



Music outside

A new nonprofit organized a series of concerts in a Cornwall field starting Sunday. Arts + Leisure.



Three aces

Several local seniors won state tennis titles in a tournament this weekend. See Sports, Page 1B.



Crime scene

Route 7 in Middlebury was closed while police dealt with a stabbing last week. See Page 2A.

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Three Dems vie for lieutenant governor

By ANGELO LYNN

In the Democratic primary race for lieutenant governor to be held Aug. 11, three candidates have been actively campaigning since early this year: Molly Gray, Ryan McLaren and Esther Charlestin.

Gray was Vermont's lieutenant governor for a single term from 2021-2023, and for the past two years has

been the executive director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance. McLaren has worked in political organizing most of his life, including in the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles under Gov. Peter Shumlin, and has served as senior aide to U.S. Sen. Peter Welch for the past decade. Charlestin, currently chair of the Vermont Commission on Women, ran for governor against

incumbent Gov. Phil Scott in her first statewide election in 2024. A former Middlebury resident, she also served just under a year on the Middlebury selectboard. Each candidate is married with young families.

The winner of the Democratic primary will challenge incumbent Republican Lt. Gov. John Rodgers who was first elected in 2024, and has no challenger in the

Republican primary.

In Vermont, the lieutenant governor has few day-to-day responsibilities besides presiding over the state Senate when it's in session. Each of the three Democratic candidates, however, have defined how they would use the lieutenant governor's office to serve Vermonters and what distinguishes their candidacies from each other.

Charlestin would bring folks to the table

By ELOISE CHRISTY

Esther Charlestin says the next lieutenant governor should spend less time proposing new ideas and more time bringing the community and Vermonters together to solve problems.

Charlestin, 36 and a former Middlebury selectboard member who now resides in South Burlington, is one of three candidates seeking the Democratic Party's nomination for lieutenant governor. She faces (See Esther Charlestin, Page 14A)

McLaren touts his experience, leadership

By ANGELO LYNN

Ryan McLaren, a 39-year-old resident of Essex Junction, entered the race for lieutenant governor because he said he was "fed up" with the lack of progress in Vermont over the past 10 years

and because the state has become too expensive for young families to live in.

"The infrastructure of opportunity that made my life possible has eroded around us," (See Ryan McLaren, Page 14A)

Gray is avid defender of Vters' rights

By ANGELO LYNN

In the race for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, one of the skills that distinguishes Molly Gray, 42, is her legal background. Born in Newbury, Vt., she attended public schools

in the area and Bradford's Oxbow High School, graduating from Stratton Mountain School in 2002. She studied at the University of Vermont on an athletic scholarship, competing for the Catamounts in (See Molly Gray, Page 15A)

Police in Bristol are seeking a 4th officer

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol police are looking to fill a vacant, full-time officer position at the department, which currently has three full-time officers working to provide 24-hour coverage to the police district (roughly one-square mile in the village area).

Bristol Chief of Police Bruce Nason described some of the challenges current staffing levels can create, particularly when responding to time-intensive calls for service the department has seen recently. He expressed appreciation for support provided by other local law enforcement agencies but noted those departments can have their own staffing shortages to contend with.

"Everyone has been very helpful, but they are also experiencing less staff," he said. "It's concerning, and we're all doing the best we can with the staffing levels we're (See Bristol Police, Page 13A)



Who's the real clown?

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD JASPER PERRINE of Brandon was just a volunteer from the audience when Circus Minimus leader Kevin O'Keefe called him up on stage in Middlebury this past Friday. The youngster really got in character while O'Keefe presided over a series of wild antics during the Brown Bag Lunch at Festival on the Green. See more photos from the festival on Page 10A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Lightshift looks for new battery site in city

Hawley offers tour of other possible spots

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — The company that proposed putting a battery energy storage system at 99 Pantown Road is no longer considering the location, according to City Manager Ron Redmond. The update comes about a month and a half after the company announced it was pausing the project.

When asked by the *Independent* if the company has definitively said it won't place the five storage container-sized batteries at that site, Redmond said they have — "as much as they can." Additionally, City Councilor Mel Hawley said during a recent City Council meeting he will tentatively (See Battery site, Page 16A)

Murphy named new ACSD board member

By JOHN FLOWERS

SHOREHAM — The Addison Central School District (ACSD) board on Monday picked Abby Murphy to serve out the balance of a term recently vacated by incumbent Shoreham delegate Barb Wilson.

Murphy — a Middlebury Union High School graduate and a mom of three who's been active as a Shoreham Elementary School parent — earned the ACSD board's nod over Deborah Pinkerton, who had also sought to succeed Wilson until next March. That's when Wilson's three-year term will expire and Shoreham's lone seat on the (See Murphy ACSD, Page 11A)



By the way

You can help the long-awaited reopening of Middlebury's Ilsley Library. The library on Thursday, Aug. 6, will hold a "book cart parade." Library officials are looking for groups of two to four people to help roll books from the Duclos building at 30 Main St. to Ilsley at 77 Main St., which for the past 18 months has been undergoing a \$17 million renovation and expansion project. The Duclos building has served as a temporary home for Ilsley Library services during construction. The new and improved Ilsley Library grand opening is set for Aug. 29. The book cart parade is set for 4-5 p.m. on Aug. 6. If you'd like to roll (See By the way, Page 13A)

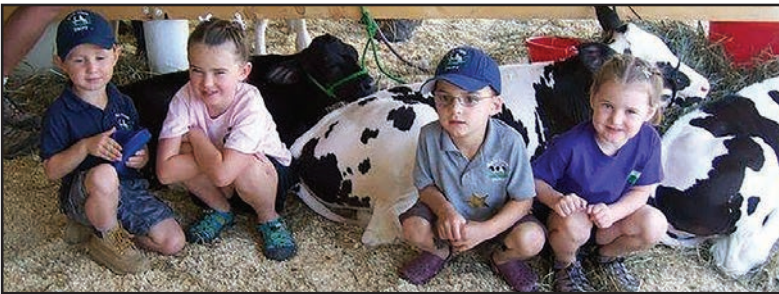
New Haven farm is Vt. Dairy of the Year

Livingston crew excited for future

By ELODIE REED & MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — At New Haven's Rail View Dairy, farming isn't just a way of life but also a family affair.

The operation started by Phil and Diane Livingston around four decades ago has grown from a herd of 40 cows to 740 cows over the years. The Livingston family has grown, too, and members of the family of 10 continue to maintain



THE NEWEST LIVINGSTON generation has been showing cattle since their childhood summers at Addison County Fair and Field Days. Photo provided by the Livingston family

the farm.

Working in Vermont's dairy sector comes with its challenges — from rising overhead costs

set the family farm up for success.

"We strive to keep costs low, while maintaining slow but steady growth, such as feeding fresh whole milk to calves, growing our own high-quality feed and chopping our own bedding," members of the Livingston family told the *Independent*. "Additionally, we closely monitor our animals using the technology of an activity monitoring system to ensure their health and overall well-being."

Rail View Dairy is being recognized for such practices, as well as its excitement about (See Dairy Farm, Page 8A)

Pauline Stevens: Growing food & family at Shoreham farm

By ELOISE CHRISTY

SHOREHAM — Pauline Stevens, 36, grew up in the white farmhouse overlooking Golden Russet Farm off Lapham Bay Road in Shoreham. As a kid, she wandered through the gardens and fields with her brother and sister, playing and adding a little fun into the workers' days while her parents, Will and Judy Stevens, built the organic fruit and vegetable farm they had started in 1984.

Decades later, Pauline Stevens rises each morning to the same

fields outside her window. But life on the farm looks different nowadays.

Since taking over the business in 2022 and welcoming her first child, Robin, four months ago, every day has become a balancing act between running the farm and raising a family.

Most mornings, Pauline is up by 5 or 6 a.m., and her day at home and on the farm commences.

Since the nursery season wound down in June, the farmstand (See Pauline Stevens, Page 12A)



PAULINE STEVENS, OWNER of Golden Russet Farm, holds four-month-old Robin in front of the cut flower fields at her Shoreham business. Her days were busy even before motherhood, but she still finds ways to balance work and life.

Independent photo/Eloise Christy

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Triathlete tells heart disease story

By STEVE HARE

Can too much exercise cause heart disease?

The short answer is: yes. Heart disease in endurance athletes is now becoming more common. The general thinking is that exercise, diet and good genes are your best defense against getting heart disease. While that is still definitely true, extreme long-distance training and intense racing over decades can cause serious heart disease.

For ideal health and fitness, three to five hours of moderate to lightly intense exercise per week is best, in my opinion. More than that does not improve your health.

At my peak, I was training 20-30 hours a week. This amount of training definitely increased my fitness, but did not further improve my health.

So why was I doing it? Because I loved being super fit and being able to excel in triathlons ranging from moderate to extreme distances. My favorite was the Ultraman (or Earth Journey) distance, a three-day stage triathlon consisting of a six-mile swim and 100-mile mountainous bike ride on day 1, 170-mile bike ride over more mountains on day 2 and ending with a 52.4-mile double marathon in the mountains on day 3. I've done over 400 triathlons, 12 Ultramans, 15 Ironmans and at least 30 half-Ironmans.

I began shorter to extreme distance races at age 27 after being a bodybuilder for 8 years. I am now 69 years old with 50 years of extreme training, and I just underwent a quadruple bypass and aorta replacement open-heart surgery.

How could I have heart disease with none of the top risk factors like family history, poor diet, or little to no exercise? The answer, I believe, was the extreme training and racing done over the last 42 years. It's been 20 years since I've trained and raced like that. The

environment for heart disease had probably already been created by then.

Here's how the thinking goes: my intensity and the duration of my training and racing produced pressure and inflammation. Inflammation caused scarring and hardening of the arteries. Hard, scarred arteries can catch the calcified plaque that flows through even the most healthy bodies. The plaque builds up, creating blocked arteries. Whether it's poor lifestyle habits or other risk factors doesn't matter — blocked arteries mean heart disease. So, by this thinking, endurance training can cause heart disease in even the otherwise very healthy individual.

The key to avoiding clogged arteries is having smooth, flexible ones that don't allow plaque buildup. Doctors are often baffled and don't understand why this occurs in people without the well-recognized causes.

Often, tragically, the first symptom of clogged arteries is sudden death. Unfortunately, there is no easy test to determine if someone is developing heart disease. Unfit people would usually have symptoms such as shortness of breath or feeling faint. I did not have either of those. As a very fit athlete, I noticed that I was not able to sustain hard efforts like I had in the past. I thought that since I'm approaching 70, this lack of sustained power was part of my natural aging process.

So, here's my story. I was doing chin-ups on one of those home chin-up bars you put in your door frame. The bar slipped out of the socket, and I went tumbling to the floor without a chance to brace myself. I suffered a nasty arm break that required surgically implanting a metal plate and 15 screws. As the nurses were prepping me for surgery, they discovered that I had a flutter in my heart — a condition where

the electronics of my heart were misfiring, causing the mitral valve between my atrium and ventricle to "flutter" and not allow the ventricle to fully fill, reducing the amount of blood flow to my body.

At first, the surgeon did not want to do the surgery and sent me to the emergency room where, after a few hours, they decided I was strong enough to go ahead and do the surgery on my arm. To correct my flutter, a heart ablation surgery was scheduled for two months later, the week of Christmas Eve. In late November, while visiting my daughter in Los Angeles, I slipped on some wooden stairs, hitting my almost-healed arm, breaking it again and pulling out several screws. That painful experience would require another surgery, which was scheduled for just two days before my ablation surgery.

On Friday, Dec. 19, my second arm surgery was successful.

On Monday, the 22nd, I went back to the hospital for the ablation surgery, which was an invasive operation where they inserted a catheter into a vein in my groin, then ran it up into my heart to burn/kill the cells that were causing my heart to flutter.

The doctor explained that after surgery, 95% of people rest in recovery for three hours and are sent home. I was one of the 5%. The flutter was causing a "noise" that prevented the doctors from seeing that I had a much more serious condition where the two chambers of my heart were completely out of sync, or "not talking to each other." My atrium was pumping very fast while the ventricle was going very slow.

The doctor said I needed a pacemaker to correct this. I asked when that would be scheduled for and she said, "You're not leaving the hospital." She installed my pacemaker the next day. I went home just in time for Christmas after three surgeries in five days.

After Christmas, my wife and I took a trip to Puerto Rico. I was looking forward to lightly running on the beach, about five miles a day. Not so much compared to vacations in my triathlon prime when I would average 12 miles a day. Due to already having had two surgeries in 2020 and 2021 to



MIDDLEBURY'S STEVE HARE completes the final leg of an Olympic distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon (1,600-yard swim, 28-mile bike, 6.2-mile run) on Aug. 18, 2024. He won the 60-69 group in 2:42:26, the 9th man overall. But this summer he underwent open-heart surgery to fix a damaged organ that he attributes to too much exercise.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

replace my left and then my right hip, I reduced my running greatly, only running on trips and from spring to mid-summer. I was only averaging 10 to 15 miles a week or about 300 miles for the year.

My hip issues began in 2012 when I was hit by a car, from behind, while on a bike ride, which shattered my left arm and broke my left hip. My orthopedist asked me, "Have you had any problems with your hip before this? Because they don't look very good to me."

On that beach run, my right knee collapsed. I could only walk on the beach for the rest of my trip. When I came home, I got an MRI, which showed I had complete tears in my ACL,

both meniscuses, a mostly torn MCL and a deep depression fracture in my fibula. My very "anti-surgery" chiropractor told me, "It's a no-brainer, you have to get a knee replacement."

I decided to go to Tijuana, Mexico, for umbilical stem cell therapy at the end of March. It is too soon to judge how effective the therapy will be in the regrowth of tissue to stabilize the knee, but I am optimistic that I won't need that knee replacement surgery.

When I returned from Puerto Rico, the cardiologist called to say they wanted to do a nuclear stress test since my pacemaker was suggesting I was having some blood flow issues to my heart. The test revealed that

indeed, there was a problem, which led to the scheduling of another invasive catheterization test of my heart.

The test was supposed to take 50 minutes but only took seven to determine that the main artery to my heart was 95% blocked and the other three were 85% or more blocked.

I needed an open-heart quadruple bypass surgery and replacement of my aorta.

In a state of disbelief, I was told it would be scheduled ASAP. I met with the surgeon two days later. She advised me to do no training except for easy walking for the next 10 days before my surgery. I substituted walking for easy spinning on my stationary bike and some easy paddling.

I had the surgery on June 9. It took over nine hours. I was in the intensive care unit for three days. That was good, since my heart stopped and I was technically dead for about a minute before the doctors, who were right there, used heart paddles to restart my heart. For the surgery, they had to install a temporary pacemaker which had a very rare miscommunication with my existing pacemaker, something they had not seen for 20 years.

After five days, I was sent home. I had gained 30 pounds in water weight from the surgery.

I was home a week before a scheduled visit to my primary care physician. I had been having terrible trouble breathing. He directed my wife to take me to the emergency room, where they cut a hole in the side of my chest to drain out nearly three liters of fluid. I could breathe again and after three more nights in the hospital, I came back home.

I used to think that because of my lifestyle of health and fitness, I was immune to heart disease and many other medical issues. I don't think that anymore.

What I do believe is that you can stack the deck in your favor for a lifetime of great health and fitness, and avoid most diseases through diet and exercise. That is unquestionably true. My thinking now also includes the idea that if something doesn't feel right, get it checked out by health professionals.

When it comes to your heart, consider seeing a cardiologist and ask about a stress test to indicate whether you might have some blockages. Don't count on getting lucky by breaking your arm!

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Local man cited after stabbing his father

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A Middlebury man on Monday pleaded not guilty in Addison Superior Court, criminal division, to two felony counts of first-degree aggravated domestic assault with a weapon, stemming from allegations he stabbed his father at a home at 800 Route 7 South during the early evening of Wednesday, June 15.

Joshua P. Puma, 39, is accused of using a knife to stab his father — 66-year-old James Puma — in the abdomen and to also slash one is his elbows during an argument at the elder Puma's residence. Joshua Puma is also alleged to have sprayed his father with bear mace prior to inflicting the knife wounds, according to a court

affidavit filed by Middlebury Police Det. Ethan Jones, lead investigator in the case.

The elder Puma at one point fired a shot from a firearm to try and ward off his son, according to court records. Joshua Puma sustained a hand injury that required stitches, but court records don't specify how he sustained that injury.

James Puma and his spouse, Janet, were ultimately able to escape the home, according to police.

Detective Jones, in responding to the call, said he was "aware that Joshua has an extensive history of mental health challenges" and that the younger Puma was also on supervised federal probation. Back on May 23, 2022, Joshua

Puma pleaded not guilty in federal court in Burlington to three counts of "transmitting threats in interstate commerce to injure the person of another."

According to those court documents and proceedings, the charges involved allegations that Puma had called a Vermont Department of Corrections reporting line and threatened to kill a state court judge, a defense attorney, and a state prosecutor and to sexually assault that same prosecutor, according to the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Vermont.

Once at the crime scene last week, responding officers discovered that Joshua Puma had barricaded himself inside (See Puma, Page 3A)

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Please scan the QR code to visit the event page and complete the appropriate form again. Thank you for your patience — we sincerely apologize!

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LOCAL YOUTH TAKE part in last year’s Addison County Summer Social Justice Camp. This year’s program is set to run in Middlebury from Aug. 3-7 and will offer participants a chance to learn about various social justice topics and build skills for making change in their communities.

Photo courtesy of Addie Lentzner

Youth social justice camp on tap in Middlebury

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Local youth are invited to learn more about various social justice topics and ways to enact change in the world around them through a camp being offered at The Teen Center in Middlebury next month.

The Addison County Summer Social Justice Camp will run from Aug. 3 to 7 and is open to area students ages 13-18. Throughout the week, participants will hear from guest speakers, get to know one another and build skills, such as learning how to create social justice pamphlets on different issues.

“Attending SSJC is a powerful opportunity for youth to connect with peers who share their passion for social justice or who want to learn more about developing skills for advocacy and organizing,” reads a description of the offering.

The Addison County Summer Social Justice Camp was founded last year by Rafaela Botti, a

local high school student, in collaboration with the Teen Center and the Education Justice Coalition of Burlington “to engage and equip local teens with the education and skills to bring justice into their schools, communities, and the world,” Botti said.

Some of the topics previously covered at the camp include youth advocacy, anti-racism and LGBTQIA+ rights. Botti noted this year’s camp will offer a more policy-focused perspective on social justice and organizing. The program is being co-led by Botti and Addie Lentzner, a Middlebury College student and founder of the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network.

The camp will run from 1-4 p.m., with an optional drop-in time for participants from noon-1 p.m. and 4-5 p.m. Campers will dive into different topics each day, exploring those topics through field trips, workshops and visits

from guest speakers.

For example, a tentative line-up for the camp includes a day focused on immigration justice featuring remarks from Wilmer Chavarria — Winooski superintendent of schools and an advocate for immigrant rights — and representatives from Migrant Justice, an organization that works to “build the voice, capacity, and power of the immigrant farmworker community to organize for economic justice and human rights.”

Participants will hear from several other guest speakers throughout the week, including Big Hartman, executive director and general counsel for the Vermont Human Rights Commission.

Other activities on tap include a visit to the Henry Sheldon Museum, where campers will learn more about the process of making pamphlets and historical examples. Camp programming will also include games, art

making, music and storytelling.

“Youth participating will gain knowledge, advocacy skills, and organizing tools,” reads a description of this year’s program. “The camp will create a sense of solidarity and belonging that will carry on after the camp ends.”

Participants will work together to organize a youth-led Town Hall event set to take place at Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater in September. Botti noted a handful of local and state officials have agreed to take part in the event — Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Attorney General Charity Clark, Treasurer Mike Pieciak and state Sen. Ruth Hardy.

The summer camp is free, and participants will receive a stipend for attending. Those interested in joining can apply at tinyurl.com/ACsocialjusticecamp and reach out to Botti (rafaela.edjvt@gmail.com) or Lentzner (addie@vsarn.org) with questions.

Phone-distracted driver is cited for DUI

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police responded to a single-vehicle crash on Route 116 at Sycamore Park in Bristol on July 17 at a quarter to 6 p.m.

After investigation the trooper reported that Nicholas Preston, 38, of Bristol was driving a 2007 Chevy Silverado pickup southbound on Route 116 when he looked at his phone and his vehicle exited the roadway and struck the guardrail at the entrance to Sycamore Park. Preston was not injured, though

his truck sustained some front-end damage.

Police cited Preston for driving under the influence. A traffic ticket is pending.

In other recent activity, Vermont State Police:

- Meanwhile, state police on July 16 at a little after 9 p.m. were notified of a missing juvenile. The 16-year-old had last been seen around 5 p.m. in town. Troopers circulated a description of the youth and asked for the public’s

Vt. State Police Log

help finding the teen. The next morning at 10 minutes to 8 a.m., state police put out a notice saying the youth had been located and was safe.

- On July 19 shortly after 1:30 p.m. were on patrol in New Haven when they saw a vehicle racing

northbound on Route 7 at 85 mph. The posted speed is 50 mph. Troopers stopped the vehicle and cited Frederic Villiard, 30, of Montreal, Quebec, for excessive speed.

- On July 20 at a quarter after noon discovered that Trevor Foster, 42, of Saint Albans had violated his court-ordered conditions of release while at the New Haven State Police barracks. A trooper cited Foster for violation of conditions of release.

Puma

(Continued from Page 2A)
the residence and had stopped communicating with officers. Meanwhile, James Puma — who was ultimately airlifted from Porter Hospital to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington for treatment of his injuries — told police he didn’t believe his son had any firearms at his disposal in his home, according to Jones’s affidavit.

Police said Joshua Puma eventually resumed conversations with them, including making a statement about “having his last meal,” according to court records. Officers eventually convinced Joshua Puma to exit the home and took him into custody.

After being treated for his hand injury at Porter Hospital, Joshua Puma was ordered held overnight without bail at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland.

Inside the home, police said they found “blood throughout the residence,” as well as a “‘ritual site’ in the basement,” according to Jones’s affidavit. Specifically, officers described finding “incense burning on a small table, with numerous circular drawings adjacent to them, and blood spread on the drawings,”

according to the affidavit.

Investigators also found empty prescription pill bottles on Joshua Puma’s bed, as well as a “sharps container” in his bedroom.

“I am familiar with Joshua as having warnings in law enforcement records for his use of illicit drugs,” Jones stated in his affidavit.

Investigators’ interviewees included a family member who “shared significant concern” that James and his wife Janet had placed themselves in “unsafe positions by housing (Joshua),” reads Jones’s affidavit.

Middlebury police Chief Jason Covey,

in an email exchange, lauded “a strong team effort by multiple members of the Middlebury Police Department, who were able to secure Mr. Puma’s peaceful surrender. We are also very grateful for the supporting role provided by Vermont State Police, the Middlebury Fire Department, and Middlebury Regional EMS.”

If convicted, Joshua Puma faces a punishment of up to 15 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$25,000 for each of the two felony charges for which he’s accused.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

— Jason Covey

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorial

Time to eat our spinach, fight tariffs on Canada

Northern states bordering Canada need to channel Popeye, eat their spinach and muscle up over Trump’s latest threats to impose punitive tariffs of 50% on many Canadian goods. And they need to do it soon.

That’s because these latest tariffs may have more staying power than Trump’s earlier efforts.

According to Josh Lipsky, vice president and chair of international economics at the prestigious Atlantic Council, Trump is expected to introduce major tariffs on dozens of countries by the end of this month, just like the ones threatened on Canada. This difference this time, Lipsky says, is that they are “backed by monthslong investigations into alleged unfair trade practices... No court has ever overturned this kind of tariff.”

In other words, even though Trump may have tossed out his punitive tariffs in a fit of anger because: a) he was “booed” at the World Cup when walking onto the field to present Spain its trophy even though Canadian Prime Minister Mike Carney was not, as economist Paul Krugman suggested in a recent column, or b) perhaps it was retribution for the smoke drifting across the upper-Midwest and Northeast due to wildfires in Canada, as Trump wrote in an incoherent social media post (both are equally ludicrous reasons to impose tariffs), the courts may not be able to stop them.

Moreover, the tariffs may be in place for much longer than most imagine. Lipsky makes a valid argument that the biggest opposition to reversing the tariffs won’t be legal, but financial.

“With the national debt clocking in at a staggering \$39.6 trillion, the market responsible for selling this debt has quickly grown addicted to the money coming into the government every day thanks to tariffs,” Lipsky writes. “Few politicians are willing to upset the bond market given that it dictates the cost of borrowing money for some of the most important purchases Americans make including their cars and their homes.” In less than a year, Lipsky continued, “America’s financial markets went from hating tariffs, to being able to live with them, to needing them to help cope with the country’s deficit.”

Krugman, the Distinguished Professor of Economics at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York who now writes on substack, has a slightly different take on Trump’s latest tirade.

“Whatever the real motivation for these new tariffs, they are almost surely illegal,” Krugman writes. “They are definitely a violation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, a revision of NAFTA negotiated and signed by Trump himself during his first term. Indeed, the White House fact sheet explicitly states that the new tariffs will be imposed ‘regardless of whether a good originates under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).’

“So these latest actions confirm what most people around the world, from the European Commission to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard, have already figured out: a deal with Donald Trump lasts only until he feels like breaking it.”

It’s not rocket science to understand that a complete lack of trust in America as a trading partner is bad for business, even if the tariffs aren’t catastrophic.

“The immediate economic impact of these tariffs will be limited,” Krugman continues. “As far as I can tell, the highly integrated North American auto industry, which sprawls across both our northern and southern borders, won’t be directly affected. But the auto industry, like business in general, has been put on notice that the huge flows of goods and services that cross those borders every day may be cut off whenever Trump has a temper tantrum.

“And this really is a temper tantrum, in the sense that there’s no strategy here. The new tariffs will hurt American consumers, and nobody expects them to extract any concessions from Canadians who are only getting more outraged at the United States.”

That outrage has consequences. In a recent poll among Canadians comparing their favorability toward the U.S. and China, Canadians favored China 42% while dropping the U.S. to just over 30%. In 2023, the same poll found Canadians favoring the U.S., under President Biden, almost 60% to China’s 15%.

For Vermont and other northern border states that relationship with Canada makes a big difference.

Canada is Vermont’s largest international trade partner by far with over \$600 million in exports from the state and more than \$2 billion in imports in 2024. Vermont’s tourism has already taken a huge hit as Canadian travel across the border has plummeted due to Trump’s bellicose rhetoric and non-sensical tariffs.

According to a story in Vermont Digger, Tom Kavet, an economist for the Vermont Legislature, said late last year that federal policy and rhetoric in relation to trade with Canada already constituted a “costly unforced error.” On Tuesday, he called the new set of tariffs “pure stupidity.”

In combination with existing Trump-era tariffs, the story continued, “these high new fees would raise prices for American consumers, make production of some goods less efficient and cost jobs, Kavet said. In Vermont, where some goods move back and forth frequently during manufacturing, the policy could be especially disruptive.”

State Treasurer Mike Pieciak expressed similar concerns in an interview with Digger Tuesday, saying the new fees would be “essentially a tax,” paid disproportionately by border communities like those in Vermont.

“These new tariff threats against Canada are an extreme escalation of President Trump’s reckless and irresponsible trade war,” added Sen. Peter Welch. “The White House’s endless attacks on our Canadian neighbors... have caused undeniable harm to our state’s economy, and the aftershocks of today’s announcement will do lasting damage.”

All that said, Gov. Phil Scott released an underwhelming retort: “My feelings on punitive tariffs imposed on Canada have not changed over the last two years and are simply a bad idea that will lead to increased costs on Vermonters. As I’ve said before, this added burden would create real challenges for our residents and businesses who are already facing economic headwinds. Canadians are our friendly neighbors and longtime allies, and we should be working together to find solutions that strengthen the region, not further divide us.”

Yawn. That sleeper didn’t stir Trump from his nap. Trump does respond to public pressure when it’s vigorous. Vermont needs a leader who will rally governors and legislatures from Maine to Washington, and shout from the rooftops about the idiocy of such tariffs, as well as the idiocy of so many other policies under Trump — such as those worsening climate change and immigration policies that deny hardworking migrant workers the right to become U.S. citizens through a reasonable legal pathway. Scott’s practice to duck for cover and issue Milke toast statements only encourages Trump’s asininity. If Scott won’t stand up *to* Trump, at the very least he should stand up *for* Vermonters and our Canadian friends more forcefully — or Vermonters should elect someone who will.

— Angelo Lynn



He’s safe!

