



Band Battle

Audience applause determined which of four college bands won a THT contest. See Arts + Leisure.



Crash! Smash!

The annual demolition derby wows crowds at Field Days this week. See Page 1B for more.



Community

In our annual Profiles supplement we present the names and faces that make this place home.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Primary contests decided Tuesday

Addison-3 & Senate races top slate

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Addison County voters on Tuesday, Aug. 11, will help pare down a crowd of candidates vying for elected positions ranging from Vergennes-area state representative to governor.

We're talking about Primary Election Day, and county voters will find two races of particular local interest.

Folks in every Addison County community — plus Huntington,

Rochester and Buel's Gore — will decide a three-person Republican runoff for two available slots on the Nov. 4 ballot for state Senate.

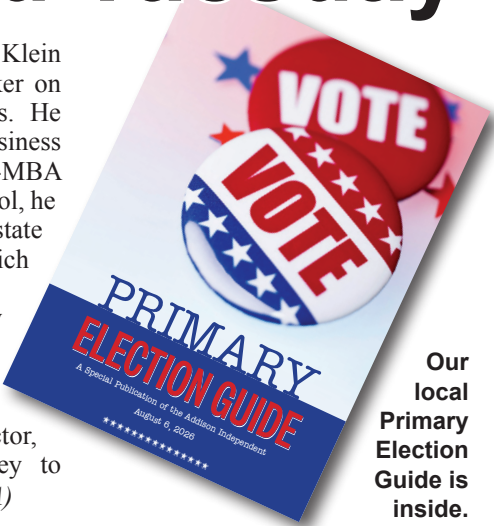
The primary will involve New Haven's Andrew Klein, incumbent Sen. Steve Heffernan of Bristol, and Orwell's Andrea Treadway.

Klein, a lieutenant on the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department and Technical Rescue Team, is a former member of Middlebury's Planning & Zoning Commission. After graduating

from Middlebury College, Klein become an investment banker on Wall Street for three years. He then attended law and business schools, earning a joint JD-MBA at NYU. Following law school, he launched a series of real estate investment companies, which he continues to operate.

During a June interview with the *Independent*, Klein said he'd like to quickly grow Vermont's population and business sector, which he said will be key to

(See Primary, Page 12A)



Our local Primary Election Guide is inside.

Middlebury's Mike Roy shares legislative goals

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury's Mike Roy has spent several years looking out for his community's environmental wellbeing and physical health, through service on the Middlebury Regional EMS board and the town's energy committee.

And barring a late entry into the Addison-1 House

district bracket, Roy will spend the upcoming biennium shaping statewide health and environmental policy as a member of the Vermont Legislature.

As the *Independent* went to press, incumbent Rep. Robin Scheu, D-Middlebury, and Roy — also a Democrat — were unopposed in their bids to secure

(See Roy, Page 14A)

Bristol tax rate rises 7.14 cents

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — It's that time of year again. The municipal tax rate has been set in Bristol, and residents can expect to see a rise in their tax bills this year.

The Bristol selectboard at its July 27 meeting voted unanimously to set the fiscal year 2027 municipal tax rate at \$0.9909 per \$100 of assessed property value, up 7.14 cents, or 7.77%, from the rate approved last year. Though, after accounting for other figures that factor into the overall homestead tax rate, the total rate will reflect a slightly lower increase of around 2.5-cents.

The police district tax rate was set at \$0.3507 per \$100 of assessed property value, a decrease of 0.58% from the current rate of \$0.3565. Thus, residents living in the around one-square-mile police district are set to pay a combined municipal and police district rate of \$1.3416 for the upcoming fiscal year.

BEHIND THE RATE

The municipal tax rate is based on town spending approved by Bristol (See Bristol, Page 14A)



By the way

Aug. 11 of course is primary election day, and Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas is reminding folks about the many ways people have at their disposal to make sure their vote is recorded. All the info you need to vote is online at the Vermont Voter Portal: vote.vermont.gov. All active registered voters have an account. When you sign in, you'll see a "Voter Guide to the Primary Election," with statements and contact info from

(See By the way, Page 11A)

Index

Obituaries.....6A
Classifieds.....8B-9B
Service Directory.....6B-7B
Entertainment.....Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....4B
Arts Calendar.....Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-3B



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THE FIRST TWO days of Addison County Fair and Field Days featured sun and warm temps. Above, 10-year-old Randi Ouellette of Ferrisburgh enjoys the fair while riding "Cinch"; below left, Sophia Roleau, 12, of Bristol and her Holstein, Luna, share smiles; and, top left, a midway ride is just so much fun. See more photos on Page 13A. The fair runs through Saturday.

Independent photos/Steve James

Field Days in full swing

See show business brothers, fun rides & the Meat Mafia

By JING WILLIAMS

Editor's note: One of the great things about the Addison County Fair and Field Days is there is so dang much to take in — the farm animals, the food and drink, the competitions, the thousands of friends and neighbors wandering around the crowded fairgrounds in the middle of a rural paradise.

Here are a few snapshots from the annual fair that we gathered this week. It started Tuesday and continues through Saturday at the New Haven fairgrounds.

NEW HAVEN — Educating people on local agriculture and helping Vermont keep its local farms is the mission of the new Meat Mafia food truck — along

with making the "best BBQ in Addison County," of course, said Ryan Cushing, who was running the business at Field Days this week.

The Meat Mafia food truck only opened this year on Feb. 17, Cushing's daughter's birthday. The catchy name came to Cushing

(See Field Days, Page 10A)

Middlebury is asked to CHIP in for housing

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday, Aug. 11, will be asked to support Vermont's first-ever application to the Community & Housing Infrastructure Program, known as CHIP. It's a proposal that could deliver key funding for roads, sidewalks and water/sewer connections that would serve the second phase of the shire town's new Stonecrop Meadows neighborhood.

Selectboard members began their review of Summit Properties' CHIP application on July 28. Summit COO Zeke Davisson and CEO Tom Getz explained CHIP would allow Middlebury — and any community that taps into it — the ability to borrow money to build municipal infrastructure and pay down that debt over a 20-year period from future tax money raised from the new homes that would be served by that new infrastructure.

As currently mapped out, Stonecrop Meadows will eventually feature around 250 units of affordable, (See Housing, Page 12A)



THE MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD on Tuesday, Aug. 11, will decide whether to endorse tax increment financing as a funding tool for new roads, sidewalks and streetlights that would serve Phase Two of the Stonecrop Meadows mixed-income housing development.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Camp empowers youth to use their voices for change

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Finding ways to make your voice heard as a young person can be challenging, but doing so can ultimately have a big impact.

A group of local youth has spent this week learning about the weight their voices carry and how to create change in their communities and beyond. Those middle and high schoolers are part of The Addison County Summer Social Justice Camp, an offering being co-led by local high school student Rafaela Botti and Addie Lentzner, a Middlebury College student and founder of the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network.

(See Youth, Page 16A)

A group of local youth has spent this week learning about the weight their voices carry and how to create change in their communities and beyond.

High court rules against Vekos, Bevere takes cases

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont Supreme Court has rejected a bid by Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos to have her license to practice law reinstated. The county’s top prosecutor had argued in June that she had fulfilled the conditions of her probation related to her deferred sentence on a drunken driving conviction, and she should regain the privilege of appearing as legal counsel in court.

Vermont State Police had cited Vekos for driving under the influence on Jan. 25, 2024, after she had allegedly showed signs of impairment while arriving at the scene of a suspicious death investigation in Bridport. She pleaded no contest to the drunken driving charge in December 2025, and her sentence was deferred for six months — after which time her conviction could be cleared from her record.

The court suspended Vekos’s law license in December, “concluding that she had been convicted of a ‘crime that reflects adversely on [her] . . . fitness as a lawyer,’” the high court stated in its ruling.

In June, Vekos informed the court she’d fulfilled her probation conditions and the trial court “struck the adjudication of guilt.” Vekos asked the Vermont Supreme Court to authorize her reinstatement.

“Respondent argues that she is entitled to reinstatement because ‘the adjudication of guilt in [her criminal case] was vacated. Her guilty adjudication was stricken and she was discharged,’” reads the court’s ruling.

But Vermont Professional Responsibility Board (VPRB) officials countered that the trial court hadn’t *vacated* Vekos’s conviction and that the word “vacate” doesn’t appear in its ruling.

The State Supreme Court agreed with the VPRB, and noted the differences between the statutory terms “strike” and “vacate”:

“Vacate” means “to nullify or cancel; make void; invalidate.”

“Strike” means “to expunge, as from a record.”

“(Vekos’s) conviction was neither reversed nor vacated here. The plain meaning of those terms does not

include striking an adjudication of guilt upon completion of a deferred sentence. Automatic reinstatement is appropriate if there is a legal or factual deficiency in the underlying conviction, which is not the case here. The posture of respondent’s criminal case does not undermine our previous assessment of the serious nature of respondent’s conviction under A.O. 9, Rule 21(C) and (D). This conclusion is consistent with the purposes underlying Rule 21 referenced above, including preserving public confidence in the profession,” the Supreme Court said in its decision.

Associate Justice Christina E. Nolan dissented.

“License suspensions and other sanctions imposed under our attorney-regulation system are designed to protect the public from harm and to maintain faith in our legal system,” Nolan wrote. “In my assessment, given respondent’s lack of recidivism, acceptance of responsibility, and compliance with court orders, sidelining her from practicing law and carrying out her duties as Addison County State’s Attorney on an interim basis before

a merits hearing does not promote these goals.

The Vermont Attorney General’s Office has been prosecuting most of the county’s criminal cases while Vekos’s law license has been under suspension. And the AG’s assistance takes on even more importance with recent news that the Addison County State’s Attorney’s Office’s only current deputy — Richard Nolan — has given notice. A notice seeking candidates to fill his job has been posted.

Vermont News First is reporting that former Addison County Deputy State’s Attorney (and current Rutland County deputy) Peter Bevere of Middlebury has been asked to help prosecute Addison County criminal cases in the short-term. This arrangement would dovetail with Bevere’s hoped-for pivot to the full-time Addison County state’s attorney role in January; Bevere is running unopposed for the job in the Nov. 3 general election. Vekos is not seeking reelection.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



VERMONT STATE TREASURER Mike Pieciak chats before a groundbreaking ceremony at the Cambrian Way housing complex in Burlington in August 2025.

File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Vermont expands housing investment program

This story by Chris Mays was first published in the Brattleboro Reformer on July 21, 2026.

BERLIN — An additional \$25 million is now available in low-interest financing to help spur new housing, job creation and affordability across Vermont.

“Our state continues to be in desperate need of more housing,” Vermont Treasurer Mike Pieciak said Tuesday at a news conference. “Housing in Vermont is simply too expensive, whether you are a renter, whether you’re a first-time homebuyer, or whether you’re somebody that’s lived in your home for 30 years and is trying to maintain the home and trying to keep up with property taxes.”

The financing is available through the treasurer’s Invest in Vermont program, which uses 12.5% of the state’s average daily cash balance to provide low-interest loans for housing and economic development projects without spending tax dollars.

A request for proposals went out Tuesday. Proposals are due Sept. 4.

The program was formerly called “10% in VT.” The Legislature recently expanded the program’s lending capacity by 2.5 percentage points in this year’s major housing bill, S.328. Now, the program has been renamed Invest in Vermont.

To date, the program has been used to invest more than \$130 million into housing and other initiatives across Vermont, according to an announcement.

“Without spending a single tax dollar, those investments have leveraged over \$600 million in outside capital, supporting nearly 1,700 units of high-quality housing for Vermonsters of

all kinds, including working families, seniors, and those exiting homelessness,” the announcement states.

The funding is also credited with creating nearly 200 permanent, good-paying jobs.

When Pieciak was first elected treasurer 3½ years ago, his office looked at what tools are available to confront the housing issue. He said his team knows that “there is so much more that we need to do.”

“We went to the Legislature and asked if they would consider giving us even more authority to expand our 10% in Vermont program to 12.5%, and that is exactly what they did,” he said. “We want to thank the Legislature for their support and their confidence in us to invest this money wisely.”

Pieciak said the investments allow projects to move forward at a more affordable price. In March, he announced The Village at Winston Prouty in Brattleboro would receive \$4 million in financing through the program.

Alex Farrell, the commissioner of housing and community development, said the governor is “extremely grateful to the treasurer and his whole team for the partnership that they have displayed, not only with Invest in Vermont and really focusing these funds on housing, but also on some of our initiatives to create more innovative ways to deliver housing.”

“We are going to continue to push on the front to find new ways that large and small projects can have a fast track through the regulatory process,” he said, “because it’s so important that residential construction can happen in rural Vermont.”

After fuel vote, Middlebury energy panel regroups

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Energy Committee members seemed poised to resign *en masse* at a hastily called July 31 special meeting in protest of a recent selectboard decision to use natural gas instead of electricity to fuel a new wastewater treatment plant sludge dryer.

Instead, members agreed to draft a letter to the board explaining their frustration with the sludge dryer selection process while requesting more clarity on the weight of its advice on future renewable energy decisions.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, the Middlebury selectboard — citing cost factors and advice from its engineering consultants and wastewater treatment plant staff — voted 5-2 on July 28 to proceed with a natural gas-fueled sludge dryer as part of a voter-approved \$49.5 million makeover of the plant.

The vote drew opposition from energy committee members, who argued that the natural gas-fueled sludge dryer decision

was shortsighted and would doom Middlebury’s previously adopted (2021) goal of reducing its municipal carbon emissions by 80% by the year 2030.

The selectboard’s July 28 vote prompted Energy Committee Chair Mike Roy to call a special meeting for Friday, July 31, to “unpack” the selectboard’s sludge dryer decision and to reassess the panel’s usefulness given the town’s pursuit of new treatment plant equipment that would stymie the community’s C02-reduction goal.

Roy and his colleagues had said that switching from the treatment plant’s current lime stabilization process to natural gas would reduce the plant’s greenhouse gas emissions by 11%, from 564 tons to 503 tons. But they also argued that shifting to an electric sludge

drying process would reduce those emissions by 90%, from 564 tons to 56 tons.

But a majority of the selectboard members pointed to figures from engineering firm Wright Pierce showing a 20-year project life cycle cost of \$2,574,400 for sludge drying using natural gas; \$7,417,500 using renewable natural gas; and \$10,349,800 using electricity.

Energy committee member Fred Dunnington also serves on the selectboard. He and fellow selectboard member Danielle Boyce were the two dissenters in the board’s 5-2 vote in favor of a gas sludge dryer.

“I didn’t feel ready for a vote on this,” Dunnington said of his frame of mind on July 28.

If he had a do-over, Dunnington at the July 31 energy committee meeting said he would’ve asked for more debate on:

“If we don’t make a true commitment to these goals, we’re all going to be paying a lot more down the road. I think it’s very shortsighted.”

— Howard Widelitz

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Regroup

(Continued from Page 2A)

committee whose primary goals as I understand it is to advise the town on how to achieve these goals that are not achievable and don't seem to matter enough, I have a hard time justifying that to myself and my family."

Committee member Alice White said she's long been frustrated with municipal purchasing decisions she said haven't dovetailed with municipal C02-reduction goals. The panel, for example, has encouraged more electric vehicle purchases for the municipal fleet.

Committee member Gaen Murphree echoed those concerns, saying the Department of Public Works was "disinterested" in the energy panel's offer of acquiring and installing a level two electric car charger.

DPW officials have cited a potential move from their current aging Route 7 South location, which has limited space and other issues.

Murphree added that she believed the \$49.5 million treatment plant project should have been designed with the town's C02 reduction goals in mind.

White said the sludge dryer decision has "dwarfed" all other C02 decisions the town has and could make in its municipal operations.

Like Voorhees, she expressed reservations about continued service on the energy committee in the wake of the selectboard's July 28 decision.

"I have better things to do with my time," she said.

Committee member Howard Widelitz said he was disappointed the board's decision appeared to come down to a short-term financial factor.

"The problem is that if we don't make a true commitment to these goals, we're all going to be paying a lot more down the road," he said, referring to the impacts of future storms spurred by climate change. "I think it's very shortsighted, in terms of where

we would like to see things go."

Member Steve Maier said, "It's too bad we weren't able to be included in the process in a way that would have had a longer tail of trust and accountability in all directions."

"Because of the singular scale of this particular project, I'm feeling quite defeated and dismissed in terms of what influence our committee really has ever had," committee member Dan Rafferty said.

FOUR OPTIONS

Roy suggested four routes for the ad hoc energy committee to take in the wake of the selectboard's July 28 endorsement of a gas sludge dryer:

- Dissolve the committee and lobby for environmental advocates to be named to other town panels, such as the planning and infrastructure committees.
- Recommend that Middlebury — either unilaterally or in partnership with other area towns — hire a "sustainability officer" to ensure municipal purchases and other big decisions are also viewed through an environmental prism.
- Look to the selectboard to reset the town's C02 goals, passing along measurable, annual greenhouse gas reduction outcomes to the town manager and department heads.
- Pull the plug on the energy panel and instead encourage decarbonization within individual residential, commercial and industrial institutions in town.

What Roy and his colleagues eventually decided, after a roughly 75-minute discussion, was to convey a letter of concern about the board's sludge dryer decision — and the process that led to it — while also asking how the energy committee should operate in the future, "because currently our way of operating is ineffective and I think many of us feel like it wouldn't be a good use of our time to continue down the path we're heading," Roy said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



What a show

BIG TRUCK DAY at Mt. Abe parking lot was a big hit. Bristol Rescue Squad brought together Addison County first responders, construction equipment, and great big trucks from far and wide to pull out all the stops this past Saturday in a collective community event showcasing their efforts and passion for what they do for residents big and small.

Independent photos/Shannon Hart



Film screenings celebrate Vt. agriculture

MIDDLEBURY — The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition (CVFC) invites Vermonters to attend two special screenings of "The State of Farming," a new documentary that tells the story of Vermont agriculture through the voices of the farmers who live it every day.

The film will be shown at the Middlebury Marquis Theatre on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be reserved at cvfc-vt.com.

Told through the voices of Vermont's agricultural and dairy community, "The State of Farming" offers an honest, firsthand look at the opportunities and challenges shaping farming in Vermont today. From food production and local economies to water quality, environmental stewardship, regulations, and the future of working lands, the documentary explores the vital role agriculture

plays in communities across the state.

Agriculture has always been more than an industry in Vermont — it is the foundation of our landscape, economy, and identity. The open fields, local food, iconic scenery, and thriving rural communities that define Vermont exist because generations of farmers have worked hard to steward this land.

Yet farming has never been more challenging. Rising costs, volatile markets, labor shortages, unpredictable weather, and changing regulations continue to place significant pressure on farm families. Despite these challenges, Vermont farmers continue to innovate, expand conservation practices, produce nutritious food, and strengthen the communities around them.

The screenings are intended for anyone with an interest in Vermont's future. Community members, local business owners, students,

elected officials, and families are encouraged to attend and engage in an important conversation about one of our state's most defining industries.

Supporting local agriculture means more than buying local products. It means recognizing the people behind those products, understanding the realities they face, and ensuring Vermont remains a place where farms can continue to thrive for generations to come.

The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition hopes these screenings will spark thoughtful conversations, strengthen connections between farmers and the broader community, and celebrate the resilience of the people who help make Vermont, Vermont.

"The State of Farming" is proudly produced by Monument Farms, the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council, the Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance, and Mt. Mansfield Media.

Elderly Services, Inc. Fall 2026 Community Education Series

September 9: Managing diabetes in older age

Type 2 diabetes has profound impacts on us as we age, affecting physical health and making us vulnerable to developing dementia. It is also expensive to manage. But Type 2 diabetes is not inevitable; you can take steps to prevent or delay it. You can also manage the disease to prevent further health complications. In this session you will learn proven ways to help improve the condition as well as delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.

Presented by: Magie Young, MPH, RDN, CD
Mountain View Nutrition
Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 4:00 p.m.
at Middlebury Congregational Church

September 23: Advanced Care Planning

Back by popular demand! Learn how the Vermont Advance Directive process works. Get free forms and informational brochures. Ask questions about your advance directive. We will discuss:

- How to use advance directives to make a plan for serious illness or end-of-life circumstances.
- Available tools to plan for your healthcare (advance directives, DNR/COLST, disease-specific addendums).
- Advance care planning conversations with your loved ones and clinicians.

Presented by: Taylor Murray, Vermont Ethics Network Advance Care Planning Program Manager
Wednesday, Sept. 23, 4:00 p.m.
at Middlebury Congregational Church

September 29: Medicare Open Enrollment

Time to sign up for Medicare? Need to make changes? Age Well's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Team will walk you through the steps to prepare for Medicare's Fall Open Enrollment, the time of year when you can change your Medicare coverage. Information presented will include: the differences between plans, when and how to change drug coverage, benefit programs that help to pay for Medicare costs, and how to use Medicare.gov.

Presented by: Sam Carleton, Age Well
Tuesday, Sept. 29 2:30 p.m.
at Elderly Services, 112 Exchange St., Middlebury

October 14: Driving and aging — challenges and strategies

Join us for an informative session on driving in your later years. Understand how age-related changes affect your driving and about the challenges faced by older drivers in Vermont. Discover helpful tips on staying independent, safe, and mobile behind the wheel. Learn about the Yellow Dot Program, a statewide initiative that gives first responders quick access to important medical information during a crash or emergency. Get ideas for how to approach the difficult conversation about driving retirement and start planning for the future. Don't miss this chance to plan ahead and stay prepared!

Presented by: Julia Irish,
Vermont Department of Health
Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 4:00 p.m.
at Middlebury Congregational Church

October 28: Building Brain-Healthy Habits

This Alzheimer's Association program provides research-backed guidance on brain health and outlines the importance of taking action at every age to protect your brain. Research shows there are everyday habits you can build today to help protect your memory and thinking as you get older - potentially reducing your risk or delaying the onset of cognitive decline. It's never too late to start improving your brain health!

Presented by: Jordan Cotto, Vermont Chapter/
Alzheimer's Association
Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 4:00 p.m.
at Middlebury Congregational Church

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorials

Endorsements

Two strong Democratic candidates for governor; Aly Richards has an edge

In the Democratic primary race for governor, Aly Richards and Amanda Janoo are two strong contenders who present distinct opportunities for Vermonters dissatisfied with what Janoo aptly describes as Gov. Phil Scott’s decade of “managed decline.”

Janoo, 38, is an Oxford-trained economist who’s spent much of her career working internationally and for the past four 8 years has lived in Burlington where she co-founded the Wellbeing Economy Alliance of Vermont. She also serves as the Economics and Policy Lead for the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance. The alliance is a global collaboration committed to transforming the economic system to prioritize human and ecological wellbeing, rather than focusing solely on financial growth. She is a fellow at New America with a master’s degree from Cambridge University. She has over a decade of experience working with governments and international development institutions around the world, including the United Nations and the African Development Bank to create just and sustainable economies.

Janoo was raised in rural South Stafford and attended the middle school in Stafford before graduating from Hanover High School. Afterward she attended Macalester College and the University of Cambridge in England. Through her career she has specialized as an industrial policy and structural transformation expert on economic policy.

Through her conversations about the benefits of an economic model that emphasizes community wellness, she’s been attracting a wide swath of voters eager to embrace new ideas and has tapped into a grassroots energy that has powered her campaign.

Richards, 40, is known for her successful tenure of Let’s Grow Kids, a nonprofit organization she founded and led as the CEO for a decade. Under her leadership, the group helped pass childcare legislation that has rejuvenated and expanded what had been a disastrous childcare system that was failing Vermont’s young families. Gov. Scott vetoed the legislation, but the Legislature overrode that veto with Richard’s hard-earned legislative support. That legislation has since been one of the few bright spots in what has otherwise been a litany of poor performances throughout state government during Scott’s tenure.

Prior to her role at Let’s Grow Kids, Richards served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Gov. Peter Shumlin where she led the effort to pass Vermont’s universal Pre-Kindergarten legislation. That legislation established Vermont as a leader in early childhood education policy and significantly increased access to early childhood education opportunities for Vermont’s youngest learners.

Richards also served on the 2008 Obama Campaign after graduating with honors in International Relations from Brown University. A Montpelier resident and mother of two twin seven-year-old boys, Richards also been actively engaged in her community, serving as a Trustee of the University of Vermont Medical Center and Vice-Chair of the Board of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and is a former Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges. Born in Newbury, Vt., she attended Oxbow High School where her father was a high school teacher.

CANDIDATE STRENGTHS

Richards’ strength is her years of experience working with Vermont’s Legislature and her strong relationships she’s forged in almost 20 years of government service. And that matters. To push through the changes needed to address the state’s major crises — housing, education, health care, our aging demographics, and how we address climate change and energy costs — it helps to be thoroughly familiar with the systems in place and to have alliances with groups and legislators that will help make change possible.

While neither candidate has previously run for statewide public office, Richards has been embedded in campaigns at the national level (with President Obama) and served for years with Gov. Peter Shumlin. She will know how to bring the fight to Gov. Scott in the General Election if she were to win the primary.

Richards also has more realistic goals. She says she’ll be laser-focused on housing and healthcare describing them as “root causes that will truly help us rebuild the fabric of our communities.”

Describing herself as “relentlessly focused on outcomes,” she says she is “an optimistic pragmatist.”

Janoo’s strength is seen in her ability to excite a vibrant grassroot community and the willingness to think anew about how Vermont’s economy could be restructured to achieve better and more lasting outcomes. That focus is apparent in the Wellbeing Economy Alliance which aims, in Janoo’s words, “to fundamentally redefine progress, to really center social and ecological wellbeing as the ultimate aim... and to really build the power base needed to transform our dominant economic paradigms and the realities of our economic systems.”

While developing a wellness economy sounds esoteric, Janoo’s policy goals are much the same as Richards’, though not on all issues. Janoo would be opposed to any state mandates to consolidate schools, believing those decisions should be made at the local level. Janoo is also quicker to provide the revenue needed for changes in health care and education by taxing second and luxury homes and raising income taxes on the wealthiest Vermonters.

WHO CAN BEAT SCOTT?

Democratic voters whose most important metric is voting for the candidate most able to beat Gov. Scott this November must weigh two different forces: Richards has more support from the Democratic establishment, while Janoo has the support of the more progressive wing of the party and appears to have more of a grassroots vibe.

Richards has the edge, in this writer’s opinion, of being able to take the issues to Scott in a more forthright manner and will be more effective at driving home Scott’s shortcomings over the past decade.

That’s largely because Richards has been at the legislative table transforming childcare while Scott has been standing idle (even presenting obstacles) as the state becomes less affordable. Richards is also more familiar with state politics, and the tactics that’ll be necessary to take on a well-entrenched and popular incumbent.

As importantly, Richards won’t be labeled by Scott as an ultra-progressive with ideas too radical for most Vermonters. Scott is sure to press that theme relentlessly against Janoo if she were the candidate, and while unfair, it would be difficult to defend.

For Democrats, it’s thrilling to have two very solid candidates in the race to take on Scott. We’d encourage a vote for Richards as the candidate who has the best chance to change the continued decline the state as seen under Scott, and usher in a new era of progress.

But we’re also very impressed by Janoo’s campaign and would hope, if Richards does win the nomination, she will work with Janoo to bring her ideas and talents as a transformational economist for Vermonters’ lasting benefit.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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It takes many to build community

The homes on our street in Bristol sit close to each other along the sidewalk, with spacious porches where we relax on long summer evenings and greet folks as they stroll by with their dogs and babies and walking partners. My husband Rick often plays his banjo while neighborhood children play street games, whizzing around in circles on their scooters.

Behind our houses are surprisingly long expanses of gardens, trees and lawn that spill one into the next with no fences separating them. Sometimes, it feels like a single estate where we each maintain our overlapping portions, expressing our individuality while navigating our differences.

We have plantings alongside our neighbor’s driveway. Well before we moved to Maple Street in 1993 an heirloom rosebush had grown tall and wide there. Dozens of yellow roses adorned it for two weeks each summer then fell to the ground. Ernie, who lived next door, anticipated their annual display. One year I photographed him standing happily with the yellow roses and framed the image for him so he could admire his roses all year long.

But the rosebush was thorny and rangy and it dominated the bed. Its foliage wasn’t all that attractive, and its thorns made it difficult to weed around the spirea we planted in front of it.

When Ernie moved to Vergennes, I saw an opportunity. Rick helped cut down the rosebush and we dug up its roots. For several years we continued to carefully remove its thorny branches and roots until it was completely gone. I had fun envisioning a new

bed, deciding on a golden nine bark with red blossoms, a purple elderberry shrub and some lavender Russian sage. The plants liked their sunny, dry location and provided contrasting color and foliage throughout the summer.

Ernie’s home was sold to Bonita, a retired music professor from Oklahoma. She moved in with her grand piano. We began enjoying her music from our yard or the front porch while eating dinner.

Bonita prefers a simple, straightforward garden. That is not what she purchased. The many perennials and vegetable gardens in her front, side and back yard had become overgrown. Pollinators were happy with that arrangement, but Bonita wasn’t. She invited her neighbors to take whatever we wanted. I dug up a few perennials and planted them behind our barn. We discovered their identity when they blossomed successively in white, yellow, and lavender. Bonita moved the plants she wanted into beds along the edge of her house.

