



Devine dress

Local actresses, outfitted head to toe in hot pink, were a hoot on stage. See Arts + Leisure.



Rush into fall

Commodore, Eagle and Tiger sports teams will start their seasons this week. See Page 1B.



Fall fun

See what seasonal programs, sports and events are going on in our Fall Activity Guide inside.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Local farms eye impact of dairy plant's idling

By MARIN HOWELL

VERMONT — Members of the Addison County farming community are keeping an eye on how the idling of a St. Albans dairy plant plays out, as well as what its closure would mean for those working in the state's dairy industry.

Plans to idle the St. Albans Creamery run by Dairy Farmers of America — which followed news of other milk processing plants in the state closing this year — have raised concerns about the loss of processing capacity in Vermont. It also potentially could

(See Milk plant, Page 11A)

Little City sewer project gets delayed

Some grant money lost as a result

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — After the Little City's bond attorney reversed course on an important financial opinion, the next phase of the Vergennes sewer project is not moving forward this fall as planned. Now officials say construction is likely to begin next spring.

And city voters could face a new

bond vote on Nov. 3.

The change in course is jeopardizing the city from locking in the low bid for rebuilding the system—an offer that City Manager Ron Redman characterized as something of a miracle. And the delay will result in the loss of some grant money awarded to complete what in totality is a \$45 million,

multi-phase project.

The issue stems from differing opinions regarding a 2022 bond vote, at which time Vergennes residents overwhelmingly approved a multi-million dollar bond. The bond is a key funding source needed to finance the project.

“The ballot authorized general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$25.5 million, but also stated that the authorized

amount: ‘shall be reduced by state and federal grants-in-aid estimated at 8 million to 13 million dollars received by the City for the improvements,’” according to an Aug. 7 memo Redmond sent to city councilors.

Since four years ago when the vote was taken the cost of the project has skyrocketed to over \$40 million. As such, officials intended

(See Vergennes, Page 15A)



Rubba-dub-dub

KIDS AND ADULTS alike marvel at the size of the soap bubbles that arise from the Middlebury town green on Saturday during the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op's 50th birthday party. See more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Bristol farmer makes 2nd run for Vt. House

Hill: Lawmakers should listen more

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRISTOL — Bristol Republican Chanin Hill hadn't planned on taking another run this year for a seat representing the Addison-4 district in the Vermont House.

While she finished less than 500 votes shy of winning a seat in 2024, she thought she'd let other Republicans carry the torch into the Nov. 3 midterms.

But she changed her mind after seeing provisions of Vermont's Act 181 that would have triggered an Act 250 review of driveways over 2,000 feet and imposed greater development restrictions in ecologically sensitive areas. Lawmakers this session repealed those two provisions after hearing widespread public opposition



CHANIN HILL

“(Act 181) was essentially taking away property rights without essentially any compensation for the owner,” Hill said. “I did testify

(See Hill, Page 15A)

Substance recovery program funding in county is restricted

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — New guardrails on the use of addiction prevention money raised through the state's cannabis excise tax has the Peer Recovery Center of Addison County scrambling for funding to pay for two programs that paid for counselors and outreach workers to help people struggling with substance use disorder where they reside.

The street outreach and mobile

recovery coaching programs serves folks who can't — or won't — take advantage of recovery services offered at the Recovery Center's 79 Court St. headquarters because they're either too frail to travel, don't have access to transportation, or are apprehensive about receiving counseling in a group setting.

The Peer Recovery Center, or PRC, was formerly known as the Turning Point Center. It

(See Recovery, Page 16A)

Middlebury OK's 2nd CHIP development

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday endorsed a second developer's attempt to use a new state program to leverage public funds for infrastructure connected to a new housing project.

The board voted 5-1-1 — with selectboard member Fred Dunnington opposed and member

Farhad Khan recusing himself — to support Middlebury Investor LLC's attempt to use tax increment financing to pay for an estimated \$1.2 million in infrastructure (mainly sidewalks and a stormwater treatment system) associated with a 35-unit apartment building to be erected at the intersection of Court Street and Middle Road.

It's just the second project ever teed up

for Vermont's new Community & Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP), and both projects are in Middlebury. As previously reported by the *Independent*, the Middlebury selectboard on Aug. 11 agreed to submit, to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC), Summit Property's application to use CHIP as a

(See Development, Page 12A)



Addison County's July jobless rate mirrored that of June — 2.3%, according to data supplied by the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL). The county had a labor force of 21,236, of which 479 people were seeking work, according to the DOL. The Vermont unemployment rate for July held fast at 2.6%. The civilian labor force participation rate was 62.1 percent in July, a decrease of two-tenths of one

(See By the way, Page 13A)

Middlebury property tax rate inches up

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday unanimously approved a fiscal year 2027 municipal tax rate of 99.32 cents per \$100 in property value, representing a roughly 6-cent bump from the FY26 levy of 92.98 cents.

While the FY27 municipal rate is going to go up by more than 6 cents, Middlebury taxpayers will see a 2-cent decline in both the homestead (residential) and non-residential education property tax rates. The new homestead rate is \$1.6203, while the new non-residential rate is \$1.7149.

The combined municipal and school tax rates produce a new, overall FY27 Middlebury tax rates of \$2.6135 for residential property taxpayers and \$2.7081 for non-residential ratepayers.

So a \$300,000 home in Middlebury would see a tax bill of \$7,840.50, though many

(See Middlebury, Page 13A)



Tight quarters

THE CITY GREEN is packed with scores of vendors under tents and hundreds of people circulating among them during the 44th annual Vergennes Day on Saturday. Full of family fun and traditions, the day saw live music on the bandstand, many unique offerings, a chicken barbeque and much more. See more photos on Page 14A.

Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

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Dolly Parton’s legacy transcended song

By CHRIS BOHJALIAN

The closest I came to Dolly Parton was when the two of us were together in Broadway’s Nederlander Theatre a quarter century ago. That means we were two of the 1,200 people in the house, all there to see Dolly’s pal Reba McEntire as Annie Oakley in a revival of “Annie Get Your Gun.” My young daughter and I were seated in the first row of the balcony and Dolly Parton was seated below us in the orchestra.

Even in the audience with the lights dim, Dolly exuded that “it” quality that directors have told me they look for in a performer. Sure, Reba McEntire was fantastic and owned the stage, but Dolly owned the rest of the theater. (It’s always Dolly, isn’t it, even to those of us who would never meet her?)

My daughter was very young but already she understood that the woman in the audience below us was not merely a celebrity: she was a *beloved* celebrity. Everyone in the Nederlander that night felt happy to have shared a night with Dolly.

We talk of auras with a whiff of “peace-love-and-and-tie-dye” condescension, but the reality is how many celebrities don’t project an aura that is (forgive me) angelic. Oh, we watch their movies or wear their clothes or read their books, but they don’t touch our soul in the way Dolly Parton so obviously touched ours.

You can see it in the tributes the last 24 hours since she died yesterday at the age of 80. I heard a historian in tears on CNN when I was in the car yesterday.

And while much of that aura was the result of her remarkable voice, a lot more, I think, came from the absolute comfort in which she lived within her own skin and her magnificent lack of any kind of filter. Listen to some of her interviews and you’ll see what I mean. Her quips, unrehearsed, are legendary.

She understood poverty as well as anyone, and wrote moving, unsentimental

songs about it. She was a brilliant businessperson, and unlike most of the oligarchs surrounding us these days, gave so much back. Her philanthropy was well known before she died, but has dominated discussions of her death the last day.

But here, however, is something remarkable she knew on an intuitive level before so many others began to study it: books make us more empathetic. Books make us more intellectually capable of parsing life’s hardest questions. Books make us better.

And, yes, books are capable of making us happy — even now, if we can turn away for an hour or two from podcasts and TikTok. (Confession: I like both. But I also like books.)

Among Dolly’s most impressive philanthropic legacies is her Imagination Library: a foundation that gives a book to any child from birth through age five. In the 31 years it has been existence, it has given children over 332 million books.

Today, as you mourn the passing of a person so beloved that historians weep on the news, consider celebrating her with a donation to her Imagination Library. It doesn’t have to be big. My sense is that while Dolly made jokes often about the impressive size of some things, she herself wrote a poignant song about the beauty to be found in the smallest of things, in this case, a coat made from rags:

“I tried to make them see
That one is only poor
Only if they choose to be
Now I know we had no money

But I was rich as I could be
In my coat of many colors
My mama made for me.”

Thank you, Dolly, for always being yourself — and for teaching us all what words and reading and books can mean to the soul.

Editor’s note: This originally appeared on the Weybridge author’s Substack page.

Senate candidate’s tax form error reflects broader trend

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — The Vermont Department of Taxes requires property owners to file a homestead declaration (Form HS-122) each year if their home meets the definition of a Vermont homestead.

A mistake by Vermont state Senate candidate Andrew Klein, who had not filed a Homestead Declaration form for his New Haven home as of earlier this month, drew attention to the fact that many Vermont homeowners don’t follow this law, albeit most unwittingly.

“It’s a pretty regular thing that people don’t file (the homestead declaration) or people that consistently file late, and towns may apply a penalty for late filers,” said Alison Joseph, who serves as the town assessor in Middlebury and town clerk in Ripton.

Klein, a Republican candidate for one of the Addison County district’s two senatorial seats, said he was remedying the matter.

“New Haven is my home and has been throughout this period,” Klein wrote in an Aug. 19 statement to the *Independent*. “My accountants mistakenly conflated the Homestead Declaration with Vermont’s income-based property tax credit and advised me not to file because I do not qualify for the credit. I have hired a new accounting firm to correct the error, make the proper filings, and resolve any resulting balance.”

In 2024, the New Haven tax rate for non-residential property (\$2.3118 per \$100 of

assessed value) was lower than the residential property tax rate (\$2.36).

Under Department of Taxes rules, a homestead is “the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person’s domicile.” More details on who’s required to file can be found on the Department of Taxes website, but generally Vermont residents fall into that category if they own the home that serves as their primary residence.

Homestead declarations help determine how a property is taxed. All property in the state is subject to education property taxes to raise funds for Vermont schools, with properties taxed at a “non-homestead” rate unless they’re declared as a homestead. Often, the homestead property tax rate is lower than the non-homestead rate. Though, in many Vermont towns (like New Haven) the non-homestead rate has ended up being lower than the rate applied to homestead properties.

The Department of Taxes notes that sometimes a property can be classified as *both* homestead and non-homestead.

“This occurs when a part of the home is used for commercial purposes or as a rental,” the department’s website states.

“The property tax bill will show a homestead education property tax rate and a non-homestead education property tax rate.”

Joseph has spent much of the past three decades working as a local lister and described some of the reasons she’s seen for why residents might not file a homestead declaration.

“What I hear a lot from people is, ‘I don’t earn enough to file income taxes, and so I don’t file my homestead declaration,’” she explained.

The Department of Taxes notes many Vermonters file the homestead declaration at the same time as their Vermont income tax returns, but the declaration is required regardless one’s plans to file a tax return.

Joseph said residents can file the homestead declaration form independent of filing their taxes, and that the homestead declaration can be filed with paper forms or by doing so online.

“Some towns opt not to (assess a penalty for late filers) because the error isn’t always due to the property owner; occasionally there’s a glitch with the state system,” Joseph noted. “You’ll run into cases where someone’s tax preparer didn’t file, and there are people who use out-of-state accountants, and they often don’t file.”



ANDREW KLEIN

State to consider emergency rail crossing in Middlebury

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury has requested an at-grade crossing of the railroad tracks off MacIntyre Lane that would allow the local fire department’s ladder truck to access Seymour Street if there were a fire emergency in that neighborhood during what have become more frequent floods.

Middlebury Fire Chief Dave Shaw has forwarded the request of Vermont Agency of Transportation — which owns the railroad tracks — and Vermont Railway, which leases them. The town is pushing for a crossing at the end of MacIntyre Lane, near a pumphouse where Shaw said “the tracks are at the best grade possible to get across a piece of equipment.”

Major rainstorms have made the Seymour Street underpass

— the primary access to that neighborhood from the village center — temporarily impassable at three times during the past three years. During prolonged torrential downfalls, the drainage system at the base of the underpass can’t move the water out quickly enough, in part because of the road’s low elevation at that particular point.

When the underpass is out of commission, most vehicles can still enter and leave Seymour Street through the double-laned Pulp Mill Bridge that leads to the Pulp Mill Bridge Road on the other side of Otter Creek. And in a pinch, the Middlebury Fire Department could get most of its vehicles into the Seymour Street neighborhood via Printer’s Alley (from Main Street) and the Marble Works complex.

But there’s one notable exception. The department’s ladder truck — its largest apparatus — can’t negotiate Printer’s Alley or the Pulp Mill Bridge.

This fact has created anxiety for Seymour Street residents, dreading the prospect of a major fire coinciding with a flooded underpass. The underpass most recently flooded on June

18. Addison County — and particularly Middlebury and Ripton — have seen more frequent severe storms during the past 20 years, and climate change is making erratic weather more common.

Seymour Street resident (and former selectboard member) Kevin Parizo has been particularly vocal on the topic of the unpassable underpass. “What happens if the water level goes to the point it did (in 2024) and floods upper Seymour Street as well as the Police Department? As a *taxpaying, life-long resident of Middlebury, it is time to resolve this issue before a fatality occurs.*”

— Kevin Pariso

issue before a fatality occurs,” Parizo wrote to the board in an email following the latest flood.

Pending an OK from the Agency of Transportation, or AOT, and Vermont Railway, Middlebury would be able to place ballast between the tracks. A gate controlled by the Middlebury Fire Department would be placed on the westerly side if the tracks. A crossing would only be permitted for the fire department’s ladder truck — and only if the underpass was flooded during a concurrent fire in the Seymour Street area.

Joseph explained that after homestead declarations are filed, town officials can process that information into a working grand list to see what’s been declared.

