



Our history

Author details small-town life for Jews in Old Vermont, including locally. See Arts + Leisure.



Three medals

City sprinter Hazel Rakowski finds success at the Special Olympics USA Games. Page 1B.



Next leaders

More than a dozen locals take part in leadership training at Girls State. See Page 17A.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT



RANDY RUSSELL OF Bristol walks with his son through a hemp field at his family farm several years ago. Russell is now selling the farm after trying to revive it through working in the state's hemp and cannabis industries. His story highlights the challenges smaller growers face surviving in the cannabis market, from struggles getting their products onto shelves to falling wholesale prices.

Photo courtesy of Randy Russell

Small cannabis cultivators face challenges

Crowded market is a key concern

By **MARIN HOWELL**

VERMONT — Randy Russell can trace the agricultural history of his family farm in Bristol back to the early 1900s. Walking the property on a recent June morning, he recounted days when the farm

housed an 86-head dairy operation and work horses pulled equipment on the land.

Farming stopped in 1995 after the death of Russell's grandmother. Russell began paying taxes on the property and eventually purchased it in 2018.

When Vermont's regulated cannabis market opened up in 2022, Russell saw an opportunity

to revive the family farm. He launched his cannabis business, Green Mountain Exotics, that year.

"I didn't do this to get rich, I just wanted to restore my farm and to get it operational again," Russell said of his work as a cannabis cultivator. "That was my dream, and it's just a complete nightmare right now."

Russell is in the process of

subdividing and selling off the farm to pay off debt after his cannabis business became financially unsustainable. Reflecting on his experience, he highlighted various challenges smaller cannabis growers face in what has become an extremely competitive market in Vermont, from struggles getting their products onto shelves to

(See Growers, Page 18A)

Recovery home planned for Midd

Donors & nonprofits join forces

By **JOHN FLOWERS**

MIDDLEBURY — A group of anonymous donors have pooled enough resources to acquire what would become Addison County's first ever "recovery housing" project — in Middlebury — for folks continuing their journey from substance use disorder to sober and independent living.

Those close to the project declined to publicly disclose

the specific address of the new amenity at this point, except to say that it's in the "Court Street area." They promised more details after a scheduled July 22 closing on the property.

But this much was clear as the *Independent* went to press on Wednesday: The new housing would have a six-person capacity, serving folks who've made

(See Recovery, Page 14A)

Oscar-winning actor Jane Fonda at MNFF

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival has attracted a lot of Hollywood talent, but for the 12th festival this August, it has landed a true superstar.

Two-time Oscar-winning actor and activist Jane Fonda will attend MNFF12 on Saturday, Aug. 29, and Sunday, Aug. 30.

MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, a noted filmmaker himself who founded Kingdom County Productions in Barnet, said that on "a little bit of a lark" he approached her about promoting her new film, "Gaslit," at MNFF12.

"She's not doing a whole lot of appearances for that, but I guess she decided, 'Why not Middlebury?'" Craven said.

Although both are enscorced in moviemaking, it wasn't through



JANE FONDA

the film industry that Craven and Fonda connected.

"I knew and worked with

(See Jane Fonda, Page 10A)

Movie festival to boast luminaries, 120 films

By **JOHN FLOWERS**

MIDDLEBURY — While two-time Academy Award-winning actress and activist Jane Fonda (see related story) will understandably grab many of the headlines at this year's Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF), the five-day extravaganza (Aug. 26-30) will boast several other luminaries and a crop of 120 submitted and curated films that

festival organizers have dubbed the best ever in the event's 12-year history.

"We've always tried to bring stories to life or to light for our audiences where they could make the statement, 'I've never seen that before; I learned something,'" MNFF Co-founder and Interim Producer Lloyd Komesar said. "This year, there's a bumper crop

(See Film festival, Page 10A)

After lots of talk, Vergennes OKs budget; spending up 12%

By **SOPHIA KESHMIRI**

VERGENNES — After roughly four hours of discussion, tense exchanges and considerations about where to cut back, Vergennes city councilors passed a fiscal year 2027 budget on Tuesday night.

The \$3,738,262.92 figure is up more

than \$400,000, or about 12%, from the \$3,336,867.28 approved last year.

Excluded in the figure is the roughly \$200,000 that City Manager Ron Redman had allocated for paving, a cost that in recent years was covered with American

(See City budget, Page 15A)

Advocates promote changes in how we perceive psychedelics

By **ELOISE CHRISTY**

VERGENNES — The community conversation around psychedelic mood-altering substances on Saturday, June 27, at the Bixby Library in Vergennes began with a moment of silence and a ringing of a singing bowl. Attendees sat with their eyes closed

(See Pyschedelic, Page 12A)

By the way

After months of planning, WVVT.org — a new community radio station serving the 5-Town Area — will begin its first scheduled broadcasts on July 4, streaming live from a mobile studio on a float in Bristol's July 4 parade. This is a soft launch, meaning organizers will keep building the station

(See By the way, Page 12A)

City Pride celebration grows in its fourth year

By **RACHELLE TALBERT**

VERGENNES — Nearly 100 people filled the streets of Vermont's smallest city on Saturday for Vergennes Pride, a celebration of LGBTQ+ identity and protest against inequality. Churchgoers, roller-skaters and rugby players alike marched together before gathering on the City Green.

This year marks the fourth annual Vergennes Pride celebration — and the event keeps growing. Sydney Ansley of Ferrisburgh, organizer of Vergennes Pride since 2023, was excited about the turnout.

"It brings more people every time," Ansley told the *Independent*. "It feels bigger than it did last year."

Vergennes Pride is one small part of a global celebration. Pride began in 1969, when New



MEMBERS OF THE Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in yellow came up from Middlebury to march on Main Street in the Vergennes Pride Parade on Saturday.

Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

York City police raided Stonewall, a bar that welcomed gay and transgender individuals. Police intended to arrest anyone found to be cross-dressing, but the people

in the bar rioted.

In the following days, the LGBTQ+ community of New York began to protest and organize. The protest was called "Pride," to

combat the shame surrounding being gay or transgender. Since then, cities around the world host parades each year at the

(See Pride celebration, Page 16A)

Ripton gets possession of its grade school back

By **JOHN FLOWERS**

RIPTON — The Addison Central School District on Wednesday transferred ownership of the former Ripton Elementary School property to the town of Ripton, which is now studying potential community uses for the building at 753 Lincoln Road and the 15 acres that go with it.

The transfer came two days after ACSD issued a press release confirming an agreement with the Ripton selectboard. The conveyance comes 10 years after Ripton, Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge conveyed their respective elementary schools to ACSD as part of Act 46, Vermont public school governance consolidation law.

Declining K-5 enrollment forced closure of Ripton Elementary

(See Ripton school, Page 14A)

Index

Obituaries.....6A&8A
Classifieds.....9B
Service Directory.....7B-8B
Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....5B
Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-4B



7 18122 07300 9

Water tower, Exchange St. pathway top Midd. project lists

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY—Middlebury’s municipal water reserves will increase by 1.3 million gallons by early September, thanks to a new, massive storage tower that’s being completed on Chipman Hill.

The new water storage tower is just one of several public works

projects being undertaken this construction season to improve water, sewer, road, stormwater treatment and other infrastructure/ services in the shire town.

Workers from DN Tanks LLC have spent the past few weeks assembling, panel by panel, the above-ground concrete water tower

that will supplement — and sit adjacent to — the town’s current, 1.5-million-gallon, in-ground water storage tank on Chipman Hill.

The new tank has an inside diameter of 87 feet, accommodating a water depth of 30 feet. It’s constructed with 19 concrete wall panels and 24 dome panels, using a total of 400 cubic yards of concrete.

It’s a project that’s been a long time in the making, noted Emmalee Cherington, Middlebury’s director of engineering and wastewater division chief.

A 2017 “sanitary survey” conducted by the state of Vermont found the current Chipman Hill water storage facility to be undersized for the average-day demands of its 6,000 year-round consumers — including 2,500 Middlebury College students and 2,300 service connections delivering flow to a variety of residential, commercial and industrial users.

Middlebury residents in March of 2023 voted 948-102 in favor of a \$3.5 million bond to finance the new water tower. Unfortunately, Middlebury was unsuccessful in its initial attempts to secure federal assistance to cover a portion of the bond debt. This caused project delays. But the town eventually landed a \$1 million grant through the Northern Borders Regional Commission to help defray the costs and reduce the payback for municipal water ratepayers.

There’s another lingering project that will go from drawing board to construction this summer. Workers at the end of this month will begin installing a 2,730-foot,

concrete-and-asphalt pathway along Exchange Street, from its intersection with Elm Street to the entrance of Catamount Park.

The more southerly portion of it — Elm Street to MacIntyre Fuels at 213 Exchange St. — will be a 5-foot-wide sidewalk. From MacIntyre’s to Catamount Park, it will expand to a 10-foot-wide, paved multi-use path.

The pathway will begin on the east side of Exchange Street (coming from Elm Street) until rk Miles at 88 Exchange St., where it will jump over to the west side.

It’s been a 14-year effort to get the pathway installed, due to an arduous right-of-way process, the COVID pandemic, inflation and a variety of other factors. Middlebury officials want to eventually extend the pathway to the Exchange Street-Route 7 intersection, which the Vermont Agency of Transportation has targeted for a roundabout.

If you travel Exchange Street late this summer, expect delays. The project is expected to wrap up by next June.

“It will definitely cause traffic impacts; there’s a high volume of vehicles on that road,” Cherington said of Exchange Street, which feeds Middlebury’s industrial park and other businesses

STORMWATER

And like the water tower, there’s another big project on the 2026 public works to-do list that won’t be visible to most folks but will still serve an important purpose. It’s a new stormwater treatment system that will process runoff from four acres of impervious surfaces on the Mary Hogan Elementary School/ (See Projects, Page 3A)



WHILE RENOVATIONS CONTINUE at the Lawrence Memorial Library building on Bristol’s North Street, community members can check out books and access other library services at a new pop-up location in the BristolWorks building on Munsill Avenue.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Bristol library opens pop-up

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — While Bristol’s Lawrence Memorial Library building will remain closed for renovations longer than originally expected, the library has opened a new pop-up site in town that will offer community members many of the same services.

That space started welcoming patrons last week and is located inside the BristolWorks building at 74 Munsill Ave., Suite 100. Visitors will find a curated collection of books at the pop-up location, as well as spaces to read, play and take part in library programming while work continues at the library on North Street.

Those renovations got underway in March and include a new HVAC system, boiler, insulation upgrades, repairs to the exterior of the building including front porch replacement, and the creation of a quiet space on the building’s first floor.

The effort is one of two larger municipal building projects underway in Bristol — Holley Hall is closed through September as crews tackle building envelope improvements and heating and cooling system upgrades there. New Haven’s Silver Maple Construction is completing deconstruction, carpentry and mechanical system design and installation work for both projects.

The library project is supported by a \$483,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Treasury Capital Project Fund. The building was initially anticipated to reopen to the public in May while exterior work continued at the site.

“As part of our historic facility, legacy building materials were found on the first floor of the library including asbestos in the library wall plaster and (polychlorinated biphenyls) PCBs in carpeting adhesive,” library staff announced in May. “The safety of our staff, patrons, and community is our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring all remediation meets the required standards before reopening.”

PCBs and asbestos were both widely used in building materials until around 50 years ago, when bans on their use and manufacturing began due to their toxicity to humans and the environment.

The Bristol selectboard on June 22 voted unanimously to contract with Pennsylvania company Alloy (Prism Response LLC) to complete abatement work at the library. Bristol Town Administrator

Gregory Faust told the board that work is expected to have an eight-week turnaround, with one week for library staff to get into the building and move items.

He noted the project has to be completed by the end of the year in order for the town to get its federal reimbursements in line. The project is expected to finish on time even with the delay, Faust said.

In the meantime, residents can visit the library’s pop-up location from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays.

Community members have already begun making use of the space. On a recent morning, a family played in the pop-up site’s children’s room and dozens of summer reading challenge sign-ups adorned a wall in the hallway.

In addition to the children’s room, the pop-up site features work stations, a section for youth reading materials with beanbag chairs, a room filled with adult fiction and young adult books, and a community room that residents can reserve for meetings and hang out in.

LML Children’s Librarian Jen Lazar said around 75 people stopped in to check out the spot on opening day and that community members were excited to have a library space to gather in again.

Library staff noted the pop-up site holds a smaller, more curated collection, as books in the library building can’t be accessed at this time. Still, community members will find a variety of titles on the pop-up library’s shelves, including newer books recently added to the collection.

Along with checking out books, residents can use services like interlibrary loan, printing and computer access. A book swap table offers an additional opportunity for avid readers to bring in and swap reading materials.

The library will host programming in the pop-up location, though staff noted they’re still figuring out exactly what that looks like in the smaller space. Activities on tap for this summer include the return of the popular LML Legends Summer Reading Challenge and free literacy coaching intended to offer support to local youth and families.

A more in-depth look at the new literacy offering will be featured in next week’s edition of the Independent.



WORKERS FROM DN Tanks LLC are using a massive crane to hoist large concrete panels to form the dome of the new 1.3-million-gallon municipal water tower that’s being completed on Chipman Hill in Middlebury.

Photo courtesy of Emily Cherington

Accused stabber turns herself in

By ALAN J. KEAYS, VTDigger.org

BRANDON — Tamara Stone appeared in court Monday by video from jail and pleaded not guilty to two counts of attempted second-degree murder and other charges.

The woman who authorities said fled a double stabbing that left two of her relatives injured last week, setting off a large-scale search, returned to the scene in Brandon two days later and called 911 to turn herself in, according to Vermont State Police.

Tamara Stone, 51, of Brandon, was arrested Saturday morning at the residence on Triangle Court where authorities allege she stabbed two adult family members Thursday morning.

Stone pleaded not guilty Monday afternoon in Bennington Superior criminal court in Bennington to two counts of attempted second-degree murder in the stabbings of two of her relatives — a man and a woman. Stone also denied two counts of aggravated domestic assault with a deadly weapon.

The Independent does not typically name survivors of domestic violence.

Charging documents made public Monday say that the female victim told investigators after the attack that Stone recently hinted at a connection to the unsolved death of another family member. The woman who was injured Thursday said Stone told her: “Brian was first, and you (and the

male victim) are next.”

“It should be noted that this was in reference to the unsolved death of Brian Bailey,” Vermont State Police Detective Sgt. Jesse Robson wrote in the documents.

Bailey, 46, was Stone’s brother. He was found dead from a gunshot wound in his Brandon home on the morning of May 24, 2025, according to police, who have termed his death suspicious.

The woman who was injured in the stabbing last week, wrote Robson in the charging documents, added that Stone “never admitted to the killing of Brian Bailey.”

Adam Silverman, a state police spokesperson, could not immediately be reached Monday (See Stabber, Page 3A)

Police collar suspect in ATM thefts

Video recordings lead to arrest of axe-wielding man

MIDDLEBURY — Police in Middlebury used video recordings and basic investigative work to arrest a local man who they say took an axe to a bank ATM in a failed attempt to rob it.

The investigation started June 13, when Vermont Federal Credit Union contacted Middlebury police to report that someone had attempted to burglarize their drive-up ATM overnight. Officers reviewed surveillance footage from the area and saw a man in the video who used a large axe, trying to force open the service door to the ATM

building in the VFCU parking lot off Washington Street.

Officer Connor Sousa identified a vehicle involved and contacted other businesses to obtain and review more surveillance footage. On that footage they found an image of the vehicle’s license plate, which they enhanced and read.

On Friday, Middlebury Police Sgt. Nathan Hayes reported that the vehicle was registered to Kevin A. Odell Sr., 47, of Middlebury. To confirm the identity of the ax-wielding assailant, officers compared a

recent booking photo of Odell to video and still images from VTFCU footage.

On Thursday, June 25, shortly after 10 a.m., Middlebury police officers went to Odell’s residence, took him into custody without incident, transported him to the Middlebury Police Department and cited him for attempted burglary, attempted grand larceny and unlawful mischief.

Odell is due to answer the charges in Addison Superior Court, Criminal Division, on Monday, June 29.

AGWAY

Soil Sale



Miracle Gro

All Purpose Potting 50 qt

\$19.99

reg. \$16.99



Sunshine

Black Bear

Indoor/ outdoor potting mix 1.5cf

\$19.99

reg. \$24.99



Coast of Maine

Castine Raised Bed mix 1 cuft

\$19.99

reg. \$24.99



20% off All Hoses, Watering Wands, Nozzles and Watering Cans

While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, good on in-stock merchandise only. offer good through 7/12/26

CLOSED JULY 4TH & 5TH

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street

802-388-4937

Open 7 days

Mon–Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 8-5

www.MiddleburyAgway.com



MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

\$3.00 OFF

ANY NON-GMO PRODUCT



NON GMO Project VERIFIED

(excludes alcohol)

(minimum purchase \$3.00)

(Expires Wednesday, 7/8/26)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276

middlebury.coop

LAST CHANCE • LAST CHANCE • LAST CHANCE • LAST CHANCE

Introduce Your Business to 7,000+ Engaged Co-op Member-Owners

Applications are now open for the 2026–2028 Co-op Connection Program.

Join a curated group of local businesses recommended and promoted by the Co-op to its Members. **Don't wait — applications won't reopen until 2028.**

This is your last chance!

Application Deadline: **July 10, 2026**

Learn more and apply: middlebury.coop/join/co-op-connection/partner



CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off



TIERRA FARM EST 1999 CERTIFIED ORGANIC

July 1 - July 7



HERE WE SEE workers complete a segment of a new stormwater treatment system that will process runoff from four acres of impervious surfaces on the Mary Hogan Elementary School/recreation park property in Middlebury.

Photo courtesy of Emily Cherington

Projects

(Continued from Page 2A)

recreation park property. Already two years in the making, the project will use the Mary Hogan parking lot for a subsurface sand-chamber system, which will work hand-in-hand with two bioretention cells installed last fall — one near the Memorial Sports Center, the other near the future skatepark area.

Now workers are installing a sand filter in the Mary Hogan parking lot, which will treat the flow from the Mary Hogan parking lot and from the school entrance.

“It’s a big sub-surface tank; a portion of it has gravel and it’s filled with sand. The concept is the stormwater will go into the system, goes through a pre-treatment chamber, then flows through this bed of sand and gravel. There’s an outlet structure that goes into

a stream,” Cherington explained of the process. “It will slow down the flow coming off the parking lot and off the roads, and also provide treatment for it as it circulates through.”

The bioretention cells include wetland plantings that will contribute to the stormwater treatment process.

“It’s been a big project,” Cherington said. “It went through two years of design. We were fortunate to receive funding to help to offset (construction) costs. (The town) is only on the hook for 10% of the overall (\$445,387) construction cost.”

Why is the project necessary? Cherington pointed to state stormwater regulations requiring treatment systems for parcels with more than three acres of impervious surfaces.

She’s confident the Mary Hogan project will be finished later this month, well before the start of school.

Also on the 2026 public works list will be another phase in a multi-year upgrade of sewer and stormwater infrastructure work on South Street. This year’s work will involve connecting the line from South Street to South Main Street, through various private properties.

“It won’t affect travel very much. There will be a little work in South Street itself, so there might be some lane restrictions once we get to that phase in late August,” Cherington said.

The roughly eight weeks of work in question are slated to conclude by Sept. 15, according to Cherington.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

MAUSD continues mulling options

Board considers new information on Beeman closure effects

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Before adjourning for a brief summer break, the Mount Abraham Unified School District Board on June 23 reviewed new information about what it could look like for New Haven students to attend another elementary school in the district and discussed additional options to explore.

MAUSD officials have been studying the potential closure of New Haven’s Beeman Elementary School with or without school choice as part of the district’s effort to find opportunities for reducing costs while offering quality education.

The school board in May heard a presentation on the possibility of educating New Haven and Bristol students at Bristol Elementary School, including potential instructional and financial implications of that move.

This past Tuesday’s presentation built on the May information, outlining what it could look like if Beeman was merged with Monkton Central School or Starksboro’s Robinson Elementary School. The presentation included remarks from the district’s Advisory Council, anticipated staffing/financial implications and what different options could mean for busing and building accommodations.

Merging Beeman with Bristol is expected to achieve around \$1.8 million in net savings, while merging the school with Robinson and Monkton is expected to result in \$1.6 million in net savings for either of those options.

Board members had previously asked to see more options for offering New Haven families school choice, something residents have expressed supported for. Tuesday’s presentation listed common aspects of school choice similar to what’s in place in nearby school districts. Those include having a designated school for students with the option

for parents to choose for their child to attend a different school, and that “choice requests will be accommodated provided there is sufficient staffing and receiving school does not exceed class size maximum.”

School board members brought up issues of equity to consider when exploring options for school choice.

“The one issue that I’m uncomfortable with would be to have a scenario where some parents are able to exercise choice and others aren’t,” School board member Herb Olson said. “That would kind of be one of my strong feelings about however we do it.”

Board member Liz Sayre offered another way of looking at school choice and equity.

“It could also solve some equity issues, say if grandparents are nearby in Monkton and the student goes to Bristol but that’s where their good after-school care is,” she said. “So, I think some of our most vulnerable students benefit from choice.”

School board member Kielee Pelland serves on the board’s Policy and Governance Committee and noted that panel is interested in working toward an intra-district policy for school choice.

“Our goal is to create a draft of an intra-district policy and give it to (Superintendent Patrick Reen) to analyze and then move forward from there,” she said.

School board members also talked what other information and options for New Haven families they’d like to look at.

“How I’m thinking about it is if we decide that we do want to ask the town of New Haven to vote to close Beeman, we’re asking something monumental of them,” MAUSD Vice Chair Meredith

Rossignol said. “So, if we’re going to ask something monumental of the town of New Haven, we’ve got to do our homework first.”

The board appeared to agree that it would ask Reen to model out the “geographically logical division for designated schools” for New Haven students — determining which of the district’s other elementary schools students are assigned to based on what part of the town they live in.

Board members also discussed the possibility of looking at how moving sixth-graders to Mount Abraham Union Middle School would impact options being explored. It was noted that research on incorporating sixth-graders into middle school is something the board could look at during its August retreat.

The school board on Tuesday also voted unanimously to direct Reen to identify school districts or supervisory unions in the state “of comparable size to MAUSD whose cost per (Long-Term

Average Daily Membership) weighted pupil is substantially less than that of MAUSD,” as well as present the school board with an analysis exploring factors that might explain the lower costs. The motion was brought to the board by the Finance & Facilities Committee.

“The idea being that there are probably a lot of factors that go into the overall spending, some of which we might be able to control, others ... that might be harder for us to control, but in the absence of those direct comparisons we don’t really know what other schools are doing that we might be able to do in a more cost-effective manner,” Finance & Facilities Committee Chair Mike Dash explained.

Stabber

(Continued from Page 2A)

for comment. Stone appeared at Monday’s hearing by video from the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland, where she has been held without bail since her arrest.

The male victim in Thursday’s attack suffered stab wounds to his chest and back and was flown by helicopter to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, the charging documents stated.

The female family member was taken by ambulance to Rutland Regional Medical Center with stab wounds to her back, according to the documents.

Their conditions were not immediately available Monday afternoon, though authorities said

both suffered serious injuries.

According to the charging documents, police were called to the Brandon home Thursday morning after the attack. The female family member told police that Stone used a knife about 12 inches long to stab her. The male victim said a knife used in the attack against him had been taken from a butcher’s block in the kitchen.

The injured woman told police that Stone stabbed her in the bathroom after Stone told her to go there and fix a leak under the sink, the charging documents said. The woman said that when she bent down to investigate the leak, Stone stabbed her in the back, the documents added.

The documents do not suggest a clear motive for either of the

stabbings.

Stone fled the scene before police arrived, setting off a large search Thursday and Friday involving personnel from many law enforcement agencies.

In court Monday, Rutland County Deputy State’s Attorney Daron Raleigh asked that Stone continue to be held in custody without bail while the case proceeds.

“Ms. Stone attempted to murder two people,” Raleigh told Judge John Valente.

Also, the charging documents described Stone as “violent” and “unstable,” the prosecutor said.

“Ms. Stone took police on a nearly two-day chase in their efforts to apprehend her,” Raleigh told the judge. Raleigh added of Stone, “She is the definition of a risk of flight to avoid prosecution.”

LEI'D BACK LUAU

Friday, July 17 | 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Limited space! RSVP: Jaime Parmelee
802-483-4657 | jparmelee@residenceottercreek.com

THE
RESIDENCE
at Otter Creek

Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT
802-483-4657 | residenceottercreek.com

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe Online

addisonindependent.com

Fill out this form and mail it in with payment

Subscriber Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Card # _____

CCV _____

Exp. Date _____

NAME, EMAIL & CREDIT CARD INFO REQUIRED.
We will never share your information, we promise.
Credit card info is encrypted and destroyed after the first payment.

PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
PICK A PAYMENT SCHEDULE THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

☐ MONTHLY \$10/month

☐ SENIOR \$9/month

☐ YEARLY \$120/year

☐ SENIOR \$108/year

THANK YOU!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944 ext 104

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorial

A barnraising, mayhem, and land as community

For much of this rainy June I’ve been out-of-state on family affairs, including a work week with cousins, brothers and a sister to convert an old garage, circa 1899, into a bunk room at a family cabin (also circa 1899) in Colorado. There are 12 of my generation as part-owners of this single-season, log-cabin used as a base for hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park and 9 of us made it out to contribute a day or a week or two, to the rehab.

The work was akin to an old-fashioned barn raising. We tore off the haphazard front wall, replaced a makeshift door that hadn’t fully closed for the past three decades, and framed in large windows where screened openings had been. We added plywood sheathing (a step our forefathers had skipped) and covered it with half-inch rough-sawn spruce siding, stained a color I’d call ‘dark rustic cabin’ that blended into the natural setting. As the 18’x20’ garage only had three trusses, we reinforced those inadequate rough-sawn 2x4s with 20-foot 2x6s, cut to length and added half a dozen more, at 24-inch spacing, with supports to the ceiling. Because the roof line was built with a swale at the end, each trim board had to be measured and cut on a new angle, and, of course, nothing on the old garage was square. We got most of three walls completed, saving the fourth wall (and other projects) for the first two weeks of June next summer.

We also built a patio, with a 30-inch high stone wall 12-feet off the front door in a rectangle to hold 3 tons of a gravel-dirt-clay mix that packed down firmly with a rented compactor, over which we put almost 3 tons of sand and two tons of two-inch think red sandstone slabs to create the patio surface. Trucks got the material close, but we moved 16,000 pounds of material via wheelbarrow for the final 50 yards. Workdays started with a 5:30 coffee hour, breakfast and a 7 a.m. start. Most days we knocked off at 4:30 p.m. to play horseshoes, talk and relax before a family-style dinner. For the first five days of my first week there, I never ventured further than the 60-yards from the main house to the garage... it was that captivating, fun and worthwhile.

What I didn’t miss was the mayhem of the news cycle.

To recap, after a four-month war of choice in Iran, Trump called it quits in a humiliating retreat. Iran is in a much stronger position than before the war with control over the Strait of Hormuz, China comes out the clear winner, and America’s military was embarrassed by a poorly defined strategy and a leader completely inept at crafting any deal that doesn’t benefit himself. Not only did Trump concede military defeat, but he’s agreed to help secure \$300 billion for Iran to help it rebuild and dropped the oil embargo that had been in place for the past 14 years (since 2012 under President Obama) — thus giving Iran the wherewithal to become a stronger presence in the Middle East. Spin it however he wants, most Americans surely can see that Trump’s capitulation was a very bad deal for America and America’s allies.

Peeling paint and algae-green water in Washington, D.C.’s Reflection Pool has been an apt story to illustrate the corruption and cronyism of this administration — with Trump trying to put the blame on non-existent vandals. The obvious culprit was shoddy work via two no-bid contracts worth \$17.4 million to two of Trump’s supporters. That was followed by news this week that Trump and family have accumulated \$2.2 billion in his first year back in office — mostly through extortion of television news and social media platforms, inappropriate gifts, and huge sums gained from crypto-plays over which he has influenced public policy.

America will also likely be doling out money to help Venezuela recover from two earthquakes that have wreaked havoc and killed over 1,700 people. Trump has his hand in their oil till, and the consequences will be harsh if he doesn’t pony up — most assuredly with American tax dollars. Speaking of which, news reports in June reinforced that American taxpayers are also paying for the bulk of the East Wing demolition and rebuild, just as they paid for the border wall — projects that Trump once said would be paid through donations, not taxes. Another broken promise, another lie, but no one bothers to count them anymore.

One of the joys of being away from the news cycle was the opportunity to read other things... books, mainly, and to talk with family about gems they were reading. One such gem was re-reading essays from Aldo Leopold’s Sand County Almanac. A lodestar for the environmental movement, Leopold’s essays still ring true today as do key passages of the foreword Leopold wrote in 1948. The foreword speaks of land as community — a tenet we all should embrace with reverence. Enjoy.

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.

“Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher ‘standard of living’ is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasque flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

“These wild things, I admit, had little human value until mechanization assured us of a good breakfast, and until science disclosed the drama of where they come from and how they live. The whole conflict thus boils down to a question of degree. We of the minority see a law of diminishing returns in progress; our opponents do not.

“...Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the esthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture.

“*That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology; but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten.*

“These essays attempt to weld these three concepts.

“Such a view of land and people is, of course, subject to the blurs and distortions of personal experience and personal bias. But wherever the truth may lie, this much is crystal clear: *our bigger-and-better society is now like a hypochondriac, so obsessed with its own economic health as to have lost the capacity to remain healthy.* The whole world is so greedy for more bathtubs that it has lost the stability necessary to build them, or even to tum off the tap. Nothing could be more salutary at this stage than a little healthy contempt for a plethora of material blessings.

“Perhaps such a shift of values can be achieved by reappraising things unnatural, tame, and confined in terms of things natural, wild, and free.”

(Italics added. Written from Madison, Wisconsin, 1948.)

Angelo Lynn



A breakfast staple

MOST PEOPLE HAVE heard that milkweed is important to the health of monarch butterflies, in part because it is the sole source of nutrition for caterpillars of this species. Here is proof seen last week in a Weybridge field, where this caterpillar has already devoured the right half of this milkweed leaf and is starting on the left.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Healing in the purple gazebo

I have a purple gazebo in my back yard, which is peaceful and magical. It was built over one hundred years ago for an orphanage in Shelburne.

In the fifties, Rte. 7 was closed to move the structure to Middlebury, placed in what was to become my yard.

In the eighties, when I was on the staff of the Parent/Child Center, we held a summer meeting in the gazebo. A social worker from family services joined us. As she sat on the bench, she glanced at the ceiling and suddenly realized she had been in this gazebo as a child in the Shelburne orphanage. During recess she and the other children would sit on the benches as a private place to share their painful stories.

Over the years, I have spent some hours poring over 1950s Addison Independents at the Sheldon Museum, but so far have not found anything about gazebo moving. I have had some hints. One day during COVID as I was checking my mailbox, a car slowed down. The driver got out and introduced himself as Malcolm Spencer. When he was younger, he had lived in the house with his family. He knew that his mother had somehow acquired the gazebo in the fifties. He could not tell me much more.

In 1979 the Seligmanns and I negotiated a sale price for me to buy the house and property while sitting in the gazebo. Mr. Seligmann told me that in 1976, the year of the country’s bicentennial, the town of Middlebury had asked if the couple would give the gazebo to the town. He felt it was an asset to the property and refused. The town, instead, modeled their gazebo after this one.

When we bought the property, the gazebo was situated by the back of our yard sinking into the ground. In the mid-eighties, my then-husband wanted to preserve it by moving it from the wet area. Where to? He handed a stake to my sixteen-year-old daughter Jasmine Heidi, and she immediately walked to a spot and put the stake in the ground.

That’s where he poured concrete pilings and created a new base with the Middlebury Quaker Men’s Group. On the appointed day, many gathered while Carrara’s crane came to move the gazebo—the railing, seats and roof—onto the new base. They put a metal I-beam under the roof and lifted it. The ground was so wet the crane pads began to sink. Rene Morin, the builder of my house who then lived next door, offered some railroad ties to put under the pads. The crane lifted the gazebo and lowered it onto the new base. Everyone clapped!

We painted it purple and used the space for many spiritual and healing gatherings, since energy healing has been my life’s work. While studying the natural energies of the earth during a workshop in sacred geomancy, the class learned to dowse the energy or lay lines of the back yard, just as I would measure a person’s energy. We discovered that a yang or masculine line went from a huge willow tree in the east to the west. A yin or feminine line went from south to north. The intersection of the two lines was at the exact mid-point of the gazebo, making it a power point for healing energy.

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



School funding crisis can’t wait

The education reform train the Legislature assembled a year ago finally left the station when Gov. Phil Scott signed Act 170, but it is still a long way from its final destination. Even the bill the governor just signed, “An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont’s education system,” is only the start of a vitally important process of local community engagement to shape control and management of Vermont schools going forward.

Despite the immediate demands of the next several months, it is not too early to start talking about the future of education funding. The governor and some legislative leaders act as though the new foundation funding system described in last year’s education reform bill (Act 73) is a done deal. But Vermont voters and taxpayers will have the final say, and they don’t have enough information yet to make that decision.

Last year’s education reform train was designed by people in Montpelier who assumed they would be driving it. First came the engine — a new governance structure comprising a handful of large, consolidated school districts and run by boards whose role would be to administer funds collected and distributed by the governor and the Legislature. Behind the engine, the rest of the cars in the train — distribution of funds, the tax system, school construction aid, performance standards and others — would all just fall into place.

People weren’t having it. They already had endured years of education reforms, including forced school district consolidation, that did not produce the savings or educational results they were promised. They wanted tax relief, not a Montpelier takeover of their schools.

