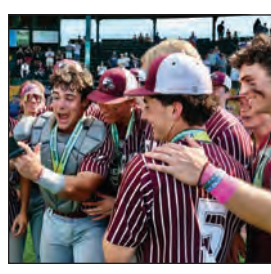




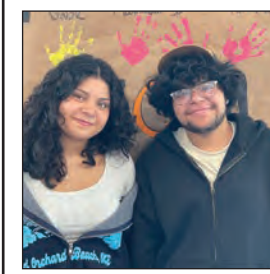
Timber!

Lincoln firm uses classic techniques to create works of beauty with wood. See Arts + Leisure.



Eagles soar

The Eagle nine claimed the D-II state championship on Saturday. See how they did it on Page 1B.



Celebrate grads

See photos of all Addison County grads and read stories from three high schools in our special pull-out.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Local high schools respond to AI

See potential, eye limits to new tech

First in a series.

By JING WILLIAMS

Students in English classes at Mt. Abraham Union High School may be more likely found writing on paper than typing on their Chromebooks now, English teacher Vicki Bronson said. Many students

are using generative artificial intelligence to submit work, and to truly assess a student these days, paper is the trusted answer, she added.

While AI was an issue in the 2024-25 school year, it was much worse in the school year that just

wrapped up, Bronson said. At least five students used it in her Creative Writing class, and the issue goes beyond English class. She said it puts a burden on teachers, who must rely on often inaccurate and inconsistent checker technologies.

"The onus is on us to check because there's no policy for it," Bronson said. "We do have a

plagiarism policy, but where does AI fall in that? For example, if you've taken your work and just run it through AI and spiffed it up, is it plagiarism?"

Use of AI in school isn't unique to Mt. Abe: the Pew Research Center reports that over half of teens in the U.S. have used AI (See Schools and AI, Page 10A)

Shoreham bids farewell to its elementary school

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Like its five sister schools throughout the Addison Central School District (ACSD), Shoreham Elementary's small campus this past Thursday, June 11,

reverberated with the laughs, shouts and chatter one would expect to hear from children celebrating the final day of the academic year.

Heck, Shoreham kids got an (See Shoreham, Page 12A)

Sightings of bears increase

By RACHELLE TALBERT

ADDISON COUNTY — Black bear populations have been on the rise — a trend that hasn't gone unnoticed by Vermonters.

Some have experienced it up close and personal.

Gretchen Conkey was working in her West Addison garden one afternoon a couple weeks ago when she noticed an animal rambling in. She thought it was the neighbor's dog — a 150-pound black lab — but upon closer inspection, it was something very different.

"I yelled to my aunt, 'Get in the house! It's a bear!' And it's a juvenile, probably a one-year-old bear," Conkey said.

"That scared him, just me yelling that, and he ran past a bunch of my flowers, ran past the bird feeder, (See Bears, Page 13A)

City grapples with budget in absence of ARPA funds

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — With just under two weeks to go until Vergennes city councilors need to approve spending for the upcoming fiscal year, the seven-member body continued grappling with ways to reduce the proposed \$3,843,806.99 budget in the absence of money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

(See Vergennes, Page 11A)



SEN. BERNIE SANDERS poses with Vergennes Union High School graduates at the end of the 2026 commencement ceremony in the high school gym on Friday, June 12. Snafus with Sanders's travel plans changed up the program, but his late arrival didn't lessen the excitement in the room.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS grads part with words from Sanders

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Union High School graduation this past Friday was full of lessons, both baked into speeches and unexpectedly cropping up in the unplanned parts of the evening — the blistering heat and keynote speaker Sen. Bernie Sanders's late arrival due to airport delays.

Neither threw a wrench in what was a joyful and seamless June 12 ceremony,

featuring student speakers, an original song and a challenge to the rising Commodore 12th-graders.

Programs doubled as fans in the VUHS gymnasium Friday night, and Sen. Sanders's delay made his testimony no less exciting for the graduates and guests. And both were real life examples of the kind of advice graduates get thrown at them as they enter adulthood — to expect the unexpected and make lemonade

out of lemons.

While across the audience a sea of programs waved back and forth, the motion only slowing when loved ones were busy clapping for graduates as they received diplomas, VUHS Principal Jody Chamberlin opened with a compliment for the 58 graduates on either side of her.

"Look under your chairs," she told them. (See VUHS graduates, Page 14A)

Andy Klein stresses Vt. growth in Senate bid

New Haven man to face GOP primary

By JOHN FLOWERS

NEW HAVEN — Andrew Klein has gotten great satisfaction through public service on the Middlebury Fire Department (MFD).

Now he'd like to help extinguish some of the state's problems as one of two state senators representing Addison County, Rochester, Huntington and Buel's Gore.

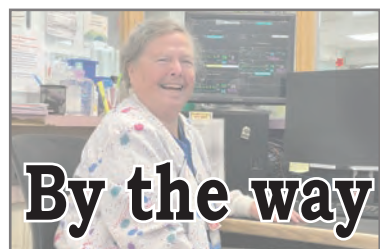
Klein, a 48-year-old New Haven Republican, joins a field of candidates that includes incumbent state Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury; incumbent Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol; Leicester Democrat Hannah Sessions; and Orwell Republican Andrea Treadway.

Heffernan, Klein and Treadway will vie in an Aug. 11 GOP primary to decide which two will advance to the Nov. 3 general election to face Hardy and Sessions.

"Politics is always something I thought I would eventually end up doing, with my skillset and background," Klein said.

It's a background steeped in numbers.

Klein grew up in New York City, though his family has had a long connection in Vermont. The family would make frequent trips to his late grandparents' home in South Ryegate in the Northeast (See Klein, Page 11A)



By the way

Middlebury's Ilesley Library renovation and expansion project is beginning to look more like a finished product. Believe it or not, the end of construction is near on the \$17 million undertaking at 77 Main St. In her most recent report, Ilesley Director Dana Hart said the recent installation of the cabinets and countertops have made certain spaces feel (See By the way, Page 11A)

Roscoe caps 43 years nourishing Mt. Abe students

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — It was often still dark outside when Carol Roscoe arrived at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School for the day. A longtime member of the school's food service team, Roscoe was typically the first person in the building and started opening up the kitchen at 5 a.m.

"You have to evolve with the times and not just stick with your macaroni and cheese, although they still like it."

— Carol Roscoe

That routine became a familiar one, but it is changing for Roscoe, who is retiring from her post this summer after 43 years feeding students at Mt. Abe.

Roscoe's coworkers highlighted the impact she's had on the Mt. Abe community, from her popular dinner rolls to the ways her service to students has surpassed the food that ends up on their plates.

"Carol is celebrated in our school and by our School Nutrition team not just because she has been working at this job for 43 years but more importantly because she has given her heart and soul to this work every minute of that time," said Kathy Alexander, who's worked with Roscoe as director of the MAUSD/ANWSD Food Service Cooperative. "She is smiling every morning and (See Roscoe, Page 9A)



A little more green?

ANDREA KERIN OF Vergennes draws inspiration from the falls at Otter Creek near the Marble Works during Saturday's Sparrow Plein Air Festival. Kerin along with almost a hundred other artists tried their hands at painting outdoors at spots around downtown Middlebury. See a story and photos on Page 12B.

Independent photo/Steve James

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New Haven group eyes community spaces

By MARIN HOWELL
NEW HAVEN — Making connections in a rural community can be challenging, but less so if you know where to look. A group of New Haven residents has been working to identify existing avenues for building community in town and create additional opportunities for people to come together. The task force's work has included planning a June 27 "Summerfest" gathering that will feature live music, a chicken barbecue and a variety of activities. The group began its work earlier this year and is one of the two task forces formed through the months-long New Haven Comes Together process that unfolded in town. Facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development, the initiative helped residents home in on two priorities for their town and develop task forces to work toward those goals — Expand Housing Opportunities and Create Community Gathering Spaces. "After a few sessions, our task force felt the given name was a mouthful, The New Haven Creating Community Gathering Spaces Task Force, so we changed our name to that of an existing group who served a similar purpose — New Haven Neighbors," explained Mike Tecca, who chairs the group. Tecca said the task force landed on three initial efforts to focus on: developing an inventory of

community assets like gathering spaces and committees; supporting community engagement around renovation of the town's historic train depot; and organizing the revival of a summer event on the town green. For the inventory, Tecca explained that the group is working

to build a database of existing physical spaces for community gatherings, reoccurring events, active committees, businesses and individuals with various skills. "Our theory is that there is actually a lot of existing value in our small town of around 1,700 people, and by compiling this into

a database we can leverage it into a more digestible format," he said. The group has put together an intake form and those interested in submitting information can contact Tecca at matecca@pm.me. Tecca said the goal is for the database to be available online for residents to (See New Haven, Page 7A)



Winner winner chicken dinner

PEOPLE LINED UP in front of the Cornwall firehouse on Sunday afternoon and patiently waited for a tasty chicken dinner at the annual fire department cook-out. In addition to a half a bird, diners consumed salad, a roll, baked beans (as always a big hit), a cookie and a drink. The first responders serving up meals appear to be pleasant in these photos, and locals didn't mind the 20-minute wait because they got to chat with neighbors and friends.

Photos by Colton Henty



MUSIC ON THE New Haven green will return later this month for Summerfest, a June 27 event with live music, a chicken barbecue and other festivities. The event is being hosted by New Haven Neighbors, a group working to identify existing options for community building in town and create additional opportunities for residents to come together.

Photo courtesy of Mike Tecca



Vergennes Eco & Energy Fair showcases local solutions

By ELOISE CHRISTY
VERGENNES — The fourth annual Eco & Energy Fair on the Vergennes City Green this past Saturday demonstrated ways Addison County residents can make a difference and work toward a green future. While each of the vendors in attendance focused on a different solution, the collective message was clear: Small changes in daily life can create larger impacts across a community. From choosing biking over driving to improving home energy efficiencies, the event emphasized that there are many sustainable choices available to those who are willing to look. "We want better air quality. We want less emissions, and we can do it," said Zach Isler, a volunteer for the day at the booth for the 350Vermont organization. The fair promoted awareness of available renewable energy resources, weatherization and solar energy with the goal of conserving energy, according to the chair of

the Vergennes Energy Committee Cheryl Brinkman. "This year, we have paired with the Weybridge eco fair," Brinkman said. "We have examples of pollinator pathways, EV lawnmowers, bikes, as well as popcorn being popped through the energy captured by an EV car!" This year, there were around 17 vendors, all displaying various alternatives to fossil fuels and other non-renewable energy sources, with the addition of an Irish folk band playing music from 11 a.m. on. Isler with 350Vermont outlined the process of peak busting, a movement intended to reduce the use of "peaker" power plants. "During times of really high energy use across all of New England's energy grid system, these plants kick on and burn fossil fuel, just to meet that peak energy demand," Isler said. Isler, along with the rest of 350Vermont, believes this is a solvable problem. "We're asking people to sign



ATTENDEES AT THE Eco & Energy Fair on the Vergennes City Green on Saturday learn about Tri-Valley Transit's shared ride transportation services.

Independent photo/Eloise Christy

up to get messages saying there's a peak coming, and can you do anything? Can you switch off your lights? Can you turn off your AC?" Isler said. "We will bring this information to the grid operators and show them that we don't need these fossil fuel-powered peaker plants." Mary Catherine Graziano from Efficiency Vermont said she loves coming to energy fairs and demonstrating how her organization can help Vermonters transition into a cleaner and more affordable future. "They're a really great way to meet Vermont people and talk about what we have available to them and how we can help take some of the economic pressure of fossil fuels and energy use off of their businesses and personal lives," she said. Along with affordability, more eco-friendly modes of transportation are crucial to how we

can move toward a future powered by renewable energy sources. Bikes are a good example of one way this can happen. At the Walk Bike Council of Addison County and Local Motion booths, Tim Clark and Spence Putnam worked together to promote alternative methods of transport that rely on nothing but your own power and rechargeable energy. "The beauty is that you can go farther on an e-bike (as opposed to a regular bike)," Clark said. To improve the safety of using regular bikes as well as e-bikes, the Walk Bike Council has been working on a project that gives people the option of not using a car. "One of our big projects is the triangle bike loop that connects Middlebury, Bristol, New Haven and Vergennes," Clark said. "This is a safe and efficient route." After pushing for road improvements over the years, this (See Eco Fair, Page 7A)



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June 17 - June 23

Exchange connects Vermonters and Germans

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — As the school year came to a close at Mount Abraham Union High School this month, many students were hopping onto bikes and into cars with their eyes set on the summer adventures ahead. But for one student, the start of summer vacation meant catching a flight back home to Germany.

Julian Schuler had joined the Mt. Abe community in the fall as a participant in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, a program run by the U.S. and German governments that offers a funded study abroad experience. His time in Vermont wrapped up last week, leaving all those involved with new memories and a greater understanding of different cultures.

"Hosting exchange students enriches our entire school community," Mt. Abe Principal Shannon Warden told the *Independent*. "It gives our students and staff the opportunity to build meaningful cross-cultural relationships, broaden their perspectives, and develop a deeper understanding of the world beyond our local community."

"The exchange of ideas, traditions, and experiences creates a more inclusive, globally minded learning environment that benefits everyone involved," she continued. "It has been a pleasure hosting Julian! He will be missed!"

The chance to study abroad as a high school student is one of a few opportunities offered through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. Through the program, students and young professionals from the U.S. and Germany can experience an academic year in the other country.

It aims to strengthen ties between youth in the U.S. and Germany, as well as help them develop career skills and grow their awareness of the country and culture they're immersed in for a year. It's a program Monkton resident Mark Boltz-Robinson took part in while attending Brandon's Otter Valley Union High School in the 1980s.

His time in the exchange program landed him in Ittlingen, a small German town near Heidelberg. Boltz-Robinson said he's still in touch with his host family and goes back to Germany to visit his former host sister and her family.

"It's one of those things, it becomes lifelong connections, plus just expanded horizons in general," he said. "To learn that people elsewhere...all the politics and the news cycle and everything aside, people generally everywhere in the world have the same kind of aspirations and goals and things. We're really not all that different."

When Boltz-Robinson heard last year the program was still looking for families to host students from Germany, he and his husband,

Mike, decided to sign up. They were paired with Schuler, who arrived in Vermont this past September.

"I quickly noticed that everybody here is really welcoming and really tried to get me into their community," Schuler recalled. "Everybody was really friendly and tried to help me. After my first day, I had the feeling that I already had a lot of friends."

Schuler, a sophomore, played on the school's junior varsity soccer team and joined the indoor track team in the winter. He explained that in Germany, playing sports requires applying to join a team or being part of a club outside of school.

"It's pretty easy here to just join, and it's free, so that was an advantage," he said.

Schuler highlighted some of the other differences between Mt. Abe and school in Germany, such as the ability to choose more of the courses you enroll in and the school environment itself. He noted at Mt. Abe, school is a place where students build community in addition to learning.

"Mt. Abe especially is really focusing on doing that as I know with all of the leadership programs here; that you should include everybody, and it's also emphasized in every assembly we did," he said. "I really appreciate that."

Outside of school, Schuler and the Boltz-Robinsons visited big cities across the East Coast, including Boston, Philadelphia and New York City. Schuler also spent a week in Washington, D.C., for a civics workshop with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange and traveled with his host family to North Carolina.

In addition to traveling, Schuler and the Boltz-Robinsons enjoyed classic Vermont activities together like skiing and hiking near Lake Bomoseen. Mike and Mark's work as volunteers with the Bristol Rescue Squad created opportunities for Schuler to interact with community members, specifically by helping out as a "patient" for students in an EMT class at Middlebury Regional EMS to practice on.

Allison Stebe is a school counselor at Mt. Abe who worked with the Boltz-Robinsons and Schuler during his time at the Bristol school. She noted Mt. Abe typically hosts one to two exchange students each year, with those pupils coming to the school through various programs.

"The students that come, I'm always so amazed by their courage and just the energy they bring to our community," she said. "It's a lot to come in and not know anyone."

IN MIDDLEBURY

Elsewhere in the county, Middlebury Union High School hosted three exchange students this year: Lilianna Klimanska from



JULIAN SCHULER, AN exchange student from Germany studying at Mt. Abe this school year, visits New York City with his host family, Mark and Mike Boltz-Robinson. Schuler came to Vermont through the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, a program Mark took part in as an Otter Valley Union High School student in the 1980s.

Photo courtesy of Mark and Mike Boltz-Robinson

Poland, an ASSE Flex scholarship recipient; Stella Lenti, Italy, an amazing athlete from the You Abroad program; and Amelie Louise Richter of Germany, a scholarship recipient with the CBYX program. The school recognized them at its June 4 student awards ceremony.

David Rose, the ASSE International Student Exchange Program area representative, presented to Principal Caitin Steele a letter of recognition from ASSE and a Certificate of appreciation from the United State Department of State.

ASSE has been enrolling students at MUHS for the past many years.

He emphasized that this is a life changing experience for these students plus adding to the cultural diversity of our community. For information about being a host family, contact Rose at heritagestudentexchange@gmail.com or 802-343-1475.

On Thursday, June 4, MUHS had its annual student awards ceremony. Middlebury Union recognized its international students.

This years foreign students are, Lilianna Klimanska from Poland a ASSE Flex scholarship recipient. Stella Lenti, Italy, an amazing athlete from the You Abroad program and Amelie Louise Richter, of Germany a scholarship recipient with the CBYX program.

Stebe credited Schuler for quickly jumping into the Mt. Abe community and pointed to the contributions exchange students like him make to the Bristol school.

"The benefit of having an international student in the building is the shared experience, to be

able to learn from each other," she said. "For Julian not only to put himself out there, but for other kids to learn from him and where he comes from, his cultural background, even the language. Learning from each other and being able to enhance the whole school community's experience is really special."

Schuler acknowledged a student exchange program might not be the right fit for everyone, but encouraged those interested to give it a try.

"I would say the program in general is a really good idea to do

if you want to experience another culture," he said. "I wouldn't say it's something for everybody because if you're really introverted and don't want to leave your community and experience new things, it's not for you. But if you really want to learn about America and other countries in general, that's a perfect idea because you really get immersed into this life."

"It's a year you won't forget," he added.

To learn more about Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange visit tinyurl.com/congress-bundestagexchange.



JULIAN SCHULER MET Sen. Peter Welch at a Civics workshop in Washington, D.C., earlier this year.

Photo courtesy of Mark and Mike Boltz-Robinson

MNFF to screen Vt. premiere of 'Hadestown: The Musical'

MIDDLEBURY — The 12th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this week announced that it will screen the Vermont Premiere of "Hadestown: The Musical" as its Opening Night film on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at Middlebury College's Dana Auditorium.

The acclaimed Broadway musical was brilliantly filmed with a live recording. Critics say that director Brett Sullivan took an innovative approach to capturing the dynamism, richness and electricity of this singular production, featuring the five original principal cast members.

Created by New Haven, Vt., native and Middlebury College graduate Anaïs Mitchell, "Hadestown" won eight Tony Awards in 2019, including Best Musical, and a 2020 Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album. The

show remains a beloved hit on Broadway. Mitchell will join the audience for the Vermont premiere of "Hadestown: The Musical" and take part in an onstage Q&A following the screening.

The genre-defying musical blends modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz to breathtakingly reimagine this sweeping ancient tale. The show follows two intertwined love stories between the young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, alongside King Hades and his wife Persephone. "Hadestown: The Musical" tells an epic, mythological tale that invites audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.

Tickets to "Hadestown: The Musical" are now available on the MNFF website. Due to the limited seating, ticket purchases are limited to two per buyer.



THE VERMONT PREMIERE of "Hadestown: The Musical" will screen on the opening night of this year's Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, Wednesday, Aug. 26.

LIVING IN THE LEAP! Bravo Emery!

Nino's celebrates **Emery Richards-Lindeke's** graduation from MUHS. He travelled by car across the country to Vermont from Alaska and has made a beautiful life here with lots of friends. He enjoys music and skateboarding. He played a key role in the senior musical this year. I hear he executed an impressive worm at his college orientation in Rhode Island last week. Emery has been with Nino's since January of 2025, playing a key role maintaining equipment and making our frozen pizzas. He participated in the development of our gluten free dough, perfecting the process and product. Emery is a patient teacher and understands why we do things, especially what not to do. This is because Emery learns by doing. He takes risks and throws himself into the mix and learns as he goes. He maintains a brilliant sense of humor when things get dicey, weird, or he is in the hot seat. Emery, we appreciate your upbeat attitude, your beautiful smile and willingness to give new things a try. You onboard newcomers in the best way - with the warmest welcome and kind training. When he is not working with his friends at Nino's, Emery is having fun with them. There is a squad of them packing their bags and heading to Hawaii soon. Emery, we appreciate you and are blessed to have you a little bit longer this summer!



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Doctors Without Borders: Caring for Refugees in Africa and the Middle East

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Using stories and photographs from his work with Doctors Without Borders in Tanzania and Lebanon, Dr. Morris Earle will offer a firsthand look at life inside refugee camps. What challenges do displaced people face each day? What forces drive people from their homes and how do host countries respond? With more than 100 million people worldwide displaced by war, drought, poverty, and climate change, this class explores the human realities behind one of the defining global issues of our time and how our futures may be more connected than we realize.

Morris Earle, MD is a pediatrician who has worked in primary care in Middlebury and in pediatric intensive care in Massachusetts. Since 1980, he has also worked in global health. From 2017 to 2026, he completed five assignments with Doctors Without Borders in Tanzania and Lebanon.

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Guest editorials

Media has a blind spot for what's going on in rural Vt.

By Neil Ryan

A cross-partisan grassroots movement of many thousands rises from nowhere, forces the reversal of large parts of a gargantuan law months before its rules take effect, and offers a hyper-articulate set of underrepresented economic, cultural and policy interests. In an objective newsroom, that is the story of the year. At Vermont Public, VTDigger and Seven Days, coverage of that movement has often felt perfunctory.

Vermont Public framed the just-concluded session as a “retreat” — from what, and for whom, wasn't clear. Implicit, however, was that rural Vermonters got in the way of certain priorities. This structural conception seems biased in favor of institutional interests over the lives of regular people.

Vermont Public and VTDigger's shared reporter, Carly Berlin, has described Act 181 as “wonky,” as if monumentally consequential land-use changes are little more than obscure policy minutiae, which suggests to me a profound disconnect with rural Vermont in Vermont's most popular media.

To understand why the grassroots story keeps getting demoted, you only have to look at the type of story that gets promoted in its place. Three days after adjournment, VTDigger published a feature on Vermont as a corridor in a continental migration, quoting staff at The Nature Conservancy. TNC is the largest nonprofit environmental organization in the Americas, with net assets of around \$8 billion, and it operates a sophisticated, tax-advantaged land acquisition business.

When TNC's state director explains that Vermont is “on the cusp of a large-scale transfer of lands to younger generations, so the state and local groups are seeking out willing landowners to place land along these corridors into conservation,” the article presents it as stewardship. The generational land transfer that ought to be the central drama of rural Vermont's survival is advanced as a pipeline for easements.

The feature dedicated just one sentence to a countervailing point of view in support of rural working landscapes.

This is the stark asymmetry at the heart of so much media coverage. Environmentalism that steers money and influence toward institutional and corporate stakeholders is taken at face value. Meanwhile, regular people in rural Vermont who have a different vision for their communities are framed as conservative and ignored.

What ink has been spilled this year on the evidence that well-managed woodlots are more diverse than neglected ones, that edge habitat and silvopasture are ecologically richer than closed-canopy forest? What of human needs? Vermont is a state with explicit, legislated commitments to feed itself, but you would never know it from a season of Statehouse coverage. Vermont's own food strategy identifies the same farmland affordability and land access crises that Act 181 would exacerbate. Yet Vermont's dominant media rarely explore the friction point.

Vermont's landscape is discussed constantly by the media. But it is mostly only framed as sensitive ecosystem or a recreational amenity. Food security, farm viability, the right of a new generation to get onto land and grow something on it — these topics are barely reported.

Vermont is the second-oldest state in the country, losing population faster than any other state. Its dairy farms are disappearing. Its hill farms have become second homes, its prime agricultural land given over to solar installations.

These are the conditions the Act 181 movement is describing. This entire universe of concern has been presented mainly as a property-rights tantrum.

The narrative is one of bias in favor of credentialed institutional stakeholders. It is a story of a lack of imagination, as too many mentions of this topic reduce a heterodox grassroots movement to “conservative.” It is a story of insufficient attention to Vermont beyond Chittenden County. It is a story of these outlets failing to forewarn Vermont about the impacts of Act 181. While regular Vermont citizens analyzed the GIS datasets, the mapping and the rulemaking that definitively proved disproportional impact on Vermont's rural working class, Vermont's press corps was filing process stories from Montpelier. Many journalists are no longer part of the culture they cover, and that informs what they choose to report on.

Vermont's rural grassroots movement is not being conservative or liberal in its orientation, even in the face of initial dismissal, hearty resistance and ample condescension heaped upon them by a large segment of Democratic lawmakers this past session.

Rural Vermonters are asking for landscapes that include the people who work them. They are asking for barriers to viable rural lifeways to be lifted. They are asking for greater access to farming and homesteading for everyone who would take it up. They are asking that Vermont's crises of affordability, livability and opportunity be central to the work of its institutions. Above all, they are asking to be treated as full participants in their own democracy, with stories worth telling and arguments worth engaging.

Rural Vermont defeated the road rule and Tier 3. A press that spent the session misrepresenting those aspirations or ignoring them has shown rural Vermont exactly where we stand in their imaginations. The answer is to expand those imaginations, or to do the job they won't do instead.

Neil Ryan is a third-generation Vermont farmer and consultant helping brands and nonprofits in Corinth.



Flying high

THE FAMILY OF winning pitcher Evan Corrigan had a lot to cheer about at Saturday's state championship final at Centennial Stadium in Burlington, as Mount Abraham pulled off a 5-3 victory to earn the Division II title. Here, Evan's youngest sister, Audrey Corrigan, waves a sign with a prescient message, encouraged by her cousin Nora Brown, to Audrey's left, and Jennifer Corrigan (Evan and Audrey's mother) behind.

Independent photo/Steve James

A recipe for keeping people alive

My grandmother's rice was one of many dishes she made well, but it was the one that spoke to her granddaughters the most. We loved it. Mexican rice, if not made well, can be bland. Hers never was. It had flavors of garlic and onion and rich tomato. It was never too dry, and it was the food each one of her granddaughters loved from when we were small. We grew up on that rice. It was central to every family meal.

Our family meals were always big. My grandparents had ten children, and many of those children eventually had children. Each weekend, a bunch of us would gather at our grandparents' house. I was one of fifteen cousins running around, playing board games, or just sitting somewhere with one of our grandparents, catching up and listening to their stories.

My grandmother was often in the kitchen, leaning on the end of her long counter, talking to whoever was sitting there, which often included me. She'd tell us stories about when she was younger, and how she learned most of her cooking from her mother-in-law, my grandfather's mother. They met in San Antonio, when she was in her late teens or early twenties. My grandmother was an orphan, raised by Mexican nuns in an orphanage, so she did not have much cooking experience when she met my grandfather. His mother adopted her into the family immediately. Sometimes it seemed like she was closer with my grandfather's side of the family than he was.

We loved her rice so much that Grandma had to start making it even when it didn't go with a meal at

all, like on Thanksgiving. It wasn't difficult to make, but for a while, it seemed like none of us could make it quite like hers. Sometimes my grandmother would prepare her rice for people to take home if they were visiting from another city. She loved offering this gift to us, and I think she also enjoyed receiving praise for something she considered to be so simple.

My grandmother died near the height of Covid when I was struggling with a chronic illness. I was too sick to travel, yet the thought of not being there was nearly unbearable. Because we spent so much time together, she and I had a special bond. I am even named after her, and I think that contributed to a unique closeness that my other cousins could not access. I miss her every day. Some days, I ache to be able to talk to her, and I have worried that she will be forgotten. She lived such a fascinating yet ordinary life.

Recently, one of my cousins texted on a cousin-text-thread to ask if any of us knew how to make our grandmother's Mexican rice. My sister responded immediately. Then another cousin, then another, then me. Within seconds, she received very specific (and consistent) instructions on what to do, how to do it, and the duration of each step. We all remembered and collectively instructed her. By the end of it, my inquiring cousin had written down the exact recipe for my grandma's rice, then sent each of us a picture of her notes. The rest of us confirmed she'd gotten it right, with one small modification, after which she replied, “This conversation hugs my heart.”

It hugged mine too. My worry about Grandma being

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

Ways of Seeing

By Mary E. Mendoza



People are key to conservation

This month, the Middlebury Area Land Trust's (MALT) stewardship team visited Foote Farm in Cornwall for a routine conservation easement monitoring visit. Conserved in 2006, the property protects approximately 113 acres of fields, forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat while also accommodating a thoughtfully designed residential community. What struck me most was not compliance with the terms of the conservation easement, but the people themselves — their interest, engagement and commitment to stewarding their land.

We met with members of the homeowners association who are actively developing a land-use plan focused on ecological sustainability. Residents discussed their efforts to delay mowing grasslands to protect nesting birds, incorporate sheep grazing into their stewardship practices, and improve habitat throughout the property. They weren't just passive beneficiaries of conservation. They did this on their own and were active participants.

Twenty years after it was conserved, Foote Farm remains an example of a project that was ahead of its time. Today, Vermont finds itself wrestling with a challenge that communities across the country face: How do we meet growing housing needs while protecting the landscapes that define our quality of

life? Too often, these goals are presented as opposing forces. Build housing or protect nature. Choose one.

Foote Farm suggests there may be another path. The project demonstrates that conservation and housing do not always have to compete. With thoughtful planning, development can be concentrated in appropriate locations while larger portions of the landscape remain permanently protected. The result is not only preserved farmland and wildlife habitat, but also a community whose residents have a direct connection to the land around them.

This question is not unique to Cornwall. As a member of the Shoreham Planning Commission, I have watched similar conversations unfold around the future of the 310 acre Farnham property off of Route 22A. Residents care deeply about maintaining Shoreham's rural character and quality of life. At the same time, communities throughout Addison

County face growing pressure to provide housing opportunities for young families, workers, and seniors.

The challenge is not whether we choose conservation or communities. The challenge is whether we can engage meaningfully with communities to achieve both. My perspective on this

(See *Kevin Fox*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

As Lt. gov., Gray would fight ICE

I have watched friends I know and respect live in fear this past year, not because they have done anything wrong, but because the Trump administration's immigration policies are unjustly targeting them. The March 11 ICE raid in South Burlington is the most striking local example of this violent federal action, but since January 2025, Minneapolis to Los Angeles, thousands of Americans have borne witness to scenes like the one we saw that day.

The Trump administration has dismantled refugee protections, ended temporary protected status for Afghan nationals, and allowed ICE to conduct unlawful detentions. Right here in Vermont, federal officials have detained more than 900 people for immigration-related reasons. We have seen cases of Afghans who served alongside U.S. forces detained for over 100 days without access to legal counsel, only to be ordered released by a judge who found no basis for detention.

The fear is real. Families are scared. Our federal delegation, our attorney general, our treasurer, and our lawmakers are fighting for these vulnerable Vermonters and others who reside in our state as students and workers. Vermont needs a Lt. gov. who will help hold the line.

That's why I'm supporting Molly Gray for Lt. Governor. Unlike any other candidate in this race, Molly has been in the middle of this fight, not as a bystander, but as a frontline advocate. Molly helped build the Vermont Afghan Alliance as its executive director. In this role, she helped more than 650 Afghan allies rebuild their lives in Vermont. The Alliance has helped our Afghan neighbors find jobs, housing, drivers licenses, and legal services. Molly personally helped defend Afghan allies facing unlawful ICE detention under this administration.

As Lt. gov., Molly will fight to ensure anyone detained by ICE in Vt. has access to legal counsel, interpretation services, and due process. She will push back against the use of Vt's corrections system to hold people for civil immigration violations. And she will never hesitate to speak out & fight back.

Vermont needs a Lt. Governor that will fight for our values, not just in words, but in experience and tangible action. Molly has demonstrated her ability to tirelessly advocate for Vermonters, and this Aug. 11, she has my vote.

Cynthia Packert Weybridge

Gray grasps education issues

As a sixth-generation Vermonter and a Vietnam-era veteran, I am proud to write this letter in support of Molly Gray's campaign for Lieutenant Governor.

I spent forty years in secondary education as both a classroom teacher and an administrator. Like many Vermonters, I understand the future of our state depends, in part, on a well-educated citizenry. With the growing pressures on our local schools, including funding/property taxes, health insurance premiums, the retention of gifted teachers and administrators along with aging buildings, I trust Molly to provide thoughtful, balanced leadership with an ear to the needs of individual communities. She clearly understands that the closing of schools and consolidating districts alone will not solve the property tax dilemma and budgetary challenges.

Molly understands that health care costs are one of the biggest drivers of rising educational costs and offers thoughtful, practical considerations to help reduce those costs. Additionally, Molly supports the voluntary merger proposal that allows citizens at the local level a voice in the transformation of Vermont's educational system. She is committed to restarting the School Construction Fund to help local communities rebuild and modernize their school buildings.

As a former teacher, I enthusiastically endorse her commitment to the Vermont Kids Code (S.69) and Act 72 which prohibits student use of cell phones from arrival to dismissal. Therefore, I encourage all eligible Vermonters to vote for Molly Gray as Lt. gov.

Lloyd Hulburd Weybridge

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Letters to the Editor

Traviata at Town Hall Theater

When Violetta gasps her last breath, (you won't believe how long this takes), what possessed

Verdi to string it out, beyond a reasonable bedtime. At least mine, I hesitate to say, seeing

how many octogenarians there are still up, sitting here, surrounding me in our Town Hall Theater.

Held in her falling-to-the stage, full note. If you were here, you'd see, feel, too. God leads her to.

And the patronic audience, my wife, the woman sitting next to me, unfolding her program, turning it into a life-

saving fan (it's a close night, tonight in our village of Middlebury). Say like a scarf-waving seniorita

at the bull fight in the Carnival scene. And the matador, dancing (for sure that's one of my friend's daughters,

Vanessa Dunleavy returned to life in her hometown, you can tell, when she flairs off her montera,

her hair spilling to the floor.) In time for the scene to change, come to a close, before the party.

(If I'm remembering right) And we can walk out, for a few minutes, to take, it was once called, a little

night air. A drink, downstairs, from the gallery fountain. Before ascending, again, the stairs

to our seats, Verdi would have us believing are now unfolding in heaven. And not here, standing,

as we are, as one in the ring of our ovation, our bravas and bravos, Enthralled, in Death's temporary closing.

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Clergy condemnation of ICE tactics appreciated

I would like to thank MACA (Middlebury Area Clergy Association) for their letter printed in the March 19, 2026, issue of the *Independent*. I kept a copy of their letter and have returned to it many times seeking comfort.

For those of you who missed the letter, MACA is an association of very diverse religious leaders in the Middlebury area who meet monthly to share community concerns. This courageous group joined together in a condemnation of the harsh and inhumane

methods used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They reminded us that, as diverse as our religions are, we share a common instruction. Followers of these diverse religions are required to aid the needy and the sojourners, to treat strangers with dignity, compassion, courage and nonviolence, as we would family, to care for others as we would ourselves. This universal truth is as vital to our world as fresh oxygen and clean water. I am deeply grateful to the members of MACA for saying it out loud. At a time when all religions

are subject to manipulation and misrepresentation for political, economic or personal promotion, this message from MACA is a guiding light. With permission of the members of MACA, I would like to see their letter reprinted in every newspaper in every state, county, and town of the USA. Let the mission of unity and peace grow beyond the country and cover the globe. This small gesture, nearly invisible to the world, is truly worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Amy Quenneville
Leicester

Hold onto hope for the future of the United States

Do not call me a Pollyanna. Like so many people, I despair of our country's future, now that we have twice elected such an unworthy, unqualified person. We've allowed him to destroy all the norms of acceptable Presidential behavior, and our hard-earned reputation as the leader of the free world.

But lately I have been reading Ron Chernow's "Washington: A Life." This extensive biography of our first President's life and times has inspired me to believe that there may yet be hope for our country. Despite all the swooning, sweet patriotic nonsense that surrounds Washington's memory, Chernow shows us the reality of a very human and seriously flawed individual who yet managed to preside over a miraculous

achievement: the creation and initial leadership of a workable, evolving democratic system of government.