RYAN BROUILLARD BEATS the throw to third as he successfully advances toward home during the Addison County Legion Baseball team’s win vs. South Burlington on Tuesday during a doubleheader. AC won that game at the Middlebury College diamond but fell in the nightcap. The Vermont Legion Baseball state tournament begins this weekend.

Independent photo/Steve James

What we often miss in plain sight

It’s always amazing to realize how much you don’t see on a daily basis. My dad got a trail camera a few years ago and periodically sends me ghostly pictures of bobcats and coyotes that we never glimpse during the day.

Then there are the things that are right in front of you that you don’t pay attention to. I recently had the privilege of going on a mushroom walk at Treleven Farm with amateur mycologist Meg Madden. She explained to her marveling audience how much fungus is around us all the time. Pro tip: it’s a lot. You don’t realize it, because most fungi don’t exist in big masses, like us or, say, elephants or blue whales. Instead, they extrude themselves into hyphae, which wriggle through just about everything in the woods. There are eight miles of it in just one square inch of healthy forest soil. The mushroom — the part we see and notice — is just the fruit. The real organism is in these tiny threads that weave between trees and other plants, linking them into a vast, mutually beneficial network.

Or take insects. When I was growing up, they were just those things that chased you away from picnics, stung or bit you, or gunked up your windshield. Sure, there were the crowd-pleasers — crickets and butterflies, moths and dragonflies — but most of them I thought I could live without.

Turns out I was wrong. A huge percentage of our food crops rely on them — not just honeybees, but all kinds of native pollinators, from flies to beetles to native bees and wasps. Without them, our tables

would be boring and bare. Wildflowers need insects to seed the next generation. Other bugs break down waste: manure and trash, carcasses and plant debris — all the stuff you really don’t want to spend your days walking through. They serve as fish and bird and frog and lizard and bat food, in almost unimaginable quantities. A single brood of chickadee babies needs 5,000 to 9,000 of them to make it to adulthood,

according to recent research. Insects also make food for us, like honey, or serve directly as food in a lot of the world. They make silk for us, and dyes and industrial ingredients. They’re beautiful. A world without them would be one without many birds, without many plants, with much less beauty.

And yet, that’s what we’re on our way to making. We’re pouring so much pesticide into the environment that it’s in our groundwater, our soil, our own food. We are clearing hedgerows to make bigger and bigger fields, tearing down meadows for new developments, paving habitat. All this is having an effect. Eastern monarchs declined by 80% from 2006 to 2016. Insect biomass in Germany dropped 76% in 25 years. In Puerto Rico, it dropped between 75 and 98% in 35 years.

Nowadays, I hardly have to wash my windshield after driving cross-country, because so few bugs land on it.

A lot of this is happening at the industrial level, but individuals make a difference, too. I’ve noticed more and more floodlights going up in yards, more

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

Ways of Seeing

By Erin Ruble



Janoo is the governor Vt. needs

By JENNY BATES and LIZA COCHRAN

Nearly two thirds of young people in Vermont plan to leave the state within five years. That’s the latest finding out of UNH’s polling center — and a clear indictment of state leadership, which has failed to address Vermont’s affordability crisis in any meaningful way.

The trends have been worrisome for a while and are getting worse. Skyrocketing costs of housing and healthcare have sent young people packing. As a result, our communities have withered and schools have begun to shutter.

We are writing (and voting) as two mothers raising our families in rural Vermont. In our eyes, the most important measure of Vermont’s vitality isn’t its natural beauty or even its town meetings, but whether or not our small towns have enough students to fill our beloved community schools. For us, Vermont’s future lies in whether or not our children — the next generation — will be able to afford to live here when they grow up.

Perhaps Phil Scott was the steady hand we needed during Covid. But after a decade in the Governor’s seat, he’s done little to assuage the pains of unaffordability — in fact, they have gotten much worse. With the Aug. 11 primary around the corner,

and the general election in November, Vermonters have the opportunity to elect a new governor who will do more than stand idly by.

A NEW VISION

We support Amanda Janoo for Governor because she is the candidate best equipped to address the root causes of Vermont’s affordability crisis. Born and raised in Strafford, Janoo cares deeply about thriving towns. She believes a different world is possible for our young people — one in which they have all they need to thrive right here at home. But her vision is not founded on a pipe dream. As an economist, Janoo sees clearly that we are living in a broken system that is not serving Vermonters and proposes solutions as big as the problems we are facing. As an economist, her proposed solutions are based on practical, detailed policy.

Janoo also knows that the volatility in Washington, including Trump’s cancellation of federal funding intended for states, means that we need a blueprint for Vermont’s future that is shielded from national threats and pressures. She will prioritize strengthening our state’s rights, forming coalitions with neighboring states, decentralizing power and decision-making, and rejecting school consolidation. As a Vermonter,

(See *Community Forum*, Page 8A)

Community Forum

Jenny Bates is a mother and midwife who lives in Lincoln. Liza Cochran is a mother and teacher, and the co-author of Brave Little Voices who also lives in Lincoln.

Letters to the Editor

Show your feelings at a vigil this Saturday

There is much to be anxious and angry about these days. Donald Trump’s on-again-off-again war on Iran is back on.

Not only is Iran being bombed, but other Middle Eastern countries, who weren’t consulted or advised about the war and who host U.S. military facilities, are now being attacked by Iran. Americans are struggling with the costs of gas and basic goods. The impacts of climate change are hard upon us, with increased flooding, ongoing wildfires and serious air pollution. And poorly trained and questionably qualified ICE agents continue to murder innocent civilians on our streets as they racially profile targets in order to fill their detention quotas of 2,000 people at day.

Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Joan Sebastian Duran Guerrero were both recently murdered by ICE agents. Fathers, husbands,

(See *Willis Letter*, Page 5A)

Am I paying enough attention?

Like many Maine Democrats and Independents, like Senator Bernie Sanders and progressives around the nation, I want Maine’s Republican Senator Susan Collins unseated and Democrats to regain control of the Senate. So much so that I ignored my instincts, excusing Graham Platner’s misogyny as past behavior for which he had atoned. I denied what my gut and heart told me was true. I didn’t pay enough attention.

I scan the political landscape now. I see Trump’s senseless, trillion-dollar war with Iran and its human costs. I see millions of Americans struggling to feed their children, afford health care, pay the electric bill and put gas in their car. Meanwhile, Trump wastes our tax dollars building a ballroom and failing to change the appearance of the reflecting pool. I see the rampant corruption filling Trump’s pockets with billions that breaks the backs of everyone else.

I see the murder of Salgado Araujo while driving to work, a Mexican national who lived in Texas for thirty-five years with no criminal record. I hear the lies to cover it up and exonerate the ICE executioner. That same day, three Addison County residents were detained by masked ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations agents in a Middlebury parking lot. And before that, the Supreme Court ended the Temporary Protected Status of Haitians and Syrians placing

(See *Rubin Letter*, Page 5A)

Leave the Lord’s Prayer Rock where it is

Leave the rock alone. It has been there since the first day and can stay there to the last day. Just because one person hit it is no reason to move it.

As some old people might remember, the state highway men took the point off the rock (long ago) and there was such an outcry from the public to put it back. So, they did.

I say anybody that hits the rock, take their drivers license, leave the rock alone.

Andrew Bessette
Richmond

The Lord’s Prayer Rock should have been moved

I remembered that back in the 1970s Gary Orvis offered to move the Lord’s Prayer Rock back from the edge of the road. Having known Gary, I have no doubt he could have done it. Too bad the town didn’t take him up on his offer!

Kim Smith
Lincoln

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Letters to the Editor

Former Vergennes mayor supports John Stroup

John Stroup will make an excellent representative for the Addison-3 House District. John is intelligent, approachable and empathetic. He exhibits all the traits necessary to not only represent our community but work

beyond ideology and provide for common sense solutions to the most pressing issues we have today, including education, health and housing.
John has shown through his deeds that he has what it takes

to make positive change in how Vermont government should work. I ask you to vote for John Stroup for Addison-3 representative.

Bill Benton
Former Mayor of Vergennes

Ariel Bolles will prioritize issues of affordability

I'm writing in strong support of Ariel Bolles, who is running in the Democratic primary on August 11 to represent the Addison-3 District in the Vermont House.

Ari is a working parent and will prioritize issues of affordability—including health care, housing, progressive taxation and education.
But mostly, I wanted to remind voters of her work last winter with “Soup and Bread.” Partnering with the Vergennes Congregational Church, Ari

organized community volunteers and local restaurants to serve meals of soup and bread to hundreds of local residents. These dinners were free, and donations were accepted from those who could afford to contribute. More than \$6,000 went to the Rogers & Hazard Relief Society to help neighbors who are struggling with unexpected urgent expenses, to groups working with local migrants and to the church’s broader missions. Ari plans to continue this tradition next winter.

Her initiative reflects the kind of leadership our district needs —practical, compassionate and rooted in bringing people together to meet real needs. Ariel Bolles has already shown what she can accomplish for our community, and I believe she will bring that same dedication and effectiveness to Montpelier.
I encourage voters to support Ariel Bolles in the Democratic primary

Carol Hanley
North Ferrisburgh

Rubin Letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
dozens who live in Vt. in jeopardy of being deported.

I see the blatant racism Trump panders on Truth Social depicting the Obamas as apes. I see masked Patriot Front members carrying Confederate flags marching in D.C. on our nation’s 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. I hear the spewing of Christian Nationalist dogma by government leaders like our Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth. I see the rewriting of black history at the Smithsonian Institute.

I see the misogyny. Trump’s constant denigration of women, his unabashed history of sexual abuse and support for other predators like Texas senatorial candidate Ken Paxton.

I see the federal detention centers where at least eighteen people have died since Jan. 20 and a monthly average of 58,000 are imprisoned. Meanwhile, plans are underway to expand existing facilities and build new detention centers for holding immigrants . . . and who else? Dissidents?

I see the onslaught against the rule-of-law. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche’s retribution campaign attacking Trump’s political enemies that now numbers 470 individuals, organizations and institutions. Blanche’s refusal to heed court orders including one that keeps

Trump’s 1.7-billion-dollar Weaponization Fund available for Jan. 6 insurrectionists. I see the FBI and Department of Justice gone amuck issuing search warrants and subpoenas against journalists.

I see attacks on free speech waged against the media, law firms and institutions of higher learning. The war against freedom of assembly and protest in Minneapolis and many other cities leading to the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by ICE agents. I see the permanent, unscalable, fencing erected in front of the White House to keep out the public.

I see so much more!
Trump and his Republican cronies are aware of their unpopularity. They are doing everything possible to undermine state control of elections and create chaos . . . seizing ballots in swing states, pressuring Congress to pass the SAVE Act, supporting the Supreme Court’s gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, intimidating voters by threatening to deploy Federal agents at polling places, setting the stage to claim foreign intervention that would enable Trump to declare a State of Emergency. Trump is no longer interested in gaining voters, all he wants is to control the vote.

I see a man who is unheinged and unfit to serve as our

President. Who confuses Iran with Japan, the President of the Ukraine, Zelensky, with Russian President Putin and who rattles on incoherently posting on Truth Social in the wee hours of the morning.

I see the excruciating pain and suffering caused by all of the above. These are not “signs of Fascism,” this IS fascism! Trump and his sycophants know they will lose the House and perhaps the Senate in the 2026 midterm elections. They are desperately fighting for their political lives. On Jan. 6, 2021, I saw what Trump and his fellow conspirators did when they became desperate, fomenting armed insurrection to overthrow the 2020 Presidential election. The difference now is that Trump and his minions have consolidated their power. They control the Department of Justice, the FBI, the Department of Defense, the Department of Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security, the Supreme Court and more. They will carry out Trump’s every command. In 2026 Trump won’t need an army of insurrectionists. I want so much to believe that our democracy will withstand the battering we’re experiencing. I think to myself, “Am I paying enough attention?”

Ron Rubin
Middlebury

Note of Appreciation: Peasant Market thanks community

They say it takes a village, and ours showed up with shopping bags and plenty of good cheer on the morning of July 11 on the Middlebury Town Green for this year’s Peasant Market. We offer a heartfelt thank you to the many friends, neighbors, businesses and volunteers who made “the miracle on the Green” happen, helping St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church raise money to support nonprofits serving those in need throughout our community.
We’re especially grateful to the Addison Independent, the Better Middlebury Partnership and Front Porch Forum for their

help spreading the word about the market and our mission. To our grantee community partner volunteers, we are honored to work with you: Charter House, Counseling Service of Addison County, ACORN, Atria Collective, Turning Point Center of Addison County, Rokeby Museum, Laundry Love - Vergennes and Tri-Valley Transit. For logistics, shared services and the loan of tables and chairs, we thank the town of Middlebury, Festival on the Green, Middlebury College and Mount Abraham Union High School.

The best part of this event isn’t just what we raise, it’s the reminder that community is created one helping hand at a time. We are deeply thankful for the opportunity to turn the kindness and fellowship shared at Peasant Market into meaningful support for our neighbors.
Thank you, all. St. Stephen’s looks forward to doing it again next year!

2026 Peasant Market
co-chairs
Tom Klemmer,
Middlebury
Heather McConville
Durante, Ripton

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
and more porchlights being left on all night. That kills and weakens scores of moths and other insects that need darkness. All those pristine yards getting weekly mowings are starving them out. Recently I found out that the tick preventative I give my dog makes his waste fatal to insects that come into contact with it as much as 4-7 months after a dose. This is a problem, since when I walk him in the fields behind our house, I’m not always able to find and bag his poop.

I’m not sure what to do about the tick medicine, especially

since he just tested positive for Anaplasmosis antibodies, meaning he really needs some kind of preventative — and so do we, since he brings those suckers inside. But it’s easy enough to turn off our outside lights, or switch to a motion-sensor (which is more effective anyway since we and the neighbors are more likely to look — and thereby catch an intruder — if a light suddenly goes on than if it’s blazing all the time). It’s easy enough to let the grass grow longer and some pollen-rich flowers grow in it. Worth it to ditch as many pesticides as we can.
I’m trying to open my eyes to

what’s around us before there’s nothing much left to see.

Erin Ruble is a writer and immigration lawyer. She enjoys volunteering with local organizations such as Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Treleven, Middlebury Friends Meeting, and others, and has recently completed the Vermont Master Naturalist Program (she even has the hat to prove it). She lives in New Haven with her husband and kids and the occasional flock of chickens. You can find her at erinruble.wordpress.com.

Willis Letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
community members, workers, they were not even the intended detention targets. Twenty-five-year-old Joan, from Colombia, was authorized to work in the U.S. and had been issued a Social Security number. Lorenzo Araujo, a Mexican national, was close to obtaining U.S. citizenship after living here for three decades. He was a home builder and was driving a crew to work when killed. These were the eighth and

ninth deaths so far in Trump’s immigration crackdown. These people were not criminals. What has this country become?
If you are concerned, angry and appalled at these killings and these immigration policies, you are invited to join a vigil on Saturday, July 25, from 4-5 p.m. at the Cross Street Bridge in Middlebury. The purpose is to honor these innocent lives lost and to express our outrage at ICE actions, which threaten

our communities. It is one of thousands of vigils being held on a national Day of Protest. Bring your signs, your sorrow, your outrage and your determination to work for a nation that respects and values all human life and the Rule of Law. The Vigil is sponsored by the pro-democracy group Indivisible Middlebury, and is a peaceful, non-violent, family-friendly gathering.

Heidi Willis
Salisbury

SUBMIT A LETTER

Email it to:
news@addisonindependent.com

Elderly Services Inc. ESI College



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
COUNTY

Obituaries

Dana John LaDuke, 62, of Brandon

BRANDON — Dana John LaDuke of Brandon died July 7, 2026, after a yearlong illness.

Dana was born Feb. 4, 1964, at Porter Hospital, Middlebury, the son of Edgar E. LaDuke and Brenda J. Shackett Smith. He grew up in Shoreham, attended Shoreham Elementary and graduated from Middlebury Union High school in 1982.

Dana was avid sportsman from the age 12, fishing, hunting and trapping in Addison County, traveling to several States and Canada over the years. He lived life to the fullest and developed many friends over his lifetime. Especially his lifelong classmates from Shoreham and Middlebury. Dana was in Boy Scouts Troop 542 and was a former member of the Shoreham fire department for many years. He played Softball for Douglas Orchards, Sentinel Pine Orchards and Shoreham Service Center Team for many years. A major milestone in his life was winning the Top LCI Fishing Tournament in 2010.

Dana worked in a variety of



DANA JOHN LADUKE

careers — never liked indoor factory work, or being pinned down — preferred being his own boss. The past 35 years he was a professional painter, carpenter and worked on many projects around Addison and Rutland County.

Dana was predeceased by his father, Edgar E. LaDuke; his mother, Brenda J. Smith; paternal grandparents, Ernest E. LaDuke and Leda F. LaDuke; and maternal

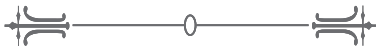
grandparents Quentin L. Shackett and Clarice C. Shackett.

He is survived by his partner, Donna Simpson of Brandon; brother Kirk LaDuke, sister Kelly Peckham and husband Rick of Shoreham and brother Scott LaDuke of Orwell; his nephew, Travis LaDuke; great nieces, Kailyn and Madelyn; great nephew, Aiden of Shoreham; Travis’s partner April Smith and her children, Jade, Sophie and Vance; and by many aunts, uncles and over 40 first and second cousins in Vermont, New York, Florida and Georgia.

There will be no calling hours. The graveside committal service and burial will take place July 25, at 11 a.m., in the family lot at St Genevieve’s Cemetery in Shoreham.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in his memory to the Shoreham Fire department or Addison County Home Heath & Hospice. A celebration of life for Dana will be announced on a later date.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇



Mary Elizabeth Burchard, 91, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Mary Elizabeth Burchard, age 91, passed peacefully April 28, 2026, at EastView in Middlebury.

Mary was born in Bath, Maine, March 27, 1935. She was the daughter of William and Gladys (Spinney) Donnell. She grew up in Bath, except for several years when the family temporarily relocated to Chester, Pa. She attended school in Bath and Chester before graduating from Morse High School, Bath, class of 1953. She became the second woman to earn a Wildlife Management degree from the University of Maine as a member of the class of 1957.

Mary married Donald Bishop Burchard in Bath, Maine, June 15, 1957. Following time in Oregon and Maine, they moved to Vermont in 1960. Mary was a



MARY ELIZABETH BURCHARD

longtime volunteer for the Girl Scouts, fulfilling roles from troop leader to board member. She directed Girl Scout Day camps before becoming the director of Sky Acres Girl Scout camp for many years. She also assisted her husband in his land surveying business. She was a member of the Salisbury Congregational Church. Mary was a member of the

Middlebury College Community Chorus for many years, where she was able to share her love of music. Camping, canoeing and bird watching were among her other hobbies.

Surviving are two daughters, Brenda Lynn Burchard of Salisbury and Gayle Ellen Burchard of Colchester. Several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive her. She is survived by her good friend Randy and her beloved Labrador, Bella. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald, and a brother, William R. Donnell.

A gathering in celebration of her life will take place Aug. 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Terrace Dining Room at EastView in Middlebury. A reception will follow there, after the ceremony.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, or Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇

OBITUARY Guidelines

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

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

Beatrice Shirley Perkins, 81, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Beatrice Shirley Perkins, affectionately known as Shirley and lovingly remembered by family and lifelong friends as “Punky,” passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester, Vt. She was 81 years old.

Born May 4, 1945, in Rutland, Vt., Shirley dedicated her life to caring for others. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose greatest joy was her family. Though life was often modest, she ensured her daughters always had what truly mattered — her love, encouragement, and unwavering presence.

From March 1964 until December 1988, Shirley was married to Clayton Perkins. As the wife of a Vermont State Trooper, she created a home that became a welcoming gathering place for family, friends, fellow troopers, and Fish and Game officers. Her kitchen was always open, and she became well known for her homemade apple pies, baking powder biscuits, Sunday morning pancakes, and the warmth and hospitality she extended to everyone who walked through her door.

Shirley had a remarkable gift for creating beauty. She loved tending her flower and vegetable gardens and keeping a beautiful home. She was especially proud of learning to play the piano, and her love of music remained with her throughout her life.

In 1980, Shirley became one of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Her faith was the cornerstone of her life for more than four decades, bringing her purpose, comfort, and a cherished



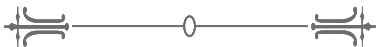
BEATRICE SHIRLEY PERKINS

congregation of lifelong friends whom she considered family.

Shirley is survived by her loving daughters, Tammy Perkins and her partner, Paul Meachum, and Teena Betourney and her husband, Kevin Betourney; her beloved grandchildren, Christine Baldwin and her husband, Josh, Kaitlyn Delphia and her husband, Garrett Wright, Kyle Delphia, Alexis Betourney, and Felecia Betourney; and her three adored great-grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Paul Meachum for the love, care, and support he gave Shirley and Tammy, especially during Shirley’s illness. His kindness, patience, and steady presence were deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

She is also survived by her beloved sister, Linda, of California; Linda’s children, Jeff Accavallo and Ronda Raftery née Guyette; Ronda’s son Travis, and the



Beverly ‘Bev’ (Marshall) Landon, 86, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Beverly “Bev” (Marshall) Landon, of New Haven, Vt., passed away July 19, 2026, at the age of 86.

Bev met adversity early and refused to be defined by it. Stricken with polio at age nine, she was bedridden for months and missed half of fourth grade, yet she went on to graduate from Beeman Academy as co-salutatorian. In 1957 she became a charter member of the Rainbow Girls. She studied accounting at Champlain College and spent five years at the Chittenden bank working as a teller, communications chief, and bookkeeper, building the skills she would later devote to her community for more than two decades.

Bev served the Town of New Haven as Town Auditor from 1969-1972, Town Treasurer from 1973 to 1996, Town Clerk from 1976 to 1996, and was a member of the Planning Commission from 2016-2026. She took enormous pride in the town records she kept — chronologically organized, thoroughly indexed, and produced first in her own careful handwriting, then on her personal typewriter, and finally on her own computer, always a step ahead of the tools the office provided. She created software called Clerk SuperWorks to manage town taxes and dog licenses that was adopted by many Vermont towns. Her reputation for steady, honest bookkeeping followed her in 1999 when she served neighboring Weybridge as Assistant Clerk for six years, returning twice more when needed.

All the while, Bev raised five children and a multitude of lambs. She worked beside her husband



BEVERLY “BEV” (MARSHALL) LANDON

maintaining their dairy farm and in later years, at his side doing custom work for area farmers. She was a tireless caregiver, looking after both of her parents and her husband’s father while still working as clerk and treasurer, and later caring for her aunt Marjorie, her mother (Beatrice), her younger and only sister Marilyn, and finally her husband William, whom she cared for at home until his death.

A devoted historian and author, Bev became a recognized authority on silver overlay glass. She published three intricate catalogues of Silver City Glass and maintained the website SilverCityGlass.com. She compiled My Town Your Town about her years as New Haven’s clerk and treasurer, wrote New Haven’s Great Man J. B. Grinnell (Grinnell was born on her husband’s family’s North Street farm and later founded Grinnell College), and another about her whaling-captain ancestor, Francis B. Drew, who was part of the discovery of the Cook Islands,

daughters of her late brother, Donald Small — MaryBeth, Kristine, and Janine. Jeff, her only nephew on her side of the family, held a particularly special place in Shirley’s heart, and she was immensely proud of the man he became. Ronda shared a lifelong bond with Shirley, spending many childhood summers in her home, creating memories they both treasured.

Shirley also leaves behind many extended family members, dear friends, and her beloved brothers and sisters in the congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses.

She was predeceased by her parents, Edwin Small and Charlotte Purcell Small; her brother, Donald Small; and her dear sister-in-law, Wendy Cole, whose recent passing was deeply felt.

Shirley loved Wendy like a sister, and their close bond remained one of the most meaningful relationships in her life. Shirley will be remembered for her unwavering faith, her generous heart, her beautiful gardens, the warmth of her kitchen, and the unconditional love she gave so freely to her family and friends. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the memories she created.

A memorial service celebrating Shirley’s life will be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 16 Dow Farm Lane, Middlebury, Vt., Saturday, July 25, at 11 a.m.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff of McClure Miller Respite House for the exceptional care, dignity, and kindness they provided during Shirley’s final days. ◇

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School Briefs

Olivia Depatie of Brandon has been awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Acoustical Engineering and Music from the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture at The University of Hartford.

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COUNTY**

Obituaries

Nellie Ann Foley, 85, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Nellie Ann Foley, age 85, passed peacefully, following a long illness, July 18, 2026, at Rutland Healthcare.

Nellie was born in Middlebury April 4, 1941. She was the daughter of Henry and Vera (Nichols) Gregoire. She grew up in the Brandon area, where she received her early education and had attended Brandon High school. June 14, 1958, she married Edwin “Peanut” Foley in Leicester, where they raised their family. She enjoyed crocheting, cooking and family gatherings.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherry Jamros and her husband Richard; two sons, Edwin D. Foley Jr. and his wife, Beverly, and Timothy Foley and his partner, Kelly Duprey; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and several cousins. She was predeceased by her husband July 24, 2016, and was also predeceased by a son, Donald Foley.

A graveside committal service

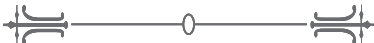


NELLIE ANN FOLEY

and burial will take place, July 30, at 11 a.m., in the family lot, at Brookside Cemetery in Leicester.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in her memory to Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



Michael Goodspeed celebration of life

GOSHEN — All are welcome to a celebration of life for Michael Goodspeed, who died June 5, 2026. It will be held Friday, July 31, from 1-4 p.m., at The Brandon Inn. A full obituary is available at www.millerandketchamfuneralhome.com. ◊



MICHAEL GOODSPEED

Letters to the Editor

Janoo’s for you and me too

Amanda Janoo is my choice for governor of Vermont, hands down.

Amanda has the experience and expertise to help us develop thriving communities in Vermont in which everyone has good health and universal primary care, available and affordable housing, accessible transportation, lifelong education, a vibrant natural world with zero carbon emissions and meaningful work at a livable wage.

This is the core of a well-being economy. Formerly part of the Well-being Economy Alliance, Amanda has helped countries and municipalities develop a new approach to living together. (See, for example, Wales’s Well-being Act of 2015.) She

is the lead economist with Well-being Alliance of Vermont. Born and educated in Strafford (near Brattleboro), she obtained a master’s in development studies at Cambridge, where she studied under renowned economist Ha-Joon Chang. Her leadership approach is to work with communities to empower them to become their own source of strength.

Amanda Janoo is the most capable person we have had as a candidate for governor in the 39 years I’ve lived in Vermont. If we don’t elect her, we will have missed a golden opportunity.

Amanda’s website: janooforvt.com

Mike Palmer
Cornwall

Two strong choices for Addison County are Hardy and Sessions

The voters of Addison County have an opportunity to cast their ballots for on August 11th for two strong, extraordinary women, Ruth Hardy and Hannah Sessions.

Ruth has proven herself to be both a compassionate and fierce advocate for the people she represents by showing a willingness to stand up and fight for what is right, just and equitable. Ruth’s remarkable efforts to connect with her constituents at events all around Addison County and her regular updates by way of emails and social media clearly show her dedication to keeping us all informed concerning the goings on in Montpelier. I urge you to check out her website, ruthforvermont.com, for more detailed information.

Hannah Sessions has a list of

accomplishments and community involvement that is no less than stunning. In addition to being a wife, mother, farmer and award-winning cheese maker, Hannah has served on local and district school boards, served on the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, is currently serving on Board of Trustees Vermont Land Trust, was a board member of the Addison County Community Land Trust and so much more. Hannah wears her love for Addison County and Vermont on her sleeve and she is ready to represent us in Montpelier. Hannah’s website is hannahsessionsforvt.com.

Please join me in voting for Ruth and Hannah on August 11 and again on November 3.

Steve Ingram
Leicester

Middlebury apartment project threatens neighborhood

People of Middlebury and its surrounding areas, it might be too late if you don’t realize what the Middlebury Development Review Board has OK’d a four-story apartment building which might as well be built on Middle Road North itself on a “0.71” acre lot and is about to tower over everything when built.

There is a solution. The Bread Loaf Architect firm up the road

on Rte. 7 has left and the place is for sale. Nice property, way back off the road if anybody is paying attention. Perfect spot for even two buildings. Might be worth looking into, attorney Phil Rosenzweig from Pennsylvania. Even room for construction vehicles. Wake up everybody, the congestion this will create will be unimaginable!!

Norman Beerman
Salisbury

Letters to the Editor

Ryan McLaren is committed to health care reform

Vermonters understand that too many critical issues have been allowed to languish over the past decade, from education, to housing, health care and protecting our environment.