“That’s the piece that creates the most work for listers because you need to make sure it’s entered correctly,” she said of the process.

Town officials are able to flag properties that may need to be declared as a homestead but haven’t yet. When homestead declarations are filed late, town officials’ work also consists of getting new information to the tax collector and sending out new tax bills.

The due date for filing homestead declarations is in April each year and, this year, Oct. 15 is the final date the form will be accepted.

“If you fail to file your declaration by the October filing deadline, your property will be classified as non-homestead,” reads the Department of Taxes website. “You then must pay the higher of the two rates, a penalty, and any additional property tax and interest due.”

The Department of Taxes website states that municipalities can assess one of two penalties for late filers — up to 8% if the homestead education property rate is higher than the non-homestead rate or up to 3% if the non-homestead rate is the higher of the two.

Joseph recommended those seeking more information or assistance with homestead declarations connect with Vermont Taxpayer Services (802-828-2865).

Middlebury fire officials would need to contact Vermont Rail officials before a crossing of the tracks. The department would send a spotter down both directions of the tracks to ensure there was no oncoming train.

Vermont Rail would have radio contact with the ladder truck to further minimize any danger.

Shaw said he and other town officials have spoken to property owners and residents in the potential crossover zone and reported “everyone seems receptive to the idea and understand this is a very unique situation.”

“Our goal would be to never use this,” he added.

At the same time, Shaw noted the AOT and Vermont Rail have made track crossing allowances for farm vehicles needing access to fields that are bisected by rail lines.

Parizo said he’s pleased with the potential emergency rail crossover plan, which he said would also give peace of mind to frail and elderly Seymour Street residents who have a harder time navigating crises like fires and floods.

“I think they’ve come up with a very logical solution, and I hope it moves forward,” he said.

As the *Independent* went to press, the AOT and Vermont Rail had yet to give their official blessing.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Meta to pay Vermont \$92.7M as part of settlement

Other provisions require sweeping child safety reforms to Instagram and Facebook

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Attorney General Charity Clark today announced a historic settlement with the social media company Meta, resolving allegations that the company knowingly placed children at harm by designing Instagram to be addictive while knowing the resultant devastating mental health problems. Meta will pay Vermont \$92,700,152 to resolve the lawsuit filed by Attorney General Clark and will implement sweeping safety reforms that will fundamentally transform how the entire social media industry designs products for kids and teens.

The landmark settlement was negotiated as part of a multistate agreement resolving claims by 47 other states and D.C., American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, that Meta designed Instagram with addictive features, knowingly exposed young users to serious mental harms, and intentionally misled the public about the safety of its platforms, among other things. The multistate agreement resolves the State of Vermont’s separate case against Meta that was originally filed in 2023. Nationally, Meta will pay up to \$17.1 billion — with 70 percent, or \$12.2 billion, guaranteed now — representing one of the largest state consumer protection settlements in history outside the Big Tobacco settlements of the 1990s. The remaining 30 percent will come if the other major social media companies — namely, TikTok, YouTube, and Snap — enter into deals with the states that contain substantially similar monetary and injunctive relief to Meta’s deal.

“Today’s historic settlement delivers meaningful accountability and truly transformative changes to make social media safer for kids and teens,” said Attorney General Clark. “The kids of Vermont are the future of this state. They deserve a childhood free from exploitation and manipulation by companies that put engagement and profit over their health and well-being.”

In 2023, Attorney General Clark sued Meta in Chittenden Superior Court as part of a coordinated effort with 42 states following a bipartisan, multistate investigation. Later that year, the Court granted Attorney General Clark’s request to unseal the lawsuit, making public details of Meta’s conduct that had previously been confidential.

In 2024, Meta attempted to have Attorney General Clark’s lawsuit dismissed, arguing that the State of Vermont lacked personal jurisdiction, or legal authority, over the California-based company. The Attorney General’s Office prevailed, and Vermont’s state courts rejected Meta’s arguments. Meta then tried to appeal the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court which denied the request in May, allowing the Vermont Supreme Court’s decision to stand. The U.S. Supreme Court’s denial affirmed that companies that choose to do business in Vermont, like Meta, can be held accountable when they harm kids, and provides valuable precedent for other states fighting to keep their own cases against Meta in state court.

The settlement announced today is still pending court approval, but once entered, it requires Meta to implement a series of safety features on Instagram and Facebook, including:

- Daily time limits and “Productive Pauses” for children: for its two platforms, Instagram and Facebook, a combined two-hour daily time limit with mandatory pauses after 15 minutes of continuous use and again at 60 and 90 minutes to interrupt endless scrolling. These limits remain in effect for five years.
- “Nighttime blocks” restricting children’s app access from midnight a.m. to 6 a.m. and disabling push notifications from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Limited school-time access for children, eliminating push notifications on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the school year.
- Robust age assurance measures to more effectively verify the age of young users.
- Safer, age-appropriate content controls, including stronger safeguards against bullying, content promoting eating disorders, and content related to suicide and self-harm.
- Stronger, more user-friendly parental controls.
- Limits on social comparison features, including beauty filters and visible “like” counts, that have been linked to poor mental health outcomes in kids and teens.

Both the implementation and efficacy of the features will be regularly assessed by an independent auditor and the settling states.

These are groundbreaking changes to social media leaders Instagram and Facebook and more significant and comprehensive injunctive measures than previously ordered by any court.

The settlement also resolves the states’ claims against Meta for its sharing of nonpublic information about Facebook users with third parties, like Cambridge Analytica, leading up to the 2016 election.

The attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming joined the settlement.



MNFF12 is here!

THE 12TH ANNUAL Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival got underway on Wednesday with festivalgoers picking up their passes at the MNFF nerve center on Merchants Row. Volunteers Linda Shere and Brett Axelberg, top, make sure filmmakers are checked in, and (left) festival Artistic Director Jay Craven is ready for the fun to begin! MNFF runs through Sunday.

Independent photos/Steve James

Sale of College’s Monterey campus nearly complete

Middlebury officials expect sale to Soka University to close in September

MIDDLEBURY — An agreement has been signed for the sale of Middlebury College’s graduate school campus in Monterey, Calif.

College officials stated in an Aug. 14 announcement that the sale is expected to close next month, with Soka University of America (SUA) purchasing the campus and establishing the Monterey Institute of International Studies at Soka University of America. SUA is a private liberal arts college based in Aliso Viejo, Calif., south of Los Angeles.

“Our institutions share closely aligned missions and a commitment to preparing students to address global challenges,” Middlebury College President Ian Baucom said in the Aug. 14 release. “This agreement will allow many MIIS academic programs to continue under Soka University of America and create opportunities for some faculty and staff to carry that important work forward.”

Middlebury College announced this past May that it had entered into negotiations with SUA officials regarding their potential purchase of the Monterey campus. The news came several months after Middlebury officials said the institution would be concluding residential graduate programs and certain online degree programs at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (known as MIIS). Those programs and operations would wrap up over the course of two years, they said in August 2025.

This past spring, college officials emphasized the institution’s commitment to offering its degree programs “on the Monterey campus through summer 2027 — and to awarding Middlebury degrees to students who complete those programs.”

The Aug. 14 announcement stated SUA will continue eight in-person and three online graduate programs under the Monterey Institute of International Studies at Soka University of America. SUA expects to start classes in fall 2027, according to an Aug. 19 letter to the Soka community signed by SUA President Ed Feasel.

— Marin Howell

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorials

We need to define growth’s endgame vs. status quo

In a letter to the editor in today’s *Addison Independent*, Ripton resident Jerry Shedd eloquently challenges the benefits of growth this editor proposed last week regarding the CHIP program. Then he asks an astute question: In defining growth’s long-term benefits can I and others “make the case that stability at that higher population level is preferable to the stability Vermont enjoys now?”

It’s a fair point that’s critical to the town’s (and state’s) long-term planning. From the outset, let’s also concede there’s more than one way to achieve economic and social stability.

In arguing that growth is needed to meet some of the needs facing Middlebury and Addison County, we’d point to the following:

- According to a new analysis by Vermont Housing Finance Agency, “Vermont is falling short of its housing targets by thousands of homes each year.” To alleviate the state’s housing crisis, “the recent statewide housing needs assessment estimates Vermont needs 28,000-41,000 more homes by 2030 but is currently on track to produce only 12,500.”
- In Addison County, we need to add about 400 homes per year to meet projected housing demand by 2030. However, the county is currently averaging only 110 homes annually, which will leave the county nearly 1,500 homes short of the 2,000 total needed by 2030.
- Addison Housing Works notes the consequence: “Falling short of these goals will continue to drive up housing costs, reduce availability, and push working families and vulnerable residents out of our communities.” In short, if we don’t change the current trajectory, the impact on the community continues to worsen.
- In our schools, it’s well-known we’ve been losing student population, making the operation of our schools less cost-effective. Because school funding is largely based on a fee-per-student basis, the goal should be to operate as close to schoolroom capacity as possible. So, if a school like Mary Hogan Elementary in Middlebury was designed to operate at 600 students (it was 600-plus at its peak 30-or-so years ago), and now educates about 480-500, we could bring on 100 or so more students with only a slight increase in operational cost that theoretically would be more than covered by the additional per-pupil revenue. It short, it should be a net gain and help reduce school property taxes.
- The loss of Vermont’s working-age democratic over the past two decades, the 25-55 age group, means many of Addison County’s employers are scrambling for help. Construction costs are unusually high in Vermont partly because the shortage of labor drives up hourly wages. Moreover, wait times for a plumber, electrician, carpenter, or anyone in the trades, discourages building, housing or commercial renovations — stifling what could be a more robust home-building industry. That same lack of labor hinders the state’s restaurants and outdoor recreational industry, forcing some restaurants to limit hours and days per week they are open.

The given in this discussion is the assumption that when the labor supply is adequate and affordable housing is available, that helps create a more vibrant local economy. The working community buys goods and services from retail stores which drives a better selection of retail goods, eateries, and activities (not to mention more robust health care services) throughout the county. The applicable economic theory is to have enough critical mass to sustain the county’s basic services.

Mr. Shedd’s challenge, to those advocating growth, is to more clearly define what that metric of eventual stability might be. Without it, the premise is continual growth, which creates its own set of problems and places an impossible demand on the earth’s finite resources. It’s a valid point that deserves sustained debate.

Angelo Lynn

Meta’s settlement admits social media’s harm to teens

Vermont’s victorious suit against Meta, the corporate owner of Facebook and Instagram, tells a cautionary tale of the harms of some social media platforms. Vermont and 46 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories sued Meta and won a \$17.1 billion settlement over claims it “endangered children with addictive social media platforms.” Vermont’s share of that settlement is \$92.7 million, the largest settlement in the state’s history. (See story on Page 3A).

The settlement forces Meta to make significant changes, including imposing two-hour daily time limits on Instagram and Facebook, limited usage between midnight and 6 a.m., and silence notifications between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. — all to prevent interruptions to sleep habits for teens, as well as use addiction. Several other changes will limit harm caused by negative social comparisons, such as seen with beauty filters.

Meta was the first social media company to settle with the states. Snap, YouTube and TikTok have similar suits filed against them and part of the settlement with Meta is to ensure the other social media companies have to also be a part of upcoming settlements and a joint solution — so Meta is not singled out and all platforms conform to new standards.

The message to parents is, first, that change is coming, and secondly, to make sure their teens understand the intentional addiction embedded in those platforms that have caused such harm. Knowledge is power, and the more teens understand the medium the better equipped they are to guard against its excesses.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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Good clean fun
THE BUBBLES ARE literally over the top for these youngsters playing in the bubble pit outside the fire station during Vergennes Day this past Saturday.
Independent photo/Kelsey Wood

These green hills and silver waters

The year 2027 has always felt distant and far away, but this fall, my senior year approaches and so does the daunting task of applying for colleges. I love Vermont, and was born and raised here, but when it comes to searching for colleges, I am looking everywhere but here.

From my perspective, two major things define Vermont’s unique identity: the natural world and tight-knit communities. Many of my childhood memories take place outside; in the water, in the woods or simply watching the leaves change in my yard. I’ve grown up hiking, trekking to swimming spots and camping at state parks. Vermonters are engaged with the world around them, spending time surrounded by mountains and rivers and frequently going above and beyond to care for them. Such proximity to nature has given me a love and appreciation of the natural world for which I’m grateful.

Vermonters also know the value of community. Whether it be high school theatre, neighbors checking in or local farmers’ markets, I see the impact of smalltown ties everywhere. A perfect example of this is the way that communities have responded to flooding across the state. From these disasters it is clear to see how much people here care for and value one another. Vermonters’ unerring support of each other creates a place where community is the backbone behind everything.

I love all that Vermont has given me, but it is what it is unable to provide that has made me feel there is

something missing from my life. I am pulled away from the Green Mountain State by its lack of diversity. That absence has impacted my experience of culture and sense of self.

Vermont is within the top five least racially diverse states in America, with a white population of over 90%. My experience in Vermont has been easy compared to other parts of the country and world, with people here being generally open-minded and accepting of me. Instead of feeling singled out and discriminated against, I have felt a loss of identity as a result of not having a diverse community. I think it’s safe to say that kids understand race differently, and growing up, my darker tan and bigger hair were seen as specific to me, rather than as signals that I belonged to a different ethnic group. As we got older, the idea of race became more clear to us and the comments from other kids, while not offensive, began to label me as Black. Because it had never been a conversation topic, it had never occurred to me that the things about me that were ‘other’ constituted my identity. In this environment where there is so little diversity, it has been difficult to realize my own race and find connection to others through conversations around racial identity.