It was precisely the evolution of the nation's flailing first attempts at government that brought the war hero Washington out of a farming retirement to lead us in the political arena. He saw the major issues of the day. He listened when competent, wise creators like Madison and Franklin and Hamilton called on him to lead the nation. Together they crafted something the world has envied for almost 250 years. Well, almost.

Yet there are breezes, light breezes, wafting across the land, from the direction of citizens, from the direction of judges. Lately I am hopeful, just a little

hopeful, that a new generation of wise leaders and creators are out there, waiting for their chance to revive democracy and the rule of law, putting an end to this swerve toward autocracy and corrupt incompetence. For another 250 years. It could happen.

Jim Talbert
Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) forgotten dissipated, and I knew she would return to us every time one of us made her rice.

For years, I focused on my grandmother's absence, hated that she was no longer with us. I could not see her, hear her, or sit with her, and I was not sure my cousins missed her as much as I did. Our conversation about

her rice helped me to understand that people live on in us. They appear in ways we did not expect, and we pass on what they give us. Death of a loved one does not have to mean total loss—maybe it just means that the relationship changes.

Mary E. Mendoza is an assistant professor of history and Latino/a Studies at Penn State University.

Gray is the 'person we need' for lieutenant governor

Molly Gray will make an excellent Lieutenant Governor, and I am happy to endorse her for this important role.

I have known Molly for some time and supported her during her first term in office.

Molly has done this job before and done it well. As a farmer's daughter in Newbury, Vt., she has grown up with a better understanding of the rural and farm community than most

people. On top of this, she has added leadership and a broad understanding of areas such as childcare, as a mother herself, and health care, a burden to all of us. Molly has a strong foothold in both education and workforce development as well.

As an immigrant myself of over 50 years, I am impressed by Molly's work with the Afghan community, our allies in a very difficult war who have

been abandoned by the current administration but supported here in Vermont. In addition, the Vermont farm community would not be able to operate without the assistance of the migrant workforce, and Molly understands our need to support and help this community, because it helps all of us.

Molly Gray is the person we need in the Lt. Governor's office.
John Roberts
W. Cornwall

Kevin Fox

(Continued from Page 4A) issue was shaped long before I arrived in Vermont.

During my time with USAID, I worked on conservation initiatives across Africa, including in Zimbabwe. Communities living near protected areas sometimes dealt with elephants destroying crops, predators killing livestock, and restrictions on how they could use land and natural resources.

Well-meaning conservationists often proposed solutions centered on enforcement. More fences. More regulations. More patrols. In many places, anti-poaching efforts were — and remain, essential. Sometimes fences are necessary too. But conservation practitioners learned an important lesson: conservation imposed on communities rarely lasts.

If local residents saw no benefits from the national park next door, why would they support it? Why would they report poachers? Why would they tolerate wildlife damaging crops or threatening livelihoods? Instead, the most successful conservation programs recognized the human equation.

Many incorporated community-

based tourism, walking safaris, canoe excursions, cultural experiences, and local enterprises that allowed residents to share in the economic benefits of conservation. When communities became partners rather than spectators, conservation outcomes improved dramatically.

The context in Vermont is obviously different. We do not worry about elephants wandering into cornfields or lions preying on cattle at Monument Farms. But the principle remains the same. Conservation cannot succeed by building a wall around nature and hoping for the best.

Lasting conservation depends on people. It depends on communities seeing themselves in the solution and providing for their needs, like housing. It depends on creating opportunities for residents to connect with conserved lands through recreation, education, stewardship, responsible hunting, agriculture, trails, and other meaningful uses. Ultimately, it depends on compromise.

At MALT, we see this every day. A trail that helps a family discover a favorite place. A summer camp

that inspires the next generation of environmental stewards. A volunteer who helps maintain a boardwalk. A conserved property owner who manages habitat for grassland birds. These are not side benefits of conservation. They are conservation.

The future of Vermont will require us to think creatively about how housing, recreation, agriculture, education, and conservation intersect. Projects like Foote Farm offer valuable lessons because this recognizes that healthy communities and healthy landscapes are not competing goals. They are inseparable.

The conservation movement has accomplished extraordinary things over the past century. The next chapter may require something even more difficult: not just protecting land, but designing communities where people and nature can thrive together.

That is a lesson I learned overseas. It is a lesson I see playing out in Addison County today. And it may be one of the most important conservation lessons of all.



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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Michael Ray Jensen, 54, of Brandon

BRANDON — Michael Ray Jensen, 54, passed away Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H. Through his journey in life, he touched many lives with his willingness to aid those in need and infectious humor. He will be greatly missed and forever remembered.

Michael was born Oct. 1, 1971, in Annapolis, Md., the son of the late Malcom Stanely and Aurora (Balgomero) Jensen.

His family moved to Vermont in 1973 and he graduated from Rutland High School class of 1989. Michael joined the United States Army where he was a part of "Desert Storm" following High School and eventually settled in Brandon in 1996. He later attended Culinary School, worked for Lowell Landscaping and afterwards began a career at Shearer Honda in Rutland in 1997 working in sales and then the service department for 18 years.

Later, with his wife Mary,



MICHAEL RAY JENSEN

he owned and operated the Wintergreen Care Homes in Brandon while operating his own landscaping company. Michael was a proud member of the Brandon Fire Department for 15 years, and the Brandon American Legion Post #55. He was a passionate golfer and a dedicated member of the Neshobe Golf Club in Brandon.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Alma (Prescott) Jensen, whom he married on Sept. 17, 2005; his two stepdaughters, Tara (Rick) and Tonia (Josh); his son, Mathew (Amy); six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter; his mother, Aurora; and brother, Skip (Lisa); and finally his beloved English Bulldogs, Fiona and Matilda.

A memorial Mass in celebration of his life will be held Saturday, June 27, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Brandon. We invite all who knew and loved Michael to join us in honoring his memory. Following the ceremony, the family will receive friends, at Neshobe Golf Club, for a time of remembrance.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions in his memory be made to the Brandon Fire Dept, Dunmore Hose Company, 61 Franklin St. Brandon, Vermont 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



Ann C. Ferm, 91, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Ann C. Ferm, a longtime Middlebury resident, passed away June 14, 2026. She was 91.

Ann lived in recent years at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing, where she received kind and compassionate care while battling the effects of progressive bone disease.

Anne Chatellier was born July 26, 1934, in Glen Ridge, N.J. She was the middle child of Richard Woods Chatellier and Miriam Townley Chatellier, of nearby Montclair. She did not use the "e" in her given name as an adult.

The Chatelliers moved to Vermont during Ann's youth, and later to New London N.H., where her father had a real estate business and a small farm. Her mother was a switchboard operator at Colby Junior College, now Colby-Sawyer College.

Ann had two sons, David and Scott, from marriages in early adulthood but had been single since the mid-1980s. She spent her life in Vermont and New Hampshire, except for time in



ANN C. FERM

Alaska and Connecticut while married to a Coast Guard officer, the late William Thurston.

She later married the late Robert Ferm, a Middlebury College professor. That settled her in Middlebury, where she lived for close to 40 years in the Butternut Ridge neighborhood east of town.

Ann worked for more than a decade at United Way of Addison

County, and she was a contract typist for lawyers in Middlebury and Rutland. Prior to that she was a secretary/receptionist at Middlebury College and did secretarial work in Hanover, N.H.

Ann's main passion was her dogs. She had three Rhodesian Ridgebacks — Zamu, Lindisha and Imani — and in her later years a mix named Tiny.

Ann was predeceased by son David and brother Richard. Survivors include son Scott (Karen) Thurston of San Diego, Calif.; sister Margaret Taylor of Metairie, La.; half-sister Amy Thomas of Marshfield, Mass; four grandsons; four great grandchildren; and extended family.

Per Ann's wish, no funeral will be held. Burial will be near relatives at West Part Cemetery in New London, N.H.

Donations in Ann's memory may be made to Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing Fund, 30 Porter Dr. Middlebury VT 05753, to support the work of the wonderful and caring staff there. ◊

William 'Billy' H. Letters, 70, of Whiting

WHITING — William (Billy or Bill) H. Letters died May 24, 2026, at the forever age of 49 years old.

Billy was a tried & true Vermonter, hardy, resourceful and chock full of grit. He was a dear friend, confidant, mentor, scholar, musician, master beer brewer, gardener, artist and gentleman — a kindred soul for all of us. His heart was so much bigger than most and he put everyone ahead of himself, always. He knew how to listen ... just listen, and helped many of us appreciate the small things and forgive the hard things. He was a caring, compassionate and kind soul. Billy had a gift ... Billy was the gift for so many of us.

Music was a big part of Bill's life. He was a wildly talented and under-recognized drummer. You may have seen him keeping the beat in the Gamblers if you were into country music or making people get out of their chairs and dance in Sundog or the New Nile Orchestra. And he could keep a good jazz rhythm too, as so many people heard at Woody's Restaurant in the early 1990s in the So-Called Jazz Sextet. There was even a really good Funktet band for a while.

For many years, Bill worked for CSAC & was dedicated to helping people with mental



WILLIAM H. LETTERS

illnesses. He treated even the most difficult clients with respect and compassion.

He worked at many other landmark businesses such as A&W, Otter Creek Brewery and Two Brothers Tavern. At Two Brothers Tavern in Middlebury he found his forever extended family that stuck by him and cared for him even after he made the decision to finally "retire."

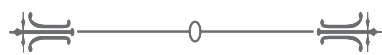
Bill was also a wonderful cook and gardener. He was particularly fond of growing hot peppers. He enjoyed introducing friends to the beauty and subtle taste differences

of what many consider only on the heat index. For years, he supplied the Jamaican apple pickers with a taste of home they longed for. They called him "PepperMon," which made Bill very happy.

So, how do we ever close the chapter on such a beautiful and meaningful soul? We don't, ever. We take the lessons of love, loyalty and compassion that he instilled in us and we pass them along to those we love so that our world may be a better place. Tell the people in your life how much you love and appreciate them. Great people are hard to come by, and when they do cross your threshold, grab them and hold on tight. Bill, you were and always will be one-of-a-kind and we will never, ever forget you. Thank you for making all of our lives so much richer.

While Billy is survived by many friends, we would like to take a moment to recognize his dear friend, Nina. Above everyone else, Nina has stood by Bill's side for more than 30 years, through thick and thin, loving him, looking after him and caring for him. We are so deeply appreciative for her love and support of our dear friend.

A celebration of life will be scheduled soon, and we will keep everyone posted. ◊



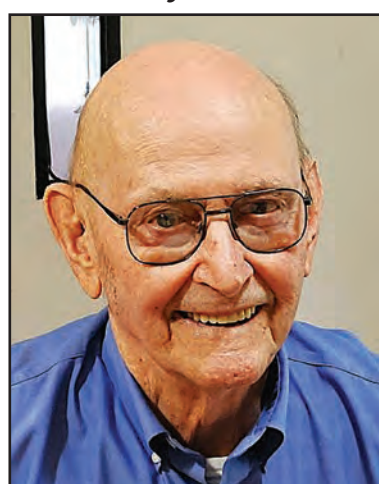
Wayne Dale Dwyer, 85, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Wayne Dale Dwyer, age 85, passed peacefully with family and love surrounding him on June 13, 2026, at Heather and Tom's house in Whiting.

Wayne was born in St. Johnsbury on July 24, 1940. He was the son of Dale and Elizabeth (Chaupany) Dwyer. He grew up in Goshen, where he received his early education in local schools. He graduated from Proctor High School, class of 1958. Following graduation, he joined the United States Navy and served until 1964.

Following his honorable discharge, he returned home and began his working career with Green Mountain Plywood. He later joined the staff at Proctor Marble. He spent the next 30 years with Poma Lift Company, building ski lifts all over the U.S. and Canada. He retired in 2000.

He was an avid golfer (you could



WAYNE DALE DWYER

find him at Neshobe Golf Course daily), enjoyed hunting, fishing, and skiing. Wayne was truly devoted to his family.

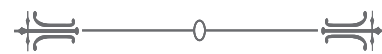
Surviving are two daughters, Heather (Tom) Bouchard of

Whiting, and Penny (Art) Conlin of Brandon; a brother, Dale Dwyer Jr. of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; three grandchildren, Shane Bouchard of Whiting, Wayne Conlin of Brandon, and Ashely Austin of East Middlebury. Two great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his wife, June (Bearor) Dwyer; a son, Michael Tebbets; a brother, Stanley Dwyer; and two sisters, Marjorie Harrison and Muriel Sedergren.

A graveside committal service and burial with military honors will take place June 27, at 2 p.m., in the family lot at Forest Dale Cemetery.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to Brandon Area Rescue Squad or Whiting First Response.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



Mary Alice Lichtenberger McKeever, 95, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Mary Alice Lichtenberger McKeever, 95, passed away peacefully surrounded by family June 14, 2026

Mary was born at home on March 24, 1931, in Waldo, Ohio, and grew up in the close-knit community she always cherished. She graduated from Waldo High School in 1949. Like many young women from small towns across America, Mary was recruited by J. Edgar Hoover's FBI to work in the newly created fingerprint department in Washington, D.C. She embraced the adventure wholeheartedly, living the life of a fun-loving single woman in the big city — sharing laughter with friends, taking road trips to Florida, and savoring her independence.

Her life changed the night she met a handsome and charming



MARY ALICE MCKEEVER

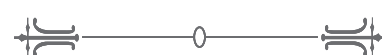
bachelor, John McKeever, at a party. They married in 1959 in her hometown of Waldo and began building a life and home together in New Carrollton, Md.

Mary and John welcomed two daughters — Kathleen in 1963 and Christine in 1965 — who remained the center of her world. Mary returned to federal service and enjoyed a long career before retiring in 1995. After retirement, she volunteered in several roles, including at the Baltimore Aquarium.

A lifelong explorer, Mary traveled widely, visiting every continent except Antarctica.

Mary was predeceased by her parents, Minnie and Harvey Lichtenberger; siblings Ruth, Raymond, Martha and Harry; and husband John. She is survived by her daughters, Christine, and Kathleen; grandchildren Sophie and George and great-granddaughter Eleanora.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. ◊



David Jon Bursey, 77, of Monkton

MONKTON — David Jon Bursey, 77, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2026, at University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born Jan. 18, 1949, in Windsor, the son of Rev Jonathan and H. Joyce Bugden Bursey.

He graduated in 1967 from

Bristol High School, and graduated in 1972 from University of Vermont and majored in Zoology. In his younger years he enjoyed playing guitar. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed planting flowers, landscaping and planting trees on their property in Monkton. David was a partner with his brother Basil

in their business Nova Products where they made wooden toys.

David is survived by his brother, Basil W Bursey of Bristol; his other brother, Barry Bursey and wife Dora of Tucson, Ariz.; and a cousin, Rev Jeffro Bursey of Welsford, New Brunswick, Canada.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, New York Office, 1350 Broadway, Suite 1530, New York, NY 10018. ◊

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Eileen Gagné celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — Please join family and friends to celebrate the life of Eileen A. Gagné, who died Dec. 3, 2025, on Saturday, June 27, at Notte's, 86 Main Street, lower level, in Middlebury. Join any time from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The gathering will be preceded by a Mass at St. Mary's Church at 10 a.m., and a brief graveside service at St. Mary's cemetery, where Eileen will be laid to rest next to her late husband, Clement Gagné. All are welcome. ◊



EILEEN A. GAGNÉ

OBITUARY Guidelines

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

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



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Diane Bourgon Shepler, 79, New Haven native

BURLINGTON — Diane Bourgon Shepler passed away peacefully at home Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026. Diane was born March 24, 1947, in Huntington, Québec, Canada, to Lionel and Rejane Bourgon. She grew up in a French-speaking household in New Haven, Vt.

Diane was proud of her Canadian roots, remained bilingual throughout her life and enjoyed travelling in Quebec to visit her cousins, aunts and uncles. Growing up in Addison County, Diane was a tall, skinny farm girl who excelled at basketball at the former Beeman Academy. After high school, Diane attended Champlain College, where she obtained an associate's degree in business. She enjoyed coming home on the weekends and going cruising to New York State with friend Jean O'Connor in her little red Corvette.

Diane spent her professional career in the snow industry, working in sales and finance. She worked with all of the big names in the ski industry: Rossignol, Nordica and eventually Burton, where she enjoyed walking to work every day. Appreciated for her professionalism as well as her positive, playful attitude, Diane was a model employee and maintained close friendships with colleagues. Diane enjoyed the travel associated with the snow industry. She was lucky enough to visit beautiful mountain ski resorts and exciting cities.

Diane loved sharing stories of singing onstage with Leon Russell, fitting Nordica ski boots on Don Johnson (star of "Miami Vice") and getting an autographed note by heavyweight champion George Foreman after a championship fight



DIANE BOURGON SHEPLER

in Las Vegas.

Diane was a valued friend to everyone she met. People refer to her as, "the first person I met in Vermont, my best roommate, my travel partner, my golf buddy, nicest neighbor ever and the person who always made me laugh." Everyone loved Diane and Diane loved being active — walking, biking, skiing, playing pickleball and golfing. Diane even has a hole-in-one to her credit, lucky hole No. 13 at Basin Harbor, where she and her husband were members. After retiring from Burton, Diane worked seasonally at Lake Champlain Chocolates. Diane also enjoyed investing in the stock market and became a successful day trader in retirement. She was diligent in her market research but always humble in explaining her success to others.

Diane is survived by her husband, Gregory Shepler; her sister, Colette Hancock (Ocala, Fla.); and her brothers, Clement Bourgon (Vergennes), and Marc Bourgon (Valleyfield, Quebec).

Diane was predeceased by her older brother Gatean (Jan. 1968), whom she admired. Diane was a loving stepmother to Sam Shepler, Malcolm Shepler and Sinclair Shepler. Her two grandchildren, Benjamin Shepler and Sophie Shepler, loved Diane, calling her "Gummy." Diane was a proud and loving aunt to Melissa Cole (Florida), Kaitlin Bourgon (Ottawa), Kenneth Bourgon (Montreal) and Danielle Yeatman (Virginia).

Diane's final three years were challenged by dementia. Diane was very appreciative of her caregivers, including her high school friend Jean O'Connor and Jean's granddaughter Sierra, as well as the University of Vermont home hospice staff.

Although more of a humorist than a philosopher, Diane's life attitude easily aligned with the teachings of Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu, who said: "Make your heart like a lake, with a calm surface and great depths of kindness." Diane was calm and kind, even when challenged by dementia.

A memorial in celebration of Diane's life will take place at the Saint John's Club in Burlington, Vt., Sunday, Aug. 30, starting at 12:30 p.m. All of Diane's friends are invited to join her family in this celebration.

To help others suffering from dementia, please consider making a gift to the Alzheimer's Association of Vermont or Age Well Vermont. Anyone wishing to make a donation in honor of Diane's life can make a gift in her name to her favorite charities, the Vermont Foodbank or the Ronald McDonald House of Vermont. ◊

Seth Robbins Clifford, 86, of Brandon

BRANDON — Seth Robbins Clifford, 86, passed away peacefully at home on June 13, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family.

Seth was devoted to his family. Just two days before his passing, he would have celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary with his beloved wife, Kerry, who preceded him in death. Together they built a life centered on love, family, friendship, and adventure.

Born May 29, 1940, in Brandon, Vt., Seth spent his childhood there and split his high school years between Tilton School in New Hampshire and Brandon High School. He remained proud of his Brandon roots throughout his life, maintaining lifelong friendships with many classmates and friends. Seth was a hardworking entrepreneur and a familiar face to generations of Brandon-area residents. He owned and operated the Sears Catalogue Merchant Store and later the National Five & Dime Store. Following those years, and often holding down three jobs at once, he worked alongside family at Allen Pools & Spas in Rutland.

Many who knew Seth will fondly remember the soft hum of a tune that often accompanied him as he worked, one of the many small things that made him unforgettable. For more than 30 years, Seth drove a school bus for the Otter Valley School District. He transported students to and from school, drove hundreds of athletic trips and



SETH ROBBINS CLIFFORD

field trips — including overnight adventures — and became a familiar and trusted presence for generations of local families. Students and parents alike appreciated his friendly smile and dependable nature.

Seth dedicated countless hours to serving his community. He was a founding member of the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, a volunteer firefighter and first responder, a long-time member of the Brandon Congregation Church, a selectboard member and chair, a 54-year Justice of the Peace who married hundreds of couples, a legal guardian for several individuals in need, and for more than 50 years served as treasurer of Brandon Fire District No. 1.

When he was not working, Seth enjoyed skiing, hiking, traveling, and sharing adventures

with family and friends. He spent countless hours on the sidelines of his children's and grandchildren's sporting events. Whether traveling on vacation, taking a scenic train ride, or gathering with loved ones, he found joy in time spent together.

Seth will be remembered for his kindness, gentle humor, strong work ethic, and unwavering love for those around him. The family finds comfort in imagining Seth and Kerry reunited after years apart.

He was predeceased by his loving wife, Kerry Allen Clifford; an infant son, Seth Allen Clifford; his mother, Catherine Robbins Clifford; his father, Allen Comfort Clifford; and a sister, Roberta Bird. He is survived by his sister Elizabeth Sears; his brother-in-law Edward Allen; his children, Cara Nelson (Jonathan), Derrick Clifford (Missy), Seth Charles Clifford (Christa), and Amity Robichaud (Michael); his grandchildren, Catherine, Trinity, Ezra, Eben, Carl, Isaac, Jacob, Yireh, Nehemiah, Moses, and Maranatha; his great-grandchildren, Camilla and Lillian; and many extended family members and dear friends.

A celebration of Seth's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Relay for Life to the "Neshobe School and Friends" team, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, or Brandon Fire Department.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊

New Haven

(Continued from Page 2A)
access once it is completed.

"The inventory form is built in a way where it can be filled out quickly but also have a lot of comprehensive information," he said.

He noted the depot renovation is an ongoing effort and largely being managed by a group known as the New Haven Community Trust, which is managing a grant the town received through the Village Trust Initiative to help complete restoration of the New Haven train depot.

The structure dates back to the 1800s and was moved from its longtime New Haven Junction home to North Street in 2022. Residents have been working to restore the train depot in the years since then, as well as explore options for how the building could be used in the future.

The New Haven Neighbors task force has been helping with community engagement efforts related to the depot's restoration, such as sharing general feedback from a survey that's received over

200 responses since April. Next steps are still being decided, though Tecca said they will likely "take the form of a second round of community engagement, such as an event to vote on more specific proposals for the usage of the depot."

JUNE 27 SUMMERFEST

The effort behind Summerfest has come out of community members' interest in a revival of music on the town green, Tecca said. The June 27 event will coincide with the New Haven Volunteer Fire Department's take-out chicken barbecue fundraiser being held at the town hall beginning at 5 p.m. that evening.

"They are quite popular, and usually sell over 750 meals in the span of 90 minutes," Tecca said of the barbecues. "To give community members a chance to connect over their chicken, New Haven Neighbors is coordinating with other New Haven committees to offer music, space and activities to enjoy their dinner on the green."

Those activities will include a performance by local musician

and songwriter Noah Hahn at 5 p.m. The New Haven Community Library will be putting together a time capsule and serving birthday cake to celebrate the library's 125th anniversary.

Other dessert options include treats provided by the BEE Friends Bake Sale and creemees at the Village Green Market. Attendees can also learn more about the depot, take part in a crafting project sponsored by the church on the green or pick up a historical site passport and merchandise from the New Haven Historical Society. Festivities are set to run from 4-7 p.m. that day.

Tecca highlighted how the group's other work could help support future community gatherings.

"In future years, a flushed out inventory of committees and business with their points of contact will enable throwing bigger more inclusive events like Summerfest," he said.

Those interested in keeping up with the task force's work can contact Tecca to be added to the group's email list.

Eco Fair

(Continued from Page 2A)
council has been able to create a way for bikers and pedestrians to embrace more sustainable transportation.

Beyond transportation and energy use, the fair also highlighted the role of community infrastructure in creating a more sustainable future. Internet services are a good place to start.

At the Maple Broadband booth Shannon Hagggett and Ashley

Haefele offered such an alternative. Being a fiber internet service provider, Maple Broadband is designed to use significantly less energy and raw materials than other, more traditional networks, explained Hagggett, vice chair of Maple Broadband board.

With its Local Equitable Access Fund program, Maple Broadband uses its revenue and funds to lower the cost of internet access for Addison County residents in its

active service areas, according to Haefele, the Monkton delegate to the organization's board.

"We're here to spread the word because there is a lot of funding available to our community," Haefele said. "Maple Broadband is a community-owned internet service provider, and our infrastructure is built here to stay."

"We pursue the funding vehicles to proliferate Broadband access," Hagggett said.

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Starksboro man arrested for suspicion of DUI

BRISTOL — Bristol police on June 4 arrested Christopher Reardon, 59, of Starksboro for suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Between May 24 and June 6 Bristol police completed 48 foot patrols, conducted 10 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 20 fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number, assisted local schools with three truancy concerns and responded to one alarm that was activated accidentally.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On May 26 assisted Vermont State Police with a motor vehicle crash on Stoney Hill Road.
- On May 27 received items that were found on a hiking trail in Bristol and identified the owner.
- On May 28 assisted State Police on Main Street.
- On May 28 warned the owner of a dog that was found at a West Street business.
- On May 29 responded to

Bristol Police Log

a minor two-car crash at the intersection of West and Maple streets.

- On May 29 Bristol's community resource specialist attended a presentation with the Elder Eagles.
- On May 29 provided a tent and other resources to a community member.
- On May 29 received a motor vehicle complaint, but the vehicle was gone when police arrived.
- On May 29 attended Bristol Elementary School Fun Day.
- On May 29 assisted the Bristol Fire Department on Pine Street.
- On May 30 assisted State Police on Lower Notch Road.
- On May 30 responded to separate noise complaints on Pine Street and West Street.
- On June 1 assisted State Police on Hardscrabble Road.
- On June 1 assisted State Police on Route 116.
- On June 1 helped facilitate

the return of a dog found on Main Street. The owner retrieved the animal and was issued a warning.

- On June 1 received a report of a crash on School Street.
- On June 1 helped someone start their vehicle, which had broken down on Park Place.
- On June 1 responded to a citizen dispute on Sugar Maple Lane. An investigation is ongoing.
- On June 1 helped someone getting a ride to the hospital.
- On June 1 responded to the report of a theft on Prince Lane, and an investigation is ongoing.
- On June 2 received a vehicle key that was found on Main Street and stored it in the lost and found.
- On June 2 responded to the report of a disabled vehicle on West Street, but the vehicle was gone when police arrived.
- On June 2 assisted State Police with a motor vehicle crash on Monkton Road.
- On June 3 responded to a juvenile problem on Main Street.
- On June 3 assisted State Police on Monkton Road.
- On June 4 responded to a noise disturbance on West Street.
- On June 4 participated in the 2026 Special Olympics Vermont

Law Enforcement Torch Run.

- On June 4 responded to a theft of tires and rims on Basin Street.
- On June 4 responded to a juvenile issue on Main Street.
- On June 5 spoke to someone on West Street creating a noise disturbance while working on his vehicle early in the morning. The resident said he'd be more mindful of noise, police reported.
- On June 5 attended an event with the Elder Eagles.
- On June 5 responded to a disturbance on Pine Street.
- On June 5 helped someone with resources and transportation.
- On June 5 responded to a juvenile problem on Main Street.
- On June 6 attended graduation at Mount Abraham Union High School.
- On June 6 responded to a dog at large on Lawson Lane. Police reported the dog was secured in the residence and no one appeared to be home at the time.
- On June 6 investigated damage to a Garfield Street residence.
- On June 6 responded to a motor vehicle crash on West Street.
- On June 6 looked into suspicious circumstances on Pumphouse Road.

Thefts in Vergennes garner police response

VERGENNES — In the past week the Vergennes Police Department has had to address thefts from two stores.

As of Monday, June 15, Vergennes police were investigating a June 10 theft from Kinney Drugs. On that Thursday shoe insoles, a sweatshirt and a decoration were stolen, according to the department.

Police also took a report of a theft from Shaw's on June 8. The manager would like to see the person served with a no trespass order.

Between June 8 and June 14, Vergennes police also conducted 30 traffic stops and 11 directed patrols, provided two vehicle identification number verifications and took fingerprints five times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On June 8 investigated a complaint regarding an alleged

Vergennes Police Log

dirt bike being operated on School Street. Police contacted the owner and discussed concerns about the motorcycle creating a disturbance for nearby residents. The owner was advised to be considerate of neighbors and to operate the registered motorcycle in a manner that does not cause unnecessary complaints.

- On June 9 were notified of an injured bird and connected game wardens with the complainant to coordinate a response.
- On June 9 were notified of a commercial burglary alarm. Police were contacted by the owner, who said it was a false alarm.
- On June 9 received a report of a note that was found at the high

school advising "help me" with a phone number. The parents of the student were contacted and no issues were found.

- On June 10 responded to a late report of noise. The complainant reported a car alarm repeatedly sounding. The car owner was spoken to and they will they check for issues with the car.
- On June 10 took a report of the theft of four bags of hemlock mulch taken from a front porch.
- On June 10 checked the welfare of an elderly man at the request of Age Well. He was found to be in good health.
- On June 11 responded to the report of loud gunshot-type noises. It was determined to have come from a power transformer on West Main Street.
- On June 11 patrolled the area of School and South Maple street in response to complaints of vehicles failing to stop at stop signs at the intersection. Police made two stops and issued two warnings.
- On June 11 checked a 911 call. There were no issues found.
- On June 11 conducted a drug influence evaluation for Vermont State Police.
- On June 11 were called to a Main Street residence for a person causing a disturbance. Officers issued a citation to Christal Ramos, 43, of Vergennes for violation of conditions of release.
- On June 12 found an alarm activation at a Vergennes business to be a false alarm.

• On June 12 responded to a minor motor vehicle crash in the parking lot of Champlain Farms. Information was exchanged and the case number was provided for insurance purposes.

- On June 12 assisted the Vermont State Police for a DUI screening.
- On June 12 took a report of fraudulent activity using a resident's personal information. The activity was flagged by the complainant's bank and all applications for loans were denied. The complainant was provided information on where to file a report with the FBI.
- On June 12 responded to a report involving an elderly person experiencing a medical and mental health-related episode associated with dementia. The person became agitated during an interaction with a family member. Emergency medical personnel evaluated the person at the residence and took them to the hospital for further assessment.
- On June 12 took a report of vehicles revving their engines in the parking lot at Vergennes Union High School. Officers patrolled the area and witnessed no such behavior.
- On June 12 responded to a possible suicidal man with a knife to his throat. Upon arrival, he was determined to not be in the residence any longer and could not be located. He was spoken to on the phone and he was not in need of any services.
- On June 13 called to check the welfare of a person acting in an odd manner in Champlain Farms. The person left the area prior to officer and rescue arrival.
- On June 13 received a call about suspicious activity that occurred the previous day. The investigation was ongoing as of Tuesday, June 15.
- On June 13 responded to a false alarm at Maplefields.



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Roscoe

(Continued from Page 1A) dinner rolls, hamburger rolls, ready for a full day of work doing whatever it takes to feed kids.”

“Everything was made from scratch.”

For Roscoe, that work began in the spring of 1983. She initially joined the team temporarily to fill in for someone but was called back the following school year to sub again, which evolved into a part-time role and eventually a job as the Food Service Manager at Mt. Abe. Roscoe served for several years in that role, pivoting to a co-manager position this year ahead of her retirement.

While some things have stayed the same — macaroni and cheese remains a favorite among students — other aspects of the job have changed since Roscoe joined the team.

“Back then we made our own

Carol Roscoe “is smiling every morning and ready for a full day of work doing whatever it takes to feed kids.”

— Kathy Alexander

dinner rolls, hamburger rolls, homemade bread,” she said.

“Everything was made from scratch.”

Roscoe would whip up eight to ten dozen dinner rolls when she got to work in the morning, with the smell of baking bread greeting students as they got to school.

“At that time we didn’t offer breakfast, so that would be their breakfast,” she said. “They’d come down, and for a quarter they’d buy this huge roll, hot out of the oven.”

It’s a memory that stuck with former students.

“To this day, I’ll have kids who are in their 50s say to me, ‘Do you still make those dinner rolls?’” Roscoe said.

Throughout the years, the food service team’s work has evolved to embrace new products and shifts in menus. Today, breakfast and lunch are served to students at no cost to families and officials look to include local ingredients in meals where they can.

Education has also become a greater part of the team’s work, Roscoe noted, with staff taking classes and learning about school nutrition.

“This is a profession, it’s not just a job, and I think all of us take it very seriously,” she said. “We put the students’ nutrition first, and we’re educated about it.”

Some years have presented major changes for school nutrition staff to navigate, particularly during the pandemic.

“We had to learn to do a complete turnaround and do things totally different than how we were used to doing it, like filling coolers full of meals and sending them on buses,” Roscoe said. “It was totally a different atmosphere.”

School nutrition staff got to know the smaller groups of students (or “pods”) they delivered meals to at that time, Roscoe said.

“For me, that was one of the better parts of it because you knew those kids,” she said.



CAROL ROSCOE, CENTER, is surrounded by food service colleagues at Mount Abraham Union High School, where she has worked since 1983. She says she will miss regularly seeing her “second family” after retiring this summer.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Alexander



THE CAFETERIA AT Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School was recently renamed “Carol’s Corner Café,” in honor of Carol Roscoe, a longtime member of Mt. Abe’s food service team who is retiring this summer after 43 years of serving local students.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Alexander

Roscoe has served thousands of students passing through the school’s cafeteria. In fact, a rough estimate of the number of meals she’s contributed to during her time at the school sits around 3 million.

Some of her favorite dishes to make include well-loved staples like macaroni and cheese. Those dishes are still popular, but Roscoe noted students have also embraced newer menu items like chicken souvlaki.

“It amazes me how many kids have a greater knowledge of different foods than what I expected,” she said. “We try to entice with healthy, trendy meal options...I

think you have to evolve with the times and not just stick with your macaroni and cheese, although

they still like it.”

A favorite part of the job for Roscoe has been the people she’s worked alongside at Mt. Abe.

“I think of the staff as my second family,” she said. “When you think about it, you spend a lot of waking hours with these people, and they’re very important to me. That’s probably going to be one of the hardest parts of retiring, is not seeing them as often.”

Alexander emphasized the key role Roscoe has played in local school nutrition over the years.

“Carol’s role in our wider School Nutrition community has been to be a real role model for new staff and managers, her institutional knowledge of child nutrition

regulations, great recipes, and kitchen hacks is unprecedented and she is regularly called upon for advice, a recipe, or even an extra case of green beans or something else that did not show up on the truck at another school,” Alexander said. “Carol is also known in our professional community for having a plan B. There are so many things that can go awry in a big busy kitchen but you could always count on Carol to know just what to do, how to pivot, and still make a great meal because the most important thing to her at the end of every single day is that kids got fed well.”

“The thing that is most important to me about Carol is that she always puts others first, always considers students’ needs and staff needs before anything else,” she continued. “She is the most humble person I know and the hardest worker and most dedicated to her community and her job.”

Looking ahead, Roscoe said she’s excited to have more time

to spend with her granddaughters during retirement and potentially pick back up some cross stitching projects. Though, she hopes to be back in the Mt. Abe kitchen on occasion when help is needed.

And even when she’s not working in the school’s cafeteria, the contributions she’s made to the Mt. Abe community will remain clear to see — the school recently renamed its cafeteria to the “Carol’s Corner Café.”

“Things will not be the same in the Mt. Abe kitchen without Carol, there is just no way around that, and I would not be surprised if she continues to be called upon for advice, ideas and recipes, for sure, but what she leaves as a lasting message is that a life devoted to feeding students is something to be celebrated and honored because it really makes a difference,” Alexander said. “We hope Carol basks in this knowledge as she takes her well-deserved next step in life.”

“This is a profession, it’s not just a job, and I think all of us take it very seriously. We put the students’ nutrition first, and we’re educated about it.”

— Carol Roscoe

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Schools and AI

(Continued from Page 1A)

for schoolwork, with around 10% using it for all or most of their work.