When it comes to health care, we can no longer nibble around the edges and make small changes to our current dysfunctional system. Too many Vermonters delay care or deny themselves care altogether because of out-of-pocket costs and high premiums. They are tired of a health care system with insurance company middlemen who waste our money and burden our health care system with unnecessary paperwork, wasting the time of both providers and

patients.

In the lieutenant governor’s race there is one candidate who understands this need for systemic change in our healthcare system because he has lived it.

Ryan McLaren’s commitment to health care is strengthened by his own experience. When he suffered a severe injury which left him unable to walk for years, his family had to borrow large sums of money just to get him the sustained treatment he needed. In his support of universal health care, Ryan champions universal publicly financed primary care as a necessary first phase in getting us back on the road forward to universal health care that we committed to in Act 48,

Vermont’s roadmap to universal health care.

For this reason, Ryan’s commitment to universal health care goes well beyond simply saying the words but understanding that the status quo won’t hold and we need systemic change. And he is similarly committed to making the broad changes we need in other areas as well, such as addressing the housing crisis. It’s one reason that Ryan has been endorsed by such leaders as Bill McKibben and Rep. Ro Khanna.

Ryan deserves our strong support in his primary race for lieutenant governor.

Ellen Oxfeld
Middlebury

Janoo is the most qualified gubernatorial candidate

Rising property taxes, a collapsing health care system, an unaffordable housing market, skyrocketing grocery and energy costs — these are concerns Vermonters would like to see elected officials address.

These are economic issues. The candidate for governor best qualified to work on solving these problems is Amanda Janoo. Rooted in small-town Vermont, Amanda Janoo is a trained

economist who has worked in Vermont and around the world to help governments build resilient and diversified economies to generate good jobs and broad-based prosperity.

Her platform includes:

- Free primary healthcare for Vermonters
- Curbing corporate real estate speculation and investing in permanently affordable housing
- Reforming Vermont’s tax

system so it is fairer and more affordable for working families

And more.

Go to janooforvt.com for more information. We need a strategic thinking, detail-oriented leader for Vermont. Please join me in voting for Amanda Janoo for governor in the Democratic primary on August 11.

Spencer Putnam
Weybridge

VUHS student disappointed in Birong’s stance

As a student at Vergennes Union High School, I drive by the Vermont National Guard Armory every day way to school. When practicing evacuation drills in case of emergencies, students line up and walk across the street into the armory. Like many other communities, the Vermont Guard is integrated into our lives. This is why bill H.355, titled the ‘Defend the Guard’ Act, is a bill that Vermont communities and legislators should support and advocate for.

The bill prohibits the Vermont Guard from being deployed overseas for the purpose of combat

without approval from Congress. The bill is a necessary response to Trump’s unconstitutional deployment of Vermont National Guard members to Venezuela in January and more recently, Iran. These decisions were made without congressional approval.

As a citizen of Vergennes, I am disappointed and frustrated by the decision of Rep Matt Birong, D-Vergennes, to not support the bill. The bill was introduced this legislative session to the House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee, where Birong sits as chair. While he states the bill is unconstitutional

as a violation of the Supremacy Clause, in reality, the bill reinforces the Constitution by enforcing congress’s prerogative over war.

Though Birong is not running for reelection, I encourage those running to replace him to endorse the bill and introduce it in the upcoming legislative session in order to enforce the Constitution and protect the National Guard members that so greatly impact the community of Vergennes and the larger population of Vermont.

Georgia Kunkel
Vergennes

Addison County’s Wellspring Singers invite new voices:

Wellspring is a group of caring, musical community members who bring the joy and comfort of singing to residents in local care facilities and Porter Medical Center, community members living with serious illness, as well as to those at the end-of-life.

We rehearse on the first and third Wednesdays from 5-6:30pm in Middlebury, when we learn and practice a diverse repertoire of music. We are committed to singing as called upon (times and locations vary) and to be responsive and adaptive to the needs of those who live with life limiting conditions.

The Wellspring Singers are an integral part of the Palliative Support Services program at Porter Medical Center. Singers who are interested in learning more about singing with Wellspring are invited to be in touch with Louella Richer at lricher@portermedical.org by Wednesday, August 26th for more detailed information, how to join, and where we meet.



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Monkton, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

For over 20 years we have had a goal of owning a solar system. Bristol Electronics helped us to reach that goal by installing a (16) panel system. All of our goals were met. The price was right. The installation and quality of work was professional. Most importantly, we have not had to pay an electric bill since the installation.

Chris mentioned that I could use a roof rake to remove snow from my array but I taped a cloth mop to a 20' closet rod that I had hanging around. I store it under the array and when the array is covered with snow I use it to gently brush the panels off. My array starts producing power quicker and I am very happy with my electric bills.

If we buy the electric car that we have been thinking about, we will have Bristol Electronics return and add to our system, and cover the cost of the added electricity. Solar has been a good investment for us.

John & Beverly Teer – Monkton, VT



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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Dairy Farm

(Continued from Page 1A)
the farm's future and having multiple generations involved in the operation. The farm was just selected as the 2026 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year, an annual award presented by UVM Extension and the Vermont Dairy Industry Association, in collaboration with the New England Green Pastures Program.

Awarded farms are selected for their excellence in the areas of agronomic practices, quality milk production, herd management, land stewardship and innovation.

Rail View Dairy's ways of operating have not only earned the farm the award but are also what members of the family see as helping make Rail View poised to continue its success into the future.

"Being family owned, family managed and operated across all aspects of the farm we feel is a great asset to the future of Rail View Dairy," members of the Livingston family said.

At Rail View Dairy, excellence has come from four decades of the Livingston family's careful investment and hard work.

In 1985, Phil and Diane Livingston and their two young sons settled at the farm, which they named for its overview of the railroad tracks. They started the operation in a tie stall barn with 40 cows. Phil said he built up that herd at the pace he could afford.

"If I had \$1,000 spare money, I'd buy a cow," he explained.

Rail View Farm has continued to steadily grow its herd, though not its debt, and now milks 740 cows in the free stall barns they've built. More additions and efficiencies have been made through retrofitting. A new parlor got installed in the old tie barn, which meant that the calves who moved inside that same barn could be piped fresh, whole milk instead of milk replacer mixed in buckets.

The family of four has also since become a family of ten: Phil and Diane, their sons Philip and Mark, their daughters-in-law Dawn and

Dana, and their grandkids Karissa, Mason, Brailey and Maverick.

This immediate family, plus the wider community, have maintained the dairy through challenges. When Phil suffered an aneurysm in 1986 and then a farming accident in 1989, for example, Diane, their sons, their neighbors and Addison County farmers kept the cows milked and fed.

"That's something you can't thank them enough," Phil said.

The Livingstons have done their best to return the favor by serving in and supporting the New Haven Fire Department, where Mark Livingston is currently chief.

"We've all just taken to the fire service as something that helps out our community," Mark said.

The family's newest generation has contributed firefighting and fundraising to the department, too, as well as mentorship and leadership in 4-H, FFA and Farm Bureau.

While Maverick will attend UVM this fall as a first-year student, Karissa and Mason are on the farm full-time after finishing their studies. Brailey is planning to do the same after graduating from SUNY Cobleskill in 2027.

"I will graduate with my certificate in breeding and be able to start doing a lot of the [artificial insemination] work here on the farm," she said.

Brailey's as well as Karissa's and Mason's interest in genetics and handling dairy cows stretches back to childhood summers at Addison County Field Days, where they started showing cattle. They've since spent their own money and time on buying, breeding and caring for show heifers, and they've won regional and national titles, including premier championship banners at The Big E and the Northeast All-Breeds Spring Show.

"I think it's just a lifestyle," Karissa said.

Karissa, Brailey and Mason will continue this lifestyle by helping manage Rail View Farm's calves and the overall herd, operating



THE LIVINGSTON FAMILY happily acknowledge their statewide award. Front row, from left: Maverick Livingston, Phil Livingston Sr., Diane Livingston, Karissa Livingston. Back row, from left: Dana Livingston, Mason Livingston, Mark Livingston, Philip Livingston Jr., Dawn Livingston, Brailey Livingston. Photo by Peggy Manahan



RAIL VIEW FARM in New Haven was recently selected as the 2026 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year. Photos provided by the Livingston family

equipment, and overseeing nearly 2,500 acres of field crops. They're all committed to continuing what their grandparents started.

Phil Sr. "was always an extremely hard worker and still is, I mean, he still works a lot of hours," said Philip Livingston of his father and the kids' grandfather. "And there's nothing like just sitting back and watching him watch the grandkids work. You can just see the pride in

his eyes."

Those grandkids have already encouraged updates to the operation, like health monitoring through ear tags for the cows. And they have a vision for what comes next.

"Our goal is to have another barn finished by the end of the year to not only relieve some pressure on our cows currently – they're a little densely populated – but also be

prepared for the future," Karissa said. "We want to sustain the growth of our family and everyone who wants to come back, and we also want to do better, be better farmers."

This level of management and excitement stood out to the Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year judges, according to UVM Extension Dairy Specialist Whitney Hull.

"You can see their positive attitude



PHIL LIVINGSTON IS pictured here in the late 1980s at Rail View Farm in front of what today is the parlor barn.



PHIL LIVINGSTON, RIGHT, with sons Philip and Mark, who helped keep the dairy going at a young age when their father suffered several health events.

reflected in the farm and how they operate," Hull said. "They're just really fantastic ambassadors for the dairy industry in Vermont."

What are the family's hopes for the future of that industry?

"We hope for the continued support of the Agricultural community and the consumers of locally produced dairy products," members of the Livingston family said.

To learn more about the Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year award and see previous winners, visit uvm.edu/extension/dairy-farm-year.

Elodie Reed is with UVM and Marin Howell is an Addison Independent staff reporter.



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- Restorative Touch Therapy (Starts October 5)
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- The Makery Community Labs (Start August 27)

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Cost at top of list during FVFD merger info session

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
FERRISBURGH — As Chris Campbell anticipated, cost was top of mind for attendees of an information session regarding the potential municipalization of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department.

While the Ferrisburgh selectboard chair and Fire Chief Bill Wager say the move won't be financially straining on the town, residents went into a July 16 information session skeptical. The pair spent much of the roughly 35-minute information session fielding questions about the impact on Ferrisburgh's budget.

"We're going to fortify what we currently have. This is not a huge step for us, for the town, financially. As far as the finance part, it is really net zero," Wager said before fielding questions. "But there's a lot of opportunities for us to create other synergies with the town. One of them is being involved in town planning. Our town is evolving. We're seeing growth in our town."

Roughly 16 people attended what was the first of two planned information sessions about the possible merger of the fire department with the municipal government. The move has been in the works for about three years, was recommended through a selectboard vote this past spring and could begin this fall, according to Campbell and Wager. The pair have compared the merger to the marriage of long-term partners, given that the town already funds the volunteer fire department and owns the station. "Municipalizing" the fire department would also mean the selectboard would take on governance responsibilities of the department.

Campbell previously noted that the merger, which would give the town greater say in how FVFD spends its money, is in line with the town's conservative fiscal policies. For the fire department, it could mean more administrative support, Wager said during the meeting.

One attendee pointed out that there is a cost to administrative support, which Wager addressed saying, "I think what we're looking for right now, the very minimal support right now, is helping us look for information for grants. That is one of the things that we're probably looking for some assistance from the selectboard and maybe from the town government, looking for assistance for organizing these grants."

"The department works autonomously, anyways, as far as training and operation. Operationally, this is not going to affect the town at all."

Operation of the fire department is status quo."

The topic of administrative support as far as grants go came up again later in the evening.

"We recognize this would be some additional work, but we don't see it as something that's unmanageable," Campbell said.

An attendee asked if the town staff that would take on the load feels similarly.

"As (Wager) said to begin with, this has been a three-and-a-half-year conversation, and we are obviously, with the retirement of Pam Cousino, we're onto kind of a new staff, so it would not be unfair to say they're apprehensive about any new work coming at them, and

"The department works autonomously, anyways, as far as training and operation. Operationally, this is not going to affect the town at all."

— Fire Chief Bill Wager

I understand that 100%. And they have heard from me and the rest of the selectboard that they will get all the support they need in order to manage this," Campbell responded.

Wager noted that a plus of being a municipal fire department is a bigger pool of grants. "This is forward-looking, looking down the road and looking for opportunities. And I think one of the biggest opportunities we're looking for is funding," he said. "We've had to pass up quite a few opportunities for grants that we did not qualify for because we're not a municipal department."

Another attendee asked about what the impact of adding the almost 40-member department to the payroll will mean for the payroll tax, which Campbell explained will be negligible. The same will be true of workmen's compensation, which is already included in the fire department's town-paid budget.

Nobody in the department is currently salaried, and plans don't call for that to change. Firefighters will continue to receive a stipend. The FY27 budget included \$35,000 for the small payments.

Overall, Wager described the FVFD as being in good shape financially. "Currently, our department has no debt. We're planning right now on replacing our next truck in a couple years. The town has already secured funds for that."

When asked what the next steps in the process are, Campbell informed attendees that another information session will be held on Monday, Aug. 3.

"We would have another vote after kind of taking in all of the feedback that we get from the town. There would be another vote that would say yes, this is for sure the direction that we want to move in," he said.

"If this is the decision that we continue to move forward with, I do think we're looking at mid-fall, transitionally."

Free public phone is pitched for Middlebury

New amenity would be sited at Cannon Park

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Peter Allen wrote a tune in 1974 called "Everything Old is New Again."

Fifty-two years later, Middlebury is poised to put that musical message into motion with the installation of a 1990s throwback — a payphone — in its downtown.

Only this "payphone" will be free and artsy — a kitschy, utilitarian calling card that will serve residents and visitors well if they don't have one of those ubiquitous smartphones handy.

"What I think the town needs is one more phone," Daniel Houghton, manager of Middlebury College's maker space, told the Middlebury selectboard during a July 14 meeting.

Houghton and two Maker Space student interns — Noah Klompus and Helena Groskreutz — are the driving forces behind the downtown Middlebury phone effort. Houghton has been steering his charges to community service projects of late, including fabrication and installation of a new Taste of India Restaurant sign off Bakery Lane, and construction of a new storage shed for the Middlebury Area Land Trust.

"We find it really fun and meaningful," Houghton said of the work.

"We do a lot of (brain) work at the college, but to do some work with our hands is really fun," he added.

When considering their next undertaking, Maker Space stakeholders became inspired by the story of Patrick Schlott, a Randolph electrical engineer who

repurposes old pay phones to bridge the gap in rural communication, according to reporting by *Seven Days*.

Schlott's company, RandTel, has installed 11 resurrected payphones, each of which uses an internet connection to enable folks to place free calls. RandTel's most recent "free payphone" sites include Burlington's Edmunds Middle School, the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library in Jericho and the Putney Community Center.

Klompus explained to Middlebury selectboard members how a 25-year-old telecommunications anachronism could be modified for new life as a no-cost amenity for folks.

"All it means in practice is taking a 1990s payphone, changing the analog nature of it. The electrical impulse is sent through the power lines into a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) process," he said. "It's the same process used in WhatsApp, FaceTime Audio and Zoom. All it does is convert these small electric impulses into data packets that can be uploaded over WiFi to anywhere in the U.S. and the world at large."

Groskreutz pinpointed the desired location for Middlebury's free payphone: On one of the historical replica lampposts bordering Cannon Park off Main Street.

"It would be quite visible from the road... But it's also not necessarily in the way of people moving down the street. If someone decides to stop and make a call, they're not taking up the entire sidewalk," she explained.

Groskreutz believes the new phone could become another calling card for the shire town.

"(It) will be a cool installation and a great addition to the park and, I think, could become an iconic part of Middlebury," she said. "These phones give the public access to communication, they encourage individuals to be more present and participate with their community, as well as an opportunity for community expression and art."

Schlott and RandTel will provide the Middlebury phone. Houghton will work with his students to design a protective casing for the device. That casing will lend itself to artwork, Houghton noted.

Why put it on a lamppost? The lamppost is a solid structure already endowed with power and near WiFi.

"By putting the phone on already existing infrastructure, it will make the installation process much easier, as well as faster. That's definitely a huge plus," Groskreutz said.

The selectboard must still give its formal blessing, but



THIS OLD SCHOOL payphone photographed in Weybridge five years ago is the inspiration for a proposed public phone that likely will be set up in downtown Middlebury. Unlike the classic, this phone would be free.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MAKER Space student interns Helena Groskreutz and Noah Klompus recently pitched the idea of installing a free public phone in the downtown. Middlebury selectboard members are dialed into the idea.

Independent photo/John Flowers

that appears to be a formality based on feedback officials gave at their July 14 meeting.

"I think it's a great location and a great project," selectboard member Fred Dunnington said.

"I think it's a fantastic project; I'm thrilled," selectboard Chair Andy Hooper echoed.

Selectboard member Megan James is also a big fan.

"I have visions of making it look cool so it can be a tourist attraction — something where people say, 'I want to go to Middlebury and try out that phone,'" she said.

James playfully suggested the phone could be partnered with a

booklet explaining conversation etiquette.

"I think we can have fun with it and I'm excited to see what fun things you decide to put into it," she told organizers.

And fun aside, the phone could become a literal lifesaver, and certainly an important asset to poor, young and vulnerable populations.

"I know 100% that there are so many young people who are in that 5th-to-7th-grade age who are walking around town (independently)

with their friends for the first time and might not have a cellphone. I think this is a really great tool," selectboard member Isabel Gogarty said.

"These phones give the public access to communication, they encourage individuals to be more present and participate with their community, as well as an opportunity for community expression and art."

— Helena Groskreutz

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Festival wrap

The 2026 Festival on the Green was truncated when rain on Saturday prompted cancellation of the street dance in front of the Middlebury Post Office. Nevertheless, the end of the week of FOTG was thrilling, inspiring and just plain fun. Clockwise from top right, Moriah Welch of Sudbury was watching the show with kids from the Mary Johnson Children's Center when Kevin O'Keefe of Circus Minimus called her up on stage and made her a pair of balloon rabbit ears at Friday's Brown Bag Lunch; The Mammals' Ruth Unger and her bandmate and husband Mike Merenda sing some of their high-octane Americana on Thursday evening; O'Keefe, in his persona as an Italian chef, juggles in front of a sponsor's sign; Brett Hughes and his Honky Tonk Crowd perform some boot-stomping, barbecue-ready, Vermont-flavored country music on Friday evening; O'Keefe's helper Jasper Perrine, 8, of Brandon tries to find directions on a "map"; Welch has a hair-raising experience after O'Keefe hypnotized her; O'Keefe dons yet another persona; Unger sings a heart-felt song; and Scott Milici sings while he plays keyboard with The Mammals. See you next July!

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright



(Continued from Page 1A)

13-member ACSD board will be on the the 2027 Town Meeting Day ballot.

The ACSD board, after questioning both candidates and then deliberating behind closed doors, voted 7-4 (with one member absent) in favor of Murphy.

Murphy steps into Shoreham's ACSD board spot during a seismic education change in her community. The board last year voted to merge Shoreham's and neighboring Bridport's K-5 populations at Bridport Central School to enable children from both communities to have single-grade instruction. Declining enrollment would have otherwise required both schools to offer all multi-age classrooms, according to ACSD officials, who had also cited lagging standardized test scores at Shoreham Elementary School to justify the Shoreham-Bridport merger.

The Shoreham Elementary building will house a new ACSD PreK program beginning this fall.

Many Shoreham residents remain resentful and dejected by the Shoreham Elementary closure decision, and Murphy has been vocal in her opposition to the move. During a June interview with the *Independent*, she shared some of her views, including her concern that her town's loss of its local school might prompt people stop laying down roots in Shoreham — thereby shrinking its tax base and draining the ranks of volunteer emergency responders.

Murphy joins Ripton's Steve Cash as board representatives of the only two ACSD communities that

don't have an elementary school. Ripton closed its school last spring due to low enrollment. Cash is the current ACSD board chair.

Murphy on Monday told the board she recognizes that each ACSD board member must look out for the broader educational interests of the entire seven-town district. ACSD delivers PreK-12 public education to children in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

"We all represent all the staff and children in the ACSD," Murphy told her now-colleagues during her interview.

She reinforced that sentiment through a letter of interest she sent the board after Wilson announced her departure plans.

"I am eager to contribute, collaborate with fellow board members, and advocate for all students throughout the ACSD," she wrote.

She said she's built relationships with other school parents in the district, particularly in Cornwall and Weybridge.

"My mom was a teacher," she added. "I see the importance of public education and what it really means to kids."

Asked what she believes will be some of the biggest issues the ACSD will need to deal with in the next year, Murphy replied, "Keeping an eye on the budget will be huge," and "there will be a lot of change in the next five years through the state, not just in our small towns."

She was referring to changes related to Act 170, the state's new public education reform law. The

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

flow into the Vermont Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which “supports Vermonters to buy and build houses, cooperatives, and community land trusts across the state, to ensure permanent affordability of housing now and for generations to come.” Janoo understands that Vermont’s housing crisis needs more than simply building more homes — and she is unafraid to propose solutions that stand up to out-of-state corporate interests in Vermont’s deepening healthcare crisis is not going to go away by making incremental changes to a broken system — we need true leaders like Janoo who are willing to propose structural changes to a health network that simply isn’t working. Fixing our healthcare problem means our aging population will be well-cared for, young people will be able to live here and small businesses and employers will have a path toward prosperity.

See you at the polls on August 11. (Visit the Vermont Voter Portal to request a mail-in ballot.)



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Pauline Stevens

(Continued from Page 1A)
outside the barn is quiet and mostly void of customers, open only on Wednesdays.

The Golden Russet property stretches across 85 acres, but the farm itself occupies only eight to ten acres of that. The rest is hayfields, pastures, and some property used by surrounding farmers to keep their livestock. After moving out of the farmhouse, her parents built their own abode on the property past the fields in a far corner of the acreage. Far enough to be away from the hustle of the farm, but close enough to visit from time to time.

Pauline welcomed the transition from sprint planting to summer cultivation and harvesting.

“It’s nice to kind of have that part of the business just slowing down so we can be out in the field, doing more,” Pauline says. “It’s different every day here, different every month, and it keeps things really interesting.”

Outside the two-story house, where Pauline lives with Robin, her husband Cody Mears and their dog Tulsi, the fields stretch westward toward the Adirondacks. On a typical morning this summer, a tractor slowly rolls along, helping with another day of planting.

“I grew up here on the farm. The people who worked here were definitely like our babysitters in a way. We were always just hanging around, lurking, ‘helping,’” she laughs, remembering those childhood days.

Most of Pauline’s work days now begin with watering the assortment of plants surrounding the farmstand in flats. This is what she takes care of.

“It’s changed a bit with the baby, but I usually get up and come outside,” she says. “This morning, I worked on watering.”

In the back of the barn behind the farmstand, a long-time employee named Elsa prepares mixed bouquets destined for the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op the next day. Stevens or an employee cut 20 to 30 varieties of flowers almost every day to deliver to the Co-op about five days a week.

“So we’re pretty constantly going,” Pauline says, opening the large walk-in refrigerator, chilly enough to keep the flowers fresh for longer. “We store flowers in here.”

On what until Robin arrived was a “normal” summer day, Pauline would be standing beside Elsa arranging bouquets. These days, though, she notes with a laugh that she’s become “more of a behind-the-scenes choreographer.” Instead of harvesting flowers herself, she checks produce orders, talks through the day’s tractor work with one of her employees, Parker, and plans what the crew will tackle next.

On this particular morning, she had already called the Middlebury Co-op for its produce order, which she does twice a week.

“Once we know their order, I then go over that with the rest of the crew,” she says. “Then they can go out and harvest. We sell most of our products in the Middlebury Co-op. It’s great knowing that what we produce is staying so close to home and in the Addison County community; it’s pretty amazing.”

Stepping into a different cooler, Pauline points to crates filled with freshly harvested produce stored in various crates.

“This morning we picked mint, dill, cilantro and beets. We’re also

packing spinach, which we picked yesterday, and sugar snap peas,” she says, pointing to each as she lists them. Beside the boxes sits buckets of heavy-headed peonies.

Harvest comes first nearly every morning at Golden Russet because there are always things that need to get out of the ground.

Because she has an experienced crew, Pauline spends less time planting and hoeing than she did in seasons past, though she still completes many manual tasks. Much of her work now involves preparing for tomorrow’s jobs so tasks run smoothly, and she doesn’t have to rush to burn holes in tarps for the plantings, like she had this morning.

Pauline has around nine people working on her crew this summer. They don’t all work at once; every day there are between four and six people at the farm.

“Everyone is very capable and competent,” she says. “Because of this, my job is more like, what are they up to next? What plants are they going to plant? Where are they going to hoe, and which beds should they weed?”

Beyond the farmstand, row after row of onions stretches out toward the tree line. This is really where the heart of Golden Russet lies — their fall storage crops. Around 70,000 onions grow under the dirt to be harvested at a later date.

“It’s the whole block,” she said. “We grow a lot of fall storage crops, so onions are a big one because they store very well. We have some garlic in the field beyond the trees, and the rows in the middle here are shallots.”

This morning, the crew spends hours hoeing before the rain is due to arrive, forecasted for later that evening. Pauline speculates on the size of her crop; by the end of the weekend, she expects the younger onions to be as big as the ones they had planted a week earlier.

“We’re chasing the rain basically,” she observes. “Hoeing is a lot more efficient than hand weeding, so we tried to squeeze that in before tonight’s rain.”

The tractor first cultivates between the rows before the crew follows behind, hoeing and then hand-weeding around each plant.

“The cultivation gets most of the weeds in between the rows, and then the hoeing gets the weeds between the plants, then hand weeding,” Pauline explains. “We haven’t hand-weeded these onions yet. There’s always some project with the onions because there are so many.”

Not every day of the week, but a good chunk of their days at the farm is spent taking care of the onions. Pauline assesses their progress:

“They look really good, I’m pleased.”
ANOTHER WEATHER CHALLENGE

Next door to the onions are the sunflowers, almost ready for picking. It is the farm’s first planting of the season, timed to be ready by the Fourth of July. Although the plants look healthy now, the weather from the previous week had Pauline worried.

“That crazy windstorm we had last week blew them, and some of them are crooked,” she says. “That’s just another classic example of the weather challenge. All it takes is one storm blowing through, and these plants were completely tilted sideways.”

The farm grows about 1,800 sunflowers. Pauline knew these flowers would straighten out before they were picked, but unpredictable weather is an inevitable part of farming.

That same uncertainty determines when the fields need watering. A built-in irrigation system connects to a pond in the low point of the property and carries it through to the middle of the fields. With connective tubing, the water is able to reach all the crops in the ground.

“We haven’t had to irrigate this onion field in two weeks because of all the rain,” Pauline notes. “You never know. Two years ago, we watered the fields until the pond went dry. This year’s been pretty consistent.”

Even with these challenges, Pauline is able to navigate them with the constant support of her hardworking team, the Co-op and restaurants that purchase Golden Russet produce.

“With having ... people who want and really value local produce ... I definitely feel supported,” she says. “People really value the products we make and the food we grow and appreciate it. I feel supported by our community. I think they trust where their food comes from, knowing it’s coming from us.”

Walking past the poblano, bell and shishito peppers, Pauline points out the next generations of cilantro and dill, along with fall carrots she had seeded the day before. Nearby, spinach and kale planted just three days earlier should be ready for harvest by mid-August.

She stops to pick up a handful of weeds browned after the morning’s cultivation. It is an effective and efficient process and makes her job easier.

Parallel to the onion field, Parker drives the tractor slowly forward while two other employees, Erin and Brooke, ride at its rear, planting cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli. Up close, the process looks meditative.

The tractor punches a hole in the soil, fills it with water, and Erin and Brooke quickly tuck each plant into the ground before moving forward. It is a slow process, but it has been made easier by the system they have created. Noticing that the crew was running low on trays, Pauline walks over to where they sit on a wooden table and grabs two more.

“I’m hoping to plant 16 trays,” she says, walking back to the tractor to hand off the trays. “It’s like 2,400 plants they have to get in. They’ll get as many as they can.”

They might get it done, but some days they do leave before completing all their tasks — that is how working on a farm goes. Pauline tries her best to help out her co-workers as much as possible,



THOUSANDS OF ONIONS soak up the sun, growing bigger every day at Golden Russet Farm to be sold in the fall or stored over the winter. Independent photo/Eloise Christy

especially when she sees they need things.

“Now I’m spending a lot of time trying to be helpful in situations like this,” she says. “I can see they’re getting through it. If I can keep them going, I will. I’m just trying to stay on top of it.”