In my future life I want to be surrounded by all kinds of people with different backgrounds. I want to look around the place I live and see the variety humankind has to offer. I have travelled often and what immediately hits me whenever I visit a large city is how many different kinds of people exist out there. (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Madeline Diop

Taking credit for other’s work Dems led Vt.’s tax reductions; Scott signed the bill

Last week, the Vermont Tax Department released the results of Act 71, the 2025 Tax Relief Package that lowered taxes for more than 62,000 Vermonters, providing nearly \$10 million in income tax credits and exclusions for young families, seniors, low-income filers, veterans, and military retirees. Act 71 expands the child tax credit and earned income tax credit, increases the exemption on Social Security benefits, creates an exemption for some military retirement benefits, and creates a credit for low-income veterans.

While the Governor is eager to take credit and claim that he and Republican legislators were responsible for this tax relief package, in fact, I was the lead sponsor of Act 71, initiating legislation to provide tax relief to Vermonters. The full tax relief package included in Act 71 was debated and crafted by the Democratic majority in the Legislature, particularly House Ways & Means and the Senate Finance Committee, where I serve.

The Governor’s claim that such tax relief is due to the presence of more Republican legislators is inaccurate at best, and clearly an instance of Phil Scott “playing politics,” despite his continued insistence that

Community Forum
This week’s writer is Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, who has represented the Addison District in the state Senate since 2019.

he never does. Act 71 was a Democratic bill passed by a Democratic legislature. The tax relief in Act 71 also builds on the 2022 Tax Relief Package, Act 138, which has provided Vermonters nearly \$40 million in annual tax relief over the past four years.

The even larger tax relief package in Act 138 was also crafted by a Democratic majority in the Legislature, especially House Ways & Means and the Senate Finance Committee. Most significantly, Act 138 created the Vermont Child Tax Credit, a policy championed by Democrats that provides money to parents of young children, a demographic that is often most in need of financial assistance.

Both the 2022 and 2025 Tax Relief Packages were spearheaded, crafted, and passed by the Democratic majorities in the Legislature. Democrats have long been champions for fair and effective tax policies that provide targeted help to low-, moderate-, and middle-income Vermonters who may be struggling to raise a family and care for loved ones, balance work & school, or age in their homes.

This year, the Democratic majority in the Legislature also focused tax relief on Vermonters who need it (See *Hardy forum*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Ilslley ready for next 100 years

As our community celebrates the grand reopening of the Ilslley Public Library, I want to take a moment to give thanks. The new building is a wonderful space that will serve our community for many years to come. Be sure to stop in and check it out! I am grateful to live in a town that values libraries and the services they provide.

I want to thank all the hard working folks at Ilslley for a job well done. Each and every member of the staff has contributed to the success of the new building. From sorting through 100 years of accumulated objects to physically moving books and furniture to running a remote library in a small space. As well as thoughtfully thinking about what the new space should have to best serve our community, including more space to work remotely, more community gathering spaces, getting the children out of the basement and into the light, and more public computer and internet access, just to mention a few improvements. We appreciate you and your dedication to our town!

Dana Hart is the hero of the day. From the start, she has been a fearless leader working for the good of our community. She had a vision of building a library for the next 100 years. She gathered a team of smart dedicated people to help her make it a reality. For three years she has put her mission at Ilslley first, working long hours, weekends and more to see us to the finish line. She has led with intelligence and kindness. Thank you Dana for your tireless work! If you see Dana, be sure to give her a thanks.

Renée Ursitti
Middlebury

Please explain the CHIP vision

In his Aug. 20 editorial (“Kudos for passage of CHIP”) Angelo Lynn acknowledges that even with the CHIP scheme, growth costs money. But Lynn makes an important point: He urges taxpayers to take the long view, meaning apparently beyond the 20 or more years it will take to pay off the CHIP loan and its interest costs. That means a time when there are no additional up-front costs for new infrastructure — a time of population stability “when the town’s potential has been met.”

I hope Mr. Lynn and planners will more clearly define that vision. In doing so, can they make the case that stability at that higher population level is preferable to the stability Vermont enjoys now?

Jerry Shedd
Ripton

Is CHIP really the solution?

This evening, the Middlebury selectboard voted to forward a CHIP application to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) for the Middle Apartments project. Approximately \$1.2 million would be provided for the project via a combination of 85% of the project’s municipal property taxes and 75% of the education property taxes for the next 20 years. For those 20 years, the town will receive 15% of the municipal property taxes that would otherwise be owed. The developer made clear that the project, consisting of 31 market rate apartments (no affordable or workforce units) as well as a commercial space (probably a restaurant), costing \$20 million to build, would move forward with or without the CHIP money. What the CHIP money would provide is an increase in quality of materials and treatments.

If this project was not in the CHIP program, it would go on the grand list when completed, and the full increment of municipal and education taxes would be paid. (See *Mammen letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Opera house still lacking a good sound system

I would like to write about the newly furnished Vergennes Opera House. We recently attended the show “Five Women Wearing the Same Dress.” It was our first time seeing a show since its refurbishing. However, despite sitting in the front row it was difficult to hear all of the

dialogue, especially those of us with hearing difficulties. We were also told by folks that sat four rows back, that could they not only hear everything, but could not see all, because of all floor level seating. Why didn’t the Opera House go the extra mile and do a

decent sound system? And, why all floor-level seating? I am disappointed and will not attend another event there until it is rectified. Such a good show, and actors!

**Lois Farnham
Middlebury**

My husband is stable in storms, steadfast in love

When we met on a volleyball court at 16, he called me a “dizzy blonde.” Little did I know that casual remark would mark the beginning of a lifetime together. Just this past Aug. 16, my husband, Steven Heffernan, and I celebrated 40 years of marriage. Looking back across four decades, it is crystal clear that we were put together for a very distinct reason. Building a life from the ground up.

Both of us grew up on family farms, where hard work was not an idea but a way of life. From the beginning, Steven carried that farm-bred steadiness into everything he did. He learned early how to keep moving, how to shoulder responsibility, and how to become the kind of man others could count on when life became uncertain.

Our early years tested him right out of the gate. We dove headfirst into entrepreneurship, leasing a gas station that ultimately collapsed under financial strain. With mounting debts and two young children depending on us, Steven made the life-altering choice to enlist in the Air Force — not for attention or praise, but because he was determined to secure a future for his family.

He headed off to train, missing that first Christmas at home, and the weight of that year was heavy. During a brief visit home around the time of a friend’s death, I became pregnant with our third child. Our car was repossessed, and the pressure on our young family was real. Yet even from a distance, Steven kept showing the same

qualities that have defined him for 40 years: loyalty, responsibility and the determination to keep going. A man who keeps showing up. When Steven returned from training that October, he stepped back into family life with the same commitment he carried into service. He went on to serve in the Air National Guard for more than 30 years, including deployments that demanded sacrifice from all of us. Through those years, he proved himself steady, disciplined and deeply devoted to duty, family and country. Steven spent almost 34 years serving his country in the Air National Guard as and EOD Tech. Steven’s relentless drive didn’t stop there. Over the years, he poured his energy into a string of demanding ventures — from Heffernan Inspection and Repair Service, Heffernan Excavating, and 802 Excavating, to GHR Metal Recycling and Whoville II, a rental property. He is a man who loves to stay busy, defined by deep self-confidence, unyielding respect, and an extraordinary work ethic. stepping up to serve in the Senate, Two years ago, Steven decided it was time to “put up or shut up.” He entered the race for the State Senate, and he won. He didn’t approach it looking for the spotlight or status; he did it because he is a man of integrity, truth, perseverance and service before self. Life in the legislature is not for the weak of heart, nor for those who think they can sit on their laurels. It takes endless phone conversations, which he prefers, and making tough decisions that

some people are just not going to like. But Steven brings a God-given ability to stand on moral ground and speak up when things get hard. Steadfast in family, service and faith. Through hardship, military deployments — including two tours where he called faithfully from Afghanistan — and now his service in the state Senate, Steven has remained consistent. He is the man who answers the phone, does the work, stands by his word, and stays grounded when circumstances are difficult. His faith, confidence and sense of responsibility have shaped the way he serves his family and his community. He is not a perfect man, but he is a principled one. Forty years later, through every business, every deployment, every hard decision, and every chapter of public service, Steven has shown what it means to stand in the gap: to work hard, speak truth, take responsibility, and keep showing up. If you live in our community, I hope you will support Steven for his next term — not because he seeks attention, but because he is willing to speak up when things get hard. He has a voice, and behind that voice is not arrogance, but confidence rooted in conviction, experience and service. To find official voter resources and information regarding elections, you can visit the Vermont Secretary of State Elections Division.

**Erin Heffernan
Bristol**

It’s once again time to review rail safety concerns

In years past, members of the Middlebury community invested time and resources into understanding the Middlebury Bridge & Rail Project. That project, now completed, was long-delayed and much-needed. The town had previously experienced two derailment events, which left railcars carrying explosive materials lying on their sides. Parts of the existing bridges (on Main Street and Merchants Row) were falling apart onto the old rail trackage. Safety concerns of a downtown catastrophe were slowly understood and prompted by the Lac-Megantic disaster in Quebec when rail cars carrying crude oil for the MM&A

railroad in 2013 exploded in the middle of that downtown, killing 47 people and wiping out most of the downtown buildings. The work in Middlebury was delayed by apathy and design modifications. The objective stated by VTrans was to build a bridge designed for the future use of double-decker railcars. A design that, at that time, served no existing need — and to the best of my knowledge, still has not been required. Governor Scott, to his credit, took an interest, and over time the job was completed. The final product is undeniably beautiful. Less laudable, however, is the fact that the work was not on or near

the original approved budget (the cost soared by a factor exceeding four times) and safety concerns were met with the promise of fixing things in future years. Future years are now here. Let’s review the old issues and ask the Middlebury selectboard and Governor Scott to check on how the safety issues have been dealt with. Here are three scenarios: 1) Fuel car rupture in a derailment. We have fuel moving to a storage tank yard at a superfund site in Burlington. It’s more than 60 percent of the freight traffic. Anyone questioning the risk needs only to do a search (*See Dorsey letter, Page 9A*)

Hardy forum

(Continued from Page 4A) most. We reauthorized the down-payment assistance tax credit program to help moderate-income Vermonters purchase a home. We expanded the Vermont Research & Development Tax Credit for small businesses to invest in improving their products, making it the most generous such program in the nation.

At my urging, we expanded the renter credit so Vermonters who do not own their homes will benefit from financial assistance during this tight rental market. We expanded the property tax credit

program so more low-income Vermonters will be exempt from property taxes. This \$9.3 million in targeted tax relief is on top of the \$100 million in overall property tax relief the Democratic majority provided this year to buy-down the education property tax rate. The Democratic majority in the Vermont Legislature has passed beneficial tax relief policies, while also meeting our obligations to fund a responsible, balanced state budget that provides Vermonters with essential services, during a time when Republican policies at the federal level are increasing

costs for Vermonters across the board. While there is more work to be done, as data from the Vermont Tax Department highlights, the 2025 Tax Relief Package, spearheaded by me and other Democrats, is already helping Vermonters make ends meet during these turbulent times. I look forward to returning to Montpelier in 2027 with a Democratic majority so we can continue to help Vermonters get essential services while increasing affordability — and we will see if Governor Scott is back to take credit for our work.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) My insecurities feel insubstantial when I am surrounded by so many different, singular bodies. As a minority youth in a small, homogenous town, I have often felt that every other person has something inherently in common with the rest, excluding myself. In a large city everyone is different, creating a mix of humanity in which I find such beauty and comfort. I am drawn to urban areas because of what is possible when different kinds of people come together, sharing a place. While

we have our own unique culture in Vermont, such cultural fusion and blending of identities isn’t possible at the same level as in more diverse areas. It is hard to describe how it feels to love a place with all your heart while feeling a strong pull away from it. Vermont has given me so much, and I am endlessly grateful that I got to grow up close to nature and experience all the positives of living in a small, tight community. Wanting to leave feels like a betrayal, but my need to escape doesn’t come from rejection of

Vermont. It is, instead, from a desire to see and experience more of what the world has to offer. I know I always have a home here no matter how far I go, yet other places can better allow me to explore parts of my identity that have been limited in the Green Mountain State. I look forward to everything the future has in store for me. *Madeline Diop is a 17-year-old Bristol resident entering her senior year of high school. Maddie loves art, theater and reading. She has a passion for film and plans to study it after she graduates this spring!*

Mammen letter

(Continued from Page 4A) I know we need additional housing in town. But this project was going forward with or without the CHIP money. I just don’t think it makes sense for Middlebury to forgo municipal property taxes on a new housing project for 20 years in order to improve its quality. How about developing some criteria around these approvals? I suggest

that to be eligible, projects should include a significant complement of affordable and workforce units; commercial development like a restaurant should be excluded (this money is to support housing); and the money should be “make or break” for the project — that is, required in order for the project to be financially viable. The Stonecrop Phase 2 project, whose

application the selectboard voted to submit to VEPC at their last meeting and, if approved, will receive \$4 million via the same process as described above, does meet these criteria. I suggest that the town not support forgoing 85% of municipal property taxes for 20 years for projects not meeting these key criteria.

**Dorothy Mammen
Middlebury**

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
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**To RSVP or learn more, call Susan Bruce at Elderly Services:
802-388-3983, Ext. 215 • www.elderlyservices.org**

ILSLEY GRAND OPENING

AUGUST 29

9:30 AM

BRISTOL BAND

Hear Ilsley’s March and other favorites leading up to the ribbon cutting.

10 AM

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

10:30-12 PM

OPEN HOUSE

Explore the building, do some crafts, and enjoy refreshments and live music on the roof terrace.

11 AM

STORYTIME

Join Miss Tricia in the Community Room for the new library’s inaugural Storytime!

2 PM

FILM SCREENING

MNFF screening of *Storyboard: The Musical*, a 20 minute family friendly short film

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Kevin Andrew Corkins, 75, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Kevin Andrew Corkins, 75, passed away Saturday, Aug. 15, 2026, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington.

He was born March 30, 1951, in Burlington, the son of George and Jessie Mae Corkins.

