



250 on stage

Young actors bring energy to an old story — the founding of the United States. See Arts + Leisure.



Good job!

Middlebury's Quinn passes the college athletic department torch to another local. See Page 1B.



Still active

Read how some elders enjoy slowing down while others protest in our Senior Lifestyles pullout.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Energy panel hopes to electrify sewer plant

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Energy Committee has two weeks to convince the selectboard to endorse the use of environmentally friendly electricity — as opposed to less costly but more polluting natural gas — to power a sludge dryer at the community's soon-to-be renovated wastewater treatment plant.

But with a majority of the town's Infrastructure Committee (by a 7-1 vote), professional engineers and treatment plant staff all recommending natural gas as the cheapest and easiest-to-maintain sludge drying infrastructure for the plant, it's not clear how the energy committee might get the selectboard to endorse electric — beyond emphasizing the CO2

implications.

"Going with natural gas will increase the town's greenhouse gas emissions by 500 tons a year, or 10,000 tons over the 20-year life (of the project)," Energy Committee Chair Mike Roy told the board during an at-times tense meeting on Tuesday. "By going that route, the goal of getting our emissions down under 200 tons a

year will never be met."

Roy was referring to a 2021 resolution backed by the selectboard calling for a transition to greener municipal operations in a manner that would allow the town to reduce its carbon emissions output by 80% (compared to fiscal year 2019 levels) by the year 2030.

Roy and his Energy Committee (See Energy, Page 14A)

Local nonprofit ramps up affordable housing in county

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — The county's largest provider of affordable housing is having a banner year, having added some major properties to its portfolio while laying the groundwork for potential further acquisitions.

Addison Housing Works (AHW) has assembled financing for a major overhaul of its Hillside Manor mobile home park in (See Housing, Page 15A)



Sights & sounds!

THE FESTIVAL ON the Green is blowing away crowds under the tent and on the lawns in downtown Middlebury this week. Clockwise from above, Jon McBride of Big Easy Revival wails on his soprano saxophone Monday evening, then on Tuesday Melisande sings with drummer Eric Breton and bassist Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand. At the Monday lunch magician Tom Verner marvels at assistant Fleur's bubbles. See more photos on Pages 4A and 10A.

Independent photos/Steve James



Ferrisburgh firefighters eye future as a town dept.

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh selectboard and the volunteer fire department in the town are making headway on turning the department into a municipal service.

Still, this fall is the earliest the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, which is already funded by the town, could be officially absorbed, according to selectboard Chair Christopher Campbell.

He says the benefits to Ferrisburgh are twofold.

In addition to fulfilling the need for fire coverage and sustaining (See Ferrisburgh, Page 11A)

City sewer project gets good news — a low bid

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — The Little City's big wastewater treatment facility upgrade is going to cost less than previously expected.

Because of this, Vergennes officials will be able to use some of the \$25.5 million bond approved by voters in 2022 on other components of the broader \$45 million, multi-year and multi-element project.

"What happened is we're able to do this without having to go back to (See Vergennes, Page 13A)

By the way

A sampling of mosquitoes recently collected in Vergennes tested positive (tinyurl.com/p73nvmc) for West Nile Virus, according to the Vermont Department of Health. No human or animal cases of mosquito-borne illnesses have been reported so far this season, (See By the way, Page 12A)

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Lord's Prayer Rock safety concerns raised again

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol selectboard members on Monday heard from a local resident about safety concerns regarding the Lord's Prayer Rock Park in town, specifically over how close the large rock is to the roadway.

The Lord's Prayer Rock is situated on a one-acre parcel off East Street on the road to Lincoln turnoff. A draft management plan for the park prepared by the Bristol Conservation Commission lists the Lord's Prayer Rock's proximity to East Street as one of a few current issues related to the park, noting the rock sits "very close to East Street (Routes 116 & 17) well within the right-of-way."

Bristol resident Louise Brynn raised concerns about the safety impacts of the rock's location, describing a recent instance of a truck with a camper hitting the (See Lord's Prayer Rock, Page 12A)

Meeting the early people of Monkton

Museum shares their stories

By MARIN HOWELL

MONKTON — Abigail Barnum had a choice to make.

Widowed with four children after her husband's death in the Revolutionary War, she could either stay in the Monkton area her family had settled in or head toward more protection and her former home further south. One choice would mean braving an unknown future on her own, the other a days-long journey through wilderness.

A new exhibit at the Monkton History Museum opening next week invites community members to learn more about the (See Monkton museum, Page 16A)



A NEW EXHIBIT at the Monkton History Museum highlights some of the area's early residents, including Native Americans who called the region home as far back as 12,500 years ago. The exhibit includes artifacts on loan from State Archaeologist Jess Robinson and Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Project to build Hogback Mountain trails progresses

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — An effort to create a multi-use recreation trail system on Hogback Mountain is moving along in Bristol, and if the logistics pan out, crews could break ground on the first of a few new trails eyed for the site later this year.

A group known as Mountain Bike Bristol has been working on the idea for over a year, and Bristol’s Development Review Board recently approved the group’s request for a conditional use permit to build hiking and biking trails on Hogback. Those trails will be located on a roughly 2,000-acre parcel owned by the A. Johnson Company, which for generations has been open to the community and includes the Ledges Trail accessed off Bristol’s Mountain Terrace.

The project is expected to take multiple years to complete.

“I think one of the things that we’re most excited about is giving this resource to the community,” said Samantha Morrissey, co-owner of Cool Motion Outdoor Sports and part of the group behind the effort.

Mountain Bike Bristol introduced the project at a March 2025 community meeting, describing its vision for new trails on Hogback that would better allow for multi-use outdoor recreation and address erosion and degradation resulting from informal use in the area. At the time, Morrissey noted that the Ledges Trail was developed as a skid road for logging and not a hiking trail. Re-developing

the Ledges Trail to make it more sustainable and improve the hiking experience is part of the group’s vision for the project.

The Ledges Trail is well-used by the community. Morrissey said a trail counter tallied 5,222 users from June 2025 to May 2026, which shakes out to an average 15 hikers per day.

“That’s quite a lot of use,” Morrissey said. “We’re really looking forward to bringing this outdoor recreation opportunity to Bristol and to be able to build upon what has been a really strong legacy of access but to formalize it in a way that’s going to have more ecological integrity and just be built for these kinds of uses as opposed to the informal use that’s happening now.”

This past fall and winter, Mountain Bike Bristol dove into the design phase of the project with Vermont’s L&D Trailworks. Morrissey said L&D Trailworks completed an assessment of the property in the fall, after which the group could narrow down where it wanted to focus the project.

“That was the area directly accessible from town because we wanted to focus on the community access aspect of the project,” she said of what the group landed on.

L&D Trailworks then developed a conceptual design for the project,

which includes three different trails — an uphill multi-use trail, a downhill trail for mountain bikes and a hiking-only trail. Morrissey said the uphill multi-use trail will be located in the same vicinity of the current Ledges Trail. That trail will allow multi-directional use for hikers and uphill-only use for mountain bikes.

Eventually, the group plans to also construct an ADA-accessible boardwalk across from the Tillerman Restaurant on Route 116. That aspect of the project is in the earlier stages, with the group still needing to complete design work, ecological wetland assessments and fundraising, Morrissey noted.

The hiking-only trail is expected to be around 2.5 miles one way and will be located directly across from Bristol Elementary School. Work on the hiking trail will be completed by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

“That will be kind of the new Ledges Trail, so that will go up to the Ledges viewpoint and connect with the existing trail pretty close to the top,” Morrissey said.

Morrissey noted the group has been working with the Vermont Mountain Bike Association to understand what the anticipated impact and intensity of use for the mountain bike trails would be.

VMBA estimates those trails would be classified as “community level,” which means 85% of users will be local day users, Morrissey said.

“We do have a really strong sense that the outcome at the end of the day will be primarily local,” she said. “Even if we’re just bringing people in from the 5-Town Area, or from Middlebury, or from Addison County as a whole, that’s still going to support some increased economic activity in Bristol.”

The group has so far flagged the hiking trail, which it plans to get started on first. Morrissey said she hopes to see work on that trail get underway this summer but noted the timeline is dependent on the cost of the build and VYCC’s availability.

“Probably more likely next year for the hiking trail, but, if possible, we’d love to do it this year,” she said.

The mountain bike trails are more likely to break ground next year. Overall, the project has a “two to four year horizon,” Morrissey said.

Mountain Bike Bristol has been working on the project in collaboration with the A. Johnson Company, the Bristol Recreation Club, Bristol Trail Network, Bristol Rec Department, Cool Motion Outdoor Sports and the Addison County Bike Club. As the effort continues to unfold, Morrissey said the group is looking forward to securing community access to the area “in the long-term, doing so in a way that supports the overall health of the forest and the land.”



Locals share experiences through book club

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — When Bristol resident Katy Kelly set out to organize a social justice book club last year, she hoped the effort would help her tackle some of the unread books in a growing pile she’d accumulated over the years.

Several months later, the group has done even more than that — offering a space for attendees from Bristol, Vt., to Cleveland, Ohio, to form connections and dive into reading materials on a range of topics.

It’s also provided a chance for Kelly to make change in her own way, she noted.

“I think we all have an opportunity to do something in our own boat, so to speak,” Kelly said.

“I’m never going to run for office, and I’m never going to be knocking on doors per se or making phone calls, but having started a book club in the area and having it be diverse in that my Cleveland friends are in it, who cares? It’s awesome, and that’s my little way of fighting the power.”

Kelly began organizing the book club this past October, and the group has since settled into a routine of meeting remotely every other Wednesday from 6:30–8 p.m. The book club has about a dozen participants, including a couple of Kelly’s friends from Ohio, where she lived before moving to Bristol four years ago.

“I think we’ve all gotten to get to know each other better,” Kelly said.

“I made a personal relationship outside of the book club, which wasn’t my intent, but it’s precious, it’s such a lovely thing.”

So far the group has discussed books like “White by Robin DiAngelo” and “My Grandmother’s Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Mending of Our Bodies and Hearts” by Resmaa Menakem.

Kelly noted that after the U.S. began launching attacks on Iran earlier this year, the book club wanted to learn more about Iranian history and began reading “Persepolis,” a graphic memoir of Marjane Satrapi’s experience growing up in Iran around the time of the Islamic Revolution in the late 1970s.

The book club is now reading “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” in which author Matthew Desmond follows several families facing eviction in Milwaukee in the midst of the 2008 financial crisis.

“We actually now call (the

group) the ‘Rabbit Hole Book Club’ because we go down rabbit holes, and we all decided that that’s OK,” Kelly said. “You can read stuff all you want all day long, but when you listen to other peoples’ lived experiences, whether you

agree or disagree or can relate or not relate, I think that’s the most powerful influencer of how do we be diverse and get along?”

Kelly noted the person who suggests the group’s next read is the one to lead the discussion on that book. The book club strives to create an environment where participants feel comfortable to share what they’d like, she said.

Those interested in joining the group can reach out to Kelly at coachkaty7@gmail.com.

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WAVES OF BARGAIN-HUNGRY citizens arrived on the Middlebury town Green on Saturday to rummage through scads of treasures at the annual Peasant Market. People chatted over piles of linens, plants and things to care for plants, games, puzzles, auction items, knick knacks, mirrors, frames, manual typewriters, kitchenware, a sauna tent and some items of real historical and aesthetic value. A good time was had by all, and a lot of money was raised for charities.

Independent photos/John S. McCright

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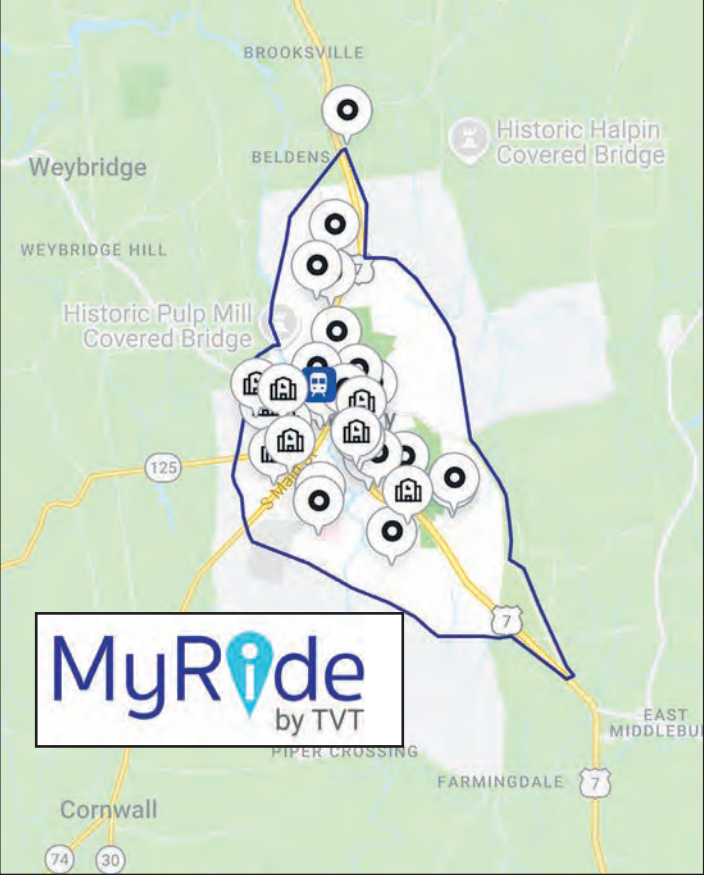
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July 15 - July 21

New app for Tri-Valley Transit allows for smoother rides



TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT’S new app MyRide gives users the ability to reserve free rides outside of the regularly scheduled TVT bus schedule and routes. With an interactive map, the app allows for pick-up and drop-off locations to be chosen and gives riders peace of mind knowing they will have transportation to where they need to go.

By ELOISE CHRISTY
MIDDLEBURY — On Wednesday, Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) debuted a new app based on rider feedback to make it easier to book rides on its buses and other public transit services.

The MyRide app replaces the Middlebury EZ trip service and makes it easier for customers to book, manage and track trips as well as control their ride reservations and other information from a cell phone or computer.

TVT is a nonprofit public transportation service in Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor counties offering safe, reliable and accessible rides. TVT offers rides to the public who don’t have access to other modes of transportation through its regularly scheduled buses as well as through on-demand van rides available by reservation. All rides are free whether customers are using the scheduled buses or the reserved vans.

TVT is committed to enhancing economic, social and environmental health in the community. MyRide will continue that legacy.

“This new app is so user-friendly,” said TVT Director of Development & Community Relations Mary-Claire Crogan. “We had a different software application that was not user-friendly in the past.”

MyRide, developed by software maker Via, has the added advantage of allowing riders to see where their ride is in real time on their phone.

“In the spring, we were looking at our performance analytics against the rest of the state, and we could see the opportunity for a lot of improvement,” Crogan said. “We believe this new software will help us book rides more efficiently. We’re able to have more shared rides, more vehicles assigned through the algorithm, and more people picked up along the way because the route makes more sense.”

The new app does not require users to remember a password and it allows for trip requests to be made up to 21 days in advance and as little as one hour before the trip time. Users will receive a trip confirmation the day before at 5 p.m. and will be able to track their van in the app. They will also be able to add seven friends to the trip instead of the previous three.

“Imagine you drop your car off for repairs in the morning and you are trying to get a ride to work,” Crogan said. “With the old software, you wouldn’t know until the actual day of if your ride was picked up. But, with the new software, if you pre-book a day ahead, you’ll get an alert at 5 p.m. the night before saying your ride’s all set and you have a 30-minute pick-up

window. It just gives you some peace of mind.”

This app has been trialed in the TVT’s new Washington region, which they acquired on July 1. MyRide has also been in existence in Montpelier since around 2020 and over the past six years, they have smoothed out the edges and figured out how to make it work best.

“Having one vendor to deal with, with a proven track record and high ratings from Montpelier riders and the transit agency... seemed much better for everybody,” Crogan said.

On Tuesday, TVT Community Relations Manager Sara Schumacher spoke at the Middlebury selectboard meeting on this new app and what it will bring to the community. Schumacher has been doing a lot of outreach for TVT, visiting congregate living centers and places where vulnerable riders access support, such as adult daycare programs.

“She’s been doing a lot of one-on-one training with riders, just walking them through how to use the new software and ride protocols so that we can serve them well,” Crogan said. “I think it’s really helping.”

Some of the TVT riders who have tried the app have commented on the accessibility of this new software and its similarities to other apps they use in daily life.

“Some of our riders are like ‘Oh, this app feels just like the Domino’s app, I love it!’” Crogan laughed.

“That was a motivating factor for them. They said, ‘I’ll be able to tell when my ride is coming just like I can tell when my pizza’s coming.’”

Although the software is changing and the way customers can acquire rides is different, there are a few things that are staying the same: the drivers, the vans and the service area. Because many people were calling requesting rides right at the moment they needed them, it was difficult for TVT to keep up with these requests.

“We were just contorting ourselves into pretzels, trying to meet last-minute needs,” Crogan explained. “And that was another thing throwing off our ability to efficiently batch riders.”

With a little more advanced notice through the new app, the TVT services can remain more sustainable and cost effective. The TVT encourages all riders to use their new software to promote easier and more effective transportation.

MyRide can be downloaded from the Apple App Store, Google Play, or as a web app at myridebytv.com. A guide to using this app correctly can be found under the MyRide by TVT FAQs page on their website, trivalleytransit.org.

Time to get involved with the Bristol Town Plan update

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Behind many municipalities is a guiding document outlining the community’s goals in areas from land use to economic development and ways to reach those aims. That document is usually called a “Town Plan,” and Bristol residents are in the process of updating theirs.

The Bristol Town Plan update process is expected to take over a year and will include a variety of opportunities for community members to offer feedback and get involved in the effort.

“Residents are very much encouraged to start participating now,” said AZ Larsen, Bristol’s planning and zoning administrator. “We want to hear from folks sooner than later in this process and are encouraging folks to start participating now so that we can really get feedback and hear from the community and start to address any issues or concerns that come up sooner in the process so that we can fully address those.”

INSIDE THE TOWN PLAN

A town plan — also known as a municipal plan — has several purposes. The Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development notes that the plan “shapes public investments, land use rules, and tools like designated

downtowns, village centers, business districts, and conservation programs,” and can help municipalities qualify for technical support and state grants.

“(The town plan) is also where folks that are moving to Bristol can come and get a sense of what kind of town we’re looking to be,” Larsen said.

Larsen noted that the document provides an action plan for how to achieve a community’s goals. For example, Bristol’s current town plan includes a goal that the town “will provide a favorable climate for light industry development that is appropriate for, beneficial to, and acceptable by the community.”

“That’s an overarching goal, and then something that the town has done is...the Stoney Hill Business Park development in collaboration with some local developers,” Larsen said. “So that’s an example of how, through the visioning and collaboration of the community of laying out what the goals and desires are, Bristol as a town can then make decisions that lead us toward those goals.”

Town plans also enable a municipality to adopt zoning and subdivision rules and influence state permitting processes like Act 250, Larsen added.

Bristol’s current town plan was adopted in 2020 and is set to expire

in 2028. The process of updating the plan recently kicked off and will continue through next fall, when town officials aim to have a draft plan ready for the selectboard to weigh in on and for public hearings. Larsen said the goal is for an updated plan to be voted on in March 2028.

The effort is being supported by a Municipal Planning Grant from the state, and the town has also received support from the Vermont Climate Action Office through a pilot program Bristol is taking part in. Larsen said that the program looks at social resiliency in planning.

“I think it’s very important to consider, especially with the climate-related events that Vermont has seen, Bristol has seen in the past couple years and also with the COVID pandemic...definitely important to consider these questions of, ‘How do we plan for making our community resilient to the unknowns of the future?’” Larsen said.

While the town’s planning commission is responsible for drafting the updated plan, the process will include contributions from town department heads, town committees, nonprofit organizations, regional and state officials, school district officials and residents.

Larsen noted the state has

identified a five-step process for town planning: completing a community assessment, developing a vision statement, identifying goals and opportunities, mapping out the future and making it happen.

“Since we have an existing town plan, we’re kind of changing the steps of that process,” Larsen said. “Right now we’re in the community assessment phase where we’re collecting updated data metrics, trying to get a sense of if the vision statement still aligns with the desires of the residents in the community, what goals and policies still apply or still are relevant.”

Next steps will include making any necessary revisions and mapping for the town plan.

“Essentially we’re just doing a lot of review of what’s already there and seeing what aligns and what is still working for the community and seeing if there’s any areas that maybe need some slight tweaks or if there’s any parts of the plan in need of full rewriting,” Larsen explained.

While still in the early stages of the effort, town officials have begun hearing what kinds of things residents are interested in discussing throughout the process.

“From the conversations I’ve had and the different outreach efforts that we’ve already done, topics that have come up the most are housing and affordability, economic development, protection of natural resources and elder/child care,”

Larsen said. “The overarching theme I’ve heard is folks really love the character of Bristol and the community here, and folks really want to balance that character with also knowing that there is a need for some growth and development and wanting to keep that balance balanced.”

GET INVOLVED

Larsen highlighted different ways residents can participate in the town plan update process, such as by sharing feedback during the public comment period of planning commission meetings. The Bristol Planning Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the town offices and on Zoom.

“We’ll also be doing a bunch of different community outreach events,” Larsen said, adding that plans are underway for a community-wide discussion on a variety of topics later this month.

As the process unfolds, residents can also keep an eye out for workshops and a survey related to the effort.

“There will be ample ways for folks to reach out and give input,” Larsen summed up.

Community members with comments or concerns can reach out to Larsen (zoning@bristolvt.org), and residents can stay up to date on the effort by visiting the Bristol Town Plan Update page on the town’s website and signing up for the town plan newsletter.

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Storm hits region; Shoreham barely couple avoids injury

ORWELL/SHOREHAM — The Tuesday night storm that weather forecasters had warned could bring winds up to 75 mph with a possibility of some tornadoes and large hail largely spared Addison County, but hit isolated spots in Shoreham and Orwell. Meteorologist Allison Black at WCAX in Burlington reported Shoreham, Orwell, Brandon and Pittsford all reported “some tree damage, including trees on power lines blocking Route 7 in

Pittsford,” which were cleared shortly afterwards.

Shoreham couple Adrian Daley and Johannes Nel were also featured on WCAX’s Instagram telling how they moved away from an upstairs bedroom window of their rural home just seconds before lightning and high winds struck a nearby tree, which crashed on top of their barn and sent a tree branch through their bedroom window scattering shards of glass into the room.

Nel told WCAX he and his wife were able to react quickly and jump out of the way, receiving only a few scratches.

“Light flashing and then there was a really bright flash and at that moment I grabbed my wife and said let’s get away from the window. Right as we jumped away, lightning hit and blew our whole window on top of us and some of the glass got our arms,” Nel told WCAX.

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From Earth to Earth: The Return of Natural Burial in Vermont

Wednesday, July 29, 2:30 - 4:00 PM
The Congregational Church of Middlebury

What is a natural burial and how does it differ from our traditional burial practices? This class explores the environmental, cultural, and practical aspects of returning our bodies to the earth naturally, and how natural burial can help family members come to terms with the grief of losing a loved one and with their own mortality. The class will include a screening of the award-winning documentary, From Earth to Earth: The Lost Art of Dying in America, followed by a discussion and Q&A. Learn the story of the Vermont Forest Cemetery and how Vermont became a leader in natural burial reform.

Jim Hogle, Ph.D. is the Edward S. Harkness Professor Emeritus at Harvard University and a former chair of Harvard’s Biophysics program. He currently serves as the President of the Board and the Communication and Outreach Coordinator for the Vermont Forest Cemetery, the state’s first natural burial ground.

Which is Better - The Novel or the Film? An Exploration

Wednesdays, August 5 & 12, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Elderly Services, 112 Exchange St., Middlebury

How is a good story better told? Is it through the novel, or the film upon which it is based? How does the art form affect the power of the story? We will first consider Penelope Fitzgerald’s novella The Bookshop and then examine the film of the same name, weighing how each expresses the narrative at its heart, which one appeals to us more, and why it does so.

With a degree in Psychology from Bates College, **Ron Monroe** spent most of his 44-year career teaching American and English literature and film at the Kingswood Oxford School in Connecticut. Recently retired, he lives in Middlebury.

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorial

Policy and your pocketbook:

War in Iran cost you \$441 in just six months; Trump’s cuts to clean energy cost you more

Let’s talk about money. Specifically, about the personal costs of running your cars or trucks, as well as heating and cooling your home or where you work. And let’s tie that conversation to policy decisions — just to make the point that public policy affects your personal pocketbook.

Here’s a starter: Vermont U.S. Senator Peter Welch released numbers this week showing how the war with Iran has driven up the cost of gasoline for Vermonters. Since Feb. 28, 2026, when Trump first fired on Iran, Americans have spent a total of \$56.4 billion *more* for gasoline. That’s the extra \$1 or more per gallon gasoline has gone up since Trump mistakenly thought he could flip Iran like he did Venezuela. Parcel out Vermont, and families in the Green Mountain State have spent \$441 more per household on gasoline just in the past six months.

Think of that: \$441 more in the past six months and the war has no end in sight. In fact, political analysts are suggesting this conflict with Iran could be the start of another “forever war” because Trump doesn’t want to admit his gross failure and Iran senses it has the upper hand on Trump.

That’s real money, but it’s peanuts compared to what the nation is wasting because of Trump’s obsession with fossil fuels.

In his Substack column, Ripton author and environmentalist Bill McKibben cites a bevy of statistics that show the cost benefit of renewable energy over fossil fuel with an emphasis on one point: the world today operates more cheaply on clean energy — no question.

First, once you’ve installed clean energy systems you no longer have to pay for fuel. To put an exclamation on that point, the International Renewable Energy Agency noted that “in 2025 renewables helped to avoid an estimated \$480 billion in fossil fuel costs and around 8.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.”

McKibben goes on to describe how fast the cost of clean energy has been dropping. “Since 2010, the cost of solar PV has fallen by 89%, onshore wind by 71%, and offshore wind by 63%. This highlights how renewables are now the cheapest source of new electricity in most markets.”

He then shows how Trump’s effort to undo Biden’s progress on clean energy through the Infrastructure Act, such as by making appliances more energy efficient, costs American consumers. “Higher (energy efficiency) standards (for appliances) available to the DOE could save the average US household \$160 a year, and all U.S. businesses \$15 billion a year in electricity costs between 2030 and 2050. Moreover, the “clean energy projects (216 at least) cancelled since Trump took office in Jan. 2025 would have supplied at least half a million good jobs.”

The folks at Energy Innovation estimate Trump’s energy policy since his second term (in which he had gutted Biden’s clean energy measures) will increase costs for the average American household by \$460 per household in 2035. Furthermore, by removing the incentives for Biden’s quick energy transition, Trump’s big ugly bill will cost the U.S. economy, “\$20,000 jobs per year over the next decade, in addition to the 144,000 clean energy jobs lost within the past 18 months.”

The numbers are even worse if you figure in public health and climate costs. According to McKibben, “worsening local air pollution will raise healthcare costs by \$43 billion with annual increases of \$4 billion in 2035 and \$4.5 billion in 2040.”And a rapidly approaching El Nino is threatening massive “food shocks” that will stretch into at least 2028.

“Just to reiterate,” McKibben sums up, “instead of speeding the conversion to clean cheap energy, which would save households huge amounts of money, we’re instead shoveling taxpayer cash (in the form of increased subsidies) to the fossil fuel industry, and in the process overheating the earth, which will be the most expensive thing that we’ve ever done, by orders of magnitude.”

In the Trump administration’s growing list of stupid things it’s done, his decisions to gut President Biden’s clean energy provisions and to transition the nation off fossil fuels ranks near the top. Not only does it cost Americans more every day when driving or heating their homes, but it sets the U.S. behind China and others in the race to control the future of the world’s energy. Oil, fittingly, is being fossilized quicker than anyone imagined. Only Trump thinks otherwise and he’s hanging his weird obsession around America’s neck like an oil-soaked albatross.

MIDDLEBURY CHOICE: CLEAN ENERGY VS NATURAL GAS

Interestingly, Middlebury’s question of how to power a sludge dryer in its proposed new wastewater treatment plant presents a different wrinkle when choosing between clean energy (electric power) and natural gas. The wrinkle is that the electric system is somewhat experimental; that is, Middlebury would be a test case at a larger municipal scale.

The town’s energy committee (see story page 1A in today’s Addison Independent) argues the sludge dryer should be powered by a newly developed system using electricity while the town’s infrastructure committee, professional engineers and municipal employees who would be operating the plant recommend using natural gas.

In this case, the clean energy system is almost five times as expensive based on a project life cycle cost (\$2,574,400 for natural gas compared to \$10,349,800 for electricity). But beyond the cost differential, Emmalee Cherington, the town’s director of engineering and wastewater chief, says she’s concerned about the town becoming the “test case for a municipal-sized electric sludge drying system.” She recalled the town tried an experimental system 26 years ago with a then-revolutionary Lyme stabilization solids handling process, which “didn’t work” and resulted in years of being out of compliance with its waste effluent.

Municipal workers are also more comfortable operating the natural gas system, rather than working with outside consultants to maintain a system they aren’t familiar with.

Those are difficult hurdles to overcome, but the town’s energy committee has its eyes on its primary objective: lowering the town’s CO2 emissions. “Going with natural gas will increase the town’s greenhouse gas emissions by 500 tons a year, or 10,000 tons over the 20-year life of the project,” Energy Committee Chair Mike Roy told the board of selectman. “By going that route, the goal of getting our emissions down under 200 tons a year will never be met.”

The selectboard, which is slated to make its decision by the next meeting on July 28, encouraged the Energy Committee to present more information to bolster its argument ahead of that vote. Roy speculated that the manufacturer of the electric system might be willing to put financial safeguards in place to make it more attractive for the town.

From our perspective, the Energy Committee has its eye on the right prize, but it might also consider other ways to lower the town’s CO2 emissions, like a slew of additional EV stations, if the new technology (being a guinea pig for new systems is never ideal) is ultimately too much of a ulcer-inducing gamble for town officials.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Giggles on the green
SIX-YEAR-OLD FINLEIGH JONES gets a kick out of a hula hoop on Tuesday during the Festival on the Green. Nearby, the No Strings Marionette Co. was performing a puppet show during the week-long festival.

Independent photo/Steve James

Building a state our kids can afford

This summer, when our daughter comes back to Vermont on her summer break as a teacher, something momentous is happening — she will be the same age that my husband and I were when we purchased our farm in 2000. At 24 (almost 25), she has officially lapped us!

It has gotten me thinking, especially as “affordability” is top of people’s minds these days (and rightly so), how has the financial landscape in the Green Mountain State changed for her generation versus ours?

I am not an economist, but I’ve dug into personal experience, had many conversations, and done a bit of internet research to verify what I’ve witnessed first and secondhand. Consider these statistics, mostly garnered from the US Census website.

In 2000 (the year we purchased our farm), the median home price in Vermont was \$111,500 and the median household salary was \$58,900, or just over half (52%) of the median home price. Today, the median home price in Vermont has risen to \$385,000, but the median household income is \$82,700, just about 21% of the median home price. That’s a massive shift!

We do not exist in a bubble, and we are not alone in this predicament. Maine mirrors Vermont in many statistics: in 2000, the median home price was just under \$100,000 and the median Maine family earned \$52,000 annually, or 52% of the price of a home. In 2026, the median Maine household earns \$72,000, amounting to 18% the median price of a home, \$389,000. Ouch!