Back on our side of the driveway, the elderberry sprouted random-looking branches with no sense of symmetry. The nine bark grew wondrously and continuously. They both reached into Bonita’s driveway, so I kept on top of trimming. The elderberry got out of hand anyway, its branches growing every which way. I cut off wayward limbs, but they grew back. I decided it, too, must go. Rick dug up the elderberry and moved it to the wooded back edge of our property, where it can go wild and

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 10A)

Ways of Seeing

By Alice Leeds

Health board should stay course

Vermont’s healthcare system is undergoing a seismic transition, engineered by legislators and regulators. The objectives are to significantly lower costs, preserve our rural hospitals and improve the quality of care.

To give reform efforts the best chance of succeeding, it will be important for the incoming Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) chair to keep that body moving in the direction the outgoing chair, Owen Foster, championed.

GMCB was established in 2011 to regulate hospitals and health insurers. For the first decade, many wondered if the board was having a real impact. In that same period, Vermont went from middle-of-the-pack health insurance costs to the most expensive health insurance premiums in the country.

Appointed chair of the Care Board in 2022, Foster led the effort to fundamentally change the regulatory landscape. He and the Board questioned more rigorously the traditional assumptions behind hospital budgets and rising insurance costs. They also dug into data forensically and pressed hospital leaders on declining quality, long wait times, and the crisis in primary care.

Cutting excessive costs at hospitals through regulation may feel to some like a blunt instrument, but it is foundational to curbing runaway medical inflation. In the last few years, GMCB has taken \$200 million out of proposed hospital spending and pushed hospital

leaders and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont for even more savings.

Early signs are that this positive trend is continuing as the 2027 hospital budget process gets underway.

Complementing the Care Board’s work are other promising initiatives that, if executed well, will stop price-gouging, lower insurance premiums and transform care delivery.

In 2025, for example, Act 68 authorized GMCB to implement a methodology to reimburse hospitals based on a percentage of what Medicare pays. This is called “referenced-based pricing” (RBP).

It had been implemented for the public sector in other states and saved a lot of money. Under Chair Foster’s leadership, GMCB commissioned an RBP analysis of the claims of Vermont state and school employees and their dependents. The 2024 report showed that if the State’s medical

fund and the risk pool covering school employees had reimbursed hospitals at 200% of what Medicare had paid from 2018 through 2023, it would have saved an estimated \$400 million.

With Act 68, though, Vermont will be the first state to operationalize RBP for the entire commercial insurance market, effective FY28. It is a straightforward way to take the savings the Care Board has demanded from hospitals and put them back into the pockets

(See Community Forum, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Why vote for Gov. Phil Scott?

How can you vote for this? “Health insurance premiums up 23.3% for individuals, 4th-grade reading scores dropped to national average for first time in over 20 years, vetoed modest minimum wage increase (2020), vetoed paid family and medical leave, vetoed the 2023 childcare expansion, property taxes up by more than 40% in five years, 92% of Vermonters cannot afford the median-priced new home, refused to follow the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act, no state strategic plan for three years.”

Phil Scott. Nice guy. Failed leader! Before you vote, consider your values.

Thanks to Mike Palmer’s Substack: Together for Good. **Johanna Nichols Middlebury**

Help elect Dem. in N.Y. state

There is an important new development in the battle to regain control of Congress. Across Lake Champlain from us, in NY21, Blake Gendebien is within 1 percentage point of incumbent Anthony Constantino.

Blake Gendebien is a dairy farmer, dad, soccer and basketball coach who has never run for office before, and yet he is within striking distance in this historically Republican district. Read about him at blakegendebienforcongress.com/meet-blake.

Let’s help him. Volunteers are needed to knock on doors and make phone calls. If you’re interested, contact me at dumont@gmavt.net.

Jim Dumont Bristol

Bolles worthy of your vote

Ariel Bolles possesses personal attributes, and a skill set that has allowed her to work as a computer systems analyst successfully for 15+ years. Her job has been to look at complex systems that are outdated, figure out what works and what needs improvement, then redesign and reassemble, so all parts communicate and work together to solve problems. Ariel draws on her innate ability to listen deeply, think logically and work towards solutions.

These skills are exactly what will make Ariel Bolles a strong, thoughtful and collaborative state representative for Addison, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Panton, Waltham, and Vergennes. Learn more about Ariel at arielbolles.com and vote on August 11.

Meg Langworthy Ferrisburgh

Klein supported in Senate bid

After meeting Andrew Klein at a recent Vergennes Firehouse event, I will fully support him as Candidate for Vermont State Senate, Addison District. He serves as a Lieutenant on the Middlebury Fire Department and Technical Rescue Team and is a former member of Middlebury’s Planning & Zoning Commission. Andrew is a graduate of Middlebury College and earned a JD from New York University School of Law — where he has served as a trustee since 2016 — and an MBA from NYU’s Stern School of Business. Professionally, he brings decades of experience structuring real estate investments and capital-markets transactions and building companies.

No matter what party you usually vote for, I strongly advise everyone to log into his website to learn about him. His message is spot on: “Vermont doesn’t need to change — its policies do. Rising costs, housing shortages and a lack of opportunity are making it harder for young people to stay and working families to thrive. With practical leadership and a focus on results, Vermont can preserve what makes it special while creating more opportunity

(See Biello letter, Page 8A)

Endorsements continued...

Molly Gray has the right skills for Lt. Governor

Among the three Democrats running for the lieutenant governor nomination, former Lt. Gov. Molly Gray has the legislative experience to serve the Senate well, and the legal background to defend Vermonters’ rights against an increasingly belligerent president. While the state’s Attorney General Charity Clark has done an excellent job taking the Trump administration to court at each illegal action, it’s vital to have a second voice to spotlight the anti-democratic actions Trump so often pursues and expose his authoritarian tendencies so the public understands the threats to democracy as well as the specific injustices to Vermonters.

Gray also is the strongest candidate to challenge Republican incumbent Lt. Gov. John Rogers in the general election this November. Gray was raised in South Newbury on her family’s third-generation dairy farm and understands the demanding trials and tribulations of farm life. To that end, she is well-positioned to bridge the urban-rural divide as seen with her early opposition to Act 181 and her quiet work to reverse that oversight.

She is a graduate of the University of Vermont and Vermont Law School, and early in her career served as a attorney working on human rights abroad with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other global humanitarian organizations. Gray served as Vermont’s 83rd lieutenant governor from 2021-

2023, and was Vermont’s assistant Attorney General from 2018-2021. Most recently she served as the founder and executive director of the Vermont Afghan Alliance. Throughout her career she has demonstrated a deep commitment to defending those who have less and are in need of assistance. Vermonters can count on Gray to have their backs and to fight for their and the state’s best interest.

Gray is also a natural collaborator. Whether it’s working toward solutions to the state’s housing crisis, high costs of health care, rising property taxes or the constant challenges posed by climate change, Gray has the experience and personal humility to bring the smartest people together to discuss the issues, hear from citizens, and bring solutions to the table that have the interests of Vermonters first and foremost.

Democrat Ryan McLaren is also an excellent candidate who has laid out interesting policy ideas and has ample experience in serving Vermonters through his years working with Sen. Peter Welch, as well as working through local and state government.

Vermonters are fortunate to have two well-qualified candidates seeking the party’s nomination. Gray’s experience gives her an edge as she knows the job and will hit the ground running — an important point for a state that is on the verge of serious problems if we don’t reach solutions soon.

Angelo Lynn

Klein, Treadway in the GOP race for county Senate

Three Republicans are vying for two seats in that party’s primary for the Addison County senate. Incumbent Steven Heffernan of Bristol is joined in the race by New Haven’s Andrew Klein and Orwell’s Andrea Treadway. The two victors will challenge incumbent Democrat Ruth Hardy and Democrat Hannah Sessions in the general election this November.

County residents are fortunate to have a competitive slate among the Republican challengers.

Klein, 48, was born in New York City, but his family has long had a close connection to Vermont. His grandparents’ home was in South Ryegate and his father acquired a farm in Norwich. Klein attended high school in New Hampshire, then attended the University of Vermont for two years before transferring to Middlebury College for his junior and senior years (1999-2001). During that time he served on the Middlebury Fire Department. “That group of people (on MFD) is really what formed my love for Middlebury and Vermont,” he said.

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

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

In 2018, Andrew and his wife Ashleigh looked for a new place to raise their family, which includes son Lockwood, now 7, and daughter Fielding, 7. They quickly chose Vermont finding a house in New Haven. He quickly joined the MFD, now serving as lieutenant. He specializes in technical rescue operations.

He’s an advocate of economic growth, saying the state has to grow to overcome its problems. “I only see one way out for Vermont,” he said in a recent interview with the Addison Independent. “If you look at all the issues — whether it’s housing, education, health care, affordability, taxes, they’re all tied to one thing: Vermont doesn’t have enough revenue coming in. It needs more people paying income taxes and corporate taxes.

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

It’s a solid, business-minded approach to governance

and represents the GOP well.

Andrea Treadway is Orwell’s chair of the selectboard. She’s also has a well-established bookkeeping business, is the mother of two children who graduated from the local school systems, is vice chair of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission’s Transportation Advisory Committee and is a member of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) board.

“I’ve always had a passion for government and public service,” Treadway told the *Independent* in a recent interview. “I believe you should always serve your community and do it to the best of your ability without any preconceived notions.”

Treadway is a moderate Republican who has a cautious approach to tackling the state’s biggest problems with added taxes, but remains open to finding viable solutions wherever possible. For example, on universal primary care, she says in a story in today’s election preview: “In theory, I’m a supporter of universal primary care. I think it’s a great idea. But in reality I think it’s going to be really hard — in a state our size — to be fiscally responsible and find a way to pay for it.”

She also lamented the federal cuts in safety-net programs and said she would “fight for programs that help Vermonters” in need.

The unusual challenge to incumbent Senator Steven Heffernan is no doubt due to his dubious performance in this first term, during which he has outraged many moderate Independents and Democrats with provocative stances in favor of ICE’s tactics against immigrants, a callous disregard for individual’s right to habeas corpus (the right the challenge unlawful imprisonment or detention by the government), and other conservative stances that could be seen as out-of-step with a majority of voters in the county. To that end, Republicans who are seeking candidates with a reasonable chance to win a Senate seat in Addison County might do well to consider Klein and Treadway as their candidates.

— Angelo Lynn

Editor’s note: The Independent does not typically make endorsements in House primaries and will not in this election.

Making a statement on the Cross Street Bridge

I stood on the Cross Street Bridge
with thirty or forty friends
I didn’t know
our presence and the signs we held
the banners and flags unfurled
proclaimed our disdain
for ICE roaming the streets of America
the murders in Houston and Biddeford
fresh in our minds and hearts
I said their names silently
screaming inside
Lorenzo Salgado Araujo
Johan Sebastian Duran Guerrero

we stood on the Cross Street Bridge
4:00-5:00 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon
strangers and people we knew
all of us neighbors
protesting, waving our contempt high in the air
“no,” to detention camps
“no,” to war and corruption and all the rest
drivers honked their horns
passengers waved their acknowledgement
some enthusiastically

we stood on the Cross Street Bridge
for an hour or so
citizens and community members
connected by reverence for the common good
our flags and banners saying
“yes,” to truth and honesty
“yes,” to empathy and civil rights
“yes,” to our shared humanity

there we stood on the Cross Street Bridge
standing in the sweltering heat on July 25th
blazing sun and 88 degrees
most of us over 50 years of age
only thirty or forty of us holding vigil
not a great turnout
and hardly a young person in sight
I thought about how hot it must be today
for the immigrants held in Dilley, Texas
in Krome North, Florida
and Delaney Hall, New Jersey
I thought about how hot it might get on November 3rd

Ron Rubin
Middlebury

Selectboard should have given electricity a chance

I attended the July 28 Middlebury selectboard meeting as I believe that using fracked gas instead of electricity to power our sludge dryer in the waste water treatment plant is (1) short-sighted, (2) will cost the town much more money in the future, and (3) means abandoning our town’s commitment to reducing

greenhouse gases.

Several members of the Middlebury Town Energy Committee and about 20 members of the public were present at this meeting. The Energy Committee counts among its members two physicists, other scientists, an engineer, a technology expert, and a former energy reporter for

the *Addison Independent*. This committee voluntarily offers the gift of their combined knowledge and expertise to the town of Middlebury.

For reasons I do not understand, the selectboard appeared to place much more weight on the information they received from
(See Gleason letter, Page 7A)

Community Forum

(Continued from Page 4A)

of employers, employees and taxpayers who pay for commercial insurance.

After RBP is in place, the objective is then to move Vermont hospitals by 2030 to “global budgets.” This funding mechanism has been used with Maryland hospitals for over a decade. It sets a total amount of revenue annually that a hospital may receive. Combined with rational price setting like RBP, global budgets can incentivize hospitals to reduce unnecessary utilization and operate more efficiently.

In 2025, the legislature and

Gov. Scott also established a regionalization planning effort to help hospitals better coordinate and improve services and reduce expenses. Vermont received \$195 million in federal funds to drive this process. It is facilitated by the Agency of Human Services and aligns with the expectations and practices of accountability the Care Board has instituted. It’s our best shot at helping smaller hospitals stay open, innovate and function sustainably.

The reforms and strategies in play now, unthinkable five years ago, demonstrate that bold change is possible when state regulators

and lawmakers put patients, price setting and affordability first.

What comes next will not be easy. But if the legacy of GMCB during Owen Foster’s tenure is embraced and extended by the new chair, in tandem with fellow regulators whose service has also been exemplary, we could achieve something remarkable.

The goal of VT Healthcare 911 Leadership Council (VHC911) is to build a broad and diverse coalition of support for affordable, accessible, and high-quality healthcare.

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

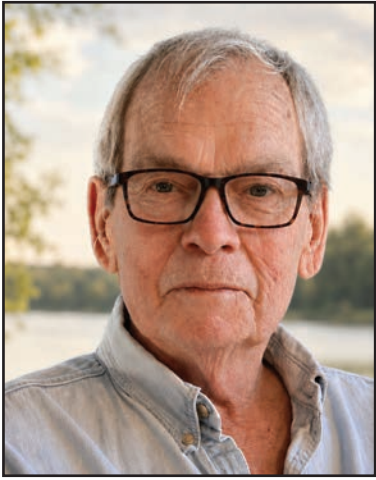
William James Kress, 83, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — With heavy hearts, and more than a few smiles at the memories he leaves behind, we announce the passing of William James “Jim” Kress, 83, on July 24, 2026.

Jim was born April 24, 1943, in Hackensack, N.J., the only son of William and Marie (Shadwell) Kress. As the family’s lone boy, he had six older sisters looking out for him. He attended St. Mary’s High School in Rutherford, N.J.

A true Jersey boy at heart, Jim began his career as a pharmaceutical representative for Marion Laboratories while raising a young family. Then, like many dreamers of the 1960s, he fell under Vermont’s spell. He bought a farmhouse in Monkton that looked as though it needed “a little work,” a phrase that turned into a 30-year renovation project. If something was broken, Jim would repair it. If it wasn’t broken, he might improve it anyway.

Jim rarely met a challenge he didn’t think he could build, fix, or improve. He tried his hand at maple sugaring, raised pigs, chickens, sheep and cows, and bred Golden Retrievers. He started Valley Foundations and poured the beginnings of many houses in



WILLIAM JAMES KRESS

Addison and Chittenden counties.

Summers found Jim happiest at the family camps on Mile Point in Ferrisburgh, where Lake Champlain offered endless opportunities for adventure. Over the years he enjoyed just about every way to be on the water: powerboats, sailboats, and kayaks, but eventually decided a pontoon boat was the perfect place for enjoying the lake with family and friends.

Jim loved being outdoors. He was a hunter, sailor, golfer, and devoted woodsman. But mowing was something else entirely. It was his

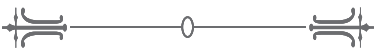
quiet escape, a chance to disappear onto the tractor for a few peaceful hours, often with a repair or tune-up thrown in for good measure.

In retirement, Jim settled in Pantan and spent countless hours mowing fields and wandering the woods in search of just the right tree for next winter’s woodpile. He believed there was always one more thing to do outside as long as it was followed up by sitting and enjoying either a beautiful view or a cozy fire.

Jim’s greatest joy, however, was his family. He is survived by Carol, his devoted wife of 60 years; his children, Greg (Becky) and Amy (David); his treasured grandchildren, Lucas, Miles, and Zoey; and his sister, Catherine Ewan. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Marie Kress; and his sisters, Ethna Kress, Jae Guiliano, Willa Dempster, Marie Boland, and Aileen Seitz.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Vergennes Food Shelf, 30 South Water St., Vergennes, VT 05491.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Aug. 15, at the Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water St., Vergennes, Vt. ☐



Andre Ernest Cloutier, 68, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Andre Ernest Cloutier, 68, passed away Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born June 23, 1958, in Middlebury, the son of Ernest and Rollande (Audet) Cloutier.

He was a devoted member of Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury throughout his whole life.

Andre was a beloved member of many families: the one he was born into and the ones he chose. Those who knew Andre will remember his unforgettable kindness, warmth, and the way he tried to share a laugh with anyone who crossed his path, whether it was at a campground, as he was filling your home with oil wearing his Jackman Fuels hat, or through a simple phone call that would never let you feel forgotten.



ANDRE ERNEST CLOUTIER

Andre is survived by his daughter, Jenna Steadman and her husband, Joshua; his son, Andrew Cloutier, and his wife, Lena; his sister, Lucille (Cloutier) Kimball;

his brother, Roger Cloutier and his wife, Cindy; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents; his brother-in-law, Darwin Kimball; his grandchildren; and his brother, John.

Visiting hours will be held Friday, Aug. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 15, at Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury. Interment will be at St. Mary’s Cemetery in Middlebury. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Saint Mary’s Church, 326 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Andre’s spirit will live on in the warmth he shared and the joy he brought to every gathering. His family and friends will carry his memory forward with love. ☐



Klara Calitri
celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — The family of Klara Calitri (September 4, 1922 - November 19, 2025) would like to invite you to a celebration of life in her honor. The celebration will take place at one o’clock Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury, Vt. Please bring any stories, songs, memories, or light potluck treats you would like to share.

A full obituary can be viewed at tinyurl.com/Klara-Calitri.

Albert R. ‘Alpine’ Bingham III
celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — Friends and neighbors are invited to come and celebrate the life of Alpine Bingham, who died June 6, 2026. Join the family and share an anecdote or memory you have about Alpine, a truly unique and multifaceted individual who could spin a yarn with the best of them.

The celebration will take place Saturday, Aug. 22, from 2-5 p.m., at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 7823, 530 Exchange St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753. ☐



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Please join us for a
Celebration of Life for Marilyn Clark
Saturday, August 15 at 2pm
Greenwood Cemetery, Bristol

Francis ‘Frank’ Galgano, 89, of Addison

ADDISON — It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our beloved father, Francis “Frank” Galgano, Thursday, July 23, 2026, just one month shy of his 90th birthday. True to his wishes, he passed peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.

Frank was a devoted husband to Margaret “Peg” and a loving father to Peter and Susan. He was also a proud grandfather to Wilson, Xavier, and Nicholas — each of whom brought him endless joy. His warmth, humor, and kindness touched everyone who knew him.

A lifelong New Yorker, Frank built a successful career in business, but his greatest pride was always his family. He served on the local school board, coached Little League, and mentored young umpires and always found ways to give back to his community.

He and Peg purchased a camp on Lake Champlain when their family was young that became their summer home, where the family spent time on the lake with their beloved Randall cousins



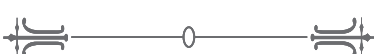
FRANCIS “FRANK” GALGANO

nearby as well as neighbors on Elm Point, especially the Pratt and Carlin families. He delighted in watching three generations of their family grow. He and Peg created a home filled with laughter, and friendship. Even after retiring to Elm Point more than 30 years ago, Lake Champlain continued to be his sanctuary, and Frank’s circle of friends was wide. He loved

his coffee time at WAGS with his many buddies, especially Bill and Bart, along with long conversations and shared time with his friends.

He served as chair of the Addison town Planning Commission and was active in the Addison community. He had a life lived well and will be missed by many.

A celebration of life will be held in September. ☐



Maura Lester, 82, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Maura Lester died peacefully July 30, 2026, in her home at the Lester Farm in New Haven, Vt.

Born in January 1944 in Bronx, N.Y., to Edward and Eileen Fitzgerald, Maura grew up in Rochelle Park, N.J. Her passion for academics led Maura to earning degrees in Russian from Fordham University and Architecture from Pratt Institute.

Driven by a love of learning and discovery, Maura developed lifelong friendships in her career as an editor for Wiley and Son Publishing Inc, and later as a freelance architect.

In 2004, Maura and her cherished husband, Sam moved from Long Island to renovate a former Ira Allen homestead (Potter Farm) in New Haven, Vt. Together they opened the Lester Farm & Market, which provides fresh produce to local residents, restaurants, schools and other institutions throughout the state. A true farmer, Maura was equally happy working the fields with Sam on her tractor



MAURA LESTER

and running the market.

In her time on the farm Maura developed cherished friendships with both employees and customers. The off season allowed them to travel the U.S. and Canada with their beloved dogs, Tucker and Duster. Maura was particularly fond of their 2018 adventure to County Sligo, Ireland, which allowed her to

explore her heritage and family history. Maura and Sam’s annual sojourn to Key West allowed her to see treasured friends and enjoy sunset celebrations.

An accomplished artist, Maura’s patience and attention to detail was evident in her many knitting and quilting creations, pottery and watercolor paintings. An avid reader, Maura had a knack for recommending the best books.

Maura is survived by her husband, Sam of New Haven; her sister, Eileen Coleman, and her husband, Bill of New Jersey; her sister-in-law, Sue Fitzgerald of Vermont; her mother-in-law, Rose Lester of Florida; her stepson, Matt of New York; many nieces and nephews; and her lifelong friend, Victoria Rainert of New York.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Jack Fitzgerald.

A gathering to celebrate Maura’s life will be held in the fall. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Addison County Home Health and Hospice. ☐

Letters to the Editor

Middlebury should be mindful of its third spaces

Third spaces are, as *Forbes* defined it in their July 29, 2026, article, “Community as the New Currency: Inside 2026’s Third Space Boom,” not home, not work, but spaces where community happens by accident. In the Covid years, these spaces disappeared, and our physical and mental health suffered in consequence. Barred from community gathering, we delved ever more deeply into the internet and noise-cancelling headphones, creating an epidemic of isolation and loneliness.

Today, third spaces are a growth market. As people are longing for connection, they are flocking to public gathering spaces and in search of interesting things to do outside of those hypnotic screens.

Middlebury is blessed with many valuable third spaces. Our coffeshops and eateries foster chance meetings and long impromptu conversations. Our hometown movie theater includes a gathering space that equally accommodate children’s birthday parties and grown-ups’ comedy nights. The ping-pong table in Cannon Park and the easily re-arranged chairs around the fountain at our prominent

downtown crossroads invite outdoor meetings and spontaneous play. Our town green works well as a community living room, with open annual events like Festival on the Green, Peasant Market and plant swaps, and plenty of space for markets and political expression.

The Forbes definition of third spaces, however, is not entirely correct. These third spaces don’t happen entirely by accident; design and intentionality play a vital role in creating the infrastructure in which community can happen.

Our town has been going through a growth boom, biggerring the Town Hall Theater and Ilsley Library and adding housing and apartment stock. As we continue to face our own future, we should remain mindful of building-in egalitarian third spaces that are comfortable and inviting to the whole of our community.

Although we are developing infrastructure that includes spaces to meet, we have at the same time lost many third spaces that served a wide, unstratified spectrum of our community, including Steve’s Park Diner — the early morning gathering spot for local

contractors, farmers and seniors; Calvi’s — packed with teens in the afternoon; and the pocket flower garden behind the Ilsley Library, which hosted many an intense personal conversation in its unique public-yet-private configuration.

Cost and social needs limit the usefulness of our new spaces to some members of our community; entertainment venues, art walks and tourist-drawing events don’t replace the need for spots to gather and chart the day’s work schedule or the weekend’s outing with friends.

As we build new neighborhoods and plan for the inevitable growth of our town, let us not forget to include and encourage third spaces that are affordable, accessible and inviting to all, and that emphasize mingling and cross-pollination of all facets of our community rather than stratifying our town by age and income. Let’s intentionally ingrain into our community culture steps that make sure the third spaces we have work for our whole community, like paying for suspended coffees or meals in our coffee shops and restaurants if you are able. Let us remember that true community wealth lies in gathering together and sharing space across all the walls that might otherwise divide us.

Cindy Hill
Middlebury



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Letters to the Editor

Richards has the necessary hands-on experience

It’s time for a change and new ideas in the governor’s office, as Carolyn Kuebler’s letter last week so clearly stated. But for Democrats (and all Vermonters), the big question remains—which candidate can actually deliver that change?

While Aly Richards and Amanda Janoo share many similar goals for our state, policy positions on paper are not enough. Both candidates champion more affordable housing, free universal primary care, bold climate action that can also grow Vermont’s economy, and protecting reproductive freedom. Both back equal protection for all people

and firmly oppose forced school consolidation.

The real distinction isn’t what they want to do, but who has the proven ability to get it done.

I am supporting Aly Richards because she has the fighting spirit required to defeat a popular incumbent governor, and the openness to ask questions and listen to people about how to make change. More importantly, she possesses the deep, practical leadership experience needed to collaborate with the Vermont Legislature and deliver results on day one.

We don’t have to guess if Richards can pass major

legislation — she has already done it. She successfully led the charge for Act 76, creating over 1,700 new childcare slots and drastically cutting costs for struggling families. This historic achievement proves she knows how to navigate the Statehouse to secure victories for working Vermonters.

With the backing of former Democratic governors and several local legislators, Aly Richards is the battle-tested leader we need. I hope you will join me in voting for her.

**Jan Terwilliger
Cornwall**

Stroup offers thoughtful, collaborative leadership

I am writing this letter in support of John Stroup, who is running for a seat representing the Addison-3 district in the Vermont House of Representatives. I have known John for a long time, first as the parent of one of my daughter’s friends, and subsequently as a fellow member of the Addison Northwest School District board. He demonstrates a desire to listen, remain open-minded, and actively seek diverse perspectives. He genuinely cares about the well-being of our

community, as evidenced by a lifelong history of community engagement.

Having representatives in Montpelier who take the time to understand different perspectives, seek out difficult conversations, and lead for the benefit of our community is integral to shaping our future. Vermont is facing hard decisions, with education, healthcare, housing and (lack of) affordability posing significant hardships for our residents. John understands these challenges and

is seeking out creative ways to mitigate them and support our futures.

Being a public servant is a thankless job, and John leads through example. John’s enthusiasm, thoughtful attitude and collaborative approach will be an asset to Montpelier — and to all of us for having his representation. Please vote for John Stroup for the Vermont House of Representatives in the Aug. 11 Democratic Primary.

**Carole McBride
Addison**

Jonathan Hescock listens to his community

I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for Jonathan Hescock, who is running for the Vermont House to represent Shoreham, Orwell, Whiting, Sudbury and Hubbardton — the Addison-Rutland district. My husband and I have had several good conversations with him recently. We appreciate how he listened to us talk about challenges we have faced living in Vermont. Jonathan also shared with us his thoughts about policy changes at the state level to make things better for working Vermonters, children and retirees.

Jonathan has been out meeting people all summer in the district towns and listening to their

concerns as well. It is vital that people who make decisions in Montpelier listen carefully, respond thoughtfully and stay connected to the people they are representing back home.

Jonathan grew up and raised a family in Shoreham and the surrounding area. He has been a dairy farmer, bus driver, teacher, contractor and business owner. Jonathan cares about his community and has served on planning and library boards, as a youth coach, a Scout leader and as town meeting moderator. We need someone who has been in our shoes as working people, to represent us, someone with their roots in the land. We need

someone who is accountable and fiscally responsible. We need someone who values civil rights, diversity, upholding our Constitution, civility, election integrity and protecting our natural resources. That’s why we support Jonathan.

Jonathan’s website hescock4house.com provides good information about his background and why he is running, and explores some of the issues so many of us face and what he thinks we can do about it.

Remember to cast your vote. Jonathan Hescock has ours!

**Sharon Tierra
Shoreham**

MAUSD summer program a major community asset

As an educator who has worked in and directed school-age summer programs on and off for more than 25 years, I feel I have the experience to say this with confidence: the MAUSD Expanded Learning Program (ELP) is one of the greatest services our community provides.

As I wrap up my second summer on the ELP team, serving as the Movement Teacher, I feel an enormous sense of pride in the care, opportunities and experiences ELP has been able to provide for local children.

First and foremost, ELP makes summer programming accessible. Many Addison County families simply cannot afford \$400 per week for a six-hour-a-day summer camp. By offering high-quality, affordable programming, ELP creates opportunities for children from all socioeconomic backgrounds. It means children are safe, well-fed, engaged and cared for while their parents work, providing peace of mind for families throughout the summer.