From an early age, Kevin worked hard to provide for his family. He got his start by buying and fixing up thousands of cars for resale, co-owned the Bristol Creemee Stand and a number of gas stations with his brothers, and ultimately found his calling teaching Power Mechanics and Welding at Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. There, he helped many young men earn certifications and develop the skills they needed to build careers and one day provide for families of their own. Kevin believed in helping others, and he lived out that generosity throughout his life.

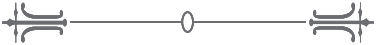
Kevin had many notable accomplishments, including being named Vermont Teacher of the Year, learning to walk, bike, and swim after losing his right leg, and placing first in the Bristol



KEVIN ANDREW CORKINS

Outhouse Races. He received his bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Vermont and maintained a CDL for many years.

He served as Chairman of the Bristol Elementary School Board, member of the Greenwood Cemetery Association, Bristol Justice of the Peace, and on the Bristol Town Board of Adjustment & Planning, as well as Bristol representative to Addison County



George L. Supernault, 68, of Orwell

ORWELL — George L. Supernault, 68, of Orwell died Aug. 22, 2026, at the Jack Byrnes Palliative & Hospice Center in Lebanon, N.H.

He was born in North Adams, Mass., April 3, 1958, the son of Leonard and Barbara (Roedel) Supernault.

George moved to Waterbury, Vt., around 1959 and attended grade school there. He later moved to Barre, Vt., and graduated from Spaulding High School in 1976.

George was a hunter safety course instructor for 35 years, a bow hunting safety instructor for 40 years, and a den leader and cub master.



GEORGE L. SUPERNAUT

George ran Diagnault Hill Sports in Benson and Orwell for many years, he was a LNA for 25 years between Porter, Genesis, and Mckerley’s Beverly Manor and Berlin Convalescence Center in Barre Vt. He was a cook at Maplefields in Shoreham for many years, and then retired.

His hobbies were hunting, fishing, playing corn hole, camping and cruising.

He belonged to the order of Free and Accepted Masons Independence Lodge in Orwell and

Regional Planning Association.

Kevin enjoyed restoring old cars, renovating and building houses, flower gardening, planting trees, working out, following the Red Sox, visiting minor league baseball stadiums, traveling, history and simply sitting on his porch.

Kevin is survived by his daughter, Jessie-Ruth Corkins; his stepdaughter, Tamara Lanham, her husband, Jason, and their children, Nora, Nolan, and Noel; his brothers, Douglas Corkins and his twin brother, Keith Corkins; his sisters, LaNell Corkins DeCosta and Christine DuBois, and Christine’s husband, Andre DuBois; as well as his nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol. A celebration of Kevin’s life will follow at noon at his home, 73 Liberty Street, Bristol, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you plant a tree in Kevin’s memory. He especially loved maple, cherry, and oak trees. ♦

St. Paul’s Lodge in Brandon for 40 years and was a past Worshipful master, past district deputy and past grand lodge officer as well as a member of the Order of the Eastern Star of Vermont Grand Chapter. He was a past worthy patron and past grand worthy patron, GGCCM on regenerative medicine, grand representative to Ontario in Vermont and a member of New Hampshire eastern star.

He is survived by his wife, Meridith (Grant); his children, Matthew Supernault of Orwell, Marisa Supernault and spouse Michelle Rupel of Ohio, and Kate Supernault of Orwell; his sister, Ann (Supernault) and Husband Brian Grande of Adams Mass.; and five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and several cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents, Leonard and Barbara (Roedel) Supernault.

Funeral services will be held at the First Congregational Church of Orwell on Aug. 29, 2026, at 1 p.m. The burial will follow at Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell with a Masonic service with family. A reception after the burial will be held at the church.

In memorial, donations can be made to the Jack Byrnes Palliative & Hospice Center at 154 Hitchcock Loop Road, Lebanon, New Hampshire 03756 (note in George’s name).

Funeral services are under the arrangements of the Ducharme Funeral Home of Castleton, Vermont. Online condolences at www.ducharmefuneralhome.com. ♦

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Donald Allen Moses, M.D., 88, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — Psychiatrist and author Donald Allen Moses, M.D., 88, of Bridport, Vt., passed away Thursday, Aug. 13, at Helen Porter Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury. Don lived an expansive life, governed by intellectual curiosity, devotion to his patients and family, and love of the natural world.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1938 to Edward Moses and Evelyn Roberts, and spent boyhood summers at Eagle Mountain Camp on Lake Champlain, where his love of Vermont began. He skipped two grades and entered Bates College at sixteen, intending to study medicine, and met Sarah Moseley Dean of Wellesley Hills, Mass. His family was Jewish, arrived from Ukraine around 1900; hers Episcopalian, in New England since the 1600s. Only nineteen and still students, they eloped Dec. 6, 1957, and were married for sixty-eight years.

He earned his medical degree from New York Medical College in 1962 and, against everyone’s advice, moved with Sarah and their four-year-old son Richard to Hawaii, where he interned at The Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu.

Back on the mainland he served as an Air Force flight surgeon at Andrews Air Force Base. In 1965 the family moved to Glen Cove, N.Y., where they would live for 54 years.

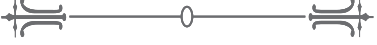
For more than four decades he practiced psychiatry on Long Island, specializing in adolescents and young adults and working in



DONALD ALLEN MOSES, M.D.

psychoanalytic and psychodynamic psychotherapy. He consulted to adolescent substance abuse programs and was affiliated with what is now Northwell Health. He was tenacious and not easily discouraged, staying the course with people for as long as needed. Patients who found him decades later told his family he had changed the course of their lives.

He wrote captivating books that outlined his therapeutic philosophy, focusing on young people and their complex developmental issues. “Are You Driving Your Children to Drink?” appeared in 1975. Forty years later, he wrote two books with Wendy L. Moss, Ph.D.: “The Tween Book” in 2015 and “Raising Independent, Self-Confident Kids” in 2017, both published by the American Psychological Association. The latter won a 2019 Royal Dragonfly Book Award and, this past spring, the 2026



Rose Alba (Stone) Plankey, 94, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Rose Alba (Stone) Plankey passed away peacefully Aug. 18, 2026, in Middlebury, Vt., one day shy of her 95th birthday. Born in Ferrisburgh, Vt., she was the youngest child of Oscar and Marguerite (Langeway) Stone.

Rose spent her entire life in Addison County, building a life centered around family, faith, friendship, and the simple joys that made each day special. Rose married the love of her life, William J. Plankey Sr., and together they shared 45 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in 1995. They made their home on Main Street in Vergennes, where Rose lived for 68 years. It was more than just a house — it was the heart of the family. Rose and Bill raised their six children there, and over the years it became a place where children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren gathered to celebrate birthdays and holidays, share meals, tell stories, and simply enjoy being together. For Rose, those moments with her family were among life’s greatest blessings.

Rose found her greatest purpose and happiness in her family. She is survived by four of her children, Kathleen Gourlie (William), Barbara McDonald (Barry), Susan Hatch (Michael Gingras), and Diana Hirshfeld (Drew). She was predeceased by her beloved sons, William Plankey Jr. and Michael Plankey. Rose was a loving grandmother to fourteen grandchildren, along with their spouses and partners, and a proud great-grandmother to thirteen. She is also survived by many cousins and friends who will miss her



ROSE ALBA (STONE)
PLANKEY

warmth and kindness.

Rose’s Catholic faith was a constant and important part of her life. She was a lifelong member of St. Peter’s Church in Vergennes and a member of the St. Ann’s Society. In her later years, she found great joy in being a dedicated volunteer at St. Peter’s Closet thrift store, where she enjoyed helping others and being part of her church community.

Rose and Bill shared a love of square dancing and were committed members of the Small City Steppers. Rose also loved baking, gardening, sewing, fishing, and reading. She had a wonderful appreciation for the things that made a house feel like home, and her collections of owls, nutcrackers, and salt and pepper shakers became legendary among family and friends.

Those who knew Rose will remember her devotion to her family, her strong faith, her generous spirit, and the love she

Eric Hoffer Book Award in the Nonfiction Legacy Category.

While he practiced in Greenvale, Sarah ran Moseley Art Galleries in the same town, dealing in nineteenth and twentieth century American oils and watercolors. She later started an interior design business.

Outside the office he fished, skied, and sailed with Sarah and their sons; late in life the two of them earned their licenses to skipper a yacht around the world, and never quite stopped intending to go.

He read across every genre and period — Marcel Proust twice — loved the classics, classical music, opera, and the jazz of the forties and fifties. Beside his nineteenth-century paintings he kept a row of solar-powered plastic hula dancers. He took life seriously and himself not so much.

His grandfather came up to Vermont from Brooklyn in the early 1900s to buy marble for a stone and tile business; the family’s connection to Manchester and Winhall runs five generations. Donald and his own father bought the family’s first ski house in Winhall, where he skied with his family at Stratton Mountain from 1967 to 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; his sons, Richard Moses of New York City and his partner, Omar Perez, and Erik Moses of Winhall, Vt., and his wife, Glauke Cooijmans; and two grandchildren, Tijssen and Heike.

A private memorial service will be held Friday, Aug. 21, in Manchester, Vt. ♦

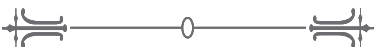
poured into the home she created. Her family will forever treasure the many memories made around her table and in her home — the laughter, celebrations, stories, traditions and everyday moments that became a lifetime of happy memories.

A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Peter’s Church, 85 S. Maple Street in Vergennes on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 2 p.m., with burial to follow in St. Peter’s Cemetery. Friends may gather at St. Peter’s Parish Hall at 1 p.m. prior to the service. Visitation will be at Brown-McClay Funeral Home (48 S. Maple Street, Vergennes) on Friday, Sept. 4 from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Addison County Home Health and Hospice (achhh.org, PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753) or American Cancer Society (cancer.org, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741, or The Vergennes Fire Department for support and improvements (Stevens Hose Company, PO Box 224, Vergennes, VT 05491).

Rose’s family would like to thank the staff at The Residence at Otter Creek for their care and friendship. We are also grateful for the support of the Hospice Team at Addison County Home Health & Hospice.

Rose’s greatest legacy is the family she loved so deeply. Though she will be dearly missed, her love will live on in the many lives she touched and in the generations of her family who will carry her memory forward. Her home may be quiet now, but the love, laughter, and happy times she created there will remain in the hearts of her family forever. ♦



LILY A. WILDEY

Lily Wildey
memorial service

MIDDLEBURY — A Mass of Christian burial for Lily A. Wildey, who died July 4, 2026, will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary’s Church, Middlebury. ♦

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*Invitation for
Storytellers 2026*

Porter Medical Center’s Palliative Support
Services is seeking storytellers for our next
storytelling event, which will take place
on the evening of
Wednesday, October 14, in Middlebury.

Our theme is
**Stories from the Heart: Honoring Spirits
Who Have Left This World**

Do you have a story to tell about a personal
experience of loss and grief, of someone who
has left this world, and your own healing? Each
story will be no more than 7 minutes in length, a
personal and true story told from the heart (rather
than read), and include how this experience
changed or deepened your life. Seven stories will
be selected and those storytellers will be coached
to help them prepare for telling their stories before
an audience.

Interested storytellers are invited to submit a
written draft or a well-developed outline to
Jen Guenther at fishercatalley@gmail.com

**Deadline for stories: Friday, September 4, 2026,
at noon.**

**University of
Vermont Health
Porter Medical Center**

John A. Bertolini, 78, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — John A. Bertolini, Ellis Professor Emeritus of English and Liberal Arts, who taught English and Film at Middlebury College for 44 years, died Aug. 16. He held a B.A. from Manhattan College and M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He leaves behind his wife of 53 years, Mary Ellen Bertolini, his two daughters, Francesca Bertolini and Diana Bertolini, several close friends, and thousands of students. John loved and delighted in his family. In addition to his professional accomplishments, he will be remembered for his warmth, keen intelligence, encyclopedic knowledge of his favorite subjects, sharp wit, and sense of humor. He was intellectually exciting to talk to, always entertaining, and easy to have fun with. He was 78.

John loved teaching and did it joyfully. He inspired and was dedicated to his students, some of whom became writers, actors, and teachers, and many of whom developed life-long passions for Shakespeare, Shaw, Rattigan, Hitchcock, William Wyler, and David Lean.

An only child, John grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., a first-generation American on his father's side; he spoke fluent Italian and French. John's father, Amerigo, was a Freudian psychiatrist who introduced him to many ideas he would use as a foundation for his interpretation of literature.

His mother, Anna inspired his lifelong love of cinema by regularly taking him to the great movie palaces of Brooklyn and Manhattan, where he first saw many of the classic 1950s films that would become his lifelong favorites. One of his earliest memories was seeing the first cinemascope film, *The Robe* (1953) at the Roxy Theatre. This experience made such an impression on him that he would later name his younger daughter, Diana, after the female lead character.

Acting in productions at Brooklyn Preparatory School, Manhattan College, and the College of New Rochelle cultivated his love of great plays — many of which he would go on to teach — and formed the basis of the dynamic theatricality that he brought to the classroom. He appeared in the title role in *Richard II*, as Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Biff in *Death of a Salesman*, Eddie Carbone in *A View from the*



JOHN ANTHONY BERTOLINI

Bridge, starred opposite his future wife Mary Ellen in Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, and directed and starred in his own productions of *Hamlet* and *King Lear*.

At Columbia University, he studied French and Italian Renaissance Drama, writing his dissertation on: "Dramaturgy in Italian and French Renaissance Tragedy." As a graduate student, he taught at Barnard and Columbia Colleges. He began his academic career studying Renaissance Drama and became himself a Renaissance man.

In addition to his love of film and literature, he was also a fanatical collector and expert on classical music (especially opera), and musical theatre. He had a great ear for music and a beautiful natural singing voice.