Thanks to the diligent work of the School District Redistricting Task Force, which actually listened to people in community hearings last fall, the reform train wasn’t derailed, but redirected. A new approach recommended by the Task Force — Cooperative Educational Service Areas, or CESAs — has a real chance of achieving savings and improving education services without denying Vermonters the role in local decision-making they want and deserve.

The push for consolidation will continue because some powerful forces still view it as a silver bullet. The threat of forced school district mergers is off the table — at least for now. But local communities will have to endure another round of district consolidation studies, which will divert time, energy and resources from the process of establishing Cooperative Educational Service Areas.

As noted above, the reform train is really just now leaving the station, and there is a lot of work ahead just on management, administration, and governance. But discussions and decisions about how we raise taxes for schools and distribute the money can’t be shoved to the back burner. The configuration of school districts can influence the funding system and vice versa.

The current proposal for funding reform would

(See Community Forum, Page 5A)

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Jack Hoffman of the Public Assets Institute.

Letters to the Editor

Protect the little things

In this season of celebrations, we also celebrate our heroes, the small but mighty butterflies, moths, beetles and the bees. These small creatures move the pollen from blossom to blossom fueling our agricultural economy, our food supply and our pleasure in living things. International Pollinator Week, June 22–28, is a perfect time to learn more about how to help these “little things that run the world” survive.

Our habits in yards and gardens, actions like mowing and mulching, fertilizing and applying pesticides, plantings non-native and cultivar plants and removing fallen trees and brush remove food and shelter for these pollinators and threaten their lives.

For ways to support healthy and sustainable pollination, contact Pollinator Pathway of Addison County (PPAC) at pollinatorpathway.addisoncty@gmail.com or visit pollinator-pathway.org

Protect their lives, preserve our own. Celebrate your participation in a worldwide movement to protect native pollinators and the plants they depend on.

Jill Vickers
Bridport

Seymour St. area is in peril

On Thursday, June 18, in the early afternoon, Middlebury was bombarded with torrential rain and wind. The result was the flooding of the underpass which connects Elm St. to Seymour St. Fortunately, the Middlebury Police Department responded quickly and efficiently and blocked traffic before someone attempted to drive their vehicle through this water. This situation of the flooding of the underpass is a serious situation that has manifested itself at least four times in the past three years.

When the underpass is blocked, a serious safety situation exists immediately. Not only does the blocked underpass prevent a major traffic route to be cut off, several hundred residents from upper Seymour St. to the streets adjacent to the Pulp Mill Bridge are cut off from certain emergency agencies. In the event of a fire or the need to extricate someone using the arial fire truck, it is impossible to get said fire truck to the Seymour St. area. This flooding situation has been discussed ad nauseam with the Selectboard and the myriad of excuses as to the cause of this problem and how can it be “fixed” is inextricably long. However, at the end of all of these discussions there is still no answer and no rectification to this serious situation.

Please recall that three years ago the flooding went from the top of upper Seymour St., near the present train embankment platform through the Police Department, which was badly flooded and stretched almost to the parking lot at Danforth Pewter. Additionally, Printer’s Alley connecting to upper Seymour couldn’t be used and the Pulp Mill Bridge can not accommodate trucks or larger vehicles. Therefore, this situation cut off over 500 residents from emergency services had they been needed.

As a lifelong, taxpaying resident of Middlebury, it would seem logical that discussions with the railroad regarding a secondary emergency exit should be a priority. The railroad has stated that if there were any secondary crossing areas, they have to be gated, lighted, up to a certain construction standard, etc. We are talking about an emergency crossing where, perhaps the Police Department could hold a key to a locked gate and open this gate, for emergency vehicles and personnel and only when the underpass is not able to be used.

This event on June 18 had water cascading down Methodist Lane and Elm St. diverging onto Seymour St. where the level of the water was well over the curbs on both sides of the road. Ultimately, the water flowed into the underpass

(See Parizo letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Molly Gray would fight for Vermont’s values

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 federal judge who found no basis for their 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. Governor who will help them 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. Governor, Molly will fight to ensure anyone detained by ICE in Vermont has access to legal counsel, interpretation services, and due process. She will push back against the use of Vermont’s corrections system to hold people for civil immigration violations. And she will never hesitate to speak out and 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

Tenth sign of fascism: Undermining women’s rights

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

The following are already occurring and have been observed across the country:

1. Controlling the media.
2. Using a shared grievance to exert power and control over the masses.
3. Normalizing corruption.
4. Seeking to expand territory through armed conflict.
5. Whitewashing history.
6. Having complete and utter disdain for human rights.
7. Adopting and perpetuating ideology over science and facts.
8. Fixating on a perceived national decline, humiliation, or victimhood.
9. Intertwining religion and government.

A tenth sign of fascism is being sexist — overtly and blatantly.

Prior to the 1930s there was a strong feminist movement in Germany. In November of 1918, women gained the right to vote. Women took advantage of higher education. They gained power and stature in business, politics, governmental positions, trade unions and public life.

In a relatively short period of time, these gains were erased when the Nazis came to power. Women became important for three things — “Kinder, kuche, and kirche” (“Children, kitchen and church”). The 3 Ks. To encourage women to focus on the 3 Ks, they were given financial incentives to stay at home and raise large families.

Women working in either

the public or private sector was “lawfully” curtailed. Women could no longer be judges. They could no longer work in civil service positions.

Access to education by girls and women was restricted. Upper-level classes were closed to girls. Women were little by little removed from teaching positions. This trend was promulgated by Hitler’s “guardian of education,” Bernhard Rust, who believed “women of all races and of all ages lack both intuitive and intellectual perception.”

Looking at what is currently taking place in the United States, we see the following examples of women’s rights being undermined.

- Starting with Roe vs. Wade being overturned in June of 2022, women’s reproductive rights are under assault.
- Donald Trump has a lengthy history of using derogatory remarks when speaking to women or about women. The latest examples are his comments to CNN reporter Kaitlyn Collins at a news conference and to ABC’s Kristin Welker during a Trump interview.
- In 2023, a jury found Trump liable for sexually abusing and slandering journalist and writer, Jean Carroll. She was awarded \$5 million dollars in damages. In return, at the end of May, the Department of Justice began an investigation into Ms. Carroll.
- On June 1 of this year, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth struck the names of female and black Navy officers from the promotion list. This decision apparently had little to do with lack of merit.
- Project 2025 is a document produced by “The Heritage Foundation” that outlines a series

of proposals that would expand the power of the executive branch of government and would transform our society along the lines of far-right conservatism. This document includes a plan for sending women back to the days before the suffragette movement which began in 1848. This plan is entitled Saving America by Saving the Family: A Foundation for the Next 250 Years. The document claims feminism and women’s suffrage are responsible for the unraveling of our nation’s fabric. To end this unraveling and repair the subsequent damage women must return to their rightful place ... in the home. Not in the workplace. Not in institutions of higher education. Not in politics. Essentially, women need to return to a place of dependence on and subservience to men.

A cursory examination of the literature will reveal numerous additional examples of overt and blatant sexism.

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

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

Judy Wiger-Grohs
Middlebury

Editor’s Note: A full list of sources provided by the writer is available upon request.

Ways

(Continued from Page 4A)

Recently the gazebo paint needed refreshing, so I called a friend who had painted it eight years ago. He is a special soul who enjoys spending time in the sacred gazebo and calls the power point a “portal”. When he arrives, his tee shirt says, “Undiagnosed. But something ain’t right.” He fell from a two-story building as a baby. As he says, “probably died and all that.” He’s older now but still agrees to paint again. I wonder if the healing energy of the gazebo works for him as well as his magical brush strokes work for the gazebo.

Sas Carey is partially retired and has a few spaces for energy healing and spiritual readings. More about her life can be found in her memoir Marrying Mongolia and her book Reindeer Herders in My Heart.



THE COLUMNIST’S NEIGHBOR, two-year-old Elizabeth, in a lavender dress that matches the newly painted gazebo.

Photo from Sas Carey

Parizo letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

where it overwhelms the capacity of the drainage system that is there. We have been informed by town personnel that the drainage system in the underpass is completely inadequate to handle the capacity of water during one of these large storms. Luckily, this time the storm subsided and the

water slowly drained. However, the reality is that these storms are more frequent, and we now have seen that the underpass can’t handle the levels of water that are flowing into it. The potential danger could be that a larger storm than what occurred on June 18, could produce enough water to again cut off emergency

accessibility to a substantial part of this community.

I, therefore, am asking that our town government officials stop procrastinating, and enter into discussions with the railroad company so that this situation can be resolved.

Kevin D. Parizo
Middlebury

Community Forum

(Continued from Page 4A)

not only take funding decisions out of communities’ hands but also move Vermont back to a property-based tax system for resident homeowners. Vermonters recognized the inherent problem with property taxes 30 years ago and shifted toward one based on homeowners’ ability to pay — that is, their income. That approach has been allowed to wither, mostly through neglect, leading to

understandable demands for tax relief. But income sensitivity served us well for decades, and it can be updated and improved if the public is brought back into the discussion of how they want to fund Vermont schools. The governor insists that the only path to tax relief is through cutting school funding, and the only way to do that is to override the will of Vermonters by consolidating power over schools in Montpelier.

The train has pulled away from

the station, but it’s not too late to switch tracks. Vermonters proved they have the power to choose which direction they want to go and to decide for themselves what’s best for their schools.

Jack Hoffman is Senior Analyst at Public Assets Institute (www.publicassets.org), a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Montpelier. He is a resident of Marshfield currently living in France.

Elderly Services Inc. ESI College



A Review of 2026 Supreme Court Cases

Tuesday, July 7 and Tuesday, July 14, 10:00-11:30 AM
Addison County VFW, 530 Exchange Street, Middlebury

Join U.S. District Court Judge Bill Sessions for a timely review of key 2026 Supreme Court cases and their broader legal and societal implications. Gain insight into the Court’s decisions from a seasoned federal judge with decades of experience on the bench.

A Middlebury College graduate, **Bill Sessions** received his law degree from George Washington University Law School. He has worked as an Addison County public defender, taught at Vermont Law School, and had a private law practice.

He is currently a U.S. District Court Judge and a Visiting Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals. His expertise is in sentencing policy, and he was chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

A Shared Exploration of the Leadership We Have and the Leadership We Need

Tuesday, July 21 and Tuesday, July 28, 10:00-11:30 AM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange St., Middlebury



In November, our towns, state and country will elect new leaders. What should we be looking for? Let’s explore together the often-contradictory elements of leadership. When does a leader talk and when do they listen? How do leaders evolve effective strategies - from the normalcy bias of liberal and conservative thinking or from the shared pain of those they wish to lead? What is the impact of age on leadership and how do we encourage young people to step into civic responsibility?

Bill Schubart has lived in and written about Vermont for decades. He has served as board chair for numerous Vermont organizations, including Vermont Public, UVM Medical Center, VT Digger and the Vermont Board of Libraries. He has published several novels set in Vermont and regularly contributes to local print and radio media.



Please Register Now!

<https://elderlyservices.org/esi-college-summer-2026/>
or call 802.388-3983



Peer Recovery Center

OF ADDISON COUNTY

Supporting recovery, hope, and connection across Addison County with:

- Peer Coaching Programs
 - Essential to recovery
- AA meetings
 - 5:30 pm, 7 days a week
- Mobile Coaching Program
 - Provides coaching anywhere in Addison County

All services free of charge





Public Health Vending Machines

Located at 79 Court St, Middlebury, and
Bristol Works 72 Munsill Ave., behind Building 6
(To the right of the police station — see map above)

79 Court St., Middlebury, VT | info@prcvt.org or (802) 388-4249 | www.prcvt.org

ADDISON
COUNTY

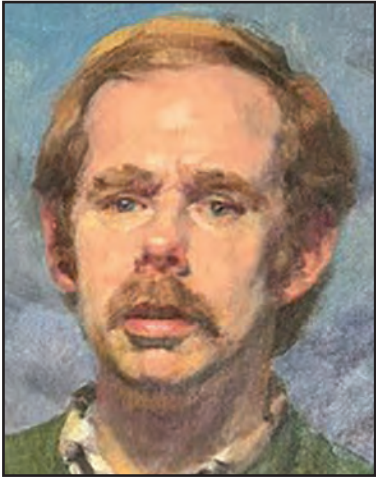
Obituaries

Timothy Seabury Hendel, 73, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Timothy Seabury Hendel of Bristol, Vt., passed away peacefully in Middlebury on June 25, 2026, at the age of 73.

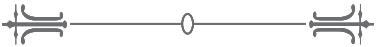
From early childhood, Tim’s life revolved around his artistic talent. He was considered a child prodigy, producing amazingly lifelike sketches of animals at age seven. He graduated with honors from the Paier School of Art in Hamden, Conn. Some of his work is part of the permanent collection at the prestigious New Haven Paint & Clay Club.

In 1985, Tim and his mother moved from New Haven, to Salisbury, Vt. He continued to produce many beautiful works of art, including the self-portrait rendered here. Across the years, his work was shown at various local exhibits, and he often could be seen painting



TIMOTHY SEABURY
HENDEL

landscapes alongside the rural roads of Vermont. Tim faced many challenges throughout his life with courage and determination. He



Phillip Richard Sumner Sr., 87, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Phillip Richard Sumner Sr., a longtime resident of Bristol, living there all of his life, passed away at home June 24, 2026. He was 87.

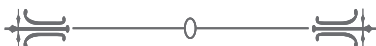
Phillip was born in Bristol at home on Oct. 1, 1938. He was the son of Berley and Anna (Hallock) Sumner. Phillip was a very dedicated family man, giving out assistance when needed. Phillip was number 12 of 13 children who have all predeceased him. Phillip started working on farms at an early age. Phillip always had a big garden and a nicely mowed lawn and was often complimented on. Phillip served in the United States Army, worked at Polymers in Middlebury, and later on for the Green Mountain National Forest.

Phillip met the love of his life Lucille (Whittemore) Sumner and married Dec. 10, 1960. They were married for 65 years and were inseparable. They were a great team. Phillip’s biggest passion



PHILLIP RICHARD
SUMNER SR.

was horseshoes. Phillip had his whole family involved in the sport, traveling to tournaments and bringing many trophies to his household. Phillip belonged to the Sodbusters Horseshoe Pitching Club as a lifetime member and



Wayne Steele Darling celebration of life

FERRISBURGH — Friends, neighbors, colleagues, former students, and all whose lives were touched by Wayne Darling are warmly invited to join his family in celebrating his life on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, from 1–5 p.m. at the Button Bay State Park,

Ferrisburgh.

The afternoon will be at the picnic tables under the shelter of the Pavilion, rain or shine. If you wish, you are welcome to bring a favorite dessert or side dish to share. Share memories, open microphone, and an optional bicycle ride honoring Wayne’s lifelong love of cycling.

To help us plan for the park’s attendance requirements, please RSVP to Peggy at Noodleworm@gmail.com if you think you may attend. ♦



WAYNE STEELE DARLING

Obituaries are on pages
6A and 8A

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.

Edith F. Olmstead, 106, of Middlebury

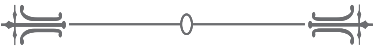
MIDDLEBURY — Edith F. Olmstead left the loving care of her family while living at the Residence at Otter Creek Middlebury, Vt., on Tuesday, June 23, 2026. She was born on April 20, 1920, in Belmont, Allegany County, N.Y., to Wallace N. Francisco and Lena M. Windus Francisco. She married Norman J. Olmstead in Belmont, N.Y., on April 10, 1942.

Edith was Norm’s devoted companion during World War II, while he served in the U.S. Army from 1942-46. She and Norm owned and operated funeral homes in Belmont and Mexico, N.Y., retiring in 1981. They moved to Middlebury in 1991. They were members of the Congregational Church, UCC, Middlebury. Edith



EDITH F. OLMSTEAD

was an active member of the Eastern Star in Belmont, N.Y.,



Rita F. Peterson, 96, formerly of Whiting

LYNDONVILLE — Rita F. Peterson, 96, of Lyndonville, Vt., passed away peacefully on Thursday evening, June 25, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on March 2, 1930, Rita was the daughter of Cyrille Fortin and Albertina Lessard. Raised in Derby, Vt., she attended Sacred Heart School in Newport and grew up in a proud French-Canadian family. Her parents immigrated from Canada and instilled in their children the values that would guide Rita throughout her life: deep faith, unwavering honesty, fierce independence, hard work, and a devotion to family.

In November 1953, Rita married Allen R. Peterson. Together they shared 38 years of marriage until Allen’s passing in 1991. They began their farming life together on their dairy farm in West Charleston, Vt., then moving their family and farm to Morgan, then to Whiting in 1973. Dairy farming was more than a livelihood for Rita. It was a way of life that reflected who she was — hardworking, resilient, and never afraid of difficult work. Through life’s joys and hardships, she met every challenge with quiet determination and strength, building a life centered on family, faith, and perseverance.

To her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was simply Memere. She was the heart of family gatherings, happiest when surrounded by those she loved. Whether tending her gardens, preparing a meal from scratch, or

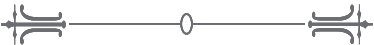


RITA F. PETERSON

welcoming everyone around the kitchen table, she had a gift for making people feel at home. She was an exceptional cook, remembered especially for the chocolate cake that no one could quite replicate. She also loved playing cards and dice, particularly the game 10,000, where family members joked that Memere somehow always found a way to win.

Rita was known for keeping an immaculate home, believing there was value in taking pride in the little things. She was organized, dependable, and strong-willed. Those who knew her best knew that beneath her stubborn streak was a fierce commitment to doing things the right (mom’s) way.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Rita’s greatest joy was her family. She was the proud mother of Joanne (A. Robert)



Eleanor Mary Russell, 90, of Shelburne

SHELburnE — Eleanor Mary Russell, 90, of Shelburne, Vt., passed away peacefully June 17, 2026, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

Eleanor (Ellie) was born in Springfield, Mass., Dec. 1, 1935, the daughter of William A. Russell and Elvie Need Russell. She was raised in New Haven, Conn., where she attended Woodward Elementary School and excelled at Hamden Hall Country Day School. She went on to Colby Sawyer College in New London, N.H., graduating in 1956 with a B.S. in Medical Technology. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, she was active in academics, athletics, and campus life. Following graduation, she completed an internship at Malden Hospital in Massachusetts.

Ellie began her professional career at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, Calif. She returned east to work at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston for five years before moving to Burlington, Vt., in 1962, where she joined Fletcher Allen Health Center (now part of the University of Vermont Health Network).

In 1964, she received a grant to study medical technology in Egypt and evaluate laboratory quality



ELEANOR MARY RUSSELL

in Damascus, Syria. She earned a master’s degree from the University of Vermont in 1976 and rose to become Administrative Director of the Hospital Laboratories and Chairperson of the Medical Technology Department at UVM, while also serving as an Assistant Professor. Known for her intelligence, logic, and problem-solving skills, she was a respected leader until her retirement in 1992.

In retirement, Ellie briefly studied art at the University of Wisconsin before returning to Vermont. She settled in Charlotte, where she became deeply involved

and in Mexico, N.Y., while Norm served in the Masons.

Edith lost her beloved husband, Norm, in 2012 after 70 years of marriage. She is survived by her daughter Amy Jo Emerson and her husband John D. Emerson of Middlebury, Vt.; her son Neil R. Olmstead and his wife Debra Barnickol Olmstead of Nevada City, Calif.; four grandchildren: Jay and Pete Emerson, and Dan and Laura Olmstead; four great-grandchildren: Emma Cassidy, Laura Rae, Bella Jo, and Benjamin David.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Congregational Church. Edith will be buried beside Norm at the Forest Hills Cemetery in Belmont, N.Y. ♦

Bertrand, James Peterson, David Peterson, Dennis (partner Tina) Peterson, Mary (Dennis) Kinney, Laurie Morris, and Luella (David) Gipson. She was also the loving grandmother of 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren with another on the way; and the aunt of many cherished nieces and nephews.

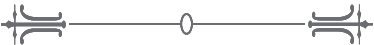
She was also predeceased in death by six siblings, one grandchild and one great-grandchild. She is survived by a sister, Yolande Osowski of New Jersey and two sisters-in-law, Melvidene Fortin of Derby, Vt., and Jeanne Fortin of Hartford, Conn.

A lifelong Roman Catholic, Rita’s faith was the foundation of her life. She was a faithful parishioner of St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church in Lyndonville and practiced her faith every day.

The family would like to thank all the wonderful caregivers that helped Rita live with failing health through this last year, especially in her final days.

Visiting hours will be held at Sanderson Funeral Home in Middlebury, Vt., July 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. A Catholic Mass will take place at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Middlebury, Vt., July 7 at 10 a.m., followed by the interment at St. Mary Cemetery, Middlebury, Vt. A brief gathering will follow the interment. Details will be announced after mass.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, So. Burlington, VT 05403. ♦



CHEERS TO LAKE LIFE!

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary
WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

VERGENNES, VT
MIDDLEBURY, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

FUNERAL
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
CREMATION
PRE-PLANNING
SERVICES

**BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES**

BRISTOL **VERGENNES**
802-453-2301 802-877-3321
brownmcclayfuneralhomes.com



There’s so much to life you won’t want to miss!

Modern, high quality hearing aids can help you get the most out of life. They’re small, comfortable, powerful — AND don’t have to cost a fortune!

Free Hearing Test & Hearing Aid Trial

With more than 30 years of experience and dedicated, personalized service, you can trust Bernie to help.

802-233-2345 Hearing Aid Sales & Service



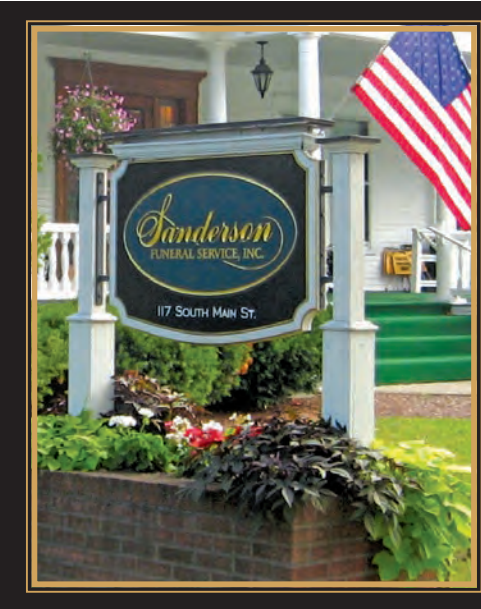
TESTING • CLEANING • PROGRAMMING • BATTERIES

Wed & Fri • 63 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Bernie Sage

bernie344@gmail.com

www.advancedhearingofvermont.com



Peace of Mind

**is Knowing Your Loved One
Never Leaves Our Care**

**Affordable Cremation
& Burial Plans**

The only on-site crematory in Addison County.
Locally owned & operated by Walter Ducharme

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home
117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT
802-388-2311
sandersonfuneralservice.com



CELEBRATING EMERGING FILMMAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



MNFF TO HONOR OSCAR-WINNING ACTOR & ACTIVIST

JANE FONDA

AT 12TH ANNUAL FEST

CATCH JANE FONDA AT THREE EVENTS AROUND TOWN ON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30



COFFEE WITH JANE FONDA

10:30 AM, MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO

HOSTED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN



KLUTE

12:00 PM

TOWN HALL
THEATER

DRAMA | 114 MIN

“Through performances of uncommon intelligence, fertile imagination and astonishing emotional clarity Jane Fonda has helped define American cinema across generations. Through decades of public engagement, she has shown extraordinary compassion and taken uncommon risks to show that an artist's influence need not end when the credits roll.” ~MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven



GASLIT

2:30 PM

TOWN HALL THEATER

DOCUMENTARY | 111 MIN

EXTENDED CONVERSATION TO FOLLOW
W/ JANE FONDA, DIRECTOR KATIE
CAMOSY & GREENPEACE PRODUCERS

MODERATED BY JAY CRAVEN

JOIN US FOR OUR 12TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL | PASSES & TICKET BUNDLES ON SALE NOW

AUGUST 26-30

middfilmfest.org

@MIDDFILMFEST

PRESENTING
SPONSOR

IPJ
Real Estate



ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Charlotte K. Chase, formerly of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Charlotte K. Chase died peacefully at her home. Charlotte was a long time Addison County resident before needing to move. She was born to Rufus and Katherine Chase in Newport, R.I., where she was raised. She later attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., in the footsteps of her father. She went on to become a teacher and later transitioned to working in the Student Activities Office at Middlebury College. Throughout her life it has been extremely important for her to serve her community of Middlebury and Addison County. She has spent countless hours volunteering at Charter House, HOPE, Addison County Restorative Justice and other organizations.

Friends and family have all been spoiled by her love and caring, which was often shown by baked goods or the latest quilting project left on the doorstep. Her dedication to helping others created a special bond with those she touched and will be remembered always. She is survived by her son John Reno (Theresa), daughter Pam Larson (Todd) and grandchildren Amanda, Brian, Patrick and JT as well as countless friends and family members. A memorial service is planned for July 11 at 2 p.m. at the Middlebury Congregational Church with reception to follow. Donations can be made in Charlotte’s honor to HOPE, Charter House or a local charity in your area. ◇

Obituaries are on pages 6A and 8A

more than

500,000

acres of VT farmland has been lost
since Act 250



www.foodforhope.farm

Source: VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Presentation to: Senate Committee on Agriculture Jan 15, 2026

READ MORE Online!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



Thefts from cars in Vergennes continue

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Police Department responded to several early morning car break-ins at the Creek View Apartments between 2 and 5 a.m. this past Saturday, June 27. That day police also took two online reports of car thefts from unlocked vehicles — one on West Main Street and one on Commodore Drive. In the former incident some money and change were taken, and in the latter three pairs of sunglasses and a backpack containing items were stolen. These break-ins are just some of many that have occurred in recent months. In the Creek View Apartment thefts some cars were just rummaged through, but from others purses, change, money, backpacks and a bicycle were taken. Plus, one car sustained damage. Additionally, that morning a portable air compressor was stolen from one of the cars but later recovered under a tree near Commodore Drive and returned to its owner. Police advise people to lock their cars and ask that anyone with information or video of the Creek View Apartment incidents call the department at 802-877-2201. Between June 22 and June 28, Vergennes police also conducted

five directed patrols, three VIN verifications, one commercial vehicle inspection and took fingerprints four times. In other recent activity, city police: • On June 22 took a report of a disabled vehicle in the northbound lane of Main Street by the bridge. The flashers were on and someone was outside with a flashlight. There were no further calls about this and the vehicle was later removed from the scene. • On June 22 took a report from an apartment resident who believed someone was trying to open her door. Officers arrived quickly and found no one in the area. She was advised to keep her doors locked and to call if this happens again. • On June 23 assisted Vermont State Police with a theft. • On June 23 assisted state police with a reported crash. • On June 23 took a report of a loose dog on Pantown Road. The owner arrived before police did. • On June 23 received an online report regarding a post on social media. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday, June 29. Police didn’t say why it warranted police investigation. • On June 23 responded to the report that a resident noticed a laser pointed at their head while outside

their residence. Officers responded to the area but were unable to locate anyone. • On June 24 conducted a welfare check on an area resident after a friend received concerning text messages. Officers located them and determined there was no emergency. • On June 24 took a call for a minor two car accident. There were no injuries or hazards. • On June 25 investigated a tip involving the possible sighting of a person wanted for attempted homicide. Officers did not find the person. • On June 25 officers were requested to assist with a welfare check on a Vergennes resident after their employer reported they had unexpectedly missed work for an extended period and could not be reached. Officers contacted the person via phone and confirmed they were safe. The person said they had taken time off so they could move. Police told the person they should notify their employer because they were unaware of this. No further police action was required. • On June 25 responded to the Vergennes pool after receiving reports of people drinking alcohol during the swim meet. Those involved left prior to police

Vergennes Police Log

arrival. • On June 25 during a motor vehicle stop spoke to the operator of a vehicle about prior speeding complaints received from Vergennes residents about their driving. • On June 26 conducted a drugged driving evaluation for state police. • On June 26 took a report of paint being smeared on a Main Street business. The paint was cleaned up by an employee. • On June 27 conducted traffic enforcement for the Pride parade. • On June 27 recieved an ID badge was found at a property in Booth Woods. The owner of the badge has not been located yet to return it. • On June 27 responded to an alarm at Maplefields. The building was secure and no issues were found. • On June 28 an officer stood by during a family cemetery service on South Maple Street at the request of the immediate family to help ensure the service proceeded peacefully and to prevent any disturbances between attendees.

Route 22A speeder tagged by sheriff’s department

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison County Sheriff’s Department on June 8 clocked a vehicle driving 94 mph in 50 mph on Route 22A. The officer arrested Sara Ginsburg, 54, of Saint Albans and cited her for excessive speeding. Between June 7 and 27, the Sheriff’s Department stopped 128 vehicles for various violations, provided six VIN verifications for residents and completed three background investigations, in addition to their usual task of serving civil process paperwork around Addison County. In those weeks the Sherrif’s department also did the following: • On June 7, provided traffic control for the Union Meeting Hall’s Taste of Summer event in Ferrisburgh. • On June 7, received report of burning trash in Starksboro and found only material that was allowed to be burned. • On June 8, assisted Vermont State Police with a crash on 22A in Bridport. • On June 8, took a report of a

minor fender bender in Leicester. • On June 8, received report of burning trash on Mountain Road in Monkton. Investigated, found prohibited material was burned and issued a ticket. • From June 8 to 11, provided blue lights for a utility detail in Burlington. • On June 10, received report of a dirt bike in the road on South Street and River Road in New Haven and located the juvenile responsible. • On June 12, assisted a landlord with an eviction in Starksboro. • On June 12, dealt with a parking issue on 4 Winds Road in Ferrisburgh. • On June 13 and 14, provided security for a special event at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh. • On June 16, assisted VSP with a crash on Route 125 in Addison. • On June 17, assigned more deputies than normal to courthouse duties due to the number of hearings. • On June 17, met with a senior citizen group in Orwell

to talk about what the Sheriff’s Department does. • On June 18, participated in a Town Hall Theater community discussion with the Turning Point Center. • On June 18, assisted a person in Cornwall who had gone into the ditch on Route 125 during a torrential rainstorm. • On June 19, investigated a report of illegal burning in Orwell. • On June 20, provided a cruiser for Bridport Day. • On June 20, assisted with a medical call on Leland Road in Salisbury. • On June 21, provided a transport for a person to jail after they were arrested by Middlebury police on a warrant. • On June 23, assisted a landlord with an eviction in Salisbury. • On June 23, investigated a trash dumping complaint on Mountain Road Extension in Addison. • On June 23, found a lost dog on Route 7 in New Haven and transported it to Homeward Bound. • On June 23, assisted the driver

Sheriff’s Log

of a vehicle that had broken down on Route 30 in Whiting. • On June 24, dealt with a parking problem on Fort Cassin Road in Ferrisburgh. • On June 24, assisted getting a cat out of a tree in Monkton. • On June 24, assisted with a vehicle that had broken down on Monkton Road. • On June 25, provided a free car seat inspection for a family with a new car seat. • On June 25, provided transport after a court hearing for a person that was ordered to be held in jail. • On June 26, dealt with an animal complaint on Middlebrook Road in Ferrisburgh. • On June 27, responded to a motorcycle crash on Route 17 in New Haven where the driver failed to properly navigate a curve in the road and went off the pavement. No injuries were reported.

Bristol man cited for driving with suspended license

BRISTOL — After responding to a motor vehicle complaint on June 16, Bristol police cited Peter J. Nelson, 58, of Bristol for driving with a suspended license. Between June 14 and 20 Bristol police completed three foot patrols and two car patrols, conducted four traffic stops and checked security at Bristol schools 14 times and at local

businesses five times. Police also processed 12 fingerprint requests, responded to one alarm, dealt with three animal problems and assisted area businesses four times, as well as two citizens and two other agencies. During that week, police also responded to two incidents involving suspicious activity,

Bristol Police Log

two thefts, one fraud, one noise disturbance, one non-reportable crash and one incident involving driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

VERMONT



RUN & TRIATHLON SERIES

VERMONT SUN TRIATHLON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
600 yard swim • 14 mile bike • 3.1 mile run



All races start and end at Lake Dunmore’s Branbury State Park



LAKE DUNMORE TRIATHLON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
.9 mile swim • 28 mile bike • 6.2 mile run



Not a runner? No problem! Sign up for the Aqua Bike Option!



BRANBURY CLASSIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2026
1.5 mile paddle | 14 mile bike | 3.1 mile run

Teams and Individuals • 802-388-6888

VERMONTSUN.COM

Enter as an individual or a 2-3 member team

SUMMER'S HEATING UP — AND SO ARE THE DEALS AT WIMETT TRADING CO!



2015 SUBARU FORESTER
2.5i Premium, 4cyl, manual, AWD110k miles
\$13995



WIMETT TRADING COMPANY
USED CARS AND TRUCKS
802 465 4688



2011 HONDA CIVIC LX
4cyl, auto, FWD, 89k miles
\$10995



2016 TOYOTA TACOMA OFF-ROAD
V6, auto, 4x4, 135k miles,
\$22995



2017 NISSAN SENTRA S
4cyl, FWD, Auto, 79k miles
\$9995



2016 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK
V6, Auto, 4x4, 49k miles
\$17995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 53 Years Experience
David Wimett, 40 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 12 Years Experience

802-465-4688
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com



DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

Email your Letter to the Editor to: news@addisonindependent.com

Letters to the Editor

Fly the flag and defend our democratic principles

For this Fourth of July, I am hanging an American flag on my property.

Underneath, I am placing a simple white banner with five words:

FLY THE FLAG.
DEFEND DEMOCRACY.

