTOR of the food service cooperative for the Bristol-area Mount Abraham Unified and Vergennes-area Addison Northwest school districts, serves lunch to a Starksboro elementary student on Tuesday. She will retire at the end of the month. Independent photo/Steve James



KATHY ALEXANDER

beef," Alexander said, adding the cooperative currently works with Vermont Livestock Slaughter & Processing in Ferrisburgh.

Alexander has eaten many of the meals whipped up at local schools over the years. Her favorites? Sloppy Joes and a baked potato dish developed at Ferrisburgh Central that's served with various toppings, a homemade muffin and fruit.

She's enjoyed getting to deliver those and other meals to students. When the *Independent* spoke with Alexander last week, she'd just wrapped up a lunch shift in Vergennes and was happy to report 40% of students took Brussels sprouts that day.

"We can't control what kids eat, I learned that many years

"We can't control what kids eat, I learned that many years ago, but we can control what we expose them to."
— Kathy Alexander

ago, but we can control what we expose them to, and we can control their appreciation of food if we do a really, really good job," she said. "We have a fabulous group of staff that really care and want meals to be really good."

Alexander highlighted some of the areas she'd like to see Vermont continue to improve when it comes to school nutrition, specifically when it comes to putting food first and thinking about how and when meals are served.

"We can provide really good food but we need to do a better job at providing environments in which kids want and can eat those

foods," she explained. "We need to work on the length of lunch, the dining environments, how we fit this into the day so that it really makes more sense in terms of, 'This is mealtime, and people come together and they eat and they nourish their bodies and they take a break.'"

Funding also needs to be addressed, Alexander said. She noted federal reimbursements for school meals are inadequate, amounting to around \$4.80 per lunch.

"I don't think anyone can put a meal on the table that includes a vegetable, a grain, two ounces of protein, a fruit and an eight-ounce milk for the amount of our reimbursement," she said. "On a national level, that has got to get addressed because kids can't learn

without food."

As she nears her retirement, Alexander is looking forward to having more time to spend with her grandchildren, perfect her baking and explore opportunities to teach child nutrition.

It will be a change, but she's a firm believer that change is good and noted that while she's leaving, the cooperative has a passionate staff that will continue its work in school nutrition.

"I'm super encouraged that this change will be very positive for everybody because new leadership, new change, all of that, is always a good thing," she said. "I'm just going to be very proud of what I've left behind, and very excited to see what people come up with next that I could never have even imagined."

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In Vermont agriculture

Goat farmers have an important place

By SCOTT WATERMAN
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

Tup's Crossing Farm in Orwell is a commercial dairy shipping goat milk to Vermont-based milk processor, Vermont Creamery. They have been shipping milk since owner Holly Menguc-Palissou arrived in 2019 and manage a herd of 425 goats milking year-round. Holly's long-term business goal is to continually increase profits without increasing herd size. She believes this is achievable through continuing advancements in genetics, attention to milk quality and managing the herd on extended two-year lactation cycles.

"I strive to run a tight, efficient business, scaled for financial stability while still maintaining an artisanal feel to the operations, a compassionate relationship with the animals and a healthy lifestyle for my family and the farm team," Menguc-Palissou said.

"I am a native Vermonter, but a



HOLLY MENGUC-PALISSOU of Tup's Crossing in Orwell is one of Vermont's proud women farmers.

first-generation farmer, and I feel lucky to have been welcomed and supported by the farming community of Addison County in

my endeavors."

On her Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SeeGoatfarmers, Page 13A)

ADDISON COUNTY Agriculture News



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL junior Taryn Burns is in her second internship at Richville Farms in Whiting.

Photo credit Anna Daylor

Interns are our future for Vermont farms

By ANNA DAYLOR
Champlain Valley Farmer
Coalition

ADDISON COUNTY — The future of farming in Vermont can feel uncertain at times, but one local farmer believes that committed mentorship can make a difference. We saw this in action when we spent a March afternoon at Richville Farms in Whiting. Taryn Burns, a Middlebury Union High School junior, is currently completing her second Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition internship at the farm, working for co-owner Kylie Chittenden. Kylie operates the 1,000-cow and 850-heifer dairy alongside her husband, Jeremy.

Kylie sees the internship program as a critical way to ensure farming remains viable for the long term. Supporting the internship program allows Kylie to introduce students to the rewards of working with animals but also to the diverse fields that support farm operations, such

as veterinary medicine, technology, and equipment. These are realistic options for young people here in Vermont; they just need to see them in action.

Taryn proudly gave us a tour of the dairy, sharing details about her day-to-day work as well as some lessons she has learned along the way. Much of her work focuses on calf care, which includes essential tasks like bedding hutches, helping with feeding and treatment, and keeping their spaces as clean as possible (not an easy task!). But she also participates in taking and entering genomic samples, collaborating with Kylie and the farm veterinarian to perfect their process and gather consistent, accurate data.

Returning for a second internship year was an easy choice, which

Taryn credits to the welcoming environment and "Kylie's openness to teaching and learning." She noted, "Kylie is always on the lookout for opportunities for me to learn or to expose me to more aspects of the dairy industry," which has been invaluable. One key lesson Taryn has learned from working with Kylie is the interconnectedness of decision-making in the dairy industry. Decisions have ripple effects not just on herd health and finances, but also, critically, "on the environment, soil health, water quality, and the long-term sustainability of the business."


For example, Taryn explained that what "may seem like a simple decision — where to pasture cattle, what crop to plant in a specific field, or how that field is maintained — (See Dairy interns, Page 13A)


"I 100% see myself staying involved in agriculture, specifically in the dairy industry."

— Taryn Burns

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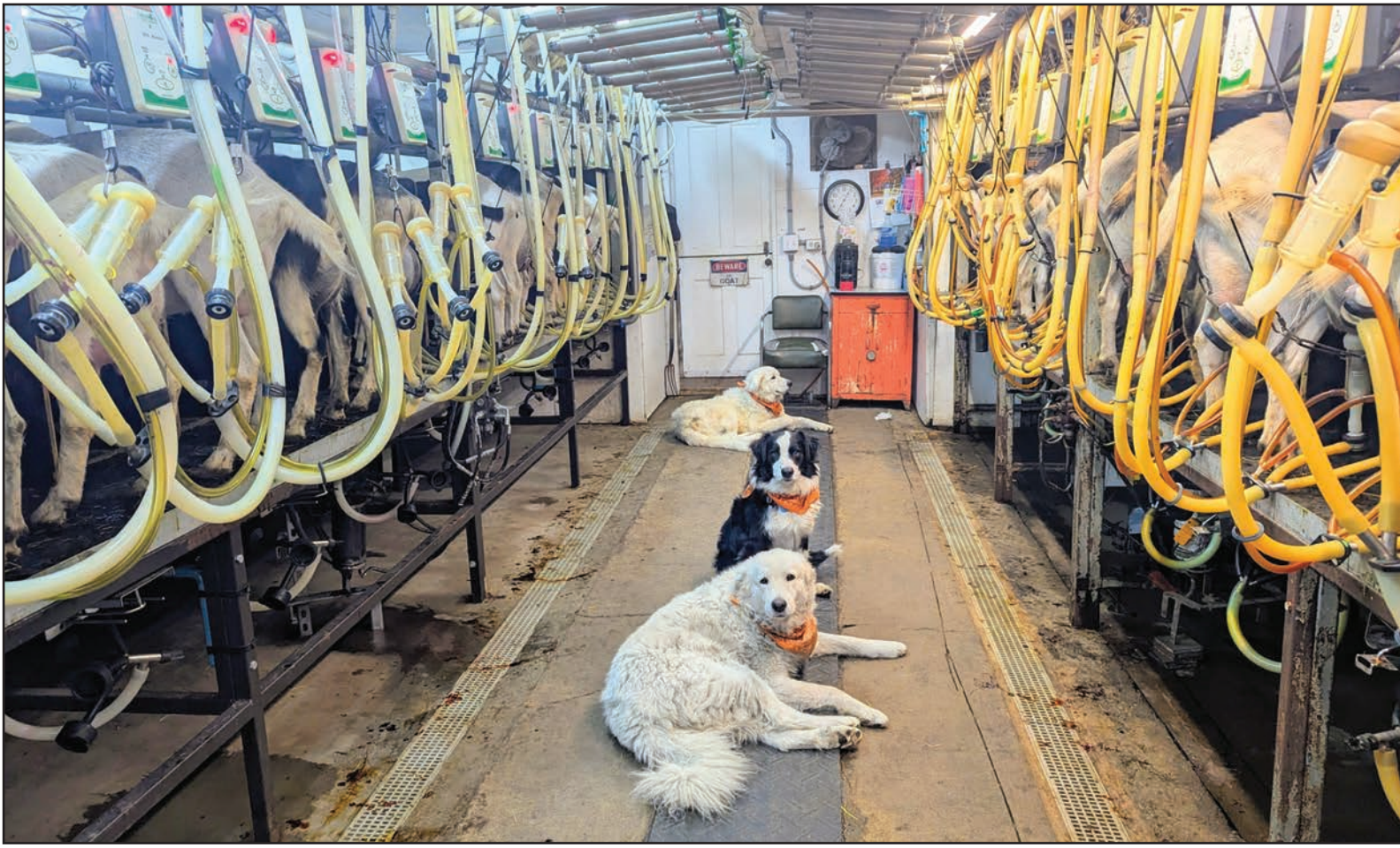
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A GOAT MILKING parlor doesn't look terribly different than a cow milking parlor, except the scale is a little smaller, and in this case there are herding dogs on hand.

Avian flu is not a problem for dairy yet

By SCOTT WATERMAN
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

VERMONT — Since early March 2024, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and State veterinary and public health officials has been investigating an illness among primarily older dairy cows. The illness is called highly pathogenic avian influenza. Vermont veterinarians continue

to monitor the situation as it develops and are learning from other states and officials around the country. As of May 1, 2026, no cases have been detected in Vermont and no links to affected states have been identified.

For more information, the latest updates and resources, visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets website here: agriculture.vermont.gov/HPAIinDairyCowsAnEmergingAnimalHealthIssue.

Dairy interns

(Continued from Page 12A) can affect both soil health and water quality." Being a steward of your land means understanding the impact of your decisions on the entire watershed.

Looking ahead, Taryn is fully committed to the industry:

"I 100% see myself staying involved in agriculture, specifically in the dairy industry," with the hope of attending Cornell to study

dairy science and agribusiness. She is excited by the "endless room for growth and innovation," particularly in areas like genomics. She also emphasizes the importance of community. "Farming is not easy, to say the least, and it's important to remember that we are all in it together." Having a "home farm" with the Chittendens at Richville Farms has been an incredible start!



EVERY YEAR TUPS has a new crop of baby goats.

Goat farmers

(Continued from Page 12A) TupsCrossingFarm. Menguc-Palissot notes that Tups has bottle kids available for sale on the farm each March.

The Agency of Agriculture's Agriview publication will be sharing more celebrations of Vermont women farmers throughout the year.

While cows dominate our dairy landscape, Vermont also has 33 dairy goat farms and three dairy sheep farms producing milk, cheese, and other products. In addition, a quarter of our dairy farms in Vermont are certified organic, meaning they adhere to specific guidelines on livestock care, feed, and environmental practices.

Nationally, markets for goat and sheep dairy products are expanding, presenting a potential alternative for dairy farmers in Vermont. Consumers ages 18 to 44 years, particularly those with children

under 18 in their households, are more likely to consume sheep and goat dairy and more willing to pay for it, according to the latest report from the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council and the Agency of Agriculture.

25% of consumers in North America purchase goat milk products weekly, the report said. It added that the number of milk goats and kids in Vermont increased 64% from 2007 to 2022.

"You can set up a goat dairy operation with a fraction of the cash outlay that it takes to set up a cow dairy. I lease one new tractor and own one skid steer. You don't have to be encumbered by really complicated systems," Miles Hooper of Ayers Brook Goat Dairy in Randolph told VTDigger.org.

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Programs

(Continued from Page 1A)
enrolled this year.
For the first time ever, the PHCC this September will offer “Game Art and Animation,” a course that will teach students how to create the videogames they so adore and set them up for careers in that bustling industry.
At the same time, the PHCC will open its doors wider for a Medical Professions program that’s growing by leaps and bounds, thanks to its proactive leader (Stephanie Wilbur) and its partnership with an assortment of healthcare and emergency response providers that give the students hands-on experience and career choices upon graduation.

What follows is an overview of both programs, two of 18 offered at the PHCC. The PHCC delivers Career and Technical Education to high school and adult students in Addison County, with most of its enrollees coming from Middlebury, Vergennes and Mount Abraham Union High Schools.

GAME ART/ANIMATION

A lot of teens these days can’t get enough of gaming, casting themselves in animated storylines featuring mythical beasts to slay or exotic odysseys to complete.

The new Game Art and Animation course will allow students to create the gaming experience for themselves and others. Under the tutelage of educator Chris Mendenhall, students will build the requisite skills and navigate the necessary software — including Autodesk Maya, Substance Painter and Unreal Engine — used by professional game artists.

“Artists in this course will become more effective visual communicators,” reads the Game Art and Animation course description. “They will explore how their 3D art connects with players, how to take an idea from concept to game, and how to apply traditional art principles and storytelling through video games.”

Chris Mendenhall knows the ins and outs of the gaming industry. He currently works at Champlain College, where he’s taught a Game Art and Animation course for the past decade.

“Introducing a way for (students) to express themselves in a medium they haven’t been able

to touch outside of just a consumer is really exciting. Joining this idea of, ‘Let’s all figure out how to make art and videogames together, with the notion of... ‘how do we communicate with just our art?’” he said.

It won’t be “game on” for another three months, but Mendenhall will use some of that time to build the Game Art and Animation lab in the PHCC. He promised “Cutting edge technology and essentially providing access to equipment and software that high schoolers generally don’t have access to.”

The program will be broken into two halves. The first half will highlight 3-D modeling — the props and buildings that one sees upon opening a videogame. The second half will include a tutorial in animation. Students will receive a 3-D model with a “rig” — controls that allow the model to move.

Mendenhall believes the skills imparted through the class will help students regardless of whether they choose to enter the gaming industry. Enrollees will pick up artistic and tech pointers that will expand their base of knowledge and prepare them for a variety of careers, he said. Students leaving the program will have a portfolio of their work to aid with college, internships or work applications.

He’s proud that his Game Art and Animation course enrollees have historically included — and empowered — at-risk youth and neuro-diverse populations.

“I’ve had a lot of experience working with people who spend a huge amount of time with videogames. I see this as another opportunity to provide healthy ways to engage with this activity as well as the real world,” Mendenhall said.

If the class proves successful, Mendenhall would like to equip the Game Art and Animation course with a motion-capture suit that a student could wear to physically act out (and record) movements for original videogames.

Mendenhall will also bring in actual videogame producers to provide students with testimonials on how build a career in videogames.

“It’s a high-demand, high-wage job,” he said, adding, “it would be wonderful to get gaming development hubs here in Vermont. I want to see our youth stay in this state.”

MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

Stefanie E. Wilbur (MSN, RN) is the primary educator for an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) curriculum that is fast becoming one of PHCC’s most popular programs.

The two-year offering prepares students for diverse career paths in health professions, including patient care, emergency services, healthcare administration, and biomedical technology. Students



HANNAFORD CAREER CENTER instructor Chris Mendenhall shows how he captures a human walking in an animated video. He will teach a new course this fall called “Game Art and Animation.”

Independent photo/Steve James

gain hands-on experience through a combination of classroom learning, clinical practice, job shadowing and work-based learning opportunities, according to the program description.

Students gain crucial hands-on experience with several career center partners that include Porter Medical Center, Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing, and Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS).

In year one, Wilbur noted, students become eligible to take the Vermont State LNA Exam and/or the National Registry EMR Exam, credentials that can lead to careers in residential care, home health, hospitals or rescue squads.

In year two, students can choose to earn their EMT certification or Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) certification. These credentials

provide inroads into jobs with ambulance services, hospital emergency departments, medical clinics or laboratories.

Wilbur reported a 100% pass rate thus far for its LNA program enrollees.

As of last week, 21 students had enrolled in year one of the Medical Professions program for this fall, according to PHCC Superintendent Nicole MacTavish. That’s double this year’s enrollment, and a good portent for Porter and MREMS; the Medical Professions program is providing a much-needed feeder program into a healthcare industry that needs workers. The PMC “careers” webpage currently

shows 29 nursing vacancies.

But the PHCC’s Medical Professions program is about more than nursing.

It’s also about minting the next generation of EMTs, phlebotomists, radiologists and other healthcare professionals.

“I love how flexible the program is to meet students where they’re at, so it allows students to find what success means for them. It individualizes itself for students and doesn’t really require students to fit into a ‘box,’” Wilbury explained.

How flexible is the program?

One local student wanted to become a dental hygienist. But the Career for Technology Essex is the only Career & Technical Education center in the state to offer such a program. No worries: PHCC officials partnered with Middlebury Dental Associates, which gave the student a job-shadow opportunity that evolved into a “dental assisting” position.

“(The student) has been working there for the last two months and will be transitioning to a full-time position there as a dental assistant after school,” Wilbur said. “She’ll go to the Community College of Vermont for her dental preparation certificate, in hopes of in the next two or three years applying to dental hygiene school...”

Career center officials know that if you build the right programming, the students will come.

Now it’s a matter of getting the space ready.

“(This growth) means we have to spread out and double the classroom space,” MacTavish said. “We’re getting more equipment, more supplies and expanding the classroom footprint itself to make space for the students.”

Elections

(Continued from Page 1A)
Aug. 11 and/or Nov. 3 ballots.

Incumbent and minor party candidates have until Aug. 6 to file, so the final election brackets for legislative and county offices could change somewhat before November.

But this much we do know: Incumbent Reps. Matt Birong, D-Vergennes; Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall; Herb Olson, D-Starksboro; and Amy Sheldon, D-Middlebury, have all announced they won’t be seeking reelection. Birong (Government Operations & Military Affairs), Conlon (Education) and Sheldon (Environment) are all House committee chairs.

Olson, who serves on the House Commerce & Economic Development Committee, has elected to call it quits after one two-year term.

Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos, a Middlebury Democrat, is also going the one-term-and-done route. Vekos — who was arrested for DUI on Jan. 25, 2024, after police alleged she had shown up impaired at the scene of an untimely death investigation in Bridport — has been plagued by criticism and calls for her resignation during her tenure. She’s almost mid-way through the final year of her four-year term.

Middlebury’s Peter Bever, a former Addison County deputy state’s attorney and current deputy prosecutor in Rutland County — is the lone candidate for the job right now based on May 28 candidate filings. He’s running as a Democrat.

Bever ran for Addison County state’s attorney in 2018 and fell fewer than 10 votes shy of unseating then-incumbent Dennis Wygmans. He ran again in 2022, as an independent, losing out to Vekos.

Also running without competition — in the two-seat Addison-1 House district — are incumbent Rep. Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury, and fellow Middlebury Democrat Mike Roy. Sheldon’s decision to step down provides a clear path to Roy. The Independent will provide more reporting on Sheldon’s decision in its June 11 edition.

“It’s been an amazingly productive and wonderful journey. I’ve learned a ton. It’s such a deep honor to get to represent your community in Montpelier. But I’m tired and need a break,” Sheldon said.

It was indeed a particularly turbulent year for Sheldon’s House Environment Committee, due to furor over the new land use law, Act 181. Vermonters took particular umbrage with provisions of the law that included a “road rule” that would trigger Act 250 review with construction of a road when

the length of any single road is greater than 800 feet, or the length of all roads and any associated driveways in combination is greater than 2,000 feet; and a similar Act 250 review for any development in Tier 3 land areas of “critical natural resources,” which might include headwater streams, habitat connectors and forest blocks.

The 2026 Legislature subsequently repealed those controversial provisions of the law.

Sheldon said her decision to not seek reelection is not related to Act 181.

Here’s a rundown of how the May 28 candidate filings are shaping the other legislative and county posts up for grabs this year:

- The two-seat senatorial district that includes Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel’s Gore. On the Republican side, incumbent Sen. Steve Heffernan of Bristol, Andrew Klein of New Haven and Andrea Treadway of Orwell will compete in an Aug. 11 GOP primary to see which two advance to the Nov. 3 general election and a showdown with incumbent Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, and Democrat Hannah Sessions.

- Hardy serves on the Senate Finance and Natural Resources & Energy committees.

- Heffernan serves on the Senate Agriculture and Education committees.

- The one-seat Addison-2 House district, which encompasses the towns of Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury. Cornwall Democrat Tanya Byker will

face Cornwall Republican Annie Wilson for the seat to be vacated by Conlon this December.

- The two-seat Addison-3 House district, which encompasses Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Vergennes, Waltham and a portion of New Haven. Democrats Ariel Bolles of Ferrisburgh, Michael Kane of Vergennes and John Stroup of Vergennes will compete in an Aug. 11 primary to determine who advances to the Nov. 3 general election versus Republican incumbent Rep. Rob North of Ferrisburgh (who serves on the Environment Committee) and Joe Baker, also a Ferrisburgh Republican.

- The two-seat Addison-4 House district, which encompasses Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro. Bristol Republicans Lynn Dike and Chanin Hill will take on incumbent Rep. Karen Lueders, D-Lincoln, and fellow Lincoln Democrat Jeanne Albert.

- Lueders serves on the House Committee on Health Care.

- Hill, Dike and Albert have been involved in prior Addison-4 races.

- The one-seat Addison-5 House district, which encompasses Bridport, Weybridge, and portions of Middlebury and New Haven. Incumbent Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, is again being challenged by Bridport Republican Del Thompson.

- McGill serves on the House Committee on Human Services.

- The one-seat Addison-Rutland House district encompasses Hubbardton, Orwell, Shoreham, Sudbury and Whiting. Incumbent Rep. Jim Casey, R-Hubbardton, is being challenged by Shoreham Democrat Jonathan Hescoock.

- Casey serves on the House Transportation Committee.

- Addison County Sheriff: Incumbent Sheriff Mike Elmore will face off in an Aug. 11 primary against fellow Middlebury Republican Ron Holmes, who has competed for the post before.

- No Democrats have filed to run for sheriff.

- High Bailiff Incumbent Dave Silberman of Middlebury is being challenged by Cornwall Republican Steve Willson.

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Aly Richards

(Continued from Page 10A)
raise a family.

“Getting there requires real leadership. That means setting a shared vision with clear targets and deadlines, understanding how all of the moving pieces interact with each other, and putting the people most impacted in the driver’s seat because that’s how you know policy will actually work. It means using data, engaging in community conversations, and empowering leaders who will stay focused and get results. We did this before with childcare, and we can do it again. Vermonters deserve nothing less.”

HOUSING

Vermont’s housing crisis, according to Richards, is holding the state back, and she believes investing in housing will stabilize the state’s economy. “When Vermonters can’t afford to live here, businesses can’t grow, schools lose students and communities can’t thrive,” she said. “We need to build more homes, in the right places, at prices Vermonters can actually afford. There’s no time to waste; as governor, I’ll make housing my top priority and use every tool available to get it done.”

If elected governor, Richards said she’d “set clear annual housing production targets by region,” prioritizing state and federal funding toward developments that “enhance community vitality” and make it easier and faster to build affordable homes.

State officials and housing advocates have agreed Vermont needs around 30,000 new housing units by 2030, “or we are not a stable place.”

With that kind of urgency, Richards said there should be a “ticker on the Statehouse lawn and it should be the number one thing we focus on with the full power of the executive branch, because we’d be building 1,200 homes per year.”

To help with that task, Richards said she’d expand on initiatives like the Community Housing Investment Program to “supercharge production and finance the infrastructure” that helps make new housing possible.

She’d also enact a “strategic vacancy tax” on second homes, short-term rentals, and luxury properties, with revenues used to invest more in housing.

Richards said she’d also work with community partners to tackle the state’s homelessness problem.

EDUCATION

Richards is no fan of forced school consolidations or mergers in this era of declining student enrollment.

Scott and Vermont Education Secretary Zoie Saunders in early 2025 proposed an education transformation initiative that called for paring the state’s 199 school districts to five, which — among other things — would have placed Addison, Franklin and Chittenden counties into a district extending from the Canadian border to Brandon.