During his decades at Middlebury, he chaired the English and Film Departments and the Literary Studies Program and served as a Faculty Associate for Wonacott Commons. He was an excellent mentor to his colleagues. He taught courses on Shakespeare, Chaucer, Milton, Shaw, Stoppard, Rattigan, Modern British Drama, Contemporary British Drama, Modern Irish Drama, American Drama, European Drama, British Cinema, Comedy, Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean, and William Wyler.

John published "The Playwrighting Self of Bernard Shaw" (1991), "The Case for Terence Rattigan, Playwright" (2016), and dozens of articles on Shaw, Shakespeare, Alfred Hitchcock, Luigi Pirandello, Terrance Rattigan, and Tennessee Williams. In 2009, he edited and wrote introductions for two volumes of Shaw's plays for the

Barnes and Noble Classics series, "Man and Superman and Three Other Plays," and "Pygmalion and Three Other Plays." He also edited "Shaw and Other Playwrights, Volume 13" of "SHAW: The Annual of Bernard Shaw Studies" (1993). He was a founding Member and on the Advisory Council of the International Shaw Society.

Over the years, he gave multiple presentations on the works of Bernard Shaw, Terence Rattigan, Arthur Miller, and William Shakespeare, and also on French and Italian Opera, and such films as *Early Spring*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *8 1/2*, *High Noon*, *Rear Window*, and *Poil de Carotte*. Highlights of his public speaking career include lecturing at the Shaw Festival, at Oxford University's Lincoln College, addressing the Terence Rattigan Society at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, and being chosen by Middlebury's February Class of 1999 and the Class of 2007 to be their graduation speaker.

He studied the mechanics of great films and literature, and could explain the intention behind a word choice, a use of italics, a close-up, or a camera angle. He integrated those details into his appreciation of the work as a whole and expressed his insights brilliantly in his classes, lectures, and published writings. But he also connected to art on the deepest emotional level, often moved to uproarious laughter or to tears by its power and beauty. He spread his infectious joy, humor and enthusiasm to his students, friends and family. The great passion of his life was sharing the art he loved, and even after retiring, he never stopped teaching. Despite the progression of Parkinson's disease, over the course of two years he gave a series of private classes on eight Shakespeare plays to his daughters, which is one of their most treasured memories.

"And gladly would he learn and gladly teach."

— *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer

We ask those who wish to honor John, to donate to Porter Medical Center, where he received exceptional care in the final weeks of his life. Please select the "Palliative Care/ARCH Fund" at tinyurl.com/John-Bertolini.

A celebration of John's life, including a film screening, will be held in April 2027.◊

Helena Arlene Cousineau, 86, of Brandon

BRANDON — Helena Arlene Cousineau, age 86, passed peacefully Aug. 17, 2026, at Mountain View Center in Rutland.

Helena was born in Middlebury July 22, 1940. She was the daughter of William and Grace (Ladd) Vassau. She grew up in East Middlebury and graduated from Middlebury High School, class of 1958. She co-owned and ran a bakery in Goshen for many years, and worked at Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen. She served the town of Goshen as an auditor and Town Clerk for many years. She was an avid knitter, making many sweaters for family members and friends. Most of all she enjoyed being a grandmother and was happiest surrounded by family.

She is survived by two sons, Dr. Glen Cousineau (Christa Thomas) of Orwell and Jeffrey



HELENA ARLENE COUSINEAU

Cousineau (Paula Ketcham) of Brandon. She is also survived by her four grandchildren, Claudia and William Cousineau and Nick and Emily Jackson. Her sister

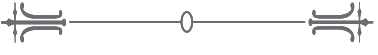
Gearldine Jackson of Ripton also survives her as well as son-in-law David Jackson of Pantton. Many nieces and nephews also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents, an infant son Daniel Cousineau, her daughter Rhonda Jackson and brother Ronald Vassau.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date in St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury.

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

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of the Mountain View Center for their compassionate care they provided Helena.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.◊



MELISSA BUSH

Melissa Bush celebration of life

BRIDPORT — Family and friends are invited to gather and celebrate the life of Melissa Bush, who died Aug. 13, 2026. Come share memories, stories and the joy she brought to those who knew and loved her Sunday, Sept. 13, from 2-4 p.m., at Bridport Masonic Hall, 52 Middle Road, in Bridport.

Please join us as we honor Melissa's life, reflect on cherished memories, and find comfort in one another's presence. All who knew Melissa are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to your local EMS agency, or humane society. We look forward to coming together to celebrate a life well lived and forever remembered.◊



Thomas A. Kozic Jr., 81, formerly of Ferrisburgh

WEST BOYLSTON, Mass. — Thomas A. Kozic Jr., age 81, passed away peacefully at his home in West Boylston, Mass., Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026. He was a former long-time resident of Ferrisburgh, Vt.

Born to the late Thomas and Mary Kozic of Somerville, N.J., Tom grew up surrounded by a large, loving family. After graduating high school, he attended Clemson University before proudly serving his country in the United States Marine Corps.

In 1969, Tom married the love of his life, Linda, in Arizona. Together, they shared 57 years of marriage, building a life centered on family and love. Tom spent much of his professional career in Vermont, where he eventually retired from BF Goodrich Aerospace in Vergennes.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; his four children, Kelly, Kandy, Kari, and Thomas; his ten grandchildren; and his siblings, Joe, David, Robert, and Eileen. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who

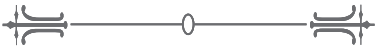


THOMAS A. KOZIC JR.

knew him.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, at 1 p.m., at The Mill 185, located at 185 W. Boylston Street, West Boylston, Mass.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Tom's memory to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Association.◊



Paul Raymond Francoeur, 68, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Paul Raymond Francoeur, age 68, passed peacefully Aug. 23, 2026, at his home in Leicester following a long battle with Amyotrophic Lateral

Sclerosis.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

A complete obituary will appear in a later edition of the Addison.◊

Douglas Donald Powell, 69, formerly of Bristol

BRISTOL — With sadness, we note the unexpected passing of Douglas Donald Powell, formerly of Bristol, on Aug. 7, 2026, in Syracuse, N.Y.

He was born Feb. 19, 1957, the son of Lucille (Powell) Jimmo and Frederick Powell. Doug spent his earliest days in Bristol schools, graduating from MAUHS in 1975. He attended Springfield College (Mass.) and Rockford College (Ill.).

Doug excelled in basketball, baseball and soccer as a varsity high-school athlete. He played first base on the 1974 Division II MAUHS baseball team, contributing to its first championship. In 1975, as a senior, he was selected as one of 15 statewide players in the first-ever VT-NH Twin State Soccer game.

In his work life, Doug gravitated to his dad's chosen professions — plumber and electrician. He pursued his trade in many parts of the country, relying on his considerable skills as a problem-solver and quick learner.

Doug's love of music threaded its way through his life as a singer-songwriter; he acquired a knack for cooking in his later years — again, like his dad.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne of Potsdam, N.Y.; his brothers, Scott and Charlie Powell, and Brad Jimmo; and sisters, Lisa Powell, Dawn (Powell) Jimmo and Anne (Powell) Gleason; and nieces, nephews and great-nephews. Keeping connected to these — "his people" — was especially important to Doug.

Doug's presence in this world is missed — but well-remembered.◊

Notes of appreciation

It takes a team effort to create and install public art

We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge everyone who helped bring the beautiful new mural on the corner of Bakery Lane to life.

Our thanks go to the town of Middlebury, the selectboard for its approval, the Downtown Improvement District Commission for helping to fund the project, the

Public Works staff for ensuring safe road closure during set up, the wonderfully talented Matt Heywood for creating the artwork, and Silver Maple for their time and expertise during installation.

Projects like this look simple once they're finished, but there are always many hands behind them. It takes a full team effort, and we

feel incredibly lucky to live in a town where people are so willing to collaborate, pitch in, and make good things happen!

With much gratitude,
Kathryn Torres & Kelly Flynn
Better Middlebury
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Addison County Home Health and Hospice is hosting Grief and Loss Support Groups beginning on Sept. 23rd continuing for eight weeks on Wednesdays until Nov. 11th

These meetings will be held **in person** at Addison County Home Health and Hospice headquarters located at 254 Ethan Allen Highway (Rt 7) in New Haven, VT 05472 from 3:00pm-4:30pm.

We welcome all community members whether or not they or a loved one have had care from us in the past. Thanks to generous donors, the groups are being offered free of charge.
Kate Sanchez, ACHHH Chaplain and Stephanie Corliss, LICSW, will lead the groups.

Come and receive practical advice and tools for moving through grief, and make connections with others in your community.

Please call the ACHHH office at 388-7259 to complete a brief screening process and to sign up.



254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven (Route 7) | P.O. Box 754, Middlebury 05753 | 802-388-7259 | ACHHH.org



Music, face paint and food

MIDDLEBURY TOWN GREEN on Saturday was awash in the hallmarks of a celebration, with kids getting their faces painted, bands playing music and food being doled out. It was a 50th birthday party for the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op, which was founded in the shire town in 1976. Revelers saw, from top to bottom, Co-op board members Samantha Langevin (left) and Caryne Eskridge sharing information; five-year-old Leni Lenyell assessing the face paint on her brother Rocco, 3; Killington duo Nick & Bredice; and a giant soap bubble floating above the action.

Independent photos/Steve James



Vermont’s statewide ban on use of cellphones in schools starts this year

Different approaches, some say the policies don’t go far enough

By CHARLOTTE OLIVER
VtDigger.org

Kids across Vermont will be banned from using smartphones during the school day this year as a new state law takes effect.

Although schools are newly required to have policies on banning phones from the classroom, many schools around the state have tried out the ban for the last year or two. And staff in those districts say students have been more attentive in class, more social and less likely to engage in cyber bullying.

“We’ve had overwhelming positive responses from families, from students, from teachers,” said Ryan Heraty, superintendent of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union. This is the third year the district will restrict phones in schools, he said.

Vermont passed its law banning cellphones from schools in 2025 amid a nationwide movement concerned about the cognitive and emotional impacts of social media and smartphone use among youth.

Vermont’s law prohibits students from using cellphones and other personal electronic devices, such as tablets and smartwatches, during the school day unless necessary for their healthcare or academic accommodations.

School districts have discretion, though, over how they enforce the prohibition. This school year they’re required to have district policies that are at least as restrictive as the model policy released by the Vermont Agency of Education.

In some schools, students are required to leave their phones in their lockers or at home, while students at other schools must keep them in magnetically sealed pouches throughout the day. And at others, kids can keep their phones quietly stored in their backpacks.

Advocates and lawmakers who supported the state’s law say that certain schools’ policies that are compliant with the law still don’t go far enough.

“It’s not setting kids up for

success,” said Rep. Angela Arsenault, D-Williston, referring to policies that allow kids to keep their phones in their backpacks or close by.

Arsenault, who spearheaded the provision in the legislature, said research shows that as long as a student’s phone is nearby, the temptation to use it is there.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE DOING

Some school districts, like Lamoille South, were ahead of the curve.

The district’s movement to ban phones from schools started two years ago when teachers across the district grew concerned about students using their phones in class, according to Superintendent Heraty.

After hearing complaints from teachers, the district surveyed parents and found overwhelming support for restricting phone use in classrooms, Heraty said.

Rather than collecting students’ phones or providing locked magnetic pouches, schools simply require kids to leave their phones in their lockers, cars or at home, Heraty said. With that method, the school doesn’t have to spend money on methods to store phones, and school staff don’t have to be responsible for the devices.

“Really, this is a trust situation, and we’re going to have high expectations for students,” Heraty said.

Since restricting phones from the classroom, Heraty said that cyberbullying has decreased, students are less distracted and student achievement has improved.

Jay Nichols, the executive director of the Vermont Principals’ Association, described similar reports from principals and superintendents across the state. Most schools leaned into the phone ban last year, he said, and he’s heard overwhelmingly positive results.

Across the state, different schools are trying out different methods to help keep kids away from their phones, Nichols said. Some schools, like Harwood Union High School in Duxbury, have invested in magnetically sealed cell phone pouches. Others have created small cubbies or lockers made for phones, he said.

Wendy Baker, superintendent of the Addison Central School District in Middlebury, said that her district’s approach to restricting devices can vary depending on the student. Some kids are allowed to keep their phones with them during the school day, while others are expected to leave their phones in the school’s office, she said.

“It really just depends on what the student needs in order to support them,” Baker said.

LASTING CONCERNS

Laura Derrendinger, an advocate for passing the law, said that she — like Arsenault — takes issue with kids being able to keep their phones within reach throughout the school day.

Derrendinger’s 15-year-old daughter, A.M. Derrendinger, formerly attended a Waldorf school out of state before attending the Sharon Academy. At her former school, she said, kids were given magnetic pouches to hold their phones throughout the school day.

Still, A.M. Derrendinger said kids would break into the pouches. She would walk into the bathroom to find other girls were on their phones, she said. Some students would find ways to talk to Siri through the pouches, she said.

They were still a distraction.

Laura Derrendinger said the advocacy organization she helps lead, called VT-IRL.org, is grading schools around the state based on their compliance with a model policy that her advocacy organization supports.

Schools will only receive an A grade from her organization if students have to store their phones in a central location for the entire school day, she said. It’s the only model in which “there’s no risk of a child being tempted even,” she added.

“That is the least expensive and most effective solution,” she said.



“It really just depends on what the student needs in order to support them.”

— Wendy Baker, superintendent of the Addison Central School District

“We’ve had overwhelming positive responses from families, from students, from teachers.”

— Ryan Heraty, superintendent of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union

Update voter records before Sept. 1

By SHAUN ROBINSON
VtDigger.org

The Vermont Secretary of State’s office is urging voters to make sure they have a current address on file with the state before ballots get mailed out for this fall’s general election.

