



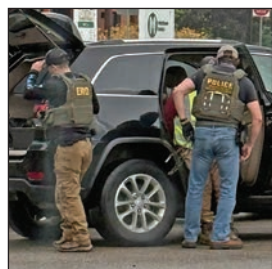
Dreamscapes

Two artists use different mediums to portray the world with a hint of nostalgia. See Arts + Leisure.



Fast times

Bristol's annual Outhouse Races drew some good times and great smiles. See who won on Page 1B.



Enforcers

ICE agents came to Middlebury & left with three people thought to be immigrants. See Page 2A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 80 No. 28

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, July 9, 2026 ♦ 42 Pages

\$2.00

Sessions tops field in campaign funds

Senate hopeful off to a \$53K start

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Leicester Democrat Hannah Sessions has come out of the 2026 campaign fundraising starting blocks in blistering fashion, reporting a whopping \$53,211 in contributions harvested thus far in her first bid for the state Senate, according to documents recently filed with the Vermont Secretary of State's elections division.

Major party candidates seeking

federal, state and county offices on Nov. 3 were supposed to file their first batch of campaign finance disclosure forms with the state if they had spent or raised more than \$500 since their last election for that office.

Sessions is involved in a five-way race for two seats in the state Senate representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore.

(See Campaign funds, Page 11A)

Middlebury CHIPs in for housing starts

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury is dipping its toe into a new state program designed to help Vermont communities unlock housing opportunities by investing in critical public infrastructure.

It's called the Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP), a statewide tax increment financing tool created in 2025 and

launched this past January. The Middlebury selectboard will soon review two already-approved local housing projects seeking CHIP consideration: Phase two of the new Stonecrop Meadows neighborhood that will host more than 200 units off Seminary Street Extension; and the so-called Middle Housing, a four-story building slated to host

(See Middlebury, Page 13A)

Eligibility rules bar some students from Mt. Abe trip

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District will update its process for confirming students' eligibility for trips with the Mt. Abe Travel Club after a recent incident in which three students were informed they were unable to participate in a trip abroad just days before takeoff.

The Mt. Abe Travel Club trip to Italy and France took place from

June 16-25. According to MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen, Mount Abraham Union High School administration learned on June 11 that some students planning to take part in the trip were ineligible to do so. They were informed then that they couldn't take the trip.

The situation has been upsetting for impacted families and students (See Frustration, Page 11A)



By the way

On Tuesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. local historian Barry "Duke" Whitney will deliver a presentation on "East Middlebury Soldiers in the Civil War," which will also touch on the community's only combat Spanish American war veteran, John Kirk Piper. With the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861 and President Lincoln's call for troops, East Middlebury's own answered the call and fought in many battles, including Antietam, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg. Whitney's talk will touch on East Middlebury Civil War veterans bearing such last names as Piper, Billings, Perkins, Grant, Smith, Lee, Abbott, Cobb, Peck, Bidwell, Needham and many more. Whitney will use some period items to punctuate

(See By the way, Page 15A)

Index

Obituaries.....6A-7A
Classifieds.....9B-10B
Service Directory.....7B-8B
Entertainment.....Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....5B
Arts Calendar.....Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-3B



7 18122 07300 9



Happy 250!

The annual Independence Day parade in Bristol had a special meaning this year — America's semiquincentennial — and people came out in droves to enjoy the spectacle. See more parade photos on Page 9A.

Independent photos/Steve James



College initiatives seeking to harness AI

Mini-grants put chatbots in classroom

3rd in a series
By JING WILLIAMS

MIDDLEBURY — In the Middlebury College class "Sociology of Artificial Intelligence" this spring, Assistant Professor Isabelle Langrock challenged students to design their own AI chatbots. One group wanted to counter ChatGPT's constantly enthusiastic disposition, so they trained their bot using the "Mean Girls" movie script.

As a result, the bot they created was, basically, a bully.

"I think it was a really fun assignment, and students got to be

very creative with it," Langrock said.

The rise of generative artificial intelligence in higher education offers an opportunity for Middlebury College to reflect on its core liberal arts values and how to maintain them in the future, said Amy Collier, Associate Provost for Digital Learning.

Since the first ChatGPT model was released to the public in 2022, higher education institutions have pursued different paths to address AI. At Middlebury, the response has been multi-pronged. The Digital Learning and Inquiry Committee,

known as DLINQ, and college have provided avenues for faculty research, one-on-one conversations about AI, various workshops, open community meetings, and classes on the topic.

While DLINQ has been spearheading many initiatives, an AI working group composed of Middlebury faculty, staff and one student was also established to inform the college's new Strategic Plan, said Collier, who is part of both committees. Twelve working groups established in 2025 for the new plan conducted

"I really worry about AI output being able to deliver on any of those things in a reliable way."

— Isabelle Langrock

research, interviews and developed priorities, said AJ Vasiliou, who was co-chair of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The groups made recommendations for the plan, which was unanimously approved by the board in May.

The AI group encountered a broad range of concerns, questions and ideas

about AI in community outreach, Collier said, and she's been excited to see faculty start exploring the technology in many ways, in line (See Harnessing AI, Page 15A)

Historic cabin at Snowbowl is saved

By ELOISE CHRISTY

HANCOCK — On Monday the historic Hubbard Cabin at the Middlebury College Snowbowl made a short trip with a long-term purpose. The old log structure was moved to a new home between the Starr Lodge and the snowmaking pond, where it will undergo restoration before beginning a new chapter as home base for the Middlebury College alpine ski team.

For Snowbowl General Manager Kim Essensa, relocating the cabin was essential to the survival of the old lodge and the preservation of its history.



THE NEARLY 90-YEAR-OLD Hubbard Cabin rolls in front of Starr Lodge at the Middlebury Snowbowl in Hancock on Monday during the move to its new home. The old building will be restored for its historic value and to serve as a clubhouse for the Middlebury College alpine ski teams.

"When they put it there, it was a place that wasn't conducive for its survival," Essensa said. "It deteriorated pretty fast. The roof was bowing. We had some huge

gaping holes, gaps in the logs, and we had quite a few animals living in it."

For the Snowbowl community, watching the cabin deteriorate was

difficult to stomach for people so connected to the place. Rather than let it rot, officials decided it should be preserved as a space for (See Cabin, Page 16A)

Dike aims for Add-4 House seat

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Three years ago, Lynn Dike's world came crashing down.

Lloyd, her husband of 31 years, had died suddenly only two days after Christmas Day, 2023.

She took emotional refuge among family in Florida, joined a grief support group, and hunkered down — hoping to heal and learn to walk life's path again in a different way.

"It changed my whole perspective on everything," she recalled during a Monday interview.

With the help of friends, relatives and what she described as a deep faith in God, Dike returned to her Bristol home in 2024 and gradually immersed herself in a familiar routine that included politics. The Bristol Republican (See Dike, Page 13A)



BRANDON SWISS ROLL competition emcee Jim Leary replaces one of the 10U competitor's Swiss Rolls with a new pack.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Locals sweep Swiss Roll eating contest

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRANDON — A day before Joey Chestnut crushed his competition for the 11th time in the possibly more famous hot dog-eating challenge on Coney Island, locals showed off their own chops in a battle held behind the Brandon

Inn.

But instead of franks, competitors in Brandon scarfed down Little Debbie Swiss Rolls as fast as they could in a show of their patriotism.

The event — one of many Independence Day celebrations to unfold in Brandon a day before the

Fourth — ended with three victors from the host town.

Each Brandon resident dominated their respective age groups — 10-and-under, 11-16 and 17-and-up. The youngest competitors had to consume two Swiss rolls, and the oldest were tasked with devouring an entire box, or 12, of the chocolatey treats in the 85-degree conditions. The winner is the one who completes the task fastest.

“When the Swiss roll goes into your mouth, we don’t want to see it again,” emcee Jim Leary said during his remarks at the start of the race.

“Everybody else, get ready for the thrill of a lifetime.”

The first winner of the day was Jayce Laraway-Jones in the 10U age group. He beat out four others for first place.

In the next round, Austin Lamica came out on top in the 11-16 age group, which featured seven competitors total.

Finally came the main event, which attracted 10 people.

After roughly a minute and 35 seconds of eating, the event wrapped up in usual-fashion — with AJ Mendiola being crowned champion. Like Chestnut, he now has an 11-year title streak to defend at the 251st celebration of the United States.



AJ MENDIOLA, LEFT, the winner of the Brandon Swiss Roll competition, and a fellow competitor, scarf down the treats.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Vergennes residents submit budget petition

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — In the days after the Vergennes City Council received a 198-signature petition requesting a change to the budget process to include voter approval, a legal memo from the city attorney states the filing itself does not automatically kickstart the process. The document also provides details on how residents or city councilors can initiate it.

Former city councilor and mayor Sue Clark, who submitted the petition last week and said she was never under the impression the document would automatically start the amendment process, also said she’s not discouraged and plans to keep advocating for voters to get a direct say in the budget.

“Right at this very moment in time, I’m not exactly sure,” Clark said when asked what her next steps would be. “I have been contacted by several citizens asking, you know, ‘what is our next step,’ and I’m contemplating that.”

City councilors are scheduled to discuss the petition during their next meeting on Tuesday, July 14, at which time City Attorney Ed Adrian will also be available to them to answer questions.

The matter, which would require a change to the city charter, first came to the council’s attention during its June 30 meeting. At that time Clark, who was a regular attendee this spring during the city’s budget talks, brought the petition forward just before city councilors began a final discussion leading to a 6-1 vote in favor of an \$3,738,262.92 FY27 budget, a 12% increase from FY26.

“People want to know where their money is being spent and have some control over it, so that was the reason for generating that original petition,” Clark said. “The next reason was, is that having the budget go to the taxpayer for final approval, I think, is huge, because then the taxpayer owns that, they feel that they’ve had input into it.”

For her, the quantity of signatures on the petition speaks for itself.

“I think that the most important part of that petition, there were almost 200 voters in the city of Vergennes who are saying, ‘Hey, what are we doing, and we want a voice in this,’” Clark said.

“I think if another petition comes around, I think there’ll be more registered voters who sign it, because a 12% increase is a 12% increase.”

The petition specifically asks the seven-member body to “initiate the process required to amend the City Charter to provide for voter approval of the city’s annual budget of all departments and resultant tax rate,” “work with the appropriate state and local officials to place the proposed charter amendment before the voters as soon as practicable,” and “conduct public informational meetings so residents can fully understand the proposed change and its potential benefits and challenges.”

Senior Alderman Dickie Austin didn’t respond to an email request for comment sent Tuesday night.

The July 1, 13-page memo from Adrian to City Manager Ron Redmond starts by establishing why the petition doesn’t meet the benchmark to kickstart a charter change.

“The dispositive issue is not the apparent number of signatures. The dispositive issue is the absence of proposed charter language,” it states. “The petition asks the council to initiate the charter-amendment process, but it does not itself propose any operative text to be adopted into the Vergennes Charter.”

The process would have automatically begun had the document been accompanied by “charter language to be adopted,

repealed, or amended,” and had it noted the portions of the charter petitioners wished to change, according to the memo.

“The June 20, 2026 filing is a valid request for council action and a useful expression of public interest,” the document states.

It also describes the ways the charter could be changed:

“There are now two legally available charter-amendment paths. The petitioners may file a new and complete petitioned charter proposal. Alternatively, the council may sponsor its own charter proposal. The procedures overlap after an official charter proposal exists, but the identity of the sponsor matters because a council-sponsored proposal may be revised after public comment until the statutory 2-day cutoff, while a petitioned proposal may not be revised by the council except for technical corrections.”

Clark thinks the city council should take amending the charter into its hands and that such a move “would be, I think, a really great first step.”

Her petition comes on the heels of what became a tense budget season, marked by hours scouring for areas to trim, disagreements over how to handle the city’s 2025 and 2026 deficits and overall frustration. The city was forced to form its first budget since American Rescue Plan Act money had lapsed. Those funds used to cover the Little City’s paving, which was ultimately axed from the most recent budget.

“That’s my whole thing behind this is we, we want to live large, but we can’t afford that,” Clark said. “We have to stay within our means, and you know, I think that the city manager’s comment that we’re running lean, I think we can run leaner.”



MASKED, ARMED MEN with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took into custody an Addison County man early Tuesday morning in the parking lot of MiddTown Dental in Middlebury.

ICE operatives take three locals into custody

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Three Addison County residents were taken into custody by federal immigration officials on Tuesday, July 7, during an early morning operation in the parking lot of MiddTown Dental at 105 Court St. in Middlebury.

Details about the detainees’ identity, background and immigration status remained unknown as the *Independent* went

to press on Wednesday.

Rachel Rivard, an owner of MiddTown Dental, said one of her assistants reported early Tuesday morning that “something crazy is happening in our parking lot. She said, ‘I think someone is getting arrested.’”

The assistant texted Rivard some photos that showed multiple masked, armed men converge on a vehicle parked in the MiddTown Dental lot. A photo provided to the

Independent also showed two of the agents wearing protective vests, one bearing the word “Police,” the other bearing the acronym “ERO,” which stands for “Enforcement Removal Operations” and is an agency within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ERO, according to ICE’s website, “manages all aspects of the immigration enforcement process, including the identification, arrest, (See ICE, Page 3A)

PEASANT MARKET

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY

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 STSTEPHENSMTD.ORG

You don't have to leave Vermont to get away

Staycation reason #243
Far from stress. Still close to home.

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins

2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

SELL IT!

classifieds@addisonindependent.com

\$3.00 OFF

ANY CO-OP BASICS PRODUCT

(excludes alcohol)
(minimum purchase \$3.00)
(Expires Wednesday, 7/15/26)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276
middlebury.coop

Saturday, August 22 • 10 AM–3 PM • Middlebury Town Green

Seeking Vendors, Artists, & Helpers!

Be an event contributor at the Co-op's 50th!

We're looking for local vendors, makers, tie-dye artists, face painters, a photographer, and community members who can lead or support hands-on, family-friendly activities at our anniversary celebration.
Paid opportunities available for select roles.

Scan the QR code to visit our event page, where you'll find the **vendor form** for booth or food truck space, and the **event contributor form** for other opportunities.

CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

FOOTPRINT FARM
Starksboro, VT

July 8 - July 14

New Haven farm to offer free produce, opportunities for community

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — Those visiting Jump Rope Farm’s roadside farmstand will find a lot of the typical sights for this time of year: fresh herbs, salad greens and strawberries, to name a few. But there’s something distinct about the produce stocked in the farmstand off New Haven’s East Street — it’s free.

Jump Rope Farm grows food free of charge for community members and invites them to take part in farm operations through work days, educational experiences and other opportunities.

“Part of the vision we’re putting forth is to bring people in, invite people in and build something that can be a collective effort,” said Ava Murphey, who runs Jump Rope with her wife and farming partner, Genevieve Spellman.

This year will mark Jump Rope’s first full growing season, as Murphey and Spellman moved to the New Haven property last year. It’s an idea they’ve been working toward for a while, and they bring a variety of farming experience to the effort.

Growing up in Maryland, Murphey said she felt a lack of connection to where her food came from. Seeking that connection led her to a farm in northern Michigan and eventually to the University of Vermont’s Farmer Training Program, a six-month offering for those interested in farming and food system advocacy.

The program is where Murphey met Spellman, who’d been farming

on and off throughout her life.

“Since then we’ve worked on different farms, and we had a small, micro goat dairy in Huntington, where we used to live and kind of were scheming this vision that we had for Jump Rope and looking for a place to make that happen,” Murphey said.

That place ended up being 2505 East St., an around 20-acre property that decades ago housed a dairy operation. Today, Jump Rope Farm grows produce and flowers on about an acre of land. Current crops include beets, carrots, peas, fennel, tomatoes and a variety of herbs.

Murphey said the farm generally uses low- to minimal-till practices, with most everything done by hand and with hand-powered tools. While not certified organic, Jump Rope follows organic practices and uses a largely observation-based approach to pest and disease management.

To support its operations, Murphey noted that Jump Rope puts together a budget request for the year outlining the real cost of running the farm. This year’s request estimates a total of \$23,110 in expenses, which includes repairs and maintenance, utilities and infrastructure costs.

Community members can then support the farm budget through financial contributions.

“Maybe akin to public radio or the public library, obviously there’s different funding with each of those entities, but kind of this idea that could the farm and farmworkers be supported by the community financially, and that could include this community and beyond,” Murphey explained.

Murphey highlighted other ways interested community members can support farm operations, such as by spreading the word, bringing food to a neighbor or coming by the farm to form a connection and lend a hand.

“We see it all as a connected web of what could potentially be woven to help support us all,” she said.

The farm has already begun setting up times for community members to come by and help out. Eventually, Murphey said, the goal is to offer work days for residents to volunteer and be a part of the farm on a regular basis.

Spellman and Murphey also hope to welcome people to the farm for educational opportunities. They’re interested in offering immersive experiences like those they gained through the UVM Farmer Training Program.

“There’s an interest in the potential of what an apprenticeship program could look like,” Murphey said. “I feel strongly that the immersive day-to-day experience can be really transformational when

learning.”

She added that the pair is interested in exploring potential partnerships when it comes to creating educational experiences. Getting to know the surrounding community and its needs will be a key focus for Jump Rope this year.

“A big part of what we’re putting out now is very much a ‘see how it’s received’ and take stock of what’s already happening here in the community, what do folks need and want?” Murphey said. “There’s a lot of mindfulness around entering into a new community and striking a balance between what we’re putting out there and offering and seeking to listen to what the context is.”

This year, produce grown at Jump Rope will be available through the Addison County Relocalization Network’s Farmacy program and at the farmstand, which is open from around 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily.

The vision for Jump Rope has been inspired by a variety of experiences in Spellman and Murphey’s lives, such as the collaborative work of growing food through community farming and the foundational belief that the land’s bounty is a gift we all enjoy.

“It feels like our way of expressing how we can care for one another in mutual networks of support,” Murphey said. “There’s a lot of ways to do that, and food is kind of our love language, or it’s the thing that we’ve built skills and passion around (over) these years.”

When the *Independent* spoke with Murphey last week, she noted Jump Rope’s first full growing



AVA MURPHEY, LEFT, and Genevieve Spellman moved to New Haven last year and have started Jump Rope Farm, through which they plan to offer free produce for the community and a place to work with, learn alongside and care for one another.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

season was going well after a cold start. Along with seeing how Jump Rope’s work with the community takes shape, the months ahead will also be filled with getting to know the patch of New Haven land that work unfolds on.

“We’re still kind of learning this place and learning the soil, and we’re growing on a bit more land this year,” Murphey said. “So, just learning from this place over time, and so far, it’s been really great.”

Bristol library launches programming for young readers

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — By all measures, last year’s summer reading challenge at the Lawrence Memorial Library was a success.

The Bristol library saw a record-number of participants sign up for the challenge, creating personalized literacy goals that ranged from writing their own books to learning a new language.

“We realized that, for many families, this was exciting but that more support would be welcomed, especially for kids who are still learning to read independently,”

LML Children’s Librarian Jen Lazar recalled.

This year, the library is bringing back the popular summer reading challenge with new additions aimed at supporting young readers and their families. LML has secured a grant that will support free reading coaching for children of all ages, early literacy programming and new materials for the library’s collection, among other offerings.

The new programming kicked off on Monday and will run throughout the month.

“On a personal note, this is exactly

the kind of program that I wish I had access to for my own kiddo,” Lazar said. “It just feels right to offer a mix of challenge and celebration with support and resources. Our little library community is so strong and I know more literacy support for all ages will just make it stronger.”

Lazar began exploring how to offer that kind of support after last year’s summer reading program.

“The truth is, for most of us, learning to read (is) seriously hard work. Literacy is not yet an innate power of the human mind, so we need teachers, books, and materials that are captivating, fun, educational AND designed with the science of reading in mind,” she said. “I really went in deep on what that could look like for LML, attending trainings on early literacy, neuroscience, dyslexia, neurodivergence... anything that I thought might help me understand how to better support young readers.”

That’s how Lazar stumbled upon Dollar General Literacy Foundation grants that help libraries provide free coaching and reading support in partnership with literacy specialists. The LML team jumped on the idea and was awarded a \$3,000 Summer Literacy Grant through the foundation.

The funding has enabled the library to partner with The Stern Center for Language and Learning and the Vermont Literacy Network, which is based in Bristol.

SUPPORTING YOUNG READERS

This summer, the library will host a weekly early literacy storytime for children aged 0-5 and their caregivers on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Elizabeth Keenan, a structured literacy coach with The Stern Center, will join the weekly storytime for an early literacy workshop on July 30 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the library’s pop-up location (74 Munsill Ave., Suite 100). The event will offer families a chance to learn about play-based ways to support young readers. Community members can find more details and register for the event at <https://www.lawrencelibraryvt.org/kids-events>.

Community members can also stop by the library for drop-in literacy support with Kayden Hamlin, executive director at the Vermont Literacy Network. That support will be available on Wednesdays from 4-5 p.m. at the pop-up site. During that time, Hamlin and Lazar will be on hand to help youth and caregivers answer questions, find reading materials and access resources.

The Vermont Literacy Network will also provide small-group literacy lessons, family coaching sessions and individual support at LML this month.

“This is a beta version of the Structured Literacy Lessons (See Library Page 8A)



LOCAL YOUTH TAKE part in a read-in event at the Lawrence Memorial Library last summer. The library is bringing back its popular summer reading program this year with new additions to support young readers and their families.

Photo courtesy of Jen Lazar

it takes more than

hard work

to grow food in Vermont

www.foodforhope.farm

MEET THE
LAKE MONSTERS
AND **CHAMP!**

Join us for a family-friendly event to benefit
UVM Children’s Hospital
At Notte Neapolitan Pizza Bar
(below Two Brothers Tavern)

Saturday, July 11th
12:00-2:00pm

FREE hot dog and hamburger buffet along with the chance to meet players from the 2026 Lake Monsters team AND Champ!

Proceeds from the bar and other food benefit
UVM Children’s Hospital,
with support from **Two Brothers Tavern and Fiddlehead.**

Two Brothers Tavern | 86 Main St., Middlebury VT
802-388-0002 | twobrotherstavern.com

ICE

(Continued from Page 2A)
detention and removal of aliens who are subject to removal or are unlawfully present in the U.S.”

Middlebury police received no advance warning of Tuesday’s ICE operation, according to Middlebury PD Sgt. Bill Austin.

Witnesses of Tuesday morning’s ERO Middlebury operation said they saw agents cuffing and taking a man away from the scene.

Rachel Elliott, an organizer for the Burlington organization Migrant Justice, informed the Independent at noon on Wednesday that in fact three individuals were detained in the ERO action in Middlebury. She said none appeared to be children, but that Migrant Justice was unable to provide more details on the detainees.

The vehicle used by the detainees was still parked in the MiddTown Dental lot as of late Tuesday

afternoon.

Migrant Justice officials were checking on the detainees’ status as the Independent went to press.

The organization’s stated mission is to “build the voice, capacity, and power of the immigrant farmworker community to organize for economic justice and human rights,” according to its website.

Will Lambek, coordinator for Migrant Justice, said the organization’s role “is often to provide information to detainees and their family members about the process. We’re often the first responders for immigration detentions in the state and we partner with attorneys to try to win (detainees’) freedom.”

Lambek said more than 150 people living and working in Vermont have been detained by ICE or U.S. Border Patrol during the past two years.

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!

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorial

After the country’s 250th, thoughts on patriotism, unity

A good friend of mine sent me this zinger from American author and humorist Mark Twain: “Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.”

That’s an apt appraisal of today’s state of the nation. Americans in every state were happy to celebrate the country; not so much Mr. Trump. Locally, residents celebrated in grand style at area parades. Bristol’s famed outhouse race draws attention statewide while Warren’s parade serves those who use the freedom of speech as a fun and often raucous form of protest.

Nationally, Trump’s staged a national State Fair that flopped. It was a poor turnout made worse by Fox News and other pro-Trump stations and commentators lying about the turnout to make it appear not as bad as it was. It was typical of the pro-Trump press — petty, pandering, pathetic.

It was also a non-issue. Americans, like the rest of the world, have gotten used to dismissing Trump and much of his team. Nothing he says can be trusted; everything he utters feeds his insatiable narcissism; and much of what he says of consequence might be reversed the next day. And that’s not mentioning his mental health, which is increasingly detached from reality.

Nevertheless, the nation’s 250th celebration this July 4th provided the occasion for deep thoughts on America’s democratic experiment from many others, including *New York Times* publisher A.G. Sulzberger, political columnist Thomas Friedman and former President Barack Obama.

Sulzberger wrote on [press freedom](#) recalling the views of the press from a few of the nation’s founding fathers:

“Washington regarded newspapers as ‘vehicles of knowledge more happily calculated than any other to preserve the liberty, stimulate the industry, and meliorate the morals of an enlightened and free people.’ James Madison believed that the press, by keeping people informed about their government, represented ‘one of the great bulwarks of liberty.’ Thomas Jefferson famously declared he would prefer to have ‘newspapers without a government’ than ‘government without newspapers,’” Sulzberger wrote. “To put those sentiments in more modern terms: A healthy democracy depends on an informed public, which, in turn, depends on the flow of information and accountability provided by independent reporters. This is true not just at the national level, but in each of the communities — each town, each city, each county, each capital — that comprise these United States. Free people need a free press.

“At the heart of the press’ role is original reporting, the work of unearthing and distributing new facts and information... Today, the press that the founders regarded as crucial to American democracy is at its weakest point in the nation’s history,” Sulzberger continued.

“The decline has been especially severe at the local level. Over the last two decades, more than 80% of local journalism jobs have vanished. Nearly 3,500 newspapers have shuttered, with another closing every three days. Digital news organizations have filled only a tiny part of that void... The loss of local reporting, studies suggest, undermines civic health in all sorts of ways: Social cohesion and public trust are replaced by polarization, cynicism, alienation and disengagement with civic life. Voter turnout drops and public corruption increases... They understood the press to be as vital to the success of the American experiment as the three branches of government — a fourth estate.

“That is why the press was made the only profession explicitly protected in the Constitution, through the First Amendment. That bet paid off brilliantly — the free press has played a key supporting role in making this country the envy of the world. To ensure our nation’s next quarter-millennium is as successful, America needs to do more to shore up the press, particularly the local press, in its moment of vulnerability...”

Columnist Tom Friedman penned his own salute to patriotism in a piece titled “Trump is Fleeing Us,” which was not so much a critique of Trump profiting off the presidency (that’s an undisputable fact) as suggesting Americans were seeing through Trump’s false promises and were hungry for a politics that brings Americans together.

“One thing about President Trump,” Friedman wrote. “He is consistent. He never surprises you on the upside. He has never been remotely interested in being the president of all the people, only his base. He never tries to win by addition, only by division — only by us versus them.”