The opportunities available to

children are equally impressive. Throughout the summer, ELP takes students on a wide variety of field trips. Some adventures are close to home, like visits to local rivers and hiking trails, while others include bowling, mini golf, or even a trip to Killington. These experiences create lasting memories and ensure every child has exciting stories to share when school resumes.

Back at camp, children benefit from enriching experiences led by skilled professionals in movement, art, music, STEM and more. Just as importantly, the schedule allows plenty of time for unstructured play — running on the playground, playing games with friends, and simply being kids. That balance is something every child deserves.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the dedicated staff. They work long hours each week, showing remarkable patience, kindness, and flexibility while supporting children with a wide range of strengths and needs. Their commitment is what makes

ELP such a special place.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Beeman Elementary School and the town of New Haven for providing the space that makes this program possible. It truly takes a village, and I feel fortunate to have been part of one that invests so deeply in its children.

The MAUSD Expanded Learning Program is much more than a summer camp. It is an investment in children, families, and our entire community, and I hope it continues to receive the support it deserves.

**Ashley Bessette
New Haven**

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Gray would fight for caregivers

How can Vermont candidates improve my daily life? That is one question I’m considering when casting my Aug. 11 primary ballot. I’ve decided to vote for Molly Gray, in part, because she will fight for policies that support all caregivers. Including caregivers of aging seniors. Like me, because my mom has Parkinson’s. And Gray, whose mom continues to battle multiple sclerosis.

Gray’s advocacy in this area would absolutely make my

life better. Along with other aging Vermont seniors and their caregivers who love them.

**Anie Sklar
East Middlebury**

Candidate vows to support ‘Defend the Guard’ Act

I’m writing in response to VUHS student Georgia Kunkel’s recent letter to the editor about the “Defend the Guard” Act (H.355). Georgia, thank you for your eloquent letter. I’ve spoken to concerned family members of National Guard troops who are unconstitutionally deployed. I’m a candidate for state representative here in Addison-3, and I would absolutely support “Defend the Guard.” I’m frustrated that a hearing wasn’t

even held about it during the last legislative session.

Georgia, I agree with you in rejecting House Government Operations & Military Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Birong’s claim that the bill violates the Supremacy Clause. You say the “bill would reinforce the Constitution by enforcing Congress’ prerogative over war” — I’m with you. I’m firm in my belief that we should do everything in our power to not

capitulate to Trump, and this bill is a piece of that. One of my primary values is accountability — including, and especially, for elected officials with whom I share a party label.

So thank you again, Georgia, for being an engaged citizen. And I hope that you will bring the same scrutiny to me if I’m elected your representative.

**Ariel Bolles
Ferrisburgh**

It’s great to see women make legislative inroads

How lucky we are to have a great slate of working mothers running for office this year!

My first mentor on my journey to public service was Art Gibb, a conservative, empathetic, hardworking man from Weybridge who knew the importance of working together and protecting that which makes Vermont such an amazing place to live. Over the years, slowly, women entered the public arena: Madeleine Kunin, Peg Martin,

Claire Ayer. My friend Amy Davenport was the first pregnant woman to continue her service in the Legislature and more recently Jubilee McGill brought her infant into those halls.

I have believed that people who have learned to balance the hard work of raising children, making a living and creating policies that support all families offer a wonderful gift to all of us. It is thrilling that so many, wise, competent, caring working

women have put themselves forward as candidates and returning legislators this year. I’ve had the gift of working closely with Aly Richards and Esther Charleston and know they can get the job done and done well. I trust other women who are running would do the same and that a hallmark of this new session will be caring, competence and collaboration.

**Cheryl Mitchell
New Haven**

Elect a leader who knows the people must lead

The primary is almost here.

Many among us will not vote, not because some of us don’t care about what happens in our communities or in Vermont, but because trying to meet basic needs on any given day can demand all we have to give. This, itself, is a problem that belongs to all of us — that we live in fractured communities with people whose entire days and attention must focus on not drowning.

This is the current state of Vermont.

Vermont is now the #1 most expensive state for healthcare. Under Governor Scott, Vermont ranked as having the 2nd highest rate of homelessness in the nation. According to Hunger Free Vermont, 2 in 5 Vermonters experienced food insecurity under Scott in 2022. Vermont now faces a housing and affordability crisis that has upward of 60% of young

people saying they’re likely to leave Vermont.

Just on July 8, 2026, Vermont Digger reports Governor Scott saying, “We have a lot of work to do to make Vermont the affordable state that these folks need.” The plain fact is that, in more than nine years in office, Governor Scott has had ample time and opportunity to meet the basic needs of Vermonters. He has failed to do so. (See *Amadora letter*; Page 8A)

Gleason letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
town staff and former town staff, without being open to questions about their conclusions. I am sure that town staff are well-qualified for their jobs, however, I was sorry to see that they did not appear to welcome the expertise of the Energy Committee.

Only Fred Dunnington and Danielle Boyce voted for using electricity to power the sludge dryer. It appeared to me that many members of the selectboard had made a decision to vote for using fracked gas before they even heard out the Energy Committee questions and recommendations, and before they had listened to the public comments. Their reasons

for rejecting the advice of experts and scientists appeared to be related to their concerns that the bill for electricity would be too high for the townspeople to pay, despite arguments to the contrary, and without allowing more time to work out these issues.

We must address affordability with all the creativity we can muster. We can’t just declare, “We can’t afford it!” That is thoughtless and a declaration of surrender! We need to work harder than that! If we close down the conversations about how to afford the correct technology, we are not being careful stewards of our financial or environmental resources. If we do not find the

resources now to pay for the reduction of greenhouse gases, we will pay the piper later.

The *New York Times* just reported on the effects of toxic wastewater bubbling up from the ground in Marietta, Ohio, because of the hundreds of millions of gallons of radioactive fracking wastewater that is buried deep beneath the town. Marietta has a population similar in size to Middlebury. Middlebury’s use of fracked gas contributes to the destruction of this other beautiful small town in Ohio. I have been to Marietta and I weep for them. How could we, Middlebury?

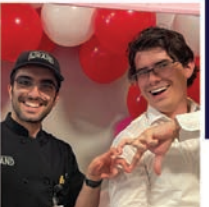
**Theresa Gleason
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Letters to the editor
Can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 6A, 7A and 8A.

Letters to the Editor

Addison-3 candidate Stroup a capable statesman

In the upcoming primary on August 11, I would like to voice my enthusiastic support for John Stroup and his campaign for the Addison-3 seat in the Vermont House.

I’ve known John for many years as an active community member, and our children are of similar ages. John is smart, a good listener and deeply committed to supporting what is working well while helping to change what is not. He cares about others and has made a positive difference to many. Even before this vacancy arose, I knew he would be an

excellent representative, and I told him so! John is a keeper of many people’s stories; he has taken his candidacy very seriously, and I know that those stories have shaped his vision for what he would like to do in the legislature.

I directly observed John’s skills as a public servant during his years as the chair of the school board. In those meetings, he calmly balanced several competing points of view, guided speakers to help them express their perspectives and facilitated respectful discussions, even

when emotions ran high. John takes a genuine interest in others, regardless of their perspective, and listens both to the words and the intent behind them.

If you do not know John yet, I encourage you to visit his website. His positions reflect my priorities and hopes for the Legislature’s upcoming work. He will represent Addison-3 with the highest ethical standards, and we will be proud to have him as our Representative in Montpelier.

Christopher Diehl-Noble Vergennes

Rep. Jubilee McGill endorses Gray for lt. governor

I’ll be voting for Molly Gray for Lieutenant Governor, and I want to share a specific example of what sets her apart from the other candidates seeking the Democratic nomination.

Over the past three years since serving as Lieutenant Governor, Molly built the Vermont Afghan Alliance into a statewide nonprofit, working with community partners to support the resettlement of more than 650 Afghan refugees. She has seen firsthand the impact of the Trump administration’s policies and has demonstrated her ability to respond effectively.

Last October, Vermont was one of the first states in the nation to end SNAP (food assistance) for some refugees, asylum seekers,

and Afghan newcomers after misinterpreting federal law. Rather than waiting, Molly acted immediately. She launched an emergency food appeal while simultaneously organizing a coalition of state and national policy experts, legal advocates, nonprofits, and community organizations to correct the mistake.

She brought together legislative leaders, including me and the House Committee I serve on, Vermont’s congressional delegation, organizations such as Hunger Free Vermont and refugee service providers, as well as the Vermont Attorney General’s Office. Those coordinated efforts helped lead to the USDA issuing clarifying guidance, and Vermont reinstating

food assistance for those who had lost it.

I watched Molly navigate this complex challenge behind the scenes, drawing on her legal expertise and deep understanding of both state and federal government. Had she not stepped forward, I’m not sure what the outcome would have been.

This is just one example of the kind of leader Molly Gray is. In the difficult years ahead, we need a lt. governor ready to fight for all Vermonters. Molly is compassionate, determined, and ready to get to work on day one.

I hope you’ll join me in voting for Molly Gray on August 11.

Rep. Jubilee McGill Bridport

Addison-3 features wealth of good candidates

Democratic voters in Addison County House District 3 will be voting on August 11 in a rare, contested primary to determine which two of three Democrats running will be selected to run against incumbent Republican Rob North in November.

My confidence in our democracy was bolstered at the recent candidate debate in Vergennes. All three contenders are superb. The crowd practically gave Ariel Bolles, John Stroup and Mike Kane a standing ovation in response to their informed debate.

I will be voting for Ariel Bolles and am still deciding on my 2nd vote. Ariel stands out as a problem-solver with experience at tackling

complex systems. She is the only one who spoke of the demographic cliff — the desperate need for more young people in Vermont so we can bolster our schools with a broader tax base and more children. She recognizes that reducing property taxes to keep Vermont affordable will require new taxes on the very wealthy combined with reform of our healthcare system. She has creative ideas on housing. Ariel is endorsed by the state teachers’ union, Planned Parenthood, the VT Progressive Party, Moms Demand Action and affordable housing advocate and District 5 incumbent Jubilee McGill.

I like Mike Kane’s detailed ideas on how to reduce household

costs for housing and healthcare by reducing energy costs and promoting clean energy. John Stroup is clearly well-liked and has significant experience with the school system as a school board member and athletic coach. Still, after reviewing all of their materials and websites and attending the debate, Ariel Bolles impressed me with her grasp of the interconnected challenges of declining schools, unaffordable and insufficient housing, skyrocketing healthcare costs and environmental threats. Go to the polls on August 11 — you have some great people to vote for.

Betsy Taylor New Haven

A pointed question for President Donald Trump

Mr. President, during your campaign talks you were often quoted as saying that the United States was the laughingstock

of the world, being viewed as a weak country that was lacking the respect of other nations. Please tell us what you have done to change

those views during your second term in office.

David Lewis New Haven

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We must channel our ICE concerns into action

Trump claims he is protecting us from the “worst of the worst,” but ICE is detaining, deporting and killing our neighbors: documented, undocumented, naturalized, citizens, and tourists, with or without criminal records.

Just days ago I heard the news of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo’s murder by ICE. Then Joan Sebastian Guerrero is shot dead in front of his wife and little daughter on his way to work. How can I sit at my table, morning sunlight

splashed across the checkered cloth, sipping my coffee?

Why am I not weeping in grief and horror as I walk the grocery aisles seeking the right kind of peanut butter? Yet here I am, dry-eyed and distracted, trying to remember the last item on my grocery list, left at home on the kitchen counter. I wander around the aisles and coolers, piled high with rainbows of fruits and vegetables, likely planted, picked, washed and packed by the very

people we are killing. Yet still I cannot cry! I am ashamed that I have hardened my heart to protect myself from this grief.

Glancing at my fellow shoppers, I see that they, too, are dry-eyed. We should all be washing these orange, red and yellow peppers with our tears. If we cannot cry out our grief, let us join together and cry out our rage!

Revell Allen Middlebury

Middlebury must press forward with CO2 goals

Okay, so the Middlebury selectboard has unambiguously chosen to move ahead with a gas-fired system for drying the sludge in our rebuilt wastewater treatment plant. It will cost quite a bit less to build and (it is argued) operate than the electric heating option but will produce a lot more greenhouse gas pollution. This means that the Selectboard’s existing goal of an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the 2019 value by the year 2030 cannot be met.

It will take a couple of years for the new plant to get a final design, be built and go into production. In the meantime, the administration of our municipal government could get serious about still achieving an

80% reduction in GHG from all other sources combined by 2030.

This would mean, in my humble opinion, the selectboard holding the town manager responsible, through his performance planning and evaluation process, with making steady, year-by-year progress. The department heads who are supervised by the town manager in turn can be held responsible for making progress in their departments. Achieving such progress can be built into their performance planning process.

I fear that over the past several years we on the Energy Committee were not assertive enough about advocating for such processes in our town’s

administration. And the leadership of the Selectboard was, in any case, skeptical about the wisdom and practicality of working toward our GHG reduction goal. Note that I am a former member of the Middlebury Energy Committee who left about a year ago.

The Energy Committee would continue to prepare an annual report on progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and work closely with the Infrastructure Committee and the department heads on identifying steps that can be taken to realistically achieve those goals.

Richard Hopkins Middlebury

Richards would be a can-do governor for the state

Many young people leave the state. That’s true for all rural areas. But for those who would like to stay, one problem is the lack of a pipeline from high school to jobs.

Our extremely low unemployment rate indicates that there are not enough people to take the jobs that are here. Aly Richards has some good ideas to

address this issue. To quote from her platform, “I’ll expand access to CTE programs, apprenticeships, trades training, and flexible pathway opportunities so every Vermont student can graduate with real skills, industry recognized credentials, and a plan for the future.”

These efforts will also result in

more people being available to build housing. I think Aly would be able accomplish practical things that the Legislature could buy into. She also has an engaging and cheerful personality — an asset when campaigning against our “nice-guy” governor.

Chris Robbins Middlebury

Amanda Janoo has a plan for the planet

A lot of people talk about climate change. Talk is not a plan. Talk is not a vision. Amanda Janoo’s approach to climate change is holistic and rooted in systems change.

Amanda supports the development of a well-being

economy, an economy where the goals shift from the accumulation of wealth by a small percentage of the population to caring about people and the planet. Trickle-down economy does not work for most of us and certainly not for the planet. Let’s give a systems

change approach a chance. Let’s elect Amanda Janoo as our next governor, for people and the planet.

Please join me in voting for Amanda Janoo in the primary on August 11 and in November.

Veronica Ciambra Middlebury

Amadora letter

(Continued from Page 7A)

Vermont needs change that results in people having basic needs met, and clearly, this means having a change in leadership. The possibility of true leadership: ours.

I am writing because I need to give voice to something that means even more to me than supporting a given candidate.

I see a possibility that we, the people who live here in Vermont, can take the lead in shaping our own communities and making sure that we, our families and the people around us have what we need to live and thrive.

How do we do this? For sure, we don’t accomplish this by voting and leaving our needs in the hands of so-called leaders to do it on our behalf. We’ve tried that. It’s left us without housing, without healthcare we can afford and without the power to see to our own needs.

So, how do we, Vermonters, meet our needs?

We put in place a governor who knows that we are the leaders shaping our lives and communities, a governor who understands that the job is to help facilitate, with policy, the kinds of change Vermonters seek to create.

If you are thinking, “That sounds

great, but that’s not how it goes,” you are correct. That is not how it goes under our current leadership.

We need a governor who listens and seeks to build on our strengths here in Vermont.

Vermont has someone running for governor who not only shares actual plans for putting power and leadership back into our communities, but who, during the campaign, has already been demonstrating the kind of leadership that backs these plans.

Amanda Janoo starts every gathering by listening to people — not only to what they are concerned about, but to what they value and are proud of in their Vermont communities. She sees the strengths of our communities, and any plan she’s talked about is based on building upon the strengths we already have here in Vermont.

We need a governor who has actual experience addressing the roots of problems we face.

The problems we face in Vermont, and as a country, are, at root, economic. Electing a governor who may be strong in policy alone misses the mark.

Vermont has an economy that is built to do exactly what it is doing — creating wealth for some at the expense of many. Anyone can plainly see that fewer people

are accumulating large amounts of wealth while more and more people are unable to afford basic needs. What we need is a different type of economy, one that serves the needs of all people, not just the wealthiest.

Amanda Janoo’s career as an economist and policy expert is based on exactly this — working with governments to build well-being economies that serve the needs of all people and give communities real power to shape the future.

Possibility becomes reality... . . . When we choose leadership with vision born from practical experience and a candidate who understands that listening and collaboration are the tools to get things done.

Our small, but mighty state is just the right scale for people to have the power to create the kind of communities we need and want. If we settle for anything less, I can only imagine it is because our hearts fear change.

This is a call to all Vermonters, regardless of party, to not only get behind Amanda Janoo, but to step into the kind of leadership Vermont is rooted in - the leadership of the people.

Leslie Caer Amadora Middlebury

Biello letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

for the people who call it home.” I also completely agree with his belief that a stronger Vermont starts with more opportunity — not more taxes, and that it’s easy to think of housing, property taxes, schools, health care and our workforce as separate issues. They’re not. They’re all connected by one reality: Vermont isn’t growing.

Democrats have held the majority in the Vermont State Senate for 30 years (since 1997) and in the Vermont House of Representatives for 22 years

(since 2005). Yet, Vermont is more unaffordable and has bigger issues than ever before. I was the CEO of a \$60 million company, and if any of my employees performed as poorly as our state legislature, they would have been summarily fired. We need more Republicans in Montpelier to bring balance, common sense and compromise on key issues and spending. I chuckle when I see TV ads from Democrats who promise to make Vermont more affordable. They’ve had their chance — almost 3 decades worth. We need to start looking past one-sided partisan

choices, create a new legislative norm and do what is right for this state. We need a seat change in leadership if we are to get Vermont back on the right path.

You can disagree with my opinion. But, when you Google any reputable tax and cost-of-living information site comparing states, the statistics speak for themselves. Please read about Andrew Klein and vote in the primary on August 11 and the election on November 3. It is our privilege, our right and our obligation.

Beverly Biello Vergennes

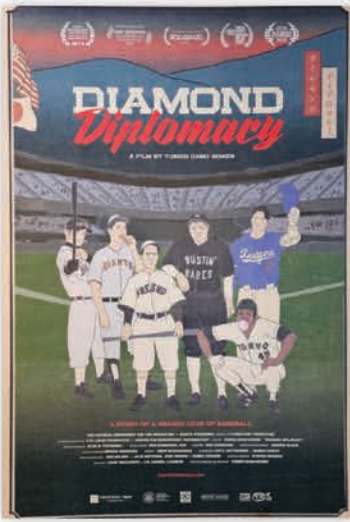
Letters to the editor

Can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 6A, 7A and 8A.

MNFF12

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AND BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER

THE POWER
OF SPORT
AND THE
THRILL OF
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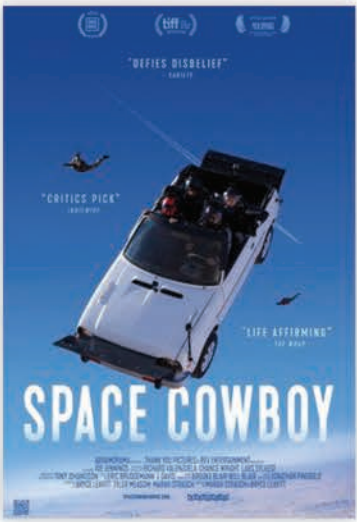
DIAMOND DIPLOMACY



GIVE ME THE BALL!



I FOLLOW RIVERS

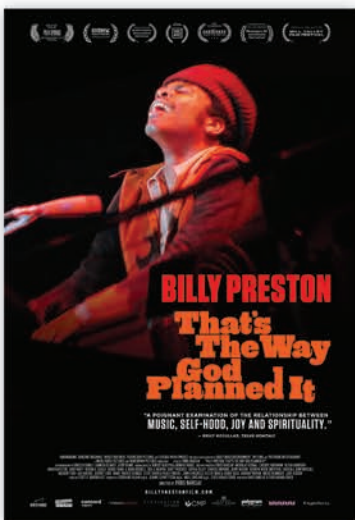


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BILLY PRESTON: THAT'S THE WAY
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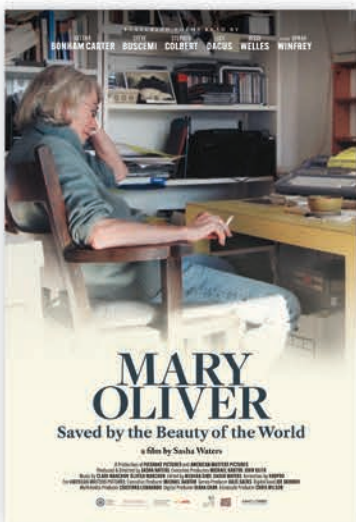


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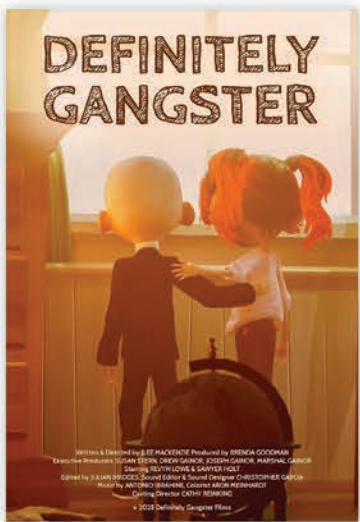
THE POWER
OF LAUGHTER
AND LOVE -
BRING THE
FAMILY



THE FLOATERS



EDIE ARNOLD IS A LOSER



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A pirate entertains Field Days crowds

By ELOISE CHRISTY
NEW HAVEN — Towering above the crowd on stilts or gliding through the fairgrounds in his pirate ship, Pirate Man Dan is hard to miss. Dressed in his pirate hat and full frilly attire during shows at Field Days this week, he draws children running over for photos with the only pirate in town.

Pirate Man Dan, otherwise known as Daniel Jolley, strolls the fairgrounds atop stilts, in a pirate ship decorated with ropes, shells, and a sail and appears on stage for his daily shows. A pirate may seem out of place in landlocked Vermont, but this is where he feels most at home.

Jolley has worked in the fair and carnival industry since 2006 when he was 15. He grew up on the New Hampshire border in Vermont, about a two-hour drive from where the Fair & Field Days is held today. “Driving two hours was a big deal,” Jolley said. “This was the one fair that my parents took me to.”

Now, after being a part of the fair industry for 19 years, Jolley feels happy to continue performing his tricks and stunts for kids all over the country. He spends much of his year traveling to perform at roughly 30 fairs while living on the road in his RV. From Oklahoma to Florida and back to Vermont, he entertains children and adults alike as they sit down in the tents to enjoy his funny banter.

“It’s super selfish, but a lot of it is that I get paid for people to smile,” he said. “That’s the product. The product is literally laughs and smiles. It doesn’t matter how you get there, whether it’s a magic trick or a stunt...In the bigger scheme of things, it’s just fun.”

On stage, Jolley juggles hacky sacks, rubber chickens, swords and the crowd favorite, flaming torches. “Are you here for dazzling magic?” he shouts to kids, and they shout back, “Yes!”

Kids volunteer for magic tricks, raising eager hands while adults become unwilling participants in his running commentary. His first act includes a magic trick with sand and water; and three kids from the audience — Walter, Chloe and Wilhelmina. His next is a unicycle ride that requires the help of two strong adults, Daniel and David, one a regular audience volunteer and the other a Vermont cattle farmer.

After asking Daniel what kind of cattle he raises and why he farms,



KIDS ARE NATURALLY drawn to Pirate Man Dan, and the entertainer gets a lot of requests for pictures after his shows.

Independent photo/Steve James

Jolley tells the crowd, “Give him a round of applause. The whole reason this fair happens is because of folks that do agriculture like Daniel.”

The grand finale is the act regulars return to see each year and newcomers thoroughly enjoy: Jolley climbs inside a giant balloon before squeezing back out to the crowd’s delight. As the balloon is pulled off at last and children erupt into laughter, Pirate Man Dan takes a bow before his show is over and he heads back into the crowd.

“They love that,” he said. “That is one thing that I can’t take out of the show and I’ll do every show.”

After performing at fairs across the country, Jolley says the Addison County Fair and Field Days is different. It’s home, but it’s also what he considers an authentic agricultural fair.

“What’s cool about this one is that this feels like home,” he said. “This agricultural fair and the culture here at this fair, it feels real. A lot of fairs they’ve gotten to a point where the only animals they have are the petting zoo. You get down to Georgia, Mississippi, you don’t see cows or horses there. So this is, it’s authentic, it’s as real as it gets.”



PIRATE MAN DAN on a high unicycle chases audience volunteer Daniel around the Show Tent at Field Days on Tuesday. The entertainer says he loves to make people smile.

Independent photo/Steve James

Field Days

(Continued from Page 1A)

as he was talking about his grandfather’s love for meat, joking that he was the “Meat Mafia” when he realized that would be a perfect name for the barbeque truck.

Meat has always been a big part of Cushing’s life. When he was four years old, he remembers wrapping deer meat and his father telling him he needed to do it better. When his uncle said, “Aren’t you being a little hard on him?” Cushing’s dad responded that he was just preparing him for life’s challenges. “I was in it from then on,” Ryan Cushing said.

Cushing’s father was a food inspector and bought Vermont Livestock Slaughter and Processing in Ferrisburgh when Cushing was growing up, and his family still owns the place. He has been “messing around with barbequing” for the past 20 years and said his friends always told him to go into business. “I said if I

Inspectors keep fair rides safe

Safety is the name of the game for Lee Trucks, Dreamland Amusement’s midway manager who oversees ride safety for the company. Trucks knows the rides and equipment like the back of his hand that travel with him and Dreamland up the East Coast during their season starting in Florida.

On Tuesday morning, two inspectors were checking out all the rides and talking to Trucks about them before the midway rides opened to the public. The inspectors are certified by the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials, as required by the state of Vermont.

Even after their approval, the rides are checked each morning by trained Dreamland Amusement employees, Trucks said. They check to make sure seatbelts are secure, the blocking that holds up the ride is safe and test each ride to guarantee it’s ready for the thousands of visitors to come.

The traveling lifestyle suits Trucks, who said he loves to see the different areas the fair travels to and never has to live in a cold place.

He is passionate about safety and by early afternoon Tuesday, all the rides were up and ready to go for the eager children (and adults) at the 2026 Addison County Fair and Field Days.

— Jing Williams



RYAN CUSHING OF Ferrisburgh not only serves delicious barbeque at this Meat Mafia food truck at Field Days this week, but he also educates people about our agricultural heritage.

Independent photo/Jing Williams

do that, they have to come buy my food!” Cushing said, laughing.

To Cushing, the story behind the food is just as important as the quality of the product. The burger, lettuce and tomato sold at Meat Mafia’s Field Days truck all come from farms in Addison County. In his work at Vermont Livestock, Cushing sees the cows through the whole process from being picked up on a farm to being slaughtered, processed and eventually ending up on people’s plates.

“Not everyone wants to know that side of it, but a lot of people want to know that side of it,” Cushing said.

Vermont has been losing its agriculture in recent years, Cushing said, and he hopes to bring awareness and strengthen agriculture through the Meat Mafia food truck.

In addition to working hard to make his food delicious, Cushing

gives back to the community as a member of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department. He jokes that the only reason he passed his firefighter test was because the judges liked his barbecue.

While he didn’t feel quite ready for Field Days, Cushing’s fiancée, Savannah Lawrence, encouraged him to go for it. And with the help of Cindy Kayhart, Meat Mafia was able to make its Field Days debut this week.

Growing up in a family with 100-plus cousins and other people hanging around, Cushing said his grandmother was always cooking huge, amazing meals for the family, including barbeque. He cites her as a huge inspiration for his work and always keeps in mind something she used to say:

“Tasty food isn’t about how you cook it, it’s whether you love what you’re doing.”

— Jing Williams



PETE AND CHRIS Paliuli say they have showbusiness in their blood. They are proving it all week at Field Days, where they perform daily.

Independent photo/Jing Williams

These brothers are just fun

Born into a family where their grandfather invented French fried ice cream and their mother who was a clown at the World Fairs, brothers Pete and Chris Paliuli have always had a bit of show business in their blood. So 16 years ago, they said, “Let’s do magic!” and launched Pete and Chris Amusements, based out of Waterbury, Conn., where the brothers live.

Traveling as far as Tennessee and Ohio for their shows, the Paliulis perform at birthday parties, fairs and libraries, as well as do party rentals. This year is their first Addison County Fair and Field Days appearance and they are performing their “Redneck Magic Show,” where the kids know them by the monikers “Shotgun Chris” and “Tacklebox Pete.”

During their 10:30 a.m. show on

Tuesday, children in the audience were shocked at how Tacklebox Pete deftly switched stuffed fish from one rope to the other without untying anything. And one kid could be heard saying, “That’s magic!” as Shotgun Chris changed a peanut butter jar to a jelly jar in a mere blink of an eye.

After the show, the brothers made balloon swords and butterflies for excited little ones and handed the baton off to Pirate Man Dan for the next show. The Paliuli brothers will be performing three shows a day at Field Days this year until Friday and credit their family history for inspiring their joint career.

“We’ve got food in our arteries and performance in our hearts,” Pete said.

— Jing Williams

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

lopsided all it wants.