I have resisted hanging the flag for most of my adult life because I felt it had been claimed by Americans whose politics and values I did not embrace. But I now feel that it is necessary to affirm that patriotism and democracy belong together.

Our flag has flown over moments of extraordinary progress and moments of profound injustice. It has inspired soldiers, immigrants, civil rights leaders, suffragists, labor organizers, scientists, teachers and generations of Americans who believed that our country could become more equal and more just.

The American flag represents an ongoing experiment in self-government. Flying it should be an expression not only of love for our country but also of commitment



to the democratic principles on which our country was founded.

I will fly the flag now—not in support of any politician or party, but in support of the democratic principles that define our nation. And I will pair it with a simple banner as a daily reminder of what is at stake.

- Freedom of speech and of the press
- Free and fair elections

- The rule of law
- Equal rights and equal justice
- Respect for science and truth
- Compassion and dignity for all

We honor our flag best by living up to what it stands for, and by holding our leaders accountable when they do not.

FLY THE FLAG.
DEFEND DEMOCRACY.

Janie Simmons
Cornwall

State’s health care crisis needs Janoo’s solutions

Tens of thousands of Vermonters suffer from lack of access to health care and unaffordable health care costs. In fact, one in three Vermonters’ income is insufficient to address their medical costs. High premiums and out-of-pocket costs force many Vermonters to avoid seeing a doctor until their conditions are more serious. That threatens their health and, ultimately, their pocketbook.

Amanda Janoo is the only candidate for Governor with a detailed plan to address this by phasing in universal health care starting with universal primary care. Universal access to primary

care will allow people to see doctors before their conditions worsen and become more costly. That will also lead to savings in hospital costs, with emergency rooms used for real emergencies rather than as a replacement for routine primary care.

Doing nothing is not a choice. With oncoming federal cuts to Medicaid, as well as cuts to premium subsidies and rising out of pocket costs in employee health care, we cannot put our heads in the sand. We need a new approach, or we will face an even more dire situation.

We often hear that “single payer” failed in Vermont.

This is not the case! We never implemented it. Phasing it in is the right choice. Let’s cut out the insurance company middlemen starting with primary care for all. Other candidates in this race may talk about “universal primary care,” but plan to leave private insurance in the mix. After decades of fiddling with the private insurance system, we have learned that this approach will never work to control costs or create universal access.

We can start by choosing Amanda Janoo on primary day in August.

Ellen Oxfeld
Middlebury

Molly Gray is the perfect candidate for lt. governor

Molly Gray is running for another term as Lt. Governor and I, among many others, believe that Molly is the perfect candidate. The main reason that I hope she is successful is because she previously proved that she is an expert listener, visiting communities all over the state, and then taking action.

As a mother and a caregiver, Molly understands the economic pressures facing Vermont’s working families, especially in an aging state like ours. As Lt. Governor, Molly will fight for affordable healthcare, elder care,

child care, housing and a safe environment for all Vermonters, no matter where they live. She also wants to make it possible for individuals and families to move to Vermont with their skills and talents to make Vermont a great place to live and work.

Another reason I will vote for Molly is because of the work she is doing with the Afghan Alliance to help people from Afghanistan who aided our military during the war years. They and their families are here because the U.S. made a promise to help them leave their country, thereby not being subject

to retribution from the Taliban and, likely, death. The U.S. has not kept their promise to bring them all here yet, which is disappointing to me as a citizen. When I make a promise, I keep it, and I strongly believe the U.S. should do the same.

For more information, visit mollyforvt.com and please join me in voting for Molly Gray for Lt. Governor in the Primary Election on August 11 and in the Midterm Election on November 3 of this year!

Sally Roth
Bristol

Thanks for supporting Green Mountain Day Camp

Green Mountain Day Camp, an all-volunteer run weeklong day camp supported by the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, wrapped up their third year last week. It was a fantastic week of swimming, fly fishing, canoeing, archery, camping, singing, crafts and just good fun attended by 48 girls from Addison, Rutland and Chittenden Counties.

A huge thank you goes out to the local businesses that supported us, assisting with the cost of

food and supplies for our one overnight camping experience. Hannaford of Middlebury, Shaw’s of Middlebury and Bristol, Greg’s Market, Middlebury Natural Food Co-op, Middlebury Bagel & Deli, Green Peppers and the Route 7 Sandwich Shop all contributed to the effort, and we are so grateful for their support. In addition, a generous grant from Neat Repeats allowed us to purchase another event tent, providing the space needed for our increased number

of campers this year.

Please support these generous local businesses. I know I will!

Susan Scott
Salisbury

Opening of Obama center was restorative to watch

I hope I might be excused for imagining that there are many others besides myself that are experiencing understandable mental and emotional exhaustion as a direct result of the unrelenting daily revelations of the moral, political and financial corruption flowing unbridled out of the White House; and all of it with the astonishing participation of the president’s so-called loyalists. This intentional “flooding of the zone,” as it has been called by some, seems almost too much to bear at times; it hurts in the way it hurts when you lose a family member or friend.

And yet an extraordinary event occurred recently that provided a moment of hope and a welcomed respite from this spirit numbing malaise; a healing of sorts, a salve for the soul; an affirmation that we all have the power to choose to rise up and embrace the very best of ourselves as individuals and consciously make the choice to manifest compassion and empathy for each other as well as to choose to be a part of the larger community of citizen neighbors whose fundamental concern is providing for the well-being of everyone. What a refreshing moment it was indeed.

This moment of sublime restoration of spirit was provided by listening and bearing witness to a live feed of the celebration and formal opening of the Obama Presidential Center on Thursday, June 18 on the South Side of Chicago; eloquence, music and community on full display. I was subsequently drawn to the Center’s website and was quite taken by the full scope and offerings of the Center itself and they are stunning in their intention and reach: an open and welcoming 19 acre park

where families and community can gather, a place of recreation or contemplation; a magnificent central structure that is a place of education, sharing and learning in the widest sense of what that can mean, expansive offerings of contemporary art and spaces that provide opportunities for dialogue; all of it imagined as an invitation for everyone to lovingly embrace our nation and the promise of our democracy as the fragile gem of an experiment that it is; along with the challenge to encourage the best of ourselves to participate in its nurturing. “Oh what a glorious task we are given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours” reads a quote from former President Obama that is a sampling of the spirit that has been woven into the fabric of the Center.

I was particularly struck by one of the stated missions of the Center outlined on their website that is entitled, “Hope to Action Values Framework”. The list of values that make up this framework are revelatory: courage, empathy, hope, integrity, imagination, accountability, resilience, community, inclusivity and pragmatism; breathtaking aspirations indeed especially when considered in contrast to the behaviors expressed by the current president and his administration. The Center’s mission is a call to both challenge and celebrate ourselves, all of us, and our potential as human beings as well as the power and potential of the democratic institutions that allow us to explore these values in ourselves (if we can find the will, commitment and creative imagination to hold onto that democracy).

I share all of this in the hope that it may encourage some to

find their way to a platform where they can listen to both President Obama and Michelle Obama’s addresses at the opening of this remarkable place of human celebration. The eloquence and gravitas they both imbued with their words was restorative in a manner that I found exhilarating. I was encouraged to imagine a time when human dignity and its collective nurturing might once again hold a preeminent place in both our private and public lives. Their words were extraordinary in the generosity of their spirit. Seek them out if you can.

It would be a failure of imagination to ignore the stark and staggering contrast between the high ideals expressed and embraced by the former President and First Lady and those that are tragically and contemptibly on display by our current president. Former President Obama shared that one of the vital aspects of the Center’s mission was to reflect “an urgent call to stay true to our better selves”; and in her extraordinary remarks, Michelle Obama offered this for our consideration: “being a decent human being is a choice.” Amen to that. For some refreshment of spirit, you might find your way to their restorative words, if you haven’t done so already.

One of the resonant takeaways from both of their remarks is that there is both a deep responsibility as well as enormous power in the personal choices we make and it is in the nature of those choices that our character will be revealed; in how we treat each other, as well as the ultimate character of the nation we live in. Here’s to a deeply reflective Fourth of July.

Perry Pirkkanen
Salisbury

Vermont needs more Republican leadership

Like the five principles of soil health, which are limited disturbances, keep soil covered to prevent erosion, diversity enhances our ecosystem, experience the living root system, appropriate production of animal science. (Basically, clean habitat, healthy animals, and pollination). The government must promote the same philosophy

in governing its people, which is promote safety and hygiene, limiting the disturbance of poisons by taking care of our waste products efficiently and properly. Respecting diversity, creating a broader wealth of knowledge bringing peace to our communities. Show appreciation and create a governance that is uncomplicated and effective.

Enhance communications, drive innovation. Governance must be uncomplicated to become effective.

Pragmatic leadership is essential for the governance of the State of Vermont. We need Republicans running the state of Vermont. Speak out.

Lesley J. Bienvenue
Leicester

Remembering the Ben Franklin store on our 250th

Happy Birthday, too, to remembering the first Ben Franklin store, living here on Main Street. Mine and yours. Its rows of

necessities, gifts you could afford at the last minute. And downstairs, in the basement, its miniature menagerie of take-home

pets. Gerbils and goldfish. Occasionally, an exotic, tropical snake. And, once, a budgie, aka parakeet, who Ben Franklin

may have taught to say Middlebury, when you offered her a maple sugar treat. When you said to yourself

it’s not time yet, to have her singing for her breakfast in your kitchen nook.

I know is a round about way of wishing the best of luck to the empty store’s new owners, Dan and Jin, too,

of My Kim Nail, flourishing next door. Its lines, somedays, almost

across the bridge.

If you’re living someplace in America, as I think you do, you’re handing out those little flags on sticks, the wind knows

what to do with. Today and Two Hundred Fifty Years from now. When a key dangles

from a kite. The air is all electric. You’ve signed your declaration. Your face adorns a hundred-dollar bill.

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

ALL PLANTS ON SALE!

Fri. July 3 - Thurs. July 9



Just Reduced	Reg.	Sale
4 ½” torenia	\$5.49	\$1.49
4 ½” sq annuals	\$5.49	\$3.49
4” verbena + coleus	\$4.99	\$2.99
6-pak morning glory	\$4.99	\$1.99
6-pak marigolds	\$4.99	\$2.99
4” herbs	\$4.99	\$2.99
6” campanula - blue	\$10.99	\$6.99
1 gal pw hosta	\$16.99	\$12.99

Our 57th season of growing plants for Vermont gardens!

First Season Greenhouses

6 Miles West of Vergennes at 2153 Button Bay Road

Open 9 to 5 Seven Days a Week

ARTS+LEISURE

EVERY THURSDAY IN YOUR ADDY INDY

the YELLOW HOUSE community

JOIN THE YELLOW HOUSE TEAM!

NOW HIRING: “Sidekick”

(Schedule includes weekend and weekday shifts)

Looking for a role where you can help others, be active, and have FUN?

From cooking to adaptive biking, yard work to crafting, library outings to lake days at Dunmore... there’s something for everyone!

Become a “Sidekick” (Direct Support Professional) at the Yellow House Community in Middlebury and support adults with disabilities to live their best lives!



\$20 - \$22/Hr Starting Pay (increases after provisional period) * Higher Rates for Weekends

Paid Time Off * Retirement * Wellness Benefit * Health Allowance

Day and Evening Shifts Open * Weekend Availability Required

Visit our website for JOB DESCRIPTIONS and APPLICATION: yellowhousecommunity.com



Jane Fonda

(Continued from Page 1A)
Jane during the anti-(Vietnam) war movement,” Craven told the *Independent*. “That was our starting point.”

That was around 55 years ago. Fonda invited Craven to participate in the “Winter Soldier” investigation organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War in Detroit from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, 1971.

The pair has kept in touch. Craven has in the past invited Fonda to charity-related appearances, but her scheduled hasn’t allowed it.

Until now. In Middlebury next month Fonda will take part in a series of MNFF events slated for Sunday, Aug. 30, beginning with a “Coffee with Jane Fonda” outdoor gathering, hosted by Craven, on the patio of the Middlebury Inn, beginning at 10:30 a.m. A screening of the riveting 1971 drama “Klute,” for which Fonda won her first Academy Award, will follow at noon at Town Hall Theater.

At 2:30 p.m., also at THT, Fonda’s latest project will be



“Jane Fonda has shown extraordinary compassion and taken uncommon risks to show that an artist’s influence need not end when the credits roll.”

— Jay Craven

screened. It’s the heralded environmental documentary “Gaslit,” produced by Greenpeace, the lauded independent global environmental organization. Fonda has a central role in the film as she travels across the oil fields of the West Texas Permian Basin and through the Gulf Coast of Louisiana visiting communities and talking with residents adversely impacted by oil and gas production.

Following the screening, Fonda, along with director Katie Camosy and the film’s producers from Greenpeace, will take the stage for an extended conversation, moderated by Craven.

In “Gaslit,” as the filmmakers note, Jane Fonda “sees firsthand how environmental degradation and climate devastation merge, burdening those on the front lines of liquefied natural gas (LNG), plastics and petrochemical production. The film is a powerful

documentary about the individuals and communities fighting back against the oil and gas extraction boom that has positioned the

United States as the world’s largest exporter of LNG.

These are the stories of the shrimpers, cattle ranchers, former oil and gas workers, families, members of faith communities, community organizers, self-described reluctant activists and people across political and cultural spectrums who have come together in defense of the communities and coastlines they love.”

“Gaslit” director Camosy is similarly passionate about the environment and its protection. She has led many ecological initiatives such as interviews with people affected by the climate crisis and sailing Greenpeace ships to document the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. “Gaslit” is Camosy’s first feature film and the culmination of all of these formative experiences.

“Jane Fonda has lived one of the most consequential artistic lives of our time,” Craven said. “Through performances of uncommon intelligence, fertile imagination and astonishing emotional clarity, she has helped define American cinema across generations. Through decades of public engagement, she has shown extraordinary compassion and taken uncommon risks to show that an artist’s influence need not end when the credits roll. We honor her not only for her fearless artistry, but for the conviction, curiosity and humanity that animate her singular life.”



ACTOR AND ENVIRONMENTALIST Jane Fonda, shown here meeting with John Allaire in Cameron, La., during the making of her newest film, “Gaslit,” will make several appearances at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival next month.

MNFF is pleased to add Jane Fonda to its distinguished group of honorees, which over its 12 years has included two-time Oscar-winning director Barbara Kopple, three-time Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone, two-time Oscar-winning writer/director Alexander Payne and Peabody Career Achievement Award-winning director Sam Pollard.

Fonda, over her distinguished career, spanning more than 50 years, has built a body of film work

that includes more than 50 films and significant contributions to political causes such as women’s rights, Indigenous rights and environmental protection.

In addition to her two Oscars for Best Actress in a Leading Role, she has been nominated on seven other occasions and is an Emmy winner for “The Dollhouse.” She is a seven-time Golden Globe winner and was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2021. She accepted The Harry BelafonteVoices for

Social Justice Award at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival. In April of 2024, Fonda accepted the TIME Magazine Earth Award. She also recently received the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in February 2025.

At MNFF12, the Festival will present Fonda with the VTeddy Award for Fearless Artistry, Courageous Leadership and Lasting Impact.

Editor’s note: John Flowers contributed to this story.

Film festival

(Continued from Page 1A)

of films that seem like revelations.” Komesar, MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven and Andy Mitchell — the festival’s newly hired managing producer — recently gave the *Independent* a sneak preview of MNFF12’s impressive coming attractions.

It will all kick off at an already sold-out opening night that will celebrate legendary local artist

Anaïs Mitchell, responsible for the incomparable “Hadestown.” It’s a genre-defying musical that blends modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz in a show that follows two intertwined love stories between the young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, alongside King Hades and his wife Persephone.

For those who were lucky enough to have scored a ticket, the screening

of “Hadestown: The Musical” will be held in Middlebury College’s Dana Auditorium on Wednesday, Aug. 26, and will be followed by a Q&A with Addison County native Mitchell, moderated by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven.

“I couldn’t be happier that Tony and Grammy winner Anaïs Mitchell will join us for our opening night at MNFF12, which will pay tribute to her extraordinary

imagination and success as the creator of ‘Hadestown,’ which has exceeded all expectations — with all ages — and is now touring worldwide,” Craven said.

Other MNFF12 honorees will include Ross McElwee, a celebrated documentary filmmaker whose works include the quirky “Sherman’s March,” described as a “a meditation on the possibility of romantic love in the South during an era of nuclear weapons proliferation.”

McElwee’s most recent film is titled “Remake,” which uses footage from multiple earlier films in his work to tell an autobiographical story that includes the loss of his son (to an accidental heroin overdose in 2016, at the age of 27) and his reflections on movie making.

This year’s festival will screen “Sherman’s March” and “Remake,” followed by a Q&A with McElwee after “Sherman’s March.”

Craven said McElwee in “Remake” evokes the emotionally trying subject of his son’s death with “his usual sense of irony and direct investigation” that are true to his filmmaking style.

Aspiring film-score composers will be thrilled to learn that Mason Daring — who has composed the scores for 17 of director John Sales’s films — is also one of this year’s MNFF honorees. In all, he’s written scores for more than 70 films.

He also composed music for TV programs “Frontline” and “Nova.” “He’s a very accomplished guy,” Komesar said.

In addition to taking a bow for

his musical credits, Daring will be at MNFF12 for the screening of a film in which he appears. It’s called “Marblehead Morning: Daring & Stahl, 50 years in Harmony.” Mason Daring and Jeanie Stahl spent 50 years as both a New England folk duo and as independent artists.

MNFF12 will also screen the 1994 John Sales film “The Secret of Roan Inish,” for which Daring wrote the score. And Daring has agreed to conduct a film scoring master class during MNFF12, Komesar noted.

TOM HANKS MOVIE

Hollywood producer Allyn Stewart will also be in Middlebury for MNFF12, which will screen her film “Sully,” starring Tom Hanks, about U.S. Airways pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger’s 2009 emergency landing in the Hudson River.

Craven and Komesar have reached out to filmmaker John Wilson, whose latest offering, “The History of Concrete,” sees Wilson use insights he gleaned from a Hallmark movie writing workshop to pitch a documentary about concrete.

Kirtsen Johnson, a highly regarded cinematographer and director for independent documentary, will also appear at MNFF12. The festival will showcase two documentaries she directed: “Dick Johnson is Dead” and “Cameraperson.”

“She’s all about observation and has quite a sense of humor,” Komesar said of Johnson’s

filmmaking style.

She will co-lead a workshop on documentary cinematography with Andy Mitchell — a four-time Emmy Award-winning director, cinematographer, producer and writer in his own right.

“I’ve looked up to her for a while because she has a creative way of telling a story,” Mitchell said. “Both of her movies that we’re screening are slightly autobiographical — using only the footage that she shot. She’s barely even in (‘Cameraperson’), but you get a beautiful picture of her, her life and her story.

“I’m thrilled to be working with her on this,” Mitchell added.

“(Johnson) is a huge ‘get,’ from a camera person’s point of views.”

Festival organizers have recruited these industry VIPs to primarily pass along their insights to the next generation of filmmakers.

“We’re not interested in celebrating celebrity for celebrity’s sake;

we’ve never done that,” Komesar said. Their participation “is offering something substantive to our audiences as well as for the filmmakers who are attending.”

And it’s clear that the aspiring filmmakers who made the cut for MNFF12 have the right stuff, according Craven, who raised the bar for inclusion in this year’s festival.

A team of MNFF screeners passes along to Craven film submissions that they rate an eight (or better) on a scale of 1 to 10.

“This year I probably accepted 40% or so of the films that were passed on to me... It either means we’re being more selective, or I’m being more difficult. I really placed a higher standard on what I was interested in programming,” he said.

This year’s festival drew 566 film submissions — just 19 fewer than the all-time record of 585 set at MNFF10.

Craven and his team whittled the entries down to 90 features and shorts that will be screened at five Middlebury venues during MNFF12: Town Hall Theater, the Marquis Theater, and three locations on the Middlebury College campus: Dana Auditorium, Twilight Hall and the Axinn Center.

The total number of films shown will be 120, when one counts the additional 30 curated films.

“We’re not as selective as Harvard, but it ain’t easy to get in,” Komesar said with a smile.

Look for more details about MNFF12 — including ticket prices, scheduling and breaking news — at middfilmfest.org and at addisonindependent.com.

Editor’s note: See a listing of more highlights at MNFF with this story on addisonindependent.com.



Celebrating our 5,000th patient!

Thank you Pattie and Abbie, the best office team ever!

Thank you Addison County clinicians for trusting us with your patients.

Thank you to our rehabilitation team without walls: therapists, counselors, nurses and others.

Together we’ve helped 5,000 people with their back pain, nerve diseases, arm injuries, strokes, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, amputations, and childhood disabilities; with problems that stop them from school, work, sports and independence.

Together we’ve accomplished much more:

\$20 Million work disability grant for Vermont

30 African Rehabilitation doctors trained

20 research papers

6 UVM and Dartmouth medical students matched into my specialty

3 international Ph.D. graduates



**International
Rehabilitation
Forum**

Support the International Rehabilitation Forum as we train rehabilitation doctors around the world www.rehabforum.org

**Haig Physical Medicine PLC,
1590 S. US Highway 7, Middlebury, VT. 05753
802-458-8942**



Saturday, July 11, 2026 • 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

**JEWELRY • QUILTING FABRIC
ANTIQUES • WHITE ELEPHANT ITEMS • LINENS
CHILDREN’S ITEMS & TOYS
HOMEMADE PIES • SILENT AUCTION
GARDEN • SPORTING GOODS
LUNCH AND MORE!**

**All profits go to local
charitable groups — \$24,000 last year**

For more information visit STSTEPHENSmidd.ORG



MASON NATE PERRY, left, presents a check to Starksboro Fireman Norm Cota to help offset the cost of new lifesaving equipment.

Photo from Cecil Foster

Masons raise money for the fire dept.

BRISTOL — The monthly charity breakfast that was held on Sunday, June 14, at the Masons’ Lodge in Bristol raised over \$1,500 to assist the Starksboro Fire Department in their purchase of new Jaws of Life equipment.

Members of the Fire Department assisted in pouring coffee and resetting tables. Over 120 members of the Five Town community enjoyed hearty breakfasts and great socializing with friends and neighbors.

The Masons of Libanus Lodge would like to thank all of the community for assisting in raising this money for the well-deserved volunteers of the Starksboro Fire Department.

The Outside Story: A moth with a mission

My first sighting of a cecropia moth was from a boat. It was a sunny morning and I was paddling along the lakeshore, expecting to see familiar birds. Instead, my eye was drawn to a large brown spot covering an alder leaf. My first thought was that it was a discoloration, perhaps from a fungus. Paddling closer, I saw it was a moth — a very, very big one.

The cecropia (*Hyalophora cecropia*) is North America’s largest moth, similar in size to a giant swallowtail butterfly. It’s one of several species of giant silk moths in the Northeast; this family includes the ethereal-looking luna moth, which has long, pale-green wings. The cecropia moth has a furry red head and body with big, feathery antennae. The male has especially large antennae. Its brown-gray wings, spanning up to seven inches, are edged with color and have red, purple, gray and tan markings. Each of the four wings bears a pale, crescent-shaped, red-rimmed false eyespot.

Besides the fact that the cecropia moth is well-camouflaged and typically works the night shift, there is another reason it’s not commonly seen: it spends a mere one or two weeks as an adult. In late May or early June, a cecropia moth emerges from a large, brown cocoon. From here on, it’s a moth with a mission: to mate and reproduce. It doesn’t eat, and in fact, has no functional mouthparts or digestive system. It survives solely on fat stored over the winter.

June is peak flying season for cecropia moths. New Hampshire Audubon Biologist Lindsay Herlihy recommends looking for them near a porch light or on a window or door screen. Hanging up a pale sheet at the edge of the woods and shining a light onto it (with a cool-toned white light or UV bulb) can also increase your chances of spotting one. “The sheet reflects the light back out so it looks bigger and brighter,” Herlihy said. “This also gives you a good chance of seeing a luna, since their flight period overlaps.” Having the sheet up for an hour or two has minimal impact on wildlife, Herlihy shared, but leaving it out for longer periods could disrupt birds and insects.

Female cecropias secrete pheromones that can attract males from more than a mile away. If mating is successful and the females don’t get eaten by a nightjar or a bat, they can each lay up to 100 eggs on the leaves or stems of the host plant, which is often a deciduous tree such as a maple, cherry or birch. In 10 to 14 days, the eggs hatch into tiny black caterpillars, which eat their egg cases and then start feasting on the leaves of their host trees.

Cecropia larvae have five stages of development, outgrowing their skin four times. Many of these soft, protein-packed caterpillars become snacks, but the survivors turn into fantastical bright green creatures that are four or five inches long and as thick as your thumb. Their backs are dotted with predator-deterrent red, yellow, and blue bumps topped with stiff black spikes.

At the end of the summer, a well-fed cecropia caterpillar spins a spindle-shaped or bag-shaped silk casing around itself. Although large, the cocoon is easily overlooked as it blends in with twigs, leaves and grasses. This is where the cecropia spends the longest stage of its one-year life cycle, transforming into a moth.

Sam Jaffé, director of the Caterpillar Lab in Dublin, New Hampshire, has seen many thousands of cecropia moths and caterpillars, but they take his breath away every time. “Visitors often are shocked to learn that a cecropia moth is a native creature that could be living out their lives close to them,” he said. “The shock of seeing such a large and colorful species right here at home makes people reconsider what can be just outside their doors and want to find out more. Many people who have become deeply engaged with the natural world in New England tell stories of that first cecropia moth they found under their porch light or along the edge of their yards.” Herlihy calls the cecropia moth her “spark bug” for this reason.

Unfortunately, these sightings are becoming rare. “They’re getting less and less common, particularly up north,” entomologist and author Doug Tallamy said. “Outdoor lights are hard on them, and so are parasitoids such as the tachinid fly. Switching to yellow lights outdoors can help save these beautiful creatures.”

Laurie D. Morrissey is a writer who lives in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

State Historic Sites celebrate 250th birthday with events and readings

VERMONT — The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation invites visitors to readings of the Declaration of Independence at State Historic Sites on July 4. Readings will commence at 11:30 a.m. at five state historic sites: Chimney Point in Addison and Mount Independent in Orwell, as well as at the sites dedicated to President Chester A. Arthur in Fairfield, President Calvin Coolidge in Plymouth and the Hubbardton Battlefield in Hubbardton. Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site will host a reading at noon that Saturday.

In addition to the reading, on July 4, the President Coolidge State Historic Site will offer free admission for the day to celebrate the 154th birthday of America’s 30th president and the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A U.S. Air Force Aerial F-35 Flyover honoring the events of the day is scheduled for the morning. The day before, on July 3 at 6 p.m., bring a picnic and lawn chair to the site and listen to patriotic tunes presented by the 26-piece John Masko’s Orchestra, presented at no charge. The Civil War Hemlocks will be there with their canon to accompany the 1812 Overture. Living historians from the group will be available for conversation before the concert.

A reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place on the porch of Old Constitution House State Historic Site in Windsor on July 8 at 6 p.m. This reading commemorates the first public reading of America’s founding document by Col. John Nixon on the State House Yard in Philadelphia. The occasion also marks the 249th anniversary of Vermont adopting its own constitution — formalizing a government for the independent republic. The reading will be

one of thousands taking place on the same day and time across our nation. A reading will also take place at Bennington Battle Monument at 6 p.m., following a concert by the Army’s Marching Band at 4 p.m.

On July 11 and 12, the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site will transport visitors back to July 1777, when colonial forces faced off against the British in one of the most successful rearguard actions in American military history. Reenactors will demonstrate military tactics, including a large demonstration of the battle on Sunday, July 12, at 8 a.m. More information can be found at historicsites.vermont.gov.

As we conclude celebrations marking the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, VDHP invites everyone to take impactful action. The Bennington Battle Monument is facing critical structural conservation needs, and we need the community’s voice to determine how to best restore, operate and maintain Vermont’s tallest historic landmark. Please take five minutes to share your thoughts on the tower’s long-term future. Public input gathered

online this summer will directly shape the final technical plans presented during our upcoming state review session. Visit [Historicsites.vermont.gov](https://historicsites.vermont.gov) to access the official survey.

HOPPY BIRTHDAY, U.S.A.!

Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060

Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312

www.Hare.dog

AGWAY

Summer Specials

20% off coolers & chairs

20% off Reptile Supplies

HAPPY HEN Party Mix Mealworm
Treats 2lb **\$9.99**
reg. \$16.99

While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, good on in-stock merchandise only. offer good through 7/12/26

CLOSED JULY 4TH & 5TH

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937 **Open 7 days**
Mon–Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 8-5
www.MiddleburyAgway.com



WHAT DO YOU GET FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY?
THE WOODWARE CREW BRINGS SMILES AND HELPING HANDS
WITH EVERY FURNITURE DELIVERY!

FLEXSTEEL®

Personalized to Perfection

Hundreds of custom fabric options to create a look that's truly yours.

www.woodwarevt.com

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

802-388-6297

Psychedelic

(Continued from Page 1A)

while Peggy Dippen took them through a journey backwards in time, from the present day to 13,000 years ago.

“Long before there were hospitals, universities, or pharmacies, human beings were gathering in circles, listening to elders, exploring the natural world,” said Dippen, president of the Society for Psychedelic Advocacy, Research & Knowledge, or SPARK.

“Our ancestors looked to these medicines to help them grieve, to celebrate, to heal trauma, to navigate life transitions, to deepen their connection with one another.”

SPARK is a newly formed Vermont nonprofit working to encourage ethical, accessible community education on psychedelics and psychedelic-assisted therapies through public talks and conversations. The organization is led by clinicians, educators and researchers who aren’t promoting psychedelic use, but creating an environment in which informed conversations can be had around the potential benefits, risks and ethical questions surrounding these substances. Bixby was the fifth library that they have spoken at, and there are five more scheduled in the next couple of months.

Dippen and SPARK secretary Julie Coffey have been giving free public educational community conversations about the healing potential of psychedelics at several libraries in Vermont. Other board members of the nonprofit were present, including Rachel Lamagna and Ginger Cloud.

Psychedelics are a class of psychoactive substances that alter perception, mood and cognitive processes. LSD, magic mushrooms and mescaline are ones popular in the public imagination, but the list of psychedelics is much longer than that.

“Our job is going from library to library, inviting people to learn the truth about what psychedelics are, what they aren’t, why it’s important, and why it might matter to them,” Coffey said.

During the event, the group discussed the history of psychedelic

use, including traditional plant medicines, the development of psychedelic research, and the current outlook on psychedelic-assisted therapy and the safety considerations involved in this.

Dippen emphasized that the use of plant medicines is not a new practice. It deals with old and sacred medicines that should be honored and used carefully. She went further into the long history of psychedelic substances and their use in different cultures, beginning with Maria Sabina. Sabina was a *Mazatec sabia* (wise woman) and poet in southern Mexico in the early to late 1900s. She is credited with bringing plant medicine to the United States and sharing a sacred ceremony of psilocybin mushrooms with people who later exploited her.

When thinking about psychedelics, Dippen and Coffey make it clear that recognizing the indigenous knowledge and traditions that are connected to these medicines and practices is essential.

“Our hope is to bring awareness and information up into our small state, where we have a lot of opportunity to start shaping how the psychedelic landscape might begin to unfold in our state, thinking about how things have happened in other states,” Dippen said. “Sabina’s travesty cannot happen again. Today, we spend time honoring her and our indigenous communities.”

Also discussed was the expansion of psychedelic research that occurred in the mid-1900s, before many of these substances, like psilocybin, ibogaine, LSD, MDMA, DMT, or others, were restricted during the War on Drugs during Nixon’s administration, contributing greatly to decades of stigma around their use.

This stigma has existed around drugs — and specifically psychedelics — for a long time and continues today. The goal of SPARK and the conversations they prompt is to encourage public discourse — to talk, to listen for what this means to us as Vermonsters, to build community as the psychedelic ecosystem grows in Vermont.

Coffey said beginning a discussion of psychedelics now because of our well-being as humans today in the U.S.

“There’s a mental illness epidemic worldwide in this country,” she said. “The prevalence of depression has increased 60% in the last 10 years. Every day, more than 17 veterans in the U.S. (die from mental illness). It’s astounding. We’ve never been more disconnected from one another. Never more medicated. Never been sicker than we are today. With all of the technology out there and the wealth we have. We want to heal, and that’s why we’re here.”

Today, ketamine-derived treatments are the only psychedelic-related therapy available in medical care in the United States, while substances like psilocybin and MDMA continue to be studied in clinical trials. SPARK’s conversations come at a time when there is growing legislative attention to psychedelic-assisted therapy. In a legislative report from the Vermont Psychedelic Therapy Advisory Working Group in 2024, the group examined the potential benefits, risks, and regulatory structures for psychedelic-assisted treatment in the state, suggesting increasing interest in how these substances may be used for mental health care.

The political landscape around psychedelics is still evolving, as it has been over the years. A recent Presidential executive order given in April, Order 14401, deals with accelerating medical treatments for serious mental illness and was discussed at length by the group.

“I think everyone was surprised,” Coffey said. “With this executive action is the allowable breakthrough status compassionate care clause allowing for those with terminal illnesses to seek alternative therapies, to see any kind of treatment they can find, including derivatives of MDMA and psilocybin. This brings the risk of the potential widespread use in the United States, which could mean that we completely dishonor the mistakes of the past and what happened to people like Sabina and her communities. We don’t want that to happen again.”



SPARK BOARD MEMBERS Julie Coffey, left, Peggy Dippen, Rachel Lamagna and Ginger Cloud stand at the Bixby Library in Vergennes after hosting a free community conversation on psychedelic history, research, clinical best practices, and safety considerations.

Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

Despite some people believing this executive order aims to make money for big pharmaceutical companies and take away from the community aspect, Coffey agrees that it may be a broader opportunity as well.

“It might be the opening to healing for somebody,” she said. “The executive order brings potentially access to medicines that have not been accessible to people who could benefit from them. States like Colorado, Oregon and New Mexico are deciding what their psychedelic ecosystems look like and are regulating, offering and decriminalizing plant medicine.”

Now that we’ve seen that other states around the U.S. can make a change in this psychedelic area, why can’t Vermont also? This is where SPARK encourages people in the Vermont community to advocate.

“Vermont is one of those rare states where we can just pick up the phone and actually get our legislator on the phone,” Coffey said. “Maybe we can do something about that.”

When learning about the process of using psychedelic drugs, there are important things to know. A healing setting, for example, is crucial for a helpful and enlightening experience, the SPARK advocates said. This can be out in nature, with trusted family members, or at a retreat.

“It’s the mindset of not only the person who is going to journey, but also the mindset of the guide or the clinician holding the space for the person,” Dippen said. “Nervous system regulation of all the different things that might happen in a journey, the setting, what’s happening in the person’s life, what’s going to happen before and after the journey. Because psychedelics can be really destabilizing.”

One interesting point that was made during the conversation was the possibility of creating new neural pathways through the use of psychedelics.

“After the journey, it’s a really beautiful window of plasticity, meaning opportunity, plasticity meaning change,” said Coffey. “And that’s what a lot of the research we’re really excited about. Meaning making, behavior change, whatever you want to make of it,

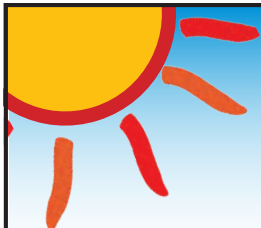
whatever you want to do differently, whatever the journey tells you or speaks to you.”

“You have the journey and the work after,” added Dippen. “With the effects of these journeys, we look at what can happen with integration. Are they starting new patterns of behavior, exercise, healthy habits, so that new neural pathways get formed and solidified with those new patterns of behavior, new ways of thinking, new ways of doing things?”

There are safety considerations that should be taken into account and health risks that people may experience after using psychedelics, so it is important to be aware of prior medical conditions before using them.

More psychedelic conversations are happening in the coming months and open to anyone: July 7 in South Burlington, July 22 in Jericho, July 24 in Morrisville, and Sept. 9 in Burlington. To see the specific times of each of these educational events, visit sparkinvt.org.

“Let’s shape the future approach for psychedelic care, whether that’s therapy, psychotherapy, let’s have a say in what this ecosystem looks like in Vermont,” Coffey said.



Orwell, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

When I made the decision to install solar panels to power my small farm and residence, there was no doubt that I would turn to Bristol Electronics for help. Having worked with Chris and her team for satellite television service, I was confident that the same professionalism, expertise, quality workmanship, competitive price structure, prompt and courteous service, and continued support would be forthcoming. Such was the case and I couldn't be more satisfied with the result.

Kent Anderson – Orwell, VT



802 . 453 . 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com
FREE SITE EVALUATIONS



By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

and its programming over time. WVVT was created to give Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro a radio station focused primarily on local people, music, stories, events, organizations, and conversations. Beginning this Saturday, you’ll be able to listen online from your phone, computer, tablet or connected vehicle. Later this year, once its FM tower is completed, you’ll also be able to hear WVVT through a traditional radio throughout the 5-Town area.

It was 174 years ago that American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer and statesman Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) delivered his famous speech, “What to the Slave is the 4th of July?” in Rochester, N.Y. Today, this striking oration remains one of the greatest indictments of American slavery. On July 5 from 1-3 p.m., you can go to Ferrisburgh’s Rokeby Museum for a community reading celebrating Douglass’s momentous speech led by esteemed local singer, actor, writer and teacher François Clemmons. From 1793 to 1961, Rokeby was home to four generations of Robinsons, a remarkable family of Quakers, farmers, abolitionists, artists and authors. Today, the Robinson family’s home is a National Historic Landmark, designated for its exceptional Underground Railroad history.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced \$5.8 million in Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment and Cleanup grants to accelerate the cleanup of polluted sites across Vermont — including in Middlebury and Vergennes. Specifically, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will receive \$500,000 for a Brownfields Assessment Grant to conduct eight Phase I and

seven Phase II environmental site assessments, and to develop four cleanup plans, one area-wide plan, one site reuse study, and support community engagement activities in Middlebury and the Little City. With these funds, EPA is investing to promote clean air, land and water.

Ahead of a volunteer gravestone restoration and cleaning project at the Village Cemetery on Route 116 in Starksboro on Aug. 15, organizers on July 5 (from 12:30-1:30 p.m.) will offer a chance to meet some of the Revolutionary War soldiers buried in that 1802 cemetery — the oldest burying ground in town. You’ll be introduced to common problems facing most cemeteries and actions that can be taken to remedy them. You’ll be shown examples of before and after cleaning, as well as best practices. Parking for this event will be at Robinson School on Parsonage Road — *not* on Route 116. For those interested, the Village Meeting House on Route 116 will then host at 2 p.m. a period sermon that will offer insights into Vermont religious history at the time of the Revolution.

Join Lewis Creek Association staff at Starksboro’s Cota Field from 3-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, for a hands-on demonstration of manual removal of Japanese knotweed — an invasive plant that has hollow, smooth, purple to green-colored stems that can crowd out native species. You’ll be taught effective techniques you can use at home and help stop the spread. There will also be a removal demonstration in Ferrisburgh on Monday, July 13, from 6-7:30 p.m. Sign up at tinyurl.com/y4npa4yx. Directions to the site and weather-related updates will be sent to registered participants. Learn more: at lewis creek.org/knotweed-removal-project.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

Sign up for our email newsletter

News highlights delivered straight to your inbox, three days a week.



www.addisonindependent.com/newsletter-signup

Foodaroo serves up flavor, fun on Aug. 2

MIDDLEBURY — On Sunday, August 2, Middlebury's Foodaroo festival will celebrate eleven years with a world of cuisines, the All Night Boogie Band, an adult beverage garden, street performers and two King Arthur Flour baking competitions. Presented by Middlebury Underground, Foodaroo returns to Middlebury's Historic Marble Works District overlooking the falls — featuring food trucks and restaurants from across Vermont. Entry is \$5 cash. Kids 12 and under are free. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Foodaroo is proud to donate a portion of proceeds to Food for Hope, a common-good farm project working to close the gaps in Vermont's local food system.

TASTE VERMONT

Foodaroo 11 will feature all-time festival favorites, as well as newcomers, providing a delicious taste of the farm-to-table lifestyle that is a hallmark of our state. Food and beverage vendors include American Flatbread; Aladdin's Mediterranean; A Taste of Abyssinia; Crazy Cotton Candy; Crooked Ladle; Dougy Fresh; Food for Hope; Gene's Chili Hut; Good Times Co.; La Chata's Churros; Lulu Ice Cream; Mexico in Vermont; Little Seed Coffee; Rollin' Rooster; Steven's Farmstead; Maharaja Spice; Mexico in Vermont; Shiretown's BBQ; Taco Truck All Stars; Sisters of Anarchy Ice Cream; Stone Leaf Tea House, and more.

Zero Gravity beer, hard cider, and summer cocktails will be offered at two American Flatbread bars. The adult beverage sampling tent features WhistlePig Whiskey, Shacksbury, Split Spirits, Lincoln Peak and Golden Rule Mead.

A FEAST FOR ALL SENSES

Foodaroo is about food and performance that exhilarates and engages all ages. The award-winning blues, rock and soul act The All Night Boogie Band will electrify with their quintet and Janis Joplin-esque vocals. They will play classic songs and debut music from their recent summer album release "Close Your Eyes and See."

This year's festival also welcomes two celebrated street performers: the world-famous Red Trouser Show and stunt comedian Wacky Chad.

Hip-Hop DJ sensation Serena Kim (who DJ'd the Yankees' third World Series victory party) will kick off the festival and close it out with a DJ and pole dance extravaganza featuring Krystal Young.

KING ARTHUR FLOUR BAKING CONTESTS FOR KIDS & ADULTS

Foodaroo is honored to host King Arthur Flour baking contests for the 10th year, one of the exclusive festivals nationwide that offer these exciting competitions. For more information on this year's pie competitions, please visit: middunderground.org/kingarthur.



City firefighters train

VERGENNES FIREFIGHTERS ZACH Gebu, left, and Walker Randall practice putting on a self-contained breathing apparatus during a training exercise in the Vergennes fire station last week. They wore cowl over their heads to simulate the process in a smoke-filled building with no visibility. Local volunteer firefighters do hundreds of hours of training.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Students named to Trustees' List

BURLINGTON — The following students have been named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Spring 2026 semester. Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or

- more consecutive semesters.
- **Tyler Chasse** of Bristol
 - **Kenneth Moran** of Starksboro
 - **Akiva Nugent** of Starksboro
 - **Penelope Stein** of East Middlebury

MONKTON — A Monkton community for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities recently received a big boost in its efforts to expand.

The Riverflow Community was awarded \$1.2 million by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board to support construction of a second home at Riverflow, which will create eight "new affordable

community-living bedrooms, including four for residents living with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and expand a rare housing model that integrates care, stability, and long-term support."

Since opening its doors in October 2024, the community has grown to include board members, staff, volunteers, founding friends, and householders who maintain Riverflow's first therapeutic

home, or Willow House, an eight-bedroom home situated on the 30-acre property in Monkton.

The community has more recently been looking to grow through the construction of a second home on the property. Earlier this year, members of the community were working to raise around \$1.7 million to support phase two of building Riverflow, which was expected to include

constructing a road on the property and the addition of the second home.

In a spring newsletter, Riverflow Executive Director Hannah Schwartz noted that the community was looking to raise funds needed to sign contracts with modular homes manufacturer Huntington Homes and that construction could begin this fall with an anticipated completion of the project in spring 2027.

DOWNLOAD the WVTK App Today

Streaming | On-Demand | Contests | and more
Android Auto and Apple CarPlay Compatible

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

92.1 WVTK
Addison County's Radio Station

921WVTK.COM

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AT PORTER MEDICAL CENTER

★ Join our volunteer team! ★

If you're looking to engage in your community, we will find a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests. From GREETERS to CRAFTERS, there are so many ways you can be part of our Volunteer Team

If interested, please send an email to PMC-Volunteers@portermedical.org or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444.

University of Vermont Health
Porter Medical Center

47th Annual Middlebury

Festival on-the-Green

July 12-18 2026

A family-friendly music series on the Village Green in Middlebury, VT Supported entirely by community donations

Sunday, July 12, 2026

7:00 Mojo Birds

Based in Durango, Colorado, Mojo Birds musicians are from various parts of the world including two with Vermont roots. They are a “funky flock” offering a roots, soulful groove sound coupled with a horns section and a little “Afro-Peruvian Mojo”. Dancing guaranteed.



Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Noon - No Strings Marionettes

1:30 Addison County Live

An afternoon showcase of some of our very talented regional musicians, including Evan Dennison, Jim and Clara Carroll and Naunau Beloha & Friends.

7:00 Mélisande

Mélisande Gélinas-Fauteux is a favorite performer of the Quebecois music scene. She has an infectious energy that, combined with her band’s amplified instrumentation and percussion, makes for a unique experience of “trad” music from our neighbors to the North.



Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Noon - Taiko Drummers

7:00 Faux Paws

The Faux Paws play a raucous blend of bluegrass, jazz, Cajun and folk from raging fiddle tunes to saxophone solos to unrequited love songs. Their acoustic style is on the fringes yet always memorable, with a contagious, spirited groove!

8:30 Damn Tall Buildings

If you like your bluegrass served with a little attitude, grit and gravy, then Damn Tall Buildings is for you. This Brooklyn-based bluegrass band pulls from a wide range of influences including swing, ragtime and jazz.



Thursday, July 16, 2026

Noon - Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté

A musical storytelling show for the whole family!

7:00 The Mammals

Described as indie-roots trailblazing high-octane Americana, The Mammals make music for a world that has forgotten how to listen. They carry forward the lineage of protest music, family harmony, and grassroots resilience and weave them into something alive, awake and stunningly contemporary!

8:30 Slap Dragon

This group of Nashville-based session musicians present an acoustic groove with bluegrass instincts. The band creates a fresh, funky, irresistibly joyful sound that is equal parts bluegrass, disco and R&B soul, coupled with great song writing.



Friday, July 17, 2026

Noon - Circus Minimus

7:00 Brett Hughes and the Honky-Tonk Crowd

Prepare for boot-stomping, barbecue-ready, Vermont flavored country music with Vermont musician Brett Hughes and his musician friends. Brett hosted Honky-Tonk Tuesdays in Burlington for over a decade. His enthusiasm is contagious as he belts out tunes from some of country-music’s best honkey-tonk songwriters.



Saturday, July 18, 2026

7:00 Vermont Jazz Ensemble Street Dance & Scarlet Annie

Since 1984, the Festival’s capstone event has been the Street Dance where we turn Main Street into a downtown dance hall. Featuring the 17-member Vermont Jazz Ensemble performing big-band selections as well as a repertoire of rock, fusion, Latin and popular music. Scarlet Annie performs at intermission for your listening pleasure!



Rain or shine! Check our website prior to shows for schedule changes.

festivalonthegreen.org



Ripton school

(Continued from Page 1A)

School (RES) last year. Ripton’s youngest children have since been absorbed by the Salisbury Community School. A series of votes this past March paved the way for Ripton to reacquire RES from the district.

Representatives from ACSD and Ripton inked a deal for the school last month after what they described in their press release as a “complex, months-long collaboration. Both parties worked to ensure a smooth transfer of the Ripton school assets to the town of Ripton. Together, the town and district formed a collaborative working group and designed a process to include broad community input.”

The final agreement includes the ACSD satisfying what the sides termed as “an outstanding bond obligation owed to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, with a partial repayment by the town of Ripton.”

The bond was used to install a rooftop solar array at RES in 2014. The project qualified for a \$77,000 state incentive and a 25-year, \$200,000 bond issued through a local bank.

“We’ve worked thoughtfully together over the past year through one of the most challenging transitions a small Vermont community can face,” said ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker.

“Throughout our process, the district and town shared a collective

desire to ensure the school building was transferred in a manner that enabled it to remain a vibrant community resource.”

Ripton residents are now diligently weighing potential new uses for the RES building and what those new uses might cost. With the help of RES Transition Coordinator (and former Ripton selectboard member) Laurie Cox, the town has formed six study committees. Those ad hoc panels are examining the RES building as a whole; its 15-acre parcel; its ability to host a library, town offices and other community uses; and its potential in hosting business tenants.

There’s also a coordinating committee made up of one person from each of the RES study panels.

“It’s an evolving process,” Cox said, adding there’s no deadline for the committees to complete their research. But she acknowledged any RES building ideas that require funding will need to be given to the selectboard by this fall to be considered as part of the fiscal year 2027 municipal budget.

“We’ve worked thoughtfully together over the past year through one of the most challenging transitions a small Vermont community can face.”

— ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker

Cox said the RES study committees are looking for public input. Folks will get a chance to weigh in, and learn more about RES’s future, at a community picnic to be held on RES grounds on Saturday, July 25, from noon to 2 p.m. The event will celebrate the town’s reacquisition of the school and the Ripton Volunteer Fire Department.

Ripton selectboard Chair Giles Hoyler said he’s pleased negotiations are over and that the town can turn its attention to writing a new chapter for RES.

Ripton voters on March 2 agreed to appropriate \$70,000 to an initial year’s use and maintenance of the RES building — through June 30, 2027.

“This process has had several unexpectedly complex elements,” Hoyler stated through the press release, “but folks in Ripton and ACSD have been willing to work together to move through the challenges we’ve faced in order to return the school to Ripton Town in a timely way, ready for immediate use by our community as the facility begins its next chapter.”

Recovery home

(Continued from Page 1A)

a commitment to recovering from substance use disorder. The majority of them will have graduated from in-patient treatment centers, such as Valley Vista 3.1 in Vergennes.

Participants would receive programming delivered by the Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR), an Essex Junction-based nonprofit that already operates 10 recovery homes, possessing a total of 77 beds, throughout the state.

“VFOR’s mission is to create a statewide network of recovery homes to help people suffering from substance use disorder reassimilate into society by supporting their transitions from active use, to recovery, to independent living,” reads the nonprofit’s website.

David Riegel, VFOR’s executive director, said the organization would lease the Court Street building in which the new recovery housing would be hosted. Participants would rotate out based on completion of VFOR programming and having a safe landing spot and the resources they need to begin the next chapter of their lives.

“We want them to have the skillset to be able to re-establish the same wraparound supports that were working for them when they lived in our recovery residence — wherever they land,” Riegel said. “We want them to have long-term lasting success. We want to help them ‘build their own muscle.’”

Three other nonprofits will be asked to play key supporting roles for the Middlebury recovery home to succeed:

- The Peer Recovery Center of Addison County (PRCAC) — formerly known as the Turning Point Center of Addison County — which offers what it describes as “confidential, judgment-free recovery services at no cost to people living with, impacted by, or exploring concerns about harmful behaviors.” It’s one of 12 peer recovery centers in the state assisting individuals and their families seeking recovery from substance use disorder and other addictions.
- Homes First, which “seeks to provide economically and environmentally sustainable, right-sized homes to Addison County residents that are designed and funded, fully or in large part, by the community that resides alongside them.”
- Homes First, which has a team of construction-savvy volunteers who’ve been hammering away at local housing projects, has offered to renovate the future recovery home, thus driving down project costs through donated labor.
- An as-yet undefined nonprofit that would own and maintain the building.

While Addison County has long been home to addiction treatment/counseling, it’s

DAVID RIEGEL IS executive director of the Vermont Foundation of Recovery, an organization that would be in charge of programming for Addison County’s first-ever recovery home, which is being planned for Middlebury’s Court Street.

Photo courtesy of VFOR

remained a conspicuous blind spot in Vermont’s still-limited recovery-home vista between Rutland and Burlington.

There’s not a single recovery residence in either Addison, Essex, Grand Isle, Orange, Orleans or Windham counties, according to an “Assessment of Recovery Residences” report the Vermont Department of Health delivered to the Legislature on Dec. 15, 2025.

The Department of Health, in its report, recommended the state “address gaps in Vermont’s recovery residence ‘landscape,” locating such residences in counties that don’t yet have one. The department also called for amending the state’s landlord-tenant statute “to ensure that certified recovery residence operators are able to effectively maintain safe and supportive environments for residents.”

HOUSING HARD TO FIND

Danielle Wallace is executive director of PRCAC. She said the current lack of recovery housing “is a real problem” for people seeking to build a solid foundation after having made a commitment to sobriety.

Wallace noted programs like Valley Vista 3.1 seek to integrate participants in the community through employment and volunteer work, during their roughly three-month stay. She said they build positive relationships that enhance their sobriety efforts.

But what happens when it’s over?

“People get used to the Addison County community, and then there’s nothing,” Wallace said. “Some are coming from homelessness, incarceration. In no way, in 90 days, are they able to find housing.”

Addison County housing vacancy rates are low. The median priced home in the county in 2024 was \$385,000. To afford this house, a buyer would need an annual income of at least \$107,222 and an estimated \$36,125 available

for closing costs, according to the latest Addison County Regional Plan. The plan also states that as of 2024, the fair market rate for a 1-bedroom apartment was \$1,062, a 2-bedroom apartment was \$1,332, and a 3-bedroom apartment was \$1,741.

Recovery housing, Wallace said, would give folks stability, some extra time to find a permanent home, and fully integrate into the community.

“It’s critical we have that ‘next step’ for people,” Wallace said. “A lot of them want to stay in this community, but they don’t have the resources or ability to do so.”

Riegel understands the issue and said VFOR has spent years trying to fill service gaps.

“Recovery housing has been growing in its momentum — its quality, effectiveness and professionalism,” he said.

When VFOR launched in 2013, recovery housing in Vermont was like the “wild west,” according to Riegel.

“There was no state involvement, there was no certifying entity,” he said. “Anyone one could say, ‘It’s a sober house’; we didn’t even call them recovery residences. You were at the mercy whoever decided they were going to be the house manager. Most people were acting in good faith and were trying to do the right thing; they just might not have had the skillset.”

Riegel and Andrew Gonyea — both of whom were once in active recovery — decided they wanted to professionalize recovery housing in the state. Thus was born VFOR.

“We’ve come a long way,” Riegel said, noting the subsequent creation of the Vermont Alliance of Recovery Residences, which has helped represent and improve the industry through championing best practices and a certification process.

VFOR turned its attention to establishing recovery homes statewide. Middlebury has always been on VFOR’s wish list.

“When you look at the Route 7 corridor, Middlebury is right there,” Riegel said. “If you look at the map, we’ve already got homes in Bennington, Rutland, Essex and St. Albans. We’ve got the western side of the state pretty well covered, with the exception of the gap of Middlebury.”

He recalled speaking a dozen years ago with then-Turning Point Center of Addison County leader Bill Brim about setting up a recovery residence. But a lack of funding, fears of NIMBYism and other issues forestalled a project.

But Riegel said momentum started to build when Wallace took the helm of the PRCAC a few years ago.

“She’s been a strong advocate and tenacious about saying, ‘Hey, when are you (VFOR) coming here to open a home?’” he said.

(See Middlebury, Page 15A)

With sincere appreciation,
Andrew, James, and your
friends & family at Goodro

Pride celebration

(Continued from Page 1A)
end of June, commemorating the Stonewall Riots and continuing to celebrate LGBTQ+ identity.

The Vergennes Pride Committee had more organizers and partners on Saturday than ever before. Six organizers worked on the event, and for the first time, two local businesses — Big Heart Social and lu•lu Ice Cream — each collaborated with Vergennes Pride. Big Heart Social hosted an afterparty, and lu•lu Ice Cream offered a special pride flavor until June 30 called, “Born this way Sundae!” and donated 10% of the sundae’s sales to Vergennes Pride Committee.

Though the event has been developing each year, Vergennes Pride’s first gathering drew a

much larger crowd. In June 2023, nearly 400 people came to protest an anti-trans speaker at Vergennes Union High School. Protesters far outnumbered the couple dozen attendees of the talk.

Since then, the gathering has continued each year — now as a celebration. Though the following events have been smaller than the very first, organizers have improved the event and drawn more attendees each year since.

On Saturday, the celebration began at noon, once again by the Vergennes Union High School. Everyone lined up and marched down Monkton Road and Main Street — with many covered in rainbows and carrying signs. Some were even on roller skates, including a Green Mountain Roller

Derby member known as “Trasher.” “We’re not sure what this is going to be like under our skates,” Trasher said. “But we’re definitely excited to be down at the end here talking derby with people.”

Roller derby members only know one another by their derby names, including “Fleetwood Smack” and “Summer Squatch,” who also rolled through Vergennes Pride.

Many walked along the march, including Addison County State Sen. Ruth Hardy of East Middlebury, who carried a sign reading, “This senator and mom has your back!”

The march ended on the City Green, in which booths were set up by local businesses and community groups, including face painting, a craft circle from Bixby Library and free hot dogs from Vergennes Congregational Church.

Various events ran throughout the afternoon, starting with comments from organizers and community speakers, including House candidate Ariel Bolles of Ferrisburgh.

“Although Vermont is a wonderful, welcoming place for so many people, and it’s been at the forefront of equity and inclusion for so long,” Bolles said, “that does not mean that everybody here welcomes everybody, or that we don’t still have to fight for basic rights and dignity.”

Following the speeches, the Vergennes City Band performed at Pride for the first time. It was also the band’s first performance this month after rain canceled a concert the previous Monday. Band Director Sue O’Daniel told the *Independent* that the idea to play at Pride came from a member of the band who was on the organization committee, Steph Ansley. Ansley suggested the song list, including songs written by LGBTQ+ composers and more.

“We had music from musicals, and uplifting songs about working together and taking care of each other as best we could,” O’Daniel said.



SEN. RUTH HARDY pauses during the Vergennes Pride celebration on Saturday as she holds a sign reading “This senator and mom has your back!” and stands beside Green Mountain Roller Derby skaters on Main Street.

Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

The afternoon ended around 4:30 p.m. after hosting “Art Fight,” in which members of the crowd came up to paint a canvas, with times and colors determined by dice rolls, and a Drag Queen Story Hour.

At 6 p.m., Big Heart Social opened early to host an afterparty — including Pride Trivia. Although Big Heart Social is not scheduled to officially open until July 11, it opened early for one night to host the Pride afterparty.

“Having Big Heart Social move into town is huge,” Sydney Ansley said. “And being able to have an

after party, space for an after party and their support.”

Big Heart Social is a queer-owned social space located on Green Street. Owner Shiloh Lawrence recently moved to Addison. A few months ago, she reached out to the local pride community to set up a collaboration.

“My hope is that Big Heart Social can be a chance to sort of bridge the local community, not just during pride, but all year round,” Lawrence said. “Joy is an act of resistance, and I think that’s really what’s needed right now.”

Pride Trivia began at 7 p.m., with prizes including a crochet rainbow chicken, movie tickets and a glasses stand shaped like a rainbow nose.

Since the space had to rush to open early, though, the event ran into a few hiccups. The oven broke down, leaving their planned menu of baked mac and cheese, mojo tacos, a house pie, and more all sitting cold in the fridge.

“Aside from that, I think Pride went really well. People seem happy,” Lawrence said. “There’s a lot of board games sitting out there.”

Grants announced for county queer initiatives

MIDDLEBURY — The Samara Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation announced that

\$117,100 in grants will go to 35 organizations across Vermont, investing in projects and people

working to strengthen, celebrate, and support 2SLGBTQIA+ communities throughout the state.

Along with numerous statewide organizations that cover Addison County, four local organizations were awarded grants:

- Addison Central Teens received \$5,000 to support the fifth year of MiddPride.

- Common Ground Center received \$3,000 to support Camp Outright, a queer and trans affirming camp that serves nearly 130 young people each year.

- Elderly Services received \$1,000 to support their pursuit of SAGECare training and certification for staff. This training will empower the organization to serve LGBTQ+ elders.

- Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History received \$1,500 to support development for their middle-grade curriculum unit, “Charity & Sylvia: Identity, Community & Love,” and field trip costs for local students.

“We are inspired by our 2026 grantees and are honored to support them! Each year, we arrive here after a thoughtful grant review process. As a fund, we labor over decisions together, and we pass the torch often. We are committed to rolling on new members, and rolling off seasoned members every few grant cycles, ensuring diverse 2SLGBTQIA+ perspectives and experiences from across the state are given a seat at the table,” shared Samara Fund committee member, Skylar Maguire. “We are grateful to be in community with our grantees and are excited to help grow their work.”

we grow

8,000 - 20,000

pounds of vegetables
per acre

FOOD FOR HOPE

FARMERS FEEDING FRIENDS & FAMILIES.

www.foodforhope.farm

National Bank of Middlebury

Ever wonder where your money goes when you bank with your neighbors?

YOUR DEPOSIT’S JOURNEY THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY

AND THE CYCLE CONTINUES!

YOUR HOMETOWN COMMUNITY BANK AT-A-GLANCE

LOCAL DOLLARS RECIRCULATE 2-4x MORE than money deposited at a national bank

Source: Civic Economics research via American Independent Business Alliance (amiba.net)

71.4% OF OUR CUSTOMERS say keeping money in the local economy is why they bank with us!

Source: NBM Community Research Survey, 2024-2025

SINCE 1831

Tied as the 6th oldest bank in the country and survived the Civil War and World War I without closing!

LOCALLY OWNED

Every decision made right here in our community, by folks familiar with our local economic landscape.

Good things grow here.

www.nbmvt.com | 802-388-4982 | info@nbmvt.com | NMLS #: 403372

MIDDLEBURY LION'S CLUB

70th Annual

AUCTION and B-B-Q

At the Middlebury VFW

Wednesday, July 15th

B-B-Q AT 4 pm - 5:30 pm

ONLY \$16⁰⁰

½ Chicken
Homemade Potato Salad
Homemade Baked Beans
Roll & Butter - Cookie

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE!
Grab dinner before heading to Festival On the Green

AUCTION STARTS AT 6 PM SHARP

For more information call
Paul Desabrais at **802-779-6823**
or Matt at **802-989-1494**

Several items generously donated by local businessess will be up for auction!

Find Us On:

For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

@addisonindependent

Independence Day talk set July 5

ORWELL — On Sunday, July 5, learn about “The Birth Certificate of America” at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell. Explore the Declaration of Independence, the founding document of the United States, with site interpreter Stephen Whalen, Ph.D. The talk begins at 2 p.m. and is included in regular site admission. How well do you know your

Declaration of Independence? Whalen examines the historical context of the times 250 years ago. What were the origins and purpose of the Declaration? Why is its structure significant? How has it maintained its legacy through two and a half centuries? This is one of many programs this year to honor the 250th anniversary of Mount Independence and the Declaration

of Independence, for which it is named. Mount Independence is located at 497 Mount Independence Road. It is open daily from 10 to 5 through October 28. Site admission is \$8 for adults, \$1 for ages 6 to 16, and free for those under 6, Green Mountain Passport holders and Mount Independence Coalition members. For questions, call 802-948-2000.

9 tips for keeping cool without AC

VERMONT — With hot and humid temperatures in the forecast, Efficiency Vermont is sharing some tips to keep a home or apartment cool without air conditioning.

- 1. Open your windows at night.** In Vermont, temperatures drop during the night. Take advantage of cooler summer evenings and open your windows to promote a cross-breeze. Bonus: This can also help you sleep better! The cooler air will circulate all night, allowing you to start fresh with a cool home in the morning. In building science, this is referred to as night-flush ventilation. Don't forget to close the windows and blinds before things get too hot in the morning.
- 2. Close your window coverings.** Summer sun delivers heat right through your windows. Block the heat with shades or blinds during the sunniest hours to keep your home cool without AC. This is a passive, or “natural” cooling method that is one of the cheapest and simplest way to keep your home cool in summer.
- 3. Insulate and air seal your home.** Many of the things that help keep your home warmer in the winter also help keep your home cooler in the summer. If you feel the temperature extremes in both seasons, consider a weatherization project. A professional weatherization project can fix the areas that make the home too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.
- 4. Bake and wash at night.** Large appliances give off significant amounts of heat. Wait to turn on

- your oven, range, dishwasher, and clothes washer until evening hours when temperatures are cooler. Also, consider hanging laundry outside to dry. You'll save the cost of running the clothes dryer while reducing heat and moisture in the house.
- 5. Fire up the grill!** If you can, take your cooking outside. If hot food is in order, fire up the grill instead of turning on the oven. Summer is not the time to roast chicken or make lasagna. Instead, plan for grilled dishes and salads to avoid generating more heat in the house.
- 6. Install an exterior window shade.** Installing an awning, pergola, porch, or shade trees by your west windows will shield your home from hot afternoon rays. Direct sunlight is like a heater in the cooling season!
- 7. Use your fans in the right places.** Fans keep air moving around, rather than cooling the air. Blow air directly on people to get a cooling effect or set up your fans to draw in cooler air from the outside (or a cooler part of the house) to the warm areas.
- 8. Use your exhaust fans.** Exhaust fans in your kitchens and bathrooms capture hot air before it mingles with your house air and contributes to overheating. Operate your exhaust fans during showers or whenever cooking indoors.
- 9. Set your ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise.** In the summer, the fan blades should rotate counterclockwise (as you look up at it) to push the air straight down. Increase the fan speed on

the hottest days. If you are looking to add air conditioning, Efficiency Vermont urges people to consider a whole home heat pump or an Energy Star-certified window AC unit. A heat pump can both heat and cool your home (it's like an air conditioner that can also run in reverse), and is more efficient than window AC units. If a window AC unit is your preference, an Energy Star-certified unit can maximize your energy efficiency and keep costs low. The organization has rebates offering up to \$150 off a window AC unit that can help make air conditioning more affordable. And rebates for heat pumps (which both heat and cool a home) range from \$375 to \$2,200. Efficiency Vermont is a state-regulated Energy Efficiency Utility that is operated by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, which is an independent, non-profit clean energy organization.



RISING HIGH SCHOOL seniors at Girls State 2026. Bottom: Rafaela Botti of Middlebury (Homeschool), Counselor Quincy Sabick of Vergennes (Dartmouth College '30), American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont President Tasha Bouvier of Bristol, Counselor Izzy Gogarty of Middlebury; Middle: Lux Tierney of Starksboro (Mt Abe), Alyssa Wade of Brandon (Otter Valley), Julie Connolly of Weybridge (Middlebury), Maddie Stroup of Vergennes (Vergennes), Kaiya Corbett-Anderson of Vergennes (Vergennes), Kelsey Becher of Vergennes (Vergennes); Top: Cora Bliven of Middlebury (Middlebury), Abby Young of Orwell (Fair Haven), Maddie Diop of Bristol (Mt Abe), Georgia Krause of Addison (Vergennes), Isabelle Van Voorst of Vergennes (Vergennes), Lola Rollins of North Ferrisburgh (Vergennes).

Photo from Izzy Gogarty

Students earn honors at Girls State

MONTPELIER — A number of local high school rising seniors took part in the American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State 2026, which was held from June 20 to June 25 in the capital. The students met with Speaker of the House Jill Krowski and Lt. Governor John Rodgers while hosting a mock House floor

debate on various bills taken up by the legislature this session, offering their own amendments. Abby Young, in her role as Chief Justice, presided over a moot court case at the Vermont Supreme Court, where Green Mountain Girls State lawyers debated the Vermont Supreme Court case State v. Smith, 191 Vt. 222 (2011).