But Friedman’s bigger point is that Americans are tired of Trump’s greed, lies and extreme partisanship. “I believe the quest for national unity is the most underestimated political force in the country today,” he writes, then quotes this passage from Obama’s recent speech at the opening ceremony of his presidential center in Chicago:

“As algorithms keep feeding us a steady stream of distraction and outrage, as only the loudest, most extreme voices get attention, fanning our prejudices, appealing to our basest, most tribal instincts, it’s tempting to give in to cynicism and even despair, to stop trying,” the former president said.

“We start thinking that appeals to democracy and civic participation are corny and old-fashioned and boring and naïve, that the very idea of working on behalf of the common good is a sucker’s bet, and that in order for us to win, somebody else has got to lose.

“I get it. I am not immune to anger or doubt, but I do know this: When we lose faith in each other, when we stop believing that voting matters, that citizenship matters, that our collective voices matter, that how we treat each other no longer matters, and we give away our power to decide our own futures, we open the door to the most ruthless, or the most careless, or the most fearful among us, who see some groups and some people as more equal than others, and see government as nothing more than a way to divvy up the spoils and punish enemies and keep those who are different in their place.”

But, Obama continued, “I do not believe that is the story of America that prevails in the end...I remain convinced that the overwhelming majority of Americans... aren’t looking for perpetual anger and division. They are looking for fairness and common sense and mutual respect, that deep in our gut we want to find a way to turn toward each other again, not further away.”

That’s the kind of patriotism that puts country above partisanship, that unites rather than divides.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Postmaster, send address change to Addison Independent,
58 Maple St., Middlebury, Vt. • 802-388-4944 • Web: [www.addisonindependent.com](#)
E-Mail: [news@addisonindependent.com](#) • E-Mail Advertising: [advertising@addisonindependent.com](#)
Editor/Publisher: Angelo S. Lynn

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include digital access. 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$120.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.
Online Only – 1 Week \$3.00, 1 Month \$8.00, 1 Year \$75.00
The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertiser will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.
The Addison Independent USPS 005-380



Watch this!
GRAEDYN DEVOID LEAPS off the diving board and into the Middlebury Town Pool this past Friday, July 3, toward the end of last week’s heatwave.

Independent photo/Steve James

Honor the true meaning of July 4

Two hundred and fifty years pass — a long time — and once again we celebrate the beginning of our country. John Adams wrote to his wife his belief that “succeeding generations” would celebrate the day with “parades . . . games . . . bells, (and) bonfires.”

Truly, his prediction came to pass over all these intervening years.

When I think of Independence Day, my earliest memory is holding a sparkler, entranced by the shower of gleaming sparks while terrified of burning my fingers. I was three. Over the years, there have been parades with marching bands, flags streaming fore and aft. Campfires with s’mores. Fireworks flashing and booming across the sky. For me, it was always a favorite holiday, full of excitement, swimming and sunshine. I knew it was our country’s birthday, and because my own birthday came soon after, I felt a special connection: happy birthday, USA and me!

As an adult, it became the day of our church’s ice cream social for which I would make a dozen pies, gallons of fudge sauce. I loved that day of scooping ice cream and seeing hundreds of people, many returning year after year. The day meant houseguests and barbecues, helping dogs cope with fireworks and banners of red, white and blue. It was the day when our first child decided to be born (although he didn’t fully arrive until the fifth).

On this day, people come together differently than

they do for other holidays. It may include family or friends, but also whole communities. We celebrate summer, yes, but we rejoice together because we all live in this country together. We are one nation, one people, and we feel we have something very special to memorialize.

Are you ready to proclaim this day? Proclaim what? Who are we as this vast and varying group of people, and what is most central to us as a nation?

The Declaration of Independence was written and signed in July of 1776, sent to the British Parliament and King, and read across the colonies to the people therein. Have you read it? Most of us know certain lines, such as “all men (and women) are created equal” with the rights of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” but what else is in this document? I recently did so, and found multiple sections that gave me pause, because they are some of the very issues with which many people in our nation now have grievance. Not grievance with the words or the document, but rather with how America has become twisted to the point of breaking this fabric which has held our nation together. In the Declaration, the colonies’ grievances are directed to the British monarch. Ponder some of them here:

“He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. . .”

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

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



Wealth addiction running rampant

I know addiction. Dependent on refined carbohydrates all my life (sugar, flour and wheat), I once weighed 485 pounds. I abstained for two years and for the last 40 years have weighed half that amount. Addiction runs deep in my genetic code, but losing weight was manageable, once I understood what I was addicted to and abstained.

We’re only beginning to understand the genesis and impact of addictions. We’ve known since the opium wars in the 1800s that opiates, stimulants, alcohol, tobacco and certain foods we introduce into our bodies can be addictive. But science has taught us that we can also become addicted to chemicals the body itself produces in response to certain behaviors like sexual activity, gambling, shopping, experiencing extreme risk and the like.

The relatively new science of epigenetics explores the impact of emotional stimulus and trauma on human physiology and its durable impact on successive generations. We’re learning that trauma alters our physiology in negative ways and that those changes can be passed from generation to generation as studies of Holocaust survivors have shown.

In this age of extreme wealth accumulation, a shrinking middle class, and a bloom of poverty, could the obsessive accretion of wealth be yet another form of addiction and, if so, what are the epigenetic,

neurological, physiological and behavioral impacts on those so addicted? We know that mundane financial decisions can trigger the infusion of dopamine, cortisol, serotonin and other neurostimulants, influencing our daily behaviors. We have learned that obsessive shopping is an addictive behavior.

Human psychology retains today its primal drive for survival and security. We still exhibit the “fight or flight” response even in a more secure existence. In the hunter-gatherer epoch, humankind hunted what they needed to survive in real-time. But some 12,000 years ago, as the Neolithic period emerged and agriculture became common, the challenge went from survival to storage and preservation to retain excess crops for winter survival. So then, at what point in history did the psychological need to amass more than one needed for oneself and one’s family take over?

Wealth is not a “zero-sum game.” Wealth is created by productivity. Universal wealth can expand with exploration and discovery. But lack of taxation and regulatory oversight in areas like rent-seeking, labor exploitation and monopoly creation can make wealth seem like a zero-sum game.

Colonial wealth came at the expense of colonized nations. Economist Utsa Patnaik estimates that Britain drained approximately \$45 trillion from India

(See *Schubart*, Page 5A)

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Bill Schubart, a commentator in Hinesburg.

Letters to the Editor

Janoo is best choice for gov.

Amanda Janoo is concerned with what the people of Vermont want. In Amanda’s words, “I’m running for Governor because Vermont deserves better than managed decline. We deserve a hopeful vision for the future and a plan to get there together.”

Amanda was educated in Vermont and went on to study economics at Cambridge and Oxford. She worked on economic issues at the UN and with countries around the world. She returned to Vermont in 2018 and has been working with the Wellbeing Economy Alliance of Vermont as an economic advisor and community organizer.

Amanda has the knowledge and skills that we need in Vermont right now. Phil has served his time and now it’s time for a change. Vote for Amanda in the Democratic primary on August 11.

Veronica Ciambra
Middlebury

Governor ‘No’ has got to go

On May 28, Governor Scott vetoed H.727, the AI data center bill designed to protect Vermont rate payers and the environment and to require data center owners to pay the true costs of these massive electricity hogs. In short, it would have prevented AI companies from socializing the costs and privatizing the profits at Vermonters’ expense.

To justify his veto, Governor Scott said Act 250 provides all the protection Vermonters need from the impact of data centers. It doesn’t. Not even close.

On June 16, 2026, Scott vetoed S.190, one of the healthcare-related bills the Legislature passed this session. The bill would have helped lower costs for two groups paying some of the highest premiums in the state: public school employees and Vermonters buying coverage on the ACA marketplace, whose premiums have skyrocketed after Congress let the subsidies expire.

Governor Scott vetoed that bill too because it did not cover everyone.

Governor Scott has no strategy for the State of Vermont. No plan for growing the economy. No plan for affordable housing. No plan for addressing the healthcare crisis. No plan for solving exploding property taxes.

Governor Scott is the No Plan Man.

“Governor No” has got to go.

On August 11 (or before by mail-in ballot) vote for Amanda Janoo to be the Democratic Party nominee for Governor. Amanda has the plan, the expertise and the experience to lead a well-being economy and fix what is broken in Vermont.

Mike Palmer
Cornwall

Looking for the tipping point

With the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence I am asking, what was the tipping point that turned colonists into rebels and protest into violent revolution?

Historians cite Britain’s 1773 passage of the Tea Act as a major turning point leading to rebellion. The Tea Act reinforced the principle that Britain’s Parliament could tax the colonists even though they had no representatives in Parliament (“taxation without representation”). Others contend the tipping point came in 1774 with the passage of the Coercive Acts (called the “Intolerable Acts” by the colonists) resulting in:

- Closing the port of Boston;
- The Massachusetts Government Act, that replaced elected officials with appointees of King George III and restricted town meetings;
- Allowed British officials accused of crimes committed while enforcing the Massachusetts Government Act

(See *Rubin letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Grades 9-12 High School	End of Year FY2004	End of Year FY2025	22 Year Decline	Change in Students	Total K-12 FY25	
					District	End of Year
Middlebury	800	539	-32.6%	-261	ACSD	1,626
Mt. Abraham	619	391	-36.8%	-228	MAUSD	1,150
Vergennes	434	259	-40.3%	-175	ANWSD	850
Otter Valley	493	336	-31.8%	-157	RNESU	1,268
Rutland	1,230	801	-34.9%	-429	Lincoln SD*	82
Mill River	465	247	-46.9%	-218		

Quality high schools essential for county to thrive

In Act 170, the Vermont legislature has recommended that the existing four public school districts in Addison County be combined into a single district. It also mandated that “the total average daily membership of school districts forming a merger committee shall be a minimum of 2,000 students.” For the merger process to succeed, there needs to be a unifying vision.

Vermont has the lowest birth rate in the nation. For years, many of its high school graduates have been leaving the state for better career opportunities and affordable housing. Young adults’ friends are likely to be drawn from connections they made in regional high schools rather than with classmates in small elementary schools. Thus, the goal is to get more Addison County high school graduates to live and raise families here. Whether it is in a town where they started kindergarten is not that critical.

Each of the three public high schools in Addison County serves as a hub for a school district. However, the number of students attending public high schools has continued to decline. The enrollment data below is from Vermont’s Agency of Education dashboard.

See Chart Above.

In 2042 Addison County would best be served by a single school district with two regional high schools in Bristol and Middlebury. Each high school would have between 480 and 700 students in grades 9-12 and enjoy seamless integration with the Patricia A Hannaford Career Center. Creating a second middle school campus serving grades 6 through 8 at the current Vergennes middle & high school complex will provide more opportunities for middle school students residing in ANWSD and MAUSD communities to build friendships and try different sports, music and extracurricular clubs. An attractive feature of a single district would be offering all students in grades 6-12 their choice of which middle school and which high school to attend.

There are some modest economies of scale when moving from school districts, each with less than 1,650 students, to a single county district with roughly 4,000 K-12 students. If other Addison County towns, including Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Leicester, Orwell and Whiting want to join the new district, their students should be welcomed.

A new definition of local control for Addison County public schools should be: Providing equal educational opportunities for every public-school student in a single district.

Hugh McLaughlin
Middlebury

Rubin letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

to be tried in another colony or in England enabling officials to escape justice; and

- The Quartering Act, raising fears that British troops would be housed in private homes against the will of homeowners.

Colonists became convinced that Britain intended to rule the colonies without their consent, self-government was under direct threat, and peaceful protest was unlikely to succeed in altering these circumstances. On April 19, 1775, the battles at Lexington and Concord transformed political resistance into revolution.

The Tea Act (i.e., “taxation without representation”) resembles Trump’s tariffs. They have been established without Congressional approval (our representatives), causing higher prices that like a tax have been passed on to us and business owners.

The Coercive Acts are analogous to Trump’s threats to freeze or withhold federal funding from states, cities and universities; and/or ordering the Department of Justice to file lawsuits against law firms, media companies and other institutions that resist administration policies (e.g., eliminating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion practices and curtailing free speech).

The Massachusetts Government Act that reduced self-government by shifting power to officials appointed by King George III and helped them avoid prosecution, is like Trump’s control over federal agencies via his political appointments; restricting the independence of career civil servants or replacing them with loyalists; punishing those who oppose Trump with lawsuits, and pardoning individuals convicted of fraud and public corruption.

There are no equivalents to the Quartering Act. But parallels may be drawn to Trump’s deployment of federal law-enforcement to states and cities to enforce immigration policies over the objections of citizens and their locally elected leaders and control civil unrest.

Severe harm, suffering, and deaths have accrued from the actions of Trump and his minions. His inattention to the economic pain being experienced by millions; the wanton and obscene corruption he engages in to fill his own pockets and those of his family; his trillion-dollar debacle in Iran; and his increasingly brazen attempts to alter the outcome of the 2026 midterms detrimentally affects us all!

On June 24th Trump cancelled his signing of the 21st Century Road to Housing Act, a major affordability package for which there was overwhelming bipartisan support. He’s holding Americans hostage who desperately need housing until Congress passes the SAVE Act. A bill to unconstitutionally usurp state control of elections by establishing nationwide requirements for voter registration and voting in federal elections. Trump has begun saying that failure to pass the SAVE Act would constitute a “national emergency.” A phrase I believe we’ll hear him mouth more often as we get closer to the 2026 mid-terms.

State and District Federal courts have tried to hold the line. Often their decisions are ignored, bastardizing the rule of law. Acting Attorney General, Todd Blanche, recently refused US District Judge Leonie Brinkema’s order to provide sworn declarations stating that the 1.7-billion-dollar “weaponization” fund would not proceed “in any manner, or under any name.” Money that could be used to fund a private army of Trump loyalists.

Political and social reality in 2026 America is grim! We are led by a racist, narcissistic, megalomaniac who has little to lose that he values. What will be our tipping point? If and when it is reached, will it be too late as it was in 1934-1936 Nazi Germany when Chancellor, Adolph Hitler eliminated opposition parties, legal actions failed, coercive institutions expanded, fear and surveillance became pervasive, and the police state became fully operational?

Ron Rubin
Middlebury

Schubart

(Continued from Page 4A)

between 1765 and 1938. Feudal systems and slavery operated on the principle that the wealth of the ruling class derived from the labor of the owned and oppressed.

These historical systems demonstrate that wealth can indeed be zero-sum when institutional arrangements permit extraction without value creation — a lesson deeply relevant today when evaluating modern economic structures.

Between 1990 and 2019 the wealth held by the world’s billionaires doubled, and the share of U.S. wealth owned by the top 0.1 percent grew 59.6 percent from 1989 to 2024, according to an Institute for Policy Studies analysis of Federal Reserve data, while the share of U.S. wealth owned by the bottom 50 percent of households has declined 26.1 percent, adjusted for inflation.

This bottom half of households in America — 66 million of them — had \$4.1 trillion at the end of 2024. The 905 billionaires in the United States hold a combined \$7.8 trillion in wealth, according to Forbes data from Sept. 29, 2025, giving them political influence and power that undermines our democracy.

As such, should we treat the obsessive accretion of wealth as a psychological dysfunction or a governmental one?

Cutting-edge neuroscience tells us that the accumulation of wealth may have less to do with income growth, market decisions or frugality than with our neurological responses. Getting rich often triggers a neurological process shaped by how our brains process risk, reward, fear and focus. Financial decisions, like the other behaviors mentioned above, can also trigger a flood of dopamine, cortisol and serotonin, the response to which can be addictive.

History has long taught us that a

financially robust working class is the foundation of a stable society, as we learned after World War II during the Eisenhower era. We also know that wealth is not in and of itself a negative but extremes of poverty and wealth are.

So, we have options. The three co-equal branches of government can lead by working together to regulate and tax appropriately (yes...redistributing wealth!) our economic endeavor with an eye to the common good.

And we can also deepen our understanding of the neuropsychology behind obsessive wealth creation that creates fortunes beyond the needs of a secure and comfortable existence.

What psychological dysfunction drives the obsession to move from a multimillionaire to a billionaire and recently to a trillionaire?

Let’s better understand this psychological dysfunction for the good of our country.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

“For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them . . . from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States . . .”

“He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither . . .”

This moment when Americans defied the ruling authority and declared themselves free is central to our history. We created a nation, not merely independent, but a country established, said Abraham Lincoln, “of the people, by the people, for the people.” We are those people, and it is up to us to hold our country together, letting no one tear it apart. Such an obligation is not easy, but consider how difficult it was for our country’s founders so many years ago. To rise up against the king as they did could mean their death by hanging.

Too many of us are afraid of getting our fingers burned if we take up the flame of resistance. But together we will have the courage we need to hold our elected officials, our judges and the megabillionaires of our corporations to task. How can we be a free and independent people without coming together as a people? Not simply with parades, ice cream socials and sporting events, but by working together to create the more perfect union that our Constitution requires of us as Americans. That means demanding justice for all persons as required in the Bill of Rights.

as required in the Bill of Rights. It means healthcare for all, not just for those who can pay for it. It means affordable housing, universal childcare, a free education and tackling climate change. Compared with what was accomplished two hundred fifty years ago, this is all within our grasp if we demand it.

Then we can watch the glittering sparkles of our more perfect nation with awe, even if we do sustain a burn or two in the process. Then we can have a truly glorious Fourth of July.

Laurie Cox is a retired school counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.

47th Annual
Middlebury

Festival
on-the-
Green

July 12-18
2026

Sunday, July 12

Mojo Birds

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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.

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

festivalonthegreen.org

LivingWater

GIFT SHOP

LLC

Inspirational cards, books, gifts,
custom engraving, and more!

You're Invited

GRAND OPENING &
RIBBON CUTTING
Celebration

Saturday, July 11, 2026

10am-2pm

Ribbon Cutting at 10:30am

- Free Finger Food Provided by Shiretown Market
- Free Gift to First 50 Attendees
- Free LWGS Swag
- Games & Drawing for Prizes

Come Check Out the Store and Join the FUN!

55 Deer View Lane, Unit C | New Haven, VT | 802.610.4985

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Eugene ‘Gene’ Ethier of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Eugene “Gene” Ethier of Cornwall, passed away June 22, 2026. A funeral Mass will be celebrated July 21, at 11 a.m., at St. Bernadette Church in Bridport. A complete obituary will follow in a later edition of the *Independent*. Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Mary Burchard celebration of life

SALISBURY — A gathering in celebration of the life of Mary Burchard, who passed away April 28, 2026, will be held Aug. 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., in the Terrace Dining Room at East View. A complete obituary will appear in a later edition of the Addison Independent. Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇



KATHRYN GIARD MYRICK

Kathryn Giard Myrick celebration of life

BRIDPORT — Please join family and friends on Saturday, July 25, for a celebration of the life of Kathryn Giard Myrick, who passed away on January 21, 2026. A service to honor Kathryn’s life and legacy will be held at the Bridport Town Park Pavillion at noon, after which lunch will be served. In the case of inclement weather, the celebration will be held in the Town Hall across the road. ◇

Kevin Paul Cousino, 59, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Kevin Paul Cousino, 59, passed away Saturday, June 27, 2026, at his home in Weybridge. He was born March 17, 1967, in Middlebury, the son of Ambrose and Wilma Reed Cousino. His hobbies included camping, fishing and spending time with his beloved grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Amy; daughter, Katy; stepchildren Travis and Courtney, his grandchildren, Elizabeth, Savannah and Connor who were his world; his siblings, Bernadette Lourie (Chris) Ambrose (Star), Freddy, Dave, Joe and Cindy; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Visiting hours will be held Saturday, July 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Brown-McClay Funeral Home, PO Box 197, Bristol, VT. ◇



KEVIN PAUL COUSINO

Lily Astrid Wildey, 95, formerly of Cornwall

TRIADELPHIA, W.V. — Lily Astrid (née) Geoghegan Wildey was called home to the Lord on July 4, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. The daughter of John Stephen and Lily (Frank), Lily was born June 29, 1931, the third of four children and raised in Cos Cob and Stamford, Conn. Music brought great joy to Lily, who learned piano at an early age. Later she gave lessons in her home in Lake Katonah, N.Y., as she and her husband, Clifford raised their seven children. In 1973, the family moved to a small dairy farm in Cornwall, Vt., and Lily resumed her nursing career at Porter Hospital until her retirement in 1997. Lily had a beautiful soprano voice and loved singing in the choir of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the direction of Dr. Kevin Parizo. Travel abroad to Austria and to the shrine at Medjugorje were high points for Lily. She and Cliff loved their occasional trips to the Maine coast. In their retirement years, they spent winters in Hot Springs Village, Ark., where she discovered a love and talent for art, and summers in their beloved Vermont with their children and grandchildren. For the last several years, she resided with son, Peter and his wife, Heather, in Triadelphia, W.V. Lily had a lifelong devotion to God, keen intellect, and strong work ethic. She loved to try new things, like ax throwing at age 89, and had



LILY ASTRID WILDEY

a ready laugh. Even in her 90’s she had a love of rhyming poetry of which she wrote plenty! She will be sorely missed. Lily is survived by her sister Lois Doherty; her children, Cynthia and Robin Looney, Charles and MaryJo (Mroczenski), Kathleen and Dutton Smith Jr., Barbara and Kendall Severy, Timothy and Lisa (Bolduc) and Peter and Heather (Stewart); many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Clifford, of 65 years; sister Edith (Bell), brother John Stephen Geoghegan, and her beloved son, Stephen Douglas Wildey. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St Mary’s Church, Middlebury, at a later date. ◇

Terrence K. ‘Tiger’ Ryan, 84, formerly of Middlebury

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Terrence K. “Tiger” Ryan, 84, passed away peacefully at his home in South Burlington, Vt., June 18, 2026. Born on June 25, 1941, in Rutland, Vt., Terry was raised in Springfield by his loving parents, John and Mary Ryan. He graduated from the University of Maine and built a career in agriculture before later becoming a tax preparer in Middlebury, Vt. Terry was a passionate advocate for preserving Vermont’s agricultural heritage and a dedicated supporter of land use efforts that protected the state’s working farms. Throughout his life, Terry was known for his unwavering commitment to helping others and giving back to his community. He dedicated countless hours as a member of the 4-H Board and the Middlebury Rotary Club, and as a volunteer at Addison County Field Days, Green Up Day events, and Merry Mulch. For many years, he volunteered as a referee for local high school football and basketball games, becoming a familiar face to generations of student-athletes who knew him as the official with the whistle, a fair call, and an encouraging smile. Each December, Terry embraced



TERRENCE K. ‘TIGER’ RYAN

one of his favorite traditions. Trading his everyday attire for a red suit, white beard, and a sack full of toys, he became Santa Claus, visiting families, retirement homes, and community events throughout the area. He treasured the opportunity to spread joy and create lasting memories, especially for children and older adults. It was one of the many ways he quietly demonstrated his selflessness, and love for bringing happiness to others. Terry will be remembered as a kind, giving and hardworking man who found joy in honest work and

Gloria Elaine Aldridge Bertrand, 90, of Whiting

WHITING — Gloria Elaine Aldridge Bertrand was born June 8, 1936, to Valma (Hutchins) and Gillard Aldridge. She passed from this life July 3, 2026, at the age of 90 years old. Gloria spent her early years at the family homestead in Sudbury, Vt., where she spent hours as her father’s companion riding the milk route or making deliveries. She spent many happy hours with her family in Hubbardton at her Uncle Gerald and Aunt Vesta Fenton’s home. After graduating from Brandon High School, she attended college at Keuka College in Keuka Park, N.Y., with a degree in social work at a time when few women were encouraged to seek higher education. She lived in Harlem, N.Y., for a time, working for the Girl Scouts of the USA. She and her girlfriends would spend time after work listening to jazz artists at Charlie Parker’s Birdland. Her favorites included Louis Armstrong (“that man could sweat!”) and jazz drummer Gene Krupa. Working for the Girl Scouts gave her the opportunity to meet with a young man and explain the Scouting program, which he wanted to bring back to his country. His name was Fidel Castro. As exciting as New York was, home was calling and Gloria returned to Vermont, where she reconnected with an old family friend. She and Lawrence Bertrand married and purchased his family’s farm in Whiting, where they raised three children. Even as she raised her family and worked on the



GLORIA ELAINE ALDRIDGE BERTRAND

farm, her passion for social work never waned and she opened a hugely successful summer day camp for underprivileged children on the farm. It ran for four seasons with the guidance and love of her friends including Josie Trombley, Juanita Hornbeck, and Annabelle Ketcham among others. Gloria realized that the best work was done when smart people got together to create solutions to problems. Gloria and Lawrence ultimately divorced, and Gloria took a job with the Counseling Service of Addison County, transitioning from her work with children to working with the elderly in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Doing this work she found a hole in care that needed filling. Along with Anne Ginevan, director of Counseling Service of Addison County, Gloria educated herself about senior day programs, wrote grants and obtained funding for a new program that culminated in Project Independence. Originally in the Middlebury Methodist Church basement, transportation was provided by Josie Trombley, meals

caring for the outdoors. Whether he was mowing the lawn, cutting brush, shoveling stone, or tackling the next yard project, he took great pride in staying busy and lending a helping hand whenever it was needed. His strong work ethic, quiet generosity, and willingness to serve others left a lasting impression on all who knew him. Terry is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Sally Ryan; his loving children, Gery Ryan and his partner Marilyn, Terry Ryan and his wife Pauline, John Ryan, and Sara Kruk and her husband, Josh; and his cherished grandchildren, Alexandra, Colby, Isana, Dewi, Dina, Kelcie and Kayla, each of whom brought him immense pride and joy. He is also survived by his sisters, Joan Bishop of New Hampshire and Jean Ryan of Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Mary Ryan, and his brother, Hugh Ryan. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kayla’s Directory, 416 Phillip Lane, Shelburne VT 05482 in honor of Terry’s lifelong commitment to helping others and strengthening the community he so deeply loved. A celebration of life will take place at a later time. ◇

were prepared by Eddie Gee and health checks provided by Sylvia Boyea. What once was a chance to gather for a few hours a day for cards, crafts and friendship grew into what is now Elderly Services Inc. of Middlebury. Gloria’s vision continues to provide services and opportunities to the elderly population of Addison County. But life had more in store for Gloria. Gloria’s mother and aunts were all excellent cooks and bakers, and she learned early that food and conversation create community. So, she embarked on a new career and opened the Yankee Kitchen, (later the Center Street Kitchen) in Brandon, Vt. The large farmhouse table was brought into the restaurant (built by Harmon Thurston, before he founded New England Woodcraft), and the locals would sit and discuss local and world events over coffee and cigarettes. She and her daughter Colleen ran the restaurant with great efficiency and humor. Gloria made many new friends and would stay open late during blizzards to offer coffee to the road crews. One day a bus pulled up and a young musician named Billy Ray Cyrus came in for a cup of hot coffee. When he tried to leave a \$20 tip, she ran out into the street and said, “young man, this is too much.” She enjoyed meeting people, from everywhere. Gloria was very proud of her family. She knew education was critical and saw all of her children graduate from college. She is survived by her daughter Keeley (Jim) Weening, daughter Colleen (Bill) Wright and son Shannon (Carol) Bertrand, and grandchildren, of whom she was so proud, Matthew (Xander Stair) Bertrand, Addison (Tobias Yadow) Weening, Jamie Weening, Elizabeth Wright and Shannon Wright. Gloria also had a special place in her heart for her nephew Michael Bertrand who grew up on the farm, helping with chores. She had many well-loved cousins, nieces and nephews. Hers was a life well lived in an era when women had to fight for every right and she knew how to do that! She would wish that each of her grandchildren grab life and live it. The family would like to thank the caretakers and providers who helped her in this life and into the next, especially the amazing team at Porter Medical Center. Your compassion seems limitless. A gathering to celebrate Gloria’s life will be held at a later date. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot at Wallace Cemetery in Sudbury. Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇

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.