WORKING MOM

While Pauline’s responsibilities on the farm have shifted over the years, one life change has reshaped her days even more. Since becoming a mom, balancing work and family is a part of every decision she makes.

“We already are really tied to where we are, but I just can’t be out here (in the field) all the time,” she explains. “I need to go inside because he needs to eat. That’s been really different. My husband works from home, so I need to make sure he is also doing his job and not only taking care of Robin. That’s been an adjustment.”

With both Pauline’s and Cody’s parents nearby, care is available when they really need it. But when that care is not available, Pauline brings Robin out with her in the gardens, experiencing echoes from her own childhood.

By midafternoon, the workday pauses when Cody calls from back at the house.

“Oh, all right, he’s hungry!” she says, before turning toward the farmstand to let Elsa know she was heading inside.

Walking into the old farmhouse where she grew up, there are many things that have changed since her mom and dad lived there. The structure is the same, but toys are now strewn about, and the furniture has changed.

Pauline lived and worked on the farm throughout high school and college before spending seven years at a nonprofit. She returned in 2018 knowing she wanted to eventually take over the family business and did so in 2022.

“It was definitely very much like I wanted to come back and take it

over,” she said. “It’s funny, Robin’s nursery is my childhood bedroom, you know? It is the same house, it just feels different. The furniture’s all different.”

Despite changes occurring inside the house, the farm’s workers have been consistent throughout many years. Some have been there for around 15 years. The next big thing that Pauline and her family are working toward is to purchase the property that they are leasing from her parents.

“I already own the business, but the actual property is the next transition,” she said. “Once that happens, it’ll definitely be different.”

Pauline has been thinking about the farm’s future and what it looks like with Robin in the mix. Settling him on her lap, bouncing him lightly, she explains that she and Cody have more to think about.

“How is he going to be raised on (the farm),” she asks. “What does that look like, you know? Right now he’s not running around and stuff ... but what is next summer going to look like? What is it going to be like when he’s in school? How’s it all going to go?”

As she walks outside her house carrying Robin, Pauline smiles as she touches her baby son’s nose. “It’s totally different with him around. But really fun, right, buddy?”

Robin smiles from the maternal embrace as Pauline reflects on what she loves about working this farm and providing for her community.

As the planting of that day’s brassicas comes to an end around 4:30 p.m., Parker, Erin and Brooke head home to rest until tomorrow. The flowers are stored in the cooler, ready to be delivered to the Co-op. The bustle of the day is winding down and Pauline heads inside to Cody and Robin.

“I love being outside, I love producing food,” Pauline says. “The reward of feeding so many people in our community is amazing ... We have a really great crew and it’s so nice to work with people who want to work together. I find that super rewarding. I feel really lucky that I’m surrounded by people like that.”



GOLDEN RUSSET FARM owner Pauline Stevens aids her employees in the field by delivering more trays of brassicas to their dwindling supply as they sit behind the tractor planting through the afternoon. Independent photo/Eloise Christy



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Porta-potty set on fire in Bristol again

BRISTOL — Bristol police are seeking information about an incident in which someone set a portable toilet on fire last week. Police reported that the incident took place on Maple Street at around 2:30 a.m. this past Thursday, July 16.

Those with information are asked to contact the department at 802-453-2533. Police also ask that anyone with a doorbell or security camera on Elm, Pleasant, West Pleasant, Church or West streets review their recordings for anyone walking between 1-3:30 a.m., as it could help identify those involved.

It's not the first incident of porta-potties in town being set on fire. The Bristol Recreation Department stated in a July 16 Facebook post that such incidents are why there are no longer portable bathrooms at Sycamore Park or the town green, where town officials had recently worked to install a bathroom for park users.

“Please, if you know anything about any of these units being vandalized, reach out to the BPD,” the post reads.

In other recent activity, Bristol police on June 29 arrested Jennifer Martin, 39, of Williston on an in-

state arrest warrant. Martin was cited for retail theft, according to police.

On July 7, police arrested Robert Meacham, 45, of Bristol following an investigation into a report of an ongoing domestic incident. Meacham was transported to Addison County Superior Court, criminal division, where he was arraigned on a charge of first-degree aggravated domestic violence and held without bail, police said. Bristol police were assisted by Vermont State Police in responding to the incident.

That same day, police referred an adult to pre-charge diversion for retail theft.

On July 8, police assisted Addison County Superior Court in citing Franklin Grant, 48, of Bristol for retail theft.

On July 17, Bristol police arrested and cited Jackson Desautels, 23, of Lincoln for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Between June 28 and July 18, Bristol police completed 13 foot patrols and two car patrols, conducted 12 traffic stops and checked security at local schools 40 times and (See Fire, Page 16A)

Bristol Police Log

Local shelter receives suspicious calls

VERGENNES — On Wednesday, July 15, the Vergennes Police Department took a report of several suspicious

phone calls to the John Graham Shelter.

According to the department, the calls came late at night and no one spoke. Police are investigating the incident, but as of Monday did not know who was making the calls.

Between July 13 and July 19, Vergennes police also conducted 23 traffic stops, two directed patrols and two VIN verifications and took fingerprints two times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On July 13 officers responded to a minor two-vehicle crash at the intersection of West Main Street and Pantan Road. Minor injuries were reported.

- On July 13 received a report of a vehicle stolen from a Vergennes home. Police recovered it in Cambridge, Vt. Andrea Teague, 34, of Jeffersonville was issued a citation to appear in Addison County District Court to answer the charges of operation without owner's consent, possession of stolen property and driving with a criminally suspended license.

- On July 13 responded to the report of a person attempting to break into cars near a business. Officers were unable to find the person.

- On July 13 responded to a two-car crash on Scovel Lane. Nobody was injured and the parties exchanged information. Both vehicles were able to drive from the scene.

- On July 14 investigated a complaint regarding animal neglect at a city residence. Officers determined there was no neglect and the animals were well cared for.

- On July 14 were called to assist with traffic control for the Vergennes Fire Department, but the call was cancelled.

- On July 14 were notified of a

verbal dispute between roommates. They were separated for the night.

- On July 15 spoke with a resident about growing concerns from his family and doctor about his ability to drive a vehicle safely. There have been signs of early onset of dementia.

- On July 15 received an online report from a person with known mental health issues. The person is currently an inpatient at the hospital.

- On July 15 assisted a Vergennes resident with a citizen dispute.

- On July 17 returned a lost wallet to the owner.

- On July 17 took a report of

damage being discovered after the owner returned to their vehicle in the Federal Credit Union parking lot. It is unknown if the damage occurred then or at a different time and location. A case number was provided for insurance.

- On July 19 were advised of a report of noise coming from a public trash can. Nothing was found.

- On July 19 responded after a juvenile reported their mother and step-father were in a verbal argument. Officers separated the parties for the evening and resources were offered to the involved parties.

- On July 19 took a report of a missing juvenile. Officers found them in Vergennes and returned them to their home.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
out a team to push a cart of books in the parade, call the library at 802-388-4095.

Route 125 between Ripton and Middlebury will be closed for 12 days from this coming Monday, July 27, through end of the day on Aug. 7. The state Agency of Transportation is detouring drivers via Route 100 and Route 73 through Brandon. Oh my, that turns a 3.5-mile drive into a 38-mile drive. Locals in the know will take North Branch Road between Lincoln Road in Ripton and East Middlebury but be warned — a lot of it is gravel, there are a lot of twists and turns, and the drop off on the south side of the road is precipitous. Some people call the road a nightmare.

Addison County recorded a jobless rate of 2.3% in June, which was tied with Chittenden and Orange counties for having the lowest unemployment rate in the state. Addison County reported 469 people looking for work out of a total labor force of 20,807. The Addison County jobless rate in June was up two-tenths of a percent compared to May, according to information provided by the Vermont Department of Labor. Vermont's jobless rate in June was 2.6%, unchanged from May. Orleans County recorded the highest jobless rate at 3.3%. Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate for June was 4.2%.

Gov. Phil Scott on Tuesday announced a range of appointments to various boards and commissions that

he made during the second quarter of 2026, a list that includes several Addison County residents. The appointees included Ferrisburgh's Rob North, for the District 9 Environmental Commission; Tom Estey of Starksboro and John Marcus of Bridport, both for the Fire Service Training Council; Mark Cahill of New Haven, Kathi Apgar of New Haven and Peter MacFarlane of Addison, all as justices of the peace; Betsy King of Orwell, for the State Program Standing Committee on Children, Adolescent and Family Mental Health; Jane Clifford of Starksboro, on the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future; and Fred Baser of Bristol, for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. All those interested in serving on a board or commission should visit the governor's website at governor.vermont.gov/boards-commissions to apply.

When the Department for Children & Families seeks to take a child into their custody, Vermont law requires the court to appoint a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). GALs are volunteer, court-appointed special advocates who protect a child's best interests in these juvenile court cases, which usually involve allegations of abuse or neglect. Right now, there's an urgent need for volunteer GALs and too many children at risk of not having this essential support in their lives. A GAL works closely with the child's attorney, meets with the child regularly, and gathers information from people involved in the child's life to understand the child's needs and advocate for their best interests in

court. The GAL's goal is to ensure the child has a safe, stable and permanent home as quickly as possible.

GALs come from all walks of life, and no prior experience in the courts or the child welfare system or specialized education is required. Successful applicants must be compassionate, have a flexible schedule, pass a background check and have reliable transportation and internet access. All GALs must complete 32 hours of training, which is provided by the Judiciary, and a mentorship with an experienced GAL prior to being appointed to their own case. For more information visit VermontJudiciary.org/GAL, email VermontGAL@vtcourts.gov or call 800-622-6359. The Judiciary welcomes volunteer candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply. The program's next training will be Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29. The trainings will be in-person in Berlin.

Bristol Police

(Continued from Page 1A)
experiencing.”

In addition to full-time officers, a part-time officer helps provide coverage for the Bristol police force on occasion. Nason explained a part-time officer serves on a per diem basis and more recently such help has only been available a handful of times in the past several months.

“They do the best they can, but they have full-time jobs,” he said.

Nason said that oftentimes there is only one police officer scheduled at a time. When calls for service require more support, the department seeks backup from Vermont State Police or Middlebury and Vergennes police.

During a July 13 Bristol selectboard meeting, Nason described multiple incidents Bristol police have responded to recently that required backup. In one case, an officer responded to an active domestic dispute and backup arrived 25 minutes later, Nason said.

“It would have been nice to have somebody there due to the size of the person but because we continue to practice de-escalation and we continue to work on that, we were able to keep the person calm enough that we could arrest them by ourselves, but it's not safe,” he told the board.

That case started at 10:54 a.m. and wrapped up at 4:10 p.m., after the individual was brought to court and arraigned.

“So, five hours one person was tied up and no longer available to answer calls for service,” Nason said. “We did call somebody in early that day to help out.”

Nason acknowledged how the department's current staffing numbers can impact officers' time

off.

“We feel guilty if you take the day off because somebody's going to have to come in on a day off to cover that,” he told the board.

“It's not realistic, it's not sustainable,” Nason said of the current staffing levels.

The police chief noted some towns have had to cut back hours of service due to staffing.

“We haven't done that, but I have to seriously explore that, too,” he told the *Independent*.

Nason said one of the challenges the Bristol department has run into when looking to hire another full-time officer is its rate of pay, which is lower than that of surrounding towns.

“We've got to lessen that gap, and we're trying to work with the current town administrator on how can we achieve that,” he said.

Those interested in the role would need to pass a background check and should be interested in law enforcement and being part of the Bristol community, as Nason noted the department focuses on community policing — working proactively with community members rather than waiting for an incident to occur and reacting to it.

Anyone interested in learning more about the position can call the department at 802-453-2533 or email Nason at bruce.nason@vermont.gov.

“We are certainly hopeful we can fill this position to alleviate the burden on the three that are here,” Nason said. “We appreciate the support that we do get from the public and the new town administrator, and we're looking forward to finding the person to fill this position.”



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Esther Charlestin

(Continued from Page 1A)
former Lt. Gov. Molly Gray, who served from 2021 to 2023, and Ryan McLaren, a former top aide for U.S. Sen Peter Welch. Vermont’s primary election is Aug. 11, with the Democratic nominee advancing to face incumbent Lt. Gov. John Rodgers in the Nov. 3 general election.

Charlestin has had an extensive career serving Vermont communities through her work on the Middlebury selectboard, the Vermont Commission on Women, her consulting firm Conversation Compass, as the 2024 Democratic nominee for governor, and as a mother living in the Green Mountain State.

Her campaign is centered around helping Vermonters navigate education, everyday costs, and gaining economic freedom while also working to build a trusting relationship between the people and the state government.

“(My) experiences and being a part of the shift in the community ... really showed me that it’s important that we’re at the table and that we are a part of the conversations of what’s going on, not only in our town, but also in our state,” Charlestin said in a recent interview.

Charlestin isn’t new to campaigning. In her 2024 race for governor against Republican incumbent Phil Scott, she received a little over 20% of the vote.

Charlestin said she has learned from her experiences and reflected on what the top priority is for her.

“What I’ve learned through my time, as I think, reflect and listen to what the need is in our state, I hear and see that right now, communities are very weary of local government and government altogether, especially nationally,” she said. “Folks are feeling disconnected, disengaged.”

She said that the lieutenant governor’s greatest influence doesn’t come from proposing legislation, but from using the office’s “convening power” to bring people together, talk through hard conversations, and overall bridge the gap between the community and state government.

Charlestin has been traveling throughout the state to hear directly

from Vermonters about the issues they want to see resolved. She has spoken to different communities and counties, hearing one thing loud and clear.

“Healthcare is definitely a huge concern for folks,” she said. “I talked with constituents whose bill went up \$26,000. A lot of people in Vermont are living one paycheck away from a disaster and so people are feeling the squeeze of everyday costs.”

Not only are current economic pressures and healthcare a core concern for Vermonters, but the housing shortage and education are as well, she said. Hoping for a future of free education for students is something that is on Charlestin’s mind. When asked about her conversations with Vermonters in the past months, she recalled a conversation she had with a family that loved living in Vermont but couldn’t afford to stay.

“That troubles me, because I’m not only thinking about Vermont today, I’m thinking about the Vermont 10, 20 years from now. I see my role...as partnering with different organizations in each county to really amplify the work they’re doing that supports families...And how do we set up our students to honestly not carry the weight, the debt of student loans, giving them the opportunity to build and create stuff?”

One way Charlestin plans to aid the housing shortage is to build in downtowns and village centers since the infrastructure to do so already exists.

“My work would be to bring the builders, the towns, the conservation groups, who are usually talking past each other, and build a table where they’re talking to each other. Let’s talk about those hard things (floods) and some hard decisions we may have to make as a community to make sure people are safe.”

This community-centered approach to her work as lieutenant governor comes from her own family and history. Charlestin is the daughter of immigrant parents from Haiti. She grew up in a household where they welcomed family and others with open arms. Her mother spent a lot of time building wells in Haiti and so this became the norm. Being part of a community was the norm.

“Watching her implanted

something in me,” Charlestin explained. “I remember when I was seven months pregnant with my daughter, building houses in Tennessee with Habitat for Humanity ... the combination of giving back and then being at the table has been my work.”

Charlestin moved to Vermont a few years ago and it has now become a place that she cares for deeply. She dreams of a Vermont in which communities come together to solve problems. She recalled the floods that happened in the last few years and how the communities of Vermont came together.

“What if we did that on a regular basis?” she asked. “What if we were able to support each other on a regular basis? As lieutenant governor, I’ll have the opportunity to continue to build that infrastructure ... to use this office to continue the work and make sure we have systems in place where folks can communicate with each other, learn from each other, and grow from each other. Make sure that people are at the center.”

When it comes to how her campaign compares to the other candidates she is facing in this election, Charlestin believes that she is the only one who is not making promises she can’t keep. In her opinion, other candidates are bringing in plans that the state simply cannot implement.

“If you’re looking for a leader who’s community-grounded, who is not afraid to go back into community, to meet people where they are, to bring the community with them to Montpelier so it’s not this elite bubble but a place where people have access and their voice is known and encouraged, I am your candidate,” She said. “Esther is about the people ... and for the people.”

Charlestin sees her role to be similar to the one she held when she was dean of climate and culture at Middlebury Union Middle School; a role in which hard-earned respect and care was developed between herself and her students.

“There was a student who I would say hi to enthusiastically every day, and she gave me the side eye every time,” she explained. “By the end of the year, she came back and said thank you...for always saying hi. It meant a lot. That’s how I will show up for our communities. It takes time to build that trust. I’ll keep coming back and making sure that they know they have an advocate.”

Much of Charlestin’s work as



ESTHER CHARLESTIN

lieutenant governor would be an extension of the work she has been doing for years and using her platform to amplify the voices of Vermonters instead of speaking in place of them. The goal for her is that people’s concerns are being advocated for at the state level and that there is a mutually beneficial relationship between the two.

“When you’re coming in and telling communities what to do, what are you met with?” Charlestin asked. “That get-out-of-my-face energy. That you-don’t-know-us energy. And that’s not how we move policy forward. That is not how we build trust. We build trust by showing up...and asking questions.”

Not only has Charlestin looked at Vermont from a political standpoint, but she has also experienced it as a resident, a mother, and a community member. She believes that the government should be returning to the people time and time again in order to actually meet their needs.

“I moved here a few years ago,” she said. “I remember thinking, this is a beautiful state to raise children. It really is. And I can honestly say years later, I was right. It has been a gift. Vermont has been a gift to me. I’ve been able to build a family here, build a community here in a way that I’ve never experienced anywhere else. My intention and hope in all that I do is to serve, to be about the people, and to be the gift to Vermont that Vermont’s been to me.”

Ryan McLaren

(Continued from Page 1A)
he said in an earlier conversation. “And the systems that made my life possible — the ability for my parents to buy a house, the ability for my parents to send me and my siblings to a public school that they had confidence in, the ability for a kid like me to get the health care I needed when I needed it at a cost my parents could afford — all of that, all of those systems are broken. And so I feel this fierce sense of urgency.”

That urgency, he said, can be summed up in three areas: housing, health care and hope.

“People are desperate for leadership and they are desperate for change, and that provides an opportunity to lead.”

McLaren has worked in political organizing for his 15-year career and served as a top aide to Sen. Peter Welch for the past decade before quitting that job to run for lieutenant governor.

Born in Essex Junction, he attended public schools in Essex, then was admitted to Wesleyan College on an athletic scholarship in football, where he played defensive linebacker.

McLaren has not previously run for public office, but he makes the case that his decade working in Sen. Welch’s office as a top aide — where he managed the Democrat’s campaigns, helped develop policy and routinely met with constituents — gave him relevant experience for the job. Before working for Welch, McLaren was a top adviser to the commissioner of Vermont’s Department of Motor Vehicles and worked in constituent services for former Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin. He started his career as a field organizer for the state chapter of the Democratic Party.

Even though he has spent the past 15 years working within the Democratic Party, he’s tough on the party’s performance and says Democrats need to be more forthright in addressing the issues of affordability.

“The American dream is out of reach for most people and Democrats need to own it. Trump is making things worse, but he didn’t cause all of it,” McLaren says. That’s true at the state level as well, he said, adding that many Vermonters have “lost their trust in Montpelier.”

“Look around. Most people can’t afford to buy or build a house. Health care costs have doubled (partly due to Trump’s big, beautiful bill slashing President Biden’s health care subsidies to many middle-income Vermonters). Politics are more focused on ideologies, not outcomes.”

Part of the solution, he said, is that “Democrats have to change. We’re good at problem analysis, but not as good at taking action to fix it.”

Regarding Vermont’s affordable housing crisis, he said Vermonters “need to be willing to say ‘yes’ to things. We’ve become too precious. We need to say ‘yes’ to environmental needs, and that means yes to wind and solar — even when it might be right next to you.”

One of the focuses of McLaren’s

campaign is that he’s more focused on getting things done than on politics, and cites much of the work he’s done while working with Sen. Welch to make his point, including the following projects in fiscal year 2026:

- Led the effort with UVM to secure a \$23.7 million federal grant to create a UVM Tech Hub program. It is the largest research award in UVM history. The grant pairs GlobalFoundries’ semiconductor leadership with UVM’s researchers bringing “cutting-edge facilities and computing technology to Vermont.” The Tech Hub will train over 500 new employees in the semiconductor workspace and engage over 6,000 K-12 students across Vermont in STEM participation in the next five years.

- Helped secure \$30 million in USDA Disaster Aid relief for flooding in 2023-2024.

- Secured \$5,250,000 for Ascend Housing Allies Incorporated to help construct a 21-unit, fully affordable, rental apartment building in Middlebury; \$100,000 for the Center for Agricultural Economy for farm-to-school education and local food school nutrition; \$996,000 in federal funding to expand and sustain its Bridges to Health Community Health Worker program across all rural Vermont communities; \$750,000 for VHCB to expand the Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program’s capacity to serve working lands businesses, with a focus on beginning farmers and businesses; and \$1 million to expand available childcare slots to meet the needs of the community and add nine new full-time jobs.

Asked what distinguishes his policy proposals, McLaren says “the main difference in this race is leadership and experience — the leadership to develop real policy solutions that can make an impact immediately and the experience and track record to actually get things done.

“The clearest difference is on housing and property taxes. I have proposed a ‘Yes in My Back Yard’ tax credit that would give communities \$25,000 in property-tax relief for every new unit of housing they permit. Vermont is already spending hundreds of millions to artificially buy down property taxes year after year. My proposal would use those same dollars to make property-tax relief an incentive for communities to build more housing across the state, grow our grand lists, and actually fix the structural deficit in education funding.

“It connects the two things people are desperately asking for: more homes, so they can find a place to live that they can afford, and property-tax relief, so they can stay in the homes they already have.”

McLaren also says he was the first “to propose a pied-à-terre tax on luxury second homes. People who own ski chalets in Stowe should never be paying a lower property-tax rate than the family down the street that just wants to send their kid to the local school. It is happening now, and we could change it tomorrow.” A pied-
(See McLaren on Page 15A)

Vermont State announces Dean's List

RANDOLPH CENTER — Vermont State University is pleased to announce the local students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2026 semester.

Declan Anderson of Orwell; Henry Bart of Brandon; Meagan Bean of Starksboro; Cloey Bell of Salisbury; Evan Brooks of Vergennes; Sarah Calvin of Brandon; Lilly Case of New Haven; Wendy Chase of Bristol;

Sam Cowan of N. Ferrisburgh; Raluca Cristea of Brandon; Morgan Currier of Brandon; Zeke Dubois of Addison; Charles DuGood of North Ferrisburgh; Kylee Forrest of Brandon; Pajua Gamba of Brandon; Madison Gile of Bristol; Mahaila Gosselin of Salisbury; Mariska Harding of Brandon; Cebelle Hull of Whiting; Taber Kerins of Brandon; Devon Kibbey of Sudbury; Haley Koenig

of Roxbury; Cade Landesman of Brandon; Paden Lathrop of Brandon; Grace LeBeau of Vergennes; Caitlyn Marcotullio of Bristol; Phoebe Mason of Bristol; Graham Mattrick of Rochester; Maya Menzel of Bristol; Elsa Michaels of Vergennes; Sam Moriglioni of N. Ferrisburgh; Carter Paquette of Shoreham; Keevon Parks of Sudbury; Jeffrey Perez Pedraza of Addison; Fraser Pierpont of Salisbury; Felicia Poirier of Ferrisburgh; Branden

School News

Reynolds of Lincoln; Caleb Russell of New Haven; Elyse Singh of Brandon; Jade Sutton of Vergennes; Alanna Trudeau of Salisbury; Taylor Wood of Bristol; Klara Hopkins of Brandon; Kaiden Lee of Brandon; Cadence Mailhiot of Rochester; Ocean Verge of Ferrisburgh

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McLaren

(Continued from Page 14A)

terre tax, which is French for “foot on the ground,” is applied to luxury homes owned by non-residents that are used as second homes. All three Democratic candidates support the same tax on luxury homes.

All three candidates also support universal primary care. McLaren says it’s “a practical first step toward a system where everyone can get the care they need. Vermont already spends too much on health care — we need to reorganize the system by investing in primary care, strengthening rural providers, and helping people get care before they end up in an emergency room. But that is just one thing Vermont can do. The real solution in the end is a national, Medicare-for-All single-payer system where health care is treated as a right and not a privilege.”

On education, McLaren acknowledges the need for school consolidation saying that the current 118 school districts are too many, but the governor’s recommended 5 is too few. Determining the right number is one of the challenges facing the state, he said, adding that the key focus should be on student outcomes.

McLaren says he also views the lieutenant governor’s office as an “Office of the Public Advocate — an office that connects Vermonters with their government, brings people together around practical solutions, and follows through until problems are solved. I have spent my entire adult life in public service in Vermont, and I know how to bring people together to get things done,” he says.

On affordability, McLaren says it’s not just one issue. “It’s housing, healthcare, childcare, energy, and whether people can imagine building a future in Vermont. My job as lieutenant governor would be to keep the focus on outcomes instead of politics. We need a culture of yes on the things we say we want, especially housing and renewable energy.

“But it’s not good enough to just say we want more homes and clean energy. We need to rebuild systems that get to ‘yes’ on these things. My YIMBY Tax Credit will be a great start on housing. But we need regulatory and permitting processes for both housing and energy development that are consistent, predictable, and timely so we can get more homes and more energy into the



RYAN McLAREN

VT Digger candidate photos by Glenn Russell

market and lower costs. Wind and solar are the cheapest energy on the planet and they don’t have to go through the Strait of Hormuz. If we want more jobs and lower bills, we need to deploy wind and solar rapidly.”

McLaren also cites a different opponent in the race: nihilism.

“Real openness and generosity are possible in our politics, as hard as it is to see, and they’re especially possible in a place like Vermont,” he said in an interview in the *Wesleyan Magazine*. “My

“My opponent in this race is nihilism, the sense that nothing matters, politics is broken, and even if you work hard, you’re not going to get ahead. I just don’t believe that.”

— Ryan McLaren

opponent in this race is nihilism, the sense that nothing matters, politics is broken, and even if you work hard, you’re not going to get ahead. I just don’t believe that. My life experience has taught me something else: If you get up every day and you try to do a little bit better, things you never could imagine are possible.”

In various interviews, McLaren notes how his life was changed by a

skiing accident in 2017 at Mad River Glen that left him with little to no function below the knees and limited function between his waist and knees, a condition known as incomplete paraplegia. His condition has improved since then, he said, though he continues to use a wheelchair to get around.

“We get to choose whether or not we want to pull the cover over our eyes and hope for a miracle, or we want to, you know, get out of bed every day and just get to work and try and make things better,” McLaren said. “The only way to fail is to not try — and there’s hope in the trying.”

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Three area students make Tufts University Dean's List

MEDFORD, Mass. — Tufts University has announced the dean’s list for the spring 2026 semester. Addison County students

who made the list are:

- Camila Blanco of Salisbury.
- Lauren Cousino of Starksboro.
- Luke Davis of N. Ferrisburgh.

Molly Gray

(Continued from Page 1A)

cross-country skiing. She followed up her 2006 BA in international studies from UVM with a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School in 2014. She went on to earn a Master of Laws in international law in 2016.

That legal background is more important than ever, Gray says, in confronting President Trump’s continuing attacks on human rights, voting rights, and defending the basic tenants of our democracy.

“We know the next two years of the Trump administration will be the most dangerous, we’re already seeing it,” Gray wrote in a recent email exchange. “We continue to see unlawful detentions by ICE, voting rights under attack, and other basic freedoms.

“I became a lawyer in the wake of 9/11 to help protect fundamental rights when we saw the human rights scandals of Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and more. For the last 20 years I’ve worked as a human rights lawyer and advocate, as a Vermont Assistant Attorney General investigating the Catholic Church for child sexual abuse, as a former lieutenant governor and more recently as executive director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance.

“When Trump tried to defund the Alliance, I fought to secure the funds to keep it going. When ICE wrongfully detained an Afghan man, I rallied immigration attorneys and prevented his deportation. When Vermont wrongfully ended SNAP (food assistance) for some Afghans, I worked with the legislature, attorneys and our Congressional delegation to get it reinstated.

“I’ve seen the inhumanity and cruelty of the Trump Administration up close, and moments where some leaders have opted to coordinate or capitulate rather than hold the line.

“At a minimum the office has a megaphone, to help Vermonters understand what is lawful and what is not, and how we can protect our communities from unlawful federal action.”

Gray pointed out that the state’s Democratic leaders were fighting against Trump’s wrongful actions, but not the top two positions in state government.