But Richards said the Scott Administration didn’t get buy-in beforehand from public education stakeholders and the initiative went nowhere. The Legislature this year adjourned after passing H.955, a bill that would create seven Cooperative Education Service Areas to provide regional services to school districts, including special education, business, IT, professional development, and transportation, with the goal of creating economies of scale. The bill also creates 21 merger committees

groups to analyze and propose potential school district mergers. Richards likes the H.955 approach of voluntary mergers and went further on the subject of school costs.

“We need to focus on the major cost drivers in our education system, which include health care, special education, transportation and aging infrastructure,” she said. “As governor, I’ll take on health care costs statewide, expand shared services and administrative efficiencies across districts, and ensure we’re investing in the supports students need so teachers can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning.”

She added she’d call for more “pathways to success.”

“As Governor, I’ll expand access to Career and Technical Education

programs, apprenticeships, trades training, and flexible pathway opportunities so every Vermont student can graduate with real skills, industry recognized credentials, and a plan for the future,” she said.

HEALTH CARE

“Every single problem in our society is magnified and comes home to roost in the emergency room,” Richards said, citing homelessness, mental health, substance use disorder.

Richards recalled the Shumlin Administration’s ill-fated effort in 2014 to institute a single-payer healthcare system in Vermont.

“It was a valiant attempt that couldn’t work because of our (population) size,” she said.

But part of Richards’s health care reform plan calls for instituting universal access to primary care for Vermonters. She believes it’s financially doable and could save the system money by flagging health issues before they become more chronic, costly diseases.

“Primary care is preventative care,” she said.

As governor, Richards said she would “fight for every dollar Vermont is owed. The federal government owes Vermont billions in health care funding, and I won’t leave a single dollar on the table.”

She spoke of opportunities Vermont will have with the \$195 million in annual funding (over five years) Vermont is receiving in Rural Health Transformation funding, money she said should be “strategically deployed” to maximize benefits for state residents.

Vermont is currently home to eight free health care clinics. Richards wants to see more.

“It is unacceptable that families are being forced to choose between rent, food, and a doctor’s visit. As Governor, I will confront our health care crisis head on, because Vermonters are done waiting. It’s time to act,” Richards said.

ENERGY & CLIMATE

“Energy has never been more expensive, placing new burdens on working families already struggling to get by,” Richards acknowledges on her website, adding: “Vermont must achieve energy independence as a pathway to affordability: by transitioning to cleaner, cheaper energy sources, we can drive down costs for families and businesses while building a more resilient state. The path to energy independence is also the path to a stronger climate future. What used to be a 100-year flood is now a 3-year flood. We can’t afford to wait. As Governor, I’ll make energy independence a defining goal of my administration



Teddy bear picnic

BLACK BEARS’ DIETS don’t typically include enchiladas, but this one was spotted sniffing around the woods below Mad Taco on Friday in Middlebury.

Photo by Amy Panitz

and lead Vermont to become a national model for affordable, resilient, clean energy.”

Richards has also mapped out positions on “investing in rural Vermont,” “defending democracy” and “childcare.” You can find details at her campaign website.

During the coming months, she’ll compare and contrast her views from those held by Janoo and Scott.

She criticized the incumbent for “diagnosing the problem correctly, putting a vague idea or priority out and then almost enjoying watching the Legislature go in a million different directions on it... I don’t understand who wins in that case.”

It’s a tactic that, according to Richards, has forced nonprofits to come up with plans that have had merit but a lack of direct buy-in from the executive branch.

She cited, as an example, the Vermont Futures Project’s recent study of state demographics that concluded the state needs to boost its population (from the current 645,000) to 802,000 people and its housing inventory (from the current 300,000) to at least 350,000 non-seasonal units by 2035.

Richards also referred to a Green Mountain Care Board-commissioned study of the state’s health care system in 2024 that revealed a growing financial and workforce crisis, along with some possible solutions. But though two years was spent on the report, no action was taken by the Scott administration.

There was also the Vermont Council for Rural Development’s “Vermont Proposition,” a 2021 document that offered a set of

guiding principles — such as expanding broadband, fostering more civility, improving schools and combatting racism.

“The vacuum of leadership is causing everyone else to pop up these great plans. We have really good ideas; we just don’t have the captain who actually has the controls, prioritizing,” Richards said. “The message that has really penetrated is, ‘Gov. Scott is the adult in the room who’s batting things away from the crazy Legislature.’ That is a false premise. I also will protect Vermont from things that are contradictory, from things that move us away from the plan... The difference is, we’ll actually have a plan with some assurance that we’re going to deliver for Vermont.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



We’ve got you covered.

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

R

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Lindholm

(Continued from Page 1A) that Atlantic City Bacharach Giants pitcher Nip Winters threw against the Indianapolis ABCs back on July 26, 1922.

If I have time, I swivel my newsroom seat to give Karl my full attention. If I don't have time, I pretend to type on my laptop and listen anyway.

Karl is our beloved Siri/Alexa with a camouflaged off switch, though he's always sympathetic to colleagues' deadlines — he has one too, for his column. And he lets you know, with two words, when he's wrapping up his reminiscence du jour: "Carry on."

On that Tuesday morning, Karl came into the *Independent* newsroom to touch up his column for the May 28 edition of the paper. But first, he wanted to catch up with his peeps; it's something I've learned not to take for granted. Then, seeing my computer cursor dangling at mid-paragraph, Karl whispered those two words to me while gently clapping my shoulders:

"Carry on." But five minutes later, Karl had stopped carrying on. To our collective horror, he had suddenly slumped forward in his chair just a few feet from my own, after letting out a loud groan.

He drew in a deep breath and then promptly stopped breathing.

Suddenly, the world stops turning, and fear — of the unknown, of the gravity of the situation — takes hold.

In a newsroom where we work to break stories, Karl was broken

and we didn't know how to fix him.

But thanks to the application of basic lifesaving techniques, we were able to buy Karl time until the pros — the folks from Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) and the local police — came to the rescue.

It was a team effort, knitted together with three critical letters: C-P-R, otherwise known as cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

While the Independent's offices in the Marble Works are only a couple miles from the MREMS headquarters on Collins Drive, it's a considerably longer trek from Middlebury to Orwell. And that's why local first-response crews and a knowledgeable citizenry are so important to good patient outcomes.

While fellow reporter Sophia Keshmiri called 911, news editor John McCright and I laid Karl on the floor, on his back. I harkened back to my high school days circa 1977 and recalled a dummy on which we'd practiced chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth. But Karl is no dummy and this was no drill. I pumped a few breaths into him and fumbled with some chest compressions until a disembodied voice (an emergency responder whose name I wish I knew) provided critical speaker-phone guidance on the rate and depth of the required pushes on his sternum.

Arts editor Elsie Lynn Parini had gone through CPR training just a few years ago. Cool as a cucumber, she jumped into the fray, and together we spelled each other during what became a steady stream of chest compressions. Karl was thankfully groaning and gulping the occasional breath. Between those, however, his body was motionless — lifeless — except for the raucous jerking caused by the forceful chest compressions Elsie and I were administering.

Everyone in the office that

morning played a role. Production Manager Sue Leggett sought contact info for Karl's family. Circulation Manager Sean Dougherty, whose father is himself a first responder, cleared the doorways to ensure that MREMS could bring in a stretcher. Everyone else was sending caring, compassionate thoughts Karl's way and ensuring responders would have everything they needed. And MREMS officials arrived in just four or five minutes. Like a well-oiled machine, the MREMS team gracefully stepped in, continued the compressions and provided Karl with some medicinal and tech help until he'd been stabilized for his trip to the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Graphic designer Shannon Hart — certified in First Aid and CPR — had by this point arrived and stood by in case MREMS needed an extra pair of hands.

On Wednesday, Karl was still in the hospital, but we're happy to report that he is on the mend.

BE PREPARED

After decompressing from what was a very stressful situation, we asked ourselves — what if Karl had decided to finetune his sports column at home, alone? What if Karl had suffered his cardiac event in a setting far removed from an ambulance association or first responder group?

But "what ifs" are irrelevant, because the past is permanent.

Better to be prepared, according to MREMS Executive Director Kate Rothwell, who was on the crew that came to Karl's rescue on May 26.

"It's absolutely crucial," Rothwell said of the basic CPR knowledge, which can be enhanced with the presence of an Automatic External Defibrillator, known as an AED. An AED is a portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart when it detects an abnormal rhythm and changes the rhythm back to normal, according to the American

Heart Association.

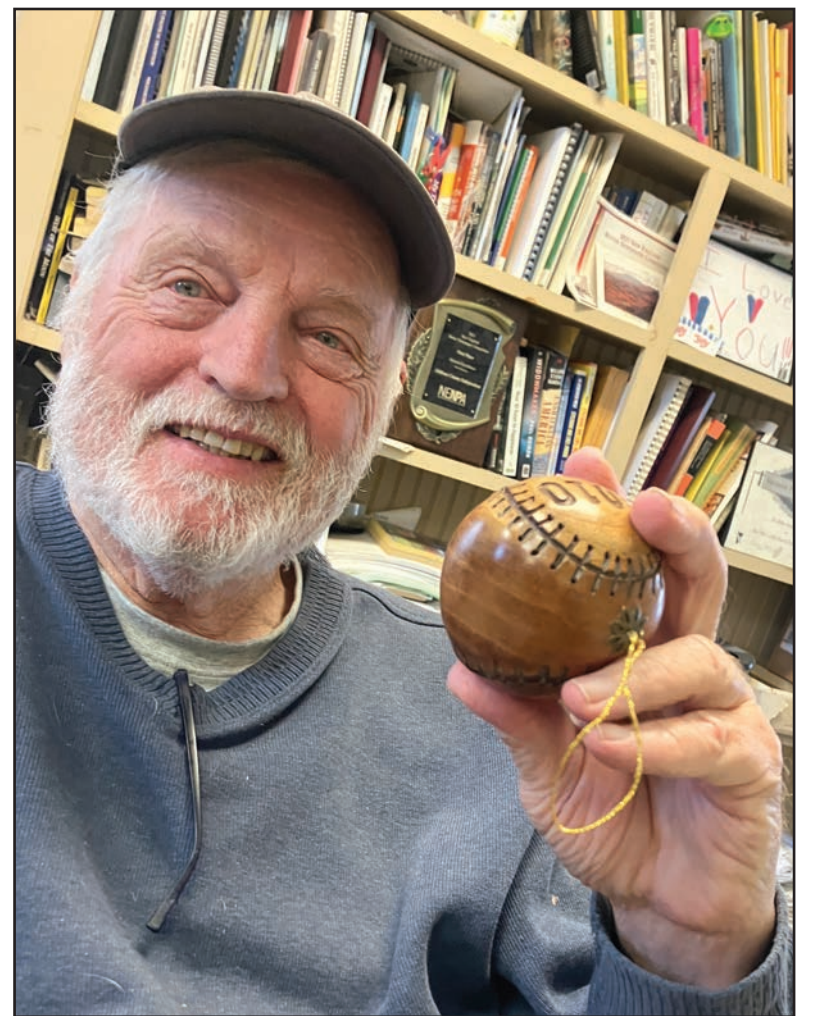
Middlebury police carry AEDs in their cruisers. The devices can also be seen in shopping areas, larger office complexes and at some sports facilities in Addison County.

Sometimes, though, it has to be the hands-on approach, Rothwell acknowledged.

"That first five minutes, compressions are the most important," she said.

You can find CPR details online at tinyurl.com/36635s66. But here's an overview:

- If the person does not respond to taps or shouts and is not breathing or only gasping, call 9-1-1 and get equipment, or tell someone to do so.
- Place the person on their back on a firm, flat surface and kneel beside them.
- Place two hands centered on the patient's chest, with your shoulders directly over your hands, elbows locked, and press to a depth of at least two inches. Administer 100 to 120 chest compressions per minute, 30 at a time. Allow the person's chest to return to normal position after each compression.
- Give two breaths. Open the airway to a past-neutral position using the head-tilt/chin-lift technique. Pinch the nose shut, take a normal breath, and make complete seal over the person's mouth with your mouth.
- Ensure each breath lasts about one second and makes the chest rise; allow air to exit before giving the next breath. Please note that if the first breath doesn't cause the chest to rise, re-tilt the head and ensure a proper seal before giving the second breath. If the second breath does not make the chest rise, an object may be blocking the airway.
- Continue giving sets of 30 chest compressions and two breaths. Use an AED as soon as one is available. Minimize interruptions to chest compressions to less than 10 seconds.



SPORTS COLUMNIST KARL LINDHOLM, shown in the Addy Indy newsroom working on a baseball story, is on the mend after suffering a heart attack in the newsroom last week.

How crucial is CPR to the recovery of a heart patient?

Generally, every minute without CPR can decrease the person's chances of survival by approximately 7%-10%, according to Rothwell, quoting from AHA statistics.

"As you can imagine these are exceptionally challenging odds in rural areas with response times," she said.

While the *Independent's* offices in the Marble Works are only a couple miles from the MREMS headquarters on Collins Drive, it's a considerably longer trek from Middlebury to Orwell. And that's why local first-response crews and a knowledgeable citizenry are so important to good patient outcomes.

In 2025, MREMS responded to 31 cardiac arrest incidents where resuscitation efforts were performed, according to Rothwell.

Seeing your local rescue squad pull up to a medical emergency is a huge comfort — especially in this day and age.

"Paramedic-level crews can provide nearly all interventions in a cardiac arrest that would be performed in the hospital," Rothwell said. "Due to this, in

most cases an Advanced Life Support resuscitation is performed on scene to ensure focus on critical interventions rather than rushing immediately to the hospital."

GROUP TUTORIALS

The folks at MREMS would like to see you in situations other than just emergencies. Rothwell and her crew — when they're not out saving lives — can give groups tutorials in CPR, and how to recognize and remedy choking, strokes and bleeding. Call 802-388-3286 for more details.

Rothwell is pleased that community members have been taking advantage of the MREMS education offer.

On May 17, during National Emergency Medical Services Week, MREMS held two community CPR, Stop the Bleed and Stroke recognition classes that delivered training to more than 50 local people.

"These are the skills that become another link in the chain of survival where seconds matter most," Rothwell said.

A chain of survival that's now linked to Karl Lindholm.

Carry on.
John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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SPORTS

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TIGER NO 1. SINGLES player Charles Young reaches to serve the ball during a playoff game versus Colchester in Middlebury on Tuesday. Young helped bring the Middlebury Union High School team a 6-1 victory, winning two sets without allowing his opponent a single point. MUHS will next host Brattleboro as they move on to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS SENIOR ADRIEN Malhotra catches air after a serve during Tuesday's match against Colchester. Malhotra, Middlebury's No. 2 singles player, defeated Colchester's Josh Bierer.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger boys' tennis defeats Colchester; earns a spot in state quarterfinals

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team is onto the quarterfinal round after a decisive 6-1 victory over No. 13 Colchester at the Middlebury Recreation Field tennis courts on Tuesday.

The No. 4 Tigers will host their next match, against No. 5 Brattleboro. The date and time are to be determined. The Bears beat Rutland on Tuesday.

"I felt like I played well. I was able to hit through the ball more," MUHS No. 1 singles player junior

Charles Young said of what went well during his match against Colchester's Steven Vicino.

During the Tuesday playoff game in Middlebury, Young won in two sets, without allowing his opponent a single point.

He recently competed in the state

individual tournament last Friday and Saturday, and made it to the semifinal round.

Confidence is what Young is looking to bring from the Colchester playdown into the next round.

"I know I can hit the ball well,"

he said. "And I think I gotta trust myself with that a little more."

"Hopefully I can help my team get far, and hopefully win a state championship."

While Young was duking out his singles match, senior Nathan Stefani and junior Nate Cook-

Yoder were at it on the other set of courts.

The pair won without needing a third set, after winning the first two, 6-1.

"Since some of our past matches, my volley game has come a long

(See *Quarterfinals*, Page 3B)

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball	
5/27 MUHS vs Fair Haven	16-5
5/28 VUHS vs MUHS	17-12
5/28 Mt. Abe vs Milton	13-0 (5 inn.)
5/30 Enosburg vs MUHS	19-0 (5 inn.)
5/30 VUHS at Caledonia	Cancelled
6/2 U-32 vs MUHS	8-4
6/2 VUHS vs Paine Mtn.	13-4
6/2 Mt. Abe. vs Lmle.	12-0 (5 inn.)
Baseball	
5/27 Fair Haven vs MUHS	11-8
5/28 MUHS vs VUHS	8-3
5/28 Mt. Abe vs Milton	9-0
5/30 Enosburg vs MUHS	10-8
6/2 MUHS vs Springfield	7-0
6/3 VUHS at Enosburg	Late
Boys' Lax	
5/29 MUHS vs Essex	14-6
5/30 Stowe vs MAV	8-6
6/2 MAV vs Randolph	14-5
Girls' Lax	
5/28 MUHS vs MMU	19-3
5/29 MAV vs CVU	16-15
5/29 MUHS vs Hartford	22-12
Girls' Ultimate	
5/28 S. Burlington vs MUHS	11-5
6/2 CVU vs MUHS	15-1
Boys' Ultimate	
5/27 MMU vs MUHS	15-7
6/2 Long Trail vs MUHS	15-7
Boys' Tennis	
5/27 Colchester vs MUHS	4-3
5/28 MUHS vs MMU	7-0
6/2 MUHS vs Colchester	6-1
Girls' Tennis	
5/27 U32 vs MUHS	4-3
5/28 MUHS vs Montpelier	4-3
6/3 MUHS vs Montpelier	Late

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball	
6/5 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi	4:30 pm
6/5 VUHS at Lake Region	4:30 pm
6/9 D-III Semi	4:30 pm
6/10 D-II Semi	4:30 pm
6/13 D-II Final at VSU Castleton	TBD
6/TBD D-III Final at VSU Castleton	TBD
Baseball	
6/5 Harwood at Mt. Abe	4:30 pm
6/5 MUHS at OV	4:30 pm
6/6 D-III Quarterfinals	4:30 pm
6/10 D-II Semi	4:30 pm
6/10 D-III Semi	4:30 pm
6/TBD D-II Final at Centennial Fld	TBD
6/TBD D-III Final at Centennial Fld	TBD
Boys' Lax	
6/5 MUHS at Woodstock	4:30 pm
6/5 MAV at Milton	4:30 pm
6/TBD D-I Semi	TBD

(See *Schedule*, Page 3B)

Eagle and Tiger girls' lax prep for playoffs

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The Tiger and Eagle girls' lacrosse teams concluded the regular season

LACROSSE Wrap-Up

Local baseball begins playoffs

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury Union High School baseball team has a playoff win under its belt after defeating No. 11 Springfield at home on Tuesday night.

The No. 6 Tigers ousted Springfield, 7-0, giving themselves

with wins this past week.

Both finished near the top of the pack, earned playdown byes and will start the post-season with quarterfinals.

No. 2 Middlebury Union High School enters playoffs with an 11-1 record as the No. 2 Division-I seed, behind just Rice, who the Tigers have yet to play this season.

The combined squad of players from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools,

a chance to upset No. 3 Otter Valley in Brandon on Friday at 4:30 p.m. The Otters beat No. 14 Montpelier, 2-0, on Tuesday.

MUHS is 8-6 ahead of the OV game. It will be the first time the two teams meet this season.

Also playing on June 5 is the team from Mount Abraham. The

which earned the No. 3 seed in Division II, is going into playoffs with an 8-5-1 record, featuring just one D-II loss to No. 1 seed U-32.

Here's how the final week of the regular season went for local girls' lax.

MIDDLEBURY

The Tigers defeated D-I Mount Mansfield Union 19-3 in Middlebury on Friday, May 28.

(See *Girls' lax*, Page 2B)

Mt. Abe junior secures a spot at New England track meet

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ESSEX — With his performance Saturday at a meet in Essex, Eagle track and field athlete Jackson LaMarche nabbed a spot representing the Green Mountain State at the upcoming regional tournament.

He was the sole local to qualify for the June 13 New England Interscholastic Outdoor Track & Field Championship in North Berwick, Maine.

Taking fourth place in the pole vault (3.27 meters/10 feet, 8.75 inches), the Mount Abraham Union High School junior qualified in that event. The Vermont team is made up of the top six athletes in each event from that day of competitions.

Here's how other local track and field athletes did Saturday:

MOUNT ABRAHAM

• Freshman Del Guilmette, ninth, boys' 1,500 meters (4:28.38)

• Senior James Mount, 11th, boys' javelin, (39.17 meters)

• Junior Truman Sawyer, eighth, boys' triple jump (12.03 meters); 12th, long jump (5.76 meters)

MIDDLEBURY

• Freshman Josephine Ives, 10th, girls' 1,500 meters (5:06.11)

• Sophomore Cameron Vose, and freshmen Penny Lickun, Mia Rosen and Ives, 15th, girls' 4x400 relay, (4:53.44)

VERGENNES

• Senior Faith McAllister, senior Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs, junior Isabelle Van Voorst and

(See *Tack*, Page 2B)



COMMODORE ACASIA VISSER winds up a pitch during last Thursday's game against MUHS in Middlebury. The Vergennes junior struck out 11 Tigers in the game.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER BRIANNA FOSS beats the throw to home plate and scores during MUHS's game against Vergennes in Middlebury last Thursday. The Commodores won the game.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS softball wins playdown

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — As the regular season wound down last week, the Vergennes Union High School softball team defeated local rival Middlebury Union High School, 17-12, on Thursday, May 28, in a second meeting this season, propping them up for a post-season

win.

The Commodores carried the momentum into their first Division III playoff game on Tuesday in Vergennes.

No. 6 VUHS defeated No. 11 Paine Mountain, 13-4; Commodore Acasia Visser had 11 strikeouts. The victory propels VUHS to the

quarterfinals in Barton to play No. 5 Lake Region on Friday, June 5, at 4:30 p.m. VUHS enters that game with a 4-10 record.

The young Commodores' recent playoff game reflected their scoring ability against MUHS days before.

During their season-closer (See *Softball*, Page 4B)

Girls' lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

Here are the MUHS game stats:

- Junior co-captain Izzy Quinn, 3 goals, 1 assist, 4 draw controls
- Sophomore Ellie Conklin, 4 goals
- Senior co-captain Kenyon Connors, 3 goals, 1 assist
- Junior Alice Livesay, 1 goal, 6 assists, 2 draw controls
- Senior Matty Austin, 3 goals
- Sophomore Louisa Orten, 2 goals, 2 assists
- Freshman Dana Livesay, 1 goal, 1 assist, 1 draw control
- Freshman Morgan McNulty, 1 goal, 1 draw control
- Sophomore Willow Heywood, 1 goal
- Senior Lia Calzini, 2 draw controls
- Sophomore Anni Broderson, 1 draw control
- Junior Hayden Dunakin, 1 assist

The next day MUHS headed to Hartford, where they dealt the home team a 22-12 blow.

The Tigers went into half with a 13-9 lead, but in the second half shut down Hartford's offense. The Tiger defense only allowed the D-II Hurricanes three goals in the final two quarters. The MUHS

offense put eight in the back of the net in that time.

Here are the game stats:

- Quinn, 6 goals, 2 assists, 2 draw controls
- Orten, 4 goals, 1 assist, 3 draw controls
- Conklin, 4 goals
- Calzini, 1 goal, 5 draw controls
- Connors, 2 goals, 1 assist
- Dana Livesay, 3 goals, 4 assists, 1 draw control
- Alice Livesay, 1 goal, 4 assists
- Senior Quinn Doria, 4 draw controls
- McNulty, 1 goal
- Sophomore Sadie Chance, 1 assist

The Tigers are scheduled to host a D-I quarterfinal game on Thursday, June 4, at 4:30 p.m. They will host No. 7 Champlain Valley Union, who defeated St. Albans, 15-10, on Tuesday. MUHS defeated CVU twice, 19-16 and 14-12, earlier in the season.

Mt. ABE-VUHS

A spate of three games against D-I teams capped the season for MAV. All three were tight contests.