Cremation with a Service

A Celebration of Life, for those left behind, helps those family members and friends with closure. Even though your loved one says “I just want to be cremated – no funeral,” they forget the Celebration of Life service is not for them, but for the ones left behind. A service is a healthy way to say good-bye.

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

WE'RE EXPERTS IN COOL!



MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

FUNERAL MEMORIAL SERVICE CREMATION PRE-PLANNING SERVICES



BROWN-McCLAY FUNERAL HOMES
BRISTOL 802-453-2301
VERGENNES 802-877-3321
brownmcclayfuneralhomes.com

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.



Now accepting applications for residency at 427 East Main Street, Middlebury

This newly renovated facility offers comfortable, home-like surroundings in the beautiful village of East Middlebury.

We'll offer three meals per day plus tasty snacks, help with activities of daily living, nursing oversight, medication management for up to eight medically frail residents.

To discuss residency and learn more about our screening process, please contact Amy Curtis at 802-388-7259
Uniform Disclosure is available upon request.



Wayne Donald Kimball, 89, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Wayne Donald Kimball, 89, of Middlebury, Vt., died peacefully at Porter Medical Center July 3, 2026.

Wayne was born at home in New Haven, Vt., Aug. 12, 1936. He attended schools in Middlebury and was a lifelong resident of Addison County.

Wayne spent the past 70 years with the love of his life, Janet (Barnes). They were married Dec. 3, 1955, and together raised five children. Their family blossomed into a large extended family that brought them both tremendous pride and joy.

Wayne's early years were spent on the family farm in Middlebury, where he developed a lifelong love of the outdoors. He became an avid vegetable and fruit grower and took great pride in every harvest. He also took meticulous care of his large backyard and was happy that it became a favorite gathering place for neighborhood children, who spent countless late summer evenings playing kickball and baseball.

Wayne was a founding member of the Sodbusters Horseshoe Club, originally located at the Case Street Community Club, which once served as the one-room schoolhouse he attended as a child.

Wayne spent several decades working at Polymers Plastics, where he was valued for his skill in maintaining machinery and for keeping the expansive grounds neat, tidy, and beautiful. Many people admired the well-kept property as they passed the plant along Dows Pond on Route 116. Later in life, he worked for Middlebury College, cared for



WAYNE DONALD KIMBALL

a prominent estate in upstate New York, and worked with Project Independence in Addison County. Wherever he worked, his knowledge, strong work ethic, and talent for caring for the outdoors were put to good use and well respected.

Wayne spent the last 20 months of his life at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing in Long-Term Care Otter Creek East. Just a few rooms away, behind the double doors of the Memory Care Unit, lived his beloved wife. Wayne spent his days faithfully by Janet's side, sometimes joining in the activities and other times simply watching her enjoy them. During Wayne's stay at Helen Porter, he and Janet were the facility's only married couple living under the same roof, a testament to their enduring devotion to one another.

Wayne's family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the extraordinary staff at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing for the unwavering compassion, kindness,

and support they showed our father throughout his time at Otter Creek East. All of you were truly a blessing to him and our family. We also wish to thank the wonderful caregivers in the Medical-Surgical Unit at Porter Medical Center. You all made Wayne's final days as comfortable and peaceful as possible, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Wayne is survived by his beloved wife, Janet (Barnes), and four of their five children, Robin Rheame and her husband, Robert, of Groveton, N.H., Randall Kimball and his wife, Patricia, of Williston, Vt., Dea Kimball and her fiancé, Richard Nadler, of Loudonville, N.Y., and Michele Cyr and her fiancé, Victor Quenneville, of Ripton, Vt.; and his daughter-in-law, Kelley Kimball of Williston, Vt. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wayne was predeceased by his son Glenn Kimball; his parents, Burton Kimball Sr. and Florence (Germain); and each of his five siblings: Gladys Warner (Robert), Burton Kimball Jr. (Margaret), Margaret Roy (Raoul), Katherine Wetmore (Frank), and Constance Hamel (Larry).

Calling hours and a memorial service will be held Saturday, July 25, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home, 48 South Maple Street, Vergennes, Vt. A private burial at Prospect Cemetery in Vergennes will follow for the immediate family.

Wayne lived a life rooted in love, family, and the simple joys of the land he worked and tended. He will be lovingly remembered.◊

Joseph Montana Lamphere, 37, of Sudbury

SUDBURY — We are heartbroken to share that Joseph Montana Lamphere, 37, passed away following years of chronic illness that took so much from him. Named after a true football legend, he held on with an impressive amount of strength and grit. His caring spirit remained present until the very end; he was most concerned about his children and parents.

Joe was a father, brother, son, cousin, nephew, and friend. His empathy was legendary.

He also had a sense of humor that refused to quit. On one occasion, a nurse walked in to find him in excruciating pain, and his response was to crack a perfectly timed Tommy Boy joke. He could make people laugh in situations where laughter had no business showing up, and we loved him for it.

His early years were spent "getting" cows with Pa," which anyone who knows the family understands meant he was Pa's favorite, riding in the front of the truck and listening to his stories.

Joe grew up in Sudbury, Vt., just a mile from Burr Pond, where as a child he could be found swimming and building sandcastles at Camp, but most likely fishing. He was a happy child whose laughter was contagious.

He graduated from Otter Valley Union High School and later the New England Culinary Institute, with an apprenticeship at the Cliff House in Ogunquit, Maine. He was

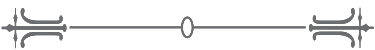


JOSEPH MONTANA LAMPHERE

a talented chef and most recently enjoyed working as a landscaper. He was especially proud of his time volunteering with the Vermont Adaptive Ski Program, where he supported individuals to experience the same freedom he loved on the mountain.

Joe cherished connection, family, friendship, music, and nature. He had a profound thoughtfulness that led him to question the world around him and search for deeper meaning. His curious mind often led him into long conversations and moments of reflection.

Joe had so much love in his heart for his parents and family. As a father, he adored his children, Ava and Oliver. Even when he wasn't able to be with them, they were always on his mind.



Tori Mae (Brewster) Summering, 37, formerly of Brandon/Bristol

BERWICK, Maine — Weird, wild, wonderful Tori Mae (Brewster) Summering lived fast, loved passionately, and fought hard. She went out the way she came in, refusing to be ignored. She leaves behind a family trying to catch their breath: dad, Randy Brewster; mom, Jacki Brewster; brother, Jacob Brewster; soul dog, Kusala; and her reason for staying as long as she could, son, Dexter Summering. No time for funerals, she's already in the wind. ◊



TORI MAE (BREWSTER) SUMMERING

Linda A. Scanlon, 77, formerly of Salisbury

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The family of Linda A. Scanlon, 77, of Bridgeport, Conn., and Salisbury, Vt., is saddened to announce her passing on July 1, 2026, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, Conn., after a courageous five-week hospitalization. She passed away peacefully with her devoted husband and two children by her side.

Linda was born in Bridgeport to the late Lodovino and Dina Vagnini. She is survived by her beloved husband of 56 years, Thomas "Tom" Scanlon; her daughter, Michelle (Mark) Komaromi of Milford, Conn.; her son, Thomas (Maryellen) Scanlon of Stamford, Conn.; her sisters, Sally Jacko of Tennessee and Christine (Pete) Peterson of Shelton, Conn.; and her seven cherished grandchildren, Jaclynn Campos, Mark Komaromi Jr. (Victoria), Jessica Scanlon, Kayla Scanlon, Thomas D. Scanlon, Evan Vitti, and Gianna Vitti.

After graduating from Bridgeport Central High School, Linda began her career at Western Union before joining Southern New England Telephone (SNET), where she worked until her



LINDA A. SCANLON

retirement in 2000. She generously volunteered with the Bridgeport Police Activities League (PAL), especially enjoying her time at Christmas Village.

After retirement, Linda and Tom moved to Middlebury, Vt., where she worked in the office at Kampersville in Salisbury on Lake Dunmore, a place that held special meaning for their family. In 2009, they purchased a condominium in Bridgeport to spend more time with their growing family, especially their grandchildren. During that

time, Linda also worked part-time at Stop & Shop in both Bridgeport and Trumbull, Conn.

Linda will be remembered for her kindness, strong work ethic, unwavering devotion to her family, and the love she shared with everyone fortunate enough to know her. She especially enjoyed watching her grandchildren compete in various sports and cheering on UConn Huskies basketball. Her greatest joy, however, was spending time with her children and grandchildren, creating lasting memories that will be treasured forever.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Liz Medina and the Davita Trumbull team, Dr. Gavin and Nephrology Associates, and primary care physician Dr. Dafcik, along with the surgical and Intensive Care Unit, for the compassionate care and kindness they provided throughout Linda's final journey.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Parente Funeral Home in Fairfield, Conn. Burial will take place at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull, where Linda will be laid to rest beside her beloved parents.◊



Please write me in if not on the ballot!

RON HOLMES

VOTE RON HOLMES

for Addison County Sheriff

in the August 11th Primary Election

25 years former Addison County Deputy Sheriff

Elected and served as your Addison County High Bailiff

A proud member of the:

- National Sheriffs Association
- Shoreham Historical Society Trustee & Sustaining Member
- Porter Hospital Auxiliary
- Middlebury Garden Club

A proud supporter of:

- Atria Collective
- Homeward Bound
- United Way of Addison County
- HOPE
- The New England Police Chiefs Association
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



"Honesty does matter"

Paid for by Ron Holmes, 18 Court Street, Middlebury, VT • www.RonHolmesForSheriff.com

47th Annual Middlebury

Festival on-the-Green

July 12-18 2026

Monday, July 13



Monday, July 13
Magician Tom Verner
12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM

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.

Ted Perry and the Big Easy with Ryan Montbleau
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Ted Perry, musician, composer and producer, leads The Big Easy Revival through traditional jazz, blues and gospel. Soprano saxophonist Jon McBride brings an edgy style with a Caribbean influence that is balanced by Ted's warm and soulful keyboarding. Drummer Dwight Ritcher adds to the dynamic sound along with bassist JD Haenni and Connor Young on trumpet. With special guest Ryan Montbleau on vocals.

Laissez les bons temps rouler!



Ernest James Zydeco
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Ernest James bought his first accordion in the dark recesses of a greasy Texas Bar. "It's a damn good accordion for German Polkas" the old man said handing it over." Thus began his relationship with Zydeco! Ernest plays with high energy and genre bending artistry. Ernest's music reaches far beyond a straight up two-step. With Jeff Salisbury (drums), Noah Hahn (bass), Jay Ekis (guitar), and Troy Turner (rub board).

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

festivalonthegreen.org



DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

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

Letters to the Editor

We worked for her, now we’re voting for her to be our next governor

As former employees of Let’s Grow Kids, we enthusiastically support our former boss, Aly Richards, to become the next governor of Vermont.

We have seen Aly in action and we know she’s ready. She is innovative, collaborative, and data-driven. We stood shoulder-to-shoulder with her as she listened to families and early childhood educators, met with economic development leaders and won over uncertain legislators. There were many times we weren’t sure we’d achieve our mission to transform the child care system in Vermont, but Aly leaned in. She brought her staff closer, mapped out new paths forward and together we forged new partnerships, crossed aisles and invited our neighbors into the solution.

Aly’s leadership delivers. Our grassroots child care movement mobilized 40,000 Vermonters to pass the landmark law that transformed our broken child care system and offered real economic support to working families, early childhood educators and businesses across the state. And when Governor Scott vetoed the bill, she rallied us again. Supporters jumped into action and bolstered legislators

from all parties to override the veto.

This law made real change for Vermonters. It lowered the cost of child care for families while increasing wages for child care providers. It created more spaces for children and offered stability for child care employers. Vermont is a national leader in child care, and other states are following us. After Mayor Mamdani was elected, the Mayor’s Office of Child Care and Early Childhood Education called Aly to get the blueprint for what we did in Vermont as they envisioned the next iteration of child care for New York City. All eyes are on Vermont because of our work and her leadership.

Aly knows that lasting change requires listening to the people most affected by it. At Let’s Grow Kids, that meant putting early childhood educators in the driver’s seat, and on staff. Aly hired early childhood educators into leadership roles, so our strategies were shaped by the people closest to the work, not just about them. She led with compassion and got out of the way to let others’ expertise shape the direction of the organization. Over time, that culture rippled outward; we became better listeners, better

changemakers, and better leaders ourselves.

Vermont deserves a leader like Aly, not simply because of what she’s accomplished, but because of how she leads. She hired brilliant, dedicated, experienced Vermonters and empowered them to do their best work. Our plan was always to deliver for Vermont and then return to our towns and organizations with the skills we gained to create new change for Vermont. And we did. We are now teaching, running and helping to fund local child care centers. We are nonprofit and government leaders, consultants and mentors. The majority of us remained in Vermont and when we heard Aly was running for governor, we answered the call to support her. We are now serving as full-time staff, hosting house parties, attending forums, raising lawn signs and knocking on doors for her. Aly inspires people to act and to lead. Imagine the ripple effect this type of leadership could have on our entire state.

Aly’s leadership is joyful and transformational, and right now that matters more than ever. This month you’ll find her speaking at your town library, leaning against cars to answer your neighbor’s

questions long after a forum ends, and taking notes from everyone willing to share an idea about how we can revitalize our towns. She’s not performing. This is who she is and it can buoy and inspire each of us during these divisive times to come together for Vermont’s future.

We know Aly, and we trust her. We cannot wait to see how Vermont thrives under her leadership. We believe Vermont deserves a governor who wants to build something great for us, and with us.

Join us to vote for Aly in the August 11th primary, so she can head to the general election on November 3rd and become our next governor.

- Kate Abdel-Fatah, Braintree
- LouAnn Beninati, Essex
- Emily Blistein, Middlebury
- Ansley Bloomer, Middlesex
- Rick Blount, Charlotte
- Anna Brouillette, Essex
- Hannah Burnett, Winooski
- Rex Butt, Burlington
- Sherry Carlson, Ferrisburgh
- Rhea Costantino, Montpelier
- Fynn Crooks, Brattleboro
- Sam Donnelly, Burlington
- Robyn Freedner-Maguire, Jericho
- Natalie Glynn, Williston
- Suzanne Graham, Underhill
- Nicole Haley, Colchester
- Sharron Harrington, Rutland
- Didi Harris, Shelburne
- Emily Healy, Essex Junction
- Jen Horwitz, Oregon (formerly Essex Junction)
- Rachel Hunter, Springfield
- Zoe Kaslow, Vergennes
- Jamie Lofy, Jericho
- Lisa Loomis, Huntington
- Molly Loomis, Burlington
- Stephanie Love, Pennsylvania (formerly Winooski)
- Trey Martin, Adamant
- Brenda S. Metzler, Bridgewater
- Barbara Postman, Brownington
- Maria Richards, New York, (formerly Barre)
- Cathy Reitz, Ferrisburgh
- Erin Roche, Vergennes
- Kate Salina, New York (formerly Burlington)
- Vicky Dibe Senni, Dummerston
- Jen Severance, South Burlington
- Dara Sicherman Salett, East Corinth & New York
- Drake Turner, Burlington
- Lorraine Vernet, Morrisville
- Emily Wagner, Dummerston
- Beth Waring, Montpelier
- Mackenzie Waterhouse, Burlington
- Shayla Zammuto, Colchester
- Rachel Zellem, Colchester

The Vergennes city budget is out of balance

Once again, the Board of Aldermen in Vergennes have kicked the can down the road on seriously considering major changes to the budget. The easiest way to cut any budget is through deferred maintenance and this is where the board has decided to focus.

Even though I did not attend the meeting, it appears there was some discussion of the police budget, but I do not see that any action was taken.

As was pointed out in a previous letter, the average Vermont community spends about 11% of its budget on policing. Vergennes continues to spend between 35% and 40%.

Quoting the 2022 IACP report: “Vergennes is a safe community with little serious crime, and the majority of calls for service are for quality-of-life issues and traffic incidents. Calls for service (CFS) related to crimes against person and property crimes constitute the smallest percentage of calls. While officer safety and availability remain serious concerns, the types of CFS and the reality of fiscal constraints also have to be considered, and the current fiscal status of the city and the level of activity do not solely support always having two officers on duty.”

In addition, it is my belief that very few communities in Vermont

have portable scales, proper vehicles and trained officers to weigh trucks because of the expense. However, Vergennes does. The initial expense for this equipment is past but the increase to the budget remains with us today.

It should also be noted that the cost of the principal and interest payments on the bond for the police station do not show in the budget because it is being paid out of the water tower fund.

As Nelson Mandela said, “May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”

Kenneth Remsen
Vergennes

47th Annual
Middlebury

Festival
on-the-
Green

July 12-18
2026

Tuesday, July 14

No Strings Marionettes

12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM

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.



Addison County Live!

Evan Jennison, Jim and Clara Carroll, Naunau Beloha & Friends

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Together with Town Hall Theater, Festival on the Green presents an afternoon showcase of some of our very talented regional musicians. Please join us as we celebrate and listen to our musical neighbors.



Evan Jennison
1:30 pm
A singer/songwriter who draws inspiration from the Green Mountains of his home state, Evan’s music walks the lines between Americana, folk, bluegrass and rock. His playing melds acoustic instruments with electric tones.



Jim and Clara Carroll
2:30 pm
Jim and Clara Carroll are a father/daughter duo who have been singing together for forty years. They play a mix of covers and original songs with roots in folk and country music.



Naunau Beloha & Friends
3:30 pm
Naunau Beloha, a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, is originally from Madagascar. His music and songs draw inspiration from the realities of his homeland and beyond, blending Malagasy, reggae and West African influences.



Mélisande
7 PM - 10:00 PM
Mélisande Gélinas-Fauteux brings a strong female energy to the Quebecois music scene. With roots from Boloeli, Quebec, her early works featured an “electro trad” style of traditional Quebecois music. Recently she revisited her repertoire with the acoustic quintet that will accompany her in Middlebury. With an infectious energy and stage presence, she makes the crowd sing and dance wherever she goes.

You don’t have to leave
Vermont to get away



Staycation reason #243
Far from stress. Still close to home.

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins

2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

Library

(Continued from Page 3A)
program we have at Vermont Literacy Network, which consists of individual and small group intervention services,” Hamlin explained. “Because we have a much shorter timeline than our traditional interventions, our goal isn’t necessarily to see massive academic growth but rather to focus on highly targeted, skill-based instruction.”

Hamlin said the most common challenge she hears from families looking to support their child’s literacy endeavors is not knowing where to start.

“There are a million resources and strategies that educators swear by, but the analysis paralysis of determining which is going to best support their child is typically the first hurdle,” she said. “When talking with families about how to support at home, my first goal is always to build confidence, and the second is to embed literacy tasks into your daily routine.”

Hamlin shed light on her approach to supporting readers.

“My main goal has become creating environments where if someone were to peer in, they would assume we are just playing and no ‘learning’ was happening. That is certainly what I want my students to think,” Hamlin said. “In my practice, we stand on chairs, play basketball, run up and down stairs, make board games, play Minecraft, and host tea parties. The goal is finding where we can elicit the most amount of joy, and integrate reading and writing from there.”

Hamlin said one piece of advice she’d give to families of struggling readers is to put down the book and go play.

“We need to create home environments where reading and writing feel normal, fun, and free of judgment,” she said. “Build a blanket fort and share a story inside it. Go to a restaurant and do the word search on the menu together. Play ‘I Spy’ and have them spell the word they find. Play is the work of a child, and through it, they can learn to read.”

She encouraged parents looking for more structure to find “a phonics scope and sequence to gently work through skills using printable games and decodable books.” Decodable books are reading materials designed to help emerging readers practice specific letter-to-sound skills, according to the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center.

A new collection of decodable

library books and materials is among the new additions at LML this summer.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Other new offerings include Summer Reading Swag Bags for reading challenge participants that are filled with reading and writing supplies, books and ice cream gift certificates. LML’s summer reading program will include two new challenges this year: The Chapter Book Challenge (for readers looking to tackle chapter books through their personalized reading goals) and The Summer Literacy Coaching Challenge (for those taking part in small group coaching in July).

Youth that complete either of those new challenges will receive a certificate they can exchange for \$10 at the National Bank of Middlebury. Any reader who makes considerable progress on or completes their goals through the summer reading program will receive a Cubbers gift certificate.

Lazar credited the partners behind this year’s summer reading program: Vermont Literacy Network, the Stern Center, National Bank of Middlebury, Cubbers, Queen Bee’s Snack Bar, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

As the program gets underway, Hamlin said she’s looking forward to providing literacy support to families for free.

“Tuition cost is by far the most prevalent barrier preventing students from accessing our services, and being able to offer these spots entirely for free through the LML is a total game-changer for some students and their families,” she said.

She noted this year’s programming is a pilot of what she hopes will become a broader offering in the future. Hamlin and Lazar are exploring ways to improve the program and boost access next year, she said.

The new programming has already received a positive response from community members.

“From the moment we announced the idea, we were inundated with interest and excitement. Twenty-five families immediately expressed interest as well as neighboring libraries and schools,” Lazar said, adding that the library is still learning how the program could look in Bristol. “I think people really understand that we are testing out the idea this year and that their feedback will help us know how to make it something that will hopefully be a regular and meaningful offering going forward.”

In the meantime, the summer reading program is well underway and has seen over 80 youths register with their own goals to tackle in the weeks ahead.

“The big take home we want kids and families to feel this summer: dream big when it comes to summer reading and know that we’re here to support you,” Lazar said. “Whether you’re learning your letters, reading independently for the first time, completing 2,000 pages of your favorite book series, or writing your first short story, the library is here for you! We hold your ambitions enthusiastically and gently because at the end of the day, we just want everyone to find joy and wonder with the experience of reading.”

VERGENNES
GRAND
SENIOR LIVING

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





Bristol bash!

THE THOUSANDS WHO ATTENDED the Bristol Fourth of July parade on Saturday celebrated independence with music, costumes and cavalry. Horses trotted through downtown, plus floats adorned with red, white and blue and carried enthusiastic patriots, as others enjoyed the parade from the sidelines. The town's America 250 celebration also included an outhouse race that morning, and fireworks that lit up the sky the previous evening.

Independent photos/Steve James



Slow Fourth weekend for Vergennes police

VERGENNES — This past week Vergennes police assisted a person looking to file a complaint with the Vermont Human Rights Commission.

On June 30, the department provided the person with information on how to do so.

Between June 29 and July 5, Vergennes police also conducted six traffic stops, two directed patrols, and one VIN verification and took fingerprints six times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On June 30 checked on a report of a stolen cell phone that was unfounded.
- On July 1 took a report of an unwanted guest at a Vergennes apartment complex. The man has been identified and a trespass notice will be issued to him when located.
- On July 2 a license plate was turned in to the police department and returned to the owner.
- On July 2 conducted a background investigation for employment purposes.
- On June 2 assisted a person with known mental health issues with contacting her counselor at the Counseling Service of Addison County.
- On July 2 took a report of a vehicle which was blocking the driveway and handicap ramp to a Main Street business after the owner locked the keys inside.

Vergennes Police Log

An officer helped the person get back into their truck due to the circumstances.

- On July 2 returned a driver’s license to the owner, after it had been lost, and later found, at a Vergennes business.
- On July 2 asked people parked at Falls Park after hours to leave. The people left the area.
- On July 2 were notified of a man riding his e-bike around the bank in Vergennes.
- On July 3 cited Christopher Goodspeed, 40, of Charlotte for unlawful mischief after an incident at a local business.
- On July 3 cited Thomas Roussin, 45, of Vergennes for violations of an abuse prevention order.
- On July 3 served a civil subpoena on a Vergennes resident for a court in Rutland County.
- On July 3 were called to a Vergennes business for an alarm activation on two occasions. The building was secure and a key holder was notified.
- On June 3 settled a dispute between ex-partners in the police department parking lot.
- On July 3 received an accidental 911 dial.

- On July 4 looked into a case where a vehicle went off the roadway and into a ditch after allegedly trying to avoid a collision. There were no injuries to the driver. The vehicle was towed from the scene.
- On July 4 were informed of a two vehicle collision in the parking lot of a Main Street store. Both parties exchanged information without issue, and no police presence was needed.
- On July 4 attended a community barbeque at Valley Vista to meet staff and residents of the facility.
- On July 4 assisted with a child custody matter.
- On July 5 responded to a one car crash on West Main Street. The driver said they fell asleep while driving, causing the vehicle to leave the roadway and collide with a telephone pole. The driver was not injured in the crash, and no other vehicles were involved. The vehicle was judged a total loss.
- On July 5 responded to a residence following a report of an adult screaming at a child. Officers located the family and determined the child was angry at the parents’ rules.
- On July 5 were requested to do a welfare check on a person. Police made contact and there were no issues.

Troopers charge men with domestic assault

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police reported a relatively quiet Independence Day Weekend except for two incidents of assaults within two county households.

The first took place on Friday, July 3, a few minutes after 6 p.m., when troopers went to a Burpee Road home in Bristol after someone hung up on a 911 call. The officers found two people involved in the incident and, after investigating, determined that Travis Huestis, 46, of Bristol physically assaulted and caused

Vt. State Police Log

injuries to a household member.

The troopers took Huestis into custody and transported him to the New Haven barracks, where he was cited for domestic assault. Huestis was jailed at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility with bail set at \$200.

The other incident occurred

on Sunday evening, July 5, when shortly after 7 p.m., state police looked into a family fight on Monkton Road in Ferrisburgh. Troopers spoke with both individuals on scene and decided that Daren Austin, 45, of Ferrisburgh caused bodily injury to a household member. They cited Austin for first degree aggravated domestic assault, and committing the offense in the presence of a child. He was lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility with bail set at \$500.



Americana mood

EXTREME HEAT IN Middlebury on Friday (highs in the 90s) prompted Town Hall Theater to move its America 250 block party indoors across the new wing. Here Redd Daugherty of Redd and the Paper Flowers performs one of the Knoxville, Tenn., band’s Appalachian folk-grass tunes in the Anderson Studio. The Army band 5Above also performed.