Mt. Abe Principal Shannon Warden said she and a colleague will be researching the use of AI in education this summer, potentially taking a class and after that may propose a policy to the school board.

"I think it's going to take looking at all the different ways it can be used and working with teachers to be really clear on their assignments about how AI can be used or not on any particular task," Warden said. "We may find there is no use for AI in schools; that may be where we land. I feel that we have a responsibility to have bigger conversations with students about AI."

Michael Thomas, an English teacher at Vergennes Union High School, also feels responsible to have conversations about AI with students, although Thomas said he doesn't believe there are many appropriate uses of AI at high schools. Education is about building critical thinking skills, Thomas said, and AI gets in the way of that.

"I worry that a lot of educators and others who are making decisions [about AI], we grew up without these things, so we wired our brains with a lot of fundamental skills that aren't just native in the human brain," Thomas said. "So how will students today acquire those same skills? People talk about how we have to think critically about AI. Well, where did you learn to think critically?"

Thomas said his heart was broken when he found out students used AI on his assignments, betraying his trust. These experiences were part of the reason Thomas helped start the AI Teacher Group at VUHS this past year, along with six teachers from different departments.

The group has developed seven principles and five recommendations about AI for the school and started meeting with administration to discuss them. The principles emphasize that

AI usage should be considered differently depending on the setting and user, and that education is transformational, not transactional.

"Transformational education is about a student growing as a person through learning," Thomas said. To explain this to students, he asks them what they would think if someone paid an athlete to play for them in games but expected to receive a trophy for work they didn't do.

"There's something about athletics that we recognize: it's not just about getting points, it's about becoming an athlete and being an athlete," Thomas said. "Writing isn't about turning in something, it's about you becoming a writer and more importantly, a thinker."

Thinking through problems students haven't yet encountered is a touchstone of VUHS science teacher Sarah Thompson's AP Biology class. The homework is questions with answers she said, that aren't simply found in students' notes or textbook. They require critical thinking skills, drawing upon biology concepts that many students have turned to AI to answer. Thompson said this results in loss of learning potential.

"As a student, as a learner, you lose the control of knowing that information to be true and knowing that you've done the work," Thompson said. "If you just googled it and copied and pasted and changed a couple of words, there's no way you're going to remember that in the long term ... so you're taking intelligence and turning it into busy work."

ENHANCING EDUCATION

Other teachers at VUHS have different outlooks on the technology, Thompson and Thomas said, with many using it for work or in class. Thomas said in his experience, teachers with varying viewpoints on the topic tend to get defensive in discussions.

ANWSD Director of Learning Gabriel Hamilton has also noticed the polarizing nature of AI but has a different perspective on the



VUHS PRINCIPAL JODY CHAMBERLIN

technology. Hamilton has hosted workshops and taught classes on AI in education. While wary about certain aspects, Hamilton said he sees potential for its use, especially with project-based assignments. VUHS Principal Jody Chamberlin emphasized AI should enhance education rather than diminish it, and said she often uses the technology herself.

"If I have an issue and I'm not seeing someone else's side, I will use AI to really try to understand where the other person might be coming from," Chamberlin said. "I've used it to expand my thinking and I've done that so I'm more comfortable using AI ... so when students ask questions about it, I have knowledge based on ways I've used it that's not doing the work or thinking for me but is expanding my thinking and expanding my work."

Middlebury Union High School language teachers Natasha Causton and Arianna Bailey are on the opposite end of the AI use spectrum: they avoid it and have changed their coursework so students avoid it too.

"In language class, we're teaching kids to write, we're teaching them to speak," said Causton, who teaches French. "So while we're building these skills, if they're using those technologies, they're not learning."

Bailey, who teaches Spanish, recently made the switch to paper-only classes, including for homework. She called the difference "life changing."

She said the experiences she's

Key concerns for AI in education

• Academic integrity considerations

Students may use AI to complete assignments without permission, potentially bypassing the learning objectives and violating academic honesty policies. Learn how to address this concern.

• Cognitive offloading

Over-reliance on AI for tasks can prevent students from developing essential skills through productive struggle and practice. Learn how to find the right balance.

• Data privacy and security

Student data and intellectual property must be protected when using AI systems to comply with FERPA, COPPA, and potentially HIPAA requirements. Learn how to protect student data.

• Bias and fairness

AI systems can perpetuate stereotypes and biases through their training data, potentially leading to unfair or inaccurate outputs. Learn how to mitigate bias.

• Student well-being and safety

AI can be misused to create harmful content. Deepfakes and non-consensual images threaten student safety. Learn how to protect students.

• Mental health considerations

Students may develop unhealthy relationships with AI companions, with 72% of teens having used AI companions at least once. (Common Sense Media, 2025) Learn how to support healthy AI use.

• Equitable access

Not all students have equal access to AI tools and technology, which potentially widens achievement gaps. Learn how to support equitable access.

• Ethical considerations

AI raises concerns about intellectual property, environmental impact, and job displacement that students need to address. Learn how to navigate these issues with your students.

Source : Vermont AI Guidance for Education, Vermont Agency of Education

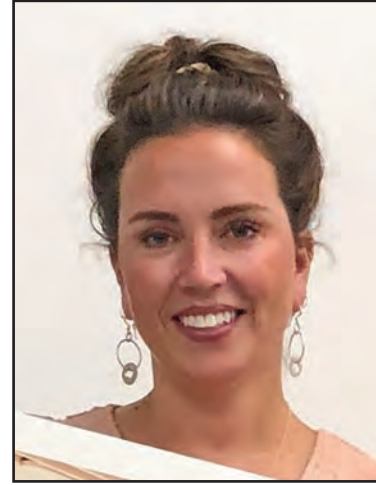
had with AI have been "disastrous." She used AI to help create a worksheet about a famous Spanish play with true/false answers and the technology spit out completely wrong answers. Her students who tried to fill out the worksheet were disappointed she used AI, Bailey said.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT AI

For the past two years, MUHS has had an AI Faculty Working Group, led by Librarian Stephanie Sherman, who advocated for the group when it wasn't slotted to continue this year.

Last year they researched other schools' policies and drafted their own, which didn't end up advancing, Sherman said. They're now focusing on making sure everyone has the same language and knowledge to communicate about AI. Sherman sees a wide range of potential for AI, which can be difficult to navigate. On the one hand, it could present a threat to education if used incorrectly, but it also has potential for creative and constructive use to advance knowledge.

This week, faculty and staff at MUHS had an AI professional development day, which was the first full faculty discussion about the technology, Sherman said. The AI working group was able to get Josh Blumberg, the educational



MOUNT ABE PRINCIPAL SHANNON WARDEN

technology programs manager at the Vermont Agency of Education to present his guidance on AI in education. Blumberg created an AI Guide earlier this year for Vermont schools, outlining recommendations for different grade levels and uses.

"One of the things that Blumberg's guidance says is that doing nothing is irresponsible," Sherman said. "For us to pretend this isn't happening and to just say we're not using AI in this school is not responsible."

Sherman said she hopes the working group will continue next year, and she plans to join the statewide educator AI working

group that Blumberg is launching this coming year.

One MUHS rising senior said they're concerned about AI replacing jobs, among other issues, and plans to become an electrician in part because trades are less likely to be replaced by technology.

Kirin Biancosino, a MUHS '26 graduate, said he doesn't believe AI should be used in the classroom unless the class is directly discussing it or it's used for translation purposes.

"I personally feel that using AI in the classroom takes away from actually retaining any information," Biancosino said.


He knew students who received academic strikes in the International Baccalaureate program for using AI. According to the MUHS Handbook, students with two incidents of academic misconduct, including the use of AI without citation or acknowledgment, are not eligible to receive an IB certificate.

Biancosino said he thinks AI usage will continue at MUHS unless there is a systematic change in consequences, and he expects impacts down the line.

"I feel like there will definitely be effects in the coming five or 10 years," Biancosino said. "We'll have to see what the standardized testing and all that shows for the students' ability to retain information."

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Klein

(Continued from Page 1A)

Kingdom. Klein's dad acquired a farm in Norwich.

After attending high school in New Hampshire, Klein enrolled at the University of Vermont, eventually transferring to Middlebury College for his junior and senior years (1999-2001). He served on the MFD during that time.

"That group of people (on MFD) is really what formed my love for Middlebury and Vermont," Klein said.

Following college, Klein circled back to New York to become an investment banker on Wall Street for three years. He then attended law and business schools, earning a joint JD-MBA at NYU. He joined the NYU School of Law board of trustees in 2016 and continues to serve.

Following law school, he launched what he called "a series of real estate investment companies."

In 2018, Andrew and his wife Ashleigh looked for a new place to raise their family, which includes son Lockwood, now 7, and daughter Fielding, 7. Both Andrew and Ashleigh had ties to Vermont, so the landing spot wasn't difficult to pick.

"Vermont very much felt like where we wanted to be," Klein said.

Upon his return, he quickly rejoined the MFD, now serving as a lieutenant. While he lives in neighboring New Haven, his past service in Middlebury allowed him to be reinstated. He specialized in technical rescue operations.

"I've been involved in helping the fire department update and modernize some of its systems. When I see something that isn't working, I roll up my sleeves and say, 'Let's fix it.'"

He said he wants to bring that same approach to Montpelier and began considering a foray into politics around three years ago. Klein ultimately picked '26 as his electoral debut and — after consulting with GOP strategists — decided to run for state Senate.

"I wanted to go where I thought I could make the most amount of impact," Klein said. "That, for me, was being in the Senate."

If elected, Klein said he'd support efforts to quickly grow Vermont's population and business sector, which he believes are key to getting the state on a financially sustainable path.

"I only see one way out for Vermont," he said. "If you look at all the issues — whether it's housing, education, health care, affordability, taxes," they're all tied to one thing: Vermont doesn't have enough revenue coming in. It needs more people paying income taxes and corporate taxes.

"We need a bigger pie; we can't keep trying to divide up the same small pie to fix the problems Vermont has," he added. "It's like trying to get blood from a stone. It will not work."



ANDREW KLEIN

"We need a bigger pie; we can't keep trying to divide up the same small pie to fix the problems Vermont has."

— Andrew Klein

Klein believes Vermont must make itself more inviting to housing developers and entrepreneurs if it's to grow municipal grand lists. Based on his experience, he said Vermont could ratchet up its growth by injecting more predictability into the development process.

How would he do that?

- By supporting the creation of an economic development team — made up of state officials who would have the governor's ear — that could meet with folks pitching promising business ventures. The team would tell the developer what to expect through the permitting processes and how to avoid potential pitfalls.
- By supporting Vermont's adoption of "form-based codes" for considering building projects.

Form-based codes, according to Smart Growth America, are a "land development regulation that fosters predictable built results and a walkable public realm by using physical form — rather than separation of uses — as the primary basis and focus for the code and standards. Form-based codes are legally binding regulations, not optional guides, and offer municipalities an alternative to conventional zoning for shaping development."

Some politicians and builders have criticized Act 250, Vermont's land use law, for being too restrictive.

The issue goes beyond that, according to Klein.

"It's not just Act 250, it's also the way the system was designed," he said. "There's so much agency cost in the process — even if your project falls outside of Act 250. It's incredibly laborious and expensive."

Those willing to invest capital don't like uncertainty, Klein stressed.

"Our process (in Vermont) is that even once you buy a piece of property, you don't really know

what you can do with it until you go through a process afterwards," he said. "I would say it makes significantly more sense to come up with a number we all agree with in the state... We're not going to develop 70% of the state. But for the 30% we are going to develop, we're going to know what you're going to be able to do with that property on day one."

Once it decides where it's appropriate to build, Vermont must start considering much larger housing projects than are typically granted these days. That will be key in meeting built-up demand for units while driving down the costs of homeownership, according to Klein.

"The deal sizes are unfortunately too small right now," he said. "There's lots of capital that might want to come into the state and invest in the state, but if the deal sizes are so small... it means less capital can come into the state."

Klein shared his views on other Vermont challenges, including:

EDUCATION

Vermont ranks in the top four nationally in public education spending per student, yet student outcomes currently rank 14th in the country, according to a recent report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Klein pointed to Vermont's dwindling student population as a major part of the problem.

"We've lost 20% of our K-12 population in the last 20 years. Young people can't afford to stay — they can't find housing and jobs. We need to get them paying into the system, and staying," he said.

Again, he said more housing and jobs is key to attracting more taxpayers and building a school system that will deliver improved student outcomes.

"We can't keep stealing money from other parts of the budget to try to buy down the tax increases for education costs while not doing anything to improve the quality of education," Klein said.

HEALTH CARE

Vermont's health care system has been in crisis, with rising premiums that are a product of a shrinking pool of folks with private insurance. The state's aging population is leaning into Medicare and Medicaid.

He'd also like to see Vermont try to partner with Maine and/or New Hampshire to see if it could increase its insurance pool to enhance affordability.

One of the keys to driving premiums down is attracting more young families, which again circles back to the need to create more housing and jobs, according to Klein.

Klein believes a building boom and preserving Vermont's pastoral ethos aren't mutually exclusive.

"I think there's a false equivalency that being pro-business is antithetical to keeping Vermont, Vermont. You can have both."

"I think there's a false equivalency that being pro-business is antithetical to keeping Vermont, Vermont. You can have both."

— Andrew Klein

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

ready to be used. The final coat of paint is being applied to the walls. Finishing touches are being completed outside the building, too. Wooden risers have been installed on the front steps. These wooden platforms are meant to invite people to linger (and they'll be a great spot from which to watch the next Memorial Day parade). In other construction news, Ilsley's new elevator has arrived onsite. It's been delivered in pieces and will be assembled in place. The installation of the elevator is typically one of the last stages of a job, Hart noted, so the arrival of the elevator crew heralds what she called "the beginning of the end." This month will see ceiling tile installation, landscaping, mechanical, electrical and plumbing finishes, along with final paint. Appliances, shelving and furniture installation will occur in July. Then, in August, you'll see the transfer of library resources from the bank's Duclos building and Vergennes, during which extended hours will be offered at the Sarah Partridge Branch Library in East Middlebury.

Addison County residents have been wincing at the gas pumps ever since the U.S. war with Iran began on Feb. 28. The per-gallon price of gas jumped from an average of \$2.98 to \$4.48 per gallon prior to the recently announced peace deal. According to the latest research by the Energy Action Network — a Vermont non-profit that conducts energy-related data tracking, research and analysis — price increases for gasoline, diesel and fuel oil added \$124 million in estimated costs for Vermont drivers and fuel oil customers during the last three months. The network's updated analysis covers the three months of March through May. During this period, total gasoline costs in Vermont were more than \$77 million higher than they would have been if prices had stayed at their end-of-February level (\$293

million vs. \$216 million). During a full year, gasoline at \$4.50 per gallon rather than \$3 per gallon would translate to an increase in annual statewide gasoline costs of about \$431 million, according to Energy Action Network.

Even though the Cornwall Library book sale won't be held until November, library officials are accepting donations for that big event. The library accepts "gently used" books, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs (no magazines, outdated travel books or manuals, textbooks or encyclopedias). Book donations can be brought to the Cornwall Town Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This Saturday, June 20, from around 7:30-9 p.m., the crew at Spirit in Nature invites you to pause and welcome the change in season at the scenic property off Goshen Road in Ripton. Follow the lantern-lit path to the Sacred Circle, joining friends and neighbors in the warmth of community around a fire. Beautiful new benches have now been built for this space. Pour a cup of tea and roast some s'mores. Help in the contemplative act of piecing together a nature mandala over the course of the evening. You'll be offered gently guided time of going out into the land for quiet observation and coming back in for sharing the experience with others. There will also be a "sharing around the circle" with a poem, a thought, or a story. A reading of the picture book "Roxaboxen" by Alice McLerran will be on offer. Shari Garm will lead any interested singers in a few songs together. Feel free to bring a drum, or other percussion instrument, if you'd like. Young or old, of any faith or none at all, all are most welcome! Consider bringing a flashlight, and perhaps a poem or a thought to share.

Also this Saturday, nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join in a "Beginning Birders

Walk" at Middlebury's Wright Park from 9-11 a.m. Participants will divide into three groups and explore side trails of this part of the Trail Around Middlebury. Experienced birders will lead the group as it looks and listens for birds and whatever gifts nature sends its way. As always, there will be a surprise station and hike-appropriate snacks. Bring binoculars or borrow some that will be made available. The morning is jointly sponsored by Otter Creek Audubon and Middlebury Area Land Trust. Meet at the Wright Park parking lot north of Pulp Mill Covered Bridge. Go northwest from the Middlebury Green on Seymour Street, then just before Pulp Mill Covered Bridge turn right on the parking area at the end. Call 713-818-7033 with questions.

This week the Middlebury Bread Loaf Translators' Conference and Bread Loaf Environmental Writers' Conference will each offer free lectures and readings to the public at the site in Ripton. The Translators' Conference, now in its 12th year, is the first such forum to highlight the important role that literary translators play in poetry and prose. The 13th annual Environmental Writers' Conference is designed to bring more depth of knowledge and understanding to their writing about the environment and the natural world. From the Translators' Conference, Korean literary translator and author Anton Hur will offer a lecture titled "When Is It Time to Stop Translating?" on Friday, June 19, at 9 a.m. in the Barn. Environmental Conference faculty member Nina McConigley was born in Singapore, raised in Wyoming and is a winner of many writing awards. She will offer a lecture titled "Empires and Ecosystems" on Thursday, June 18, at 9 a.m. in the Little Theater and a reading with Kazim Ali on Friday, June 19, at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater.

Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)

City councilors spent two-and-a-half hours on Tuesday night combing through the FY27 budget proposal, scouring for and debating areas they can cut back and ease the burden on taxpayers. In its current form the figure is up over \$500,000 or 15.2%, compared to the FY26 budget, and represents a roughly 12-cent increase in the tax rate.

In that time they weighed the short- and long-term needs of the city, noted that prices across the board are rising and considered how future funds from the local option tax, which goes into effect July 1, could help ease the ARPA shortfall.

They also found \$10,000 to cut from the budget, which reduced the tax rate by a quarter of a cent.

The city's fiscal year starts July 1.

The June 16 meeting was the council's third since being presented a general fund budget

proposal on May 12. Before that, department heads attended previous meetings to discuss their specific portions of the budget with city councilors.

In its current form the police department makes up roughly 39% of the spending proposal (\$1,497,621), the public works department 31% (\$1,172,281), administration 16% (\$610,996), general expenses 9% (\$351,664), Recreation Department 4% (\$146,635) and voter appropriations 1% (\$53,164).

"This budget comes down to one thing — paving," City Manager Ron Redmond said during a recent interview.

The \$202,322 allocated to pave Alden Place, North Maple Street, Battery Street (\$98,286), plus North Green Street, Park Street and North Street (\$104,036) in the general fund is driving the increase, according to Redmond.

Paving isn't new to the city's

budget. But it's been covered by ARPA money in recent years.

"That big injection of ARPA funds that happened to all municipalities in the state of Vermont really kind of disguised, increases that we would have seen a few years back," said Darlene Kelly, who works for the New England Municipal Resource Center.

During the June 16 meeting, Senior Alderman Dickie Austin likened that ARPA influx "to money falling out of the sky" and added that the local option tax, which is an additional 1% tax on sales, meals, alcohol and rooms that local officials estimate conservatively could generate at least \$200,000, could serve a similar role in the city's finances going forward.

"We have a little bit of room as far as removing things from the general (fund)," he said of the initiative, which voters approved

(See City budget, Page 15A)

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Shoreham school

(Continued from Page 1A)

extra-special summer sendoff this time, with treats, outdoor games, Tex-Mex eats courtesy of the Tac-O de Town food truck, and a chance to get good-natured, belated payback on some of their teachers through an on-site dunking tank.

But you'll forgive the students and the many adult Shoreham residents who also attended the summer breakup party if the cotton candy tasted bittersweet to them.

It's because Thursday, June 11, was the last day of school at Shoreham Elementary School, which is being closed to K-5 instruction. The building this fall will become home to a new ACSD PreK program.

"We wanted this experience for our children — a sense of community and a small-school setting," lifelong Shoreham resident Abby Murphy said, as the town's K-5 children enjoyed a final day of play on the school campus on a steamy late-spring afternoon.

"I think we'll still get that (small-school experience) in Bridport, but I think it's going to take a little work."

Shoreham's K-5 students will

attend Bridport Central School (BCS) beginning this fall. The ACSD board last year voted to merge the Shoreham and Bridport K-5 populations at BCS to enable children from both communities to have single-grade instruction. Declining enrollment would have otherwise required both schools to offer all multi-age classrooms, according to ACSD officials, who had also cited lagging standardized test scores at Shoreham Elementary to justify the merger.

The board vote has at least suspended a 240-year history of local schools in Shoreham. The first was settled on Cream Hill around 1786, according to the "History of the town of Shoreham, Vermont," by Josiah F. Goodhue. Other one-room schoolhouses emerged around town until 70 years ago, when Shoreham Elementary School was erected at 130 School Rd.

Friends of Shoreham Elementary School organized the special June 11 sendoff to help school stakeholders find some closure on the closure.

Parents put on a brave face as their children darted around the



TIM AND AMANDA Gould were among local parents who attended a June 11 sendoff for kids at Shoreham Elementary School, which is closing to K-5 instruction. Shoreham's K-5 kids will attend classes at Bridport Central School this fall.



MOLLY KERR, HER husband Darren and their son Colby take some time to reflect during a June 11 event marking the final day of K-5 classes at Shoreham Elementary School. Colby and his Shoreham classmates will attend classes at Bridport Central School this fall. Independent photos/John Flowers

playground and tossed tiny bean bags at the cornhole platforms. Some of those parents lamented the elementary school building's pivot to a PreK and believe the loss of the local school will have greater import than just a longer bus commute for Shoreham kids.

Murphy's concerns include the prospect of local taxes rising and property values declining because of Shoreham losing its local

school. She believes a family — if weighing the purchase of equally priced homes in Bridport and Shoreham — will pick Bridport, because it has a school.

"And what's going to happen to our (first response) EMS and fire services when we don't have these community members to support those departments?" she asked. "Those are the things that long-term Shoreham residents think about."

At the same time, Shoreham — like many other communities in the Northeast — has seen its places of worship substantially reduce services or close altogether. As recently reported by the *Independent*, the Shoreham Congregational Church at 28 School Rd. is now attracting just eight- to 12 parishioners for Sunday services. Church leaders have decided to convey the 1847 building to the town on Jan. 1, 2027.

Meanwhile, St. Genevieve's Catholic Church in Shoreham hasn't hosted regular mass services for years, also due to a diminishing flock.

Could a major population spike someday throw a lifeline to the school and its civic/religious institutions?

The odds seem stacked against such a spike — for now.

Farm families once helped fill the school chairs, church pews and municipal leadership roles. But Vermont lost 313 dairy farms between 2017 and 2022 alone, a drop of 37%, according to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

And while young folks have been dipping their toes into Vermont's value-added ag markets — like specialty cheeses — the days of multi-generational, mid-size dairy operations are fading.

Plenty of people would love to settle in picturesque Shoreham, but there aren't many homes available — and those that are tend to be beyond the reach of young families.

Irene Cadoret, administrative assistant at Shoreham Elementary School for the past 17 years, echoed Murphy's concerns about the greater impact of the school closure on Shoreham.

"We have a great community, a great school, great families and amazing kids," she said during an impromptu interview outside the school entrance. "But the merger (with BCS) is going to be difficult for a number of people. We've got a lot of great things happening in these small towns. The schools are the heart of our communities. With (Shoreham Elementary) closing, it's difficult to say what the heart of the community will look like. There were a number of houses that were going to be sold, but families found out there was no school, and they pulled (their offers)."

— Irene Cadoret

assistant at BCS, succeeding Linda Barrett, who's retiring. The current Shoreham teachers will also have jobs at BCS, thanks to single-grade instruction.

While Cadoret said it's sad to see her school close to K-5 students, she believes Shoreham and Bridport will pull together to make the best of a merged student body.

"We'll show up every day, like we always do, for the students to be successful. (The merger) is just a geographic thing," she said.

ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker is aware that the loss of a community school creates a void that's hard to fill. Many Ripton residents continue to mourn the loss of their school last June, due to declining enrollment. Ripton's K-5 children are now attending Salisbury Community School. And ACSD has a limited school choice program within its seven-town borders.

Baker said school population mergers such as Salisbury-Ripton and Shoreham-Bridport are "happening throughout the state. It is far from easy. The Shoreham community has shown up well as partners through this process. Continuing to serve all our kids will depend on all of us continuing to do that."

She acknowledged community concerns about the broader impacts of a local school closure.

"The concern about Vermont communities is real and something that needs to be addressed at the state level, because it isn't just about schools; it's about housing and not having enough new families coming in to staff the fire and rescue departments and run for boards and commissions," she said. "Schools are probably one of the most visible places where the change in Vermont's population is coming to everyone's attention. But communities are working (See Frustration, Page 13A)



IRENE CADORET HAS been the administrative assistant at Shoreham Elementary School for the past 17 years and will continue in that role at Bridport Central School this fall. Shoreham residents are mourning the loss of their local school and wondering how it will affect the general health of their community.



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Bears

(Continued from Page 1A)
 went down our hill, crossed over into the neighbor's property to the north, and then I lost track of him."
 Conkey's experience in the Wolfe Road neighborhood in Addison seems to be getting less rare.

The American black bear population in the Green Mountain State has been above the goal of 3,500 to 5,500 bears for four consecutive years, according to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. The most recent estimate counted 6,800 to 8,000 bears. High reports of juvenile bears and litters of three to four cubs further indicate an increasing population.

Many people in Addison County have experienced more encounters with bears than ever before, from stolen garbage bags to furry families taking up residence in their backyards. In response, neighborhoods are taking measures to keep the bears away.

"I live off of Lake Street in West Addison, and we had our first bear sighting in probably 40 years that we've lived here," Michael Johnston told the *Independent*.

Having never encountered a bear in the area, Johnston left his regular bird feeders up this spring. Then, during the first week in June, for two nights in a row — and for the first time in his life — a bear came into their yard and trashed their bird feeders. Now, Johnston tries to be more careful.

To combat bear visits to residential areas, neighbors have begun working together.

Residents of Wolfe Road started calling the bear Stanley — based on the bear on Stanley cups — and let one another know when he came around. Over in south Vergennes, a group of neighbors created a small Facebook group: The Booth Woods Bear Patrol.

"Everybody's got bear horns and pepper balls, and paintball guns ready and rubber bullets to shoot toward the bear," Amanda Anderson explained.

A bear had been sniffing around Anderson's sourdough bakery stand, which she opens on weekends. About a month ago, during the evening, Anderson saw four bears — a mama and three babies — in the tree near her farm stand.

"I don't have any food that I leave out (when I'm not there)," Anderson said. "They weren't really there for food. They were just perusing around and got scared up the tree by us."

The neighbors all came together to bang pans and honk horns, trying to get them to leave.

"In the meantime, we're ready in case they come back, but the kids played out on the yard for the first time in a week because we felt good about it," Anderson said.

Out in Orwell, folks have reported seeing a black bear on the Route 73 side of Young Road.

Amanda Gardella posted on



AS THE POPULATION of black bears increases, Addison County residents are reporting sights of the big mammals nearer human habitation. Christy Alger took this photo of a black bear at her house off Route 73 in Orwell on June 10.

Photo by C. Alger

Facebook that she saw some overturned garbage cans in late May, which she attributed to the bear in the neighborhood. That same week, Sandy Korda reported that trash was discovered strewn beside the Orwell Congregational Church, "with a trail scattering garbage — as it they dragged a trash bag or two into the woods."

Apparently the bear hasn't gone away. Christy Alger took photos of a black bear at her house off Route 73 in Orwell on June 10.

Caitlin Cusack, a volunteer bear ambassador trained by Vermont Fish & Wildlife, has been working to inform Vermonters which measures are effective in keeping neighborhoods bear free. She wants people to be aware of which attractants bring bears into residential areas — including bird feeders, trash, compost, bees and chickens.

Bears have a sense of smell seven times greater than a bloodhound, so residents need to carefully secure attractants at all times.

"They're not just active during the evening and night. Bears can get in any time," Cusack said.

Cusack advises local residents to take down their bird feeders and secure their trash inside of buildings. Though bird feeders are

tempting, Cusack says they pose too much of a risk to leave out spring, summer or fall.

Also, any food outside can cause problems, even food left inside of cars. Because of bears' excellent memory, any encounter may keep bears coming back for more.

She recommends electric fences to keep bears away from backyard chickens, bee hives or compost, and Cusack urges residents to keep watch for any furry visitors.

Conkey's close encounter with a bear was repeated a couple days later, when the same bear came back to her yard. It sniffed around her recently used grill, two feet away from the door, and wandered away. Four minutes after the bear wandered away, Conkey happened to go out on the deck. A recording on her ring camera later showed the bear had run right behind her.

The bear getting too close for comfort, Conkey has removed her bird feeders, scrubbed down her grill and secured her trash.

"There is no record or anybody talking about having a bear," Conkey noted. "We've seen bobcats, we've got foxes and raccoons and skunks, but never a bear."

Editor's note: John S. McCright contributed to this story.

Frustration

(Continued from Page 12A)
 through challenges that are systemic, that relate to the change in our demographics."

FRUSTRATION

Shoreham selectboard member Rebecca Kerr and her daughter Rylie — now at Middlebury Union Middle School — worked the cotton candy table last Thursday while Rebecca's son Trenton scampered from game to game.

Kerr voiced frustration about the process that led to the final "school's out."

While ACSD held a series of informational meetings about the Shoreham-Bridport school merger, Kerr said many details remain unsettled, including transportation, logistics and afterschool programming.

"My feelings are around the transparency and communication we were all receiving, and how there was a big lack of that," Kerr said "We're all coming from the lens of supporting the kids first and making sure they're taken care of. When our concerns were brought to the forefront, we felt like they were dismissed. It feels like it comes down to the budget and money."

Speaking of money, Kerr noted the loss of Shoreham's K-5 school won't have the silver lining of a property tax break. Projected annual cost for operating the merged school: Around \$2.25 million, which is roughly 7% (\$160,000) less than the current two-school model.

"From a resident's standpoint of taxes — if it's going to cost me the same to have two school buildings remain open, I'd rather have my kid here. It's not saving me money on that side," she said.

At press time, 16 children had enrolled in the new Shoreham PreK, though "several others are in the process," according to ACSD Director of Communications and Engagement Emily Blistein.

Kerr's son Trenton will be a fifth-grader this fall.

"He's voiced not wanting to go

to (Bridport)," Kerr said. "Change is big. It's been unfortunate."

Kerr is among several Shoreham parents who've volunteered to serve on committees to assist in the Shoreham Elementary-to-Bridport Central transition. Kerr is serving on the transportation committee to figure out the new busing itinerary. As of June 11, she said many unknowns remained, beyond the fact that three buses will come to Shoreham to ferry kids to BCS, MUMS and Middlebury Union High School.

"We know Shoreham is going to be a (bus) hub, but we don't know about timing, if there will be supervision and support," she said. "There doesn't seem to be a plan on how to serve new kindergarten kids, how to make sure out littlest children get on the right bus and not end up going to the high school."

Asked to share her thoughts about Shoreham Elementary not reopening to K-5 instruction this fall, Kerr said, "It's hard. This is where my husband (went to school), where my children have gone. To not see (my son Trenton) finish out here, feels sad."

INTEGRATING 2 SCHOOLS

Molly Kerr has become a well-known person with Shoreham kiddos; she's the town's recreation director. Kerr and her family were there on June 11 to give words of praise and encouragement to the students. Her sons Corbin and Colton will be among the Shoreham students pivoting to BCS this fall.

"I'm not happy at all," Molly Kerr said of the lead-up to the school's closure. "I went to every meeting. I hope the district follows through with what they stated they would do for us."

What about Shoreham's rec programs that have been tied to the elementary school?

"We're going to try to do sports in Bridport and Shoreham," Molly Kerr said. "The main hub is Shoreham, but we will be doing (programming) at Bridport, too."

Her son Colton, a fourth-grader, is looking for some positives in the newly merged BCS.

"It's kind of sad, because I like how close (Shoreham Elementary) is," he said. "But I'll get to meet new friends (at BCS)."

Residents Tim and Amanda Gould found a nice spot in the shade as their son Anderson frolicked with his friends during last Thursday's festivities at the school. Anderson will make the jump to MUMS this fall, and his folks feel lucky their son got a full K-5 journey through Shoreham Elementary.

"I'm glad they held off (closing) until our kids were out," Tim said.

Amanda said she sympathizes with other Shoreham families that won't get the full Shoreham Elementary experience.

"I can see how it would be hard," she said, expressing sympathy for couples who bought homes in Shoreham in part due to the local school.

Shoreham Principal Lashawn Whitmore-Sells on Thursday could be seen pacing around the school's play area, supervising the children and blowing a whistle to send them to the next play activity.

Whitmore-Sells last week rounded out her second year as Shoreham Elementary's top administrator. Barring a major infusion of youth in town, she could go down as the last-ever principal.

But on this day, Whitmore-Sells — who this fall will join BCS as part-time assistant principal while also leading the new Shoreham PreK — was emphasizing the positive.

"This is their time to shine, for all the hard work they've done all year," she said. "I look at this as a celebratory moment and I want to keep that in the mind of all of our students, so when they leave here, they're upbeat and happy; they're not thinking that their school is closing."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that **Olivia Depatie** of Brandon has been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2026 semester.

The following students were honored for earning a place on the dean's list for the spring 2026 semester at Utah Tech University:

- **Ella Hameline**, of Vergennes
- **Jackson Marks**, of Brandon

Spencer Gebo, a Lasell University student from Vergennes was named to the dean's list for their academic performance in the Spring 2026 semester.



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STRIKING A POSE with his hard-earned diploma, Carter McGuire crosses the stage with confidence at the VUHS graduation on Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James



PLAYING KEYBOARD AND singing an original song at VUHS graduation is teacher Chris Wyckoff, who wrote a tune incorporating the names of every member of the VUHS graduating class. Wyckoff was an advisor for the class and expressed how much they meant to him at the ceremony on Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS graduates

(Continued from Page 1A)

Waiting for her pupils were Starburst, Goldfish, mints, a wristband and a bottle of water — all “small things,” she said, that “represent the way you’ve shown up for each other: a quick check-in, a shared laugh, a hand offering just what someone needed.”

“Take that with you. The world needs more people who feed others — literally and figuratively.”

Chamberlin, who noted she started in her current role the same year the class of 2026 first flooded the high school’s halls, also added one of the caring reminders she’s likely been doling out to the class for four years.

“It’s hot; take a sip of water.”

Chamberlin reminded the class of 2026 of some of the adjectives that describe this group. Among them were “veracious,” “gracious,” “eager,” “eclectic,” “unique,” “sassy,” “needed,” “inspirational” and “outstanding.”

“As you leave here, remember: The small things matter, your heart knows the way, and you are already enough.”

Class Vice President Kyan Barcomb took her opportunity at the podium to emphasize being in the present and trusting in oneself.

“Over the past few years, I’ve grown more than I ever expected — especially in these last few months, as life has begun to feel more real than ever,” she said. “Through all of the uncertainty, one idea has kept me grounded: You are not ahead, behind, or late; you are simply living a timeline that belongs only to you.”

Barcomb told the audience her

aunt offered her these reassurances during a time when she was questioning her next steps.

“I told her how difficult it had been, feeling like I was falling behind, by taking a gap year, how isolated I felt from everyone else’s timelines, and how uncertain I had become about what I was supposed to do next,” she recalled.

“Before I could even finish, she stopped me and said, ‘What do you mean you are unsure about your decisions? You, out of everyone, should know these are the right choices for you. And comparing where you are in life to everyone else makes no sense because this is your path.’”

Barcomb said her aunt added, “Life is lived best when you have confidence in your own decisions.”

And it’s since. “If there’s one message I hope stays with you today, it’s this: believe in yourself,” Barcomb told her classmates.

“Trust the decisions you make, and don’t measure your journey against someone else’s. The moment you stop comparing your path and start embracing it as your own is the moment you open yourself up to going farther than you ever thought possible.”

WHERE’S BERNIE? After she was done reading what she had written, Barcomb quipped, “I would be introducing Bernie next, but he’s not here.”