The Eagles dropped the first two but came out on top in the third over CVU on Friday, May 29, in Bristol. The game ended 16-15,

after junior Thompson Davis secured it with the final goal with the clock down to 26 seconds.

"My team was able to make the small adjustments needed to come back from being down two goals and continued to chip away as a team to win this game," Coach Emiko Bennet said.

"I was beyond impressed with their commitment to one another on the field today, and it was a great way to end our regular season heading into playoffs."

Here are the game stats:

- Davis, 6 goals, 1 assist, 6 draw controls
- Senior co-captain June Yates-Rusch, 5 goals, 4 draw controls
- Sophomore Mattea O'Bryan, 2 goals
- Sophomore Callie Rule, 1 goal, 1 assist, 4 draw controls
- Freshman Delia Park, 1 goal
- Sophomore Olivia Sawyer, 1 goal

The Eagles will play either No. 6 Hartford or No. 11 Brattleboro at home in a quarterfinal game. Those two teams played Wednesday after deadline.

Earlier in the season, MAV beat Hartford 11-10. The Eagles have yet to see Brattleboro.



RICH WARREN OF Starksboro fishes for wild brook trout in the Nulhegan River during a recent expedition to the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.
Photo by Matthew Dickerson

Conte wildlife refuge a magical place to cast flies

I stood on the boardwalk viewing platform (www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/black-branch-boardwalk) off Stone Dam Road in the Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Vermont (www.fws.gov/refuge/silvio-o-conte-vermont-divisions-and-units) on a sunny afternoon in late May, looking down at a beautiful pool of water on the Black Branch of the Nulhegan River. Fed by a long gravel riffle, with a mix of deep water, boulders, seams and softer eddies, it looked like a beautiful place for a wild brook trout (or two) to be holding.

And, indeed, it was. Though it took me another half hour to walk back to my car, get in my waders, rig my fly rod, and fish my way back down to the pool to gain evidence for my conjecture. Though I worked my way down drifting little mayfly and stonefly nymphs, it was a little imitation brook trout streamer pattern of my own design that enticed the real brook trout to engage its predatory, piscivore nature and take my offering.

The Silvio O. Conte NWR is actually spread out over the four states that hold the headwaters of the Connecticut River: Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Established in 1997, its purpose is to "conserve, protect and enhance the abundance and diversity of native plant, fish and wildlife species and the ecosystem on which they depend throughout the 7.2 million acre Connecticut River watershed." The refuge has 12 units with a diversity of habitats.

The Nulhegan Basin Division sits on 26,600 acres of land in Essex County in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom — more than half of the refuge's total acreage. Three of four main tributaries of the Nulhegan — the Black Branch, Yellow Branch and North

Branch — all flow through the refuge along with many smaller tributaries, while the main stem flows along (and sometimes through) the southern boundary, and the East Branch wanders past its eastern boundary.

Apart from any recreational opportunities offered by the refuge, its conservation value is priceless. As our world continues to become more developed, and protected public lands are increasingly under threat, refuges offer vital conservation habitat to myriad species. In addition to its numerous rivers and streams, the densely forested Nulhegan Basin Division also features numerous types of wetlands including peatlands and shrub swamps, offering refuge to moose, fishers, and snowshoe hare as well as the more common black bear and deer, and a large variety of songbirds — many of which I enjoyed listening to as I fished my way downstream. (I was particularly delighted to hear, and then spot, a gold-crowned kinglet singing from its riverside perch on a spruce tree.)

The many different units also protect the water quality of many important sources that feed the Connecticut, and so their ecology importance is felt all the way down to Long Island Sound. Wetlands, for example, mitigate both floods and droughts by absorbing water when it is abundant and then releasing it slowly both downriver and into the aquifer.

The recreational opportunities are quite wonderful, too. Winter activities in the park including snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as snowmobiling. From Memorial Day through



MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor Columnist

mid-December, forty miles of gravel roads are open to passenger vehicles and bicyclists. There are also some wonderful canoeing opportunities.

Although the birding proved enjoyable, I was there primarily for the fishing, exploring the region for the first time with my friend Rich Warren from Starksboro. The Black Branch contains some wonderful water for Vermont's wild and native brook trout. Though it is not for the faint of heart. Over more than 10 miles of river upstream of its confluence with the main stem of the Nulhegan, the Black Branch has just two bridge crossings. The rest of the river flows through dense forests of mixed conifer and deciduous trees. Unlike many famous trophy trout waters that have well-traveled streamside trails, wading is about the only way to fish the stream. It would take me days to fish just the length of East Branch that flows through the refuge, and many more days to fish its major tributaries such as the Logger Branch that flows out of Lewis Pond.

Thankfully, I didn't have to fish more than a couple hundred yards near the bridge and boardwalk on Stone Dam Road to find a couple beautiful wild brook trout, enjoy the view from a small waterfall in the middle of the woods, and listen to the song of myriad deep woods songbirds. Rich and I then moved on and explore the East Branch outside the refuge but found no trout there. I'm now pondering how and when to get back to the refuge and explore some of its hiking trails as well as more of its many miles of wild brook trout waters.

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

were due to head to No. 4 Enosburg. Here's how local teams did as the regular season ended and the post season began.

MT. ABE

The Eagles enter the Friday quarterfinal on the heels of a 9-0 victory over Milton in Bristol on Thursday, May 28.

In the three innings that junior Jackson Jennings pitched, he struck out five batters.

Here's who had hits and runs:

- Junior Stefan Johnson, 2-for-3, home run, 3 RBIs
- Junior Abe Ready, 3-for-4, 3 doubles
- Senior Brody Barnard, 1-for-4,

double, 2 RBIs

- Senior Evan Corrigan, 1-for-1, RBI
- Junior Irie Mazur, 2-for-2
- Junior Cam Castillo, 2 RBIs

MUHS

In the last three games of the season, the Tigers went 1-2. MUHS dropped a May 27 away game to Fair Haven, 11-8; defeated Vergennes, 8-3, at home the following day, and dropped their final regular season game, 10-8, to Enosburg on Saturday.

Here are the Tiger stats from the game against VUHS:

- Freshman Lucas Wing, 1-for-3, 2 RBIs
- Junior Ryan Brouillard, 2-for-3,

double, 2 RBIs

- Junior Tucker Wright, 1-for-4, RBI
- Junior Connor Gordon, 1-for-3, double, RBI

Here are the Commodore stats:

- Sophomore Liam Paquette, 2-for-4, RBI

During the Tigers' first playoff game on June 2, Wing pitched the entire game, and allowed just three hits, struck out seven batters and threw just two walks.

Tiger stats in that game:

- Wright, 3-for-4, double, 2 RBIs
- Freshman Trevor Wright, 1-for-3, RBI
- Senior Wesley Audet, 1-for-2, 2 RBIs.

Track

(Continued from Page 1B)

sophomore Lauren Hill, 12th, girls' 4x400 relay (4:41.96)

- McAllister, Hill, Van Voorst and freshman Madeline Shugart, 14th, girls' 4x100 relay (55.91)
- Van Voorst, 11th, girls' 400 meters (1:02.73)
- Seniors Chance Koenig and

Carter McGuire, sophomore David Coburn and freshman Quin Dubois, 15th, boys' 4x400 relay (4:01.80)

- Koenig, McGuire, Coburn and freshman Henry Stroup, 12th, boys' 4x800 relay.

Local high school teams will compete at their divisional state

meets, all of which will be held at Burlington High School at the end of this week.

VUHS competes in Division III on Thursday, June 4, with 16 other teams. Mount Abe and MUHS will join 13 other teams as they run, jump and throw in D-II on Friday, June 5.

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SENIOR SPENCER COPELAND slices a backhand competing against Colchester during the playoff match on Tuesday. Copeland won two sets against Colchester's Nate Myers, helping MUHS advance to the quarterfinals, where they will host No. 5 Brattleboro.

Independent photo/Steve James

Quarterfinals

(Continued from Page 1B)

way, so working at the net, it's part of my game that I'm working on improving, and that I think has really shown through today," Stefani said of what went well during the match.

How is his season shaping up?
"I feel really good about it," he said.

"Nate and I have been playing for a good portion of the season, and we are almost undefeated," he said. "We lost one match, and it was at the finals of the state individual tournament."

The doubles team from Burlington defeated Stefani and Cook-Yoder, 6-4 and 7-5, to claim the title on Saturday.

Cook-Yoder, who was part of the championship pair in 2024 and 2025 runners-up, was sure to thank the team's coaches — Ken Schoen, Chris Murray and Alan Colthorp. "For all the hard work they do," he said.

Here's how players did during the June 2 playdown:

- No. 1 singles Young (MUHS) def. Vicino (Col) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 2 singles Adrienne Malhotra (MUHS) def. Josh Bierer (Col) 6-1, 6-1.

- No. 3 singles Spencer Copeland (MUHS) def. Nate Myers (Col) 6-2, 6-2.

- No. 4 singles Leo Swenton (MUHS) def. Louie Timmerman (Col) 6-1, 6-0.

- No. 5 singles Ben Shpaner (Col) def. Xander Lu (MUHS) 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 (10-6).

- No. 1 doubles Stefani and Cook-Yoder (MUHS) def. Josh Kaarla and Brock Payea (Col) 6-2, 6-2.

- No. 2 doubles Kirin Biancosino and Arthur Calvi (MUHS) def. Max Russell and Owen Thompson (Col) 6-1, 6-2.

Here's how MUHS did during their final regular season match at Mount Mansfield on May 28:

- No. 1 singles Young (MUHS) def. Max Clegg (MMU) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 2 singles Malhotra (MUHS) def. Sam Joyce (MMU) 6-0, 6-2.

- No. 3 singles Swenton (MUHS) def. Luka Deguttola (MMU) 6-1, 6-2.

- No. 4 singles Lu (MUHS) def.

Marley White (MMU) 6-0, 6-1.

- No. 5 singles Calvi (MUHS) def. Roy Powers (MMU) 6-2, 6-0.

- No. 1 doubles: Cook-Yoder and Alex Andersson (MUHS) def. Connell Fertstle and Eric Rice (MMU) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 2 doubles Copeland and Jeevanjot Singh (MUHS) def. Britt Kinnaman and David Stone (MMU) 1-6, 6-1, 1-0 (10-8).

On May 27 MUHS lost at home to Colchester, 4-3:

- No. 1 singles Young (MUHS) def. Vicino (Col) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 2 singles Bierer (Col) def. Stefani (MUHS) 3-6, 6-3, 1-0 (10-7).

- No. 3 singles Swenton (MUHS) def. Myers (Col) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 4 singles Lu (MUHS) def. Timmerman (Col) 6-4, 6-4.

- No. 5 singles Shpaner (Col) def. Calvi (MUHS) 6-3, 6-4.

- No. 1 doubles Payea and Kaarla (Col) def. Biancosino and Andersson (MUHS) 7-5, 6-2.

- No. 2 doubles Thompson and Russell (Col) def. Marco Zollo and Paras Biancosino (MUHS) 6-4, 6-3.



TIGER FRESHMAN LEO SWENTON lunges for the ball during a playoff match against Colchester on Tuesday. Swenton won two sets, only allowing one point from his competitor and helping the team finish with a 6-1 victory over Colchester.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle softball dominates with 5-inning wins

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRISTOL — The defending Division II state championship softball team from Mount Abraham Union High School showed that they're still at the front of the pack. Seeded No. 5 in the playoffs, the Eagles' two most recent games, including their first in the playoffs, have ended in five innings.

Mt. Abe closed the regular season with a 12-0 defeat of Milton on Thursday, May 28.

Here are the stats:

- Sophomore Eleanor Hurlburt,

2-for-3, home run, 3 RBIs

- Senior co-captain Molly Mangini, 1-for-3, 2 RBIs
- Senior co-captain Brooklyn Ryersbach, 2-for-3, RBI
- Junior Emmy Rougier, 1-for-2, RBI
- Sophomore Madison King, 1-for-1, RBI.

During the June 2 playoff game, senior pitcher Gretchen Toy didn't allow No. 12 Lamoille a single hit. She struck out seven batters, and contributed on offense as well with a double, a triple and two RBIs.

Other Eagle performances on Tuesday:

- Junior Leah Tierney went 4-for-4, 3B, RBI
- Senior co-captain Morgan Larocque went 3-for-4, 3 RBIs
- Hurlburt went 2-for-3, RBI
- Ryersbach went 1-for-1, RBI
- Junior Brooke Barnard went 1-for-1, RBI

The Eagles are 12-3 ahead of a second bout with No. 4 Missisquoi, which dealt Mt. Abe one of its few blows early in the season. The Eagles hit the road for that game on Friday, June 5.

Local boys' lax cruising into playoffs

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — The combined MAV boys' lacrosse team, with players from Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools, won their Division-II playoff game with room to spare.

The No. 6 Eagles defeated No. 11 Randolph, 14-5, on Tuesday, June 2.

Before that, MAV dropped a close regular season-closer to Stowe, 8-6.

That win and loss brought the team's record to 9-5 as they prepared to head to No. 3 Milton for a Friday quarterfinal.

Here's who scored and had assists vs. Randolph:

- Junior co-captain Asa Pratt, 4 goals
- Junior Lincoln Painter, 2 goals, 1 assist
- Senior Greyson Desilets, 1 goal
- Freshman Levi Clark, 1 goal, 1 assist
- Junior Kestrel Edwards, 1 goal, 1 assist
- Sophomore Addy Halby, 1 goal
- Junior Baxter Montgomery, 1 goal
- Sophomore Otto Sigfried, 1 goal

goal

- Junior Rowan Clark, 1 goal
 - Junior Oliver Zelonis, 1 goal
- The Middlebury Union High School team wrapped up its regular season on this past Friday with a 14-6 win over Essex, bumping their record to 8-6.

The No. 5-seed Tigers are due to begin D-I playoff competition on Friday as a third round against No. 4 Woodstock. MUHS dropped a game early in the season to them, but recently beat the Wasps, 11-10, in overtime.

Tiger girls' tennis splits last two matches

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Before hosting No. 5 Montpelier for a playdown match on Wednesday, the Division-II Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team capped their regular season with back-to-back matches.

The No. 4 seeded team dropped the first, 4-3, at U-32, on Wednesday, May 27, but ended on a high with a 4-3 defeat of Montpelier on Thursday, May 28.

To open the Division-II playoffs, the No. 4 Tigers hosted No. 5 Montpelier on Wednesday, June 3, after deadline.

Here's how MUHS did at the U-32 match, during which the team's seniors were absent due to activities for the graduating class:

- No. 1 singles Sylvia Emmons U-32 def. Cecelia Luksch MUHS, 6-3, 6-1.
- No. 2 singles Arianna Conti

U-32 def. Addie Taylor MUHS, 6-4, 6-2.

- No. 3 singles Addie Pasco U-32 def. Alex Garcia MUHS, 6-4, 6-2.

- No. 4 singles Vicky Garcia MUHS def. Valleri Holmes U-32, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 10-8.

- No. 5 singles Sophia Nicolai MUHS def. Sophie Young U-32, 6-3, 6-0.

- No. 1 doubles 1 Mitzi Poduschnick/Thea Porter MUHS def. Aida Coffey/Pearl Jackes U-32, 6-1, 5-7, 10-2.

- No. 2 doubles Kiersten Potvin/Shannon McCulloch U-32 def. Rory Cate/Penny Stattel MUHS, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 10-8.

"Debuting at No. 4 singles, Vicky Garcia gritted out a comeback, three-set win," Coach Dan Comar said.

"Extempore No. 1 doubles team

Mitzi Poduschnick and Thea Porter played a see-saw match and also prevailed in a third set tiebreak. In another debut pairing at No. 2 doubles, Rory Cate and Penny Stattel played back-to-back tie breaks before succumbing to a more experienced U-32 pairing. Sophia Nicolai played the match of the day posting a dominant 6-3 6-0 win at No. 5 singles."

Here's how MUHS did the next day against Montpelier:

- No. 1 singles Stella Lenti MUHS def. Allegra Muller MU, 6-4, 6-4.

- No. 2 singles Emily Tringe MU def. Anna Wolosinski MUHS, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

- No. 3 singles Luksch MUHS def. Alex Cook MU, 2-6, 6-2, 10-8.

- No. 4 singles Fiona Murphy

(See Girls' Tennis, Page 4B)

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

6/TBD D-II SemiTBD
6/TBD D-I Finals at Virtue FieldTBD
6/TBD D-II Finals at Virtue FieldTBD

Girls' Lax

6/4 CVU at MUHS4:30 pm
6/5 TBD at MAV4:30 pm
6/9 D-I SemiTBD
6/10 D-II SemiTBD
6/TBD D-I Final at Virtue FieldTBD
6/TBD D-II Final at Virtue FieldTBD

Boys' Tennis

6/TBD Brattleboro at MUHSTBD
6/TBD SemiTBD
6/11 Final at St. Mike's3:30 pm

Girls' Tennis

6/TBD D-II Semi at HarwoodTBD
6/9 D-II Final at St. Mike'sTBD

Track & Field

(State Championships)
6/4 VUHSat Burlington
6/5 MUHS, Mt. Abeat Burlington

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Softball

(Continued from Page 1B)

against the Tigers in Middlebury, the Commodores went up 2-0 in the top of the first. After the Tigers notched one out, junior co-captain Acasia Visser and freshman Ayla Kittredge both walked and managed to make their way all around the diamond before the end of the inning.

MUHS sophomore Lillian Paquette led off the bottom of the first with a homerun to right center.

With just one out, sophomore McKenna Whitney slammed a deep double to the back corner in left field, getting senior co-captain Skyler Choiniere in from third and tying the game 2-2.

The scoreboard didn't budge until the bottom of the third. The Tigers took a 3-2 edge on an unearned run. Both teams got their bats swinging in the fourth inning. It ended 11-10, VUHS.

Junior Trinity Angle started the rally for VUHS with a deep triple to right field.

She made it home after freshman Reese Muzzy made contact with the ball and reached first on an error. Angle's run tied the game, 3-3.

Junior co-captain Ryenn Wissel came up and hit a single that fell behind the Tiger shortstop.

Muzzy stole third, and then stole home, getting the Commodores a

fifth Commodore run.

A shallow hit to the outfield from freshman Ella Maneen followed.

With bases loaded, a wild pitch gave Hutchins the opportunity to get home from third.

After that, Maneen tagged up on a pop fly and darted home from third. Her run made the score 7-3, Commodores.

With two outs Kittredge hit a line drive to center field, driving in another run to make it 8-3.

Angle then sliced the Tiger infielders with a ground hit to the outfield.

After that hit, MUHS pulled Paquette from the bullpen and put her on the mound.

The Commodores weren't phased by the change.

Muzzy came up and hit a triple that turned into an in-the-park-homer, upping the score to 11-3.

The Tigers almost matched the Commodores in the bottom of the fourth inning, and made up most of those needed runs while under the pressure of two outs.

VUHS got an out off a bunt hit by senior co-captain Ireland Hanley, but that advanced sophomore Pema Kerins to third. Kerins scored on a wild pitch.

With one out, the score 11-4, Commodore pitcher Visser struck out the next Tiger batter.

The Tigers held on.

tenth Tiger run.

A groundout ended the fourth inning.

Though the Commodores had given up their substantial lead, they kept fighting back at the plate.

Hutchins hit a shallow single to right field, advancing a fellow Commodore to third. Hutchins then stole second.

Laci Almeida came up and grounded out, but got Zimmerman home, bringing the score to 12-10, and advancing Hutchins to third. Hutchins was able to make a break for home on a wild pitch before a pop fly ended the inning.

Though the Tigers had a much lighter load to get back in line with VUHS, they couldn't catch up to the Commodores by the end of the seventh inning.

Kerins drove in a run in the bottom of the sixth and a double hit by Foss got one more in during the bottom of the seventh, to bring the Tigers' final tally to 12.

Hutchins hit a single that drove in a run in the top of the seventh. That plus three more unearned runs brought the final score to 17-12, Commodores.

After the game, VUHS Coach Peter Monty said his team had "just been playing good ball" as the regular season came to a close, and added that his players were focused.

Visser, who pitched the bulk of the game, said the squad's closeness is also aiding their play. "As a team, we've bonded a lot more, and our energy's a lot up, so we're able to bring everyone up. So, I think that's very helpful," she said.

"It's gonna be a good playoff season."

MUHS:

For the Tigers, the contest with the Commodores began a three-game losing streak that would end their season in playdown round of the D-II playoffs.

After dropping the VUHS game, the No. 10 Tigers fell 19-0 to Enosburg Falls on Saturday, and closed the season with an 8-4 loss to No. 7 U-32 on Tuesday.

Before that stretch though, the Tigers nabbed a win against Fair Haven on Wednesday, May 27. That game ended 16-5, MUHS.

Here's who had hits and runs in the VUHS game on May 28:

- Lillian Paquette, 1 run
- Brianna Foss, 2 runs
- Skyler Choiniere, 4-for-5, double, home run, 3 runs, 2 RBIs
- McKenna Whitney, 4-for-5, 2 runs, 3 RBIs
- Pema Kerins, 1-for-3, double, 2 runs, 1 RBI
- Jocelyn Foster, 1 run
- Adeline Ritter, 1-for-4, 3 runs, 2 RBIs
- Heaven Ross, 1-for-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI
- Tenny LaRoche, 2-for-4, 1 run, 1 RBIs



LILLIAN PAQUETTE SPRINTS to third base in last Thursday's softball game that pitted Middlebury Union High School against Vergennes Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School's Ireland Hanley lays down a bunt during a May 28 softball clash with county rival Vergennes Union High School. The visiting Commodores won in a slugfest, 17-12.

Independent photo/Steve James



THE TIGERS' PERNA Kerins prepares to swing at a pitch during a March 28 home game against rival Vergennes Union High School. The Commodores won the game, 17-12, over Middlebury Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' tennis

(Continued from Page 3B)

MU def. Taylor MUHS, 6-1, 6-2.

• No. 5 Maryam Khan MUHS def. Akari Damon MU, 6-0, 0-6, 10-8.

• No. 1 doubles Alex Garcia/Vicky Garci MUHS def. Celeste Hierlihy/Ada Clar MU, 6-2, 6-2.

• No. 2 singles Lillian Fitch/Regan Walke MU def. Nicolai/Thea Porter MUHS, 6-3, 6-7 (9-11), 10-5.

"Singles No. 3 Cecelia Luksch gathered herself after being outmaneuvered in the first set to work the whole court in set two, winning a tight third set tiebreak," Comar said.

"No. 1 doubles Alex and Vicky Garcia are playing their best tennis with a wire-to-wire, two-set win. No. 5 singles Maryam Khan rolled in the first, got rolled in the second, and then, the last match going with the score at MUHS 3 and MU 3, settled into a come-from-behind, third-set tiebreak win to cement the eighth team win of the season."

That final match brought the Tigers to an 8-4 record ahead of their Wednesday playdown.

Before that round, MUHS had only dropped three D-II matches — to U-32, who they defeated earlier in the year while at full strength, and twice to No. 1 seed Harwood.

Tiger ultimate teams wrap up season

MIDDLEBURY — Both the Middlebury Union High School girls' and boys' ultimate teams wrapped up their seasons on Tuesday when they bowed out of the first round of their respective playoff tournaments.

No. 11 Tiger boys fell to No. 6 Long Trail in Dorset. The score was 15-11.

The eighth-seeded Tiger girls lost in Hinesburg to top-seed CVU, 1-0.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

Let the games begin!

We received our first two Garden Game entries of the season, and in an exciting turn of events, they happen to be not only in the same category but are also grown by neighbors!

Monica Przyperhart was the first to stop by with a hefty asparagus stalk measuring 16" L x 4.25" C. Laura Asermily's entry followed: a towering spear measuring 31.5" L x 2" C. Laura noted that her asparagus crop has been especially productive this year, allowing her to share with neighbors while engaging in a friendly competition with the Przyperharts.

Can you do the quick math to figure out which asparagus takes the lead? After a little number-crunching (and perhaps a calculator), the winner is... drumroll, please... Monica's asparagus by a mere 5"! There must be something in that soil because these two entries were beautiful to behold (and eat!)

Will anyone be able to top Monica's asparagus? Will a new contender sprout up next week? Stay tuned to find out!