Independent photo/Steve James

Woman cited in alleged vandalism spree

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on July 2 cited Julia Benjamin, 40, for what police described as several alleged acts of vandalism in the Jayne Court neighborhood, including damaging security cameras and apartment windows.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Took, to Porter Hospital, a highly intoxicated person found lying on the ground on Bakery Lane on June 29.
- Conducted a welfare check at the Charter House Emergency Shelter on June 29.
- Received a report about a loose dog in The Centre parking lot on June 29.
- Separated parties involved in a domestic dispute at a South Village Green residence on June 29.
- Responded to an alarm at Walgreens at 8:14 p.m. on June 30 and found a customer who had been locked in the store after it had closed.
- Responded to a report of a cow in the road on Route 7 South on June 30.
- Assisted a Marble Works business with a complaint about an unhoused person on its property on June 30.
- Received a report about a vehicle leaving the scene of an accident on Porter Drive on June 30.
- Investigated a two-car accident with minor injuries on Route 7 North on June 30.
- Asked Middlebury Regional EMS to assist a driver whom

Middlebury Police Log

they had pulled over for a traffic violation at the intersection of Cady Road and Route 7 South on June 30. MREMS confirmed the person was indeed experiencing a medical emergency.

- Investigated a report of a man allegedly making “inappropriate comments” to juveniles in the Creek Road area on June 30.
- Responded to a dispute between some Jayne Court neighbors on July 1.
- Helped a driver whose vehicle had broken down on Route 7 North on July 1.
- Assisted an unhoused person on July 1.
- Responded to a reported dispute between some people under the Cross Street Bridge on July 2.
- Received a report about a drunken man walking on North Pleasant Street on July 2.
- Received a report of a suicidal man in the Route 7/Exchange Street area on July 2.
- On July 2 arrested Izzy C. Mitchell, 51, of Randolph on an extraditable warrant out of New York State. Police said Mitchell was lodged at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for a lack of \$5,000 bail.
- Assisted with a mental health patient who didn’t want to return to

their home on Court Street on July 2.

- Were informed on July 2 of vandalism to security cameras in the Jayne Court neighborhood.
- Abandoned the pursuit of a vehicle speeding on Route 7 South on July 4.
- Responded to a report of a disabled tractor-trailer truck in Court Square on July 3. Police said the vehicle was gone upon their arrival.
- Returned a found debit card to its owner on July 3.
- Ticketed a person for violating the town’s burn ordinance after finding a group of people gathered around a poorly contained fire pit in the gazebo on the town green at around 10 p.m. on July 4. Police contacted the Middlebury Fire Department to put out the fire and assess damage.
- Helped a person who had locked themselves outside their home on July 4.
- Cited a Brandon juvenile for driving at an excessive speed on Route 7 South on July 4.
- Investigated a report of suspicious activity in the Jayne Court neighborhood on July 5.
- Received a report about a loose dog on Mary Hogan Elementary School grounds on July 5.
- Helped a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis on North Pleasant Street on July 6.
- Received a report about a dog left in a hot car on Court Street on July 6.
- Helped a woman get a ride to her Bridport home on July 6.



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

47th Annual Middlebury

Festival on-the-Green

July 12-18 2026

Wednesday, July 15



Wednesday, July 15

Burlington Taiko

12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM

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.

Faux Paws

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

The Faux Paws play a raucous blend of bluegrass, jazz, Cajun and folk music from raging fiddle tunes to saxophone solos to unrequited love songs. Their acoustic style transcends style limitations. Brothers Andrew and Noah VanNorstrand along with Chris Miller put on a performance that showcases virtuosity on the fiddle, guitar, mandolin and saxophone, tight 3-part harmonies, playful interplay and improvisation.





Damn Tall Buildings

8:30 PM - 10:00 PM

If you like bluegrass served with a little attitude, grit and gravy, then Damn Tall Buildings will delight your ears. A bluegrass group at heart, they pull from a wide range of influences including swing, ragtime and jazz. This Brooklyn based bluegrass band is known for their soulful melodies and intricate instrumentals. They have spent over a decade honing their craft, creating a distinctive sound that weaves heartfelt lyrics into thoughtful fiddle, guitar and bass arrangements.

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

festivalonthegreen.org



Frustration

(Continued from Page 1A)
who'd been preparing and paying for the trip for upwards of two-and-a-half years.

"I would just like to see some clarity; I feel like the reasons they're giving me really aren't reasons," said Mary Blacklock, a New Haven resident whose daughter was among the students affected.

Blacklock said another one of her children had taken part in travel club trips while at Mt. Abe, and her daughter had previously gone on one of the trips before signing up for this year's excursion.

Blacklock noted her family attended an information night about the trip at Mt. Abe and signed up back in 2023, after which they began making monthly payments toward the trip. She said her family paid around \$5,500 for the trip, half of which her daughter worked to pay for herself.

A year after signing up for the trip, Blacklock's daughter decided to work toward her high school diploma through Vermont Adult Learning after experiencing some issues at Mt. Abe, Blacklock said.

"She wanted to be homeschooled, I have to work. I didn't have the resources to financially pay for homeschool, but through Vermont Adult Learning she could get her diploma free of charge," Blacklock said.

Through the state's Adult Diploma Program, students can get "a high school diploma issued by a Vermont high school by completing statewide graduation requirements," according to the Agency of Education. The program is not considered a "home study program," Vermont's terminology for homeschooling.

Five days before students were set to leave on the trip,

Blacklock said she got a call from a trip coordinator informing her that school administration had reviewed the list of students planning to participate in the trip and determined some were unable to go due to eligibility, including Blacklock's daughter. Blacklock contacted school and district administrators and New Haven's representatives to the MAUSD School Board about the matter.

"I just said, 'I'm utterly appalled at the actions when liability is not the real issue, furthermore, if I had been rich enough to homeschool my child, this wouldn't be an issue. 'What this comes down to is the fact that my child's mental health and our lack of wealth has created her inability to go.'"

— Mary Blacklock

with another school, are not residents of MAUSD, and/or are not participating in an approved home study program are not eligible to participate in MAUSD co-curricular activities, including school-sponsored trips," he said. "Unfortunately, we learned very late in the planning process for the Italy/France trip that there were students planning to participate who did not meet the eligibility requirements. Once we became aware of the issue, we had an obligation to apply our eligibility requirements consistently."

Blacklock recalled receiving an explanation on eligibility from district administration.

"I just said, 'I'm utterly appalled at the actions when liability is not the real issue, furthermore, if I had

been rich enough to homeschool my child, this wouldn't be an issue,'" she said. "I said, 'What this comes down to is the fact that my child's mental health and our lack of wealth has created her inability to go.'"

The *Independent* asked Reen if the district had a process for verifying participants' eligibility at the time of families signing up for the trip.

"There were multiple factors involved in the confusion around student eligibility," he said. "Because fundraising for the trip occurs over the course of many months, some students were eligible when they signed up and were ineligible at the time of the trip. In other cases students were not eligible at the time they signed up."

Moving forward, Reen said student eligibility will be "much more clearly understood by trip leaders and communicated to interested students and families."

"We certainly understand how disappointing this situation was for the students and their families," he said. "Going forward, we will review our processes to ensure eligibility is confirmed much earlier in the planning process to help prevent similar situations from occurring again."

Reen said families were fully reimbursed for money paid toward the trip. Families originally made payments for the trip to EF Tours, a company that offers educational trips for students, and both MAUSD and EF Tours reimbursed families, Reen said.

Blacklock has questions about the funds used to reimburse families and expressed concerns about district funds being used in this situation at a time when MAUSD is looking at the possible closure of New Haven's Beeman Elementary School. MAUSD officials have been studying the potential closure of Beeman with or without school choice as part of the district's effort to find opportunities for reducing costs while offering quality education.

"I feel like to shell out the money for these reasons, knowing our district is in the battle that we're in, is quite ridiculous," she said.

Thank you, Singing Cedars Farm for your generosity

Last week I sent in a letter to the editor thanking local businesses for their support of Green Mountain Day Camp, a week-long all volunteer run day camp sponsored by the Girl Scouts of the Green and

Notes of appreciation

White Mountains. As often happens with me, I unfortunately left off one business who has donated to the camp for the past 3 years, Singing Cedars Farm in Orwell. A big thank you to Singing Cedars

Farm! We are so grateful for their generosity. Please be sure to support this local farm. Their produce can be found at the Middlebury Natural Food Co-op.

Susan Scott Salisbury

Campaign funds

(Continued from Page 1A)
She's spent \$14,986 of the \$53,211 she's raised, leaving her a balance of \$37,824.

Her top contributors thus far include Reed Byron, Steve Cummins, Brian Bernhardt and her mom, former Salisbury Community School Principal Abigail Sessions, who've each donated \$1,940; and former state Rep. Paul Ralston, Oakley Smith, Ellen Flight, Charles Grigg and Andrew Menkart, who've each given \$1,000.

Sessions has received \$47,316 of her donations from in-state sources; \$6,470 from out of state; and \$12,352 in increments of \$100 or less.

The \$53,211 raised by Sessions by July 1 already eclipses, by more than \$13,000, the \$40,083 that former state Sen. Chris Bray, D-Bristol, had raised in his unsuccessful reelection bid two years ago. Bray raised and spent the most money of any Addison County state Senate candidate in 2024.

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, reported a beginning fund balance of \$7,135, coupled with \$13,338 in new contributions for the July 1 filing period.

She also reported \$555 in in-kind contributions.

The county's senior state senator reported expenditures totaling \$7,979, leaving her a July 1 balance of \$15,174.

Hardy's largest individual contributors include Reed Byron, who's given contributions totaling 1,940, Elaine Mittell, \$500; Millard and Laureen Cox, who donated \$500 and \$400, respectively; Alison Clarkson, who donated \$500; Michael DeSanto, who gave \$500; NecrasonGroup of Montpelier, which gave \$500; Abigail Sessions, Paul Hess and Margot Clarke, \$260 each; and Jessica Oski, Amy Mason, Bruce Bayliss, Michele Hernandez Bayliss, Elizabeth Shackelford and Paula Moore, who each gave \$250.

The vast majority of Hardy's contributions have come from in-state sources, with \$7,789 coming in increments of less than \$100.

Hardy had reported \$7,979 in campaign expenditures as of July 1.

State Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol, reported a campaign balance of \$7,666 on July 1, including \$600 in new contributions — the bulk of which came in the form of a \$500 donation from Stephen Thurston.

Heffernan reported \$44.29 in expenditures.

Orwell Republican Andrea Treadway raised \$3,160 as of July 1, of which she had spent \$3,105.

Her total included a \$151 in-kind contribution and a \$260 donation from Tim Buskey. Treadway has self-funded the balance of her campaign, thus far.

New Haven Republican Andrew Klein has thus far self-funded his first state Senate campaign, to the tune of \$3,015, according to his disclosure forms. Of that, \$2,015 was reported as a non-monetary, in-kind contribution.

Klein has thus far spent \$103 on his campaign, according to Secretary of State documents.

Heffernan, Treadway and Klein will face off in an Aug. 11 primary to determine who will square off against Hardy and Sessions on Nov. 3.

ADDISON-1 HOUSE

Incumbent Rep. Robin Scheu and fellow Democrat Mike Roy are running unopposed for the two Addison-1 House seats.

ADDISON-2 HOUSE

Cornwall Democrat Tanya S. Byker had raised \$6,411 as of July 1, of which she had spent \$1,173.

Byker, an associate professor of economics at Middlebury College, and Cornwall Republican Annie Wilson — a former physical education teacher and farmer — are vying for the Addison-2 House seat that will be vacated in December by Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, who's not seeking reelection.

Byker's campaign at this point has largely benefitted from family contributions. Her top donors include Samuel Byker, Susan Byker and Gaylen Byker (who've each given \$1,290); Carl Byker (\$1,000); and Gayle Byker (\$500).

Tanya Byker has given her campaign \$195.04. Around \$940 of her contributions have been in increments of \$100 or less.

Wilson, also making her first House bid, reported making a \$1,100 donation to her campaign and receiving \$100 in small contributions, for a total of \$1,200 as of July 1.

She reported expenditures totaling \$530, leaving a balance of \$670.

ADDISON-3 HOUSE

First-time House candidate John Stroup of Vergennes reported contributions totaling \$20,914, of which he had spent \$3,735, leaving a balance of \$17,178 as of July 1.

Stroup's top contributors thus far include Jason Provonsha, Sarah Provonsha, Frederick Fritz, Martha Fritz, Rob Ricca and Lucy Ricca, each giving \$1,290; \$799 from John Stroup to his campaign; and \$500 each from Kathy Stroup, Kathy Leo-Nyquist and Kristen Thiede.

Stroup has raised \$12,000 of his total campaign funds from out-of-state contributors and \$8,914 from in-state sources. A total of \$4,415 has come in increments of \$100 or less.

Ferrisburgh Democrat Ariel Bolles, as of July 1, reported donations totaling \$6,005, of which she had spent \$4,231, leaving her a \$1,773 balance. Her top contributors included Paula Moore (\$500), Jacob Hand (\$250), Robert Gross (\$250), Eric Chiu (\$200), Amelia Davis (\$200) and Richard Kerschner (\$200).

Bolles, making her first House bid, reported \$3,675 of her donations were from in-state contributors, and \$4,255 were in increments of \$100 or less.

First time Addison-3 House candidate Michael L. Kane, a Vergennes Democrat, reported contributions of \$4,528, of which \$3,366 was self-funded. His other top contributor was Louise Klein Holden (\$200).

Records show that Kane has spent \$3,734 of his funds, leaving \$794 as of July 1.

Stroup, Bolles and Kane will

face off in an Aug. 11 Democratic primary to see which two make the ballot for the Nov. 3 general election

The two Democrats who advance will face Republicans Rob North and Joseph Baker.

Incumbent Addison-3 Rep. Rob North of Ferrisburgh showed donations totaling \$3,064 and only \$10 in expenditures.

His top contributors included David Shlansky (\$1,000), William Houston (\$500), Steve Thurston (\$500) and Marilyn North (\$500).

Records showed that \$925 of North's donations came from in-state sources and \$425 of it came in increments of \$100 or less.

Baker of Ferrisburgh had no July 1 campaign finance filing on record with the Secretary of State's office, indicating he hadn't raised or spent the requisite \$500 to trigger a filing.

ADDISON-4 HOUSE

Lincoln Democrat Jeannie Albert reported a \$2,780 carryover from her 2024 House campaign, coupled with \$600 in recent contributions. She reported expenditures totaling \$1,220, leaving her with a \$1,547 balance as of July 1.

Albert's top individual contributor was Andrew Furtch (\$500).

Incumbent Rep. Karen Lueders, D-Lincoln Democrat, reported contributions totaling \$1,450, of which she had spent \$87 as of July. That left her a balance of \$1,362. Her top contributors included Carolyn Lueders (\$500), Beth Pearce (\$500), Tim Stearns (\$250), and herself (\$200).

Roughly half of Lueders's contributions have come from in-state, and none (so far) have been in increments of \$100 or less.

Neither of the Republican candidates — Lynn Dike (see related story) nor Chanin Hill, both of Bristol — had July 1 campaign finance forms on file with the state as of July 6. This would indicate that neither has raised or spent enough to trigger a filing.

ADDISON-5 HOUSE

Incumbent Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, reported no recent contributions, though her July 1 filing reflects a \$1,569 carryover from her 2024 campaign. Her records indicate she's thus far spent \$70 toward her reelection bid.

Her opponent, Bridport Republican Del Thompson, had no July 1 campaign finance forms on file with the state as of July 6, suggesting he hadn't met the spending/fundraising threshold.

ADDISON-RUTLAND HOUSE

No July 1 campaign filings could be found for incumbent Addison-Rutland Rep. James Casey, R-Hubbardton, nor his challenger, Jonathan Hescocock, a Shoreham Democrat. This suggests neither has met the spending/fundraising threshold.

None of the candidates for sheriff (incumbent Michael Elmore and challenger Ron Holmes), high bailiff (incumbent Dave Silberman and challenger Steve Willson), nor Peter Bever (running unopposed for state's attorney) had filed July 1 campaign finance forms, according to the Secretary of State's elections database.

47th Annual Middlebury

Festival on-the-Green

July 12-18 2026

Thursday, July 16

Thursday, July 16
Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté
12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM
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.

The Mammals
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM
Described as "indie-roots trailblazing high-octane Americana", The Mammals make music for a world that has forgotten how to listen. Formed by Mike Merenda and Ruth Ungar, The Mammals emerged from the fertile soil of the folk tradition. They carry forward the lineage of protest music, family harmony and grassroots resilience and weave them into something alive, awake and stunningly contemporary.

Slap Dragon
8:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Slap Dragon began as a half-joke: an acoustic funk band. But once the band started playing together, it quickly became something real. Blending acoustic groove, bluegrass instincts, R&B soul, improvisation, and sharp songwriting, the Nashville-based project thrives on chemistry, joy, and world-class musicianship. Their debut album, Mission Statement, arrives May 29, 2026 via No Coincidence Records.

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

festivalonthegreen.org

BEAT THE HEAT IN A NEW RIDE FROM WIMETT'S!

2008 FORD F-350
Super Duty FX4, 6.7L V8, Auto, 4x4, 167k miles
\$17,995

2017 HONDA CIVIC
LX, 2.0L I4, FWD, Auto, 50k miles
\$16,999

2018 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN
LT, 5.3L V8, Auto, 4x4, Loaded, 139k miles
\$18,995

2019 TOYOTA RAV4
2.5L I4, Auto, AWD, 113k miles
\$20,995

2020 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
LE, 3.5L V6, Auto, AWD, 112k miles
\$21,995

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

15 years of delivering quality!

SUMMER SIPPING
SUPPLIES



HARE AND THE DOG

Legendary
WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury • Vergennes
www.Hare.dog

You don't have to leave
Vermont to get away



Staycation reason #67
It's usually 10° cooler in the mountains.

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins

2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

CONTACT GOV. SCOTT

Governor
Phil Scott
1-800-649-6825
(Vt. only)
802-828-3333



109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0101
www.vermont.gov/governor



Cornwall Fourth

DOZENS GATHERED IN Cornwall on Saturday to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The program began when the local historical society showed off the cleaned and restored Cornwall Civil War monument, lower right; a broken wing on the eagle atop the plinth had been repaired. Then festivities moved to the lawn of the Samson Memorial, which is run by the local DAR. Many rang bells at noon, as did folks across the nation. Some took turns ringing the bell in the old Congregational Church, including Jack Casper, lower left. Kate Gieges, below, was among those who enjoyed ice cream sundaes. Carolyn Bausch of the DAR led the program, above, and handed out copies of the U.S. Constitution. The experience wrapped up with a reading of the Declaration of Independence.

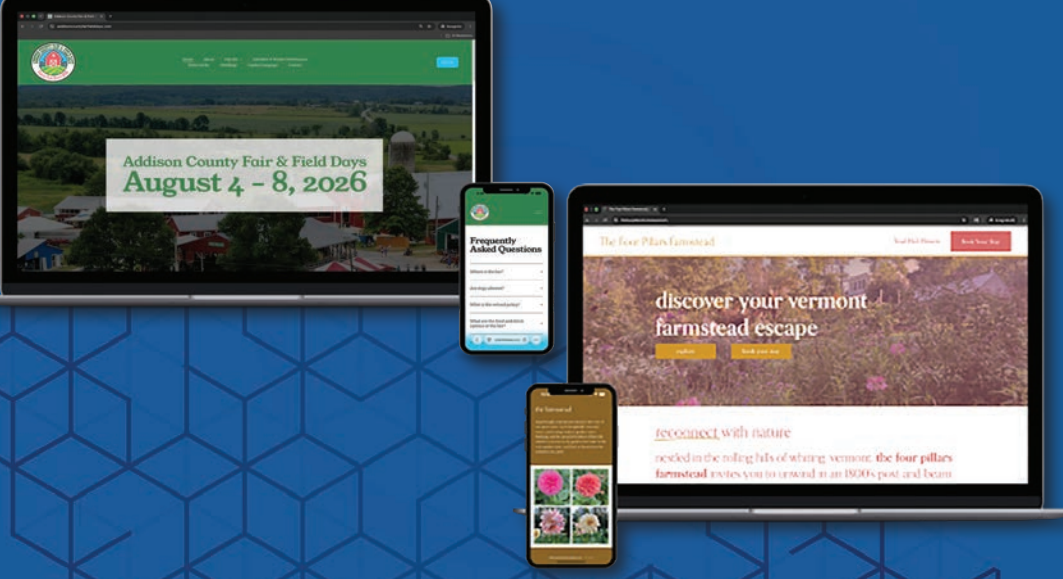
Independent photos/John S. McCright



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

The Official Radio Station of
SUMMER

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

Dike

(Continued from Page 1A)
on Nov. 3 will take her fourth shot at earning voter support to join the state Legislature, again setting her sights on one of the two seats representing the Addison-4 House district, which includes Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro.

Dike is part of a four-person race that includes Lincoln Democrat Jeanne Albert, Bristol Republican Chanin Hill and incumbent Rep. Karen Lueders, D-Lincoln.

Incumbent Rep. Herb Olson, D-Starksboro, has decided not to seek reelection after one term in office.

Life has changed for Lynn Dike, but she said her political views remain consistent with what she espoused during her past runs for state Senate in 2016, and then for Addison-4 House in 2020 and 2022.

She's a conservative Republican running in a district that hasn't elected a GOP House candidate since 2016 (former Rep. Fred Baser, R-Bristol). But Dike believes her message of less government, giving parents a greater role in public education, and removing obstacles for businesses will resonate with voters.

"We need balance and many different perspectives in Montpelier," said Dike, citing long-running Democrat majorities in both the House and Senate.

She believes she's cultivated a lot of different perspectives during her 75 years.

"I've had a nursing career, I know what Army life is like, I know what raising children is like, I know what divorce is like," Dike said.

A Massachusetts native, Dike arrived in Vermont in 1986 with her first husband, a career military man who had taken a job as an ROTC instructor at Norwich University. And that's where Dike completed her nursing degree.

She and her second spouse, the late Lloyd Dike, married three decades ago and quickly settled in Bristol. Lynn Dike worked many years at Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing in Middlebury.

Having worked in the health care field, Dike believes money could be saved through a combination of eliminating waste, getting rid of bonuses for hospital CEOs, and finding a way to increase competition in the private insurance market in Vermont.

"Every time we had a new kind of needle, they had to throw all the old ones away instead of using them up," Dike said of an example of waste she saw in her nursing career. "They do that with letterhead, with everything. There's a lot of waste."

She said she's not yet sure if she could support universal health care, or universal access to primary care.

"Is it going to be for citizens or is it going to be for illegal immigrants?" she said. "I am not for that. I know that seems heartless; I'm sorry about that.



BRISTOL REPUBLICAN LYNN Dike is one of four candidates vying for two seats representing the Addison-4 district in the Vermont House.

Independent photo/John Flowers

But I think citizens should get the benefits. If they could guarantee that, I would be for (universal primary care). But if they can't, I'm not for it."

Current federal law prohibits undocumented immigrants from accessing federally funded healthcare coverage, including Medicaid, Medicare or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). They are also unable to purchase health insurance coverage from the Affordable Care Act marketplace, according to the American Immigration Council.

Dike acknowledged the difficulties some folks are having finding affordable housing. But she doesn't believe there's a housing shortage.

"I think there are a lot of houses for sale — probably enough. I don't think it's a lack of

housing; it's just that the housing that's available is not affordable," she said.

Dike spoke of her granddaughters locating apartment vacancies but finding the rents out of their price range.

What's driving up rents and mortgages?

Dike believes its taxes, fees and unfunded mandates that are having to be absorbed by landlords and sellers.

"Property owners — especially landlords — have to raise their rent because there are so many regulations and renters right now, that they have to do that," she said.

A 2025 housing needs assessment commissioned by the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development concluded that in order to "accommodate projected growth in households living year-round in Vermont, replace homes that are lost from the housing stock due to disrepair or use conversion,

normalize vacancy rates, and house those experiencing homelessness, Vermont is likely to need an additional 24,000-36,000 total homes across the state between 2025 to 2029.

"Without increased supply, Vermont's home sale and rental markets will continue to grow tighter, with prices likely to continue to increase," the report concluded.

The broader problem in Vermont, according to Dike, is affordability.

"Every time (the state) raises a fee, every time they create a mandate, business owners have to provide something new," she said. "What do they do? They have to raise the price of their products."

Businesses must pay higher wages to compete for the state's lean employee pool. Vermont's growth has been stagnant and needs a major infusion of residents, according to the Vermont Futures Project.

Some politicians — and some of the state's most affluent residents — have suggested greater taxes on the rich.

"I think that's a stupid idea," Dike said.

On the subject of public education, Dike acknowledged Vermont's shrinking enrollment amid rising costs. She isn't a fan of closing schools; rather, she supports the idea of school districts sharing costs and jointly providing services, wherever possible.

This is a basic underpinning of Act 170, passed into law last month, which will group Vermont's myriad school districts into seven Cooperative Educational Service Areas (CESAs) to provide economies of scale in purchases and operations.

Act 170 also requires each CESA to study school district mergers that would have to pass muster with local voters.

"If we can save some on administrative costs, that would be a wonderful thing," said Dike, who supported a proposed merger of the Mount Abe and Addison Northwest school districts back in

Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)
35 apartments and a restaurant at the corner of Route 7 and Middle Road.

Administered by the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC), CHIP allows municipalities to finance essential infrastructure (like water, sewer, roads, and stormwater systems) that supports new housing development. It also allows towns and cities to access long-term financing without raising local property taxes, capture a portion of new property tax revenues from future development, and invest in public improvements that directly support the creation of homes.

Here's how it works, according to Vermont's CHIP webpage:

- Municipalities apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) to designate housing development sites.

- Once approved, towns can retain a portion of new property tax revenue to pay for infrastructure investments to serve the new housing developments for up to 20 years.

How much of the new property tax revenue can the town use for infrastructure projects?

Not less than 85% of new municipal tax increment; up to 75% of education tax increment for market-rate developments; and up to 85% of the education tax increment for developments with at least 15% affordable units.

Both rental and homeownership projects are eligible, and debt may be issued by municipalities, developers, or third-party sponsors, according to CHIP's ground rules.

"The great thing about CHIP is that it allows those improvements to be funded in a way that isn't ultimately passed along to the end user, which makes it a great tool," said Alex Armani-Munn, executive director of the Addison County Economic Development Corp., which is helping Middlebury and the two developers — Philip Rosenzweig (Middlebury Apartments) and Summit Properties (Stonecrop) navigate the CHIP process.

"Conversations with these developers have been ongoing for a few months to really see if CHIP is a tool to help them create the public infrastructure needed to make these projects viable at price points that make them affordable — especially with Stonecrop," Armani-Munn said.

He acknowledged the Middle Housing project won't contain an

affordable housing component.

"But with the high cost of housing, anything you can remove from the pro forma that would be a burden to the developer and ultimately pass on to the resident — if you can remove that — then that helps keep those rents at a reasonable rate," Armani-Munn said.