“Our Vermont Secretary of State is using her office to protect Vermonters,” she said. “Our Attorney General is using the courts to protect the state. Our Treasurer is raising money to ensure those detained by ICE have access to legal counsel, and our legislature is working to advance legislation. Vermonters deserve a lieutenant governor with the experience and the urgency to support their efforts and to help Vermont hold the line.”

Gray also noted that the lieutenant governor has a Constitutional role that requires extensive knowledge of the rules of legislative procedure and the legislative process.

“Having a legal background is incredibly helpful in the day-to-day work of presiding (over the Senate) and also in advocating for legislation that protects fundamental rights and delivers for our communities. With many new senators and legislators next year, and massive challenges facing our state, I’ll be ready on day one to lead, and to be a thoughtful partner to policymakers.”

The Scott administration’s idea to “go along to get along,” Gray continued, wasn’t good enough, adding that Trump’s decisions to cut aid to blue states — from Medicaid to health care to FEMA funding to ending SNAP benefits — and to deport migrants even if they have legal status, proves that a stronger resistance to those policies is needed.

“The Trump administration doesn’t care about what’s right. They’re willing to come for Afghan allies who fought beside our soldiers. They’re willing to come for all of us... A lot of people say, well, what can the lieutenant governor’s office actually do? Well, we make a strong case that ending SNAP benefits is harmful, that refugees and immigrants aren’t a drain our system they’re how we’re growing our workforce. The lieutenant governor can make it really clear what is right, what is wrong, what’s lawful, what is not.”

Gray was elected lieutenant governor in 2020 after beating out a crowded field of Democratic primary opponents. She was in the job for less than a year before launching her campaign for what was then an open U.S. House seat. She was defeated in the Democratic primary by Becca Balint, who easily won the general election.

After leaving office in 2023, Gray was tapped to serve as the first executive director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance. The Burlington nonprofit supports Afghans who are resettling in the state.

Gray said she’s motivated to run for lieutenant governor again because of her own experiences — giving birth to her son, Jack, since she has left office, as well as caring for her mother, who lives in Newbury and has multiple sclerosis.

“I’ve experienced firsthand a health care system in crisis. Trying to access health care in rural Vermont is extremely challenging right now,” she said. “We’re deeply concerned, as I think many, many families and many Vermonters are.”

More also needs to be done to confront “the day-to-day realities of life in Vermont,” Gray said.

“We don’t have enough housing. We have a healthcare system that is completely imploding.... We need to get back to the basics, to a ‘working family’s agenda’ in which we’re actually investing in primary care and reforming our healthcare system...”

GRAY’S DIFFERENCES

Asked how her policies distinguished her, she cited the following:

- “My plan to provide universal primary care comes with a funding plan. I’ve proposed that we consider revenue sources like increasing the tax on second homes in Vermont and recouping the Trump tax cuts on the state’s wealthiest residents, and that these funds be directly invested into universal primary care which we know will help bring down insurance premiums (and in turn education costs and property taxes).”

- “Other candidates’ housing policies simply propose more financial incentives, using money that may not even be available in future budgets. Their proposals assume that enough money will

simply incentivize municipalities to solve our housing crisis.

“However, Vermonters already know why housing is too expensive and too scarce: a stifling regulatory environment at the state and local levels, inequitable distribution of state-funded planning and infrastructure resources, and a skilled labor force that is simply too small to build at scale. My plan directly attacks these root causes with specific proposals that will cut through red tape and increase state and local coordination, all while investing in a labor force that can not only build the housing we need but will also provide Vermonters with good-paying jobs.”

- “I am a vocal advocate for campaign finance reform and am the only candidate with a plan to get corporate money out of Vermont’s elections (that is, the Corporate Power Reset, modeled on similar initiatives in Hawaii, California and Montana).

- “Protecting fundamental rights is not a slogan for me. It’s an ongoing practice that requires collaboration, mutual support, and being part of a coalition. During this campaign, I’ve helped organize immigration attorneys and advocates during Legislative hearings following the March 11 ICE raid in South Burlington. I’ve helped raise funds to support the Vermont Asylum Assistance Project. I’ve stood with Vermont’s immigrant community in the wake of recent killings by ICE in Maine and Texas civilians. No matter the results of this election, I will continue to find ways to help protect the fundamental rights of every Vermonter.”

On public education, Gray supported the Legislature’s push to implement voluntary mergers.

“Who wants to close schools in Vermont? No one I know,” said Gray. She also said she would hold off on implementing a foundation plan until at least some of those school mergers were in place. “We do have to address our educational costs,” she said, adding that one of the primarily focuses of school costs continues to be health care expenses. “If we don’t address those underlying costs, there’s no amount of consolidation ultimately



MOLLY GRAY

that’s going to lower costs in the long run.”

‘HIT THE GROUND RUNNING’

Gray has been critical of the Scott administration willingness to accept the status quo and its resistance to advancing new ideas to tackle Vermont’s biggest issues.

“We’ve seen 10 years of managing decline, or 10 years of swatting away different investment strategies,” Gray said. “We need something different... I’m not trying to say it’s easy, but I believe we are in a moment of reckoning and people are willing to come together across party lines to make the investments the state needs.

“And I think Vermonters want a lieutenant governor who is going to fight for them, to hold the line and fight for the investments that are actually going to lower costs. So, I’d be a lieutenant governor working to protect Vermonters’ rights, support working families and work to lower costs with ferocity.”

“I know I have the skills, both the legal skills to help hold the line, and a really thoughtful understanding of the needs of working families and what real investments could do to change our economic future. And yes, there’s no learning curve. I know the job, and I’m ready to hit the ground running.”

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Fire

(Continued from Page 13A)
and at area businesses 14 times.
Police also processed 14 fingerprint requests, verified two vehicle identification numbers, dealt with two motor vehicle complaints, conducted seven welfare checks and responded to one alarm and one 911 hang-up call.
In recent weeks, Bristol police also dealt with three incidents involving suspicious activity,

five animal problems, two noise disturbances, two arsons, one case involving fraud, one citizen dispute, one case involving unlawful mischief and one family fight/domestic incident.
Police also conducted community outreach, dealt with three incidents involving crash damage, attended three events, helped with the service of court orders, responded to one case involving trespassing, conducted four sex offender registry checks and assisted citizens in 12 instances, local agencies in five cases and one business.

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Battery site

(Continued from Page 1A)
give a Lightshift representative and a Vermont-based public affairs strategist a tour of other potential sites in the northeast quadrant of the Little City.
“I really did hear sensitivity to proximity of residences, and so I have kind of an area, if you will, that I think might have multiple locations within a particular area, and then they'll just take it from there,” Hawley told his fellow councilors during a July 14 meeting.
Lightshift has declined to comment on multiple occasions since the company told the *Independent* the project was paused on June 10, including elaborating on what the project pause constitutes.

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Most recently, when asked questions via email for this story, a company spokesperson said, “We don’t have anything else to share at this time but we’ll let you know when we do.”

Questions included if the project is still paused, confirmation that the company is no longer pursuing a project at 99 Panton Road and what Lightshift’s estimated profit is on an eventual Vergennes project. The company previously said it has been exploring siting a project in Vergennes for roughly five years.

In a follow-up email the spokesperson said the battery storage development company might have an update this week.

As originally envisioned, the proposed 4.99-megawatt battery energy storage system, often referred to as a “BESS,” has the potential to save locals money, add millions to the Vergennes grand list and has been deemed safe by the Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase.

Redmond’s and Hawley’s updates on the BESS come after months of public scrutiny of Lightshift Energy’s original choice of location. While the remotely monitored battery facility would have been sited in the Little City’s industrial zoning district and neighbor the

Collins Aerospace facility, another property considered “high risk” as Fire Chief DiBiase put it, the Panton Road parcel also abuts a residential district where Waterbury-resident Carrie Hathaway owns a 1798 farmhouse and where she has plans to build five homes.

The proximity of the proposed facility to her home and where she planned to build more did not sit well with Hathaway, who since last December, when Lightshift submitted a 45-day advance submission notice with the Public Utility Commission,

has been outspoken about her safety concerns, grabbing the attention of many Vergennes residents. The debate came to a head in early June with a tense informational meeting featuring a panel of three Lightshift representatives, including Managing Partner and Co-Founder Michael Herbert, and a co-founding principal of Energy Safety Response Group.

About a week after that meeting, Lightshift announced the pause.

“We’ve heard from the community, and for now we are pausing the project as we continue ongoing conversations,” a company spokesperson said. “We will keep meeting and engaging with residents to determine a path forward for this important work, including the

possibility of another location.”
Though residents’ fears — which include the battery catching fire, spreading and releasing toxins — are technically possibilities, a University of Vermont professor with the electrical and biomedical engineering department previously compared the inherent risks to that of a gas station or an airplane.

Hathaway said in late June that she and Lightshift were in a good place. On Friday, July 17, she told the *Independent* that the company had cancelled its lease at 99 Panton Road and had sent the notice to the City of Vergennes. She said the company wanted to wait until the information had been officially recorded with the city before commenting. Hathaway also noted at that time she had been informed by Lightshift that the company no longer intends to pursue a future project at the site.

Lightshift did not respond to an email asking to confirm this information.

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Hawley said in an email that a Lightshift representative “was very interested in taking me up on my offer to provide a tour of potential sites.”

He added, “I have no issues with a BESS being in Vergennes provided it is in a suitable location with little or no adverse (effect) on abutting properties.”

When asked how many locations the tour will include and if he could share any more specifics about those spots Hawley said, “there (are) at least a half dozen sites in the (northeast) quadrant of the city that are much more suitable for a BESS.”

During the July 14 city council meeting Hawley explained to fellow councilors his process for determining suitable locations.

“I really did this more on an elimination ... I’m saying ... where shouldn’t this go? Where are some sites that actually have fatal flaws in my opinion, right?” Hawley said. “And when I started taking those out of the city, I got here with really the northeast quadrant.”

Hawley also took into consideration technical necessities provided to him by Lightshift.

“From a power standpoint, it needs to be in reasonably close proximity to three-phase power. And so (a Lightshift representative) actually sent me a map of the City of Vergennes that showed ... where all of the three-phase power lines were located,” Hawley said. He added that according to Lightshift the facility will need to be near a substation.

“Hopefully that will be a successful tour. And once that tour is completed, you won’t hear from me about it again,” Hawley said.

“You may at some point hear the results of our tour, or you may not.”

Redmond noted Hawley is well-placed to help Lightshift identify a new project site.

“I think it’s going to be helpful,” he said. “Mel knows the city landscape really well.”

Redmond also said he’s hopeful a Vergennes project eventually comes to fruition.

“I hope it does because ... it’ll have an assessed value,” he said, noting that a much smaller BESS in Panton generates roughly \$3 million for that town’s grandlist. He wondered if the larger size of the one Lightshift plans for Vergennes could mean even greater revenue.

“I feel bad for anybody wanting to do something in our industrial zone. People doing things in the industrial zone will need to be mindful that it’s close to residences,” Redmond said. “That’s the lesson learned.”

While reflecting on the events that have unfolded in the last seven months he also said it upset him to see residents scared by the project.

“It was hard to see so many people scared. People don’t need that,” he said, also noting that the intense public reaction was a surprise to him.

“I don’t think there would be opposition if it was in an area that wasn’t close to residences ... Carrie included. I think Carrie is very sincere, and she’s very sincere in saying, you know, put it anywhere else. And I think that’s the lesson for us. This should not go near (residences),” Redmond said.

“Even if you can swear on a stack of Bibles that it’s safe, it doesn’t matter, people don’t feel like it’s safe,” he added.

“We need to take care of our citizens. People have enough stresses in their life.”

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Two Panther athletes are up for a national award

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
NEW YORK CITY — Middlebury College athletes Audrey MacLean and Caroline Adams will join nine other Division-III athletes in the Big Apple next week to celebrate their own and other competitors' 2025-2026 season performances and learn the name of the D-III Honda Athlete of the Year winner.

The pair of Panthers earned the nominations for the multi-sport award in their respective sports — cross country (MacLean) and lacrosse (Adams) — after national championship-winning seasons this past academic year.

Also up for the award are D-III athletes who play basketball, field hockey, golf, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball, plus one each from a swimming and diving team and a track and field team.

The 2026 honoree will be named from that pool during a national CBS Sports broadcast on Monday, July 27, at 7 p.m. Also at that time, D-I and D-II awards will be given out.

MacLean, who just finished her junior year, was the 2025 individual NCAA D-III cross country champion. Her time of 20:16.8 was 48 seconds faster than any of the other 300 runners in the field.

Adams was integral to the Panther women's lacrosse team's undefeated season and fifth straight national championship (her fourth). She was equally as prolific at scoring as she was at assisting teammates, both stats she led this spring. She put up her best numbers while taking draws, which she holds the all-time Middlebury College record in with 437.

Adams would be the second Panther women's lacrosse player to be named the Honda D-III Athlete of the Year, and MacLean would be the first Middlebury cross country runner to garner the title.

Past winners of the accolade from Middlebury College include women's lacrosse player Jane Earley (2023 winner) and field hockey players Erin Nicholas (2022 winner) and Julia Bergofsky (2002 winner).



ADDISON COUNTY RESIDENTS excelled at the seniors state championship singles and doubles tennis championship held at Middlebury College this past weekend. Here we see Lincoln's Ken Schoen, 75, hitting a backhand on his way to two gold medals, and Leicester's Maureen Carn, who won the mixed doubles gold with Schoen.

Independent photos/Steve James



Luksch, Schoen, Carn win seniors state tennis titles

MIDDLEBURY — When senior adults competed in the state championship singles and doubles tennis tournament this weekend in Middlebury, Addison County players Victoria Luksch of Middlebury and Ken Schoen of Lincoln both came away with two gold medals each.

And Schoen won one of his titles with another Addison County athlete — the mixed doubles gold with Maureen Carn of Leicester.

The Vermont Senior Games Association (VSGA) hosted the tournament July 18 and 19 on the new courts at Middlebury College. Athletes aged 50 and

older had an opportunity to qualify for the National Senior Games in Tulsa, Okla., next summer.

In all, 71 athletes took part in the tournament, which saw some ferocious battles but was hampered a bit by rain on Saturday afternoon.

Luksch, 58, and Schoen, 75, won their first titles on Saturday

in singles competitions. The Middlebury athlete won the women's age 55 – 59 title with a 1–1 record of play. The Lincoln player aced the men's 75-79 division by winning 17 games (the men's singles competition was halted by rain and the medals were
(See Tennis titles, Page 3B)

Middlebury College rower competes at U23 Worlds

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
DUISBURG, GERMANY — This week Levi Munster was due to make his USA Rowing debut on the international stage, but his career almost didn't go any further than the Middlebury College green.

Now, three years after a sales pitch good enough for him to record his name for the Middlebury College club crew team email list, Munster will represent the United States at the U23 Worlds competition, taking place in Duisburg, Germany, from July 23-26.

"It's pretty cool to actually have that, I set out to do something so long ago and then do it," he said.

The rising senior, who only entered the sport three years ago during his freshman year at Middlebury, qualified to race the men's single sculls for the national U23 team, a roster he's been working to get his name on for two years. Next year, Munster is aiming for it to be included on the national team.

And in two years, he hopes to be pulling his oars at the 2028 U.S. Olympics.

Though as recently as summer 2023, he'd never picked one up.

Or even competed in another endurance sport.

That fall, Munster milled about the club fair with the rest of the freshman class at Middlebury and found himself the recipient of one

of the many enthusiastic spiels.

"One of the (crew) captains, I started talking to him. I had no intention of joining, but he was a nice guy and I felt bad that I was
(See Munster, Page 3B)



Middlebury College rising senior Levi Munster gets in a practice row before his competition at the 23-and-under World Rowing Competition in Germany this month.



ADDISON COUNTY AMERICAN Legion baseball team first baseman Tucker Wright takes a throw in an attempted pickoff of a South Burlington Legion base runner on Tuesday. The runner got back safely.

Independent photo/Steve James

Legion baseball goes 1-3

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison County American Legion baseball team stands 10-8 after one win and three losses in the past week.

The team dropped a home game against Champlain Valley Union, 9-5, on Thursday, July 16. Then

on Monday, July 20, lost a close round, 7-6, in Essex to the home team.

Addison County split a home doubleheader with South Burlington on Tuesday. The home team dropped game one, 9-8, but came out on top in game two, 14-6.



CHAMPS SWIMMER JAXON Phelps comes up for air during a race at a July 16 meet in Vergennes, where the Champs faced off against the Middlebury Marlins.

Independent photo/Steve James

Champs overcome Marlins at a meet in the Little City

VERGENNES — In their home pool this past Thursday, July 16, the Vergennes Swim Team defeated the visiting Middlebury Marlins, 285-211.

It was one of the final meets ahead of the Champlain Valley league meet this coming weekend, on July 24 and 25, which will also be held in the Sam Fishman Memorial Pool in Vergennes.

In the July 16 races, Vergennes earned a slight lead in the number of wins in individual races (23 for the Champs and 18 for the Marlins) and in relay races (13 to 7).

INDIVIDUAL WINS

Here are the Champs who won individual races:

- Allie Curtis, Girls 8U 25yd Butterfly (Tie), (26.49)
- Riker Cooley, Boys 9-10 25yd Butterfly, (15.66)
- Camron Curtis, Boys 13-14 50yd Butterfly, (30.56)
- Khanlen Ouimette, Boys 15-18 50yd Butterfly, (26.07)
- Henry Lake, Boys 8U 25yd Backstroke, (25.76)
- Savannah Wallace, Girls 9-10 25yd Backstroke, (18.47)
- Brantley Cooke, Boys 11-12 50yd Backstroke, (38.10)
- Jordan Hutchins, Girls 13-14 50yd Backstroke, (33.24)
- Connor Husk, Boys 13-14 50yd Backstroke, (32.81)
- Will Clark, Boys 15-18 50yd

- Backstroke, (26.88)
- Lydia Court, Girls 8U 25yd Breaststroke, (28.23)
- Declan Husk, Boys 8U 25yd Breaststroke, (25.81)
- Riker Cooley, Boys 9-10 25yd Breaststroke, (20.53)
- Jordan Hutchins, Girls 13-14

- 50yd Breaststroke, (38.48)
- Camron Curtis, Boys 13-14 50yd Breaststroke, (37.64)
- Will Clark, Boys 15-18 50yd Breaststroke, (29.36)
- Skylar Buckley, Girls 8U 25yd Freestyle, (19.17)
- Declan Husk, Boys 8U 25yd

- Freestyle, (18.83)
 - Riker Cooley, Boys 9-10 25yd Freestyle, (14.83)
 - Jordan Hutchins, Girls 13-14 50yd Freestyle, (30.30)
 - Connor Husk, Boys 13-14 50yd Freestyle, (26.19)
- (See Swimming, Page 4B)*



MIDDLEBURY MARLINS SWIMMER Cooper Butler competes in the boys' 10U 100-yard medley relay in Vergennes during a July 16 meet against the Vergennes Swim Team. Butler didn't win this race, but he did prevail in the backstroke.

Independent photo/Steve James

This ball won the Vt. Championship for the Bristol Mountaineers — in 1876!

Editor's note: A longer version of this essay appears in "50 for 250," a book by the Vermont Historical Society that commemorates the 250th anniversary of the United States by telling the absorbing stories of 50 of the over 30,000 artifacts in the Society's collection.

Roger Angel wrote in 1976 that "any baseball is beautiful . . . ideal (in) design and utility. . . meant to be thrown at a considerable distance — thrown hard and with precision."

That is true today and was true for over a century before Angel wrote it. But it was not true in 1876 when the Mountaineers of Bristol defeated the Rustics of Essex 19-6 for the Vermont State Championship on the ball field at Essex Junction.

Pitchers at that time threw the ball from 40 feet, not 60 as they do today and have been since 1893, and they threw it underhand, aiming for a spot the hitter indicated was his preference. Overhand pitching was not legalized until 1884. Balls were also not thrown that hard by players in the field, as most were

still playing barehanded.

The ball that Mountaineers' pitcher Homer Nimblet threw to his catcher Charles Wilds to start the game was likely homemade and the only ball used that day. When a ball was hit out of play in those days, the game was delayed until it was retrieved.

This beautiful small artifact represents Vermont's baseball passion, then and now.

It was the responsibility of the home team to provide the ball, which was often awarded as a prize should the visiting team win the game, which explains why the inscriptions on this game ball celebrate the visiting team's victory.

Written on the ball in black ink on one of the horsehide strips, horizontally, is "For the Championship of the State of VT. Mountaineers vs. Rustics September 6th 1876." On the other strip to be read vertically, are the names of the Mountaineers players, first name initial and last name.

The composition of the ball was fairly standard: a rubber core surrounded by yards and yards

of woolen yarn, covered by two strips of leather (horsehide) cut in a figure-eight pattern, and often stitched by a local cobbler.

By the 1870s, the dimensions of the ball, its size and weight, had stabilized to about what they are today, weighing "not less than five and not more than 5.25 ounces" and measuring "not less than nine and not more than 9.25 inches in circumference."

This 1876 baseball is somewhat smaller than that standard, at 4.8 ounces in weight and nine inches in circumference. It has darkened over time to a walnut color and is finished to a bright sheen. Its color was white no doubt at the start of the game until it became grass- and dirt-stained by its use.

The earliest reference to "base ball" (two words then) in America occurred in the 1790s and the first formal games were played in the 1840s. The sport flourished after the Civil War and enjoyed an unrivalled prominence in our leisure and recreation for nearly a century afterward.

In 1876, the country was baseball-mad and Vermont was no exception.

The Middlebury College newspaper, *The Undergraduate*, described the baseball scene on its campus in 1876: "Again base ball has become 'the rage' and each pleasant day the campus resounds with the hearty shouts of its lovers."

By the early 1880s, the three institutions of higher education in Vermont — Middlebury, UVM, and Norwich met in vigorous competition on the ball field.

Newspapers in 1876, before electronic communication, were primary sources of information about games. Announcements about upcoming matches and results, clubs looking for competition, and other baseball news were sprinkled in notes on large sheets of dense text, small type, and multiple narrow columns,

all typeset by hand.

Vermont had a wonderful array of local newspapers, in both larger and smaller towns, such as the *Rutland Daily Globe*, *Burlington Daily Sentinel*, *Vermont Watchman* (Montpelier), *Manchester Journal*, *Enterprise and Vermonter* (Vergennes), *Argus-Patriot* (Montpelier), *Vermont Phoenix* (Brattleboro), *Register* (Middlebury), *Spirit of the Age* (Woodstock), *North Star* (Danville).

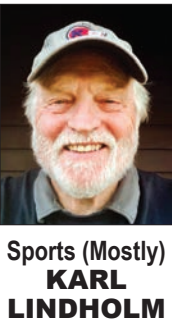
And the teams they reported on . . . there were no Lions and Tigers and Bears: there were Resolute (Montpelier) and Wide-Awakes and Fearnoughts (M i d d l e b u r y) , Crescents (East Calais), Smugglers and Hardtacks (Williston), Alphas (Springfield), Rough and Readys (Montpelier), Actives (Vergennes), Centennials (St. George), and so on.

Not all games that year were Championship matches. "There is a baseball club in Hartford called the Potato Bugs," the *Manchester Journal* reported. "Another club has sprung up who style themselves the Exterminators who have challenged the Potato Bugs. The farmers of the neighborhood are anxiously awaiting the results. They are hoping the Bugs will be exterminated, but they don't believe it."

About the Championship game between the Mountaineers and Rustics, the *Enterprise and Vermonter* wrote, "There was a hot game of baseball on the grounds of the Rustic Base Ball Club at Essex Junction, . . . resulting in a glorious win for the Mountaineers."

The *Rutland Daily Globe* called the big game "the most interesting feature of the first day of the Chittenden County Fair" and added that "a great excitement prevailed. . . . The Mountaineers played a handsome game."

The final score of 19-6 was not



Sports (Mostly)
KARL LINDHOLM

THIS BALL WAS used in the Vermont State Championship Game between teams from Bristol and Essex in 1876.
Photo courtesy of Vermont Historical Society



particularly one-sided, given the inflated scores of the time. The Mountaineers led by a scant two runs, 8-6, going into the eighth inning, before scoring 11 runs in the last two frames.

All this does beg the question: by whose authority did the Mountaineers assume the title of "Champions of Vermont Baseball in 1876" as written on the ball? There were no leagues, no organized network of teams.

Champs? Sez who?

Newspaper accounts do seem to justify the claim. The *Globe* contended that the Mountaineers' victory over such a worthy opponent "easily enough throws the championship of the northern part of Vermont into the hands of the Mountaineers."

Under the heading "We Take It Back," the *Vermont Watchman* on November 9, 1876, claimed that its "recent item of news which gave the base ball championship of the state to the Central Vermont nine of White River Junction was not correct." It turns out "the aforesaid nine were beaten on their own grounds, in September last, by the 'Mountaineers' of Bristol. Well, we take it all back."

And finally, the *Burlington Daily Sentinel*, on September 5, previewed the big game to their readers, observing that "either club has never been beaten . . . a first class game can be expected."

So, the Mountaineers do seem worthy — and the championship match in 1876 could not have happened without the beautiful 150-year-old ball in the Vermont Historical Society's collection.

Karl Lindholm Ph.D. is the Emeritus Dean of Advising at Middlebury College. He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.



THE VERMONT HISTORICAL Society has published a commemorative book of 50 essays on 50 items selected from the over 30,000 artifacts in its collection. One of those items is a baseball from 1876.



INDEPENDENT SPORTS COLUMNIST Karl Lindholm examines the 1876 baseball that is one of the 50 artifacts identified in essays in "50 for 250" by the Vermont Historical Society.

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VICTORIA LUKSCH OF Middlebury was a major force on the courts during last weekend's senior Vermont state championship singles and doubles tennis championships. Luksch won two gold medals during the July 18-19 tourney, held at Middlebury College. She also teamed up with Bryan Grundon of Lincoln to claim silver in mixed doubles for their age group.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tennis titles

(Continued from Page 1B)
awarded based on their success rate in matches completed.)

Also in men's singles, Bryan Grundon, a Lincoln 59-year-old, won a head-to-head tie breaker to claim fifth place in the 55-59 division.

In competition on Sunday Luksch teamed up with Jeanne Blackmore of Charlotte to post a perfect 3-0 record in women's doubles to with a gold in the 55-59 division. Carn, too, was busy on

Sunday. That's when she teamed up with Schoen to win the mixed doubles, 70 - 74 division. Earlier in the day, Carn played with Andrea Torello of Burlington to earn the silver in women's doubles, 70-74 division.

And Luksch was not finished with her women's doubles title, she joined with Grundon to claim the mixed doubles, 55-59 division silver medal on Sunday, as well. For his part, Grundon teamed up with Dave Masefield of

Middlebury to earn the bronze in the men's doubles, 55-59 division.

Another local player making good was Franz Collas, the director of tennis at Middlebury Indoor Tennis and a Vergennes resident. He joined with Steve Luhr of Shelburne to grab the silver medal in the men's doubles, 60-64 division.

The VSGA will hold its seniors golf tournament and scramble at the Ralph Myhre course in Middlebury on Monday, Aug. 3.

Munster

(Continued from Page 1B)
talking to him and I didn't plan on signing up, so I was like, 'OK, I'll put my email down.'"

While many students would have simply ignored the repetitive pings entering their inbox for the next four years, Munster got another nudge.

"One of my current good friends, who I didn't know very well, on my floor freshman year, was going to the interest meeting. I ran into him in the hallway, and I was like, 'Ah, I feel bad. I guess I'll go.'"

Still, Munster was determined that crew team membership was not in his future.

"I went with him to the interest meeting, and I was like, 'I'm not doing this. Like, it's ridiculous, I'm not joining the crew team,'" he recalled thinking at the time.

"And then in the interest meeting, they were talking about how a lot of the people on the team like played sports in high school and ... were super busy in high school, and they got to college, and they found themselves with so much extra time, and I was like, wow, that's exactly how I feel right now, so like maybe I'll give it a shot because it seems like everyone else here is in the same position. It looks like they're having a lot of fun."

Munster warmed up to the idea of U23 Worlds quicker than he did the sport.

"I definitely didn't expect to be here when I first started. It was kind of a goal that I had, (a) goal that I realized was possible the summer after I started rowing. One of the Middlebury alumni named Thomas Phifer, he was on the senior national team in 2022, and he told me I should try to make the U23 team by the time I graduate, and I was like, Wow, I didn't realize that was like a thing that I could do," Munster said.

"Then I feel like that's like all I've thought about since then."

Munster hit that mark at the beginning of the month. On July 5, he won the race — and beat out 13 other competitors — he needed to make the team. "And then booked plane tickets like an hour later."

Three days after making the cut, Munster landed in Germany.