In one of the items that followed instead, former VUHS teacher Chris Wyckoff sang an original song that included all of the graduates’ names and worked in a

little something about the graduates or how Wyckoff knew them.

Also sharing his reflections on the end of high school that night was Class President Chance Koenig, who spoke to the unique experience of being in such a small class.

“We all have our own stories, but we also all have common experiences that bring us together in ways that other graduating classes with hundreds — or even thousands — of students could never imagine,” he said.

“The small things matter, your heart knows the way, and you are already enough.”

— Principal Jody Chamberlin

“You are not ahead, behind, or late; you are simply living a timeline that belongs only to you.”

— Kyan Barcomb



MEMBERS OF THE VUHS Class of 2026 became graduates on Friday, with big smiles as they tossed their caps into the air and shot blue and white confetti onto themselves and the clapping crowd on Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James



VUHS CLASS PRESIDENT Chance Koenig is embraced by Sen. Bernie Sanders after Friday’s commencement, where both Sanders and Koenig spoke about the power of community and participation.

Independent photo/Steve James



U.S. SEN. BERNIE Sanders smiles big for the VUHS Class of 2026 in the front row of the ceremony in the Vergennes gym on Friday. Sanders spoke at the graduation about the power of community, participating in democracy and respecting each other.

Independent photo/Steve James



JOSE FRANCISCO SANTIAGO-LOYOLA poses for pictures with his diploma received during VUHS graduation on June 12.

Independent photo/Steve James

Grads

(Continued from Page 14A)

“People will tell you how quickly the time will pass, how ‘senioritis is no joke,’ and you’ll probably be subjected to constant questions about your future. Still, I would encourage you not to take it all too seriously,” graduate Phoebe Raphael advised. “Now, I’m not telling you to skip class every day, though I’m sure some of you will. What I am asking you to consider is bolder: let your senior year be one in which you allow yourself to try something new, step out of your comfort zone, to be fearless, to make mistakes, and to grow beyond the world you already know,” she said.

“In a year, you’ll be planning new adventures with high school in the rearview. Now is the time to take risks, to try something different, and to learn a thing or two about yourself! So, I would like to challenge you, the Class of 2027, to expand your horizons: join a new club, make a new friend, maybe even audition for the spring musical. Though Vergennes may be small, it has so much to offer you. Opportunities are everywhere; please don’t be afraid to look.”

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
While graduates spent the day beating the heat, savoring their final hours as highschoolers and getting ready for graduation, Sen. Sanders spent it waiting for his airplane in Washington to take off for Vermont. While he had been at the airport since mid-morning, his flight didn’t head north until 5 p.m.

“I love doing this. I was very proud to have been invited,” Sanders said when asked by the *Independent* why it was important for him to be at the graduation.

“This is a beautiful place, and it was a lovely ceremony, and you got a great community here.”

“I love doing this ... This is a beautiful place, and it was a lovely ceremony, and you got a great community here.”

— Sen. Bernie Sanders

Sanders walked into the Commodore gym at 6:38 p.m., about 40 minutes after the 6 p.m. start time.

Not long after Sanders took the first-row seat reserved for him, Chamberlin brought Barcomb back up to the microphone, who had her chance to introduce Vermont’s senior U.S. senator.

“OK, guys, now this is my part,” she said before welcoming Sanders.

A minute after joining the celebration, he was on stage, encouraging graduates to be civically engaged — no matter where they fall on the political spectrum — and assuring them that if they feel discouraged and distraught, they aren’t alone.

“I want to make sure that these kids understand that democracy is fragile,” he told an *Independent* reporter after the ceremony of

what inspired his address to the VUHS graduates.

“And that they have got to participate in it.”

During his speech, he pointed out that the country has been through and come through dark times, and he believes this time around will be no different — except for having the help of VUHS’s class of 2026.

Sanders made a point to tell graduates that on the very day of their graduation that businessman and former advisor to President Donald Trump, Elon Musk, became the world’s first trillionaire, a sum that exceeds what the bottom 53% of Americans have.

“Help us revitalize democracy,” Sanders pleaded with graduates.

At the same time, he added, “you live in the greatest democracy in the world.”

In Vergennes Special Olympics watch party on tap

VERGENNES — The Vergennes community is invited to cheer on local athlete Hazel Rakowski as she represents Team Vermont in Track & Field at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A public watch party will be held on Tuesday, June 23, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Sam Fishman Memorial Pool in Vergennes. Friends, family and community members are

encouraged to attend and watch Hazel compete live alongside athletes from across the country.

Hazel is one of 31 athletes, Unified partners, and coaches selected to represent Vermont at the 2026 USA Games. Scheduled for June 20–26 in Minnesota’s Twin Cities, the games will bring together more than 4,000 athletes from all 50 states competing in 16 sports.

The watch party is free and open to the public. Attendees

are encouraged to wear blue, bring their enthusiasm and help show Hazel how proud her hometown is as she competes on the national stage. The concession stand will be open during the event.

Please note that the Sam Fishman Memorial Pool will be closed for swimming during the watch party and will reopen afterward for regularly scheduled activities.

City budget

(Continued from Page 11A)

on Town Meeting Day this year. He suggested, “using that to make this budget more reasonable, more tolerable,” and added, “We are not necessarily kicking the can, but we are adjusting.”

Come October, the city will collect its first payment from that tax and “we’ll have an idea of what to expect going forward,” Redmond said in an email. “The council’s intention is to hear from citizens at the 2027 annual meeting, about where they would like the city to focus available monies. It is good timing as the city will also be working on the FY28 budget.”

Since councilors first started hearing about the budget, the price of food and gasoline have skyrocketed, making the prospect of stomaching an nearly 12-cent tax increase even more difficult for many.

While households are pinching pennies wherever they can, councilors spent time trying to do the same on Tuesday night. There was even a moment when Councilor Mike Daniels proposed slightly reducing the administration department’s electricity budget.

While councilors quickly abandoned the proposition, it prompted Councilor Jill Murray-Killom to ask, “Do we have

automatic shut-offs on any of our lists that might save us some money,” to which Austin wondered how much would that cost.

Daniels suggested exploring the possibility of more savings through an audit of the city’s buildings.

Councilors did apply a \$10,000 portion of grant money for the Commodore Club that was previously excluded from the budget. It was applied to the salary of the recreation director, who runs the club.

Councilors also broached possible cuts in the \$1,497,621 police budget.

The bulk of the six-member department’s funding is for salaries and benefits.

Included in this year’s figure, up 5% from last year’s, according to Redmond, is part of the payment for a new truck to replace the eight-year old one used for commercial truck enforcement. The five-year lease would start in the upcoming fiscal year, and adds roughly \$17,500 to the FY27 budget.

While eight years doesn’t sound old for a vehicle, Redmond previously explained in an interview that the lifetime of a police vehicle is much shorter because they are left running.

“The problem with police vehicles is the amount of time

that they have to keep the engine running, and just the general use — they really wear out, and so we made a plan to try to replace them after five years,” he said, and noted that this is standard.

Another item “questioned” by councilors during the meeting, per Redmond, was the full-time administrative assistant position in the police department, which in the past was part-time.

“We find the position has reduced administrative duties of officers, freeing them up for policing,” Redmond said in an email. “We also find that the position also deals with community matters, which in the past were handled by an officer. Deploying the admin in these instances is more cost efficient.”

Among the possibilities that Redmond has laid out are reducing paving. Cutting down by half would reduce the tax rate increase to 8.7 cents and completely deferring it would reduce it to 6.4 cents.

In recent years the city has already cut two positions and opted for a cheaper (though less nice, according to Redmond) healthcare plan. “We’re making efforts to try to make our organization lean,” Redmond said.

“And we’re at a point where it’s really hard, it’s really hard to cut anything else.”

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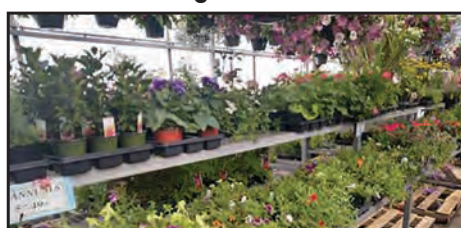


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SPORTS

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EAGLE THATCHER LEGGETT slides home during the D-II state championship game at Centennial Field in Burlington on Saturday, June 13. The freshman scored a fifth run for Mt. Abe in what ended as a 5-3 Eagle victory over Lyndon.

Independent photo/Steve James



SENIOR BRODY BARNARD bunts during the Division II State Championship baseball game on Saturday, June 13, at Centennial Field in Burlington. Mt. Abe defeated Lyndon, 5-3.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle nine are state champs!

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BURLINGTON — Every Eagle baseball game ends with a debriefing in the outfield.

But on Saturday, Coach Jason Barnard was forced to keep his talk short. He only had a few moments to choose his words and distribute high fives in left field after Mount Abraham's final game of the season.

The Eagles had to head back to home plate to retrieve their championship plaque.

After going down by two runs early in the game, the No. 1 seed Mount Abraham Union High School nine claimed the Division II title in a 5-3 victory over No. 2 Lyndon Institute.

The Eagles ended the season 15-1-1 and capped a 13-game winning streak with the title game.

The team, primarily made of juniors, hadn't lost a game since the beginning of May — a 6-4 loss to No. 3 Otter Valley. The team from Brandon exited the tournament in the semifinal, 5-2, to Lyndon on June 10.

"These guys have worked so hard, they deserve it. This team has put in all the effort all the way through."

— Coach Jason Barnard

they're out for each other. It's a real team."

A spate of base hits, sacrificial bunts and smart base running in the fourth inning, coupled with quick defense the rest of the game, gave the Eagles a lead halfway that they never gave up.

For senior Evan Corrigan, the hot-hitting team's prowess at the plate was key.

"Everything was good," he said. "But we always hit the ball well. Super confident in our hitting."

Corrigan, the winning pitcher, spent five innings leading the Eagle defense from the mound. In that time the senior allowed just four hits and two runs, struck out four batters and walked just one.

Corrigan also made his mark on offense with a double that started the fourth inning rally for the Eagles. He also opened the fourth inning with a double, starting off the Eagles' rally that ended with a 5-2 lead.

COMEBACK

Lyndon scored first. In the second inning, a Viking double that landed deep in right field put two runners in scoring position.

"I think they put a little pressure on with that double that they had (See Champs, Page 3B)



STARTER EVAN CORRIGAN sends a pitch to a Lyndon batter during Saturday's game in Burlington. The Eagle senior led the defense for the first five innings, allowing just four hits and two runs. Mt. Abe defeated Lyndon, 5-3.

Independent photo/Steve James



Photo courtesy of Susan Rand

Girl golfers get pro tips at local clinic

MIDDLEBURY — Organizers said the first-ever Vermont State Women's Golf Association (VSWG) Middlebury College Girls Golf Junior Clinic at Ralph Myhre Golf Club in Middlebury on May 30 was a major success. Forty-five girls, ages 12 to 18, traveled from across Vermont to receive instruction from top LPGA and PGA professionals.

The event featured several professionals with Vermont roots, including:

- Libby Smith: Former LPGA Tour player and UVM men's golf captain.
- Sue Horton: Director of Instruction at Stowe Country Club, former LPGA Futures Tour player and LPGA Tour caddy.
- Mandy Milne: Former Vermont

Amateur standout and Director of Golf at Basin Harbor Club.

- Holly Reynolds: Ten-time Vermont Amateur winner and University of Kansas record holder.
- Susan Fasoldt: LPGA Instructor at Dorset Field Club.

The girls who participated rotated through stations focusing on putting, chipping, sand, pitching (See Tips, Page 2B)

Local athletes at top of game

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — Several athletes from Addison County's three local high schools — Middlebury, Vergennes and Mount Abraham — earned nods for their performances this season.

Of note, Mount Abe junior Abraham Ready was dubbed the Lake Region baseball player of the year. And nine of the 16 players from the primarily senior Eagle

softball roster were awarded first team honors.

Middlebury Union High School senior Kenyon Connors and Mt. Abe senior June Yates-Rusch got spots on the Twin State girls' lacrosse roster. The pair also earned first team honors for Division I and Division II, respectively.

Also from MUHS, senior boys' lax player Logan McNulty was (See All stars, Page 2B)

Tiger boys' tennis falls to Burlington in D-I final

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

COLCHESTER — After upsetting their way to the state championship and preventing No. 1 seed Burr and Burton from a shot at the title, the No. 4 Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team closed the season in the final 2026 match with a 7-0 loss to No. 2 Burlington on Thursday.

"These guys really worked really hard all season," Coach Ken Schoen said after the June 11 match at St. Michael's College.

"This just wasn't our day. And that's OK. We made it to the finals."

Tiger tennis finished the season with an 8-5 record. Leading up to playoffs, MUHS only fell to Colchester, Stowe, Essex and Burlington.

Though the Tigers' first regular season round with the Seahorses also ended in Burlington's favor, the mid-May the match ended with a much closer 4-3 score.

The weather was also far less extreme in the earlier matches.

On Thursday, the temperature was around 85 degrees and the sun scorching during the June 11 championship match, and likely felt much hotter on the Saint Michael's courts.

Tiger teammates not playing spent the afternoon shuffling around the fence to each of the four courts handing out ice cold towels when a player in the middle of a match needed to cool down.

One of the closest matches of the day unfolded on the farthest court from the MUHS team's tent. Doubles pair senior Nathan Stefani and junior Nate Cook-Yoder came back from a 5-1 deficit in the first set to make it 5-4, before Burlington's Miles Kenny and Ben Koh closed it for the win.

Stefani and Cook-Yoder, who were runner-up in the individual state tournament a couple weeks ago, carried the momentum they built in the first set of Thursday's

match into the second. They went back and forth with the Burlington pair, trading the first handful of points. But the Seahorses ended up winning 6-3.

Though Cook-Yoder and Stefani, who only lost two matches this season, ended up losing this most

recent round, they were the sole doubles partners this season that were able to defeat Burlington's No. 1 doubles team, the Burlington Free Press reported. Cook-Yoder and Stefani marred what would have been a perfect season for the (See Tennis, Page 3B)



NINTH-GRADER LEO SWENTON throws the ball up to hit a serve to a Burlington tennis player during the state championship matches in Colchester on Thursday, June 11. MUHS fell 7-0.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

(D-II Final at Centennial Field)

6/13 Mt. Abe vs Lyndon.....5-3

Boys' Tennis

(D-I Final at St. Mike's)

6/11 Burlington vs MUHS.....7-0

All stars

(Continued from Page 1B)
 tabbed an All-American, and garnered first team All-Metro and Twin State recognitions. Tiger senior Marshall Eddy joins him on the first team All-Metro boys' lax squad and the Twin State team.

Here are other local athletes who earned recognition.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

- Junior Isabel Quinn, MUHS, midfield, D-I 1st team
 - Sophomore Louisa Orten, MUHS, midfield, D-I 2nd team
 - Sophomore Quinn Doria, MUHS, midfield, D-I 2nd team
 - Sophomore Sadie Chance, MUHS, defense, D-I honorable mention
 - Sophomore Ellie Conklin, MUHS, attack, D-I honorable mention
 - Junior Thompson Davis, MAV, midfield, D-II 1st team
 - Sophomore Callie Rule, MAV, defense/midfield, D-II 2nd team; Rising Star
 - Senior Maris LaPerle, MAV, defense, D-II 2nd team
 - Freshman Delia Park, MAV, attack, D-II honorable mention
 - Sophomore Mattea O'Bryan, attack/midfield, D-II honorable mention; Rising Star
 - Sophomore Olivia Sawyer, midfield, D-II honorable mention
- ## BOYS' LACROSSE
- Senior Ben DeBisschop, MUHS, 2nd team All-Metro
 - Junior Brady Lloyd, MUHS, 2nd team All-Metro
 - Senior Jaxson Heffernan, MUHS,

2nd team All-Metro

- Sophomore Maverick Gardner-Wacker, MUHS, 2nd team All-Metro; Rising Star
- Junior Rowdy Malcolm, MUHS, Rising Star
- Junior Henry McDonnell, MUHS, Rising Star

SOFTBALL

- Senior Brooklyn Ryersbach, Mt. Abe, catcher, 1st team
- Junior Brooke Barnard, Mt. Abe, first base, 1st team
- Senior Morgan Larocque, Mt. Abe, second base, 1st team
- Senior Genevieve Forand, Mt. Abe, shortstop, 1st team
- Sophomore Meg Park, Mt. Abe, utility, 1st team
- Junior Reagan LaFreniere, Mt. Abe, designated player, 1st team
- Sophomore Nora Hurlburt, Mt. Abe, outfield, 1st team
- Junior Leah Tierney, outfield, Mt. Abe, 1st team
- Junior Emmy Rougier, Mt. Abe, third base, 1st team
- Junior Trinity Angle, VUHS, third base, 1st team
- Sophomore Lillian Paquette, MUHS, outfield, 1st team; pitcher, 2nd team
- Senior Gretchen Toy, Mt. Abe, pitcher, 2nd team
- Sophomore Laci Almeida, VUHS, catcher, 2nd team
- Junior Acacia Visser, VUHS, utility, 2nd team; pitcher, honorable mention
- Senior Skyler Choiniere, MUHS, first base, 2nd team

BASEBALL

- Senior Evan Corrigan, Mt. Abe, All Lake nomination
 - Junior Stefan Johnson, Mt. Abe, All Lake nomination
 - Junior Jackson Jennings, Mt. Abe, All Lake nomination
 - Junior Cam Castillo, Mt. Abe, All Lake nomination
 - Junior Clark Crary, Mt. Abe, All Lake nomination
 - Sophomore Liam Paquette, VUHS, All Lake nomination
 - Sophomore Kaiden LeCompte, VUHS All Lake nomination
 - Junior Ryan Broulliard, MUHS, All Lake nomination
 - Freshman Lucas Wing, MUHS, All Lake nomination
 - Freshman Ezra Bliven, MUHS, All Lake nomination
 - Senior Brody Barnard, Mt. Abe, honorable mention
 - Sophomore Calvin Peck, Mt. Abe, honorable mention
 - Junior Tucker Wright, MUHS, honorable mention
 - Senior Owen Butterfield, MUHS, honorable mention
- ## BOYS' ULTIMATE
- Senior Callan McDowell, MUHS, All-State 2nd team
 - Freshman Jordan Hutchins, VUHS, outfielder, honorable mention
 - Freshman Ayla Kittredge, VUHS, shortstop, honorable mention
 - Eighth-grader Addie Zimmerman, VUHS, first base, honorable mention
 - Freshman Ava Wood, MUHS, shortstop, honorable mention

Fishing, friendship and memories in Maine

By **MATTHEW DICKERSON**

It was almost 20 years ago that my good friend David O'Hara and I first fished together on Maine's Androscoggin River. Beginning just below the confluence with the Wild River in the village of Gilead near the New Hampshire border, Dave and I and Dave's young son Michael canoed and fished our way six miles down the Androscoggin to a takeout in West Bethel. High flows following a week of rain in the northern Appalachians made for a fast trip and challenging fishing that day, but I still remember a couple trout we landed, including a lovely brook trout that took a fly in the eddy behind a flooded, brushy, gravel bar.

In addition to the joy of hanging out with a close friend in a beautiful place, and the delight of casting flies for trout, two other details had brought us to that particular stretch of river that day. The first was that Dave and I had just begun researching our third collaborative book together, which would eventually be published under the title "Downstream: Reflections on Brook Trout, Fly Fishing, and the Waters of Appalachia." The second was that in 1972 the Androscoggin had been named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 10 filthiest rivers in the United States. Although Ohio's burning Cuyahoga River was more famous and drew the nation's attention, it was the Androscoggin that most inspired the Clean Water Act, which was drafted by Maine Sen. Edmund Musky, who had grown up in the paper mill town of Rumford watching the Androscoggin flow past full of raw sewage and toxic chemicals from the many mills upriver. That by the start of the current millennium the river had been cleaned and restored enough to become a top-notch trout river (at least from Bethel upriver through its headwaters) made it a good place to visit and write about for our book. (Many trips to that river over the next few years would also influence my book "A Tale of Three Rivers: of Woolly Buggers,

Bowling Balls, Cigarette Butts, and the Future of Appalachian Brook Trout.")

Those memories felt fresh again this past week when Dave and I walked down the trail along the Wild River to fish the confluence again. It was a quiet morning in the middle of a hot week. No other cars were parked at the trailhead, and when we arrived at the confluence there was only one other angler there. Having flown out from his home in South Dakota for his Middlebury College class reunion, Dave was using one of my fly rods plus a pair of wading boots that I think belonged to my late father — a pair that appeared to be in good condition when he put them on, and gave no evidence otherwise until just about the end of our quarter-mile walk down the trail, when right on the riverbank the soles of both pairs suddenly fell off. Being the good friend that I am, I agreed to start fishing to figure out what flies the fish were hitting on while he went back to the car to change into his water sandals, so that as soon as he got back to the river I'd be able to pass important information on to him.

Dave fully understood the generous spirit behind my offer, since the two of us have been friends as well as fishing buddies since the early 1990s. For several years when Dave and his wife Christina lived and worked in Vermont, he and I fished together regularly all over the state, from Chittenden County where he lived for a few years, to tributaries of the Lamoille north of Mt. Mansfield, down through the Mad River Valley, up into little headwaters of Otter Creek in the Green Mountain National Forest south of Rutland, and of course all around Addison County. When he moved to Albuquerque to attend graduate school, being the good friend that I am I visited him more than once to fish New Mexico's

famous San Juan river. We've fished together in Yellowstone National Park, and many times together in Alaska including my only trip to the Arctic. Unfortunately, with us living many states apart, we don't get to hang out together nearly as much as I'd like, and we have to work to make it happen. Which is why I thought it important to make

the most use of our fishing time together by scouting the river while he walked back to the car — which turned out to be good, since he sprained his ankle walking the uneven rocky trail in sandals, and it took him close to an hour to get back.

Thankfully, standing in the cold river without wading shoes proved to be a good way to ice his sprained ankle, and it seemed to heal relatively quickly. I managed to land several brook trout on little mayfly nymphs, and one surprising (and fat) brown trout likely from a small self-sustaining population remnant from stocking years ago before the state began to manage the river for native brook trout. And though the lake where we were staying (in a cabin where both of us had honeymooned three years apart) had already warmed up too much for a lot of top water action, I did land one stocked brook trout that provided a nice meal for Christina.

Truth be told — though a reading of this column may suggest otherwise — most of our time together was not actually spent fishing. We ate a lot of really good food, went for walks and hikes with our spouses, and did a lot of talking about things we all consider meaningful. It has always been the beauty of rivers (and of the fish that dwell in them, and the landscapes through which they flow, and the creatures that dwell alongside them), that has kept me fishing through most of my life. And more than anything, the goodness of friendship with the folks I fish with.



MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor Columnist

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Tips

(Continued from Page 2B)
 and swing techniques, followed by a Q&A panel with the professionals. The afternoon concluded with on-course instruction.

This clinic is part of a broader VSWGGA initiative to increase participation and support for girls' golf in Vermont. The association promotes the "Five E's of Girls Golf," which focus on teaching not only the game of golf but vital life skills specific to development for girls such as building confidence, finding their own voice, identifying their talents, and inspiring them to live active and healthy lifestyles. The Five E's are:

- **EMPOWER** girls with confidence and inspire them to dream BIG!
- **ENRICH** girls' lives by expanding minds and horizons (rules, etiquette, opportunities).
- **ENGAGE** girls with positive



Photo courtesy of Susan Rand

female role models and mentors.

- **ENERGIZE** girls' passion for the game of golf (learning AND fun).
- **EXERCISE** girls' minds and bodies by helping them unlock

their full potential.

Given the enthusiastic feedback from the participants at this summer's Girls Clinic, leaders in the association look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

Burlington No. 1 doubles if not for falling to the Tiger pair.

Schoen commended senior Adrien Malhotra's effort that day. He was up against the individual tournament champion, Niah LeMay.

The only match that went to three sets was the No. 4 singles round, featuring Tiger Leo Swenton.

The loss was just the second this season for the freshman. He won his first set, 6-4, before falling 6-2 and 1-0 (10-5), and he was the last to finish that day.

By that time, the temperature had cooled slightly and the clouds had hidden the sun.

"They're a young team, and again, winning or losing really doesn't matter," Schoen said. "It's about sports-personship, and how they play, they're totally into it, they're engaged. This is good for

boys."

While accepting their second place plaque and organizing for a picture with it, Schoen's players didn't look like many teams would after dropping the state championship.

"They're great. They're not crushed, they're just like, 'all right, on to the next thing.'"

Schoen's ethos when it comes to competition is part of what's aided MUHS boys' tennis in reaching at least the semifinals every year since 2021. The Tigers won the title in 2024 in a 4-3 defeat of Champlain Valley Union.

And closing the season with a victory could very well be on tap next year — six of Schoen's players have at least another season to go, including junior Charles Young, who progressed to the semifinal round of the state individual tournament this year, Cook-Yoder, who hasn't

missed a state doubles final since his freshman year when he and his partner won it, and Swenton, who went 13-2 during his first year on the team.

Here's how each match shook out at the state championships:

- No. 1 singles Oscar Crainich (Burl) def. Charles Young (MUHS), 6-0, 6-1.
- No. 2 singles Niah Lemay (Burl) def. Adrien Malhotra (MUHS), 6-3, 6-1.
- No. 3 singles Sam Wick (Burl) def. Spencer Copeland (MUHS), 6-0, 6-0.
- No. 4 singles Oliver Crainich (Burl) def. Leo Swenton (MUHS), 4-6, 6-2, 1-0 (10-5).
- No. 5 singles John Minor (Burl) def. Xander Lu (MUHS), 6-0, 6-1.
- No. 1 doubles Ben Koh and Miles Kenny (Burl) def. Nathan Stefani and Nate Cook-Yoder (MUHS), 6-4, 6-3.
- No. 2 doubles Jaxin Dubose and Charles Murphy (Burl) defeated Arthur Calvi and Alex Andersson (MUHS), 6-1, 6-1.

"This just wasn't our day. And that's OK. We made it to the finals."

— Coach Ken Schoen



SENIOR NATHAN STEFANI gets ready to serve the ball to a Burlington pair during his and junior Nate Cook-Yoder's doubles match in the state championship at Saint Michael's on Thursday, June 11. The Tigers fell, 7-0.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri



TIGER JUNIOR CHARLES Young returns the ball to a Burlington tennis player during the state championship matches at Saint Michael's in Colchester on Thursday, June 11. MUHS fell 7-0.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri



EAGLE CATCHER CLARK Cray celebrates with his teammates after winning the D-II state championship at Centennial Field in Burlington on Saturday. The junior had an RBI that helped Mt. Abe defeat Lyndon, 5-3.

Independent photo/Steve James

Champs

(Continued from Page 1B)

early on, but I think it was really good to have the boys all get fired up after we got some hits," Mount Abe junior Abraham Ready said.

The Eagles managed to throw out a Viking heading for first, moving quick enough to keep the Lyndon runner on third base from darting home.

But then a well-placed ground ball that split the Eagle second and third basemen spelled doom for the Eagles, driving in both Vikings waiting on second and third.

Corrigan struck out the next Viking batter to get his team back on offense.

"I got a little nervous," Barnard said. "Little bit, but then I knew we were going to get to that guy eventually, and just we had to shut them down after that. And then we'd be ready to go."

Corrigan said that moment was particularly challenging.

"I guess starting the game down was kind of hard," he said. "But I knew we'd get it back."

In the bottom of the inning, the Eagles gave themselves a chance, but it was one, two, three for the Viking outfield. The first went to the Lyndon right fielder, the second to left and the third to center.

Back on defense in the top of the third, the Eagles countered the Vikings with three quick outs of their own.

It wasn't until the bottom of the third that Mt. Abe began chipping away at the deficit. It started with junior Irie Mazur hitting a line drive toward second base.

Mazur successfully stole second on the first pitch to junior Jackson Jennings, who bunted his teammate to third. Jennings was thrown out at first, but Mazur was safe with just one more leg to go to get the Eagles on the board.

Junior Clark Cray made sure of that, with a ground ball to first base. Cray headed back to the dugout, but with an RBI in hand.

With the score 2-1 and with two outs, junior Stefan Johnson was walked and Ready hit by a pitch. A ball hit to right field for an out ended the inning.

After a Viking got to first in the top of the fourth, Corrigan threw three consecutive strikeouts.

He was up first in the bottom of the fourth and slammed a double deep into left field.

Classmate Brody Barnard tapped

a bunt that advanced Corrigan to third. Barnard was also safe at first due to a Viking error.

With sophomore Calvin Peck up to bat next, Barnard stole second. The Viking catcher sent the ball there to try to get him out, but the senior was too quick. That play also gave Corrigan the opening he needed to dart home. He was safe on the slide and tied the game, 2-2.

With no outs and a runner in scoring position, Peck hit a ground ball that advanced Barnard to third. Peck was safe at first by a split second, and stole second on the next Eagle batter's turn.

After the Viking pitcher got the team a first out, Jennings was back up. Barnard stole home on a wild pitch that went past the Viking catcher, upping the score to 3-2.

Jennings hit a line drive to right center, getting himself safely to first and driving in Peck for a fourth Eagle run. Freshman Thatcher Leggett replaced Jennings at first base as a pinch runner.

Cray bunted and was out at first, but got Leggett to second.

Johnson singled, allowing Leggett to round the second half of the infield and slide safe at home. While the Vikings tried to get Leggett out, Johnson advanced to second.

A caught flyball to right field ended the inning with the Eagles up, 5-2.

Besides a single, there were no Viking hits in the top of the fifth.

In the bottom of the fifth, with two outs the Eagles had the bases loaded. But stranded all three runners on base.

Ready, who was dubbed the Lake Division Player of the Year, came in for Corrigan to pitch the final two innings.

A double play in the top of the sixth whittled down the Vikings' chances of catching the Eagles.

Johnson made a diving catch that had a good chance of dropping in centerfield. So good that a Viking

on first base had blazed over halfway to second. While he was scrambling back to tag up, Johnson threw the ball to first base, getting the third out.

The Eagles weren't able to build more of a cushion in the bottom of the inning, though the team still had some wiggle room.

Mt. Abe entered the top of the seventh with just three outs between themselves and the title.

Ready needed just three pitches to strike the first Viking batter out. Lyndon got a runner to second on an Eagle error.

A grounder hit to Ready and thrown to first brought Mt. Abe closer to victory, and the Viking runner to third. Another error on a wild pitch that went past the Viking catcher, upping the score to 5-3, and putting one on first. The next Viking batter was hit by a pitch, advancing a player to second and putting another on first.

With two outs, and the winning run up to bat, Ready threw a strikeout, capturing the Eagles the D-II title.

"Abe pitches well. He always gets it done. Finds a way," Corrigan said.

For Ready, trust and confidence were what carried him through the final two innings.

"I was just trying to pitch my game. I didn't feel the best in the bullpen, but I just trusted that I could get myself into it," he said.

"I just pitch with confidence. I knew I was gonna get that last out and I knew I was gonna bring it home," Ready added.

He noted how special it was to have his team celebrate around the mound after the final out.

Barnard remarked how enjoyable this iteration of Eagle baseball was to coach.

"These guys have worked so hard, they deserve it. This team has put in all the effort all the way through," he said.

"What a great group. I couldn't be more proud of these guys. It's incredible."

"What a great group. I couldn't be more proud of these guys. It's incredible."

— Coach Jason Barnard

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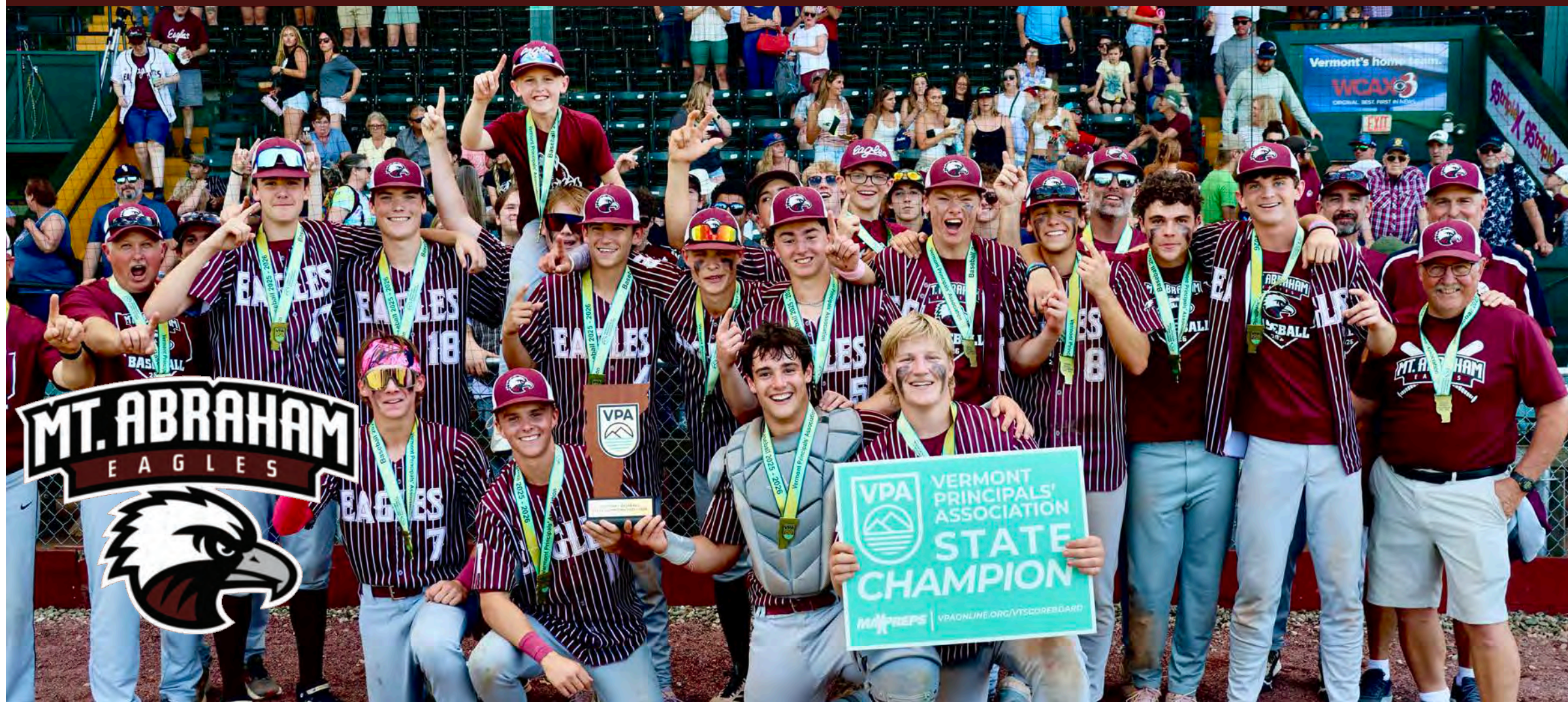
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Evan Corrigan	12	Assistant Coach: Bryan Peck
Cameron Castillo	11	Asst. Coach: Eric Jennings
Clark Cray	11	Asst. Coach: Jeff Stetson
Wyatt Giroux	11	Asst. Coach: Dennis Filion
Jackson Jennings	11	Asst. Coach: Adam Cray
Stefan Johnson	11	Athletic Trainer: Meg Quiet
Irie Mazur	11	
Abraham Ready	11	
Calvin Peck	10	
Lucas Estey	10	
Thatcher Leggett	9	
Kaiden Pelland	9	
Jaxson Sias	9	
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jun 18 THURSDAY

Interfaith Vigil for Peace, Justice, and Compassion in Middlebury. Thursday, June 18, 5:30-6 p.m., Marbleworks amphitheater. People of all wisdom traditions are welcome to join us for a half hour vigil for peace, justice and compassion which will offer readings interspersed with periods of silence for reflection/prayer/ meditation. We will close by joining our voices in song. These monthly vigils are organized in response to our national and world crisis, by members of Middlebury Indivisible. Free.

Heck Yeah Party for Pride Month in Lincoln. Thursday, June 18, 4-6 p.m., Lincoln Library, 222 W River Rd. Heck Yeah is a community art-making event. Every day, LGBTQIA+ youth face a barrage of untrue, harmful messages. Community members gather at these events to create messages of affirmation ("heck yeahs") in the form of letters and artwork, which will then be sent to Vermont's queer, trans and non-binary youth across the state. This is a family-friendly event and open to all ages. Ice cream, lawn games, and art supplies will be provided—just bring your positive energy.