It was in May that Armani-Munn and town staff informed the Middlebury selectboard that Rosenzweig and Summit were interested in pursuing CHIP tax increment financing for their projects.

"Then the hard work began compiling those applications," Armani-Munn said.

A CHIP application has three components, he noted: A narrative of the housing development plan and needed infrastructure, a site plan, and a housing infrastructure agreement detailing the town's expectations in return for the tax increment financing benefit that will flow through CHIP.

A CHIP application can't proceed without town support.

"There are three main ingredients to CHIP," Armani-Munn said. "Just like you need oxygen, fuel and (combustibles) to create a fire, you need housing, infrastructure and municipal consent for CHIP."

He stressed CHIP revenues can't be used to build the housing itself; it must be limited to infrastructure and any administrative or professional costs required to prepare and administer a CHIP application.

"It ensures the project is paying for itself — not just the infrastructure, but also the administrative burden," Armani-Munn said.

Debt related to CHIP may be issued by municipalities, developers, or third-party sponsors.

"At this point, the direction we're going both with Stonecrop and the Middle Apartments — should they proceed with applications — is that the municipality will *not* be the debt sponsor," Armani-Munn said.

Plans call for ACEDC to host workshops — involving town officials and developers — for both the Middle Apartments and Stonecrop CHIP applications. The first one, to be held later this month, will focus on Stonecrop. Selectboard members Andy Hooper, Farhad Khan and Izabel Gogarty will also attend.

Neither workshop will be public, but there will be a public

hearing for any CHIP application the selectboard endorses. The application would then make its way to VEPC for potential final approval.

The ACEDC is helping both applicants with the financials. That means determining the potential assessed value of the completed project to calculate the potential CHIP property tax revenue.

Armani-Munn said those details will be available at the public hearing, but he believes the benefits to the town and developer will be "substantial."

Rosenzweig reported an estimate of \$1,095,000 in potential infrastructure costs related to Middle Housing.

"Certain additional infrastructure costs of my project (which are for the communities' benefit) would need to be passed on as additional rent cost to tenants and but for the CHIP (if granted) rents would have to be higher and/or certain infrastructure would have to be limited/reduced or downgraded," Rosenzweig said through an email exchange. "So, CHIP would afford my project and Stonecrop with some additional financial resources to do some of the infrastructure which will ultimately benefit the town."

Efforts to reach Summit COO Zeke Davisson were unsuccessful as the *Independent* went to press.

Phase one of Stonecrop is well underway, consisting of 69 homes, with 35 rentals (28 affordable, seven market rate); and 34-for sale homes (up to 30 middle-income or affordable). Phase two, related to the CHIP application, would assist in the financing of infrastructure to support up to 80 additional homes — including at least 25% middle-income or affordable homes. The overall expected development value for phase two is \$50 million, according to Stonecrop's project narrative.

If all goes according to plan, the Middlebury selectboard will approve the Stonecrop CHIP application in late July, then forward it to VEPC for its review. Armani-Munn said Stonecrop could be the first CHIP application VEPC receives. VEPC will conduct a Stonecrop site visit and then have 90 days in which to approve or deny the CHIP application.

The Middle Housing CHIP process will unfold this summer and fall.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

2022. But Bristol- and Vergennes-area voters rejected that merger.

Saving money and sticking to the fundamentals — like reading, writing, math, financial literacy, shop and home economics — should be prioritized, Dike believes.

"I think there are some things happening in schools that don't need to be happening," she said. "Like this Diversity, Equity &

Inclusion (DEI) in grade school. There are some things we just don't need that are not age appropriate. And they have to have so many counselors for these kids. Why are these kids so upset and distraught that they need these? I think they're trying to put too much on these little children's shoulders."

Dike believes the state has eroded parental rights in recent

years, particularly as it relates to medical decisions.

In this, her fourth campaign for a post in Montpelier, Dike is casting herself not so much as a lawmaker as a law weigher.

"I'm not so much for making new laws; I want to go (to Montpelier) and look at the laws we have," she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

MiniBury

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Subscribe to the MiniBury email newsletter to get local, kid-friendly events delivered straight to your inbox every week!

MiniBury.com

47th Annual Middlebury Festival on-the-Green

July 12-18 2026

Friday, July 17

Friday, July 17

Circus Minimus

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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!

Brett Hughes and the Honky-Tonk Crowd

7:00 PM - 10 PM

Veteran Vermont musician Brett Hughes hosted Honky-Tonk Tuesdays at Radio Bean for over a decade. What started off as a jam session eventually became a musical entity with a rotating cast of established local musicians. The band revisits the spirit of some of yesteryear's best song writers and presents them to a new audience. Brett's enthusiasm is contagious as he belts out tunes from some of country-music's best. Get ready for boot-stomping fun!

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

festivalonthegreen.org

Regional services

(Continued from Page 1A)
of scale and the cost savings that could accompany it.

“The Panton select board, looking at both the long-term of costs and inflationary costs that we’re all experiencing, as well as the need to continue the excellent and high level of service that the Vergennes Fire Department offers to both Panton and the folks in Vergennes, Waltham and portions of Ferrisburgh ... thought it was prudent to ... at least start the conversation,” Panton Town Clerk-Treasurer Kyle Rowe said.

“How could we operate on a more regional scale? How could we perhaps involve economies of scale for cost savings? How could we more equitably share the burden of our shared emergency services, and what would those conversations look like?”

Rowe likened a final product to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District, but for emergency services, though he noted that any such organization is far from being put to voters, let alone formed.

“This is just a draft process. We are very early in that and this should be a measured and considered

decision, and we are not ...looking for a change in any short amount of time,” Rowe said.

Since the end of June, on behalf of the Panton selectboard, Rowe has been inquiring about the four other towns’ appetite to participate in a joint survey committee, which if formed, would ultimately be a recommendation panel.

“Once they’ve kind of made their final set of recommendations to both the state and to their individual municipalities, their job is done,” Rowe said.

“State law says that joint survey committees are formed to improve intermunicipal and relationships among regional concerns, so it doesn’t necessarily have to be for just emergency services,” Rowe explained of the concept of a joint survey committee.

“It could be a wide range of conversations over a number of important issues, but the end product will

always have to follow the same steps of being reviewed by the state’s attorney general, and then the individual municipalities’ voters agreeing to participate.”

Rowe noted that while a joint survey committee might recommend regionalization, it’s also possible they recommend

maintaining “business as usual.”
“The Panton Select Board agrees that it’s very important that we at least try to have the conversation and really, really try and make an effort at examining all possibilities here, not just leaving it as business as usual, necessarily,” he said.

While making rounds to other towns’ local meetings, Rowe both pitched the idea of forming the committee to regionalize emergency services and asked officials to appoint a representative and an alternative to serve and discuss ideas.

So far, Vergennes and Addison have each agreed to participate and have appointed members. After considering, the Ferrisburgh selectboard opted against participating in the joint survey committee. The vote was 3-2.

“I believe that the Joint Survey Committee will certainly move forward, as the goal is to promote regional cooperation and discussion,” Rowe said in an email on Wednesday morning when asked if the initiative would move forward with just four towns.

“Ferrisburgh will continue to be invited to participate if they change their mind, and if the Joint Survey Committee develops a model for some type of regional entity, it may be possible for other communities to join later.”

On Wednesday night, Rowe planned to attend the Waltham selectboard meeting to pitch the initiative. Also on Wednesday night, the Panton selectboard was due to nominate its two members. Those meetings were held after the deadline for this story, and the outcome will be reported later.

For Vergennes City Councilor Mark Koenig, who was appointed by his peers to be the alternate member for Vergennes, exploring the possibility of even greater regionalization makes sense.

“I’ve been talking about this for a few years, I think just the five towns isn’t enough. I would like to see, like, northern Addison County, so including Monkton and Bristol and Starksboro and all that group, try and figure out how to deal with the cost of safety,” he said.

“Buying a fire truck will break the bank, and if it’s just Vergennes buying a fire truck, it’s



Big splash
A LITTLE GIRL puts together her biggest cannonball as she hops into the Middlebury Town Pool this past Friday during a heat wave that saw temps in the 90s.
Independent photo/Steve James

impossible, but if you have 15 or 20 communities putting into the new fire district municipal entity, that’s not just a town — but it would be like the water district or the sewer district that is its own municipality — it spreads out the costs and allows better access. It’s just figuring out the governance piece and the voting piece, but I think that’s the future of small communities and big price tags.”

When asked for statistics related to the rising cost of emergency services, Rowe pointed to the Vergennes Fire Department’s budget, which Panton, Waltham and Ferrisburgh all contribute a sum to. The city council approved \$352,458 for FY26, and 406,637 for FY27, a 15.37% increase. In FY25, councilors approved \$316,525 in spending, but by the end of the year the department ended up using \$342,006.

“This is not a criticism of the Vergennes Fire Department or their budget,” Rowe said of the FY27 increase.
“I have reviewed their budget thoroughly, I reviewed the Vergennes city budget thoroughly ... there’s not a lot of fat in that budget ... it’s because this is just the nature of municipal governance in the modern age, is that things become more expensive, and we’re dealing with their fallout from oftentimes, just the need for continual maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.”

THE SCOOP OF THE SUMMER

\$50 OFF

1-year Print + Digital subscription

Valid July 9-31, 2026

Use Code: **SCOOP50** at checkout online.

Want to pay by check? Write **SCOOP50** in the memo line.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt. Since 1946

Need help? Contact Sean.

802-388-4944, ext. 104

subscriptions@addisonindependent.com

Natural Gas Safety

Protect your meter and stay alert.

Keep Your Gas Meter Clear

- Your gas meter should be kept clear of mulch and topsoil, as this material can cause corrosion.
- Do not plant trees and shrubs near the gas meter. They can block access to the meter set as they mature.
- If making home improvements such as decking or air conditioning and heat pumps, maintain 3-ft of clearance from the meter and regulator.
- If your meter is next to a driveway or trash dumpster, it should be protected from damage by a bollard. Contact VGS for additional information.

Know the Signs of a Gas Leak

Smell

A sulfur or "rotten egg" odor.

Sight

White mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, blowing dust, or dead vegetation.

Sound

Hissing, whistling, or roaring.

Suspect a Leak?

- Leave the area immediately.
- Call 911 or VGS at 800-639-8081 with the location as you can't assume someone else will report it.
- Avoid phones, switches, or anything that could create a spark.
- Do not smoke or use vapes in the vicinity.

vgs

VERMONT GAS SERVICES

(800) 639-8081

vgsvt.com/safety

Cabin

(Continued from Page 1A)
the community and to save it as a sliver of time long past.
“We thought, what do we do? We can’t just let it sit here anymore. It’s sad,” Essensa explained.
The Hubbard Cabin, built in 1938 by members of the Middlebury Winter Sports Club using local spruce, served as the Middlebury Snowbowl’s original base lodge. It is named for Richard Hubbard ’36, who later became Middlebury College’s first full-time coach for both men’s and women’s alpine ski teams.
The cabin started being used shortly after its construction and was originally located near what is now the fireplace inside Starr Lodge. The last year the cabin was in use was 2003 and it was later relocated to a site beside the parking lot, where it stayed until this week’s move.
“It’s such a cool structure and,

to our knowledge, there’s no other ski lodge in the U.S. that is actually still standing,” Essensa said. “That’s why it was super important to us ... The folks that have used this cabin, I mean, the stories are nuts!”
The cabin’s significance goes beyond its age. Essensa explained that so many people have mentioned times they spent at the cabin that were significant to them.
“It goes back from being a lodge where people would go in and get changed, and then there was an addition put on at some point with a kitchen and bedroom, and then it turned into a place where Rikert managers lived,” Essensa said. “Our ski patrol director used to be in there as a kid with his buddies and have sleepovers. We just have all these stories, and I swear every other day, I get another person saying, ‘Oh yeah, I lived in that cabin.’”

The relocation of the building was completed by New England Building Movers, with help from M. Gale Buildings. Before the move, the crews stabilized the cabin by straightening the frame and roofline, repairing the interior and removing the addition that was not salvageable. Although the chimney is not original to the cabin, it survived the move as well. While some things need to be replaced, the original structure remains intact. Even the horsehair insulation between the logs remains.
Now that the building is in its final location, contractors are raising it to pour a new foundation before beginning the full restoration.
“They’re jacking it up,” Essensa said. “They’re pouring the foundation underneath it and then they will set it back into place, and then that’s when they will start their true restoration process. They’ll start replacing the logs, they’ll do the new addition, they’ll do a new roof on it, and it’ll get some stain on it. Just bringing it back to what it looked like originally.”
This project is part of a larger \$1 million initiative that also raised



THIS BIRD’S-EYE VIEW at the Snowbowl shows the Hubbard Cabin as it is pulled to its new location near the snowmaking pond (top left) in front of Starr Lodge.

Photos by Derrick Cram

funds for renovations to Starr Lodge. So far, they have raised roughly \$459,000.
“We still have a long way to go,” Essensa said. “The move is now complete. It’s in the location it will be hopefully forever.”
The structure connects to the community, the history of the Snowbowl and New England skiing in many ways. It was used to house employees, managers and others needing a place of respite. By relocating the alpine ski team to the restored Hubbard Cabin, the Snowbowl will have more flexibility to create additional public spaces inside its main lodge, including a retail shop, cubbies and a bar to enhance the experience of skiers.
“It is entirely gift-funded and we have multiple donors who have given,” Essensa said. “The gifts don’t have to be big. We’ve received \$25 donations; every little bit helps. It doesn’t seem like much, but it really goes a long way. We’re still raising money for it, but we’re only about halfway there.”
If the restoration stays on schedule, it is expected to be completed before the start of the ski season. Then the restored cabin will become Middlebury College’s alpine teams’ permanent home. One of the main reasons for this move, other than its historic relevance, is the need for a team space for the skiers.



NEW ENGLAND BUILDING Movers, with help from M. Gale Buildings, put the Hubbard Cabin on steel beams, planks and wheels so it could relocate the structure.

“We’re giving this structure to the alpine ski team to actually have a place,” Essensa said. “They take up significant space inside our current lodge ... they’ve got a library, race room ... and they don’t really have a good space in there. This will allow them to be all in one location. It will be equidistant between the two chairlifts, and they’ll actually have a place to call home there. They’ll have lockers, benches, TVs, things like that. They’re an awesome ski team, and we’re one of two colleges that have our own ski hills; they really

deserve to have a good place to be able to space themselves out.”
For Essensa and the broader Middlebury Snowbowl community, relocating Hubbard Cabin is about preserving a historic building as well as connecting current generations to nearly nine decades of Snowbowl history.
“Its roots run deep,” she said. “The logs could tell some wild stories!”
To support this project and bring it to life, visit the Support the Snowbowl section at middleburysnowbowl.com.



we’ve already found

100

four leaf clovers on our farm





www.foodforhope.farm

You don’t have to leave Vermont to get away



Staycation reason #244
Gas is cheaper than plane tickets (for now)

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins



2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

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

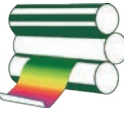
Email: contests@addisonindependent.com
Mail/In Person: Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
Online: addisonindependent.com/contests
Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to addisonindependent.com/contests for a printable version.
Winners will be notified by email on July 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 ☐

- School News
- Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Police Logs



THE OTTERLY HOPELESS team, left, rips through the TP finish line stretched across South Street in the final heat in Saturday morning's Bristol Outhouse Races to win the Golden Plunger. The winning trio held off the Mt. Abe lacrosse team coming in second, right, and Blue Ledge Farm coming in third, middle. Members of the Bristol Botanicals team, left, raced well in the first heat, didn't win, but they did sport festive floral attire that earned them the title of Best Decorated Outhouse.

Independent photos/Steve James

'Otterly Hopeless' defends outhouse race title

By ELOISE CHRISTY

BRISTOL — The Fourth of July dawned bright and sunny in Bristol. People were streaming onto Main Street carrying folding chairs, coolers and splashes of red, white and blue. Before the parade, one of the town's most unique traditions took place: the famous Outhouse Races.

Celebrating its 47th year, the

"World Championship" Outhouse Races returned Saturday morning with nine teams sprinting down the 500-foot straightaway on West Street along the town green to the finish line in front of Holley Hall. Thanks to newly installed wheels, this year's competition was faster than ever and it featured returning teams, first-time racers and a very close final sprint.

"It's the most exciting race!" an onlooker in the crowd said while the teams lined up at the start in front of Howden Hall.

When the paper towel stretched across the finish line (what, no toilet paper this year?) was ripped from the roll held by plungers on each end, it was the Otterly Hopeless team, representing Otter Creek Engineering, that captured

the prized Golden Plunger in the final.

"I'm not going to lie, it was a hard race," champion Noah Beayon said. The University of Vermont track and field athlete and teammate Geoffrey Johnson pushed their outhouse to victory with Quincy Sabick riding on the seat of power within. "You just got

(See Outhouse race, Page 3B)

Legion nine grabs three of four

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County American Legion nine finished a spate of four games this past week with three wins. That brings the

baseball team's record to 6-4.

Addison County started the spree by defeating Franklin County, 9-3, on the road, on Thursday, July 2.

The local team's sole loss came

on Sunday, July 5, to Montpelier. Though that round ended 5-1, Addison County came back to send Montpelier home with a 9-3 loss in a second game that same day.



Zoom!

WHITING DRIVER JIMMY RYAN, No. 60, races at the front of the pack in the Sunoco Sportsman Modified 25-Lap Feature at the Devil's Bowl Speedway in West Haven on June 27. He ended in third place behind winner Scott Towslee of Manchester and Marty Kelly III of Bennington. During an earlier race, a race official waves the yellow flag to slow the racing during a potentially dangerous moment. The action continues at Devil's Bowl this Sunday with Legends Night-The Vince Quenneville Memorial Race.

Photos by Max Blumenthal



THE 12U BACKSTROKE race gets underway in the Middlebury pool during a meet against Essex on Tuesday, July 7. The Marlins won, 397-89.

Photo by Caleb Kenna

Marlins swim team has two-week win streak

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Marlins Swim Team dominated their pool during a home meet on Tuesday, July 7. Locals outdid the Essex squad, 397-89.

Here are the Marlins who took the top spots in events during the Tuesday meet.

GIRLS

- Caroline Dietrich (8), 8U 25yd butterfly, 27.72; 8U 25yd backstroke, 23.22
- Dottie Watson (8), 8U 25yd breaststroke, 29.62
- Ellie Butler (7), 8U 25yd freestyle, 20.00
- Rose Phinney (10), 9-10 25yd butterfly, 17.81; 9-10 25yd breaststroke, 20.46; 9-10 25yd freestyle, 16.29
- Halsey Brooks (9), 9-10 25yd backstroke, 22.51
- Cassandra Bellmann (12), 11-12 50yd butterfly, 31.28; 11-12 50yd breaststroke, 38.25
- Maxine King (12), 11-12 50yd backstroke, 34.65

- Vela Remaniak (11), 11-12 50yd freestyle, 30.18
- Willow Hunt (13), 13-14 50yd butterfly, 40.27
- Bianca Spafford (13), 13-14 50yd breaststroke, 40.66; 13-14 50yd freestyle, 32.88
- Sadie Chance (16), 15-19 50yd butterfly, 29.75; 15-19 50yd backstroke, 33.40
- Selma Citarella (16), 15-19 50yd breaststroke, 32.19
- Abigail Hamilton (16), 15-19 50yd freestyle, 27.56

BOYS

- James Foley (8), 8U 25yd butterfly, 29.75; 8U 25yd backstroke, 31.60
- Hugh Spafford (8), 8U 25yd freestyle, 22.01
- Lincoln Hunt (10), 9-10 25yd butterfly, 19.63; 9-10 25yd backstroke, 20.43
- Cooper Butler (10), 9-10 25yd breaststroke, 21.45; 9-10 25yd freestyle, 16.34
- Felix Poduschnick (12), 11-12 50yd butterfly, 30.69; 11-12 50yd breaststroke, 36.44; 11-12 50yd

- freestyle, 27.70
- Bodhi Kenna (12), 11-12 50yd backstroke, 37.38
- George Martin (14), 13-14 50yd butterfly, 38.46; 13-14 50yd breaststroke, 40.37
- Ben Phinney (13), 13-14 50yd backstroke, 34.53; 13-14 50yd freestyle, 29.75
- Constantin Bellmann (15), 15-18 50yd butterfly, 31.57; 15-18 50yd breaststroke, 35.28; 15-18 50yd freestyle, 29.36

Here are the first place Marlin relays:

GIRLS RELAYS

- Ellie Butler (7), Caroline Dietrich (8), Alula Remaniak (8), Winter Benjamin (6), 8U 100yd medley relay, 1:52.40
- Juliette "Lettie" Kubacki (9), Romy Graves (10), Halsey Brooks (9), Olivia Wimet (9), 10U 100yd medley relay, 1:29.41
- Maxine King (12), Rose Phinney (10), Cassandra Bellmann (12), Vela Remaniak (11), 12U 200yd medley relay, 2:20.60

(See Marlins, Page 3B)

VERMONT

Sun



RUN & TRIATHLON SERIES

VERMONT SUN TRIATHLON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

600 yard swim • 14 mile bike • 3.1 mile run

LAKE DUNMORE TRIATHLON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

.9 mile swim • 28 mile bike • 6.2 mile run

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



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





Enter as an
individual or
a 2-3 member
team



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

Subscribe

Trusted news in Addison County since 1946.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

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

THOR'S ELEGANCE

BRANDON, VERMONT / MADE IN USA



WOODWARE

www.woodwarevt.com

802-388-6297

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

Fast local water, singing birds, striking fish

By MATTHEW DICKERSON

I got to the river about two hours before sunset. Though sunlight still hit in water in place, for the most part, the river was in shadow. The air temperature was a pleasant 72 degrees. Blue-eyed vireos and Caroline wrens were singing from the thickly wooded shoreline. Cedar waxwings were hunting—though if they were singing, I couldn't hear them over the rumble of the water.

The current was swift and foaming on the left side of the river where I stood. I was only knee deep in a little eddy behind a boulder against the shore, but one more step would have dropped me suddenly into whitewater that looked waist deep or deeper. With shoreline trees leaning over me, I had to cast sidearm to get my fly out to the calmer water across the river. As a righthanded caster, that meant working upriver made for an easier cast. I managed to land my streamer fly in the calmer water near the head of the pool on the far side. Five or six quick strips downstream, a trout shot up from down in the green depths, just missing my fly and going airborne a foot or more out of the water.

I repeated the cast a dozen times, but the fish did not return. So, I turned my attention to a patch of softer, deeper water near the tail-out of the pool. Casting backhand, I managed to land a fly just in front of the big boulder. A streamer fly is tied to imitate a fish (and not an insect). Since I was now pulling it upstream rather than down, I could do it more slowly with a lot of little twitches to imitate the action of a little forage fish like a shiner or a smaller trout. It was halfway back when another, much larger trout exploded out of the water at my fly. And this one hit it. Not until I tried to bring the fish in against the current did I realize how much larger and stronger it was.

Frequent rain, including some hard downpours, meant I hadn't been out on the water for several weeks. But three straight days with almost no precipitation—including

A BROWN TROUT, caught after several rain-soaked weeks away from Vermont's rivers, proved to be Dickerson's largest of the season so far.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

two days of actual sunshine—seemed promising. Although on the previous evening, driving north for a dinner date with my wife, we had crossed Lewis Creek and found it high and muddy. Chocolate brown. Or like “cowboy coffee” brewed in a pot and filtered with your teeth. But whatever thunderstorms had roiled the rivers up there had somehow missed our watershed, and though the New Haven River was swift and deep for late June, it was relatively clear, as evidenced in the first pool I cast in, very fishable.

Over the previous two weeks, I had tied up a handful of flies for an upcoming trip to the Northeast Kingdom: some imitations of mayfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs, and adult caddis flies, as well as some streamers imitating little brook trout. There was a lot of insect activity hovering over the surface when I arrived, but the water looked too swift and deep to easily get a nymph down to the bottom without a lot of weight, and no trout were rising to prompt me to cast a dry fly. So I went with the streamer. And though one of the other options might have done better, I had no cause to complain. Working my way downriver a half mile over the next two hours, I managed to entice seven fish into taking my fly—though not all of

them made it to my net.

But the first was the most memorable. It took me several minutes to fight it across the soft current, and twice it almost made it out of the tail of the pool and down a swift rapids to the next pool. When I finally got it to my side of the current, I realized I couldn't lift my rod to net it because of the trees. Not only was it my fly in the first pool I had fished in Vermont in several weeks, but it proved to be my largest trout of the season so

far, a fat brown with the coloring of a wild fish. If it was a stocked fish, it had been in the river at least a year to reach that size and coloring.

By the time this column is in print, if the weather predictions are accurate, we will have just had three straight days over 90 and will be in the middle of a stretch of eight or more days of at least 80. Normally, this is when trout fishing in Vermont rivers seems to really tail off. But one good thing about the abundant rain we've had is that the fishing stays good far later into the summer. The river was still flowing strong and cool. It's a good time to get out and stand in the water. And, in case you're wondering, that brown trout is back in the water growing fatter for you.

MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor
Columnist

Legion

(Continued from Page 1B)

Addison County closed the run on Tuesday, July 7, with a 15-11 victory at South Burlington.

On Thursday, July 9, the team is due to travel to Essex, who Addison County previously lost to in a pair of home games in late June.

Then on Saturday, July 11, the team is scheduled to play a home double header against Lyndon.

The first game starts at noon and the second at 2:30 p.m.

Addison County also lost to Lyndon earlier in the season.

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

Independent photo/Steve James

BOATING SEASON IS HERE - HOP ON IN!

HARE AND THE DOG

Legendary

WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury ♦ Vergennes

www.Hare.dog

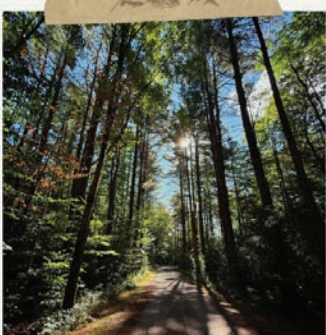
A swimmer wearing a red cap and goggles is captured mid-splash in a pool lane. The swimmer is wearing a red cap with the word 'POBODA' on it. The water is blue, and the lane is marked by blue and white striped lane lines. The swimmer's head and shoulders are above water, and there is a significant splash of white water around them. The background shows the continuation of the pool lanes and some greenery on the far bank.

NEW HAVEN HOUSING TASKFORCE
The New Haven Housing Taskforce continued its outreach to town community members at Summerfest on the Green on June 27. The task force had 'Dot-voting' at the display table which captured positive feedback towards several key areas, including interest in expanding housing on existing properties within the village center, establishing centralized municipal septic and making the town more walkable, including improved traffic control. Contact the task force with any further questions or inputs at newhavenhousingVT@gmail.com



Independent photo/Steve James

You don't have to leave
Vermont to get away



Staycation reason #244
Gas is cheaper than plane tickets
(for now)

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins



2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton



New Haven, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

Bristol Electronics designed and installed a photovoltaic system on our house in New Haven.