Fun Fact

Asparagus has been enjoyed for thousands of years. According to legend, Emperor Augustus was so fond of the vegetable that he coined the phrase "faster than cooking asparagus" to describe doing something quickly. A recipe for cooking asparagus even appears in Apicius's *De re coquinaria*, one of the oldest surviving collections of recipes, dating back to the 1st century A.D.



Categories & Front-Runners:

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Monica Przyperhart, 16" x 4.25"
- Beet (circumference)
- Broccoli (diameter)
- Cabbage (circumference)
- Cantaloupe (circumference)
- Carrot (length x circumference)
- Cauliflower (diameter)
- Corn (length x circumference)
- Cucumber (length x circumference)
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only)
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference)
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length)
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference)
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference)
- Potato (length x circumference)
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference)
- Rhubarb (stalk length)
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference)
- Sunflower (diameter)
- *Sweet Potato (length x circumference)
- Tomato (circumference)
- Turnip (circumference)
- Winter Squash (length x circumference)
- Zucchini (length x circumference)
- *new category

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jun 4 THURSDAY
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 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. Our new tech guru, Dino Jandric, will be on hand to field questions about PCs and Android devices, while Alissa will help you with Apple products.



Sweet ideas
ALL ABOARD FOR ice cream! The historic depot in New Haven moved to its new location in 2022, and the New Haven Neighbors and Community Trust are having a free ice cream cone day to encourage residents to share their ideas for its future use. Will it become an art gallery? Senior center? Let a sweet treat fuel your brainstorming on Saturday, June 6 from 1-2:30.

Independent Photo/Marin Howell

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.

jun 6 SATURDAY
Neighbors Coffee Hour in New Haven. Saturday, June 6, 9-10 a.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Join your New Haven neighbors for coffee and home baked goodies. This monthly event brings together our community for conversation, the sharing of news and events and the simple joy of connecting. The New Haven Neighbors will take a break from hosting the event in July.

Green Mountain Club hike: Mt. Abe in Lincoln. Saturday, June 13. Hike Mt. Abe from Lincoln Gap. Moderate to strenuous hike of about 5.5 miles round trip with 1,600 feet elevation gain. Panoramic views from the alpine summit. To register, contact Dwight Griesman at dwtight.griesman@gmail.com. gmcbreadloaf.org.

Addison County Bike Club Family Ride: Moosalamoo Campground in Salisbury. Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m., Meet at Moosalamoo Campground parking lot. Looking for good beginner trails for young riders to learn on? These rides are family-friendly and considerate of kids' skills and endurance levels. Fun for kindergarten age and older. The ride will go along the campground trail, great for beginners. Cold treats will be available at the end of the ride. Look out for July and August family ride info soon. RSVP required.

Addison County Regional Energy & Eco Fair in Vergennes. Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Vergennes city green. Come have a conversation about energy and nature-based solutions for your home or business. Cohosted by the Vergennes and Weybridge Energy Committees and Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Free. Event contacts: jlarsen@acrpc.org or cherylbrinkman3@gmail.com.

Cat Cafe at Bixby in Vergennes. Saturday, June 13, 11-1 p.m., Bixby library. Join us for a Cat Cafe with Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society. Meet and play with sweet, adoptable cats while enjoying light refreshments. This event has limited capacity—email miranda.degreenia@bixbylibrary.org to reserve a 20-minute spot.

Takeout chicken and biscuit supper in Vergennes. Saturday, June 13, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street. Chicken and gravy, over biscuits, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce and dessert. Take out only. Must preorder by 7 p.m. Thursday, June 11. To order call 802-877-3150.

Silent movie: "The Kid" in Brandon. Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Charlie Chaplin's 1921 classic, also starring a young Jackie Coogan, is shown with live music by Jeff Rapsis. Part of the annual Silent Movie Series featuring live accompaniment. Concessions support future screenings. Free.

Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, June 13, 7-9 a.m., Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge Street and Pulp Mill Bridge Road. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

jun 14 SUNDAY
Masons monthly charity fundraising breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, June 14, 7:30-10 a.m., Bristol Masons Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets. This month, the Lodge has voted to donate all proceeds to the Starksboro Fire Department. We will be serving sausage gravy with biscuits, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, homefries, pancakes, French toast, maple syrup from Alan Mayer's sugarhouse, assorted juices and apple bread pudding. \$9 for adults; \$5 for children under 12.

Fire Department Annual Chicken Barbecue in Cornwall. Sunday, June 14, noon, Route 30 Station, 1952 Rte. 30. Half-chicken meals with salad and sides, kids can enjoy free hot dogs while they last. Table seating and take out available. Slow cooked with CVFD's secret sauce. This community event is a great opportunity to see neighbors and old friends, see the fire trucks, learn about serving on the fire department and meet the volunteers. Proceeds benefit the work of the department.

jun 15 MONDAY
Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, June 15, 4:30 p.m., Addison

County VFW 7823, 530 Exchange St.. \$1,000 Jackpot. Quickies start at 6 p.m., regular bingo starts at 7 p.m. Kitchen is open from 5-6:30 p.m. Open to the public. Benefits Veterans Programs.

Monkton history scanning evening in Monkton. Monday, June 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Monkton Town Hall. Help us save the stories of Monkton's past. Bring photos or documents from life in Monkton, from the recent past to long-ago days. We'll scan your precious memories and return the items to you immediately. The most popular items in our current museum exhibit are photos of people from the '50s and stories from WWII. Light refreshments and a slide show of pictures from earlier scanning days will be shown.

Vergennes City Band rehearsal. Monday, June 15, 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.

jun 17 WEDNESDAY
Chicken BBQ in the park in Bristol. Wednesday, June 17, 5 p.m. until sold out, the Bristol Green. One meal includes a half- or quarter-chicken, potato salad, baked beans, a drink and a roll. This usually sells out fast! Cooked by the Sons of the American Legion.

Strawberry Festival and Concert in Shoreham. Wednesday, June 17, 6-8 p.m., the Town Green's gazebo. Bring your lawn chairs or picnic blankets for seating on the lawn, enjoy your shortcake and listen to the music provided by Nick Thornblade and his accordion. Since the church will close in December, this is the last Strawberry Fest that the church will sponsor. Strawberry shortcake: \$4-\$7.

Friends of the TAM Chipman Hill sunset bird walk with Eilyn Montgomery in Middlebury. Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m., Chipman Hill Trailhead on Washington Street Ext. Chipman Hill in the evening comes alive with birdsong. We will stop at several view spots to take in the sunset. Plan on hiking ~2 miles with some steep parts. Attendees should wear hiking shoes and bring a flashlight or headlamp and a pair of binoculars. We will have a few pairs to share. A phone with the Merlin ID app is helpful but not necessary. We will be joined by Kevin Fox, MALT's executive director. Notification of rain postponement by email the day before if needed. Limited to 20 people. Registering in advance is required. Sign up at secure.lgforms.com/form_engine/s/_OiiV05YJwvIYqUibwA7Zg.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park. Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday through Aug. 26 the Town Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. We welcome new members. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

jun 18 THURSDAY
Supporting recovery, strengthening community in Middlebury. Thursday, June 18, 6 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. Join us for an evening moderated by Jane Lindholm of Vermont Public, featuring a panel of community members representing people in active recovery, recovery professionals, family members, law enforcement, healthcare and public policy. The evening will also include a short film featuring local stories of recovery, light refreshments, and an audience Q&A.

CALENDAR ONLINE

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Get ready for community fun at Summerfest

NEW HAVEN — It must be summertime when we are talking about chicken barbecues and ice cream! There are lots of opportunities to join your neighbors this month so come on out for one or all of them!

FREE CONE DAY AT THE DEPOT

On Saturday, June 6, from 1-2:30 p.m., The New Haven Community Trust and New Haven Neighbors will serve up free ice cream cones at the Depot. It's a celebration of summer and the ongoing restoration of our historic train station. There will also be an opportunity to fill out a survey on your ideas for the future use of the building. Come on out and celebrate with your neighbors and

New Haven

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

NEWS

friends while the ice cream lasts!

COFFEE HOUR AT LINCOLN PEAK
Join your New Haven neighbors for coffee and home baked goodies at Lincoln Peak Vineyard on Saturday morning, June 6 from 9-10 a.m. This monthly event brings together our community for conversation, the sharing of news and events and the simple joy of connecting with one another. The

New Haven Neighbors will take a break from hosting the event in July so come this Saturday to meet up with new and old friends.

LIVE STORYTELLING AT THE TOWN HALL

The New Haven Community Library is hosting a free storytelling event on Thursday, June 25 from 6-8:15 p.m. Community members will share their own 5 to 7-minute story with a live audience. The organizers are looking for supportive audience members and storytellers alike. Interested in telling a story? Email Samara Anderson at anderson_samara@yahoo.com. First time storytellers encouraged! We all love a good story, and this is an opportunity to settle in and enjoy listening for free. This is part of a larger effort to host a live storytelling event at every public library in Vermont — all 185!

SUMMERFEST ON THE GREEN

Plans are underway for a special event that will coincide with the Volunteer Fireman's Chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 27. The event will take place from 4-7 on the town green and will include live music, face painting and games for the kids, a birthday cake to celebrate 125 years for the New Haven Library, free Historical Society giveaways and lots more. Bring your chicken dinner over to the green and join your neighbors for an evening of fun. Parking is behind the church.

NEW HAVEN HOUSING TASK FORCE

The New Haven Housing Taskforce has made progress toward the goal of increasing housing opportunities in alignment with the recently

BBQ to benefit Cornwall Fire Department

CORNWALL — The Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will once again host its annual chicken barbecue at the Route 30 station on Sunday, June 14, from noon until the chicken runs out. Table seating and take-out will be available.

Half-chicken meals with salad and sides will be the main feature, but kids (and the young at heart) can enjoy free hot dogs while they last.

The volunteers will start the grills in the morning to slow cook the chicken while repeatedly basting it in the CVFD's secret sauce, so the end result is a flavorful, tender chicken that can't be beat. The price for the full meal is \$15.

This community event is a great opportunity to see and meet neighbors and old friends, as well as see the CVFD's fire trucks, learn about serving on the fire department and meeting the volunteers. Proceeds benefit the work of the department.



SUPPORT THE CORNWALL Volunteer Fire Department and enjoy a great chicken BBQ on Sunday, June 14.

Photo submitted

MUHS alumni seek nominees for hall of fame

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury High School/Middlebury Union High School Alumni Association is calling for nominations for consideration for induction into the MHS/MUHS Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was founded in 1986 by Richard "Zig" Livingston, and Richard "Dick" Bullock. In the Hall of Fames inaugural year, 12 members were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Over the years classmates, peers and family members have nominated individuals to recognize outstanding alumni, staff, and

community members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, citizenship, educational achievement, and community service that reflect the values and spirit of our school. The committee has opened the nomination process for the 2026 class with an application that can be requested by emailing Bill Cunningham at wjcunningham12@gmail.com or Mary Jane Quesnel at mjqrq@hotmail.com. You may also call Bill Cunningham at 802-522-7421 for an application or with questions.

The committee is looking for an inductee who demonstrates honesty and respect with their interactions within their community. The nominee upholds ethical standards and is someone who volunteers and helps others in their community with their leadership that reflects integrity and values for those who they are serving. Nominations must be received by email or mail no later than Aug. 7. Mail submissions to: MHS/MUHS Alumni Association, PO Box 1034, Middlebury, VT 05753.

READER

comments

“ Outstanding publication week after week ”

- Tim, Ferrisburgh subscriber

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

Each year, we're continually impressed by the talent, determination and accomplishments of the young people in our community. We're proud to recognize these hardworking students for all they've achieved in the past year. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and best of luck on your next adventures!

Below is a full list of Middlebury Union High School and Vergennes Union High School Students of the Week and their destinations in the fall.

What's Next? Vergennes Union High School

- Chance Koenig — Ithaca College, New York
- Quincy Sabick — Dartmouth College, New Hampshire
- Amelia Giroux — College of Charleston, South Carolina
- Gina LeBeau — Skidmore College, New York
- Nilah Fitzgerald — University of Vermont
- Ryan Wright — Marywood University, Pennsylvania
- Phoebe Raphael — University of Vermont
- Ellie Wilkinson-Sachs — Smith College, Massachusetts
- Kyan Barcomb — Gap Year (deferred to UCONN)
- Ava Francis — Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
- Ashtin Sterns — SUNY Cobleskill, New York
- Carter McGuire — University of Vermont
- Calvin Almeida — Working at Kayhart Brothers Farm
- Ila Crowley — University of Vermont
- James Peterson — Wentworth Institute of Technology, Massachusetts
- Scout Jacobson — Southern Maine Community College
- Josh Goff — Employment
- Faith McAllister — University of Vermont
- Aiden Fuller — University of Vermont

What's Next? Middlebury Union High School

- Cooke Riney — Yale University, Connecticut
- Mary Harrington — University of Vermont
- Mattisen Austin — Bates College, Maine
- Austin Gero — Employment
- Maya Breckenridge — University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Peter Conklin — Northeastern University, Massachusetts
- Marolyn Bingham — St. Michael's College, Vermont
- Kaden Hammond — Princeton University, New Jersey
- Esra Anzali — Rice University, Texas
- Nathan Stefani — University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Sole Pareja — University of Vermont
- Avery Hohenschau — Vassar College, New York
- Berkley Graham-Gurland — Clark University, Massachusetts
- Logan Edmonds-Beattie — University of Maine, Orono
- Gunnar Boe — Gap Year
- Navah Glikman — UC San Diego, California
- Grace Ritter — Duke University, North Carolina
- Kirin Biancosino — Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania
- Marilyn Almeida-Perez — University of New England, Maine

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

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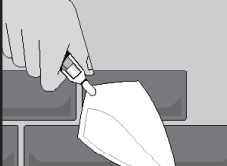
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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Public Meetings

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Help Wanted

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Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 9B & 10B.

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Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

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Opportunities

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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 or 802-453-2333.

For Rent



ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

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MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

For Rent

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

VERGENNES DOWNTOWN APARTMENT 1BR/1BA apartment in quiet downtown Vergennes building. Bright living space with large windows, open concept kitchen, and off-street parking. Walkable to cafes, restaurants, and local businesses. \$1,525/month. Security deposit \$1,525. 1-year lease. Available May 1. No smoking. Pets allowed with landlord permission. Call or text (317) 379-1587 for details or to schedule a showing.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

Help Wanted

Middlebury police probe theft of purse

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police were informed of the reported theft of a purse from a parked car on Wilson Road on May 26. Officers said the culprit then used stolen credit cards to make unauthorized purchases at a Court Street business. Police said the case remains under investigation.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a noise complaint on South Main Street on May 25.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint at Hannaford Supermarket on May 25
- Cited a juvenile for driving under the influence following a traffic stop on Seminary Street Extension on May 26.
- Responded to a complaint about people shouting in the Bakery Lane area on May 26.
- Assisted Vermont Fish & Wildlife officials with an injured turkey on May 26.
- Responded to a reported "disturbance" under the Cross Street Bridge on Bakery Lane on May 26.
- Were informed of the theft of

Middlebury Police Log

items from a vehicle parked at the Abbey Pond Trailhead on May 26.

- Helped a driver with a flat tire on Route 7 South on May 26.
- Assisted at the scene of an unresponsive person at the Addison Independent offices during the morning of May 26. Folks at the scene performed CPR on the patient pending speedy arrival of Middlebury Regional EMS (see related story).
- Responded to a noise complaint on Court Street on May 27.
- Helped a driver who was trapped behind a locked security gate on Chipman Hill on May 27.
- Were asked to check on a sick/injured skunk behind a Seymour Street home on May 27.
- Investigated a shoplifting complaint at the TJ Maxx store on May 27.
- Served a no-trespass order on May 27 upon a person who wasn't wanted at a Seymour Street residence on May 27.

- Responded to a report of "suspicious activity" in the Jayne Court neighborhood on May 27.
- Cited Ryan C. Squier, 18, of Pittsford for driving with a criminally suspended license near the intersection of Court Street and South Village Green on May 28.
- Responded to a crash involving two motorcycles near the intersection of Route 7 South and Route 125 on May 28. Police said both drivers sustained minor injuries, and the motorcycles had to be towed due to damage.
- Helped a person who had fallen down some stairs near Middlebury Beverage off MacIntyre Lane on May 29.
- Responded to a report of two women arguing on Cross Street on May 29.
- Responded to a mental health-related call at Porter Hospital on May 30.
- Began an investigation on May 30 into a driver who had sped away from a traffic stop at the intersection of Route 7 South and South Village Green on May 30.
- Received, from a good Samaritan, a brown wallet found in the Shaw's Supermarket parking lot on May 30.

- Received a report of an uninvited person found sleeping in the shed of an Ossie Road home on May 30.
- Helped a driver who had veered off Route 125 in Ripton on May 30.
- Received a complaint about a revving engine in the Jackson Lane neighborhood on May 31.
- Took into protective custody a drunken person on May 31. Police took the person to Rutland County to receive detox services.
- Spoke with some folks who were violating the town's encampment policy in the Bakery Lane area on May 31.
- With help from a local game warden, were able to remove a bear from the Mill Street parking lot at around 10:48 a.m. on May 31. Police reminded Mill Street and Weybridge Street residents to store their trash indoors until it's ready to be collected by their haulers.
- Took, to Porter Hospital, a patient for an emergency mental health evaluation on June 1.
- Responded to an alleged road-rage incident on East Main Street on June 1. Police said the case remains under investigation.

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 5/28/26 & 6/1/26

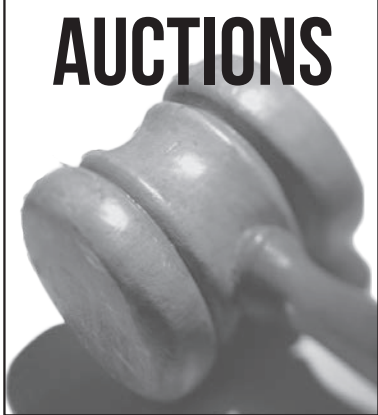
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
4 Hills Farm	2220	1.95	\$4329.00
Blue Spruce	2190	1.90	\$4161.00
C.Parmalee	1380	1.90	\$2622.00
Sunderland	1655	1.85	\$3061.75
Iroquois	1620	1.83	\$2964.60
Westminster	1690	1.80	\$3042.00

CALVES	\$
Deer Valley	\$1904.00
Gosliga	\$1887.00
Dykema	\$1728.00
Barnes Bros	\$1727.10
J. Fiffeld	\$1645.90
Ladue	\$1565.10
Degraaf	\$1555.20

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Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — We congratulate all our area students on a successful academic year and wish them well for the summer and for their plans after graduation. Our



Have a news tip?
Email Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

community also greatly appreciates the teachers and staff for their support of our students during this past year. Please keep up to date with all the end of the school year activities by referring to the schools' websites and newsletters. Ferrisburgh Central School will be holding its Fifth Grade Step Up ceremony on Wednesday, June 10. Congratulations to our High School Seniors! The VUHS Class of 2026 graduation ceremony will be held Friday June 12 at 6 p.m. The last day of school is Friday, June 12. Join Vermont's Native American community for the Abenaki Heritage Weekend and Arts Marketplace, Saturday June 13 and Sunday June 14, at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Citizens of Vermont's Elnu, Nulhegan, Koasek and Missisquoi Tribes will share perspectives on life in the Champlain Valley. There will be storytelling, craft demonstrations, drumming, singing and a children's play area. Featured arts include jewelry, wampum, quillwork, stonework, woodworking and more. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy this event that celebrates and informs about Vermont's Abenaki culture and history. There is no charge and the festivities will be held rain or shine. For questions or accommodations, contact: Communications@abenakiart.org. Join staff from Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, in partnership (See Ferrisburgh, Page 11B)

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
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OPEN HOUSE: Thurs. | June 11 | 11AM-1PM

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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

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B and 11B.

- Act 250 (1)
- Addison (1)
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)
- Bridport (1)
- Middlebury (2)
- Monkton (1)
- Munger St. Cemetery (1)
- Ripton (1)
- Starksboro (1)
- Vergennes (1)

TOWN OF ADDISON DRB PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Monday, June 22, 2026 at 6:00PM at the former Addison Central School located at VT Rte 22A and VT Rte 17 West, Addison, VT.

- DRB Application #26-02** Lisa Preston, Dillon Preston & Hanna LaFrance requesting to gain approval to subdivide the property located at 4 Walton Lane, Addison, VT. If ready, will plan for a final. Need to continue until the May meeting.
- DRB Application #26-08** Charlene Goodell requesting (3) lot subdivision located at 3857 VT RTE 22A, Addison, VT.
- DRB Application #26-09** Nottontson Family Revocable Trust—Jeffrey & Mary Jane Nottontson, Trustees requesting a VIARANCE located on Grandey Road, Addison, VT, to be followed by a 2 - lot subdivision the next month.
- DRB Application #26-15** Kayhart Dairy Partnership is requesting to subdivide (2 lot subdivision) located at 1245 Jersey Street South, Addison, Vt. The existing parcel is 145.3+/- acres & is currently used for agricultural purposes & is accessed off Country Club Road. The subdivision purposes to split the parcel into two lots. Lot 1 will be 138.34 +/- acres and remain in agricultural use.
- DRB Application # 26-16** Kayhart Dairy Partnership is requesting to subdivide (2 lot subdivision) located at 2000 Jersey Street South, Addison, Vt. The existing parcel is 52 +/- acres and is currently used for agricultural purposes and is accessed from Jersey Street South via a gravel agricultural access drive. The subdivision proposes to split the parcel into lots. Lot 1 will be 45.9 +/- acres & remain in agricultural use & will be improved with a proposed 40' wide Right of Way over the gravel drive. Lot 2 will be 6.1+/- acres and contain a 3-bedroom single-family residence.

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Wojochowski, Chair
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary
Zoning Administrator Daniel Rossignol

TOWN OF RIPTON INVITATION TO BID - MOWING SERVICES

The Town of Ripton seeks a mowing contractor for 753 Lincoln Rd. (former school) and 25 Dugway Rd. (fire station). Bids are due at the Ripton Town Office, 1311 VT Rte 125, PO Box 10, Ripton, VT 05766, by NOON, Monday, June 22nd.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD REVISED NOTICE OF HEARING

Dwyer Haney and Emily Fisher submitted application 26-DRB-02SP for an On-Farm Business Site Plan Review on a 26+/- acre parcel #10615 at 685 Dan Sargent Road. The proposed business is in the LDRC district. The Site Plan Review Hearing on this application will be held per the 2020 Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on June 11, 2026, starting at 7:40 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The full application is available to review by request of the Starksboro zoning office, and on the website at <https://www.starksborovt.org/agendas-and-minutes>

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617415124>
Meeting ID: 896 1741 5124
Or by Phone: +13052241968

Warning Date: May 14, 2026, revised May 27, 2026



Little women actors

THREE ACTORS FROM the Town Hall Theater's Young Company — Sara Miranda-Ngaiza, left, Lydia Cheresnick and Tenlyn Wetzel — rehearse "Little Women: A Show in Two Trunks" adapted from Louisa May Alcott by Lindsay Pontius. The Young Company will perform the show this Saturday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m., outside in the THT plaza in downtown Middlebury. They will reprise the show on June 13, 5:30 p.m., on the plaza and June 20, 5:30 p.m., on the Rothrock Main Stage. Admission is free; donations accepted.

Photo courtesy of Lindsay Pontius

Bristol man cited for retail theft

BRISTOL — Bristol police on May 22 cited Franklin Grant, 48, of Bristol for retail theft, following a complaint.

Between May 10 and 23 Bristol police completed 53 foot patrols, conducted 13 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School 14 times, at Bristol Elementary School 14 times and at local businesses 10 times.

Police also processed 15 fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number, conducted four welfare checks and helped local schools with five truancy concerns.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On May 11 responded to a motor vehicle accident on North Street.
- On May 11 received a report of a vehicle speeding on North Street. Police said patrols were monitoring the area.
- On May 11 received a report of fraud on Meehan Road. An investigation is ongoing.
- On May 11 completed a records request at the Bristol Police Department.
- On May 11 received a report of home improvement fraud on Morgan Horse Lane, and an investigation is ongoing.