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.

"Trolley Tires to Rubber Tires": Bristol Historical Society presentation. Thursday, June 18, 7 p.m., Bristol Historical Society. Railroad researcher and historian Jim Jones will present a program on the history of Burlington's Streetcar Era. For more info visit bristolhistoricalvt.org.

Third Thursday Brown Bag Lunch Series #1 in Cornwall. Thursday, June 18, noon, Ethan and Mary Baker Allen DAR Chapter House, 2706 Rte. 30. Bring your lunch for this series of talks celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Join us for an informal discussion about Cornwall's European Settlers led by Cy Tall. Each month through September we'll explore a topic related to the history of Cornwall and Addison County. Free.

jun 19 FRIDAY

Have-A-Heart June Food Distribution in Bristol. Friday, June 19, 5-6 p.m., Saint Ambrose Church, 11 School St. Have-A-Heart food shelf will hold a drive through food distribution event, no registration needed. Residents of Bristol, New Haven, Starksboro, Lincoln and Monkton are welcome. Newcomers are always welcomed.

Fish Fry Benefit in Middlebury. Friday, June 19, 5-7 p.m., Addison Country VFW Post 7823, 530 Exchange St. Haddock or butterfly shrimp. Baked potato or French fries. Coleslaw. Eat in or take out. Benefits veterans programs. \$16. Call 802-388-9468.

Bingo Night Benefiting the Fire Department in Bridport. Friday, June 19, 6 p.m., Bridport Fire Department, under the pavilion. Bring your family, friends and lucky bingo dauber for an evening of community fun, great prizes and friendly competition. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Bridport Fire Department and help support the volunteers and equipment that serve our community year-round.

jun 20 SATURDAY

Meet Jonathan Hescocock for State Representative in Whiting. Saturday, June 20, 9 a.m.-noon, Whiting Store. Come meet Jonathan Hescocock who is running for the Vermont House of Representatives Addison-Rutland District. Stop by and share your concerns, ideas and get to know your local candidate.

Let's Go Birding with MALT and Otter Creek Audubon in Middlebury. Saturday, June 20, 9-11 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour Street Extension. Join MALT and Otter Creek Audubon to identify birds by sight and song on a guided morning bird walk. Suitable for beginners and experienced birders alike. Family-friendly event with light snacks and a hands-on activities table.

Lawrence Library pop-up opening and summer reading celebration in Bristol. Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m., 74 Munsill Ave., Suite 100. Check out the pop-up location while the library is under renovation. Come grab a book and some free Ben and Jerry's ice cream and celebrate summer literacy. Kids will be able to sign up and create their custom summer reading goal, collect their summer Legends Swag Bag, and participate in fun activities. Free.

Bridport Day. Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m. 5 p.m., 82 Crown Point Road. Celebrate Bridport at the annual festival with activities, music, vendors and more.

Walking Tour of Middlebury. Saturday, June 20, 2-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Learn about the history of Middlebury with a 60-minute, 1-mile narrated walking tour. Follow Todd Goodyear as he weaves through town and time, from the 1780s to the 1980s, spotlighting the people who helped shape Middlebury's character. \$20 for adults; \$12 for ages 13 and under.

"Singing for Our Lives" Singalong Gathering in Bristol. Saturday, June 20, 5-7 p.m., Town Green gazebo. Come and find sanctuary in singing songs of courage, strength, resilience, and peace. All voices welcome! All songs taught; lyric sheets provided. Free; donations welcome.

SpIN Summer Solstice Gathering in Ripton. Saturday, June 20, 7:30-9 p.m., Spirit in Nature Paths, take Route 125, turn on to Goshen Road. Follow the lantern-lit path to the Sacred Circle, joining friends and neighbors in the warmth of community around a fire. Pour a cup of tea and roast some s'mores. Help us in the contemplative act of piecing together a nature mandala. We'll have a gently guided time of "going out" into the land for quiet observation and "coming in" for sharing the experience. Feel free to bring a drum or other percussion instrument, flashlight, a poem or a thought to share.



Soulful strumming

MUSICIAN COIOE DEFRANCESCO, pictured here at last year's Sunday Sessions series, will return to the Ralph Myhre Golf Course on Sunday, June 21 from 4-7 p.m. with her heartfelt songs blending blues, jazz and Americana.

Independent photo/Maria Barr

jun 21 SUNDAY

Fire Department Father's Day BBQ in Bridport. Sunday, June 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bridport Fire Station, 82 Crown Point Road. Meals include your choice of chicken or steak, potato salad, baked beans, chips, a dinner roll, iced tea, lemonade or milk and a creamee for dessert. All proceeds support the fire department by funding equipment maintenance and upgrades. \$18.

jun 22 MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, June 22, 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.

52nd annual Strawberry Festival in Vergennes. Monday, June 22, 6-8 p.m., Vergennes City Green. Enjoy homemade pound cake, fresh strawberries, vanilla ice cream and a beverage. Vergennes City Band will provide music. \$8 or 2 for \$15. For more information, contact Marion at 802-417-4300.

Starksboro's Revolutionary War Veterans talk in Starksboro. Monday, June 22, 7 p.m., Starksboro Village Meeting House, 2875 Route 116. Presenters are Elsa Gilbertson, Michael Blakeslee and Kevin Hanson. The program will cover the soldiers and veterans who were the proprietors of the 1780 town charter, and the veterans who came to settle the town starting in 1787. Attendees are welcome to share their own family stories of veterans who came to Starksboro after the war. Light refreshments afterwards. Parking in the nearby town center lot. Free.

jun 24 WEDNESDAY

Cribbage Night in Lincoln. Wednesday, June 24, 6:30-8 p.m., Lincoln Library, 222 W River Rd. All experience levels are welcome. If you don't know how to play, no worries, we'll teach you. If you have a board, please bring it along. We'll try to remember to have snacks on hand.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday from June 17 to August 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 25 THURSDAY

Community storytelling night in New Haven. Thursday, June 25, 6 p.m., New Haven Town Hall. Gather to share and listen to true, first-person stories, and connect through the power of storytelling. First time storytellers encouraged. Interested in telling a story? Email Samara Anderson at anderson_samara@yahoo.com.

jun 27 SATURDAY

Blood drive in Vergennes. Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 862 US-7. Donors of all blood types and those giving platelets are needed. All who give June 1-28 will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice, plus automatic entry for a chance to win one of two \$7,500 gift cards. For more info visit RedCrossBlood.org/June.

Biodiversity Builders: Creating and Implementing Your Plan in Vergennes. Saturday, June 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. Second in a series of hands-on workshops demonstrating how to bring native plants into outdoor spaces. Native plants boost biodiversity, support pollinators and birds, and reduce maintenance, fertilizer use, and runoff. Learn why native plants matter, how to assess and prepare your site, choose

the right plants, convert your lawn step-by-step, and maintain long-term success. Presented by Lisa Sausville and Ashley Robinson. For more information email Ashley at arobinsonid@gmail.com.

Summerfest on the Green in New Haven. Saturday, June 27, 4-7 p.m., the town green. Bring your Volunteer Fireman's Chicken BBQ dinner over to the green and join your neighbors for an evening of fun. 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. Parking is behind the church.

New Haven Neighbors music & family event in New Haven. Saturday, June 27, New Haven Town Green. A family-friendly music and community event will take place during the Fireman's BBQ dinner, featuring entertainment and activities for all ages. Save the date; more details to be announced.

Recovery in color: mocktail paint & sip in Middlebury. Sunday, June 28, 11-1 p.m., Turning Point Center, 79 Court Street. Alcohol-free paint & sip with guided art, mocktails and community. Open to all in recovery. Supplies provided. Free.

Presentation: Inquiry into the Revolutionary Mind: What Were You Thinking Philip Schuyler, Benedict Arnold, and John Trumbull? in Orwell. Sunday, June 28, 2-3:30 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road. Historian Paul Andrischin turns on the time machine to interview Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler, Gen. Benedict Arnold, and Lt. Col. John Trumbull about the decision 250 years ago to build a new American defense on the "strong ground" of Mount Independence.

jun 29 MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, June 29, 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.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, June 29, 7-8:15 p.m., Bristol Masons Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets. Semi-monthly cribbage night welcomes community players for an evening of cards. Free.

jun 30 TUESDAY

June Evening Book Group in Bristol. Tuesday, June 30, 6-7 p.m., 74 Munsill Ave., Suite 100. This month's book is "Woodworking" by Emily St. James. Set in a small South Dakota town, a closeted trans teacher and her openly trans student strike up a friendship in this contemporary novel exploring identity, trans visibility and community. Stop by the new pop-up library location to pick up your copy. Free.

july 1 WEDNESDAY

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, July 1, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday from June 17 to August 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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East Middlebury cemetery

New resting place opens for cremated ashes

By JING WILLIAMS

EAST MIDDLEBURY — To save space at and accommodate the rising popularity of cremation, a new columbarium has been installed at Prospect Cemetery off Case Street in East Middlebury. It caps a multi-year effort to build the resting place for ashes of the deceased.

Each of the 64 niches in the new columbarium, made from gray and black granite from Barre, is 12 inches x 12 inches x 14 inches deep and has space

for two sets of ashes. Inscription will be available on the front of the niches. Spots are now available for purchase.

Mike Newton from Prospect Cemetery Association said that the move to build the columbarium developed as space at the cemetery, which dates to the early 1800s, has dwindled in recent years, coupled with an uptick in cremations. The cemetery has been working on the columbarium for multiple years and began installation

around two years ago.

Newton said he believes Prospect is the only cemetery with a columbarium in Middlebury. Without the need for a headstone and burial, the cost should be less for customers.

The spaces in the columbarium are available for East Middlebury residents. To find out more information or purchase a space, leave a message for Newton at 802-349-4517.



GRAY AND BLACK granite in a new columbarium at Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury houses 64 niches where families can store the ashes of cremated loved ones.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Lincoln

Have a news tip?
Call Dawn Mikkelsen at 453-7029

NEWS

LINCOLN — The Lincoln Historical Society Museum is now open for the season through mid-October, welcoming visitors on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from noon to 4 p.m. This year's featured Revolutionary-era exhibits offer a fascinating look into our local history.

The first exhibit, Lincoln's Lincoln: A Revolutionary Hero and the Sword that Made America, highlights the town's 1780 charter and explores how the community came to be named for Revolutionary War Major General Benjamin Lincoln. The second exhibit, Vermont in the Revolution provides a deep dive into the local impact of the war, offering a glimpse into the daily life of a Revolutionary soldier and sharing the stories of the veterans who chose to settle in Lincoln after the fighting ended.

Kick off the countdown to

America's 250th Anniversary with a special open house at the Lincoln Historical Society Museum on Sunday, June 28, from noon to 4 p.m. The community is invited to dive into local heritage and discover how Lincoln and its neighbors have made history from the dawn of the American Revolution to the present day.

The event features interactive activities for all ages. Visitors can write down a wish for America's next 250 years and hang it on a replica "Liberty Tree" inspired by the original colonial rallying point for the anti-British resistance. They will archive these wishes to be preserved for the next major national anniversary. For younger history buffs, there will be an opportunity to try on traditional colonial-era clothing. Refreshments will also be served, including cookies and the varieties of tea that were famously tossed

into Boston Harbor.

The open house also marks the launch of a regional summer adventure: Around Addison County: A Passport to History. This collaborative project spans eight neighboring towns across Addison and Chittenden counties, including Addison, Bristol, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro.

By grabbing a passport and exploring the unique historic sites across these communities, participants can document their journey on a scorecard. Visitors can earn up to eight distinct, custom-designed 250th commemorative town pins—one for each town where all local sites are visited. The passport challenge runs through October 31.

Soccer fans and local community members are throwing on their jerseys as Lincoln prepares to

(See Lincoln, Page 10B)



ORWELL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS hose down the slip and slide after Saturday's Picnic Palooza to help kids cool off and have fun.

Independent photos/Sean Dougherty

Orwell kicks off summer with a picnic

By SEAN DOUGHERTY

ORWELL — The Orwell Store Community Trust on Saturday held a "Picnic Palooza" to bring attention to their efforts to fill the void left by the closing of Buxton's Store in 2024.

During the celebration, the Orwell Town Green featured free face painting and ice cream from Ben and Jerry's, games and live music by The Sap Tappers.

The Orwell Store Community Trust tent, staffed by member Trish Dougherty, passed out surveys and FAQ brochures to attendees. Local residents answered questions about what they expected out of a new general store and ideas on how to serve the community in the future.

Many attendees took the time to stop by their tent and fill in surveys asking what they want out of a new general store. Questions ranged from preferred hours of operation to which shelf items Orwellians would expect to stock a new store.

Orwell's Volunteer Fire Department hosed down the



DAVID RUSSELL WAS among many local residents who stopped by the Picnic Palooza in Orwell on Saturday to answer questions about what they expected out of a new general store and ideas on how to serve the community in the future.

slip and slide after the Palooza, which was perfect for beating the heat. It drew in young residents of Orwell and their parents alongside other activities like free face painting, ice cream from Ben and Jerrys, and live music by The Sap Tappers.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Join Melanie Cote and a welcoming group of poetry lovers on Saturday, June 20 for the monthly Poetry Club meeting at the community room of the town office. They will meet from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Bring a poem or two to share and discuss with the group. This can be your own composed poem or one from a favorite author. If you have questions, contact Melanie at cotem@ymail.com.

Stitch and Spin continues on Sunday, June 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you like to knit, crochet, embroider, spin or any other portable craft, join this group for a morning of comradeship and conversation at the Russell

Memorial Library. This is another great chance to see what's at the library for all of your resource needs as it will be open at the same time.

Also on Sunday, June 21, join Eugenie Doyle and others for an evening of Ashtanga yoga. from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Enjoy gentle movements and great conversation in the relaxing atmosphere of the Community Room at the Town Hall. For more information for this free class, call 802-989-3378 or email edoyle@gmavt.net.

You still have time to drop off book donations until June 23 for the June 28 annual Russell Memorial Library Strawberry Festival and Book Sale. Drop off

your donation during regular open hours please. The library could use helpers to sort books and to pick strawberries for this festivity. Call the library if you have questions about what can be donated or if you would like to volunteer your help at 802-453-4471.

Also check with the library for weekly and monthly events happening.

Check in with Sam Champagne for openings for Taekwondo intro classes. These classes are for children and adults on separate evenings which begins June 15 for children and June 17 for adults. Call 802-730-3015 or email info@champagnesbba.com.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

We're off to the races!

We received one Garden Game entry this week, a rhubarb stalk from Dorothy Hayes measuring an impressive 25.5 inches long. It's the first of its kind this season but it's going to be a tough one to beat!

Dorothy says her rhubarb is destined for pies at the St. Stephen's Peasant Market pie booth. Yum!

This warm weather is certainly giving local gardens a much-needed boost.

What will you enter in next week's Garden Game?



Did you know?

Long before it became a pie favorite, rhubarb was prized as a medicinal plant in China for more than 2,000 years. It was so valuable that explorers like Marco Polo sought out its origins, and it was once traded alongside silk and precious gems. Now that sugar is easily accessible to tame its tartness, rhubarb is a bona fide baked good superstar.



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) - Dorothy Hayes, 25.5"
- 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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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalanonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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Public Meetings

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Services

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

LAWN CARE Mow lawns, gardening, and other odd jobs. Low rates. Call John 802-999-2194.

MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

SOFT LANDING EQUESTRIAN. Horse boarding, riding lessons. Experience with horses since 2012. Call 802-398-7361 or 802-307-2930.

SPRING GUTTER CLEANING: call or text Ian @802-349-7871

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Garage Sales

CORNWALL RESIDENTS Cornwall Recreation Committee is looking for people to join in a town wide garage/lawn sale. Email daidy228@gmail.com for more information

MANY ITEMS FROM soup to nuts. Also some free items. 738 Boardman Street, Middlebury. Saturday, June 20 8am-4pm. Rain or shine. Please! No early birds. Thank you!

WEEKEND SALE Garage sale this Saturday June 20th from 8-2 and Sunday June 21st from 9-noon at 2829 Rt.7 Leicester, Pioneer Auto building with the Gorilla holding the Volkswagen. 4 Classic Boats for sale and Jet skis with trailer and lift and lots of boat related stuff like life jackets, anchors, ladders and new and used dock systems. Household, collectibles and more. This is indoors so it is rain or shine. One special item is a 1956 Ford F-250,V8 4 speed. Completely restored on sale for \$24,995.00. Call 802-349-7431 for specific questions and leave a message please.

WEEKEND SALE Sat 6/20 9-4. Sun 6/21 9-1. Bennington pottery dishware, limoge dinnerware, pottery bottles, king comforter with shams and accent pillows, and other items too numerous to mention. 1217 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven

Clean out your garage so you have room for the car!

Advertise your Garage Sale here! Call 802-388-4944



Help Wanted

EVENING FRONT DESK/CONCIERGE. Swift House Inn - Middlebury, Vermont. We're hiring a front desk professional to anchor our evening shift. This position plays a pivotal role: greeting arriving guests, fielding questions, supporting restaurant reservations, and ensuring the property is secure and guest-ready for the next day. If you thrive on creating memorable experiences and want to grow in the hospitality industry, this is for you. Swift House Inn has 20 guest rooms across three historic buildings, and is home to Jessica's at Swift House Inn, one of Vermont's most celebrated fine dining restaurants. Responsibilities: Welcome and check in arriving guests with warmth and professionalism. Answer phones, manage room and restaurant reservations. Provide local recommendations and concierge-style service. Troubleshoot guest concerns and offer proactive solutions. Liaise with Jessica's restaurant team for smooth communication. Keep common areas tidy, cozy, and well-presented. Follow nightly checklists and procedures. Lock up buildings and hand off to the overnight security team. You Are... Deeply interested in the hotel and lodging industry. A natural host who loves creating great guest experiences in Addison County. Communicative, warm, and gracious under pressure. Obsessed with details and good systems. Reliable, punctual, and self-directed. Shift & Compensation. Hours: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Schedule: Part-time, includes some weekends and holidays. Pay: \$20-\$22 Hourly, commensurate with experience, bonuses and tips. Apply Today. Email your resume and a short note to owner@swifthouseinn.com. Learn more about us at swifthouseinn.com

For Sale

CHIPPER DR Chipper purchased new in 2007. 13 hp Vanguard engine - pull start. \$1000 - firm cash only. 802-377-5427

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

For Rent

BENSON 1BR/1BA cottage \$1,500/mo, elec/hot water incl. No smoking. Refs/ deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com.

BENSON 3BR/3.5BA back-of-house apt. elec/heat/hot water included. Chef's kitchen: \$2,750/mo. No smoking. Refs/deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com

Help Wanted

RESPITE CARE BRANDON Seeking an individual who would be willing to provide respite support/ care in your home. This is a per diem flexible position for an elderly lady. Flexible employer and excellent pay. For more information 802-398-5657 or respite2022@yahoo.com

For Sale

CHIPPER DR Chipper purchased new in 2007. 13 hp Vanguard engine - pull start. \$1000 - firm cash only. 802-377-5427

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

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BENSON 3BR/3.5BA back-of-house apt. elec/heat/hot water included. Chef's kitchen: \$2,750/mo. No smoking. Refs/deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com

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.

For Rent

BENSON 1BR/1BA cottage \$1,500/mo, elec/hot water incl. No smoking. Refs/ deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com.

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BENSON 3BR/3.5BA back-of-house apt. elec/heat/hot water included. Chef's kitchen: \$2,750/mo. No smoking. Refs/deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com

For Rent

BENSON 3BR/3.5BA back-of-house apt. elec/heat/hot water included. Chef's kitchen: \$2,750/mo. No smoking. Refs/deposit required. Contact info@pleasantvalleyrentals.com

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

LEICESTER: Active, outdoorsy professional in her 50s with rural home to share, 15 minutes to Middlebury. \$650/month. Must be dog-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, A.J. Neri Property Rentals.

SALISBURY BASEMENT APT Fully furnished with internet, washer/dryer, one bedroom. No pets, no smoking, and no vaping. Available June 1st, \$1450 a month. 802-238-6497

SALISBURY: Share home, 10 minutes to Middlebury, with independent retiree who enjoys singing and gardening. Looking for compatible housemate to share an occasional meal. \$650/month. Must be cat-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

Help Wanted

Removal Technician
Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Homes is seeking a dedicated and professional Removal Technician to join our compassionate care team. In this role, you will be responsible for the dignified transportation of decedents from their place of death to our funeral home.

- What You'll Do:**
- Respond promptly to calls at residential homes, hospitals, and care facilities.
 - Maintain the highest level of professionalism and empathy when interacting with grieving families.
 - Safely operate company vehicles and specialized equipment.
 - Ensure all necessary documentation and identification procedures are followed precisely.

- What we're looking for:**
- **Professionalism:** A clean, polished appearance and a respectful demeanor.
 - **Physical Stamina:** Ability to lift 75+ lbs and navigate stairs or tight spaces.
 - **Availability:** Must be willing to participate in an "on-call" rotation, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Per diem.
 - **Requirements:** A valid driver's license and a clean driving record are essential.

Why Join Us?
We offer a supportive work environment where your contribution truly matters to the community.

To Apply:
Please send your resume to sandersonf@comcast.net or visit us in person at 117 South Main Street Middlebury, VT.



Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Town of Ripton Assistant Clerk/Treasurer

The Town of Ripton is accepting applications for an assistant clerk/treasurer to work 8-12 hours per week and twice that amount during election weeks.

The successful candidate will train with the current asst. clerk/treasurer from July-Dec. 2026.

A job description is available at riptonvt.org or by contacting the town office (802-388-2266).

A letter of interest and qualifications may be sent to: **Town Clerk, PO Box 10, Ripton, VT 05766, or townoffice@riptonvt.org.**

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

volunteer

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Check here every week for local volunteer opportunities!



Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: \$ _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
Internet Listing: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

<p>For Rent</p> <p>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 cafés, 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.</p>	<p>For Rent</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Att. Farmers</p> <p>1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.</p>
	<p>Wood Heat</p> <p>DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.</p>	<p>Cars</p> <p>77 CORVETTE ZZ4 motor 355HP, rack & pinion, AC, \$15,500 firm. 94 Chevy Silverado ext. cab 350 auto 4WD \$8,000. 802-877-1304. Leave message, ask for Dave.</p>
		<p>Wanted</p> <p>LIONS CLUB: needs good items for their annual auction. Please no appliances or electronics. Call for pick up: 802-578-3518 or 802-779-6823. Help us, help others.</p>

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION
RUTLAND UNIT CASE NO. 26 CV-02600
83 Center St. Date: May 21, 2026
Rutland, VT 05701
www.vermontjudiciary.org

NOTICE OF HEARING

Forestdale Mobile Home Park, Inc. v. Warren Keough et al

This is to notify you to appear at the Court named above in connection with the above-named case on:

DURATION: 30 Minutes DATE: June 29, 2026 TIME: 2:00 PM

HEARING RE: Merits Hearing

"YOU MAY ATTEND THIS HEARING IN PERSON AT THE COURTHOUSE OR REMOTELY. See attached instructions for remote appearance."

*****PARTIES SHALL EXCHANGE ANY EXHIBITS OR OTHER EVIDENCE 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING*****

*****ANY MEDIA EXHIBITS (VIDEOS, AUDIO) MUST BE UPLOADED TO VDEP (VERMONT DIGITAL EVIDENCE PORTAL). INSTRUCTIONS ARE ATTACHED*****

Civil Division Clerk

Any individual with a disability requiring assistance accessing the services, programs, and/or activities at the Courthouse should contact the Clerk's office at the above address for further assistance.

STATE OF VERMONT CIVIL DIVISION
SUPERIOR COURT RUTLAND UNIT CASE NO. 26 CV-02600

In re Abandoned Mobile Home of
WARREN KEOUGH and ASHLEY DUNBAR

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff and complains to this Honorable Court as follows:

- Plaintiff Forestdale Mobile Home Park, Inc. is a Vermont corporation with offices in the City of Barre, County of Washington, and State of Vermont.
- Plaintiff is the owner of certain lands in the Town of Brandon, County of Rutland, State of Vermont, which are commonly referred to the Forestdale Mobile Home Park (hereinafter, the "Park").
- On information and belief, Defendants reside in Binghamton, County of Broome, State of New York.
- The last known mailing address for the Defendants is 219 Pennsylvania Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903.
- The Defendants are the owners of a mobile home located in the Park, at 19 Bridge Park in the Town of Brandon, in the County of Rutland (the "Mobile Home"), as shown on the copy of the Vermont Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
- The Mobile Home is a 1979 Olympic Mobile Home, 14 ft. x 56 ft., Serial Number 2560.
- The Defendants are the last known residents of the Mobile Home.
- Creditors holding claims against the Mobile Home are:
 - Forestdale Mobile Home Park, Inc. for overdue and unpaid rent in the amount of \$3,180.00.
 - Town of Brandon for unpaid property taxes in the amount of \$795.44.
 - Town of Brandon Fire District #1 for unpaid water and sewer bills in the amount of \$4,260.21.
- The facts supporting the claim that this Mobile Home is abandoned are as follows:
 - No one has lived in the Mobile Home for over a year.
 - There is no heat.
 - There is no water service.
 - There is no electricity.
- The facts supporting the claim that this mobile home is unfit for human habitation are as follows:
 - The Mobile Home does not appear to be structurally sound.
 - The pipes have frozen and burst.
 - The Mobile Home contains significant garbage and refuse and is in an extremely unsanitary condition, as shown in the photos attached hereto as Exhibit 2.
- As of the date of this Complaint, the amount of rent due the Park is as follows: August of 2025 through May of 2026; 10 months at \$318.00 per month, for a total of \$3,180.00.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff brings this action seeking the following relief:

- An Order approving transfer of title to the Mobile Home to the Plaintiff so that it may be removed from the Park and properly disposed of;
- Such other and further relief as the Court deems just.

I declare that the above statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if the above statements are false, I will be subject to the penalty of perjury or to their sanctions in the discretion of the court.

Eugene H. Bisson
Eugene H. Bisson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of May, 2026

[Signature]
Notary Public
My Commission expires 01/31/2027

CONTACT GOV. PHIL SCOTT

1-800-649-6825 (toll-free in Vt. only) • 802-828-3333

109 State Street, Pavillion
 Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101
www.vermont.gov/governor

ATM theft thwarted, investigation ongoing

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on June 13 responded to the attempted theft of an ATM machine from the Vermont Federal Credit Union (VFCU) on Court Street.

This was the fourth ATM caper in Middlebury in less than three months. Back in March, thieves stole ATM machines from three separate Middlebury stores within the space of 10 days. Those three thefts occurred during the early morning hours and the culprit(s) followed a similar method of smashing their way into the buildings for quick access and escape.

"In this (VFCU) case, they didn't gain access to the ATM and were thwarted," Middlebury Police Sgt. William Austin said. "As for the other cases, the investigations are ongoing, and leads are currently being followed up on."

The thieves in March stole one ATM each from Kinney Drugs at

Middlebury Police Log

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

Anyone with information on any or all of these cases is asked to contact Middlebury police at 802-388-3191.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a medical call in the South Pleasant Street area on June 8.
- Conducted downtown foot patrols on June 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14.
- Responded to "juvenile issues" at the Middlebury Union High School campus and in the Schoolhouse Hill Road areas on

- June 8.
- Arrested Timothy G. Farr, 72, of Middlebury on an outstanding warrant on June 8.
- Cited Megan Smith, 57, of Weybridge for driving under the influence, following a stop on Mill Street on June 8.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS at the scene of a medical emergency off Fields Road on June 9.
- Helped a local resident who was victimized through a scam on June 9.
- Arrested Leonard R. Kenyon, 61, who is homeless, on an active arrest warrant on June 9.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint at The Centre shopping plaza on June 9.
- Investigated a complaint about a man allegedly violating a restraining order in the Court Street area on June 9.
- Gave a ride home to a man found walking shoeless on Court Street on June 9.

- Checked on the welfare of a man found incapacitated in the Main Street area on June 9.
- Conducted a foot patrol in the Middlebury College area around South Main Street on June 9.
- On June 10, cited Timothy Tracy, 20, of Middlebury for domestic assault following an alleged incident at a Jackson Lane home.
- Served a no-trespass order on June 10 on a person who wasn't wanted at a North Pleasant Street business.
- Arrested Roy Ashley, 59, of Weybridge for violation of a court order on June 10.
- Gave a ride, to his campsite, to an unhoused patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on June 10.
- Responded to a "juvenile issue" in the Valley View Drive neighborhood on June 11.
- Checked the welfare of a juvenile on the MUHS campus on (See Jump, Page 12B)

Lincoln

(Continued from Page 6B)

most community watch parties for Team USA's upcoming World Cup matches. Organizers have lined up these viewing experiences to bring neighbors together, with all donations raised directly benefiting Lincoln Sports youth soccer programs.

The "main event" will be held on

Friday, June 19, at 3 p.m. behind the firehouse at the Lincoln Sports field. This family-friendly outdoor rally features a large television broadcasting the game under a tent, food on the grill, open fields for kids to play and plenty of space for adults to socialize. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, family members and any

lucky sports gear or game-day superstitions they rely on.

The excitement continues the following week on Thursday, June 25, at 10 p.m. for a late-night broadcast inside the Burnham Hall basement. The game will be projected onto a large screen with plenty of snacks on hand, offering a lively, casual atmosphere to cheer

on Team USA.

Whether you are a dedicated, lifelong soccer follower or a casual viewer who joins the excitement every four years, both events welcome all experience levels.

Until next time...Success Is Where Preparation and Opportunity Meet.

TOWN OF LEICESTER, VERMONT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED LEICESTER TOWN PLAN 2026-2034 AND ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN 2026-2034

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4384, the Leicester Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed **Leicester Town Plan 2026-2034 and Leicester Enhanced Energy Plan 2026-2034**.

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Location: Leicester Town Office, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, Vermont 05733

PURPOSE

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed Leicester Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Plan prior to consideration by the Planning Commission and transmittal to the Leicester Selectboard for adoption.

The proposed plans establish goals, policies, and implementation strategies to guide future land use, housing, economic development, transportation, municipal facilities and services, natural resource protection, flood resilience, and energy planning within the Town of Leicester.

Geographic Area Affected

The proposed plans apply to all lands and waters within the Town of Leicester, Vermont.

PLAN CONTENTS

Leicester Town Plan 2026-2034

The proposed Town Plan includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Leicester's Past, Present, and Future
- Natural Resources
 - Earth Resources
 - Forest Resources
 - Water Resources
 - Wildlife Habitat Resources
 - Agricultural Resources
 - Air Resources
- Human Resources
 - Population and Housing
 - Economy and Economic Development
 - Educational & Childcare
 - Historic Resources
 - Municipal Facilities, Services, & Utilities
- Transportation
- Flood Resilience
- Land Use Planning Areas
- Village District
 - Lake District 1
 - Lake District 2
 - Residential Agricultural Commercial District
 - Industrial District
 - Conservation District
 - Residential Agricultural District
- Energy Plan
- Implementation
- Regional Coordination
- Appendix A – Adopted Maps

Leicester Enhanced Energy Plan 2026-2034

The proposed Energy Plan includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Community Context
- Thermal Use Analysis
- LEAP Targets for Leicester's Residences
- LEAP Targets for Leicester's Commerce
- LEAP Targets for Leicester's Industry
- Electrical Use Analysis
- Transportation Use Analysis
- Land Use, Generation, and Transmission Analysis
- Mapping Constraints
- Renewable Energy Mapping
- Community Standards for Siting and Decommissioning Energy Projects
- Energy and Climate Pollution Reduction
- Land Use, Renewable Generation and Transmission Goals, Policies, and Actions
- Implementation – Cross-Cutting Actions
- Concluding Remarks
- Data Reliability Statement

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Copies of the proposed Town Plan, Enhanced Energy Plan, maps, and Planning Commission report are available for public review:

- At the Leicester Town Office, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, Vermont, during regular business hours;
- On the Town of Leicester website at: www.leicestervt.org;
- By contacting the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 247-5961.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B and 11B.

Addison (1)	New Haven (2)
Leicester (2)	Ripton (1)
Middlebury (1)	State of Vermont (1)
Monkton (1)	

TOWN OF ADDISON
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
PROCESS & DATES FOR 2026 GRIEVANCES

Grievance hearing will be held at the Addison Town Clerk's Office Friday, June 26, Saturday, June 27, Monday, June 29 and Tuesday, June 30 starting at 9:00AM – 3:00PM. All grievance hearings by appointment only. Please make an appointment by following instructions sent in the mail. All grievances must be in writing and delivered at the Town Clerk's Office on or before June 26, 2026

Title 32. Vermont Statutes Annotated. Section 4111 (G) says:

"A person who feels aggrieved by the action of the Listers and desires to be heard by them, shall, on or before the day of the grievance meeting, file with them his (or her) objections in writing and may appear in person or by his (her) agents or attorneys. Upon the hearing of such grievance the parties thereto may submit such documentary or sworn evidence as shall be pertinent thereto."

Town of Addison Board of Listers:
 William Munoff
 Terry Cutich
 John Spencer

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN
NOTICE OF SELECTBOARD PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 @ 6:45 P.M.
at the New Haven Town Office,
78 North Street, New Haven
[Hybrid Meeting]

The purpose of the hearing is to adopt the Town of New Haven's Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117.

Town of New Haven Enhanced Energy Plan Table of Contents:

- Introduction
- Energy and Emissions Overview
- Sector-by-Sector Energy Analysis
 - The Residential Sector
Current Use, Demand, and Generation
Future Targets and Pathways
 - The Commercial Sector
Current Use, Demand, and Generation
Future Targets and Pathways
 - The Industrial Sector
Current Use, Demand, and Generation
Future Targets and Pathways
 - The Transportation Sector
Current Use, Demand, and Generation
Future Targets and Pathways
 - The Electricity Sector
Current Use, Demand, and Generation
Future Targets and Pathways
 - Agriculture and Energy in New Haven: a cross-cutting sector
Energy Costs in Agriculture
Energy Demand in Agriculture
Energy, Agriculture, and CO2
 - On-site Energy System Management: The VELCO Case
- Resilience, Equity, and Impacts on Land and Natural Resources
- Implementing Our Energy Future
- Appendix

The full text of the proposed Enhanced Energy Plan addendum to the Town Plan can be reviewed at the New Haven Town Office or on the town's website: Official Website of New Haven, Vermont

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98387642466?pwd=V0VYazNjU2plSHBzU2taDFNQW43QT09>
 Meeting ID: 983 8764 2466
 Passcode: t0MFty
 Meeting ID: 983 8764 2466
 Passcode: 570414
 Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/axMqGlxYB>

Written comments may be submitted to the Leicester Planning Commission prior to the hearing or presented at the hearing.

Dated: June 12, 2026
 LEICESTER PLANNING COMMISSION



REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER Benjamin Warner's knapsack, as well as the note to his son found inside, will be on display at Fort Ticonderoga from July 1 – Aug. 2 for the first time in a decade.

Soldier's knapsack carries message of independence

TICONDEROGA, N.Y. — For a limited time, July through Aug. 2, Fort Ticonderoga will display one of its most significant objects: Benjamin Warner's Knapsack. Carried by Revolutionary War soldier Benjamin Warner and handed down to his descendants, the knapsack has survived with a call to future generations to defend America's hard-won liberty against all threats.

The 250-year-old knapsack, made of painted linen, was carried by Benjamin Warner of New Haven, Conn., during service in the Revolutionary War that took

him to Boston, Quebec, New York and elsewhere over his years in the ranks. Later in life, Warner left it to his son as a memento of his service and a reminder of what he fought for, writing:

"This Napsack I caryd (sic) Through the War of the Revolution to achieve the American Independence. I Transmit it to my olest sone (sic) Benjamin Warner Jr. with directions to keep it...and whilst one shred of it shall remain never surrender you libertys to a foren envador or an aspiring demegog (sic)." The letter is signed, "Benjamin

Highlights for "Return of an Army" July 3-5:

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2 P.M.

The Final Row Up Lake Champlain — Watch the arrival of the first wave of Northern Continental Army soldiers, landing their wooden transport boats called bateaux at Ticonderoga and marching to their new encampment.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 11 A.M.