Rafaela Botti of Middlebury was named Model Citizen, Lux Tierney of Starksboro won a Spirit Award and Choir Award, Isabelle Van Voorst of Vergennes won a Spirit Award, Maddie Stroup of Vergennes was elected Green Mountain Girls State Auditor, and Abby Young of Orwell was appointed Chief Justice.

Catch the Independence Day fireworks Friday

VERGENNES — Gather your friends and family on Friday, July 3, for the annual Vergennes fireworks display, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Addison County and American Legion Post 14. Fireworks begin at dusk and will be launched from the VUHS fields. While the best views are near the high school, the display can be seen from many spots around the city. Bixby Library will be closed for the holiday on July 3 and 4, meaning Storytime and the Fiber Arts Circle will not take place. Storytime returns Friday, July 10, at 10:30 a.m. At noon that same day, the library kicks off its weekly Artday Friday program, which will run through Aug. 21. The first art project is marble painting, with a different family-friendly art activity each week. The Bixby book club's selection for this month is “The Phoenix Pencil Company” by Allison King, which will be

Vergennes

Have a news tip?
Email Kelseyw@addisonindependent.com.

NEWS

discussed Tuesday, July 14, from 6-7 p.m. It tells the story of a young woman who discovers her family's magical secret while trying to preserve her grandmother's history. Third Thursday returns on July 16, with downtown shops extending their hours until 7 p.m. Spend the evening browsing local businesses, grabbing a snack and enjoying everything downtown has to offer. Speaking of summer traditions, the Vergennes Farmers Market continues every Thursday from 3-7 p.m., offering fresh produce, baked goods, food trucks and other local products. Music lovers can also enjoy free

performances by the Vergennes City Band every Monday from 7-8 p.m. on the city green. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of summer music. Congratulations to Big Heart Social on their successful soft opening during Vergennes Pride last weekend. The new community space, featuring a coffee shop, bar and co-working space, drew a packed crowd for Queer Trivia on Saturday. Head to the corner of Green and School streets to get a sneak peek of their offerings ahead of their official grand opening on July 11. Congratulations as well to the organizers of Big Pride in the Little City for another successful Pride celebration. The event continues to grow each year thanks to the dedication and hard work of its organizers. Have something you'd like to see included in this column? Email Kelseyw@addisonindependent.com.

Bristol man thrown from car in Middlebury crash

MIDDLEBURY — A Bristol man is in the hospital with serious injuries after he crashed his car in Middlebury Sunday evening and was thrown from the vehicle. Middlebury police got a 911 call of a motor vehicle crash in the area of 4548 Case St. (Route 116) shortly after 8 p.m. on June 28. The caller said the driver had been ejected from the vehicle. Middlebury Regional EMS, Middlebury Heavy Rescue, and the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the crash, along with local police. Upon arrival, officers assisted in rendering aid to the operator and sole occupant of the vehicle, who was later identified as David A. Fleming, 51, of Bristol. Police learned

that the vehicle, a 2005 Subaru Impreza, had been traveling northbound on Case Street when it left the roadway north of the Champlain Construction gravel pit. It entered the ditch off the east side of the roadway, continued in the ditch, struck a utility pole and then a berm, where it overturned and landed on its roof, back in the roadway. Police report that Fleming was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected during the crash. He was treated on scene and transported by MREMS to UVM Medical Center in Burlington, where he was reported in critical condition. The crash is still under investigation by Officer Nathaniel Hudson, but police said they believe that alcohol and speed were contributing factors.

AGWAY



Nursery Sale
30% OFF
TREES AND SHRUBS
FLOWER ANNUAL PACKS
\$4 each (REG. \$4.99)
4" ANNUALS \$6 each (REG. \$7.99)
VEGGIE PACKS \$2.50 each (REG. \$4.99)
SINGLE VEGGIE POTS \$1 (REG. \$3.99)
GALLON VEGGIE POTS \$10 (REG. \$17.99)
While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, good on in-stock merchandise only. offer good through 7/12/26
CLOSED JULY 4TH & 5TH
MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937 **Open 7 days**
Mon-Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 8-5
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Heat pump & energy solutions that work for you.

vgsvt.com/clover







CELEBRATING 1 year IN DOWNTOWN VERGENNES



At Vergennes Grand, every day brings something to enjoy.





Come see what makes life here so special!

(802) 877-3562 | www.VergennesGrand.com

34 North Street, Vergennes VT 05491

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care



Growers

(Continued from Page 1A)
falling wholesale prices.
He's not alone.
Well over 100 Vermont cannabis cultivators have relinquished their licenses in recent years, with 70 cultivation relinquishments last year. Many smaller producers have shared the difficulties they face with legislators and the Vermont Cannabis Control Board, describing a market they've found to be oversaturated and offering limited retail access.
"I didn't fail, I feel like; I feel like the system failed me," Russell said.

Russell was one of the first growers in the state to receive a license to cultivate cannabis plants. He was considered a social equity applicant — cannabis license applicants who meet criteria such as having been incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense or "from a community that has historically been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition."

Before launching his cannabis company, Russell grew hemp (cannabis plants containing a concentration of 0.3% or less of a psychoactive THC cannabinoid) at his Bristol farm.

"That's where we kind of lost our shirt," Russell recalled, describing a hemp market that became saturated. According to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, the state "saw an explosion of hemp cultivated for the production, development and marketing of hemp products containing cannabinoids" by 2019.

Russell said his hemp business experienced other setbacks, such as the pandemic hitting right as he was set to open a store in New York.

"That was a huge hit, and I was like, 'No problem, it's OK, (Vermont is) going to legalize cannabis, and we're ready because we have all of the tools and everything from doing the hemp in place,'" he said.

Russell's cannabis company saw a positive first year.

"Our first year was great, we grossed (\$650,000), and I was like, 'We're going to be able to save the farm, this is awesome,' and then the second year was like (\$200,000)



NICK SMITH

and then the third was (\$100,000), and now it's like you can't even make \$20,000," he said.
'A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS'

Back in 2024, smaller producers around the state were raising concerns about the state's cannabis market feeling increasingly crowded for cultivators. Nick Smith is co-owner of Emerald Visions, a cannabis cultivator in Alburgh. He and Russell were among several growers to share their experiences with the Vermont Cannabis Control Board (VCCB) around that time.

Some asked the board to consider those experiences when deciding whether to issue more cultivation licenses or close higher license tiers.

Licenses for cannabis cultivators are divided into multiple tiers based on the size of the operation, with higher tiers able to grow more plants. For example, a "Tier 1" indoor cultivation license allows for up to 1,000 square feet of total plant canopy, compared to a max of 15,000 square feet of canopy with a Tier 5 license. Russell and Smith are both Tier 1 cultivators.

The VCCB closed applications for some of the larger cultivation licenses in 2023 and 2024. The board has since closed all cultivation applications as it

assesses the size and future of the state's cannabis market. According to VCCB data, there are currently 324 licensed cultivators in the state.

"There's a finite amount of shelf space, there's a crazy amount of supply, and for all of us cultivators, it's just a game of musical chairs where we're struggling to get the same amount of shelf space," Smith said. "Actually, it's getting less and less, but there's just as much product."

Getting their products onto shelves at one of the state's 110 retailers can be a challenge for growers, Smith and Russell noted.

"It's hard because no one will call you back or email you back, and you feel annoying calling a shop or a store more than two or three times because you know how busy they are," Russell said.

Smith also pointed to vertical integration, specifically when cannabis retailers with a cultivation license sell their own products. He noted he doesn't have a problem with the practice, and that it's one he'd like to use eventually, but that it factors into the limited shelf space cultivators are vying for.

Even after connecting with a retailer, the logistics of delivering products to stores spread across the state can present other obstacles, cultivators noted. Russell said his business would deliver to towns spread far apart, from Bennington in the south up to Derby, near the Canadian border.

"It's like your whole day is just delivering two deliveries that maybe gets you \$1,000, if that, and it probably costs you more in gas and time for those two deliveries," Russell said.

Vermont's cannabis retailers are scattered across the state, with many concentrated in areas like Burlington, Rutland and Montpelier. Per state law, Vermont

"There's a finite amount of shelf space, there's a crazy amount of supply, and for all of us cultivators, it's just a game of musical chairs where we're struggling to get the same amount of shelf space."

— Nick Smith



BRISTOL RESIDENT RANDY Russell conducts an interview at his family farm, where he previously grew hemp and more recently has run his cannabis business. Russell saw growing cannabis as an opportunity to restore his family farm but faced several challenges in the market as a smaller cultivator.
Photo courtesy of Randy Russell

municipalities must vote to "opt-in" to cannabis retail before sales can take place in their communities.

WHAT COMES NEXT
VCCB Chair James Pepper has previously acknowledged the "unnatural distribution of retail stores" in the state. He said the board has been tasked with creating "location or siting requirements that increase the geographic distribution of new cannabis retail establishments based on population and market needs."

In the meantime, applications for new retail licenses remain closed after being paused indefinitely in October 2024. Some growers say the pause has further narrowed cultivators' options for getting their products onto shelves and asked that the moratorium be lifted.

"The industry and its customers' demand is clear and resounding: the Cannabis Control Board must do what it can to increase available

shelf-space now by reopening the retailer license to new applications and in a manner that prevents it from contributing to retail density issues in some towns," reads an August 2025 post from the Vermont Growers Association, a member-based, nonprofit trade association made up of cannabis professionals.

Reopening applications for new retail licenses is something Smith and Russell are hoping to see. They fear that without changes the state will continue to see smaller, independent growers go out of business.

"Until they reopen retail, you're just going to see an exodus of people out of the market," Smith said. "You're going to see devastating loss."

That's already been the case for Russell. He noted how quickly working as a smaller cannabis cultivator can become unsustainable, stating that monthly overhead costs for a Tier 1 grower can be upwards of \$20,000.

"I just started losing money," he said.

He added that once you can no longer pay the bills, it's hard to recoup, as the power gets shut off and you lose your product.

"There's no emergency fund or a way to get financing either because federally, it's illegal," he said. "So, I've contacted every bank from Maine to California trying to desperately seek a bridge loan or a loan to save my farm or my business."

Ultimately, Russell will have to sell all of his family's 380 acres in Bristol to pay debts from his hemp and cannabis businesses.

"This has been heartbreaking, crushing, devastating, I can't even begin to elucidate how hard this has been," Russell said. "My family has worked this (land) for over 100 years ... so I feel indebted to them spiritually, and I feel sorry, I'm sad, I'm upset, that I can't continue the legacy, that I can't pass it down to my son."

Russell is hoping his experience can help start a conversation and motivate change in the industry. He welcomes those interested, particularly those in similar situations, to email him at leaningbarntvt@gmail.com. Smith can be reached at emeraldvisionsllc@gmail.com.

"I'm worried that things...as much as we struggle now, things could get worse," Smith said.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

FAIR-TIME COLORING AND DECORATING CONTEST

Bring this Sappy Bucket® scene to life!

Two winners from each age group will get two passes to Addison County Fair & Field Days and a gift certificate to the fairgrounds sugarhouse, which can be picked up from the Addy Indy office July 28-August 3. All submissions will be displayed in the sugarhouse during the fair.

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES BY SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

Email: contests@addisonindependent.com

Mail/In Person: Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Online: addisonindependent.com/contests

Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to addisonindependent.com/contests for a printable version.

Winners will be notified by email on July 28th

Don't miss Addison County Fair & Field Days! August 4-8

SPONSORED BY:



Little Pressroom

Thank you to the Little Pressroom for providing this sweet custom image to color! Sappy and Sappy Bucket are trademarks of Addison County Promotions / Little Pressroom. For Sappy Bucket® products, visit sappybucket.com



Name: _____
Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
Town/City: _____ State: _____
Email: _____
Age Group: Under 5 ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7-8 ☐ 9-11 ☐ 12-15 ☐ 16-Adult ☐



VERMONT SUN TRIATHLON competitors take to the water for the swimming leg of the three-part race this past Sunday morning at Branbury State Park. Two Vermonters took home the top prizes of the day.
Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

— ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT —

B Section

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Police Logs



HAZEL RAKOWSKI POSES at home with the three medals she won at the Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota last week. Rakowski, 17, earned a silver and two bronzes in sprinting events.

Contributed photo

Sprinter finds success at national Special Olympics

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MINNEAPOLIS — Hazel Rakowski isn't just the spirit of the Green Mountain State's Special Olympics team, as her coach put it.

She's also a three-time 2026 USA Games medalist.

The 17-year-old sprinter's hardware included a silver and two bronzes in what was the Vergennes resident's debut at the national competition.

"She's really strong, really determined," Coach Joe McNamara said.

"I call her a game day runner. She brings it on when the competition is on, it's like she's able to just take her running to the next level, which is really great to watch as a coach."

Rakowski was one of 31 Vermont athletes, Unified partners and coaches who made the trek to Minnesota for the Special Olympics USA Games, which rolls out every four years. And she was just one of thousands of athletes to compete in one of the many competitions held June 20-26.

"The mission of the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games is to create an inclusive event that celebrates ABILITY, delivers the highest quality experiences for all stakeholders, and leaves a lasting legacy of positive change in Minnesota," according to the organization's website.

Rakowski's second-place finish came during the final day (See Rakowski, Page 3B)

Victors crowned at Sunday's Vermont Sun event

SALISBURY — Guido Bartolacci was seventh out of the water in the 600 yard swim in Lake Dunmore that kicked off the Vermont Sun Triathlon on Sunday morning at Branbury State Park in Salisbury. Undeterred, the Colchester athlete barreled through the bicycle and running legs of the race with the fastest times of the day in both disciplines and

emerged victorious overall.

Bartolacci completed the 14.25-mile bike in 36:10 (23.7 mph) and the 3.1-mile run in 17:38 (5:41 per mile) to win the Vermont Sun Triathlon in 1:04:55. The race once again served as the Vermont State Triathlon championship.

South Burlington's Katie Dolbec continued her dominance in Vermont Sun triathlons by taking

the women's crown in 1:18:08.

In the men's competition, Roan Christmann of New Haven, Conn., was first out of the water in 7:51 and started on the bike two minutes ahead of Bartolacci. Middlebury's Kyle Friis was third in the swimming leg. Bartolacci caught Christmann on Route 7, halfway through the hilly bicycle course. As Bartolacci approached

the park and transition to the run, he caught Friis to take the lead he would not relinquish. Christmann, who was third off the bike, passed Friis at the run turnaround to finish second in 1:06:03.97. Friis settled for third in 1:06:20.7.

Madelyn Miller of Greenfield Center, N.Y., led the women out of the water in 9:48. Dolbec was (See Triathlon, Page 4B)

Legion team nabs wins

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County American Legion Baseball team made it a three-game winning streak with a double-header sweep of Champlain Valley Union over the weekend.

The first game on June 27 ended 3-1 and the second 12-8.

Before that, AC defeated its Franklin County counterpart, 9-2, on Thursday, June 25.

Up next for the local American Legion team was another round with Franklin County on Thursday, July 2, this time away. Then they'll play a pair of away games against Montpelier, who Middlebury defeated 10-5 in their home opener, on Sunday, July 5. The team will hit the road again on Tuesday, July 7, that time bound for South Burlington.

Local seniors play in regional all-star games

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — Local baseball and softball players this past weekend participated in honorary games that pitted regional all-stars against each other.

In the Twin State Baseball Classic the 18-man roster of Vermont seniors —

(See All-stars, Page 2B)



CAMRON CURTIS SWIMS the butterfly leg of the boys' 14U 200-yard relay during a meet in Vergennes on Tuesday. The team took first in that event, helping them win the meet overall.

Independent photo/Steve James

Champs defeat Essex in Tuesday meet

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — The Champs swim team is off to a winning start.

Early in the Vergennes Swim Team's season, on Tuesday the 90 local swimmers overcame the 53 from the Essex squad to earn a 395-85 point victory.

The host team scored victories in 13 relay races and 23 individual races at the City Pool.

The Champs race next in St. Albans on Tuesday, July 7, when they will take on the Sharks in a Champlain Valley Swim League meet. They return to Vergennes to host the Middlebury Marlins on Thursday, July 16, at 6 p.m.

Here were first place finishers

for the Champs during Tuesday's meet vs. Essex:

- Skylar Buckley (8), Lydia Court (8), Allie Curtis (8) and Autumn Woods (8), girls' 8U 100 yard medley relay (2:00.85)
- Reese Gaudette (8), Avonlea Kennett (8), Taylor Roach (8) and Autumn Woods (8), girls' 8U 100-yard freestyle relay (1:49.37)
- Henry Lake (8), Felix Goulette (7), Jack Hourigan (8) and Declan Husk (8), boys' 8U 100-yard freestyle relay (1:19.30)
- Lydia Court (8), girls' 8U 25-yard butterfly (24.94); girls' 8U 25-yard breaststroke (27.38)
- Skylar Buckley (8), girls' 25-yard backstroke (23.12); girls' 8U

25-yard freestyle (20.71)

- Montgomery Roth (8), boys' 8U 25-yard backstroke (27.44)
- Declan Husk (8), boys' 8U 25-yard breaststroke (27.58); boys' 8U 25-yard freestyle (18.53)
- Anya Wolfe (9), Margaret Smits (10), Savannah Wallace (10) and Amaya Morgan (10), girls' 10U 100 yard medley relay (1:24.11)
- Rhett Cook (10), Evan Angier (10), Riker Cooley (10) and Bennett Blacklock (10), boys' 10U 100 yard medley relay
- Amaya Morgan (10), Daisy Oclair (10), Anya Wolfe (9) and Margaret Smits (10), girls 10U (See Champs, Page 3B)



MIDDLEBURY MARLIN CONSTANTIN Bellmann swims the boys' 15-18 50-yard breaststroke during a meet in Winooski on Tuesday, June 30. The 15-year-old won the race.

Contributed photo

Marlins swimming nabs a win

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

WINOOSKI — The Middlebury Marlins swim team found success in Winooski on Tuesday night.

The June 30 meet against the Whales ended 256-222 in the Marlins' favor.

Here are the Marlins who placed first in individual events:

- James Foley (8), boys' 8U 25-yard butterfly (30.45); boys' 8U 25-yard backstroke (29.82)
- Hugh Spafford (8), boys' 8U 25-yard breaststroke (31.75); boys' 8U 25-yard freestyle (22.34)
- Cooper Butler (10), Lincoln Hunt (10), Keegan Landon (10) and Vaden Brooks (9), boys' 10U 100-yard freestyle relay (1:14.76)
- Rose Phinney (10), girls' 9-10 25-yard butterfly (17.72); girls' 9-10 25-yard breaststroke (19.65); girls' 9-10 25-yard freestyle (15.58)
- Lincoln Hunt (10), boys' 9-10

25-yard butterfly (19.25).

- Cooper Butler (10), boys' 9-10 25-yard backstroke (20.30); boys' 9-10 25-yard freestyle (16.19)
- Halsey Brooks (9), Romy Graves (10), Tess Moscalu (10) and Olivia Wimett (9), girls' 10U 100-yard freestyle relay (1:19.47)
- Maxine King (12), Rose Phinney (10), Cassandra Bellmann (12) and Vela Remaniak (11), girls' 12U 200-yard medley relay (2:17.99)
- Cassandra Bellmann (12), Maxine King (12), Rose Phinney (10) and Vela Remaniak (11), girls' 12U 200-yard freestyle relay (2:07.69)
- Aldon Rafferty (11), Nolan Almstrand (12), Porter Mackey (12) and Patrick Martin (11), boys' 12U 200-yard medley relay (2:48.03)
- Nolan Almstrand (12), Aldon Rafferty (11), Patrick Martin (11) and Porter Mackey (12), boys' 12U

200-yard freestyle relay (2:27.75).

- Cassandra Bellmann (12), girls' 11-12 50-yard butterfly (30.78); girls' 11-12 50-yard backstroke (34.66); girls' 11-12 50-yard breaststroke (38.08)
- Felix Poduschnick (12), boys' 11-12 50-yard butterfly (30.82); boys' 11-12 50-yard backstroke (34.50); boys' 11-12 50-yard breaststroke (36.78)
- Vela Remaniak (11), girls' 11-12 50-yard freestyle (30.00)
- Porter Mackey (12), boys' 11-12 50-yard freestyle (30.64)
- Henry Schmitt (14), George Martin (14), Henry Cadoret (14) and Paxton Wright (11), boys' 14U 200-yard medley relay (2:42.59)
- George Martin (14), Ben Phinney (13), Henry Schmitt (14) and Paxton Wright (11), boys' 14U 200-yard freestyle relay (2:25.70)
- Henry Cadoret (14), boys' 50- (See Marlins, Page 3B)

My Father’s Bowling Alley

My father hired a man, Amos White, he called Whitey. A light-skinned, Black man. I should have

called him Mr. White. No matter how many pins he set. Alleys he swept. He dressed up for work.

Same shirt and tie, smoking his Mershaum pipe. My father said Whitey thought he was boss,

I was his son. It was his job to make a man of me. Keep me out of a gutter.

In those days, in Boston, cannon balls struck down the candlepins. Tall. White. With red

stripes. Whitey called them his soldiers. Men who could take a hit. Go down, when they had to. A spare.

A strike. Or none at all. Which made life easier for the pinboys. Living down there in the pit.

Half-drunk. Half-glazed over. Half-black and white. There wasn’t a good word for. Even now. Remembering

what he showed me. How to show up. Run the elevator. Make sure there wasn’t space

between its door, accordion-like, and the floor outside it. The work we didn’t know was ours. To make of

what we could. On Saturdays. The day my father took me in with him to his paneled office. Asked Whitey

to show me the ropes. The do’s and don’ts of boyhood. What we could call

each other. When there never was a good name for love’s apprenticeship.

— Gary Margolis



ED MARGOLIS (CENTER) was owner and proprietor of Boston’s Bond Bowling and Billiards, a major center for bowling and pool exhibitions and tournaments in the 1950s and ’60s. Here he presides as World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Rocky Marciano awards a winner’s trophy to an unidentified billiards player.

Ed (and Gary) meet the great Mosconi

By KARL LINKDHOLM

Any of you recognize the name Willie Mosconi?

If you do, you’re old (like me) or you are a serious pool player or historian of the game, called “pocket billiards,” not pool, in polite company.

The last column I wrote in this space (June 11) was inspired by sports cartoonist Vic Johnson of the *Boston Herald* who sent me an original cartoon as a gift when I was 11. It depicted a Red Sox doubleheader sweep of the White Sox in the summer of 1956.

When my lifelong friend Gary Margolis of Cornwall saw this illustration, he enthused, “I have one too!”

In fact, he does, but not by Vic Johnson, and not about baseball. Gary’s is an original drawing by another cartoonist, Bob Coyne, that appeared in the *Boston-Record American* in 1954.

Coyne was prominent, perhaps preeminent, among these newspaper artists in Boston of the time, drawing over 15,000 sports cartoons in his 47-year career as an artist for several Boston newspapers.

His subject in this drawing is Willie Mosconi, the greatest pool player of his era, and perhaps of all time. In the 1940s and ’50s, Mosconi won the World Straight

Pool Championship 19 times. To this day, he owns the official run record of 526 consecutive balls in a match in Ohio in 1954. He was a well-known public figure, nicknamed “Mr. Pocket Billiards.”

This drawing by Coyne appeared in the *Boston-Record American* in 1954 when Mosconi was at the zenith of his career. It is a wonderfully busy piece, vertically oriented (10 1/2” X 28”) with a close-up rendering of Willie in the center, lining up a shot, and six other smaller illustrations, along with about 200 words of descriptive prose.

It promotes the upcoming appearance of Mosconi in Boston playing “150-point matches at Bond Bowling and Billiard Center and two more at the Huntington Alleys Cue Room.”

And how did this magnificent artifact come into Gary’s hands? Well, that’s the story:

In fact, Gary’s dad, Ed Margolis, and Gary’s uncle on his mother’s side, George Binen, owned both of these two prominent Bowling and Billiard establishments in downtown Boston where Mosconi was appearing.

Right on Washington Street in the heart of downtown, Bond Bowling and Billiards was in an area known colloquially as “the Combat Zone,” adjacent to Chinatown and the theater district. The billiards room (25 tables) was on the second floor and the bowling alley (30 lanes) on the third, fourth, and fifth floors.

Huntington Avenue Alleys and Cue Room, described online as a “massive venue,” was a “legendary” multi-lane bowling complex (55 lanes) and billiard parlor. Huntington Avenue was a major entertainment artery in midcentury Boston, adjacent to Symphony Hall and Northeastern University.

Both sites frequently hosted major tournaments and

exhibitions. Interest in candlepin bowling especially (small balls, low scores), including the annual Harry Agganis Record-American Tournament, saw a post-World War II boom. Ed Margolis also owned a pool room (“Garden Billiards”) in the Boston Garden/South Station complex.

I met Gary Margolis the day freshmen arrived at Middlebury College in September of 1963. We were roommates for two years, and colleagues at the College for 35 years.

Gary was not always this happy burgher from Cornwall, Vt., the Town Poet as well as the Town Constable and Justice of the Peace. Growing up, he was hardly attuned to the smell of the woods or the verdant landscapes of Vermont.

He was a city kid from Boston, one who came to love the countryside. The first Margolis home was an apartment on Lansdowne Street in the shadow of the Fenway Park. The family moved to Brookline when Gary was four and lived in two homes located right next to T stops that brought downtown within easy reach (the “T” is what Bostonians call their transit system).

“When I was nine or ten years old, my friends and I would walk to the T stop, hop on the Green Line and go to day game at Fenway,” Gary told me last week. “We could watch a game for 75 cents, sit in the bleachers on the wooden benches.”

“I think riding into the city on the T, the subway, was the beginning of my becoming a poet and counselor. I kept my eyes open. I would ask, ‘What’s their story?’ I was curious but careful and gained confidence. I started to really notice things around me.”

In the summer after our sophomore year Middlebury, I visited Gary in Boston at his job site, parking cars in a lot his dad owned next to the Christian Science Building in downtown Boston. “An old Mainer, Ray Cummings, took me under his wing,” Gary said, “and showed me how to park 250 cars.”

“My favorite part of that job was lunch! I would go to ‘Joe n Nemo’s’ and get a hot dog for a dime, hamburger for 15 cents, and an orange drink from the machine for a nickel.”

To me, the kid from Maine, a job parking cars in a major



THIS PROFILE OF Willie Mosconi, world champion pocket billiards (or pool) player in the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s, drawn by Bob Coyne, appeared in the *Boston Record-American* in 1954. It is now on the wall in the Cornwall home of Gary Margolis.

metropolitan city made Gary a truly exotic college pal. I remember tooting around Boston with Gary at the wheel of his little red Chevy Corvair, him entirely at ease in city traffic, me utterly terrified.

Gary was trained in multiple jobs at Bond Bowling and Billiards, including elevator operator (before elevators had buttons you could push to get to your floor): “A bell would go off, and I would lower the elevator to the street level and bring the people up. I ran the cash register, swept up, cleaned the cue dust off the felt tabletops.

“I was never a pin boy — that was too dangerous. The pin boys sat on a little bench at end of the alleys and those pins would fly everywhere. When automatic pinsetters came in (in the late

’50s), I learned how to clean them. “The worst job I ever had was when I had to restripe and relacquar all the candlepins, boxes and boxes of them. So boring.”

The Mosconi drawing was originally up on the wall at Bond Billiards, and then in Ed’s study in his retirement. Gary inherited it when his dad died in 2016 at 96 and it now owns a prized spot on a wall in his Cornwall home.

It’s summertime and the livin’ was easy for two old guys sitting on the porch with a cold drink, happily reminiscing and remembering their dads.

Karl Lindholm is the Middlebury College emeritus dean of advising and assistant professor of American Studies (retired). Email him at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

All-stars

(Continued from Page 1B) which included Mount Abraham Union High School pitcher Evan Corrigan, and Otter Valley players Jacob Warrell and Jackson Howe — defeated the New Hampshire nine in a pair of games on Saturday, June 27.

Otter Valley head coach Michael Howe was one of three mentors to help lead the Green Mountain State squad to a 13-8 victory in the first game and a 7-1 triumph in the second.

After Jackson Howe helped pad

the Vermont team’s cushion after going down, 8-3, he did his part on defense with three strikeouts during an inning of relief in the seventh.

He threw another two innings in the second game. No batter managed a hit during Howe’s time on the mound.

That same day, softball players from Mt. Abe and Otter Valley played on a team made up of other athletes from the southern half of the state in a pair of games against a group from the north in the Senior

Softball Classic.

Eagles Genevieve Forand, Morgan Larocque and Brooklyn Ryersbach, plus Otters Leann Thomas and Hannah Desabrais made the 18-person team. Otter Valley head coach Kelly Trayah helped lead the southern team during the June 27 double header.

The South lost 22-4 in the first game and 14-1 in the second.

In the first, Forand had a triple and scored two runs. In the second, Larocque went 1-for-2 at the plate and scored a run.

AGWAY



Nursery Sale

30% OFF TREES AND SHRUBS FLOWER ANNUAL PACKS \$4 each (REG. \$4.99)

4” ANNUALS \$6 each (REG. \$7.99)

VEGGIE PACKS \$2.50 each (REG. \$4.99)

SINGLE VEGGIE POTS \$1 (REG. \$3.99)

GALLON VEGGIE POTS \$10 (REG. \$17.99)

While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, good on in-stock merchandise only. offer good through 7/12/26

CLOSED JULY 4TH & 5TH

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street

802-388-4937

Mon–Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 8-5

www.MiddleburyAgway.com



Sophia Keshmiri Matthew Dickerson Karl Lindholm

SPORTS

We’ve Got it Covered!

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

HARE AND THE DOG

MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

REGISTER NOW!

MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND TRUST
23rd Annual

TAM TREK

Sept 20 2026

A benefit event for the Middlebury Area Land Trust.

19-mile, 10k, 5k or 2 mile fun run options

All races start/end at Wright Park

www.maltvt.org/tam-trek

Contributed photo

A swimmer wearing a pink cap with "HADD BROOKS" on it is swimming in a pool. The swimmer is wearing a black swimsuit and is captured in a side profile view, moving forward. The pool has blue lane lines. In the background, spectators are visible sitting on chairs.

Contributed photo

A swimmer is captured in the middle of a butterfly stroke in a pool. The swimmer is wearing a white swim cap with blue and black patterns, and blue and yellow goggles. Their mouth is open, and their arms are extended outwards, creating a large splash of water. The water is a vibrant blue.

Independent photo/Steve James



Independent photo/Steve James

We've got you covered.

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

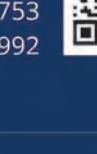
The Richards Group
An  Company

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Home, Auto & Business Insurance | Employee Benefits

Prepare for tomorrow,
by contacting us today.

152 Maple Street
Suite 203
Middlebury, VT 05753
802.388.4992



THERICHARDSGRP.COM

Triathlon

(Continued from Page 1B)
6:30 behind her but made up that entire deficit with the best women’s ride of the day (39:53) and took a 20-second lead heading into the run. Dolbec also had the fastest women’s run (20:29) to cruise to the title in 1:18:08 to Miller’s second-place finish in 1:20:07. Neily Jennings of Charlotte finished third in 1:21:05.

Organizers noted that Sunday was a perfect day for a triathlon with crystal blue skies, a light wind and temperatures in the 70-80-degree range.

Salisbury 70-year-old Jeff Schumann finished 11th overall in 1:16:06, winning his 70-74 age group. Bristol’s Wendie Puls, 72, won the women’s 70-74 group in 1:37:02.

Finn Schneider of Middlebury placed 8th in the men’s 20-24 age group in 1:32:16. Middlebury’s Alexandria Bredar was third in the women’s 30-34 group, while 80-year-old Carrlane Quackenbush of Salisbury won his age group in 1:51:39. Complete results and splits can be found at vermontsun.com.

The winner of the team competition was the Tri Boys, which consisted of Nello King, Oliver Tremble and Rory Dolbec.



VERMONT KATIE DOLBEC didn’t have a particularly good time in the swim portion of Sunday’s Vermont Sun triathlon, but she blazed in the bike and run legs to win the women’s title.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

The trio completed the triathlon in 1:19:17.9.

Running simultaneously with the Vermont Sun Triathlon was the Branbury Classic Triathlon, in which instead of the swim, triathletes paddled 1.5 miles in a watercraft. The overall winner was Adam Cravy, 48, of New Haven, Vt., in 1:38:36. The women’s winner was Shelly Forest, 51, of Williston.

Boston 34-year-old Amanda Wiggins won the aquabike race (600-yard swim and 14.25-mile bike), in 60 minutes and 40.79 seconds.

Race Founder and director Steve Hare was not present at a Vermont Sun race for the first time in 40 years — over 160 races. Hare organized the race but was unable

to attend as just two weeks prior, he had undergone quadruple heart bypass and aortic replacement surgery.

Hare plans to be present to direct the next Vermont Sun Triathlon series races on Sunday, Aug. 2, when both the Vermont Sun and Branbury Classic Triathlons will be held for the second time. The series concludes on Sunday, Aug. 30, with the third Vermont Sun Triathlon and the Olympic distance (1,600-yard swim, 28-mile bike, 10-K run) Lake Dunmore Triathlon.

The races benefited the Middlebury Union Middle School cross country team, Branbury State Park, Brandon Fire and Rescue Squad and the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association.

LET’S CELEBRATE!
HAPPY 4TH!

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary
WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

INDEPENDENT
DIGITAL marketing
by the Addison County Independent

DID YOU KNOW THE ADDY
INDY DESIGNS WEBSITES?

To learn more about Independent Digital Marketing, visit our website or reach out to us directly. We’d love to chat!

HELPING ADDISON COUNTY
BUSINESSES THRIVE

IN PRINT AND ONLINE.

independentdigitalmarketing.com

digital@addisonindependent.com

Bristol man cited for domestic assault

ADDISON COUNTY — A Bristol man who had two previous domestic assault convictions was arrested last Thursday, June 25, and jailed at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility after Vermont State Police responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a Starksboro home.