Along our opposite border, our neighbor Elyssa and I collaborated on another border garden. We purchased a Japanese willow shrub and a tiny mock orange to sit alongside the hydrangea her husband Matt had transplanted into our new bed. Beyond those, I planted a ground cover of creeping myrtle beneath our large viburnum. It merged with Elyssa’s Solomon Seal on her side, joining our adjacent yards gracefully.

This spot became the site of a memorial. Elyssa and Matt’s son Henry had a sweet cat named Opal who loved tumbling and climbing

trees along our back edge with our cat Buster. But Opal was mysteriously injured and had to be put down. Matt dug her grave and buried Opal in the border below our viburnum that hangs over Elyssa’s garden. Neighborhood children brought flowers and trinkets to place on Opal’s grave. We each said something we loved about her. Buster pawed and sniffed the grave and seemed to pick up Opal’s scent.

Our borders are open. I cut through Bonita’s, then Jim and Deb’s yard — enjoying their wildflower lawn along the way — to get to my doctor’s office on the corner. Rick shares his lettuce

and cucumbers and flowers. One summer he planted a cherry tomato bush for Henry’s sister Lilli, who loves them. Across the street, Jim shares his electric mower with Rick all summer. Elyssa brings us cookies and slices of birthday cake. Matt blows snow off our driveway after winter storms. Bonita makes Buster anti-hunting collars from bright fabrics. Our borders and lives blend and overlap.

Alice Leeds of Bristol taught in a variety of private and public schools and colleges for 40 years. Presently retired, she tries to engage in some useful endeavor each day. She enjoys hearing from readers at aleeds@gmavt.net.

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This weekend

War reenactors come to Crown Point

CROWN POINT, N.Y. — On Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 8 and 9, the Crown Point State Historic Site will host a French and Indian War reenactment. Over 50 volunteer reenactors are expected. They will portray the French, British, Americans and Native Peoples who were here during the period.

The day will be filled with activities illustrating life in the 18th Century. Visitors will learn about the daily routine in an army camp. They will encounter soldiers drilling and camp followers preparing food. On

Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be recreated battles to watch.

There will be a close-up weapons demonstration on Saturday at 3 p.m. There will also be a special guided lantern tour through the camps at 7 p.m. sharp on Saturday night. There will be an open house of the museum all weekend with free admission.

Crown Point was a major strategic post that was occupied by three different armies over the span of six decades. It was considered one of the most

militarily important places in all of North America. The site contains the ruins of two forts, a visitor center-museum and miles of trails. The grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset. The museum is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Oct. 19.

These events are free and will be held rain or shine. For further information about this and other site programs and events, call 518-597-3666, visit the sites website, or find the Crown Point State Historic Site on Facebook.



By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

the candidates on your specific ballot. On your dashboard, you can check your polling location, find your clerk's location and contact info, update your address and much more. If you prefer to vote early, you can go to your clerk's office during their open hours, request an absentee ballot, and fill it out there. You can also take your ballot home and return it to your clerk when they're open or put it in your town's official ballot drop box anytime up to the day before the primary. If you've already voted absentee, the online Vermont Voter Portal allows you to track your ballot to see exactly when it was received.

The New Haven Community Library is marking its 125th birthday this year and is already looking ahead to its 200th. With that in mind, library officials are asking past and present residents to share their experiences with the community library, their favorite memories, thoughts about the different locations it's occupied through the years, favorite programming, and other recollections. Officials also want to hear your vision for the Library's future. You can schedule a time to share your New Haven Community Library thoughts by logging on to tinyurl.com/3jbtvrhv. Library officials plan to use some of your ideas in a time capsule that will be opened on the library's 200th birthday in 2101 and on the institution's website.

Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark this week released

Vermont's revenue results for this past June, and they reveal the state's General, Transportation and Education Funds exceeded their monthly consensus cash flow targets. The end of June also marked the end of Fiscal Year 2026, and all three funds finished the year ahead of the cumulative consensus expectations, according to Clark. The State's General, Transportation and Education fund receipts totaled \$349.7 million, exceeding the monthly consensus target by \$24.6 million, or 7.6%. General Fund revenues for June were \$250 million, which was \$21.2 million (9.3%), above the consensus target. The June Transportation Fund revenues exceeded the \$30.7 million June consensus target by \$2.3 million, or 7.6%. The month's Education Fund revenues of \$66.7 million were \$1.1 million, or 1.7%, above the June cash flow target. According to Clark: "The state ended the fiscal year in a healthy financial position with the three major funds exceeding their consensus forecast targets. Stronger than anticipated performances of the Personal Income and the Sales & Use taxes were the primary drivers."

Porter Hospital has created a new program that helps put fresh surplus produce onto the plates of hospital patients and staff. It's called "The Giving Table," an initiative of Porter's Community Engagement & Employee Wellness team. This free table in the hospital's

cafeteria offers staff and patients access to local summer fruits and veggies. Community members can contribute excess produce from gardens, and extra produce is brought in from the Addison County Relocalization Network's (ACORN) farm partners — so the table is always stocked. If you'd like to contribute, stop by ACORN's food hub (616 Exchange St. #2 in Middlebury) with produce, purchase food via ACORN's market, or enquire at info@acornvt.org.

Don't go batty. Mid-to-late summer is peak time for bat activity in Vermont. Since bats can carry rabies and find their way into your home or other buildings, it's important to know what to do if you encounter one. Check out these tips and videos from the Vermont departments of Health and Fish & Wildlife to learn more, but here are some basic guidelines: Do not release the bat. If you can do so safely and without getting bitten, confine the bat while awaiting guidance. Call the Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4-RABIES or your local game warden for help to determine if there's been a possible rabies exposure, including when a bat is found in the same room as a sleeping person. Rabies is a deadly virus that affects the brain and nervous system and spreads primarily through bites from infected animals. Rabies can be prevented in people if treatment starts soon after an exposure. For more info about rabies prevention visit healthvermont.gov/rabies.



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Field Days 2026
FUN IS BEING had in more ways than one at the Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven this week. The nearly weeklong event features rides, shows and animals. Counterclockwise from top left; a boy screams on a fair ride; a horse trainer exercises her animal; two girls guide their cows during a show; Sandra Griswold, 2, of Hinesburg is mesmerized by the carousel; Tom Allen, 13, of Panton smiles with his calf, named Unbreakable; riders get thrown in the air on a heart-stopping ride; the demolition derby crowd watches the annual event; another girl rides the carousel; Albee Jerger, 11, of Ferrisburgh poses with her horse, Topper; Rowdy Pope, 13, of Bridport poses with his calf, Whippy.



Independent photos/Steve James



Roy

(Continued from Page 1A)
the two House seats representing Addison-1, which encompasses all of the county’s shire town except for a small portion that’s included in Addison-5.

It was exactly a year ago that Roy, 61, retired as Middlebury College’s Dean of the Library. He joined the institution in 2008 as chief information officer. His specialty was leading teams that provided essential technology, information and library services to the college community.

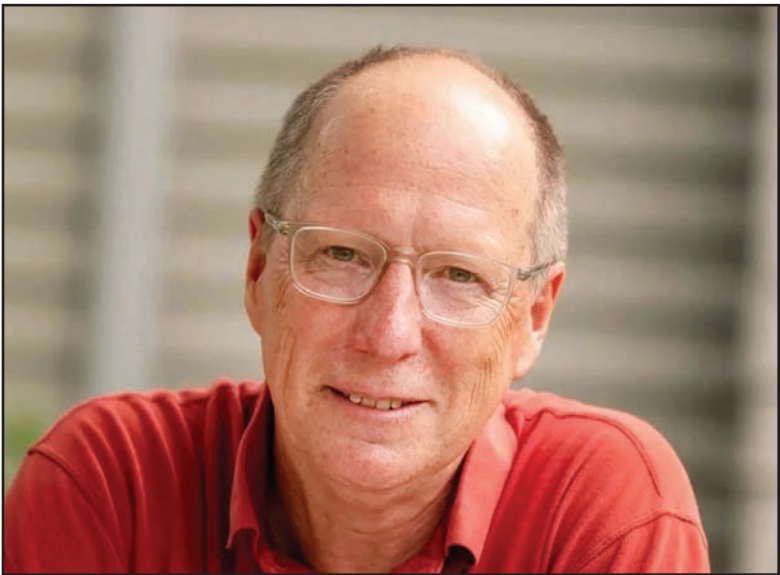
Roy, whip-smart and committed to public service, knew his “retirement” wasn’t going to include a rocking chair.

“I treated it as something of a sabbatical, to think about what I wanted to do next,” he said of his thought process last fall.

He knew he wanted to ramp up his efforts in the battle against climate change. He’s already engrossed in that fight as chair of the Middlebury Energy Committee (see story on Page 3A).

His future became clearer this spring when incumbent Addison-1 Rep. Amy Sheldon, a Middlebury Democrat, shared she wouldn’t seek reelection. Sheldon, rounding out 12 years in office, chairs the House Environment Committee. She asked Roy if he’d be interested in filling her spot in the district, where Democrats have consistently prevailed for the past 25 years.

“I realized that operating at the state level, to think about climate policy and how it interacts with all the other aspects of living in Vermont, seemed really intriguing,” he recalled. “I thought I had the right skillset and experience to dive in. It seemed like a great opportunity and a great chance to make a difference.”



DEMOCRAT MIKE ROY is poised to co-represent Middlebury in the Vermont House.

Photo courtesy of Mike Roy

Vermont, according to Roy, sends \$1.7 billion out of state every year to pay for fossil fuels, whereas “every dollar we keep here through weatherization, heat pumps, and renewable energy is a dollar that stays in Vermont households and communities.”

“It’s entirely obvious to me that (climate change) interacts with all sorts of other policy and issues, such as housing, transportation, and — while it’s a little bit of a stretch — health care.”

— Mike Roy

Roy noted Vermont has at least created a comprehensive climate action plan.

“We need to act on it,” he said. Roy’s public service resume also includes stints on the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County board (current vice chair), and the boards of the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History and Homeward Bound.

If elected, Roy believes he’d be a logical fit for the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure. That panel considers matters relating to energy, utilities, telecommunications, broadband, information technology, cybersecurity and other similar policies.

“My (professional) background is in IT,” he said of expertise that would allow him to hit the ground running on digital privacy, social

media, surveillance capitalism, artificial intelligence data centers and other emerging, tech-related concerns.

“What can we do at the state level to put up guardrails and provide frameworks to make sure (technology) is actually serving the people of Vermont and not simply serving the interests of Silicon Valley and the rich people,” Roy said of a major question he’d like to help the state resolve.

At the same time, he recognized that technology — when properly harnessed — can help Vermont make strides in delivering services “to reach all Vermonters and lower costs and improve the user experience.”

Being proficient in the languages of tech and climate change is helping Roy understand other issues Vermont is facing.

“It’s entirely obvious to me that (climate change) interacts with all sorts of other policy and issues, such as housing, transportation, and — while it’s a little bit of a stretch — health care,” he said.

Roy, during his interview with the *Independent* and through material on his website, conveyed his positions on other big issues facing the state.

HOUSING

“We need to quickly build more housing in Vermont in a way that honors our commitment to

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)
voters in March, when residents backed a general fund operating budget of around \$1.4 million and another \$1.4 million for the public works department budget, among other proposals. Approved town spending for the upcoming fiscal year is then divided by the town’s 2026 Grand List to determine the municipal property tax rate.

Along with municipal taxes, Bristol residents also pay education taxes required for Bristol to help cover Vermont’s Education Fund expenses for the upcoming year.

Bristol voters in March joined other Mount Abraham Unified School District voters in backing a \$37,862,780 MAUSD spending plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Along with education spending, factors like a town’s common level of appraisal help determine the actual homestead

property tax rates in MAUSD towns.

The CLA is a ratio used by the state to make adjustments when assessing education property taxes to ensure the level of taxation is equal among all Vermont towns. Bristol’s CLA is 60.86%, according to materials for the July 27 meeting, which means homes are appraised at about 61% of current fair market value.

The “state homestead tax rate” factoring into Bristol residents’ bills this year is \$1.8523, down 4.61-cents from the current fiscal year. The “state non-residential tax rate” for properties like commercial buildings and second homes is \$1.8988, a decrease of 1.38-cents from the current year.

TOTAL TAX RATES

Altogether, the total homestead tax rate for Bristol residents this upcoming fiscal year will be \$2.8432, up 2.53-cents from

the current year. The total non-residential tax rate in Bristol will be \$2.8897, an increase of 5.76 cents.

Inside the police district, the overall homestead tax rate will be \$3.1939, and the non-residential rate will be \$3.2404.

That means, outside of the police district, Bristol homeowners paying taxes based on the full value of their property can expect to see a tax increase of \$25.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Police district residents will see an increase of \$19.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Many Vermont homeowners qualify for income-based property tax credits when it comes to paying their taxes.

According to the Bristol town website, property tax bills are expected to be mailed out early this month with the first payment due Sept. 10.

protecting our natural spaces and affordability,” he said. “That means encouraging infill development in our existing downtowns and village centers — the kind of dense, walkable neighborhoods that make it possible for a teacher, a nurse, or a young family just starting out to actually afford to live in the community where they work.”

Roy noted a move afoot in the Legislature to re-examine and possibly increase taxes on luxury homes, second homes and short-term rentals.

“We need to do so with the understanding that these markets directly compete with the housing stock that working Vermonters need, and we should understand their impact on affordability across the state,” he said.

HEALTH CARE

While he appreciates recent state efforts to make Vermont’s health care system more affordable, Roy believes the solution ultimately lies in a universal access, single-payer system.

“Thousands of Vermonters have dropped health insurance due to lack of affordability and up to 45,000 more are expected to lose health coverage in coming years,” he said, pointing to expiring provisions of the Affordable Care Act and cuts to federal Medicaid subsidies.

“Young families are leaving the state,” Roy said. “We need to revisit our approach to healthcare and stop tinkering around the edges and make good on our unfulfilled promise to ensure that all Vermonters have good, affordable healthcare. Universal healthcare isn’t just a healthcare policy. It would reshape what’s possible for Vermonters. It frees people from

jobs they’ve outgrown and allows entrepreneurs, farmers, artists, tradespeople and small business owners to take risks without betting their family’s health on it. And it allows large employers, including school districts, to lower their costs. That’s good for Vermont’s economy.”

Roy noted that while Vermont abandoned a previous effort to proceed universal health care (because of cost), the law — Act 48 of 2011 — remains on the books.

“We just haven’t acted on it,” he said.

The past 15 years since the birth of Act 48 have only brought more health insurance headaches for Vermont families, businesses and hospitals, Roy noted.

“My sense is that everyone hates providing health care to their employees because it’s incredibly expensive and complicated. And that’s largely because

of insurance companies and drug companies,” he said. “If there were a way for employers to get out of that business and for their employees to have affordable, good health care without all of the hassle of dealing with private insurance companies, I think everyone would be happy.”

Roy acknowledged Vermont didn’t proceed with universal health care 15 years ago because of the expense of that transition for what is a small state population. But he believes Vermont could — and should — collaborate with two nearby states that are in a similar health care conundrum: Maine and New Hampshire.

“Fix health care and people can start businesses, take risks, and build careers without the cloud of

how to pay for healthcare hanging over their head,” he said.

EDUCATION

Investing in education will be key, according to Roy — not only to improve student outcomes, but to attract more young families to the state.

“Affordable housing and good jobs will help young families stay in Vermont, bringing students back into schools that have been hollowed out by decades of demographic decline,” he said.

He’s pleased lawmakers this year pulled back from the concept of forced school consolidations and instead opted for Act 170, a new education reform law that focuses on reducing school spending and achieving better outcomes through regional partnerships and the study of voluntary school district mergers.

“The Legislature has rightly returned decision-making authority to communities. My job as a legislator is to make sure communities have the resources, the flexibility and the support they need to make those decisions well, and to resist the temptation to substitute Montpelier’s judgment for local knowledge,” Roy said.

PRESERVING DEMOCRACY

“The recent and unprecedented attacks by the federal government on our civil liberties, due process, the rule of law, and our democratic norms have revealed that Vermont has urgent work to do,” Roy said. “We must do all that is legally possible to provide protections to all Vermonters whose rights are being undermined by this federal administration.”

One-hundred-eighty people represent Vermonters in the state Legislature. But Roy said solving the state’s challenges will require help from a far larger percentage of Vermont’s 646,000 residents.

“Let’s create a Vermont where we all thrive,” he said.

“It’s not a spectator sport.”
John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

2ND ANNUAL HOPE IN MOTION EVERY STEP MATTERS

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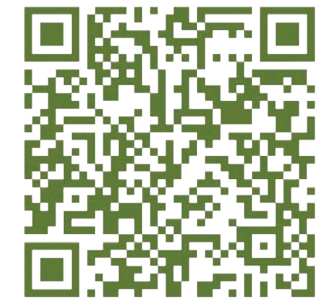
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Hope in Motion is more than a race, it’s a celebration of hope, healing, and community. Whether you’re an athlete, a family looking for a fun day together, someone in recovery, a recovery ally, or simply someone who believes in building a healthier community, there’s something for everyone.

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“Honesty does matter”

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Monkton group interested in changes to Town Meeting Day voting

By MARIN HOWELL

MONKTON — Monkton residents could be asked whether they'd like to vote on more issues by Australian ballot rather than from the floor at their annual town meeting, where residents currently decide matters like municipal spending for the upcoming fiscal year.

A July 23 Monkton selectboard meeting included a discussion between town officials and residents around a citizen petition seeking consideration of moving articles voted on from the floor at town meeting to Australian ballot. Members of "the Monkton concerned citizen coalition" shared the rationale behind the petition, which was still in the works at the time of the meeting and hadn't been submitted to the town yet as of Monday.

"The purpose of our petition is not to abolish Town Meeting Day, a wonderful tradition, which many of us enjoy, but we simply want to move the important articles which are to be voted on, such as the budget for example, to the Australian ballot on the following Tuesday where the polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and everybody has the opportunity to vote if they wish to," Monkton resident Christopher

Kruckel explained.

During the meeting, Monkton Selectboard Chair Sam Peisch offered some more information on town meeting, Australian ballot voting and citizen petitions. He explained that per state statute, the question of whether to vote on more articles by Australian ballot would need to be decided at an annual or special town meeting.

Peisch noted the selectboard could warn a special meeting on its own or if prompted by a petition signed by 5% of Monkton voters (around 94 signatures, according to the presentation). Peisch told the *Independent* last week town officials were waiting to see how many signatures the citizen petition received. If enough signatures are gathered and the petition is validated by town officials, then a special meeting would be scheduled, he said.

Peisch's presentation also included data on how Town Meeting Day voting is carried out in Vermont towns. According to the Vermont Secretary of State, about 30% of municipalities (77) use Australian Ballot to vote on town officers, budgets and public questions, while another 30% of municipalities (73) make all of those decisions from the floor.

The remaining 40% of Vermont municipalities (94) use both methods, including Monkton. Several towns have considered doing more of their Town Meeting Day voting at the polls rather than from the floor. Voters in Lincoln opposed that move this past March but made other changes to their annual gathering — moving it to a Saturday and using a new electronic "clicker" voting method to weigh in on articles from the floor.

At the July 23 meeting, petition

organizers shared concerns around accessibility when it comes to voting on important matters like town spending, which are decided at the town's annual gathering. Some people aren't able to make it to the meeting, residents pointed out, and even if more people could attend the in-person meeting, space would be a constraint.

"In the historical times the town could meet at the town grange, and they would vote saying 'Aye' or 'Nay,' and everyone would know the votes, and that's wonderful," Kruckel said. "In today's world, we cannot physically fit in one place unless we were to have the town meetings out of doors, and then we would also have parking and shuttle bus considerations."

Other residents in attendance offered another perspective.

"I really like town meeting...it's a really good opportunity to meet people," Eugenie Doyle said, noting she supports the idea of getting more people to vote. "We have very few meeting places in town, so I think that in that sense (town meeting is) important in that way."

Another Monkton resident asked how voting on articles by Australian ballot would impact the ability to make amendments on articles from the floor, a common occurrence

at town meeting. At Monkton's annual gathering this past February, voters approved amended general fund and highway budgets and spent a portion of the meeting discussing with town officials why those amounts differed from the proposals on Monkton's town meeting warning.

"That is a challenge with changing it to Australian ballot," Peisch said in response to the question about amendments.

Monkton resident Mark Rickner asked if the town could potentially move its in-person annual gathering to a couple of weeks before voters head to the polls on Town Meeting Day.

"People want to be able to offer amendments, they want to understand what's happening," Rickner said. "I think it's critical to still have the information and the ability to offer amendments and to put new things on the table."

However the town decides to move forward, residents noted it's important to have as many voters as possible weigh in on that decision.

"This is a really important question, something that a lot of towns have wrestled with, and so I would want as many people to participate at that (special town meeting) as possible," Peisch said.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — As the back-to-school season approaches, Lincoln Mentors is inviting community members to make a meaningful difference in a young person's life by volunteering as a youth mentor. With a flexible commitment of just four hours per month, mentors are paired with Lincoln students to share quality time during lunch hours, after school, or on weekends.

Mentors and mentees participate in simple, enjoyable activities based on shared interests — such as eating lunch together, walking dogs, crafting, or enjoying small outdoor outings. These intergenerational relationships are fun, deeply rewarding and play a vital role in building a stronger, more connected community.

Students of all ages are currently waiting for a match. To learn more or get involved, contact Anna Howell at ahowell@lincolnsd.org.

Lincoln Mentors also extends a warm thank you to all active mentors and mentees for their ongoing dedication to strengthening youth connections throughout the town.

Until next time...Life Always Offers You A Second Chance. It's Called Tomorrow.

Audi strikes Kia, rolls, then it hits two more cars

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police were called to a hit and run crash in Ripton in which the driver who was alleged to have been at fault apparently hit three cars, rolled over and fled the scene.

On July 24 just after 9:30 p.m., troopers from the New Haven barracks responded to a single-vehicle rollover in Ripton near Route 125 and College Cross Road, which is in the area of the Bread Loaf campus. When they got there, troopers found out that the

Vt. State Police Log

driver of the rollover had left the scene, but later they identified him as 22-year-old Noah Manns of Essex Junction.

Through investigation, police learned that Manns's 2015 Audi S3 had struck the rear end of a Kentucky man's 2025 KIA Sportage, causing the Audi to roll onto its side and strike two parked cars — a 2023 Jeep Compass

driven by a Greenwich, Conn., man, and a 2022 Mazda CX-30 driven by a different Greenwich man. The parked cars were unoccupied, so no one was injured in them. But a passenger in Manns's Audi suffered minor injuries and was taken to Porter Hospital.

On July 29, Manns came to the New Haven state police barracks and was issued a citation to appear at the Addison County Superior Court, Criminal Division, to answer for the charges of leaving the scene of an accident and negligent driving. Traffic tickets

were pending.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On July 31 at a quarter passed noon looked into a report of an abuse prevention order violation at a Morgan Road home in Salisbury. After investigating, police arrested Robert Morin, 61, of Salisbury, took him to the New Haven barracks and cited him for violation of an abuse prevention order.

Troopers were assisted by Middlebury police.

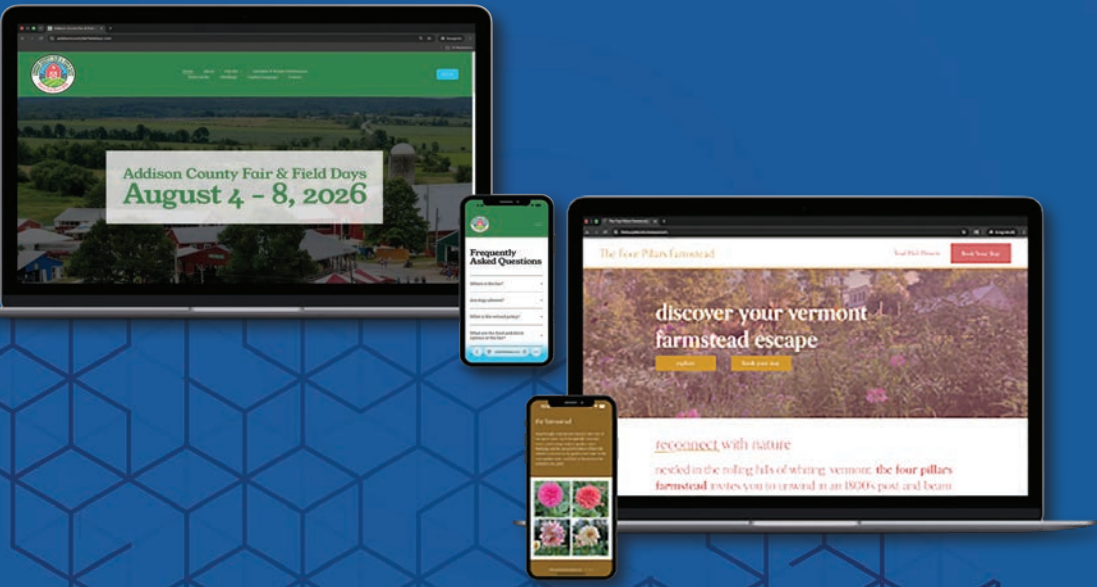
- On July 31 at a little after 3:30 p.m. were advised of an

assault that occurred on Main Street in Whiting. Troopers looked into it and determined that Ivan Sokolov, 37, of Watervliet, N.Y., had assaulted a 35-year-old Whiting man and placed him in fear. Police found and arrested Sokolov and cited him for simple assault.

- On Aug. 3 a little before 8 a.m. were dispatched to a report of a domestic/family fight on West Shore Road in Salisbury. Police ended up citing Nicholas Pecor, 23, of Salisbury for violating court-issued conditions of release.

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Youth voices

(Continued from Page 1A)

“As young people in Vermont, I feel like so often they might feel left out of their communities or like they’re not welcome. In our communities and also in politics it’s a gerontocracy, the boomers have more of the power,” Botti said. “I want (young people) to be able to build their narrative story and share their story. That’s important in policy, that’s important in their daily lives...it’s important everywhere, and so I really want them to feel empowered around that.”

Botti founded the camp last year in collaboration with the Education Justice Coalition of Burlington and the Teen Center in Middlebury, which hosts the camp. She’d previously worked with both organizations and reached out with the idea at a time when she and other young people were feeling unsure of their next steps.

“Especially after (President

Donald Trump) got elected, I felt like so many young people and so many of my peers were feeling kind of hopeless and felt really angry but didn’t know what to do with it,” she recalled. “I wanted to give them an outlet or an easier, more accessible way for them to have a place to learn about this and do that work in the community.”

A similar camp had taken shape in Chittenden County, and Botti wanted to bring the offering to local youth interested in learning from community organizers and meeting peers with similar interests.

“It was such an incredible learning experience,” Botti said of running last year’s camp. “Getting to see how much the young people really enjoyed the work that we did last year, getting to see them blossom in these conversations and really start laughing together and being friends.”

This year’s camp has around 10 participants from the Middlebury area and has taken more of a policy-centered approach, with campers learning who their local legislators are and discussing policies affecting their lives.

“It’s really important for these young people to still be involved and still have a voice in policy even if they’re not a part of voting,” Botti said, noting many campers aren’t old enough to vote yet. “One day they will be, and they are still constituents, and they’re still people who are some of the most impacted by policy.”

Along with learning about policy, campers have had time each day for journaling, art making, discussing topics they’re passionate about and hearing from guest speakers working at organizations around



ADDIE LENTZNER, LEFT, and Rafaela Botti are co-leading this year’s Addison County Summer Social Justice Camp at the Teen Center in Middlebury. The offering is aimed at helping local youth connect with peers, build skills and learn how to use their voice to enact change. Independent photo/Marin Howell

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WILMER CHAVARRIA VISIT

This past Tuesday, youth spoke with Wilmer Chavarria about his work as the superintendent of schools in Winooski and how students can advocate for themselves and others.

“I encourage you to learn who (your legislators) are, to learn their names and get in the habit of writing letters to them or giving them a call,” Chavarria told students. “You don’t have to wait to be an adult for you to be telling them what you need from them. In fact, your voice carries a lot more weight at your age than the voice of adults.”

Chavarria noted the Winooski school district is the only

district in the state where the majority of students come from immigrant backgrounds or BIPOC communities. An immigrant himself, Chavarria has been an advocate for immigrant students and families. Campers asked Chavarria about different aspects of his work, including how he and other school officials protect students from harassment.

Chavarria outlined some of the laws and regulations in place for handling such incidents, but noted the law can fall short and that he has a responsibility to protect his students even when efforts to do so receive pushback.

“I think at this point, all you have left is to go back to the truth, to your principles and say, ‘What is

my red line?’ And my red line is a student should feel safe in school, and it doesn’t matter who they are,” he said.

Efforts to keep Winooski students safe have included implementing the state’s first sanctuary school policy, aimed at prohibiting school staff’s collaboration with immigration agents and agents’ access to the school, particularly amid increased U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity under Trump. The school policy helped shape legislation signed into law this year (Act 125) that standardizes such protections in schools across the state.

Such actions have drawn ire, Chavarria acknowledged. He noted even minor decisions seen as challenging Trump have received backlash and led to attacks on him and his family at times. He’s had to reckon with what he’d do if he finds himself without a job.