We could not be more pleased with the staff and the installation of our system.

Right from the start we understood what we were buying and what the installation process was about. The staff filled out all the necessary paperwork required by Green Mountain Power and the State of Vermont. This in itself made our experience with Bristol Electronics an easy and pleasant one.

The installation was professional and clean. The service did not end with installation. We were contacted to insure that everything was satisfactory and if we had any questions.

We highly recommend Bristol Electronics.





802 . 453 . 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Mike and Helen Hanley – New Haven, VT

Celebrate Starksboro this weekend

STARKSBORO — The town of Starksboro’s 250th Celebration Week continues with events on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, following the salute to the signing of the Declaration of Independence this past Saturday.

Thursday, July 9, will see Auxiliary Trivia Night at Robinson Elementary School. A potluck will begin at 5:30 p.m., then the Auxiliary will pose questions related to Vermont and the U.S. 250th anniversary beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sign up in advance by emailing Carin, Peg or Amy (pegcasey@hotmail.com, cmccarthy@starksborovt.org or amy@starksborovt.org), and include your team name! Each team should bring a food item to share. There will also be Ben & Jerry’s and homemade ice cream, plus refreshments, prizes, goodie baskets and gift certificates.

The centerpiece for Friday, July 10, will be a barn dance, 7-9 p.m. at Thacher and Olivia Hurd’s barn on Rublee Road, off Mason Hill South. The Town Hollers band will perform.

Organizers hope everyone shows up for a Town Photo on Saturday, July 11. Picture time is 1 p.m. at Cota Field.

There will be lots of fun activities sandwiched around the picture. Cota Field will see:

- Games and sack races, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sharp equipment Antique farm equipment demo, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Hand mowing up against Lewis Creek southwest of the Pavilion, 11 a.m.
- Horse drawn wagon rides with Dave Russell around the outer edge of Cota Field, 11 a.m.-noon
- Food by donation under pavilion on north side, 12 noon.
- Fiber Frolick. Under the pavilion with Lausanne Allen and Twist O’Wool Guild, Strands (a local group of portable weavers) and a local 4-H group, noon-2 p.m.

As interested, Galen Helm’s Construction will demonstrate shingling including cutting slate and tapping copper nails.

These events have been organized by residents; anyone interested in helping is invited to reach out to organizes.

For more information, visit the calendar page on the town of Starksboro website starksborovt.org.



Bristol event fetes America’s 250th

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Fourth of July may have passed, but community members aren’t done celebrating the nation’s semiquincentennial.

A July 12 event organized by First Baptist Church of Bristol will commemorate America’s 250th birthday with a focus on the “Four Freedoms” outlined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union Address. All are invited to the event, which is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. on the Bristol Town Green.

“What we want to get from this (event) is for people to pause and appreciate the extraordinary freedom that we have in this nation,” said Isaac Dzomeku, pastor at the First Baptist Church of Bristol.

Dzomeku is originally from Ghana and highlighted some of the differences he’s seen between life in America and growing up in his home country.

“Coming to America, I’m coming from a place where people will always do everything to keep you down,” he said. “Democracy was not practiced when I was born, and I gradually grew under military rule.

“Everything was tight and restricted, but coming to America, you begin to appreciate the level of freedom that you guys have here; that you are free to speak your mind, you are free to worship or not to worship, you are free to do anything you want to do because why? That is level of freedom that we have here in America,” Dzomeku continued.

Attendees at the July 12 event will hear from Dzomeku and three other speakers, each sharing remarks on one of the Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and the freedom from fear. World War II was well underway when Roosevelt delivered

the 1941 speech to Congress. His address in part aimed to make the case for America’s involvement in the war and the fight for what he articulated as universal freedoms for all people.

The speech proved to be inspiring for a well-known painter living in Arlington, Vt., at the time. Norman Rockwell’s 1943 series on The Four Freedoms depicts each of the freedoms articulated in Roosevelt’s speech. Local residents modeled for the paintings, which portray scenes like a group gathering around a table for a meal and a scene from an Arlington town meeting in “Freedom of Speech.”

Posters of Rockwell’s paintings will be on display at the July 12 event.

“The characters that he painted (in the series) were friends and neighbors of that area, they were Vermonters that he chose to put in here,” Greg Orvis, a member of the First Baptist Church of Bristol, said of the series. “(The paintings) were so powerful.”

Along with speakers’ remarks, the event will feature patriotic music, such as the national anthem, “God Bless America” and “America The Beautiful.” The gathering will also recognize veterans, local first responders and those who serve our communities.

The event is expected to last around an hour and will offer refreshments and time to socialize after the program. Those attending are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. The event will be held inside the First Baptist Church at 10 Park St. in the case of rain.

Organizers said they’re excited about the opportunity to host the event, celebrating a milestone anniversary and looking toward the years ahead.

“We want to focus from now into the future, how we can protect this freedom, how we can be intentional about it, how we can be able to open up the space for everybody to feel welcome in this country,” Dzomeku said.

Posters of Rockwell’s paintings will be on display at the July 12 event.

A more reliable way to heat your home.

vgsvt.com/switch

Hey Bristol

Do you want to advertise on the Bristol Beat Page?

If you have a business in the Bristol area give Tom a call at 802-388-4944

You don't have to leave Vermont to get away

Staycation reason #67
It's usually 10° cooler in the mountains.

Book your staycation at robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins

2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

Mountain Community Health

Currently accepting new patients

We are a Federally Qualified Health Center, offering comprehensive healthcare to all people, regardless of the ability to pay.

Comprehensive Care, close to home, including:

- Primary medical care
- Dental care - adults and children
- Behavioral health services
- School-based care
- Medical nutrition therapy

Sliding scale fee program for those who qualify. Call us for information!

Mountain Community Health

(802) 453-3911

61 Pine St. Bristol, VT 05443 | www.mchvt.org

YOUR TOWN - YOUR CARE

BRISTOL CORE Presents!

POCOCK ROCKS

MAIN STREET BRISTOL, VT

MAIN STREET BRISTOL VT SAT. AUG. 15 TH FROM 2:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM

MUSICAL GUESTS

WEST STAGE	EAST STAGE
Tom Bisson & The Rustics 3:00	Remember Baker 2:30
Eclipse 4:15	Jacob Green 3:45
Hudost 6:00	Red Admiral 5:15

BIG PICK AFTER PARTY SOUTH MTN TAVERN - 8:00 PM

Thanks to our amazing sponsors

Bristol Main LLC
Smith & McClain
Media Sponsors
ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



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.

Mushroom Walk with Meg Madden in New Haven. Thursday, July 9, 10 a.m., Treleven Farm. Meg is a treasure trove of mycological knowledge; you can check out some of her finds at @spore.stories on Instagram. We'll be out in the woods, rain or shine, so plan accordingly. Free. Register: trelevenfarm@gmail.com.

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.

"The Madwoman in the Wallpaper": A Discussion of The Yellow Wallpaper in Middlebury. Thursday, July 9, 12:30-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The opening event in the summer brownbag series is a live reading of the audio drama by Amy Bennett-Zendzian, adapted from the classic Charlotte Perkins Gilman story. A young wife and mother is brought to a secluded estate for a rest cure. Forbidden from any activity but staring at the wallpaper, she spirals into madness. Cast: Vanessa Dunleavy and Andrew Ritter, directed by Michole Biancosino. Free.

Free Produce Thursdays in New Haven. Thursday, July 9, 1-7 p.m., New Haven Community Library. Primarily these are donations of "gleaned" vegetables from local farms. These are free to anyone from any town. What we are able to offer is based on donations, so the selection and quantities vary throughout the growing season. Our goals are to increase access to healthy food and make use of food that might be wasted otherwise. We accept produce or baked goods local people or businesses would like to donate to add to the giveaway.

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 Street. 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.

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.

Barn Dance in Starksboro. Friday, July 10, 7-9 p.m., Thacher & Olivia Hurd's Barn, Rublee Rd., off Mason Hill S. Barn Dance with band The Town Hollers. More info: Lausanne Allen 802-453-2199.

july 11 SATURDAY

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.

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 non-profits. 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.

Green Mountain Bicycle Club Gravel ride in Hinesburg. Saturday, July 11, 9:15 a.m., Allen Brook Nature Trail. A 32-mile ride on paved and gravel roads heading through Hinesburg. Register and see details at thegmbc.com/events.

Town Festivities in Starksboro. Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m., Cota Field. Bring a lawn chair and your water bottle to join in enjoying town festivities. 10 a.m.: VFD demos at the Fire House; 11 a.m. horse-drawn wagon rides, Hand mowing demo, vintage farm equipment exhibit, natural roofing slate demo; noon: fiber arts demo, field games, BBQ brisket sliders/burgers lunch. 1 p.m. Town Photo. Rain date: Sunday, July 12.

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.

Weybridge Town Potluck & Picnic in Weybridge. Saturday, July 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Weybridge Elementary School. The Weybridge Community Group will grill burgers and hot dogs and provide beverages and Louise Bowdish's famous cupcakes. Please bring your own dishware and utensils and a side dish to share.

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. Adults \$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.,



Gallop to glory

THE 48TH ANNUAL Goshen Gallop is set for Saturday, July 11, at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center. With fun 5K and 10K trails, this family-friendly event welcomes both seasoned and beginner runners, like father-son duo Bryan and Emmett Waters of Ripton, pictured here crossing the finish line together in the 2021 5K. After your run, enjoy wood-fired pizza and a refreshing pond dip.

Photo by Josh Hummel

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.

Knights of Columbus Charity Bingo in Middlebury. Saturday, July 11, 5 p.m., Middlebury American Legion, 49 Wilson Road. Proceeds to benefit the Women's Center. Potluck dinner available. Door prizes, tear tickets, 50/50 raffle, silent auction and more.

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.

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday in Bristol. Sunday, July 12, 2 p.m., Town Green. Celebrating our freedom as Americans. Refreshments served. Bring a chair if you can. Rain location: Bristol Baptist Church. 802-453-4573.

Festival on the Green begins in Middlebury. Sunday, July 12, 7-10 p.m., Town green. Mojo Birds kick off this 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.

july 13 MONDAY

Festival on the Green Brown Bag Lunch in Middlebury. Monday, July 13, noon-1 p.m., Town green. Magician Tom Verner. 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.

Festival on the Green in Middlebury. Monday, July 13, 7-10 p.m., Town green. Ted Perry and the Big Easy with Ryan Montbleau, followed by Ernest James Zydeco. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

july 14 TUESDAY

Rock Painting in Brandon. Tuesday, July 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids decorate an adorable rock buddy to take home. Free.

Festival on the Green Brown Bag Lunch in Middlebury. Tuesday, July 14, noon-1 p.m., Town green. No Strings Marionettes. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

Addison County Live! in Middlebury. Tuesday, July 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Evan Jennison, Jim and Clara Carroll, Naunau Beloha & Friends perform in conjunction with Festival on the Green.

Grief and the Creative Heart in Vergennes. Tuesday, July 14, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. First week of a four-week group that is a safe, supportive space for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Through expressive arts, explore emotions and memories using creative tools such as music, writing, storytelling, drawing/painting and collage. In each session there will be guided activities and opportunities to share (if you wish) in a non-judgmental and confidential setting. This is not about skill, but expressing, feeling and connecting with others in your community who are grieving too. No need to identify as an artist or writer to participate. Free.

East Middlebury Historical Society Meeting in East Middlebury. Tuesday, July 14, 7-8 p.m., Sarah Partridge Community Library. Duke Whitney, history buff extraordinaire from Salisbury, will speak about the Spanish-American War and the Civil War with attention to some of the soldiers buried in Prospect Cemetery. Free.

Festival on the Green in Middlebury. Tuesday, July 14, 7-10 p.m., Town green. Mélisande from Quebec. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

july 15 WEDNESDAY

Owl Craft & Owl Pellet Dissection with Sue Wetmore in Brandon. Wednesday, July 15, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids do an owl-themed craft and/or dissect an owl pellet with local birding expert Sue Wetmore. Free.

Festival on the Green Brown Bag Lunch in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 15, noon-1 p.m., Town green. Burlington Taiko drumming. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

Strategies for Supporting Early Literacy at Home in Bristol. Wednesday, July 15, 5-6 p.m., The Peake House, 16 North St. Parents, caregivers, nannies or anyone supporting kids can join Stern Center Literacy Coach Elizabeth Keenan for a summer strategy session. Hands-on activities, conversation, and real-life examples. Bring your kid and learn together or come gather pro-tips to bring back home. This session will be focused on supporting children in Pre-K through 3rd grade (4-8 years old) but may be of interest to families with older or younger children as well. RSVP required. For more info visit lawrencelibraryvt.org/events.

Macrame Plant Hanger Workshop in New Haven. Wednesday, July 15, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Community Library. Learn to make a relatively simple or slightly more advanced macrame plant hanger. Materials to make one plant hanger provided. No registration needed; open to everyone old enough to do an intricate craft.

Deep Dives: Battle of Valcour Bay-Day 3 in Ferrisburgh. Wednesday, July 15, 6-7 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Patricia Reid, the museum's Director of Collections, will tell the story of the third day of the Battle of Lake Champlain. Early that morning, Patriot soldiers surrendered the row galley Washington, and she'll relate that moment from the perspective of Lyman Noble, who was captured with other crewmembers. In between the two fleets, Patricia will tell the story of nine-year-old Sally (Kellogg) Markham. Free. Registration required: cognitofrms.com/LakeChamplainMaritimeMuseum/2026DeepDivesSeries.

Slow Rollers Social Bike Rides in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m., Little Seed Coffee Roasters. A casually paced social bike ride. Explore your neighborhoods, meet new people. For more info follow @SlowRollersMiddlebury.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday from June 17 to Aug. 26 the Town Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. We welcome new members. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

Festival on the Green in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 15, 7-10 p.m., Town green. Faux Paws followed by Damn Tall Buildings. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

july 16 THURSDAY

Festival on the Green Brown Bag Lunch in Middlebury. Thursday, July 16, noon-1 p.m., Town green. Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté - a musical storytelling show. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

CALENDAR ONLINE

addisonindependent.com



Bargains galore at St. Stephen's Peasant Market this Saturday

MIDDLEBURY — A hand-built 12-foot by 5-foot boat with an outboard motor and handcart, a Sunfish-style sailboat and a beautifully crafted dollhouse are just some of the standout finds awaiting bargain-hunters at the Peasant Market, which starts at 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday, July 11, on the Middlebury town green.

A beloved summer tradition in Addison County for decades, this year's Peasant Market will offer something for everyone,

from kitchenware, antiques and jewelry, to camping gear, puzzles and handicrafts, and everything in between.

"You can grab lunch and take home a fresh fruit pie baked in the church kitchen," said 2026 co-chair Tom Klemmer. He and co-chair Heather McConville Durante noted that last year's Peasant Market raised \$24,000 in grants which the church distributed to local organizations.

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

The following students have been named to the University of New England's dean's list for the spring semester 2026.

- Alexis Perlee, Bristol
- Carson Barnes, N. Ferrisburgh
- Halle Huizenga, New Haven
- Mackenzie Flint, Vergennes

The following local residents were named to the Spring 2026 President's List at the University of Rhode Island.

- Melody Berenbaum of Middlebury
- Nikolai Luksch of Middlebury of Rhode Island.

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*

2 YEARS • 2 HEARTS • 1 TIDY COMMUNITY

a tidy place

Thank you Addison County residents for two beautiful years!

◆ ◆ ◆

Embracing the art of letting go.

◆◆◆◆◆ Check out our Google reviews!

15% OFF YOUR FIRST IN-HOME SESSION
Must be booked prior to August 31, 2026

Based in Waitsfield, VT
802-496-4944
info@atidyplacevt.com
atidyplacevt.com

READER comments

“ That you are surviving in these times is a miracle — and our great good fortune. ”

-Deborah, Lincoln subscriber

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County VT, Since 1946

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

AUCTIONS

**ONLINE AUCTION**

BANKRUPTCY: CLOUDFARM GROWING EQUIPMENT (#1760)
AUCTION CLOSES: Thursday | July 23 | 10AM
PREVIEW: Thursday | July 16 | 11AM-1PM
LOCATION: Middlebury, VT
ITEM REMOVAL: Tuesday | July 28 | 9AM-4PM



This online auction features over 160 lots of commercial growing equipment, packaging supplies, industrial machinery, and inventory from a former Vermont cultivation and production operation.

BIDDING IS OPEN ONLINE!

**THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY**
THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

Sheldon kicks off lunchtime series
Play reading eyes mental health, gender & creativity

MIDDLEBURY — The Henry Sheldon Museum kicks off its “Behind the Yellow Wallpaper” series this Thursday with a staged reading performed by professional actors.

This is a relaxed summer series that uses “The Yellow Wallpaper,” a short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, as a starting point to explore ideas around mental health, gender, creativity and history. Through casual discussions, guest speakers, and presentations, this series will connect the story to real materials from the museum’s archives and ephemera collection.

This series will meet every other Thursday from 12:30-2 p.m. at the Henry Sheldon Museum. Admission is free but pre-registration is preferred. Register online at tinyurl.com/SheldonSummer2026.

This Thursday’s presentation will include a live reading of an audio drama “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Amy Bennett-Zendzian. First published in 1892, “The Yellow Wallpaper” is a semi-autobiographic short story centering a young mother’s struggle with postpartum depression. The story follows a young mother who is subjected to a stifling “rest cure” by her physician husband. Isolated in a secluded estate, forbidden to write, and trapped in a room with peeling yellow wallpaper, she slowly spirals into madness as she obsesses over a figure she imagines trapped behind the paper.

Vanessa Dunleavy will portray “Charlotte” and Andrew Ritter



THE SHELDON MUSEUM’S summer brown bag series of Thursday lunchtime talks looks to “The Yellow Wallpaper,” a short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, as a starting point to explore mental health, gender, creativity and history.

portrays “The Husband.” It will be directed by Michole Biancosino, assistant directed by Jane Zhang.

This story serves as the starting point to the series and paves the way to connecting key themes from the text to the museum’s archival and ephemera collections.

Other brown bag presentations in this series are:

JULY 23
“Wallpaper Revealed: The Artistry of Wallpaper.” Participants will look at the artisanship that goes into making wallpaper, reframing how it is viewed as purely decorative to a more specialized artform in its own right. From pigments that caused sickness and even fatalities, to printing production and conservation, how can we understand wallpaper, as a product intended for at-home enjoyment,

to be in conversation with art on a broader scale.

Guest speaker to be announced.

AUGUST 6
“The Madwoman in the Attic: Colonial and Racial Implications on Mental Health.” Centered around a discussion of “The Wide Sargasso Sea” by Jean Rhys, this week’s installment will explore the intersection of race, mental health, and art.

Written as somewhat of a prequel to Charlotte Bronte’s “Jane Eyre,” “The Wide Sargasso Sea” reframes the narrative of the madwoman in the attic by asking what drove her mad in the first place? This book provides a jumping off point for a discussion of how gender, race, and colonialism all factor into mental health, as well as our understanding of how colonialism and race factor

into western art and literature.

Presentation by Allison Cardon and Alexandra Weimer.

AUGUST 20
“Out from behind The Yellow Wallpaper: Voices of Vermont Women in Mental Institutions from the Museum’s archives.”

What did it look like to receive mental health treatment as a woman in the 19th century? This week participants will discuss letters sent from Addison County women receiving treatment in New England sanitariums. These firsthand accounts will provide important context for discussions around gender and mental health treatment in Vermont, both historic and contemporary.

Presentation by Dr. Melissa Dubroff.

Race a 5K or 10K in the National Forest this Saturday

GOSHEN — ‘The Toughest 10k in New England’ returns: 48th Annual Goshen Gallop set

for Saturday

Trail runners looking to test their grit on some of the region’s most beautiful and brutal backcountry terrain will gather this weekend for the 48th annual Goshen Gallop. The historic trail race kicks off Saturday, July 11, at 4 p.m. at the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, in (you guessed it) Goshen.

Since its debut in 1978, the Goshen Gallop has drawn athletes from across Vermont and around the world. Participants can choose between two rugged, elevation-packed courses: the merciful 5-plus-kilometer run or the legendary 10-plus-kilometer loop, which has earned the nickname “the toughest 10k in New England.”

Both courses challenge runners with steep climbs and wild terrain through lush Moosalamoo National Recreation Area forests, rewarding them with sweeping, backcountry views from the southern ridge of Hogback Mountain.

The grueling effort on the trails will give way to a relaxed victory celebration at the finish line. Runners and spectators can celebrate with a post-race wood-fired pizza party and a refreshing



THE 48TH ANNUAL Goshen Gallop is set for Saturday, July 11. Runners will test their grit on a 5k or 10k race through the Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center trails.

dip in the Blueberry Hill pond. On-site camping and accommodations at the historic Blueberry Hill Inn are also available for those looking to turn the race weekend into an overnight getaway.

More than just a race, the Goshen Gallop serves as a vital fundraiser for the area’s wilderness infrastructure. All proceeds from the registration fees directly benefit the nonprofit Blueberry

Hill Outdoor Center, funding the year-round maintenance of the cross-country skiing, hiking and mountain biking trails and bridges that the public enjoys. Registration fees range from \$40-\$52 plus fees.)

Race day registration and bib pickup details, alongside official course maps, can be found online at blueberryhilltrails.com. For more information, contact race organizers at info@blueberryhilltrails.com.

MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY				
COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 7/2/26 & 7/6/26				
		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Westminster	1820	1.85		\$3367.00
K. Rousseau	1320	1.75		\$2310.00
Rowell Farm	1665	1.71		\$2830.05
Blue Spruce	1640	1.70		\$2788.00
Savello	1765	1.70		\$3000.50
R+N Thibeault	1445	1.68		\$2427.60
Deer Valley	1310	1.65		\$2161.50
CALVES				\$
Gosliga				\$1774.80
Danyon				\$1754.80
Sunderland				\$1740.00
Degraaf				\$1680.00
Deer Valley				\$1664.00
Barnes				\$1637.10
Total Beef - 100		Total Calves - 179		
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.				
call 1-802-388-2661				

**GREAT BRANDON AUCTION**
38th
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!

Bernie Carr | 802-236-8120 | info@brandon.org
Go to www.brandon.org for more info and pictures

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

It’s been a few weeks since we’ve had a new Garden Game entry, but that drought is officially over!

Garden Game veteran **Gary Miller** stopped by with a beautiful edible leafy green measuring 17.75” L x 7.5” W. He included a note saying, “I will be back!” We can’t wait to see what comes in next.

Think you’ve got a garden giant that can top it? Bring your biggest and best to the Addy Indy office and you might earn a spot on the Garden Game leaderboard!



Fun Fact

Think horseradish is just about the root? The leaves are edible, too! Young horseradish leaves have a peppery bite similar to arugula and can be enjoyed in salads or cooked like kale. Horseradish is also a member of the Brassica family alongside broccoli and cabbage, and has been cultivated for more than 3,000 years!



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) - Gary Miller, 17.75” x 7.5”
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



RAYMOND
RENOVATION
& NEW CONSTRUCTION, LLC

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

Vantage
Point
Homes

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



GREEN MOUNTAIN
GROUNDWORKS

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



Chris Mulliss
FLOOR & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

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 POP!

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

J.W. & D.E. RYAN INC.
Vergennes, Vermont

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

RCC

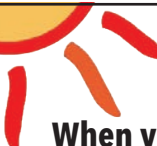
REAL CAPITAL CONSULTING
INCORPORATED 1989

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

BRISTOL ELECTRONICS
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

LINCOLN
APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.

Celebrating 40 Years
Environmental Consultants – Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BV
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BV

• 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

SARGENT'S
TREE SERVICE

349-7459

• 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
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE!

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
vermontwindowtreatments.com

YOU DON'T NEED A BIG BUDGET TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT

We know what it's like to wear a lot of hats. You're running your business, serving customers, answering the phone, doing the books...
who has time to worry about websites and online marketing?



That's where Independent Digital Marketing, the digital services branch of the Addy Indy, comes in.

Let's get your business online!
Simple. Affordable. Local.

Contact us today!

We offer flexible pricing and local support, so you can grow at your own pace, no tech experience needed. We're real people, right here in Addison County, and we're ready to help you take the next step.

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).

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.

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

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

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Services

BROWN'S CONSTRUCTION renovations, interior/exterior painting, drywall, plumbing/electrical services. Fully insured w/ 30+ years of experience covering Northern Addison and Southern Chittenden, references available. Call 802-238-4864

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

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!

Garage Sales

ANNUAL SALE IN THE BARN 613 West St, Cornwall. Saturday, July 18th, 8am-3pm. Rain or shine. Part of the Cornwall Town-Wide Garage Sale. Household and decorative items, kitchenware, Cuisinart ice cream maker, crock pot, large lobster or soup pot, Kenmore canister vacuum, large wood turning lathe, professional jointer/planer, tools, craft supplies, bike rack, dog crate and portable dog pen, and lots more. No clothing or children's items.

CORNWALL TOWN WIDE garage/lawn sale. July 18 Rain or Shine. Come see what Cornwall has for you.

MULTI-FAMILY SALE We cleaned out a house and a barn! Located at: 477 Doolittle Road Shoreham 7/16-7/19, please see times. Rain or shine Thursday 4-7, Friday and Saturday 8-4, Sunday 9-1 Some items we have: enamelware, barn fans, household goods, collectables, gardening supplies, canning items, tools, small furniture, multiple shovels, rakes, pitchforks, DVDs, CDs, vinyl 33 and 45s, cassettes, kids toys and clothes, women's clothing/shoes, blankets/sheets, dishes, art supplies, books old and new, old bottles, 100s of salt n pepper shakers, carpets, ladders, chairs, car cleaning supplies, and more !

Garage Sales

YARD SALE July 11th 8:30-12:00. 31 Lower Plains Rd, East Middlebury. American Eagle Jeans, variety of other clothes, household goods, cookbooks, antique wooden oval framed needlework, and much more.

Opportunities

NEW GENERAL STORE Business Opportunity in Benson. Benson Village Trust (BVT) is offering a unique opportunity for an entrepreneur passionate about good food, service and community to operate the Benson Village Store in the village center. The store business owner will lease a newly constructed and outfitted store/deli/cafe building to create a thriving small business in a dynamic rural community on Lake Champlain. Go to www.bensonvillagetrust.org for complete details. Letters of interest are due July 31st.

Help Wanted

AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY HEARTH is interviewing for a Prep Leader. We are a woman-owned and run restaurant and welcome all qualified applicants whose values align with ours. We offer a fun, respectful and inclusive work environment with built-in 2 days off in a row, vacation time and \$18-22/hr (starting wage depends on experience). The right person for this position can see a job through to completion, has great communication skills, and is interested in working as a team to create and serve delicious, local and organic food. Baking, knife skills and prep experience are helpful, but we are happy to train the right candidate and value a positive, "Can Do" attitude above all. 32-40 hrs/week, Tues-Sat. We hope to receive applications from a broad spectrum of society to better represent all members of our community onto our team. Call 802.388.2200 or email danielle@americanflatbread.com

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.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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.