Troopers arrived at the States Prison Hollow Road home shortly before 9 a.m. that morning, investigated and determined that Chase Gibbs-Emilio, 26, had assaulted a family member. Police arrested Gibbs-Emilio and took him to the New Haven barracks, where they cited him for first degree aggravated domestic assault, interference with access to emergency services, and making false reports to law enforcement authorities.

After processing, police transported Gibbs-Emilio to the Addison County Superior Court for arraignment. A judge ordered that he be held without bail at Marble Valley Correctional Facility and set conditions of release.

Bristol police assisted state police on this call.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On June 23 at around 12:36 p.m. conducted a traffic stop on Route 17 in New Haven and ended up citing David B. Ambrose, 60, of Shoreham for three counts of violation of court-ordered conditions of release.
- On June 23 at approximately 8:57 p.m. were called about a disorderly man at 10 Acre Drive in Addison. State police said they determined that David Powers, 64, of Rutland had refused to leave the property when asked. Authorities cited Powers for unlawful trespass and disorderly conduct.
- On June 25 at approximately 8:47 p.m. responded to a report of an altercation on Bristol Road in Monkton. Troopers arrested Rachael A. Bonvouloir, 26, of Monkton after determining she had caused pain to a family or household member and they cited Bonvouloir for domestic assault.
- On June 26 at around 2:20 p.m. stopped a vehicle on Maple Street in Middlebury said the driver, identified as Thomas J. Huestis, 51, of Weybridge, showed indicators of drug impairment. They arrested Huestis and cited him for driving under the influence of drugs.
- On June 28 at around 5:30 a.m. responded to a car fire on Route

Local man cited for larceny, threatening

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Kyle Hamilton, 26, of Middlebury for petit larceny, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, criminal threatening, and violation of his conditions of release, following an incident in the Seymour Street area on June 23.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a possible drug overdose call on Elm Street on June 22.
- Were asked to determine whether a homeless person was trespassing on private property in the Boardman Street/Foote Street area on June 22.
- Checked under the Cross Street Bridge at around 6 p.m. on June 23, after receiving a complaint from an unhoused woman who said people there were treating her in “a hostile and threatening manner.”
- Served a no-trespass order on June 23 on a man who wasn’t wanted at a Boardman Street property.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on June 23 on a call to Exchange Street involving a suicidal man, who was ultimately taken to Porter Hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.
- Helped another man who was experiencing a mental health crisis on June 23, this time in the Seymour Street area. Police said that man was also taken to Porter Hospital for evaluation.
- Responded to a report of a woman “causing problems with

her neighbors” in the Jayne Court neighborhood on June 23.

- Cited Joshua Santos, 34, of Middlebury for criminal threatening following an incident on Court Street on June 23.
- Responded to a report of a suicidal man in the Marble Works complex at around 11:41 p.m. on June 23.
- Connected a person to mental health services on June 23.
- Served a no-trespass order on June 24.
- Responded to Route 7 North on June 24 on a report of a man “weaving in and out of traffic.”
- Connected a man to mental health services on June 24.
- Responded to a report of someone leaving drug paraphernalia in front of a Court Street apartment complex on June 25.
- Helped defuse a verbal domestic dispute on Seminary Street on June 25.
- Received a report that two men were sleeping in the town park gazebo at 5 a.m. on June 25. By municipal ordinance, the gazebo is closed to the public at midnight. Police said the men left the area.
- Conducted downtown foot patrols on June 25, 26 and 27.
- Assisted emergency responders on a call to a Route 7 South on June 26.
- Dealt with an irate man in Macintyre Lane on June 26.
- Helped Vermont Probation & Parole officials take a person into custody on June 26.
- Responded to a report of “suspicious activity” near the intersection of Wilson Road and Boardman Street on June 26.
- Responded to a report of an electrical wire down in Court Square on June 26.
- Received a report of the theft of a vehicle from an Exchange Street business on June 26.
- Investigated a reported fight between two people at the South Village Green development on

Vt. State

Police Log

17 between Router 7 and Green Street in New Haven. Police said it appeared that fuel stowed in the back of the vehicle somehow ignited. No injuries were reported and no criminal charges have been filed. Middlebury police helped direct traffic.

• On June 29 at around 8:38 a.m., responded to a two-vehicle crash on Route 116 at Ireland Road in Starksboro. Police reported that April Hill, 48, of Starksboro was driving southbound on Route 116, turned left at the intersection and struck a northbound vehicle driven by Middlebury resident Timothy Dragon, 47. Both drivers sustained minor injuries, and Hill was transported to Porter Medical Center.

Police issued Hill a ticket for an improper left turn, which carries a maximum fine of \$220 and two points on her license.

State police were assisted by the Starksboro Fire Department and Bristol Rescue Squad.

Middlebury

Police Log

June 26. Police said the people weren’t fighting; they were fixing an unhitched trailer.

- Helped a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis on Charles Avenue on June 26.
- Responded to a vehicle accident, with minor injuries, at the intersection of College and Academy streets on June 26.
- Served a no-trespass order on a person who wasn’t wanted at a Route 7 South business on June 26.
- Provided service-referral information on June 27 to a local woman who was fleeing an abusive relationship.
- Checked on the welfare of a Seminary Street Extension resident on June 27.
- Received a complaint about a person leaving their dog in a vehicle while at The Centre shopping plaza on June 27.
- Escorted a snapping turtle across Main Street on June 27 at a little after 9 a.m.
- Checked a report of a girl screaming at a Case Street home at around midnight on June 28. Police determined the sound was created by a whistle.
- Investigated a theft complaint at the Sugar House Motel June 28.
- Helped a local resident access mental health service on June 28.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance at a Munson Road residence on June 28.
- Fielded a complaint about a bear in the Case Street area on June 28.
- Investigated an alleged assault said to have occurred at a Route 7 South business on June 28. Police said the investigation is ongoing.
- Helped Vermont State Police with traffic control during a vehicle fire on Route 17 in New Haven on June 28.



MIDDLEBURY POLICE RESPONDED when traffic was slowed around Court Square in Middlebury on Friday, June 26, as a Green Mountain Power crew fixed a power outage that lasted from 7:30 a.m. until around 9:30 a.m. An official said a wire on a pole in the square had burst into flames and caused the outage. While homes and businesses in the immediate area dealt with their outage, cars and trucks were slowed, but no major delays appeared to take place.

Independent photo/John S. McGrift

AGWAY

Soil Sale

Miracle Gro
All Purpose Potting 50 qt
\$19.99 reg. \$16.99

Sunshine Black Bear
Indoor/ outdoor
potting mix 1.5cf
\$19.99 reg. \$24.99

Coast of Maine
Castine Raised
Bed mix 1 cuft
\$19.99 reg. \$24.99

20% off All Hoses, Watering Wands, Nozzles and Watering Cans

While supplies last, cannot be combined with any other sale or offer, good on in-stock merchandise only. offer good through 7/12/26

CLOSED JULY 4TH & 5TH

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937 **Open 7 days**
Mon–Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 8-5
www.MiddleburyAgway.com



july 3 **FRIDAY**
Independence Day Parade and more in Brandon. Friday, July 3, 9 a.m. until dusk, Park St. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Park St. There are free events planned for everyone in the family, including Tiny Train rides, a silent auction, bouncy house and games, beer garden, Little Debbie Swiss Roll eating contest, duck races, live music, dancing, apple pie recipe contest, and a history lecture. Fireworks at dusk. Full schedule on events page at brandon.org.

The Blooming Circle: Postpartum Support Group in New Haven. Friday, July 3, 11 a.m., Nest & Gather. This group is committed to supporting emotional well-being, self-care, and mental health, helping every mom embrace her new journey with confidence and strength. Our circle creates a welcoming and supportive environment for pregnant women, new mothers, and experienced moms navigating the postpartum period and the many challenges of motherhood. Free.

Block Party with Vermont National Guard Band plus Redd & The Paper Flowers in Middlebury. Friday, July 3, 3-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant St. 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 on-site. Free. More info townhalltheater.org.

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, July 3, 3-4:45 p.m., Evergreen Recovery Center, 17 Court St. Every Friday afternoon (excluding holidays), stop by for card and board games with Stephen. Come play games before heading over to the weekly Community Supper; attending the meal is optional. Hosted by Community Bridges Project and Counseling Service of Addison County. Free. Questions? Reach out to Zylpha, 802-388-3093 or Mary, 802-989-3074.

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.

Independence Day festivities in Bristol. Friday, July 3, 6-10 p.m., Bristol Rec Park. Join us for vendors, music, games, and dunk tank fun. This year the dunk tank is run by the boys' lacrosse team.

Fireworks in Bristol. Friday, July 3, dusk, Mount Abraham Union High School.

Fireworks in Vergennes. Friday, July 3, dusk, Vergennes Union High School. Fireworks set off at VUHS ballfield but will be visible from many places around town. Sponsored by the Eagles of Addison County and American Legion Post 14. 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 2,000-foot elevation gain. Leashed dogs allowed. Contact Ellen Cronan to register and for more information at 908-595-2926. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

july 4 **SATURDAY**
Fourth of July 5K Road Race in Bristol. Saturday, July 4, 7 a.m., Mount Abraham Union High School. Run starts at 7:30 at the high school and concludes at the Bristol Green. Proceeds go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. \$30 in advance or \$35 day-of. Register at: threedaystampede.org/5k-registration.

The Great Bristol Outhouse Race in Bristol. Saturday, July 4, 8:30 a.m., Holley Hall. Teams build and decorate their own mobile outhouses to compete for World Champion Outhouse Racer. Race begins at 9 a.m. and lasts about 1.5 hours. Registration tent will be on the west side of the announcer's stage. Ticket sellers walk through the crowd selling betting tickets for \$1. For more info visit bristolvt4thofjuly.com/events.

Fourth of July Parade in Bristol. Saturday, July 4, 10:30 a.m., Rec Park east on Pleasant St., right on Mountain St., right on Main/Vest St. to Airport Drive. Floats, bands, fire trucks, fun, candy, friends, and neighbors. A great time had by all. Grand Marshal is Ted Lylis. For more info visit bristolvt4thofjuly.com/parade.

Reading of Declaration of Independence in Addison. Saturday, July 4, 11:30 a.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site. A reading to celebrate 250 years of independence.

Reading of Declaration of Independence in Orwell. Saturday, July 4, 11:30 a.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road. A reading to celebrate 250 years of independence.

Celebrate America in Cornwall. Saturday, July 4, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Samson Memorial. Fourth of July ice cream social, freedom bells, and reading of the Declaration of Independence. Rain or shine. At noon we'll join communities nationwide in ringing bells to honor America's 250 years of freedom, followed by the reading. Ice cream before, after, and in-between. Feel free to BYOB (bring your own bell) if you've got one. Questions? 703-307-7550.

51st Annual Ice Cream Social in Salisbury. Saturday, July 4, 2-4 p.m., Salisbury Church Meetinghouse, 853 Maple St. What could be better than ice cream and pie on the Fourth of July? Come join the celebration, rain or shine! Ice cream with toppings or with delicious homemade pie. Proceeds to support local charities. To donate a pie or two, or to volunteer to work on the day of the event, contact Martha Robinson at 203-521-2332 or m.robinson2332@gmail.com.

King Pede Card Party in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, July 4, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall. Sandwich supper and an evening of fun and games. King Pede requires some serious thinking so come prepared to use your strategic skills in this longstanding town tradition.

july 5 **SUNDAY**
Historical Tour of the Cemetery in Starksboro. Sunday, July 5, 12:30 p.m., Starksboro Village Cemetery. Cecilia Elwert guides a tour through the 1802 cemetery, discussing the Revolutionary War soldiers who lived in Starksboro and are buried there. Parking in Parsonage Rd. lot of Robinson School. Free.



Star-spangled scoops

FIREWORKS AREN'T THE only treat on the Fourth of July! Last year's Salisbury Ice Cream Social had families celebrating with ice cream, homemade pie and community fun. **This July 4, swing by the Salisbury Church Meetinghouse from 2-4 p.m. for the 51st annual event in support of local charities. Want to work up your appetite first? Join the Green Mountain Bicycle Club's ride from Middlebury to the social at 1 p.m. for some scenic views and sweet rewards.**

File photo by Jonathan Blake

Reading of Frederick Douglass in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, July 5, 1-3 p.m., The Rokeby Museum. Exactly 174 years ago, Frederick Douglass delivered his famous speech, "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?" in Rochester, New York. Today, this striking oration remains one of the greatest indictments of American slavery. Come for a community reading celebrating Douglass's momentous speech led by esteemed singer, actor, writer, and teacher François Clemmons. Free.

Vermont History Lecture in Starksboro. Sunday, July 5, 2 p.m., Starksboro Village Meeting House. Michael Blakeslee will talk about the religious nature of Vermont at the time of the Revolutionary War and then he will give a political sermon from the same period. Light refreshments to follow. Parking in the town center lot. Free.

Presentation: The Birth Certificate of America in Orwell. Sunday, July 5, 2-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road. Do you know your Declaration of Independence? Explore the founding document of the United States of America in its 250th year of 2026. Site interpreter Stephen Whalen, Ph.D., examines the historical context of the times.

july 6 **MONDAY**
"No Other Land" screening in Bristol. Monday, July 6, 6:30 p.m., Holley Hall. An Oscar-winning documentary film made by a Palestinian-Israeli collective of directors over the course of five years. It documents the forced displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank and follows the bond forged between a Palestinian activist and an Israeli journalist. Free; donations welcome.
Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes. Monday, July 6, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music. For more info visit vergennes.org/calendar_app/index.html.

july 7 **TUESDAY**
Build a Fairy House in Brandon. Tuesday, July 7, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids build a whimsical fairy house to bring home.

july 8 **WEDNESDAY**
Think Globally, Plant Locally in Addison. Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 p.m., Dead Creek Wildlife Area Visitor Center. A presentation and discussion on the essential role of pollinators, the factors behind their decline, and practical steps you can take to support them in your own backyard. Presented by local landscape architect Shelby Chapman-Hale of Offshoots.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Orwell. Wednesday, July 8, 6 p.m., Town Green. On July 8, Americans in the 50 states will read the Declaration of Independence simultaneously, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the first public reading of this seminal document. The Orwell Historical Society will present a public reading from the gazebo. Free.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday the Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. New members welcome. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

july 9 **THURSDAY**
Bird banding in Weybridge. Thursday, July 9, 8-10 a.m., Hurd Grassland, 91 Meadow Lane. Join MALT and Audubon Vermont biologist Mark LaBarr for a morning of bird banding. Otter Creek

Audubon Society volunteers will lead family- and youth-friendly activities. Drop in anytime; birds are most active early. Free. For more info visit maltvt.org.

Storytime & Legos in Brandon. Thursday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Stories and playtime for kids. Legos are provided but will stay here after the activity.

july 10 **FRIDAY**
Make a Playdough Earth in Brandon. Friday, July 10, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids can discover the various layers of the earth as they craft one out of playdough.

Artday Friday: Painting with Marble in Vergennes. Friday, July 10, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. A family-friendly art day every Friday at the library. Supplies provided. Free.

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, July 10, 3-4:45 p.m., Evergreen Recovery Center, 17 Court St. Every Friday afternoon (excluding holidays), stop by for card and board games with Stephen. Play games then head to the weekly Community Supper; attending the meal is optional. Hosted by Community Bridges Project and Counseling Service of Addison County. Free. Questions? Reach out to Zylpha, 802-388-3093 or Mary, 802-989-3074.

july 11 **SATURDAY**
Peasant Market in Middlebury. Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Town Green. The popular rummage sale features bargain shopping, baked goods, games, and an auction to support local nonprofits. Last year's market raised \$24,000 for local groups. Good condition donations can be dropped off at the church before July 1. Volunteers are welcome to help set up and clean up on Peasant Market day. To assist, contact Heather McConville Durante at ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com or 802-388-7200.

Storytime & Mayan Calendars in Brandon. Saturday, July 11, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids can color or build their own Mayan calendar to bring home.

The Goshen Gallop run. Saturday, July 11, 4 p.m. race start, map provided with registration. Run the 48th annual race at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center. Fun 5+km and 10+km trails. Raffle at 6 p.m. Post-race local wood-fired pizza party and pond dipping. Cup-free event; bring your own flask to fill. Proceeds go to maintaining the trails. Adult \$40; Youth under 12 \$30. For questions contact: info@blueberryhilltrails.com. Register at blueberryhilltrails.com/goshengalloptrailrace.

Takeout Ham and Summer Salad Supper in Vergennes. Saturday, July 11, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church. Menu: Cold ham, potato salad, broccoli salad, roll, and dessert. Order by 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 9. \$12. Call 802-877-3150 to preorder.

july 12 **SUNDAY**
Food & Farm Fest in Orwell. Sunday, July 12, noon-4 p.m., on the Town Green. Live music by the Sap Tappers, local growers and makers, yard games, and lots of community. A summer farmers' market and festival designed to boost food system resiliency and celebrate Orwell and area producers and makers. Free.

CALENDAR
ONLINE
addisonindependent.com



51st Annual Ice Cream Social

Come join the celebration!

Saturday, July 4th 2pm-4pm
(rain or shine!)

**Proceeds to support local charities*

Salisbury Church Meetinghouse,
853 Maple Street, Salisbury

2★26 Election VT Senate

Vote

Lesley Bienvenue, MBA

Learn more at www.facebook.com/lesley.bienvenue

Paid for by Lesley Bienvenue

Summertime favorites

for lake days, parties or picnics — 7 days a week!

MON-SUN
7AM-2PM

☆ **OPEN Saturday, July 4th!** ☆

14 College St, Middlebury, VT | (802) 388-3371 | OtterCreekBakery.com

**GENERAL CONTRACTING
DESIGN
CUSTOM HOME BUILDING**

**MIAXLLC.COM
ROCHESTER, VERMONT**

Addison County Parent/Child Center
info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org
388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

**Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start**

READER

comments

“ We feel great about the Addi Indie. Very good coverage of local and related state and national news. *-Tom, Middlebury subscriber* ”

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 6/25/26 & 6/29/26

			COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Vorsteveld	1535	1.98		\$3039.30
Deer Valley	1825	1.90		\$3467.50
Goodrich Farm	1960	1.85		\$3626.00
J. Fifield	1525	2.10		\$3202.50
Rowell Farm	1995	1.75		\$3491.25
Correia Farm	1620	1.73		\$2802.60
Blue Spruce	1840	1.60		\$2944.00

CALVES		\$
UVM		\$1728.00
Iroquois		\$1709.80
Barnes Bros		\$1700.40
Deer Valley		\$1680.00
Savello		\$1515.00
Degraaf		\$1484.10
Vorsteveld		\$1410.50

Total Beef - 116 Total Calves - 184

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
Email Sally Kerschner at
smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” Frederick Douglass delivered this speech on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, N.Y. to a local antislavery women’s group. It begins with a sympathetic account of the American Revolution and its great promise for freedom, then pivots to describe the gross hypocrisy of American enslavement and the legacy of that struggle.

Each year Rokeby celebrates the importance of Douglass’ speech by hosting a public reading. This year’s reading will be on Sunday, July 5, 1 – 3 p.m. Rokeby is pleased to welcome Francois Clemmons, who will open the event with personal remarks, spirituals and the reading of the first stanza. Admission to the event is free.

Rokeby Museum is offering a week-long arts and nature experience that is geared for children ages 9 – 13. The sessions will explore the legacy

of generations of Robinson artists who lived at Rokeby and were inspired by the nature and wildlife found on the grounds.

Nature walks, birdwatching and the search for animal tracks will immerse campers in the same locations that inspired the Robinsons along with study of their sketches, scrapbooks and paintings. Attendees will be able to create artwork in in each medium — no experience needed. There will be two separate one-week sessions: July 13 – July 17 and July 20 – July 24. For more information, contact Jonathon Ahl at jahl@rokeby.org or 802-877-3406.

The Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of July 4 and July 18. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede requires some serious thinking, so come prepared to use your strategic skills in this longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition.

Bixby is offering ArtDay Friday during Fridays in July and August. All are welcome to drop in any time between noon and 2 p.m. to participate in a different art project. Throughout the Fridays in July, enjoy marble painting, watercolor bookmarks, painting with toothbrushes and air-dry clay. For more information, visit bixbylibrary.org.

The Bixby Library offers “Unearth a Story” and invites adults and young adults (ages 14+) to read their way to rewards this summer. From June 16 through August 15, readers can pick up a fossil-themed bookmark in the library lobby and track their reading progress across six different categories. For each book completed, they can scratch off the golden sticker for that category to reveal a hidden fossil and write the author’s last name on the shovel. Completed bookmarks can be brought to the circulation desk to be entered into a raffle for one of four \$25 Vergennes Green Gift Certificates, redeemable at more than 60 local businesses. Start digging into great books this summer and unearth your next favorite story.

Commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s Independence Day on July 4 with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Throughout the day there will be hands-on activities, kids’ games, documentary screening, tours of the new exhibit, Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain and more. This will be a memorable way for the whole family to celebrate this year’s special July 4 holiday. For more (See Ferrisburgh, Page 10B)



MIDDLEBURY POET Cindy Ellen Hill grew up on Long Island and spent summers in New Jersey with her grandparents. That early exposure to salt marshes was formative in her first novel, “Leeds Point,” which was published last week.

Photo by Kristy Dooley

New gothic horror novel plays with sonnet structure

By EMILY RODIN
UVM Community News Service

MIDDLEBURY — Poet Cindy Ellen Hill’s first novel, “Leeds Point,” was written in sonnet verse. The gothic horror novel, officially released last week, is set in 1702 and follows Esther Water, a young English woman abandoned by her husband in the coastal salt marshes off of New Jersey.

The Middlebury writer’s novel arrives as the U.S. approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding. It explores themes of feminism, ecopolitics and white privilege during the colonial era.

The gothic horror genre, which often portrays protagonists becoming the monster they fear, helped Hill highlight those themes.

“It’s a story about that time, (the 1700s), and I think she accurately portrays the evilness of it,” said Buffy Aakaash, a Vermont author and poet who wrote an early acclaim for the novel.

Hill holds a master’s of fine arts in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and has published four poetry collections. She currently serves as president of the Poetry Society of Vermont.

Hill grew up on Long Island and spent summers in New Jersey with her grandparents, taking boats through the marshes that now serve as a setting for her novel.

Shortly after her parents died, Hill returned to the marshes to distribute their ashes.

“That time in my grief, sitting alone in those marshes, also developed a lot of things that happened in the story,” she said.

For example, Hill recalled watching an osprey nest during that period. One of the novel’s key characters is an osprey who befriends Esther during her grief-stricken isolation.

Along with Esther, who narrates the story in first person, several animals also have narrative voices in the novel. Hill said the relationship between humans and the natural world was a theme she deliberately sought to explore.

In “Leeds Point,” Hill incorporates Italian, English and other sonnet forms with varying rhyme schemes. Shakespearean sonnets, for instance, consist of 14 lines written in iambic pentameter with the last two lines being a rhymed couplet. Other key elements include strong use of metaphor and a tightly focused theme.

“The pace of the sonnets just pulls you through along with the narrative arc,” Hill said. “If it was in prose it would be slower; it would be harder to get that pacing.”

Although he studied theater and is well-versed in Shakespeare, Aakaash said he was initially hesitant to read a novel written in verse. But to his surprise, Aakaash said he found the structure to enhance his reading experience.

“I really felt like I could read several pages fairly quickly and still have a full sense of what is going on,” he said.

Brattleboro author Peter Gould, who runs a Shakespeare-themed camp and has directed numerous youth productions of The Bard’s plays, acknowledged the challenge of writing a novel in verse. The form’s intricate structure has the potential to draw attention to itself, distracting readers from the story, he said.

“Because the sonnet form is so demanding, so restricting and so challenging, any word in any line has to earn its place and has to pass examination to justify itself as to why it’s in the line,” Gould said.

A relatively unusual form to many readers, novels in verse have been written for centuries. Two classics include Alexander Pushkin’s “Eugene Onegin,” published in 1833, and the 1986 novel it inspired, “The Golden Gate” by Vikram Seth. The form has experienced a resurgence in young adult fiction and, more recently, adult fiction, Hill said, citing Sarah Crossan’s “Here is the Beehive,” published in 2020, as an example.

Hill said she aimed to create something unique at a time when writers are leaning on artificial intelligence.

“I want people to think of it as something that’s so different and that obviously only a human could have written,” she said. “I want to give them a lot to think about. I want them to be left with a sense of wonder at the oddness of the book structure itself and then also have lots of food for thought about both the work and the characters and the bigger political questions it asks.”

The novel became available for purchase on June 26. Hugo’s Bar and Grill in Montpelier will host a launch party for the book on July 28.

Writer Emily Rodin is an intern for UVM’s Community News Service through Report for America’s Local News Internship Program.



38th AUCTION

Thursday, July 2nd ~ Saturday, July 11th

In the Brandon Town Hall

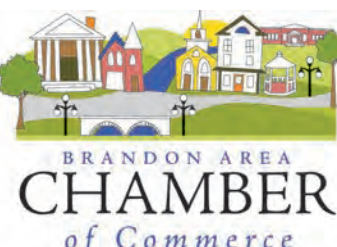
Thu, July 2nd: 11 am–7:30 pm
Fri, July 3: 11 am–9 pm
also Brandon’s Parade Day!
Sat, July 4: 11 am–7 pm
Sun, July 5: 11 am–5 pm
Mon, July 6 thru Thu, July 9: 11 am–7 pm
Fri, July 10: 11 am–7:30 pm
Sat, July 11: 8 am–2 pm (*Auction Closes!*)
Sun, July 12: 10 am–2 pm (*For pick up of items only*)

If you want to attend a great auction this summer, make it this one.

The Chamber has found a PERMANENT HOME, the beautiful Brandon Town Hall!

The Chamber is in our 4th year in our beautiful Brandon Town Hall! It will be staffed by volunteers for 10 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and eBay style “**Buy It Now**” format so you can walk out the door with your treasure!

The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, Vermont-made items, and surprises & treasures from attics and barns. Featuring work from many of our famous local artists and lots of gift certificates to local businesses including restaurants, brew pubs, fuel oil, massages, services, and much more!



For more info contact: Bernie Carr | 802-236-8120
info@brandon.org

Go to www.brandon.org for more info and pictures

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

Grow any of these fruits and veggies anywhere in the greater Addison County area?

Think you’ve got a colossal cucumber, a whopping watermelon, or a supersized squash? Bring it to the Addy Indy office at 58 Maple Street, Middlebury! We’ll measure it, snap a photo, and add it to the leaderboard. If your garden giant stays on top through the end of the growing season, you’ll win a prize! So get planting, get growing, and get ready for some friendly garden bragging rights.

May the biggest beet, largest leek, and mightiest melon win!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



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



SPONSORED BY:



PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE MIDDLEBURY AGWAY GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.

Thursday & service Business & DIRECTORY

carpentry/contractors
cleaning services
computers

construction
duct work & duct
cleaning

excavation
flooring

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS



Handling all phases of residential and light commercial carpentry since 1992

Mark Raymond, Middlebury, VT
802-388-0742
raymondrenovationvt.com

FULLY INSURED

Golden Ruler Construction

AFFORDABLE & HONEST
Residential & Agricultural Construction
Old Home Renovations
Custom Homes • Barns
Interior Painting • General Repairs
Call Jonathan Hescoc
649 Harrington Hill Rd., Shoreham
802-462-3737



VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS
www.vermontcustommoldings.com

Quaker Village CARPENTRY

We have immediate availability!

Siding, Windows, Garages, Decks & Porches,
New Construction, Renovations and Repairs

Maurice Plouffe • 802-545-2251
1736 Quaker Village Road | Weybridge, VT 05753

David Walker Construction

298 Biddle Road
Lincoln, Vermont
05443

cell: 802-989-0320

email:
dwconstruction@gmavt.net

Small projects
Entry doors • Decks • Porches

CLEANING SERVICES

Melissa's Quality Cleaning Services
Residential & Commercial
GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED
Reliable & Thorough
802 345-6257

COMPUTERS

PC MEDIC
of Vermont
Is Microsoft hassling you about Windows 11?
I have a **FREE** alternative for many customers, called Linux.
Call today to learn more!
For an appointment, call The PC Medic of Vermont
802-734-6815
www.pcmedicvt.com

Vermont Computer Services & Support LLC



IT's what we do!

Residential IT Services

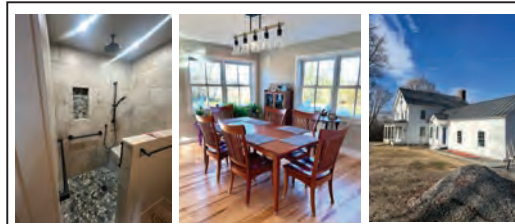
- Computer Support
- Home Network/Wi-Fi
- Setup / Installation
- Data Backup
- Troubleshooting
- Technology Consulting
- Senior-Friendly

Business IT Services

- Managed IT Services
- Cybersecurity
- Servers / Storage
- Network Infrastructure
- Backup / Recovery
- Business Email
- Remote & Onsite

(802) 349-4653 (802) 458-2777
www.VTComputerServices.com
Fully Insured

CONSTRUCTION



Vantage Point Homes All aspects of home renovations

Kitchen • Bath • Flooring • Decks • Additions

New construction featuring
Design/Build Services



Salisbury, VT
802-989-3974

DUCT WORK & DUCT CLEANING



Specializing in Duct Cleaning

And Duct Work
for Heating, Ventilation
and Air Conditioning

We use 5,000+ cfm HEPA Vacuum Cleaning Systems

We can design, fabricate, seal, insulate, clean,
anything to do with your ducted systems.

Buy Local! 802.989.0396

Commercial/Residential • Owner Operated
Fully Insured • Neat & Clean

Boost Your Visibility

Advertise in the B&S
Directory to launch
your business to new
heights.

Affordable pricing,
stellar placement!

advertising@
addisonindependent.
com
802-388-4944

EXCAVATION



As an owner-operated excavation company based in Vermont, we take pride in our 45+ years of experience. We offer a wide range of services tailored to meet the needs of both homeowners and businesses. Trust us to bring vision to life with quality and expertise!

pbodington0825@gmail.com

802-989-0825

greenmountaingroundworks.com

FLOORING



Stripping - Waxing - Buffing
Carpet Cleaning &
Emergency Water Removal

802-759-2706
phone or fax

802-349-6050
cell phone

email: cmulliss@gmavt.net
1900 Jersey St., S. Addison, VT 05491

Wales Floors, Inc.

For a free estimate call 877-8323

Fully insured

Custom & non-toxic finishes

Installation refinishing & restoration of
residential and commercial wood floors

Forty Years Experience!

**CHECK US OUT
ONLINE AT**

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Make your ad

Add **color** to
your B&S ad for
just **\$50***

Email

advertising@addisonindependent.com
or call 802-388-4944 to get started!

* Per 13-week campaign

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

Thursday & service
Business & DIRECTORY

home organization
masonry
painting
plumbing & heating

real estate appraisers
renewable energy
roofing
septic and water

surveying
tree service
water delivery
window treatments

HOME ORGANIZATION

a tidy place

Embracing the art of letting go.

Downsize • Declutter • Simplify

Based in Waitsfield, VT
802-496-4944
info@atidyplacevt.com
atidyplacevt.com

LANDSCAPING

B.E.W.
LANDSCAPING, LLC

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

Our Services Include:
- Professional Mowing & String Trimming
- Home Cleanouts
- Free Estimates
- Land Clearing & Brush Removal
- Bush Hogging & Ongoing Maintenance

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

MASONRY

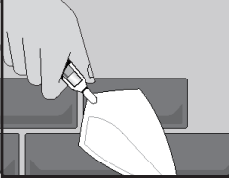
FINE DRY STONE MASONRY



JAMIE MASEFIELD
CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
802-233-4670
jmasefield@gmavt.net

Bruce A. Maheu's
MASONRY

NEW & REPAIR
Residential • Lake Camps (Dunmore)
Brick – Block – Stone
Chimneys, Fireplaces, Outside Barbecues, Steps, Patios, Stone Walls



35 Years Experience
Honest & Fair Pricing
Free Estimates
Fully Insured

Call Bruce
Salisbury, VT 802-352-6050

PAINTING



HESCOCK PAINTING
A friendly, professional, and affordable family business.
Interior Painting
462-3737 or 989-9107
Kim or Jonathan Hescock
hescock@shoreham.net

PLUMBING & HEATING



Timothy C. Ryan, P.E.
Serving the Champlain Valley
Since 1887
877-3118
Main St., Vergennes, VT

J.D. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

MIDDLEBURY
John Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019
Serving Addison County since 1989

REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

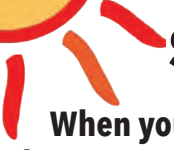


REAL CAPITAL CONSULTING
INCORPORATED 1989

Real Estate Appraisal
Project Management & Consulting
Addison, Chittenden and Rutland Counties
(802) 377-3636 • info@realcapitalconsulting.com

GET RESULTS!
ADVERTISE HERE
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Soak Up The Sun!
When you're ready for a solar, heat pump or battery installation, we're here for you!
Since 1972!



Go Green with us -
Call for a FREE on-site evaluation



802 • 453 • 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

ROOFING



Michael Doran
as seen at Addison County Field Days!