Our neighbors to the west and south are not faring much better, as the median New York household earns

14% the cost of a home, and in Massachusetts it’s 15%. In New Hampshire, the median home price is \$445,000 while households pull in a median income of \$88,235. Even as the third highest earner in the nation, the median household in the Granite State earns just 19% of the median home price.

Besides a mortgage, for many of us our other big cost is electricity. I know we are feeling this today. Even with 39 solar panels installed on our barn roof over a decade ago that provide about a third of our farm’s power demand, we cringe when we open that bill.

In 2000, the average cost per kilowatt hour in Vermont was 10 cents. Today it is 24 cents. The good news is that Vermonters have the lowest utility rate in New England, and we also use the least energy per household due to our work towards energy efficiency (go us!). The bad news is that the national average is 18 cents per kWh, and in the southern states is averaging 13 cents per kWh. Hard to compete with that. Of course, their utility companies don’t have five months of winter weather to contend with.

Another cost we all experience: food. Here we see the trend reversed. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2000 we could expect to spend 10% of our income on food (total at home and away from home). Now it’s 9.5%, and food purchased away from home has equaled or slightly surpassed food prepared at home. As a farmer, this flatline is distressing, but as a feather in our cap, an analysis by the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts found that Vermont

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 9A)

Ways of Seeing

By Hannah Sessions

‘Connection’ heals in both directions

Read the title of this series twice. First, read it as a subject. Neighbor Matters. The matters of our neighbors. Issues affecting our neighbors today. Perspectives on values, challenges, and opportunities for change.

Now move the ‘s’: Neighbors Matter. A declaration. Every person in this community of communities embodies inherent and equal worth. Regardless of class, color, sex, orientation, or even political persuasion. Every one.

This is the third commentary series Green Mountain Justice and the *Addison Independent* have created together. “Living Together” brought a diversity of voices to the intersections of homelessness, and earned First Place in the New England Better Newspaper Competition for newsroom collaboration. “Freedom & Unity” asked how Vermont’s motto actually shows up in our communities. Neighbor Matters goes one layer deeper. It asks what we owe each other, and what happens when we pay it.

Here is the problem we face. Vermont is becoming more inequitable, not less. More of our neighbors are being pushed to the margins. Not just into homelessness, though we are a leader in the nation in shameful ways there. Pushed out of housing, out of health, out of dignity, out of view. A yawning gap has opened between our neighbors of privilege and our neighbors on the

Neighbor Matters

By Tom Morgan

edge. And most of us good people tiptoe past it every day.

Why? Not because we are cruel. Because we are disconnected. And disconnection, it turns out, is the engine of nearly everything this series will examine.

Consider what researchers keep rediscovering. Journalist Johann Hari surveyed decades of addiction science and concluded that the opposite of addiction is not sobriety. It is connection. Kevin Adler, who spent years reuniting unhoused people with their families, calls homelessness a crisis of “relational poverty” as much as material poverty. Isabel Wilkerson traced how caste systems survive by keeping people from truly knowing one another. Study after study on tribalism and division points the same direction. When strangers become neighbors, contempt and divisiveness have nowhere to live.

Connection is not one remedy among many. It is the common antidote. And it turns out, connection heals in both directions. When a marginalized neighbor is truly witnessed through a caring relationship, not processed, not case-managed, but seen, wounds start to heal. The constant inflammation of life on the edge eases. And when a privileged neighbor shows up and gets close to a neighbor in need, something mends in them too. The quiet moral injury of tiptoeing past suffering, week

(See Neighbor Matters, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Gray has proven track record

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Molly Gray for lieutenant governor. At this critical time, when the rights and economic well-being of many Vermonters are under attack, Molly has the personal and professional experience to be the kind of leader we need as our lieutenant governor.

Molly is a human rights lawyer, former director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance, and former assistant attorney general so she’ll be a strong advocate for protecting the rights of all Vermonters, whether you’ve spent your whole life here or are new to our state. Molly is the daughter of farmers and is now caring for her aging mother while also raising a young child, so she knows how crucial it is to support working families with affordable health care, childcare, and paid family leave. Her policy plans focus on initiatives to make raising a family and earning a living in Vermont more sustainable.

I have worked directly with Molly and seen how well she represented all Vermonters during her time as lieutenant governor. In her role presiding over the Senate, she was fair, well-prepared, and professional. Her good communication and openness to feedback made her a strong partner to senators as we worked through challenging legislation and policy initiatives.

Since her first campaign in 2020, Molly has learned a tremendous amount and grown into a strong, compassionate leader, tackling challenges with both humility and grit. Vermont will be well served to have her back in the State House. Please join me in voting for Molly Gray for lieutenant governor. Thank you!

Sen. Ruth Hardy Middlebury

Midd. ICE arrest reverberates

When masked immigration agents seized three unidentified people from a parking lot in Middlebury one morning last week, it was alarming on many different levels.

Addison County has not been the focus of most immigration enforcement during the past year and a half, though it is one New England’s principal dairy regions and depends on immigrant labor. This latest incident will inevitably spread fear through a broad population of men, women and children who feel vulnerable to arbitrary, unwarranted detention and expulsion.

At another level, the capture of three individuals, assuming they were Latino immigrants, brings to northern New England the broader war launched by the Trump administration, not just against vulnerable immigrants, but against Latin America itself.

What are the dimensions of that war? That Secretary of State Marco Rubio is apparently running the government of Venezuela, as reported by *The New York Times*, is one dimension of that war. That the United States continues to destroy at will, and without legal authority, small boats in the Caribbean and Pacific, and their occupants, is another dimension. The roundup of tens of thousands of immigrants, held in concentration camps without legal recourse, is another dimension of that war.

These actions were foreseeable from the first day of Donald Trump’s first presidential campaign when he made clear his view of our immigrant neighbors — “they’re murderers, they’re rapists,” he said. To slander an entire ethnic population in that way was not only racist. It signaled a malign intent that has become today’s reality.

But Trump did not invent hostility toward our southern neighbors. Since the beginning, the United States has in many ways defined itself in opposition to Latin America.

Historian Greg Grandin’s remarkable book “America, (See Moats letter, Page 9A)

Letters to the Editor

Stroup has the qualities of an effective leader

I am writing in support of John Stroup for Vermont State Representative, Addison-3 district. I served on the ANWSD school board with John for four years; we worked together to organize a newly established district, hire superintendents and respond to many challenging situations. John’s nine years on the school board have given him substantial insight into issues surrounding not only education, but also healthcare and housing, as all three issues are intertwined through funding decisions and affordability concerns.

When I was school board chair, I frequently reached out to John for discussion and guidance. He has a way of imparting clarity to chaos and steering the conversation away from minutiae and toward

the broader goal. John knows when it’s important to take a stand and how to communicate clearly to the public. He also listens with intention, and I know from experience that he is open to changing his mind when confronted with valid, factual arguments. When John became school board chair, he demonstrated his commitment to balancing concerns, especially fiscal concerns, with community needs. These are all important traits of a politician — one who wishes to serve and represent his constituents.

John’s ability to connect to others is another reason to support him. I met John serving on the school board together, but now he is simply a good friend of mine. His openness, warmth and ability to identify shared values and interests allow John to relate to and care

about many people. He is able to bring diverse opinions together, find a common thread and help craft an idea or policy that represents a bit of everyone.

John is a proven leader and hard worker who continues to commit his time and energy to improve our community. His candidacy for representative is a natural next step for him, and an opportunity for him to broaden his positive impact. I know as a friend that he would have my back if I needed something, and I believe he will have all our backs when he serves in Montpelier.

Please remember to vote in the August 11 primary and on November 3 for the general election.

Sue Rakowski Vergennes

Senior athletes shined in state championship

I enjoyed your recent coverage of the Vermont Sun Triathlon at Branbury State Park. This sprint race, the first of a series of three, was also the Vermont Senior Games Association (VSGA) State Championship.

Congratulations to the seven Addison County triathletes over the age of 50 who completed the course (including a 600-yard swim in Lake Dunmore, a 14-mile bike and 5k run) and earned VSGA awards. They included Tanya Byker (Cornwall), fourth in women’s 50-54; Middlebury’s Mike Salak, fourth in men’s 50-

54; Bristol’s Terry Ryan, second in men’s 65-69; and Salisbury’s Cindy Quackenbush, first in women’s 75-79; and Carrlane Quackenbush, first in men’s 80-84.

These five were led by the two mentioned in your story, Wendie Puls of Bristol and Jeff Schumann of Salisbury, each taking gold in the 70-74 age groups with snappy finishing times. Congratulations to these athletes for their stellar performances!

In addition to the triathlon, VSGA holds 15 events each year for athletes over the age of 50. With the motto of “Fun, fitness,

and fellowship,” VSGA offers a place for everyone over the age of 50, whether new to a sport or a seasoned athlete. It also gives athletes the opportunity to qualify for the National Senior Games, held every two years, to compete with athletes from across the country. The seven triathletes all qualified for nationals next summer in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

For more information on VSGA, visit vermontseniorgames.org.
Rebecca Ryan, VSGA secretary and athlete Bristol

Janoo understands meaning of health care for all

Everybody is in favor of health care reform, but of the three gubernatorial candidates, only Amanda Janoo supports and advocates for publicly financed universal primary care, mental health care and substance use care as a first step toward publicly financed universal health care for all. With public financing there will be no need for health insurance companies, which provide no care and siphon critical dollars from our system.

Every other industrialized country has some form of guaranteed universal health care for all. Their health care is better and cheaper. The U.S. is an outlier. Vermont, our Brave Little State, can be a shining example of how a single-payer universal system can work.

Now is a unique opportunity to create this system in Vermont as premiums, co-pays and deductibles skyrocket and access becomes more difficult. Business,

Don’t let Dems raise fuel costs

I am an Addison County registered Democrat and follow Washington and Vermont politics closely. My Vermont and national party are confusing me greatly. Most recent examples: Graham Platner endorsement, Act 81, road rule and H.740 that would create a fuel delivery register.

As a reasonable liberal I want
(See McCormick letter, Page 9A)

Neighbor Matters

(Continued from Page 4A)
after week, year after year, begins to heal. We were not built to look away. It costs us something every time we do.

That is also the true meaning of liberation. We tend to imagine liberation as freedom from something. From poverty, from addiction, from oppression. But the deeper tradition, echoed across faiths and confirmed at every Neighbors’ Table we host, says liberation is freedom for each other. None of us gets free alone. The neighbor trapped on the margin and the neighbor trapped by their echo chamber of comfort need the same door opened. It only opens from both sides.

Every wisdom tradition already told us this. Hebrew scripture commands love of the stranger, thirty-six times by one rabbi’s count. Jesus of Nazareth points to the least of these. Islam names care of the orphan and the traveler as sacred duty. Buddhism centers compassion for all beings. Indigenous traditions teach kinship with everyone

and everything. Centering our marginalized neighbors is not a partisan invention. It is the oldest shared instruction we have. We are simply late in following it.

One caution before we begin. Performance will not undo the forces that profit from keeping us divided. Not lawn signs. Not strongly worded statements. Not charity at arm’s length. These systems were never natural. They are constructions, built on broken and fragile foundations. And they crumble one way only: one trusting relationship at a time.

So that is what this series will document. In the coming months you will hear from neighbors across the full spectrum. Some neighbors will write about what it means to be witnessed in community. Some will share what proximity is teaching them. Travelers will reflect on returning home from less materialistic cultures and seeing our own with new eyes. Others will trace the lines connecting racial justice to the simple act of neighboring, because who lands on

the margins here is no accident.

Different voices offering their perspectives on neighbor matters with one thread. Neighbors matter. And connection is how we prove it.

You do not have to wait for the next installment to begin. Somewhere within a mile of your door is a neighbor who has not been truly seen in a long time. Maybe within a room of it. The gap between you is not closed by programs or pity. It is closed by presence.

One neighbor. One connection at a time. That is how healing begins. That is how the constructions that disenfranchise and divide crumble. And that is how we make ready for a liberation worth celebrating.

Tom Morgan is a Panton neighbor and founder of Green Mountain Justice. Green Mountain Justice is a Vermont community justice ministry, building beloved community through care, connection, and collaboration, one relationship at a time. Learn more, listen to neighbors’ stories, and connect at greenmountainjustice.org.

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Stephen Emmett Ahern, 69, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO, Vt. — It is with great sorrow we announce the loss of our beloved Stephen Ahern, on June 28, 2026, at the age of 69. He died peacefully surrounded by the love of his family at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vt.

He was born Nov. 4, 1956, to his parents, Omer C. Ahern Sr. and Rosa Cannistraro Ahern, in Plymouth, N.H. He grew up with his six brothers and sisters, at the Sullivan County Nursing Home complex in Unity, N.H., where his parents were the executive administrators.

Stephen was known for his warm presence and his willingness to help anyone who needed a hand. He either repaired anything that was broken, built new or performed any other construction that was needed. Being good with his hands, he was also very clever repairing and building computers from scratch. His family, neighbors and friends remember him as the man who showed up.

Stephen cherished time with family. He was a reliable provider, loving father and husband. He approached life in gratitude toward God for what he had, which was



STEPHEN EMMETT AHERN

much. He would often say, “God is good to us even if we don’t see it.” His legacy is one of love and quiet generosity.

Stephen moved his family to Essex Junction, Vt., from New Hampton, N.H., in 1988, where he was employed by IBM for 27 years. His job continued seamlessly into Global Foundries from 2015 to 2019. In 2020, Stephen went into retirement after the diagnosis of Early Onset Alzheimer’s disease.

Stephen is survived by his beloved wife Abbie at their home

in Starksboro, Vt; and his grown children, Josiah Ahern, also of Starksboro, Thomas Ahern of Middlebury, and daughter Stephanie and her husband Joshua Hoke. He also leaves two grandsons, Samuel and Timothy Hoke, all from Winchester Ken. He is also survived by his siblings, Katherine Drexel of Plymouth, N.H., Karen Arel of Wells, Maine, Karlene Lawrence of Webster, N.H., Kristine Kidder of Newport, N.H., and Michael Ahern of Plymouth, N.H., including spouses, significant others, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Omer C. Ahern Jr.

Arrangements were made by Stephen C. Gregory and Son of South Burlington, Vt.

A celebration of Life will be held Sunday, July 19, at 3 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Bristol, Vt. A meal will be available in the fellowship hall directly after, where family and friends can share stories to honor the man who meant so much to so many people.

Donations may be made to Age Well of Addison County or Elderly Services at Project Independence in Middlebury, Vt. ♦

Kenley Walter ‘The Chief’ Hallock, 82, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Kenley Walter “The Chief” Hallock, 82, of Middlebury, Vt., peacefully passed away July 2, 2026, at the Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing facility in Middlebury, Vt., following complications related to sepsis. He was surrounded by family until the time of his passing.

Kenley was born Sept. 4, 1943, in Burlington, Vt., to Kenneth and Clara Hallock and grew up in Waltham, Vt. After attending Vergennes High School he enlisted in the Navy and was stationed at US Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After the Navy, he enlisted in the Coast Guard, proudly serving on the USCGC Duane during the Vietnam War. Kenley was a career serviceman, dedicating 24 years to United States Coast Guard. He also served at sea on the USCGC Escanaba, USCGC Bibb, USCGC Messenger, USCGC Vigilant and the USCGC Bittersweet. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer and settled on Cape Cod where he worked and lived for many years.

Kenley was a man of quiet strength, deep curiosity, and unwavering service, leaving behind a legacy shaped by duty and a life



KENLEY WALTER HALLOCK

lived deliberately. He moved back to Vermont, as he always carried the spirit of the Green Mountains with him throughout his life.

In his later years, Kenley found purpose and community as Commander of the Middlebury, Vermont Veterans of Foreign Wars post, where he proudly served his fellow veterans with the same dedication he had given his country.

When he wasn’t at the VFW or legion hall, Kenley could often

be found with a book on science or the origins of space, a cigar and a warm beer to complete the moment. He loved the outdoors, tending to his garden, moving at nature’s pace, and finding joy in the quiet rhythms of the world around him.

He was predeceased by his wife, Betsy (Levy) Hallock; as well as his parents, Kenneth and Clara Hallock of Lincoln; sister, Elisse (Hallock) Gebo of Ferrisburgh; brother, Peter Hallock of Lincoln; and brother-in-law, Albert Gebo.

Kenley is survived by his only son, Corey Hallock and his wife Lisa; two grandchildren, Dan Hallock and Adam Hallock; his sister, Vali (Hallock) Gebo; his longtime companion, Jill Smith of Middlebury; and several nieces and nephews who grew up with their Uncle Kenley.

He will rest easy in Lincoln, Vt., where his ashes will be spread during a ceremony and celebration of life to be held in September of 2026.

In memory of Kenley, a donation can be made to <https://heroes.vfw.org/> to help American veterans and the programs that support them. ♦

Diana Alene Peterson, 85, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Diana Alene Peterson passed away June 9, 2026, with her son at her side. She was born in Meadville, Pa., July 29, 1940. She leaves behind the love of her life, her husband of 37 years, Bruce B. Peterson of Middlebury Vt.; her children, Mark Johnson (Betsy) and Amy Johnson; her stepchildren Tom Peterson (Xiaoling), Kristin Abbott (Abbott), and Donald Peterson (Amy), her grandchildren Rheanna Abbott, Jeff Abbott, Clark Johnson, Benjamin Johnson and Samuel Johnson; her great-granddaughter Alma Josephine Hernandez de Henestrosa Abbott; and her beloved kitty Simba.

A full obituary will be provided



DIANA ALENE PETERSON

at a later date at the convenience of the family. ♦



ROBERT FULLER

Robert Fuller celebration of life

LINCOLN—Friends, neighbors, former colleagues and coworkers are invited to help remember and celebrate the life of Robert Fuller. Contribute an anecdote or memory you have about Robert (the greatest storyteller of them all!) by sharing it on the open mic during the ceremony or writing it down for the memory basket.

Join the family on Saturday, July 25, from 1-5 p.m., at the Old Lantern, 3260 Greenbush Rd., Charlotte VT 05445. Ceremony at 1:30.

RSVP, if you have not done so already, to alirobt2026@gmail.com to help us prepare. ♦

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.

Eugene ‘Gene’ Emery Ethier, 80, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — With hope and assurance found in Jesus, we celebrate the life of Eugene “Gene” Emery Ethier, who entered into the presence of the Lord June 22, 2026, at the age of 80. While our hearts grieve his passing, we rejoice in the promise of eternal life and give thanks for a life well lived.

Born July 3, 1945, in Rutland Vt. to Emery and Cora Ethier, Gene lived a life marked by a strong work ethic and dedication to his wife of 53 years, Janice (Wood) Ethier, and their four boys.

Gene was raised on the family farm. His passion for farming continued throughout his entire lifetime as he and his family managed farms in Hyde Park, Vt., and Pt. MacKenzie, Alaska, ultimately purchasing and settling on his own farm in Cornwall, Vt., in 1990. Gene also worked as a projectionist at local drive-in theaters for decades (Skyline in Crown Point and Mid-Haven in New Haven). He shared many fond memories of the “good ole days” at the drive-ins, like when teens would pile into car trunks to avoid paying (60 cents per person)! Gene



EUGENE “GENE” EMERY ETHIER

also worked at the Marquis Theater (formerly Campus Cinema), spanning many decades — well into the late 2000s.

Later in life he could be found every day down in his shop tinkering on anything mechanical — his main passion was mostly engines. He was a mechanical genius and loved fixing things, especially when most people said it was not possible.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Emery Ethier and Cora (Chartrand) Ethier; He is survived by his wife, Janice (Wood) Ethier; son Matthew (Jennifer) Ethier and Matthew’s step-daughter Maya Jacobs of Middlebury, Vt.; son Nathan (Chelsea) Ethier and granddaughter Emery of Atlanta Ga.; son Jesse (Rachel) Ethier and granddaughters Annanya and Alaya of East Middlebury Vt.; and Jason Ethier of Cornwall, Vt.; sister Madelyn (Dick) Gardner; and brothers Richard (Karon) Ethier, and Jeff (Laura) Ethier. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunt, uncle and friends.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Tuesday, July 21, at 11 a.m. at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Bridport. The Rev. Fr. Brandon C. Schnieder, pastor, will officiate.

Graveside committal services and interment will follow in St. Genevieve’s Cemetery, Shoreham.

Following the graveside service a reception will follow at a location to be announced.

Arrangements are by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ♦

Celebration of Life of James Adams Larrabee



MIDDLEBURY — Please come to remember and celebrate the life of Jim Larrabee. We will gather to share the photos and stories at Jim’s favorite teaching classroom, MBH 216 (McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury College). We will start at 3:00 pm on Saturday, August 29th, followed by a reception at Great Hall. All are invited and welcome!



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Francis Driscoll, 95, of Monkton

MONKTON — Francis Driscoll, 95, of Monkton, Vt., passed away peacefully Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Porter Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Francis was born Aug. 30, 1930, in Hanover, N.H. As a young man, he helped assemble Sears kit homes before going on to build his own construction company, a career that reflected his skill, determination, and strong work ethic.

Francis proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict as a Sergeant in the Army Corps of Engineers, following his service as a drill sergeant.

In 1961, Francis met the love of his life, Mary Bessette. They married and shared nearly 60 years together, remaining devoted to one another until Mary’s passing in 2021. Their marriage was a testament to enduring love, commitment, and partnership.

Francis was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary; his parents; his son, Michael; four brothers; and three sisters.

He is survived by his sisters Dorothy and Elizabeth; his children, Gerri Cutler, Terri (Wayne) Groth, Scott (Shelly)



FRANCIS DRISCOLL

Driscoll, Chris Driscoll, and Mark (Amy) Driscoll; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Francis will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his years of service to his country, and the life he built through hard work and perseverance. His legacy lives on through the family he loved so deeply.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no calling hours or formal funeral service. ♦



CRAYTON BEDFORD

Crayton Bedford, 91, Middlebury native

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Crayton Bedford died June 27, 2026, of congestive heart failure. Born Oct. 10, 1934, to Ward and Molly Bedford, he spent most of his young life in Vermont, on the family dairy farm, and spent his summers on Lake Champlain.

Crayton was a Renaissance man, scholar, educator, philosopher, mentor, deep thinker, artist, tai chi student and teacher, musician, therapist, reader, writer, foodie, cook, and lover of life.

A full obituary can be found at www.ashevilleareaalternative.com/.../Crayton-Bedford. ♦

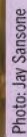
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WEDNESDAY 8/26



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Q&A WITH ANAÏS MITCHELL TO FOLLOW
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THURSDAY 8/27



Q&A WITH KIRSTEN JOHNSON TO FOLLOW
w/ MNFF Managing Producer Andy Mitchell



CAMERAPERSON



WITH KIRSTEN JOHNSON
AND ANDY MITCHELL



THURSDAY 8/27



LAND

Q&A WITH ALLYN STEWART TO FOLLOW
w/ MNFF Co-Founder Lloyd Komesar



SULLY



ALLYN STEWART AND RETURNING HONOREE BETH LEVISON TALK SHOP



THURSDAY 8/27



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THURSDAY 8/27



SHERMAN'S MARCH
Q&A WITH ROSS McELWEE
TO FOLLOW
w/ Middlebury College
Professor Jason Mittell



REMAKE



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Obituaries

Janet Mahoney and James Whitney, formerly of Cornwall

CORNWALL — There will be a celebration of life for Janet Elaine Mahoney (née Whitney) and James Arthur Whitney Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m., at the First Congregational Church of Cornwall. Janet and Jim were the children of Henry and Beatrice (Parkhill) Whitney.

Janet was born in Cornwall, Vt., and made her home in Methuen, Mass., where she lived most of her life. She is survived by her beloved husband of 61 years, Robert Mahoney; her daughter Karen Nadeau and her husband Walter; her son Scott Mahoney; her cherished granddaughter Jolie Nadeau; and her sister-in-law Sandy Whitney. She passed away Oct. 1, 2025, in Winchester, Mass.

Janet began her professional life as an English teacher at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, where she shared her love of literature and language with her students. She later devoted herself

full-time to her family, creating a home filled with warmth, curiosity, and love.

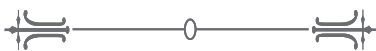
Jim Whitney was married to Sandra Endrodi Whitney for 50 years and they had two sons, Nathaniel and Daniel.

He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Benjamin Whitney, Abigail Whitney, Ethan Whitney, Ezra Whitney, and Elias Whitney. He passed away March 18, 2026, in Athens, Ga.

Jim graduated with both B.S. and M.S. from MIT (1968), and a Ph.D. from Stanford (1972). He came to the University of Georgia as a “Temporary Assistant Professor” in Geology in 1972 and retired as a Full Professor in 2001. During this time, he served as department head of Geology for eight years, as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs for four years, and department head of Anthropology for two years.

While he was head of the Geology department, in 1988, he created what is now the Interdisciplinary Field Program teaching Geology, Anthropology, and Ecology as students travel across the U.S. during the Summer term. In his retirement he enjoyed traveling the world.

Although their lives took them to other parts of the world, they always thought of Cornwall as “home.” The families of Janet and Jim wish to offer their appreciation to everyone for joining them in celebration of their lives. A Committal will take place at the gravesite next door for Janet immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to join with the family for a reception in the narthex (entryway) of the church following the graveside service. Janet’s one pet peeve was wearing black, so everyone is invited to wear the brightly colored clothing of their choosing.◊



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. ◊



KATHRYN GIARD MYRICK

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Steven J. Shores, 65, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Steven J. Shores, who passed away July 7, 2026, at the age of 65. Steve was born April 2, 1961, in Burlington, Vt.

Steve was a man whose life was deeply rooted in the land he loved. An avid hunter and fisherman, he believed in respecting and protecting nature for future generations. Conservation and hunting went hand in hand for him, and he was a passionate supporter of preserving Vermont’s natural beauty. He worked with the Audubon Society to help protect the Bobolinks and other ground-nesting birds and was a steadfast advocate for pollinators, especially honeybees and monarch butterflies.

Steve took tremendous pride in keeping the family farm organic and living as a steward of the land. Every spring, he tapped the sugar maples, producing maple syrup that family and friends eagerly anticipated and enjoyed together. He found joy in gardening, tending his fields, fishing, hunting and caring for his beloved cows, which gave him a sense of purpose, strength and peace.

A true jack of all trades, Steve was never afraid of hard work. Throughout his life, he worked in logging, carpentry, owned and operated his own firewood and masonry business, all while working on the family farm. If something needed fixing or someone needed help, Steve was always willing to lend a helping hand. No task was too big, and no neighbor was ever turned away.

Steve also loved good food and was always eager to try a new recipe made by his stepdaughter, Tina. She was his guardian angel,



STEVEN J. SHORES

his advocate, his caregiver and his sidekick. She was the one who encouraged him to fight until he wasn’t able to fight any longer. They had a bond like no other.

Known for his gift of conversation, Steve could strike up a friendship with just about anyone. Whether you had known him for years or had only just met him, he made you feel welcome. Those who knew him best often said, “He had the kindest soul.”

Steve took great pride in his Abenaki heritage and encouraged his family to carry on their traditions and learn about their ancestors. His Abenaki name was Beaver, a fitting name for a man who never stopped working and was always building, fixing, growing, and caring for those around him. He was a proud member of the American Legion, where he was known for flipping chicken at the annual Memorial Day chicken barbecue. Everyone agreed the chicken just wasn’t the same without Steve’s special sauce. He was also a devoted member of the Eagles Club and VFW for many

years. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Cecelia and Ivan Shores; and his cherished godson, Sean Smith.

He leaves behind his loving partner of 40 years, Joanne Newell; his stepdaughter, Tina Booska; his stepson, Shawn Newell; and his beloved grandson, Damian Newell. He is also survived by his sisters, Sharra Shores, Deborah Murray, Annie Shores, Susan Booska and Brenda Shores; his brothers, Tony Shores and Ivan Shores; favorite great nieces, Kaylee and Sierra Murray and many other cherished nieces and nephews; countless extended family members and dear friends; and three of his closest friends, Bill Robinson, Darin Gallison and Gary Ward, whose friendship meant so much to him.

A burial will be held at the family farm, 839 Pea Ridge Road, Vergennes, Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at the Parish Hall in Vergennes. Family and friends are warmly invited to attend both services as they gather to honor and celebrate Steve’s life.

Steve will be remembered for his hardworking spirit, generous heart, and unwavering love for his family, his heritage, and the land. His legacy lives on in every garden planted, every maple tree tapped, every field carefully tended, and every act of kindness shared. As Steve often said, “Without our pollinators, we have nothing.” Those words, like the life he lived, remind us that caring for one another and for the world around us leaves a legacy that endures for generations. “Everything will be okay.” ◊

Police probe theft from Agway

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police investigated an alleged theft from the Agway store on Exchange Street on July 9.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a report of a local child who was refusing to go home with his mother on July 6.
- Helped a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis on July 6.
- Spoke with people who were shooting guns in the Creek Road area at around 4:50 p.m. on July 7.
- Investigated a complaint about some people drinking alcohol behind a Court Street home on July 7.
- Served a no-trespass order on July 8 on a person who wasn’t wanted at a North Pleasant Street location.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a medical call in the Court Street area on July 8.
- Helped Middlebury College

officials in disposing of contraband seized from students over the course of the previous school year.

- Assisted MREMS with a medical call in the North Pleasant Street area on July 8.
- Responded to a two-vehicle crash, with injuries, at the intersection of Route 7 and Halladay Road on July 8.
- Responded to a report of a juvenile in possession of drugs in the Middlebury Union High School campus on July 8.
- Conducted a downtown foot patrol on July 8.
- Responded to a reported verbal dispute in the town gazebo on July 9.
- Were informed of the theft of used oil from a Seymour Street business on July 9.
- Checked on the welfare of a drunken guest at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel on July 9.
- Spoke with a man involved in a property dispute on July 10.
- Investigated what was

Middlebury
Police Log

determined to be the natural-cause death of local resident Ronald VanDusen, 82, on July 10.

- Arrested Alton P. Brown II, 47, of Middlebury on an active warrant on July 10.
- Assisted a local resident who had been receiving threatening messages on July 11.
- Took into protective custody a baby bunny that had been turned into police headquarters on July 11.
- Cautioned a man who was causing a disturbance on the town green on July 11.
- Helped a local resident who had been targeted by fraud on July 12.
- Helped a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis on July 13.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News Briefs

Kassidy Jay of Bristol and Amelia Quesnel of Middlebury were named to the dean’s list for the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University.

Makayla Swan of Middlebury has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Spring 2026 semester. At Dean College in Franklin, Mass.

Talia Cotroneo of Weybridge graduated from Roger Williams University with a B.S. in Management in May as part of the Class of 2026.