"The Distressing Situation with the Sick" — Witness the arrival of the Northern Continental Army's General Hospital in the midst of an epidemic that threatened to destroy the army.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2 P.M.

A Grand Review — See the American forces that reached Ticonderoga assemble for a review by the Continental Army's generals. Hear the roar of gunpowder as these soldiers fire together en masse.

SUNDAY JULY 5, 11 A.M.

The Guns to Defend Ticonderoga — View boats laden with cannon reaching the shores of Ticonderoga, and American soldiers hoisting them ashore and delivering them to Fort Ticonderoga. Witness the first preparations to defend against British invasion.

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2 P.M.

The First Bastion of Hope — Feel the rumble as cannon fire from the walls of Fort Ticonderoga. See soldiers arm, "the Old French Fort," as the work of fortifying the entire Ticonderoga camp begins.

ALL THREE DAYS (JULY 3-5), 12:30 P.M.

Fifes & Drums Concert — Hear the beats that brought an army together, as the Fifes & Drums of Fort Ticonderoga celebrate Independence Day. Discover how their songs relayed orders to march, maneuver and fire in defense of the new nation.

"Return of an Army" is meticulously designed using contemporary letters, journals and drawings to reflect the conditions of 1776 and is the centerpiece of Fort Ticonderoga's full season of 250th anniversary programming.

For more information visit forticonderoga.org. Tickets are now available. Due to the anticipated high demand for Signature Events and the America 250 commemorations, visitors are strongly encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance.



Visit Fort Ticonderoga in New York to see a special exhibit featuring a soldier's 250-year-old knapsack.

Photos courtesy of Fort Ticonderoga. Photographer Carl Heilman II

Warner Ticonderoga March 27, 1837." Both the knapsack and its note are carefully preserved in the collection at Fort Ticonderoga where they have resided for almost a century but have not been on display for over a decade.

"Benjamin Warner's dedication to American independence and his exhortation to defend it echo across the centuries and still rings true today," said Beth L. Hill, Fort Ticonderoga President and CEO. "Each individual American brings their own perspective on independence into their personal encounter with Warner's Knapsack. The experience of standing next to this tangible artifact, once carried across the fledgling nation during its most trying times, is a foundational moment found only at Fort Ticonderoga."

Warner's Knapsack will be displayed alongside the larger multi-year exhibit at Fort Ticonderoga's Mars Education Center. "A Revolutionary Anthology." The 2026 edition, "Revolutionary Possibilities," features stories of people and places transformed through the complex, diverse world of the American Revolution. Firearms, military artifacts, prints, paintings and newspapers feature prominently throughout the exhibit which asks viewers to consider the ways individual lives and entire nations were thrown into upheaval



DIRECTOR OF INTERPRETERS Cameron Green leads a group of Continental Army interpreters across Lake Champlain for Fort Ticonderoga's "Return of an Army" event, which will take place July 3-5.

during the dramatic Revolutionary conflict.

"Across exhibits, reenactments and signature events, 'Real Time Revolution' brings alive the pivotal moments and people around and within Fort Ticonderoga during the fight for independence," said Matthew Keagle, Fort Ticonderoga Curator. "Benjamin Warner's Knapsack, its message and its owner's story are just one powerful example among many of the struggles of 1776 and beyond. We are proud to preserve the history Benjamin Warner's Knapsack represents and make his

message accessible for generations to come, for the next 250 years."

Open every Tuesday through Sunday until Oct. 25, Fort Ticonderoga spreads across 2,000 acres of Adirondack landscape on the shore of Lake Champlain. Its signature "Real Time Revolution" is walking visitors through the critical year of 1776, drawing from written and archaeological

evidence to reveal the day-to-day experience and uncertain struggle of the Continental Army in the fight for independence.

A calendar of major reenactment events, including the dramatic July 3-5 "Return of an Army" and the Oct. 24-25 "Hold the Line for Liberty" finale, will together recreate one of the Continental Army's greatest yet least-known victories of 1776.

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B and 11B.

TOWN OF RIPTON REQUEST FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE & REPAIR APPLICATIONS

The Town of Ripton is accepting applications for road maintenance and repair contracts to begin July 1, 2026. Contractors must provide year-round maintenance, promptly respond to 3" of snowfall and emergencies such as road washouts, and complete grant projects in compliance with State and Federal requirements. Road work labor and equipment rate sheets are due at the Ripton Town Office by 5:00 p.m. June 22, 2026.

TOWN OF MONKTON SELECTBOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Selectboard is looking to make appointments to the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee and to the Russell Memorial Library Board of Trustees.

The Transportation Advisory Committee is an ad-hoc subcommittee of the Regional Planning Commission to provide local input and involvement for updating the Regional Transportation Plan, recommending plans and projects to the Vermont Agency of Transportation and commenting on federal, state, regional and local transportation policy.

The Russell Memorial Library Board of Trustees are elected at Town Meeting for three-year terms. There is currently a vacancy for the 2025-2028 term. The appointment will be until the 2027 Town Meeting. The Board of Trustees meet the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

If you are interested or would like additional information regarding these positions, please contact Stan Wilbur, Town Administrator at townadministrator@monktonvt.com.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472 on Monday, July 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

Application #2026-DRB-12-CU Masterson: A request for Conditional Use Approval, per Section 329 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, submitted by applicant Josh Masterson and Landowner Peter Norris for a contractor's yard and shop on Parcel #648.3 located at 65 Campground Road in the Highway Commercial and Industrial zoning districts.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Offices, or by remote:

<https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09>

Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.newhavenvt.com/>

New Haven Zoning Administrator, (802) 453-3516

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEICESTER DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following application:

1. (26-13 DRB), Application 26-13 DRB of Isaac Eastman, 1120 Shackett Road, Leicester, VT, Parcel 030015, for Section 3.7 Waiver of Setback variance for the front property boundary of approximately 35' from the district requirement of 75' for the construction of 30' x 32' Accessory Use garage.

The topography of the parcel slopes off steeply on the westerly side and precludes construction of the garage within the district standard.

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Interested individuals must appear at the hearing or present written testimony to appeal any decision of the DRB. Written documents may be sent to the Leicester Town Office. Attn: Zoning Administrator, 44 Schoolhouse Road, Leicester, VT 05733.

Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
June 8, 2026

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Rules for Out-of-State Telehealth Licensure and Registration.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 26P013

AGENCY: Secretary of State, Office of Professional Regulation
CONCISE SUMMARY: These rules govern the licensing and registration of out-of-state healthcare professionals practicing with Vermont patients via telehealth only. These rules create the permanent system mandated by Act 4 (2023) to replace a system currently operating on an interim basis. The rules provide for eligibility requirements, standards of practice, and mandatory disclosures by out-of-state telehealth professionals. These rules do not apply to practice via telehealth by professionals who hold regular Vermont credentials.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Emily Tredeau, Office of Professional Regulation, Secretary of State 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-1505 E-Mail: emily.b.tredeau@vermont.gov URL: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/about-opr/telehealth-registrations-and-licensing/>

FOR COPIES: Emily Carr, Office of Professional Regulation, Secretary of State, 89 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-1505 E-Mail: emily.carr@vermont.gov

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82452770580>
By Phone: + 1 (301) 715-8592 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 824 5277 0580

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- 7:00pm 1. Call to Order
- 2. *Approval of Agenda
- 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 3a. *Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2026 Selectboard Meeting
 - 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
 - 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any)
 - 3d. *Approval of Check Warrants
 - 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3f. **Town Manager's Report
- 7:05pm 4. **Citizen Comments
- 7:20pm 5. *Addison County Regional Planning Commission - Public Hearing - Municipal Planning Consultation
- 7:35pm 6. *Addison County Economic Development Corporation - CHIP Program Overview - Follow-Up
- 7:50pm 7. *Town of Middlebury & Addison Central School District - Recreation Park Lease Renewal & Skatepark Joint Sponsorship Agreement
- 8:05pm 8. Infrastructure Committee - Recommendations
 - 8a. *Roadway Crack Seal - Contract
 - 8b. **Other Project Updates
- 8:15pm 9. **Middlebury Design Advisory Committee - Discussion
- 10. Agenda Placeholder
- 8:35pm 11. **Selectboard Member Comments
- 12. Executive Session - Not Anticipated
- 13. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Sessio
- 8:40pm 14. *Adjourn

* Possible Decision ** Discussion



AN ARTIST APPLIES paint to her canvas as she paints a scene below the Middlebury Falls on Saturday during the Sparrow Plein Air Festival, where artists tried painting outdoors for the first time or found a structured but relaxed weekend to ply their skills. The presence of so many artists invited impromptu conversations about color and composition.

Independent photos/Steve James



SHIRLEY REID OF NORTH FERRISBURGH (FRONT) AND CHARON HENNING OF BRISTOL, WORK AT THE STAR OLD MILL

Artists paint the town in Plein Air Festival

By RACHELLE TALBERT
MIDDLEBURY — This past weekend, Sparrow Art Supply drew nearly 100 participants to its second annual Plein Air Festival. Artists set up their easels around downtown Middlebury to paint what they saw.

“It’s bringing together artists to share in making together, to meet each other,” Sparrow owner Beth Bluestein told *The Independent*. “But also to share with the greater community all that Middlebury has to offer.”

In collaboration with over two dozen sponsors, the festival hosted events and workshops to bring the community together. These included a pre-event social at the Swift House Inn, a creemee social at Shiretown Marketplace and a Vermont Cookie Love cookie hour at the Stone Mill. Artists sat down to talk about what — and where — they painted, from flowers at the Sheldon Museum to the rushing water at the Middlebury Falls.

Many of these pieces are on view at Sparrow in their Wet Paint

Sale, in which festival participants were encouraged to sell their pieces right off the easel. The pieces will continue to be available through July 5.

“Some of the paint is literally still wet,” Bluestein explained. “It’s so cool to see what artists decided to capture and seeing the same view from different people.”



KIMBERLY VANNEST OF ESSEX



SUSAN BRUHL, NEW HAVEN



ELIZABETH BERGLAND, OF VERGENNES



ANDREA KERIN OF VERGENNES



CHARON HENNING OF BRISTOL

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 6/11/26 & 6/14/26

		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Westminster	1360	2.20	\$2992.00	
Barnes Bros	1225	2.00	\$2450.00	
Goodrich Farm	1985	1.95	\$3870.75	
B. Dykema	1890	1.85	\$3496.50	
Nop Bros	1665	1.80	\$2997.00	
J. Allen	1480	1.80	\$2664.00	
Deer Valley	1210	1.75	\$2117.50	

CALVES		\$
Westminster		\$1813.00
Deer Valley		\$1728.00
Barnes Bros		\$1696.00
Sunderland		\$1664.40
C. Pease		\$1612.00
Maille		\$1596.00
Vorsteveld		\$1568.00

Total Beef - 95 Total Calves - 174

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Middlebury

(Continued from Page 10B)

June 11.
• Investigated a report of a suspicious man at the Stewart’s Shop on Court Street Extension on June 11.
• Responded to a report of a man refusing to leave Porter Hospital

during the evening of June 12.
• Searched in vain for a person who had reportedly been walking in the middle of North Pleasant Street on June 13.
• Assisted Vermont State Police in processing a drunken driving suspect on June 13.

• Were informed of the theft of a sign from a Domino’s vehicle on June 13.
• Responded to a report of someone driving erratically on Route 7 on June 13.
• Responded to a report of suspicious activity on North

Branch Road on June 13.
• Investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle on Cross Street on June 14.
• Were informed of the theft of tools from an unlocked vehicle parked in the Birchard Park neighborhood on June 14.

• Assisted a person on June 14 who wanted to file a no stalking order.
• Were informed of the theft of a black bike with red accessories from Frog Hollow Alley on June 14.

AUCTIONS

ONLINE AUCTION
FISHING, TACKLE & SPORTING AUCTION (#1750)
AUCTION CLOSING: Monday | July 6 | 11AM
PREVIEW: Tuesday | June 30 | 11AM-1PM
LOCATION: 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT
ITEM REMOVAL: Wed. | July 8 | 9AM-2PM

This auction features a large inventory of fishing rods, tackle, ice fishing equipment, waders, boating accessories, fishing line, lures, and sporting-related items. **BIDDING IS OPEN!**

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

REAL ESTATE AUCTION
FORECLOSURE: 3-BED, 1.5-BATH HOME ON 0.42 ACRES IN ALBURGH, VT
LIVE AUCTION: Tuesday | June 30 | 11AM
ADDRESS: 42 VANTINE AVE., ALBURGH, VT 05440

Built in 1900, this 2-story home offers 1,648± square feet. and includes a covered porch, dining room, first-floor laundry, large bedrooms, and additional storage space.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

ONLINE AUCTION
REFRIGERATION TRAILERS, LIFT & BACKHOE ATTACHMENT (#1752)
AUCTION CLOSING: Wed. | July 1 | 11AM
PREVIEW: During Business Hours, Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM at 131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT
ITEM REMOVAL: Monday | July 6 | 9AM-12PM

This auction features 7 lots including: JCB Telehandler, Geni Manlift, John Deere Backhoe Attachment, 73” Skid Steer Attachment Roller, Great Dane Refrigerated Box Trailer and 2 Utility Refrigerated Box Trailers. **BIDDING IS OPEN ONLINE!**

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

June 18, 2026

INSIDE THE SUSTAINABLE, CENTURIES-OLD ARTISTRY OF GOOSEWING TIMBERWORKS

On a sparkling spring morning before the start of the school day in Lincoln, Will Gusakov visited the recently completed frame to conduct one final ceremony celebrating a milestone family investment with the placement of the final oak pin (dowel). The two children had applied their artistic impulses to decorating the chosen fastener beforehand, and the elder, a five-year-old kindergartener, climbed a short ladder (held by Will) with a hammer in his hand, to pound it home. His pre-school sister looked on as her big brother was accorded the honor of the building's baptism. Goosewing Timberworks is in the business of building frames as heirlooms. The end-product offers a unique combination of traditional sustainable practice and beloved results that will offer shelter, quiet illustrative instruction and memories for generations of users. The refined beauty hewn from the source materials growing all around us is simply a joy to behold.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The phrase "pan de bois" has come to mean timber framing to the French, but its most literal sense means "bread of the woods." The phrase is the perfect blend of meaning for a building style born into a culture embedded with culinary traditions.

By **STEVE
HARRIS**

As the primary structural ingredient in building military navies and almost all the housing and public buildings in Great Britain, Spain, France and Germany, hardwood timber from the European woodlands was the primary source of framing for everything in which humans dwelt or sailed, going back to the Roman Empire and the Greeks before them. Some scientists have posited that the

entire coastline of the Mediterranean Sea (now mostly arid, especially the north coast of Africa) was once thickly forested, stripped of timber to create housing and ships for thousands of years of naval empires bent on protecting their trade and challenging their enemies.

Once in a great while, an Addison County business that has been home-grown by capable initiative comes along that blends ancient traditions with contemporary demand. When financial sustainability is joined with skill, diligence and persistence, this bucolic landscape can offer another reason



for shared pride and geographic chauvinism.

Goosewing Timberworks has been registered in Vermont as an LLC since 2013 and is managed by its sole proprietor, Will Gusakov. At the ripe old age of 42, Will directs a payroll of three full-time craftspeople and manages a backlog that frequently stretches a year into the future. He also does the design work for pavilions, houses, barns and the occasional commercial use. Each project has its own timetable, but the

See ROOST on page 2

Local poet publishes new gothic novel written in sonnet verse

Middlebury poet Cindy Ellen Hill released a new gothic historical novel written entirely in sonnet verse on June 15. "Leeds Point" (Selkie Songs Press) is set in the coastal marshes of colonial New Jersey in 1702.

When Esther Water's wealthy new sea-captain husband abandons her in the salt marsh of coastal West Jersey, she is left to survive alone amid hunger, suspicion of witchcraft, and the looming presence of a Lenape serpent god. As she uncovers the violent truths behind her husband's fortune, Esther is forced to confront the brutal systems of power shaping the colonial world around her.

The novel draws on five years of historical research and fieldwork inspired by the southern New Jersey salt marshes where Hill was born. It blends literary gothic horror, environmental writing, feminist historical fiction and experimental form.

The manuscript was long-listed for a Chanticleer novella prize, received a monthly historical fiction award and won the top award for Literary Innovation from the 2025 Wolf Media Festival.

Hill is the author of four poetry



CINDY ELLEN HILL

collections and five novellas, with work appearing in *American Poetry Review*, *Vermont Magazine* and *Writers' Digest*. She is also an attorney and a musician who sings Irish music.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cindy Ellen Hill is the author of four poetry collections — "Wild Earth," "Elegy for the Trees," "Mosaic: Poems from Travels in Italy," and "Love in a Time of Climate Change" — as well as five novellas. For more info visit cindyellenhill.com.

Staged reading series continues with 'Darwin in Malibu'

The second reading of the 2026 Cutting Edge Staged Reading season, "Darwin in Malibu," by Crispin Whittell will be performed Sunday, June 28, at 4 p.m., in the Town Hall Theater's Anderson Studio, downtown Middlebury. A talk-back with

light refreshments will follow. Tickets (\$15) are available at townhalltheater.org.

One hundred and forty-three years after he published "The Origin of Species," (and 120 years after his death), Charles Darwin sits on the deck of a Malibu beach house. With him is Sarah who makes him banana and strawberry shakes. Up pops the bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, and Darwin's friend and champion Thomas Huxley, both also long dead and buried. The experience of life and death, love and loss mean

that previously held certainties are now uncertainties. Once you know something — whether it is about DNA or what your boyfriend did last night — nothing is ever quite the same again. And while science may be able to explain how we got here, it cannot explain why we are here. It cannot explain our hearts.

Crispin Whittell's comic drama is fiercely intelligent and delicate as it probes the mysteries of what makes us human, and why.

Directed by Cheryl Faraone, the cast includes Gary Smith (Darwin), Michole Biancosino (Sarah), Kevin Commins (Huxley) and Matthew Fox (Wilberforce). Middlebury College student interns, Nonna Madoyan and Jane Zhang will serve as stage manager and stage directions reader respectively.



ROOST
continued from page 1

average duration for the design, pricing, sourcing, prefabrication and installation of a timber frame is four to five weeks, making 10 projects per year a reasonable estimate of output. This compares to a conventional homebuilder working for nine months at a time on the average custom home. Will knows the challenge of that occupation as well, having built his own home, shop, storage buildings and staging area for completed frames, trailers and equipment on a headquarters of Goosewing Timberworks.



Headquarters of Goosewing Timberworks in Lincoln.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Will was born and raised in Bristol by parents who instilled the values of teamwork and community into him through example. His mother, Anne Wallace, is a retired social worker, who among many other pursuits, shared her skills with new parents at the Middlebury Parent Child Center. His father is a professional violinist, a long-time member of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and a well-known performer by most of Addison County's music-loving citizens. Concern for others combined with the discipline of musical skill and performance were deeply embedded in both Will and his older brother Nate at home. Timber framing and musical skill express the same reverence for organized preparation, mathematical symmetry, and teamwork. The words harmony and symphony are equally obvious in Goosewing's frames as they are when any orchestra performs for an audience. It is no accident that Will has become a builder, teacher and a musician as he pursues his business.

Four years at the non-traditional Hampshire College in Amherst followed Will's Mt. Abe graduation with his summer employment spent in the company of local builders who always need willing hands to help meet their obligations. While his post-secondary education allowed his mind to explore the

Continued on next page

landscape of Liberal Arts, the OJT (on-the-job-training) of home construction was informing his physical self with the rhythms and demands of a life in the trades.

Prominent amongst these experiences were stretches of employment with Bristol builders Conner & Buck, and Jack Dobeck, the latter providing Will with his first exposure to timber framing. Custom home construction combines the adherence to budget and schedule, as well as the discipline to complete a task that involves the timely orchestration of an almost endless list of tradesmen and suppliers.

A full year working in France in 2010, hosted by *Les Compagnons du Devoir* (Companions of Duty), a highly organized and very independent French-based apprenticeship program operating since the Middle Ages, gifted Will with fluency in the language and exposed him to the European outlook on the craft of timber framing. As he got deeper into the origins and evolution of ancient buildings, he read widely on the subject, and he attended various classes and workshops to complement his growing practical experience.

It wasn't long before Will was conducting workshops on behalf of *Charpentiers sans Frontières* (Carpenters without Borders), working with the *Timber Framers Guild* on the raising of a community project and speaking at Middlebury College on the current state of the craft. Teaching is the best way to enrich your satisfaction with the things you find personally motivating. As my father, a 35-year career public school teacher of Shakespeare to the largely ungrateful, liked to opine, "If you want to learn something, teach it." A quick visit to their website (goosewingtimberworks.com) will confirm Will's continued interest in teaching, leading workshops and consulting with other builders and architects. The website and its references to other forms of on-line activity shed a totally contemporary light on an ancient craft.

As testimony to Will's skillful blending of experience and motivation, in 2023 he and



his young family relocated to Normandy, France for a six-month stint of living and working to replace the burned-out structure of the roof trusses in the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral reconstruction, which reopened in December of 2024. The miraculous pace of the cathedral's restoration defied the prediction of all the experts and startled the most jaded of critics. Internet images transmitted daily progress, as well as how things were 800 years ago, when Notre-Dame was first constructed. None of the poetic mystique of timber framing was diminished in any way by thorough and instantaneous communication. It remains a craft with art in its veins.

All countries that were home to large forests of hardwood developed their own styles of timber framing, then imported all those traditions to America, where a further version emerged due to what seemed an endless supply and variety of trees. It is difficult for us to imagine what North America looked like before relentless European immigrants got their hands on its forests, but it was far different from the third-growth woods we are familiar with in New England today. The leaf canopy was at two hundred feet in 1492, above the fully shaded forest floor. Huge trunks were spread long distances apart and hunting deer with a bow and arrow was possible on underbrush-free ground.

What Europeans traditionally used to infill their hardwood housing frames was usually some combination of secondary limbs and brush smeared with primitive stucco (wattle and daub) or masonry. Americans quickly adopted board or clapboarded exterior walls and heavy shakes for roofing due to their unrestricted access to wood. During the 19th and 20th centuries, industrial-scale resource extraction impressed upon the remaining virgin forests of America gave birth to the contemporary method of milled and graded stick framing we have become accustomed to seeing all around us.

Timber framing has likewise been affected by industrial production. The practice of scribe framing, where every joint is a custom creation based on separate craftsmen reacting to what the wood offered them in the joints they were working upon has been replaced by rule framing, where every joint design and wood pin placement is identical in similar joints in the same building. This contemporary approach is what allows Goosewing to pre-manufacture and erect up to 10 frames per year with a staff of three employees. Gratitude is owed for providing such a

Timber Framing

From the Forest to the Frame in West Lincoln

A recent example of a completed Goosewing frame stands awaiting its enclosure in West Lincoln for a young family nestling into ancestral real estate. For the users, it will act as a two-car garage utility outbuilding with a second story of ancillary space that will function to accommodate their housing needs as they grow and change.



In my own 40 years of construction experience, I have watched timber framing reassume its rightful place as the thoroughbred of structural techniques. I have built a number of structures that use it and find that the finished product never fails to delight my eye. Some of my reaction has to do with the craft's ancestral legacy, some of it is an appreciation for its ability to endure, but most of it emanates from the simple beauty of well-considered construction in pristine surroundings. Viewed from the inside, the naked frame seems to offer a long-term future to the young trees around it; there is an extended survival available to those of you that grow strong, straight and true that will far outlive your competitive life in the wild.

The jobsite is tidy by nature, as all but the final adjustments are pre-constructed in Goosewing's solar-powered barn. Mountains of sawdust, shavings and trimmed ends are available to anyone willing to retrieve them where the pieces are fabricated from carefully selected timber. At the point of assembly, the whole site meets extraordinary standards of order and cleanliness. The new-born clean timbers and subordinate members are free of footprints or any handling scars. The details and fastening systems are a pleasure to behold as the joinery and the structural stresses they are designed to transmit have been perfected over centuries and adapted constantly by current practitioners.

Will designs and sizes the members in order to purchase the sawn timbers from mills in the northern Vermont. The frame itself offers a legible tutorial on the forces of tension, compression, and shear at play in the engineering of any structure. Variables of tree species, grain density, imperfections of knots and shake ("grade") and the requirements of the final enclosures by others all impact his design. He uses only one material – wood – and it is a live product that continues to change its nature and even its shape as it surrenders its embedded moisture from years of protected existence. All of these inevitable changes must be anticipated and balanced with care, a design skill requiring deep, varied experience and immersion in all kinds of restoration and reconstruction of ancient timber structures.

See ROOST on page 15

UPCOMING MUSIC

New Haven house concert hosts The Clements Brothers

Music Up Close will continue July 12 with The Clements Brothers. The duo, George and Charles Clements, identical twins from New England will perform a house concert in New Haven at 7:30 p.m.

The Clements Brothers have been playing and writing music together for as long as they can remember. With roots, rock, bluegrass, jazz, and

classical influences, George (on guitar) and Charles (on bass) aim to capture their singer-songwriter sensibilities in a unique blended voice, at once enthralling and intimate, groovy and serene. Their first album "Dandelion Breeze" was released in 2023 on Plow Man Records and their sophomore

See BROTHERS on page 8



The Clements Brothers will perform at a New Haven house concert on July 12.

COURTESY PHOTO

More Tunes



Jazz trumpeter, vocalist, composer and educator Miles Donahue will bring his quartet to Middlebury's Town Hall Theater on June 20.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Miles Donahue Quartet will turn Town Hall Theater into the 'House of Jazz' on June 20

Jazz Middlebury and Town Hall Theater are proud to present the acclaimed Miles Donahue Quartet on Saturday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. Featuring celebrated jazz trumpeter, vocalist, composer and educator, the evening promises an unforgettable mix of jazz standards, original works, and beloved classics on the Rothrock Mainstage at Town Hall Theater in downtown Middlebury.

The quartet will perform favorites including "Take 5," "Stand by Me," "Dream a Little Dream," "Cantaloupe Island," "Caravan" and more, blending timeless repertoire with virtuosic improvisation and dynamic musical interplay.

A renowned performer and recording artist, Donahue has collaborated with jazz legends including Woody Herman and recorded more than 20 albums. Praised by *Jazz Magazine* as "a jazz treasure," Donahue has appeared at major international festivals and venues throughout the world and currently serves as Affiliate Artist at Middlebury College.

Joining Donahue are an exceptional group of musicians:

Steve Hunt — piano, known for his work with Allan Holdsworth, Stanley Clarke, and Billy Cobham

See JAZZ on page 8

SUMMER UPDATES



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ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

Artist of the Month Series: Emily Joeckel Smith.

Emily Joeckel Smith is a stained-glass artist and traditional glass painter, whose work transforms light and color into striking visual narratives. An opening reception and artist talk will be held Friday, June 12, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street in Brandon. Come at 6 p.m. for a free social hour with light refreshments. Free and open to all. On view through June.

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.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Spring Reunion." This second annual Middlebury College alumni art exhibition showcases recent work by Middlebury class of 1986 alumni John Aicher, Monica Carroll, Cynthia Kirkwood, John Moyers, Elizabeth Needham and Phoebe Twichell Peterson. The Johnson Exhibition Gallery and the Studio Art Department proudly support this exhibition, 40 years in the making! On view through Aug. 5.

See EXHIBITS on page 12

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, physical activity can boost your mood and clear your mind for some big decisions that are ahead this week. Tackle some larger projects.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Indulge in simple pleasures this week, Taurus. They will lead you to the happiness you deserve. You may discover a new favorite recipe or cozy nook to hang out.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Networking may feel less like a chore and more like a party this week, Gemini. A chance encounter could open a door to an excellent opportunity.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, right now your home is filled with laughter and shared memories. It's a great week to host a small gathering or a movie night with close friends to share all the good vibes.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, today you are a beacon of light and a source of inspiration. Use your unique position as a leader to spread positivity and watch good fortune multiply.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you are often a master of finding practical solutions to tricky problems both at work and at home. Your reliable nature is a great gift to those around you.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, some diplomacy this week can help you navigate a complex situation with ease. Find time for meditation so you can create a sense of calm wherever you go.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. If you are brave enough to voice it, a secret wish just might come true, Scorpio. After some difficult days, you can use a bit of magic and mystery to change your perspective.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You're definitely a glass-half-full kind of person, Sagittarius. This optimism will open doors to a new horizon. A sudden urge to learn something new leads to an opportunity.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Discipline will be rewarded with a measurable success that can feel very uplifting, Capricorn. Your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Be your most authentic self this week and watch how it attracts those you want in your circle, Aquarius. A weird coincidence may lead to a funny situation.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, calmer waters ahead allow you to reflect on yourself and recharge your emotional batteries. You may emerge at the end of the week centered and ready for anything.

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JUNE 20 — Nicole Kidman, actor (59)
JUNE 21 — Jean-Paul Sartre, novelist, playwright & philosopher (d)
JUNE 22 — Meryl Streep, actor (77)
JUNE 23 — Frances McDormand, actor (69)
JUNE 24 — Lionel Messi, soccer player (39)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 25 — Sonya Sotomayor, Supreme Court justice (72)
JUNE 26 — Nick Offerman, actor (56)

CALENDAR

June 18-July 9

2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: BURNT HILL IN HANCOCK. Thursday, June 18. Hike a lovely, quiet section of the Long Trail from Midd. Gap to Burnt Hill, an area frequented more by moose than people. We will look for signs of moose and learn about trail adoption and trail maintenance. Bring hand clippers and a 1-inch paintbrush if you have them and learn from the "Tom Sawyer" of the field. Moderate hike of 5-mile round trip and 1000 ft elevation gain. Leashed dogs allowed. Contact Morris Earle at [morisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) for information or to sign up. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

FRESHIE FRIDAYS CONCERT: REDADMIRAL IN BRISTOL. Friday, June 19, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North Street. An evening of good food, live music, and joyful gathering around the greenhouses. REDadmiral plays foot-stomping alt-rock garage-grass dance music. For more info visit bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, June 19, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Blues

Without Borders, food from Cravens and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

DOGTEAM THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS NEW STUDENT WORKS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, June 19, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre. The Dogteam Theatre Project provides transformative experiences for emerging and professional artists. Come enjoy the new work. Free.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

LET'S GO BIRDING BEGINNER BIRD WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 9-11 a.m., Wright Park parking lot north of Pulp Mill Bridge. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited for this bird walk through part of the TAM. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from OCAS. Local naturalists will offer a station with a hands-on discovery activity. Trail appropriate snack available. Family-friendly but not appropriate for strollers or wheelchairs. Rain or shine. Contact 713-818-7033.

THE MET LIVE IN HD: 'EUGENE ONEGIN' IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 12:15 talk; 1 p.m. showing, Town Hall Theater, Anderson Studio, 76 Merchants Row. Encore showing of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin. Soprano

Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his role as Onegin. Directed by Deborah Warner. Timur Zangiev makes his Met conducting debut. Pre-show talk by OCM Chorus Master Nathaniel Lew. Tickets: \$10-\$24.

WALKING TOUR OF MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 2-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Learn about the history of Middlebury with a 60-minute, 1-mile narrated walking tour. Follow Todd Goodyear as he weaves through town and time, from the 1780s to the 1980s, spotlighting the people who helped shape Middlebury's character. \$20 for adults; \$12 for ages 13 and under.

DOGTEAM THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS DISQUIET BY IVAN VYRYPAEV IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 2 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre. In the Manhattan penthouse of reclusive, Nobel-nominated writer Ula Richte, a carefully staged interview with a Polish journalist is meant to cement her legacy. With her agent and lawyer steering every word, the evening begins under tight control—until the script falls apart. What follows is an unguarded reckoning with

the dark side of success, the cost of denying one's roots, and the fierce, exhilarating courage it takes to tell the truth. Free.

DOGTEAM THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS NEW STUDENT WORKS IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 4:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre. The Dogteam Theatre Project provides transformative experiences for emerging and professional artists. Come enjoy the new work. Free.

DOGTEAM THEATRE PROJECT PRESENTS THE OAKWOOD PROJECT BY LUCAS KAVNER ('06.5) IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre. Oakwood is a North Hollywood apartment complex that houses young performers and their guardians during brief, hopeful stays in Los Angeles. Around the kids linger the half-permanent residents of a transient industry: an aging acting coach, a struggling actress who never left, college kids drawn by the cheap rent and dorm-like atmosphere. In Oakwood, nearly everyone is passing through, and nearly everyone is under pressure—to succeed, to belong, and to make the sacrifices mean something. Free.

MILES DONAHUE QUARTET: JAZZ FROM MOVIES & TV IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 20, 7:30-9:15 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Rothrock Main Stage, 76 Merchants Row. Featuring celebrated jazz trumpeter, vocalist, composer and educator Miles Donahue, the evening promises an unforgettable mix of jazz standards, original works and beloved classics. The quartet will blend timeless repertoire with virtuosic improvisation and dynamic musical interplay. Tickets: \$15-\$50; Cash bar.

SPIN SUMMER SOLSTICE GATHERING IN RIPTON. Saturday, June 20, 7:30-9 p.m., Spirit in Nature Paths, take Route 125, turn on to Goshen Road. Follow the lantern-lit path to the Sacred Circle, joining friends and neighbors in the warmth of community around a fire. Pour a cup of tea and roast some s'mores. Help us in the contemplative act of piecing together a nature mandala. We'll have a gently guided time of "going out" into the land for quiet observation and "coming in" for sharing the experience. Feel free to bring a drum or other percussion instrument, flashlight, a poem or a thought to share.

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- ACSD Board Meeting - Live - 06/22 - 6PM
- Selectboard Meeting - Live - 06/23 - 7PM
- All Things LGBT+ - 06/24 - 5PM
- MCTV Late Night Lofi - All Night - 10PM
- Democracy Now! - Weekdays - 8AM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent
middleburycommunitytv.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 21**SUNDAY SESSIONS: COOIE LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Sunday, June 21, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). Vermont singer-songwriter Cooie DeFrancesco is celebrated for her clear, soulful voice and engaging presence, delivering heartfelt performances that blend elements of blues, jazz, and Americana. Free.

MONDAY, JUNE 22**VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES.**

Monday, June 22, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: QUEEN CITY CUT UPS IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 24, 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 & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PARK IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 24, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday from June 17 to August 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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

PIZZA BY THE POND: BLOODROOT GAP PLAYS LIVE IN GOSHEN. Thursday, June 25, 5-8 p.m., Blueberry Hill Inn, 1245 Goshen Ripton Road. Enjoy all-you-can-eat wood-fired pizza made with Vermont flour, lemonade and a beautiful atmosphere. Bloodroot Gap plays traditional and progressive bluegrass with a unique and captivating sound. Pizza starts at 5, music at 6 p.m. BYOB. Local ice cream and Blueberry Hill cookies also available. Well-behaved leashed dogs

welcome. \$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7-11; free for kids 6 and under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

FRESHIE FRIDAYS CONCERT: SUNDAY EVENING IN BRISTOL. Friday, June 26, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North Street. An evening of good food, live music, and joyful gathering around the greenhouses. Sunday Evening plays vocal-driven feel-good string music. For more info visit bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, June 26, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Atom & the Orbits, food from La Chapina and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

R-EVOLUTION LETTERPRESS DEMO IN BRISTOL. Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Art on Main. A demonstration by John Vincent, founder of A Revolutionary Press, will highlight a month-long exhibit of John's work. Free postcard for attendees. One piece of writing submitted by the public will be selected by a 3-person jury and given to John, who will create an artistic interpretation and use it to demonstrate the art of letterpress. For more info visit Submit by Sunday, June 21 via email with subject line "R-Evolution" to artonmainvt.com.