• Standing seam
• Asphalt shingles
• Slate

Free estimates • Fully Insured
mpdoransr@gmail.com
Phone (802) 537-3555

SEPTIC AND WATER



Celebrating 40 Years
Environmental Consultants – Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BW
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BW

• Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
• On-Site Wastewater Design • Single & Multiple Lot Subdivision
• Property Development & Permitting
• State and Local Permitting
• Underground Storage Tank Removal & Assessment

802-453-4384
Fax 802-453-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443
www.lagvt.com

SURVEYING



SHORT SURVEYING, INC.
Serving Addison County Since 1991
Timothy L. Short, L.S.
Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys
FEMA Elevation Certificates
135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT
802-388-3511
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com

SURVEYING



Philo. Surveying
LLC
Serving all of Vermont!

ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat
Commercial and Residential Subdivisions
Light Boundary Work and Boundary Line Staking
Easement Surveys • Elevation Certificates
LOMA Surveys • Topographic Surveys
(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT
Philosurveying.com • References available

TREE SERVICE



• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning
• Storm Damage Clean up
• Stump Grinding
Serving all of Addison County

Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

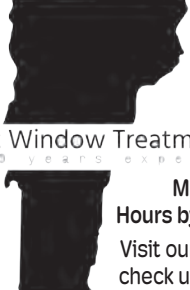
WATER DELIVERY



Wyman's Water Delivery
Residential Water delivery for Swimming Pools and Wells
Also offering: Timber Harvesting • Field Mowing
Brush Hogging • Driveway Repair
Power Washing • Sand and Gravel
Call (802) 353-6846
Tracy Wyman, Brandon, VT

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!



Vermont Window Treatments LLC
M-F: 8am-5pm
Hours by appointment only
Visit our Facebook page or check us out on Instagram!
802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury
vermontwindowntreatments.com

YOU DON'T NEED A BIG BUDGET TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT

We know what it's like to wear a lot of hats. You're running your business, serving customers, answering the phone, doing the books...
who has time to worry about websites and online marketing?



That's where Independent Digital Marketing, the digital services branch of the Addy Indy, comes in.

Let's get your business online!
Simple. Affordable. Local.

Contact us today!

We offer flexible pricing and local support, so you can grow at your own pace, no tech experience needed. We're real people, right here in Addison County, and we're ready to help you take the next step.

independentdigitalmarketing.com



CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

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

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

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennes-freethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

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

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

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.

Free

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

Help Wanted

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER The Town of Colchester's Planning & Zoning Department is hiring a Development Manager to lead development review, serve as Zoning Administrator, and assist department leadership. Responsibilities include DRB permitting, compliance inspections, and public guidance. Requires a relevant bachelor's degree plus two years of experience, land use knowledge, and strong communication skills. Apply at Colchestervt.gov.

TOWN ENGINEER The Town of Colchester is hiring a Town Engineer to lead design, construction management, and capital planning for public infrastructure, including wastewater, stormwater, streets, and paths. Responsibilities span project management, consultant oversight, permitting, and field decisions. Requires a civil engineering degree and six years of relevant experience. Apply at Colchestervt.gov.

For Sale

WASHER AND DRYER LG washer and dryer - excellent condition. Washer is front load and units can be stacked or placed side by side. \$750 for the pair. 802-349-7173

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 or 802-377-1477.

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 or 802-377-1477

BRIDPORT: Share beautiful views of Lake Champlain with senior man interested in farming and rural life. Prepare a few meals/week and help with upkeep of the home in exchange for reduced rent of \$200/month. A pet would be considered! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

Help Wanted

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.

Help Wanted

For Rent

CORNWALL Fully Furnished 3 bedroom house for rent or 1 bedroom (three available). All utilities included. High speed internet. House in a sunny rural setting. Available immediately. bedrooms \$1200/month. 802-855-1568

MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

SALISBURY APT Fully furnished with internet, washer/dryer, one bedroom. No pets, no smoking, and no vaping. Available June 1st, \$1450 a month. 802-238-6497

For Rent

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.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

VERGENNES: Condo to share with professional in his 30s, in walking distance of Main Street. If you are a young professional looking for a friendly, quiet living environment, this is for you! \$650 plus utilities. Shared bath. No pets. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-458-1459.

Help Wanted

Cars

77 CORVETTE Z24 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.

Wanted

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.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Removal Technician

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Homes is seeking a dedicated and professional Removal Technician to join our compassionate care team. In this role, you will be responsible for the dignified transportation of decedents from their place of death to our funeral home.

What You'll Do:

- Respond promptly to calls at residential homes, hospitals, and care facilities.
- Maintain the highest level of professionalism and empathy when interacting with grieving families.
- Safely operate company vehicles and specialized equipment.
- Ensure all necessary documentation and identification procedures are followed precisely.

What we're looking for:

- **Professionalism:** A clean, polished appearance and a respectful demeanor.
- **Physical Stamina:** Ability to lift 75+ lbs and navigate stairs or tight spaces.
- **Availability:** Must be willing to participate in an "on-call" rotation, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Per diem.
- **Requirements:** A valid driver's license and a clean driving record are essential.

Why Join Us?

We offer a supportive work environment where your contribution truly matters to the community.

To Apply:

Please send your resume to sandersonf@comcast.net or visit us in person at 117 South Main Street Middlebury, VT.



SANDERSON FUNERAL HOME



Warehouse and Yard Worker

FT Position available

Duties: Loading and Assisting with Customer Orders from the Yard, Warehouse and Store, Stocking Shelves and Filling Propane Tanks. Up to 40 hours per week.

Weekends and dependability a MUST!

Qualified Candidate must have a dedicated work ethic, the ability to lift 50lbs repeatedly throughout the day, and work hard in the spring and summer seasons.

Please stop in to pick up an application or send Resume to: Middlebury AGWAY Farm & Garden, Attn: Jennifer Jacobs 338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753 or by email to info@middleburyagway.com

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. – Middlebury, VT.

AGE WELL VOLUNTEERS



Volunteer with **Age Well** and become an essential part of the network that fosters a sense of community and well-being for Vermont's aging population.

Whether you're assisting with meal deliveries, participating in social activities, or offering companionship, your involvement directly contributes to enhancing the quality of life for older adults in Vermont.

Call 802-662-5249 to learn more about volunteering.



Addison Independent

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 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

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Notices | ☐ Work Wanted | ☐ Att. Farmers |
| ☐ Card of Thanks | ☐ Help Wanted | ☐ Motorcycles |
| ☐ Personals | ☐ For Sale | ☐ Cars |
| ☐ Services | ☐ Public Meetings** | ☐ Trucks |
| ☐ Free** | ☐ For Rent | ☐ SUVs |
| ☐ Lost 'N Found** | ☐ Want to Rent | ☐ Snowmobiles |
| ☐ Garage Sales | ☐ Wood Heat | ☐ Boats |
| ☐ Lawn & Garden | ☐ Real Estate | ☐ Wanted |
| ☐ Opportunities | ☐ Animals | ☐ Real Estate Wanted |
| ☐ Adoption | | ☐ Vacation Rentals |

** 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.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Page 10B.**

ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION #9A0390
10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Route 7 Properties, LLC, has filed application #9A0390, deemed complete on June 8, 2026, for a project generally described as a change-in-use of an existing residential property and improvements in support of a commercial property management company. Improvements include: (1) a gravel contractor's yard, including driveway and parking area; (2) construction of two ±1,500 square-foot storage and operations buildings; and (3) associated stormwater and infrastructure improvements. The project is located at 1258 Route 7 in Salisbury, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's Act 250 Database (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/default.aspx>) by entering project number "9A0390."

No hearing will be held, and a permit may be issued unless, on or before July 22, 2026, a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) (E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 9 Office at: Act250.Essex@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact the District Coordinator listed below.

Josh Donabedian
District 9 Coordinator
111 West Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov

BRANDON FIRE
DISTRICT #1 REQUEST
FOR PROPOSALS

Brandon Fire District #1, Brandon Fire Department, is requesting bid proposals for two energy projects under MERP.

- Installation of an exhaust airflow removal system in the apparatus bay at BFD
- Installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) panel system on the roof at BFD

Sealed hard-copy bids are due by 12:00 noon on July 6, 2026. Specifications for each project can be found at <https://brandonfiredistrict.org>.

FERRISBURGH UNION
CEMETERY
PUBLIC MEETING

Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, VT Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To anyone who has an interest in the future of Union Cemetery, located on Middlebrook Road, please attend the annual meeting at Ferrisburgh Town Hall in the downstairs meeting area.

Email your Public Notices to
legals@addisonindependent.com
and Jenna makes sure
it gets in the paper

TOWN OF MONKTON
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Town of Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, July 13, 2026, beginning at 7:30 pm. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Hall, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

a. 2026-06-3 Reinhart Conditional Use application, 364 Bear Pond Rd, Parcel ID 08.105.022.080

b. 2026-06-04 Russett sketch review and discussion for conditional use at 154 Murray Road, Parcel ID 02.237.004.000.

An electronic copy of the applications can be obtained by emailing zoning@monktonvt.com. A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Note that participation in the proceedings as an interested party (as defined VSA 24 § 4465(b)) is required for any subsequent appeal of decision.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/> * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

REACH THE COUNTY, PLACE YOUR AD HERE. CALL 388-4944

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Charter Amendments

Pursuant to 17 VSA 2645, the Selectboard of the Town of Middlebury will hold the first of two Public Hearings at 7:20PM on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 in the Large Conference Room of the Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753, and via Zoom videoconferencing (instructions below), to take public testimony on the Selectboard's proposed amendments to the Town Charter.

A summary of the proposed amendments to the Town Charter is available below. A copy of the entire proposal is available to the public in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, and will be made available upon request. The Clerk's Office is open Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm.

Zoom Information - To view and participate in the First Public Hearing
When: July 14, 2026, 7PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87022451814>
Phone one-tap: +13017158592,,87022451814# US
Webinar ID: 870 2245 1814

SUMMARY - PPROPOSED CHANGES TO TOWN CHARTER

*Proposed change relates to a practice already taking place

MORE SIGNIFICANT, SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

- 104(1-12) - Expanding topics that Town has ordinance authority over, such as: improvements to public infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, bike facilities, landscaping, lighting, storm drainage, maintenance of aforementioned infrastructure); rideable devices; groundwater (and related remediation); collection of garage/rubbish (and related remediation); fire prevention and control (and fees for admin. and remediation); public property/right of ways; adopting fees for public recreation facilities; closure of sites relating to violations; outdoor advertising; clarifying Downtown Improvement District purpose
- 106(a)(1) - Increasing the ceiling for highest municipal fine from \$1,000 to \$10,000
- *308(b) - Allowing any person, rather than just any registered Town voter, to apply for committee vacancies
- 704(l) - Removing requirement that Town Manager must first get Selectboard approval to appoint, remove, or suspend a department head
- 1101 - Changing appointment process for the Zoning Administrator (ZA) adding in a consultation requirement with Planning Commission Chair & Development Review Board Chair; appointment of ZA would be for three-year term with provision for removal of ZA by Selectboard for just cause.

CHANGES WITH LIMITED IMPACT

- *107(a) - Requiring adopted ordinances to be posted on website, & newspaper ordinance notice must include summary; providing Selectboard the option to choose public notice by means other than a newspaper
- *107(b) - Removing requirement of reading ordinance change in full at Selectboard public hearing
- *107(c) - Requiring ordinance actions be placed on website with a summary; allowing Selectboard to choose public notice option of publication other than newspaper
- 107(d) - Reducing time Selectboard - adopted ordinance change becomes effective, from 40 to 10 days; suspension due to referendum would still be available
- *107(e) - Town ordinances would be maintained on the Town website by Town Manager's Office instead of Clerk; no longer requiring an ordinance subject index
- 108(a) - Clarifying that a referendum can also be for amending an ordinance
- 109 - Reducing time an ordinance adopted through an Initiative becomes effective, from 30 to 10 days
- 303(b) - Candidates for Selectboard vacancy must also specify the term they are seeking to complete
- 304(d) - Creating Town vote option for appointment of Town Clerk, without removing current election process
- 305(b)(2-5) - Adjusting oversight of Treasurer from Selectboard to Town Manager; Treasurer reports to Selectboard would be quarterly, instead of monthly
- 306(d)(2,4-5) / 306(e)(1-3) - Amending existing officer positions; removing archaic positions functionally not needed anymore, providing for appointment only if needed
- 308(a) - Publication of vacancies can occur in either newspaper or another publication of Selectboard's choosing; vacancies must be posted on website
- *308(b) - Applicants for board or committee appointments to submit written request with their interest and qualifications; Removing 10-day requirement for Selectboard nomination of applicants.
- *501(b)(1) - Selectboard can serve as water or sewer commissioners for Town; Selectboard can create a sewer or stormwater utility
- *501(c) - All board/committee available packet documents (beyond just the agenda) must be posted on website prior to their meetings
- *503(e) - Noting that the entire available meeting packet, not just the agenda, must be posted within 24 hours prior to the meeting
- *504(a) - Adding that Selectboard meeting recording must be posted to Town website in video format
- *504(b) - Updating that Selectboard meeting minutes are posted on website and in Clerk's Office; and all packet documents should be filed in Clerk's Office and website
- *506 - SB stipend is set by annual Town Meeting budget
- *701 - Town Manager is appointed by contract; no longer for indefinite time period
- *703 - Town Manager is not required to provide a bond to perform role
- *704(d) - Other staff, beyond just Manager, may be ex-officio non-voting committee members
- *704(g) - Town Manager should also include in Town annual report agencies that the Town funds
- 704(h) - Town fiscal statements will be published quarterly, instead of monthly

- 704(n) - Specifying that there must be a capital budget, along with a 5-year capital improvement plan, for Town Meeting
- 704(o) - Noting that the Town Manager is responsible for public recordkeeping and archiving, in accordance with applicable laws
- 706 - Selectboard appoint of temp. Manager, after Manager removal, may not last for more than 180 days
- 707 - Allowing Town Manager to designate their temporary replacement, with Selectboard approval, without also filing a letter with Town Clerk; if Selectboard does not approve, Selectboard would make appointment
- *902(b) - Removing requirement that Town Meeting ballot boxes be open for minimum of consecutive hours (covered by State law)
- *1104(b) - Requiring minutes of DRB & Planning Commission be kept on Town website & in Town Clerk's Office/Archives, rather than printed copies in Town libraries
- *1302(e) - Requiring that final Town annual budget be posted on website, with text notification
- 1308a - Replacing entire section with simplified statement that provides Town voters with authority to implement revenue streams, of any sort as allowed by State law

- HOUSEKEEPING/CLARIFICATION CHANGES**
- Throughout Charter - Switching term 'Selectmen' to 'Selectboard'
 - 107(d) - Redundant language regarding referendums is removed; authority already exists in Sect. 108
 - *108(a) - Simplification of wording; same referendum process
 - 109 - Clarifying Initiative petition must include text of proposed change
 - *302(a)(1) - Noting Selectboard membership number, from 5 to 7
 - *302(a)(5) - Removing Auditor from elected official list per prior Town vote; Town Clerk added (unless Town votes to shift to appointment process for Town Clerk).
 - *302(a)(6-9) & 304(f) / 1302(b)(2-3/5) / 1305 - Updating language to reflect past, & possible future local school districts name changes
 - *302(e) - Removing process, for adding additional Selectboard membership (no longer necessary)
 - *303(a) - Removing antiquated language regarding appointment of original SB membership terms
 - *304((a) --Clarifying that appointment of appraiser is subject to Selectboard approval.
 - 304(b) - Relocating language relating to election of Auditor, replacing with language relating to selected by Town Manager & Selectboard; references to Auditor role re state laws moved to Appointed Officer section
 - 304(f) - Removing antiquated language relating to when school board & East Middlebury Prudential Committee members start their terms; deferring to appropriate Town and State laws on those matters
 - *305(a) - Treasurer appointed by Town Manager, not Selectboard, per Town charter amendment in 2023
 - 305(b)(3) - Noting Treasurer functions should align with recognized auditing practices
 - *306(a) - Noting that Selectboard shall make any appointments required by Charter or other State/local laws
 - *306(c) - Clarifying that Selectboard may also amend existing Town personnel code; remove unnecessary language for adoption of personnel code
 - 307 - Clarifying section's purpose (Recall) in its title
 - *308(a) - Clarifying that Selectboard appointment authority applies to all Town boards/commissions
 - *501(a) - Noting that Selectboard duties/powers extend to what's in the Town Charter, not just State Constitution and State laws
 - *501(b)(1) - Noting that the authority of Selectboard can prescribe duties of boards & committees
 - 501(b)(8) - Selectboard members shall have right to attend and speak Town boards/committee meetings, including their executive sessions
 - *501(d) -Town to adopt ethics policies/procedures, for all boards/officers/employees per state law
 - *501(e) - SB must annually appoint a newspaper (or equivalent publication site) for public notices
 - *503(c) - Clarifying that 4 Selectboard members constitutes a quorum; removing outdated reference to former 5-member board
 - *503(d) - Noting that Selectboard actions resulting from executive session must be approved by a motion in a public meeting
 - *503(e) - Selectboard agenda physical posting takes place week before meeting at Town Offices/in local newspaper (or other accepted means of publication)
 - *704(g) - Publication of annual Town Report document by Manager shall be done on calendar year, not fiscal; clarifying that the annual fiscal report is in the Town Report covering financial activities for the last completed fiscal year
 - *704(i) - Town Manager shall be responsible for doing department head performance evaluations
 - *704(k) - Clarifying that Town Manager is responsible for financial controls of Town governance
 - *903 - Determination of eligible voters must be made in accordance with State laws
 - 1102-1103 - Removing antiquated zoning/subdivision ratification requirements
 - 1301 - Updating fiscal year language, reflecting current practice of fiscal year starting in July, not January
 - 1302(b) - Removing unneeded link between Town Meeting notice publish date & school district annual meeting
 - 1302(d) - Clarifying that the public hearing associated with the annual budget should take place prior to the draft budget that is finalized by the Selectboard
 - 1502 - Removing antiquated section relating to employees of Town at time of initial Charter adoption
 - *1506 - Require Charter to be posted on Town website and in archives, rather than printed copies in Town libraries
 - 1507 - Removing language relating to officers of former school district
 - *1509 - Reference to utilizing most recently adopted State statutes

Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 6B)

information, visit lcomm.org.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is offering guided canoe tours to explore the ecology of Lake Champlain. These canoe tours will offer a closer look at the lake's different plants and animals from a unique vantage point along with explanations about the lake ecosystem. No prior canoe experience is required. The basics will be explained during the tour. The Museum provides canoes, paddles and personal flotation devices. It is recommended that each participant brings or wears clothing that is okay to get wet, a bottle of water and a hat and

sunscreen. Bring binoculars if you are able. This program is offered on select Wednesdays and Fridays during the summer and is weather-dependent. For more information on dates and registration, visit lcomm.org.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at ferrisburghvt.org.

CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on July 20, 2026, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application# 2026-12 by Peter Campono to construct a 14ft. x 10ft. Shed on the Parcel located at 160 Green St. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article XV Section 1501, and Article XVI Section 1604.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held at Vergennes City Hall located at 120 Main Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 666 140 8733**

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

June 29, 2026
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on July 20, 2026, at 7 pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application# 2026-13 by the City of Vergennes to install Streetlamps (18) within the Right of Way in the Central Business District and on the City Green. Parcels affected are #'s 260212, 260235, 260214, 260240, 260234, and 260201. Reviews will consider Article VII and Article XVI Section 1608.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held at Vergennes City Hall located at 120 Main Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 666 140 8733**

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099;

For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

June 29, 2026
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

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).

VOSHA Review Board Rules of Procedure.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 26P018
AGENCY: VOSHA Review Board

CONCISE SUMMARY: These rules serve as a guide to the Review Board, its Clerk and Hearing Officers and parties regarding the orderly transaction of its proceedings regarding contested VOSHA Cases. There are two levels of review available to the parties through the Rules of Procedure. The first is through a hearing before a Hearing Officer. The second level is through a discretionary review by the Review Board, should a party (or the Review Board on its own motion) want to appeal the Hearing Officer's decision. There are two types of proceedings offered in the Rules: conventional and simplified. Simplified Proceedings offer employers (respondents) a less formal way to contest a citation (no answer needs to be filed, and documents are exchanged freely without the use of discovery, generally). Rules regarding settlement and the parties' option of using Hearing Officers to mediate a settlement are covered in the Rules.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Carolyn Desch, VOSHA Review Board, 6 Baldwin Street, Room 313, Montpelier, VT 05633-6701 Tel: 802-828-2775 Fax: 802-828-1132 E-Mail: carolyn.desch@vermont.gov URL: <https://voshaboard.vermont.gov/>.

FOR COPIES: Gary McQuesten, VOSHA Review Board, 6 Baldwin Street, Room 313 Tel: 802-828-2775 Fax: 802-828-1132 E-Mail: garymcquesten76@gmail.com.

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 2, 2026



AUTHOR DETAILS SMALL-TOWN LIFE FOR

JEWES IN OLD VERMONT

Peggy Nelson tells the story of the Fishman family, including Max Fishman (left), Abe Cohen (top), Carrie Fishman (right) and Meyer Fishman (bottom), and other Jewish peddlers, merchants and junk dealers in her new book publishing at the end of July.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID COEN AND PEGGY NELSON

In the early 20th century, junkyards and department stores were the livelihoods of a few Jewish families, who were scattered across small towns, isolated from a broader Jewish community. Now, with their stores closed, few traces of the families remain.

By **RACHELLE TALBERT**

Sociology Professor Emeritus Peggy Nelson resurfaces that history as she tells the story of Addison County Jewish life in her upcoming book, "Peddlers,

Merchants, and Junk Dealers: Jewish Small Town Life in Vermont," which will be published July 28 and available at the Vermont Book Shop.

Nelson taught at Middlebury College from 1975 to 2001, winning multiple awards for her research in Sociology. She has since retired and now lives with her husband in town. "I came to Vermont in 1975 when I

"THESE MEN (AND WOMEN) WERE HEROIC! IT WAS HARD TO BE JEWISH AND THUS AN OUTSIDER AND YET OF GREAT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY... THEY HAD TO BE HYPER-AWARE OF HOW THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES."

— Peggy Nelson

came to Middlebury College," Nelson told the *Independent*. "There were a couple Jews on campus, but not very many. And it was a strange place to be."

A Jew herself, Nelson has similar roots to the families she writes about. One of her great-

grandfathers started as a peddler on the Lower East Side of New York City, and she relates to the experience of moving to Vermont and landing so far away from Jewish community.

"Having been one of the first women on the faculty (and one of the first Jews) at Middlebury College," Nelson said, "I think I have some insight into just how hard the lives of the Fishmans and others would have been. They didn't have models or mentors guiding them. They had to learn for themselves."

Max Fishman was one of a few Jewish men who immigrated to rural Vermont, eventually starting a family and a successful dry goods store. At age 21, Fishman came to Burlington in search of a source of income entirely on his own. He moved down to rural Vermont to peddle dry goods and eventually earned

See *OLD VERMONT* on page 2

OLD VERMONT

continued from page 1

enough cash to start Fishman's Department Store in Vergennes.

Before their closures, Addison County held several Jewish-owned stores, including

Fishman's in Vergennes and Abraham's in Bristol. Lazarus Department Store once stood in downtown Middlebury. Now, only a sidewalk marks its former place.

Though the Jewish merchants were well-known, what surprised Nelson were the junk dealers. "Most people I know who have known some Jewish history did not know about the junk dealers," Nelson explained. "I found out about the junk dealers when I started to look up what happened to Fishman's family in Virginia."

While Max Fishman was a merchant, his brother-in-law was a junk dealer, and his brother started out as one, as well. Until the 1950s, virtually all the scrap and junk businesses in the U.S. were operated by Jews — a career path Nelson knew nothing of. The junk dealers ran businesses of gathering junk and shipping it off to be melted into steel. They cut up old plows, parts of buildings and eventually automobiles and ice boxes, sending them off in train cars.

A dry-goods business family descendant told Nelson that starting businesses in small-town Vermont, away from synagogues and larger Jewish communities, took a different kind of person, and she understands why.

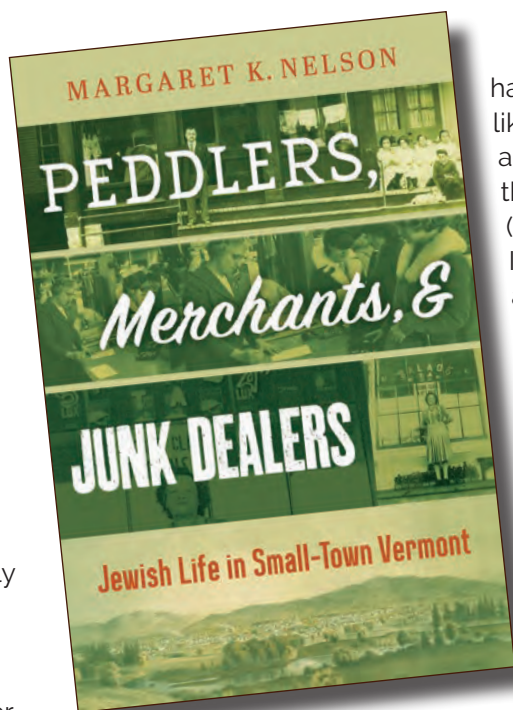
"I puzzled it in the book, and I still puzzle it today," Nelson said. "I think it had partly to do with opportunity, but partly with personality — that there was just more freedom for them."

The endeavor was so difficult that many wives separated from their husbands to live in Rutland or Burlington inside of small Jewish communities. Though happily married for decades, women chose to live on their own to



Max Fishman stands proudly in front of his Red Front Store, later known as Fishman's Department Store in Vergennes, circa 1917.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID COEN



have access to a synagogue, like-minded individuals and a Jewish education for their children. "These men (and women) were heroic! It was hard to be Jewish and thus an outsider and yet of great service to the community," Nelson wrote. "They had to be hyper-aware of how they presented themselves. And they made their way within the communities they served without significant support from other Jewish people."

Nelson will participate in a book talk at the Sheldon Museum in downtown Middlebury on July 19 at 4 p.m. She will be interviewed by Becky Dayton, owner of Vermont Book Shop. On Aug. 13, she will participate in another talk at Bixby Library in Vergennes, in which descendants of the Fishmans will be present.

Jewish life in rural Vermont looks quite different now than it did when the Fishmans and the Lazaruses ran their stores. In the 1970s, Jews came as professionals to small-town Vermont. The Jewish community Havurah in Middlebury began to offer Jewish



Pauline Rosen pauses for a photographer in front of the Rosen General Store in Danby, Vt., circa 1925.

people a place to gather.

"If they're looking for evidence of Jews, they're not going to find it in the department stores or the junkyards," Nelson said.

The story of Jewish peddler, merchant and junk-dealer life continues in the memories of their descendants and long-time residents who remember the department stores from decades ago.

READ
THE ADDY INDY



SUBSCRIBE

PRINT OR DIGITAL
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Brandon Artists Guild names Judy Albright Artist of the Month

PASTEL PAINTER TO SHARE HER JOURNEY
FROM KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM TEACHER
TO STUDIO ARTIST AND EDUCATOR

The Brandon Artists Guild has named Judy Albright as its Artist of the Month for July 2026. Albright, a pastel painter whose work focuses on still life, interiors and landscape will be celebrated with a free public presentation on Friday, July 10, in the gallery at 7 Center Street in Brandon.

The evening will begin with refreshments at 6 p.m., followed by an illustrated talk by Albright at 7 p.m. with audience Q&A. The event is free and open to all.

Albright will trace a personal and professional arc that began in a kindergarten classroom and led, over years of practice and teaching, to a full life as an artist and art educator. Her presentation draws on 38 slides of her paintings, using the images to tell the story of her evolving relationship with the medium and her deepening belief in art as a source of encouragement for all people.

Her still life work finds meaning in the unremarkable and the overlooked — objects and moments that, rendered in pastel, become quiet celebrations of daily life. Albright describes her mission as “to celebrate the ordinary moments that make life extraordinary, and to offer encouragement through art-making.”

For more information call the Brandon Artists Guild at 802-247-4956 or visit brandonartistsguild.org.



Judy Albright has been named the Artist of the Month at the Brandon Artists Guild for the month of July. See her work at the gallery on Center Street in downtown Brandon this month.

47th
Annual
Middlebury

Festival
on-the-
Green

July 12-18
2026

Family Hour
Performances

Come on down to the town green from 12 to 1 PM and
enjoy free, family-friendly entertainment all week long!

Monday, July 13
Magician Tom Verner

Tom Verner is the Founder of Magicians Without Borders. He has toured the world entertaining children wherever a little magic and laughter is desperately needed. Since 2002, Magicians Without Borders has traveled to over 40 countries using magic to entertain, educate, and empower, over one million of the most forgotten people in the world.



Tuesday, July 14
No Strings Marionettes

Puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson transform our stage into an intimate theater where a seamless blend of movement, music, and masterful manipulation will captivate young and old alike. These Vermont artisans lovingly hand craft the marionettes, props, and scenery, whether for an original tale or an adaptation of a classic.



Wednesday, July 15
Burlington Taiko

Taiko drumming is a marvel to hear, see and feel. Burlington Taiko has played hundreds of performances including at the 100th running of the Boston Marathon, and Burlington's First Night. Taiko combines movement, rhythm, voice, and the efficient and graceful movement of chi, or "energy," from player to drum.



Thursday, July 16
Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté

This lively storytelling show playfully reimagines—and twists—Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. The show takes audiences on a vibrant journey that celebrates freedom and calls for respect for all living beings. This show, presented in English with a touch of French, will delight young audiences (suggested for ages 5 and up) and adults alike.



Friday, July 17
Circus Minimus

Circus Minimus is a place where ordinary people do extraordinary things! Founder Kevin O'Keefe discovered Circus Minimus when he found an empty suitcase outside of his NYC apartment and filled it with everything he needed for his One-Man Circus in a Suitcase. The wacky characters and antics make this fast-paced show a great deal of fun for both kids and adults!



Rain or shine! Check our website prior to shows for schedule changes.

festivalonthegreen.org



ADVERTISE WITH US

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM


Katy Foote


Jenna Hunsinger


Tom Van Sant


Christy Lynn


Ryan Gabbert

Vermont Folklife opens applications for apprenticeships and audition for the Touring Group

Call for artists who want to practice and learn traditional art forms

Applications for the 2026/2027 cycle of the Vermont Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (VTAAP) are due before midnight on Friday, Aug. 7. VTAAP provides stipends of up to \$2,000 to master artist and apprentice pairs to cover the time, materials and travel expenses associated with

learning an art form.

This program supports mentor artists and apprentices who have already decided to work together. Vermont Folklife staff do not match apprentices and mentor artists. To learn more and apply visit vtfolklife.org/apprenticeship-program.

Auditions for the 2026-2027 Young Tradition Touring Group season

The Touring Group will be traveling to Appalachia in April 2027, with artist leaders Benjamin Foss and Oliver Scanlon. Musicians and singers at an intermediate or advanced level who will be between 13 and 19 years old on April 15, 2027 are encouraged to apply.

The Touring Group is an auditioned ensemble of teenage musicians who rehearse from September to April, ahead

of a cultural tour to another country or region. This Vermont Folklife program nurtures youth involvement in traditional music and dance, providing opportunities to learn from tradition bearers and each other, to build connections with artists and communities from Vermont and beyond, and to perform traditional repertoire in a variety of locations and settings. For more info reach out to Christina Kennedy at touringgroup@vtfolklife.org.



Interested in applying for \$2,000 to learn more about traditional art forms? Apply for the Vermont Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Or join the Touring Group for the 2026/2027 year. COURTESY PHOTOS



"Tusk" by Asher Croft, Issue.16

Submit to Zig Zag Lit Mag

Zig Zag Lit Mag is accepting final submissions until July 5, for Issue.21. Anyone who "lives, labors or loiters" in Addison County is welcome to submit up to three pieces of writing and/or art. Email submissions to submit@zigzaglitmag.org.

WRITING

If you make it, we'll take it: fiction, non-fiction, dramatic forms, poetry — any genre, any topic.

Put all written submissions in one document with your name as the title.

Must be submitted in .doc or .docx format. For dramatic forms, .pdf format is acceptable.

Word Count: A maximum of 3,000 words per submission.

ART

Art must be submitted in high-resolution black-and-white format. Let it be known that vertical images look much better in our print publication.

Submissions should include full name; the town where you live, labor, or loiter; your preferred email address (if not the address from which you are submitting); and any other information you would like to give, including bio details. For more details visit zigzaglitmag.org.

THIS WEEK AT JESSICA'S



SUNDAY SUPPERS

Our invitation to the community: a relaxed 3-course prix fixe dinner at an approachable price. Chef Rob changes the menu each week, testing new dishes and seasonal ingredients. Regular menu also available.

FANCY FRIDAYS

It's all about the mix: Laura crafting cocktails, DJ Serena mixing music, and the crowd mingling on the first Friday of every month. The next FF: July 3, Independence Day Edition!



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: Judy Albright. Albright, a pastel painter whose work focuses on still life, interiors and landscape will be celebrated with a free public presentation on Friday, July 10, in the gallery. The evening will begin with refreshments at 6 p.m., followed by an illustrated talk by Albright at 7 p.m. with audience Q&A. The event is free and open to all. Albright's work will be on view through July.

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.

"Where We Find Ourselves." Helen Shulman and Julia Jensen use gesture, color, texture and movement to explore the emotional terrain that exists beneath the surface of everyday life. On view through July 26.