On May 11 responded to a disabled vehicle on Stoney Hill Road. Police found the driver had contacted a mechanic for assistance and that the vehicle was off of the roadway.

On May 12 assisted the Windham County court with serving court paperwork.

On May 12 received a set of keys with a Mitsubishi key fob that was found on West Street.

On May 12 began an investigation into a theft on Morgan Horse Lane.

On May 12 were told of fraud that took place on Morgan Horse Lane. Police are investigating.

On May 13 responded to a family fight on South Street and provided resources.

On May 13 helped someone with getting transportation from Bristol to South Burlington.

On May 13 tried to locate someone for another agency but determined the person does not live in Bristol.

On May 13 responded to a theft on West Street. An investigation is ongoing.

On May 14 received a dog found at large. Police found the animal's owner and issued warnings.

On May 14 responded to Pine Street for a littering complaint. Police said the litter was removed.

Bristol

Police Log

- On May 14 received a complaint of threatening messages.
- On May 14 responded to a minor motor vehicle crash on School Street that involved a parked vehicle.
- On May 15 received a report of a court order violation. Police said further investigation revealed that the potential violation took place in another jurisdiction and information was forwarded to another agency.
- On May 15 officers and Bristol's community resource specialist took part in a mock DUI demonstration at Mt. Abe.
- On May 15 cleared stone that spilled in the intersection of Routes 17 and 116 North in Bristol.
- On May 15 received a stray cat that was caught on South Street.
- On May 15 responded to an incident at Mt. Abe.
- On May 16 helped Vermont State Police on Lower Hardscrabble Road.
- On May 16 provided a ride to a community member.
- On May 17 helped a business on West Street with a parking concern.
- On May 18 assisted with a crash on Route 116.
- On May 18 helped someone with a report of damage caused to their vehicle by solar panels falling off a building.
- On May 18 responded to a dog that was inside a parked vehicle on Prince Lane but the vehicle was gone when police arrived.
- On May 19 received a credit card that was found on West Street. Police said the owner would be notified by the financial institution.
- On May 19 responded to a dog inside a parked vehicle on Prince Lane. The vehicle was gone when police arrived.
- On May 20 assisted someone on West Street.
- On May 20 responded to a report of theft on Prince Lane, and an investigation is ongoing.
- On May 22 responded to an animal complaint on Monkton Road and determined the incident was a pest control issue. Police said the owner contacted a contractor for assistance.
- On May 23 received a report of neglected horses on River Road.
- On May 23 were told of a possibly sick cat on Mountain Street. Police located the cat and its owner and did not observe any signs of distress or neglect.
- On May 23 provided a courtesy ride to a resident.

Car en route to Texas was reported stolen

VERGENNES — A person paid a business to transport their vehicle from the Green Mountain State to Texas, but the car hasn't arrived and the person hasn't been able to contact the company, according to the Vergennes Police Department.

It took the online report of the theft on Wednesday, May 27, and as of Monday, June 1, the incident was continuing to be investigated.

Between May 25 and May 31, Vergennes police also conducted 32 traffic stops, four directed patrols, one foot patrol and took fingerprints once.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On May 25 provided Memorial Day parade detail.
- On May 25 were notified of an alarm at a business in Vergennes

Vergennes

Police Log

that turned out to be a false alarm.

- On May 26 took a report of a low flying airplane.

On May 26 were available to assist Milton police and Vermont Fish and Wildlife at their request with a traffic stop they were planning in the Vergennes area if it was needed. The request was cancelled and no assistance was needed.

- On May 26 returned a found wallet to its owner.

On May 27 responded to a Main Street address for the report of suspicious activity. Upon arrival,

the complainant decided to retract her complaint.

On May 27 responded to the report of a car versus tractor-trailer crash on West Main Street. The Vergennes Fire Department also responded and extricated one of the drivers. The Charlotte and Bristol rescue squads transported both drivers to Porter Medical Center for apparent minor injuries. The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles Commercial Vehicle Enforcement also responded and conducted a post-crash inspection of the tractor-trailer unit. Both drivers were evaluated for alcohol or drug impairment and none was found. The investigation showed the car was traveling north on West Main Street and crossed the center line into the southbound lane, colliding

with the tractor-trailer. Route 22A was closed for approximately three hours during this incident and subsequent investigation. As of Monday, June 1, the investigation was ongoing.

- On May 27 assisted a resident who was locked out of their home.

On May 27 were advised of a suicidal person from a suicide hotline. Police weren't able to identify the person due to lack of information.

On May 28 took a report from a Vergennes resident of an audible alarm on Main Street. Officers were unable to locate the source and no calls were received from an alarm company. It eventually deactivated and police received no further calls.

On May 28 took a report from a Vergennes resident that an individual violated their conditions of release by contacting them. The incident was forwarded to the State's Attorney's Office to review if charges should be filed.

On May 30 took a report of a tree that fell and blocked both lanes of traffic on Green Street. Upon arrival, a resident with a tracked skid loader arrived to clear the tree from the roadway, which was opened shortly after.

- On May 30 contacted the dog warden to respond to a dog issue.

On May 30 logged a false alarm at Kinney Drugs.

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Leicester

Have a news tip? Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring prize bingo on Saturday, June 13, 1 p.m., at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome. There

is no prize bingo in July and August. The event will return on September 12.

Cleanup/remediation of the historic Meeting House has begun, following the furnace blowback

incident in March. The long-awaited MERP work to improve heating and ventilation and restore the roof and windows will begin upon the completion of the cleanup.

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ARTS + LEISURE

Independent

June 4, 2026

ROAD RACE IS A LESSON IN COMMUNITY

Runners start the Run into Summer 5K in Vergennes on Sunday. The race was organized by Vergennes Union High School junior Maddie Stroup, who donated funds raised to Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

Many consider running an individual act, but it is truly a community building sport, fostering friendships, fierce cheering and friendly competition.

By **JING WILLIAMS**
Around 50 runners and walkers showed community support for Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports in a 5K race this past Sunday, May 31, in Vergennes. It was organized by VUHS junior Maddie Stroup, in association with Better Tomorrow Projects, a Vermont nonprofit created by high-schoolers.

The race had a much higher turnout in its second year, raising over \$1,100, all to be donated to Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports.

Always an outdoorsy person, Stroup first discovered Vermont Adaptive skiing on Mt. Ellen at Sugarbush resort, seeing people with disabilities tackle the mountain with ease, using adaptive equipment and accompanied by steadfast volunteers. The organization has a 4,000-square-foot facility at Mt. Ellen used for activities associated with adaptive skiing/riding.



Madeleine Stroup, who organized the race to raise funds for Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, with her father John.

Vermont Adaptive's mission is to make the outdoors, and recreation in general, available to everybody, no matter their physical/cognitive abilities. Their emphasis on outdoor accessibility drew Stroup to the organization.

"As somebody who spends a lot of time outside, I think it's really great that they make it so much more accessible for people, for anybody, to participate," Stroup said. "I find a lot of joy from outdoor sports and it's great they make it possible for everyone to do that."

With a busy schedule that includes running on the VUHS track and field team, Stroup couldn't volunteer for Vermont Adaptive, so she started the 5K last year to support the organization.

'GIVES YOU HOPE'

Panton residents Lisa and Todd Presson, two of Vermont Adaptive's 2025 volunteers of the year, were at Sunday's race, explaining the purpose and programming of the organization they have dedicated years to. Over 500 volunteers form the backbone of Vermont Adaptive, but they are always looking for more, Lisa Presson said. According to the website, anyone at least 16 years old with an intermediate ability in skiing/riding, cycling, kayaking or rock climbing can apply to volunteer.

After they, too, noticed Vermont Adaptive's
See Race on page 2

RACE

continued from page 1

presence skiing at Sugarbush, the Pressons started volunteering in 2021. Todd Presson rode up the lift with a volunteer one day and since then, he and Lisa

have been regulars, from snowboard lessons to working with the Special Olympics team. Volunteering at fundraising events like the 5K brings joy for Lisa Presson because she knows the money raised will bring more meaningful experiences.

"We've talked to a lot of people who are just so down and out, and they don't know what to expect. They spend a morning, going out with us ... and they just love it and they want to do it again," Lisa said.

One of Lisa's fond memories was skiing with a group of disabled veterans who originally only wanted to go for a half-day but after trying it out, loved it. They would fall and get back up again, over and over, determined to keep going. Seeing the turnout for the Vergennes 5K and hearing the amount of money raised was inspiring, Presson said.

"It just gives you hope, because you know what this money can provide for people," she noted.

RUNNING FOR A REASON

Several people who know Stroup showed up, including Kathy Rossier, 71, a family friend and active community member. A former teacher, Rossier had a colleague involved with adaptive sports at Cochran's Ski Area. So she ran on Sunday to support Stroup and the mission of Vermont Adaptive.

After overcoming an injury this winter, the 5K was Rossier's first run in a long time. She has always been physically active and shares that passion with others, teaching water aerobics at the Vergennes pool and free Zoom exercise classes. "Motion is lotion, right?" Rossier said. "You got to move."

Also at the race to support their teammate were current and former members of the VUHS track and cross-country teams. The top female finisher, VUHS junior Lauren Hill, ran a 3K just the day before at the Essex Invitational meet. But she wanted to support Maddie and was ready to run on Sunday, appreciating the fast nature of the course.

For Torrey Hanna, the second-place female finisher and a rising sophomore running at St. Michael's College, races like this are special because they bring people together. "I think running is just a really supportive community," Hanna said. "You can see that everyone cheered at the end for the last runners the same as they cheered for the first runners."



From toddlers in strollers to those in their 70s, around 50 people showed up to run or walk at the race on Sunday in Vergennes. The race started and ended at VUHS, where runners Kathy Rossier, 71 (left) and Emily Coppentrath of Vergennes (right) cross the finish line with big smiles, rocking-on all the way to the finish line.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

One runner was at the race for more than just friendly competition; it was her daily training in preparation for the Special Olympics USA Games starting on June 20 in Minnesota. Hazel Rakowski, who attends VUHS, will be running at the games, and has been training for a year with her brother Calder Rakowski, a rising junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and former Commadore runner.

Last year at this time, Hazel said she was running 20 seconds at a time, and on Sunday, she ran her first 5K.

"I'm very excited," she said of the upcoming competition where she will represent Team Vermont alongside 31 athletes, unified partners, and coaches.

I signed up for the race because I thought it would be fun, but I learned something, too.

Although I crossed the finish line four seconds before my older brother Jasper, the race we ran together was a different story. Beginning our second lap down the gravel path at VUHS, my lungs burned, and my motivation was in the negatives. "I don't want to run anymore," I

told Jasper, who quickly jumped into a slightly improvised Battle of Marathon story, telling me if Pheidippides could run 25 miles in armor after fighting, I could surely keep running 3.1 miles in running shoes and a t-shirt.

That certainly put things into perspective.

Still, at the bottom of the East Street hill, I felt only dread for the running ahead. Reaching the top, I walked for a second (not my proudest moment as a former track runner), but like a good older brother, Jasper yelled, "Come on, we're almost there!"

In that moment, it would've been just as easy to leave me behind, finish the race faster. Instead, he slowed down and let me catch up, revealing not only his character, but the community spirit of running itself.

Running is fun individually, testing our limits and drive, but when we come together to do it, something greater than ourselves is created. It offers the opportunity to build the community we want: to cheer each other on, to slow down and wait for our friends, and to run for causes and people that need our support. I'll take that opportunity whenever I can.

Horse trailer repurposed as roadside gallery in Bristol

The Plank Road Art Stand is a self-serve roadside gallery that's housed in a repurposed horse trailer, lovingly transformed into a one-of-a-kind art space. Located at 7824 Plank Road in Bristol, the art stand features original artwork, hand carved wooden fish, animal step stools, and cards, with works by Brenda Myrick, the estate of Barbara Lane, and Jim Lienau. Stop by Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment.

The current exhibit on view through October is titled "Past and Present." For more information visit brendamyrickart.com, call 802-458-1415 or email brendamyrickart@gmail.com



The Plank Road Art Stand — a unique roadside gallery in a repurposed horse trailer — features the work of Brenda Myrick, the estate of Barbara Lane, and Jim Lienau. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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6-8:30

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6/18 Swing Noire Vermont Gypsy Jazz
6/25 BOWMEN Bow Thayer & Friends ft. Krishna Guthrie

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Come play with fantastic fibers at Rokeby Museum

The Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh will host its annual Sheep & Wool Day on Saturday, June 6, from 12-3 p.m. Join in for an outdoor festival celebrating Rokeby's heritage.

This family-friendly event will feature live sheep (Hands and Heart Farm), paper making (A Revolutionary Press), an "Instrument Petting Zoo" (Vermont Folklife Center), spinning/knitting demonstrations (Augusta Diamond), and a historical wool-dyeing demonstration. Create crafts using traditional methods, and purchase snacks from Pinky Promise Pastry and Tin Bucks Barbecue.

Sheep & Wool Day activities and admission to the grounds are free. Museum admission is \$12 per visitor, \$6 for children. Kids under six are free.

The next weekend, continue the fiber fun with a workshop in wet felting with Wendy-Ann Durkee on Sunday, June 14, at 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Learn the ancient craft of wool felt making. This one-hour class includes everything you need to make your own personalized wet-felted coaster using hand-processed, Vermont wool.

Registration is \$25 per person (admission to the museum is free for workshop participants. Register at rokeby.org/event/wet-felting-with-wendy-ann-durkee.



Celebrate Sheep & Wool Day at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh on Saturday, June 6. Admission is free for activities.

The following Sunday, June 14, there will be a wet felting workshop with Wendy-Ann Durkee.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROKEBY MUSEUM



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Turning Point Center
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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 @SWIFTHOUSEINN

ART ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury.

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Homer Wells: A Retrospective." The work of Monkton artist Homer Wells will include both wall-based works and sculptural pieces, tracing the evolution of his practice and highlighting the innovation that has defined his career. On view through July 5.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email 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. On view May 23-June 21.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit 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@lcmmm.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.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"With Time." The photographs in this exhibit range in date, but all feature older adults. None focuses on a
See EXHIBITS on page 13

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Collaboration is your secret weapon this week, Aries. Putting two heads together will be better than one. Take a walk or exercise to get away and gain perspective.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, you may find yourself getting a small bonus or increase in pay, proving your financial luck is looking up this week. Enjoy the surprise and treat yourself to something.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, this is a great week for writing or presentations since you will have creativity flowing through you. A fun text message can be a catalyst for a great weekend.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Your nesting instincts are in full swing right now, Cancer. You might be inspired to turn your space into a peaceful sanctuary. A family-related piece of news can bring peace.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Courage may come naturally this week, Leo. Speak your truth right when it is needed. Your warmth can be a magnet for others and new friendships may develop.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, learning a new skill will be easy for you right now. Take pride in your progress. You are becoming more versatile and vital.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Share your heart and listen closely to what a partner has to say, Libra. A romantic or platonic relationship will

reach a high point. The connection built will be exciting.

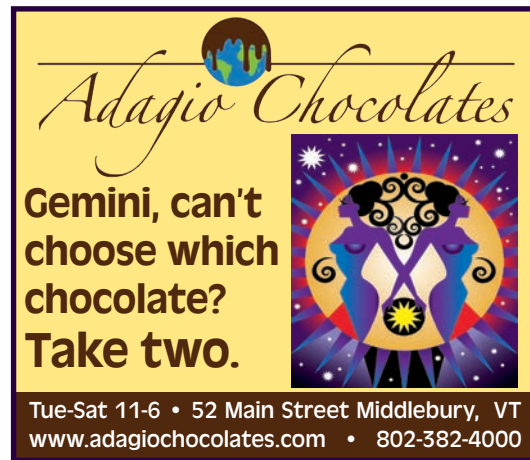
SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You're at peak productivity right now as you tackle your to-do list with great focus, Scorpio. By the end of the week, you'll be ready to dive into a mysterious or fun hobby.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. A sense of humor will be a great asset this week, helping to diffuse any tension by laughing, Sagittarius. Start looking ahead to travel plans.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Wisdom is flowing through you, and you may find you are the go-to person for solid advice, Capricorn. Your grounded nature helps everyone around you.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, innovation will help you find clever shortcuts for problems that have proven tough to solve. Your unique style may start earning you praise but remain humble.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Empathy allows you to connect with others on a deep level, Pisces. A creative project that you have been building finally starts to bloom in unexpected ways.



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JUNE 6 — Diego Velázquez (d)
JUNE 7 — Prince, musician (d)
JUNE 8 — Robert Schumann, composer, (d)
JUNE 9 — Michael J. Fox, actor (65)
JUNE 10 — Howlin' Wolf, blues singer (d)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 11 — Peter Dinklage, actor (57)
JUNE 12 — Hideki Matsui, baseball player (52)

CALENDAR

June 4-17

2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

NOONTIME ORGAN RECITAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, June 4, 12:15 p.m., Street Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main Street. 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 Road (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 Street. An evening of good food, live music, and joyful gathering around the greenhouses. Remember Baker plays a blend of bluegrass, old time, and New Orleans jazz. For more info visit bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT: DWIGHT + NICOLE BAND IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, June 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant Street. 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. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, June 5, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by The Grift, food from La Chapina and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

"LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY

IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. 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. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

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 Brian Howard (bjhowd@gmail.com). Register and find out more at thegmbc.com.

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 visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE IN BRANDON. Saturday, June 6, 7 - 10 p.m., American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin St. Music by Holly Ciejko. Bring your friends and enjoy

a drink, a dance, a chat or a listen to a full sound mix of country and rock standards and an oldie or two. Open to the public.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

"LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. A full production of Verdi's "La Traviata," reimagined in the roaring '20s. Pre-show talk with Dr. Danielle Simon at 1 p.m. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY SESSIONS: DEEP THINK LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 7, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (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.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

MONDAY MUSIC IN EAST MONKTON. Monday, June 8, 7 p.m., East Monkton Church. Sam Kuhns is a born and raised Monktonite who has found a means of processing life in playing music and writing songs. A product of his environment, his music has a folk feel with a sprinkling of bluegrass influence and catalogs

many of the more intense moments along his journey to today.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: WILD LEEK RIVER IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 10, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Rt 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

"LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. A full production of Verdi's "La Traviata," reimagined in the roaring '20s. Pre-show talk with Dr. Danielle Simon at 6:30 p.m. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

Continued on next page.



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- ACSD Schoolboard Live - 06/08 - 6PM
- Selectboard Live! - 06/09 - 7PM
- Mary Hogan Graduation - 06/10 - 1:30PM
- Team YAP! - 06/11 - 3PM
- Democracy Now! - Weekdays - 8AM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent middleburycommunitytv.org

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: CHARLOTTE WILDLIFE REFUGE IN CHARLOTTE. Thursday, June 11. Easy 2.7-mile hike with gravel and grass paths. Scenic views of farms, the ADK's, and Lake Champlain to the west and the Green Mts. to the east. Elevation gain of 250 ft. Allow two hours for the outing. Dogs not allowed on this property. Bring bug spray, snacks, and water. Contact Steve Ralph at 802-398-5448 or sralph00@gmail.com to register. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 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 artmaking 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. Cost: \$45-\$80. Registration required at sparrowartsupply.com.

OPEN MIC NIGHT HOSTED BY 3 PIECE SUIT IN BRISTOL. Friday, June 12, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North Street. 3 Piece Suit is a band of talented high school students playing bluesy rock jams. Kick off the end of the school year and celebrate the talent of this community. For more info visit bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, June 12, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Brett Hughes & the Honky Tonk Crowd, food from A Taste of Abyssinia and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

"BABEL 46" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. See the U.S. premiere of Xavier Montsalvatge's multilingual postwar opera "Babel 46." Pre-show talk with Alejandro Roca at 6:30 p.m. For more

info visit townhalltheater.org.
SATURDAY, JUNE 13 MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 13, 7-9 a.m., Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge Street and Pulp Mill Bridge Road. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

ADDISON COUNTY BIKE CLUB FAMILY RIDE: MOOSALAMOO CAMPGROUND IN SALISBURY. Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m., Meet at Moosalamoo Campground parking lot. Looking for good beginner trails for young riders to learn on? These rides are family-friendly and considerate of kids' skills and endurance levels. Fun for kindergarten age and older. The ride will go along the campground trail, great for beginners. Cold treats will be available at the end of the ride. Look out for July and August family ride info soon. RSVP required.

"LA TRAVIATA" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 13, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. Final performance of Verdi's "La Traviata," reimagined in the roaring '20s. Pre-show talk with Douglas Anderson at 1 p.m. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SILENT MOVIE: "THE KID" IN BRANDON. Saturday, June 13, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square. Charlie Chaplin's 1921 classic, also starring a young Jackie Coogan, is shown with live music by Jeff Rapsis. Part of the annual Silent Movie Series featuring live accompaniment. Concessions support future screenings. Free.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MT. ABE IN LINCOLN. Saturday, June 13. Hike Mt. Abe from Lincoln Gap. Moderate to strenuous hike of about 5.5 miles

round trip with 1600 feet elevation gain. Panoramic views from the alpine summit. To register, contact Dwight Griesman at dwight.griesman@gmail.com. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 "BABEL 46" BY OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 14, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. Final performance of the U.S. premiere of "Babel 46," a powerful one-act opera set in a refugee camp after World War II. Pre-show talk with Patrick Diamond at 1 p.m. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY SESSIONS: BOB RECUPERO IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 14, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). Bob Recupero is known for his soulful voice and masterful guitar playing. His performances, encompassing genres such as Americana, folk and country-blues, offer a heartfelt experience that connects deeply with his audience. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 17, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Rt 116 Road. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PARK. Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday through Aug. 26 the Town Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. We welcome new members. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

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Community Singing Workshop (4-5pm): Learn a Ukrainian folk song, try out some new vocal techniques, share positive energy through song! Register here and then stay for our free concert.

Songbooks Concert (5:30-6:30pm): Wander through an immersive performance experience (no registration required)

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ART ON EXHIBIT

Two new summer exhibits to explore in Middlebury

The Middlebury College Museum of Art has two summer exhibits on view now through Aug. 9 along with the regular permanent collections. "With Time" studies photographs of humans who have become who they are 'with time.' "Frederic Church in Vermont" features more than 40 pieces by Church during his visits to Vermont over 30 years.

Admission is always free. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; closed Mondays.

WITH TIME

We are bombarded by advertisements for "anti-aging" products — quick fixes for smoothing wrinkles, revitalizing weary bodies, and returning us to younger versions of ourselves. Elixirs of youth fill store shelves and infiltrate social media feeds. Countering these efforts is an alternate chorus, one that reminds us that there is no such thing as "anti-aging," and we should celebrate every age and stage with gratitude and grace.

Might there be a third narrative? The photographs in this exhibit range in date, but all feature older adults. None focuses on a choice these individuals made to either fight or embrace the aging process. Instead, the photographers approach their subjects with a spirit of curiosity. Some are portraits, and a few feature celebrities. In the main, though, these are studies of human beings who have simply become who they are with time.

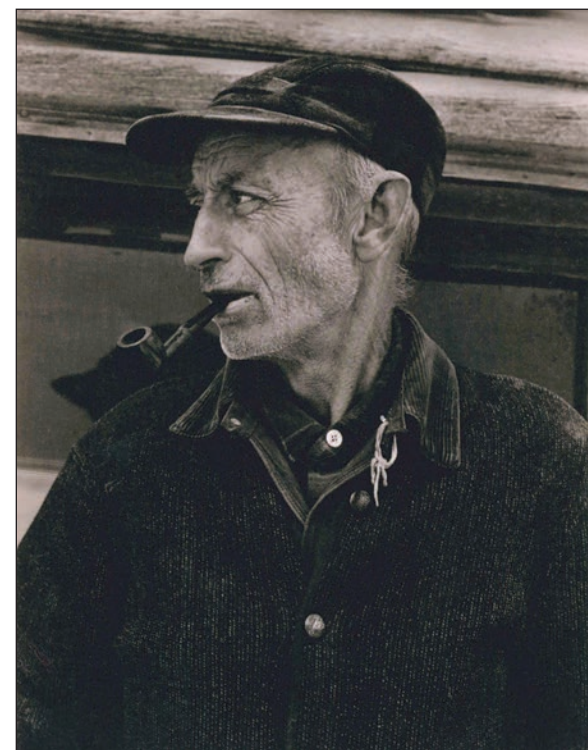
This exhibit is presented in tandem with "Time Keeping," concurrently on view at the Henry Sheldon Museum, which invites the public to consider "how time is kept, measured, worked, and recorded both individually and as part of collective history."