“This is something I think about constantly because some of us don’t get the luxury of stability, some of us don’t get the luxury of just flying under the radar,” he said. “It’s a very real thing, but I’d rather do that than ever look back and feel like I was a coward, or a chameleon or an opportunist.”

One student asked Chavarria how students can make their voices heard with their own school officials.

“I wouldn’t waste your time or anybody’s time going and requesting a meeting with the superintendent and saying, ‘I want the superintendent, I want the schools to promote social justice,’ That’s not going to do much because we don’t really know what that means; that could be anything,” he said. “The best way to advocate in front of superintendents, principals, educators is to have something concrete to say, especially if it’s something you are going through or you care about.”

“If you have something to say, say it, and if they don’t want to hear it, say it, and if they’re not making space for you to say it, make the space for you to say it,” he added.

Ellington Patterson was among the local youth at camp on Tuesday. A rising senior at Middlebury Union High School, he said he was inspired to take part in the camp because he understands he plays a role in the Middlebury community and making it better for students.

“This camp is great for understanding who you are and what your community looks like and how you can benefit from it and be a part of it,” he said.

USING YOUR VOICE

Patterson said he’s interested in learning how to address discrimination and poverty.

“I’ve seen the poverty in Middlebury. Many people think it’s just a lush and lavish community, but there are problems here like anywhere else in the U.S. and in the world, so helping out

with the poverty in the community is something I want to focus on,” Patterson said.

Addressing harassment and discrimination is a goal for other campers, as well.

“I really want to help people understand that even jokes and things like that about race, sexuality and gender can really affect people and to help them grow out of a space where they feel like those are what’s funny and to understand that that can truly hurt people for a long time,” said Vincent, a rising freshman attending the camp.

Learning how to have conversations with peers across different identities and lived experiences is one of the skills youth are developing at the camp.

“The students all come with different experiences and worldviews and being able to discuss that in a space like this is really valuable for young people and something that’s not always offered in the education system,” Lentzner said.

Camp leaders hope those connections help youth build a network with their peers.

“That’s what we really want to cultivate here, is this space for them to grow that and then hopefully have gained the knowledge, the skills and then the network to continue that in their communities,” Botti said.

Throughout this week, campers have been planting the seeds for work that will keep unfolding after the program wraps up. For example, youth are working on social justice pamphlets on different issues with Bill Vitek of the New Perennials Project at Middlebury College. Those will likely be distributed around town this fall, Lentzner said.

Students have also been planning a youth-led town hall event at Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater next month. The event is set for Sept. 19 and will offer a chance for youth to connect with local and state officials, including Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Attorney General Charity Clark, Treasurer Mike Pieciak and state Sen. Ruth Hardy.

Botti said the plan is to host a candidates forum after the town hall event.

“Even though we can’t vote, it’s still really, really important for (candidates) to understand what young people want because they’re still representing young people,” she said.

Ultimately, organizers hope this week’s camp and future events help empower youth to continue using their voices.

“This isn’t just an isolated thing we’re trying to do,” Lentzner said. “We’re trying to build capacity by teaching young people how to use their voice and how it can have an impact so that then they can go do this after Rafaela and I are not here anymore. It’s not just a one-time thing; we’re trying to build that power and expand it out to the community.”



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Ultra marathon held in Goshen

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

GOSHEN — The 26.2-mile run in a standard marathon just isn’t enough for some people.

Last weekend, it was those wanting an extra 10 who congregated at Goshen’s Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center for the annual Moosalamoo Ultra — a 36-mile haul, that includes summiting Mount Moosalamoo in the Green Mountain National Forest.

Forty-six ambitious athletes — from as far as Texas, as young as 19 and as old as 74 — completed the trek on Saturday, Aug. 1. Another 88 crossed the finish line after completing the Heavy Half, a 14-mile race just .9 miles over the standard half marathon distance.

“Long challenging climbs, black bear sightings, stinging nettles are (for better or worse) hallmarks of this race,” per the event website.

“Each race is loaded with tough, yet beautiful mountain single track taking you to the top of Mount Moosalamoo with a spectacular view of Lake Dunmore.”

Isaac Hillman, 25, of Wardsboro was the first runner to earn a well-deserved reprieve. He finished the course with a 6:15:31 time.

In second was Siqi Wu, 35, of Bloomington, Ind. (6:20:30) and in third Genevieve Laliberté, of Mont-Tremblant, Quebec (6:31:18). The 33-year-old also took first place in the women’s

(See Moosalamoo, Page 2B)



RUNNERS NAVIGATE THE course during the Moosalamoo Ultra and Heavy Half at Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center on Saturday, Aug. 1.

Photo by Joe Viger



A SUCCESSFUL DRIVER hops down off the hood of his car after winning Heat 2 of the demolition derby at the Tractor Pad at Field Days on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Independent photo/Steve James

Roaring cars smash and crash in Demolition Derby

By JING WILLIAMS

Whether age five or 45, age was not a limiting factor for participants in Tuesday’s annual Addison County Fair and Field Days Demolition Derby.

Nevertheless, five-year-olds who took part in the action at the fairgrounds’ tractor pad were *not* smashing gas guzzling machines into each other.

This year “drivers” ages three through eight were able to

participate in the “Power Wheels” competition that kicked off the Demo Derby. Driving in kid-sized, battery powered cars, the children’s mission was to pop the balloons on the back of the other cars. The last one standing was the winner.

The excitement of the night didn’t stop with the Power Wheels show. Tuesday promised five rounds of bone stock compact car competition, one van and pickup track heat, one V8 automobiles

heat and one farm and combine truck heat.

It got muddy quickly in the first compact heat, with 11 drivers warming up the field and number 77 quickly driving halfway over the cement blocks that fence in the competition area. As the drivers reversed and sped toward each other splashing mud, colorful competition emerged between “The Green Machine” and green-painted “966” continuously

backing into each other. Fierce competitor No. 55 kept coming back when the audience didn’t expect it — even as smoke from his car wafted over the field. No. 10 was among the victors.

A car labeled “Brainless” emerged as a big shot in heat two, running cars into the barricade and catching speed, although he didn’t make it to the final three of the round. Despite being quickly

(See Demo Derby, Page 3B)

QB the unknown for 2026 Panther football

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — Coach Doug Mandigo’s 2026 Panther football team returns to the shire town at the end of the month with a wealth of starting experience.

That is, barring one of the most critical positions on the field — quarterback.

“The big question mark — I don’t know if you call it a gap — but the big question mark is going to be a quarterback,” Mandigo said during a recent interview.

The Panthers will be fielding

a new starting QB as they try to improve upon their 5-4 record in 2025. Mandigo expects 2026 to be a tough season, void of any gimme games.

The coach sees the potential of the incoming iteration, given the returners’ performances as a young roster.

“We finished 5-4, but really competitive in the league. And you know the games we lost, could have won. You know if things went differently. And again, that’s on us,” he said.

“We were young last year and we were competitive. So that’s a good sign.”

The group, and Mandigo’s new starting quarterback, will face one of their potentially toughest games to start the season on the Youngman Field on South Main Street. That first bout on Sept. 19 is against Wesleyan, which has finished the last two seasons at the top of the league.

“That’s really the only thing we’re focused on,” Mandigo said.

(See Panthers, Page 3B)

Dolbec wins 10th Vt. Sun triathlon in a row

SALISBURY — Kris Freeman of Compton, N.H., won the Vermont Sun Triathlon in 1:01:56, held at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore this past Sunday, Aug. 2. Burlington’s Katie Dolbec once again was the women’s champ (1:12:25) in the sprint triathlon, which consisted of a 600-yard swim, 14.25-mile bike and 3.1-mile run.

Katie Dolbec, 43, entered two Vermont Sun Triathlon series races in 2021. She placed second in both. Since then she has gone a perfect 10 for 10, winning either the Lake Dunmore Olympic Distance Triathlon or the Vermont Sun Sprint Distance race. The streak breaks the record nine wins in a row set by Dot Martin of Williamstown, during the ’90s. None of Dolbec’s 10 wins in a row have been close, including Sunday’s 6:20 advantage over second place finisher Neily Jennings. Only four men were faster than Dolbec, who nearly didn’t race as she forgot some of her gear. Fellow triathletes pitched in to lend her what she needed.

Jennings led the women in the swim. She got to her bike 1:38 ahead of Dolbec, in 4th place. Dolbec, riding nearly 22 miles an hour on the rolling bike course caught her and took the lead she would not give up just before mile four. Dolbec had the fastest women’s splits for the bike (39:30) and the run (20:31, a 6:37 per mile pace). Ripton’s Kelsey Shelofsky finished third overall, using the second-fastest women’s run (20:58).

Freeman, 46, previously



CORNWALL’S TANYA BYKER cruising in the last few meters of the Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury on Sunday. She won the women’s 50-59 group in 1:46:27.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

won the July 2022 Vermont Sun Triathlon. He was the second man to exit Lake Dunmore in 8:31, just 10 seconds behind Julian Stedman of Glens Falls,

N.Y. Freeman made up that deficit in his transition to the bike. Freeman averaged over 26 miles an hour posting the day’s

(See Triathlon, Page 2B)



MIDDLEBURY MARLINS SWIMMERS were all smiles after a successful two days of state competition this past Saturday and Sunday. The local team placed first among D-II teams.

Courtesy photo

Middlebury swimmers are state champs

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

HARTFORD — For the second year in a row, the Middlebury Swim Team is the state Division-II swimming champion.

In addition to taking first place (2,286 points) among the four D-II teams, the Marlins placed fourth out of the 19 teams that were in

attendance at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in Hartford for the Aug. 1 and 2 competition.

“Every single athlete played a role in the team’s success,” Middlebury Coach Carina Bellman said.

“From our youngest swimmer, just five years old, to our veteran

high school athlete returning to the state championship pool for her 11th summer, each swimmer contributed valuable points toward an unforgettable weekend.”

The finals, which were held just a weekend after the Champlain Valley League meet where

(See Marlins, Page 2B)

Local golfers win seniors state tournament

MIDDLEBURY — Two local men claimed gold medals when the Vermont Senior Games Association (VSGA) hosted its seniors golf tournament and scramble at the Ralph Myhre course in Middlebury on Monday, Aug. 3.

Dan Werme of New Haven shot a 90 and won the age 50-54 men’s division by three strokes.

In the Men’s 55-59 division, Bristol’s Kris Kelton buried the competition by shooting 77, which was 14 strokes better than the silver medalist.

Both Werme and Kelton qualified to compete in the National Senior Games next summer in Tulsa, Okla.

Fifty VSGA athletes took part in the 2025 National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa. They brought back to Vermont 37 medals: 21 gold, six silver, eight bronze and 44 fourth- through eighth-place podium finishes.



NEW HAVEN’S DAN Werme, center, who won the age 50-54 division at the Vermont Senior Games Golf Tournament at the Ralph Myhre course in Middlebury on Monday, is joined for a photo by representatives from VGS sponsor NBT Bank, Leo Crickshank, left, and Rob Roy.

Photo courtesy of Rebecca Ryan



RUNNERS TAKE OFF during the Moosalamoo Ultra and Heavy Half at Goshen’s Blueberry Hill Inn and Outdoor Center last Saturday.

Photo by Joe Viger

Moosalamoo

(Continued from Page 1B)

division. In second place in that category (and seventh overall) was Lily Weinstein Terry, 20, of Norwich (7:05:32). And in third, and eighth overall, was Rachel Balinski, 32, of Bristol (7:18:51).

The third-place finisher in the men’s category, and fourth overall placer, was David Herr, 61, of Canaan (6:35:24).

The Heavy Half was a much tighter contest for first, and Landon Fracasse, 19, of New Paltz, N.Y., won with a 2:20:57 finish.

Daniel Eyerman, 29, of Montpelier completed the race less than a minute after him to take second (2:21:37). Ryan Flynn, 41,

of Roslindale, Mass., placed third (2:27:24).

In the women’s category, Jennifer Flynn, 41, also of Roslindale, Mass., was first with a 2:30:36 time, which was good for sixth place overall. Dylan Broderick, 35, was second (2:34:04), and seventh overall. Dylan Friedman, 18, of New Paltz, N.Y., was third (2:40:39) and eleventh overall.

The pair of races were the second to be held at the venue this summer. On July 11, close to 200 competitors ran the Goshen Gallop, featuring 10K and 5K races.

Nathan Lalonde, 29, of Huntington was the overall victor in the 10K (42:22).

After him came Connor Bost, 29, of Manchester, N.H. (43:25) and then Maddie Leopold, 32, of Williamstown, Mass. (45:12). She was also the top racer in the women’s category.

Maddy Pfeifer, 31, of Huntington placed second among the women and 10th overall (49:05). Sophia Etienne, 32, of Waitsfield was third and 11th overall (49:16).

The men’s third place finisher, and fourth overall, was Toby Wells-Spackman, 21, of Weybridge (46:09).

The 5K champion that day was Graham Daly, 12, of Cornwall (26:30).

In second was Thomas Carroll, 15, of Essex (00:29:03) and in third — and first in the women’s division — was Abi Wikoff, 38, of Brandon (00:31:22).

The second place female finisher, and fourth overall, was Jessica Griffin, 37, of Hinesburg (00:31:29). Zara Daly, 42, of Cornwall, placed third and fifth overall (00:32:01).

Eight-year-old Levi Bolger, of Middlebury, was third in the men’s division and eighth overall (00:33:13).

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Marlins

(Continued from Page 1B)

Middlebury placed second, was not without its hurdles, Bellman noted.

“Throughout the championship meet, our athletes pushed through intimidating events, end-of-season fatigue, injuries, and even broken arms, demonstrating incredible resilience and determination,” she said.

“While swimming may appear to be an individual sport, this weekend proved that championships are won through teamwork, support, and a collective commitment to one another.”

It was in that spirit that Maxine King, Felix Poduschnick, Cassandra Bellmann and Porter Mackey made their mark in the Vermont Swimming Association record books.

The foursome’s 2:08.89 swim is the fastest that any has finished the mixed 12U 200-yard medley relay at the state meet — by 21 seconds.

Also rewriting records were Vergennes swimmers Riker Cooley and Will Clark. Their team placed second in D-II (2,121), and fifth among all teams.

Cooley set the boys’ 10U 50-yard butterfly record (33.70) and Clark the boys’ 17-18-year-old 50-yard freestyle (21.03).

Local girls who earned three or more first-place ribbons as individuals were Sadie Chance, MIDD (4), Savannah Wallace, VST (4) and Cassandra Bellmann, MIDD (3).

Three Vergennes boys were three-time champions this

weekend: Will Clark (5), Khanlen Ouimette (4) and Riker Cooley (3).

Here are the Middlebury swimmers who placed first at the state meet:

- MIDDLEBURY GIRLS**
 - Ellie Butler, 7-8 25yd backstroke, (19.67)
 - Maxine King, 11-12 50yd backstroke, (34.03); 12U 100yd backstroke, (1:11.46)
 - Cassandra Bellmann, 11-12 50yd butterfly, (30.51); 11-12 100yd IM, (1:09.87); 12U 100yd butterfly, (1:08.36)
 - Sadie Chance, 15-16 50yd freestyle, (25.34); 15-16 50yd backstroke, (29.97); 15-16 50yd butterfly, (27.46); 15-16 100yd IM, (1:03.39)
 - Abigail Hamilton, 15-16 200yd freestyle, (2:08.44); 15-16 100yd backstroke, (1:06.27)
 - Selma Citarella, 15-16 50yd breaststroke, (31.68); 15-16 100yd breaststroke, (1:08.10)
 - Harper Nelson, Maxine King, Vela Remaniak, Cassandra Bellmann, 12U 200yd freestyle relay, (2:03.64)
 - Abigail Hamilton, Selma Citarella, Sadie Chance, Mitzi Poduschnick, 18U 200yd medley relay, (1:57.30)
 - Maxine King, Felix Poduschnick, Cassandra Bellmann, Porter Mackey, mixed 12U 200yd medley relay, (2:08.89)
- MIDDLEBURY BOYS**
 - Cooper Butler, 9-10 25yd breaststroke, (19.72) (tie)
 - Felix Poduschnick, 11-12 50yd breaststroke, (36.47); 11-12 100yd IM, (1:09.73)
- Here are all the Vergennes

- swimmers who placed first:
- VERGENNES GIRLS**
 - Harper Blacklock, 6U 25yd freestyle, (20.89)
 - Skylar Buckley, 7-8 25yd freestyle, (17.32)
 - Savannah Wallace, 9-10 25yd free, (13.71); 9-10 50yd freestyle, (29.65); 9-10 100yd IM, (1:17.00); 10U 50-yd butterfly, (35.70)
 - Ella Bearor, 15-16 100yd freestyle, (56.55)
 - Lydia Court, Autumn Woods, Allie Curtis, Skylar Buckley, 8U 100yd freestyle relay, (1:20.15)
 - Skylar Buckley, Lydia Court, Allie Curtis, Autumn Woods, 8U 100yd medley relay, (1:34.48)
- VERGENNES BOYS**
 - Rhett Cooke, 9-10 25yd backstroke, (17.78)
 - Riker Cooley, 9-10 25yd butterfly, (14.82); 9-10 100yd IM, (1:20.63); 10U 50yd butterfly, (33.70)
 - Khanlen Ouimette, 15-16 50yd breaststroke, (28.71); 15-16 100yd breaststroke, (1:04.83); 15-16 50 yard butterfly, (24.13); 15-16 100yd IM, (58.54)
 - Will Clark, 17-18 50yd freestyle, (21.03); 17-18 100yd freestyle, (46.69); 17-18 50yd backstroke, (24.64); 17-18 50yd breaststroke, (27.03); 17-18 100yd IM, (56.21)
 - Cohen Howell, 17-18 200yd freestyle, (2:21.01)
 - Rhett Cooke, Raleigh Woods, Bennett Blacklock, Riker Cooley, 10U 100yd freestyle relay, (1:04.46)
 - Khanlen Ouimette, Connor Husk, Cohen Howell, Will Clark, 18U 200yd freestyle relay, (1:32.90)



THE YOUNGER SWIMMERS on the Middlebury Marlins Swim Team — those age 10 and younger — can’t help but smile after two days of successful swimming at state competition this past weekend. The local team placed first among D-II teams.

Courtesy photo

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Triathlon

(Continued from Page 1B)

fastest bike in 32:45, to take a commanding lead.

Middlebury’s Kyle Friis had a very balanced race with the fourth-best swim, third-fastest bike and run. Friis passed Stedman three miles into the ride to move into second. He made up 45 seconds on Freeman on the run but still came up second overall in 1:04:58. Stedman finished third, 2:20 behind Friis.

Local Vermont Sun Triathlon finishers included Middlebury athletes Christopher Sulva, 9th in the men’s 30-34 age group (1:40:31); Noelle Barr, 7th women’s 25-29 (2:11:10); and Luke Clark, 4th men’s 35-39 (1:47:14).

Triathletes from Bristol: Alyssa Greaney, 5th women’s 25 to 29; Wendie Puls, at age 72, was second in 70-74 (1:40:29).

Cornwall’s Barney Hodges took 5th men’s 55-59, while Tanya Byker won the women’s 50-59 group in 1:46:27. Ripton’s Alison Shelofsky won the women’s 60-64 division (1:29:48.65), and 29-year-old Kelsey Shelofsky was 3rd woman overall in the race (1:21:25.53). Eliot Hemingway, 20, of Shoreham was 14th place overall (1:18:09.42).

Complete results and splits can be found at vermontsun.com.

Athletes who didn’t want to or can’t run entered the Aquabike (swim/bike, no run). Salisbury’s all American triathlete Jeff Schuman, 70, despite a nasty crash just before the finish line, held off fellow all American Mark Pitts, 64, of North Woodstock, N.H., to win by 28 seconds. Both turned in outstanding times — 48:25 to 48:53. Salisbury’s Sean Sweeney, 69, was third, also with a strong time of 55:12.

Sunday also saw the Branbury Classic Triathlon, which is a three-discipline race that includes 1.5 miles of paddling instead of swimming 600 yards. It was held simultaneously with the larger Vermont Sun Race. Cody Barba, 32, of Lebanon, N.H., won in a time of 1:27:17. Taylor Dugan of Gorham, Maine, was second overall in 1:29:01. Caroline Sweeney of Salisbury was the second women’s finisher in the Branbury Aquabike race (1:19:18).

Race officials were disappointed that no local athletes entered the recreational triathlon as an individual or a team.

The Triathlon Series concludes with the Olympic distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon (1,500-yard swim, 28-mile bike, and 6.2-mile run) and the final Vermont Sun Triathlon on Sunday, Aug. 30. Both races are open to teams and have the Aquabike option.

Vermont Sun officials thank the towns of Salisbury and Leicester, the Brandon Rescue Squad, the Addison County Sheriff’s Department, Branbury State Park, and the MUHS cross-country team for their support and running the triathlons.

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Demo Derby

(Continued from Page 1B)

pushed into a corner by No. 84, the beast with the No. 7 regained control and showed the competition that he wasn't messing around. The audience was captivated by the bright pink Hello Kitty car, an early aggressor in the heat that eventually burned out. Ultimately surviving were Nos. 5, 7, and 24.

Starting off round three fiery and competitive, No. 717 quickly drove "Bad Dog" into the barricade, pushing the cement block a couple of feet out of place and pausing the heat. Waiting a minute for track officials to put the block back in place didn't cool the momentum of the match.

717 continued to go after Bad Dog and nobody was safe from the overall aggression of the competitors. Mud sprayed over the fence into the crowd and the back half of car No. 26 was fully crushed by the end of the heat. Emerging the top three of this exciting heat were 88x, 24c and one other.

Heat three's aggression carried over into the next round, which was promptly stopped after the gas tank was hit out of "Rice Cooker's" car, who was applauded off the field by the audience. The top matchup of the heat was between "DUI Guy" and "420," who spent minutes back-to-back pushing each other across the field. 420 eventually secured the win.

Smoke and fumes filled the air as No. 59 loudly asserted his presence and a four-car smashup piled in the middle of the tractor pad. Hanging on for dear life at the end, heat four's finalists were 420, 23, and 22G.

"Addison County, let's count down from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1!" yelled the

announcer along with the audience for the final compact car round, represented with crowd favorites. Ashley Tierney, younger sister of Dustin and Brandon Tierney, was a fresh face in the ring in her "Lil Tierney" car, cheered on by the audience. Her brother Brandon in his "Tinker" car was in the same heat.

Lil Tierney was immediately backed into the barricade by No. 33, but with a hit to 33 by Tinker, escaped and quickly made her mark on the heat. The round, complete with two "67" cars, was over relatively quickly and only one 67, driven by a guy named Tim, made it to the end, matched by the Tierney siblings.

The compact final was due to be run Wednesday evening after deadline for this edition.

Brandon Tierney, who gave the car he had spent time working on to his sister Ashley for her first derby, emerged as the "mad dog" in the minivans and pick-up truck heat, in his "Wild Child" black van.

Fiery fighting resulted in five stoppages in the round, the first for a driver door issue causing No. 25X to be pulled. Car 22G, with a headlight dangling in the front, lit up the field with ferocity, initially going after EV Dawg 71. A track official standing on the barricades near the fence jumped off at one point during the round, fearing his safety as cars raced close by. 47w's car had to be removed from the track after a substantial gas leak and Tierney was forced to accept defeat near the end of the match as Wild Child sputtered. The heat ended in a slow standstill between 22G and 7, whose dying cars were slow with flailing tires and tired engines. Just when the audience would think 7 was finished, the car would rev up and pursue 22G. Eventually, the cars parted from each other, and both separately stalled out. The driver of No. 22G was able to restart and emerged victorious, climbing onto his car to celebrate with the audience.

Dedicated fans stayed on for the loud and proud V8 automobiles heat. Soon after the round began, No. 069 caught air to the audience's excitement and every time the round was stopped, drivers were impatient to keep going. Tuesday V8 victors were Duncan Graham, No. 3 and Tom Woodbury driving No. 37.

Woodbury has loved cars since he was too small to drive them and competed in his first demolition derby the day after he turned 17. Hailing from Rutland, Woodbury has traveled across hundreds of county and state lines to compete and now hosts his own derbies across New England and New York. He loves the process of putting the cars together using parts he finds through work and his own car buying, and now passes his passion onto his nephews, friend's children and his own daughter, age 7. She competed in the power wheels division on Tuesday and when she gets old enough, she'll be driving in the derby, Woodbury said. There's nothing like a demolition derby for Woodbury, who has met many of his best friends through competition and cars. His wife used to compete as well.

"(Demolition derby) is family and friends and a little adrenaline," Woodbury said. "It's wild and I've never felt anything like it."



A DRIVER IN the winning car of Heat 1 at Tuesday's Demolition Derby at Field Days hands his helmet between contests.

Independent photo/Steve James



A DRIVER WAITS patiently during the sparse down moments during the Demolition Derby on Tuesday, Aug. 4 at Field Days in New Haven.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panthers

(Continued from Page 1B)

"That's our model. 1-0. Take it one day at a time."

He's not expecting a downhill battle.

"This league is ridiculously competitive. I mean, ridiculous in all sports. If you're not prepared, if you do not come with that right mentality every day, then you're going to lose in our league," Mandigo said. "It's that simple."

It wouldn't be surprising if that's a quality Mandigo looks for in his next quarterback. His options include senior Aidan Moss, junior Julian Schneider and sophomore Beckett Long.

"All three bring a lot to the

table, so we're excited about their development and what they do in preseason," Mandigo said.

That player will also want to have a good on-field connection with junior running back Connor McClellan, who scored 13 of the Panthers' 28 touchdowns last season. That number was also the top of the NESCAC stats, as were his rushing yards. His name was at the top of others, as well.

"He played a lot as a freshman, and then last year was just really our best player," Mandigo said.

Also anticipated to be key contributors are sophomores Jordan Angstreich and Luis Kuehberger. Mandigo commended the pair of

wide receivers' success as freshman starters, noting both "did really, really well, caught a lot of balls."

Mandigo is also hoping to see Jeremy Kiefer, a junior wide receiver, play a significant role on the offense.

Leading the defense will be linebacker and returning captain Matt Shaw. "Exceptional kid, leader. This will be his third year starting for us. And again, real dialed in, real football guy."

Senior linebacker Michael Votta is also anticipated to be key.

For the first time, the Panther football team has the opportunity to make their mark beyond the NESCAC league. This season

teams are permitted to compete in the NCAA Division III tournament.

When asked how, or if, that will change the season, Mandigo said, "It's not. We're gearing up to play Wesleyan."

"We've gotten beaten by them the last two years. We need to play better. We need to coach better," he said.

"I told the captains ... 'I really don't want to hear any talk about playoffs or the (NCAA's).' I don't want to talk about it. It's irrelevant right now."

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Ferrisburgh fire dept. barbeque approaches

FERRISBURGH — The Vermont State Primary Election is on Tuesday, Aug. 11. This is your opportunity to help choose the candidates who will represent their political parties in the General Election on November 3. In-person voting takes place at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

Our Town Clerk’s Office has valuable information about what is on the ballot and the voting process, including same day registration. Voting is easy and an important right for our civil society. Our town clerk is always available to help – call 802-877-3429 or visit tinyurl.com/FerrisbPrimary26.

The Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of Aug. 1, 15, and 29. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede requires some serious thinking so come prepared to use your strategic skills in this longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition.

The Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department is holding its annual Chicken Barbeque on Saturday,

Ferrisburgh

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NEWS

Aug. 15, at the Ferrisburgh Fire Department on Route 7. The meals will be take-out only beginning at 4:30, at a price of \$18 per meal. Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy this yummy BBQ with Jerry’s famous secret sauce. The funds raised support continuing fire service for the town of Ferrisburgh and surrounding towns.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will hold its Discovery Day on Friday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The events will answer questions such as how our ancestors built boats without power tools or how archaeologists discover shipwrecks underwater. Discovery Day offers hands-on activities for families and adventurous souls to try just about EVERYTHING the Museum has to offer. Learn how to row a longboat, try out the underwater ROV, get a behind-the-scenes look at the exhibits, learn how to 3D scan artifacts, step

(See Ferrisburgh, Page 11B)



aug 6 THURSDAY

Addison County Fair & Field Days in New Haven. Thursday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-midnight, 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.

“**The Madwoman in the Attic: Colonial and Racial Implications on Mental Health**” in Middlebury. Thursday, Aug. 6, 12:30-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Centered around a discussion of “The Wide Sargasso Sea” by Jean Rhys, presenters Allison Cardon & Alexandra Weimer will explore the intersection of race, mental health, and art. Written as somewhat of a prequel to Charlotte Bronte’s “Jane Eyre,” the book reframes the narrative of the madwoman in the attic by asking what drove her mad in the first place?

Speakers Bureau: “A Dramatic Constitution” in Middlebury. Thursday, Aug. 6, 1:30-3 p.m., Teen Center, 77 Mary Hogan Drive. Meg Mott considers how the Constitution forces and frames our disagreements. What does it mean for our republic when only legal professionals take the stage?