BIODIVERSITY BUILDERS: CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING YOUR PLAN IN VERGENNES. Saturday, June 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. Second in a series of hands-on workshops demonstrating how to bring native plants into outdoor spaces. Presented by Lisa Sausville and Ashley Robinson. For more information email to Ashley at arobinsonld@gmail.com. For more info visit tinyurl.com/BuildyBioAtBixby.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MT. ABE IN LINCOLN. Saturday, June 27. Hike to Mt. Abe via the Battell and Long trails. Strenuous hike of about 6 miles with 2,600 feet elevation gain. Dog friendly as there will be a therapy dog

on the hike. Limited to only 6 hikers. Contact Samara Anderson at samara@yahoo.com for more information. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

MIDDLEBURY ACTING COMPANY PRESENTS: "DARWIN IN MALIBU" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 28, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row. Part of the Cutting Edge series, this performance will be presented as a staged reading of Crispin Whittell's play, where actors bring the script to life with minimal staging and props. Post-show conversation with the cast and director. Tickets: \$15. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY SESSIONS: BOBBY SHEEHAN LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 28, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). Singer-songwriter Bobby Sheehan's music is steeped in the folk traditions of New England and shaped by a life surrounded by melody and storytelling. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 1, 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 & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

AUTHOR TALK: "LIGHTNING BENEATH THE SEA" IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 1, Cocktails: 5:30-6:30 p.m., book talk: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Best-selling author James M. Tabor will speak about his new book about the man who laid the first transatlantic telegraph cable. The talk will be followed by Q&A. Books available for purchase and signing. \$8.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

BLOCK PARTY WITH VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD BAND PLUS REDD & THE PAPER FLOWERS IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 3, 3-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Maloney Plaza,

68 South Pleasant Street. A community block party celebrating America's 250th anniversary featuring chamber music from Vermont's Own 40th Army Band and Appalachian folk-grass group Redd & The Paper Flowers, along with a festive bike parade. Food trucks and bar offerings available on site. Free. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, July 3, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Nick Cassarino and The Family Band, food from Monti Verdi Salumi and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: CLARK BROOK AND MT. WILSON IN GRANVILLE. Friday, July 3. Stay away from the crowds and enjoy a cool walk up Clark Brook trail to a great eastern view with an option to climb Mt. Wilson. Strenuous hike of 6-8 miles with more than 2000 ft elevation gain. Leashed dogs allowed. Contact Ellen Cronan to register and for more information, 908-595-2926. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB ICE CREAM SOCIAL RIDE IN MIDDLEBURY AND SALISBURY. Saturday, July 4, 1 p.m., Three-mile bridge, Middlebury. 27.5-mile bike ride around Lake Dunmore and Salisbury. It's a scenic ride with nice views of the lake and a stop at the Salisbury ice cream social. All riders must wear helmets and obey the rules of the road. For more info visit Register and see details: thegmbc.com/events.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

SUNDAY SESSIONS: BREANNA ELAINE LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July 5, 4-7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). Breanna's music blends earthy folk, indie and singer-songwriter influences, but her sound goes well beyond easy labels. Performing a mix of original songs and thoughtfully chosen covers on vocals and guitar, she brings a warmth and depth that pulls listeners in and keeps them there. Free.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB BOUND FOR BRISTOL RIDE IN HINESBURG AND BRISTOL. Sunday, July 5, 8:30 a.m., Monkton Central

See *CALENDAR* on page 15

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ART ON EXHIBIT

Exhibition features the work of Helen Shulman and Julia Jensen

Abstraction is often described by what it is not. It is not representational. It is not literal. It is not a direct depiction of the world. Yet the paintings of Julia Jensen and Helen Shulman suggest something quite different: abstraction may be one of the most direct ways of speaking about lived experience.

See for yourself at Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Row in Middlebury, at the new exhibit going up June 27.

In "Where We Find Ourselves," both artists use gesture, color, texture, and movement to explore the emotional terrain that exists beneath the surface of everyday life. Their paintings do not seek to illustrate a particular

place, event, or narrative. Instead, they inhabit the spaces where memory, feeling, and perception converge.

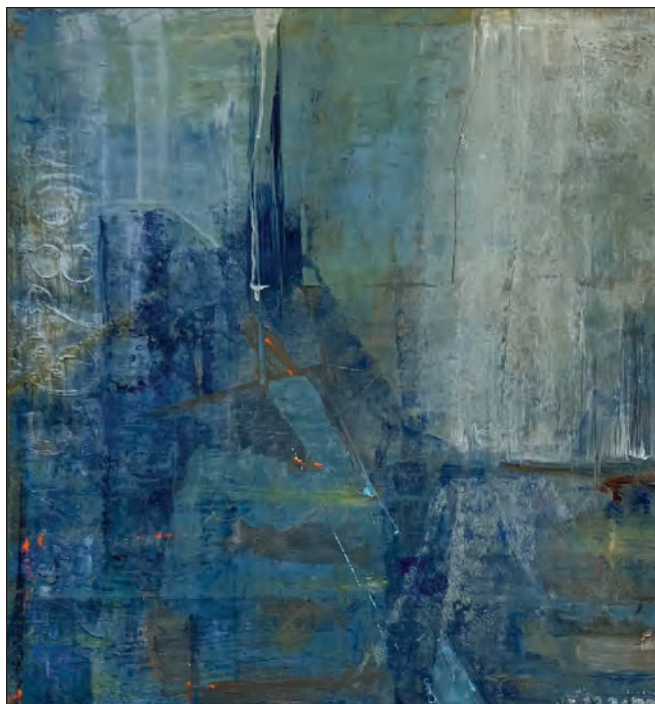
For Jensen, the landscape remains a point of departure, but not a destination. Her paintings are gestural, luminous, and deeply atmospheric. Forms dissolve and reemerge, creating spaces that feel simultaneously familiar and elusive. Her work suggests moments of transition and reflection, inviting viewers into works that are less about observing a scene than experiencing a state of being. Rooted in the natural world, Jensen's paintings become meditations on presence, movement, and our relationship to place.

Shulman's work similarly balances structure and intuition. Built through layers of oil, cold wax, drawing, scraping, and revision, her paintings emerge through a process she describes as both intellectual and emotional. Often beginning with observed landscapes, figures, or memories, the work gradually transforms into something less fixed and more expansive. Her paintings carry traces of stories, experiences, and associations, while remaining open enough for viewers to bring their own. Her work reveals abstraction not as an escape from meaning, but as a vessel for it.

Together, Jensen and Shulman remind us that mark-making is never simply mark-making. Every gesture records a decision, a memory, an impulse, a hesitation. A painted line can function as a sentence. A scrape through pigment can feel like an act of excavation. Layers accumulate like experiences, obscuring and revealing what came before.



"Grass" by Julia Jensen will be on view at Edgewater Gallery on the Green in Middlebury through July 26.



"Countdown" by Helen Shulman will be on view at Edgewater Gallery on the Green in Middlebury through July 26.

The title of the exhibition reflects this search for meaning in unexpected places. We find ourselves not only in moments of clarity, but also in ambiguity. We find ourselves in the periphery, in the subtle and the fleeting, in what cannot be fully articulated. We find ourselves in memory, in loss, in wonder, and in the spaces between words. Sometimes we find ourselves in landscapes. Sometimes in color. Sometimes in paintings that are not about us at all until, suddenly, they are.

Join in the conversation on abstract art-making with these two artists during an opening reception on Saturday, June 27, from 3-5 p.m. The exhibit will be on view through July 26. For more information about "Where We Find Ourselves" call the gallery at 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

BROTHERS

continued from page 4

record is set to be released in the fall of this year. The duo is a fusion of each brother's unique musical journey, and the result is music all its own, filled with vocal harmonies, instrumental virtuosity, and a genuine love of song.

Don Sheldon is organizing this series which will continue with Natalie and Brittany Haas on Aug. 9, Henry Kramer on Sept. 26, Jenna Nicholls on Oct. 18 and finally the Allison Lupton Trio on Nov. 15.

All tickets are \$30. Email don@valleystage.net or give Sheldon a call (802-557-7589) to reserve your tickets. Seats are limited.

JAZZ

continued from page 4

Larry Finn — drums, former drummer for the national tour of *Rent* and longtime collaborator with Paula Cole

Ervin Dhimo — bass, an accomplished Albanian jazz musician and educator at University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$35 cabaret table seating, and \$50 generous supporter tickets. THT's bar will be open throughout the evening, offering cocktails, beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. For tickets and more information, visit townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222. THT's Cady Fund offers ticket subsidies to ensure cost is not a barrier to access.

PUZZLES

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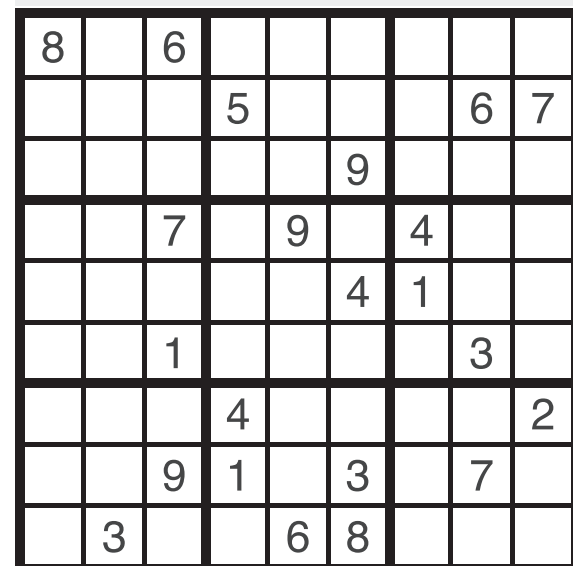
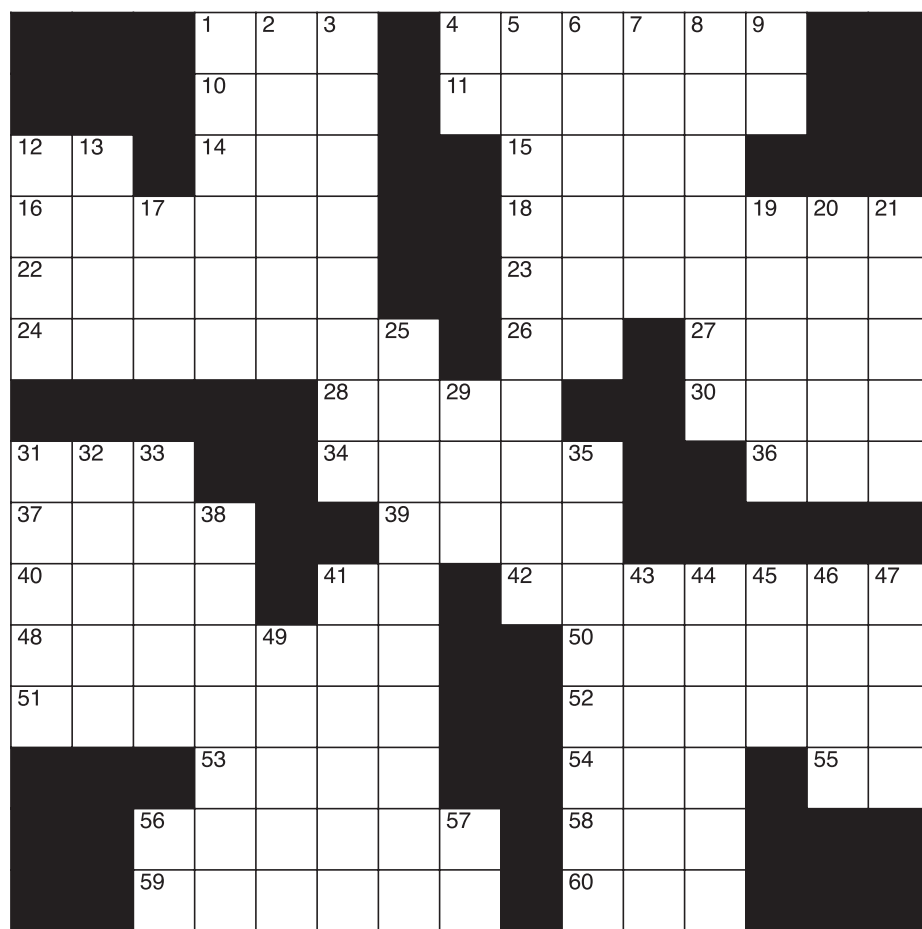
- 1. Similar
- 4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal
- 10. No (Scottish)
- 11. __ Aires, city
- 12. Morning
- 14. Senior's son (abbr.)
- 15. A notable achievement
- 16. European nation
- 18. Endings
- 22. Puts into place
- 23. Former
- 24. Grenadier
- 26. Sea patrol
- 27. Algerian port
- 28. Norwegian river

- 30. Precipitation
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. New York is one
- 36. Patti Hearst's captors
- 37. Soft mineral with greasy feel
- 39. Retired Brazilian footballer
- 40. An Indian nursemaid
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Immobile
- 48. Insignia of royalty
- 50. Seeds from which chocolate is made
- 51. Begin again

- 52. Round root
- 53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)
- 54. What newlyweds just said
- 55. Empire State
- 56. Give back
- 58. College hoops tournament
- 59. Unstable situations
- 60. Young women's association

DOWN

- 1. Administer a drug
- 2. Holy places
- 3. Contrary opinions



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

- 4. Blood type
- 5. Gags
- 6. Micturating
- 7. Silly
- 8. A type of "cuff"
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Austrian river
- 13. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 17. Consume food
- 19. California supermarket
- 20. Electronic communication
- 21. Cassia tree
- 25. Written works
- 29. Cool!
- 31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth
- 32. One who was compensated
- 33. National symbols
- 35. Raising
- 38. A type of talk
- 41. Cloud
- 43. Middle Eastern peoples
- 44. Pouches
- 45. 007's creator
- 46. A cut of meat
- 47. Sports entertainment award
- 49. Christine __, actress
- 56. Relief organization (abbr.)
- 57. Canadian province (abbr.)



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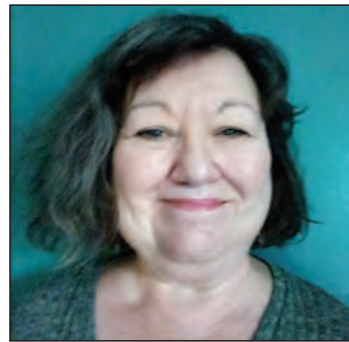
THANK YOU, MIDDLEBURY!

You made the second annual Sparrow Plein Air Festival a weekend to remember. To our artists, partners, sponsors, and community, we are so grateful.

Stop by the shop to see our **Wet Paint Exhibit** of artworks created during the festival!
On view through July 5.

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

EDIBLE LANDSCAPING



Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.

If you've always grown a traditional garden with rows of tomatoes or sprawling cucumbers, consider taking your edible gardening one step further: incorporate food crops into your landscape plan.

Growing plants that produce food as part of your yard's design can add an unexpected decorative element. It can also increase the available space to grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs by

tucking them into places that might otherwise be occupied by purely decorative plants.

Fruit trees produce flowers in the spring and tasty treats later in the season. Most are available in standard, semi-dwarf, and dwarf sizes, making them good options for the home landscape. Some, like peaches (*Prunus persica*), are self-fertile. Others, such as apples (*Malus domestica*), require a pollinizer, so you'll need to plan for two trees.

two or more varieties since cross-pollination will increase yield even in those that are self-fertile.

Many species of serviceberries (*Amelanchier*) are locally evolved in North America. They're hardy in Zones 2 to 8. Mature size can vary depending on the variety, with some shrubs 4 to 6 feet in height while others reach over 15 feet tall.

Annual vegetables like green or yellow pole beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) or cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*) can be grown up a trellis or other structures, providing attractive flowers followed by easy harvesting.

Low-growing strawberries (*Fragaria x ananassa*) (Zones 3 to 10) can be used as a border. American cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) (Zones 3 to 7) with their low-growth habit of only 4 to 6 inches high and evergreen foliage can serve as groundcover in sunny areas.

Including herbs in your garden beds not only adds visual interest with a variety of leaf textures, but they also add a punch of flavor when cooking. Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) sports frilly foliage. Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) are a low-growing perennial that produce purple, orb-shaped flowers.

Edible flowers can add pops of color to the garden, attract pollinators, and add new flavor to salads and other dishes. Many garden favorites you may already be growing are edible. The newly emerged sprouts of Hostas (*Hosta*) taste similar to asparagus. The flowers are also edible. Rose (*Rosa*) petals and hips, all parts of the daylily (*Hemerocallis*) — but NOT Asiatic or other lilies which can be poisonous — and lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) flowers have various culinary uses.

When selecting a plant for your edible garden, be sure you've properly identified it and that it is indeed edible. In addition, be sure it hasn't been treated with pesticides or other toxic substances.

Make your selection as you would a purely decorative plant. Be sure to take into consideration its mature size, as well as its light, water, soil, and nutrient needs. While it's

See GARDEN on page 12

Did you know that the foliage of highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) turns colorful in the fall? Blueberry bushes can exhibit colors ranging from red to purple, orange or yellow. This North American local species is hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 3 to 8, depending on the variety. Height at maturity ranges from 5 to 8 feet. Consider investing in



Apple trees are popular choices for edible landscaping, but keep in mind that you will need more than one variety for cross-pollination to yield fruit.

PHOTO BY DEBRA HELEBA

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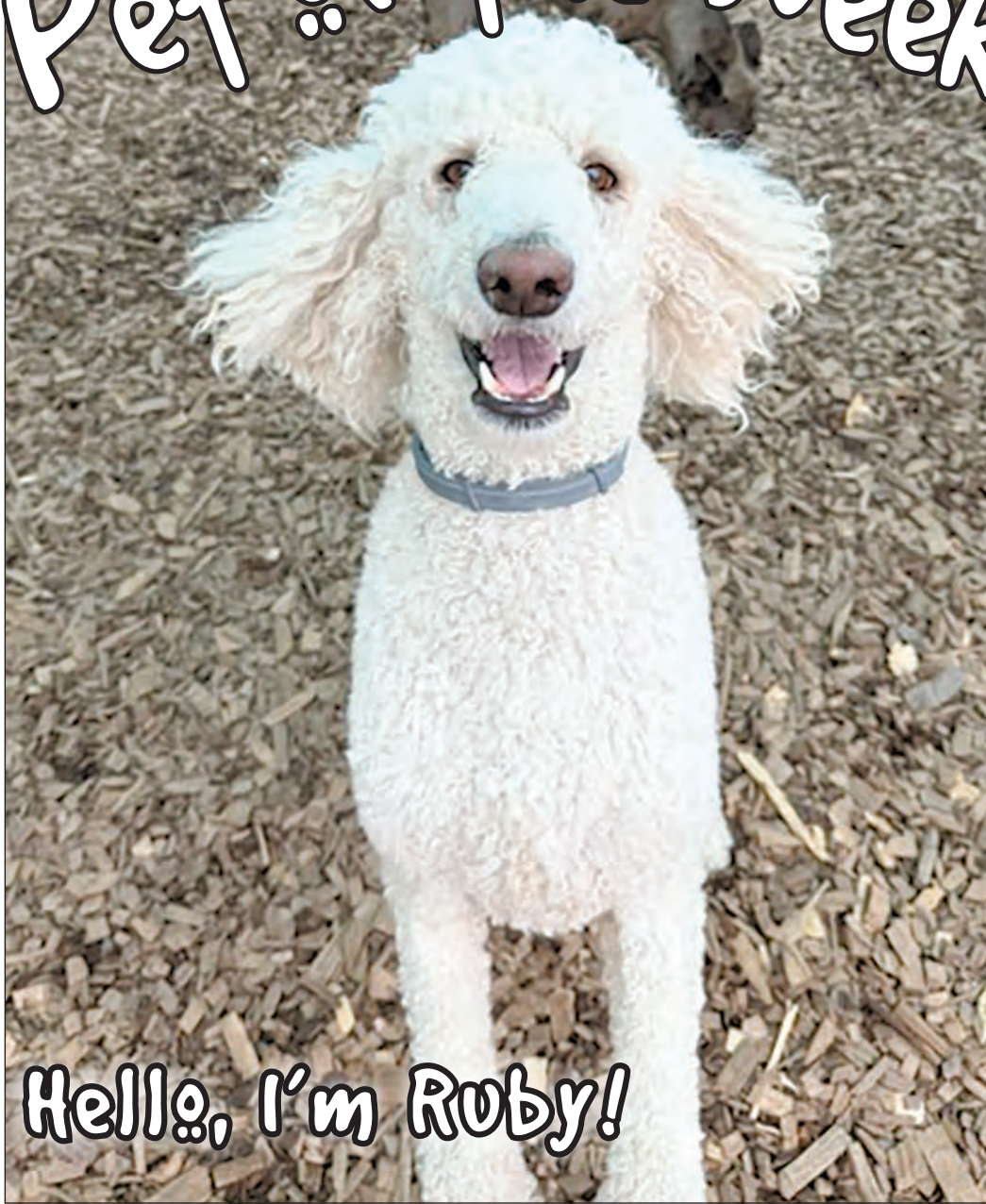
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Pet of the Week



Hello, I'm Ruby!

Ruby is a very happy girl who loves daycare at Woof Pack, and the dog park. This three-year-old Standard Poodle is a fast runner and ball catcher in midair!

Submitted by Linda Kokinis of Middlebury.

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

George

This guy is a little on the chonky side and enjoys the finer things in life, especially Lickables and Temptations treats! **George's** favorite activity is spending time with humans. He loves pets, head rubs, and soaking up attention, though it's important to know that he likes to feel comfortable on his own timeline. He would prefer not being with another cat that wants to be in his personal space. He can also tolerate calm, respectful dogs who also understand personal space.



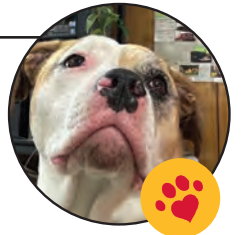
Peppa

Peppa arrived with her siblings and has grown up in a loving foster home. She and her siblings were found living in a wall and they were quite scared of people. Peppa has made a ton of progress, but she is the shyest of her littermates.



Jax

Jax is being overlooked by adopters and we can't figure out why! He's 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 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. Recently, he also discovered that swimming is a pretty fun way to spend the day!



Lloyd

Meet **Lloyd**! This handsome man is looking for a new start. Lloyd is goofy and a little clumsy. He's a big boy with an even bigger heart! His favorite thing is to lounge on the couch but don't be fooled - Lloyd still has some young dog energy left and would love a family that takes him for nice walks and fun car rides.



Lloyd enjoys hanging his head out the window in the back seat, soaking up the sun and the nice breeze. He's lived with both young and older children. Lloyd can be selective with what dogs he wants to interact with. He could possibly live with a spayed female. He has no experience being around cats.

Nova

Nova is a 1-year-old, happy girl, looking for a home where she gets to be her full, fantastic self. She's energetic and is currently working on her puppy manners. She's quite nervous in new situations but is slowly feeling more confident. Nova has lived with dogs, cats, and children. She's affectionate toward shelter staff and has made dog friends during her stay with us. Shelter staff adore her sweet nature and loving demeanor, and it's been rewarding to watch her come out of her shell.



Pet of the WEEK



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236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

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 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 30 years. On view through Aug. 9.

PHOTOPPLACE 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. On view through June 27.

PLANK ROAD ART STAND

7824 Plank Rd., Bristol

Open Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays or

by appointment. For more information visit

brendamyrickart.com, call 802-458-1415 or email brendamyrickart@gmail.com.

"Past and Present" featuring the artwork of Brenda Myrick, the estate of Barbara Lane, and Jim Lienau. This self-serve roadside gallery is housed in a repurposed horse trailer, lovingly transformed into a one-of-a-kind art space. The art stand features original artwork, hand carved wooden fish, animal step stools, and cards, with new work being added regularly. On view through October.

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 present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary illustrations. Together, these materials illuminate the lives of one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a

shared home, tailoring business, and life in early Vermont. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Time Keeping." Artifacts and archival treasures from the 18th century through today will be presented in conversation with New England contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio's 'Clockworks,' the magically crafted worlds of paper theater within vintage clocks and watch housings. Showcasing stories of far-reaching possibilities in layers of time, Luciana Frigerio's captivating mixed media collages mirror Henry Sheldon's own passion for storytelling through paper and material culture. 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.

GARDEN

continued from page 10

easy to observe light and water conditions, for best results, consider having a soil test to determine whether any amendments should be made. See go.uvm.edu/soiltest for more information.

When dealing with pests or other problems in a garden that includes plants intended for human consumption, consider using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to help keep edible plants free from toxic substances. See go.uvm.edu/ipmabcs to learn more about IPM.

Whether you're looking for a tree, shrub, flowers, or groundcover, there's



likely an edible plant (or two or more) that can add another layer of pleasure to your garden. Contact the Extension Master Gardener Helpline at go.uvm.edu/gardenhelpline for additional ideas or guidance on installing these plants in your home landscape.

Adding herbs like dill to ornamental gardens provides visual interest and an edible harvest.

PHOTO BY DEBRA HELEBA



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*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*





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June 18, 2026

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Exercise your mind.

With the Addy Indy puzzles every Thursday!

Stay Sharp

CALENDAR

continued from page 7

School, 1036 Monkton Road. This 44-mile bike ride takes low-traffic roads from Hinesburg to Bristol. Those doing the 33-mile loop can stop at the MiniFactory Café/Bakery, but those on the longer loop will add a loop through New Haven and Bristol before earning their pastries. All riders must wear helmets and obey the rules of the road. For more info visit Register and see details: thegmbc.com/events.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Tuesday, July 7, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: CONNOR YOUNG & FRIENDS IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 8, 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 & chairs for the lawn. we also set up some

tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

PIZZA BY THE POND: THE MORNING DUDES PLAY LIVE IN GOSHEN. Thursday, July 9, 5-8 p.m., Blueberry Hill Inn, 1245 Goshen Ripton Road. Enjoy all-you-can-eat wood-fired pizza made with Vermont flour, lemonade and a beautiful atmosphere. The Morning Dudes play songs from the repertoire of Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir and the Grateful Dead, including folk, blues, country, bluegrass and improv rock. Pizza starts at 5, music at 6 p.m. BYOB. Local ice cream and Blueberry Hill cookies also available. Well-behaved leashed dogs welcome. \$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7-11; free for kids 6 and under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.



service as some of those amongst us believe that human moral erosion owes its origins to flat ceilings of sheet gypsum at eight feet above the floor, made in Chinese and Mexican factories. Also note that when common homes burn in wildfires, the smoke created and the ash left behind is full of toxic materials released by the synthetic components of current home building techniques. Nothing can compare to the traditional timber frame built of sustainable materials found close at hand. The methods used in all timber framing provide palpable medicine for the souls of craftspeople

that make them and occupants that dwell within them.

It makes total sense that Goosewing Timberworks would likely not exist in its current state without the enhanced computerized communication and interest-sharing worldwide. Will began his design career using the ancient tools of drawing board and pencils, which he perfected until he became, in his own words, "ridiculously anachronistic". The burden of sharing design drawings with his business partners and keeping the market informed of Goosewing's latest adventure is now borne by the laptops of a committed community of practitioners and enthusiasts across the globe.



Timber framing awaits construction.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the REAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

204 West River Rd, Lincoln

This 3-bed, 2-bath Lincoln village home has undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic charm through the beautiful integration of modern design elements including a stunning new kitchen and baths! Close to endless outdoor recreation including scenic hiking, biking & river swimming holes.

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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.

\$489,000 **MLS# 5090864**

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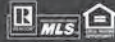
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NEW LISTING



BRIDPORT | 1703 Crown Point Road | MLS #5091836
 3 BR | 1 BA | 1285 SF | 1.00 ACRES | \$349,000

With Green Mtn views to the east and Adirondack views to the west, this solid and practical home is on an easy-to-maintain acre with proximity to the village general store and only a short drive to Middlebury.

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 26 Kings Row | MLS #5093934
 3 BD | 1 BA | 1724 SF | 0.46 ACRES | \$324,900

Thoughtfully designed one-level with great flow, in a private setting convenient to amenities. Detached barn features finished space above, currently used as a studio. The adjacent land parcel is also available.



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 ~ Doug & Ginny S.

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 458 East Main Street | MLS #5093625
 5 BR | 4 BA | 3116 SF | 0.95 ACRES | \$595,000

This 1840 Village home offers an attached apartment, perfect for an in-law suite or rental for extra income. Many recent upgrades, charming historic details, and a post-and-beam barn ready for your projects.

NEW LISTING



MIDDLEBURY | 466 East Main Street | MLS #5094591
 4 BR | 2 BA | 2684 SF | 0.60 ACRES | \$725,000

Beautifully updated. Enjoy custom kitchen, wood floors, abundant natural light, and the wood burning fireplace. Mature plantings surround with the flow of a gentle river behind. Walking distance to amenities.

OPEN HOUSE!

SATURDAY JUNE 20, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON.



29 MOUNT PLEASANT DRIVE, BRANDON - MLS #5071791 - \$494,000



This beautifully maintained 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom ranch is filled with natural light creating a bright and uplifting atmosphere from morning to evening. The home has been thoughtfully updated with solar panels, a new roof, a custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances and a paved driveway. The spacious primary suite offers a spa-like bathroom with double sinks, a jetted tub and an oversized walk-in shower. The lower level provides space for a family room, storage and an unfinished space that can be used as a large workshop or workout area. Outside you can relax on the large back deck and enjoy the mountain views. The backyard has established gardens, a raspberry patch and plenty of space for gardening. Ideally located this home offers convenient access to everything the town of Brandon has to offer while also providing an easy commute to Middlebury, Rutland or all points North and South. Move-in ready and ideally located, this home blends comfort, convenience and easy Vermont living.



Listed and hosted by:
 Heather Foster-Provencher



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT | 802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net



OPEN HOUSE!



Congratulations!

2026 GRADUATES

A special publication of the *Addison Independent* • June 18, 2026

YOUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

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Congratulations to the Class of 2026 from our family to yours. We wish you success in all your future endeavors.



**VERMONT
FEDERAL**
CREDIT UNION

Double diplomas

MUHS sibling graduates think alike, but aren't identical

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — In the game of sibling rivalry, Alex Almeida-Perez holds bragging rights over his sister, Marilyn.

Two minutes.

That's how much older he is than his twin, with whom he attends classes as seniors at Middlebury Union High School.

Of course, when you're only 18, seniority sounds important. Several decades from now, Marilyn will be able to turn the tables on Alex and call him "old-timer."

But in reality, you'd be hard pressed to find any semblance of

competition between Alex and Marilyn, who graduated with their MUHS class of 2026 peers on June 6.

They share the same birth date and a bunch of other commonalities.

They're best friends.

They're both fascinated with the subject of psychology.

When they're not in school, they're usually studying or working to salt away money to help pay for college.

It's a work ethic instilled by their parents, who hail from Mexico and have made a home for the family in Bridport. Their

stepdad works on the Blue Spruce Farm, and their mom has a budding food business called Doña Alejandra Tacos. Work has shaped the entire family, whether it be milking, cooking food, studying, or working side jobs to help make ends meet.

Marilyn and Alex have been climbing the academic ranks together since their K-5 days at Bridport Central School.

"We have shared classes together, which is a really nice experience, and we can help each other doing homework," Alex said during a recent interview with Marilyn in the MUHS library.

"Doing things together helps us grow and try new things."

Marilyn is a standout volleyball player on the MUHS squad, which won its first Division II state title this past November.

"My brother inspired me to do sports in middle school, because he was great at soccer and I wanted to be an athlete, too," Marilyn said.

She picked volleyball and has never regretted it. Marilyn has played volleyball all four of her years at MUHS, earning Vermont All-State first team honors. She's also coached "March Madness" volleyball at Middlebury Union Middle School, shaping the next wave to varsity players.

Marilyn has also been involved in the BIPOC Club, Art Club and has served as a peer leader.

On weekends, Marilyn has worked in the Middlebury College dining hall. In her free time, Marilyn enjoys painting outdoors, hiking, swimming and watching scary movies. She also plays on a travel volleyball team called VIBE and is active in her church community.

Alex stopped playing soccer after his freshman year in high school to focus on academics and community service.

He's volunteered at Bixby Library in Vergennes, helping with (among other things) the Friends of Bixby's periodic books sales.

"I basically grew up going to the library. My mother would bring us, especially at a young age. I've loved books ever since I was young," he said.

If there was a literacy challenge at school, Alex always made the podium.

"(Reading) was a way for me to



TWIN SIBLINGS MARILYN and Alex Almeida-Perez have capped very successful careers at Middlebury Union High School and are now headed to college studies outside of Vermont.

Independent photo/John Flowers

(Continued on Page 4)

Double diplomas

(Continued from Page 3)

connect to another world. I found it fascinating how someone could create a whole world in their mind and then write it," Alex said.

"Reading is underrated; it needs to come back again."

He was a 4-H Science Ambassador, a group that created science workshops for other teens at the University of Vermont campus in Burlington.

"We did a lot of public speaking and helping other teens socialize a bit more. It was a great experience," he said.

Alex also spent two years volunteering at Homeward

Bound, the Addison County Humane Society.

"I love cats," Alex said with a broad smile. "I helped some cats with bad behavior socialize again with humans."

"You know yourself better than anyone else, and if you stay persistent, work hard, and believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything."

— Marilyn Almeida-Perez

Alex and Marilyn are both good students and are bilingual; they primarily speak Spanish at home. The twins routinely help their mom with Spanish/English translation and filling out business paperwork.

They also take turns at the stove, helping her create her assortment of tacos, tamales and empanadas, and carrying finished products to

the car and catering gigs.

Both teens are inquisitive.

In addition to their joint passion for psychology, Marilyn is drawn to science, while Alex has an affinity for environmental justice. Both will continue their studies this fall — Marilyn at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, and Alex at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

The Almeida-Perez twins are grateful for the chance to go to college and for many other things — including a loving family, employment and friendships. It's a success story

they want to see replicated. They want to influence the narrative about migrant families and what they can bring to the table — literally, as well as figuratively — in this country. To that end, both Alex and Marilyn are involved with a Vermont-based

nonprofit called Migrant Justice, whose mission is to "build the voice, capacity, and power of the immigrant farmworker community to organize for

economic justice and human rights."

Many Addison County dairy farms are dependent on migrant farm workers to take jobs that Vermonters aren't filling. At the same time, the Trump administration has been cracking down on undocumented workers.

The twins are dismayed by the hurtful rhetoric they're hearing — mostly at the national level — some of it equating undocumented workers with "invaders" or "criminals."

"They're people like everyone else," Alex said of migrant

workers, many of whom hail from Central America. "It's hard to comprehend why they have so much hate. For me — living in that community — they are probably some of the most hard-working individuals. They are so determined.

They sacrifice so much to work here. Working here is an opportunity for them. Back home, they don't have

"(Reading) was a way for me to connect to another world. I found it fascinating how someone could create a whole world in their mind and then write it."

— Alex Almeida-Perez

(Continued on Page 5)

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(Continued from Page 4)

opportunities; they aren't safe. (The U.S. and Vermont) are a dream for them. They have so much hope."

Alex said his stepdad wakes up at 4 a.m. and works until 5 p.m.

"All he does is work, work and work. I know he loves us, but it's really hard to connect with him because he's too tired. All he does is work, eat and sleep," he said.

Marilyn believes education is important in understanding human behavior, and she's looking forward to that process.

"It's one of the reasons I want to go into psychology, to understand (other) points of view. I need to understand *why* they think that way," she said.

As the Almeida-Perez twins leave to begin the next chapter in their lives, their younger sister, Milena, will carry the family banner at MUHS this fall.

She'll be able to look at her twin siblings as role models, and Marilyn has left her with some good advice for weathering tough times:

"You are going to meet people who doubt you, judge you, or tell you what you can't do. Don't let their opinions decide your future. You know yourself better than anyone else, and if you stay persistent, work hard, and believe in yourself, you can accomplish anything."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



Grease!

Each year MUHS seniors work together to stage an amazing musical show. The Class of 2026 upheld the tradition with "Grease." Shown clockwise from right are, Sawyer Witscher, as "Sandy"; "Burger Boys" Nick Carpenter, Emery Richards-Lindeke, Callan McDowell, Nathan Stefani and Sole Pareja; Madelyn LaDuke as "Frenchie"; and the "Pink Ladies" sing their hearts out.

Photos by Jason Duquette-Hoffman



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Impressive

Many members of the Middlebury Union High School Class of 2026 were quite athletic. We feature five of them here, though there were plenty more who will also be remembered from the playing fields, diamonds, gym and dance floor.

Clockwise from right, Tiger Steven Lackard celebrates with Coach Ethan Raymond this past January after the MUHS senior earned his 100th career victory at a double-dual meet in Colchester. The accomplished wrestler placed 2nd in the 285-pound class at the Vermont state meet.