FREDERIC CHURCH IN VERMONT

This exhibit brings together for the first time more than 40 graphite drawings, oil sketches, and finished paintings by Frederic Church created during or as a result of his visits to Vermont over 30 years.

These works help to establish this long-overlooked aspect of his career as a crucial period in his development from aspiring student to a fully mature artist with a style and bravura that would in succeeding years enable him to become the most important American landscape painter of the nineteenth century.

1848 was a transformative year for Church, who for the previous two years was the sole student of Thomas Cole, the preeminent American landscape painter of his time. In February of that year, Cole died at the age of forty-seven, leaving Church without a mentor but with an excellent foundation to pursue a professional career.



Paul Strand (American, 1890–1976), *Mr. Bennett (2), East Jamaica, Vermont, 1943*, gelatin silver print (vintage) on paper, 6 x 4 1/2 inches. Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art. Purchase with funds provided by the Christian A. Johnson Memorial Art Acquisition Fund, 2015.217.

In May 1848, Church turned 22 and was left to decide for himself how best to develop his artistic skills further. Based on Cole's own pattern of summer trips to New Hampshire, Maine, and elsewhere to create plein air sketches in graphite and oil that would later provide the inspiration for large-scale paintings created in his studio during the winter months, Church had a well-tested model for his own explorations.

That July, Church travelled to Vermont where he spent the next three months traversing the central part of the State and recording his own drawings and oil sketches. This would be the first of numerous trips that the artist made to Vermont, and his visits in 1848 and 1849, in particular, enabled him to further record those elements of the landscape that became part of his repertoire over the next few years and beyond.



Frederic Edwin Church (American, 1826–1900), *Otter Creek, Middlebury, Vermont, 1854*, oil on canvas, 16 1/8 x 24 1/8 inches. Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art, Vermont. Gift of Louis Bacon, Class of 1979, 2002.028.

Learn about five art works sited on the Mahaney Arts Center plaza in Middlebury with Art Club

Art Club will be getting together on Sunday, June 14, at 1 p.m., to discuss five art works sited on and nearby the open-air plaza of the Mahaney Arts Center in Middlebury. These artworks are part of Middlebury College's Committee on Art in Public Places (CAPP) collection that began in 1994 when the college adopted a "One Percent for Art" policy to set aside one percent of the cost of any renovation or new construction at the college for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and

interpretation of works of art publicly displayed on campus.

THE WORKS:

Way Station (Study Chamber) by Vito Acconci

Two-Way Mirror Curved Hedge Zig-Zag Labyrinth by Dan Graham

LOVE by Robert Indiana

Around and About by Clement Meadmore

Commotion: Converse and Grasp by Eric Nelson

Meet in the lobby of the entrance to the Middlebury College Museum of Art. The discussion will be outdoors and on uneven surfaces, wear appropriate footwear and clothing. RSVP to Don Burns at ddbtx1@gmail.com by July 11. Free and open to all.



THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Issue 60 Year End 2026
"The Arts" Issue

EAG AND OTHERS SUMMIT MT. ABE FOR BATTELL TRAIL DAY 2026

by Sawyer Behounek, Sarah Zelonis, Elena Placencia, and Lucy Eberhardy

"Mt. Abraham students and teachers spent Tuesday, May 26th working on the Battell Trail with the Green Mountain Club. Projects included clearing water bars and laying the line that protects plants in the summit alpine zone. As a school, we are the official stewards of the Battell Trail on our namesake mountain," explained Environmental Action Group (EAG) advisor Jori Jacobeit.

We interviewed Oliver Zelonis to hear about his experience going on the hike as a non-EAG member. When asked what he thought about the Battell Trail hike and

what he did during trail day, he responded, "It was fun to get outside and climb Mt. Abe! I carried wood down from the shelter at the top to the bottom and hiked to the summit. Zelonis joined the EAG for the hike "because I wanted to go on a hike," and when asked about his favorite part of the day, he added, "Going to the summit was the best part."

We also asked ninth grader Una Steele about her experience going on the hike as a member of EAG. She responded: "This trail day, I mostly worked on trail maintenance using a hazel hoe, building up waterways so that the trails don't get flooded. I went because I enjoy being a part of my



Mt. Abraham students and teachers pause for a picture at the base of the Battell Trail

community and helping to maintain a trail that so many members of the community

love to use, and it was really fun to get to hike up and feel like I'm a bigger part of my community."

A CAPPELLA CONNECTS WITH COMMUNITY WHILE ON TOUR

Community Connection is a core value and Transferable Skill at Mt. Abe, and nobody does it better than a cappella group, Sweet Transition. Director Megan LaRose works with the singers all year to put together a cumulative program that showcases these student performers. With no seniors in the group this year, she cred-

its the returning members with stepping up to guide and help the group grow as singers and performers.

Junior Rhiannon Andrews added, "The 24-hour tour we took was a wonderful way to culminate our year together; giving us an opportunity to demonstrate the skills we've developed as individuals while sharing the music we've created as a group. Being from a small school in Bristol, it was exciting to have the chance to travel and sing for various audiences, even if it was not far from home. Looking back on this year, I have become more confident as a performer and now find even more joy in sharing my musical abilities with my community."

Junior Lucy Lawson explained, "My



Sweet Transition performing at The Sustainability Academy in Burlington

favorite part of the trip was being able to share our music with elementary school students. I really enjoyed singing with younger kids and encouraging them

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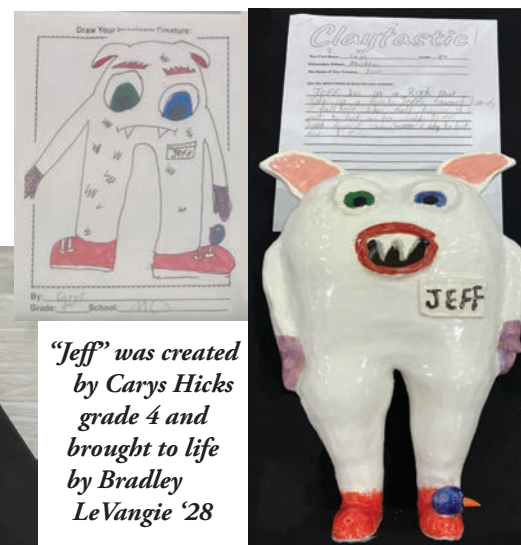
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to continue pursuing music, especially because I remember how inspired I felt by older students when I was in elementary school. I also enjoyed revisiting some of the songs we worked on earlier this year

(See A CAPPELLA, Page 5)

ARTS COLLABORATION WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Fine Arts Fair, held each May at Mt. Abe, features K-12 art from students in MAUSD. This year, one exhibit featured an imaginary creature drawn and described by Monkton Central students, then "brought to life" by a high school student in Ceramics II.



"Jeff" was created by Carys Hicks grade 4 and brought to life by Bradley LeVangie '28

"Jeff lives in a rock that sits in a forest. Jeff's favorite time of year...is fall because it is not too hot or too cold." --Carys

"Carenopoly is a rainbow cloud creature! She is 5 years old, which is very old... when they're born they are 1 million years old and it keeps coming down." --Zoe

See more Creatures on page 4



Andrews signs an autograph for a young fan

SCHOLARS' BOWL TEAM GOES BIG AGAIN

By Dylan Wells

After winning a very tight playoff game against Craftsbury to clinch the Vermont Small School Championship for the third year in a row, the Mt. Abe Scholars' Bowl team went to Small School Nationals in Chicago from April 24-27. At Nationals, they needed to win six of 10 games to make playoffs, but they only won four, so they went to Shedd Aquarium as a consolation prize.

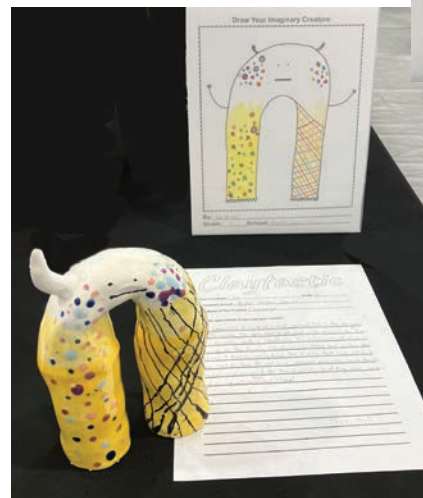


Scholars Bowl team between rounds at Nationals in Chicago

Junior Reed Cousino was ranked 30th out of 500+ students at Nationals. It was his first time going to the championship, making his accomplishment even more impressive. Cousino said his favorite part of the tournament was when they scored over 400 points, that being their best score all season. His favorite part of the trip was "the plane ride itself, because I love to fly."

In his first year on the team, ninth grader Sawyer Behounek shared that the highlight of the tournament was when he answered the question about Alexander the Great. Behounek added, "I was very nervous, going to Chicago in my first year, but I had a fun time regardless." The funniest moment for Behounek was, "when

(See SCHOLARS, Page 6)



"Carenopoly" created by Zoe Hendela gr. 6 and Sam Gallivan '28

VOICES

NURSING BURNOUT INSPIRES THIS FUTURE STUDENT



By **Aubrey Coffey**

Despite the high demand for registered nurses in the United States, nurses are still overlooked and treated poorly in some states. As a high school junior who has developed a deep passion for the profession over the past few years, this reality makes me pause and really consider this career choice.

The reality behind the demand stems from the rapidly-aging population and burnout in the field. Although more artificial intelligence tools are being developed and tested, you cannot replace a human with a robot in healthcare. Nurses act as the backbone of our healthcare systems. They play a critical role in patient care by assessing conditions, collaborating with coworkers, administering medication, and supporting both the physical and mental health needs of their patients.

Nursing is highly rewarding, but there is a list of challenges that nurses face on a daily basis. Nurses can choose their hours, but most nurses work a minimum of three 12-hour shifts a week. These long days add up in understaffed hospitals and can be physically and mentally draining. Being understaffed can result in individual nurses caring for more patients than ideal while maintaining quality care. On top of all of this, nurses carry a heavy emotional weight. They have to stay composed while witnessing pain, loss, death and life-changing moments.

Looking ahead, I am so excited to put my best foot forward into my final years of education and pursue a career in the field of nursing. Although every career comes with a level of challenges, I want to grow into a nurse that uses any hard moments as motivation to be the best caregiver I can be for my patients.

CURSE HUNTER

By **Shane Phillips**

Okay. It started with me and my two other brothers, you know, hunting on Curses. We do it usually for, like, money or, you know, helping people out. My two other brothers can see the Curses very well, but I can't see them very well. I see them like a child looking through a window on a rainy day. The image I see is blurry and wobbly. So usually, one of my brothers stays home to do some Curse magic and lets me have the strength to see the Curses. My brother's visions appear in my head as clearly as an eagle looking down on a goat.

One time, we were hunting for this curse for this old lady and it looked very... it gave off a very familiar sense, you know? It felt like an old friend. She didn't look

A.P. ART SHARES SUSTAINED INVESTIGATIONS

By **Charlie Prouty '26**

How can the tools of healing sow the seeds of pain? My sustained investigation explores how illusions of escape, when rooted in control or comfort, ultimately confine. Guided by my own imbalanced relationships with vehicles of consumption like social media, movement, food, and lingering grief, my investigation evolved to focus on broader cyclical mechanisms and systems we create to maintain flawed senses of comfort. The visual chemistry between my ideas and their visualization embodied my investigation in theme and in medium, by utilizing alcohol-based markers; something that's personally comfortable and safe while simultaneously limiting. I primarily used markers with smaller chisel heads for mid-sized detailing, blending, and texture work; however, they pose difficulty when tackling larger-scale backdrops and figures.



By **Maddie Diop '26**

My sustained investigation explores the concept of the "true self." It is human nature to find comfort in defining yourself and creating a simplified picture of who you are. We can be quick to label ourselves and each other based on single aspects, though our identities are extremely complex. My work stems from the realization that social labels cannot begin to truly capture the nuance and depth of identity. There is no one word that will capture the essence of who you are.



like anyone I knew. She had a purple hat, purple dress, and black hair. I don't remember anyone by that description, but something was telling me not to attack, and we kind of gave up on trying to capture or destroy this Curse, so we went home to avoid any mess we would get in or destroy anything because these Curses can be very strong and very powerful.

Then a couple of hours later by dinner time, this same Curse showed up in our house. Usually, we have special blockers that stop Curses trying to get in our house, but somehow this same Curse I let go earlier got into our house. I didn't really see it, but my other two brothers did, and they kind of looked at each other with confused looks, and one of them just stayed back and let me see what it was. My



"First Place"

Initially, my inquiry focused more on the paradoxes of how we normalize absurdity, before later evolving to center on illusions of control. The eagerness to explore abnormality and juxtapositions was inspired by films like "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," which depict cartoon-style figures coexisting in the same frames as human actors. My earlier ideas were also heavily influenced by the increasing polarization of the media, paralleling abnormal and satirical-feeling geopolitical realities. As I experimented with different ideas and materials, and while personal events unfolded throughout the school year, I was magnetized by flawed systems and illusions of control. At the cost of lingering discomfort and growth turned stagnant, these tools offer an oppressive facade of temporary catharsis rooted in control, and are woven into the visuals and mediums of my final pieces.

Each piece I created considers a different part of my identity, creating a portfolio composed of the building blocks that make up my identity. Creating this work helped me to discover what parts of my identity I value the most. The first piece in my investigation considers the idea that identity is defined by an uncontrollable and pre-determined fate, an idea that I counter with the rest of my work, which surrounds the topics of my ethnicity, growing up, choices I make,

other brother went downstairs to deal with the Curse, so I thought everything would be fine. A couple of minutes later, I went down to check it out and then I got kicked in the face and everything went black.

It cut back to me getting kicked in the face and after that, I kind of wobbled a little bit because I wasn't expecting that. I got a better look at the person this time. She wasn't wearing the same clothes she had last time. She was wearing all black. She had blonde hair, blue eyes, and she seemed really angry. So what I do best is, I defend myself and start fighting back. It took a while, but I finally tired her. Once she got too tired, she disappeared—she just vanished and that was a surprise to my brother and me. After that day, I kept on, like, seeing her. It always looked like

SPRING WRITING PROMPT: WOULD YOU BE SUPPORTIVE OF A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

By **Kassi Garrow '27**

I am undecided. Requiring community service to graduate from high school would be both beneficial and useless at the same time. I would also have some clarifying questions, but this is not the time for those.

Yes, there are some benefits to this idea: it would be good for the community and the environment, a wonderful way to learn soft skills, and also would look good when trying to get into college.

At the same time, this requirement is useless to most students in many schools. It could take away time that might have been used to do something else, restricting or blocking students from actually doing something different that could greatly affect their future. This could also cause issues for many individuals, as they may not have time, opportunities or resources to accomplish this requirement. Personally, I think this is a waste of time.

After looking at both point of views, I am still undecided. It would be a good idea for some and a bad idea for others to make community service a requirement to graduate high school.



and self presentation. Self identity is not determined when we are brought into the world, but influenced by our experiences and life circumstances. There is no set path that will determine who you will become—each phase of your life, each person you meet, and each decision

you make impacts your identity. All my life, I have been the 'other' box on forms, struggling to find satisfaction in labels that minimize or oversimplify who I am. It is this experience of feeling constrained by the world's idea of identity that motivated me to create this portfolio. Apart, these pieces represent fragments of my identity: a myriad of possible labels I could put on myself. As a whole, they work together to create a more fully realized picture of my identity than any one label ever could.

she was stalking us— you know—always looking. Like every fight, she would just watch our fighting styles and see what she could learn. It started to creep me out a little bit, I'm not going to try and lie. And then, she started helping the Curses. We would always fight them one on one, but she would throw something at us to try to help the Curses out by defeating us, and I don't really know why she would do that. Every time I caught a glance of her as I fought, she would smile and giggle. It just made everything harder— maybe that's why she did it.

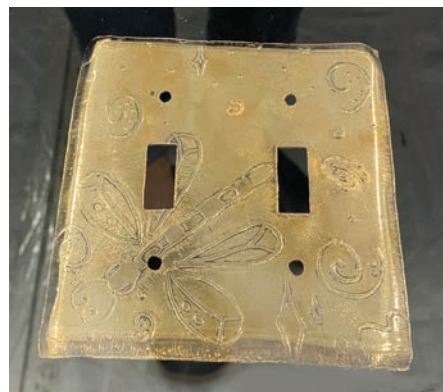
One time, she helped herself in a different way. She kind of messed with my vision so I couldn't really see the Curse. That was strange. And then she started using her

(See *CURSE HUNTER*, Page 4)

ART & WRITING



By Camille Hamilton '28



By Lily Whitney '29

NIGHT SKIES

By Abi Sykes '29

As the sun sets
behind the mountains
in the west
the bright full moon
arises from the east.

The stars are bright
in the clear, cloudless sky.
The Big Dipper sits
in the north
and Orion's Belt in the west.

The birds and other animals
have quieted for the night
and only the crickets and frogs
remain to chirp and croak.

The fireflies dance around,
creating false stars
in the grass and sky.

Night is peaceful and quiet,
yet loud and alive
at the same time.



By Mattea O'Bryan '28

CURSE HUNTER

(Continued from Page 2)

"rage form" I would like to call it. In this form, she had all black and blue eyes and white hair and I got a better look. Last time, I couldn't really get a good look, but now she kind of looked familiar. Very familiar. She almost looked like my old friend. I tried to ask her a couple of questions but she wasn't really the speaking type. Every time after that day I would try to talk to her, and one day she talked to me. She said, "Why do you keep on trying to talk to me? I don't know you."

I said back to her, "I do kind of remember you. What's your name?"

She said, "I usually go by The Love Curse. But if you want to know my real name, I am Bryn." After that, it all made sense, because usually, when people die in this town, they are more likely to turn into a Curse.

After this long time, I can finally talk to her again. And then rather than talking more, she just said to get back to the fight because she still didn't remember me. I tried to remind her of some things I'd done to help her out, but every time I tried to talk to her, she fought even stronger and more ferociously to block me and to not listen to what I was trying to say. After a couple of hours of me trying to get through to her, something weird happened. Her hair turned really dark black again and this kind of steam was coming off of her. She looked very powerful. Also, it looked like her speed and her strength multiplied by 10 times. And then when I was about to be defeated by Bryn, my brother came in to help me. He finally took out his hammer after a week of not using that thing. It was cool to see that hammer be put into action and finally being used once again, and this time, I felt like we had more of a fair chance against her.

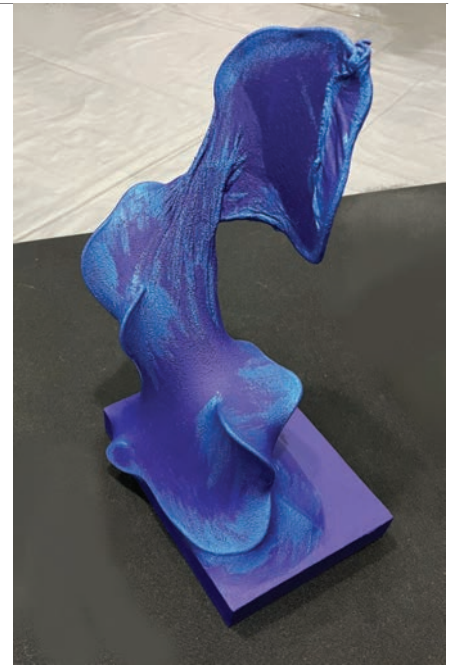
Next, something else happened. It felt like I was getting all my strength back. It felt like I was getting stronger.

My brother said, "What is up with you? Your hair is turning

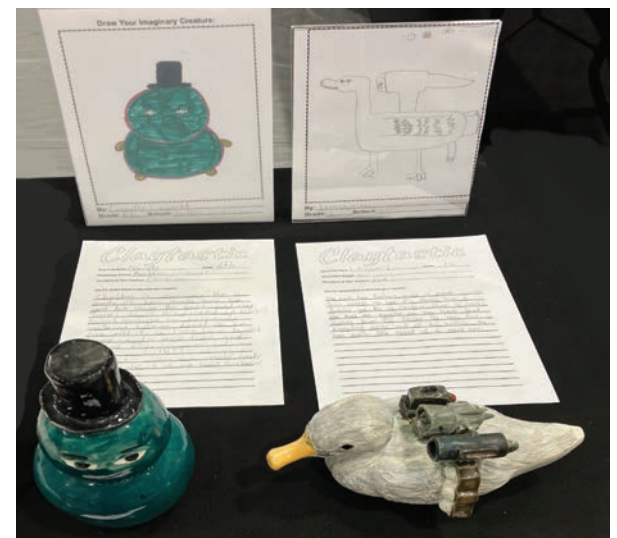
(See CURSE HUNTER, Page 8)



By Maggie Collins '28

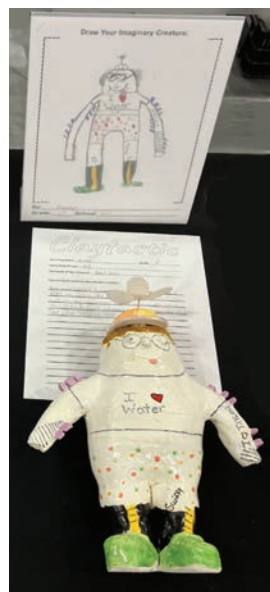


By Cora Conrad '28

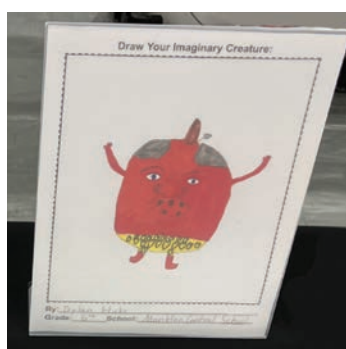


"Chubbles" (L) was created by Connelly Leggett gr. 6 and Brody Barnard '26

"Todd" (R) was created by Evan Sheridan gr. 5 and Oliver Matson '26



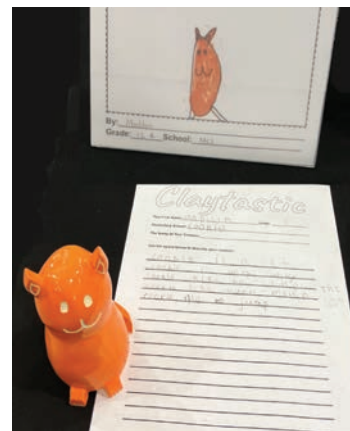
"Aunt Patty" by Zander 6th grade and Haley Shepard '28



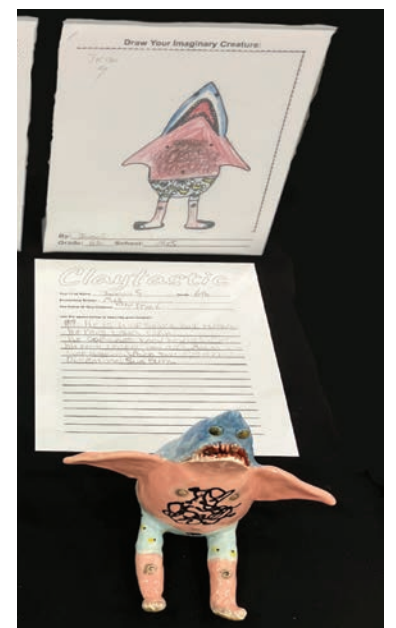
"Tiffany Camila Cashman Anderdyngus" created by Dylan Hicks gr. 6 and Camille Hamilton '28



"Fat Joe" by Keegan Bacon gr. 5 and Isabella Sargent '28



"Cookie" by Madilyn gr. 1 and James Graziadei '26



"FlipFlop Frank" was created by Jackson S. grade 6 and brought to life by Clayton Markwell '26

"He is half-shark, half-human. He loves sushi. He does not know how to swim. His reality crashed into ours, making him swap dimensions, which gave him a cross-dimensional sunburn." --Jackson

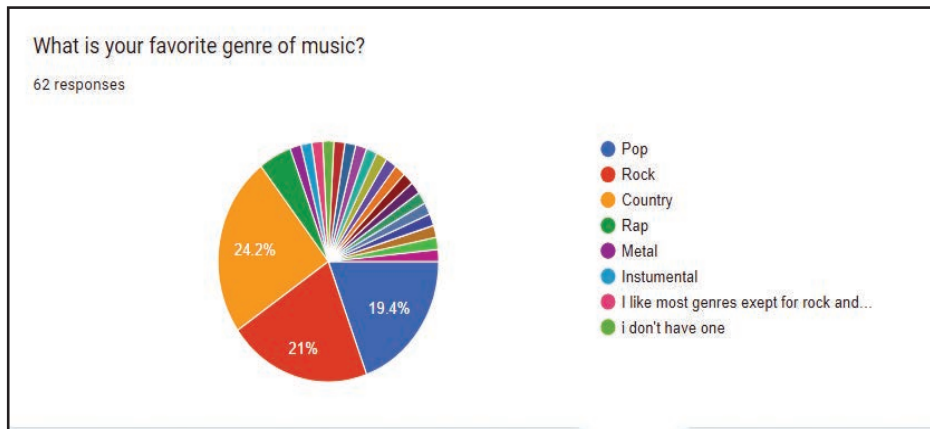
SURVEY REVEALS MOST POPULAR MUSIC ARTISTS AND GENRES

By Dylan Wells

In a recent survey of all students and staff about their musical tastes, 61 people participated, showing how diverse the music tastes are at Mt. Abe. Country was voted the most popular genre, while Eminem was considered the most popular artist.