"I obviously want to do as well as I can, but I try not to make specific performance goals because I feel like that just adds to the pressure," he said when asked if he had any goals for the upcoming

competition.

"If I'm able to put together a good race, I feel like I can make the A final. But with it being my first international race, I really have no idea how fast the other people are gonna be."

After his initial resistance to crew, Munster, who played tennis in high school, came to appreciate that how well an athlete does comes down to how hard they work.

"I feel like in tennis, I really struggled

with the mental aspect of it ... I kept getting in my head and just playing horribly because I felt like I should be beating these people, but I wasn't. And then once you got me in that mindset, it was pretty easy to beat me," he said.

Rowing feels different.

"I liked the endurance aspect ... where there's not some trick. You just kind of try harder," Munster said.

"Technique in rowing is pretty complicated," he noted. "But you can always pull harder."

Editor's note: No time has been published for Munster's World Championship race.

"Technique in rowing is pretty complicated," he noted. "But you can always pull harder."

— Levi Munster



Play ball!

THE ADDISON COUNTY American Legion baseball team went 1-3 during the past week, and here are some scenes from the victory — game one of a Tuesday doubleheader against the South Burlington Legion squad. Above, AC slugger Ryan Brouillard smacks an RBI single; right, AC starter Aricin Griffin throws to the plate with a man on second; and below, Brouillard beats the throw to third. He later scored in the 9-8 victory at South Burlington. The Legion Baseball state tournament starts this weekend.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Swimming

(Continued from Page 1B)

- Ella Bearor, Girls 15-19 50yd Freestyle, (26.96)
- Will Clark, Boys 15-18 50yd Freestyle, (22.70)

Here are **the Marlins** who won individual races:

- Caroline Dietrich, Girls 8U 25yd Butterfly (Tie), (26.49)
- Hugh Spafford, Boys 8U 25yd Butterfly, (31.33)
- Rose Phinney, Girls 9-10 25yd Butterfly, (18.65)
- Cassandra Bellmann, Girls 11-12 50yd Butterfly, (30.95)
- Felix Poduschnick, Boys 11-12 50yd Butterfly, (31.92)
- Bianca Spafford, Girls 13-14 50yd Butterfly, (37.47)
- Sadie Chance, Girls 15-19 50yd Butterfly, (29.51)
- Ellie Butler, Girls 8U 25yd Backstroke, (22.01)
- Cooper Butler, Boys 9-10 25yd Backstroke, (19.91)
- Cassandra Bellmann, Girls 11-12 50yd Backstroke, (33.75)
- Sadie Chance, Girls 15-19 50yd Backstroke, (32.32)
- Rose Phinney, Girls 9-10 25yd Breaststroke, (19.91)
- Cassandra Bellmann, Girls 11-12 50yd Breaststroke, (36.76)
- Felix Poduschnick, Boys 11-12 50yd Breaststroke, (38.01)
- Selma Citarella, Girls 15-19 50yd Breaststroke, (33.80)
- Rose Phinney, Girls 9-10 25yd Freestyle, (17.00)
- Vela Remaniak, Girls 11-12 50yd Freestyle, (29.64)
- Felix Poduschnick, Boys 11-

12 50yd Freestyle, (28.21)

RELAY VICTORIES

Here are the **Champ relay teams** that won:

- Skylar Buckley, Lydia Court, Allie Curtis and Autumn Woods, Girls 8U 100yd Medley, (1:40.81)
- Henry Lake, Ethan Dix, Declan Husk and Jack Hourigan, Boys 8U 100yd Medley, (1:46.72)
- Jack Hourigan, Sage Woods, Levi Harris and Henry Lake, Boys 8U 100yd Freestyle, (1:58.93)
- Margaret Smits, Savannah Wallace, Juliet Kennedy and Amaya Morgan, Girls 10 & Under 100yd Medley, (1:24.39)
- Ruth Lyons Judge, Rowan Knox, Nila Emayavaran and Amaya Morgan, Girls 10 & Under 100yd Freestyle, (1:26.37)
- Evan Angier, Bennett Blacklock, Riker Cooley and Raleigh Woods, Boys 10 & Under 100yd Medley, (1:20.99)
- Bennett Blacklock, Elijah Neffinger, Evan Angier and Riker Cooley, Boys 10 & Under 100yd Freestyle, (1:12.87)
- Juliette Angier, Cecilia Neffinger, Jordan Hutchins and Gretchen Hill, Girls 14 & Under 200yd Medley, (2:25.51)
- Juliette Angier, Ryleigh Knox, Roxanne Perry and Gretchen Hill, Girls 14 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (2:25.65)
- Camron Curtis, Enli Parrillo, Connor Husk and Keegan Cooley, Boys 14 & Under 200yd Medley, (2:16.28)

- Keegan Cooley, Skyler James, Wesley Morgan and Connor Husk, Boys 14 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (2:06.70)
- Will Clark, Cohen Howell, Khanlen Ouimette and Ranen Howell, Boys 18 & Under 200yd Medley, (1:59.70)
- Khanlen Ouimette, Rowan Neffinger, Cohen Howell and Will Clark, Boys 18 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (1:39.74)

Here are the **Marlin relay teams** that won:

- Alula Remaniak, Caroline Dietrich, Amelia Danyow and Ellie Butler, Girls 8U 100yd Freestyle, (1:34.95)
- Maxine King, Rose Phinney, Cassandra Bellmann and Vela Remaniak, Girls 12 & Under 200yd Medley, (2:19.64)
- Rose Phinney, Cassandra Bellmann, Maxine King and Vela Remaniak, Girls 12 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (2:07.84)
- Wyatt Hill, Felix Poduschnick, Porter Mackey and Nolan Almstrand, Boys 12 & Under 200yd Medley, (2:22.85)
- Wyatt Hill, Nolan Almstrand, Porter Mackey and Felix Poduschnick, Boys 12 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (2:04.49)
- Abigail Hamilton, Selma Citarella, Sadie Chance and Mitzi Poduschnick, Girls 19 & Under 200yd Medley, (2:04.65)
- Abigail Hamilton, Mitzi Poduschnick, Selma Citarella and Sadie Chance, Girls 19 & Under 200yd Freestyle, (1:58.47)



CHAMPS SWIMMER MEELA Hill competes in the girls’ 11-12 50-yard butterfly event in the Sam Fishman Memorial Pool in Vergennes, where the Vergennes Swim Team hosted the Middlebury Marlins for a meet this past Thursday, July 16.

Independent photos/Steve James



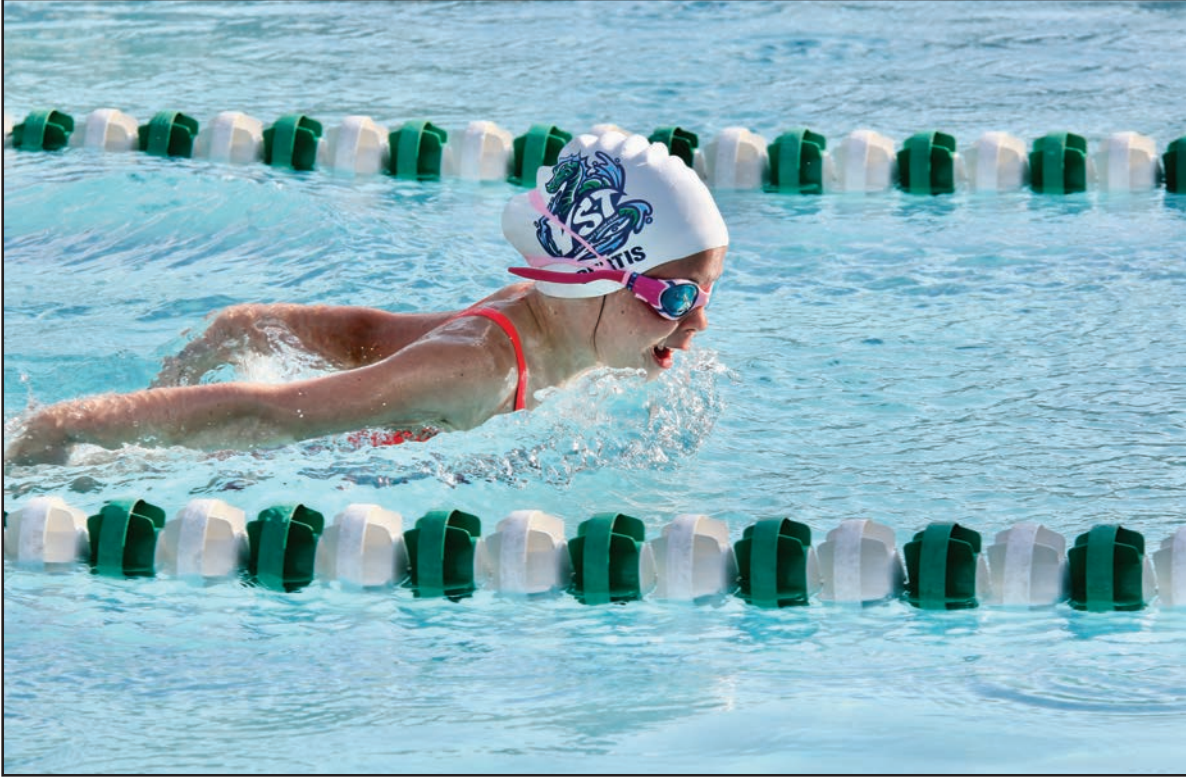
MIDDLEBURY MARLINS SWIMMER June Hill powers along in the girls’ 14U 200-yard medley relay during a meet in the Vergennes Sam Fishman Memorial Pool on July 16, where the Marlins faced off against the Vergennes Swim Team.

Independent photo/Steve James



VERGENNES CHAMPS SWIMMER Amaya Morgan finishes strong in the last leg of a girls’ 10U 100-yard medley relay during a July 16 meet against the Middlebury Marlins held in Vergennes. She teamed up with Margaret Smits, Savannah Wallace and Juliet Kennedy to win the race.

Independent photo/Steve James



CHAMPS SWIMMER Allie Curtis glides through the water during her leg of a girls’ 8U 100-yard medley relay at a July 16 meet in Vergennes. She joined Skylar Buckley, Lydia Court and Autumn Woods for a victory in this race.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Sophia Keshmiri



Matthew Dickerson



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Guardians ad Litem needed

VERMONT — When the Department for Children and Families seeks to take a child into their custody, Vermont law requires the court to appoint a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). GALs are volunteer, court-appointed special advocates who protect a child’s best interests in these juvenile court cases, which usually involve allegations of abuse or neglect.

A GAL works closely with the child’s attorney, meets with the child regularly, and gathers information from people involved in the child’s life to understand the child’s needs and advocate for their best interests in court. The GAL’s goal is to ensure the child has a safe, stable and permanent home as quickly as possible.

GALs come from all walks of life, and no prior experience in the courts or the child welfare system or specialized education is required. Successful applicants must be compassionate, have a flexible schedule, pass a background check, and have reliable transportation and internet access. All GALs must complete 32 hours of training, which is provided by the Judiciary, and a mentorship with an experienced GAL prior to being appointed to their own case.

Right now, there is an urgent need for volunteers and too many children risk not having this essential support in their lives. The need is especially great in underserved communities such as Orleans, Franklin, Grand Isle, Caledonia, Lamoille, Bennington and Essex counties.

The program’s next training will be September 8, 15, 22 and 29. The trainings will be in-person in Berlin.

For more information visit VermontJudiciary.org/GAL, email VermontGAL@vtcourts.gov or call 800-622-6359. The Judiciary welcomes volunteer candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply. Thank you for your consideration.

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VERGENNES, VT
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community calendar

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.

Carnival in Brandon. Thursday, July 23, 5-10 p.m., Estabrook Field. A four-day festival with Millers Amusement rides, vendors and entertainment. Thursday features Emily Nelson’s Red Clover Takeover open mic starting at 6 p.m.

Interactive Shakespeare Scenes in Shoreham. Thursday, July 23, 6:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Have you ever wanted to dig into Shakespeare but didn’t have the time to commit to a production? This evening is all about reading, performing and watching Shakespeare. Bring a partner or find one at our event and create a staged reading. We’ll end by performing our scenes for each other. No experience required. Ages 12 and up. Free.

Scottish Music Session in Starksboro. Thursday, July 23, 7:30 p.m., Common Ground Center. The nonprofit school for Scottish smallpiping known as Cairdeas 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.

july 24 FRIDAY

Artday Friday: Painting with Toothbrushes in Vergennes. Friday, July 24, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. A family-friendly art day every Friday at the library. Supplies provided. Free.

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, July 24, 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.

Carnival in Brandon. Friday, July 24, 5-10 p.m., Estabrook Field. A four-day festival with Millers Amusement rides, vendors and entertainment. Friday features PAC Wrestling from N.Y. at 7 p.m.

Community Street Dance in Vergennes. Friday, July 24, 7-9 p.m., city green. Stevens Hose Company and the Vergennes Fire Dept. are celebrating 150 years of serving and protecting our community. Bring your family, friends and a lawn chair for a night downtown with music by DJ Ryan Donnelly and BBQ by Meat Mafia.

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.

july 25 SATURDAY

Create String Art in Middlebury. Saturday, July 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Mini-Isley. Create a beautiful piece of string art. Materials provided. Jennifer will guide participants and will have templates available. If desired, participants will be able to have their work displayed at Isley’s Grand Opening Celebration. Free. Registration required: libcal. isleypubliclibrary.org/event/17084516.

Open House at the Fire Station in Vergennes. Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Vergennes Fire Station. Stevens Hose Company and the Vergennes Fire Dept. are celebrating 150 years of serving and protecting our community. Meet your local firefighters and explore the history, equipment and services that have protected the Little City for generations. Equipment demos, tours, free hot dogs and popcorn, bubble pool!

Mount Independence 250 Celebration in Orwell. Saturday, July 25, 10-5 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road. Mount Independence honors the 250th anniversary of its name day, July 28, 1776, with this homecoming commemoration. Activities for all ages. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, roll call of regiments that served here in 1776, discussion with descendants of Mount Independence soldiers and others, music, guided walks, stations with period skill demonstrations, food, laying out a regiment, info booths with Vermont patriotic organizations, Orwell Library Tale Trail, talks, and more. Call 802-948-2000 for details.

Garden Tour Fundraiser in Brandon. Saturday, July 25, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Inn at Park Street. Gardeners in Brandon, Goshen and Sudbury will open their private gardens to support the Brandon Free Library. From professionally designed gardens to those with a specific plant focus, all selected gardens highlight this year’s theme: The Joy of Gardening. Rain date is July 26. Tickets for sale at the Inn on Park Street, 69 Park St.\$25 advance; \$30 day of tour.

South Starksboro Coffee Klatch in Starksboro. Saturday, July 25, 8-10 a.m., Friends Quaker Meeting House, 430 Dan Sargent Rd. Coffee and homemade treats. And while you are in the area, be sure to drive by the Jerusalem Schoolhouse to see it lifted far above its original foundation, getting ready for a new one.

Indoor-Outdoor Flea Market & Farmers Market in Middlebury. Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.,



Independent photo/John S. McCright

Fired up fun

MEET LOCAL HEROES this weekend while celebrating 150 years of the Vergennes Fire Department’s dedicated service at the Community Street Dance on Friday and Fire Station Open House on Saturday. Kick off the festivities with barbeque and music, followed by a morning of equipment demos, kids’ activities, free food, and guided tours at the station the next day.

Addison County VFW Post 7823. 10x10 vendor spaces available, includes 1-8 ft. table and 2 chairs. \$20. If you are interested in being a vendor contact 802-388-9468 or vfwpost7823@yahoo.com.

Lemon Fair Insect Control District Open House in Weybridge. Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Lemon Fair Field Lab/Office. Learn about how the mosquito season is going for Cornwall, Weybridge and Bridport. Hear how to reduce mosquitoes on your property without the use of chemical pesticides. We’ll have the microscopes set up and you’ll be able to observe both odd and fascinating features of mosquitoes. Refreshments will be served. Free.

Carnival in Brandon. Saturday, July 25, noon-10 p.m., Estabrook Field. A four-day festival with Millers Amusement rides, vendors and entertainment. Saturday features the Vermont Trivia Championship at 1 p.m. and the Brandon Idol Singers at 7 p.m.

Justice for Lorenzo and Joan Vigil in Middlebury. Saturday, July 25, 4-5 p.m., Cross Street Bridge. Lorenzo Salgado Arujao of Houston and Joan Sebastian Duran Guerrero of Maine were both fatally shot by ICE, though they were not the targets of an operation. Joan was a young father from Columbia who was authorized to work in the U.S. Lorenzo from Mexico had lived and worked in the U.S. for 30 years with his wife and sons. Bring your signs, your anger, your sorrow and your patriotism as we protest an administration and agency that are dangerously out of control. This peaceful, non-violent, family-friendly event is sponsored by Indivisible Middlebury.

Singing for Our Lives Gathering in Bristol. Saturday, July 25, 5-7 p.m., Town green gazebo. Come lift your spirits by singing songs that support strength, courage, hope and light. All voices welcome. Lyric sheets provided, songs taught. This month we will focus on songs that are medicine in our times of grief. Free.

july 26 SUNDAY

Community Clothing Swap in Vergennes. Sunday, July 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Big Heart Social. Want to freshen up your summer wardrobe while enjoying an afternoon with neighbors? Bring clothing you’re ready to part with and take home some new-to-you favorites. All sizes, styles and genders are welcome. Bring what you want, take what you want; no bartering or keeping score. Please bring only clean, wearable clothing. Accessories (backpacks, hats, shoes, etc.) are also welcome, but no household items. Free. kelseywoodmezzo@gmail.com.

E-Bike and Adaptive Cycle Event in Salisbury. Sunday, July 26, 2 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church. Ever wanted to try an ebike, tandem or adaptive bicycle? Join Anja Wrede from Rad Innovations, who will have a variety of bikes for you to try and be on hand to answer your questions. Free.

Getting Together with Georgia O’Keeffe & Alfred Stieglitz in Bristol. Sunday, July 26, 7 p.m., The Peake House. Join Diana Bigelow & Jim Stapleton for a performance piece in many of their own words to benefit the Lawrence Memorial Library. Free; donations welcome.

Carnival in Brandon. Sunday, July 26, noon-5 p.m., Estabrook Field. A four-day festival with Millers Amusement rides, vendors and entertainment. Sunday is Kids Day, featuring fun performances by kids for kids, animals, games, giveaways and more.

Your Best E-bike Options Explained in Brandon. Sunday, July 26, noon to 2 p.m., Solarfest Center, 144 Steinberg Rd. Tim Mathewson discusses electric bikes, including kits vs. factory bikes for utility and recreation uses. Free. For more info visit solarfest.org.

july 27 MONDAY

Built to Last: A Resilient Bristol. Monday, July 27, 4- 8 p.m., Bristol Recreation Pavilion, 110 Airport Dr. An evening of community discussions on what makes Bristol resilient and/or vulnerable. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Bristol is working on the town plan update for 2028. Topics to be covered: housing, transportation, utilities and services, food security, public health, energy, natural resources, economic development, flooding and hazard mitigation. If you have questions email zoning@bristolvt.org.

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.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, July 27, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge. Semi-monthly cribbage night welcomes community players for an evening of cards.

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.

july 28 TUESDAY

American Red Cross Blood Drive in Middlebury. Tuesday, July 28, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Co-operative Insurance, 292 Colonial Drive. The Red Cross is declaring an emergency blood shortage and donors are urgently needed. Platelets and types O positive and B negative blood needed. All who give will receive a Fandango movie ticket by email (up to \$15 ticket price and fees).

Dino Printmaking in Brandon. Tuesday, July 28, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Kids make dinosaur-themed prints with a variety of techniques. Free.

Grief and the Creative Heart in Vergennes. Tuesday, July 28, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main Street. Third week of a four-week group that is a safe, supportive space for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Through expressive arts, explore emotions and memories using creative tools such as music, writing, storytelling, drawing/painting and collage. In each session there will be guided activities and opportunities to share (if you wish) in a non-judgmental and confidential setting. This is not about skill, but expressing, feeling and connecting with others in your community who are grieving too. No need to identify as an artist or writer to participate. Free.

Free Community Supper in Lincoln. Tuesday, July 28, 5-7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Share a meal with your neighbors and enjoy good food, including Southern-style BBQ and good company. The supper, which we hope to be the first of many, is sponsored by We Feed Each Other, a community-supported initiative to strengthen food access for all. Everyone is welcome.

Unearthing Brandon’s Mines and Quarries Presentation in Brandon. Tuesday, July 28, 5:30 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library. Unearth the stories of the mines, quarries and holes in the ground in Brandon over the last 10,000 years or so. Len Schmidt will share photos and background information. Register: info@brandonpubliclibrary.org or 802-247-8230.

Milk & Honey Quilters Guild Meeting in Middlebury. Tuesday, July 28, 6 p.m., American Legion Post 27. Bring out your best & brightest quilts along with fun stories behind them. A short video about Machine Quilting will follow.

Monthly Book Club: “Buckeye” in Bristol. Tuesday, July 28, 6-7 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library Pop-Up, 74 Munsill Ave. Suite 100. We’re reading “Buckeye” by Patrick Ryan. A man haunted by his inability to serve in WWII shares a lifechanging moment with a woman determined to escape her past. As their Ohio town is transformed by the postwar boom, the two families navigate loyalty, sacrifice and forgiveness. You can pick up a copy at the pop-up library. Free.

july 29 WEDNESDAY

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, July 29, 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 30 THURSDAY

Create String Art in Middlebury. Thursday, July 30, 6-8:30 p.m., Mini-Isley. Create a beautiful piece of string art. Materials provided. Jennifer will guide participants and will have templates available. If desired, participants will be able to have their work displayed at the Isley’s Grand Opening Celebration. Free. Registration required: libcal. isleypubliclibrary.org/event/17084516.

Addison-3 Democratic Candidate Forum in Vergennes. Thursday, July 30, 7 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Learn about the three Democratic candidates running for state representative in the towns of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, Waltham and a portion of New Haven. Candidates Ariel Bolles, Mike Kane and John Stroup respond to questions from a moderator and take questions from the audience as well. This is your chance to become an informed voter before the Aug. 11 primary. Free.

CALENDAR ONLINE
addisonindependent.com



Courtesy photo

Enjoy summer programming at the Russell Memorial Library

MONKTON — Fun summer stuff is coming up at the Russell Memorial Library for kids. This summer’s theme is “Unearth a Story.” Think digging, dinosaurs, fossils, hidden history and more. They’ve added a bunch of new dinosaur books. Kids that visit the library can collect different “brag tags” each week. They are loving this!

Crafternoon with Meg is on Saturday, July 25, at 1 p.m. Children will hear a story or two about animals that walked the earth before the humans did and make amber-colored slime with insects.

“You Be the Historian: Investigating an 1880s Vermont Farm Family” takes place on Thursday, July 30, at 3 p.m. Join Kate from the Vermont Historical Society to explore artifacts and records related to an 1880s Vermont farm family. Students act as researchers, curators and archaeologists to discover details about the Wheelers who lived in Calais. All participating youth will receive a free family pass to continue their exploration at the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier.

Community Yoga will continue on Saturday, July 25, from 9-10 a.m., with Laurel Kelly in the Town Hall community room. This class is suitable for all levels of experience. Bring your own yoga mat. Blocks and straps will be provided. A donation is greatly appreciated as it benefits the library to help with costs of continuing to update its needs. This class will continue every Saturday during July and August unless otherwise noted. Contact the library with any questions.

Also on Saturday, July 25, Poetry Club will be held from 10:30-11:45 a.m., in the Town Hall community room. Bring a poem to share — either your own or a favorite from another author. Contact Melanie Cote at cotem@ymail.com if you have questions.

Continue to enjoy Ashtanga Yoga with Eugenie Doyle on Sunday, July 26, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This is a free class. Email Eugenie at edoyle@gmavt.net with questions.

Check with the Library for dates of Toddler Storytime and other continuing activities. If you have questions, email the library at russellmemlibrary@gmail.com or call 802-453-4471.





Addison County Parent/Child Center
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Around

TOWN

Get fired up to celebrate 150 years of the Vergennes Fire Dept.

VERGENNES — Members of the Stevens Hose Company and the City of Vergennes Fire Department have proudly served the community for a century and half. This weekend, they invite residents and visitors to join in marking this historic milestone with two days of community festivities.

Kick things off Friday night with a Community Street Dance on the city green from 7-9 p.m. featuring music by DJ Ryan Donnelly of Backstreet Entertainment and tasty barbeque from Meat Mafia. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy a beautiful summer night celebrating with friends and family.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., head to the Fire Station Open House on Green Street to meet local firefighters and explore the history, equipment and services that have protected Vergennes for generations. Enjoy equipment demos, station tours, free hot dogs and popcorn, and kids’ activities like a bubble pool



VERGENNES FIRE DEPARTMENT members Mike Collette, left, and Dean Gilmore show off a banner celebrating the department’s sesquicentennial. Come to the firehouse on Saturday for an open house and learn more about the people who protect you. Plus there will be fun, food and community.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

and Sparky the Fire Dog.

Take a look at the large display of VFD history in the basement.

Sign up for the 802 Vermont Smoke Detector program.

This is a great opportunity for children and adults alike to learn about fire safety and see emergency equipment up close.

Lincoln explores potential natural burial site in town

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln residents are exploring the idea of creating a natural burial site on town land.

The selectboard on July 7 reviewed and signed a contract for cemeterian Michelle Acciavatti of Vermont Forest Cemetery to assess a town-owned property for a potential natural burial site. Natural burial is something the Lincoln Conservation Commission has been discussing since 2024 and an option residents have expressed interest in.

“I just can’t emphasize enough how much I’m hearing from the community that people want this,” said Christine Birong-Smith, a member of the Lincoln Conservation Commission and an ad-hoc committee exploring natural burial.

Natural burial — also known as green burial — is a process that aims to work with the surrounding environment, burying the dead “so as to not disrupt the natural process of decomposition and the land retains its natural character,” according to the Vermont Forest Cemetery. How exactly that looks can vary, though in general natural burial eliminates embalming and uses biodegradable containers.

Birong-Smith noted some have expressed interest in the option due to the “reciprocal nature of the process — our bodies decomposing to support vegetation and insects and so on.” That aspect of the process is part of why the conservation commission decided to explore natural burial, she said.

Along with Birong-Smith, Lincoln residents Pat Ford and Serena Fox also serve on the ad hoc committee exploring natural burial. An informational event held at the Lincoln Library in January 2025 offered residents a chance to learn more about the process and hear from Jim Hogle, president of the Vermont Forest Cemetery, a natural burial cemetery in Roxbury.

Birong-Smith said over 50 people attended the event and several individuals have continued to check in about progress on the idea since then.

“A lot of people in our community who are aging are feeling eager about making arrangements for themselves,” she

said. “The informational night was fairly mixed demographics... There were some middle-aged people in attendance, but it was many people who were thinking about end of life plans for themselves and wanted to hear more about this potential opportunity in the community that was being worked on.”

The municipal land being assessed for a potential natural burial site is situated on what was formerly known as the “Urz property.” The property — located near the corner of Lincoln Gap and South Lincoln — was recently renamed “Riverbend Town Forest” as part of the conservation commission’s effort to rename Lincoln’s town forests to better reflect the sites.

Birong-Smith described the area being looked at as meadow and woods located uphill, above the town garage.

She said the assessment of the property will include a two-hour site visit to “assess the site and make general recommendations about the layout of a potential cemetery, parking, trails and/or

structures.” Acciavatti’s work will also include a review of eligibility of the property and/or areas within it for natural burial and providing a written report of her findings and recommendations for “best practices for cemetery operations, including burials, maintenance and family support.”

Birong-Smith previously acknowledged how the assessment could be informational for the town even if the site doesn’t end up being viable for natural burial.

“Regardless of the outcome of the survey, it’s going to give us more information about this property,” Birong-Smith said at a selectboard meeting this spring.

Acciavatti’s work is being supported by funding from the Lincoln Community Trust, a nonprofit that aims to “preserve and foster the things that make Lincoln Special.”

After the assessment is completed, Birong-Smith noted there are still several steps the town would need to go through should it decide to pursue the option further.

“There’s a whole laundry list of things that we have to do in order to get this across the finish line, if that’s what it’s destined to do,” she said.

Festival on the Green asks attendees to claim lost items

MIDDLEBURY — Another Festival on the Green has concluded, and organizers of the event have a small collection of found items.

If you notice something on the list that belongs to you, stop by the Middlebury Parks & Rec Office on Creek Road on or before July 31 to claim it.