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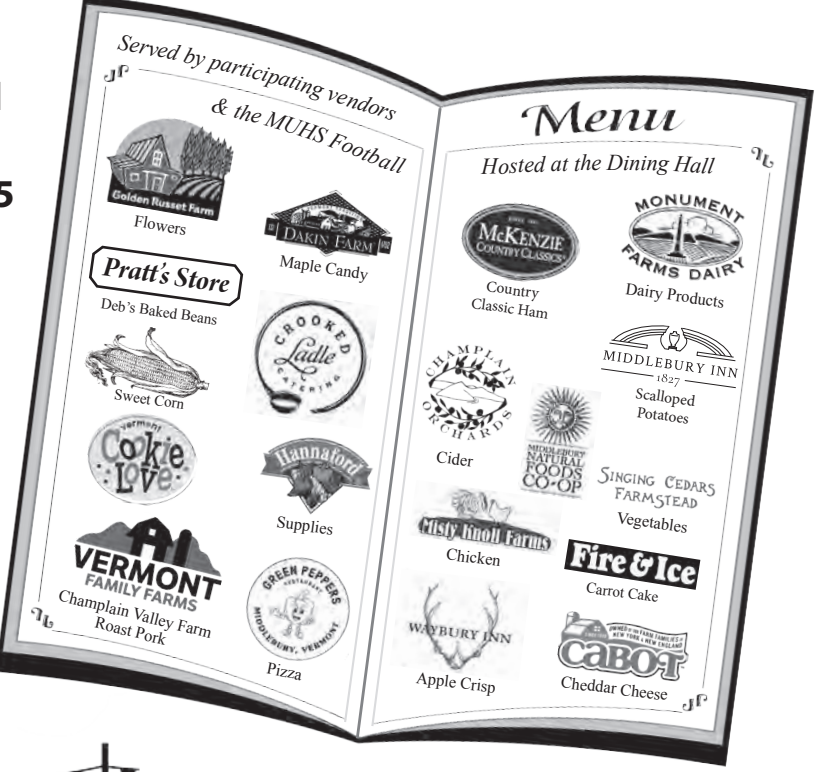
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Moats letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
América: A New History of the New World” describes how a clash of ideas and values between North America and the rest of the Americas had its genesis in the 1500s — long before small bands of Englishmen had found their way to Virginia and Massachusetts. The conquest of Mexico and Peru and the seizure of the riches of the Aztec and Inca empires were such calamitous events that they produced a reaction that echoes today. Central to the story was Bartolomeo de las Casas, a Dominican priest who traveled with the Spanish conquerors and watched the unparalleled slaughter of tens of thousands of indigenous people and the greed and cruelty of his fellow Spaniards. He wrote a detailed account of what we would call “crimes against humanity,” and it struck the conscience of people throughout Europe. What evolved from his description of slaughter was the awakening of the idea, as expressed two centuries later in the Declaration of Independence, that “all men are created equal.” Accordingly, the slaughter of men, women and children in the name

of Christianity or in pursuit of treasure has no justification. What followed over the centuries was a debate about what was called the right of conquest — the idea that if you can conquer a place, you have the right to take its resources and subjugate its people. Against this idea, intellectuals and political leaders of Latin America promoted the idea that the rights of sovereign nations and peoples must be respected. All men are created equal. Rapacious settlers in Latin America had their own agenda, and securing human rights has been a struggle in Latin America as elsewhere. The United States, in the grip of the slave power and intent on seizing land occupied by native Americans, was slow to catch on to the idea of equal rights. As Grandin describes it, the thinking of Latin American human rights advocates was instrumental in the creation of the United Nations, and the New Deal politics of Franklin Roosevelt was championed by progressive leaders in Latin America. But corporate interests in the United States drove U.S. policy toward Latin America after World War II, and the idea that Mexico,

Guatemala, Chile or Cuba merit respectful treatment as equals of the United States has struggled to catch on against the racism and the corporate agenda that sees mixed-race Latinos as unequal. How else to explain the willingness of Americans to look the other way as masked agents invade neighborhoods to grab people for the offense of inadequate paperwork. There are ways to implement immigration policy without resort to the methods of a police state. If we believed our Latino neighbors were our equals — equal in human worth and in the rights that are inherent in our humanity — we would see the link between the crimes against humanity witnessed 500 years ago by Bartolomeo de las Casas and the arbitrary seizure and detention of people from within our communities today. Vermonters are far removed from the war at our southern border. It is still incumbent upon us to decide which side we are on in the contest between the rights of conquest and the rights of humanity.

David Moats
Salisbury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
surpassed the rest of the nation in local foods purchased, to the tune of 6.6 million in direct sales from more than 6,500 farmers. How do we reverse some of these trends so that people like our 25-year-old teacher daughter can start a life here? We need to build more housing supply more efficiently to get prices down, and we need to give some a leg up. Our mortgage came from a bank with a “socially responsible” low interest loan which was targeted at helping those who might not qualify for a

traditional loan; in our case it was for agricultural endeavors. More of this! We forgive loans for veterans and for college graduates who stay in Vermont in various public sector jobs like nursing and social work. We should be sure we offer the same incentives for those in the trades. We need to continue to invest in organizations that secure affordable and shared housing, duplexes, accessory dwelling units, creative repurposing of buildings and lastly, we need to take a deep dive into who is purchasing our

homes. Is it corporations and investors, like those who USA Today reports “made nearly one-third of the country’s single-family home purchases in the first half of 2025 — roughly 85,000 properties a month”, or actual Vermonters and families? Today’s economic inequities are great, but they can be no match for our collective, grassroots efforts to create and maintain a Vermont that is attainable for all of us. Hannah Sessions is a farmer, artist and business owner and lives in Leicester with her husband Greg.

McCormick letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
better leadership, from my party, who understand most of us struggle to afford a living and provide for our families. Vermonters need a lot more and better governance than I see today. It is clear. Democrat legislators are not listening to us about our needs. Here is an example. My home cannot accommodate a heat and hot water pump. I burn 700 gallons. That puts me in the cross hairs of Democrats’ fixation on making me save the planet from global warming. They reason, if I pay more for my fuel, I’ll eventually buy a heat pump. Their plan would cap the amount of fuel delivered. If I need more, my dealer buys credits to deliver the 700 gallons (or more) and passes the increased cost on to me. And, that notorious cap and invest idea will pay for a heat pump I cannot use; no drywall in my log home. I criticized that preposterous

idea in the General Assembly. Governor Scott vetoed their Clean Heat Standard in June 2023, and Democrats overrode. The Public Utility Commission’s two-year study couldn’t make sense of it either and reported it “too expensive and unworkable.” Voters agreed and elected six new Republican senators in 2024. That became my solution to protecting how I heat my home. Vote only for Republican senators on the Addison County ballot. And, urge all Vermonters to elect a majority of Republican senators. That is common sense. Democrats and NGOs wrote and enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act. Every Republican voted against it. They know our forests absorb, annually, enough CO2 to comply with the GWSA. The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation measured our 4.5 million acres of forestland as a net carbon sink: storing 1.9 million tons of CO2 and

sequestering more than 5.5 million tons each year. Vermont emits about 8 million tons. I want a bi-partisan legislature to protect all us Vermonters from legislators that want to raise our fuel costs to save the planet. A Bi-Partisan legislature is the pinnacle of Democracy and gives us checks and balances we don’t now have in Montpelier. The system of checks and balances in government was developed to ensure that no one branch of government would become too powerful. The framers of the Constitution built a system that divides power between the three branches of the U.S. government — legislative, executive and judicial — and includes various limits and controls on the powers of each branch. Much to think about as you cast your vote.

John McCormick
Bristol



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Music & fun!

MIDDLEBURY'S TOWN GREEN is the place to be this week as a variety of performers regale spectators with music, puppetry and more during the 47th annual Festival on the Green. During the first three days of free shows, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, crowds gathered for evening music, Brown Bag Lunch shows and welcomed magic (Monday) and puppetry (Tuesday).

Among the attractions were, clockwise from above, Mojo Birds singer Alexi Leon dances to the beat; Lincoln's own magician Tom Verner performs a rope trick with Middlebury 6-year-old Milo Carr; Troy Turner plays the rub board with Ernest James Zydeco; Barbara Paulson pulls the strings during the puppet show; the magic and puppet shows packed in the children and people who are simply young at heart; Ernest James Zydeco tickles the accordion keys; Silas Hamilton of Mojo Birds plucks the upright bass; Mélisande Gélinas-Fauteux belts out a tune with her namesake band; and fiddler Gabriel Girouard goes to work with Mélisande. There are more shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening!

Independent photos/Steve James



Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 1A)
it in the long-term, Campbell says the move would give elected representatives of Ferrisburgh greater say in how the department spends the money that gets approved by voters each year. It was allocated \$144,155 in the FY27 general fund.

Campbell also said no significant cost is expected to come as a result. “I think it’s going to be as close to zero as possible,” he said. “There might be some small expenses in terms of payroll tax because they’ll officially be on the payroll instead of getting a stipend.”

The selectboard is authorized to approve the merger, according to Town Attorney Kevin Kite. But before it takes further steps, two information sessions are planned for today, July 16 and Monday, Aug. 3. The meetings will be held at the Ferrisburgh Fire Department at 6 p.m.

The tentative vision is the culmination of roughly three years of discussion between the selectboard and the 35-member FVFD, which jointly began discussing “municipalizing” the fire department, Chief Bill Wager said during an interview.

“It’s like the selectboard and the fire department, we’ve been living together for 85 years. Now we’re finally getting married, we’re going to the altar,” Wager said.

In addition to being funded by the town, the fire department has for decades operated out of a town-owned station and uses town-owned equipment.

“Municipalizing” the service would ultimately transfer governance responsibilities from FVFD to the selectboard.

During a July 7 selectboard meeting, Kite explained the new responsibilities of the selectboard would include, “adopting policies and rules governing the fire department,” “appointing, and if necessary, removing the fire chief,” “hearing appeals from firefighters regarding disciplinary actions taken by the Chief,” and

“assuming responsibility for oversight of department personnel and operations,” per draft meeting minutes.

No fire personnel receive a salary or benefits, and that also would remain the same. A sum of money is included in the fire department budget for stipends for personnel. This year’s budget includes \$35,000 for the small payments.

Wager said current plans call for no changes to the department’s nonprofit status. “We’re still going to continue to raise money for equipment and things that we would like to enhance the department and the community,” he said. “We still want to do that because that takes burden off the taxpayers.”

An additional benefit of the merger might include expanded opportunities for grant-funding, according to the most recent town report.

Campbell said municipalizing the fire department aligns with the selectboard’s fiscal priorities.

“The Ferrisburgh selectboard is very — I’m going to use a word here that’s not political — very conservative, fiscally,” he noted. “We like to be really, really conscious of how we spend taxpayers’ money, and this is a way for the town to have great oversight over a large piece of money that is already being spent.”

Per the July 7 draft meeting minutes, “the Selectboard agreed to revisit the proposal following the public informational meetings and discuss during an August meeting. At that time, the board will review public feedback, evaluate the remaining legal and administrative requirements, and determine the next steps regarding the potential municipalization of the Ferrisburgh Fire Department.”

While according to Kite,

municipalization is in the hands of the selectboard, he notes other legal counsel might advise differently.

“Attorney Kite advised the board that his legal interpretation differs from that of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding whether voter approval is required to establish a municipal fire department,” according to the draft meeting minutes.

“He explained that there is no definitive court decision interpreting the applicable statute and that reasonable legal opinions differ. While he believes the Selectboard has the authority to establish the department, he suggested that seeking public input through a non-binding vote could provide additional transparency and demonstrate community support before the transition.” No matter what, voters would still need to approve money for the fire department during Town Meeting Day, as is currently the case.

— Fire Chief Bill Wager

JOINT SURVEY COMMITTEE

At the same time the Ferrisburgh selectboard and volunteer fire department are hammering out details of municipalization, they’ve been asked, and ultimately declined, to participate in a panel with representatives from Addison, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham, to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional emergency services entity in an effort to create economies of scale and reduce costs.

Campbell said the Ferrisburgh selectboard’s decision to opt out of participating in the proposed joint survey committee and talk of municipalizing its own fire department were unrelated.

“Really, one does not impact the other. Us choosing not to participate in that had nothing to do with the

municipalization of Ferrisburgh Fire Department,” Campbell said.

“There’s also been questions since this because some of your fire service comes from the City of Vergennes, to cover West Ferrisburgh — nothing to do with them. We consider them great and valued partners. This is really about this right here.”

During a July 7 meeting, the Ferrisburgh selectboard voted 3-2 against participating in what amounts to a discussion and recommendation panel. As of Wednesday night, Waltham was the only town left to hear an official pitch from Panton Town Clerk-Treasurer Kyle Rowe and vote on participation. The outcome of the Waltham meeting was not available by deadline. So far Vergennes, Panton and Addison have accepted and appointed members. Ferrisburgh was the only town to have declined as of Wednesday afternoon.

Campbell is not interested in participating in discussions as long as any eventual regional service would be funded based on assessed property values, which he said are higher in Ferrisburgh than other towns.

“We don’t have any more fire calls per capita than any of the other towns, but our cost would be greater because it’s based on property values. To me, that seems fundamentally unfair,” Campbell said in a recent interview.

“If that was taken off the table, I think we’d all be happy to listen to another invitation.”

The topic was covered when Rowe attended the Ferrisburgh selectboard meeting to pitch the joint survey committee a second time on July 7.

“The way that municipal government works is taxing on assessed value, and that’s really the only mechanism by which towns have the ability to pay for things,” Rowe explained at that time.

When asked via email if an eventual service — no matter the structure, bylaws and other tenants

— would end up setting a budget and tax rate, and be equalized based on assessed values, Rowe said, “I would be pretty confident that it would establish something similar i.e. a tax rate based on budget divided by total Grand List value, but the method of funding will be a component of discussion for the (joint survey committee), so I use the term probable, rather than definite.”

“One potential advantage to these discussions is that given the changes to reappraisal in state statute (every six years, and eventual formation of Regional Assessment Districts), the (joint survey committee) could choose to use the municipal grand lists, which are a better reflection of Grand List value from the towns perspective, and the Grand List’s that municipalities use when setting the municipal rate.”

This same issue has come up in discussions of Ferrisburgh’s contract with the Vergennes Fire Department for coverage of West Ferrisburgh. Campbell takes issue with the property-value based formula used to calculate what towns owe the department for coverage.

“I certainly don’t want them to think that we’re not appreciative of the services that we buy,” he said. “But I don’t think it’s any secret either that this has been a sticking point for us with the City of Vergennes in terms of how much we contribute based on how much we use their services, and it’s because of that funding method, which is totally based on property taxes.”

Ferrisburgh contributed \$135,000 to the FY27 Vergennes Fire Department Budget, the most of any of the three surrounding towns that contract with them.

Is Wager hopeful municipalizing the fire department could eliminate the need for a contract with Vergennes and allow the FVFD to cover all of Ferrisburgh?

“It’s a different discussion,” he said.

Resource connects Vt. nonprofits to expert guidance

SOUTH BURLINGTON and MIDDLEBURY — Common Good Vermont and the Vermont Community Foundation recently launched the Vermont Nonprofit HelpDesk, a new statewide resource designed to connect Vermont’s nonprofit organizations with timely, expert support.

Developed in partnership with the Nonprofit Legal Hub and CoLab, the HelpDesk addresses a persistent and urgent gap: nonprofits across Vermont need support to navigate the complex landscape of legal, financial and operational challenges and to find the right help when they need it most.

Through consultations, surveys, listening sessions, and field research, nonprofit leaders across Vermont have sent a consistent message: they are overwhelmed. While a wide range of resources and support organizations already exist, a critical gap remains in connecting nonprofits to the right person or information at the right time. The Vermont Nonprofit HelpDesk was built to close that gap.

“Vermont nonprofits are doing essential work in our communities, but too often they’re navigating complex challenges without adequate support,” said Emma Paradis, Common Good Vermont co-director. “The HelpDesk is our answer: a simple, trusted front door that connects every nonprofit, no matter their size or location, to the help they need.”

The Vermont Nonprofit HelpDesk is currently in its pilot stage and has received dozens of inquiries in the first few weeks of operation. Here’s how it works: Nonprofits reach out through an accessible contact form to describe their question or challenge.

(See Help desk, Page 13A)



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Register at: lcmmm.org/deep-dives

Lord’s Prayer Rock

(Continued from Page 1A)
rock.
“The concern is that it’s so darn close, dangerous area for people that aren’t familiar with it,” Brynn told the selectboard.
Those at the meeting noted other safety-related concerns for the area, such as when it comes to pedestrians walking that stretch of the road.
The huge stone got its name after Dr. Joseph C. Greene, in 1891 paid a carver to engrave the Lord’s Prayer on the east-facing side of the stone.
At Monday’s meeting, the selectboard discussed

suggestions for potential ways to address the issue and past efforts to do so. A memo prepared by Town Administrator Gregory Faust highlights several efforts to address safety concerns at the site during the past 100 years, including a proposal that would have removed part of the rock to allow for road widening in 1941 (which was defeated by voters) and a decision to paint the lower corner of the rock white to boost visibility, which is still done today.
Town officials discussed steps the town could take, such as repainting the lower corner of

the rock and increasing visibility and signage. They acknowledged that figuring out how else to move forward is a process that takes time and needs to take into account various regulations and other considerations.
“What I’ve been trying to communicate is that this is very nuanced, going back generations...and so it’ll have to be well thought out,” Faust said.
Faust noted in his memo that the draft management plan for Lord’s Prayer Rock Park outlines management objectives for the site. He recommended the board set a date to review the plan.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
but these latest findings should put area residents on guard. West Nile Virus symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. If you think you have the virus or other mosquito-borne illnesses contact your health care provider. Protect yourself by taking simple steps to prevent mosquito bites, like covering up, limiting time outside at dawn and dusk, and using insect repellent. Learn more about mosquitoes, the diseases they spread, and how to prevent bites at HealthVermont.gov/Mosquito.
Speaking of mosquitoes, the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) will host its Annual Open House on Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its field lab/office, located directly behind the Weybridge Congregational Church

off Route 23. Folks can learn about how the mosquito season is going for the three LFICD-member towns of Cornwall, Weybridge and Bridport. You can also learn how to reduce mosquitoes on your property without the use of chemical pesticides. You’ll get to meet the district’s two Middlebury College interns and learn about the work they’ve been doing this summer. Past interns have worked with the LFICD on mapping of the Lemon Fair River, and maps will be on display at the open house. District officials have the microscopes set up for you to observe both odd and fascinating features of mosquitoes. Refreshments will be served.
The city of Vergennes, in partnership with landscape architects DuBois & King, has developed three unique concept designs for Veterans Memorial

Park at 43 East St., and you can view all three designs through an online survey at tinyurl.com/4c3xt36y that will allow you to weigh in. Each concept explores different ideas and possibilities for the park, and your feedback will help determine which features and improvements are most important to our community. The survey takes just 5–10 minutes to complete and is open through July 31, 2026. Whether you use the park every day, occasionally, or hope to in the future, your input is valuable. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and help organizers create a park design that serves the community for generations to come.
Come to the Henry Sheldon Museum this Saturday, July 18,



Pollen meets polinator
A BEE CANVASES the dense, pinkish-purple flowerhead of a red clover — the Vermont state flower — in an Addison County yard recently. Both animal and plant benefit.
Independent photo/John S. McCright

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Community Art Making Day. Join the museum team and printmaker John Vincent from A Revolutionary Press for art making, featuring recycled textile arts, hand crank letterpress printing, and making wallpaper. Visit tinyurl.com/mwwdnпка for more information. All are welcome, with free admission to the museum.
Would you like to see the Med47 Foundation Haunted Forest continue? This year’s dates for the fun, charitable Halloween

tradition are Oct 24-26. But organizers want to get some new blood involved in the planning of the annual Haunted Forest, held at Garry & Cindy Cousino’s property off Rte. 116 in Bristol. The Cousinos would like to see around eight different “scare” stations in the forest. Come up with an idea for your station and you can build anything and decorate it. You’ll have access to past Haunted Forest supplies, if you need them. You’ll be able to dress up and have actors at your station, for which you’ll be

responsible for set up and take down. Organizers are looking for organizations, a group of friends, or a family to team up and make some Halloween magic. The Haunted Forest will carry free admission, but donations will be encouraged — and those proceeds will go to Med47’s ongoing financial support for emergency responders. Join the first planning meeting on Friday, July 31, at the Cousinos’ at 3319 South 116 Road, Bristol. For more info, go to med47foundation@gmail.com.

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Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)
the voters for an additional bond,” City Manager Ron Redmond explained on Tuesday after city councilors accepted a bid.

PC Construction Company of South Burlington says it can do the project for \$24,588,000, and lower than two other bids also received, from Naylor and Breen Builders Inc. and Kubricky-Jointa Lime LLC.

City councilors approved contracting with PC to complete what is the most expensive element of the broader, Vermont Department of Conservation-mandated call to address deficiencies in the Vergennes sewer and wastewater system. Other components include rehabilitation of three sewers, one of which is already being worked on.

Construction on the Macdonough Drive sewer, one of the three, began in November, and was expected to cost \$375,830, per a December update on the broader project.

Also necessary are upgrades to the Macdonough Drive pump station and the force main at that location, the two projects the city can move forward with using some of the bond already approved by voters in 2022.

A handout distributed during the Vergennes City Council meeting on Tuesday, July 15, shows the city has roughly \$4.5 million in borrowing capacity remaining that will cover those two elements. In total, they are estimated to cost about \$5.5 million. The remaining \$1,090,400 will be covered by the city sewer capital fund.

Wastewater treatment facility construction is planned to begin in September, Redmond said.

Wright-Pierce, the engineering firm working on the project, has experience working with PC.

“PC’s list of past and present projects includes several relevant wastewater facility improvement projects, including upgrades in Daytona Beach, Fla., and Accokeek, Md., as listed in the bid package. Additionally, Wright Pierce has worked extensively with PC throughout the WWTF Phase 2 Headworks Upgrade project currently ongoing in Burlington. Team coordinators slated to work on the Vergennes facility upgrade (Christopher Gero, Jeff Boggs and Natalie Alger) are currently working in Burlington, and they have shown competence and produced satisfactory results thus far in the construction phase,” a memo from Wright-Pierce to Redmon states.

“Wright-Pierce has also worked with PC on similar facility upgrades in Brunswick, Maine; and Manchester, N.H. Based on our experience with PC and our review of the bidding documents, Wright-Pierce is not aware of any reason why this contract should not be awarded to PC as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.”

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A meal worth the sting

One predator-prey interaction always leaves me torn. Birds sparked my love for the natural world years ago, but after my interest lapsed during adolescence, bees brought me back into the fold. So, I found myself split between two allegiances the first time I watched a bird, in this case, a gray catbird, swoop into the garden and snatch a bumblebee on the wing.

I had long assumed, perhaps simplistically, that birds avoided bumblebees (and honeybees and wasps, for that matter) for the simple fact that targeting such stinger-equipped prey was a risky gamble. Plus, it was the height of summer, and the garden teemed with less formidable insects. As I watched the catbird steal into the bushes with its meal, two questions came to mind: How often do birds prey on bees and wasps? And how do they avoid a painful jab when swallowing species with stingers?

Stinging bees and wasps like bumblebees and bald-faced hornets, as well as many species that do not sting, like sweat bees, are members of the *Hymenoptera*, the scientific order that includes more than 150,000 species of bees, wasps and ants. According to Desirée L. Narango, a conservation scientist at Vermont Center for Ecostudies, the extent to which birds eat *Hymenoptera*, whether

stinging or not, is somewhat understudied. “We know less than one might think about specific prey items that birds eat,” Narango said. “Most of what we know is that birds eat ‘insects’ or ‘arthropods.’”

Narango pointed to several datasets that document the diets of North American forest birds, which consume a high volume of insects. One from the 1980s found that *Hymenoptera* comprised 9 percent of the studied species’ diets. This number is far less than the two most commonly consumed orders — *Coleoptera* (beetles) at 48 percent and the larvae of *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths) at 18.5 percent — but more than other orders like *Diptera* (flies) at 3 percent.

Another study examined which birds prey on the *Vespidae*, a family of stinging wasps that includes yellowjackets. The study’s findings indicated that blue jays, Cape May warblers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, Nashville warblers, and several flycatcher species eat *Vespidae* wasps. Spencer Hardy, a bee biologist also at Vermont Center for Ecostudies, added that bird species that feed on the ground, such as American robins and eastern bluebirds, are likely to eat bees regularly “since many bees are ground nesters and on cool mornings can occasionally be found crawling around near



GRAY CATBIRD

Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

nest sites.”

A number of our bird species, then, eat a non-negligible amount of stinging bees and wasps. So how do they do it?

The answer may lie in how insectivorous birds take their prey. “Almost all birds that eat flying insects capture them in flight,” said Pamela D. Hunt, senior biologist for avian conservation at New Hampshire Audubon. “My guess is that [bees and wasps] are usually killed outright in the process or shortly thereafter when the bird beats them against a solid surface such as a branch. Either way, bill length likely minimizes the chance of being stung.”

Hardy added that even among bees and wasps that sting, many

are not capable of piercing human skin and so may not pose much of a threat to birds, either. “It’s a gamble I’d probably take if I were a hungry bird,” he said. Anecdotal reports suggest that tanager species, such as the familiar scarlet tanager and the more southern summer tanager, remove their prey’s stinger by wiping it off on a branch before consuming it. And research from 1945, published in the scientific journal *The Condor*, relied on field observations to contend that some birds seem to be able to distinguish between drones — male members of a species that lack stingers — and queens and female workers, which have them.

All said, a good bit of mystery still surrounds the predatory relationship

between North American birds and *Hymenoptera* species, which is nevertheless just as important a trophic relationship as any other in the natural world. Still, against the naturalist’s dispassionate code, I feel that twinge (sting!) of inner conflict when I see a bird dart away with a beloved bumblebee.

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. Visit his website to learn more about his work. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol.

The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

The Outside Story

Help desk

(Continued from Page 11A)
A trained HelpDesk Manager guides them to the right resource, whether that’s a vetted online tool, a template, a training, or a trusted expert who can provide direct support. Find the form online at commongoodvt.org/helpdesk.

Key services include real-time triage of nonprofit questions, with referrals to technical expertise, templates, tools, trainings, and other

resources.

In addition to strengthening individual nonprofits through the sharing of resources, the HelpDesk aims to build a stronger nonprofit sector through sharing anonymized data. Partners are excited by the

creation of a statewide dataset on nonprofit needs, offering funders and technical assistance providers valuable insight into sector trends.

“The Vermont Community Foundation is proud to support a resource that will strengthen the

entire nonprofit sector,” said Holly Morehouse, vice president for Community Impact at VCF. “When nonprofits can quickly find the guidance they need, they can focus on what matters most — serving Vermont communities.”

Any Vermont nonprofit can submit a question or request support through the HelpDesk contact form at commongoodvt.org/helpdesk. The HelpDesk is free to use and open to nonprofits of all sizes across the state.

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Summer swim vibes

ADDISON COUNTY'S MANY swimming holes offer a cool reprieve from the blistering heat over this month. We found lots of people looking to forget the smoldering temps by taking a dip at some of the coolest local spots. Pictured, clockwise from above, are swimmers in the New Haven River at Bartlett Falls in Bristol, Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury, the Gorge in East Middlebury and the Middlebury River off Shard Villa Road.

Photos by Max Blumenthal



Energy

(Continued from Page 1A)
colleagues argued on Tuesday that using natural gas to power a sludge dryer at the plant — which voters last year agreed to renovate at a cost of \$49.5 million — would inflate the town's CO2 lode.
"This project would add 500 metric tons of greenhouse gas... It is effectively a decision to abandon the town's targets and commitments to reducing those amounts," said Energy Committee member Dylan Voorhees.
But the selectboard's decision could come down to different numbers, largely associated with finance and the prospect that Middlebury would be the first municipality in the country to operate a waste water treatment plant with a commercial-scale sludge drying system using BCR BioScru technology. That technology reduces the volume and mass of sludge by evaporating moisture, ultimately transforming wet biosolids into a sterile, nutrient-rich "Class A" substance that can be spread on land or made into fertilizer pellets.
Officials with the company

Wright Pierce last week presented the town estimates showing a project life cycle cost of \$2,574,400 for sludge drying using natural gas; \$7,417,500 using so-called "renewable natural gas" (collected from rotting manure and other organic matter); and \$10,349,800 using electricity.
This would translate into an annual household user rate, in 2030, of \$1,670 for natural gas drying; \$1,715 for renewable natural gas drying; and \$1,823 for electric drying. Those numbers would grow to \$2,560, \$2,640 and \$2,696, respectively, by year 2047 — the final year of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) bond payback, according to Wright Pierce.
Cost variations aside, Emmalee Cherington is concerned about Middlebury potentially becoming the test case for a municipal-sized electric sludge drying system.

She noted Middlebury took that plunge 26 years ago when it opened its current WWTP that employed a then-revolutionary lyme stabilization solids handling process.
"It didn't work," said Cherington, who is director of engineering and wastewater chief for the town. "The town then spent six years in litigation to get our solids handling up to meet permit requirements. We've seen what happens when you serve as the guinea pig in these situations. It's a huge investment. It makes me nervous."
Cherington sympathized with the Energy Committee's concerns, but said the natural gas sludge drying process seems more appropriate for Middlebury at this time.
"I think we are going to have significant energy savings elsewhere in the plant and we're going to make great energy

improvements in this overall plant upgrade," she said.
Dean Rheau, the town's current WWTP operator, said he felt confident he and his colleagues could troubleshoot a natural gas dryer. He said an electric dryer — which would entail bringing in two additional 500 kw generators — would likely require hiring a consultant to make fixes.
Former Middlebury WWTP Superintendent Jeremy Rathbun was among those present for Tuesday's discussion. He also urged the board to go with the natural gas option.
"If an engineering team the town hires for a significant amount of money is going to come in here and give you their professional opinion about what you need to do, and your infrastructure committee votes to agree with that opinion, and the guy responsible for operating the plant is telling you 'That's the right choice,' why would you consider not going ahead with it?" he asked the board.
But going electric can't be distilled to just dollars and cents, noted Energy Committee members.

They pointed to the rapid pace of climate change and a sense of environmental urgency for everyone to do their part — even at a time when the Trump Administration has been curtailing wind, solar and electric vehicle incentives through legislation like the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
The Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan sets out a pathway for Vermont to obtain 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050.
Voorhees stressed the importance of the selectboard's sludge drying decision, which they'll now make on July 28. "This is the most consequential energy and climate decision that any of you will make on this board, no matter how long you serve," he said. "The magnitude of the greenhouse gas consequences of this decision don't really feel on par with the process."
So what will the board and energy

committee do prior to July 28?
Roy recommended:
• Understanding the potential of renewable natural gas as part of the solution.
• Putting more thought into the true risk of Middlebury being the first municipal consumer of electric sludge drying for a WWTP using BCR BioScru technology. Roy said the manufacturer might be willing to put financial safeguards into the contract that could make the technology more accessible to Middlebury.
Middlebury and Infrastructure Committee member Fred Dunnington said he was willing to give the energy committee the extra two weeks and is anxious to hear what it comes up with in its bid to steer the narrative from natural gas to electric.
"It would have to be huge," he said.

"This project would add 500 metric tons of greenhouse gas... It is effectively a decision to abandon the town's targets and commitments to reducing those amounts."
— Dylan Voorhees

"We've seen what happens when you serve as the guinea pig in these situations. It's a huge investment. It makes me nervous."
— Emmalee Cherington

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Housing

(Continued from Page 1A)
Starksboro, has closed on a deal to buy a critical affordable housing complex for seniors in Vergennes (and is on the verge of buying another), and is mapping out a potential 25-unit mixed-use housing plan in downtown Middlebury.

The nonprofit AHW's stated mission is to "actively ensure the development, preservation, and stewardship of safe, quality affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents."

It currently owns and manages more than 800 affordable homes in Addison County, including 340 lots on nine manufactured housing communities, and 403 multifamily apartments. The organization also delivers Support and Services at Home to 200 residents of AHW senior housing and in surrounding communities, as well as supporting residents of family housing through the Family Support Program.

AHW Executive Director Elise Shanbacker spoke with the *Independent* about the organization's recent accomplishments. Here are some of the highlights:

HILLSIDE MANOR

Addison Housing Works in May was awarded \$1,978,125 through the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board — to combine with more than \$1 million in federal funds secured by U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt. — to perform major upgrades to drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and roadway systems at Hillside Manor, a 29-lot manufactured home community off Big Hollow Road in Starksboro.