When asked if they listened to music, 82% of participants said they listen to music everyday, and 8% said they listen often. Only 5% said they rarely or occasionally listen to music, while another 5% said they listen here and there. Ninth grader Emily Wells said, "I listen to music every morning on my ride to school, and on weekends every time I'm in the car. If I'm not going somewhere, I listen to music in my room."

From a list of genres, 30% of participants said "other" and wrote their own favorite genre, while 33% of participants said country was their favorite, and rock was the second most popular answer at 30%. Pop had 19% of votes, while metal only had 2%. Junior Aubrey Coffey said



pop was her favorite genre, and explained "Because I am an upbeat music person."

Of the 37 participants who said they like country, 19% said their favorite country artist was Dolly Parton, with Morgan Wallen following up at 14% of votes. Again, 46% chose "other" and had their own unique answer for who was their favorite. Junior Wren McClenan voted for Dolly Parton and added, "She's got some great hits! I tend to not like modern

country music as much, so Dolly Parton is a great in-between."

For rap, Eminem and "I don't like rap" were tied with 19 of 60 votes each. The next most popular artist was Kendrick Lamar with 5 votes, and 11 other voters had their own favorite rapper that wasn't on the list. School-based clinician Julia Ferrone said Tyler, The Creator is her favorite rapper because his "music is very unique, interesting, and exciting. There is also usually a beautiful melodic track behind his rap and I love that juxtaposition."

When questioned about their favorite pop artist, 18 out of 61 had their own favorite artist who wasn't listed, while 11 voted for Taylor Swift as their favorite artist. "I have just recently started to listen to Taylor Swift's music. She is an outspoken feminist and a good role model for young women which is why I started to notice her. Now that I am listening to some of

SURVEYS, ETC

her songs, I find her to be an excellent song writer with a complex and beautiful singing voice," said educational assistant Anna Ellis-West.

Rock had the biggest margin of people who actually like the genre and have a favorite band, with 40% of respondents listing their own unique band that wasn't on the list, while 28% said they don't like rock, and 13% said Nirvana was their favorite. High School English teacher Vicki Bronson said her favorite band was Cake, and added, "They are alt rock, which means their music is more eclectic and diverse, and I also really like the lyrics of their songs."

A whopping 34 out of 58 said they don't like metal. Of the 33% who said they like metal, Metallica and Slipknot were tied for the most popular artist with 21% each. Eighth grader London Farr said their favorite metal band was Korn and added, "I don't listen to them a lot, but my dad used to make me listen to them when I was little, and I was singing their songs for days after hearing them. My mom was really concerned."

Registrar Jada Roberge showed how much she loved music by explaining, "I love rock and have far too many to choose from and my fave changes depending on my mood. A few of my top 10 would be, if I had to choose, either Triumph, Rush, Pat Benatar, Incubus, Radiohead and soooooo many more."

STUDENTS CREATE ART, LEARN HISTORY



Mae Cannon '29 (left) and Delia Park '29 (right)

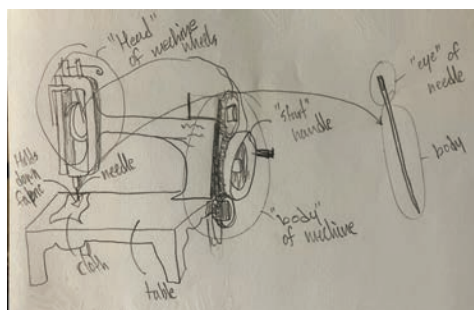
Delia Park wrote: "I painted half of the *Annunciation* by Fra Angelico in watercolors. Perspective is us extensively and helps create depth and naturalism. Angelico also used different tones and softer details to reproduce distance and haze. I used many of these techniques. The idea of perspective was created to place humans at the center of the world by using math to create a rational viewpoint. This painting is a great example of humanist artwork during the Renaissance."

Jordan Ryersbach said, "The Renaissance was a time that came with lots of changes, and the Scientific Revolution produced great ideas and inventions, one being vaccines." Ila Corrigan explained, "Our painting shows the benefit of the Scientific Revolution and the inventions it produced." Ryersbach added, "Our artwork directly compares a working man's life before and after a vaccine. It includes perspective and lots of colors...some of the methods of Renaissance art."



By Ila Corrigan & Jordan Ryersbach

Julianna Murphy '28 drew and created a cardboard sewing machine model and explained, "The birth of sewing machines couldn't have happened without iron needles. Needles were invented during the 14th century, made from bones and animal horns. In 1830, the first-ever sewing machine was produced by Barthélemy Thimonnier. The machine caused riots due to claims that it was the way to the future. Thimonnier explained that the singular



needle hooked with the thread, repeatedly making the same stitch. Angry French tailors tried putting an end to his ideas, and ended up burning down his factory, solving their problem of fears of unemployment due to his invention."

See more Inventions on page 8

A CAPPELLA

(Continued from Page 1)

and seeing how much we have improved. As a group, we have grown a lot and it was fun to sing our entire setlist now that we work together more confidently and cohesively. Additionally, I have grown more confident as a performer, allowing me to have more fun performing for audiences."

Sophomore Meg Park said, "This year, our a cappella group has had many opportunities to grow together through performances, gigs, and fun experiences. In particular, our recent short trip proved to be a great bonding experience. After arriving in our cars, we performed that evening, and the next day we had the chance to perform three more times, including at two elementary schools where the students were full of energy and enthusiasm. Teaching the children warm-ups and interacting with them gave us a glimpse of what it feels like to be role models, creating an even more meaningful experience. Looking back on the year, the growth is amazing. Not only has our confidence grown, but we have learned how to blend and work together to create beautiful music. Personally, I have learned how to listen to the rest of the group, and become more confident singing my own part. This music program has been an incredible experience."

Junior Megan Bowers shared, "The 24-hour trip was my favorite part of this year. It was a lovely capstone to the end of the year, showing what we've learned since August, and how much we have grown. In itself, music is such a special thing, so it was even more special to be able to bring

that all around Vermont. In particular, I enjoyed coming to the elementary schools, because kids are so receptive to music. They received it with unabashed enthusiasm and light that was truly extraordinary. Moreover, as a group, we've grown not only in our performance, but our connection with each other. During this trip, our connection blossomed, and it was really beautiful. As a performer, I've grown significantly since August. I remember when I was so scared to sing in front of my friends, and now I've sung solo in front of hundreds of people. I am excited to continue to learn and grow, and share music with others. It has also given me a fresh perspective and appreciation of music."

Ninth grader Delia Park summed it up by saying, "The tour brought our group even closer together. From rehearsing and performing to laughing non-stop, this trip was one of the highlights from my year. This experience reminded me how much I enjoy performing and sharing our group's many talents with communities. Throughout this year, I have gained so much confidence, as well as friendships through the experiences we shared. I am so excited to continue evolving, growing, and making new memories together."

Sweet Transition's repertoire spans decades of music, from "Dream A Little Dream" by The Mamas and the Papas, to Rhianna's "Dancing in the Dark," increasing the opportunity to connect with a wide audience. It also features enough music in the Jazz style this year that the group is set to perform on Church Street as part of the Burlington Jazz Festival on June 3rd.

IS *PRIMATE* THE MOVIE WORTH GOING APE OVER?

By Dylan Wells

Primate, directed by Johannes Roberts, was released to theaters on January 9th to positive reviews. Although this movie has rather shallow character depth, it still has plenty of exciting moments.

Primate's plot focuses on an adopted ape named Ben who is being kept in an enclosure at Lucy's house in her backyard to be studied. Ben gets infected with rabies and begins to attack his owners.

The film begins with the main character, Lucy (Johnny Sequoyah) coming home from college for a vacation at her



father's home. On the plane, she meets with her two friends, Kate (Victoria Wyant) and Hannah (Jessica Alexander). When Lucy lands, she meets up with one final friend, Nick (Benjamin Cheng).

The group of friends heads over to Lucy's house, where they meet Lucy's deaf father Adam (Troy Kotsur), who uses sign language to tell Lucy that tomorrow morning, he is leaving for a convention that is work-related, which Lucy is quite upset about. Lucy then meets up with her sister, Erin

(Gia Hunter) who has a rough relationship with Lucy. For about two minutes of the film, Erin is upset with Lucy about how long she was away at college, but Ben breaks up the tension and makes them bond. This is the most in-depth relationship in this film. Now that the entire cast is gathered and relationships are established, the horror begins.

The second part of the film has Ben escape from his enclosure (just outside of the house) as he is now infected with rabies from a weasel. Lucy and her friends notice Ben is near the pool, where most of the film takes place. Erin gets bitten by Ben and they are forced to jump into the pool because Ben doesn't know how to swim. Nick gets the idea to push Ben off the side of the pool and down the cliff, but Ben makes Nick fall to his death instead. Though it's a gruesome death, it's hard to feel any emotions about Nick's death due to a lack of character development.

The third part of the film consists of Lucy and Kate trying to sneak into the house to try and find their phone. After trying to not get spotted by Ben, Lucy and Kate hide in the closet, and after the TV is turned on, Lucy sneaks back to the pool where Erin is waiting for her. Ben murders

REVIEWS

a few more people, and with great special effects, but yet again, there's no emotional attachment to any of these characters.

The fourth and final part is by the far the most tense as Lucy's father, Adam, comes back home after worrying about his daughters and their friends. Ben seemingly stalks the unaware Adam, making viewers sit on the edge of their seats, wondering if Adam is going to be attacked by the very ape he's cared for.

Most of the special effects in this movie are natural, including Ben, who is played by Miguel Torres Umba, in an ape suit. As is industry norm, there is some CGI, but it's hardly recognizable.

If you are looking to see a creature feature movie with good effects and just want to see an ape attack people, then this film is perfect. However, if you're looking for characters you care about, this isn't your movie. While there are plenty of memorable scenes (such as the death scenes) there are even more forgettable scenes. I'd recommend this movie to people who like horror movies like *Cujo*, but I would tell them to set their expectations low. Overall, I'd rate this movie 6.5 of 10.

SERIOUSLY CONSIDER *OUTER BANKS* SERIES

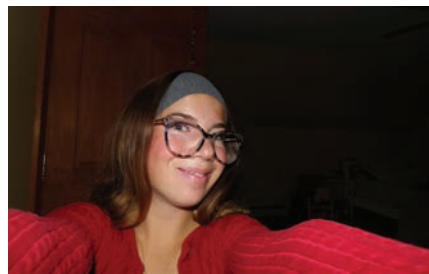
By Aubrey Coffey

Multiple people have recommended *Outer Banks* to me and it often comes up as an adventurous, chaotic, and romantic series. With those traits being up my alley, I decided to give it a shot.

The main storyline is defined by 17-year-old Jon B (Chase Stokes) who is searching for his father who was lost at sea during a storm. Law enforcement and DCF (Department of Children and Families) appear in the background of the series. Law enforcement officers' main assumption is that his father drowned. DCF steps in, as Jon B is a minor living without legal guardians.

I enjoyed how Jon B carries his friend group "the Pogues" like a team. JJ (Rudy Pankow), Pope (Jonathan Davis), and Kiara (Madison Bailey) all contribute greatly to the mission of finding Jon B's missing father. Their rivalry with "the Kooks" led by Sarah Cameron (Madelyn Cline) and her boyfriend Topper (Austin North) adds the perfect amount of drama.

By no means is it the most realistic show, but some moments are quite heavy. The combination of serious and unrealistic acting performances is what makes it so good. The unfortunate circumstances



that Jon B is dealing with aren't difficult to comprehend. The Pogues' lifestyle illustrates a good life lesson of perseverance. The show is mainly about overcoming class division in the Outer Banks community with an added aspect of unknowns.

Overall, I understand the hype around *Outer Banks*. It's entertaining, easy to understand, and a fun show to watch with a loved one. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who might be curious about an action-packed TV series.



Thanks (again) to Buzz Kuhns for sharing photos! buzzkahunsp photography.smugmug.com/ for more amazing photos!

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High school participants 2026 at the VYP Festival in Burlington

On May 13, thirteen high school students attended the Vermont Young Playwrights (VYP) Festival in Burlington. Sophomore Ellie Newman's play was featured, and juniors Maddie Diop and Scarlett Tarmy both received a cold reading of their 10-minute plays. Senior Charlie Prouty's play got honorable mention. To see featured plays and cold readings, check out: vimeo.com/event/4309934

ROWING TEAM WINS LOCAL RACE



Coach Kyle Dixon reported, "At the Spring Wave Race at Vergennes Falls, we had 3 graduating seniors: Gretchen Toy, Jack Anderson, and Will Gustin. Gustin also won the Bradley Cunningham Award. We had an Intermediate Six (Nicky Conley, Jack Anderson, Henry Allred, Eh Kaw Ku, Tiger Uttamang, Rose Roberts, and Eloise Newman) win with a time of 36 minutes and 55 seconds. Our Expert Six (Jack Anderson, River Meshna, Will Gustin, Brayden Fay, Kassi Garrow, Chuck Anderson, and Una Steele) won with a time of 33 minutes and 23 seconds." **PC Buzz Kuhns Photography**

SCHOLARS

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the tournament's bloggers asked us how we were doing and we accidentally reversed our score, making them think we were much better than we were."

Sophomore Eliza Ruble was there for her second year, and really enjoyed "chatting with the other teams from other parts of the country and talking to the officials between matches." Compared to last year, Ruble said, "It was nice already knowing how it worked and it was really fun, just like last year." Outside of the tournament, she enjoyed "going to the aquarium and to Chinatown afterwards."

Coach Vicki Bronson said her favorite moment of the tournament was when they



were asked a question about Ryan Cochran-Siegle, who graduated from Mt. Abe and visited Starksboro Elementary after winning his first silver medal. Because of this connection, the team answered in the power phase, granting them an extra five points. Bronson went to Chicago with the team last year, and in comparison, "We knew what we were doing this year, so that made it less nerve-wracking, but Mike Williams, Mt. Abe co-coach, was unable to go this year so it was a little more stressful being the only adult." Like Ruble, Bronson enjoyed the aquarium, especially "the seal show and penguin talk!"

Though they may not have made the playoffs, they represented Vermont well and had plenty of fun, both in the tournament and the trip itself.

Ada Fisher '27

My sustained investigation explores the concept of time and memory, specifically through the lens of my own experience. I wanted to focus on representing the different ways of seeing the past, as well as how memories can shift and change from different perspectives and with the passage of time. Over the year, I also expanded from purely symbolic views of memory into more personal ones, specifically choosing to incorporate different places from my own memories and representations of myself in many of my later pieces.

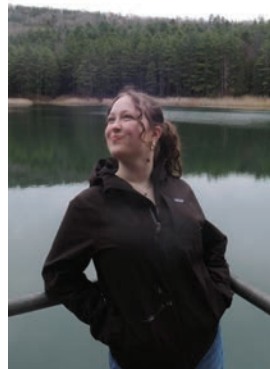
This year has been extremely enlightening for me in the artistic process and has exposed me to new forms of artistry while also challenging me to think about creating in



new ways. The AP course setup requires a far more structured approach to making art than what I am used to, but I found that it put me in a position where I truly had to think about what I was making and why. This reflection and pause that came from the AP process is one I am especially grateful for, as it allowed me to delve into my true motivations for doing art (across all fields) and rekindled my joy for creation and self-reflection.

Scarlett Tarmy '27

My Sustained Investigation explores the conflict between craving normality while acknowledging the abnormalities in society. I made pieces inspired by current events, but as the year went on, my theme evolved from political unease to personal struggles like burnout, comfort, and childlike innocence (themes more prevalent in my life). Through this class, I expressed anxiety and disconnection. I learned that my perception of 'normal' is shaped by constant instability in different areas of my life. I have chosen this inquiry because it deeply matters to me. It reflects how I navigate a world of people who are either overreacting or underreacting. In my later pieces, I focused on using

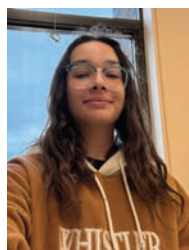


comfort as a coping mechanism. I encourage the viewer of my art to think about areas in their lives that feel normal when, in reality, it isn't.

I know in my soul that life is so intertwined with creation that it feels impossible to be alive while not creating. If nothing else feels uniquely yours, make something. Pick up a pencil and don't compare your skills to others. Just because others are talented doesn't mean you're not. Your perspective is unique, and to deny people your art is hurtful. You and your creations matter. Keep making art and stay connected to your emotions.

Ezaias Herben '27

I love thinking about the things that are obscured from view, like someone's motivations, or the intention behind a specific design. My sustained investigation explores how to visually show the way social pressures affect people. As one of the countless members of society, I have seen the many effects it has on people, and using both my own and other people's experiences as reference, I created artwork that transcribed the under-



lying themes of social pressure into visual imagery. For example, in Smog Wastes, the looming smoke could represent the intimidating nature of what society expects from someone. When I make art, I will often try to create hidden messaging. However, sometimes the most interesting part of my work is the messages I didn't intend to put there. I have always been drawn to the expressiveness of art. When I was younger I was very experimental and curious. I have countless memories of going out into the

Willow Heath '27

My sustained investigation followed how design elements can enhance a narrative through character development. I decided to explore a criteria to experiment with different art styles and visual design to invoke emotion in a piece and allow the viewer to make an inference about the character they are viewing. The reason I have chosen to explore this inquiry is due to my interest in a character's development, story, and the way characters can reflect aspects of their creators. When planning a piece I would consider the way the character viewed the world around them and how I would incorporate that view for others to experience. Through the differences in my pieces, I encourage viewers to think of their own take on the story being told and how the two characters focused on could impact each other and in which ways.

When looking back, I feel as if I had been making art since I could hold a pencil and now only have learned to improve and make mistakes to learn from them. Creating art is a large part of who I am as a per-

Gemma Lyles '27

My sustained investigation explores how we may know people but we can never know fully what they're dealing with beneath the surface. It's always intrigued me how you can never really know everything about another person and I wanted to dive into that. I tried to portray how emotions feel visually with colors and

composition, but I couldn't get my message across with just one image, so I pivoted to short comics. I am the kind of person that can not make a character for an art work just because. I tend to overcomplicate aspects of character building and I needed more room to express that. I wanted the people looking at my art to understand the story clearly rather than just me going into a single piece with all this lore that only I know. I wanted people to feel for the characters whether they completely get it or not. I also wanted to explore the complications of said stories. I didn't want to talk about

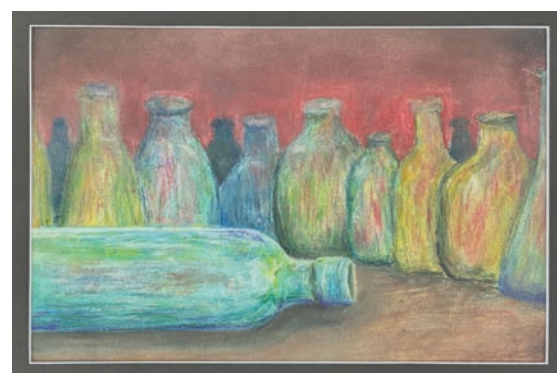
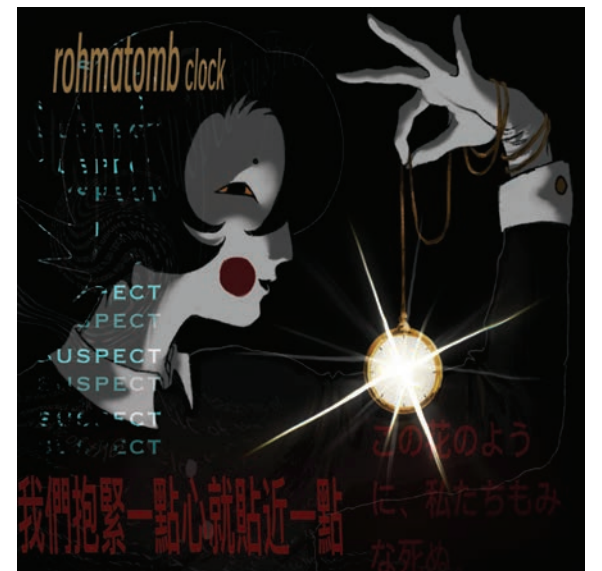
A.P. ART PAGE



son and how important it is for not only myself but others. My interest in learning more and developing my art stems from the impacts art can have on others and which way a story could be told. With the influence from the world around me and encouragement from others, I find myself wanting to continue creating, exploring, and stepping out of my comfort zone to experience something new.

secrets of these nonexistent people in my work without putting some thought into them as people, while also leaving some ambiguity because, again, you can't know everything about someone, even people that aren't real.

From this experience I learned that characters' stories can overlap but it never really conveys the full story.



"Condensing Bottles"

woods behind my house and making little forts with my brother, or looking for tadpoles in the pond. As

I've gotten older, that curiosity has turned towards art. Art for me is almost a way to explore the world, contextualizing things in a visual way. It's a very raw form of communication, and it is invaluable to the way I live. It's also just pretty fun. I've learned more about art this year than I ever have before. Color, creative process, experimentation, etc. are all skills I've developed alongside my classmates and I'm proud of how far we've all come this year.

INVENTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN HISTORY

Noah Buschmann '26 learned about the history of the traffic signal and shared, "John Peake Knight, born in 1847, worked as a railway signal engineer. In 1868, he filed a patent for a traffic signal that would allow trains to pass safely. At the time of his patent the invention consisted of only a red and green light and operated on gas for night time use. In 1920, the first four-way three light electric signal was created which became widespread in many cities around the world. In the 1950s, they created ways to detect cars and traffic patterns for quicker transportation for all. The advancement of the traffic light made large cities much safer, encouraging many people to move in. They also made the cities much brighter which decreased the crime rate."



Camille Hamilton '28 created a miniature room with a typewriter and telegraph machine, inventions that "massively impacted human settlement in the 1800s and contributed to the Industrial Revolution. The invention of the telegraph allowed people to send messages quicker across long distances using electrical wires...so towns and cities could grow as businesses, railroads, and the government were all able to communicate faster. Furthermore, the telegraph led to settlers moving forward as the United States could still stay connected by electricity. Similarly, the typewriter improved communication by making printing and writing faster, clearer, and more organized for government use. The increase in industries, or the industrial revolution, was a result of these inventions, along with a few others. These inventions allowed businesses to become more efficient and cities to grow. These technologies created a more industrial society in the 1800s, effectively acting as a catalyst for future industrial growth."