Help Wanted

For Sale

FOR SALE 20'x20' tent full of flea market stuff, corner cabinet - China cabinet, pine dry sink, gun case - 7 guns, 2 generators - Briggs Stratton 5,550 w & Coleman 5000 w. Make offer. Call 802-453-7338.

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

Help Wanted

For Sale

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

Vacation Rentals

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

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

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

Help Wanted



Warehouse and Yard Worker

FT Position available

Duties: Loading and Assisting with Customer Orders from the Yard, Warehouse and Store, Stocking Shelves and Filling Propane Tanks. Up to 40 hours per week.

Weekends and dependability a MUST!

Qualified Candidate must have a dedicated work ethic, the ability to lift 50lbs repeatedly throughout the day, and work hard in the spring and summer seasons.

Please stop in to pick up an application or send Resume to:
Middlebury AGWAY Farm & Garden,
Attn: Jennifer Jacobs
338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753
or by email to info@middleburyagway.com

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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.

RATES

Addison Independent

CLASSIFIEDS

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.

MIDDLEBURY B R I A R W O O D A P A R T M E N T S is currently taking waitlist applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

BRISTOL OFFICE SPACE Office space is available in Bristol in the Schoolhouse Office Suites in the brick building of the Old High School complex (above BFit). The space is 555 s.f., hardwood floors, high ceilings with fans, old slate blackboards and large energy efficient north-facing windows. Conference room, reception area, kitchenette, bathroom, and storage area are shared with the other four tenants in the Schoolhouse Office Suites. Rent is \$775/month, which includes heat, electric, Internet, trash and snow removal. Available July 1. Email Carol at carol@wellsmountain.com with questions 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.

For Rent

V E R G E N N E S D O W N T O W N A P A R T M E N T 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.

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.

Cars

77 CORVETTE ZZ4 motor 355HP, rack & pinion, AC, \$15,500 firm. 94 Chevy Silverado ext. cab 350 auto 4WD \$8,000. 802-877-1304. Leave message, ask for Dave.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Page 10B.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Evernorth and Addison Housing Works are seeking proposals from Architectural firms for schematic design work associated with the development of a new affordable housing building in Middlebury. Qualified applicants will have comparable experience as well as experience with affordable housing, multi-family construction, publicly funded projects and federal regulations. Proposals must be submitted by Friday, July 24 at 12:00pm. Minority-owned, women-owned, locally-owned and Section 3 businesses are encouraged to apply. To obtain a copy of the RFP, contact Tyler Labrie at Evernorth, 603.724.4937, or tlabrie@evernorthus.org.

TOWN OF MONKTON
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Town of Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, July 27, 2026, beginning at 7:30 pm. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Hall, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

1. 24-902 Jeremy Broderick final plat hearing for a 5-lot Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 4863 Silver St., Parcel ID 13.101.038.001

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

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 26-PR-03146
IN RE ESTATE OF: CONNOR MCCARTHY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: **Connor McCarthy**, late of Shoreham, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: 6/18/26

Deborah A. McCarthy
% Kathleen M. Boe, Esq., Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
64 Court St., Middlebury, VT 05753

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 7/9/26
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

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).

Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule Rule 40.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 26P019
AGENCY: Department of Labor

CONCISE SUMMARY: Medical providers who care for injured workers covered by a workers' compensation policy are required to bill for their services using the Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule. It is vital to the health of the workers' compensation system that such fees be sufficient to ensure the provision of services, without being so generous as to increase the cost of insurance coverage. The rule generally modestly raises reimbursement amounts, adds a far more robust table of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Health-care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and provides for annual indexing going forward using Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)"market basket" factors, capped at 3% annually.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Dirk Anderson, Department of Labor, PO Box 488, Montpelier VT 05601-0488 Tel: 1-802-828-4391 Fax: 1-802-828-2195 E-Mail: dirk.anderson@vermont.gov URL: <https://labor.vermont.gov>

FOR COPIES: Berrian Eno-Van Fleet, Department of Labor, PO Box 488, Montpelier VT 05601-0488 Tel: 1-802-828-2286 Fax: 1-802-828-2195 E-Mail: berrian.eno-vanfleet@vermont.gov.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lienholders and mortgagees of the real estate in the Town of Ferrisburgh, in the County of Addison, and State of Vermont are hereby notified that real estate taxes assessed by the Town of Ferrisburgh for the 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024-2025 and 2025/2026 property tax years remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid upon the following described real estate in the Town of Ferrisburgh as indicated below, to wit:

Frank C. Luyster: Delinquent 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 Property Taxes

Being 23.09 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 251 Wing Road, Ferrisburgh, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Frank C. Luyster in a Warranty Deed from Mary C. Shields f/k/a Mary C. Westenfeld, and Timothy V. Shields dated December 8, 2010, and recorded in the Ferrisburgh Land Records in Book 136 at Page 484. (Parcel I.D. #10/01/54.32).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk's office, a public place in said Town of Ferrisburgh on the 28th day of September, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner's or mortgagee's representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C.
ATTN: James F. Carroll, Esq. or Wanda M. Murray, Paralegal
64 Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753 Telephone: (802) 388-6711

Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C. and the Town of Ferrisburgh do not give any opinion or certification as to the marketability of the titles to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owners/taxpayers.

The only acceptable form of bid payment at the day of tax sale is bank check payable to Carroll, Boe & Kite, P.C., Real Estate Trust Account. No personal checks will be accepted.

Dated at Ferrisburgh, Vermont this 24 day of June, 2026.

Thomas Steadman, Town of Ferrisburgh
Delinquent Tax Collector

New Haven man cited
for assault on an officer

BRISTOL — Bristol police on June 26 responded to an individual behaving disorderly. After investigating, officers cited Michael Russett, 66, of New Haven for assault on a law enforcement officer.

Police also recently recovered an ATM in Starksboro off Big Hollow Road, which officers said they believe is connected to the June 19 theft of an ATM from Champlain Farms in Bristol. Anyone with information is asked to contact the police department at 802-453-2533.

Between June 21 and 27 Bristol police completed six foot patrols and one car patrol, conducted eight traffic stops and checked security at local schools nine times and at area businesses five times.

Bristol

Police Log

Police also processed 13 fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number, conducted one welfare check, and assisted citizens on four occasions and other agencies in eight instances.

In other recent activity, Bristol police responded to one traffic hazard, one court order violation, one incident involving threatening, one citizen dispute, one noise disturbance and one incident of disorderly conduct/noise.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
SELECTBOARD MEETING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Summit Properties/Stonecrop Meadows - CHIP Application
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 7:20pm

The Town of Middlebury Selectboard will hold a **Public Hearing** on July 28, 2026 at 7:20pm to take public testimony and review the proposed State of Vermont Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) application for the Summit Properties' Stonecrop Meadows housing project on Seminary Street Extension in Middlebury, Vermont. The public hearing will take place at the Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury VT 05753 and via Zoom videoconferencing (instructions below).

Zoom Information - To view and participate in the Public Hearing:
When: July 28, 2026, 7PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84712398559>
Phone one-tap: +16469313860, 84712398559# US
Webinar ID: 847 1239 8559

ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION #9A0158-18
10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has filed application #9A0158-18, deemed complete on June 18, 2026, for a project generally described as construction of a new ±1,800 square foot terminal building with associated site and utility improvements, including expansion and reconfiguration of both landside and airside parking facilities and a new stormwater collection system at Middlebury State Airport. The project is located at 467 Airport Road in Middlebury, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board's Act 250 Database (<https://annweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/default.aspx>) by entering project number "9A0158-18."

No hearing will be held, and a permit may be issued unless, on or before July 29, 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

Email your Public Notices

to legals@addisonindependent.com
and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

TOWN OF ADDISON
DRB PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00PM at the former Addison Central School located at VT Rte 22A and VT Rte 17 West, Addison, VT.

1. DRB Application #26-02: Lisa Preston & Hanna LaFrance requesting to gain approval to subdivide the property located at 4 Walton Lane, Addison, VT. If ready, will plan for a final. Need to continue until the July meeting.

2. DRB Application #26-08: Charlene Goodell requesting (3) lot subdivision located at 3857 VT Rte 22A, Addison, VT.

3. DRB Application #26-09: Nottontson Family Revocable Trust—Jeffrey & Mary Jane Nottontson, Trustees requesting a 2–lot subdivision located on Grandey Road, Addison, VT.

4. DRB Application #26-15: Kayhart Dairy Partnership is requesting to subdivide (2-lot subdivision) located at 1245 Jersey Street South, Addison, VT. The existing parcel is 145.3+/- acres & is currently used for agricultural purposes & is accessed off Country Club Road. The subdivision proposes to split the parcel into two lots. Lot 1 will be 138.34 +/- acres and remain in agricultural use. If ready to proceed for a final.

5. DRB Application #26-16 Kayhart Dairy Partnership is requesting to subdivide (two-lot subdivision) located at 2000 Jersey Street South, Addison, VT. The existing parcel is 52 +/- acres and is currently used for agricultural purposes and is accessed from Jersey Street South via a gravel agricultural access drive. The subdivision proposes to split the parcel into lots. Lot 1 will be 45.9 +/-acres & remain in agricultural use & will be improved with a proposed 40'wide Right of Way over the gravel drive. Lot 2 will be 6.1 +/- acres and contain a 3–bedroom single–family residence. If ready to proceed for a final.

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Wojochowski, Chair
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary
Daniel Rossignol, Zoning Administrator

Real Estate

Exhibits

Entertainment

Music

Calendar

Feature Interviews

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 9, 2026

ARTISTS VICTORIA BLEWER
AND DIETLIND VANDER SCHAAF

DREAM WITH ART

SEE STORY
PAGES 2-3

Weybridge's Victoria Blewer (shown here) and Maine artist Dietlind Vander Schaaf will be featured in an upcoming exhibit at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls in Middlebury. The show will open July 11 and be on view through Sept. 6. Mark your calendars for a special Fashion Art Show event in tandem with this exhibit scheduled for Aug. 21.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

'Near Enough to Dream' brings two artists together

In the show "Near Enough to Dream," which opens at Middlebury's Edgewater Gallery at The Falls this weekend, the work of the two featured artists resonates with reflection and nostalgia.

By **RACHELLE TALBERT**

The exhibit, running July 11 through Sept. 6, will place work by Weybridge's Victoria Blewer next to pieces by Maine artist Dietlind Vander Schaaf. Though differing in technique and style, both artists represent landscape in distinctive, dream-like paintings.

"For creating shows, we've been really trying to focus on who can we pair that cannot be too similar, and not take away from one another, but who can be in conversation," Edgewater Gallery Director Shaena Neal said. "We weren't sure how it would work out because they're so different."

To Neal, when works are in conversation, viewers can use the meaning of one piece to interpret another. In this case, the nostalgia in Blewer's photography can help viewers also see nostalgia in Vander Schaaf's abstract boxes and lines.

Blewer and Vander Schaaf use similar color palettes — both love blue. But their work differs in many other ways. Unlike Blewer, who documents and reimagines reality starting with photographs, Vander Schaaf's work remains entirely abstract, using geometric shapes and color to create a representation of water. She uses the ancient technique of encaustic, a form of artmaking in which artists melt beeswax onto a canvas. The technique

creates a smooth surface with minimal brushstrokes, and its translucency allows for lower layers to be preserved.

"She's creating things from just basically a puddle of wax, and then pulling imagery out of that," Neal explained. "It is more like an experience, I would say, than it is about any landscape at all."

The product becomes shapes layered over one another. "This goes back to her idea of water and looking down through layers. Whether it's layers of water, through layers of mist, whatever it might be," Neal added.

The gallery director hopes that viewers will move through the exhibit seeing Vander Schaaf's work as a meditation, allowing for further reflection when they bump up against Blewer's photography.

Blewer was introduced to the natural and human-made environments of the Green Mountain State going to camp here as a youngster. Now she takes minimalist photographs of the Vermont landscape, focusing on basic shapes. Most of her work in the upcoming show depicts the simple structures of old barns.

"Vermont used to be a lot grittier. And I

just love the structures of farm buildings; unfortunately, a lot of them are falling down," Blewer said. "My mission is to go out and photograph them."

"SHE'S STARTING WITH A TRUE IMAGE — COMPLETELY REPRESENTATIONAL — AND THEN CHOOSING COLORATIONS THAT ARE SO FAR FROM REALITY, THAT IT JUST BECOMES... SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. A DREAM, REALLY."

— Shaena Neal

Blewer then tints the photographic pieces with oil paint. She uses vivid hues, altering the image in the same way that memory obscures reality.

"She's starting with a true image — completely representational — and then choosing colorations that are so far from reality, that it just becomes ... something entirely different. A dream, really," Neal interpreted.

This exhibit will be the final show for Blewer's hand-colored photography — a medium she has worked with for 40 years. Blewer said she is finding it more

difficult to obtain the right darkroom paper and cotton that she needs for the medium, so she can no longer sustain the practice she has been perfecting.

Starting in the 1830s, hand-colored photography was used to add life to black and white images. Until color photography became widely available in the 20th century, rosy cheeks and bright colors would be commonly found painted over photographs. Now, with color photography easily accessible, tinting photos by hand is simply done less often and manufacturers have responded accordingly.

Many of the precise materials Blewer must use for her work have gone entirely out of production. She has turned to medical-grade cotton, since the brand she formerly used was discontinued. She used paper from Kodak until it was discontinued in 2005, and then the Hungarian darkroom paper maker that she switched to went bankrupt in 2007. Since then, Blewer has not found another kind of light-sensitive photo paper that works well with oil paint.

"Once I heard they were going out of business, I bought a ton on the internet, on eBay, every photo store got a call from me, and it has

See DREAM on page 3

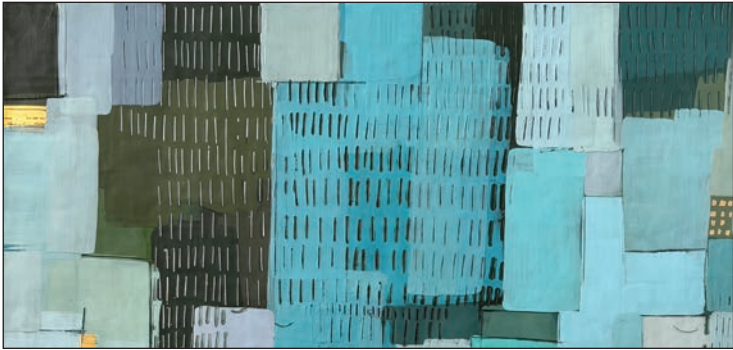


Dietlind Vander Schaaf layers wax over indistinct text, which was copied from a poem with her non-dominant hand. The result is unclear text underneath layers of white wax, depicting thoughts obscured through mist.



Victoria Blewer uses muted colors in the barn of this hand-colored photograph, emphasizing the surreal color in the distance.

COURTESY IMAGES



DIETLIND VANDER SCHAAF



VICTORIA BLEWER

“ I JUST LOVE THE STRUCTURES OF FARM BUILDINGS; UNFORTUNATELY, A LOT OF THEM ARE FALLING DOWN... MY MISSION IS TO GO OUT AND PHOTOGRAPH THEM.”

— Victoria Blewer

DREAM

continued from page 2

lasted 19 years,” Blewer shared.

She is now on her last big box of paper. Blewer thinks she has just enough left to last until

the end of the year.

With her materials being harder to come by, Blewer plans to transition her efforts into her multi-media work, often layering photography with magazine cuttings.

“It’s to show the dilemma, or how we make assumptions about things and people.” Blewer explained. “You know, we have heroes, but are they really heroes?”

Though excited about her new body of work, Blewer will miss her hand-colored photography. She has saved 10 pieces of darkroom paper compatible for painting over, in case she has ideas that she cannot resist creating into a hand-colored photograph.

Get Involved

Edgewater Gallery plans to run events concurrent with “Near Enough to Dream,” hoping to bring more people in to view the work.

“We work really closely to try to think of new ways that the gallery can engage in this community, but also to get more people to experience art,” said Edgewater Gallery Director Shaena Neal.

On Aug. 21, Edgewater at the Falls will collaborate with Middleton boutique to create a Fashion Art Show from 6–8 p.m., at the 1 Mill St. gallery. The Middlebury shop is organizing a runway fashion show through the Otter Creek-side business, with Blewer’s and Vander Schaaf’s work as a backdrop to the event. During the show, Serena Kim of Swift House Inn will be DJing on the gallery deck. Neal said. Tickets will be sold for \$15.

Neal, who’s developing some painting workshops as well, encourages people who are less familiar with art to come to these events.

“I think art is really important to experience in person,” she said. “It can consume you, if you allow it.”

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



UPCOMING MUSIC

Otter Creek Music Festival sets summer line up

The Otter Creek Music Festival is tuning up for its summer season, bringing an eclectic mix of classical, jazz and centuries-old historical tunes to venues in Middlebury, Salisbury, Brandon and Shoreham. Whether you are looking to escape into the French countryside through song or find out what Frank Zappa sounds like on a jazz violin, this summer's lineup has something to pique your curiosity. Here is the full schedule:

Duo Falk-Dubost

When: Thursday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Middlebury

The Vibe: Soprano Gina Maria Falk and pianist Clémentine Dubost set the mood with a program of art songs composed entirely by French and English women. The performance explores landscapes of memory, longing, and imagination through evocative music. Tickets begin at \$15.

Samantha Angstman

When: Saturday, July 18, at 3 p.m.

Where: Salisbury Congregational Church, Salisbury

The Vibe: Pianist Samantha Angstman makes her festival debut with an afternoon dedicated to the works of

early- to mid-20th-century American composers. Tickets begin at \$15.

Justin Ouellet Quartet

When: Saturday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Red Clover Ale Co., Brandon

The Vibe: Jazz violin meets local craft beer. Violinist Justin Ouellet teams up with vocalist Ann Moss, keyboardist Ed Broms, and bassist Joe Bentley for an evening of standards. Expect selections from the Great American Songbook alongside tunes from legends Frank Zappa and Carole King. Tickets begin at \$15.

Lyracle

When: Sunday, July 19, at 3 p.m.

Where: Shoreham Inn, Shoreham

The Vibe: Historic homes show us what colonial New England looked like, but early music duo Lyracle wants to show you what it sounded like. In celebration of America 250, their program "Musick's Recreation" features songs popular during the earliest days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Admission is free, but tickets are required.

For more info and to reserve your tickets visit ottercreekmusicfestival.com/summer-2026.



Duo Falk-Dubost



Samantha Angstman (left) and Justin Ouellet Quartet



Lyracle

More Tunes

The Clements Brothers come to New Haven

Music Up Close will continue July 12 with The Clements Brothers. The duo, George and Charles Clements, identical twins from New England will perform an intimate house concert in New Haven at 7:30 p.m.

The Clements Brothers have been playing and writing music together for as long as they can remember. With roots, rock, bluegrass, jazz, and classical influences, George (on guitar) and Charles (on bass) aim to capture their singer-songwriter sensibilities in a unique blended voice, at once enthralling and intimate, groovy and serene. Their

See *BROTHERS* on page 15



Hey Rob, what's for
Sunday Supper?

SUNDAY SUPPER

A comforting three-course prix fixe dinner at a special price! Regular menu also available.

Follow @swifthouseinn on Instagram or visit our website for the latest menu.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 Stewart Ln. Middlebury, VT
802-388-9925
swifthouseinn.com

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 12

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, now is the perfect time to socialize with others. Romance is in the air and you are going to go out of your way to treat someone special in the days to come.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, some people express their affection for others by buying them gifts. You have the ability to know just what a person needs at a given time and provide that to them.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, a pleasant week awaits you, and one this inspires your compassionate and tender side to come to the forefront. You may feel unselfish and spiritual, and relationships will be easy.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Your idealism is aroused this week, Cancer. This is a time for you to become more involved with others, and you might find it rewarding to work with a charity.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. A friendship may turn romantic, Leo. You'll have to tread carefully depending on how you want to see things go. Listen to your emotions carefully in the days to come.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This week you are compelled to use your influence to help someone directly or indirectly, Virgo. Figure out what you can do to affect change.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Expect to meet people under unique circumstances, Libra. You may engage with someone who needs your help or can teach you something new.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, enjoy spending time with friends and other groups because this is a feel-good time for you. If you feel affectionate toward someone, those feelings will become more passionate.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. People notice you more than usual, Sagittarius. This is an excellent time to enjoy the company of others, including, friends, your partner or spouse.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Look for ways to help a coworker who could use some help right now, Capricorn. You have the power to give them what they need right now, more so than others.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. This is a time for social outings and special dates, Aquarius. Figure out how to feel sensitive to the needs and feelings of loved ones as only you can do best.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. True generosity is giving what is needed, Pisces. Assist a relative as best as you can, even if that is simply serving as a sounding board.

Adagio Chocolates

ALL SIGNS POINT TO CHOCOLATE.
Proceed accordingly.

Tue-Sat 11-6 • 52 Main Street Middlebury, VT
www.adagiochocolates.com • 802-382-4000

Middlebury
FLORAL & GIFTS

Nature Inspired Gifts

Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 So., Middlebury
802-388-2800 • www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE
UP TO 75% OFF

260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753
(802)388-3559

OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

Over 100+ bolts already at 50-75% off!

JULY 10 — Camille Pissaro, artist (d)

JULY 11 — E.B. White, writer (d)

JULY 12 — Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Laureate (29)

JULY 13 — Harrison Ford, actor (84)

JULY 14 — Phoebe Waller-Bridge, actor & screenwriter (41)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 15 — Jacques Derrida, philosopher (d)

JULY 16 — Will Ferrell, actor & comedian (59)

CALENDAR

June 9-19

2026

THURSDAY, JULY 9

MUSHROOM WALK WITH MEG MADDEN IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, July 9, 10 a.m., Treleven Farm. Meg is a treasure trove of mycological knowledge; you can check out some of her finds at @spore.stories on Instagram. We'll be out in the woods, rain or shine, so plan accordingly. Free. Register at trelevenfarm@gmail.com.

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 p.m., music at 6 p.m. BYOB. Local ice cream and Blueberry Hill cookies also available. Well-behaved leashed dogs welcome. \$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7–11; free for kids 6 and under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.

FRIDAY, 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. A 32-mile ride on paved and gravel roads heading through Hinesburg. Register and see details at thegmbc.com/events.

VERMONT FRAMES 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN STARKSBORO. Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., 22 Varney Hill Rd. This celebration will feature live music by Rowan, magic by Marko the Magician, face painting by Little Artsy Faces, and a live demonstration of timber frame cutting. Activities include a piñata, corn hole, and a bounce house. Food provided by Cravens Food Truck and Lucky Star Catering. Stone Corral mobile Draft Horse will have beer, root beer, and lemonade available for purchase. Free. RSVP with party size: vermontframes.com/landing-pages/50th-anniversary-invitation.

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. Mojo Birds kick off this 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–1 p.m., Town green. Magician Tom Verner. See July 12 listing. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

MONDAY MUSIC: JODY ALBRIGHT AND JOHN PENOYAR IN EAST MONKTON. Monday, July 13, 7 p.m., East Monkton Church. John and Jody have been playing music together in various iterations since the '80s and love to harmonize together. They will be singing many songs you know, from the Beatles to Hank Williams, Motown, blues and '70s pop.

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.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, July 13, 7–10 p.m., Town green. Ted Perry and the Big Easy with Ryan Montbleau, followed by Ernest James Zydeco. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, July 14, noon–1 p.m., Town green. No Strings Marionettes. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

ADDISON COUNTY LIVE! IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, July 14, 1:30–4:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Evan Jennison, Jim and Clara Carroll, Naunau Beloha & Friends perform in conjunction with Festival on the Green.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, July 14, 7–10 p.m., Town green. Mélisande from Quebec. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 15, noon–1 p.m., Town green. Burlington Taiko drumming. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

Join us this week for Festival on the Green Live!
Saturday through Friday



This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent
middleburycommunitytv.org

SLOW ROLLERS SOCIAL BIKE RIDES IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m., Little Seed Coffee Roasters. A casually paced social bike ride. Explore your neighborhoods, meet new people. For more info follow @SlowRollersMiddlebury.

PEAK PAIRINGS WITH ACORN IN NEW HAVEN.

Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Meet local food producers and members of the ACORN team, eat and drink delicious food and craft beverages, learn about unexpected tasting pairings, and hear how you can continue to support a resilient local food shed. Hannah Sessions of Blue Ledge Farm and Jess Messer of Savouré Soda will speak about their experiences with ACORN, and why they work with the Food Hub. Nichole from Lincoln Peak Vineyard will offer her perspective. Complimentary light bites; cash bar. Donations encouraged. RSVP at acornvt.org/foodhub.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, July 15, 6–8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 15, 7–10 p.m., Town green. Faux Paws followed by Damn Tall Buildings. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 16, noon–1 p.m., Town green. Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté - a musical storytelling show. 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. With works by Liza Lehmann, Mel Bonis, Rebecca Clarke, Rita Stroh, and others, the program explores landscapes of memory, longing and imagination. \$15–\$35.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 16, 7–10 p.m., Town green. The Mammals followed by Slap Dragon. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

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. Circus Minimus. 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 Rd. Explore the museum after hours, enjoy food and drinks and connect with fellow community members. 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.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN.

Friday, July 17, 6–8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by The Little City Jazz Band, food from A Taste of Abyssinia and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 17, 7–10 p.m., Town green. Brett Hughes and the Honky-Tonk Crowd. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: MT. ELLEN IN STARKSBORO.

Friday, July 17. Jerusalem Trail to Mount Ellen. Challenging hike of 7.8 miles round trip and 2,600-foot elevation gain. Great views from the summit. Contact Jen Kluever at jennifer.kluever@yahoo.com with questions and to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 18**SAMANTHA ANGSTMAN IN CONCERT IN SALISBURY.**

Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church. Pianist Samantha Angstman makes her OCMF debut with works by American composers of the early to mid-20th century. \$15–\$35.

JUSTIN OUELLET QUARTET IN BRANDON.

Saturday, July 18, 7:30 p.m., Red Clover Ale Co. Jazz violinist Justin Ouellet joins forces with Ann Moss on vocals, Ed Broms on keys, and Joe Bentley on bass for an evening of standards, including tunes from the Great American Songbook and legends Frank Zappa and Carole King. \$15–\$35.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB RIDE, MUP #2 IN CHARLOTTE.

Saturday, July 18, 9:15 a.m., Charlotte Central School. A 20-mile ride of scenic and farm country back roads in the Charlotte and Hinesburg area. MUP is mostly unpaved. Register and see details at thegmbc.com/events.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, July 18, noon–10 p.m., Main Street. Vermont Jazz Ensemble Street Dance & Scarlett Annie. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 19**GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB MONKTON RIDGE RIDE IN MONKTON.**

Sunday, July 19, 8:30 a.m., Shelburne Shopping Park. Ride through Champlain Valley along the lake and then head into the hills and return

through Hinesburg area. Ride lengths include 23-, 26-, and 43-mile options. Register and see details at thegmbc.com/events.