"We have one more funding application to go, but we're hoping to start construction in 2027," Shanbacker said.

She explained each of Hillside's current 29 homes has its own septic system, many of which date to when the community opened around a half century ago.

"(The septic systems) have lasted well beyond their useful life. So we're going to build a brand new community wastewater system there that will serve all the homes, and we're going to replace the entire water distribution system. There are old water lines now in the ground that are prone to freezing, which can cause water outages in the winter and extra expenses for the park that have to borne by the residents," she said.

AHW has spent the last several years conducting a comprehensive review of infrastructure needs across its manufactured housing portfolio. That review tabbed Hillside as a top repair priority.

"This project is about more than pipes and roads," Shanbacker added. "It's about protecting affordable homeownership opportunities in rural Vermont and ensuring residents have safe, reliable infrastructure that supports quality of life."

VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS

On June 8, AHW closed on a deal to purchase the Valley View Apartments, a 24-unit senior housing complex located at 13 Walker Ave. in Vergennes.

Valley View has been an important housing resource for older adults since it was built in 1979, according to Shanbacker. All 24 apartments (22 one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units) are supported through a federal housing assistance program that allows residents to pay rent based on their income.

When the property became available for sale, Addison Housing Works saw an opportunity to preserve a critical affordable housing resource at a time when both housing costs and demand for senior housing continue to rise.

"(The purchase) is allowing us to bring Valley View under a permanent affordability covenant — and it's deeply affordable. It has a federal Housing and Urban Development contract, so all the rents there are subsidized and income sensitive," she said.

The complex was previously owned by a private, for-profit landlord based in Chittenden County, according to Shanbacker.

Meanwhile, AHW is looking to close on a deal with Holmberg Properties to buy the nearby **Willow Apartments** at 10 Walker Ave. It consists of 16

apartments, eight of which have been assigned voucher subsidies through the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA). The remaining eight are workforce housing units. Addison Housing Works already manages the Willow Apartments, which would make for a seamless transition of ownership.

HOUSING IN MIDDLEBURY?

AHW is seeking architectural and engineering services to plan a new, 25-unit, mixed-income housing project that Shanbacker said would be sited near the Marble Works complex in downtown Middlebury.

She said AHW is still exploring funding sources for the project, which hasn't yet been proffered to the town as a development application. Specific location of the housing, along with other details, will be forthcoming if funding and other pieces fall into place, Shanbacker said.

"All of it will be affordable to people of low- and moderate incomes," she said of the potential new Middlebury units.

RECOVERY HOUSING

Shanbacker confirmed AHW's interest in becoming involved with a proposed recovery housing project in Middlebury's Court Street area. *The Independent* reported on July 2 that a group of anonymous donors had pooled enough resources to acquire what would become Addison County's first



ELISE SHANBACKER

ever recovery housing project for folks continuing their journey from substance use disorder to sober and independent living.

Current plans call for the Vermont Foundation of Recovery (VFOR) to run programming at the new home, which would accommodate up to six people at one time. The nonprofit Homes First would perform necessary renovations on the home, and the Peer Recovery Center of Addison County would also play a supportive role.

But the home will also need an owner/manager, and AHW could become that entity.

"The ultimate goal is for AHW to own the property and lease it to VFOR. But there are definitely still details to work out," Shanbacker said.

This would be AHW's first foray into recovery housing, but Shanbacker is confident her organization would be up to the task.

"It's a new model for us, which is great, because we need innovative housing," she said.

SASH AT THE COMMONS

The Support and Services at Home program, known as SASH, could soon grow. Operating from 200 affordable-housing communities throughout Vermont, SASH partners with more than 70 organizations to provide comprehensive support to 5,000 older Vermonters and people with disabilities.

AHW is looking to take over operation of that program at Middlebury Commons, a senior housing complex at 249 Buttolph Drive. Until this past December, the Commons received SASH services through the VSHA.

Federal budget cuts shut down the VSHA's ability to run SASH at the Commons.

Cathedral Square, a South Burlington nonprofit — recently stepped in to reignite SASH at the Commons, and AHS is targeting Oct. 1 to take over at that location, according to Shanbacker.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Vermont turkey brood survey to be held in July and August

VERMONT — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for help in monitoring Vermont's wild turkey population. The department runs an annual online survey during July and August for reporting turkey broods.

If you see a flock of turkeys in Vermont, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website to report your observation, including where and when you observed the turkeys with the number of adult and young turkeys you saw.

"Information gathered from this survey helps us monitor long-term trends in the productivity of Vermont's wild turkey population," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife's turkey biologist Toni Mikula. "It also helps us assess the impacts of spring

weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys, which is important in the management of turkeys."

"We monitor and manage wild turkey numbers annually in order to maintain a healthy, abundant and sustainable population of these iconic and ecologically important birds throughout the state," added Mikula.

"Please help us monitor the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during July and August."

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Monkton museum

(Continued from Page 1A)

choice Abigail ultimately made and consider what they might have done in her place and that of other early Monkton residents. The exhibit is called “Choices and Changes: The Early People of Monkton,” and highlights individuals living in the area during the Revolutionary Era, as well as Native Americans who’d called the region home for much longer.

“All of us, no matter what we look like or what we wear...we all have to make choices all the time, and those choices will bring changes to us,” said Lauren Parren, secretary of the Monkton Museum and Historical Society. “Historically, it’s nice to see how other people managed some of the same issues we face today.”

The exhibit has been several months in the making, with community members, local businesses and organizations all pitching in to bring the idea to life. Organizers met weekly and consulted a variety of sources to put the exhibit together.

Parren said the team connected with the Vermont Archaeological Society to discuss development of the exhibit and visited the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington, a museum that helped inspire those working on the effort in Monkton.

“This exhibit would not have happened without the Vermont Archaeological Society, without the Ethan Allen Homestead, without the state archeologist and without the Abenaki Helping Abenaki (nonprofit),” Parren said.

The exhibit goes back 12,500 years ago to when people began living in what’s now Monkton and explores what life was like for those in the area from that point into the present.

Barnabus Barnum will be represented in the exhibit by a Green Mountain Boys jacket being made by a tailor at Fort Ticonderoga, which visitors can try on. The jacket is one of a few elements in the exhibit meant to be seen and felt.

“We go through time to what was happening around people climate wise, all of that kind of stuff, and the way their lives evolved during that period of time, which was very substantial,” explained Cindy Walcott, another member of the Monkton Museum & Historical Society who worked on the exhibit. Artifacts loaned to the museum by State Archaeologist Jess Robinson and Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation offer a glimpse at the lives and cultures of Indigenous groups in the region. Images created with Google’s artificial intelligence tool Gemini depict scenes from life in the various time periods featured. Organizers noted Lindsay Chozinska donated services as a graphic artist to bring the visual aspects of the exhibit together.

Other parts of the exhibit spotlight three people who lived in the Monkton area around the time of the Revolutionary War, including Abigail and Barnabus Barnum.

“Abigail and her husband, Barnabus, were one of these five European families that settled in Monkton before 1770,” Walcott said.

She noted that Barnabus was a Green Mountain Boy who was killed in 1778 during a skirmish at a blockhouse in Shelburne, near what is now Shelburne Town Beach and Meach Cove Farms.

“He and a small company of men were called up to go and protect the farmers there who were working to harvest wheat, which was in very short supply at that time,” Walcott said.

Barnabus will be represented in the exhibit by a Green Mountain Boys jacket being made by a tailor

at Fort Ticonderoga, which visitors can try on. The jacket is one of a few elements in the exhibit meant to be seen *and* felt, including an outfit made to represent Abigail Barnum.

The outfit was hand-sewn and hand-dyed by Walcott and reflects women’s attire in that time period, such as a petticoat, short gown and apron.

“It’s not behind glass for a reason,” Parren said. “We really want people to understand the amount of work that even went into what you wore.”

Informational pages in the exhibit offer details on some of the choices Abigail and other residents had to make during the Revolutionary War. For Abigail, those choices included the decision to head south after the death of her husband. Walcott noted that after Barnabus’s death, Abigail and her four young children might have still been living in Monkton.

“There are several histories that were written (around) the 1800s that say that she took those children and walked from here, all the way down to Pittsford...to find safety at a fortification down there,” she said, adding that Abigail eventually returned to Bennington County and married another Revolutionary War soldier.

A third individual featured in the exhibit, Justus Sherwood, lived in nearby New Haven. Sherwood was a member of the Green Mountain Boys and later arrested as a Loyalist.

Walcott noted the time around the American Revolution was marked by intense land controversy in what’s now Vermont. Vermont didn’t exist at that point, and the region was filled with settlers who’d been issued land grants by New Hampshire for territory that was also being claimed by New York. The Green Mountain Boys were among those in the region fighting for their right to the land and opposing New York’s claims to it, before their focus shifted to fighting for independence from



THIS HAND-SEWN OUTFIT is one of several artifacts on display at the Monkton History Museum as part of a new exhibit on “Choices and Changes: The Early People of Monkton.” The exhibit highlights some of the area’s former residents, including Native Americans and European settlers like Abigail Barnum, who’s represented in the exhibit by this outfit.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Great Britain.

“(Sherwood is) a great example of the land controversy being what helped most people decide which side they were going to be on,” Parren said. “It wasn’t as much about politics as it was about, ‘What’s best for my family? How is my family going to be safest?’ We think that’s a theme that goes through all of these stories.”

The exhibit asks visitors to reflect on how they might have answered such questions or advised early residents in the decisions they faced.

JULY 20 SOFT OPENING

The museum — located in the lower level of the Monkton Town Office building at 92 Monkton Ridge — will host a soft opening for the exhibit this coming Monday, July 20, at 7 p.m.

The evening will include remarks from Stevens about some of the artifacts featured and Abenaki culture, an overview of the exhibit from those who’ve worked on it and time for questions. Community members will then have a chance to explore the museum themselves.

“I hope they’re really curious,” Parren said about what she hopes visitors take away from the exhibit. “This scratches the surface, I’m hoping people will leave wanting

to read more, so we have a list of resources that they might refer to and our library has some things that they can sign out.”

The exhibit is expected to be on display for at least a year, and organizers will continue to develop it as they learn more and hear feedback, Parren noted.

“As visitors come and either leave comments, or if we’re lucky enough to be here when they come...how they respond and the unanswered questions that they have will allow us to tweak things,” Walcott said.

For more information visit [www. Monktonhistory.org](http://www.Monktonhistory.org).



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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

SPORTS

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- School News
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NEW MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE Athletics Director Todd Phelps, back when he was AD at North Dakota State University, acknowledges the crowd during a game at ND State.

Photo Credit: North Dakota State University Athletics

Phelps continues local legacy

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — While recently retired Middlebury College Athletic Director Erin Quinn made Middlebury his home only after coming here for college, new Panther AD Todd Phelps has known this part of Vermont much longer.

Phelps, who took over on July 1, is a Middlebury native.

“For my wife and I, this is more than a great opportunity. This is a homecoming,” said Phelps, the former deputy director of athletics at North Dakota State University, during a July 8 press conference.

Before his 11-year stint with the Midwestern school, Phelps held posts in the athletics departments at Oregon State University, Stony Brook University, Brown University and Yale University, after getting his start in the field with the Panthers as an assistant volleyball and basketball coach, and coordinator of facilities and operations, in 1995.

“Middlebury has always been a very special place, near and dear to our hearts,” Phelps said.

“And to have the chance to

come back and lead probably the premier Division Three athletic department in the country (is) incredibly meaningful.

Like Quinn, Phelps began his career in college athletics right on the Middlebury pitch, after graduating from Ithaca College in 1995 with a degree in K-12 physical education teaching.

“First and foremost, I want to recognize the late (Middlebury College men’s basketball coach) Russ Reilly,” Phelps said. “Russ took a chance on me right out of college, coming back here to Middlebury College after growing up here. He challenged, guided, believed in me every step of the way, and I certainly would not be sitting here today if it was not for Russ. So I’m forever indebted to him,” he said.

“I also come here with a tremendous amount of respect for the tradition that has been built. I want to acknowledge and thank Erin Quinn for his remarkable time at Middlebury as a student athlete, as a coach, and certainly as the director of athletics. He

(See Phelps, Page 2B)

Retiring College AD Quinn built a winning culture

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Forty-four years after starting at Middlebury College, 40 after beginning a

career in collegiate coaching and 20 after stepping up to the helm of his alma mater’s athletics department, Erin Quinn has retired.

“I really love the people. So I think in terms of something that would have defined my time period, it would have been relationships,” Quinn said.

“When I was a student, the reason I love my experience so much is I met so many amazing people and connected with so many very interesting and hard-working, good people ... which led me to say, ‘How do I replicate this for other people?’”

He was succeeded as Middlebury College Athletic Director on July 1 by Todd Phelps.

After Erin Quinn started out as an assistant football coach for the Panthers in 1986, and following brief spells at Tufts University and Lake Forest College, he worked his way up the ladder to become the head coach of the men’s lacrosse program, and eventually athletic director at Middlebury.

Quinn, who since setting foot on the Middlebury College campus in 1982 has made the shire town his home, capped his decades-long run as athletic director this spring with one final national championship — the women’s lacrosse team’s fifth consecutive NCAA title. During his two decades at the helm, his Panther teams collected 22 NCAA and 80 NESCAC team championships, and individual athletes garnered 27 NCAA titles.

The 2021 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Division III Athletics Director of the Year honoree didn’t just cultivate a winning athletics program, he’s also got three NCAA and six NESCAC titles wins to his name as the head men’s lacrosse coach from 1992-2006.

MAKING MIDDLEBURY HOME

While Quinn has only spent three years away from Middlebury since 1982, he didn’t know the place existed until his college search was well underway.

A Connecticut youth who hoped to be recruited to play college football, Quinn had a list that included Ivy League and Patriot League schools. Though Quinn’s knowledge of small schools was limited, his considerations expanded to include Middlebury after he was approached by football coach Mickey Heinecken.

“I asked around a little bit, was kind of dubious. Vermont, Division Three, Middlebury, never heard of any of that,” Quinn recalled.

“I would say probably the biggest thing was my AP English teacher, who was a big advocate for me, when I mentioned I’m looking at this school, Middlebury, her eyes lit up, and

she was like, ‘That is the place, that’s where you should go.’”

Quinn’s recruitment stay with Martin Beatty, who would become one of Quinn’s classmates, teammates and colleagues, was another deciding factor. Beatty is now Middlebury’s head track coach.

“I wouldn’t have been here if it weren’t for Martin, maybe made my visit so good, so that’s why I say the AP English teacher got me looking, the football coaches were great during the recruiting process, it seemed like they had all their priorities in the right place, and academics were going to be the most important thing, but it was also competitive football, and then from, you know, meeting Martin, you know, it became really clear to me, like the people here were really special.

“All of that has borne out over time, and it’s been true.”

After four years playing safety for Panther football, and serving as captain his final season, Quinn found himself on the football field for a fifth year — but on the sidelines. He spent the 1986 fall

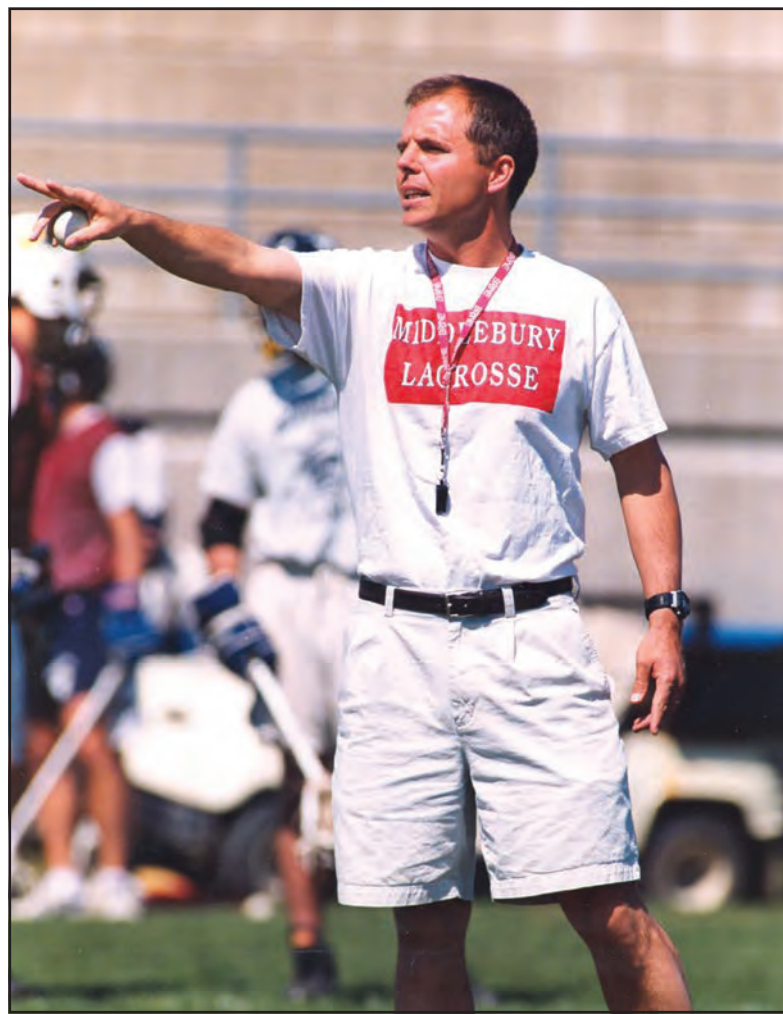
season as an assistant coach.

And though, while a student at Middlebury, Quinn’s name was never included on one of college’s men’s lacrosse rosters, it popped up the following spring as an assistant coach, and then five years later as head coach.

COACHING LACROSSE

Though his plans to enter the U.S. Army’s Officers Candidate School following the ‘86 football season were derailed by lasting injuries he had gotten while a player, the circumstances opened

(See Quinn, Page 3B)



ERIN QUINN, WHO recently retired as Middlebury College athletic director, is seen above more than two decades ago coaching Panther men’s lacrosse. His team won NCAA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2003. Below, Quinn, front center, poses with his football teammates. Friend Martin Beatty stands at right.

Photos courtesy of Middlebury Sports Information

Champs and Marlins win meets

ADDISON COUNTY — In addition to a weekend distance meet, the Middlebury and Vergennes swim teams competed in dual meets. Both teams won their respective contests.

On Tuesday, July 14, the Marlins overcame the Burlington Country Club team, 378-70. That same day the Champs traveled to Winooski, where VST swimmers defeated the home team, 287-177.

Here are all the Marlins who placed first:

GIRLS

- Ellie Butler (7), 8U 25yd butterfly, 26.72; 8U 25yd backstroke, 23.16; 8U 25yd freestyle, 20.95
- Caroline Dietrich (8), 8U 25yd breaststroke, 28.75
- Rose Phinney (10), 9-10 25yd butterfly, 17.56; 9-10 25yd breaststroke, 19.75; 9-10 25yd freestyle, 16.31
- Mesa Reynolds (10), 9-10 25yd backstroke, 23.22
- Vela Remaniak (11), 11-12 50yd butterfly, 37.26; 11-12 50yd freestyle, 29.51
- Maxine King (12), 11-12 50yd backstroke, 33.71
- Cassandra Bellmann (12), 11-12 50yd breaststroke, 38.04
- Bianca Spafford (13), 13-14 50yd butterfly, 38.60; 13-14 50yd breaststroke, 40.82; 13-14 50yd freestyle, 33.22
- June Hill (13), 13-14 50yd backstroke, 45.71
- Sadie Chance (16), 15-19 50yd butterfly, 29.35
- Selma Citarella (16), 15-19 50yd breaststroke, 32.78
- Ellie Butler (7), Caroline Dietrich (8), Dottie Watson (8), Alula Remaniak (8), 8U 100yd medley relay, 1:52.40
- Mesa Reynolds (10), Olivia Wimet (9), Juliette “Lettie” Kubacki (9), Georgia Nelson (9), 10U 100yd medley relay, 1:31.13
- Maxine King (12), Cassandra Bellmann (12), Vela Remaniak (11), Harper Nelson (11), 12U 200yd medley relay, 2:29.16
- June Hill (13), Bianca Spafford (13), Anya Przyperhart (13), Tess Moscalu (11), 14U 200yd medley relay, 2:49.62
- Abigail Hamilton (16), Selma Citarella (16), Sadie Chance (16), Eloise Eckels (17), 19U 200yd medley relay, 2:09.38
- Marigold Prentice (8), Dottie Watson (8), Ida Parini (8), Sofia Baker-Medard (8), 8U 100yd freestyle relay, 1:50.56
- Olivia Wimet (9), Juliette “Lettie” Kubacki (9), 10U 100yd freestyle relay, 1:24.81 (only two swimmers are listed in the meet results)
- Cassandra Bellmann (12), Maxine King (See Tuesday, Page 3B)

Legion baseball has four on tap

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison County American Legion Baseball team is 7-5 after dropping a game amid a light week.

The team on Tuesday lost on the road to Franklin County, 6-2.

While this past week was slow, the local nine is scheduled to play four games in six days, starting with a round at home against Champlain Valley Union on July 16 at 5:30 p.m.



MIDDLEBURY SWIMMER JOSEPH Kafumbe competes in the 18U 100-yard backstroke race on Saturday at the Middlebury Town Pool. The distance meet featured seven teams and over 200 swimmers.

Independent photo/Steve James



SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Middlebury swimmer Sadie Chance competes in the 18U 100-yard butterfly race on Saturday at the Middlebury Town Pool. The distance meet featured seven teams and over 200 swimmers competing in longer races.

Independent photo/Steve James

Local swimmers and others test their stamina

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Hundreds of swimmers from all over the Champlain Valley took over the Middlebury Town Pool for a test of stamina on Saturday. Swimmers of all ages raced between 50- and 500-yard distances, which aren’t covered in other meets during the season.

“Regardless of their age, everybody’s swimming a longer distance than they’re used to,” Middlebury Marlins Coach Carina Bellmann said.

“And that in and of itself is something to try and exciting, and it’s the one opportunity over the summer where they get to really challenge themselves in this way.”

Team tents surrounded the pool, giving resting swimmers a break from the sun. Around the pool deck, coaches, teammates and spectators cheered, and flapped their hands up and down in an effort to encourage those in the pool, only distinguishable by a limb or brightly colored swim cap popping up here and there, to kick

harder.

In addition to the host Middlebury Marlins swimmers, those from the Vergennes Swim Team also took part, as did athletes from two Burlington squads, Essex, St. Albans and Winooski.

“This is kind of a warmup for the leagues, which will happen in Vergennes, and states, and so this is a way for them to try out some of the longer distances and get comfortable and take on a challenge,” Bellmann said.

(See Stamina, Page 3B)

World Cup gives Americans a new generation of sports heroes

A couple of weeks ago, I went to a World Cup match in California with my son and grandson, Alexander and Charlie. The game, at the San Francisco '49ers stadium in Santa Clara, was sold out — over 68,000 fans watched Australia and Paraguay play out a tame goalless draw. I didn't have a dog in that race — England and the U.S. had other first-round games — so the result didn't matter for me. It was, however, a pleasing experience to share the joy and passion with my guys.

Charlie is 12, just the age I was when I first became aware of the World Cup. I was no athlete at school, but I loved to watch all sports — football, rugby, cricket, tennis — and they have been a part of my career in journalism now for half a century. Charlie is developing considerable baseball and tennis skills and has developed an enviable knowledge of baseball statistics. He's a New York Yankees fan and, naturally, in awe of the team's star slugger Aaron Judge.

I had my sporting heroes too, none more so than the 11 who won the World Cup for England in 1966.

I can rattle off the lineup in my sleep and forever see the controversial goal by Geoff Hurst that broke the tie against West Germany. Then his third goal to give the Three Lions a 4-2 victory.

We've never won the World Cup in the 60 years since, and Hurst is the only member of that England team still alive. It is a truism of sports, and life in general, that our heroes never grow old — we remember them in the glory of their youth.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

"Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn," Laurence Binyon wrote in his 1914 poem at the start of World War I.

I was lucky enough to interview the great Brazilian player Pele a few years ago and though he was

in his 70s, I could only see him as that quicksilver youth who seemed to do things with the ball that no one else had even imagined.

I wonder who Charlie will remember when he looks back at this World Cup. He already knows France's dynamic striker Kylian Mbappe, Argentina's ageless legend Lionel Messi and England's was h u c k l i n g captain Harry Kane. What of the giant Norwegian Viking Erling Haaland or young talents like Spain's Lamine Yamal and England's Jude Bellingham who have stamped their impression on the matches in North America over the last month?

I have watched every World Cup since I was 16 and covered three of them as a journalist. In that time, I have suffered the heartache of



By Steve James, an Englishman who was a longtime journalist with UPI and Reuters before becoming the Independent's staff photographer.



THE SUN IS shining on journalist Steve James as he covered a World Cup soccer game at the Rose Bowl in 1994.



WORKING FOR UNITED Press International, Steve James is flanked by journalists from Associated Press and Reuters at a World Cup game in Bilbao, Spain, in 1982.

seeing England fall agonizingly at crucial matches — losing to Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" goal in 1986, twice falling in the semi-finals and five times in the quarter-finals.

They didn't qualify for the World Cup in 1994 when the tournament was held in the United States. But I was assigned to cover the Americans, and that's when I realized that the U.S. had a chance to compete with the rest of the world at this sport, that many here still find alien.

Against the odds, the Yanks, with a smattering of players who were playing professionally in Europe, reached the knockout round, only to lose by a single goal to Brazil in Palo Alto, Calif.

Part of FIFA's agreement to stage the World Cup in the United States was that there would be a competitive soccer league to foster young talent and help the sport grow here. I covered Major League Soccer's inaugural game — a 1-0 win by the San Jose earthquakes over DC United.

At that time, my son was playing soccer at school and I had coached and refereed some games. All of Alexander's friends played the game and now, 30 years on, they still follow the game here and are as passionate about England's Premier League and other teams in European football, as I am.

I always believed that for the game to really take a hold in a nation that already had its own sports like baseball, football, hockey and basketball, there had

to be a generation that grew up playing soccer, and passed it on to their kids.

Now we have it, and it's time for new heroes.

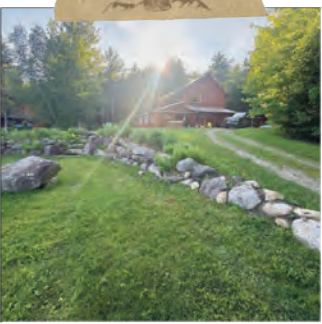
Editor's note: This column went

to press before the final matchup for the World Cup final was decided, but you can be sure that Steve was cheering for his England side in its semifinal against Argentina on Wednesday.



STEVE JAMES GETS a warm welcome to the World Cup football tournament in France in 1998.

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ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

The following local students at the Community College of Vermont received academic honors for the spring 2026 term:

DEAN'S LIST: Reese Valley of Bridport; Alexander Meyers of New Haven; Anthony Dicovitsky of North Ferrisburg; Shyanne Wedge of Shoreham; Chelsea Cyr, Julie Daniels, Christian Hipp and Tatiana James of Vergennes.

HONORS LIST: Ashley Bourgeois and Tammy Grant of Addison; Jordan Edgar, Heidi Giroux and Zackery Preston of Bristol; Megan Aube, Taylor Bakerian, Elijah Hamilton, Stephanie Hutchins and Jason Vaught of Middlebury; Olivia Sestokas of Vergennes; Jordan Broughton and Jack Connolly of Weybridge.

PRESIDENT'S LIST: Miles Burgess and Ami Hough of Bristol; Ireland Hanley and Sadie Hunt of Middlebury; Libby Ringer of Vergennes.

Phelps

(Continued from Page 1B)

leaves a tremendous legacy."

Phelps's guiding principles as he enters his first year in the position aren't all that different from those that have defined Quinn's time at Middlebury.

"My goal is not to change who we are, but certainly to build upon the strong foundation, while continuing to support our student athletes, our coaches, and staff in every way possible. As I begin this role, my priority is simple: it's to listen, it's to learn, build relationships, understand what makes Middlebury special from every perspective," Phelps said.

"I believe the best decisions come from collaboration, from communication, transparency, and trust, and those will be my guiding principles every day. There's tremendous momentum here, and I look forward to working alongside all the coaches, staff, student

athletes, alums, and the supporters as we write this next chapter of Middlebury College athletics together."

Phelps both wants to preserve the perennial success of the school's most lauded programs — field hockey, women's ice hockey and women's lacrosse — and bring the rest of the school's teams to that level.

"I want to be the best Division III program in the country, across the board, and give all of our coaches, and our student athletes, the opportunity to compete for conference and national championships."

Phelps already believes the Middlebury program is the best of its D-III peers.

"I think it all starts with people," he said when asked what makes the program so competitive. "I've said to some people as I've taken over this role ... I'm only as good as the people around me. And I

think, again, going back to the fact that you have some real longevity in the coaching staff, people who understand this community, who understand what it means to be in Middlebury."

And he believes it's a reinforcing cycle.

"We want coaches who want to be here and understand that it is special, and I think the more you build that, the more you can recruit to that. Again, not only the coaches recruiting student athletes, but us recruiting coaches, and there's going to be, you know, some time when you know coaches are going to turn over, and things are going to change, and so have to be ready. I have to be ready for that, and we got to be ready to fully understand, what it means to be here, and want people who want to be here," he added.

"But I think that all translates into the success — you're recruiting to a special place."



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Bristol Electronics installed our 20 panels quickly, efficiently, courteously and just the way we wanted them. Our roof is a difficult one due to our post-and-beam construction, but nevertheless, the crew was friendly, informative and just great people. Then even in the cloud cover, we began immediately to generate electricity! Furthermore (and most importantly for others deciding to install solar), the price was fair, competitive and honest. If we had another home, I'd want them to put the solar panels on that one, too! We recommend solar and Bristol Electronics without reservation!

Lawrence & Cynthia Jones ~ South Starksboro



802 . 453 . 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com
FREE SITE EVALUATIONS



ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



MAPLE SPECIALTIES (everything else!)
At least 1/2 cup of syrup used, include recipe, disposable dish

RIBBONS: Pick-up after 8pm on Saturday, Aug. 8.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Come to Community Yoga at the Monkton Town Hall on Saturday, July 18 from 9 to 10 a.m. for an hour of slow-flow gentle yoga moves. Please bring your own mat. This class is suitable for all levels of experience so you can join in and not be alone in your level. Chris Koliander will be there to guide you through the moves. A donation of any amount is requested at this class which will benefit the Russell Memorial Library. Contact the library at 802-453-4471 for more information.

From the desk of Lauren Parren for the Monkton Museum and Historical Society:

On Monday, July 20, 7 p.m. at the Monkton History Museum, we'll have our soft opening of the new exhibit "Choices and Changes: The Early People of Monkton." Not all of the displays will have been completed, but we have enough to entice you. Our speaker that night will be Chief Dan Stevens of the Nulhegan Tribe, who has loaned us a wide variety of eye-catching artifacts to help us understand Abenaki culture. Jess Robinson, State Archaeologist, loaned two sets of artifacts that help us tell the story of the pre-contact era. Cindy Walcott has hand-sewn an outfit for Abigail Barnum, who was widowed early in the Revolutionary War. Barnabus Barnum, her husband, was a Green Mountain Boy who will eventually be represented by a GMB jacket, currently being created by a (See Monkton, Page 5B)

2★26 Election VT Senate

Vote

Lesley Bienvenue, MBA

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- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start

READER

comments

Such a great resource and
vital to our community!