Bradley LeVangie '28 researched the history of dynamite and wrote, "The first stick of nitro-glycerin dynamite was invented in Germany in 1867. A Swedish chemist named Alfred Nobel came up with it in his attempts to create a better way at blasting rock. Nobel's first prototypes were mostly pressured air and different gases, but he eventually came up with the nitro-glycerin stick, with a fuse to detonate from a safe distance. Once he figured out how to stabilize the chemicals for transport, widespread manufacturing and delivery, meant Americans could finally use this safer and more effective way to clear paths and blast rocks. Debatably the most important aspect of Westward Expansion (the Transcontinental Railroad) was able to be completed thanks to dynamite. This transformed America forever and allowed it to become the respected nation it is today."

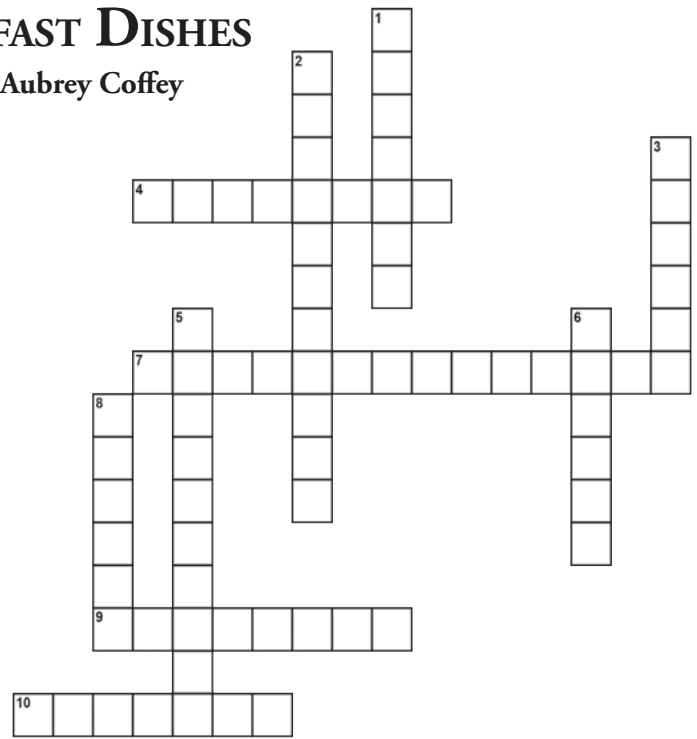


Advisor Sam Howe and Middle School participants at the VYP Festival at Main Street Landing

On May 13, six middle school students attended the Vermont Young Playwrights (VYP) Festival in Burlington. Aubrey LaRock's play was featured, and Matthew Curtin's play received a cold reading. Madison Cousino's play got honorable mention. **To see featured plays and cold readings, check out:**
vimeo.com/event/4309934

BREAKFAST DISHES

By Aubrey Coffey



Across

- [4] Fluffy brunch dish
- [7] Fermented bread (two words)
- [9] Straw required breakfast option
- [10] Breakfast squares

Down

- [1] Breakfast that's stirred not flipped
- [2] Soaked seeds (two words)
- [3] It may be folded
- [5] Probiotic rich dish (two words)
- [6] Flaky baked good
- [8] They look like two rings when separated

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For the solution go to: sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/home/puzzles

CLOSET *(Continued from Page 3)*

He made it to the kitchen, grabbing a knife to defend himself. He tried to intimidate the beast, standing his ground.

The beast almost completely ignored the threat attempt and charged at the child, swiping its needle-like hands at him.

Before the child even realized what happened he felt a sting come from his cheek. He lightly touched where the pain came from and saw his hand now stained with a red liquid. Blood. He couldn't win.

He heard the heartbeat again, making the reality of the situation sink in.

The kid ran to the basement and

slammed the door behind him. He grabbed a chair and held it against the door as hard as he could.

While holding the door, the child looked around the basement. He realized there were no doors. No escape. All there was as an escape was a small window that he wouldn't be able to fit through.

The child looked out the window and saw the pitch black night sky. He knew it would be a long time before the sun came up. Then he heard the door start to snap.

.....

[the end]

LAX TEAMS CHEER ON GIRLS ON THE RUN



After practice recently, the boys and girls lacrosse teams supported Bristol Bobcat Girls on the Run

CURSE HUNTER *(Continued from Page 4)*

black and you have steam coming off of your body and you don't look like yourself." It felt like I had the power to destroy a whole forest...

To read the rest of this story, go to: sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/art-and-creative-writing



The Bird's Eye View

Contact:

Mt. Abraham Union High School
 220 Airport Drive
 Bristol, VT 05443
 Phone: (802) 453-2333 x62095
 Fax: (802) 453-4359

Advisor Vicki Bronson vicki.bronson@mausd.org

Staff: Dylan Wells '26 Aubrey Coffey '27

sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/

Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

PUZZLES

Sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

ACROSS

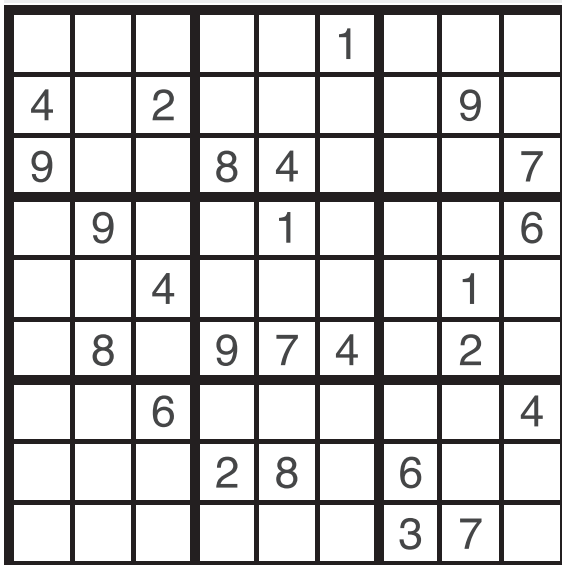
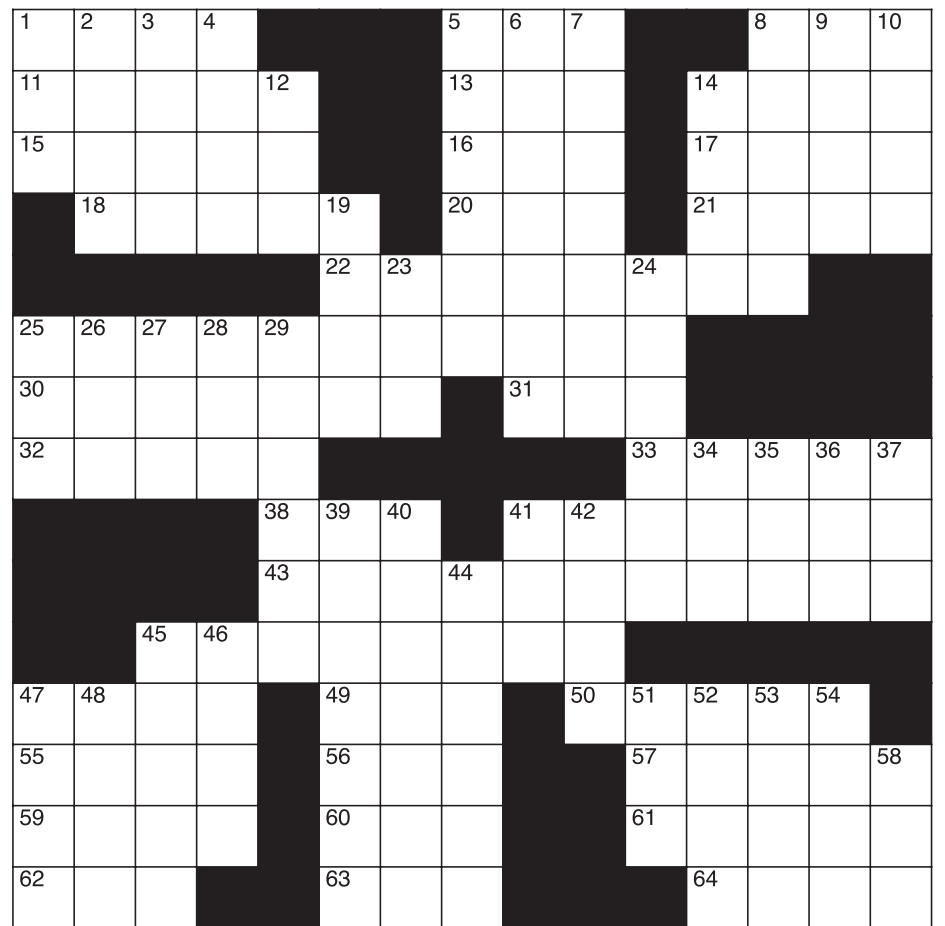
- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. Cologne
- 11. Fictional British P.I.
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Minneapolis suburb
- 16. Single lens reflex
- 17. NY Mets great Tommie
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Habitual twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent or submit
- 25. In an early way

- 30. Made possible
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Relating to one's birth
- 33. Deep-bodied fishes
- 38. Defunct European currency
- 41. Small American songbird
- 43. One from L.A.
- 45. After tenth
- 47. Hillside
- 49. Red deer
- 50. Partner to "oohed"
- 55. Indian musical pattern
- 56. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 57. Golden peas plant

- 59. Breezed through
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Danish krone
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Influential Korean leader

DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. Nag
- 6. Blank
- 7. Closely woven cotton fabric



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

- 8. A nice shot in golf
- 9. Away from wind
- 10. Evergreen shrub genus
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Something you receive
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Wet dirt
- 24. No longer here
- 25. Writing utensil
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Licensed for Wall Street
- 29. Alternative forms of a gene
- 34. Buddy
- 35. We all do it
- 36. Chicken
- 37. No seats available
- 39. Yearned to possess
- 40. Ineffectual
- 41. Explosive
- 42. Turkish title
- 44. Worn near the foot
- 45. Impatient
- 46. Set an example for others
- 47. Actor Pitt
- 48. Instrument of torture
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. A way to print
- 54. Storied college hoops program
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.



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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

COMBATING SLUGS IN THE HOME GARDEN



Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.

Slugs are a tenacious foe in the home garden, as they do their work at night and are capable of wreaking havoc quickly. To combat them, you need to understand what conditions they prefer, what plants they target, and how to protect your garden from their assaults.

By **AMY SIMONE**

A slug is a type of mollusk in the clam and oyster family. It is a slimy, soft-bodied, brown or grey-colored legless

creature that can be one-quarter to two inches in length. They have two pairs of feelers on their heads, the upper pair containing the eyes and the lower pair that facilitates their sense of smell. They move themselves using the slime that they produce.

In early spring, you may not be aware of their presence as their eggs have been overwintering in plant debris, mulch, and on wood boards. But from spring to early summer, the eggs hatch and the hungry slugs set out looking for nourishment.

Next, understand that slugs seek out cool, damp, shady areas in which to live and feed. Therefore, divide, thin, prune or stake plants to raise them away from soil and to improve the air circulation around them. Water in the morning and be sure to put the water right at the root zone, not on the plant parts. Improve drainage in soil that is constantly damp by adding compost.

Most importantly, monitor your plants regularly to catch any damage and address it quickly before your plant's health is compromised. Slug damage will be noted by a trail of slime and irregularly shaped holes in leaves, flowers and fruit. Use a flashlight at night to locate them.

Handpick the culprits from your plants and either crush them or drop them in soapy water. To attract many slugs, set out flat boards, shingles or damp newspapers. Turn these over in the morning and kill the slugs attached to them. Repeat daily until there are no more slugs.

Fermented liquid traps can also be used. Bury a vessel such as quart-sized yogurt container 6 to 7 inches deep with the rim at soil level. Fill it with beer or a mixture of 1 teaspoon yeast to 3 ounces warm water to 1 inch below the rim. Slugs are attracted to the odor and will drown. Clean out the trap, refill and repeat until no longer needed.

Invite the natural enemies of the slug to your garden. Ground beetles, rove beetles, fireflies, toads, snakes, turtles, shrews, ducks, starlings and other birds will happily munch on your garden pests.

Baits may be used as a last resort. Your local garden center will have a variety of effective organic management options that contain iron phosphate. Products with this active ingredient will naturally degrade into the soil and will not harm pets. Follow the package directions.

Take that, Mr. Slug!

For answers to your home gardening questions, contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardeners Helpline online at go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline or by phone at 802-656-5421 on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Gardeners can easily use a small container filled with a fermented liquid to trap and drown slugs.

PHOTO / ROSALIE COVEY HINCKLEY

Pet of the Week



Meet The Öreos!

Fjord Mojo (center) celebrated his 32nd birthday on May 18 with his besties Icelandic Aska and Kuldi (right and left). Yes, there was carrot cake!

Submitted by Sarah and Ben Wood of Cornwall.



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

We post our pets too! Follow us and our furry friends.

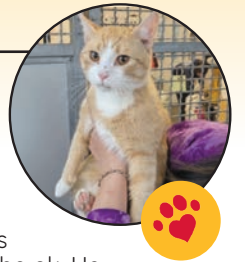


Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Emu



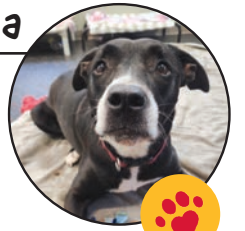
Emu arrived as a stray who seemed to have been through some rough times. He had some scarring on his nose and a wound on his right rear leg. Despite this, he has been the friendliest and happiest boy! You could see him relax once he arrived here, like he knew he was finally safe and everything was going to be ok. He has been engaging and affectionate with staff.

Henry & Hilda



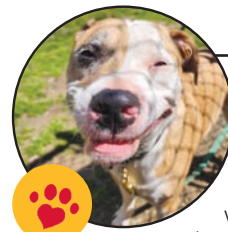
Siblings **Henry and Hilda** had the misfortune of being born under someone's porch. They are still unsure of people, but it doesn't take long to realize they really want to trust and be confident. They are both unbelievably cute and have so much love to give. They just need a family who understands they need a little time to relax.

Gemma



Gemma is an easygoing girl with a gentle heart and a playful side. She was once unsure about things like boots, hats, and quick hand movements, but with time and exposure, she's become much more comfortable. She will do best with a patient adopter who can continue helping her feel safe and secure as she adjusts. Gemma walks well on leash, knows basic commands, and enjoys car rides. She has lived with other dogs, cats, and young children. She thrives in the presence of other dogs and would love a canine companion in her new home. A family willing to give Gemma time to adjust and build confidence will help her truly shine.

Jax



Jax is a fun-loving pup with a big personality and an even bigger love for playtime. A good sniffari is one of his favorite activities; every outing becomes a full investigative field report, with his nose to the ground gathering the latest neighborhood headlines one scent at a time. Jax is always happy to show off his skills and can even balance a treat on his nose! Car rides are another favorite; he'll happily hop into the backseat for the journey. Around the house, he's crate-trained and relaxes well when crated for a few hours at a time. Jax is a dog-savvy gentleman who coexists calmly with other pups and can even help shy dogs come out of their shell. An adult-only home would be the best fit for him, ideally with an active family and space to run and play. He recently discovered that swimming is a pretty fun way to spend the day!

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EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

choice these individuals made to either fight or embrace the aging process. Instead, the photographers approach their subjects with a spirit of curiosity. Some are portraits, and a few feature celebrities. In the main, though, these are studies of human beings who have simply become who they are with time. On view through Aug. 9.

"Frederic Church in Vermont." This exhibit brings together for the first time more than forty graphite drawings, oil sketches, and finished paintings by Frederic Church created during or as a result of his visits to Vermont over thirty years. On view through Aug. 9.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury
For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.
"Portals: New Perspectives," juried by Ann Jastrab, explores thresholds,

transitions and ways of seeing. Photographs range from literal portals such as windows, doors and mirrors to more conceptual shifts in light, space, and perspective. Featuring artists from around the world, the exhibition includes 35 works in the gallery and 40 in the online gallery. An opening reception will be held on Friday, June 5, from 4-7 p.m., with complimentary mead tastings. Free and open to all. On view through June 27.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh
For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Help Each Other," is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The Quaker 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
"Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden's Charity & Sylvia," invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and

REAL ESTATE

A

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442 E. MAIN STREET, MIDDLEBURY
MLS #5086871 - \$439,000

This inviting home offers a bright, comfortable layout designed for easy everyday living. The updated kitchen blends the convenience of modern living with the charm and character of an older home. Outside, the fenced-in backyard is ideal for pets, play or gardening. The garage adds valuable storage and parking. Set on a small, manageable lot the property offers quick access to town amenities, and is ideal for commuting to Rutland or Burlington. The sidewalks make it easy to enjoy a morning walk or an evening stroll. This home delivers comfort, practicality, and a great location.



29 MOUNT PLEASANT DRIVE, BRANDON
MLS #5071791 - \$494,000

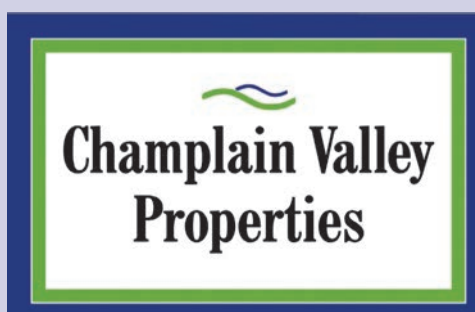
This beautifully maintained 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch is both spacious and cozy and full of natural sunlight. Recent updates include solar panels, newer roof, newer custom kitchen and stainless-steel appliances, and paved driveway. The very large primary bedroom has a fabulous bathroom with double sinks, both a jetted tub and oversized walk-in shower. The .64 acre lot features established garden areas and lovely mountain views from the large deck. Lower level has a large family room, workout space, a large workshop, and excellent storage. This is a wonderful house in a fabulous location!



3588 ROUTE 144, BENSON
MLS #5089821 - \$395,000

This beautifully maintained modular home is ready for you to move right in! The floor plan is open, light filled and is perfect for entertaining with the family/living room/kitchen and dining all interconnected. The bath off main bedroom is sweet! It has an electric fireplace, soaking tub, shower, water closet and walk-in closet. Generous storage space in the full length attic and basement (that has its own entryway). The yard is teeming with song birds and hummingbirds. Ample perennials in gardens and a lovely stand of flowering crabapple trees. The 18 acres offer good open areas and potential for animals or crops. The 1864 barn is a classic with a large, nicely rolling door along the front. It has a host of uses for any interest!

70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
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ChamplainValleyProperty.net



EXHIBITS

continued from page 13

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

present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary

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 pacifism, rebellion or resistance, across different historical and political contexts. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Icy Artifacts of the Everyday." These objects and photographs from the past speak with the "Tempestry," an artistic display of Addison County climate data, knitted by the hands of nearly 100 current community members from locally sourced and hand dyed wool. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

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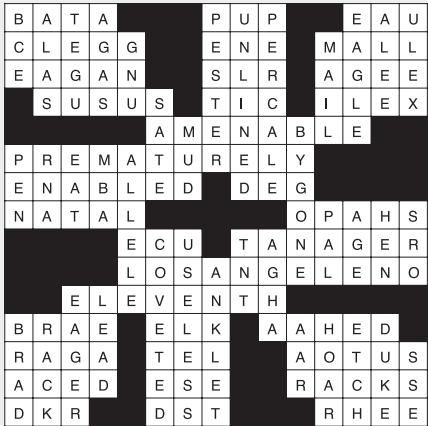


Ryan Gabbert

PUZZLE

June 4, 2026

SOLUTIONS



8	6	7	5	9	1	4	3	2
4	1	2	7	6	3	8	9	5
9	5	3	8	4	2	1	6	7
2	9	5	3	1	8	7	4	6
7	3	4	6	2	5	9	1	8
6	8	1	9	7	4	5	2	3
5	7	6	1	3	9	2	8	4
3	4	9	2	8	7	6	5	1
1	2	8	4	5	6	3	7	9

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36 Island Dr, Bridport. Enjoy lakeside living in this newly renovated seasonal cottage on Lake Champlain. Located on leased land in a peaceful community, it offers shared lake access just a short walk away. The bright interior features an updated kitchen with granite countertops and stainless appliances, tiled bath, hardwood floors, and a Rinnai heater to extend the season. Perfect for affordable getaways.

MLS# 5091805 \$199,900 Nancy Larrow ~ 802-989-9653



85 Island Dr, Bridport. Discover a Lake Champlain retreat in this two-bedroom seasonal cottage featuring 112 feet of lake frontage. Enjoy spectacular sunsets, and a peaceful setting steps from the water. Situated on .34 acres of leased land with 32 years remaining and a fixed \$20 annual lease, this property offers rare affordability and lakeside charm. Schedule your showing today before this unique escape slips away.

MLS# 5090651 \$215,000 Cory Foote ~ 802-349-7101



95 Seminary Street Extension, Middlebury. Enjoy Vermont living in this updated mid-century home on 1.1 acres. Recent improvements include new flooring, fresh interior paint, and a new back deck overlooking a private setting. The property offers room for gardening, an oversized two-car garage with workshop space. Conveniently located near Middlebury College, Porter Medical Center, local trails, and area amenities, this home is ready to enjoy.

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OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, 6/6
11 AM - 1 PM

LINCOLN | 296 West Hill Road | MLS #5091930
2 BR | 2 BA | 1320 SF | 5.00 ACRES | \$589,000

Custom-built Scandinavian-inspired mountain retreat. Energy-efficient, with oversized windows, vaulted ceiling, and radiant concrete floor. Established gardens, unfinished workshop, heated shed/studio.

NEW LISTING



BRANDON | 26 Park Street | MLS #5091440
4 BR | 2 BA | 1872 SF | 0.17 ACRES | \$550,000

Walk to everything from this stately brick beauty! Thoughtfully and completely renovated. Screened porch, barn with storage and workshop, and a heated, insulated studio space above the garage.

NEW LISTING



BRIDPORT | 4362 Lake Street | MLS #5090783
4 BD | 5 BA | 6538 SF | 9.79 ACRES | \$1,850,000

Exceptional custom home on Lake Champlain with 308 ft of shoreline, being sold furnished. Floating boat dock, spa pool, heated three-car garage, 40 X 60 metal building with water, power, and drive on lift.

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 1844 Halladay Road | MLS #5091765
4 BR | 5 BA | 2804 SF | 12.00 ACRES | \$1,100,000

Classic VT farmhouse with views of the Adirondacks. A gracious home with handsome details and a wraparound porch. The barn/garage offers many uses w/ partially finished, heated space and a bath.



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Five Fridays Music Series
Dwight + Nicole Band
Fri June 5
5:00-6:30pm
Outdoors in the Maloney
Plaza - Food & Bar!
FREE!



THT & Turning Point
Point Center of Addison
County Present
**Supporting Recovery,
Strengthening
Community**
Thu June 18
6:00-8:00pm
Free



Opera Company of
Middlebury Presents
La Traviata
June 5 & 11 7:30pm
June 7 & 13 2:00pm
Tickets: \$50-\$100



THT Presents
House of Jazz Series
**Miles Donahue
Quartet: Jazz from
Movies & TV**
Sat Jun 20
7:30-9:15pm
Tickets: \$15-\$50



OCM Young Artist
Program Presents
Babel 46
Fri June 12 7:30pm
Sun June 14 2:00pm
Tickets: \$30-\$45

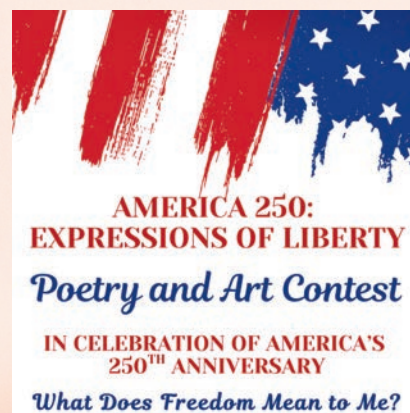


Middlebury Acting
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Cutting Edge Series
Darwin in Malibu
Sun June 28
4:00pm
Tickets: \$15



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