After Sept. 1 — which is in less than a week — whatever voter addresses the secretary’s office has listed will be used to mail ballots. The state will start sending out ballots late next month ahead of the election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, said Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas.

Despite rampant national claims to the contrary, mail-in ballots are a safe and secure way to vote, she said. Recent state data shows they are widely used in Vermont. In the 2024 election, nearly two-thirds of people who voted did so by mail, also known as voting absentee.

CHECKING ADDRESSES

In Vermont, state law requires that every registered voter be mailed a ballot for the biennial general election. Voters can fill out their ballot at home and return it by mail or at a drop-off location. They can also disregard the mail ballot entirely and vote in person on election day.

The state does not mail out ballots for primary elections, like the one held earlier this month. If a voter has moved since the 2024 election, though, they should update their address with the state as soon as possible, Copeland Hanzas said.

“We want to make sure that ballots are going exactly where the voter lives,” she said.

Voters who will be away from home this fall should submit an absentee ballot request, which will direct their ballot to the address they’ll be at instead. That’s a good option for college students and members of the military who will be overseas, she said.

Voters can verify or change the address that’s on file — or request an absentee ballot — at the online Vermont Voter Portal, which is vote.vermont.gov. They can also contact their local town or city clerk.

VOTER ROLLS, MAIL DELAYS

Copeland Hanzas said Vermont puts multiple sets of eyes on every stage in the vote-by-mail process to make sure it’s as accurate and secure as possible.

She explained that since last fall, officials in every city and town have completed a legally mandated review of their local voter checklists to identify anyone who they believe has moved, passed away or otherwise cannot vote there. That review is done by each town’s Board of Civil Authority.

Any people who are flagged by the board will not be automatically mailed a ballot this fall unless that person clarifies with local officials that they are listed correctly, Copeland Hanzas said. That means it’s highly unlikely that someone would be mailed a ballot who was not registered to vote in a given city or town.

At the national level, President Donald Trump is trying to limit access to mail voting, in part with an executive order in March directing the U.S. Postal Service to only deliver ballots from people who are on a federally approved list. That followed another order last year attempting to prohibit counting of mail ballots that are postmarked by Election Day but arrive afterward, among other changes. (In Vermont, election officials must get mail-in ballots back before polls close on Election Day to count them.)

Federal courts have so far blocked implementation of both orders in response to legal challenges from states, including Vermont, and national voting rights groups. The president continues to disparage mail-in voting, though he has voted by mail himself, including in Florida’s Republican primary earlier this month.

Even if Vermonters aren’t concerned about the security of mail-in voting, they may be worried about the timeliness with which their ballot will be delivered. Mail delivery delays are well-documented, especially in the state’s most rural communities.

More than 2,000 people have made complaints to the three members of Vermont’s congressional delegation about mail service so far this year, according to a letter the lawmakers sent Friday to U.S. Postmaster General David Steiner.

Copeland Hanzas said that voters should feel confident they will receive a ballot in the mail this year. If they’re concerned about it getting back in time, they can use a ballot dropbox, locations of which are listed online. They can also turn in a filled-out ballot up until polls close on Election Day.

Bristol firefighters receive statewide honors

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Two members of the Bristol Fire Department were honored at the Vermont State Firefighters' Association's annual conference last month — with one of them earning the state's top firefighting honor.

At the July 18 gathering in Saint Albans, Kris Perlee was recognized as the VSFA Firefighter of the Year, and Caleb Rockwood received the award for VSFA Emergency Maintenance Technician of the Year.

"We are incredibly proud of both Kris and Caleb for their hard work and well-deserved recognition. Thank you for your continued service to Bristol," reads a July 24 social media post from the department announcing the awards.

Perlee joined the department in September 2012 and has for the past several years served as president of the N.H. Munsill Hose, Hook & Ladder Company, the Bristol department's 501(c) (3) and founding organization. In a nomination letter to the Vermont State Firefighters' Association, members of the Bristol Fire Department lauded Perlee for his dedication to the department.

"He consistently attends training regardless of the topic, always eager to strengthen his knowledge and sharpen his skills. He is also among the department's most reliable responders," the letter states. "Because he works locally, the department frequently relies upon Kris to help fill critical staffing and support roles during weekday hours when volunteer staffing can be especially challenging."

The letter highlighted two projects Perlee has worked on that reflect his contributions to the department, including serving on the working group tasked with researching and designing the department's newest apparatus, a 2022 HME pumper.

"Over the course of more than 15 months, Kris devoted countless



KRIS PERLEE

hours outside of scheduled meetings researching apparatus specifications, consulting with vendors, and speaking with other fire departments about their operational experiences," reads the letter. "His thorough approach and commitment to ensuring the department received a safe, functional and reliable apparatus were instrumental to the project's success."

Perlee also helped bring to life the idea for the department's Conex Box Training Structure, the letter notes.

"Recognizing the growing difficulty in obtaining acquired structures for training and the rising costs associated with using state training facilities, Kris and several members proposed creating a permanent in-house training facility utilizing Conex boxes," reads the nomination letter. Conex boxes, or container express boxes, are corrugated steel cargo containers.

Perlee led the working group in charge of designing and constructing the training structure starting in February 2023, using national standards to develop the two-story facility.

"Officially placed into service in May 2025, the facility now provides firefighters with the opportunity to conduct search and

rescue drills, hose advancement scenarios, ladder operations, and countless other hands-on training evolutions in a safe and controlled environment," the letter states. "Kris dedicated countless hours researching similar facilities across the country to ensure the structure met applicable safety standards while also complying with local zoning requirements."

Rockwood was another key contributor to the training facility's development, according to the letter nominating him for Emergency Maintenance Technician of the Year.

"In particular, he played a significant role in the design and fabrication of both the forcible entry prop and chimney fire prop incorporated into the facility," reads the letter.

Rockwood joined the department in September 2020 and was commended for the "dedication, professionalism and technical expertise" he's exemplified in his service to the department and broader

community.

"Caleb is not only an outstanding firefighter, but in his full-time profession he is an experienced and extremely talented diesel mechanic whose skills and work ethic have become invaluable assets to our organization," the letter reads. "Caleb's mechanical knowledge and problem-solving abilities have played a critical role in maintaining the operational readiness and reliability of our apparatus and equipment."

The letter noted Rockwood's service has been impactful.

"Firefighter Rockwood exemplifies the spirit of the Vermont fire service through his commitment to excellence, technical expertise, humility and willingness to support others," the letter states. "His contributions extend far beyond routine expectations and have had a lasting positive impact on the Bristol Fire Department and the firefighters who train and serve within it."



CALEB ROCKWOOD

Photos by Mark Bouvier



VPA honors OV's top brass

THE VERMONT PRINCIPALS Association on Aug. 5 recognized Otter Valley Union Middle and High School Principal Michael Ruppel and Associate Principal Karyn Stannard as Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year, respectively. Said RNESU Superintendent Rene Sanchez: "We're so grateful to have Karyn and Michael on our team at Otter Valley. Having the Vermont Principals Association recognize their dedication is a wonderful honor for our district, and it really reflects the incredible work happening across our entire school community. We feel privileged to partner with them as they support and guide our students and staff into the new school year."

Dorsey letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
on the Bellingham, WA gasoline spill fire in years past. When the Middlebury Fire Department was asked how they would handle a derailment and fire suppression, it was explained that they would "foam it." Setting aside the cancer issues around foam, we were informed that foam was not stored in Middlebury at that time — it was in Rutland or Saint Albans. It is a near certainty that a one-to-four-hour delay in having foam available on site would be too late. Let's ask for an update on steps taken to mitigate this concern.

2) Chlorine and ammonia gas. The train carried these highly toxic substances into downtown Burlington within close proximity to a hospital and college campus. These gasses, if moved by the right wind conditions, have a very scary potential result (people die).

The "solution" was and still is an emergency plan that informs residents of steps to stay safe. As an example with ammonia gas, one suggested practice is to go into your bathroom, put wet towels at the bottom of the door, turn the shower on and stay there until a safe signal sounds. I would suggest a safety plan is either not well-broadcast or it is past due. Let's ask the college and the hospital to comment on the training announced and implemented with the help of the selectboard and the state of Vermont. If there is one, I missed it.

3) There are a number of other items to catch up on, including the drain of toxic oil and chemicals that are released out of the tunnel into a holding tank and ultimately, if the tank is filled, into Otter Creek. But I suggest an answer to the two scenarios above should come first.

One last caution: Let's not be satisfied with the response that "trains are safe." That is a true statement that does not apply in Middlebury.

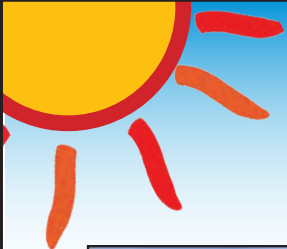
Trains are correctly judged to be safer than trucks in a review of Class One Trains. Class One Trains are big (CN, BNSF, etc.). Our train is a small RR with a very much worse safety record. Let's not forget multiple derailments in the past.

Sorry to be a voice of concern. We certainly have more than enough concerns at present.

On the positive side, these actually have solutions you can impact.

George Dorsey
Middlebury

Editor's note: Mr. Dorsey is a former part-time resident of Middlebury and a downtown business owner.



Lincoln, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics



Phase I - 2014

For a long time I had been thinking of going solar, but had not pursued it until I talked with a neighbor who just had hers installed. I contracted with her installer and soon had panels on the roof that supplied all of my household electricity, with some extra capacity to supply an on-demand electric water heater I soon put in. I loved not hearing the propane boiler firing up in the summer to keep domestic water hot for the shower I'd be taking 16 hours later. Thrilled with the installation and not having an electric bill. I even splurged and bought my first ever noisy window A/C.

Phase II - 2016

While my primary heat source has been a woodstove and later a pellet stove, the propane boiler served as my backup. On a December road trip to PEI, I discovered the 25+ year old propane boiler died on me. I'm lucky to have had a monitoring system to notice this and awesome neighbors to feed pellets until I got back. Rather than buy another fossil fuel burning device, I decided to have heat pumps installed. At the time Bristol Electronics didn't install those, but they were very competitive as I shopped around for additional solar capacity. So in February 2016 they were on the roof installing panels that would provide enough electricity year round to supply my heating needs. And, since the heat pump also cools the house quietly on the hottest days, I sold the window unit. Maybe I'm just getting older, but there seems to be more and more of those hot days.

Phase III - 2019

Since I commute from So. Lincoln to Burlington, I've always felt guilty about all of the CO2 I've been emitting to get to work. I still have 7-10 years before I can even think about retiring, so I decided to make the investment and buy an electric car. And part of that investment was to buy the additional solar capacity to power it. I didn't think twice about having Bristol Electronics do it. My roof was running out of space, and since it has a low pitch, snow coverage was a issue for the last two years. This time I worked with Chris, Stephen, Dave and Trevor to have a ground mount installed that will be easy to clear the snow off of. They did amazing work, despite weather issues, and were actually able to make some long overdue landscaping improvements during the process. I couldn't be happier with my experience with this team!

~ Paul Webb, Lincoln, VT



802.453.2500 • BristolElectronicsVT.com
FREE SITE EVALUATIONS



National Bank of Middlebury

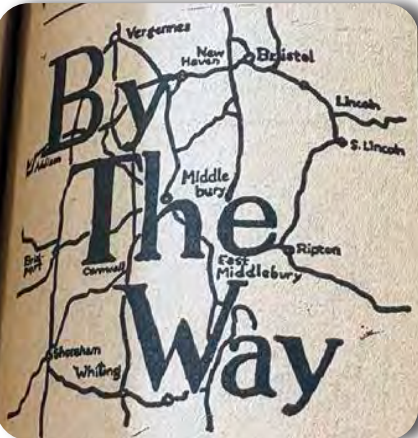
Banking is what we do. Community is who we are.



PO Box 189 Middlebury, VT 05753 | 802-388-4982 | info@nbmvt.com

Member
FDIC

The Addison Independent's "By The Way" column has been around since Jan. 10, 1947. Here's an excerpt from the Aug. 29, 1947, edition. Today, senior reporter John Flowers compiles the weekly stories for "By The Way."



The Bristol Post, American Legion baseball team's banquet was held last night at Ann's Restaurant in Bristol. Under Don Wilson's able leadership the Legion team has done quite well, thank you, winning 11 games and losing two. It garnered a large following of loyal fans and the nice words they said last night about the team and management were well deserved.

When Chief of Police Don Williamson yearns for company on his nightly rounds, he calls up his wife and tells her to let his bulldog, George, loose. Some 15 to 20 minutes later, George arrives in the Village, from the house, five miles away.

Eleanor B. Kennerson of Cross Street is to be congratulated for having made the Dean's list of Middlebury College on the basis of her grades during the last semester of the 1946-47 academic year.

Miss Addie Raymon was honored for her 46 years of service as the librarian for the village of Orwell. The Orwell Free Library celebrated its 50th anniversary in August 1946.



Art exhibits have been on display at the Henry Sheldon Museum for 80 years too! Check out this article from Aug. 29, 1947, about "Fans and Buttons" that was curated by Miss Florence Allen.

Many Fans, Buttons Now on Display At Sheldon Museum

A special exhibit is being shown of "Fans and Buttons" at the Sheldon Museum which will continue about two weeks. Many of the buttons Henry Sheldon collected years ago are being shown, mostly of a military nature, some from Norwich University and a number of buttons collected by Col. Daniel Stevens of Bristol, R. I. who had the largest collection of military buttons in the world.

About 2,000 buttons owned by Elizabeth Novak, who has a complete collection of 20,000 or more are also on exhibit. Others may be shown later if any of the numerous collectors in town decide to bring in their share.

About 50 old fans are also on display, at least one of them being more than 100 years old and all of them over 50 years old.

Miss Florence Allen, curator, announces that through September the Museum will be closed from 12 noon to 1 p.m. as she will be without help during that period. Also through the month, the Museum will be closed on Sunday.