-Theresa, Middlebury subscriber

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, VT, Since 1946

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



july 16

THURSDAY

Festival on the Green in Middlebury. Thursday, July 16, noon and 7-10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by excellent musicians. Perfect for family picnics and relaxed viewing. Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté perform at noon; The Mammals play at 7 p.m.; Slap Dragon plays at 8:30 p.m. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthe.green.org.

Free Produce Thursdays in New Haven. Thursday, July 16, 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.

Shoreham High Alum Lunch in Shoreham. Thursday, July 16, 1:30 p.m., Halfway Diner. This roughly monthly lunch is an informal gathering of anyone connected to or interested in Shoreham High School. All welcome. Contact Amy at 897-2169 with any questions.

"Reminiscing with Local Postcards of Bristol" in Bristol. Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m., Howden Hall Museum, 19 West St. Kevin Hanson will be presenting a program at the Bristol Historical Society entitled "Reminiscing with Local Postcards of Bristol." He has been involved for many years researching the history and families of Bristol, Starksboro and surrounding towns. A short business meeting follows the presentation. Free. For more information, contact Bristol Historical Society at 802-453-3526 or dear4@gmavt.net.

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.

july 17

FRIDAY

The Blooming Circle: Postpartum Support Group in New Haven. Friday, July 17, 11 a.m., Nest & Gather. This group supports emotional well-being, self-care and mental health, helping every mom embrace her new journey with confidence and strength. The circle creates a welcoming and supportive environment for pregnant women, new mothers, and experienced moms navigating the postpartum period and the many challenges of motherhood. Free.

Festival on the Green in Middlebury. Friday, July 17, noon and 7-10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by great musicians. Perfect for family picnics and relaxed viewing. Circus Minimus performs at noon; Brett Hughes and the Honky-Tonk Crowd plays at 7 p.m. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthe.green.org.

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, July 17, 3-4:45, 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.

Artday Friday: Watercolor Bookmarks in Vergennes. Friday, July 17, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. A family-friendly art day every Friday at the library. Supplies provided. Free.

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 ft. 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.

july 18

SATURDAY

Samson Memorial Yard Sale in Cornwall. Saturday, July 18, 9 a.m., D.A.R. Samson Memorial, 2706 Route 30. Rain or shine. Puzzles, Legos, games, dolls, stoffies, holiday decor, housewares, China, glassware, books, wicker chairs, bar stools, lamps, etc.

Benefit Yard Sale in Monkton. Saturday, July 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monkton Friends Methodist Church, 78 Monkton Ridge. Rain or shine.

Quaker Village Road Historic Walking Tour in Weybridge. Saturday, July 18, 9-11 a.m., Weybridge Town Clerk's office. Join Glenna and AJ Piper to learn about how Quaker Village Rd. has changed over time. You'll have a chance to see inside the old Town Hall and Cotton Free Library. RSVP to Glenna at gkpiper@gmail.com.

Community Art Making Day in Middlebury. Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. A fun-filled day of making art featuring recycled textiles art and a hand crank letterpress. The museum team and printmaker John Vincent will guide you through the process of making paper and printing artwork on a letterpress. Free.

Walking Tour of Middlebury. Saturday, July 18, 2-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Learn about the history of Middlebury with a 60-minute, 1-mile narrated walking tour. Follow

july 19

SUNDAY

Green Mountain Bicycle Club Monkton Ridge Ride. Sunday, July 19, 8:30 a.m., Shelburne Shopping Park. Ride through Champlain Valley along the lake and then head into the hills a bit and return through Hinesburg area. Ride lengths include 23, 26, and 43-mile options. Register and see details: thembc.com/events.

Champlain Valley Fiddlers Club Jam in Middlebury. Sunday, July 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Middlebury VFW, 530 Exchange St. Listen to people sing and play instruments. If you or a friend play fiddle or another instrument, join in. Refreshments available. 50/50 raffle. Door prize. Come with your dancing boots on. \$3 cover.

july 20

MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, July 20, 4:30 p.m., Addison County VFW 7823. \$1,000 jackpot. Benefits veterans programs. Kitchen open at 5 p.m., quickies start at 6 p.m., regular bingo starts at 7 p.m.

"Choices and Changes: The Early People of Monkton" Exhibit Soft Opening in Monkton. Monday, July 20, 7 p.m., Monkton History Museum, 92 Monkton Ridge Rd. Not all of the displays will have been completed, but we have enough to entice you. The speaker will be Chief Dan Stevens of the Nulhegan Tribe, who has loaned a wide variety of eye-catching artifacts related to Abenaki culture. Donations accepted.

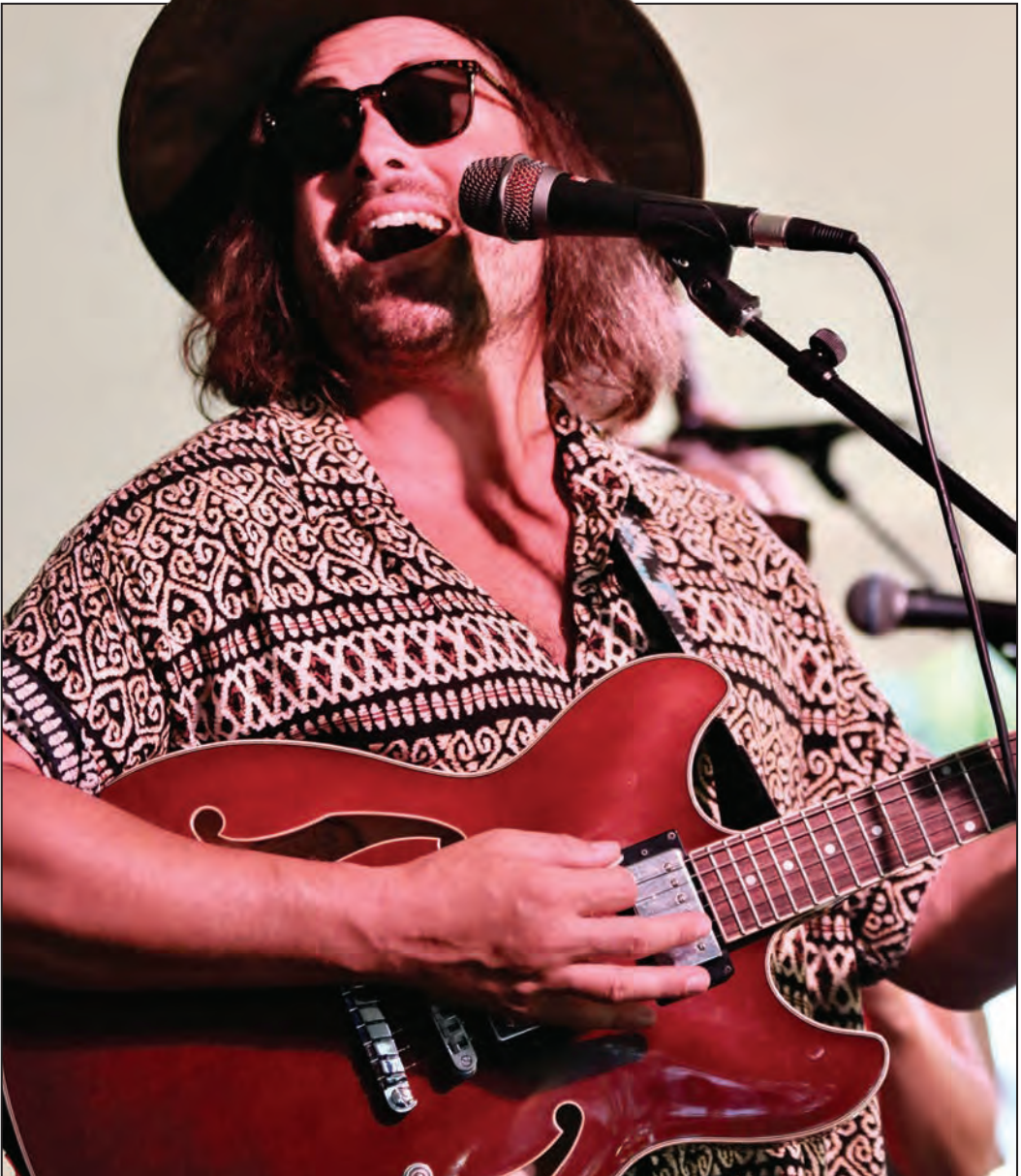
Vergennes City Band concert. Monday, July 20, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

july 21

TUESDAY

Solar Printing in Brandon. Tuesday, July 21, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids use special paper to create prints using the power of the sun. Free.

Grief and the Creative Heart in Vergennes. Tuesday, July 21, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. Second 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



Green scene

JAY HAROOTUNIAN AND his band Mojo Birds kicked off this year's Festival on the Green in Middlebury on Sunday, playing for a lively crowd. The party keeps rolling all week with free performances of every flavor, from high-energy rock bands to circus arts. For the full schedule, check our calendar or visit festivalonthe.green.org.

Independent photo/Steve James

july 19

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july 22

WEDNESDAY

Music at the Riverbend: The Yurtbags in Brandon. Wednesday, July 22, 6 p.m., Riverbend, Central Park. The Yurtbags perform funky, groovy and jazzy tunes in this free weekly community concert. Rain location Brandon Town Hall. Free.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park. Wednesday, July 22, 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.

july 23

THURSDAY

"Wallpaper Revealed: The Artistry of Wallpaper" in Middlebury. Thursday, July 23, 12:30-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. A presentation on the artisanship that goes into making wallpaper, reframing how we think of it as purely decorative to a more specialized artform. From pigments that caused sickness, 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.

Free Produce Thursdays in New Haven. Thursday, July 23, 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 24

FRIDAY

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july 25

SATURDAY

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july 26

SUNDAY

Green Mountain Bicycle Club Monkton Ridge Ride. Sunday, July 26, 8:30 a.m., Shelburne Shopping Park. Ride through Champlain Valley along the lake and then head into the hills a bit and return through Hinesburg area. Ride lengths include 23, 26, and 43-mile options. Register and see details: thembc.com/events.

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july 27

MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, July 27, 4:30 p.m., Addison County VFW 7823. \$1,000 jackpot. Benefits veterans programs. Kitchen open at 5 p.m., quickies start at 6 p.m., regular bingo starts at 7 p.m.

"Choices and Changes: The Early People of Monkton" Exhibit Soft Opening in Monkton. Monday, July 27, 7 p.m., Monkton History Museum, 92 Monkton Ridge Rd. Not all of the displays will have been completed, but we have enough to entice you. The speaker will be Chief Dan Stevens of the Nulhegan Tribe, who has loaned a wide variety of eye-catching artifacts related to Abenaki culture. Donations accepted.

Vergennes City Band concert. Monday, July 27, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

july 28

TUESDAY

Solar Printing in Brandon. Tuesday, July 28, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids use special paper to create prints using the power of the sun. Free.

Grief and the Creative Heart in Vergennes. Tuesday, July 28, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. Second 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

july 29

WEDNESDAY

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CALENDAR
ONLINE

addisonindependent.com



Green Street ‘third-space’ opens in Verg.

By RACHELLE TALBERT
VERGENNES — Big Heart Social, a queer-forward third space, hosted its grand opening in Vergennes this past Saturday. Nearly 40 people came as the business opened its doors — and hearts — to the Vergennes community.

Big Heart Social serves as a café by morning, bar by evening and a social space full-time. With pride flags on the walls, locally sourced drinks and nearly 100 board games, the business hopes to be a gathering space that welcomes everyone, explicitly including LGBTQ+ Vermonters.

The grand opening followed a two-week soft opening, when the business operated with reduced hours. Over that time, Big Heart Social has seen success establishing a presence in the Vergennes community, according to owner Shiloh Lawrence.

“We already have a large amount of regulars who are coming in each day,” Lawrence told the *Independent*. “I’ve had people tell me that they haven’t had a space where they can feel comfortable like this before.”

Some of Big Heart Social’s first regulars are Bob Paris and his husband Jim, who live a few blocks away on Green Street. Bob, 72, and Jim, 71, have been together for 37 years.

“We’ve been trying to come every day to support,” Bob Paris said. “When you come in here, you see people — always happy people. And it makes you feel so comfortable.”

Creating these kinds of safe spaces was one of Lawrence’s goals from the beginning. As a transgender woman herself, Lawrence has prioritized welcoming members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“I see a lot of my fellow queer community members here. Sometimes it’s spoken, and sometimes it’s just that smile or that nod, just that, ‘I see you, and you’re safe here,’” Lawrence said. “People have mentioned to me that their kids feel seen here in a way they don’t necessarily have a chance to at school, and those sorts of things mean a lot to me on a personal level.”

While Big Heart Social centers queer inclusion, Lawrence emphasizes that everyone is welcome. On Saturday, multiple families with young kids came to the opening of the business at 53 Green St., including Rose and JB Ledoux with their seven-year-old daughter, Vera. The group sat down together to play board games.

“We were just excited to see a new business in town and excited to support it,” Rose Ledoux said. “A space that is family friendly, and has games, and has good drinks is exactly what we were looking for.”

Beyond everyday gatherings over coffee and board games, Big Heart Social also hopes to bring people together through



OWNER SHILOH LAWRENCE cuts the ribbon to officially open Big Heart Social, a new community space in Vergennes, this past Saturday. She is flanked by her wife Taylor Morley, left, and Community Engagement Manager Robin. Employees Steph Ansley and Howie cheer with pride alongside them.

Independent photos/Kelsey Wood

organized events. Robin Olsen, the social media and community engagement manager, has multiple events planned, including hosting a clothing swap on July 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a screening of the indie film “She’s the He” on July 29 at 6:30 p.m. Olsen hopes that these events will continue to make Big Heart Social a social space.

“A big reason why I was attracted to the space, even before I applied here, was the idea of this being primarily a community space versus being primarily a business,” Olsen said.

Alongside its community programming, Big Heart Social also places an emphasis on locally sourced food and drinks. It plans to offer different menus in the morning and evening, rotating dishes throughout the week. Among other dishes, the Saturday menu included blueberry lemon crepes, baked mac-and-cheese and strawberry basil sundaes.

Their ingredients come from six different Vermont farms. Lawrence tries to source all menu items from local businesses, partnering with locations around the county. To Lawrence, supporting local businesses is an important part of maintaining a community presence. Among other partnerships, their



EMPLOYEE HOWIE SERVES up a delicious blueberry lemon crepe on opening day.



CUSTOMERS SIP LATTES while enjoying one of the 100+ board games Big Heart Social has collected. Pictured are employees from Three Squares Café, located just around the corner, who came out to the grand opening in the spirit of community over competition.

coffee comes from Little Seed Coffee Roasters, their tea from Stone Leaf Tea House and their chocolate from Daily Chocolate.

Lawrence even tried to acquire decorations and furniture from local sources. The counter on the outdoor deck was built by Lawrence from the scraps of a fallen tree. Lawrence bought the tables and chairs off Facebook Marketplace from around Vermont, including a family’s former dining room table, a hand-carved chess set and 150-year-old needlepoint-upholstered chairs.

To keep menu prices affordable while sourcing locally, Lawrence plans to operate at a profit margin that is lower than the standard for café-bars.

“We really try to embrace the people over profits mentality,” Lawrence explained. “I would identify as a socialist, and I really believe in everybody supporting each other.”

Lawrence has faced financial challenges in the process of opening Big Heart Social — particularly as a business openly supportive of the LGBTQ+ community. In the early stages, most businesses can apply for a Small Business Administration loan. This allows

entrepreneurs to borrow money from the federal government with less risk, since the SBA agrees to pay back part of the loan if the borrower cannot pay.

Lawrence said she chose not to pursue an SBA loan because she was concerned about the current federal administration’s policies toward LGBTQ+ people. She worried about potential conditions to the loan opposed to Big Heart Social’s goals of inclusivity.

Instead, Lawrence funded almost the entire business on personal savings.

“I grew up on SNAP benefits, and everything you see here is sort of my lifetime savings,” Lawrence explained. “We are working on getting with some local lenders to move forward with some alternative financing options, but I’d say funding has been one of the larger challenges.”

Despite funding challenges, Lawrence remains committed to her values and keeping Big Heart Social a welcoming space.

“We’re not hiding anything about who we are here,” Lawrence said. “I really just wanted something like this, where you can come to a place and hang out, and you don’t have to spend money if you don’t want it.”



Passports give seniors entry into state parks

VERMONT — With warm weather here, senior Vermonters are encouraged to get outside with a Green Mountain Passport!

For a one-time \$2 fee, Vermont residents age 62 and up, plus honorably discharged veterans, can enjoy free admission to Vermont State Parks and State Historic Sites with the Green Mountain Passport.

It’s an easy, affordable way to stay active and enjoy all Vermont has to offer this summer.

Getting your Passport is simple:

- Apply at your town or city

clerk’s office.

- Pay a one-time \$2 fee.
- Receive your card and start exploring.

State parks in Addison County include Branbury in Salisbury, D.A.R. in Addison, and Kingsland Bay and Button Bay in Ferrisburgh. Local state historic sites are Chimney Point in Addison and Mount Independence in Orwell.

Find a full list of Vermont State Parks online at www.vtstateparks.com. Historic sites are listed at historicsites.vermont.gov.

Monkton

(Continued from Page 4B)

tailor at Ft Ticonderoga. Justus Sherwood, while not technically from Monkton, was just over the border in New Haven and his story reveals the mindset of Loyalists. All are welcome! Donations accepted.

This exhibit would not be possible without the support of our business sponsors: DuPont Autobody, Last Resort Farm, Cobble Creek Nursery, Greentree Real Estate, Fiddleback Woodworking, Nitty Gritty Grains, Lantman’s IGA, Boot Hill Metal Benders, Wooden Hammer, RockyDale Nursery, Yates Family Orchard, Layn Farms. Please support our local businesses.

Please join us to celebrate Monkton’s beginnings. We’ll have brief introductory remarks at 7 p.m., followed by Chief Stevens, and then head downstairs to tour the new exhibit. Take a selfie with a settler!

Mark your calendar for the next Poetry Club meeting on Saturday, July 25, from 10:30 to

11:45 a.m. with Melanie Cote. Bring a poem of your own or one from a favorite author and join in on good conversation and a relaxing morning. Contact Melanie at cotem@ymail.com with any questions.

Don’t forget the continuing happenings at the library and Community Room including Sunday Ashtanga Yoga with Eugenie Doyle from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Contact her at edoyle@gmavt.net with any questions.

Also check with the library for information on Toddler Storytime on Wednesdays with Julie, if Stitch and Spin will continue every third Sunday at the library. There are many other activities going on. The library is very active to help our community thrive!

You don’t have to leave Vermont to get away



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campfire or hot tub first?

Book your staycation at
robertfrostmountaincabins.com

Robert Frost Mountain Cabins
2430 North Branch Rd., Ripton

STOCK UP FOR THE BIG GAMES!

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060

Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

We love a little friendly competition!

Christy Lynn brought in two impressive garden entries: a 22” L rhubarb stalk and a massive horseradish leaf. While her rhubarb isn’t quite big enough to knock the current champion from the top spot, her horseradish leaf measures an incredible 31” L x 10.25” W, earning her the star position in the edible leafy green category.

There’s still plenty of time to join this year’s Garden Game! With lots of categories still up for grabs and weeks left in the competition, now’s the perfect time to show off what you’re growing. Even if your garden giant doesn’t fit one of our official categories, we’d still love to snap a photo and share it with our readers. So bring in your biggest, weirdest, or most impressive homegrown treasures!



Fun Fact

Rhubarb and horseradish both boast giant leaves, but only one belongs on your plate. Horseradish leaves are edible and have a peppery flavor that pairs well with other leafy greens like kale and spinach. They can be enjoyed raw or sautéed. Rhubarb leaves, on the other hand, are toxic and should **never be eaten.**



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) - Christy Lynn, 31” x 10.25”
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference)
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length)
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference)
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference)
- Potato (length x circumference)
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference)
- Rhubarb (stalk length) - Dorothy Hayes, 25.5”
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference)
- Sunflower (diameter)
- *Sweet Potato (length x circumference)
- Tomato (circumference)
- Turnip (circumference)
- Winter Squash (length x circumference)
- Zucchini (length x circumference)
- *new category



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ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Five are tapped for Vt. Ag Hall of Fame

VERMONT — The Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame has announced its 2026 class of inductees, including one Addison County resident.

The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals whose dedication, leadership and innovation have made a lasting impact on Vermont agriculture.

For more than two decades, the Hall of Fame has celebrated the achievements of farmers, growers, agricultural professionals, service providers, and industry advocates who have helped strengthen Vermont’s agricultural community. Since its founding, the Hall of Fame has honored more than 120 individuals whose contributions continue to shape the state’s agricultural legacy.

In recent years, the program has expanded to recognize excellence across a broader range of accomplishments, including categories for Emerging Leader (under age 40), Agricultural Innovator, and up to three Lifetime Achievement honorees. The strength and diversity of this year’s nominations once again reflected the talent, commitment, and passion found throughout Vermont agriculture.

The 2026 inductees will be formally recognized and celebrated during the Champlain Valley Fair later this summer.

2026 Emerging Leader: This category highlights those who are stepping up to become the next generation of agricultural leaders in Vermont. Age 40 or younger (born after Jan. 1, 1986), these individuals demonstrate a deep commitment to Vermont’s working landscape and are poised to lead our Ag community into the future. They are remarkable for their service, youthful energy, and dedication to Vermont agriculture. This year’s Emerging Leader is

Courtney Banach, a farm worker in Addison.

2026 Ag Innovator: Those in consideration for this category have demonstrated a fresh and forward-thinking approach to agriculture. They are making or have made a significant, positive impact on Vermont, in areas such as but not limited to: growing the local economy, promoting stewardship and conservation, improving community health and nutrition, developing new tools and practices, and using alternative models in business and land ownership. They are notable for their unique perspective and unconventional approach. (Age is not a factor for consideration in this category.)

Heather Darby, Service provider in agronomic and soil science from Alburgh is this year’s Ag Innovator.

2026 Lifetime Achievement: This category recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the advancement, improvement, or development of Vermont agriculture over the course of their long career. Nominees shall have played an active role in Vermont agriculture for at least thirty years.

- Ann Hazelrigg, a UVM Extension professor from Williston.
- Paul Harlow, a farmer from Westminster.
- Doug Flack, a farmer from Enosburg.

The Vermont Agricultural Hall of Fame extends its appreciation to everyone who submitted nominations and helped recognize deserving individuals across the industry. The organization looks forward to receiving another outstanding group of nominations in 2027.

Editor’s note: This story is courtesy of the Champlain Valley Exposition.



Hay maker

A TRACTOR PULLS a tedder across a Middlebury hay field this week fluffing up and aerating the cut grass so it will dry before being baled later in the week. The hot, rain-free days this time of the summer make it perfect for cutting hay.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Enter the crop contest at Field Days

NEW HAVEN — The Addison County Fair and Field Days Crop Contest is just around the corner, and the UVM Extension-Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team is reminding farmers to enter their ag products. Field Days was started more than 75 years ago to bolster agriculture in this part of Vermont, and it still very much an ag-related show.

The judging is done in three classes — Field crops, Forage and Grains — across 19 categories. The categories include a variety of whole plants, silage crops, dry hay and grain crops. If you grow these plants, you may have a category in which you can enter the contest: corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, oats, rye, alfalfa, clover, buckwheat and oilseed.

Enter at the fairgrounds in New Haven before noon on Monday, Aug. 3, at the north end of the 4-H Exhibit Building. Samples will be judged on:

- Freedom from plant defects and contamination.
- Yield and crop quality potential.
- Proper maturity at harvest for storage.

- Proper moisture content for storage.
- Conformity of size and uniformity.

Prizes run from \$5 for a white ribbon to \$50 for Best in Show. Karen Gallott in the Middlebury UVM Extension office can answer your questions if you reach out to her at 802-656-7540 or at karen.gallott@uvm.edu.

Vt. dairies facing economic pressure

By TSEHAI ALFRED
VTDigger.org

Dozens of dairy farmers from across the state drove to Grand Isle on July 2 with the intention of talking about a recent dairy plant closure. Instead, a larger issue emerged: Some dairy processors are giving up on Vermont, and the state is failing to cash in on a national investment in dairy amid a craze for protein.

A recent wave of three dairy plant closures in just two months has highlighted pressures facing the local

industry, including high overhead costs and aging infrastructure. As large processing plants move West, where land is cheaper and production is more dynamic, Vermont farms are buckling under consolidation, increased prices and low profitability.

The result? Vermont dairy farms are being left in the dust by the competition from states like Texas where the economics of dairy farming are more favorable.

VTDigger analyzed U.S. Department of Agriculture data and found that dairy farming costs exceed sales by the largest margin in Vermont compared with 18 other states. Vermont farmers face a \$8.65 loss per 100 pounds of milk

produced, while California farmers, for instance, see \$2.49 in profit.

For one Vermont farmer, the costs of overhead stack up to as high as \$72,000 per month.

“I’ve spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to budget those numbers, and I can’t move them. It’s really just because of where we’re located,” Kylie Chittenden, who operates a family dairy farm in Shoreham, said at the meeting. Lt. Gov. John Rodgers and other elected officials and state agency representatives turned up to listen to farmers’ concerns.

Chittenden said she pores over the numbers each month when she financially benchmarks her farm against dozens of others across

the country. Steep fees unique to operating in Vermont, including transportation surcharges due to poor road quality in the state, leave her at a disadvantage, she said.

As the concerns reach a flashpoint, larger questions loom about the future of the hallmark industry in a state built heavily around it, where dairy racks up \$5.4 billion in annual economic impact — nearly 12% of the state’s gross domestic product.

“Vermont is definitely at a tipping point, and it’s heartbreaking to see, and I don’t know what the answer is, other than the farmer just can’t meet the demands of the overhead anymore,” said Kassie Stannard, who produces small-scale dairy products in Corinth.

Dairy in Vermont had a big setback in June when Dairy Farmers of America announced that it would shut down operations at its St. Albans milk processing plant and the adjoining St. Albans Creamery & Supply in August, putting roughly 80 employees out of work. The news from the large facility came after similar announcements from other dairy production plants, including HP Hood, which in April closed the Booth Bros. dairy manufacturing plant in Barre, and Franklin Foods, which announced in June plans to shutter its plant in Franklin County. Perrigo, which uses dairy for its products, also said in March that its infant formula production facility in Franklin County would close, affecting more than 400 workers.

“We potentially may continue to see an exodus of dairies from the state,” said Kevin Kouri, chair of the Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance and director of nutrition and sales at Phoenix Feeds & Nutrition. “And the trickle-down effect that that has

(See Vt. dairies, Page 7B)

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Vt. dairies

(Continued from Page 6B)
not only to local communities and what these dairies bring in terms of employment opportunities in rural Vermont, but also the infrastructure and the allied businesses like mine.”
‘INCREASING PRESSURES’

For years, the dairy industry has been on the decline in the state, with the number of cow dairy farms decreasing nearly 50% over the past decade — from 1,075 in 2012 to 528 in 2022.

“I remember when my husband’s grandfather was still alive, he wrote down 54 names he could call off the top of his head of dairy farmers in the town of Corinth in his lifetime — 54 farms. Now we are just one of two operating dairy farms,” Stannard said.

The trend of consolidation — fewer farms but larger remaining ones — has largely been fueled by high overhead costs, leading smaller farms to struggle from low profitability while larger operations are able to produce milk at a lower per-unit cost.

As farms have consolidated,

the cooperatives that market the milk have too. DFA, the large cooperative, is one of a few co-ops that control nearly 85% of all milk marketed by U.S. producers, according to one study, and it covers large regions, leaving some members to feel a loss of local control.

DFA said its decision to close the St. Albans plant was driven by broader operational and network changes. Tom Bellavance, who represents Vermont on the DFA board, provided more specific reasoning at the Grand Isle meeting: Milk production rates have been flat over recent years in Vermont, while demand from Americans for protein — including protein powder and yogurt — has risen.

American dairy consumption, in pounds, has increased by around 60% from 2010 to 2024, according to USDA data on per capita dairy product consumption.

Vermont needs more cows to compensate for stagnant production,

Bellavance said, and while farms out West have increased their ability to meet the new demand, in New England capacity is shrinking.

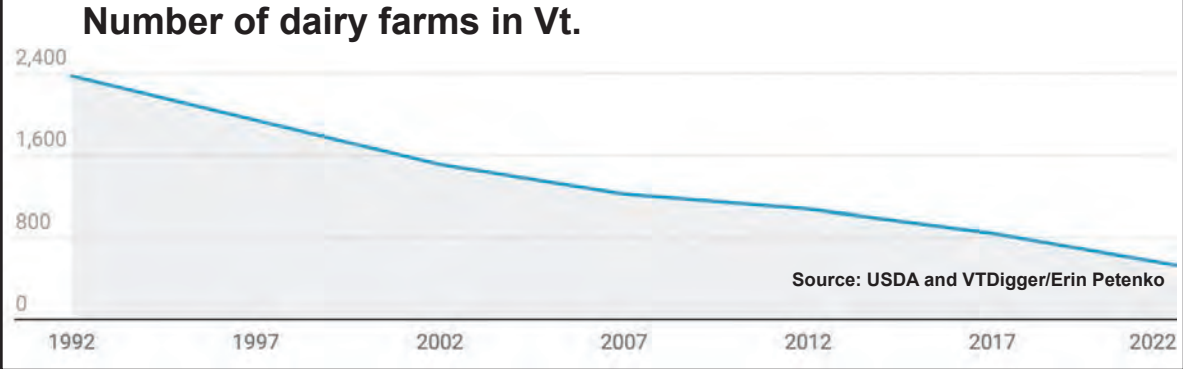
“The idling of the St. Albans plant is just an example of changing dynamics in the milk market,” Bellavance said.

To meet demand for milk-based protein, dairy processors throughout the country have invested \$11 billion in 19 states through 2028, according to the International Dairy Foods Association. Vermont was not one of those states, with aging infrastructure among the reasons processors choose to go elsewhere where it’s less expensive to build.

As Vermont lags behind the protein craze, Bellavance said the state should “embrace those changes,” because they will “deliver higher value,” putting more money into farmers’ milk checks.

But right now, for farmers’ checks, the processing plant closure does not seem like a positive.

The St. Albans plant’s “idling,” as DFA put it, means day-to-day production will end, but the group will retain ownership of the facility. What’s more, farmers have to pay to transport their milk out of Vermont to DFA facilities in nearby states, adding an unknown sum of money to members’ hauling fees.



“I guess our immediate concern is this is going to probably lead to some financial stress on some smaller dairies within the state, and we don’t want to see our dairy population, in terms of licensed dairies, shrink any further,” said Kouri, of the Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance.

“We have a lot of aging infrastructure, but you go to places like Texas, where you can build a brand-new facility, and it’s going to cost them a lot less to do that than to try to invest in an old building here,” said Mary White, a Vermont dairy farmer and president of the Vermont Farm Bureau. “And that’s regulations again. That’s based on what you need for climate,

regulatory, etc.”

Dairy farms and processing plants are, in fact, increasing in Texas, and the West at large, while many die out in the Northeast. Of 66 new dairy processing plants that are currently underway or recently opened across the country, funded by the \$11 billion investment, none are in New England, while several are concentrated in Texas and the Midwest. As DFA closes up shop on its plant in St. Albans, and in May closed another in Connecticut, the cooperative is simultaneously investing in the Midwest, recently opening a plant in Michigan that produces in-demand products like whey protein powder.