Items include: a navy blue Mt. Mansfield hoodie (size large); a ruler imprinted with “believe”; an EMS water bottle with a Crossroads Cafe sticker;

a blue tote for a water bottle; a dark green Sunday Best collared shirt; a child’s purple Kuromi fanny pack; a red baseball cap; four pairs of eyeglasses; two pairs of sunglasses; a yellow bristle-block interlocking block; Badger anti-bug spray; Banana Boat Sport Ultra 50 sunscreen; a brown knob for a bureau; and a child’s beaded bracelet.

The festival’s organizers would like to remind lovers of live music to save the dates for next year: July 11-17, 2027.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

Voting location has changed

LINCOLN — Burnham Hall will play host to a free community summer supper on Tuesday, July 28, bringing neighbors together for an evening of food and fellowship. The Southern-style barbecue meal will run from 5 to 7:30 p.m. or until the food runs out.

Organized with the goal of becoming the first of many local gatherings, the supper is sponsored by We Feed Each Other, a community-supported initiative dedicated to strengthening food access for everyone in the area.

Attention voters

The polling place for the upcoming Aug. 11 Primary Election has changed. All in-person voters will cast their ballots at the Lincoln Town Office rather than the town’s traditional polling location.

Early voting is already underway. Registered voters who prefer to vote by mail or submit an early ballot are reminded that they must formally request one for the primary, as ballots will not be automatically distributed like they are for the November General Election. Residents can submit their requests, update their current voter information and monitor their ballot’s progress by visiting the Voter Portal at vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard.

Save the date

The Burnham Presents concert series opens its new season Saturday, Sept. 5, with a featured performance by celebrated artist Dayna Kurtz. Known for her deeply honest songwriting and captivating live shows, Kurtz is a formidable talent who excels as a singer, multi-instrumentalist, writer and producer.

Until next time...Never Say Never Because Limits, Like Fears, Are Often Illusions.



Pollinator and more

THIS GREAT GOLDEN digger wasp was on butterfly weed one recent morning at the Weybridge Town Clerk’s Office where a few locals had planted a pollinator garden a few years ago. Beyond its beauty, this wasp, like most solitary wasps, is harmless to humans, they don’t defend their nest, nor are they aggressive, Susan Humphrey tells us. While the females do have stingers, unless stepped on or purposely put against the skin it is rare for them to sting humans.

The great golden digger wasp, like most wasps, is also a pollinator. It preys on animals that could be harmful to your garden. So if you’re lucky enough to have one around your garden don’t kill it.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

We love a little friendly competition!

Donna Bezanson kicked off our pepper competition this year with some beautiful jalepeños! While these beauties aren’t likely to hold the top spot for long, they measured pretty big for hot peppers at 12” x 5.25”. She says from here, they’re headed home to turn into poppers. Yum!



Fun Facts

Peppers love to “sunbathe.” They thrive with 6 to 8+ hours of direct sunlight each day. The more sun they get, the happier and more productive they tend to be.

A little stress can make peppers hotter. Mild drought stress just before harvest can encourage some hot pepper varieties to produce more capsaicin, giving them an extra kick. (Just don’t overdo it, or you’ll reduce the plant’s overall health and yield.)



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)	SPONSORED BY: 
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) - Donna Bezanson, 12” x 5.25”	
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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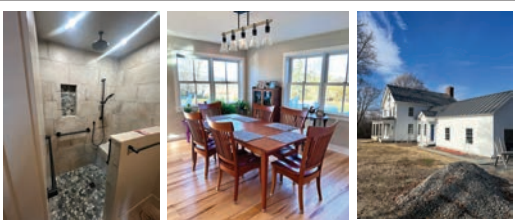
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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

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



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Public Meetings

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

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MULTI-FAMILY YARD and huge plant sale. Tools, toys, cds, boxes of books, puzzles and much more. Perennials, native pollinators, herbs, bushes, trees, houseplants. 91 Seymour St, Middlebury. Friday, July 24, 9-5, Saturday, July 25, 9-1.

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.

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Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking classroom aides to assist in educational settings throughout Addison County. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a federally funded program that has successfully placed thousands of volunteers in educational settings nationwide. Individuals must be at least 55 and willing to work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Participants receive travel reimbursement, fifty paid vacation/sick days, and a tax-free hourly stipend if they are income eligible.

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EPA grant expands local brownfields work

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is celebrating a major milestone this summer with the announcement of a new \$500,000 EPA Community-Wide Assessment (CWA) grant — part of more than \$270 million in federal brownfields funding awarded nationwide this year.

The grant, announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in June, places ACRPC among several Vermont recipients, including the Lamoille County Planning Commission, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, Northeastern Vermont Development Association, and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

The EPA Brownfields Program provides financial and technical assistance to communities to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated, abandoned or underutilized properties. These types of properties can include old gas stations, auto repair shops, dry cleaners, landfills, junkyards, industrial buildings or vacant sites where any of these used to be present or adjoining. They can also be any old buildings that might contain materials like lead, asbestos and PCBs that need to be identified before renovations can occur.

This new investment will allow ACRPC to continue and expand its work helping communities and property owners identify,

assess and plan for the cleanup and reuse of underutilized properties complicated by potential contamination. It will also assist with application to the state’s liability limitation program (BRELLA) and pay the fee for enrollment for a limited number of sites.

BUILDING ON SUCCESSES

The award follows the successful closeout of ACRPC’s previous EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant, which operated from 2022 through 2026. During that program, ACRPC worked with the environmental consulting companies Stantec and ClayPoint Associates to conduct environmental assessments of 20 sites and inspected 18 properties for regulated building materials. The brownfields team engaged town officials in communities where site assessments took place. In total, the program evaluated roughly 200 acres and 570,000 square feet of structural space across Addison County.

The previous funding supported projects in nearly a dozen towns. Highlights include:

- Otter Creek Child Center, Ilsley Public Library, and the Vergennes Opera House, where assessments informed successful renovation and accessibility improvements.
- Maverick Gas Station (Middlebury) and Addison Central School, where Phase I and II assessment work helped clarify

contamination risks and advance municipal planning for reuse.

- Multiple town halls, libraries and community buildings — including those in Goshen, Bristol, Leicester, Ripton and Orwell — that used assessments to support energy-efficiency upgrades through the state’s Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Flood resilience projects, including the buyout and removal of a Court Street home in Middlebury following 2023 flooding.

These assessments reduced uncertainty for property owners and municipalities, helped projects qualify for additional grants, and positioned key sites for redevelopment, housing and community services.

PRIORITY SITES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

ACRPC’s new 2026 assessment grant will be open to areas throughout the Addison County Region with possible contamination and potential for reuse. Priority sites identified in the grant application include high-impact sites in Middlebury and Vergennes with long industrial histories and multiple brownfields clustered near downtowns, rail corridors and Otter Creek.

These sites represent opportunities for mixed-use redevelopment, new housing, improved flood resilience and safer, more walkable downtowns. Properties and buildings in rural

areas that are being considered for development, expansion or re-use that may be complicated by the release of a hazardous material are also excellent candidates for assessment funding.

CALL FOR SITE NOMINATIONS

As part of the new grant, ACRPC will again accept site nominations from towns, nonprofits, and private landowners. The program is designed to help investigate:

- Properties with known or suspected contamination.
- Buildings containing asbestos, lead paint or other regulated materials.
- Sites under consideration for purchase where a Phase I or Phase II assessment could help reduce future liability.
- Underutilized parcels that may be candidates for housing, commercial investment or community facilities.

Property owners do not need to have redevelopment plans in place to inquire, and it is helpful to request assistance early in the development process.

Anyone interested in learning whether a property might qualify for assessment is encouraged to contact Andrew L’Roe, ACRPC’s Brownfields Program Manager, at alroe@acrpc.org.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

With new federal support,



MIDDLEBURY’S TOWN-OWNED FORMER Maverick Gas Station property at 82 Court St., where Phase I and II assessment work funded by the previous EPA brownfields grant helped clarify contamination risks and advance municipal planning for reuse.
Photo courtesy of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission

ACRPC will continue partnering with towns, developers and residents to assess properties, reduce environmental and financial risks and help move long-stalled sites toward safe and productive reuse.

“This work helps communities remove barriers to redevelopment,” L’Roe said. “By identifying environmental risks early and accurately, we can support housing, economic development and community infrastructure projects across the region.”

For more information on ACRPC’s Brownfields Program, visit acrpc.org/regional-programs/economic-development/brownfields/ or attend upcoming outreach events announced through local media and town channels.

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**TOWN OF CORNWALL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Cornwall Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 at 7 pm.**

The hearing will be held in person at the Town Hall and by Zoom. An online meeting link and a dial in number will be published on the agenda for the meeting, so that Board members, the applicant, and interested members of the public may participate electronically or by telephone. The agenda will be posted at least 48 hours before the hearing at the Town Hall and the Town Garage, and on the Town’s website.

Purpose of the hearing:

To hear an application by Randy LaFramboise for approval of a waiver for lot coverage to build a new structure, located at 835 Morse Road, Cornwall, Vermont. Electronic copies of this application are available to the public on the Town’s website, **www.cornwallvt.gov**. The application is also available to the public at the Cornwall Town Clerk’s office, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, Vermont. You are free to review the file for any additional information concerning this particular matter.

Persons wishing to be heard at this public hearing, or their representatives (a licensed Vermont Attorney or an authorized agent), may participate in the hearing by using the online meeting link or the dial in number, or in person. Please note that in accordance with Chapter 117, Section 4464, of the Vermont statutes, participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to make subsequent appeal.

**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

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on August 11, 2026, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Bristol Fire Station Training Room, located at 79 West Street, second floor. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #26-302: Ronald, Joanne, Brian, and Kevin Hill of Monkton Road (Parcel #030163.12) are requesting Conditional Use Review for the construction of farmworker housing subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article III, SECTIONS 350-358.

Permit #26-404: Ricki Marcelle of South 116 Road (Parcel #090137) is requesting Final Plat Review for an amendment to PRD#14-02(a) to create a sixth lot subject to the Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, SECTION 930-939.

Copies of the zoning permit applications and decisions are available for review at the Bristol Zoning Office during regular business hours.

Remote Access: via Zoom
https:zoom.us/ • Meeting ID: 875 5102 7651 • **Passcode:** 088114 **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87551027651?pwd=mJnqMmORm2lufotVEEBdxObjJLJl.1**
Phone In: +1 646 931 3860

STATE OF VERMONT

**CIVIL DIVISION
DOCKET # 24-CV-00690**

**SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT**

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Plaintiff
v.
TONYA E. BABIARZ
GREGORY J. BABIARZ
OCCUPANTS residing at 309 THOMAS DRIVE, BRISTOL, VT 05443
Defendants

NOTICE OF SALE

According to the terms and conditions of the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale (the “Order”) in the matter of Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. V. Tonya E. Babiarz and Gregory J. Babiarz Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit, Docket No. 24-CV-00690 foreclosing one mortgage given by Gregory J. Babiarz and Tonya E. Babiarz, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Century 21 Mortgage, its successors and assigns, dated September 19, 2013 and recorded in Book 143, Page 70 and assigned to the Plaintiff by Assignment of Mortgage dated December 14, 2018 and recorded on December 20, 2018 in Book 156, Page 609 of the Town of Bristol Land Records, respectively, the real estate with an address of 309 Thomas Drive, Bristol, VT 05443 will be sold at 10:00 AM public auction at on August 24, 2026 at the location of the Property.

Property Description. The Property to be sold is all and the same land and premises described in the mortgage, and further described as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Gregory Babiarz, Jr. and Tonya Babiarz by Quit Claim Deed of Beneficial Homeowner Service Corporation of near or even date herewith to be recorded prior hereto I the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

“Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Beneficial Homeowner Service Corporation by Order Confirming Sale dated April 22, 2013 and recorded in Book 142 at Page 224 of the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Daniel J. Holcomb and Lisa A. Hodgdon by Warranty Deed of Terrence E. Thomas, individually and as Trustee of the Terrence E. Thomas Revocable Trust dated May 12, 2006 and recorded in Book 119 at Page 216 of the Bristol Land Records, and being more particularly described therein as follows:

“A parcel of land containing, by estimate, 3.5 acres, more or less, together with the dwelling house and other improvements constructed thereon. Said lands and premises are identified, in part, as House No. 8 on Plans entitled, “As Built Plan, Hardscrabble Road, Bristol, Vermont, Owner Terry Thomas, 58 Pine Street, Bristol, VT 05443, Site Plan, House Sites 7 and 8, Sheet 2 of 3” by McCain Consulting, Inc. dated January 16, 2002, revised August 28, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as “the Plan”) and on a Site Plan prepared by Phelps Engineering, Inc. dated March 1980 and last revised in October, 1980. Said lands and premises are more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point marking the northwesterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and the southwesterly corner of Lot No. 7 which was conveyed by the Grantor to Joel and Kristy Bilodeau by Warranty Deed dated September 22, 2005 and recorded in Volume 116 at Page 456 of the Bristol Land Records; thence,

Proceeding in a generally easterly direction along the southerly line of lands of the said Bilodeau, a distance of approximately 575 feet, more or less, to a point, said point marking a southeasterly corner of Lot No. 7 and the northeasterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and lying in the westerly line of lands now or formerly of Heffernan; thence,

Turning to the right and proceeding in a generally southerly direction along the westerly line of lands of the said Heffernan, a distance of approximately 280 feet, more or less, to a point, said point marking the southeasterly corner of the parcel described and conveyed hereby and the northeasterly corner of Lot No. 9; thence,

Turning to the rights and proceeding in a generally westerly direction, along the northerly line of the said Lot No. 9 and a southerly line of the parcel described and conveyed hereby, a distance of approximately 585 feet, more or less, to a point marking the northwesterly corner of Lot No. 9 and the southwesterly corner of Lot No. 8; thence,

Turning to the right and proceeding in a generally northerly direction along the westerly line of the parcel described and conveyed hereby, a distance of approximately 240.00 feet, more or less, to the point and place of beginning.

Containing by estimate, 3.5 acres, more or less.

Also conveyed is an easement and right of way over and upon the existing roadway running to and from Hardscrabble Road, to be used in common with the Grantor and others, for ingress, egress and access to said lot and to other lands of the Grantor and others, as shown on the above referenced Site Plan. The owner of Lot 8 shall have the obligation to share in the ongoing maintenance and repair of said roadway, including snow removal, as set forth in the Road Maintenance Agreement between Terrence E. Thomas and Thomas J. Wynn and Carol S. Johnson, dated February 18, 1985 and recorded in Volume 57 at Page 157 of the Bristol Land Records. By acceptance of the delivery of this Deed, the Grantees also agree to share in the cost of improving the road to Town standards if, in the event it is turned over to the Town in the future, as set forth in Paragraph 3 of the Road Maintenance Agreement.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to and the Grantor expressly reserves and retains, the easement and right of way over and upon the existing roadway running through Lot 8 as shown on the above referenced Site Plan for the benefit of others, including the Grantor, his successors and assigns.

Reserved unto the Grantor, for himself, his successors and assigns is an easement and right of way for purposes of installing, maintaining, repairing and replacing utility services, including utility lines (both above ground and under ground), and utility poles running to other lands, including lands retained by him. Said easement and right of way shall not adversely affect or interfere with the dwelling house and improvements on the subject property.

In order to comply with the State of Vermont Potable Water Supply and Wastewater requirements, said lands and premises are conveyed subject to a “Well Shield” as appears on the Site Plan. Included in the restriction within said “Well Shield” is that there shall be no wastewater system of any kind constructed within said area.

Subject to utility line easements and rights of way of record.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to an benefited by the terms and conditions of State of Vermont Land Use Permit No. 9A0102, dated November 14, 1980 and recorded in Volume 51 at Page 275 of the Bristol Land Records, and State of Vermont Potable Water Supply and Wastewater Disposal Permit No. WW-9-0457 dated January 3, 2003 and recorded in Volume 104 at Page 530 of the Bristol Land Records.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are subject to and benefited by the following restrictive covenants, which shall run with the land and be binding upon the Grantees herein and their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns:

1. Use Permitted. Each lot conveyed shall contain only one private residential dwelling with attached or detached garage building. There shall be no commercial use of the property in any fashion.
2. Structure Size. Each dwelling shall contain not less than 1000 square feet of living space, exclusive of any unfinished porches, basement or garage.
3. Other Structures. No trailer, tent, shack, basement, garage, barn or other outb uilding shall at any time be used as a residence, either temporarily or permanently.
4. Livestock. Only domestic animals may be maintained, provided that they are not bred, kept, or maintained for any commercial purpose, including a kennel of any type.
5. Architectural and Site Approval. All site plans and exterior house plans shall be submitted to, filed with and approved in writing by Grantor, his heirs and assigns, before construction of any house. Approval shall not be unreasonable [sic] withheld and shall be approved or disapproved within 15 days.
6. Completion Date. All structures approved shall be completed within one year from the start of construction.
7. Unlicensed Vehicles. Unlicensed or unregistered vehicles shall not be kept in the development.
8. Local Regulations. In the event a question arises regarding any differences between those covenants and the Town of Bristol ordinances, then the Town of Bristol ordinances shall take preference.

The lands and premises described and conveyed hereby are a portion of the same lands and premises conveyed to Terrence E. Thomas by Warranty Deed of William H. Cardell and Lura M. Cardell, dated October 31, 1979 and recorded in Volume 50 at Page 45 of the Bristol Land Records.

Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed of Terrence E. Thomas to the Terrence E. Thomas Revocable Trust, dated May 7, 1992 and recorded in Volume 72 at Page 225 of the Bristol Land Records.

Reference is hereby made to the above mentioned instruments, the records thereof, the references therein made, and their respective records and references in aid of this description.

Terms of Sale. The Property shall be sold “AS IS, WHERE IS”, to the highest bidder for cash or wire funds only. The sale of the property is subject to confirmation by the Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit. The Property is sold subject to unpaid taxes, municipal assessments, and superior liens, if any.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Mortgage Property Deposit. \$5,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of auction, with the balance due at closing. The balance of the purchase price for the Property shall be due and payable within the latter of 10 days from the date of confirmation of said sale by the Vermont Superior Court, Civil Division, Addison Unit, or 45 days from the date of public auction. If the balance of the purchase price is not paid within the period set forth herein, the deposit shall be forfeited and shall be retained by the Plaintiff herein as agreed liquidation damages and the Property may be offered to the next highest bidder still interested in the Property.

The mortgagor is entitled to redeem the Property at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale or inquire at Korde & Associates, P.C. at (802) 393-4184.

Dated: July 14, 2026

Daniel N. Young, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff

The boggy beauty of the white-fringed bog-orchid

By COLBY GALLIHER

Along the edge of a remote pond, among a spongy carpet of interlaced vegetation, an orchid of graceful and gossamer beauty rises. Its mass of exquisite white flowers, perched atop a slender stalk, resembles at one glance a medieval mace, at another a bog-wandering spirit in its torn, ghostly shawl. It stops me in my paces.

White-fringed bog-orchid (*Platanthera blephariglottis*) is the showiest of our region’s 13 bog orchids, all members of the genus *Platanthera*. Others include lesser purple fringed bog-orchid (*P. psycodes*) and north wind bog-orchid (*P. aquilonis*). Despite their common name, *Platanthera* species occur across a variety of habitats, from moist forest openings to the aquatic digs where I came across white-fringed bog-orchid.

Where it occurs, this elegant showstopper is difficult to miss. White-fringed bog-orchid usually flowers in July in our region, with specific bloom times shifting year to year based on temperature and rainfall. (The species will sometimes fail to bloom in a given year if drought or poor environmental conditions are present.) An arrangement of 10 to 20 white blooms, collectively called an inflorescence, encircles the top of a stem that can grow anywhere from one to two feet tall. Each individual flower is a delicate configuration of four snow-white petals radiating in four directions.

One of these petals gives white-fringed bog-orchid both its common and scientific names. The bottom petal, which droops downward, is called a labellum, or lip. Close inspection of the species’ labellum reveals fringed edges like torn fabric, making clear the inspiration for the plant’s common name. Its species name, *blephariglottis*, combines two words: *blephari*, for eyebrow or eyelash, which are fringed, and *glottis*, for tongue.

Another part of the flower’s anatomy illuminates the plant’s pollination ecology. Extending behind each flower is a roughly

inch-long nectar spur, a narrow structure that harbors a sweet liquid lure for long-tongued pollinators. These include yellow and half-black bumblebees and monarch and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies, among many others, but a 1976 study published in the journal *Botanical Gazette* found that nocturnal moths are the chief pollinators of white-fringed bog-orchid.

When thirsty visitors alight on one of the orchid’s flowers for refreshment, they do not leave empty-handed (or, in this case, empty-eyed). To access the nectar within the flower’s spur, the pollinator must press its face into the spur’s opening. As they do so, they come in contact with a minute dollop of pollen, or a pollinarium, which adheres to the insect’s eyes. The carrier will then pollinate other white-fringed bog-orchids as it repeats the pollination process in search of more nectar. While shorter-tongued pollinators will stop at the orchids, they are less able to avail themselves of the sugary treat within and, by extension, do not serve as effective pollinators of the species.

White-fringed bog-orchid is more than a source of sustenance for pollinators. According to the Native Plant Trust, the species is a strong indicator of the health and integrity of the open peatlands it often inhabits. An abundance of white-fringed bog-orchids in a bog suggests that the *Sphagnum* mosses, which form the peat substrate of such ecosystems, are intact and relatively undisturbed by human activity.

The species’ sensitivity to environmental changes helps explain its rarity in our region. Threats to white-fringed bog-orchid, which is classified as rare in Vermont and uncommon in New Hampshire, mirror those to other *Platanthera* species; five out of the 13 are ranked as either rare, extremely rare, or threatened in one or both states.

Disturbance or destruction of wetlands is the primary threat to bog-orchids. Many *Platanthera* species are sensitive to stressors like acid rain



WHITE-FRINGED BOG-ORCHID.

Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

and waterborne pollution, as well as rising temperatures that influence rainfall regimes and water levels in aquatic environments. Illegal removal of orchids from natural habitats has depleted populations in some places. A prolonged lack of natural disturbance, such as fire or storms, can also negatively affect white-fringed bog-orchid by allowing woody encroachment on its preferred habitat.

Sensitive as it may be, white-fringed bog-orchid’s beauty is a treasure of the botanical world —

and a sublime sight if you’re lucky enough to spot one blooming in your local bog, fen or wetland.

Colby Galliher writes about conservation, ecology, and environmental policy. Visit his colbygalliher.com 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.

Man cited following recent train station disturbance

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Joshua H. Santos, 34, of Middlebury, for violating his court-ordered conditions of release (alcohol) on Middle Seymour Street during the evening of July 16. Police said they were called to the area on a complaint of a person displaying threatening behavior on the Amtrak rail platform.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded, with Middlebury firefighters, to a report of an illegal fire under the Cross Street Bridge on July 13.
- Cited Wayne Gorton, 73, of Middlebury, for driving with a criminally suspended license on July 13.
- Checked on the welfare of a John Graham Court resident on July 13.
- Cited Megan P. Smith, 57, of Weybridge for driving with a criminally suspended license and two counts of violating her conditions of release (alcohol and driving) in Otterside Court on July 14.
- Tended to a “juvenile issue” in the Valley View Drive area on July 14.
- Received a report about dogs left in a hot vehicle parked off Court Street on July 14. Police said the vehicle was gone upon their arrival.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS officials with a suspected drug overdose case on Court Street on July 14.
- Conducted a foot patrol of the downtown area on July 14.
- Helped a drunken local man get home on July 14.
- Responded to a report of a man having a mental health crisis on Middle Seymour Street on July 15.
- Responded to a violent family fight at a Route 7 south home at around 5:43 p.m. on July 15 during which a man was stabbed. See the related article on this case in this edition.
- Responded to a theft complaint at a Court Street business on July 15. Police found the person involved, who returned the stolen items and was issued trespass notices for the business.
- Assisted with a juvenile problem at an Ossie Road residence on July 15.

Middlebury Police Log

- Helped Addison County Sheriff’s Department officials with a traffic stop on July 15.
- Were informed of the theft of used cooking oil from a Seymour Street business on July 15.
- Helped a driver with a flat tire on Court Street on July 15.
- Investigated a report of gunshots heard in the Maple Street area on July 16.
- Received a report of “suspicious activity” in the Jayne Court neighborhood on July 16.
- Checked on the welfare of a woman in the Academy Street area on July 16.
- Checked on the welfare of a Case Street resident on July 17.
- Assisted a local resident on July 17 who was concerned about a “suspicious person” in town.
- Investigated a stolen truck report in the Case Street area on July 17. Police said the truck was later found.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to the South Pleasant Street area on July 17.
- Cited Eric Poploski, 20, of Ripton, for driving under the influence, following a stop on East Main Street on July 17.
- Defused a verbal argument between some folks in the John Graham Court neighborhood on July 18.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with an unspecified case on Prunier Road in Weybridge on July 18.
- Were informed that someone had stolen a debit card from a vehicle parked on Court Street on July 18.
- Searched for — and quickly found — a woman reported missing in the Main Street area during the morning of July 18.
- Responded to a report of a woman having a mental health crisis in the Lindale Circle area on July 19.
- Investigated a report of two “suspicious individuals” near the intersection of Court and Boardman Streets on July 19.

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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Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Town/City: _____ State: _____

Email: _____

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

Real Estate

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Music

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ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 23, 2026

FREE CONCERT SERIES
FEATURES MUSICIANS FROM

VERMONT ROOTS

SEE STORY
PAGES 8-9

Dan Whittemore and Annie Nessen are longtime friends and musicians, who now both serve on the board of the new nonprofit Vermont Roots Music Collective that will bring us three free concerts at Peet Farm Greenhouses in Cornwall starting on Sunday, July 26 with Remember Baker.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

FILM

This year's film festival comes into view

Every summer has a moment when the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival suddenly feels close enough to touch.

For months, we've watched films, talked with filmmakers, invited guests, built schedules, and solved logistical puzzles. Then, almost overnight, anticipation replaces preparation. The festival is just over the horizon.

People ask me about each year's festival — and I'm always enthusiastic as the program takes shape. I've never been more pleased by the film roster and special guests we have in store for this year. To be honest, I was probably a little harder on the submitted films, rejecting some that I might have accepted in past years.

And I found myself looking farther afield for curated titles, like the Maine documentary, *"Bucks Harbor"* a deeply humane portrait set in a Maine lobster-fishing town. The film treats its subjects with unusual empathy, revealing people who are proud, funny, flawed, resilient and often unexpectedly vulnerable. It premiered and won awards at the Berlin Film Festival and has played top American festivals like True/False and Seattle — but it has lurked below the radar.

Every festival develops its own personality. No two years are alike. Different films, different conversations, different discoveries, different moments of laughter and surprise. Filmmakers linger in the lobby after screenings. Conversations continue over coffee, at parties and receptions, and late into the evening. New friendships are made. Ideas collide. A temporary community takes shape around the shared experience of cinema.

We'll open the festival with a screening of the much-anticipated *"Hadestown: The Musical"* followed by a conversation with its creator, Addison County's own Anaïs Mitchell, whose



Fest preview

By JAY CRAVEN

remarkable journey from local songwriter to Tony Award-winning creator has inspired audiences worldwide.

We'll also welcome one of America's most influential documentary filmmakers, Ross McElwee, whose groundbreaking films *"Sherman's March and Remake"* transformed the possibilities of personal nonfiction filmmaking.

Other notable names coming to this year's festival include filmmaker and cinematographer Kirsten Johnson, whose innovative documentaries have expanded the language of nonfiction film; veteran Hollywood producer Allyn Stewart, who will show her Clint Eastwood film, *"Sully,"* and her Robin Wright picture, *"Land."* Composer Mason Daring has composed 85 memorable film scores, including 17 for indie pioneer John Sayles.

We're pleased this year to also welcome seven-time Academy Award nominee (and two-time winner) Jane Fonda who will join this year's festival honorees and show two of her films, Alan Pakula's Oscar-winning detective pic, *"Klute,"* and Katie Camosy's new documentary, *"Gaslit,"* which follows Fonda through oil and gas-producing towns in West Texas and Louisiana — for close engagement with people who live there.

Environmental leader Bill McKibben will lead a post-screening discussion of *"Gaslit,"* while journalist Amy Goodman joins us for *"Steal This*



Enjoy two plays and a picnic in Vergennes

Come spend some time with fellow theater lovers for The Shelburne Players' third annual Two Plays and a Picnic event at the historic Vergennes Opera House on Sunday, Aug. 9, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. This is a free event open to all.

Participants will read a one-act play together in the morning, pause for lunch, then read a second one-act play in the afternoon. No experience necessary — this is a super-casual gathering for anyone who wants to join. And if you don't want to read, just come and listen.