LYRACLE: EARLY MUSIC CONCERT IN SHOREHAM.

Sunday, July 19, 3 p.m., Shoreham Inn. Historic homes help us imagine what life looked like in colonial New England, but what did it sound like? In celebration of America 250, early music duo Lyracle presents Musick's Recreation, a program featuring songs popular during the earliest days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Free; registration required. For more info visit ottercreekmusicfestival.com.

SUNDAY SESSIONS: STEVEN AUDY LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, July 19, 4–7 p.m., The Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Road (Patio at the Tavern on the Tee). A dynamic blend of classic rock, blues, and Americana, creating an upbeat and soulful experience that resonates with music lovers of all kinds. Free.

OPENING RECEPTION FOR "SCRIPTIVE" IN BRANDON.

Sunday, July 19, 5–8 p.m., The Aleshire Gallery, 29 Union St. Celebrate the opening of Scriptive: Calligraphic Illuminations by Candace Jensen and Sarah La Puerta. The artists will show selections of their work alongside new illuminations, decorated texts and drawings made with traditional calligraphic materials. Free.

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 MORE Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



FILM SCREENING

Silent film 'The Black Pirate' to screen in Brandon

He was the Indiana Jones of his day, thrilling early filmgoers with amazing stunts and feats of heroic derring-do. He was Douglas Fairbanks Sr., one of Hollywood's first megastars, and his timeless charisma can be seen again on Saturday, July 18, at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon.

Featured attraction in July for the theater's monthly silent film series is "The Black Pirate" (1926), an epic swashbuckling tale of the high seas that proved one of Fairbanks' most popular blockbusters. The forerunner of all pirate movies, it was also one of the first Hollywood films to be released in color.

Showtime for "The Black Pirate" will be Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m. The program is free and open to the public; donations are accepted to support Brandon Town Hall's

silent film programming.

The screening will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating scores for silent films.

"The Black Pirate" tells the story of a ship's passenger (Douglas Fairbanks) who survives a pirate raid. Sworn to avenge his dead father, he takes command of the pirates responsible and secretly strives to free the princess whom they have kidnapped.

Fairbanks, originally a stage actor, broke into films in the industry's early years. By 1920, starring roles in romantic comedies established Fairbanks as a popular leading man. He then turned to historic adventure films, including "The Mark of Zorro" (1920) and "The Three Musketeers" (1921), which cemented his reputation for on-screen athleticism, heroism and romance.

In 1920, Fairbanks' marriage to fellow megastar Mary Pickford was one of the era's biggest media events and resulted in Hollywood's first celebrity power couple. They combined their last names to call their estate "Pickfair," and massive crowds turned out everywhere during the couple's European honeymoon.

At the peak of his popularity, pictures starring Fairbanks set the standard for Hollywood action-adventure films, including such titles as "Robin Hood" (1922), "The Thief of Bagdad" (1924), and "The Black Pirate" (1926), all of which were major box office successes.

When the silent film era ended in 1929, an aging Fairbanks found he was less enthusiastic about the effort required to make movies and retired from the screen. He died in 1939 at age 56 after suffering a heart attack; his now-famous last words were, "I've never felt better."

The Fairbanks feature is the latest in a series of monthly silent film screenings at Brandon Town Hall. The series aims to recreate the lost magic of early cinema by assembling the elements needed for silent film to be seen at its best: superior films in best available prints; projection on the big screen; live musical accompaniment; and a live audience.

"These films are still exciting experiences if



Douglas Fairbanks stars in "The Black Pirate" (1926), a swashbuckling action-adventure movie and one of the first Hollywood films to be released in color. This month's silent film will be screened with live music on Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon. The program is free and open to the public.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A poster for "The Black Pirate" (1926), a swashbuckling action-adventure movie and one of the first Hollywood films to be released in color. This month's silent film will be screened with live music on Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon. The program is free and open to the public.

you show them as they were designed to be screened," said Rapsis, accompanist for the screenings. "There's a reason people first fell in love with the movies, and we hope to recreate that spirit."

For each film, Rapsis improvises a music score using original themes created beforehand. None of the music is written down; instead, the score evolves in real time based on audience reaction and the overall mood as the movie is screened.

"The Black Pirate" (1926) starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr. will be shown with live music on Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon.

The program is free and open to the public; donations are accepted to support Brandon Town Hall's silent film programming.

For more info on the music, visit jeffrapsis.com.

PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

- 1. Mended
- 7. Hymns
- 13. Commercial transport of goods
- 14. Poked holes in the ground
- 16. They precede C
- 17. Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- 19. Larry and Curly's pal
- 20. Injured
- 22. Popular type of dance
- 23. Moon crater
- 25. American state
- 26. Places to lock valuables
- 28. Stalk that supports the capsule
- 29. Keyboard key
- 30. '___ death do us part

- 31. A type of cage
- 33. A place to sleep
- 34. Annual music awards show
- 36. Made over
- 38. Hard, stony substance
- 40. Incantations
- 41. Long-legged, wading bird
- 43. Breathe noisily
- 44. Congressman
- 45. Rip off
- 47. Golf score
- 48. Popular pickup truck
- 51. Where infants sleep
- 53. Music term
- 55. Small opening in a surface
- 56. Musical term meaning "very"
- 58. Soviet Socialist

Republic

- 59. Treats with powder
- 60. Email subject line feature
- 61. A British lawyer
- 64. Expression of laughter
- 65. Farmer's calendar
- 67. Seeds used as food
- 69. Eurasian shrubs
- 70. Periods of inactivity

DOWN

- 1. Hard things to kick
- 2. Collective of countries
- 3. Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- 4. One-time Alabama running back
- Eddie
- 5. One's sense of self-esteem
- 6. Of the teeth
- 7. Treat with care
- 8. Type of whale
- 9. Curved structure
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Netherlands seat of government
- 15. Gives to charitably
- 18. Lout
- 21. Pastas
- 24. Release from restrictions
- 26. Female sibling
- 27. Title of respect
- 30. Silver coins
- 32. Region in India
- 35. Partner to cheese
- 37. Dark or dusky
- 38. Pacific Northwest tree
- 39. Exaggerate
- 42. Toddler
- 43. Touch lightly
- 46. Fundamentals
- 47. Jeopardies
- 49. Curved structures
- 50. Isolated, flat-topped hills
- 52. Forming the bottom layer
- 54. Reciprocal of sine
- 55. Genus of Old World birds
- 57. New York college
- 59. Cloak
- 62. Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- 63. Vietnamese offensive
- 66. "The Great Lakes State"
- 68. "___, myself and I"

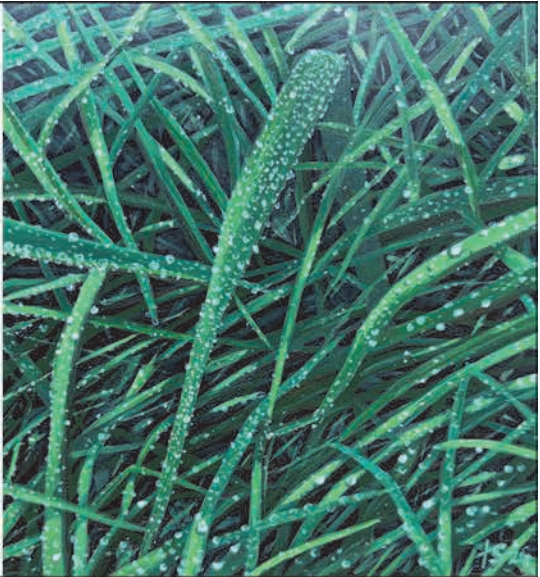
	6		2	9		3		
8		3				7		
	7	5	6				1	
	1							
6		9			1		8	
				5				
								3
	2			8				4
5		4	9	2				

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

44 Main St, Middlebury, VT
Open Daily
sparrowartsupply.com

Spotlight @ Sparrow
Tamara Sullivan
gouache & acrylic
Small details from the natural world,
gathered through quiet observation.
On view thru July 31



ASK A MASTER GARDENER

HOW TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN



Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer from South Burlington.

It is hard not to watch in amazement when you see a hummingbird flitting around.

These iridescent beauties with their acrobatic flight movements are reminiscent of fairies. Thankfully, with a few purposefully chosen plants, you can convince these adorable birds to spend more time in your garden.

By **AMY SIMONE** Hummingbirds are named for the humming sound that their wings make when they are in flight. Although there are over 330 species of hummingbirds in North and South America, the only species that can be found east of the Mississippi River is the ruby-throated hummingbird.

Measuring 3 to 4 inches and weighing a mere 0.2 ounces, these little wonders make

a 600-mile non-stop migration in September from the Northeast across the Gulf of Mexico to Mexico and Central America. By May, they arrive back in the Northeastern United States, feeding on the nectar of azaleas, rhododendrons, columbine and flowering trees.

The hummingbird builds its tiny nest on small limbs of trees or shrubs 5 to 20 feet above the ground. They prefer locations that are above a source of water, a trail, or other open area. When choosing trees, they select those with rough bark or bark covered in lichen. Once a nesting spot is established, the female hummingbird will return to the same nest or build a new nest in the same tree or shrub, year after year.

A typical hummingbird diet consists of nectar from flowers, insects, spiders, and sometimes sap from trees, if a woodpecker supplied a hole for them. They will also happily feed on the sugar-water solution in feeders provided by us humans.

Hummingbirds lack a strong sense of smell, so they are instead attracted to flowers based on color. Red, orange and pink flowers are the most noticed, but they will, of course, eat nectar from flowers in other colors. Their long beaks and tongues enable them to access the nectar in tubular-shaped flowers.

At least 19 species of locally-evolved plants rely on hummingbirds for pollination. Some examples include jewelweed, trumpet vine, cardinal flower, trumpet honeysuckle, fire pink, columbine and wild bergamot.

To encourage hummingbirds to come to your yard, plant a variety of flowering plants that will provide nectar from early spring through fall. A full season buffet might include Virginia bluebell, followed by lilacs and Sweet William, and then finishing up with penstemon, geranium and dahlia to nourish them until they are ready to return south.

See *GARDEN* on page 11



Frozen in midair, this female ruby-throated hummingbird showcases its amazing flight abilities to hover and fly forward, backward and sideways.

PHOTO / METROCREATIVE



PLANT YOURSELF HERE.

Do you dig the garden page?
Consider sponsoring this content!

Email us to find out more

advertising@addisonindependent.com

GARDEN

continued from page 10

Most importantly, avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides. Herbicides can be

ingested through the plant's nectar, sickening or even killing hummingbirds. Insecticides may deplete the population of insects that they like to feed on.

If you choose to provide a sugar-water solution in a hummingbird feeder, take care to prepare the solution properly. Boil four parts water and pour over one part sugar, stir, then cool to room temperature before pouring into the feeder. A weaker solution will not be attractive, and a stronger solution may harm them. Never feed honey, since a fungal disease from fermented honey can kill the birds.

Place the feeder safely outside of the pouncing distance of cats, and be sure to replace the sugar solution and clean the feeder thoroughly every three to five days.

Once you have successfully attracted the ruby-throated hummingbird to your yard, sit back and enjoy their beautiful show.



The long tongue of the hummingbird is ideally suited for the tubular-shaped flowers of this penstemon.

PHOTO / BY AMY SIMONE



The brilliant red flower spikes of the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) attract both pollinators and hummingbirds.

PHOTO / DEBRA HELEBA



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.



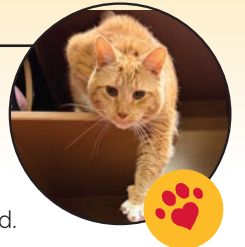
Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Gus

Gus is an absolute charmer. This gentle giant will steal your heart with one look. He's been through a lot in his life, multiple homes due to his family losing housing, so we are hoping to find him a relaxed, calm energy household where he can just settle in and enjoy being loved. He has lived with another cat previously and did well, but has also lived with other cats that he did not enjoy the company of. At 10 years old, he is considered a senior and is therefore eligible for our senior-to-senior program.



Harper



Little **Harper** is ready for the good life! She arrived to us as a solo kitten after being found outside looking lost and afraid. She deserves to now know what it is like to be a loved and cherished house cat with a family to call her own.

Kipp



Kipp is an incredibly handsome cat who has lived a quiet life before arriving at the shelter. He loves affection and will be a lap cat given the opportunity. We think the perfect home for him would be a person or two who would love to bond and form a strong connection with their new feline companion. He has not lived with other animals previously but doesn't seem to mind the presence of other cats in Cat Land. Kipp is on a special diet that he should stay on, so he is considered to be a 'special needs' adoption and his adoption fee is by donation.

Stanley



Stanley arrived as a stray, but from his snuggly and affectionate personality, you would think he's been a housecat his whole life! This dashing tuxedo cat climbs right up into laps and rolls onto his back. He loves attention and pets, and is impatient to find the perfect family to give him the cozy life he's always dreamed of. When he wants pets, he rolls around on his back and kneads his paws high in the air. Stanley is a spunky cat who wants to become the center of your world.

Nova



Nova is a joyful 1-year-old pup with a playful spirit and so much love to give. This sweet girl is looking for a home where she can continue growing into her best self while enjoying plenty of fun, adventure, and affection along the way. Like many young dogs, Nova is full of energy and enthusiasm and is currently working on her puppy manners. She can be a little nervous in new situations, but with patience, encouragement, and a gentle routine, her confidence continues to blossom every day. Once she feels comfortable, her affectionate and happy personality really shines. Nova has lived with dogs, cats, and children, and she's made canine friends during her stay at the shelter. Shelter staff adore her sweet nature and loving demeanor, and it's been rewarding to watch her come out of her shell.

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

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

4472 Basin Harbor
Road, Vergennes

For more info contact info@lcmmm.org or 802-475-2022.

"Fragments: Voices of the American

Revolution on Lake Champlain." Combining archaeological research, shipwrecks, original artifacts, and first-person accounts, visitors can reflect on the events of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain, including the Battle of Lake Champlain, and the impact it had on people from multiple perspectives. On view May through Oct. 18.

"Parley and Protocol, War and Peace."

This exhibition by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association brings together historical documents, maps, and art with work by present-day American Abenaki artists, sharing Indigenous perspectives on the founding of the United States. On view June through Oct. 18.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"With Time." The photographs in this exhibit range in date, but all feature older adults. None focuses on a choice these individuals made to either fight or embrace the aging process. Instead, the photographers approach their subjects with a spirit of curiosity. Some are portraits, and a few feature celebrities. In the main, though, these are studies of human beings who have simply become who they are with time. On view through Aug. 9.

"Frederic Church in Vermont." This exhibit brings together for the first time more than forty graphite drawings, oil sketches, and finished paintings by Frederic Church created during or as a result of his visits to Vermont over 30 years. On view through Aug. 9.

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.

PLANK ROAD ART STAND

7824 Plank Rd., Bristol

Open Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays or by appointment. For more information visit brendamyrickart.com, call 802-458-1415 or email brendamyrickart@gmail.com.

"Past and Present" featuring the artwork of Brenda Myrick, the estate of Barbara Lane, and Jim Lienau. This self-serve roadside gallery is housed in a repurposed horse trailer, lovingly transformed into a one-of-a-kind art space. The art stand features original artwork, hand carved wooden fish, animal step stools, and cards, with new work being added regularly. On view through October.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Help Each Other," is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The Quaker Pirate creates art that challenges us to help one another, to be emotionally and spiritually connected, and to persist and survive in today's world. On view through Oct. 11.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden's Charity & Sylvia," invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary illustrations. Together, these materials illuminate the lives of one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a shared home, tailoring business, and life in early Vermont. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Time Keeping." Artifacts and archival treasures from the 18th century through today will be presented in conversation with New England contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio's 'Clockworks,' the magically crafted worlds of paper theater within vintage clocks and watch housings. Showcasing stories of far-reaching possibilities in layers of time, Luciana Frigerio's captivating mixed media collages mirror Henry Sheldon's own passion for storytelling through paper and material culture. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Uncovering Wallpaper Design: 1800 – Present." The wallpaper in the Museum's collection tells the story of artistic process, globalization, and design tastes from the 1800s to present day. While wallpaper operates as a backdrop, bringing it to the forefront sheds light on the skill and process of creating these designs. Many the wallpapers on display are

DID YOU KNOW?

ART CLUB DISCUSSES FREDERICK CHURCH EXHIBIT ON JULY 19

Art Club will get-together on Sunday, July 19, at 1 p.m., to view and discuss the Frederic Church in Vermont exhibit curated by Museum Director Emeritus, Richard Saunders, and currently on display at the Middlebury College Museum of Art

This exhibit brings together for the first time more than 40 graphite drawings, oil sketches, and finished paintings by Frederic Church created during or as a result of his visits to Vermont over thirty years. As a special treat, local artist, Mike Mayone, will join us and share his thoughts as a professional painter and Frederic Church enthusiast.

As always, RSVP to Don Burns at ddbtx1@gmail.com by July 16.



block printed. In a contemporary world where so much of production is now automated, these wallpapers invite viewers to slow down and consider the process, layers, and method on display in these prints. On view May 2-Nov. 7.

"Remembering the American Revolution."

This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory, attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacifism, rebellion or resistance. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

Featured artist Tamara Sullivan. Small details from the natural world, gathered through quiet observation. On view through July 31.

MORE EXHIBITS Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM





194 S BINGHAM ST.
CORNWALL

\$775,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Slow down and stay connected in Cornwall

Set on approximately 5 level acres in sought-after West Cornwall Village, this custom-built home offers three bedrooms, three bathrooms and an oversized 28-by-40-foot garage/workshop, combining peaceful country living with everyday convenience. Surrounded by conserved farmland, mature apple trees, berry patches and sweeping Adirondack sunsets, it provides a tranquil setting just minutes from Middlebury. Designed and built by its owner, a professional carpenter, the home showcases exceptional craftsmanship throughout. The warm interior features a farmhouse-inspired eat-in kitchen with Bosch appliances and induction cooking, a new sunroom with oversized windows, a gas fireplace and heat pump, a welcoming three-season room with a pellet stove, and a finished lower level with a wood stove accented by New Hampshire stone. The level acreage offers room to garden, play or relax while enjoying mountain views and abundant wildlife. Convenient to downtown Middlebury, Middlebury College, shopping, dining, golf, hiking, skiing and Lake Champlain, this former orchard presents a rare opportunity to own a beautifully crafted home in one of Addison County's most desirable locations.



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY
GROUP

This property is listed and marketed by Sue Walsh and Galina Mencil, managed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. For more info, please call Sue directly at 802-989-3435 or visit VTRE4SALE.COM.

REAL ESTATE

Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers and professionals.



802-388-4944

advertising@addisonindependent.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


creating real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®

 **COLDWELL BANKER**
HICKOK & BOARDMAN

802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com

 National Bank of Middlebury

One Person. Start to Finish.
When you call us about a loan, you talk to a person who lives here, understands the local market, and will be with you through every step.


I love this bank. When you call an actual person answers the phone and is always helpful. They hold our mortgage, and most of our personal accounts. Having been a customer at bigger banks... we really appreciate the contrast and [NBM]'s more personal style. —Andrew M.

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS
July 9, 2026



H	E	A	L	E	D	P	S	A	L	M	S		
H	A	U	L	A	G	E	A	E	R	A	T	E	D
A	B	E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	S	M	O	
G	I	M	P	Y	T	A	P	H	E	D	I	N	
U	T	A	H	S	A	F	E	S	S	E	T	A	
E	S	C	T	I	L	R	I	B	C	O	T		
A	M	A	S	R	E	D	O	N	E				
C	O	R	A	L	R	U	N	E	S				
A	V	O	C	E	T	P	A	N	T				
S	E	N	R	O	B	P	A	R	R	A	M		
C	R	I	B	T	A	C	E	T	P	O	R	E	
A	S	S	A	I	S	S	R	T	A	L	C	S	
R	E	S	O	L	I	C	I	T	O	R	H	A	
A	L	M	A	N	A	C	L	E	G	U	M	E	S
L	I	L	A	C	S	S	T	A	S	E	S		

the **REAL ESTATE COMPANY**
of VERMONT

72 Main Street, Vergennes
One of several stately Italianate-style properties on Main Street, this 5 bedroom, 3 bath circa-1865 home has been tastefully updated including a well-appointed and cheerful kitchen remodel, a relaxing primary with en-suite and several heat pumps throughout the home for year-round comfort.

MLS No. 5092215 | \$ 860,000

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

New Price! - 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 Acres w/town water & septic. Great New Price \$315,000

Whittaker real estate

WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

4	6	1	2	9	7	3	5	8
8	9	3	4	1	5	7	6	2
2	7	5	6	3	8	4	1	9
3	1	8	7	6	2	9	4	5
6	5	9	3	4	1	2	8	7
7	4	2	8	5	9	1	3	6
9	8	6	1	7	4	5	2	3
1	2	7	5	8	3	6	9	4
5	3	4	9	2	6	8	7	1

Stay Sharp
Exercise your mind.
With the Addy Indy
puzzles every Thursday!

BROTHERS
continued from page 4

first album "Dandelion Breeze" was released in 2023 on Plow Man Records and their sophomore record is set to be released in the fall of this year. The duo is a fusion of each brother's unique musical journey, and the result is music all its own, filled with vocal harmonies, instrumental virtuosity, and a genuine love of song.



The Clements Brothers will perform at a New Haven house concert on July 12.

COURTESY PHOTO

Don Sheldon is organizing this series which will continue with Natalie and Brittany Haas on Aug. 9, Henry Kramer on Sept. 26, Jenna Nicholls on Oct. 18 and finally the Allison Lupton Trio on Nov. 15.

All tickets are \$30. Email don@valleystage.net or give Sheldon a call (802-557-7589) to reserve your tickets. Seats are limited.

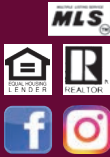
**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT
REALTY
GROUP

32 MERCHANTS ROW | MIDDLEBURY

**the real estate experts
good to know!**

WWW.VTRE4SALE.COM
(802) 388-9836



LOCATED IN THE HEART OF VERMONT



**221 Fiddlehead Lane
Pittsfield, Vermont
\$629,900 ~ MLS# 5094594**

Authentic Log Home built with Vermont craftsmanship & character overlooks a private acre just minutes from Killington. Warm wood interiors, airy cathedral ceilings, 3 bedrooms, stainless steel appliances, expansive deck with retractable awning, standing seam roof, walkout lower level with storage & workshop plus heated attached garage. Enjoy Vermont life in every season!

Listing Agent: Sue Walsh | 802-989-3435 | suewalsh@vtregroup.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

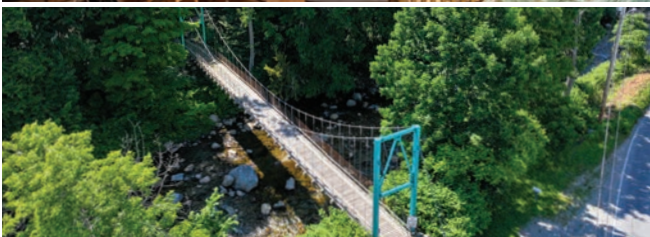
IPJREALESTATE.COM

34 MAIN STREET | MIDDLEBURY, VT
EMAIL: INFO@IPJREALESTATE.COM
CALL: 802.388.4242



*Serving buyers, sellers,
and community,
since 2006.*

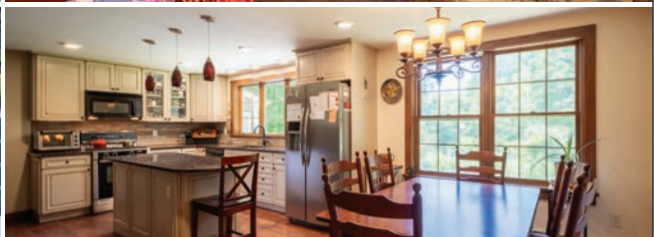
**COMING
SOON &
OPEN HOUSE
Sun. July 12th
10 AM- NOON**



**LINCOLN | 1883 West River Road | MLS #5097729
1 BR | 1 BA | 1046 SF | 10.22 ACRES | \$425,000**

Rustic charm meets modern living in this sanctuary perched above 1000 feet of frontage on the New Haven River, complete with a post & beam barn, pond, sunny meadows, and star-studded skies.

**NEW
LISTING**



**BRANDON | 7 High Street | MLS #5097890
3 BD | 3 BA | 2460 SF | 2.11 ACRES | \$679,000**

Rare opportunity for buyers who appreciate authentic character, thoughtful craftsmanship and architectural significance. Heat pumps, woodstove, pellet stove, 3-car garage, privacy, and charm.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM. STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.



Support the Scoop!

ADDY ALL-STARS make discounted subscriptions possible

One of our many goals here at *The Addison Independent* is to keep our subscription cost affordable, so that everyone has access to local news and community conversations.

However, it costs a lot — and takes a lot of time and care — to put out the news. Every week, our reporters, photographers and editors meet with sources all over the county, attend public meetings and sports games, chat with local leaders, visit with artists, farmers, educators, centenarians and other local characters. Then there’s managing press releases, obits, calendar, letters, op-eds, town news, etc. — and all the ad creation, layout and online postings. And don’t forget about MiniBury, circulation, and our incredible sales reps who work every day with local businesses.

Add it all up and we invest over \$25,000 per week into each newspaper — all for the price of \$2 per week at the newsstand, or \$120 per year for a print + digital subscription.

Our current rates better reflect

the true costs of producing and distributing *The Addy Indy*, and help ensure we maintain high-quality journalism.

Even though we are trying to keep our rates as low as possible, we realize the cost may be a barrier for some. That’s why we’re thrilled to thank our **ADDY ALL-STARS** for supporting our summer subscription discount (**SCOOP50**).

This offer is good for a \$50 discount to any new or renewing subscriber (for a 1-year print + digital subscription, valid July 9-31, 2026).

Since launching the **ADDY ALL-STARS** program on Feb. 29, 2024, we have been able to subsidize more than \$7,250 in subscriptions to *The Addison Independent*.

Every new subscriber and every new **ADDY ALL-STAR** helps strengthen local journalism in Addison County. If you believe in the power of independent, community-supported news, we invite you to join us. Together, we can keep *The Addy Indy* thriving — and we hope we can scoop up some more subscribers and **ALL-STARS**, too!

THANKS ALL-STARS!



SCAN
to donate and become an
ADDY ALL-STAR

THE
SCOOP
OF THE
SUMMER
SPONSORED BY THE ADDY ALL-STARS



\$50 OFF
1-year Print + Digital subscription
Valid July 9-31, 2026

Use Code: **SCOOP50**
at checkout online.



Want to pay by check?
Write **SCOOP50** in the memo line.