Profitability is especially hard to

come by for small farmers because they do not set their prices for their products. Milk prices, which are the minimum prices dairy processors must pay farmers for their milk, are established by the USDA in a multi-step process. Although prices have risen over the years, some farmers say they have not increased enough to keep pace with inflation.

“Our family works pretty hard, and we take very little salary away from the farm,” Tim Taft, a dairy farmer in Huntington, said in a statement at the Grand Isle meeting. “We reinvest it for the future. It’d be nice if the state felt the same. Currently, they say they are a farm first state? I think they need to prove it to us.”

How to handle the heat and farm work

VERMONT — The Vermont Vegetable and Berry Grower Association at UVM is offering this hot weather guidance for farming.

Steps to take to reduce heat stress:

- Plan strenuous tasks for cooler times of the day — morning or early evening.
- Help employees gradually acclimate to hot conditions by initially exposing them to short work periods and more frequent breaks.
- Arrange for work in shaded, well-ventilated areas whenever possible.
- Watch for high temperature/high humidity outdoor conditions and adjust assignments to reduce risk.
- Use fans to help evaporate sweat, providing an important cooling effect.

- Wear lightweight, breathable clothing.
- Wear a hat to provide sun protection when working outdoors. Hats should be loose-fitting and well-ventilated.
- Apply sunscreen to protect against sunburn and skin cancer.
- Drink often!**
- Dehydration accelerates heat illness potential.
- Water is the best (and least expensive) drink for outdoor work. Sports drinks are OK for most people but avoid sugary soda and caffeine. Salt tablets are not recommended unless a doctor advises them.
- Anyone who must restrict fluid intake because of a medical condition should check with a doctor about how to work safely in hot weather.

If someone is experiencing

heat-related symptoms:

- Take the affected employee to a cooler area, such as in the shade or air conditioning.
- Cool the employee immediately.
- Immerse the employee in cold water or an ice bath. Create an ice bath by placing all of the available ice into a large container with water. Ice baths are the best method to cool workers rapidly in an emergency.
- Remove outer layers of clothing, especially heavy protective clothing.
- Place ice or cold wet towels on the head, neck, abdomen, armpits and groin.
- Use fans to circulate air around the worker.
- Never leave an employee with heat-related illness alone. The illness can rapidly become worse. Stay with the employee.



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

Free

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

Help Wanted

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.

JOHNSON'S ECLECTIC MARKETPLACE July 18 & 19 - 9am - 3pm. 2900 Route 30, Cornwall VT. Antique tools, farming equipment, barn items, housewares, and more! More than your average yard sale, treasures for everyone!

Garage Sales

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 !

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

SUPER GARAGE SUMMER SALE Appliances, Furniture, Household Items, Books, Costume Jewelry, Planters, Toys, Adult, (a lot of pretty Dresses etc. size XS and small) Tons of Kids' and Infant/ Baby/Child's Clothing And

Garage Sales

Much, Much, Much More! DATES: Friday-7/17/26 Saturday-7/18/26 Sunday-7/19/26 TIME: 10AM-6PM LOCATION: 991 Jerusalem Road, Bristol VT 05443

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



HELP WANTED
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town of Addison is seeking a full-time **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver/Laborer**. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week, requiring a flexible schedule which may include nights, weekends and holidays, as well as overtime during certain times of the year. The applicant must be able to pass a pre-employment drug test and understand that the position also includes random drug and alcohol testing. Applicant must possess a current valid CDL license, have a clean driving record and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours. Experience with a truck, bucket loader and road grader preferred. Manual labor and some heavy lifting is required. The knowledge and ability to do mechanical repairs is a plus. The job includes starting hourly wage to commensurate with experience and abilities and a benefit package including vacation, health insurance and IRA.

No phone applications, please.

Send resume and references to:

Town of Addison
65 VT RTE 17W
Addison, VT 05491
Attn: Selectboard

You may call the Road Commission with any questions at (802) 759-2570. Applications can be found online on our website: addisonvt.gov, or by contacting the Road Commissioner, or the Town Clerk's Office at (802) 759-2020

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



WE'RE HIRING
Operations
Coordinator

Looking to live your values through care, connection, and collaboration? GMJ sees our community members as neighbors, not clients. And we work and advocate with them, not for them.

Part-time • ~20 hrs/week • Up to \$35/hr

Learn more about GMJ and find the position description and application guidance at:

greenmountainjustice.org/join-us

NOW HIRING: DISPATCHERS

Calm under pressure?
Ready for work that makes a difference?
We're hiring Dispatchers — join our team!

middlebury911.org/careers



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.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

AGE WELL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer with **Age Well** and become an essential part of the network that fosters a sense of community and well-being for Vermont's aging population.

Whether you're assisting with meal deliveries, participating in social activities, or offering companionship, your involvement directly contributes to enhancing the quality of life for older adults in Vermont.

Call 802-662-5249 to learn more about volunteering.

Addison Independent
CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Notices | ☐ Work Wanted | ☐ Att. Farmers |
| ☐ Card of Thanks | ☐ Help Wanted | ☐ Motorcycles |
| ☐ Personals | ☐ For Sale | ☐ Cars |
| ☐ Services | ☐ Public Meetings** | ☐ Trucks |
| ☐ Free** | ☐ For Rent | ☐ SUVs |
| ☐ Lost 'N Found** | ☐ Want to Rent | ☐ Snowmobiles |
| ☐ Garage Sales | ☐ Wood Heat | ☐ Boats |
| ☐ Lawn & Garden | ☐ Real Estate | ☐ Wanted |
| ☐ Opportunities | ☐ Animals | ☐ Real Estate Wanted |
| ☐ Adoption | | ☐ Vacation Rentals |

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: \$ _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: \$ _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Accusations are traded in Vergennes

VERGENNES — Vergennes police received a report on Sunday claiming that the operator of a municipal work vehicle was driving at a high rate of speed and almost caused a traffic collision.

Police advised the reporting party, who notified the department on July 12, of available options for filing a complaint with the appropriate municipal officials.

According to this week's police log, the report was made shortly after the reporting party's partner was issued a citation for an incident involving the person being reported.

Between July 6 and July 12, Vergennes police also conducted 11 traffic stops, nine directed patrols, one VIN verification and one commercial vehicle inspection, and took fingerprints five times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On July 6 received information as part of an ongoing investigation that involved violations of court orders.

- On July 6 responded to Vergennes Grand for a report of a resident experiencing a behavioral health crisis. When police arrived, staff told them the person had calmed down. Staff assisted the resident with taking prescribed medication and returning to their room. No further police action was required.

- On July 7 took a report of a theft of a miniature dirt bike from a South Maple Street residence.

- On July 7 were notified of a road rage incident involving a pedestrian. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday.

- On July 8 took a report of a motor vehicle crash in the Champlain Farms parking lot. The involved parties exchanged information and a case number was provided to them. No Vergennes Police Department response was needed.

- On July 8 took a report of a vehicle blocking the entrance to the Vergennes pool. The owner moved it before police arrived.

- On July 8 checked on a dog that had been left in a car. The dog was not in distress and appeared healthy. The owner said she would leave the AC running while the dog was in the car.

- On July 9 a Vergennes Task Force officer assisted the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force with a search warrant related to child sexual abuse material at a residence in Bristol.

- On July 9 took an online report about an alleged sexual assault that occurred in Ferrisburgh several years ago. This information was passed along to Vermont State Police.

- On July 9 took a report of an issue between a landlord and tenant at a Vergennes apartment complex. Police said the matter will be handled between the parties.

- On July 9 took a report of a man who caused a disturbance at a convenience store. He was moved along without further incident.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

Lizzie Mikkelsen of Lincoln was named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List at Hudson Valley Community College. Mikkelsen is studying in the Mortuary Science.

Ian Henderson of Vergennes received a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Quinnipiac University during a commencement ceremony held in May.

Morgan Hall of Orwell graduated from Columbus State Community College during Spring Semester commencement held on May 15, 2026.

Vergennes Police Log

- On July 9 were notified of a citizen dispute in the city. The investigation was ongoing as of Monday.

- On July 10 took a report of concerning statements found online, which had been written by a Vergennes resident. Vergennes police spoke with the person, who agreed to take the post down and stated that he did not mean any of what was written in the post.

- On July 10 conducted a welfare check and found the subject was all set.

- On July 10 referred the dog warden a loose dog complaint on Main Street.

- On July 10 took a report of a jewelry theft from an Otter Creek Trailer Park resident.

- On July 11 took a report of a white SUV driving away from a gas pump with a fuel nozzle and hose still in the vehicle. Neither the vehicle nor the nozzle had been located as of Monday. Police were awaiting surveillance footage.

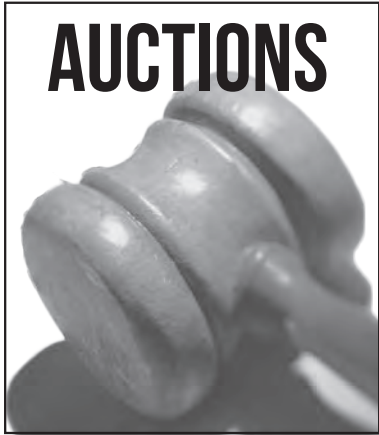
- On July 11 received an online report regarding threatening behavior at McKnight Lane. Vergennes police referred the complainant to the state police.

- On July 11 responded to a minor two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Pantan Road and West Main Street. No injuries were reported.

- On July 11 officers investigated a report of an alleged verbal threat involving a juvenile and an adult family acquaintance. During the investigation, officers spoke with the juvenile, the juvenile's parent, the reporting party and the accused individual. After reviewing the circumstances and conducting follow-up interviews, officers determined the incident stemmed from a family disciplinary dispute and that no criminal offense had occurred.

The juvenile acknowledged the situation had been misunderstood, and the matter was resolved without further police action.

- On July 11 responded to the report of vandalism at Prospect Cemetery as the result of a family dispute. The parties came to an agreement and the situation was resolved peacefully.



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 7/9/26 & 7/13/26

BEEF	LBS.	COST /LB	\$
Rowell Farm	1265	2.10	\$2656.50
Barnes Bros	1560	2.00	\$3120.00
Blue Spruce	1555	1.96	\$3047.80
Nop Bros	1695	1.85	\$3135.75
Gosliga	1900	1.84	\$3496.00
Sunderland	1855	1.80	\$3339.00

CALVES	\$
UVM	\$1582.00
Barnes Bros	\$1548.50
A. Brisson	\$1650.00
Hoyt Hill	\$1525.10
Iroquois	\$1515.00
Vorsteveld	\$1453.00
Sunderland	\$1460.00

Total Beef - 121 Total Calves - 192
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

TOWN OF GOSHEN INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Goshen, Vermont is accepting engineering bids to replace an aging culvert structure on Dutton Brook Road. The complete bid package can be obtained at the Goshen Town Office at 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, Vermont 05733 or can be viewed online at the Town Website: www.goshenvt.org. Contact Road Foreman Jeff Cathcart at (802) 345-9736 or jcathcart@goshenvt.org for questions and viewing schedule. Sealed bids will be accepted until 6:30 pm on August 10, 2026.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

BREAKFAST SERVER (FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME) Swift House Inn in Middlebury is hiring friendly, dependable breakfast servers to join our hospital-ity team. Morning shifts, competitive hourly pay plus tips, flexible scheduling, employee dining discounts, and opportunities for growth. Restaurant experience is appreciated but not required—we're happy to train the right person. Please send your resume or a brief introduction to owner@swifthouseinn.com. Swift House Inn • 25 Stewart Lane, Middlebury • swifthouseinn.com

DEVELOPMENT MAN-AGER 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.

SALES DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE Vermont Soap in Middlebury is looking for a motivated, outgoing and highly organized individual to join our sales team. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Previous sales experience is preferred. Paid vacation time, paid holidays and 401k with employer match. Submit cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

TOWN ENGINEER The Town of Colchester is hiring a Town Engineer to lead design, construction management, and capital planning for public infrastructure, including wastewater, stormwater, streets, and paths. Responsibilities span project management, consultant oversight, permitting, and field decisions. Requires a civil engineering degree and six years of relevant experience. Apply at Colchestervt.gov.

For Sale

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

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAM-PLAIN 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

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.

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

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

VERGENNES DOWN-TOWN APARTMENT 1BR/1BA apartment in quiet downtown Vergennes building. Bright living space with large windows, open concept kitchen, and off-street parking. Walkable to cafés, restaurants, and local businesses. \$1,525/month. Security deposit \$1,525. 1-year lease. Available May 1. No smoking. Pets allowed with landlord permission. Call or text (317) 379-1587 for details or to schedule a showing.

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLE VIEW APARTMENTS 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. 802-247-0161 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

✓
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 1-800-424-8591. For the Washington, D.C. area please call HUD at 426-3500.

Wood Heat

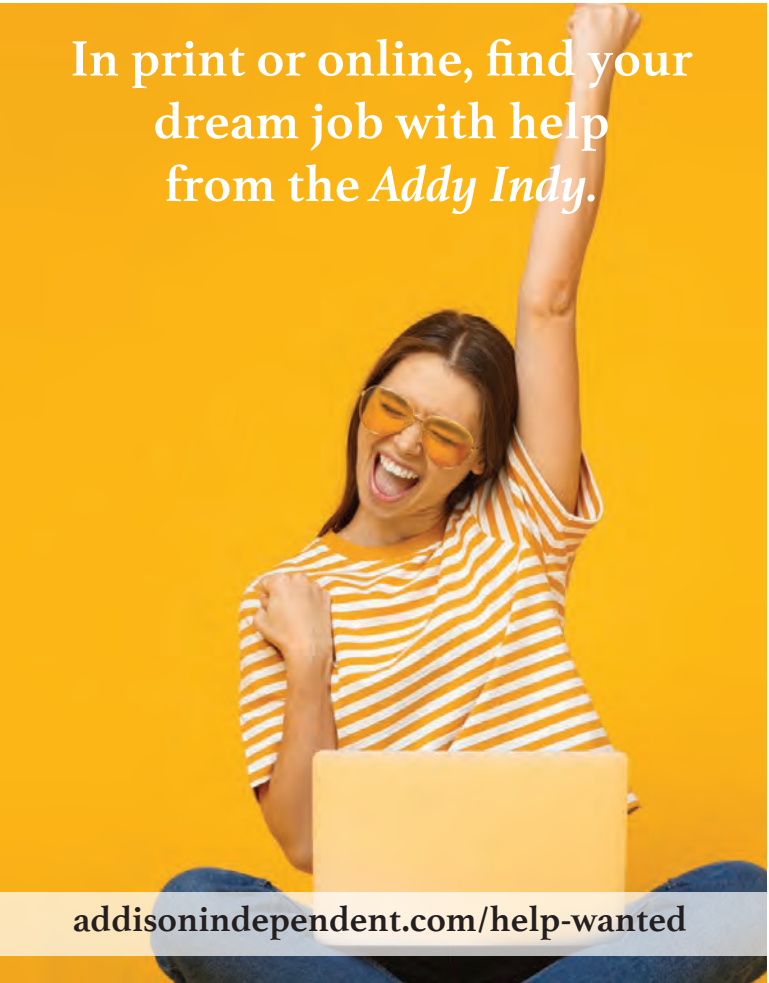
DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL squares \$3.25. 2nd cut small squares, \$4.25. 802-451-1459.



Keep the news coming!
Subscribe to the Addy Indy online, in print, or on the go!



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Office 62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, Vermont and virtually using Zoom
The Lincoln Development Review Board will hold public hearings for:

1. Conditional Use Application #26-058 submitted by Eliza Montgomery and Christopher Hood for their property at 1330 Cobb Hill Rd, Lincoln, Vermont to build a new 2-family home in excess of 3500 square feet.

Participation in local proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take part in any subsequent appeals. Please call the Zoning Administrator at (802) 453-2980 to arrange a time to view complete applications

The Zoom link will be included in the agenda, which can be found on the Town's website the week prior to the hearing: <https://lincolnvermont.org>

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Page 11B**.

Addison County Clerk (1)

Ferrisburgh (2)

Goshen (1)

Lincoln (1)

Starksboro (1)

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

For appointment, go to **www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com** or call 802-388-1966.

Email your Public Notices

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

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Alan and Nancy Norris submitted application 26-DRB-01PUD for a Final Plan Review Hearing for an 8-lot Planned Unit Development (PUD) located on an 84.89+/- acre parcel #10815 at 2798 VT Route 17 in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed PUD is in the ASRR, LDRC, and HDRC districts. The Final Plan Review Hearing on this application will be held per the 2020 Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct the hearing on August 13, 2026, starting at 6:30p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The full application is available to review by request at the Starksboro zoning office, and on the Town website at: <https://www.starksborovt.org/agendas-and-minutes>

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617415124>

Meeting ID: 896 1741 5124

Or by Phone: +13052241968

Warning Date: July 16, 2026

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING

The Ferrisburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearings on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**, beginning at **7PM**, at the Ferrisburgh Town Office at 3279 US Route 7 and remotely via Zoom.

Application Number 26-009 (continued): Remove existing gas station & convenience store at 6973 US Route 7 and seed for grass, construct a new gas/diesel station & convenience store with associated site work at 6990 US Route 7, construct new mound system at 6973 US Route 7 to serve the new store, and waiver requested for front setback from Old Hollow Road to gas canopy; Applicant: Charles Marshall for Stewarts Shops Corp.; 6973 & 6990 US Route 7; Parcel ID numbers 18/20/02 & 18/20/03; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Conditional Use Review and Waivers.

Application Number 26-030 (continued): Construct & operate a 15,000sf commercial facility for automobile restoration and sales; Applicant: Jennifer Valz/Restoration & Performance Motorcars; 302 Monkton Road; Parcel ID 15/02/37.13; Rural Agricultural District (RA-5); Conditional Use; new request for Waiver.

Application Number 26-074: 3,800sf of new self-storage buildings & additions at existing self-storage facility; Applicant: Mark Franceschetti/Barb, Jim, Mary & Reno LLC; 6874 US Route 7 & 14 Old Hollow Road; Parcel ID 18/20/71 Lots A & B; Mixed-Use District (MU-2); Conditional Use.

Application Number 26-076 (continued): Application Number 26-076: New contractor's yard with on-site stone-cutting operation, approximately 36,000sf of new building construction (enclosed shop/storage building, office building, and two lean-to structures) and associated site work; Applicant: Birdseye Building Company; north side of Tupper's Crossing; Parcel ID 10/01/58.2 Lots 3A & 3B; Mixed-Use District (MU-2); Conditional Use.

Application Number 26-090: 535sf of new signs in form of window graphics; Applicant: Spectrum Signs and Graphics on behalf of Aubuchon Hardware; 113 Monkton Road, Unit F; Parcel ID 15/02/26; Mixed-Use District (MU-2); Conditional Use.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Office Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm. Applications will also be posted to the town website (ferrisburghvt.org) by the Friday before the hearing. Written comments may be submitted before the hearing at the Town Office or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org. NOTE: Participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Remote access via Zoom: Direct link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81322677177?pwd=igbkS9M4QjY7hevbnWznNzliXUgbVjJ.1>
Or go to Zoom.com, select "Meet" from top menu bar, then "Join Meeting;" or call 646-558-8656 to join by phone.
Meeting ID = 813 2267 7177 / Passcode = 658621

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

Sheriff's dept. assists in DUI arrest

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison County Sheriff's Department assisted Vermont State Police with a driving under the influence investigation on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh early in the evening of July 9.

After troopers arrested the driver on suspicion of DUI, a deputy remained with the vehicle until it was towed.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Michael Elmore assigned more deputies than usual to courthouse duties in Middlebury due to the high volume of hearings on July 8, 9 and 10.

Between June 28 and July 11, the Sheriff's Department stopped 121 vehicles for various violations, in addition to completing patrols through multiple towns in Addison County.

In those weeks, the Sheriff's Department also did the following:

- On June 28, assisted a motorist whose vehicle had broken down on the side of Route 7 in Salisbury.
- On June 28, assisted with traffic control for the Vermont Sun Triathlon in Leicester.
- On June 29, provided a Hull Identification Number verification for a person who purchased a boat in Middlebury.
- On June 29, transported two people to jail following court orders to hold them in Middlebury.
- On June 30, followed up on a drive off from the solid waste

Sheriff's Log

transfer station in Middlebury. After contacting the person, they returned to pay for the items they had dropped off.

- On June 30, visited a daycare in Middlebury to speak to kids about what police do and showed them a police cruiser.
- On June 30, helped remove a calf from Route 7 in Middlebury.
- On July 1, conducted car seat inspections for two families in Middlebury with new child safety seats.
- On July 2, transported a person to jail who had been arrested by the Middlebury police.
- On July 3, provided six officers for traffic control at Brandon's parade, then four officers for crowd control for Brandon's fireworks.
- On July 3, Sheriff Elmore met with the Addison County Fair and Field Days Board to discuss details for the fair, which will run Aug. 4-8 in New Haven.
- On July 4, provided two officers for traffic control at Bristol's parade.
- On July 6, hired Shane Carvey as a new deputy.
- On July 7, received a lost

iPad found in Cornwall and later returned it to its owner.

- On July 7, provided a civil standby for a property dispute
- On July 7, transported a person to jail after they were ordered to be held following a court hearing.
- On July 8, escorted two oversized loads from Middlebury to Marshfield. One load struck a guardrail and became stuck, and deputies assisted with traffic control until it was removed.
- On July 9, investigated the report of a dog that had been hit by a car on Shoreham Depot Road.
- On July 9, assisted South Burlington police by issuing a new citation to a person they had previously arrested in Ferrisburgh.
- On July 9, helped a Ferrisburgh resident find a lost dog.
- On July 9, investigated a report of a bicyclist nearly being struck by a passing vehicle on Shard Villa Road. It was described as a newer model light brown Toyota Tacoma pickup with heavily treaded, noisy tires. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Department at 802-388-2981.
- On July 10, transported to jail a person who was arrested by Middlebury police.
- On July 11, provided a VIN verification for a Starksboro resident.
- On July 11, assisted Middlebury police with a traffic stop.



Sweet stop

A HONEYBEE GATHERS nectar from the recent blooms of a buttonbush in Weybridge this week. Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is a deciduous shrub native to most of the lower 48 states. Its distinctive globe-shaped flowers attract lots of pollinators.

Independent photo/Elsie Lynn Parini

Vermont State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — So far this month, Vermont State Police have dealt with a rash of typical criminal activity, including impaired driving, speeding and a car crash. The latest series started off with allegations of seriously violent criminal activity.

Troopers were called to a family fight at a Route 7 home in Leicester on July 5 a little before 10 p.m. State police report that they found that Jeremiah Cole, 33, of Leicester had caused pain and bodily injury to a household member then fled the scene in a vehicle that did not belong to him.

Authorities found Cole, arrested him and took him to the New Haven

barracks, where they cited him for domestic assault, committing the crime in the presence of a child, interference with access to emergency services and driving someone's car without the owner's consent. They then lodged him at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$500.

In other recent activity, state police officers:

- Responded to a two-car crash in Monkton on July 9 just before 8 a.m. Police said that Laura Farrell, 66, of Monkton was driving a 2024 Toyota Prius Prime westbound on State Prison Hollow Road when 41-year-old Jessica Orvis of Bristol,

driving a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee northbound on Mountain Road allegedly failed to stop at a stop sign and crashed into the driver's side of Farrell's Prius. Orvis was taken to Porter Hospital for treatment of apparently minor injuries; Farrell did not report injuries.

Vermont State Police were assisted on scene by Monkton Fire Department and Bristol Rescue Squad. Police issued Orvis a ticket for failing to yield, which carries a fine of \$162 and two points on her license.

- Also on July 9, but at 4:23 p.m. observed a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Round Barn Road in Ferrisburgh and stopped the car.

Police said that driver Joseph F. Knipes, 57, of Ferrisburgh appeared to be impaired. They cited him for driving under the influence, second offense. Troopers were assisted by

Vergennes police and the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

- On July 11 a little after 4:30 p.m. were on patrol in Orwell when a trooper clocked a vehicle

traveling southbound Route 22A at a speed of 70 mph in 40 mph zone. The officer stopped the car and cited Kobe Roberts, 26, of Poultney for excessive speed.

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

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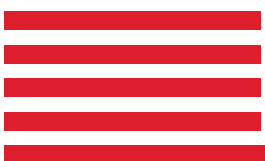
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Age Group: Under 5 ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7-8 ☐ 9-11 ☐ 12-15 ☐ 16-Adult ☐

ARTS+LEISURE

The Middlebury

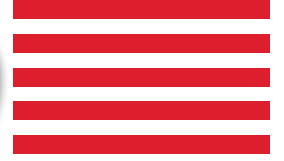
July 16, 2026



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEENS TURN UP THE HEAT ON

1776



Addison County teens step into some big shoes as they prepare for the opening of "1776 the Musical" at Town Hall Theater's Rothrock Mainstage in Middlebury on Friday, July 24.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

E

By **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

Earlier this summer, Middlebury's Town Hall Theater Director Doug Anderson welcomed a group of shy local teenagers to their first day of auditions for the Young Company's musical: "1776." His direction to them: "Start yelling insults at each other!"

"Suddenly," Anderson's eyebrows raised during a rehearsal last week, "we were all yelling insults at each other."

It worked! The 20-member cast of teens quickly showed their mettle — just what Anderson was looking for. "That is the energy of this piece," he said.

To honor the 250th anniversary of American

Independence, Anderson chose "1776 the Musical" — a Tony Award-winning hit from 1969. The musical focuses on the struggle of the Continental Congress to produce the Declaration of Independence. Characters include Thomas Jefferson (played by Beowulf Yarbrough of Ferrisburgh), Benjamin Franklin (played by Noa Tzuriel of Bristol) and John Adams (played by Adelynn Leonard of Middlebury).

"I thought this particular production would be interesting to be in because it teaches about a time in history that we don't learn a lot about in school," said Yarbrough, a rising ninth-grader who's participated in Town Hall Theater's "Christmas Carol" for three years.

"My character, Thomas Jefferson, surprised me," Yarbrough added. "I assume it might have

been played up a little bit, but I wasn't aware that he just kind of really wanted to go home to his wife. Most of the time, I kind of had to be pressured into writing the declaration.... But in the history books, I feel like [Jefferson's] a larger figure who is more involved. The play definitely shows more sides to his character."

The show is notable for its historical accuracy, using historical facts and even quotes from actual letters between John and Abigail Adams.

"We have a vision of them [the Founding Fathers] being very prim and formal," said brother Elke Yarbrough, who plays John Dickinson, a Pennsylvania delegate. "It's really interesting to see how actually unruly it was a lot of the time. It surprised me a little bit; I

See 1776 on page 3

41st Middlebury College Carillon Concert Series begins July 24

Summer has arrived in Middlebury, and soon the college campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells as the annual free Middlebury College Summer Carillon Series kicks off. The series begins on Friday, July 24 and continues each Friday evening at 6 p.m. through Aug. 21. The first two weeks (July 24 and 31) are a family affair, as series veterans Elena Sadina and Sergei Gratchev and their sons Nikita and Daniel Gratchev climb up to Middlebury Chapel's tall bell tower together to perform.

Each summer, musicians from around the world come to town to perform in Middlebury. The series, now in its 41st year, has been directed since its inception by George Matthew Jr., Carillonneur for both Middlebury College and Norwich University. George has taught generations of students the art of the carillon, including series regular Charles Semowich, who will perform this summer's final concert (Aug. 21). The programs will include music that runs the gamut from classical and international folk songs to pop and Broadway favorites.

All Carillon Series concerts are free and open to the public and can be enjoyed on the chapel steps or on the surrounding lawn. Audiences are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Picnics are optional.

What is a carillon?

A carillon is a musical instrument whose sound is produced by at least 23 cast bronze,

cup-shaped bells. The carillonneur plays by striking a keyboard of wooden batons and foot pedals connected by wires to the bells.

The Middlebury Carillon is housed in the Middlebury Chapel tower, which is a 75-step climb ending in a rustic ladder to reach the belfry — a challenge for intrepid musicians. It was established initially as a chime of eleven bells in 1918 as a gift from the Mead family. (A chime is a similar instrument made up of fewer than 23 bells.) In 1985 the instrument was enlarged to a full carillon containing 48 bells as a gift from then Chairman of the Board of Trustees Allan Dragone '50 and his wife Jane Dragone. The summer series began in 1986 and has continued ever since.

2026 Carillon Summer Series Schedule

- July 24, at 6 p.m.** — Elena Sadina, Sergei Gratchev, and family
- July 31, at 6 p.m.** — Nikita and Daniel Gratchev, and family
- Aug. 7, at 6 p.m.** — George Matthew Jr. Carillonneur, Middlebury College and Norwich University (Language Schools Commencement celebration)
- Aug. 14, at 6 p.m.** — Joseph Min, winner of the 2024 Queen Fabiola International Carillon Competition
- Aug. 21, at 6 p.m.** — Charles Semowich, Carillonneur Emeritus, Riverside Church, NYC



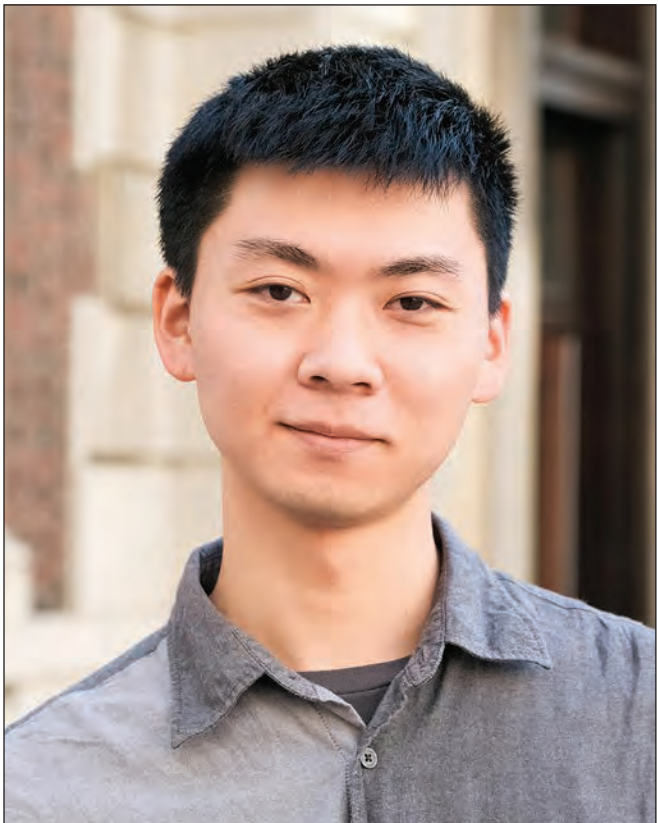
ELENA SADINA AND SERGEI GRACHEV

Performers Elena Sadina, Sergei Gratchev, George Matthew Jr., Joseph Min, and Charles Semowich will play for Middlebury's Carillon Series this summer at the Middlebury Chapel. Friday evening performances will begin on July 24 and continue through Aug. 21. Free and open to all.

COURTESY PHOTOS



CHARLES SEMOWICH



JOSEPH MIN



GEORGE MATTHEW JR.

1776*continued from page 1*

didn't expect it to be so violent and rowdy a lot of the time — it's pretty fun."

"If there's a villain in this piece, it's you!" Anderson pointed out.

"None of the characters in this musical really want to be here," added youngest brother Emrys Yarbrough. "They've been there for like a year, it's hot, there are flies, they're arguing, they're not always on topic... it's pretty miserable."

Sheesh. No wonder Tzuriel was a little hesitant coming into this play.