Joyride

SCREAM IF YOU love roller coasters! Carnival rides are just some of the highlights at Addison County Fair & Field Days, where farm traditions meet non-stop thrills. Grab a cotton candy, check out a few livestock shows and enjoy music from local bands through this Saturday, Aug 8, in New Haven. See the full schedule at addisoncountyfairfielddays.com

Independent file photo/Steve James

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aug 7 FRIDAY

Addison County Fair & Field Days in New Haven. Friday, Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m.-midnight, 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 6 listing.

Maritime Museum Discovery Day in Ferrisburgh. Friday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. A special hands-on day for families and adventurous souls to try just about everything the museum has to offer — all in one day. Learn to row in longboats, try out underwater ROV, get a behind-the-scenes look at exhibits and how we 3-D scan artifacts, step onto the Giant Lake Champlain Map, practice fly fishing, talk with boat building experts, step into the forge, and so much more. Food available for purchase from Viva El Sabor's Chef Eli. Free.

Artday Friday: Decorate a Doorhanger in Vergennes. Friday, Aug. 7, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. A family-friendly art day every Friday at the library. Supplies provided. Free.

Book reading and reception: “Henry Sheldon and The History of His Museum” in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 7, 5:30-7 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Join historian and author David Stameshkin for a reading, book signing and reception celebrating the publication of “Henry Sheldon and the History of His Museum, 1821–2021.” Drawing on decades of research, Stameshkin traces the life of the collector, historian and museum founder, and explores the evolution of the museum over its first century.

Five Fridays Concert: Atom & the Orbits in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 7, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant Street. 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.

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.

First Friday Films: “Man with a Plan” in Granville. Friday, Aug. 7, 6 p.m., The Corner School. A special 30th anniversary screening with director John O'Brien. A satire starring Vermont dairy farmer Fred Tuttle as himself in a fictional story that finds him running for the U.S. House of Representatives. Seating is limited. Free. vtcornerschool@gmail.com.

aug 8 SATURDAY

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 388-6019.

Addison County Fair & Field Days in New Haven. Saturday, Aug. 8, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m., 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 6 listing.

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 ft. of elevation gains over 4.4 miles. Contact Cary Beckwith at cwbeckwith@yahoo.com for more information. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

Intro to Stained Glass in Granville. Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., The Corner School. Learn how to create with glass in this one-day introduction to the craft led by artist Christian Jacquith. Learn techniques and create a beautiful sun catcher to take home. Suitable for ages 18 and up. Space is limited, registration required. vtcornerschool@gmail.com.

Project MICRO for Kids in Monkton. Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m.-noon, Russell Memorial Library. Children will be fascinated at the hidden details of life with microscopes and hand lenses while inspecting rocks, sand, bones and sea life. They will get a free hand lens to take home.

Butterfly Blitz in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Road. Scientists want to know what kind of butterflies live near you. Come join a team from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the Middlebury Area Land Trust for a day of butterflying. Teams travel in groups to various sites in the Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham

and Bridport area to conduct butterfly surveys for the Second Vermont Butterfly Atlas. Take this opportunity to meet other nature lovers and learn about butterflies in the field with the experts. No experience necessary. All ages welcome, but minors must be accompanied by an adult. Free. For more info visit tinyurl.com/middleburybutterfly.

Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area Opening Celebration. Sunday, Aug. 9, 1-3 p.m., Route 30. Celebrate CORA's ready-to-use tennis/pickleball courts and new pavilion, with opening words by selectboard Chair Tanya Byker. Refreshments to follow and music by Red Dog Riley.

Kids Dig Mount Independence: A Simulated Archaeological Dig in Orwell. Saturday, Aug. 8, 1-3:30 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Road. Where did the artifacts in our museum come from? Learn how archaeologists study a site. Each participant will take part in a simulated dig using archaeology tools to “find” artifacts soldiers would have used here in 1776. Children aged 6 to 12. Free with museum admission purchase. Call 802-948-2000 to reserve a space.

VFW Dance with music by Holly in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 8, 4-7 p.m., VFW Post 7823. Good music, good food, good times. Kitchen open until 6 p.m. Free.

Takeout Turkey and Summer Salad Supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Aug. 8, Vergennes United Methodist Church. Cold turkey, potato salad and broccoli salad, roll and dessert. Order by 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6. \$12. Call 802-877-3150 to preorder.

Reggae Night in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, top of Merchants Row. 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.

aug 9 SUNDAY

Masons Charity Fundraiser Breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, August 9, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, 2 Elm St. All proceeds go to the Starksboro Fire Department to help them defray lifesaving equipment costs. Menu: sausage gravy with homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, pancakes, French toast, maple syrup from Alan Mayer's sugarhouse and apple bread pudding. \$9 for adults; \$5 for kids under 12.

Two Plays and a Picnic in Vergennes. Sunday, Aug. 9, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. The Shelburne Players' third annual event. 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. And if you don't want to read, just come and listen. Dessert provided. Free. Email us at theshelburneplayers@gmail.com. For more info visit tinyurl.com/nt9n3c89.

Historic Clock and Watch Afternoon in Addison. Sunday, Aug. 9, noon – 4 p.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site. Green Mountain Timekeepers Society members talk about the history of your clocks, watches and perhaps even wristwatches, and how they can be repaired. Bring your old clocks and watches or photographs and find out more about your timepieces. Clock repair demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Learn about the Barnes family who made clocks at Chimney Point.

Pie & Ice Cream Social in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, Aug. 9, 1-3 p.m., Rokeby Museum. Rokeby's annual fundraiser combines homemade pie and Ben & Jerry's ice cream with live music, lawn games, raffles and tours. Admission is free; pie and ice cream \$8. For more info visit rokeby.org.

aug 10 MONDAY

African Drumming for Beginners in Middlebury. Monday, Aug. 10, 2-3 p.m., CSAC's The Center. Learn West African drum rhythms with Fode and Shelly. Some drums are available for use during gatherings or bring your own. Every Monday afternoon (except on holidays). Open to all. Parking available behind the building, please use the street facing entrance. Free. Zylpha, 802-388-3093 or Mary, 802-989-3074.

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, Aug. 10, 4:30 p.m., Addison County VFW 7823. \$1,000 jackpot. Benefits veterans programs. Kitchen opens 5 p.m., quickies 6 p.m., regular bingo 7 p.m.

Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 10, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on

aug 11 TUESDAY

Play: “Looking for Joe: The Amazing Life and Times of Joseph Addison” in East Middlebury. Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m., East Middlebury Methodist Church. Addison County was named after Joseph Addison, who lived in London over 300 years ago. His hit play “Cato” had a profound effect on the American Revolution and was George Washington's favorite play. Doug Anderson brings his fascinating take on Joseph Addison to life in this special performance sponsored by the East Middlebury Historical Society. Free.

aug 12 WEDNESDAY

St. Ambrose Lawn Party and Chicken Barbeque in Bristol. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5 p.m., Town Green. Barbecued chicken and fixin's; pie contest and sale, baked goods, white elephant. For more information, call 802-453-2488.

Deep Dives: 200 Years of the Champlain Canal in Ferrisburgh. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6-7 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Sailing Director Matt Harrison will discuss the museum's new book: “The Champlain Canal: 200 Years of Change.” The talk will focus on early tourism on the canal and on Lake Champlain, in particular the accounts of two women who recorded their vacations along the canal in the 1890s. A complimentary drink from Shacksbury Cider is included with registration. Free. For more info visit lcmmm.org/event/deep-dives-talk-081226.

Bristol Town Band Summer Concerts on the Park in Bristol. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday 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.

Green Mountain Club stargazing in Addison County. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 9 p.m. Navigate the summer night sky and learn to identify bright stars, asterisms, and constellations. Also enjoy looking for Perseid meteors. Location to be determined. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

aug 13 THURSDAY

Green Mountain Club hike: Otter Creek Gorge in Middlebury. Thursday, Aug. 13. Easy 2.6-mile hike with an elevation gain of 280 ft. This hike requires crossing two short suspension bridges over Belden Falls and takes you through a forest which skirts an open field before reentering the forest. The trail at the end goes over a rock outcropping with a cable for support. No dogs. Bring bug spray, snacks and water. Contact Steve Ralph at 802-398-5448 or sralph00@gmail.com to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

aug 14 FRIDAY

Artday Friday: Sketchbooks in Vergennes. Friday, August 14, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. A family-friendly art day every Friday at the library. Supplies provided. Free.

Carillon Concert Series in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 14, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. 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: Joseph Min, winner of the 2024 Queen Fabiola International Carillon Competition. Free.

CALENDAR

ONLINE

addisonindependent.com

At the college

Rewilding program still in an indefinite trial phase

By RACHELLE TALBERT
MIDDLEBURY — In 2023, Middlebury College launched the Rewilding Middlebury program, designed to cultivate native grasses and flowers on the outskirts of campus. Three years later, the plan remains in an indefinite trial phase.

The initiative established seven different “cover types,” alternatives to traditional lawns including clover lawns and native fescue grass, in underused areas of campus. The program could protect insect habitats and food sources, as well as reduce carbon emissions from large-scale lawnmowing.

Though intended to expand after a two year pilot phase, Rewilding Middlebury is over three years old, with no growth in sight.

Tim Parsons, head horticulturalist at Middlebury College, sees spaces on campus with potential to incorporate into the rewilding program, including space in the new Battell Park and around the upcoming art museum, scheduled to begin construction next year. However, with the college having other priorities, including an ambitious Strategic Plan, Parsons does not expect expansion of the rewilding program for many years.

“Decisions like that are made way above me,” Parsons told the *Independent*, “although I have thoughts.”

Currently, the rewilding program is situated south of Davis Family Library and spans six acres. The original plan hoped to expand after a two year trial, returning 27 acres to habitat spaces within five years, about 25% of land maintained by Middlebury College.

Although six out of seven attempted cover types have seen some success, the delay in expansion can be partially attributed to the white clover lawn, the only cover type that did not survive the trial phase.

“I don’t feel we’re quite done with the trial yet,” Parsons said. “I mean, I thought I was until all that clover died.”

In the debut of the program, Parsons planted two fields of white clover lawn, each immediately south of Davis library. After a drought in 2025, however, nearly all of the clovers died — a surprise to Parsons, due to white clover’s deep roots systems.

“Maybe this was just too hot and dry. I mean, certainly, this is the south side (of Davis Library), and you can almost feel the heat coming right off this building,” he explained.

Parsons intends to retry the clover lawn on a shadier part of campus, though no official plans have been made.

At the scale of six acres, ecological success is difficult to measure. However, the transition

to lawn alternatives is backed up by research.

Because turf grass is non-native and cut weekly at the college, the land sustains few local insects and wildlife. It becomes an ecologically barren zone, reducing natural biodiversity.

Middlebury Biology Professor Greg Pask, who specializes in Entomology, said that lawn mowing on the scale that Middlebury does — 97 acres weekly — harms local insects.

“It’s really not a complicated issue,” Pask said. “Large-scale lawn mowing is creating deserts for insects, where very few can find food and shelter.”

These insect deserts don’t just mean that we’re seeing less fireflies and butterflies this summer; the impact spans across ecological levels. Fewer insects means less pollination and decomposition. The impact also extends up the food chain, according to Environmental Studies Professor Alexis Mychajliw.

“From a small mammal perspective, alterations to insect populations can also impact our insectivorous mammals like shrews and moles,” Mychajliw said.

These small mammals also rely on leaf litter, fallen branches and vegetation cover to both forage in and hide from predators, Mychajliw said — each of which are removed by lawn mowing.

To measure the program’s impact on insect population, the Biology Department has been counting birds, another animal up the food chain that



AN ELM TREE stands tall amidst a field of native fescue grass in the Rewilding Middlebury College program. Though the location has been criticized by those who prefer the look of a freshly-mowed lawn, College Head Horticulturalist Tim Parsons thinks this zone is particularly beautiful.

Independent photo/Rachelle Talbert

preys on insects. Counting insects would be time-consuming and potentially inaccurate, and counting birds is a more easily quantifiable way to measure if native insect populations are increasing.

“If we count birds over 10 to 15 years, if we see an increase in birds, that means we’ve increased bird habitat by the fact there’s more bugs, because we brought them in with the tall grass,” Parsons said.

However, Parsons said this data is only a baseline, since the zones are still too small to have a significant impact. No total bird increase has been observed, but of the six zones where bird populations are measured, the one within the rewilding program sees the largest number of birds, Parsons said. Nonetheless, this may be because

of the zone’s proximity to forests off campus, so the cause cannot be confirmed.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

The program may also reduce the college’s carbon footprint. Prior to the rewilding, Middlebury College spent \$10,696 annually on gasoline for lawn-maintenance, releasing 20 tons of annual carbon emissions. In addition to reducing costs and carbon emissions from lawn mowing itself, many native grass species have deep roots systems — each of which store large amounts of carbon underground.

Though the environmental impact is an important factor, Parsons wants to prioritize the student experience on campus — consistently mowing areas that

(See Rewilding, Page 11B)



A MONARCH BUTTERFLY lands on a coneflower in the pollinator zone of the Rewilding Middlebury College program. Situated just north of Axinn Center, the field contains a variety of flowers and grasses — all intended to attract butterflies and bees.

Independent photo/Rachelle Talbert

Kids dig Mount Independence simulated archaeological dig in

ORWELL — Children ages 6 to 12 are welcome to come to the Mount Independence State Historic Site this Saturday, Aug. 9, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. to learn about what archaeology can reveal about the past. Each child will take part in a simulated dig using archaeology tools to “find” artifacts. Revolutionary War soldiers might have used here in 1776; they might also find modern day junk. All the items help tell the story of a place.

This is part of the historic site’s 250th anniversary commemoration in 2026. Young people can look at the artifacts in the museum and think about where they came from.

What objects can stay in the ground for 250 years and

what ones decay? Learn how archaeologists study a site.

If you like, call 802-948-2000 to reserve a space. The activity is included in the \$1 admission fee for this age group. Accompanying adults can visit the site during the activity — \$8 adults, or free for all with a pass from your local library.

Mount Independence, one of Vermont’s state-owned historic sites, is a National Historic Landmark and is one of the least disturbed Revolutionary War sites in America. It is located near the end of Mount Independence Road, six miles west of the intersections of Routes 73 and 22A in Orwell. Regular hours are 10a.-5 p.m. daily through Oct. 28 this year.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Join Lisa Boekman at the Community room of the Monkton Town Hall for an hour of yoga 9-10 a.m. on Aug. 8. Your appreciated donation will benefit the Russell Memorial Library. All you need to bring is a yoga mat. Call the library at 802-453-4471 if you have questions.

More fun happening at the library will continue as part of the summer theme with “Project Micro with Jan Schwartz” on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. till noon. Children will be fascinated at the hidden details of life with microscopes and hand lenses while inspecting rocks, sand, bones and sea life. They will even get a free hand lens to take home.

A busy Saturday, Aug. 8, continues with “Crafter-ernoon with Catherine” starting at 1 p.m. Children will hear a story or two about insects and make mud and worms dessert cups! Contact the library for more information. Also check to see if Storytime continues every Wednesday at the library.

Then join Eugenie Doyle for Ashtanga Yoga on Sunday, Aug. 9, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the library. Contact her at edoyle@gmavt.net for questions.

On Monday, Aug. 10, beginning at 7 p.m., you are invited to join friends and neighbors for a performance by Paul Lyons at the East Monkton Church, 405 Church Road.

Paul is a local musician who was born and raised in Chicago. He started playing piano as a youngster, played keyboards in local bands in high school, and studied music in college. He earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois in 2014. He moved to Vermont in 2016, and moved to Monkton in 2022. As a musician and teacher, he has continued to explore and develop his passion for music and instill that passion

in others. He plays solo piano and keyboards with many local bands, including the Lara Cwass Band, Bodacious, Mothership, and Coop. He also writes and records his own music, and in 2024 he released his first full-length solo album, which received great reviews in *Seven Days*. If you have questions about this event contact Candace Polzella at 802-453-7575.

Lauren Parren of Monkton Museum and Historical Society advised that the “soft” opening of the new museum exhibit last week was a big success. Nearly 50 people attended the opening and enjoyed the presentation by Chief Don Stevens, followed by a museum tour. The theme “Choices and Changes: the Early People of Monkton” will continue to grow as they add to the stories of three people living in or near Monkton at the time of the Revolution. A big thank you to all who attended!

Watch for information on August’s speaker Angie Grove, who is the executive director of the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum and will give a presentation on Aug. 17. Also check with the town clerk or librarian about getting a Monkton Button and what it’s all about.

Samantha Champagne of Champagne’s Black Belt Academy is starting weekly classes of taekwondo at the Monkton Town Hall Community Room on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 5-5:45 p.m. This will be a family class for all from age 6 plus. A household member discount will be 10% off of a monthly membership for additional household members. If you are curious about trying taekwondo, she will set up a free class for you to try out. Contact Samantha at info@champagnesbba.com or call 802-730-3015

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

The temperatures aren’t the only thing heating up this week!

We received three impressive entries this week, including two firsts for the year.

Jess Venable-Novak brought in a hefty zucchini “grown with love” by their four-year-old. It may be the first zucchini of the season, but at 19” L and 14” C, it’ll be a tough one to beat! Next, Joan Derry also kicked off a new category with the season’s first eggplant. Her impressive aubergine measured 23.5” C x 10” C, putting her firmly in the lead. Last but not least, George Marcus submitted not one, but two colossal cucumbers. Measuring 10” L x 10.75” C and 12” L x 8” C, the first cucumber takes over the top spot.

Fun Facts

You probably don’t need us to tell you this, but zucchini are among the fastest-growing vegetables in the garden (although, technically, they’re a fruit). During peak growing season, they can grow 1–2 inches per day! So dust off those zucchini bread recipes... and lock your car doors, or you just might find someone’s surplus zucchini riding shotgun.



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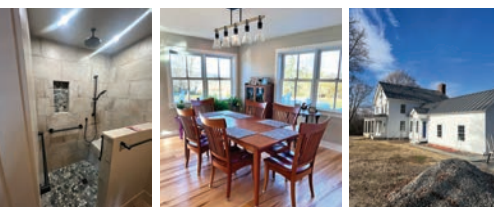
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9a>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: \$ _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: \$ _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Vacation Rentals

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

For Rent

2-BEDROOM; East Middlebury. No Pets, No Smoking. \$1500 plus utilities. Semi-furnished. First & last security deposit. 802-771-4686.

3 BEDROOM Single family residence located in Middlebury's Buttolph Acres neighborhood. Property fully renovated in 2018 and includes approximately 1200 sq ft of upstairs finished space and includes a partially finished basement. Property blends the convenience of in-town living with modern upgrades and plentiful gardening opportunities. Rent \$3,000 per month, \$3,000 security deposit, and tenant responsible for utilities, lawn mowing and snowplowing. Rental application and references required. For inquiries, contact 802-989-5113 or email: jhescock89@gmail.com

For Rent



ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

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

Help Wanted

For Rent

EAST MIDDLEBURY: Share lovely home with community-minded senior gentleman interested in gardening, artwork, hiking. Share some meals, conversation, occasional dog care in exchange for a reduced rent of \$500 (all included). Private 3/4 bath. No additional pets. No smoking. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

FURNISHED BEDROOM with private bath in cozy and attractive split plan ranch layout. Use of living room and kitchen anytime. TV/internet. Suitable for single lady or gent. No pets, no smoking please. Available September 1st - July 1st, 2027. Owner is single lady with Pomeranian. Not home on weekends. Full background check. Rental agreement. One month deposit. \$1,400/month - all inclusive. Call 802-338-2362.

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. ajnerioffice@gmail.com, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

WEST ADDISON: 2 STORY fully furnished house on lakefront with washer, dryer, Wi-Fi, parking. No smoking or pets. Prefer single tenant. Available September through April. 203-767-0386

Wood Heat

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

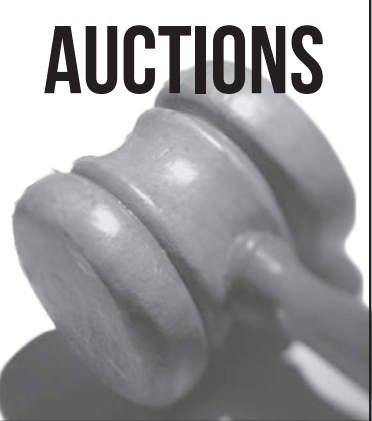
Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-458-1459.

Trucks

2011 SILVERADO 1500, 4WD, automatic, small 8 cyl., 101,000 miles. 3 passenger single cab. Grey/blue. Good shape. \$8,000. 802-349-0727.

Help Wanted



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 7/30/26 & 8/3/26

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
A Brisson	1920	1.95	\$3744.00
Gosliga	1775	1.95	\$3461.25
Blue Spruce	1620	1.90	\$3078.00
M. Eastman	1490	1.90	\$2831.00
Vorsteveld	2015	1.90	\$3828.50
Rowell Farm	1865	1.85	\$3450.25
Deer Valley	1515	1.75	\$2651.25

CALVES	\$
Richardson	\$1471.50
Barnes Bros	\$1456.00
B. Dykema	\$1404.00
C. Pease	\$1383.30
Iroquois	\$1415.20
Degraaf	\$1374.10

Total Beef - 126 Total Calves - 178

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 9B and 10B**

Addison Central School District (1)

Addison County Clerk (1)

Case Street Cemetery Association (1)

Leicester (1)

Middlebury (3)

Weybridge (1)

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

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

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm

Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

Wednesday - **Closed**

Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm

Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

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

STATE OF VERMONT

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 l 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

CASE STREET CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Case Street Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held at the cemetery on Monday, Aug. 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a chair. Open to the public.

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bridport, Cornwall, Mary Hogan, Middlebury Union High School, Middlebury Union Middle School, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge

Let this serve as notice that educational records, including Special Education Records, of students in the MUHS class of 2016 are being destroyed in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines. This includes records of graduates and students who have transferred and withdrawn.

If you would like your records, please call or email Sarah Kemp at MUHS prior to August 21st to make an appointment to pick them up. Identification will be required. 802.382.1195 skemp@acsdvt.org

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

**Middlebury Investors, LLC/Middle Road Apartments - CHIP Application
Tuesday, August 25, 2026, 8pm**

The Town of Middlebury Selectboard will hold a Public Informational Hearing on August 25, 2026 at 8pm to take public testimony and review the proposed State of Vermont Community and Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) application for the Middlebury Investors LLC's Middle Road Apartments project on Middle Road in Middlebury, Vermont. The public hearing will take place at the Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 and via Zoom videoconferencing (instructions below).

**Zoom Information - To view and participate in the
Public Informational Hearing:**

When: August 25, 2026, 8PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87631434398>

Phone one-tap: +16465588656, 87631434398# US (New York)

Webinar ID: 876 3143 4398

CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET # 24-CV-00690

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 outbuilding 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

Head Start is Hiring!

Head Start is a federally funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families. Services for children promote school readiness, and include early education, health, nutrition, mental health, and services for children with special needs. Services for parents promote family engagement and include parent leadership and social service support.

Current Opportunities

Early Head Start Toddler Teacher Associate - Addison County Early Learning Center

Full-time: 40 hours/week, year-round (52 weeks).

Pay: \$22.96 – \$24.07/hour (based on qualifications)

Substitute Teacher

On-call, as-needed positions. Pay: \$20.00/hour. Opportunity to support early education classrooms on a flexible basis

**Ready to join a mission-driven organization
dedicated to children and families?**

Apply Today!



We're one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont!
Join us to find out why!

[CVOEO.org/careers](https://cvoeo.org/careers)

Visit the CVOEO careers page to
view full job descriptions and submit
your application

cvoeo
THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Three transported to mental health facilities

ADDISON COUNTY — Three times last week, the Addison County Sheriff’s Department transported individuals to mental health facilities on behalf of the Vermont Department of Mental Health.

On July 27, 29 and 30, deputies transported three individuals, located in Middlebury, at Gifford Medical Center and at the UVM Medical Center, respectively. All three have been safely relocated to mental health facilities.

Meanwhile, between July 28 and 30 local deputies assisted the Rutland County Sheriff’s Department with transports.

Between July 26 and Aug. 1, the Addison County Sheriff’s Department stopped 90 vehicles for various violations, in addition to completing patrols through multiple towns in Addison County.

In those weeks, Sheriff Michael Elmore and his deputies also:

- On July 27, transported an individual from jail to the courthouse for a hearing.
- On July 27, conducted a welfare

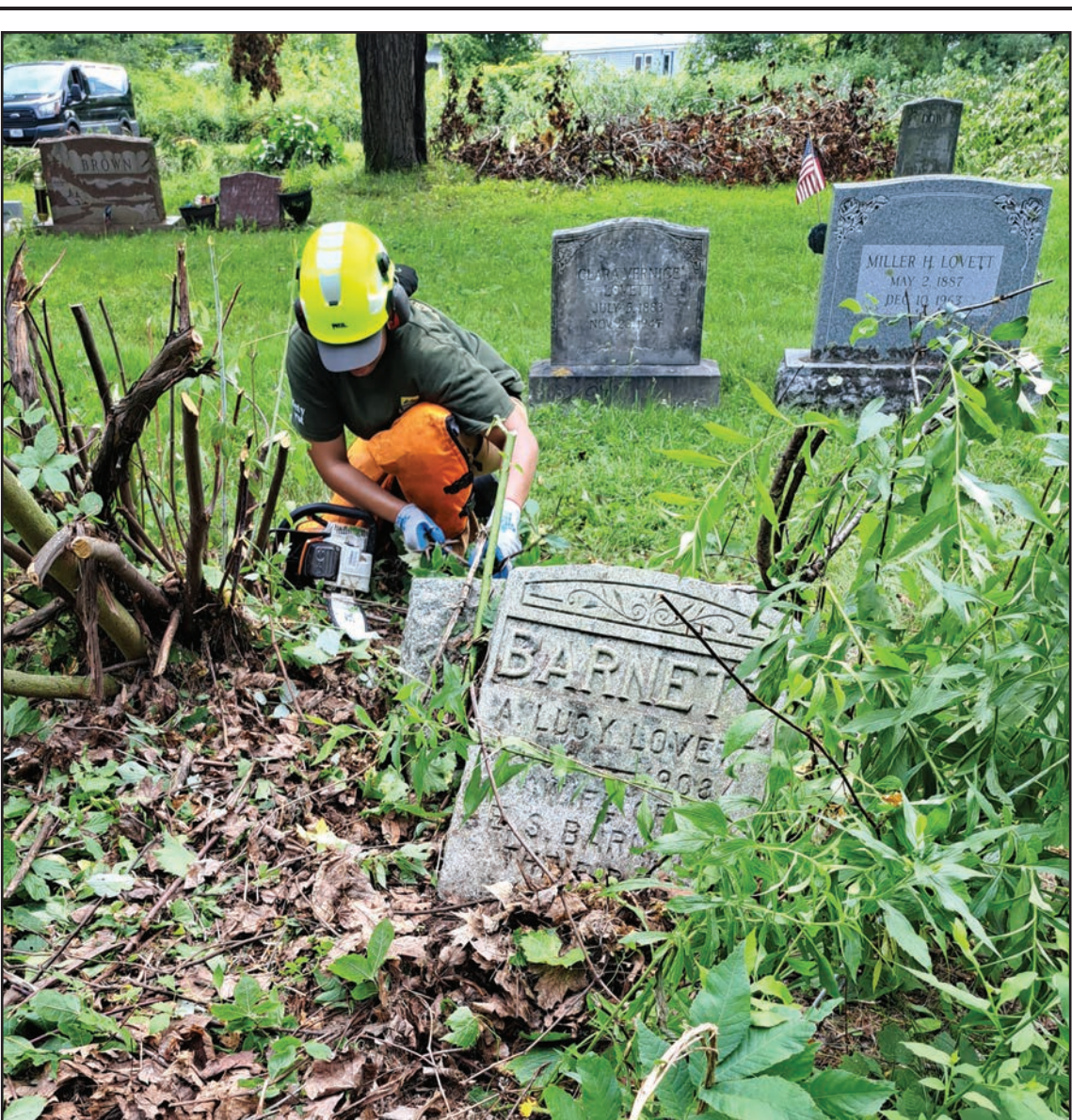
Sheriff’s Log

check on a resident of Leicester. Deputies found the individual to be alive and well.

- On July 27, verified a VIN for a New Haven resident.
- On July 27, Sheriff Elmore led a safety meeting at Field Days in preparation for the fair.
- On July 28, Sheriff Elmore met with other agency heads in Addison County.
- On July 29, assisted Middlebury police with a call.
- On July 29, Sheriff Elmore participated in a monthly meeting with other sheriffs from around the state.
- On July 30, took several individuals’ fingerprints in Middlebury for civil purposes.
- On July 30, assisted Vermont State Police with a call for a possible

break-in in New Haven. Deputies found the call to be a false alarm.

- On July 30, transported a juvenile from Gifford Medical Center in Randolph to a juvenile facility on behalf of the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF).
- On July 31, transported three prisoners to court from the jails in St. Albans, Springfield and Rutland for hearings in Middlebury.
- On July 31, inspected a new child car seat for a family in Middlebury.
- On July 31, prepared for Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.
- On July 31, helped DCF locate a parent.
- On July 31, took a report from the Middlebury Transfer Station, where residents can dispose of solid waste, of a person that drove away without paying for the items dropped off. Deputies located the individual, who then returned to pay for the items.
- On Aug. 8, assisted Porter Hospital with security due to short staffing.