Bring your lunch and enjoy it on the Vergennes Town Green or grab something to eat from one of several nearby restaurants. Either way, dessert will be provided.

RSVP by Aug. 2 online @shelburneplayers, or email theshelburneplayers@gmail.com.

Story, Please!," bringing her decades of fearless reporting to what promises to be a lively exchange.

We hope you'll join us as Middlebury becomes a gathering place in late August for adventurous cinema and the conversations that continue long after the closing credits roll.

Editor's Note: This year's festival runs Aug. 26-30. Festival passes are now on sale; single tickets will be available Aug. 3 at middfilmfest.org.

Jay Craven is co-founder and Artistic Director at MNFF and an independent filmmaker with 11 narrative feature films, a comedy TV series and four documentaries to his credit.

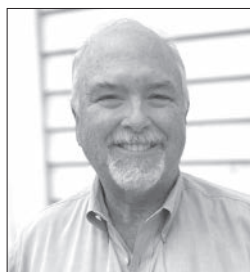
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TOUR LOCAL GARDENS

IN BRANDON, GOSHEN AND SUDBURY ON JULY 25

Visit 12 different private gardens in Brandon, Goshen and Sudbury on Saturday, July 25. (Rain date will be Sunday, July 26.) The theme this year is "Joy of Gardening," and the selected gardens highlight this in many ways; some gardens are professionally designed, installed and maintained landscapes, some focus on growing the best and biggest plants, some are new, while others have been lovingly tended for decades. All belong to garden enthusiasts and express their *joy of gardening*.

These home gardens will be open for visitors participating in a day-long garden tour benefitting the Brandon Library. Tickets are \$25 per person when purchased online in advance at brandonpubliclibrary.org/product/bfpl-friendsgarden-tour. Tickets allow access to all 12 private gardens and discounts at local garden centers.

Day-of-tour tickets can also be purchased for \$30 at the Inn at Park St, 69 Park Street in Brandon. All proceeds will benefit the Brandon Library.



One of the stops on the upcoming garden tour in Brandon, Goshen and Sudbury is at Landscape Designer Judith Irven's home in Goshen. Visit hers and 11 other gardens in the area on Saturday, July 25.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DICK CONRAD

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!

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UPCOMING
MUSIC

Boogie on down to the Marble Works for Foodaroo 11

On Sunday, Aug. 2, Middlebury's Foodaroo festival will celebrate 11 years with a world of cuisines, the All Night Boogie Band, an adult beverage garden, street performers, and two King Arthur Flour baking competitions. Presented by Middlebury Underground (MUD), Foodaroo returns to Middlebury's Historic Marble Works District overlooking the falls in Middlebury — featuring food trucks and restaurants from across Vermont. Cover \$5 (cash). Kids 12 and under free. Food and beverages available for purchase. Foodaroo is proud to donate a portion of proceeds to Food for Hope — a common-good farm project working to close the gaps in Vermont's local food system. The event will run from 4-8 p.m.

(Weather date: Sunday, Aug. 9).

TASTE VERMONT

Foodaroo 11 will feature all-time festival favorites, as well as newcomers, providing a delicious taste of the farm-to-table lifestyle that is a hallmark of our state. Food and beverage vendors include: American Flatbread; Aladdin's Mediterranean; A Taste of Abyssinia (Ethiopian and Eritrean!); Crazy Cotton Candy; Crooked Ladle; Dougy Fresh (gyros!); Food for Hope; Gene's Chili Hut (chili dogs, burgers); Good Times Co.; La Chata's Churros; Lulu Ice Cream; Mexico in Vermont;

See FOODAROO on page 11

Boogie Band



Since coming together in the Green Mountains of Vermont during 2021, The All Night Boogie Band has vigorously carved out a reputation as a premier live act with a distinct and original sound

— and is singing it loud and clear. With roots dug deep into the blues, soul and rock and roll records that have defined music for generations (and while hand-crafting and fine tuning themselves over hundreds of live performances along the East Coast) the band has churned out three full-length LPs of raw, authentic, and honest music that tells it like it is. Sharing the stage with renowned artists such as Gary Clark Jr., Grace Potter, Eddie gV, Jackie Venson, Dwight + Nicole, and Blues Hall of Famer Lurrie Bell — All Night Boogie Band is hungry for more.



Enjoy delicious food and drinks and entertainment at Foodaroo 11, on Sunday, Aug. 2 in Middlebury's Marble Works District. COURTESY PHOTOS



More Tunes

Bands battle for title in Middlebury

The battle is on! The Battle of the Bands that is... Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 30, from 7-9 p.m., where five local rock bands will play for the winning title at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. The contestants range from high schoolers to students at Middlebury College, to well-established professionals. Battling bands include BINGO, The Fukuda Brothers, The Pledgers featuring Henry Bolch, Ayele Gousseva, and Meon Drums featuring Anna Armstrong.

A drum battle between two drummers will kick-start the evening at 7:30 p.m.

See BANDS on page 11



Hey Rob, what's for Sunday Supper?

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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 Maine'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

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, your bold approach is magnetic right now. If you have a big idea that you've been waiting to share, present it now. Everyone is ready to listen.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Think about how you can treat someone else to something nice, whether it is a gift, time spent with you or whatever it is that they desire. Build the foundation for a stronger friendship.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. This week is all about clearing out the old to make room for the new, Gemini. Begin decluttering your physical space and then move on to clearing out your mind.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, your social circle is a great asset this week. Reach out to a friend you haven't spoken to in a while. You might find the conversation sparks a great new collaborative idea.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, your hard work is finally getting the recognition it deserves. Don't be afraid to accept any praise that comes your way. You will inspire others with your natural leadership and confidence.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, whether it is picking up a new hobby or diving into a book you have been meaning to read, you are craving knowledge this week. Your mind is hungry for growth, so feed it.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Right now you are able to resolve lingering tensions with ease, Libra. Lean into your diplomatic nature; you have the power to turn a complicated situation into a win-win for everyone.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. The connections you nurture this week will prove incredibly lucky for you, Scorpio. You will come across as deeply authentic, which can draw people to you like a magnet.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Getting details handled early on will clear the path for a much more open week as the weekend approaches, Sagittarius. Take to the task at hand now and reap the rewards later.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your creativity is off the charts right now, Capricorn. You might find that you are better positioned to problem-solve when you're doing things unrelated to the task at hand.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. It is a wonderful time to redecorate the garden or spend quality time with family, Aquarius. Nurturing yourself will give you the stamina to tackle the world outside of your home.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, people are generally interested in what you have to say this week, so be sure to speak up. Your message may inspire others.



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JULY 24 — Elisabeth Moss, actor (44)
JULY 25 — Thomas Eakins, artist (d)
JULY 26 — Carl Jung, psychiatrist (d)
JULY 27 — Maya Rudolph, actor (54)
JULY 28 — Marcel Duchamp, artist (d)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 29 — Bill Forsyth, filmmaker (80)
JULY 30 — Emily Brontë, writer (d)

CALENDAR

July 23-Aug. 8 2026

READ MORE Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



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 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.

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 and lemonade. 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 6 and under. Reservations 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 Càirdeas 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. See July 24 listing. Tickets: \$10-\$25. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY, JULY 26

"1776: THE MUSICAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July 26, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater. See July 24 listing. Tickets: \$10-\$25. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

REMEMBER BAKER IN CORNWALL. Sunday, July 26, 5-7 p.m., 2144 Route 30. Remember Baker will kickoff the Peet Farm Music Series at the greenhouses. Don't forget to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Admission is free, with donations welcomed to support the musicians.

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. 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., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

BATTLE OF THE BANDS IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 30, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Watch the best bands Middlebury has to offer duke it out in this first iteration of THT's Battle of the Bands, organized by

Middlebury College Summer Interns Max and Anna as seen on Instagram. Some of the bands will be BINGO, The Fukuda Brothers, The Pledgers featuring Henry Bolch, Ayele Gousseva, Meon Drums featuring Anna Armstrong. General: \$10; students: \$5. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

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.

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.

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- ACSD Board Meeting - 7/27 - 6PM
- Selectboard - 7/28 - 7PM
- All Things LGBTQ - 07/29 - 5PM
- Democracy Now - Live - Weekdays - 8AM
- MCTV Late Night Lofi - All Night - 10PM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent
middleburycommunitytv.org

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**ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.**

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 4 listing.

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.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: THE SHADY TREES IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets and chairs for the lawn. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6**ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.**

Thursday, Aug. 6, 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 4 listing.

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 and lemonade. 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**ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.**

Friday, Aug. 7, 1790 Field Days

Road. See Aug. 4 listing.

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 AND 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 samara@yahoo.com with any questions or for more information. Participants must register at: buytickets.at/greenmountainclub/2221710. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

SATURDAY, AUG. 8**ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.**

Saturday, Aug. 8, 7 a.m.-10

p.m. 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 4 listing.

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 8, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT:**ATOM & THE ORBITS IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Saturday, Aug. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Led by Vermont musician Noah Hahn, Atom & the Orbits delivers danceable modern rock, roots rhythms, and high-energy Americana built for a summer concert atmosphere. Food and bar offerings available for purchase. Free. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

REGGAE NIGHT IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater. A collaborative live performance with Selecta D-Ro from Apple Balm Sound spinning a live DJ/dub set and NauNau Beloha performing a mix of originals and covers, filling the plaza with reggae rhythms for a laid-back summer night. Food available for purchase from Taste of Abyssinia as well as a bar and lemonade stand. Bring a chair or a blanket. Free or pay what you can. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

STUDENT OPERA: MOZART'S "DIE GÄRTNERIN AUS LIEBE" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Aug. 8, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Seeler Studio Theatre, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Aug. 7 listing. Middlebury appreciates your cooperation by keeping English conversations to a low volume and away from students.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE TO ABBEY POND TRAIL IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Aug. 8. Hike a pretty trail with waterfalls and a secluded pond where moose have been spotted. Moderate hike with 1,220 feet of elevation gain over 4.4 miles. Contact Cary Beckwith at cwbeckwith@yahoo.com for more information. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

VERMONT ROOTS MUSIC COLLECTIVE ANNOUNCES:**2026 PEET FARM MUSIC SERIES****FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS • 5-7 PM**

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JULY 26:
REMEMBER BAKER



AUG 16:
BRISSON BOSS & PELLETIER



SEPT 13:
SWING NOIRE



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Musicians play and families enjoy at new Cornwall concert series

From old-time string bands to rockin' alt-country, Vermont musicians will take the stage in Cornwall this summer in a free outdoor concert series.

Three concerts, hosted by the new nonprofit Vermont Roots Music Collective, will be held at the Peet Farm Greenhouses just off Route 30 north of Cornwall village beginning this weekend. Series founder Dan Whittemore envisions each performance as a Sunday afternoon family picnic, with blankets spread across the lawn as audiences listen to local tunes.

By **RACHELLE TALBERT**

The series also marks the return of an idea Whittemore first launched during the pandemic. After grief and storm damage brought the original concerts to an end, he hopes the new community-run series will ensure the music continues for years to come.

The Sunday afternoon concerts, free and open to the public, will run from 5 to 7 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Remember Baker — Sunday, July 26**
- **Brisson, Boss & Pelletier — Sunday, Aug. 16**
- **Swing Noire — Sunday, Sept. 13**

Whittemore, a musician himself, first created the West Cornwall Backyard Concert series in 2020 with his wife, Becca, and his mother, Janice. Unable to attend live music during the pandemic, they built a stage and brought performances to their own backyard off Route 74. Forty people attended the first concert. Children ran through the grass. Families spread out across the yard. At 90 years old, Janice Whittemore sat in her chair, listening to live music in her own backyard.

"The driving force behind the West Cornwall Backyard Concert series was my mom, being able to do it for her," Dan Whittemore said. "Music was always a really big part of our family life."

In January 2023, Whittemore's mother passed away. Later that year, when Dan tried to continue the series, storms destroyed the stage, making it unsafe to use. Whittemore announced on Facebook that he did not have the emotional fortitude to keep the concerts going.

For the past three years, Whittemore has heard from neighbors who missed the music, and he



Dan Whittemore is making the Vermont Roots Music Collective a community effort. He works on the board with local musician Annie Nessen (right), known by the stage name of "Scarlet Annie." Together, they are collaborating with January Stearns (center) from Peet Farm Greenhouses to host three upcoming concerts.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAM

considered bringing the series back. This time, however, he wanted the concerts to belong to the community rather than a single family. "I knew if I brought it back, I didn't want it to depend on one family's backyard and one family's energy again," Whittemore said. "When something breaks — physically or emotionally — the whole thing shouldn't have to stop."

"THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE WEST CORNWALL BACKYARD CONCERT SERIES WAS MY MOM."

— Dan Whittemore

Now, Whittemore has collaborators, working with four other board members in Vermont Roots Music Collective. He also works with a local venue, Peet Farm Greenhouses, which will sell creemeees and cookies during the concerts. Whittemore hopes that his restructuring into the Collective will strengthen both local community ties and Vermont's music scene. One of his goals is to make a space where families can afford to listen to live music and musicians can afford to play.

According to Whittemore, even in the series' infancy, it was one of the best-paying gigs in town. He consistently saw donations of \$5 per person attending the event, often bringing in around \$200 for an evening. Until 2023, Whittemore gave the donations for the evening directly to the band, meaning the musicians were risking not getting paid enough. Since starting

the Vermont Roots Music Collective, however, Whittemore is now able to negotiate a payment amount before the show so that the bands aren't taking a financial risk.

"I don't feel right putting a musician on stage for less than \$100," Whittemore said. "So if we don't get enough donations to make that, the way we're doing it now, the musicians are still going to get their asking price."

Whittemore is committed to both supporting local bands and picking quality music. He recruited each of the performing bands from connections within the Vermont music scene, either from musicians he's worked with or the venues he's performed in. He only had one criteria: that they are deeply rooted in Vermont.

REMEMBER BAKER

The first band performing, Remember Baker, is a five-piece string band from northern Vermont. They specialize in bluegrass and old-time music, sometimes branching out into early jazz. Though a string band, they occasionally experiment with incorporating trumpet, piano or washboard into their performances. "We strive to provide high quality music and arrangements as well as an entertaining show," Chris Gribnau, who plays the fiddle in Remember Baker, told the *Independent*.

The group gives a nod to Vermont's Yankee roots in its music. The name, Remember Baker,

“WE LOVE THE GRASSROOTS NATURE OF THE VERMONT ROOTS MUSIC COLLECTIVE AND HOPE THAT WE WILL BE DOING OUR PART TO GROW THIS GEM OF A FESTIVAL.”
— Chris Gribnau

comes from a high-ranking member of the Green Mountain Boys (whose first name was “Remember”) in the early days of Vermont. Whittemore met Remember Baker guitarist Cameron Connah while playing in a Lincoln concert celebrating Bob Dylan’s 85th birthday. Whittemore was impressed. “I had heard good things about them from other people in the music community,” Whittemore said.

BRISSON, BOSS & PELLETIER

Performing in August, Brisson, Boss & Pelletier are three musicians from the band Deb Brisson & the Hayburners. The band plays “rootsy, soulful and bluesy, rockin’ alt country,” according to their webpage. They will be performing a pared-down version of their usual style. Deb Brisson & the Hayburners perform original songs, including “Horse Thief” and “Heart Shaped Stone,” with vocal performances by Brisson.

“Deb Brisson — she’s local royalty in the music community,” Whittemore said. “I just know Deb just from decades of living and playing throughout the county.”

SWING NOIRE

“The last one would be Swing Noire,” Whittemore said. “Their leaders are the McCuen twins, Jim and Rob McCuen, both very talented local musicians more prominently known in their Bluegrass outfit, Blood Root Gap. They’re an award-winning bluegrass band.”

For this performance, the McCuen twins will leave behind bluegrass music and step into the more niche, Parisian-style Swing Noir, joined by David Gusakov on violin and Jared Volpe on rhythm guitar. Swing Noire is Vermont’s longest-running Hot Club-style acoustic quartet. Hot Club, also known as Gypsy Jazz, is a style of music that originated in 1930s Paris. Spontaneous and soulful, it blends American swing music with Romani folk music, including expressive solos on the lead guitar and violin.

Many of the bands are excited to work with Whittemore and the Collective, particularly because of its community-based mission.

“We love the grassroots nature of the Vermont Roots Music Collective and hope that we will be doing our part to grow this gem of a festival,” Gribnau said. “It represents the community-minded spirit that makes Vermont a great place to live.”



Remember Baker will play on Sunday, July 26, from 5-7 p.m., for the kickoff of the Peet Farm Music Series in Cornwall. Don’t forget to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Yes there will be plants for sale, as well as creemeees, snacks, homemade cookies and drinks. Admission is free, with donations welcomed to directly support the performing musicians.

COURTESY PHOTO



Dan Whittemore is back to hosting music in Cornwall, this time through the new nonprofit Vermont Roots Music Collective. The first three concerts will be held at the Peet Farm Greenhouses in Cornwall beginning Sunday, July 26. Admission is free with donations directly supporting the Vermont musicians.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

PUZZLES

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ACROSS

1. Listen to
5. Presents
10. A type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Pretentiously artistic
17. Harness
18. Diamond weight measurement
19. "Better Call __"
20. Fervent support
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. Disposed to venture or take risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Women's __ movement
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers

35. Step-shaped recess
37. A princess can detect it
38. Tractor-trailer
39. Leslie and Leon are two
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn
42. Dodgers great Hersher
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Breaks apart
52. Hand gesture
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Sword

60. Baseball team
61. Upper bract of floret of grass
63. Italian Seaport
64. Mars crater
65. Tube on a shoelace
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. South American nation
68. Video game series "Max __"
69. Upper body part

DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy
3. Jewish calendar month
4. Family of long-legged frogs
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

7. Lute used in Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Cease to stand
10. The bottom layer
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Part of a ticket
13. Defunct monetary unit
21. Challenges
23. Body part
25. Tell on
26. By way of
27. Shady green alcove
28. Egyptian city
29. __ and flowed
32. Widens a hole
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. "Be back later"
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large root eaten as a vegetable
41. Units of subjective loudness
43. Music genre
44. A way to drench
46. Popular hot beverage
47. Silk-like cotton
fabric
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. Observational comedian Bill
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Semi-liquid food for babies
62. Consumed food

5		4		8				9
1	8				9	4		
			2	4		6		
				6		3	8	
	2		5		8			
					6			
	7						1	
		2		3	1	8	6	4

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.



44 Main St, Middlebury, VT
Open Daily
sparrowartsupply.com



MAKE SUMMER BY HAND!

Sketch by the lake, write a postcard, start a journal, or pick up a porch project. Find screen-free summer activities at Sparrow Art Supply!

FOODAROO

continued from page 4

Little Seed
Coffee; Rollin'
Rooster;
Steven's
Farmstead;
Maharaja
Spice (Indian!);

Shiretown's BBQ; Taco Truck All Stars; Sisters of Anarchy Ice Cream; Stone Leaf Tea House, and more! Zero Gravity beer, hard cider, and summer cocktails will be offered at two American Flatbread bars. The adult beverage sampling tent features WhistlePig Whiskey, Shacksbury, Split Spirits, Lincoln Peak, and Golden Rule Mead.

A FEAST FOR ALL SENSES

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



SERENA KIM

See." This year's festival also welcomes two celebrated street performers: the world-famous Red Trouser Show and stunt comedian Wacky Chad. Hip-Hop DJ sensation Serena Kim (who DJ'd the Yankees' third World Series victory party) will kick off the festival, and close it out with a DJ and pole dance extravaganza featuring Krystal Young.

BAKING CONTESTS

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

For more information, contact Lisa Mitchell at 703-819-7891; email lisa@middunderground.org or visit foodaroo.org.

ABOUT MUD

Middlebury Underground (MUD) is a 501(c)(3) multidisciplinary arts and event production organization seeking to bring the diverse cross-sections of our community together around unique, shared experiences.

BANDS

continued from page 4

After a brief introduction by THT interns Max Blumenthal and Anna Armstrong,

fantastic performance.

Tickets for the event cost \$5-\$10 and are available at townhalltheater.org or by calling 802-382-9222. Cash bar will also be available.

each band will be randomly selected. One at a time, the bands will play three songs of their choice. Throughout the performances, the Applause-o-Meter (a decibel reader) tracks how loud the applause from the audience is. The livelier the better! The band that scores the highest decibel count on the Applause-o-Meter will be crowned the winner of the Battle of the Bands at the end of the night.

As a prize, the winning band will have the opportunity to ring the historic THT bell, and will receive a trophy in appreciation of their

A

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SEE
WHAT'S
HAPPEING

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Poppy



Poppy is a 2-year-old calico girl with a heart full of love! She's litter box trained and ready to be your indoor companion, and gets along wonderfully with other cats if you've got feline friends at home. Poppy came to us as a mama, with her sister and with three lovely kittens. Come meet her and find out how much of a sweetie pie she is.

Sam



Sam, around 4 years old, is available through our Working Cat Program. Please call Lauren at 388-1100 option 3 to learn more about him if you are looking for a great hunter for your business or property!

Cheyenne



Cheyenne recently turned one year old and is still trying to navigate all new things in life. With her long legs and spotted fur, she's a truly unique girl. Like any puppy, she needs consistency, structure, and a family who's willing to work on her manners. She loves to greet people by jumping and can easily become overstimulated. Cheyenne loves other dogs. They help her feel more comfortable in new situations. She is looking for an active, playful home where she's able to have her physical and mental needs and wants met. She lived with cats as a young pup and has been around younger children. She can easily become mouthy during play, so older children are recommended.

Maple



Maple is a 7-year-old female Coonhound with a sweet, gentle personality and a love for people. Maple is friendly with new people, enjoys car rides, and has lived successfully with children of all ages. She has also coexisted peacefully with cats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, and other small animals, although she may chase wild rabbits outside. She knows basic commands like sit and come, enjoys Kongs, marrow bones, and peanut butter treats, and is happiest when she has a secure yard to sniff and explore.

Rio



Rio is a 7-year-old female Coonhound with a friendly, affectionate nature and an easygoing personality. Rio has grown into a loving companion who enjoys spending time with her people and greeting visitors with happy tail wags and kisses. Rio has experience living with children of all ages and has done well around cats, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, and other household animals. She enjoys car rides, knows basic commands like sit and come, and loves peanut butter, Kongs, and marrow bones. A secure yard where she can stretch her legs and follow her nose would make her very happy.

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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more?

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236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

4472 Basin Harbor
Road, Vergennes

For more info contact info@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

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"LATELY, I'VE FELT SOMEWHAT ADRIFT IN MY PRACTICE AS AN ARTIST AND PARENT AMIDST LIFE'S DEMANDS. TO NAVIGATE THIS, I FOCUSED ON NOTICING AND CAPTURING SMALL DETAILS DURING WALKS ON THE TAM THROUGH A SERIES OF MARKER SKETCHES, WHICH LED TO NEW PAINTINGS. THIS APPROACH HAS ALLOWED ME TO EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT SURFACES AND MEDIUMS, AND HELPED ME TO SIMPLIFY MY COMPOSITIONS."

— Tamara Sullivan

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



"Morning Grass" by Tamara Sullivan is one of her many works on display at Sparrow Art Supply in Middlebury through July.

COURTESY IMAGE

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.

"Time Keeping." Artifacts and archival treasures from the 18th century through today will be presented in conversation with New England contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio's 'Clockworks,' the magically crafted worlds of paper theater within vintage clocks and watch housings. Showcasing stories of far-reaching possibilities in layers of time, Luciana Frigerio's captivating mixed media collages mirror Henry Sheldon's own passion for storytelling through paper and material culture. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Remembering the American Revolution."

This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory, attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacificism, rebellion or resistance. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

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. Using watercolor, gouache, and recent studies from walks on the TAM, she captures fleeting moments of light, weather, movement, and color. On view through July 31.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEXT DOOR.

North Ferrisburgh artist exhibits at Charlotte Library

The Charlotte Library has a new exhibition of paintings by North Ferrisburgh artist Shirley Reid. The exhibit, "Shirley Reid: Paintings in Oil," will be on view from July 1-Aug. 31. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, July 30, at 3 p.m., followed by the Grange on the Green concert featuring "Remember Baker."

All artwork will be available for purchase. Reid welcomes commissions for original oil paintings and sculptures inspired by wildlife, landscapes, and the natural world. A portion of all sales will benefit the Charlotte Library.

About Shirley Reid

Shirley Reid is an internationally exhibited painter, sculptor, filmmaker, publisher, editor and digital media artist. You may remember her as the creator of the large trout fountain that once graced Greenbush Road. Now residing in North Ferrisburgh, Reid continues

to draw inspiration from Vermont's landscapes and wildlife.

Reid earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking from Champlain College, where she studied screenwriting, motion graphics and directing and won two Emmy Awards from National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (New England Division). Throughout her career she has created outdoor sculpture in the "Exposed" show in Stowe; "Take Flight"; Middlebury's celebration of public interactive artwork; and most recently a one-woman show at Island Arts in South Hero. She also wrapped up a show in Costa Rica highlighting her latest interest in glass shards as a painting medium. Most recently, her sculpture has been exhibited at the Fleming Museum.

The Charlotte Library exhibition brings together new and earlier oil paintings, offering



Shirley Reid's oil paintings will be on view at Charlotte Library through August. COURTESY IMAGE

visitors an opportunity to see the evolution of Reid's work while exploring recurring themes of wildlife, landscape, and humanity's tenuous relationship with the natural world.

Together, these works reflect a lifetime of artistic exploration. For Reid, creativity is simply a way of life. She welcomes collaboration and looks forward to talking to you about your inspirations.

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Roxanna Emilo, Broker/Realtor/Owner
Cell: (802) 349-9837

Christine Fraioli, Realtor
(802) 989-2234

35 OSSIE RD, MIDDLEBURY

Spacious East Middlebury ranch on 1.20 Acres with mountain views. This inviting home offers comfort, flexibility, and room to grow, featuring an attached two-car garage plus a separate powered outbuilding ideal for hobbies, a workshop, or small business use. Numerous upgrades include new windows, roof, siding, heating system, electrical, and deck. Inside, bright open living spaces include a sunny three-season sunroom flowing into the dining area and kitchen. The finished lower level adds a versatile living space. Enjoy a large yard with subdivision potential, all close to local amenities and year-round outdoor recreation opportunities.

\$479,000 MLS# 5075441

38 MARTHA'S WAY, SALISBURY

New 2026 contemporary ranch. Be the first to own this thoughtfully designed new-construction home located in the picturesque town of Salisbury. The property features 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath on the main level, and an additional full master suite above the garage with a private bathroom suite. Open-concept kitchen and dining area, and appliance package included. In-law suite (appliances not included). Building plans are negotiable with opportunities for customization. Peaceful setting with convenient access to Middlebury and local amenities. Ideal for year-round living or a seasonal Vermont retreat. Enjoy modern design, outdoor recreation, and the charm of a welcoming community.

\$425,000 MLS# 5075792






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PUZZLE

July 23, 2026

SOLUTIONS

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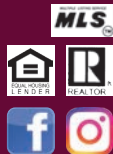
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Listing Agent: Sue Walsh
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**50 Rosewood Lane, Castleton
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**WEYBRIDGE | 17 Bunny Lane | MLS #5099731
4 BD | 3 BA | 2214 SF | 1.50 ACRES | \$325,000**

Affordable home with a welcoming front porch, wood floors in living areas and a propane stove. Extra-deep one-car garage useful for storage. Close to recreation trails and just 4.5 miles to the amenities of Middlebury.

**NEW
LISTING**



**MIDDLEBURY | 86 Brush Lane | MLS #5100817
3 BD | 3 BA | 1938 SF
\$499,000 qualified price / \$765,000 market rate**

The newest at Stonecrop! Three-bedroom duplex ready this Fall. First floor primary suite. Mini-split heating/cooling, wrap-around porch, and lower-level parking.



NEW LISTING



BRIDPORT | 1497 Middle Road | MLS #5097172 | 7.50 ACRES | \$155,000

Lovely, east-facing building site with breathtaking sunrise views. This building lot is permitted for your dream home! Some preliminary site work has been completed. Located in the welcoming community of Bridport, you'll enjoy the best of rural living with easy access to Lake Champlain for boating/fishing, miles of roads for biking and nearby trailheads for hiking! Less than 15 minutes to Middlebury!

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UNTIL
7:00 PM

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WEST STAGE

**Tom Bisson &
The Rustics** 3:00

Eclipse 4:15

Hudost 6:00

EAST STAGE

**Remember
Baker** 2:30

Jacob Green 3:45

Red Admiral 5:15

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