Nordic champion Mary Harrington skis around the familiar course at the Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton in February on her way to winning the Division II girls' 5K freestyle skiing title.

Division I All-State running back Logan McNulty earns some yards for Tiger football; he was a key member among a group of strong seniors on the D-I championship football team in his senior fall.

Figure skaters Oprea Littlefield and Avery Hohenschau dazzle the audience at Chip Kenyon Arena during Middlebury Figure Skating Club's Winter Carnival show, "MidNight Magic" this past February.



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Alexander
Almeida-Perez



Marilyn
Almeida-Perez



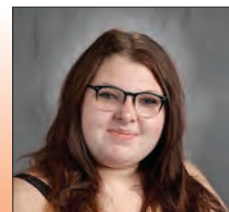
Esra Anzali



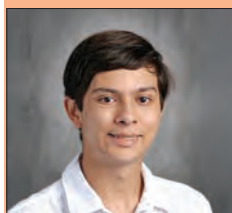
Wesley Audet



Mattisen Austin



Alyza Bagley



Kirin Prakash
Biancosino



Solstice A. Binder



Marolyn J. Bingham



Jason Bishop



Cora Raye Blair



Isabeau Blake



Gunnar Boe



Linc Bonner



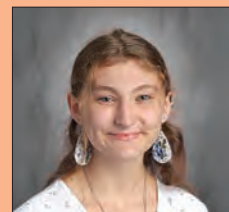
Cara Bougor



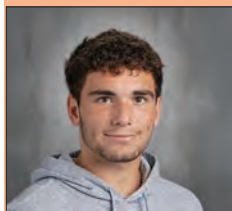
Maya Breckenridge



Norah Meadow
Burrell



Katelyn Busby



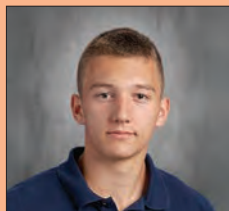
Owen Butterfield



Lia Calzini



Cooper C. Cannon



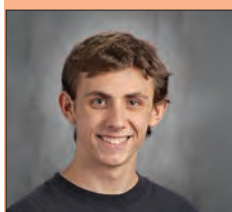
Lyle Carey



Nick Carpenter



Skyler Choiniere



Peter Conklin



Kenyon Jade
Connors



Spencer Copeland



Levi Phillip
D'Avignon



Kisung Davis



Ben DeBisschop



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Jonathan L.
Deering



Quinn Holdman
Doria



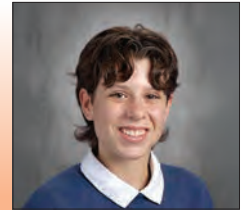
Noah Drake



Oscar Drake



Marshall Eddy



Logan
Edmonds-Beattie



Theodore Fallis



McKenzie Forbes



Brianna Foss



Josie Alice Gaiotti



Monserrat Lizbeth
Garcia Ramirez



Ivy Gates



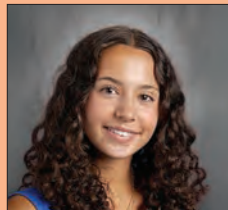
Austin Gero



Caitlin Elizabeth
Gillett



Wyatt Gillett



Navah Glikman



Claude Godard



Finch Goetz

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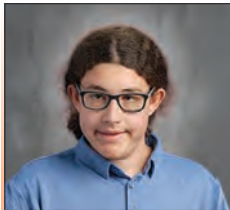
We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what your future holds!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Alice, and Bob



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Berkeley Eli
Graham-Gurland



Gabe Hamel



Kaden Orozco
Hammond



Ireland Hanley



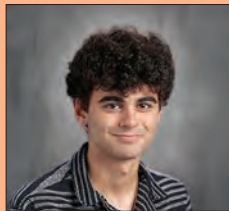
Miley Hanson



Mary Harrington



Mason Harrington



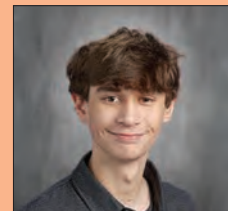
Jordan Hayyat



Jaxson Heffernan



Avery Hohenschau



Justin L. Jimmo



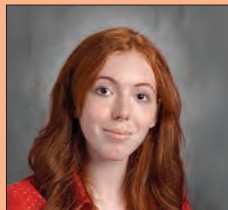
Emily Johnson



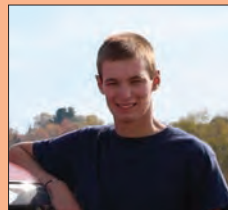
Ripken Johnson



Jonathan Kafumbe



Olivia Nadine
Kearley



Jonathan Kehoe



Maryam Khan



Lola Kimball



Steven A.
Lackard Jr.



Madelyn LaDuke



John Lafountain



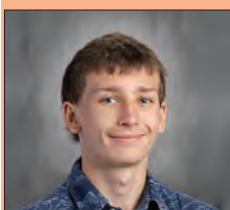
Alyssa LaRose



Kendall Leno



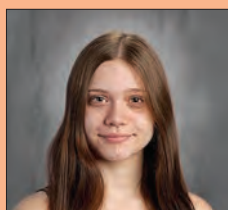
Oprea Littlefield



Benjamin Noah
Longman



Quinn Mackey



Kendra Mahler



Adrien Malhotra



Theodore Manning-
Lonczak

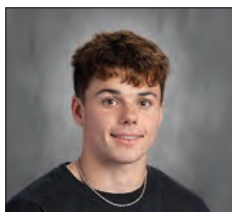


Callan McDowell



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Logan McNulty



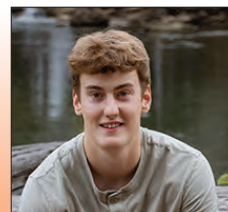
Barlow McWilliams



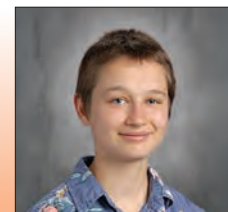
Cierra-Rayne Miller



Vivian Mott



Ethan Mulcahy



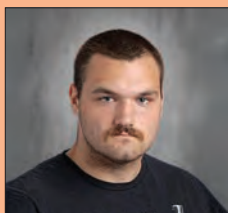
Soledad Pareja



Juno Putnam



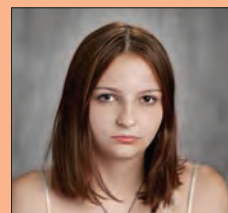
Milla Raley



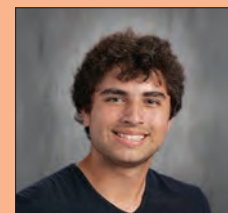
Kameron Raymond



Rainie Raymond



Callie Rees



Yankee Rheame



Madelyn Richard



Emery Richards-Lindeke



Cooke Riney



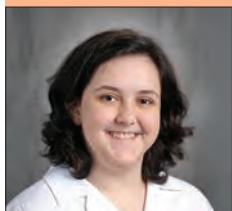
Grace Ritter



Sutton Rubright



Madison Selleck



Chance Sheldon-Shea



Mercedes Cohen Sheldrick



Maren Augusta Shubert



Nathan Stefani



Jalynn Rose Sunderland



Laila Sunderland



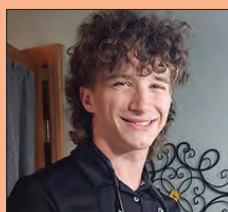
Hunter Sunhawk



Makyliah Tellier



Molly Thalen



Reece James Thibault



Savannah Tomaszewski



Tyreese Franklin Tucker

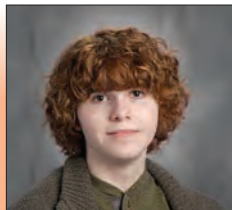


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Gabriel Alejandro Velez



Julian Vukoder



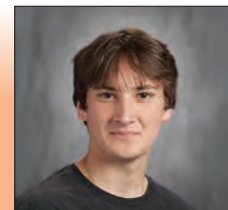
Cody John Warner



Makayla Ann Warner



Alyssa Warren



Matthew Whelan



Alixis Williams



Sawyer Cash Witscher



Anna Wolosinski



Jordan Wood



Ariel Zieller



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New VUHS grad active in agriculture

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — In late May, Calvin Almeida answered the phone from his seat on a tractor at Kayhart Brothers farm. The machine's rumble and hummed in the background, and the Vergennes Union High School soon-to-be-graduate's joy was also transmitted through the airwaves.

Almeida, who recently walked across the stage with the rest of the VUHS class of 2026, was in the middle of his first day as a full-time employee of the West Addison farm, which he began working for parttime at the beginning of the year.

During a time when the agriculture industry is hurting for young people, Almeida said it's the field he sees himself pursuing long after graduation.

"I've been around it my whole life, and everyone says, 'Well, is there a different career path you want to go down?' and I said, 'You know, I've looked at all the career paths, and I can't see myself in them,'" he said.

"If I love doing it, might as well do it, because someone's gotta do it."

Almeida's parents, Justin and Jasmine, own Almeida Farm in Addison. While his older sister, Ava, is studying to be a psychologist, and his younger sister, Laci, might be more frequently asking, "What do you want to do after high school" as a rising junior, Calvin is firmly in the business of farming.

Before Almeida got his start with Kayhart, he spent time in high



AFTER GRADUATING FROM Vergennes Union High School this month, Addison resident Calvin Almeida will miss seeing his friends every day at school but he looks forward to spending more time on the farm.

Photo courtesy of Calvin Almeida

school as an officer for FFA, including most recently as the Vergennes Chapter's president.

"I love it because everyone that's in FFA is someone that loves ag, and they love what I do," he said.

"I feel like we're more of a community and whatnot, when you got that, because it's like, hey, there are more people that actually like what I do, I'm not just the only one."

Agriculture became a focus of Almeida's education during his junior

year of high school, when he started spending afternoons at the Hannaford Career Center, completing the school's natural resource management program.

"Being in a classroom with math and science and all that every day, it's kind of hard for me. And then being at the Career Center helped out a lot, because I was out in the woods, and I was on field trips, and we weren't in a classroom as much, and I think that I was real happy when I got into that."

While he was there, instructor Aaron Townsend had a significant impact on Almeida. "Hands down one of my favorite teachers I've ever had," he said. "He just made every day fun and different, and felt like you actually wanted to be there and learn."

Like many graduating seniors likely feel, closing this chapter is

bittersweet for Almeida.

"I'm happy to be done, but I'm gonna miss seeing friends and teachers and faces that I've seen every day for 12 years," he said.

In the near future, Kayhart Brothers will keep Almeida busy with tasks that run the gamut, something he enjoys about the work.

"I do a little bit of everything, and I kind of like that, because I don't know what I'm getting myself into every day," he said.

Other aspects that draw him to agriculture include the opportunities for leadership roles and responsibility, he said.

"I enjoy being with tractors and with cows," Almeida noted.

"My passion is driving tractors, like I'm doing right now. It's my

"I was out in the woods, and I was on field trips, and we weren't in a classroom as much, and I think that I was real happy when I got into that."

— Calvin Almeida

(Continued on Page 13)

Member of VUHS '26 chosen for prestigious Senate Page program

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union High School senior Quincy Sabick this year was selected as one of only two Vermont delegates to the United States Senate Youth Program.

Sabick earned this honor through years of meaningful leadership and civic engagement. For the past three years, she has served as the student representative on the Addison Northwest School District Board, where she consistently brought student perspectives

forward with respect and care for her peers.

“She does more than show up. She does the hard work and understands the responsibility that comes with representing her fellow students,” said VUHS Principal Jody Chamberlin.

Within the school, Sabick led the Green Team environmental group; served as an editor of the student newspaper, *The Current*; and was deeply engaged in her academic and extracurricular commitments. She has challenged herself through Advanced Placement and dual enrollment coursework. In her senior year, she participated in the VUHS German Exchange program and studied German IV.

“These choices reflect her curiosity and commitment to learning beyond the classroom,” Chamberlin noted.

Sabick’s leadership also extends beyond VUHS. In the summer of 2025, she was elected Governor at Vermont Girls State and later served as a U.S. Senate Page, sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders. She is a youth Representative on the Vermont Climate Council. In each setting, she stood out for her ability to listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions, and approach leadership as service.

In the community, Sabick is co-



QUINCY SABICK, WHO graduated from VUHS in June 2026, poses with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders while she was a Senate page in 2025. Sabick during this past school year was picked as a Vermont delegate to the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

president of the Leos Club (the youth arm of the Lions Club), where she helped lead service projects, such as refurbishing a food shelf, helping at an elementary school vision screening, and reading to young children.

“What sets Quincy apart is her balance of ambition and humanity,” Chamberlin said. “She pays attention to others, values different perspectives, and leads in ways that bring people together. She makes our school and community stronger through both her actions and her presence.”

The 64th annual United States Senate Youth Program Washington Week took place in Washington, D.C., March 7–14. Two student leaders from each

state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity spent a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. Students must be actively serving in high-level elected or appointed leadership positions.

Student delegates heard major policy addresses by senators, Cabinet members, officials from the departments of State and Defense and directors of other federal agencies. In addition, each delegate will also be awarded a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies, with encouragement to pursue coursework in history and political science. Sabick is expected to matriculate at Dartmouth College.

Almeida

(Continued from Page 12)

favorite thing to do,” he said.

“And I love feeding cows, that’s my second favorite thing, and I’m grateful that I get to do that at least once a week.”

Looking ahead, Almeida is interested in a number of possible avenues within agriculture.

“I would say my favorite path that I would love to go down is feed nutrition, and like knowing what your cows eat and what to feed them, and feeding cows, that’s definitely my biggest passion,” he noted.

“I really do enjoy feeding cows,” he added. “I just love doing it.”

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Calvin Almeida



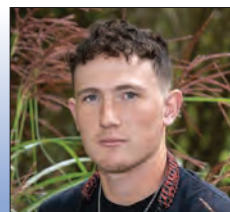
Kyan Barcomb



Morgan Beenen



Tiegen Buskey



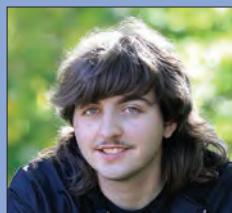
Kyle Clark



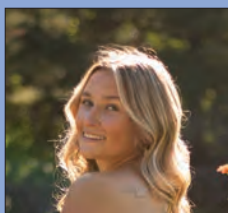
Ila Crowley



Allegra de Boer



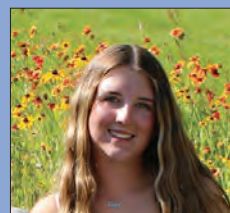
Conner Dempsey



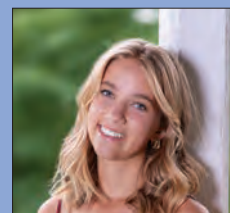
Octavia Devine



Theodorus Elzinga



Nilah Fitzgerald



Abigail Flint



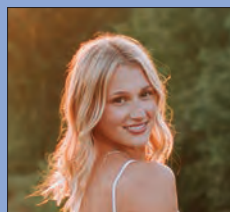
Ava Francis



Aiden Fuller



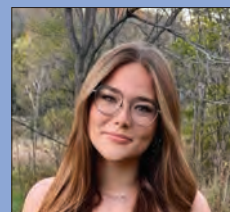
Sawyer Garthaffner



Amelia Giroux



Joshua Goff



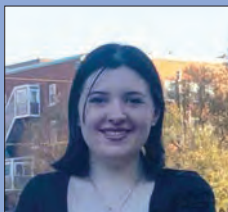
Skadi Haerter



Alfredo Hernandez-Baltazar



Elijah Holmes



Di Hunt



Scout Jacobson



Mia Kadar



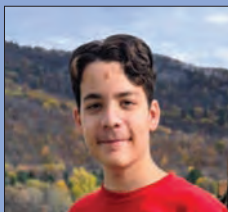
Chance Koenig



Payton Lavoie



Gina LeBeau



Reese Lisko



David MacDonough



Peter Maneen



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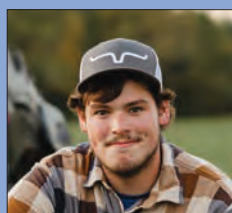
James Petersen



Isabella Pratt



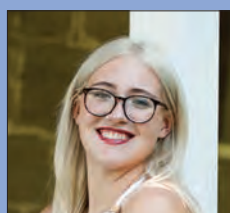
Mya Provencher



Aiden Putnam



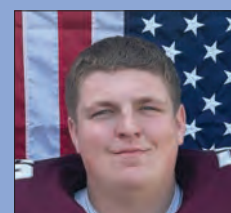
Phoebe Raphael



Lydia Raymond



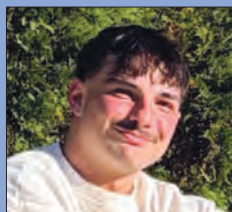
Libby Ringer



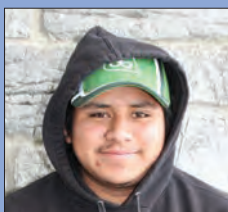
Gabriel Roussin



Quincy Sabick



Dekota Safford



Jose
Santiago-Loyola



Jadyen Steadman



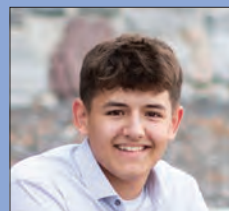
Ashtin Stearns



Logan Stearns



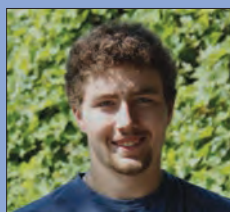
Kenneth Sullivan Jr.



Logan Thibeault



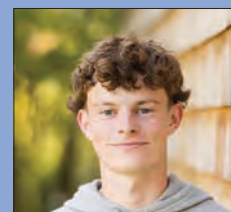
Abigail Visser



Rudolf Vorsteveld



Hunter West



Evan White



Congratulations, Nilah!

Love, Dad and Bridger.



CONGRATULATIONS!

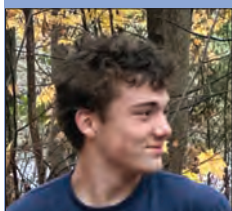
VERGENNES UNION HIGH SCHOOL



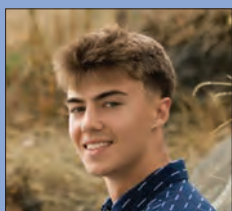
Alexis Wildasin



Eleanor
Wilkinson-Sachs



Garrett Wood



Ryan Wright

Seniors on stage

Gina Lebeau and Phoebe Raphael were among the senior actors who took part in Vergennes Union High School's production of "Mean Girls: The Musical" this past March.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman



The last four years have flown by as we've watched you grow into an amazing group of young adults.

The faculty, staff, and administration of ANWSD are so proud of you and wish you all the best in your next chapter.

Keep doing great things!



Mt. Abraham graduate encourages students to try new things — he did

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Wyatt Moyer knows how big an impact one class can have in high school.

Moyer, a 2026 Mount Abraham Union High School graduate, decided to sign up for a piano class during his junior year at the Bristol school.

“I go to church every Sunday, and I’ve been very involved in that, and I’ve always been surrounded by good musicians and good singing, and it’s always been something that I aspired to, was having that skill,” he explained. “So, I joined the piano class with (middle and high school chorus teacher Megan LaRose) and that ignited my passion for music.”

Moyer has continued to play the piano and build on the skills he

learned in the course. Enrolling in the class also led him to later join the school’s chorus at LaRose’s encouragement.

“Not that I’m much of a singer, but I do it just to have a place to be and a thing to do,” he said. “I definitely do enjoy it; learning new music and experiencing it.”

As he wraps up his high school career at Mt. Abe, Moyer encouraged current and incoming students to “just go for it” when it comes to pursuing activities and

courses.

“Definitely one of my biggest regrets from high school is not getting involved with the chorus

and the music department earlier like I have now,” he said. “If you have an inkling to do something like that or you’ve ever had an interest in it, just try it out.”

Reflecting on the years he spent at Mt.

Abe, Moyer highlighted another key part of his high school experience: the educators who have supported him along the way.

“If something happens in the auditorium and they need lights, I’m the guy that they go to, and I’m responsible for that.”

— Wyatt Moyer

“The teachers here definitely are pretty amazing,” he said. “They are extremely, extremely dedicated to you and your learning, and a number of them I have come to consider someone I could call if I’m ever in a crisis.”

Those educators include senior class advisor and high school English teacher Addie Thompson and high school social studies teacher Jessica Little.

“Even beyond your learning, they’re dedicated to you as a person, not just you as a student, which is really great,” Moyer said.

He said some teachers have continued to be someone he could talk to about his learning and interests even after Moyer had

(Continued on Page 19)



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DURING HIS TIME at Mount Abraham Union High School, 2026 graduate Wyatt Moyer dove into the school's music department through a piano class and joining the chorus. Those experiences have expanded his interest in music, and he encourages other students to try out things they're interested in while in high school.

Photo courtesy of Wyatt Moyer

(Continued from Page 18)

moved on from their classes.

"My interest in music has definitely grown and expanded since that first piano class, and I've always been able to go back to (LaRose) and just talk about it," he said. "She's always been super interested in what I'm learning about and looking into and experiencing, and that goes for a lot of other teachers."

While he joined the school's

music department later in his high school career, Moyer has been involved in musical productions at Mt. Abe for much longer. He's helped out with lighting for school musicals since 2019, when he took part in the Expanded Learning Program's first summer musical as a fifth-grader.

Moyer signed up as a sound mixer and also ended up helping design the lighting for the production.

"So, that was my first experience with it," he recalled. "And then when I got back to Mt. Abe in seventh grade, one of the first emails I ever sent to one of my teachers was, 'How do I get involved with the musicals?'"

Moyer helped with lighting and camera work for the school's fall production that year and, over time, became more and more involved with musicals at Mt. Abe.

"I've been slowly building my involvement basically to be with all of the musicals at this point," he said.

Moyer has become the go-to guy at Mt. Abe when it comes to lighting, helping with events like the annual MAUSD Fine Arts Festival and school concerts. This year, he worked with the school's modern band to design a light show reminiscent of a rock concert.

While the school has previously hired someone to run lighting for productions, Moyer was the one to take on that role for high school shows this past school year.

"I think the opportunities I've been given doing the musicals and working on things for the concerts and such... it's definitely shown me how to carry a responsibility," Moyer said. "If something happens in the auditorium and they need lights, I'm the guy that they go to, and I'm responsible for that."

While it can be a challenge to spend so much time in a dark auditorium, Moyer pointed to the reward that comes with watching all the hard work come together on stage.

"It gives me a sense of pride for something that I essentially pour my entire heart and soul into, for lack of a better term," he said. "During a show week that's my focus — the show and getting that to the standards necessary."

The skills he's gained through those experiences are ones he's been able to apply in other contexts, as well. He's helped with lighting and sound for someone making a short film and

worked on a show at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

Moyer also does all of the sound and A/V recording for the United Church of Lincoln, which he attends.

"I've been doing that basically since I started theater, it was always something I was interested in," he said.

Moyer is involved in the church community in other ways, having shared multiple sermons from the pulpit. He also spends his time outside of school working part-time at the Lincoln General Store.

"That store, it's incredible what it does for the community," he said.

His involvement in the church has also helped Moyer figure out where he's headed next. After graduating from Mt. Abe, he'll continue to work at the Lincoln General Store throughout the summer. This fall, he'll head to Saint Michael's College to study business administration.

"My eventual goal in life, the way I've interpreted it now, is to become an ordained minister or preacher at some point," he said.



2026 MOUNT ABRAHAM Union High School graduate Wyatt Moyer helps out with the school's production of "Anastasia" this past fall. Moyer ran lighting for school musicals and other events throughout his time at Mt. Abe, experiences he said helped him learn how to carry a responsibility.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

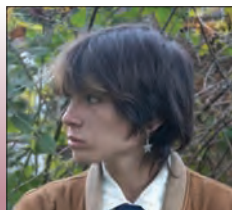


CONGRATULATIONS!

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL



Riley T. Abbott



Jack C. Anderson



Bailey
Antos-Ketcham



Carter John
Antos-Ketcham



Evan Michael Audy



Carson R. Baldwin



Wyatt Mahlon
Bannister



Josh K. Bapp



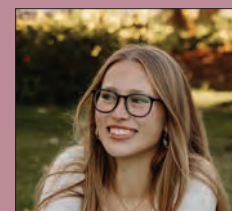
Brody Dennis
Barnard



Sapphire Angel
Beatty



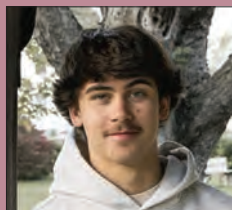
Nevaeh Faith Berry



Lila Brightman



Madelyn E. Brochu



Christopher
Malcolm Brown



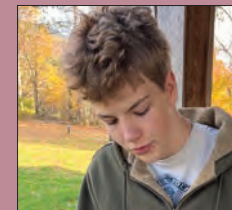
Hunter William
Martin Brown



Molly Burgess



Phillip Dwight
Burnham



Noah Wolfe
Buschmann



Wyatt D. Cavoretto



Hailey Rene Chase



Jamie Lynn Chasse



Oliver Cogswell



Cooper W. Cook



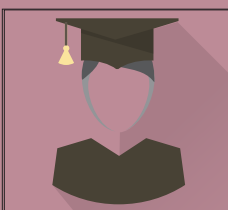
Evan S. Corrigan



Carly Day



Greyson Thomas
Desilets



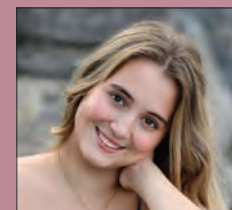
Caroline Addison
Donlon



Genevieve M.
Forand



Katelyn Landon
Forbes



Emily M. Fritz



CONGRATULATIONS!

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL



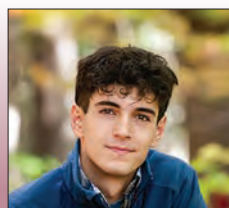
Jack Frizzell



Charlie Henderson Germon



Ian James Gonyo



James Rocco Graziadei



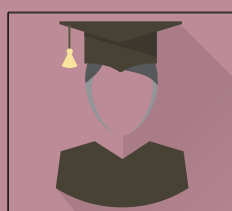
Paige Guilbeault



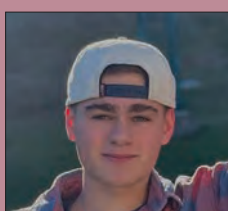
Louisa M. Guilmette



William Everett Gustin



Tyson M. Hallock



Wiley Jameson Hanf



Aidin D. Hodzic



Zealand Jackson



Owen Christopher Jenkins



Callie Marie Jennings



Michael Kamins



Maris Sarah LaPerle



Morgan Larocque



Rhett M. Lathrop



Dylan C. Layn

BRISTOL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Good Luck to All of Our 2026 Graduates!

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Congrats, Maris!

Love, Mom, Dad and Gwen.



CONGRATULATIONS!

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL



Nathan J. Lester



Maverick C. Livingston



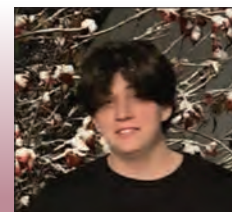
Skylar Grace MacDonald



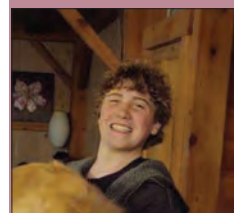
Molly M. Mangini



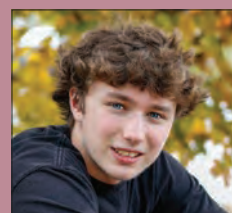
Clayton L. Markwell



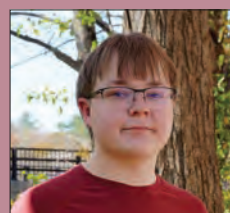
Henry H. Marshall



Oliver Carey Matson



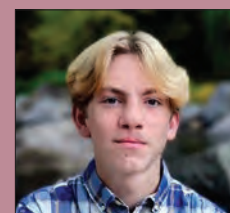
William R. McLeod



Jacob Ryan Mikkelsen



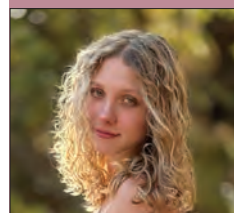
Katherine Ivonne Moran



James Mount



Wyatt M. Moyer



Avah M. Murray



Connor McMahon Nason



Emily Elizabeth Norris



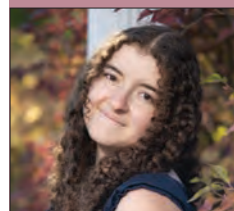
Sofia Marie Power



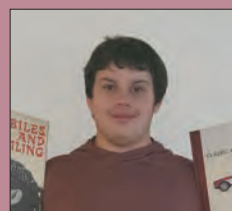
Charlie Prouty



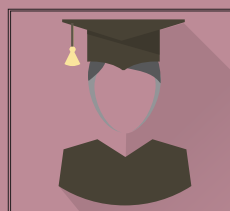
Jayden Michael Pudvah



Sierra Starr Roberts



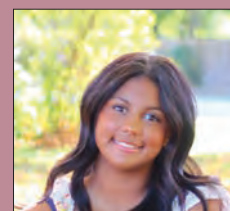
Dimitri Graham Rodrigue



Halee Ross



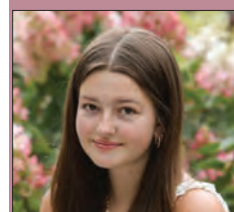
Shayne C. Russell



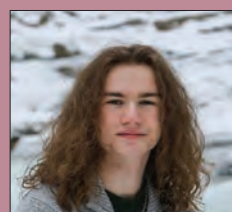
Brooklyn Ryersbach



Hayden Janet SantaMaria



Molly O. Schoendorf



Jacoby M. Senecal



Cole B. Shepard



Emily Marie Sherman



John M. Stanley



Joseph H. Sullivan



CONGRATULATIONS!

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL



Sophia Star Thomsen



Jae-Quin R. Tomasi



Gretchen Kelch Toy



Harold J. Tricou



Isla Mae Underwood



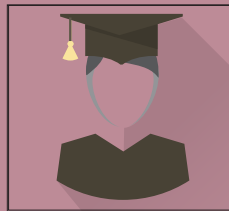
Noah S. Vartuli



Lucas Villena



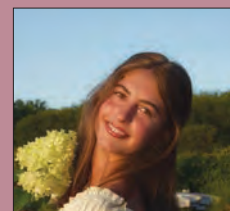
Dylan Richard Wells



Amber Wimble



Addison A. Wright



June Yates-Rusch



Julie Harper Young



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OTTER VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL ADDISON COUNTY GRADUATES



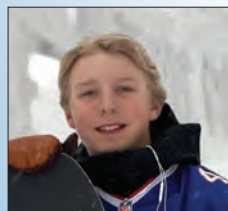
Alex Bailey



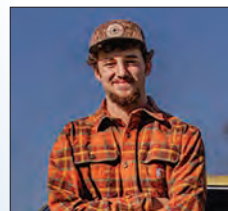
Connor Denis



Logan Denis



Ryder Denton



Ethan Dukette



Idaylia Dupoise-Chandler



Tommy Given



Samuel Luis



Madison Mitchell



Thomic Moyer



Brady Quenneville



Congrats, Otters!



CONGRATULATIONS!

FAIR HAVEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL ORWELL GRADUATES



Elaina Allard



Riley Babbie



Nathalie Badman



Jacob Demgard



Rhylee Macedo



Eric Paige

CAREER CENTER 2026

The Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center provides vocational and technical education to students and adults in the 17 Addison County towns served by the Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts. Students take time away from their home high school to take part in hands-on and classroom instruction at the Career Center's main campus and satellite campus in Middlebury. On May 29, the Career Center held a Celebration of Learning at the Middlebury Union High School Auditorium where it recognized youngsters who had participated in nine of its professional training programs. What follows is students and their instructors who were honored that night.



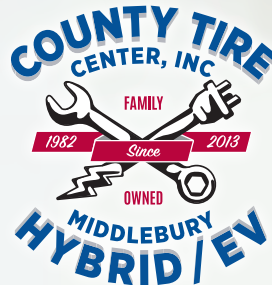
Addison Repertory Theatre

Bailey Antos-Ketcham - Home, Sierra Bloom - Home, Finch Goetz - MUHS, Joshua Goff - VUHS, Jeremy Holzhammer - Home, Rainie Kuebler Raymond - MUHS, Steven Lackard - MUHS, Oprea Littlefield - MUHS

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Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering

Gabriel Hamel - MUHS
Dimitri Rodrigue - MAUHS



Automotive Technology

Alyza Bagley - MUHS, Josh Bapp - MAUHS, Wyatt Cavoretto - MAUHS, Trenon Cioffredi - MUHS, Kisung Davis - MUHS
Jonathon Deering - MUHS, Tyson Hallock - MAUHS, Mason Harrington - MUHS, Valkyrja Hotmer - Home,
Brayden McKee - MUHS, Mya Provencher - VUHS, Yankee Rheame - MUHS, Ryan Squier - OVUHS
Jose Francisco Santiago Loyola - VUHS, Hunter Sunhawk - MUHS, Harold Tricou - MAUHS



CAREER CENTER 2026



Construction Technology

Wesley Audet - MUHS, Owen Butterfield - MUHS, Claude Godard - MUHS, Samuel Luis - OVUHS
David MacDonough - VUHS, Sutton Rubright - MUHS, Cole Shepard - MAUHS
Kenneth Sullivan - VUHS, Logan Thibeault - VUHS, Tyreese Tucker - MUHS, Matthew Whelan - MUHS



Culinary Arts

Willow Hotchkiss - VUHS
Tracy Whalon - MAUHS



CAREER CENTER 2026



Design & Illustration

Morgan Beenen - VUHS, Caden Cousino - MUHS, Ezaias Herben - MAUHS, Lucas Huestis - MUHS
 Callie Jennings - MAUHS, Tennessee LaRoche - MUHS, Autum Loven - VUHS, Jacob Mikkelsen - MAUHS
 Lily Morris - VUHS, Emily Norris - MAUHS, Timothy Ploegman - Home, Heaven Ross - MUHS, Asher Stevers - MAUHS

Diesel Power Technology

Austin Adams - FHUMHS
 Chris Brown - MAUHS
 Zach Coleman - OVUHS
 Ben DeBisschop - MUHS
 Wyatt Gillett - MUHS
 Alfredo Hernandez Baltazar - VUHS
 Jonathan Kehoe - MUHS
 Payton Lavoie - VUHS
 Dylan Layn - MAUHS
 Jackson Paquin - VUHS
 Quinn Quennville - OVUHS
 Kameron Raymond - MUHS



CAREER CENTER 2026



Education & Human Services

Riley Abbott - MAUHS, Cara Bougor - MUHS, Vanessa Brown - VAL, Brianna Foss - MUHS, Isabella Jenkins-Pratt - VUHS
Mercedes Sheldrick - MUHS, Ariel Zieller - MUHS



Medical Professions

Hannah Bertrand - OVUHS, Katelyn Busby - MUHS,
Noah Drake - MUHS, Sadie German - MAUHS,
Madelyn LaDuke - MUHS, Kendra Mahler - MUHS,
Cierra-Rayne Miller - MUHS, Sadie Shepard - MAUHS,
Sophia Thomsen - MAUHS, Alyssa Warren - MUHS



CAREER CENTER 2026



Natural Resource Management

Calvin Almeida - VUHS, Carter Antos-Ketcham - MAUHS, Evan Audy - MAUHS, Hailey Chase - MAUHS
Aidin Hodzic - MAUHS, Hayden SantaMaria - MAUHS, Emily Sherman - MAUHS



Sustainable Agriculture

Nevaeh Berry - MAUHS, Hailey Chase - MAUHS, Skyler Choiniere - MUHS, McKenzie Forbes - MUHS
Katelyn Forbes - MAUHS, Claude Godard - MUHS, Morgan Larocque - MAUHS, Lola Rollins - VUHS
Makayla Warner - MUHS



Welding & Fabrication

Zachary Benson - Mill School, Austin Gero - MUHS, Valkyrja Hotmer - Home, Keldon LaPell - WRVHS
Shayne Russell - MAUHS

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