Spruce-up time!

SEVEN NORTHLAND JOB Corps students and their instructor put their skills to work last week at Middlebury’s Case Street Cemetery, trimming, pruning and raising the canopy as part of phase one of the cemetery’s upgrade project. Their efforts not only help maintain the grounds, they also move the students closer to job placement or advanced training. The second phase, scheduled for next year, involves fixing and cleaning the headstones. Anyone interested in volunteering can learn more by attending the Case Street Cemetery Association’s meeting at the cemetery on Monday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Photo from Carol Wood

Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 4B)

onto the Giant Lake Champlain Map, practice fly fishing and other fishing skills, talk with boat building experts, and many other experiences. Admission is free and food will be available for purchase from Viva El Sabor’s Chef Eli who will be serving classic Mexican cuisine. For more information on Discovery Day and the many other summer offerings of the Museum, visit: lcmh.org/museum.

The next My Dentist’s Son session will meet virtually on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 8 p.m.–10 p.m. This is a space to share your tales of magic and miracle and to find meaning in stories that don’t seem to fit. All are welcome to share or to simply listen. To join, register at: us02web.zoom.us/join/register/Pt0IJA1T1-MiGEhLEp1IQ#/registration. For more information visit www.mydentistson.com.

Rokeby is hosting its annual Pie and Ice Cream Social on Sunday, Aug. 9, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Bring your family and friends for this celebration of summer and community — and a delicious way to support the Museum. Admission to the museum is free and a slice of pie and ice cream is \$8.00. For more information visit: rokeby.org/event/2026-pie-ice-cream-social.

The Bixby Library will present an author talk on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 5:30 p.m. The featured book is Peddlers, Merchants, Junk Dealers: Jewish Life in Small-Town Vermont by Margaret K. Nelson. The book describes Jewish life in Vermont as an illustration of the experiences of non-urban Jews in general. Nelson is the Hepburn Professor Emerita of Sociology at Middlebury College. She is the author of numerous books, including “Parenting Out of Control: Anxious Parents in Uncertain Times” and “Keeping Family Secrets: Shame and Silence in Memoirs from the 1950s.”

The Friends of the Bixby have been holding their book sales throughout the spring and summer and these events will continue

into the fall. The book sales are 9 a.m.–1 p.m. on the Saturdays of Aug. 8, September 12, and October 10. Bring your gently used books for donation to the Library on the Thursday prior to the sale date between 3 p.m.–6 p.m. Special sales will also be held on Aug. 22 (Vergennes Day,) September 26 and December 5. These are important fundraisers for the Bixby in addition to being a great way to share your books and freshen up your personal library! For more details about the types of donated books accepted, visit bixbylibrary.org/friends.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.

Bristol Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police on July 31 arrested Peter J. Nelson, 58, of Bristol on a warrant for failing to appear for a previous court date for driving with a criminally suspended license.

Between July 26 and Aug. 1, Bristol police completed five

foot patrols and one car patrol, conducted two traffic stops and checked security at local schools 11 times and at area businesses four times.

Police also processed 11 fingerprint requests, verified one vehicle identification number,

attended two events and assisted citizens on one occasion and other agency in three instances.

In other recent activity, Bristol police responded to two incidents involving suspicious activity, two animal problems, one wanted person case and one fraud.

Rewilding

(Continued from Page 5B)

get constant use, and using native grasses to beautify areas that don’t.

“There is no more appropriate place to have a lawn than a college campus, because they actually get used,” Parsons said. “But we also have lawns that we mow that haven’t seen a student foot in 20 years.”

With scattered Adirondack chairs all across the campus, most lawns

see frequent student use. To protect Middlebury’s outdoor culture, Parsons enlisted two Middlebury students to design the rewilding program around protecting the lawns students spend time on, only rewilding the ones they don’t.

The approach has been well-received by most of the Middlebury community, though some miss the look of a well-manicured lawn.

“To some people, it doesn’t look

good. It looks like weeds that we forgot to mow,” Parsons said. “And I get that. We’ve been here for 200 years.”

To Parsons, however, the return of native grasses enhances the look of campus.

“It frames those old buildings really well. Those two gorgeous elms that sit right in the center of the fescue zone — to my eye, that looks great.”

Vergennes police

(Continued from Page 10B)

- On July 31 took a report of what appeared to be a “beheaded dog” floating in Otter Creek near Falls Park. Officers were unable to locate the carcass and they called Vermont Fish and Wildlife to make them aware.

- On July 31 received a report of a car alarm that continued to go off.
- On July 31 assisted a disabled FedEx van that was partially in the road.
- On July 31 received a report about a damaged vehicle as the result of a large pothole, which was

washed out near the construction on Canal Street. A police report was provided to the complainant.

- On Aug. 1 conducted a drug influence evaluation on a driver suspected of using drugs for Vermont State Police.

MiniBury

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

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

MiniBury.com

AT

THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT TRUST

Strong newspapers grow strong communities.

Got questions? We have answers.

Find more frequently asked questions at ADDYINDYTRUST.ORG

SHOULD I DONATE TO THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT TRUST NONPROFIT OR THE ADDY ALL-STAR PROGRAM?

ADDY ALL-STAR contributions come directly to The Addy Indy. The paper uses these funds for its general operations. They also enable us to offer discounted subscriptions to anyone who can’t afford the annual cost of a subscription.

A donation made to The Addison Independent Trust is tax-deductible and funds are used specifically to create and grow reliable, quality local news in Addison County. As a qualified 501(c)(3), charitable gifts to The Addison Independent Trust could be a tax-efficient way for you to support The Addy Indy, and we encourage you to consider making a 3- to 5-year pledge.

HOW DOES THE NONPROFIT FUND THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT?

Donations made to the nonprofit will be distributed in the form of grants.

Want to learn more about how your gift can help?

Contact Elsie or Angelo at give@addyindytrust.org

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER WITH US. IT'S YOUR ADDY INDY.



Foodaroo for me and you

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL Foodaroo, a delicious melding of mobile gastronomy and entertainment, took centerstage at Middlebury's Marble Works on Sunday. Clockwise from top-left: Tobin of the Red Trouser Show wowed the crowd with his juggling; street performer Wacky Chad jumps rope on his hands and knees; some of the estimated 3,000 Foodaroo attendees decide on what's for dinner; David and Tobin of Red Trousers balance atop a 20-foot extension ladder; the All Night Boogie Band provided a sweet soundtrack for the event; Bristol friends Janie Stiess, 8, and Fiona Davis, 7, enjoy some cotton candy; Claire Ayer, left, Anne Collins Haynie and Anya Hardy-Mittell had the tough task of judging a pie contest; Middlebury's dog mayor Otto made an appearance; and Paul Ralston, director of Food for Hope, dishes up a serving of mac & cheese with Jill Huizenga.

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright



ARTS+LEISURE

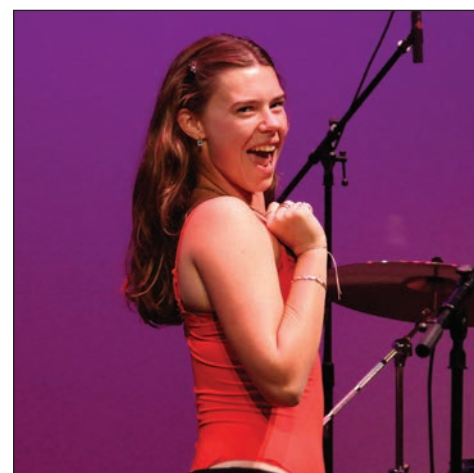
The Addison Independent

August 6, 2026



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

INAUGURAL EVENT
DRAWS APPLAUSE



Pictured from top left clockwise: Nawale Nachula, Kai Fukuda (singer) and Jon Jon March (drums), Nolan Plummer, Henry Bolch, Amaya Norton-Scherer, the band Breaking Pledge, Anna Armstrong and Naomi Clark. These were some of the performers at the inaugural Battle of the Bands, held at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater last Thursday night.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / JING WILLIAMS

Stomping their feet and screaming, over 120 people, mostly Middlebury College students, danced and sang along at the first Battle of the Bands last Thursday at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. The event was planned by THT interns Max Blumenthal and Anna Armstrong.

By **JING WILLIAMS**

Four bands, mainly from Middlebury College, performed,

but only one could take home the coveted lobster trophy — aptly named “Bob” — created by Blumenthal and Armstrong. The winning band would be determined by how loud the audience clapped. An “applause-o-meter” was set up on the background screen and at the end of each band's set, the audience showed their enthusiasm and their peak decibel was recorded.

Hitting a record 101.2 decibels to take home the lobster trophy was Fukuda, a band named after the last name of brothers Kai and Kaz. Going with the flow was the theme of the night for Fukuda, whose band doubled in size for Battle of the Bands, and changed their name during the show, with audience approval, to something a little more musical: *Funkuda*.

See **BANDS** on page 3

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UNTIL
7:00 PM

MUSICAL GUESTS

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

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

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BANDS

continued from page 1

Along with Kai Fukuda, Middlebury ('23.5), and Kaz Fukuda, Berklee College of Music ('29), the band was joined last minute by drummers Naomi

Clark, Middlebury ('24) and Jon Jon March, Middlebury ('23.5). While it wasn't March's first time playing in front of an audience, it was the first time for his new and improved meniscus he recently got surgery on, as Kai Fukuda proudly announced on stage.

It was a bittersweet performance for the group because Clark and March were both moving away the next morning and had just finished cleaning their home before the show, said Kai Fukuda. March and Kai Fukuda have been playing music together for six years now.

"I'm going to miss this man so much," Kai Fukuda said of March after the show.

"We've been roommates since freshman year, and it's been really cool getting to play music together, and now to get to play with Kaz," March added. "I'm going to miss it for sure."

Kai Fukuda, a musician based in Vermont, said the band will continue to find ways to play together despite his friends moving away. For Clark, playing at the Battle of Bands wasn't something she had on her mind until a couple of hours before the show.

"I've been listening to them play for a while and literally at 3:30 today they decided to add me to the set," Clark said. "I had to learn all the lyrics today, but I had it pulled up on my phone."

Kai Fukuda and Clark — a faculty member of the film department at Middlebury for the past two years — have been collaborating musically for a long time, generally over music scoring, but it was their first time playing on stage together in that configuration at the Battle of the Bands.

Three other bands performed to the audience's delight on Thursday, starting with Vintage Designs, composed of vocalist Naomi Fitzpatrick, Christa Maghamez, Cassidy Nguyen, Katie Albin Marthage, and Anna Armstrong. When the band started playing their second song, Blumenthal and various other students playing in the bands started dancing, waving their friends down from the stands. The crowd soon followed and by the time Vintage Designs started "Ain't It Fun"



The winning band Funkuda was crowned with the prize of a handmade lobster plate — and ultimate bragging rights. The band included Kai Fukuda, Middlebury ('23.5); Kaz Fukuda, Berklee College of Music ('29); Naomi Clark, Middlebury ('24); and Jon Jon March, Middlebury ('23.5).

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / JING WILLIAMS

by Paramore, more than 50 students were dancing and singing along, encouraged by Fitzpatrick.

Between each band, Blumenthal provided comic relief — Battle of the Bands themed. His self-described "goofy" jokes got the audience laughing and contributed to the upbeat atmosphere of the night.

Vintage Designs was followed by Breaking Pledge, featuring Ayele Gousseva, Henry Bolch, Aris Techasukij and for a second time, Anna Armstrong. Despite it being their first time singing lead vocals, Bolch and Gousseva engaged the crowd, performing an original and the crowd favorite "You" by Radiohead.

Armstrong's work didn't stop at helping to plan the event — she stepped in as a drummer for bands as needed and after Breaking Pledge performed, even played in a passionate drum off with Nawale Nachula, drummer for Middlebury band BINGO.

Nachula and Armstrong traded lines in the drum-off, smiling and nodding at each other's improvisation. The crowd cheered along, chanting their names and

dancing.

Afterwards, Nachula joined Grace Ashford, Nolan Plummer, Amaya Norton-Scherer and Zev Gold in BINGO's performance. It was a night of firsts for BINGO, most of whom had just met each other this summer and practiced

together a grand total of two times before the show. It was one member's first actual band experience, Plummer said, and the first time that Ashford's original song "Lucy" was performed in front of an audience.

"Everyone was very happy with how everything went," Plummer said of the performance, adding that he feels Middlebury is a great place for live music. "It's great to bring students off campus into the town and it was really fun."

Finishing off the show was Fukuda, completing their set with "(I Don't Want to Be a) Billionaire," by Theo Katzman. Kai Fukuda taught the audience the chorus before they started, and the room was filled with everyone's voices by the end of the song.

The idea for the Town Hall Theater's inaugural Battle of the Bands came to interns Armstrong and Blumenthal when putting up flyers for a different event and thinking about a final project that could bring a younger audience to the theater.

"We know how much this space matters to the community and we wanted to open it up to even more people," Blumenthal said.

With the college out of session for the summer, Armstrong and Blumenthal said there have been few performance opportunities for students on campus, so this was an exciting chance for musicians at Middlebury. The community was responsive to the idea, the interns said, with Middlebury Community Music Center and the college both lending equipment for the show. Armstrong and Blumenthal also expressed gratitude to the team at Town Hall Theater who supported their vision and brought it into reality.

"I'm really proud of the work that went into all of this," Armstrong said. "I'm really, really glad that we were able to give a lot of people in the music community a space to play and have fun and perform in front of an audience. I'm just really happy."

The best part of the show for the interns was seeing the audience's joy and engagement with all the music, shouting at the top of their lungs to vote for their favorite bands. Although Blumenthal and Armstrong won't be interns next summer, they hope the Battle of the Bands can continue again.

"I'm over the moon," Blumenthal said after the show. "I am just so ecstatic with how people showed out and we had a standing room ... I couldn't have asked for more. It was just such an amazing vibe. We had so many different varieties of music and even through the slower songs, and the more insanely exciting songs, people were still so engaged."

**"EVERYONE WAS VERY
HAPPY WITH HOW
EVERYTHING WENT ...
IT'S GREAT TO BRING
STUDENTS OFF CAMPUS
INTO THE TOWN, AND IT
WAS REALLY FUN."**

— Nolan Plummer

FILM SCREENING

Current trends in American indie filmmaking

Much of our programming for the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival reflects the current state of the American independent film world, and this is directly tied to the dynamics of U.S. film financing and distribution.

I would argue that among American indies, documentaries rule. This year's terrific selection of American docs includes "Bucks Harbor," "The Last Critic," "Seized," "My NDA," "Steal This Story, Please!," "Creede, USA," "Give Me the Ball," "The History of Concrete," "Wood Street," and "Gaslit," among others. It also features international docs such as "Jail Time Records," "The Siege of Paradise," and "The Butcheress of Trois-Pistoles."

The reasons for this are simple. Documentaries are typically less expensive to produce, and there are identifiable funding sources, including some through PBS. Money to make U.S. narrative films is mostly limited to equity investment, and it's very difficult to access, given the limited revenue available through distribution, which is now mostly generated through online streaming.

I can provide my own example. Last week, I received \$438 for the last three months of streaming for my 2023 narrative film, "Jack London's Martin Eden" — to 78,000



Fest preview

By JAY CRAVEN

viewers. It's not much money compared to its \$1.3 million production cost.

Back in the days of video stores, when families streamed in every weekend, indie filmmakers would earn as much as \$30 for each VHS tape sold to America's 30,000 stores. A decent indie film could sell 50,000 to 100,000 tapes — or even more.

In Europe, Canada and many other countries, substantial public funding is available to support narrative and documentary filmmakers, mostly through public television outlets such as the BBC and Film 4 in England, Arte and France Télévisions in France, ZDF in Germany, and others. Europeans and Canadians also have film funding agencies that collaborate across national boundaries.

The European and Canadian structures helped sustain a broad range of first-time

See FILM on page 14



Rudolph Valentino and Vilma Banky star in "Son of the Sheik" (1926), part of a program to honor the 100th anniversary of the iconic actor's untimely death. The film — Valentino's last — will be shown with live music on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon. The program is free and open to the public; donations are accepted to support Brandon Town Hall's silent film programming.

Iconic screen lover Rudolph Valentino stars in silent film 100 years after his death

He was the cinema's first sex symbol, causing hordes of female moviegoers to flock to his pictures throughout the 1920s. He starred in films designed to show off his Latin looks, his smoldering eyes, and his dancer's body. And his untimely death in August 1926, at age 31, prompted mob scenes at his funeral in New York.

He was Rudolph Valentino, who remains an icon for on-screen passion long after he caused a sensation in the 1920s.

"Son of the Sheik" (1926), one of Valentino's most acclaimed films, will be screened with live music on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, located on Route 7 in Brandon. The program is free and open to the public; donations are accepted to support Brandon Town Hall's silent film programming.

The screening will feature live accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based composer who specializes in creating scores for silent films.

"These films are still exciting experiences if you can show them as they were designed to be screened," Rapsis said. "There's a reason people first fell in love with the movies. At their best, silent films were communal experiences in which the presence of a large audience intensifies everyone's reactions."

For each film, Rapsis improvises a music score using original themes he creates beforehand. None of the music is written down; instead, the score evolves in real time based on audience reaction and the overall mood as the movie is screened.

For more info on the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.



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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: Edith Beatty. Beatty works in encaustic, an ancient medium in which pigmented beeswax is melted, applied and fused layer by layer to build luminous, textured surfaces. Join Beatty for an artist's talk on Friday, Aug. 14. Refreshments begin at 6 p.m., followed by the talk at 7 p.m. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation. Beatty's work will be on view through August.

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.

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.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes

For more info contact info@lcmmm.org or 802-475-2022.

"Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain." Combining archaeological research, shipwrecks, original artifacts, and first-person accounts, visitors can reflect on the events of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain, including the Battle of Lake Champlain, and the impact it had on people from multiple perspectives. On view May through Oct. 18.

"Parley and Protocol, War and Peace." This exhibition by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association brings together historical documents, maps, and art with work by present-day American Abenaki artists, sharing Indigenous perspectives on the founding of the United States. On view June through Oct. 18.

See EXHIBITS on page 15



ARIES: March 21/April 20. You have been burning the candle at both ends, Aries. You can't run on caffeine and grit all of the time. Find a day to rest before your body makes that decision for you.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Someone is testing your patience this week, Taurus. Before you stick to your guns, ask yourself if this is a battle worth fighting and then proceed.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. It's time to mute as much internal noise as possible, Gemini. Focus on one project and make a concerted effort to finish it before jumping to the next thing on your to-do list.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, the stars are washing over your emotional sector, making you confront what you have been sweeping under the rug for some time. Trust your feelings.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, the universe is asking you to give others a shot to shine and for you to step into the background. Use this week to refine your talents out of the spotlight.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, keep your eyes open for a chance encounter mid-week that could spark a great new idea. Let go of the need to control the outcome and just go with the flow.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Collaboration is your superpower this week, Libra. If you've been stuck on a professional problem, run it by a colleague.

The answer may lie in a perspective you haven't considered yet.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Your financial intuition is incredibly sharp, Scorpio. Trust your instincts right now. It's a great week to pitch a big idea, ask for a raise or reevaluate your budget.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, you are feeling an itch to break free from your routine but don't know where to begin. Don't drop everything just yet. Explore little adventures first.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. There are a lot of ideas floating around in your head, Capricorn, but none have solidified into action just yet. Seek the opinions of others to identify a path forward.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, every time you think you have a plan in place, the variables change. That's alright because you always have a backup idea should different scenarios present themselves.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. You can't predict where a relationship will go, Pisces. This week it is best to simply maintain the status quo. Things will be revealed soon enough.

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AUG. 7 — Alberto Salazar, runner (68)
AUG. 8 — Roger Federer, tennis player (45)
AUG. 9 — Whitney Houston, singer (d)
AUG. 10 — Suzanne Collins, writer (64)
AUG. 11 — Viola Davis, actor (61)

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 12 — Erwin Schrödinger, physicist (d)
AUG. 13 — Lucy Stone, abolitionist and suffragist (d)

CALENDAR

August 6-15
2026

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Online!

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THURSDAY, AUG. 6
ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.
 Thursday, Aug. 6, 8 a.m.-midnight, 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.

PIZZA BY THE POND: FOOTWORKS PLAYS LIVE IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Aug. 6, 5-8 p.m., Blueberry Hill Inn, 1245 Goshen Ripton Road. Enjoy all-you-can-eat wood-fired pizza made with Vermont flour, lemonade and a beautiful atmosphere. Footworks brings powerful rhythms and red-hot fiddling inspired by the Celtic music of Cape Breton. Pizza starts at 5, music at 6 p.m. BYOB. Local ice cream and Blueberry Hill cookies also available. Well-behaved leashed dogs welcome. \$34 for adults; \$23 kids 7-11; free for kids 6 and under. Reservations open the Saturday before and are strongly suggested.

FRIDAY, AUG. 7
ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN.

Friday, Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m.-midnight, 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 6 listing.

FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT: ATOM & THE ORBITS IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 7, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant Street. 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.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS: "MAN WITH A PLAN" IN GRANVILLE. Friday, Aug. 7, 6 p.m., The Corner School. A special 30th anniversary screening with director John O'Brien. A satire starring Vermont dairy farmer Fred Tuttle as himself in a fictional story that finds

him running for the U.S. House of Representatives. Seating is limited. Free. vtcornerschool@gmail.com.

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.

SATURDAY, AUG. 8
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 388-6019.

ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN NEW HAVEN. Saturday, Aug. 8, 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m., 1790 Field Days Road. See Aug. 6 listing.

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.

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 ft. of elevation gains over 4.4 miles. Contact Cary Beckwith at cwbeckwith@yahoo.com for more information. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

SUNDAY, AUG. 9
TWO PLAYS AND A PICNIC IN VERGENNES. Sunday, Aug. 9, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. The Shelburne Players' third annual event. 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. And if you don't want to read, just come and listen. Dessert provided. Free. Email us at theshelburneplayers@gmail.com. For more info visit tinyurl.com/nt9n3c89.

MONDAY, AUG. 10
VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES. Monday, Aug. 10, 7-8 p.m., City green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

MONDAY MUSIC: PAUL LYONS IN MONKTON. Monday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., East Monkton Church. Paul Lyons is a local musician who was born and raised in Chicago. He earned a master's in music from University of Illinois. As a performer and teacher, he develops his passion for music and instills

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- Governor's Conference - 08/03 - 1:30PM
- Vermont's Civil War Hero - 8/04 - 7PM
- All Things LGBTQ - 8/05 - 5PM
- Democracy Now - Live - Weekdays - 8AM
- MCTV Late Night Lofi - All Night - 10PM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

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 middleburycommunitytv.org

Top Pick

The Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) committee invites the public to the **"Semi" Grand Opening on Aug. 9, from 1-3 p.m.** The tennis and pickleball courts are ready to use. Then relax in the new pavilion built by Cornwall volunteers and TimberHomes staff. Red Dog Riley will play, Cornwall selectboard chair Tanya Byker will speak and refreshments will be served.

that passion in others. He plays with many local bands, including the Lara Cwass Band, Bodacious, Mothership and Coop. He also writes and records his own music, and in 2024 he released his first full-length solo album.

TUESDAY, AUG. 11

PLAY: "LOOKING FOR JOE: THE AMAZING LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSEPH ADDISON" IN E. MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m., East Middlebury Methodist Church. Addison County was named after Joseph Addison, who lived in London over 300 years ago. His hit play "Cato" had a profound effect on the American Revolution and was George Washington's favorite play. Doug Anderson brings his fascinating take on Joseph Addison to life in this special performance sponsored by the East Middlebury Historical Society. Free.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12

MUSIC AT THE RIVERBEND: GOLD DUST GYPSIES IN BRANDON. Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m., Riverbend, Central Park. Fleetwood Mac and Stevie Nicks tribute band Gold Dust Gypsies performs live. Rain location Brandon Town Hall. Free.

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: SUNDAY MORNING IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE PARK IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m., Town Green. The Bristol Town Band is back for its 156th year of weekly evening concerts. Each Wednesday through Aug. 26 the Town Green will be filled with music and events. Bring a picnic and chair to enjoy the music with family and friends. We welcome new members. Call 802-281-2315 for more information about joining the band.

WHAT ABOUT WEDNESDAYS? JORDAN TICE & JOSEPH TERRELL IN WEYBRIDGE.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m., 3345 Quaker Village Rd. Terrell is a master of flatpicking and fingerstyle guitar; Tice is well known as a founding member of the instrumental progressive string band Hawktail. Tice has released numerous solo projects and performed alongside prominent roots artists like Aoife O'Donovan and David Rawling. Terrell spent over a decade as a singer, guitarist and primary songwriter for the North Carolina Americana quartet Mipso. His solo work blends traditional folk storytelling with sonic experimentation. Space for 30 people; reservation required. No elevator and a small flight of stairs. If possible, bring a second pair of indoor shoes or slippers. BYOB. Light refreshments will be provided. \$25.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB STARGAZING IN ADDISON COUNTY.

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 9 p.m. Navigate the summer night sky and learn to identify bright stars, asterisms, and constellations. Also enjoy looking for Perseid meteors. Location to be determined. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or 802-349-3733 to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

THURSDAY, AUG. 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: OTTER CREEK GORGE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Aug. 13. Easy 2.6-mile hike with an elevation gain of 280 ft. This hike requires crossing two short suspension bridges over Belden Falls and takes you through a forest that skirts an open field before reentering the forest. The trail at the end goes over a rock outcropping with a cable

for support. No dogs. Bring bug spray, snacks and water. Contact Steve Ralph at 802-398-5448 or sralph00@gmail.com to register. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

CARILLON CONCERT SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 14, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. 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: Joseph Min, winner of the 2024 Queen Fabiola International Carillon Competition. Free.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 14, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Sweet Roots and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free.

YOUNG COMPANY CLASSICAL PRESENTS "ANTIGONE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater. The 16-member ensemble time travels, rocks out and cajoles the audience with humor and pathos bringing to life the world of ancient Greece and making it have meaning today in this staging of Sophocles' Antigone directed by Lindsay Pontius and Keziah Wilde. \$10-\$25.

SATURDAY, AUG. 15

YOUNG COMPANY CLASSICAL PRESENTS "ANTIGONE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater. See Aug. 14 listing.

POCOCK ROCKS IN BRISTOL. Saturday, Aug. 15, 2-7 p.m., Main Street. Hudost, Red Admiral, Jacob Green, Eclipse, Tom Bisson & The Rustics and Remember Baker play the annual music festival and street fair. Enjoy food, drinks and shopping from local vendors. Free.

SILENT FILM SCREENING: "SON OF THE SHEIK" IN BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Starring Rudolph Valentino in his final picture. This rip-roaring sequel to "The Sheik" is full of romance, adventure and thrills. Jeff Rapsis provides music. Free; donations accepted.

Hideous dress brings five bridesmaids together

Details

PERFORMANCES:

Aug. 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.

LOCATION:

The Vergennes Opera House

TICKETS: \$10 for all performances. Available at the door.

Five bridesmaids. One hideous dress. Zero desire to be at this wedding. This August, come crash the reception when the Middlebury Community Players present **"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,"** the sharp-tongued comedy by Academy Award winner Alan Ball (*American Beauty*, *Six Feet Under*), opening at The Vergennes Opera House on Aug. 20. Performances will run Aug. 20-23.

The production is directed by Kush Sharma, stage managed by Skylar Franklin, and produced by Jon Fenner.

The cast features **Avery Cutroni, Jillian Torres, Molly Tatlock, Christina Dewar, Addison Pollard, and Ethan DeWitt.**

For more information, visit middleburycommunityplayers.org or contact Jon Fenner at jfenner@auraquest.com.

Editor's Note: Keep your eyes peeled for a review of this production in the Arts+Leisure section next week!



Join us for these free Chamber Music concerts featuring the Point CounterPoint Summer faculty:

Aug. 14: Salisbury Congregational Church
Aug. 27: Salisbury Congregational Church
Sep 5: CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

Save the date! May 22, 2027: David Finckel & Wu Han
PCP Foundation Concert, Boston

Each faculty concert differs in repertoire, instrumentation, and performers.

All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. • Admission is FREE. All are welcome!

Goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

POINTCP.COM

ILSLEY’S REINCARNATION

A front-row seat to this civic centerpiece

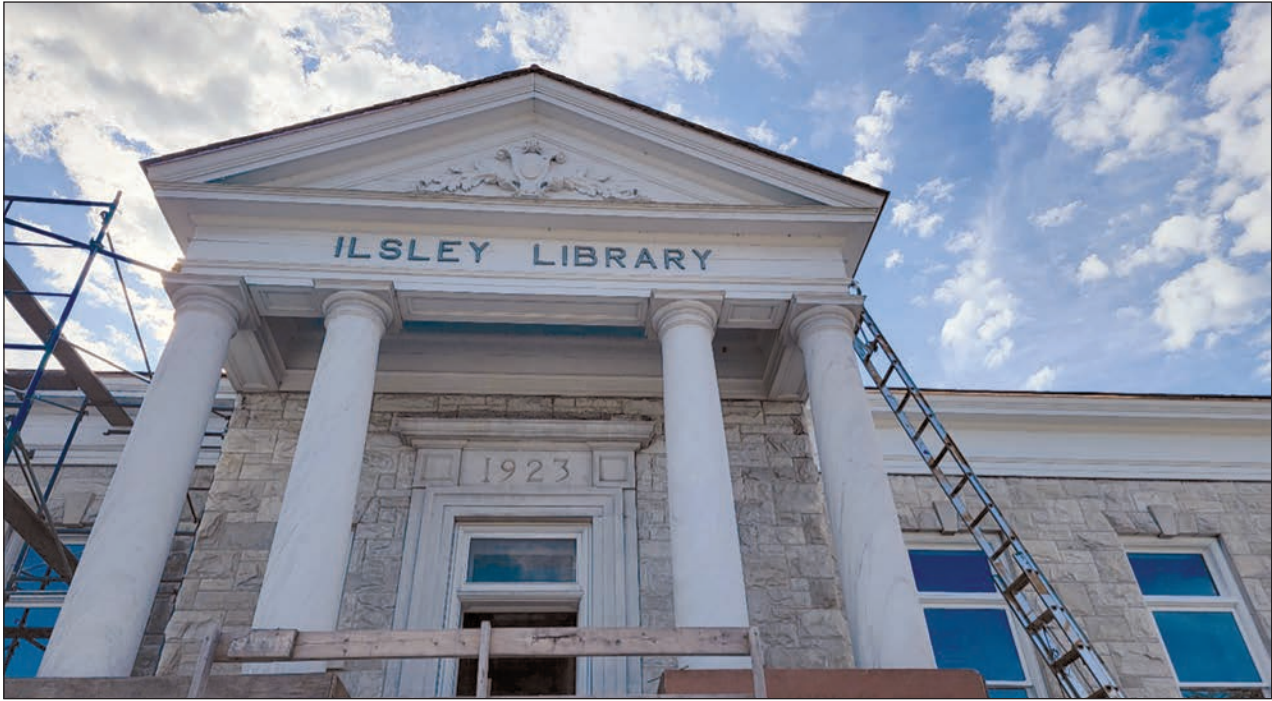
By **STEVE HARRIS**

Congratulations, Middlebury! You are about to receive the best present any town could give itself. On July 20, 2026, the building inspector for the State of Vermont awarded the Ilsley Public Library a conditional Certificate of Occupancy, a formal step that will allow the library to move back home with its extensive new furnishings, shelving, digital networks and ultimately its ever-changing book collection. The Grand Opening public celebration is scheduled for Aug. 29, beginning with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m., open house, and a film screening at 2 p.m.

This project is a well-designed “bun” that has been in the oven for 20 years of public discussion. This timeframe to launch a public library is unusual, but inevitable in this case due to a long list of challenges Middlebury has overcome sequentially to reach the top of its priority list. Formal dedications and ceremonies are already planned where many individuals will be recognized for their contributions. Amidst all those formalities, I wish to share a few things I have noticed during this lengthy and complex gestation.

My personal history has knitted architecture, construction and Middlebury together as an extension of my mother and father having met as undergraduates at Middlebury College in the 1930s. I returned to Lincoln as a fledgling carpenter in 1972 to winterize my family’s summer camp over a five-month stay. In 1984, I returned to stay, bought the neighbor’s house and settled into a professional career of employment with a Middlebury building contractor. It was there I met Judith, my wife of 30 years. In 1997, we formed a business partnership as well, Harris and Harris Consulting. This same piece of property is where we live, in a new home we chose to build almost 10 years ago.

The Town of Middlebury retained Judith for the first time nearly 25 years ago to begin a detailed evaluation of the spatial needs (programming) required for operations of each municipal department. Many have been refurbished or relocated into new facilities because of those early efforts: police, fire, recreation, administration and now the town’s public library. Her roles have varied to meet the town’s needs for facilities consulting over the years, serving three successive town managers, a variety of department heads, and a steadily recast selectboard.



Refurbishing the historic façade of the Ilsley Public Library in downtown Middlebury.

COURTESY PHOTO

In the fall of 2021, she received a call from then-Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, asking if she would represent town administration on a newly established committee called the Ilsley Library Working Group. As civic projects tend to go, this group quickly morphed into the Ilsley 100 Project Team under the direction of Joe McVeigh which finally brought this project “to fruition.” Judith’s roles expanded into supporting the team’s efforts through the process of choosing to remain on the current site, establishing a detailed program for a renovated and expanded Ilsley, hiring a cost estimator, conducting a design competition, choosing the design/build team of ReArch Company, Inc. (ReArch)/Wiemann Lamphere Architecture(WLA) by public approval, and once the bond vote was passed three years ago, representing town administration as Clerk of the Works.



Her deep involvement in the library project has afforded me the privilege of an informed front-row seat through this lengthy planning process and a complex construction schedule of over 16 months, preparing this civic centerpiece for its public debut. After retiring from active participation in our consulting work two years ago, I have enjoyed a perch free of active responsibility. However, as a husband and partner, I have been kept abreast of every twist and turn, touring the job site over two-dozen times since the construction began in March of 2025.

In the summer of 2023, I attended the public presentations at Town Hall Theater of three design teams’ concepts for Ilsley’s reincarnation. The design/build team of ReArch/WLA (represented respectively by Vice Presidents Chris Huston, and Steve Roy) particularly caught my eye and ear — the simple clear logic of the site plan, floor plans and proposed exterior was overlayed with an energizing complexity. Michael Minadeo, Design Director for WLA was the driving force behind those initial

design concepts, and I am pleased to report they still read strongly through the finished product at 75 Main Street. All the program elements are on two levels, embracing and engaging the original 1924 anchor. One person at the main circulation desk can see directly to the three active entrances of the building. As the construction of this vision nears completion, many architects, designers, engineers, estimators, administrators and craftspeople have contributed to a finished product remarkably true to this original vision.

Two of the original exterior marble-clad walls have been brought inside and skillfully restored to create a dynamic circulation atrium. The peek-a-boo nature of a classical revival Greek Temple colliding with, and half wrapped, by the demands of a contemporary public library has been handled with playful skill. Far from being confusing or crowded, the result is exhilarating and commodious.

WHAT’S IT LIKE INSIDE?

Natural light is everywhere. The thoughtfully located, very large windows have filled the addition with daylight, framing stunning and unique views of the town center. Each window is expertly trimmed on the interior with a clear finished Scandinavian sparseness that looks simpler to build than it is. There are many interior windows as well that permit a small number of staff to keep track of the many sub-groups of users. Artificial lighting is equally well considered, as perfect levels of intensity are provided by a plethora of interesting sources, celebrated in whimsical fixtures in some areas, otherwise providing glowing pools from concealed ribbon lights which make wall planes, built-in desks and benches appear to float. And the control system lights your way into unoccupied spaces preventing you from ever stumbling into darkened rooms. This is a required element in a public building, but for those of us old enough to have grown up with a light switch in every room, it is still a somewhat magical experience.

The spaciousness of the addition’s interior is

Construction Projects are about collaboration ... and people

The design and construction of successful public project require all parties to gradually learn to work together effectively before construction begins, and the Ilsley Public Library is no exception. On an undertaking as complex and full of potential surprises as this one, that spirit of collaboration and compromise must be practiced throughout the construction. It calls for transparent communication, complete and continuous, conducted in the spirit of achieving the end result in a timely and responsible manner.

Onsite weekly meetings are the construction-phase vehicle in which each party to the contract is represented by multiple individuals that must check their egos at the door. The library has already had sixty-five multi-hour meetings followed by an on-site tour of the challenges revealed by the conduct of the work. When a crowded site and a 100-year-old building are part and parcel of the scope of work, “concealed conditions” are omnipresent, and unanticipated

See PEOPLE on page 11

accentuated by eight-foot-tall doors, and few interior ceilings usually built to conceal air-handling ducts or miles of data and electrical wiring. Almost all the overhead utilities are exposed and painted underneath the wood ceilings provided by the slabs of cross-laminated timber (CLT’s), a renewable substitute for the more commonly used steel decking and concrete slab floor system. The warmth of the material is as visually soothing as it is rigid and soundproof. These non-traditional wood ceilings accentuate the clean coolness of the painted steel columns and curiously rugged diagonal bracing left visible as a featured element. The central staircase of repurposed exterior marble salvaged from the 1977 addition is as elegant and inspiring as anything I have ever seen in a library. One feels as if formal dinner wear would be the appropriate attire as you rise or descend.

Interior finishes are a perfect blend of modest materials used in sophisticated ways and installed with very high standards of craft. In late spring, a large crew composed of finish carpenters pulled together from sub-contractors and even loaned by competing general contractors built and worked out of a full woodshop installed in the lobby. There they worked for weeks applying their rare skills to produce fastidious and carefully considered pine walls and window extensions.

In the 1924 building, after much trial-and-error, new cabinetry and trim blend beautifully with original, aged red oak surfaces. The newly sanded, clear-finished oak floor in the great room is stunning, complete with the venerable soundtrack of creaking floorboards only one-hundred-year-old oak can produce. The original building has a new slate roof and copper flashings, now clearly visible through



These hardwood floors were hiding under the carpet.

various windows situated to help you admire how beautiful traditional slate and woodwork can be, and how rare such skills are in the current marketplace. These meticulous restoration efforts all “come inside” for close appreciation in various places.

The painters were very skilled and determined as well. They created their own spray booth area in what is now the children’s library to pre-paint all the bare metal destined for display overhead. They were on the project as soon as it was tight to the weather and have remained a constant presence right up until the end. The 40-foot long bench in the main lobby will receive its fifth coat of water-based clear satin finish before they are willing to call it done.

INCREDIBLE and INVISIBLE

And finally, I would direct your appreciation to the invisible wonder of this project, the ground-water source heat pump system that will circulate 55-degree well water through heat exchangers, extracting or injecting heat as called for by various sensors and zones throughout the building, old and new. It will now be possible to avoid the expense of fossil fuels to maintain interior comfort and will also allow the occupants to cool one portion of the complex while heating another. One glimpse in the basement utility rooms will help you appreciate the quiet sophistication of a system driven by pumps and fans only. Fuel tanks and chimneys are no longer needed.

Gone also are the signs of dereliction of the aging building; patrons stuck in the elevator twice a month, storm water and sewage periodically on the floor of the children’s library in the basement, and persistent roof leaks. The hard-to-manage nooks and crannies that have caused so many operational challenges have been replaced by wonderful places to sit and read that are at once private but easy to monitor. The exterior materials and site modifications are extensive, and the plantings are being installed and properly prepared to enhance and beautify the neighborhood for many years to come.

CAREER CAPSTONE

Ilsley Library will represent the final project for our consulting lives, and I could not have foreseen a more satisfying capstone to the arc of our business lives or Judith’s career of service. The renovated and expanded building has been conducted professionally and safely through many surprises offering serious challenges and frequently providing resourceful and collaborative solutions. The whole experience has required dogged determination



Sbardella Slate out of Fair Haven did the fine slate-work.

and interpersonal communication skills of ReArch and their sub-contractors. I have never heard a raised voice in any of my many visits. The closing of our professional pursuits will be accompanied by the rebirth of a venerable and prominent civic jewel, ready to provide another hundred years of community support.

In 2016, Middlebury’s Ilsley Public Library was rated number one amongst Vermont’s public libraries of similar budgets in terms of patron visits, circulation, program attendance and public computer use. It will soon have a home suitable to maintain its prominent place in the pantheon of marvels that Vermont continues to produce. I foresee that many children will discover their life’s work lurking in the literature promoted by the dedicated staff determined to kindle their imaginations in a setting worthy of their engagement. An old saying in project management states that success has many fathers, while failure is an orphan. Since the teams were selected to design and construct this project, hundreds of individuals have lent their expertise and experience to create the finished project. It is safe to predict that many individuals will claim patrimony, each rightfully pointing to the influence of their DNA at critical points during the last 10 years. It will be a pleasant conversation to listen to, as they are all correct.

One final note: A special tribute is due to **Dana Hart**, the Director of Ilsley Public Library throughout this process. Joining town administration in 2018, her early years on the job allowed her to become familiar with staff and patrons, to fully appreciate the financial realities of keeping the doors open, as well as the need for a new building. Her dedication, contagious energy, positive outlook, and practical nature have been a consistent force for which

See ROOST on page 11

PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

1. Bleated

6. Snakelike fish

9. Database management system

13. Social evolution anthropologist Service

14. American rocker Grohl

15. Greek personification of compassion

16. Negatives

17. Rescued

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual

19. Assigns tasks

21. Popular type of cigar

22. Discounts

23. The whole quantity

24. New York Giants

25. Indicates before

28. Lentils

29. Extremely angry

31. Body part

33. "North Star State"

36. David __, US playwright

38. Lower and raise one's head

39. Private rendezvous

41. In a way, improved

44. A place to play

45. Astronomical period of 18 years

46. Automobile

48. Something you can take

49. A radio band

51. Jaws of a voracious animal

52. Short-billed rails

54. Chinese province

56. Shameless

60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine

61. Indian respectful titles

62. Fail to entertain

63. Dried-up

64. Central Utah city

65. Southern U.S.

66. German river

67. Necessary for breathing

68. Put into play

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				

- DOWN
1. Curved segment

2. Wings

3. Yellowish volatile liquid

4. Makes less severe

5. Debit note

6. Overhang

7. The nights before

7	3		4					
		9	5				6	1
					1	3		
		7			6		5	
	5							6
	6		3					4
2							8	
	8	5		3				
				1			7	2

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

8. Type of light

9. Lacking enthusiasm

10. Tattle

11. Some is "heavy"

12. One who is canonized

14. Indicates date and place of writing

17. "Peace" in Arabic

20. "Olaf" actor Josh

21. Fragmented rock

23. They __

25. Advanced degree

26. Backside

27. Influential architect
- and design couple

29. An act of undue intimacy

30. Words from which later words are derived

32. 10 meters

34. Neither

35. Fungal sacs

37. The law of God revealed to Moses

40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

42. A promise

43. Challenges

47. British Air Aces

49. Large bank
50. Served as an omen

52. Cavalry sword

53. Vaccine developer

55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules

56. Italian Seaport

57. Hip joint

58. __ Clapton, musician

59. Insect repellent

61. Constrictor snake

65. "The First State" (abbr.)

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

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Ashlee Guiles

mosaics & painting

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On view thru August 31



she is universally respected. While managing day-to-day library operations by keeping staff fully employed and patrons accommodated with a seamless

provision of services, she participated fully in shaping Ilsley's future: creating a flexible program to accommodate ever-evolving public needs. That included temporarily relocating library operations to the Duclos building (a donation from **National Bank of Middlebury**) and the bulk of the book collection to Meigs Road in Vergennes, (courtesy of **J.P Carrara & Sons**). Once construction at 75 Main Street was enabled, her focus turned to creating opportunities for public input, fundraising, grant writing, and reporting to the selectboard. She has by

now received a full education of construction realities and has consistently kept the objective front and center for everyone involved. She and Judith together have formed a unique and balanced "owner team," as well as becoming lasting friends.

-sbh

Steve and Judith Harris reside in Lincoln where their recently built cabin is the world headquarters of their consulting business. They will not be camping in the relative comfort of the southeast this winter but will instead remain at home while Judith attends to their clients and Steve attempts to create monthly episodes of "Ruminations from the Roost". Steve promises a travelogue, without the travel. Each episode will present a profile of a local "community fixture", folks that Steve has selected, based on criteria that remain unclear even to the author. Furthermore, these sketches will offer examples of the many ways he finds to cherish and be grateful for his life in Addison County.

PEOPLE

continued from page 9

costs must be dealt with in a spirit of dedication to the result. Each month also yields a website

newsletter, and a Clerk Report complete with photos and budget adjustments that is part of the public record and functions to keep the Town Manager and selectboard up to speed with the progress of the work. This procedure is the definition of collaborative effort between people.

The team of ReArch Company, Inc./ Wiemann Lamphere Architecture (WLA) has provided a full complement of professionals that have been equally critical to Ilsley's successful transformation. Designers and Builders tend to remain somewhat invisible to posterity but deserve equal recognition for creating the physical container that embodies a well-functioning human endeavor.

For ReArch Company, Inc, **J.T. Imming** fulfilled his role of Senior Project Manager with a warm, broad smile. He is responsible for helping to select sub-contractors, administering the resulting written agreements, creating and maintaining the project schedule, and keeping the costs for the project in clear sight. He has been assisted in this herculean effort by **Heather Fontaine**, Assistant Project Manager, responsible for much of the electronic written record of meetings and drawing files, follow-up on items to be resolved, and keeping mountains of information flowing in

a timely fashion.

Ben Scribner shared the duties of superintendent at the outset of the project with Jim Hoag, orchestrating the demolition and sitework together. Jim moved on to another project once Ben proved he could manage the role on his own. Ben has revealed the skills required of a sensitive negotiator, experienced craftsman and final authority on a job site requiring over 30 sub-contractors and imaginative solutions to seemingly intractable challenges. Insisting on adequate daily manpower and enforcing the standards of workmanship required, the key to his success is his ability to convince tradespeople they want what we all want, a successful outcome free of disputes or injury. A native Vermonter, his physical present is imposing as well — a gentle bear who commands respect.

For Wiemann Lamphere Architecture, Tim Duff (aka "the professor") has led a team of architects and designers (David Weisberger and James Barrett) assigned to provide detailed direction to preserve the original design concepts while solving construction conundrums — roadmaps that tradesmen needed to complete work outlined by the project documents. Tim will retire from a lengthy career of designing and building at the end of July, leaving his fingerprints (literally) on completed works everywhere you look. (Check the Children's Room cubbies — a gift from Tim who likes to get his "hands dirty.") Thank you, Tim, for sharing your vast experience and knowledge patiently with the entire team. Many puzzles were solved with your guidance.

Pets In Need HOMEWARD BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Coral



Coral is a spunky 3-month-old calico kitten ready to brighten your home! She arrived in a transfer from McMinn Regional Humane Society in Athens, Tennessee. She's already spayed and litter box trained, so the hard work is already done. She's adventurous and friendly with other cats, and would be a fantastic addition to a multi-cat household, or a spirited solo companion.

Ree



Ree is a smart cookie who keeps life interesting. Although she's lived with cats, she's an independent girl at heart and likes to have the place to herself. She can be a total lap cat when she wants to be, and loves freeze-dried chicken treats. Ree likes to explore and stay active, so she'd do best with an owner who can keep up with her mischievous energy. Her favorite food ever is canned tuna! She has a unique calico coat pattern, which looks like she's wearing a mismatched orange sleeve on one arm.

Snake Doc



Snake Doc is an adorable little black kitten who's ready to bring adventure and mischief into your life! He arrived with his friends in a transfer from McMinn Regional Humane Society in Athens, Tennessee. He's energetic and friendly with other cats, so he'd thrive in a multi-cat home where they can get into trouble together. Snake Doc loves to explore and play with his littermates, and is sure to keep you entertained with his adventurous spirit. Come meet him and discover why this little troublemaker is going to steal your heart!

Orlando



After roaming for a couple of weeks around Shoreham, **Orlando** finally came to the shelter. It was clear to us that he had attempted to make friends with both a porcupine and a skunk. Though eager for affection, he's still quite unsure in new situations and will need lots of love and patience from his new family. Loud noises and quick movements are scary to him. We don't know much about Orlando, but here at the shelter, he loves food and is curious around the other dogs. We have no history of him with cats or children.

Roan



Meet **Roan**, a striking good boy looking for his forever home. Roan arrived as a stray, so we don't have any history of him. He's been quite nervous in new situations but is slowly adjusting, showing his goofy, loving self more and more each day. He'd do best in a patient household where he can continue building confidence and trust with his person. He's made dog friends here at the shelter, but we're unsure of how he is with cats or children. So far, Roan's favorite snack is peanut butter!

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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UPCOMING MUSIC

Acoustic duo to play a house concert in Weybridge

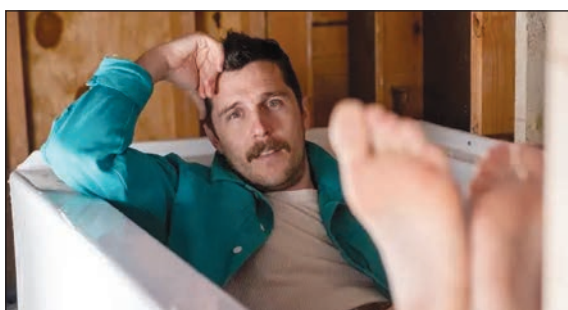
Did you forget what happens in Weybridge on Wednesdays? The music series What About Wednesdays? at Don Sheldon's home will welcome Jordan Tice and Joseph Terrell on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

This show will highlight a dedicated duo who will play innovative acoustic guitar tunes in an intimate home-concert setting.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

What About Wednesdays? concerts are hosted at 3345 Quaker Village Road in Weybridge. Donations all go to the artists; \$25 recommendation. Contact Don at don@valleystage.net or 802-557-7589 for reservations. For more info about Sheldon's concerts visit valleystageproductions.com.

Note: Outdoor light may be at a minimum surrounding the house, so consider bringing a flashlight.



Jordan Tice (top) and Joseph Terrell will perform a house concert in Weybridge on Aug. 12.

COURTESY PHOTOS

ART ON EXHIBIT

Encaustic painter Edith Beatty to give talk in Brandon

Brandon Artists Guild will host an Artist Talk with encaustic painter Edith Beatty of Waterbury, on Friday, Aug. 14. Refreshments begin at 6 p.m., followed by the talk at 7 p.m. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

Beatty works in encaustic, an ancient medium in which pigmented beeswax is melted, applied, and fused layer by layer to build luminous, textured surfaces.

"The dance between transparency and opacity is what attracts me to encaustic painting," Beatty said. "The lovely way in which multiple layers of molten, pigmented wax, each fused in the process, conceal and reveal images, color, and textures beneath."

The talk offers visitors a chance to learn about Beatty's process and materials directly from the artist, and to see her work on view in the gallery through the month of August.



Edith Beatty is the artist of the month at Brandon Artists Guild and will offer a talk on Friday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m. Free and open to all.

The event is free and open to the public. Brandon Artists Guild is located in the heart of Brandon, 7 Center Street.

More Tunes

Sing with St. Stephen's for a day

Girls (aged 8-16) and boys with unchanged voices (normally age 13 or younger) are invited to attend a Choir School Camp at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green in Middlebury, on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. The day will include a mixture of learning new music, work on music literacy and vocal production, and fun activities.

The camp is open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Repertoire will include "One Voice" by The Walin' Jennys; and "Badgers and Hedgehogs," a piece written by English composer Andrew Carter in celebration of the restoration of carvings in the ceiling of York Minster.

There is a registration fee is \$20, and campers are asked to bring their own packed lunches. A registration form for the camp is available at the church office, 3 Main Street, Middlebury. Or find the registration link in this story online at addisonindependent.com. For more information or to register for the camp, contact Robert Ludwig at rludwig@ststephensmidd.org or call the church office, 802-388-7200.



Adda Kridler, Rane Moore and Steve Beck will perform at the Rochester Chamber Music Society's concert on Aug. 10. Free and open to all.

Chamber music celebrates 100 years of György Kurtág

The Rochester Chamber Music Society will continue their 32nd season on Aug. 10, at 4 p.m., in the Federated Church in Rochester. Artistic Director, Adda Kridler will join pianist Steve Beck and clarinetist Rane Moore for a program celebrating the centennial of Hungarian composer György Kurtág. The program will include works by Bartok, Milhaud, Mozart, Poulenc and Schumann.

This concert is free and open to all, with donations gratefully accepted. For more information call 802-767-9234 or visit rcmsvt.org.

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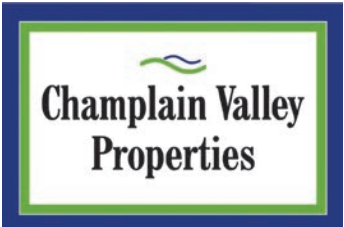
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MIDDLEBURY

THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Charming home located in the heart of town

Check out this charming 3-bedroom home located in Middlebury. This well-maintained property is both bright and functional with a layout that has comfortable living spaces, good-sized bedrooms, storage and even a bonus room. The sunny level backyard is perfect for gardening, outdoor play and entertaining. There is also a handy shed for your lawn equipment or extra storage. Located close to schools and offering an easy commute to Middlebury College, Porter Medical Center or longer commutes to Burlington and Rutland. A great opportunity for those seeking a convenient in town location, low maintenance, with a lovely outdoor space in a neighborhood setting.



*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.
More info at champlainvalleyproperty.net.*



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I love this bank. When you call an actual person answers the phone and is always helpful. They hold our mortgage, and most of our personal accounts. Having been a customer at bigger banks... we really appreciate the contrast and [NBM]'s more personal style. —Andrew M.

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PUZZLE



SOLUTIONS

Aug. 6, 2026

7	3	1	4	6	9	8	2	5
8	2	9	5	7	3	4	6	1
5	4	6	2	8	1	3	9	7
3	1	7	9	4	6	2	5	8
4	5	8	1	2	7	9	3	6
9	6	2	3	5	8	7	1	4
2	7	4	6	9	5	1	8	3
1	8	5	7	3	2	6	4	9
6	9	3	8	1	4	5	7	2

B	A	A	E	D	E	E	L	D	B	M	S
E	L	M	A	N	D	A	V	E	E	L	E
N	A	Y	S	S	A	V	E	D	S	A	T
D	E	L	E	G	A	T	E	S	C	U	B
			S	A	L	E	S	A	L	L	I
P	R	E	D	A	L	I	R	A	T	E	
H	E	A	D	M	I	N	N	E	S	O	T
M	A	M	E	T	N	O	D	T	R	Y	S
R	E	C	O	V	E	R	E	D	Y	M	C
	S	A	R	O	S	C	A	R	A	I	M
C	B		M	A	W	S	O	R	A	S	
H	O	P	E	H	B	A	R	E	F	A	C
A	D	I	T	B	A	B	U	S	B	O	R
S	E	R	E	O	R	E	M	D	I	X	I
E	D	E	R	A	I	R	E	N	A	C	T

FILM

continued from page 4

directors, regional stories, documentaries, and artist-driven cinema, alongside more commercial productions.

No PBS funding has been available for narrative development and production, except for *American Playhouse*, which ran from 1982 to 1996, when it was defunded by Congress. The series helped launch the careers of directors including John Sayles, Mira Nair, Charles Burnett, and Victor Nuñez, as well as actors such as Laura Linney, John Malkovich, Laura Dern, Ben Stiller, and Liam Neeson.

In the U.S., there is also grant funding to support documentary development and production. I'm thinking of the Just Films initiative at the Ford Foundation and the New England-based LEF Foundation.

MNFF won't play as many narrative films as documentaries, and some of those are international — like "Silent Rebellion" (Switzerland/France/Belgium), "The Friend's House is Here" (Iran), "Nandauri" (Georgia, Israel, Italy), "Beautiful and Neat Room" (France), "The President's Cake" (Iraq), and "Blue Heron" (Canada/Hungary), which was made using \$150,000 in public funds for first-time filmmakers. Our American narrative filmmakers deserve special recognition for their persistence, though, against the odds. Their films include "If I Go They Will Miss Me," "Take Me Home," and "Union County." And, of course, we'll open the festival with the new film based on Anaïs Mitchell's spectacular and richly imaginative narrative, "Hadestown."

Editor's Note: This year's festival runs Aug. 26-30. Festival passes are now on sale; single tickets are now available at middfilmfest.org.

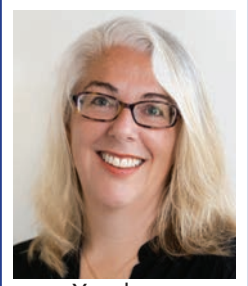
Jay Craven is co-founder and Artistic Director at MNFF and an independent filmmaker with 11 narrative feature films, a comedy TV series and four documentaries to his credit.

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday August 8, 9-11 AM

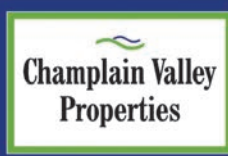


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EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

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For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Open Call: A Celebration of Contemporary Photography," juried by Paula Tognarelli and Gallery Director Zach Hoffman, presents a wide-ranging survey of current photographic practice in recognition of World Photography Day (Aug. 19). This open call exhibition features work across all styles and subjects, from traditional approaches to conceptual and experimental

imagery. Showcasing photographers from around the world, the exhibition includes 35 images in the gallery and 40 in the online gallery. An opening reception will be held Friday, Aug. 7, from 4-7 p.m., with complimentary mead tastings. Free. The exhibit will be on view Aug. 7-29.

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802-989-1417 | suemackey@vtregroup.com

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FERRISBURGH | 221 Steeplewood Ln | MLS #5099224
3 BD | 2 BA | 1632 SF | 4.01 AC | **NOW \$425,000**

Tucked away on a private lane with Mount Philo just down the road and Burlington International Airport close by. Walk-out basement, detached garage, and ready for your thoughtful improvements.



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Five Fridays Music Series
Atom & the Orbits
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5:30-7pm
Outdoors in the Maloney
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Antigone
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MNFF12
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