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 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 14

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. There is nothing that you cannot handle this week, Aries. Expect to juggle a lot at the same time, but somehow you make it look easy. A calm demeanor is a big asset.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. This week will be fairly quiet for you, Taurus. You are likely to connect with a task and dig down deep until it is completed. If someone tries to persuade you to take a break, you likely won't.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Many forces are working together to provide insight, Gemini. Take a step back and consider all of the variables in play. The solution may be simpler than you can imagine.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, there is no time for daydreaming right now. You will be tasked with managing multiple projects in the days ahead. Remain focused.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Are you getting pummeled by obstacles, Leo? It could be that you need to set aside more time to yourself to complete the tasks expected of you. You also may need to ask for help.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, an ability to communicate clearly is among your most notable assets. If you have thoughts about explaining your ideas to others, keep reinforcing your goals.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, your projects will take some time to set up. A patient approach will pay off as results begin to materialize. Your ability to multi-task will drive you forward.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Life isn't an individual sport, Scorpio. You don't have to do everything alone. Interact with others as much as you can this week.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, when a person has found his or her path, naturally the desire is to start walking down it. You are eager to get started on something that has been on your mind.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, keep an open mind so you can discover new experiences. You don't have to completely reinvent yourself but make a concerted effort to be open to new ideas.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. The horizon is clear and you have all of the information you need to navigate what life is throwing at you right now, Aquarius. Keep the faith that you are on the right path.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March

20. Pisces, share your experiences and feelings with someone close to you. Let your feelings out and express your gratitude to the person who lends a listening ear.



Adagio Chocolates
THE UNIVERSE HAS DECIDED.
Today is a chocolate day.
Tue-Sat 11-6 • 52 Main Street Middlebury, VT
www.adagiochocolates.com • 802-382-4000



Middlebury FLORAL & GIFTS
Your Bridal Specialist!
Contact us for a free quote.
f Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 So., Middlebury
802-388-2800 • www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com



Celebrating the Semiquincentennial Through Quilting!
Happy 4th of July from
QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC
260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753 (802)388-3559
OPEN: Mon-Fri 10-5 Saturday 9:30-4

JULY 3 — Dave Barry, humorist (79)
JULY 4 — Rube Goldberg, cartoonist (d)
JULY 5 — P. V. Sindhu, badminton world champion (31)
JULY 6 — Frida Kahlo, artist (d)
JULY 7 — Michelle Kwan, figure skater (46)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 8 — Artemisia Gentileschi, painter (d)
JULY 9 — Tom Hanks, actor (70)

CALENDAR

July 3-17

2026

FRIDAY, JULY 3

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE AND MORE IN BRANDON. Friday, July 3, 9 a.m. until dusk, Park St. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Park St. There are free events planned for everyone in the family. Fireworks at dusk. Full schedule on events page at brandon.org.

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 S. Pleasant St. 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.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: LIVE MUSIC AND GUATEMALAN FOOD IN MONKTON. Friday, July 3, 4–6 p.m., Monkton Town Hall patio. Bring your own blanket or chairs, and money to buy delicious Guatemalan food from La Chapina. We'll have bubbles, balls and other fun things for kids of all ages and families to play with.

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 2,000 feet elevation gain. Leashed dogs allowed. Contact Ellen Cronan to register and for more information, 908-595-2926. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

FIREWORKS IN BRISTOL. Friday, July 3, dusk, Mount Abraham Union High School.

FIREWORKS IN VERGENNES. Friday, July 3, dusk, Vergennes Union High School. Fireworks set off at VUHS ballfield but will

SATURDAY, JULY 4
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE IN BRISTOL. Saturday, July 4, 10:30 a.m., Rec Park east on Pleasant St., right on Mountain St., right on Main/West St. to Airport Drive. Floats, bands, fire trucks, fun,

candy, friends, and neighbors. A great time had by all. Grand Marshal is Ted Lylis. For more info visit bristolvt4thofjuly.com/parade.

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. 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.

FIRST SUNDAY FILM CLUB: "MOONSTRUCK" IN BRANDON. Sunday, July 5, 5 p.m., Aleshire Gallery, 29 Union St. A raucous romantic

comedy starring Cher as a widowed Italian-American woman who falls in love with the hot-tempered brother of her fiancé (Nicolas Cage), whose hand was cut off in a bread-slicer accident. Run time: 102 min. Rated PG. Gallery opens an hour before for snacks and refreshments. Suggested donation: \$10.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB BOUND FOR BRISTOL RIDE IN HINESBURG AND BRISTOL. Sunday, July 5, 8:30 a.m., Monkton Central 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. Register and see details: thegmbc.com/events.

MONDAY, JULY 6
VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, July 6, 7–8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music. For more info visit vergenntes.org/calendar_app/index.html.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
SLOW ROLLERS SOCIAL BIKE RIDES IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 8, 6 p.m.,

Little Seed Coffee Roasters. Casually paced social bike ride. Explore your neighborhoods, meet new people. For more info visit @SlowRollersMiddlebury.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: CONNOR YOUNG & FRIENDS IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 8, 6–8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. 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

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- Energy Week - 07/06 - 5PM
- Governor's Press Conference - 07/07 - 5PM
- All Things LGBTQ - 07/08 - 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

under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

ARTIST TALK: JUDY ALBRIGHT IN BRANDON.

Friday, July 10, 6 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. Refreshments followed by an illustrated talk and Q&A. This month's artist will share her journey from kindergarten classroom teacher to studio artist and educator. Albright describes her mission as "to celebrate the ordinary moments that make life extraordinary, and to offer encouragement through art-making." Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN.

Friday, July 10, 6–8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Electric Bear, food from Gene's Chili Hut and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, July 11, 7–9 a.m., Otter View Park. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB GRAVEL RIDE IN HINESBURG.

Saturday, July 11, 9:15 a.m., Allen Brook Nature Trail. 32 miles on paved and gravel roads heading through Hinesburg. Register and see details: thegmbc.com/events.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

SUNDAY SESSIONS:

NICK BREDICE LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, July 12, 4–7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). An evening of live music with Vermont singer-songwriter Nick Bredice. Known for his raw, indie-folk sound and improvisational style, Nick brings a mix of

heartfelt originals and familiar influences — from Bob Dylan and John Prine to John Butler and Mihali Savoulidis. Free.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN BEGINS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, July 12, 7–10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by local musicians. Perfect for family picnics and relaxed viewing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

MONDAY, JULY 13

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Monday, July 13, noon–10 p.m., Town green. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES.

Monday, July 13, 7–8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, July 14, noon–10 p.m., Town green. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, July 15, noon–10 p.m., Town green. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

SLOW ROLLERS SOCIAL BIKE RIDES IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m., Little Seed Coffee Roasters. Casually paced social bike ride. Explore your neighborhoods, meet new people. For more info visit @SlowRollersMiddlebury.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, July 15, 6–8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

See *CALENDAR* on page 8

Top Pick

Reading Frederick Douglass

Sunday, July 5, 1-3 p.m.

One-hundred-seventy-four years ago, Frederick Douglass delivered his famous speech, "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?" in Rochester, N.Y. Today, this striking oration remains one of the greatest indictments of American slavery. Join **Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh** for a community reading celebrating Douglass' momentous speech led by esteemed singer and actor, writer and teacher, François Clemmons.



Proudly sponsored by
National Bank of Middlebury

FIRST FRIDAYS GOES BIG ON JULY 3RD!

Join us in downtown Middlebury, Friday, July 3, 2026

3-8pm

Timed with this month's First Friday event in Middlebury, Town Hall Theater is hosting a special July 3 Block Party celebrating America's 250th anniversary with an afternoon and evening packed with music, community, and summer fun!

Add a festive bike parade, food trucks, Good Times Co. charcuterie and drinks, downtown shops, pop ups, galleries, restaurants, and all the energy of First Fridays, and you have the perfect way to kick off the holiday weekend!

Scan for details and participating businesses

READ MORE Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT DOOR

Call for recycled art for community exhibition in Rutland

The Chaffee Art Center in Rutland, is excited about its upcoming exhibit "Reimagined III, The Art of Recycling" coming up July 17. Back by popular demand, this third annual exhibit will feature recycled materials. The opening reception will be held Friday, July 24, from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit will be on view through Sept. 4.

Artists of all mediums whose work includes recycled materials are invited to be a part of this exhibit. Work submitted can be for inside the mansion or outside

such as sculptures displayed on our historic property.

The community is also invited to have work on display in a special Community Gallery area. All work must include recycled materials.

If interested, send an email with photos to info@chaffeeartcenter.org by Wednesday, July 15. More info available at chaffeeartcenter.org.



Chaffee Art Center hosts annual Garden Party and more

All are invited to the Chaffee Art Center's Fourth Annual Garden Party on Saturday, July 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.) on the grounds of the Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street in Rutland. This event is free with lots of fun activities: Make & Take, demos, speakers, light refreshments, giveaways, garden tours, and games weather permitting. Plus get one free Ann Clark Ltd. Cookie Cutter per family while supplies last. And artisans will be set up selling their handmade items.

Presenters at the Annual Garden Party: Grace Kuehne from Gracie's Bees 11:30 a.m.

Grace will talk about her background and experience with beekeeping. She will discuss the different types of pollinators, and how each one prefers different plants. Plus, the importance of planting native flowers to help with native pollinators.

Gardening with Native Plants 12:30 p.m.

UVM Extension Master Gardener Rita Gylys will share practical thoughts on how our individual yards can create pathways of ecologically important native plants to support pollinators, birds and other small animals. Whether you are interested with taking a first step to add a native plant or two or you are ready to dedicate an entire bed to native plants, our speaker will walk us through fundamentals of sustainable

and eco-conscious practices, including those related to integrated pest management, composting, use of organic matters, native planting selections, and biodiversity, all with the goal of creating and maintaining visually appealing gardens.

The Vermont Bee Lab (time TBD) Will give a presentation supplemented with an observation hive for viewing.

The Vermont Bee Lab provides diagnostic services, free of charge, to any Vermont beekeeper looking to evaluate the health of their colonies. They have drop boxes located throughout the state, and at the Chaffee Art Center.

Can't make the Garden Party?

Try the next week, when Chaffee will host a Victorian Teatime Concert on Friday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Step back in time to the world of the Chaffee Art Center 1890s historic mansion, brought to you through music. Tamarack Brook Music Festival presents a casual afternoon concert of Victorian-era music at the Chaffee Art Center, 16 South Main Street in Rutland.

Partake in light refreshments, explore the beautiful Queen Anne Victorian Mansion, or simply sit and enjoy. Free and open to the public. RSVP appreciated by calling 802-775-0356 or emailing info@chaffeeartcenter.org

CALENDAR

continued from page 7

THURSDAY, JULY 16

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 16, noon-10 p.m., Town green. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

"MISTS AND MEADOWS" ART SONG PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 16, 7:30-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Soprano Gina Maria Falk and pianist Clémentine Dubost present an evening of art songs by French and English women composers. The program explores landscapes of memory, longing and imagination. \$15-\$35.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB PADDLE KINGSLAND BAY IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, July 16. Join us for a paddle (kayaks or canoes) around Kingsland Bay with a possible venture into the main lake depending on the weather and lake conditions. Personal flotation devices are required to be worn during the paddle. Bring bug spray, snacks, water and water shoes or sandals. Contact Steve Ralph at 802-398-5448 or sralph00@gmail.com to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB PICNIC & OUTING IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, July 16. A late morning to mid-afternoon gathering to share food and conversation, with options for hikes, bike rides, paddling (refer to Steve Ralph's July 16 paddle) and swimming. Bring your own food and any equipment needed. Kayak rentals are available from the park. Park fee or senior passport is needed for admission to the park. For details and to register, contact leader Ruth Penfield at 802-458-1116. For information about the park and facilities, go to VT State Parks-Kingsland Bay. More info at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 17, noon-10 p.m., Town green. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM SUMMER PARTY IN VERGENNES. Friday, July 17, 5-8 p.m., 4472 Basin Harbor Road. Explore the museum after hours, enjoy food and drinks and connect with community. Try your hand at a game or craft and celebrate being part of the quilt of our region's past, present and future as the nation commemorates its 250th anniversary. Live music by Unruly Allies. \$50 per person; ages 10 and under free. For more info visit lcmmm.org/event/summer-party-2026.

A

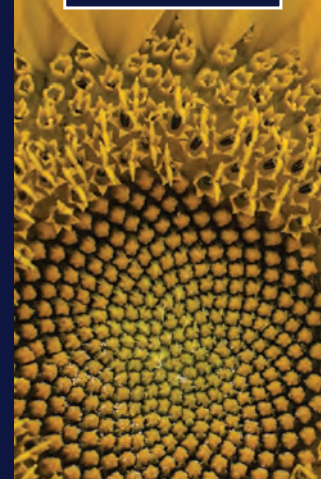
We've got a
**NEW
LOOK!**

CHECK OUT THE
ONLINE CALENDAR!

Submissions due Sundays at 5 p.m.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

SEE
WHAT'S
HAPPENING



PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

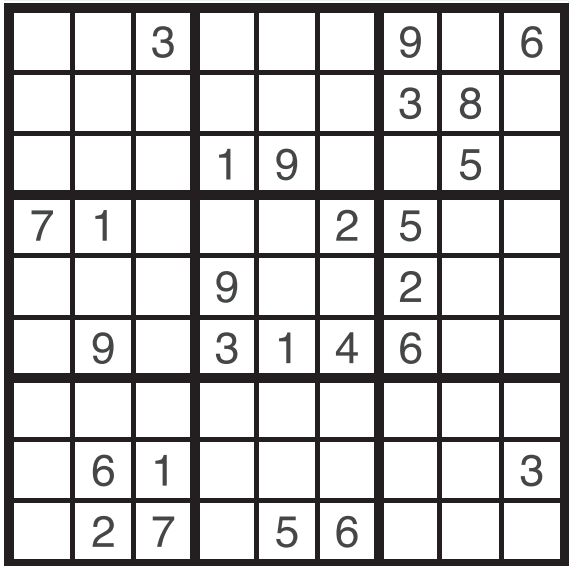
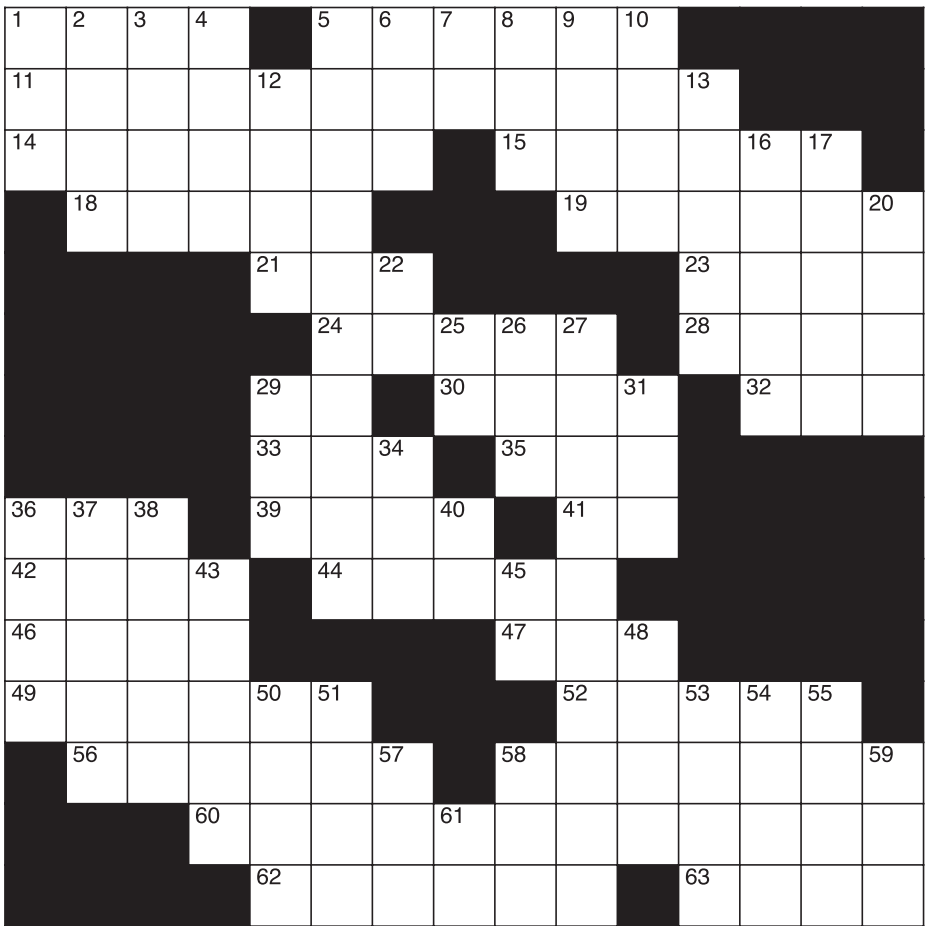
- 1. __ chat
- 5. Statue near the Pyramids
- 11. A process to change the look
- 14. Herb
- 15. Think about excessively
- 18. Bass vocal part
- 19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
- 21. A major division of geological time
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. Cognitive contents
- 28. Lump of yarn
- 29. Atomic #109
- 30. Let go of
- 32. Indian title of respect
- 33. Whereabouts

unknown

- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Drivers' licenses count
- 39. Snakelike fishes
- 41. They precede C
- 42. Popular personal computers
- 44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
- 46. Wings
- 47. Indicates position
- 49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
- 52. Jeweled headdress
- 56. In slow tempo
- 58. __ Falls
- 60. Reassertions
- 62. Eras
- 63. Hyphen

DOWN

- 1. Corporate executive
- 2. A plant used for flavoring food
- 3. Opinion or belief
- 4. Sheep in their second year
- 5. Intensities of sound
- 6. Indicates support for
- 7. Expression of laughter
- 8. OJ trial judge
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. True bugs genus
- 12. Lawyers argue theirs
- 13. Body parts
- 16. Closes tightly
- 17. World Heritage site in Nigeria



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

- 20. Islamic calendar month
- 22. Commercial
- 25. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 26. They __
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. Woman (French)
- 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 34. Brew
- 36. Spiritual leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Older citizen
- 43. Scad fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
- 50. Double S-shaped curve
- 51. Small, thin person
- 53. Older
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. To the __ degree
- 59. Residue
- 61. It cools your home

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

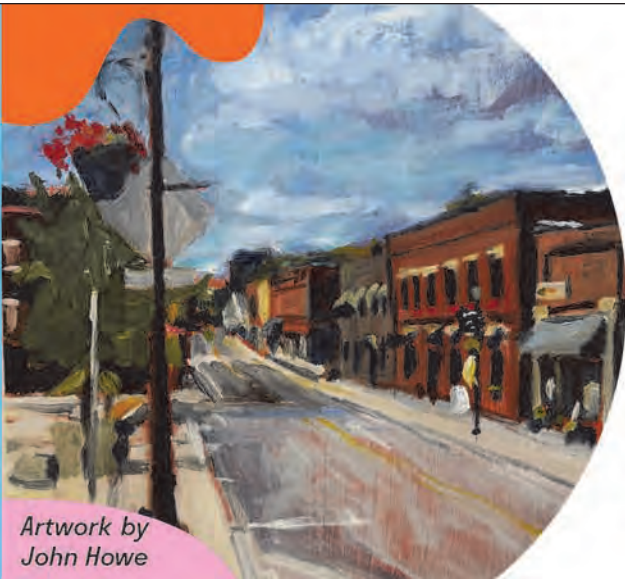
Stay Sharp

Exercise your mind.

With the Addy Indy puzzles every Thursday!



44 Main St,
Middlebury, VT
Open Daily
sparrowartsupply.com



FRESH OFF THE EASEL

Check out our Wet Paint Exhibit & Sale!

See original paintings, drawings, and pottery created during Sparrow Plein Air Festival, created outdoors throughout Middlebury by artists of all ages.

On view through July 5

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH IN THE GARDEN



Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.

As we prepare to celebrate 250 years since our nation's founding, it seems like an opportune time to take a retrospective look into what gardening was like in America in 1776.

Long before the days of grocery stores and industrialized farming, early Americans planted gardens to provide their families and livestock with food and medicine. Garden plots were

By **AMY SIMONE**

compact and efficient. Flowers, herbs and vegetables were interplanted to make the best use of every inch. Succession planting kept a steady supply of fresh vegetables available.

Tidy colonial kitchen gardens, located in a sunny location outside the kitchen door with a well nearby, were planted strategically throughout the growing season. Peas were the first seeds to go in in the spring and vined up on tripods or stick fences. The supports were repurposed for the pole beans later in the season. Both the peas and beans enriched the soil with nitrogen, benefiting future crops.

Root vegetables such as onions, carrots, beets, horseradish, parsnip, skirrets (resembling a skinny parsnip), turnips and radishes were tucked into spaces between the peas and beans. Leeks were grown for both culinary and medicinal purposes, but garlic was only grown for its medicinal benefits, not for cooking.

Salad greens, at the time called sallet herbs, included edible green leaves

such as lettuces, dandelions, mustard, chives, spinach, mint, chard, cabbage, pea shoots and nasturtium. These offered a welcome variety after a winter of dining on root vegetables. Parsley was grown to be eaten, as well as for its stellar medicinal properties.

Flowering plants were essential elements of the kitchen garden, doing dual duty by offering both beautiful flowers as well as ingredients for medicinal teas and tinctures. Everything from roses, anise hyssop, chamomile, comfrey, lavender, lemon balm, lemon verbena, marjoram, bee balm, mints, calendula, feverfew, clove pinks, Sweet William, violets, and primroses supplied the household with the ingredients to remedy many conditions.

Beyond the fenced-in kitchen garden, you would find fruit and nut trees, and berry bushes. Apples and pears were grown for cider. Chestnuts were roasted or made into flour, and walnuts were eaten raw, turned into oil, or used in baking.

See **GARDEN** on page 11

Think of Agway when you think of your pets!

Proud to help you provide quality care for all of your pets, we know your animal companions are a central part of your life!

PET FOOD

Quality Brands Including:

Everything you need for pet support!

TOYS & TREATS

Accessories & Grooming Supplies

Leashes • Harnesses
Collars • Clothing
Food Dishes
Storage Bins
Beds & Baskets

Brushes, shampoos, skin treatment, ointments to keep your pets' coats healthy and problem free!

SELF SERVE

DOG WASH

Kennels, Dog Houses & Carrying Cases
Come in and check the variety we have in stock!

Large & Small Animal Products

Feed • Supplements • Training & Grooming Supplies
Cages, Foods, Treats & Bedding
Bird food, toys and cages
Basics for fish, too!

Wild Bird Supplies

Feeders,
Seed & Suet,
Houses & Accessories.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street, Middlebury
388-4937 • www.MiddleburyAgway.com
Mon - Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sundays 9-4

Join our email list for preferred customer savings!

YOUR YARD, GARDEN AND PET PLACE™ • www.middleburyagway.com

Open 7 days



Interplanting of flowers, herbs and vegetables is a practice conducted in 1776 and today. Here, peas are interplanted with a variety of salad greens.

PHOTO / AMY SIMONE

GARDEN

continued from page 10

Further from the home, no matter the size of the plot of land, were the fields where the spreading crops were grown. Cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, gourds, rye, barley, corn, and additional turnips that were grown as feed for livestock would be found here.

Corn was an important crop, with kernels that were dried and ground into cornmeal, to be used as an

ingredient in hasty pudding and johnny cakes. Hardy rye was grown to use as flour when wheat crops failed. Beer-making and livestock depended on barley production.

Interestingly, potatoes and their nightshade relative, the tomato, were not found in the colonial gardens at this time.

We are a nation with a rich history of gardening, and American gardeners still have the enviable joy of being able to grow their own flowers, herbs, fruits, nuts, berries, and vegetables.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AMERICA!



Pet of the WEEK



Make your pet famous!

Submit your pet by scanning the code or emailing a photo and short description to:

elsie@addisonindependent.com

We post our pets too! Follow us and our furry friends.



Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Molly & Diva

Molly and Diva are a bonded pair of shy but deeply affectionate young cats looking for a patient, understanding home. While they may be timid at first, these girls truly blossom once they feel safe and begin to trust you. Having missed out on early socialization as kittens, they are still learning that people can be kind—and every day, they make wonderful progress. In a new environment, Molly and Diva will need time to adjust and may initially hide or seem fearful. With gentle encouragement and a calm routine, their personalities begin to shine. Diva is especially expressive—she'll happily weave around your feet, "chatting" as if she's telling you all about her day. Molly is just as special, with her adorable extra toes (she's polydactyl!), making her truly one of a kind.



Jackson



Jackson is an 8-year-old German Shepherd with a heart full of loyalty and a love for adventure. This handsome gentleman is looking for a home where he can be your one and only pet, allowing him to devote all of his attention and affection to his favorite people. Don't let his age fool you—Jackson is still an active guy who enjoys a daily three-mile hike and would love a family that shares his enthusiasm for the outdoors. Jackson is always ready for the next adventure. At home, Jackson has a mellow, easygoing personality. He loves spending time with his people and takes great pride in being a loyal companion. He is eager to please, enjoys human attention, and thrives on the bond he builds with his person. One of his favorite activities is playing ball, and he'll happily join you for a game whenever the opportunity arises. Jackson is comfortable around children and genuinely enjoys meeting people. His ideal home is one where he can be included in family activities, enjoy regular exercise, and receive the love and companionship he so willingly gives in return.

Tango



Tango is a loving, affectionate girl who really enjoys attention and being close to her people. She's a big fan of snuggles, belly rubs, and ear scrubs, and is just as happy lounging on the couch as she is getting outside. She does need daily exercise and absolutely loves time to sniff and explore. She especially enjoys running. Tango knows basic commands, though like many foxhounds she has an independent streak and doesn't always feel compelled to follow them. She is overall very friendly with people and likes having company around. Tango does well with kids, particularly older or calmer ones. With other dogs, she can be a bit selective — she enjoys running around with some bigger dogs (most can't keep up!) but does not generally love small dogs. She does fine with cats in the household. She can be a bit anxious in vehicles.

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website.
We may have a pet for you!

802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



\$1,250,000

1233 SATTERLY ROAD
FERRISBURGH

THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Expansive Ferrisburgh equestrian estate

Nestled on 13 Ferrisburgh acres, this equestrian estate blends country living with functional design. The main residence features a mudroom, oversized two-bay garage with dog wash/ car wash setup, and a passive-solar living room with two-story windows. The main floor includes a kitchen with island, dining room, library, and three-quarter bathroom. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a full bathroom, while the walkout basement offers a media room, laundry, storage, and home office. Outdoors, enjoy a patio with stone garden beds, a vaulted studio apartment above the garage, and premier facilities: a 36 x 60-foot horse barn (five box, one open, four standup stalls, tack room, office, hayloft) opening to a riding arena. Additional structures include a 60 x 110-foot clear-span building, heated 16 x 40-foot shop/ RV building, 12 x 24-foot storage shed with firewood lean-to, and a 10 x 15-foot former sugarcane.



COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

This property is listed and marketed by Heather Morse, REALTOR, and managed by Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. For more info, please call Heather directly at 802-861-4766 or visit hickokandboardman.com.



REAL ESTATE

Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.

A 802-388-4944
advertising@addisonindependent.com

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY GROUP

Sean Dye Genevieve Smyth Nancy Larrow Sue Burdick, Admin Cory Foote

BH HS
HOMESERVICES

creating real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®

COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com

CHIPMAN HILL
Property Services
THE EXTRA HAND

We look after our client's home and property as if they were our own. Our services are tailored to your needs.

Please contact us to learn what we do and how we do it.

Tim Hollander 802.989.3857
Geoff Conrad 802.355.7426
ChipmanHillPropertyServices.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

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 1-800-669-9777.

IPJ Real Estate

IPJREALESTATE.COM

34 MAIN STREET | MIDDLEBURY, VT
EMAIL: INFO@IPJREALESTATE.COM
CALL: 802.388.4242

Serving buyers, sellers, and community, since 2006.

NEW LISTING

ORWELL | 193 Stevens Orchard Road | MLS #5096343
2 BD | 1 BA | 1108 SF | 1.66 ACRES | \$449,000

Charming Lake Champlain retreat offers seclusion and natural beauty while being only 25 minutes to the amenities of Middlebury. Warm and inviting inside, endless recreation out, and quiet sunset views.

NEW LISTING

MIDDLEBURY | 6 Harrow Way | MLS #5096959
3 BR | 3 BA | 1710 SF | 0.59 ACRES | \$450,000

Open concept Buttolph Acres home with custom woodwork, maple floors, pellet stove, and flexible lower level with live and work space. Rooftop solar, patio space, back deck, and mature plantings.

NEW LISTING

MIDDLEBURY | 4 Overbrook Drive | MLS #5097100
2 BD | 1 BA | 1008 SF | CONDO | \$379,000

One-level living in this renovated duplex-style condo with amenities close by! Updated wood floors, great natural light, heat pumps, deck, a full basement with woodstove, and a detached one-car garage.

NEW LISTING

LINCOLN | 1149 French Settlement Rd | MLS #5097031
3 BD | 4 BA | 3268 SF | 10.15 ACRES | \$599,000

Nicely updated, light and bright, and plenty of flexible space on over ten acres, with Bristol just 15 minutes down the hill. Solar, Tesla Powerwall, heat pumps & all new appliances in this wooded haven.

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. On view May 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.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"After Dark: Night, Sky, and Shadow." This exhibit was juried by Lance Keimig, and features photography created between dusk and dawn. The exhibition includes night landscapes, urban scenes, long exposures, and experimental work exploring light, darkness, and time. From glowing city streets to quiet rural skies, the images reveal the creative possibilities of nighttime photography. Featuring 35 works in the gallery and 40 in the online gallery, the show highlights a wide range of approaches and techniques. On view July 3-31. Join an opening reception on Friday evening, July 3, from 4-7 p.m.

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.

"Remembering the American Revolution." This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory, attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacificism, rebellion or resistance. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

MORE EXHIBITS Online!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

A

Live well with Coldwell.



COLDWELL BANKER
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

In Vermont, home is more than just an address—it's how you live every day. Our market knowledge & local expertise helps you think bigger, choose smarter, and feel confident at every step. **Contact us today to experience for yourself.**



Addison | \$1,199,000

Michael Johnston

(802) 846-9518



Ferrisburgh | \$525,000

Heather Morse

(802) 861-4766



Vergennes | \$799,000

Heather Morse

(802) 861-4766

268 Main St, Vergennes | HickokandBoardman.com | 802-863-1500

Brandon - Near Lakes





Nicely located near Dunmore, Fern Lake, hiking trails & Neshobe Golf Course. Well-cared-for home of 1484 sqft. Main level: spacious LR, galley kit., DR with Deck access, 3 BRs & full Bath w/laundry hook up available. Lower level: BR, laundry area, workshop space & storage. Attached shed - lots of storage space. 0.55 A w/ town water & septic. **\$335,000**

Our Location

14 Mt. Pleasant Dr. Brandon

Office phone: 802-247-6633

Same People - Same Expertise

802-236-9075 (C); 802-236-9076 (T)

WhittakerRealEstate.com

Brandon, VT - 802-247-6633

(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)

Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com



CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

DO YOU LOVE ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS?

Be sure to check out the
Addison County Maple
Sugarmakers **Coloring Contest**
on the back of A-section!



You could win some sweet prizes!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Sappy and Sappy Bucket® are trademarks of
Addison County Promotions / Little Pressroom.

READ THE ADDY INDY!
SUBSCRIBE

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

PRINT & DIGITAL FROM \$9 / MONTH

theREAL ESTATE COMPANY
of VERMONT

204 West River Rd, Lincoln

This 3-bed, 2-bath Lincoln village home has undergone a full renovation, enhancing the homes historic charm through the beautiful integration of modern design elements including a stunning new kitchen and baths! Close to endless outdoor recreation including scenic hiking, biking & river swimming holes.

MLS No. 5084107 | \$ 424,000

for more information, contact:



Tammy Petersen
Agent/Realtor®



Jill Fraga
Broker/Owner/Realtor®

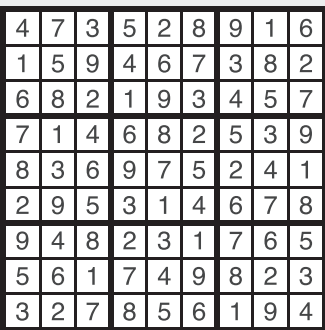


www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com
3 MAIN STREET, BRISTOL, VERMONT 05443
802.453.6161

PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS

July 2, 2026



Happy July 4th!

At Champlain Valley Properties, we are committed to delivering exceptional real estate service built on trust, hard work, and deep local expertise. With the majority of our team proudly raised in Addison County, we offer an authentic understanding of the communities we serve and the current real estate market dynamics. Our roots here run deep, and so does our dedication to helping clients make confident, informed decisions.

Our highly trained agents stay current with market shifts, industry best practices, and community developments because we know that knowledgeable guidance leads to better outcomes. Whether you're buying, selling, or investing, you can rely on us for professionalism, integrity, and a results-driven approach. We are here to guide you with care, clarity, and a true sense of Vermont hospitality. We'd love the opportunity to earn your business.

*Pictured in the front row: John Snyder-White, January Stearns.
Back row: Heather Foster-Provencher, Liz Marino, Mandy Hodson,
Amy Young and Lisa Sargent.*



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net





Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with **TOWN HALL THEATER**



AMERICA 250 BLOCK PARTY

Friday July 3rd 3-8pm
Maloney Outdoor Plaza



- Music from 5 Above, VT's 40th Army Band and Redd and the Paper Flowers Folk-Bluegrass band
- Student poetry readings and community art-making on the theme "What Does Freedom Mean to Me"

- Bike (or stroller/wagon/scooter!) decorating contest and parade
- Food trucks, charcuterie, cash bar, and more!

FREE fun for the whole family!



THT's Young Company Presents **1776 The Musical**

Fri July 24 7pm
Sat July 25 & Sun July 26 2pm
Rothrock Main Stage
Tickets: \$10-\$25

Season Sponsor:



Scan here for more info! →
72-76 Merchant's Row Middlebury, VT
townhalltheater.org | Box Office: 802.382.9222