Snaps Restaurant in Bristol had an ad for their "quality food at popular prices" in the paper 80 years ago.

Snaps' Restaurant

Quality Food at Popular Prices
Open Sundays and Evenings
Through Summer Months
Bristol --- Vermont



Eighty years, countless stories and plenty of ink — it's time to dust off the archives! This week's special page highlights vintage Addison Independent newspaper clippings from our formative years, 1946 to 1949.

Look for retrospective pages like this each week as we highlight classic clips, remember pivotal moments, enjoy old-school ads and honor our past

decades. This nostalgia-filled series will culminate with a commemorative 80th-anniversary special section hitting newsstands on Thursday, Oct. 8.

We hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane as we celebrate 80 years of serving Addison County. With your support, The Addison Independent can stay strong, independent and connected to our community for many decades to come!

SEND US YOUR STORIES! Have you been a long-time reader? Do you have memories of elders reading the paper in its early days? Perhaps you were a paper carrier or worked in the darkroom or on paste-up boards back in the days when printing was done on site, layout was done by hand, and typewriters clicked noisily in the newsroom? We're collecting stories and histories to share in our 80th commemorative edition.

Send your memories to christy@addisonindependent.com, call 802-388-4944, or visit us in the Marble Works.

SPORTS

Sports reporting in the '40s was typically a brief story, or a photo like this skier from December 1949.



Middlebury is preparing for a busy ski season. The Middlebury College Ski team envisions a good snow blanket and plenty of opportunity for the sport. The college faces a heavy schedule this season. Meanwhile Middlebury Inn and others are booking reservations for an unusually large group of winter sports enthusiasts who hope to take advantage of the excellent facilities afford them here.

In the summer of 1947, Robert Frost was a member of the 22nd annual Middlebury College Bread Loaf Writers Conference. More than 100 authors from all of the USA met for the conference that was reportedly "more academic than social."

BREAD LOAF DEATH ON LITERARY 'FOLK' AND "RACKETEERS"

The Middlebury College Bread Loaf Writer's Conference came to a close Wednesday with this unique session held at the college's mountain campus considered the most successful of any held in the 22-year history of the institution.

Quietly, at Bread Loaf, more than 100 authors, representing every part of the United States and every form of writing met, but there are no rallies, no elections, no resolutions and no reporters. Among conference staff members were Robert Frost, four time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry; Louise Untermeyer, anthologist; Wallace Stegner, novelist; Bernard DeVoto, Fletcher Pratt, Helen Everitt, Edith Merriees and Joseph Kinsey Howard, authors; Alan Collins, literary agent; and William Sloane, author and publisher.

Bernard DeVoto commented:

"The only justification for writing is personal satisfaction. You write because you like to write and nobody is going to teach you anything more about writing after you have reached a degree of maturity or achieved a facility for writing."

The Addison Independent had a circulation of 2,500 per week 80 years ago. Today we print more than twice that number of copies! Addy Indy stories reach an estimated 20,000 readers each week in print and online.

2,500
Circulation
This Week

The Addison Independent has been working with correspondents to help report town news accross the county. In the summer of 1947, Mrs. Lottie Follansbee became the representative for Bristol.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Addison Independent wishes to announce that effective this week Mrs. Lottie Follansbee will assume the duties of Bristol representative for this newspaper. She succeeds Mrs. Ruth McCormick as correspondent and The Independent wishes to acknowledge with thanks the faithful and loyal service extended by Mrs. McCormick during the past months, despite earlier printing difficulties.

Bristol people should contact Mrs. Follansbee, Tel. 84-W if they have news, advertising or subscriptions for The Independent.

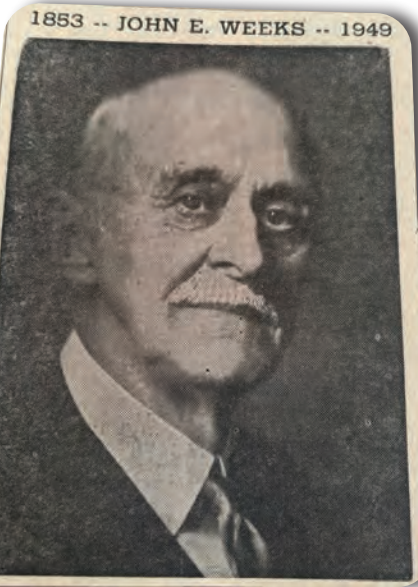
In Bristol, The Independent is sold at the Park Filling Station and E. J. Kneeland's Service Station. Subscribe now and have your copy sent you direct by mail each Friday morning.

Area residents have been proud of their chickens for a long time. Richard Boise of Cornwall and Hurick Hurlburt of New Haven brought exhibits to the Champlain Valley Fair in August 1946.



Remembering the lives of many has been an honor of The Addison Independent since the beginning.

Entire State Mourns Passing Of Former Gov. John E. Weeks



"Grand Old Man" Eulogized at Simple Services

State officials joined with Addison County friends and neighbors to pay final tribute Tuesday afternoon to former Gov. John S. Weeks who died at his Middlebury home last Saturday at the age of 96.

This ad was no bigger than an inch wide, but it got the job done in August 1947.

PIN BOYS WANTED
APPLY
STAR BOWLING ALLEY
Middlebury

Milk plant

(Continued from Page 1A)
force farmers to pay more to haul their milk to plants farther away.
However, Shoreham dairy farmer Kylie Chittenden noted this moment is also marked by new manufacturing coming into the region and more demand for protein products.
“That’s really given dairy a nice spotlight, so we’re really trying to rise to the occasion,” she told the *Independent*.
“I think that part is very positive, it’s just kind of rocky right now trying to figure out what it all means for Vermont.”



MOLLY GRAY

Dairy Farmers of America this past June announced plans to idle the St. Albans plant in August, meaning it would stop processing milk but still be owned by the cooperative. The idling would also layoff around 80 employees and mean that farmers would send their milk to plants in other parts of the Northeast.
Vermont’s U.S. senators, Bernie Sanders and Peter Welch, pushed back against the closure in an Aug. 18 letter, asking DFA CEO Dennis Rodenbaugh to demand the company change course.
“Do the right thing. Reverse your decision to idle the St. Albans plant and creamery. Ensure dairy farmers do not face yet another cost increase on their balance sheets,” the senators wrote. “Protect Franklin County’s agricultural economy. Respect your workers’ constitutional right to collectively bargain. Meet your workers at the bargaining table to provide transparency for this closure and reach a fair agreement with Teamsters Local 597.”
Sanders reiterated those calls at a press conference held with workers at the plant last week. Employees had been granted a temporary restraining order halting the closure after they alleged the decision to close the plant was retaliation for a worker strike last year.
The temporary court order was lifted last week after DFA agreed not to do anything “irreversible” to the plant while workers’ claims are heard outside of court.
MONITORING CLOSELY
In a statement sent to the *Independent* on Tuesday, the Addison County Farm Bureau said

its continuing to closely monitor developments regarding the facility.
“As an organization dedicated to preserving Vermont’s agricultural heritage and supporting our family farms, our primary focus remains the long-term viability, market access, and economic health of our regional milk producers,” the statement reads. “The St. Albans facility has served as a critical cornerstone of northern New England’s agricultural infrastructure for generations. Any disruption or transition in local processing capacity creates understandable concern within our farming communities.”
“Our members rely on a stable, efficient, and localized supply chain to get their products to market,” the statement continues. “While we recognize the complex macroeconomic challenges, shifting market dynamics, and operational costs currently impacting the dairy processing sector at large, maintaining robust regional infrastructure is vital to shielding family farms from unsustainable transportation expenses.”
Farm Bureau officials stressed that they advocate for solutions that protect the livelihoods of farm families and the agricultural workforce, as well as support the cooperative networks that underpin our rural economy.
Milk from Chittenden’s farm in Shoreham didn’t go directly to the St. Albans facility, but the farm is a member of DFA, a national, farmer-owned cooperative. She explained that the St. Albans plant was used for balancing milk, meaning it could take milk from farmers when the plants they typically sell to were closed or otherwise couldn’t process it. In those cases, the milk wouldn’t be wasted, but there would be lower returns for the farmers.

Milk formerly sent to the plant was expected to be re-routed to other facilities in the region, such as in Maine or New York. Chittenden said it appears farmers’ hauling rates will be changing, and they’re waiting to see how exactly that shakes out. Dairy farmers typically shoulder the cost of transporting their milk to processing plants, and more milk leaving the state could lead to increased costs.
“In the dairy industry, we pay for the raw product to move before it reaches the consumers,” Chittenden explained. “We’re sensitive to fuel increases when those happen, when we lose plants there’s the potential for it to go up.”
WHAT CAN BE DONE
State officials and candidates running for statewide office in Vermont have weighed in on the plant’s idling and what can be done to support the state’s dairy industry.
Amanda Janoo, the Democratic candidate for governor, said in an Aug. 21 release that she’d work to keep the plant open and protect its workers if elected as governor. She highlighted the importance of preventing other Vermont farms and businesses from ending up in the same position.
“That means helping locally owned businesses and cooperatives access patient capital, supporting worker and cooperative ownership transitions, strengthening regional processing and distribution supply chains, and using our public dollars to build local productive capacity rather than subsidize extraction and consolidation,” Janoo wrote.
Gov. Phil Scott, who as Vermont’s top elected official is already in a position of power, was asked about the plant’s idling at his Aug. 19 press conference.
“I was disappointed that they were leaving,” he said. “We need a distribution facility, as well as a facility to deal with the milk here in Vermont, on our own turf...It’s just an unfortunate situation. I hope they stay, I hope they can find a way to do business here in Vermont because I think it will have a negative effect on those in the farms and so forth surrounding the state.”
Molly Gray, the Democratic

“When a farm closes, it’s quiet. The cows just leave, the farmer doesn’t go to the barn anymore, it’s not in the news; it’s a sad, quiet death, and I think that’s something that’s hard.”
— dairy farmer
Kylie Chittenden



TOUR DE FARMS riders enjoy tasty bites during 2025’s fundraiser ride. This year’s tour takes place on Saturday, September 19.

Photo courtesy of ACORN

Tour de Farms bike ride is back

MIDDLEBURY — The Tour de Farms, one of Vermont’s oldest cycling farm tours, returns to the Middlebury area for a jaunt around Cornwall, Weybridge and Salisbury. The Tour de Farms highlights local food with a meandering bike tour of the central Champlain Valley, interspersed with visits to local farms and tasty treats along the way.
The Tour starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19. Riders will explore two- to seven different farm stops, depending on their chosen length of route, as well as 17 additional local food vendors.
The Tour features a rolling 37-mile route and an alternative, shorter, family-friendly 11-mile route. Riders will set out from Mary Hogan Elementary School. The terrain includes rolling hills with a mix of paved and dirt roads, so a mountain or gravel bike is recommended. Please do not bring a road bike. E-bikes are encouraged for folks not used to Vermont’s rolling hills.
Ticket sales directly support ACORN’s Food Hub and the Pharmacy: Food is Medicine Program. “The Tour de Farms is a beloved community event that connects farmers with their neighbors, celebrates the bounty of the harvest and the vibrant working landscape of Addison County,” said Lindsey Berk, ACORN’s Executive Director. “Each ticket sold supports a thriving community that puts fresh, local food access as a top priority.”
Make sure to bring a camera, as the pastoral landscapes are breathtaking. Just as delightful as the views are the samples to taste. At each stop, farms will provide local meats, fruit, vegetables and value-added products like cheese, chocolate, granola and jams. A concierge van returns purchased goods to the finish, so riders can feel free to make as many local purchases as they’d like.
This is a rain or shine event. Online registration is now open; prices vary based on age, distance and date of registration. Registration will be capped at 500 riders. Commemorative t-shirts can also be purchased.

VOLUNTEER GREETERS WANTED AT HELEN PORTER

Join our volunteer team!



We are looking for Greeters who have a warm heart and a welcoming spirit to greet everyone who enters Helen Porter. With flexible hours, it’s the opportunity you’ve been waiting for!

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



University of Vermont Health
Porter Medical Center

FOURTH ANNUAL

snugfest

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2026

Mike and Tessa Gordon
Jen Hartwick, Nick Cassarino and Nate Edgar
Ray Paczkowski and Russ Lawton + Bob Wagner
Hot Pickin’ Party + Electric Bear

Middlebury Snowbowl

All proceeds to support efforts promoting kindness and compassion towards animals, humans, and the planet

Scan the QR code or visit snugfest.com for tickets



Development

(Continued from Page 1A)
tax increment financing tool for up to \$4 million in roads, streetlights sidewalks and other infrastructure for the next 74 homes (phase two) of its new Stonecrop Meadows neighborhood taking shape off Seminary Street Extension.

The CHIP program — administered by VEPC — allows municipalities to leverage tax increment financing from municipal property taxes and state education fund property taxes to help pay for infrastructure that enables new housing development on a single parcel or a group of contiguous parcels.

Assuming VEPC approves Middlebury Investor’s CHIP application, the town would dedicate 85% of future municipal property tax increment, and 75% of future State Education Fund property tax increment, generated by the new apartment building for up to 20 years — or until the \$1.2 million infrastructure debt is retired.

Unlike Stonecrop Meadows, a mixed-income development that includes subsidized affordable housing, the Middle Road apartment building would be all market-rate units — some of them with four bedrooms. The four-story building would include an as-yet unnamed restaurant tenant in its ground floor.

The Middlebury Development Review Board approved the Middle Road housing project last December.

The absence of affordable housing units in the Middle Road plan drew concerns from some residents at Tuesday’s meeting, including Sandy Bemis.

“Let’s not raise our taxes to pay for something (the developer) was going to pay for anyway,” she said.

Indeed, Middlebury Investor’s principal, Philip Rosenzweig, said he’d build the apartment building

regardless of his ability to secure tax increment financing through CHIP. But absent the \$1.2 million in infrastructure assistance, he said he’d have to raise monthly rents by around \$300 and/or cut project costs.