"I wondered, is this play going to be like a boring show, where we sit around and talk about politics set in the 1700s?" Tzuriel said half-joking. "But I did it anyway, because I have so much faith in Town Hall Theater productions and it has turned out to be not as boring as I thought it would be."

Maybe just the opposite, in fact.

"The show is quite funny, and the music is really wonderful, but it's also a great history lesson," Anderson said in earnest. "We forget that the 13 states weren't particularly fond of each other."

The delegates argued over such controversial subjects as slavery, and even whether to come together as one country.

"This play touches on slavery, which I feel like is really getting out of schools," added Iris Bassett of New Haven, who plays Dr. Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire. "I'm so glad we don't censor that here because people really need to learn more about it — it feels like a fleeting topic."

"I play a character who is really pro-slavery," said Autumn Spitzer of Middlebury, who plays South Carolina's Edward Rutledge. "It's really interesting because slavery was really important to them, and when it came to the Declaration of Independence that was a really big thing."

"I think it's a common misconception that slavery wasn't a really large issue until the Civil War, which is obviously not true, as this play shows," added Beowulf Yarbrough.

"I'll just point out that probably every character here owned a slave," Bassett noted. "For example, Thomas Jefferson."

Dialogue heats up at every turn in this show, and these actors are ready to engage.

"The way that Congress has come together



Pictured, top left to bottom right, are Emrys Yarbrough, Noa Tzuriel, Iris Bassett, Beowulf Yarbrough and Adelynn Leonard. These fledgling actors shared comments last week during the Young Company's rehearsal for "1776 the Musical." The Addison County teens will perform shows on Friday, July 24; Saturday, July 25; and Sunday, July 26.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

since day one — the dynamic is so interesting — it pulls me in as an actor and makes me want to give more energy or be more violent," exclaimed Leonard. "It's such an amazing atmosphere. The energy in this show is really something to look forward to."

"I love the chance I get every summer to work with teens," Anderson noted. "The energy and fun they bring to the stage is absolutely contagious."

"Musicals are a lot of fun," Anderson continued. "This is the first time we're doing something that's actually important. I didn't know how the cast would react to that — you know, this isn't just song and dance and jazz hands... this is about important things that still affect us today. This cast is getting the fury of these people, the strength of these people and the desperation of these people."

The full cast of this year's production includes Iris Bassett, Jonathan Carpenter, Asa Davis, Piper Donlon, Flora Finch, Newt Finch, Caroline Gates, Mary Landwehr, Adelynn Leonard, Mia Miranda Ngaiza, Autumn Spritzer, Layla Swepston, Noa Tzuriel, Aurelia Urban, Sima Woll, Beowulf Yarbrough, Elke Yarbrough and Emrys Yarbrough. Jen Allred is musical director, Mary Longey is production stage manager, and Doug Anderson is directing.

"1776" will run on the Rothrock Main State at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Friday, July 24, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, July 25, and Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$10-\$25 and are available at townhalltheater.org or by calling 802-382-9222.



An evening of chamber music to benefit the Point CounterPoint Foundation

Featuring acclaimed pianist Diana Fanning performing with Point CounterPoint music faculty, in support of the legacy of this precious local institution.

Thursday, July 23

Town Hall Theater, Middlebury

Contact Town Hall Theater for tickets.

And join us for these free Chamber Music concerts featuring the Point CounterPoint Summer faculty:

July 31: Salisbury Congregational Church

Aug. 14: Salisbury Congregational Church

Aug. 27: Salisbury Congregational Church

Sep 5: CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

POINTCP.COM

UPCOMING

MUSIC

Fanning performs benefit concert for Point CounterPoint

Pianist Diana Fanning will perform with Point CounterPoint music faculty, in a benefit concert to support the Point CounterPoint Foundation on Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m., on the historic Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

Fanning, an internationally celebrated pianist from Middlebury, and the Point CounterPoint faculty will perform a program that features:

Manuel de Falla's "Suite Populaire Espagnole" (performed by Fanning and Ari Streisfeld)

Lutosławski's "String Quartet" (performed by Streisfeld, Holly Workman, Samuel Kelder, and Jennifer Carpenter)

Lili Boulanger's "Trois Morceaux" (performed by Fanning solo)

Ravel's "Piano Trio" (performed by David Shimoni, Johnna Wu, and Julia Henderson)

Tickets for this benefit concert are \$75 (which makes a \$50 gift) and \$125 (which makes a \$100 gift), and are available at townhalltheater.

org. General admission seating. The donations are tax-deductible and benefit the Point CounterPoint Foundation.

More about the Point CounterPoint Foundation

Point CounterPoint is a chamber music summer camp for young musicians on Lake Dunmore. For more than 60 years, it has combined serious musical study with traditional summer camp life — serving more than 5,000 musicians.

In the words of a camper: "At PCP, we find ourselves in an equally real, very important world in which we seek and create beauty. I continue to attend each summer because I leave renewed and strengthened from spending time in a community that celebrates working together with shared love and passion in the service of beauty."

For a decade during the 1980s, local musicians Emory and Diana Fanning (yes the same Diana Fanning who will be performing) owned Point CounterPoint (PCP), growing the camp both stateside and internationally,

See MUSIC on page 12



Middlebury pianist Diana Fanning will perform a benefit concert for the Point CounterPoint Foundation on Thursday, July 23, at Town Hall Theater. Then she'll continue on to perform with the Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival in Randolph, Aug. 3-8.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

More Music

Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival hosts Diana Fanning too

Diana Fanning will continue her performances through the summer and into the fall.

In early August, Fanning will perform at the Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival, now in its 34th year. With brilliant musicians from the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Fanning will collaborate on performances of a beautiful "Viola Sonata" by Brahms and a spectacular "Piano Quartet, Op. 61," by Polish composer Ladislav Zelenka.

Here's the line up for the Central Vermont Chamber Music Festival:

Performances by Diana Fanning with violinist Michael Roth, violist Arturo Delmoni, and cellist Peter Sanders

Aug. 3, at 1 p.m. — Strode Independent Living at Morgan Orchards, Randolph Center

Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. — Open Rehearsal, Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph

Aug. 7, at 11 a.m. — CVCMF live with Walter Parker on Vermont Public Classical Radio

Aug. 8, at 7:30 p.m. — Concert of works by Brahms, Grieg, Zelenka at Chandler Arts Center, Randolph

For tickets call 802-728-9878 or visit chandler-arts.org.



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ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon. For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

Artist of the Month: Judy Albright. Albright is a pastel painter whose work focuses on still life, interiors and landscape. 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.

"Near Enough to Dream" brings together the work of Weybridge's Victoria Blewer and Main's Dietlind Vander Schaaf, two artists whose practices move between observation and recollection. Though working in distinct mediums, both create images that resist straightforward description, inviting viewers into spaces where memory, atmosphere, and emotion become inseparable. On view July 11-Sept. 6.

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



ARIES: March 21/April 20. How you respond to a situation matters more than how quickly you react, Aries. Interactions with others will feel more charged than expected, but will be effective.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, slow down so you can see what actually matters right now. You may feel slightly off if you move too quickly; give yourself time to respond to those seeking your help.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. You may want to say yes to something quickly, Gemini, without giving it ample time for consideration. Do not jump into things without careful reflection. It's hard to backtrack.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. What you prioritize this week will shape how stable you feel, Cancer. Focus on those things that matter to you the most and give them your full attention.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, when your messages are clear and direct, others will understand you more easily and this will keep discussions moving forward. Clarity comes from simplicity.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This week you may feel a pull between staying comfortable and going deeper into something that has been on your mind, Virgo. When you stay grounded, your decisions will be easier.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Tell others what you need without conforming to what you think they want you to be, Libra. You may feel pulled between your needs and theirs. Stay clear about what works for you.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Set clear boundaries around your time this week, Scorpio. Your work will be consistent and controlled. This is how to find success.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, plans will move better this week when you keep them simple and flexible. Progress will build when you have a clear and manageable plan.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. It is important to be direct with others about your limits, Capricorn. Identifying what you are willing to do and what you are not can help you and others to achieve your collective goals.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. A shift in your perspective this week helps everything make more sense to you, Aquarius. You may feel tension, but take a moment to think before responding to others.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. You may be pulled to either avoid a topic or resolve it quickly, Pisces. Progress builds when you stay present and define what's actually beneficial.

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JULY 17 — Brett Goldstein, actor (46)
JULY 18 — Nelson Mandela, activist, President of South Africa (d)
JULY 19 — Benedict Cumberbatch, actor (50)
JULY 20 — Sandra Oh, actor (55)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 21 — Robin Williams, actor (d)
JULY 22 — Emma Lazarus, poet (d)
JULY 23 — Alison Krauss, musician (55)

CALENDAR

July 16 – Aug. 7

2026

THURSDAY, JULY 16

"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 Strohl, and others, the program explores landscapes of memory, longing and imagination. \$15-\$35.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 16, noon-10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by top-notch musicians. Perfect for family picnics and relaxed viewing. Robinson Crusoe & Zoé Liberté perform at noon; The Mammals play at 7 p.m.; Slap Dragon plays at 8:30 p.m. 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 and 7-10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by the best musicians. Perfect for family picnics and relaxed viewing. Circus Minimus performs at noon; Brett Hughes and the Honky-Tonk Crowd plays at 7 p.m. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

MARITIME MUSEUM SUMMER PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. 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 lcmm.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.

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 ft. 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

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE

CLUB RIDE, MUP #2 IN CHARLOTTE. Saturday, July 18, 9:15 a.m., Charlotte Central School. 20 miles of scenic and farm country back roads in the Charlotte and Hinesburg area. MUP is mostly unpaved. Register and see details: thegmbc.com/events.

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN STREET DANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 18, 7-10 p.m., Town green. Award-winning music festival featuring six days of performances by local musicians. The Festival's annual capstone event, the Street Dance, features the Vermont Jazz Ensemble & Scarlett Annie. Free. See lineup and schedule at festivalonthegreen.org.

SAMANTHA ANGSTMAN IN CONCERT IN SALISBURY. Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church. Pianist Samantha Angstman makes her Otter Creek Music Festival debut with works by American composers of the early to mid-20th century. \$15-\$35.

SILENT FILM SCREENING OF "THE BLACK PIRATE" IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 18, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr., the granddaddy of pirate films. An athletic young aristocrat seeks revenge by joining the pirate band

responsible for his father's death. Jeff Rapsis provides live music. Free; donations welcome.

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.

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 a bit and return through Hinesburg area. Ride lengths include 23, 26 and 43-mile options. Register and see details: 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

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- FotG Replay! - Weeknights - 7PM
- ACSD Special Board Meeting - 7/20 - 6PM
- All Things LGBTQ - 07/08 - 5PM
- MCTV Late Night Lofi - All Night - 10PM
- Democracy Now! - Weekdays - 8AM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent
middleburycommunitytv.org

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. With rich vocals, tight guitar work, and a knack for engaging an audience, Steven brings both heart and energy to every performance. 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 & Sarah La Puerta. The artists will show selections of their work alongside new illuminations, decorated texts and drawings made with traditional calligraphic materials. Free.

MONDAY, JULY 20

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, July 20, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

MUSIC AT THE RIVERBEND: THE YURTBAGS IN BRANDON. Wednesday, July 22, 6 p.m., Riverbend, Central Park. The Yurtbags perform funky, groovy and jazzy tunes in this free weekly community concert. Rain location Brandon Town Hall. Free.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: BEG STEAL OR BORROW IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 22, 6-8 p.m., Tilleran, 1868 Rt 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PARK. Wednesday, July

22, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts each Wednesday through Aug. 26 the Town Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. We welcome new members. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

THURSDAY, JULY 23

"WALLPAPER REVEALED: THE ARTISTRY OF WALLPAPER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 23, 12:30-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. A presentation on the artisanship that goes into making wallpaper, reframing how we think of it as purely decorative to a more specialized art form. From pigments that caused sickness, 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.

PIZZA BY THE POND: SWING NOIRE PLAYS LIVE IN GOSHEN. Thursday, July 23, 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. Swing Noire brings the energy of a swingin' jazz club with their unique take on hot swing. Pizza starts at 5, music at 6 p.m. BYOB. Local ice cream and Blueberry Hill cookies also available. Well-behaved leashed dogs welcome. \$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7-11; free for kids 6 and under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.

SCOTTISH MUSIC SESSION IN STARKSBORO. Thursday, July 23, 7:30 p.m., Common Ground Center. The nonprofit school for Scottish smallpiping known as C  irdeas invites the public to listen to a session. Hear instructors from Scotland, France and the U.S. with students playing popular Scottish and Breton tunes. For more info visit cairdeas.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

CARILLON CONCERT SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 24, 6 p.m., Middlebury

Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. The Carillon Concert Series features beautiful concerts from Middlebury Chapel's bell tower. The melodic sounds of the carillon bells will ring out across the campus. Performer: Sergei Gratchev, Elena Sadina and family. Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, July 24, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by The Horse Traders, food from Cravens and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

"1776: THE MUSICAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 24, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Town Hall Theater Young Company performs the Tony Award-winning hit from 1969, which focuses on the struggle of the Continental Congress to produce the Declaration of Independence. The show is notable for its accuracy, using historical facts and even quotes from actual letters between John and Abigail Adams. \$10-\$25. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

"1776: THE MUSICAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 25, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Town Hall Theater Young Company performs the Tony Award-winning hit. See July 24 listing for more.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

"1776: THE MUSICAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July

26, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Town Hall Theater Young Company performs the Tony Award-winning hit. See July 24 listing for more.

MONDAY, JULY 27

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, July 27, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

MUSIC AT THE RIVERBEND: ENERJAZZ IN BRANDON. Wednesday, July 29, 6 p.m., Riverbend, Central Park. Vermont's high-energy big band takes the stage for Brandon's summer concert series. Rain location Brandon Town Hall. Free.

HIT & SIP WOMEN'S GOLF CLINIC 2026 IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 29, 6-7 p.m., Driving range at Ralph Myhre Golf Course. Women are invited to dive into the world of golf in a relaxed and friendly environment. Enjoy hitting golf balls while sipping on wine or lemonade and enjoying snacks. A PGA Professional will provide guidance tailored to your experience level, from complete beginners to seasoned golfers. \$30. For more info visit bit.ly/4f1Lsvg.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: BRETT HUGHES & THE HONKY TONK CROWD IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 29, 6-8 p.m., Tilleran, 1868 Rt 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative

cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PARK. Wednesday, July 29, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its weekly evening concerts each Wednesday. 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.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

CARILLON CONCERT SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 31, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. The Carillon Concert Series features beautiful concerts from Middlebury Chapel's bell tower. The melodic sounds of the carillon bells will ring out across the campus. Performer: Nikita and Daniel Gratchev, and family. Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, July 31, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Duncan Macleod Trio, food from Monti Verdi Salumi and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

See *CALENDAR* on page 8

DO YOU LOVE ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS?

Be sure to check out the Addison County Maple Sugarmakers **Coloring Contest** on the back of B-section!

You could win some sweet prizes!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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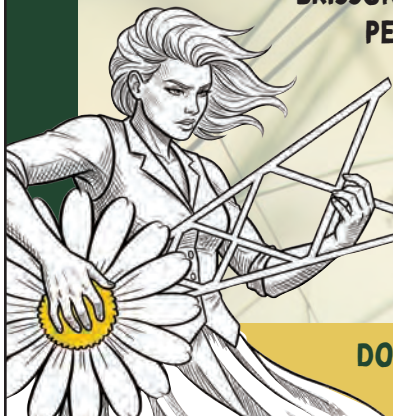

**JULY 26:
REMEMBER BAKER**

**AUG 16:
BRISSON BOSS &
PELLETIER**

**SEPT 13:
SWING
NOIRE**

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CALENDAR

continued from page 7

MONDAY, AUG. 3

**VERGENNES CITY BAND
CONCERT IN VERGENNES.**
Monday, Aug. 3, 7-8 p.m., City
green. Relax on the green
and listen to some great free
summer music.

TUESDAY, AUG. 4

**ADDISON COUNTY FAIR &
FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.**
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1790 Field
Days Road. Bringing together
the very best of Vermont's
agricultural traditions. Five
days of family fun, featuring
livestock shows, 4-H exhibits,
horse events, farm products
and demonstrations,
antique tractors,
motorsports, carnival rides,
live entertainment, and
classic fair food. Weekday
admission: \$15; Saturday
admission \$20; Kids ages
6-11: \$5; Kids 5 and under:
free. Season passes
available.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5

**MUSIC AT THE RIVERBEND:
OTTER CREEK IN BRANDON.**
Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6 p.m.,
Riverbend, Central Park.
Burlington-based bluegrass
band Otter Creek performs
weekly summer concert
series. Rain location Brandon

Town Hall. Free.

**MUSIC AT THE RIVERBEND:
OTTER CREEK IN BRANDON.**
Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6 p.m.,
Riverbend, Central Park.
Burlington-based bluegrass
band Otter Creek performs
in Brandon's weekly summer
concert series. Rain location
Brandon Town Hall. Free.

**SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: THE
SHADY TREES IN BRISTOL.**
Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6-8 p.m.,
Tillerman, 1868 Rt 116 Road,
Bristol. Enjoy live music and
tacos, creative cocktails
and mocktails, snacks, and
paletas. You are welcome
to bring your own blankets
& chairs for the lawn. We
also set up some tables and
chairs. For more info visit
thetillermanvt.com/live-
music.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6

**PIZZA BY THE POND:
FOOTWORKS PLAYS LIVE
IN GOSHEN.** Thursday, Aug.
6, 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.
Footworks brings powerful
rhythms and red-hot fiddling
inspired by the Celtic music
of Cape Breton. Pizza
starts at 5, music at 6 p.m.
BYOB. Local ice cream and
Blueberry Hill cookies also
available. Well-behaved
leashed dogs welcome.
\$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7-11;
free for kids 6 and under.

Reservations open the
Saturday before and are
strongly suggested.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7

**CARILLON CONCERT SERIES
IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Aug.
7, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel,
75 Hepburn Rd. The Carillon
Concert Series features
beautiful concerts from
Middlebury Chapel's bell
tower. The melodic sounds
of the carillon bells will ring
out across the campus.
Performer: George Matthew
Jr. Carillonneur, Middlebury
College and Norwich
University. Free.

**FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN
NEW HAVEN.** Friday, Aug.
7, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak
Vineyard, 142 River Road.
Enjoy live music by Blues
Without Borders, food
from Monti Verdi Salumi
and Vermont wines. Bring
a blanket and relax at the
vineyard. Free.

**STUDENT OPERA:
MOZART'S "DIE GÄRTNERIN
AUS LIEBE" IN MIDDLEBURY.**
Friday, Aug. 7, 8:30-10:30
p.m., Mahaney Arts Center
Seeler Studio Theatre, 72
Porter Field Rd. The German
translation of "La Finta
Giardiniera" presented by the
German for Singers program
at Middlebury College.
All Language Schools
students agree to abide
by a formal commitment
to speak, listen, read and
write German as the only
means of communication for
the entire summer session.
Middlebury appreciates
your cooperation by keeping
English conversations to a
low volume and away from
students.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN
CLUB HIKE & YOGA IN
STOWE PINNACLE AND
WATERBURY.** Friday, Aug.
7. Challenging and then
relaxing! Hike up Stowe
Pinnacle and then take a
therapeutic yoga class with
a focus on feet/calves at
the GMC visitor center. Dog
friendly, as there will be a
therapy dog on the hike
and attending the yoga
class. Limited to 10 people.
Contact Samara Anderson at
Anderson_samara@yahoo.
com with any questions
or for more information.
Participants must
register at: buytickets.at/
greenmountainclub/2221710.
For more info visit
gmcbreadloaf.org.

A

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Submissions due Sundays at 5 p.m.

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SEE
WHAT'S
HAPPEING

PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

- 1. Tire pressure measurement
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 13. Cloths spread over a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. We all take them
- 21. Earl's jurisdiction
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Rummy-like card game
- 25. Affected by injury

- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Withdrew from a union
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Something you can take
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 47. Makes somber
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. A tool to inject
- 55. Support
- 56. Informal term for money
- 57. Catch doing

something wrong

- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. High resolution microscope
- 64. Pitching statistic
- 65. Attempt

DOWN

- 1. Indoor plant
- 2. Marketable
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Irish hip-hop trio

- 7. Ageless
- 8. Course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV channel
- 14. They __
- 17. Cooking material
- 18. Investment account
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river
- 27. Small coin (French)
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Unhappy
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Item to be addressed
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. A place for ships
- 44. One who sings holiday songs
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Scottish town
- 49. The most worthless parts
- 51. Sticky
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Precursor to the EU
- 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

		2				3		7
3								
	1					2	8	
		7		2				
9		4	3					5
6	8	3			9			
			2		1	6		9
	7							
				6	8		7	

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

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Spotlight @ Sparrow

Tamara Sullivan

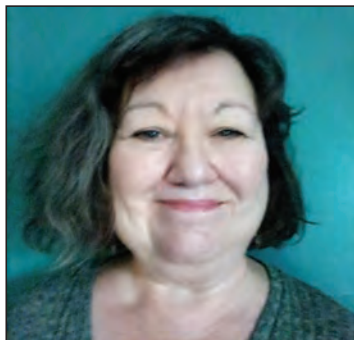
gouache & acrylic

Small details from the natural world,
gathered through quiet observation.

On view thru July 31

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

HOW TO USE GROWDCOVERS AS LIVING MULCH



Deborah Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener who volunteers as a garden columnist and participates in Bennington County Extension Master Gardener Chapter activities.

You may already be familiar with the benefits of mulch. Its application helps suppress weeds, conserves soil moisture, and helps regulate soil temperature. It can also help with erosion control by keeping topsoil in place.

Did you know that plants can act as a living mulch?

By **DEBORAH J. BENOIT** A "groundcover" plant is typically a hardy

perennial that's low maintenance, low growing, and will spread to form a dense carpet over bare ground. A groundcover's roots help keep soil in place, particularly on hillsides where bark or other types of mulch might wash away in a heavy rain. The shade provided by a groundcover's foliage can help regulate soil temperature and retain moisture.

In addition to providing the benefits of a traditional mulch, groundcovers can help keep weed seeds from reaching the soil, preventing germination. Flowering groundcovers provide nectar for bees and other pollinators. Their foliage may provide a home and food for beneficial insects. Those that fruit may attract birds to the garden.

If you like the look of neatly cropped grass but have trouble with the logistics of mowing on a hillside, consider Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*). While not meant for heavy foot traffic, at only 2 to 4 inches in height, it offers a carpet of green year-round. In spring, moss phlox produces a dramatic display of white, pink or blue flowers. Hardy in United States Department of

Agriculture Hardiness Zones 3 to 9, a single plant will spread about 24 inches and can be propagated by division or by rooting stem cuttings. It's at home in borders, on hillsides, and in rock gardens. It grows best in full sun.

The American cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) has a low-growth habit of only 4 to 6 inches in height. It is hardy in Zones 3 to 7, its evergreen foliage can serve as a groundcover in sunny areas, and its fruit is edible.

Coral bells (*Heuchera*) add color to areas of part sun to full shade. Hardy in Zones 4 to 9, the scalloped foliage of these evergreen, mounding plants is the star. Varieties are available in shades ranging from deep purple to red, burgundy, peach, and even vibrant lime green. In late spring or early summer, it produces small flowers that attract hummingbirds.

Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) is hardy in Zones 3 to 8, depending on the variety. It forms 12-inch-high mounds of scalloped leaves that will turn brown as temperatures

See GARDEN on page 11

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Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) can be used as a living mulch on hillsides, rock gardens and other landscapes. It offers a carpet of green year-round.

GARDEN

continued from page 10

drop in the fall. New growth appears in early spring. In summer, lady's mantle is covered in waves of yellow flowers.

Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium niponicum*) and other ferns are deer resistant and at home in full shade. Ferns are generally hardy in Zones 3 to 8. Mature size and whether foliage remains evergreen or dies back in fall depends on the variety.

Groundcovers are often a mass planting of a single type of plant. However, it can be more visually interesting, for example, to use a variety of ferns or a combination of hosta, coral bells, and lady's mantle on a shady slope.

When selecting a groundcover plant, be sure to take into consideration its mature size. Space plants accordingly, using a traditional mulch between plants until they mature and fill in the area between them.

Once you've decided to use groundcover plants in your garden, the most difficult question you'll need to answer is: which one?



The foliage of lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) collect droplets of rainwater or dew, adding a whimsical touch to the garden.

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.

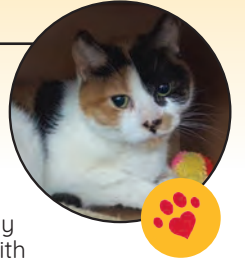


Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Josie



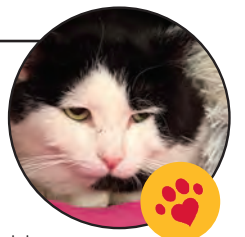
Josie is a quiet calico lady with a cute curly ear who absolutely loves chicken Churu and forehead rubs. She came from a loving home where she got along well with a kitty friend, but was very nervous around family and visitors and tended to hide. She reportedly enjoyed playing and napping together with the other cat in the house. The best family for her would be patient and low-energy, and willing to meet her where she is as she grows comfortable in a new home. She may do well with a cat that respects her boundaries, too. Josie doesn't have any known experience around dogs or small kids

Sam



Sam is available through our Working Cat Program; please call Lauren at 802-388-1100 option 3 to learn more about him if you are looking for a great hunter for your business or property!

Zeke



Zeke is a sensitive 10-year-old who is looking to find a home that matches his easygoing and peaceful nature. He has lived with other cats in the past, has done well with some and has been scared of others. If possible, a home where he could be a solo cat or live with another gentle and calm cat would probably make him the most comfortable. He will most likely be shy when you visit him at the shelter, but don't let that scare you off. Shy cats deserve loving homes too!

Bailey



Bailey is a sweet, loyal girl who loves being with her people. She enjoys hikes, swimming, car rides, playing tug with her toys, and relaxing outdoors. She knows several commands, including sit, down, paw, and a very cute half roll over! Bailey has lived with cats, chickens, and children. She's made friends with dogs at doggie daycare and at the dog park but can be a little cautious around unfamiliar dogs, so slow introductions are best. Bailey is a typical guardian-type dog—devoted to her family, alert, and vocal. She walks well on a leash but has a strong love for chasing squirrels, so she'll need to stay leashed or enjoy a securely fenced yard.

George



Meet **George**, a handsome 1-year-old black and tan mixed breed with a nose for adventure! This friendly, affectionate pup is full of energy and is always sniffing out the next fun thing to do. At 47 pounds, George is the perfect medium-sized companion who's ready to wiggle his way right into your heart. George came to Homeward Bound as a stray, so we don't have any prior history of him. He gets along with the dogs here at the shelter, but we're unsure of what he's like with cats or children.

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@lcmm.org or 802-475-2022.

"Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain." Combining archaeological research, shipwrecks, original artifacts, and first-person accounts, visitors can reflect on the events of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain, including the Battle of Lake Champlain, and the impact it had on people from multiple perspectives. On view May through Oct. 18.

"Parley and Protocol, War and Peace." This exhibition by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association brings together historical documents, maps, and art with work by present-day American Abenaki artists, sharing Indigenous perspectives on the founding of the United States. On view June through Oct. 18.

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.

"Uncovering Wallpaper Design: 1800 – Present." The wallpaper in the Museum's collection tells the story of artistic process, globalization, and design tastes from the 1800s to present day. While wallpaper operates as a backdrop, bringing it to the forefront sheds light on the skill and process of creating these designs. Many the wallpapers on display are block printed. In a contemporary world where so much of production is now automated, these wallpapers invite viewers to slow down and consider the process, layers, and method on display in these prints. On view May 2-Nov. 7.

"Remembering the American Revolution."

This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory, attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacifism, rebellion or resistance. 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.

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have dedicated
coverage of the arts
scene in Addison
County.

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MUSIC

continued from page 4

creating the Salisbury Church Chamber Music Series, and establishing many of the camp traditions that remain popular today.

Forty years later, the Fannings are still very involved with Point CounterPoint, and Diana

serves on the Board of the Point CounterPoint Foundation, an organization created to ensure that PCP's mission and community continue to inspire generations to come.

Proceeds from this concert support the Point CounterPoint Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization established in 2024 to support the long-term future of Point CounterPoint. To learn more visit pointtcp.com/point-counterpoint-foundation.



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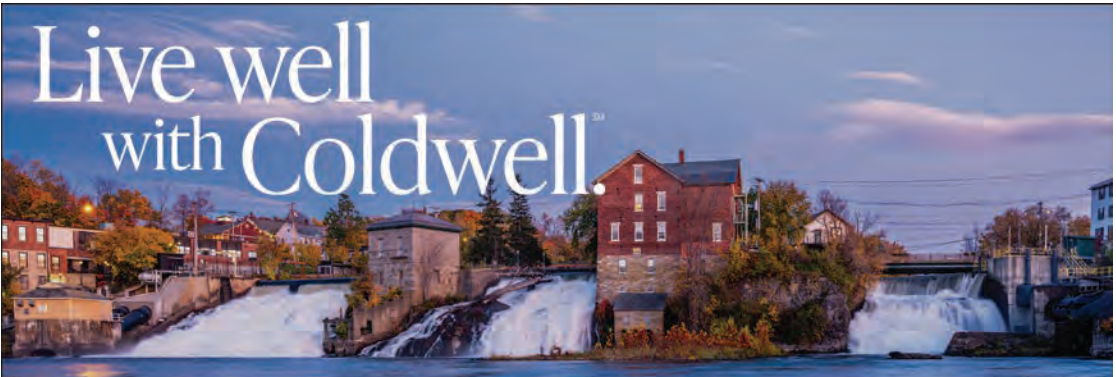
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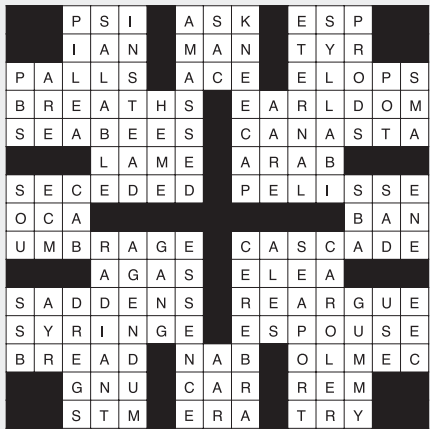
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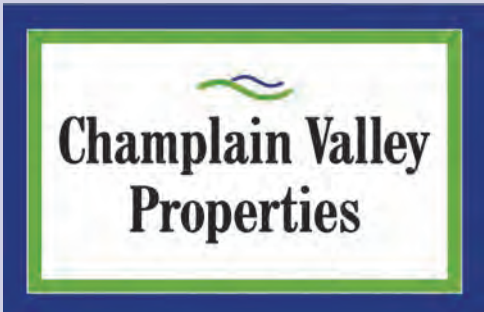
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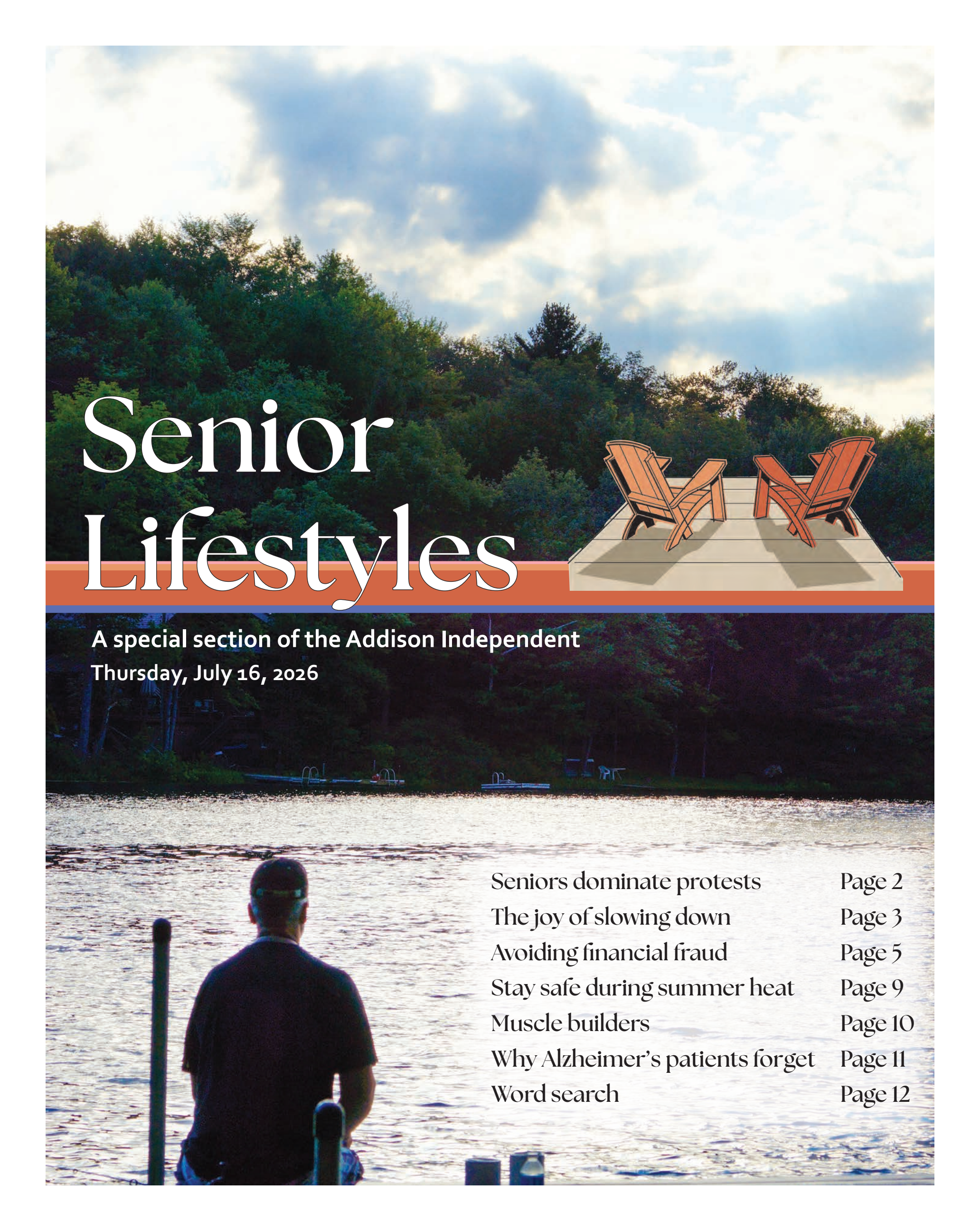
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Senior Lifestyles

A special section of the Addison Independent
Thursday, July 16, 2026

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“Where are the young people?” Seniors at helm of anti-Trump protests

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Sitting on the floor of a company associated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement surveillance, demonstrating in the name of democracy, was not what Revell Allen had imagined for how she would spend a day in her golden years.

Nevertheless, before walking through the doors of the White Cap business park building in Williston this past Feb. 9, she had decided the only way she’d leave her spot on the ground was if she was arrested.

The 76-year-old Middlebury resident was just one of 11 people — seven of them seniors — to be arrested that day. The demographics of that winter protest are a reflection of those of the broader anti-Trump movement, that has been defined on some level by the number of participants who can recall the carnage, loss and division of the Vietnam War-era.

Long before Allen, and her walker, were removed from the building, she was one of a group to form Indivisible Middlebury, a branch of the grassroots organization that has been at the forefront of nationwide protests against President Donald Trump and his administration.

When asked what made her want to help get the local chapter started at the end of 2024, just after Trump won re-election, Allen said, “Just ... total despair.”

“At Trump’s re-election that our country would, you know, elect a convicted felon who had tried to, who had incited an insurrection ... we knew it was only going to go from bad to worse as soon as he got in office, and we just felt we had to try to organize to do anything we could to counteract, even though there’s not a lot we can do.”

Allen’s list of concerns with the Trump Administration is not short.

What is worrying her?

“Everything,” she said.

Unsurprisingly, considering her hardcore approach to defying Trump’s ICE efforts in February, the current

president’s immigration agenda is especially concerning.

“Picking up people who are innocent, people who are citizens, or who have not committed any crimes, and throwing them in detention centers of all ages, pregnant women, little children, babies, separating families, putting them in detention centers where they are existing in inhumane conditions.”

While Allen can recall the days when the phrase “Make love, not war” sprang up, she feels her religious anti-Trump protesting was her first serious foray into the activity.

“When I was in college, I did some Vietnam War protesting and stuff, but you know, I felt like I didn’t

(See Protest, Page 4)



MIDDLEBURY SEPTUAGENARIAN REVELL Allen, in wheelchair, joins with other demonstrators to block the doors during a protest at ICE’s National Criminal Analysis and Targeting Center in Williston this past February. Many in her generation have found a strong voice for protest since President Trump was re-elected.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger



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The joy of slowing down

John Freidin recounts some busy years

By ELOISE CHRISTY

Sitting in his rocking chair, John Freidin is surrounded by the evidence of a long, fulfilling life spent collecting stories. There are paintings on the walls, books stacked on various shelves, and artwork of his own, created in recent years. Outside his kitchen window, birds come to rest on a feeder. A bright Baltimore oriole comes to perch, then orange flashing as it flits away.

It is the perfect place to stay and grow old in Vermont.

Freidin, 85, lives in Middlebury, past farmlands and grassy meadows, with a dramatic backdrop of the Green Mountains out his front door. He lives with his long-term partner, Kathryn Thompson, and their dog, Otis.

With his two sons, Abe and Luke, living in New York and Vermont, Freidin has the pleasure of enjoying time with his family frequently.

Although Freidin is now known as a local in Middlebury, he spent a good deal of his life experiencing many other places. Freidin was born in Mount Kisco, N.Y., in 1941, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse in the “commuting community.” Being Jewish in a place that

had mainly an Episcopalian population was not easy, he recalled.

“Even though I made dear friends, it was clear that we didn’t measure up,” Freidin said.

Despite the divide within the community, he was able to enjoy the place he lived, being someone who loves the countryside.

“It was rural,” he remembered. “We lived adjacent to the woods and I would get lost in them as a kid.”

After high school, Freidin lived in New York City for four years, where he earned a Columbia University degree in American history. He later earned his master’s in American Studies at Yale University. Freidin loved the city and considered himself a New Yorker, but the country life had always been beckoning him.

In 1968, Freidin moved to Vermont and started teaching at Middlebury College as a professor of American history.

“I stayed here for four years, by which time I realized that being a professor was not for me,” he said. “Then, I went on a bike ride.”

A BIKING BUSINESS

In 1972, Freidin went biking with some

(See Freidin, Page 8)

“My sons, they give me hope. They’re going to make the difference. But I am very empathetic to the challenges that most of them face.”

— John Freidin

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Protest

(Continued from Page 2)
really — I wasn't that up on the news and everything that was going on," she recalled.

"I just knew I was against war, but I didn't really know the whole history of everything in Vietnam, and I was sort of following along at that point, so this is much more stepping out and taking the lead, which is not my usual mode of operation."

Just over a year after dipping her toes in the protest pool, Allen found herself at the forefront of an anti-ICE protest that made state headlines.

"We didn't have anybody who was really actively resisting arrest when they came to arrest us. We pretty much went with them, and you know, I, for example, have braces that I wear for neuropathy when my foot's not in a cast, so I had a walker with everything, and you know,



SALISBURY'S HEIDI WILLIS, shown at last year's town meeting, considers herself much more active in protests as a 77-year-old than she was as a college student in the Kent State era.

Independent file photo/Steve James

the state police were really ... I was sitting on the floor, and they did not want to, you know, they were concerned about doing something that would hurt me or injure me, whatever. So, you know, it was, it was pretty amicable and low key."

The incident was amicable between police and protesters, and VT Digger reporting notes that nobody was forcibly removed in the incident.

Allen was comfortable being arrested for more than one reason.

"Partly my trust in the group that's organizing the whole thing, partly that ... my whole life I've lived in white privilege, and I feel like at this point it's time," she said.

Allen noted that the charges against her and other protesters from that demonstration were dropped.

"I'm not risking losing a job or anything. I'm retired, and (at) this point in my life I can afford to take greater risks, and it's time for me to step up. Other people have been stepping up for ages and ages."

'SIGNS OF FASCISM'

Like Allen, ICE activity is top of mind for another local senior who regularly participates in area anti-Trump protests, such as the weekly "Signs of Fascism" demonstration that has rolled out each week for roughly seven months in downtown Middlebury.

The 72-year-old woman requested anonymity "for my protection from Trump supporters," she said.

When asked how it made her feel that she was concerned enough for her safety to request anonymity she said, "It frustrates me."

"And just makes me sad that it's come to that."

While Allen said she feels the response she's been shown while protesting to be primarily positive, her anonymous compatriot has had a different experience during the "Signs of Fascism" demonstrations. She's seen significant negativity.

"They roll down their windows and we're standing there, and sometimes the traffic stops, and they'll just scream at us like, 'You're stupid,' you know, and 'effing this and effing that,'" she recalled.

"Kind of hurtful, but I don't react at all, which is really hard sometimes. I want to kind of scream back, 'Don't you see what they're doing to our country?'"

Though she was not one of the people to be arrested at the Williston business park, she has attended in the past to protest the operation, from outside the building.

"Before they started doing the intense protests, I was standing outside with a bunch of other people just outside, and there weren't any police present then, and we stayed outside the area, just on the road," she said.

"I didn't get involved with that, but several people with Indivisible did, so I was proud of them."

Just like Allen, this woman's participation in anti-Trump and anti-ICE protests is new territory, and not a role she previously considered she might find herself filling in her eighth decade of life.

"They're just so, so very scary times, and I felt I needed to get out there," she said. "And I thought that maybe possibly

(See Anti-Trump, Page 7)

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Fraud

(Continued from Page 5)

choosing one while in good health and full cognitive capacity. Although it's possible to revoke power of attorney at any time, once you are deemed to "lack capacity," you are unable to do so.

One important prevention against financial fraud for older adults, Duprey said, is making an informed decision about rights granted to power of attorney. In Vermont, there are optional specific authorities, like the ability to change beneficiaries that can be granted to a power of attorney. Duprey said these rights increase the risk of exploitation and recommends not granting them.

When choosing a power of attorney, Duprey said to consider two factors:

1. Who you can trust to manage your assets always in *your* best interest, not considering their own.
2. Who is good at managing money and staying organized. A trustworthy but unorganized person can still cause problems.

If financial fraud by a power of attorney is ever suspected, Duprey recommends immediately revoking their rights and calling the Attorney General's Office, law enforcement or Adult Protective Services if applicable.

Know your rights: Vt. laws protect against financial fraud

Under Title 33, Chapter 069 of Vermont statute, "vulnerable adults" are protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation, including financially. Vulnerable adults,

according to the Vermont Judiciary, are those over 18 who:

- Live in a care facility or psychiatric hospital/psychiatric unit
- Received assistance with personal care services for over a month/are eligible for Long-Term Medicaid waiver services
- Have a physical, mental, or developmental disability that impairs ability to independently take care of oneself, or
- Are unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Consequences for financially exploiting a vulnerable adult depend on the amount of assets involved. Over \$500 can result in up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Perpetrators are also placed on the Adult Abuse Registry. In FY25, 60 Vermonters were placed on the registry, compared to 44 in 2024 and 38 in 2023, according to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living Adult Protective Services Annual Report. 149 vulnerable adult exploitation cases were investigated by the state in 2025, with 30 resulting in a recommendation of substantiation, meaning there was sufficient evidence of exploitation.

On May 20, Gov. Phil Scott signed H.385 (Act 106) that protects vulnerable adults and victims of domestic abuse or human trafficking from long-lasting impacts of coerced debt. Coerced debt is incurred in someone else's name without their consent or knowledge because of abuse or exploitation, and manipulation

WHO TO CALL

Scams:

- Vermont Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program: 800-649-2424
- Financial Abuse Specialist Team Vermont (FAST): 802-765-2004
- Numbers for specific types of scams on CAP's website: ago.vermont.gov/cap/recover-scams
- Your financial institution(s) and law enforcement

Financial Exploitation/Abuse:

- Vermont Attorney General's office: 802-828-3171
- FAST: 802-765-2004
- Your financial institution(s) and law enforcement
- For suspected abuse, call Adult Protective Services at 800-564-1612

You can report a scam at ago.vermont.gov/cap/scam-prevention-through-awareness-and-education. Find information about applying for a Relief from Abuse for a vulnerable adult at www.vtcourts.gov/family/relief-abuse-neglect-or-exploitation-vulnerable-adult.

is used to prevent action from the victim. The bill also makes it possible for financial institutions to step in in cases of suspected financial fraud for vulnerable adults.

A NEW LAW

Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, said she was originally interested in Act 106 because of coerced debt's impact on youth, whose parents or guardians can incur debt in their name without knowledge or consent. Although Act 106 doesn't apply to them, McGill said she decided to co-sponsor this bill because of all the protections it provides, especially allowing banks to act on suspicious transactions. McGill said bankers often notice unusual transactions but have never had a mechanism to do anything about it.

"I think we'll see a lot of vulnerable adults who are going to be getting that person stepping in, helping them resolve the situation and not falling prey to the kind of scams out there that can really change a person's life," McGill said. "Especially for older Vermonters who are on fixed incomes, we see folks losing their entire life savings."

Instead of having to bring personal lawsuits for coerced debt, victims will now be able to tell their creditor their debt is coerced, and the creditor will immediately stop collection. An investigation will follow and if the state determines the debt is coerced, it will be transferred to the perpetrator, and the victim will be relieved.

"The old way of doing things was a lot of work and even when folks were able to see the process through, they were really not likely to ever see any true resolution in their life," McGill said, adding that she believes this new method will make it easier to seek

retribution for coerced debt. The bill will take effect in July 2028.

Scam prevention and education

Anyone can become a victim of scams, said Ilir Hasa, lead financial coach at Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, which is why the organization offers a free class called "Avoiding Scams and Financial Fraud."

The class is a one-hour Zoom session held quarterly but will be available on demand starting this fall on their website at cvoeo.org, Hasa said. It covers scam warning signs, methods scammers use, most common scams and the importance of taking time to verify before responding. Hasa said the class helps people make more informed decisions about their finances and encourages them to reflect before acting.

CVOEO also offers one-on-one financial coaching for people older than 18, and the organization has an office in Middlebury with financial coaches. If someone thinks they have been a victim of a scam, Hasa said to first call their financial institutions to report it and stop money from going to the scammer.

Below are numbers to call if financial fraud happens or you have questions. For loved ones scammed by romance or friend impersonators, it can be difficult to help them out of it. According to clinical psychologist Anca Ivu in a Bitdefender article, unmet social needs make it difficult for people to cut off impersonators. Ivu recommended a less judgmental approach when talking to someone you believe is in a romance scam. Instead of accusing them of being scammed, try to help them come to the realization by asking questions about the person's background and history.

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Anti-Trump

(Continued from Page 4)

we could, with our signs, make people driving by think about what and who they are supporting and trying to change it. I just feel it's really important."

Another Indivisible Middlebury regular also didn't get the itch to start protesting, and didn't envision it as a hallmark of her late 70s, until Trump's most recent term.

While Heidi Willis of Salisbury loosely participated in the Kent State protests while a student at the University of Vermont, she doesn't consider herself to have been nearly as engaged in protesting as she is today.

"I was concerned about it, but just not as active. Definitely concerned. I did other things in terms of civil rights things, but just not a lot of demonstrating."

More recently, she began participating in some environmental activism in the past 20 years.

"So it's not totally new, but on the other hand, I'm not strident, and I totally missed out on a lot of the civil rights stuff, because I was kind of clueless when I was younger."

In March 2025, shortly after Trump took office, she felt called to join the effort.

"It was probably semi out of desperation, like if you sat at home, you'd be crazy," Willis said.

She also had connections to those putting Indivisible Middlebury together.

"I had friends that were organizing it, and ... Trump hit the ground running in terms of his destruction and ... I was

frantic to try to find something that I could feel like I could push back a little bit," she said.

"So much of what has happened (has) just been so haphazard, no forethought, a completely different set of values around, you know, not oriented towards the rule of law, the Constitution, or the common good, but oriented towards imposing a very narrow set of beliefs and greed."

Now, Willis does facilitation for the team's outreach and visibility group. The 77-year-old's role is largely organizational, she noted.

"So just kind of keeping an eye out on the broad things, so that individual people can do their individual little jobs, and it's been really amazing, actually," Willis said.

"There's been some lemonade in this last year, as well as some pretty sour lemons."

YOUNG PEOPLE?

"Where are the young people?" Willis wondered.

"Do they realize what is happening to the country, and what their life is going to be like if they don't get active, and kind of, kind of prioritize this. Yes, you know, raising children, I know you've got soccer games and all this kind of thing, but this is kind of like, second civil war, and when the time came, people back there said this is important, I'm going to have to change my life, put aside some things, and give time to it."

The three women said they've all observed the same demographic trend throughout their anti-Trump protesting — those doing the day-to-day work tend to be seniors, and though the average age decreases during big events, there's

a lack of representation from younger generations.

Each had a slightly different take on why.

Allen theorized that it could be that seniors have more time on their hands, and added that the presence of Middlebury College students at a No Kings protest "was really wonderful."

"We made a good connection there. Unfortunately, for the No Kings Three, they were on break, so we are hoping to reestablish that connection with the Middlebury students when they're back in session, so that we can do more things with them."

The woman who requested anonymity said the lack of young people is a topic that local protesters have discussed.

"I guess we have more time. I know families, it's hard, but just to come out for an hour once a week. I really, I really wish more would see the need to do it. I, and I don't know how to get them involved. We've discussed it over and over, and with Indivisible, we encourage people to come, and sometimes there're younger people that will come, but then we don't see them participate a lot."

She said the youngest participant in the Signs of Fascism protest is roughly 60 years old.

"I don't know if they're fearful of it all or whether they just don't see how serious it is, because it's their lives. I mean, we're going to be gone. If this keeps like this, it's going to affect them a lot more than us."

She feels it's urgent to get younger people involved.

"The more that join us, the more that

we might turn people around, you know, there's more talk at home, family dinners," she said. "I just feel like it might help persuade some that are on the fence to come over to our side."

Willis said the reasons behind the lack of young people "can be a long philosophical conversation." Like the other two women, she noted the time element, and added that might compound with simultaneously "struggling with a lousy economy."

"Philosophically speaking, we've lived in a time that was relatively peaceful and stable since World War II, and that was put in place by the United Nations, and some important peace arrangements, and so forth, that were made, and the alliances that Trump has destroyed that were built up over that time, and so I think younger people have assumed that's the way it's always been," she said.

"And it's not."

"I think our generation, my parents' — my parents served in the armed forces during World War II, and I have friends that lost family in the Holocaust, and all that ... that's getting to be distant history, but we have the closest connection, probably to that, and the most perspective in terms of looking at what's happening, and understanding what's going on."

For these septuagenarians, standing up against the Trump Administration and its actions isn't something that can be left to one person, or even a few people.

"We all need to be doing this," Willis said.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is a participatory form of government, and you use it or you lose it."



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Freidin

(Continued from Page 3)

of his fellow Middlebury faculty members and got the idea that adults and families may like to bicycle in Vermont if they knew where to ride, had somebody come along to help them with mechanical problems, and had a nice inn to stay at.

“So I started a business called Vermont Bicycle Touring, known now as VBT,” he said. “It was the first adult bicycling vacation business in the country. I led trips for 14 years and then sold the business.”

The first bicycle trip Freidin ever led was in 1962 for American Youth Hostels. The only trips outside Vermont were in Sri Lanka, the Indian Ocean island nation he had visited many times and fell in love with.

Reminiscing on these times, Freidin recalled his favorite bike route to ride when he led these tours in Vermont.

“There was one seven-mile piece of riding,” he said. “It was way up in Franklin County on the Canadian border in the town of Montgomery. It involved a gradual climb ... then you get to the top of this hill and you just go swooping downhill, and you end by going through a covered bridge. I love that ride. It was glorious.”

His favorite route wasn’t simply about the ride, it was about the difficulty. When giving tours, Freidin would tell people about the “tire suckers” that slowed them as they were about to climb the hill, but it would eventually pay off with a beautiful winding descent.

Biking was such a big part of his life for

so many years, but as he got older, things changed. One of the things he regrets most is not continuing to bike to this day.

“One of the biggest mistakes of my life was about four years ago, when I stopped exercising,” Freidin said. “I got weak, and then it wasn’t fun to bicycle anymore.”

Although he does not bike anymore, he has other things that occupy his time these days. With experience in the state government, having served in the Vermont House from 1990 to 1998, Freidin now aids the local government.

“I’ve always wanted to do something that was gratifying and good for other people as well as myself,” he said. “I was not afraid of change, I was always hopeful about it. I am working on writing up some ideas for Amanda Janoo that she might use in her campaign to become the Democratic nominee for Vermont governor.”

STIMULATED MIND, BUSY BODY

Along with working and keeping his fingers in politics, Freidin was on the committee responsible for renovation of the Ilsley library building. In these last few years, he also wrote an unpublished book of his memories for his sons, titled “Lucky Man.” These things keep his mind stimulated and his body busy.

With all those memories written out from his life, there also comes the remembrance of history and how much his life and environment have changed since the 1940s. One specific time comes to mind, 1976, the

(See *Slowing down*, Page 9)



JOHN FREIDIN, 85, sits in his Middlebury home surrounded by memories of a life full of teaching, traveling and building Vermont Bike Touring while reflecting on what it means to grow older.

Independent photo/Eloise Christy



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Slowing down

(Continued from Page 8)

U.S. Bicentennial. This was a time when the Vietnam War was over, Jimmy Carter was on his way to the presidency, people were starting to think about recycling as well as conserving energy, Freidin recalled.

"When the 200th happened, I was involved with the VBT," he said. "I had been asked to design a way to carry bicycles on the train that ran through Vermont. I was so busy running my own business, I don't remember much. But it was a very different time. A time of hope and idealism."

Another remembrance of these times from years prior was the embroidered handkerchief Freidin used to dab at his nose every now and then during a recent interview.

As the country celebrates its 250th anniversary, times have changed and the world feels different from the one Freidin knew during the Bicentennial. Back then there was no social media or the internet. We had a lot more in common because of our national and limited sources of information. Now we are living in a time where hope has faded, idealism is parodied, and our democracy is under threat, Freidin believes.

"It's very hard for people to make a living," he said. "And we have a president who has no respect for our Constitution, our customs of democracy, and who has just demeaned these."

Despite the future of our country looking bleak in Freidin's eyes, the hope he sees lies in the younger generations. "Well, it's got to be the young people," he said. "My sons, they give me hope. They're going to make the difference. But I am very empathetic to the challenges that most of them face."

A lot of things have changed over the years for the worse, but there are also good things that have happened. Living in Vermont for over 50 years, Freidin has been privy to the benefits this state has for the health and well-being of its people.

"Vermont values are better than any other place I know in the U.S.," he said. "One of the nice things about living up here is that people tend to be more trustworthy of one another. More ... confident."

When asked what it was like to grow old in Vermont, Freidin laughed.

"Well, I haven't tried it anywhere else!" he said. "One of the things that is really special about Vermont is the scale. It

makes things easier. When you need help, it's easier to know where to look or how to find it. It's comforting to know people who have known you for a long time. It's generally a friendly and gentle state."

ROUTINES

Since Freidin has now been retired for some time, his days look very different from what they used to. The hustle and bustle of legislative, teaching and small business life that were constantly present for so many years have now been replaced with a more calming pastime.

"I tend to stay up late and sleep late," he explained. "I wake up and read some, then get up and have breakfast. I usually have stuff to do on my computer. Now it's something that's sort of political. I was writing my book before. I read. Maybe mow the lawn."

One of his favorite books, which he had read recently, is "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe.

A perk that Freidin found from a retired life is the joy of not having to be in a rush all the time. He doesn't have much to be guilty about, he explained. "Oh, I should have done that, or I was in such a rush I couldn't stop and talk to somebody when I ran into them on the street, or I thought I knew the answers when I should have known and I didn't," he said. "That's the biggest difference. I love not having to feel strained to get something done."

Now that he has more time to think, feel and talk, there are things that are important to remember when you're going through life, according to Freidin. One of them is companionship.

"Nothing will make more difference in your life than meeting and living with someone you love and get along with and talk with," he said. "Nothing else will help you when times are grim. Nothing else will be better to celebrate."

As Freidin stood looking at old photos of his sons and the copy of "Lucky Man" he had written for them, his second message after 85 years of living was simple.

"One of the most important things and our greatest responsibility is our children," he said. "There is nothing more important than that."

Living in a home that surrounds him with art, memories, and love, Freidin has achieved the aspects he believed to be most important in life.

Stay safe during summer heat

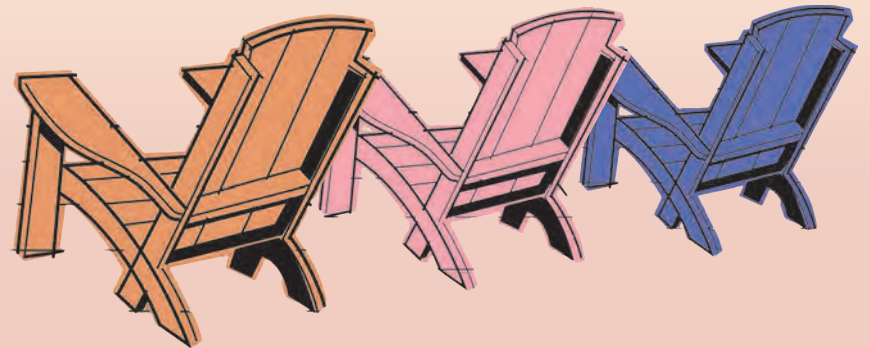
Hot weather can be especially dangerous for older adults and people with chronic health conditions.

AgeWell, a nonprofit organization and the designated Area Agency on Aging for Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties, offers a few simple precautions that older Vermonters can follow to help them stay healthy and safe this summer.

Remember to:

- Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Spend time in air-conditioned buildings or cooling sites.
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and seek shade whenever possible.
- Most importantly, check in on older friends, family members, and neighbors during periods of extreme heat.

Need a place to cool off? Find cooling sites and heat-relief resources by heading online to the website tinyurl.com/CoolOff2026.



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Muscle builders

Some seniors don't want to spend too much time in the rocking chair — they get up and rock their bodies with exercise. Pictured at the Bone Builders class at the Residence at Otter Creek last week are, clockwise from bottom left, Karen Hill, Annette Lynch and Suzanne DePree.

Shown in the inset is 70-year-old Jeff Schumann of Salisbury wrapping up the 10K running section of a Vermont Sun Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury on June 28. A regular competitor, he won his age group that day, and was 11th overall.

Photos by Steve James and Pat Hendrick Photography



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Why Alzheimer's patients forget family and friends

Research suggests new treatment approach could preserve your cherished memories

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — One of the most devastating moments for family members of a patient with Alzheimer's is when their loved one forgets who they are. New University of Virginia School of Medicine research may explain why that happens and could lead to a way to prevent it.

UVA's Harald Sontheimer, PhD, and graduate student Lata Chaunsali and their colleagues found that the failure to recognize family, friends and caregivers is caused by the breakdown of protective "nets" that surround neurons in the brain. Preventing the loss of these nets in lab mice protected the mice from losing their memories of previous social interactions.

The results offer an exciting target for the development of new treatments to benefit Alzheimer's patients, the researchers say.

"Finding a structural change that explains a specific memory loss in

Alzheimer's is very exciting," said Sontheimer, chair of UVA's Department of Neuroscience and member of the UVA Brain Institute. "It is a completely new target, and we already have suitable drug candidates in hand."

Alzheimer's affects 55 million people around the world, and that number is expected to grow by 35% in the next five years alone. In response, UVA has established the Harrison Family Translational Research Center in Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases as part of its Paul and Diane Manning Institute of Biotechnology. The institute aims to accelerate the development of new treatments and cures for some of the world's most challenging diseases, including Alzheimer's.

Sontheimer's new work sheds important light on the development of the disease. He and his team previously revealed the importance of what are called "perineuronal nets" in the

brain. These net-like structures surround nerve cells called neurons and perform a critical barrier

function that lets neurons communicate correctly. These communications allow the neurons to form and store new memories.

Based on those results, Sontheimer and his collaborators suspected that disruptions of the nets could be a critical turning point in Alzheimer's. Their latest work bears that out: The scientists found that lab mice that had faulty nets lost their ability to remember other mice — their "social memory" — even as they could still form new memories of objects in their environment. This mirrors what is seen in people with Alzheimer's, where social memory often fails before object memory.

Sontheimer and his team then used "MMP inhibitors" — a class of drugs already being investigated for their potential to treat cancer and arthritis — to see if they could prevent the loss of the perineuronal nets. It worked. The approach staved off the degradation of the nets and preserved the mice's social memory.

"In Alzheimer's disease, people have trouble remembering their family and friends due to the loss of a memory known as social memory. We found that the net-like coating known as perineuronal nets protects these social memories. In our research with mice, when we kept these brain structures safe early in life, the mice suffering from this disease were better at remembering their social interactions," Chaunsali said. "Our research will help us

get closer to finding a new, non-traditional way to treat or better yet prevent Alzheimer's disease, something that is much needed today."

The changes the scientists saw in the mice's brains align with those seen in human patients with Alzheimer's, suggesting that the targeting the nets in people could provide similar benefits. Developing a treatment based on the findings will require additional research, but Sontheimer and Chaunsali are hopeful about what the future could hold.

"Although we have drugs that can delay the loss of perineuronal nets, and thereby delay memory loss in disease, more research needs to be done regarding safety and effectiveness of our approach before this can be considered in humans," Sontheimer said. "One of the most interesting aspect of our research is the fact that the loss of perineuronal nets observed in our studies occurred completely independent of amyloid and plaque pathology, adding to the suspicion that those protein aggregates may not be causal of disease."

The researchers have published their findings in the journal "Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association." The article is open access, meaning it is free to read. See a link to the article with this story on addisonindependent.com.



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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BALANCE
- BATHROOM
- CAREGIVERS
- COGNITIVE
- ELDER ABUSE
- EMERGENCY
- FALL PREVENTION
- FIRES
- GRAB BARS
- HEARING AIDS
- HOME SAFETY
- HYPOTHERMIA
- LIGHTING
- MEDICATION
- MOBILITY AIDS
- NON-SLIP
- PERSONAL ALARM
- PREPAREDNESS
- SAFE DRIVING
- SCAMS
- SECURITY SYSTEM
- STAIRLIFT
- VISION



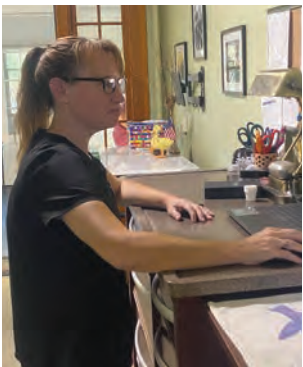
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