“At the end of the day, I have to account for the math somehow,” Rosenzweig told the board, adding the \$20 million Middle Road project would cost around \$5 million less to build in urban New Jersey or Philadelphia — regions where he’s built other projects.

Selectboard member Fred Dunnington echoed residents’ concerns about the absence of any affordable units among the Middle Road mix.

“The (CHIP) law that was passed to enable this was certainly to support housing development, but housing affordability has been the thing people have been asking about most specifically,” he said, while asking Rosenzweig to detail his project’s rent structure.

Rosenzweig replied that he couldn’t yet offer rent estimates for the 35 units.

“Although we have gross revenue numbers, we have not apportioned it among the units yet,” he said.

“We will have a schedule for each unit.”

Dunnington also raised concerns about the prospect of future town property tax dollars subsidizing startup costs for a Middle Road project that would likely include some college students as tenants. Dunnington noted the town and college have yet to extend a “gift in lieu of taxes” agreement that acknowledges the institution’s tax-exempt status for real estate holdings that relate to its educational mission.

The college, by lottery, allows a few hundred of its students to live off campus during the



DEVELOPER PHILIP ROSENZWEIG, right, explains to the Middlebury selectboard Tuesday why they should approve his effort to secure tax increment financing to pay for \$1.2 million in infrastructure for his planned 35-unit apartment building at the intersection of Middle Road and Court Street. Addison County Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Alex Armani-Munn, left, listens.

Independent photo/John Flowers

academic year.

“I’m sorry, the college should pay for its own housing,” he said.

Middlebury town officials estimate the increased population served by the 35-unit apartment building will add around \$35,000 a year to the town services burden, in the form of anticipated police, fire, recreation, administration and public works costs.

More details about the project’s tax increment financing impacts through CHIP can be found at tinyurl.com/2fubrwsc.

At the same time, some of those new apartment residents are expected to provide children for the schools (and thus carry state aid

for education), fill job vacancies, and pay sales and other taxes.

The other benefit, according to local CHIP boosters, is that the Middle Road development, once completed, will add to the town’s taxable grand list.

Selectboard members Isabel Gogarty and Dan Brown said they were backing the Middle Road CHIP application because it brings new housing into a community that needs all kinds of it.

“We were asked at town meeting, ‘How much tax money are we putting toward housing?’ and we said, ‘zero’ at the time. People were really irritated by that number,” Gogarty said. “Now

we’re putting our money where our mouth is, outting it toward housing, which is very important.”

“We need housing at all levels,” Brown said. “We need to be building across the spectrum.”

Selectboard member Farhad Khan recused himself from voting or participating in the discussion. He owns the neighboring One Dollar Market, a partner in the parking and traffic circulation plans for the apartment building.

VEPC has 90 days in which to review and rule on the Middle Road CHIP application. That review will include a site visit.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Chittenden

(Continued from Page 11A)
candidate for lieutenant governor, spoke with the *Independent* about the matter last week. She noted Vermont’s dairy farmers are navigating a variety of pressures.

“Day in and day out, it’s a grind, and it’s a rollercoaster,” she said. “It’s the weather, it’s labor costs, it’s lack of predictability and a climate that’s ever-changing and a lot of external pressures, and Vermont farmers are really feeling that now and navigating that.”

Gray said she believes the state needs to meet with farmers, understand their needs and then develop a statewide strategy.

“I’m not going to say what that is, I think we need to put farmers at the center of it and try to understand how they’re being impacted and then what can we do working with (Vermont’s congressional delegation),” she said.

Chittenden acknowledged the loss of farms Vermont has experienced over the years and pointed to what she believes can be done to support the dairy industry.

“When a farm closes, it’s quiet. The cows just leave, the farmer doesn’t go to the barn anymore, it’s not in the news; it’s a sad, quiet death, and I think that’s something that’s hard,” she said. “I think as a consumer, being supportive of your neighbors because farming is hard work, and we’re proud to do it, and we rise to the occasion and we’re taking good care of the land, our animals and the people working on our farms.”

She noted farmers have to be eternal optimists. While the loss of manufacturing capacity in the state marks a sad day, there are also bright spots for the industry she and other farmers are looking toward.

“There is a lot of excitement in the dairy industry,” Chittenden said. “There’s more manufacturing coming into our region. We don’t want to lose our identity in Vermont, but this new manufacturing coming into the region I hope has a positive impact on our industry.”

MIDDLEBURY TIGERS FOOTBALL

Every Game ... All Season Long

On the radio
at 92.1
WVTK - FM

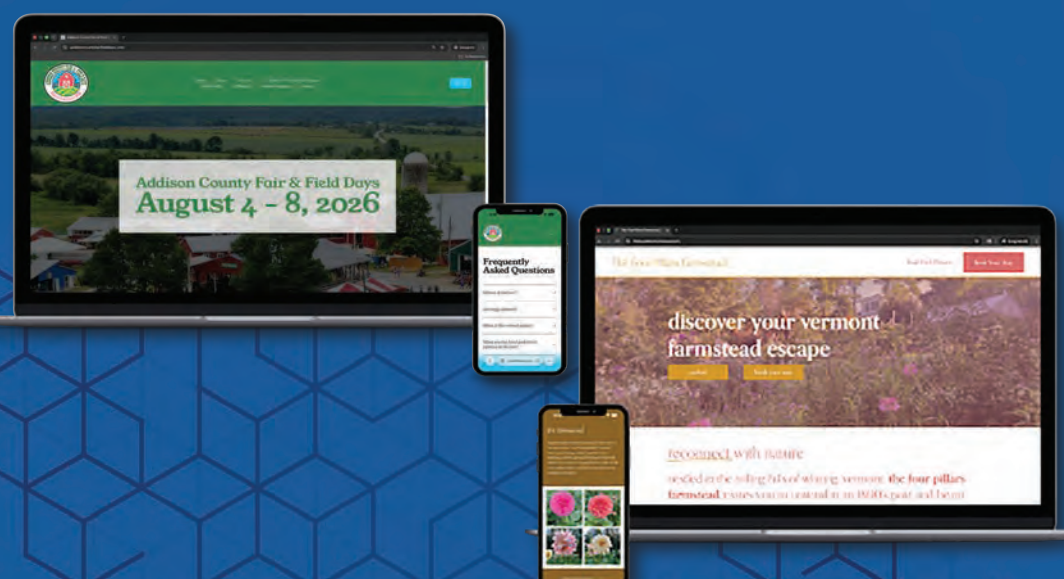
Online at
921wvtk.com



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by the Addison County Independent

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By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

percent from the prior month's revised estimate, officials said. "With a recent influx of layoffs occurring in the northwest region of our state, our St. Albans Local Job Center is bringing reemployment resources directly to impacted workers," said Labor Commissioner Kendal Smith. "Layoffs can create uncertainty for workers and their families, but Vermonters do not have to navigate that transition alone. The DOL is committed to making sure workers affected by layoffs have access to the resources, services and support they need to move forward." The July jobless rates for Vermont's 14 counties ranged from 2.3% in Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden and Windsor counties to 3.1% in Bennington, Essex and Orleans counties. The comparable United States rate in July was 4.1%, a decrease of one-tenth of a percent from the revised June estimate.

Addison Central School District Superintendent Wendy Baker recently awarded eight Distinguished Service Awards to teachers, administrators and staff judged to have demonstrated "extraordinary professional service" during the 2025-26 academic year. Those lauded included educators Larry O'Connor, Jaclyn Countryman, Megan Grandits-Griffin, Adelaide Brooks, Will Chapman-Hale, KC Carr, Meghan Fahey and Lashawn Whitmore-Sells. Also earning plauids were Mary Hogan School's Kim Forbes (Elementary Teacher Award) and Mary Hogan Custodian Chris Pratt (Barbara Whittemore Staff of the Year Award).

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott announced on Aug. 6 that Middlebury College Chemistry Professor AJ Vasiliou is among 18 Vermonters appointed to the Vermont Artificial Intelligence Economic Task Force, created by executive order in May. Its members represent 10 counties and a broad range of public- and private-sector organizations. "The world of artificial intelligence is moving very quickly and is already changing how Vermont businesses operate and the types of skills employers need," Scott said in his announcement. "This task

force will help identify areas of concern and ways AI can be used to grow our economy, especially in rural parts of Vermont where we've struggled for far too long." In June, Middlebury President Ian Baucom appointed Vasiliou special advisor on AI and academic computing. "Throughout the strategic planning process, we listened to a wide range of voices across our community and learned from their perspectives, values, hopes and concerns about AI," said Vasiliou, who teaches inorganic and physical chemistry, thermodynamics and kinetics, and quantum chemistry and spectroscopy. "Our purpose and values must come from people, with technology serving as a tool to help advance them. That is the perspective I will bring to my work as an advisor and as a member of the governor's task force."

The Henry Sheldon Museum has brought back "Artists in the House," its annual 50/50 online fundraiser that celebrates local creativity while supporting both the museum and the artists who make this show so special. This year, participating artists were invited to create work inspired by two of the Sheldon's newest exhibitions: "Timekeeping" and "Uncovering Wallpaper Design: 1800 to Present," adding an extra layer of connection between the art on view and the stories being told at the museum. Bidding ends on Sept. 1 at 11:59 a.m. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their artwork at the museum or have it shipped at their own expense.

The Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the library. All sale proceeds will go to support the Bixby's programs. As you work in your outdoor gardens, please consider dividing healthy perennial plants to donate to the sale. The earlier they are divided, the better, as it enhances their sale-readiness, noted members of the Friends of the Bixby, who are spearheading the sale. You might also propagate some of your indoor plants to share. Donation days will be a day or so before the sale; dates and times will be announced. Garden tools, planters and supplies are also welcomed.

Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)

Vermonters receive an education property tax break based on their income. Middlebury's FY26 overall residential property tax rate was \$2,571 per \$100 in property value; the non-residential rate was \$2,6653. This means FY27 residential property taxpayers will see an overall 4.25-cent overall tax increase, while non-residential payers will see a 4.28-cent bump. Middlebury property taxes are due in two installments: Nov. 15, 2026, and on March 15, 2027.

The town's new municipal rate is based in large part on the FY27 municipal budget of \$15,998,046 that voters passed at their annual town meeting in March. That spending plan called for \$10,136,266 of that sum to be raised by taxes. Also factored into the municipal rate are a voter-approved veterans' property tax exemption of \$40,000 in assessed value, and an extra 2 cents on the rate dedicated to fire equipment purchases. Two cents on this year's Middlebury's property tax rate will raise \$208,641.58.

Vermont bear hunting to kick off in September

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department notes that bear hunting season starts in September and reminds hunters about the bear hunting regulations.



Vermont has two bear hunting seasons. The early season, which requires a special bear tag, starts Sept. 1 and continues through Nov. 13 — with one exception. Nonresident hunters using dogs can't start bear hunting until Sept. 15.

The late bear season begins Nov. 14 and continues through Nov. 22. A hunter may only take one bear during the year.

In addition to a hunting license, a bear hunter using a bow or crossbow must have a prior or current bow license or a certificate proving completion of a bow hunter education course.

The hunter must field dress the bear before taking it to a reporting station. It's also legal to skin the bear and cut it up in order to carry it out of the woods. Although the bear must be reported within 48 hours, Fish & Wildlife urges doing so quickly to cool the meat. The hunter must also collect and submit a pre-molar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population.

A person harvesting a bear is required to return to the kill site upon request from a state game warden.

"Bears will be feeding along power lines and in forest openings and old fields where berries and apples can be found as well as in forested beech and oak stands," said Jaclyn Comeau, Vermont's bear biologist. "They also are likely to be feeding on standing corn."

Comeau says with bears being so abundant, this is a great opportunity for hunters who've never hunted them before. She says properly prepared bear meat

is highly nutritious. The key to successfully securing good meat is to skin the bear as soon as possible and process it immediately if you don't have access to a large cooler.

Comeau asks hunters to refrain from shooting a bear with cubs as well as bears observed in groups, as they are usually made up of sows with cubs.

"Black bear cubs are dependent on their mother through the following spring. It is important to maintain these family groups," she added. "We have tips for identifying sows with cubs on our website."

State law prohibits the sale of



HUNTERS MIGHT HAVE success finding bears in standing corn with the farmer's permission, as well as in forest openings like powerline easements and in stands of beech and oak trees where bears will be feeding on beechnuts and acorns.

VTF&W Photo by John Hall

paws or internal organs of a black bear.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife urges

hunters to download and read the 2026 Black Bear Hunting Guide from its website.

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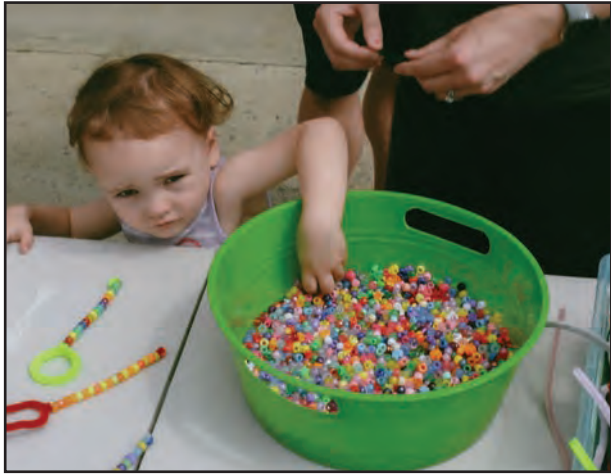
VERGENNES DAY DREW visitors from across Vermont and beyond for the Little City's 44th annual celebration on Saturday, with sunshine, live music, food, 55+ vendors, and kids' activities marking the end of summer. Clockwise from top-left: families take in the sights with free horse-drawn wagon rides; Steve Sawyer of LC Jazz Band shreds a saxophone solo; a local kid plays in the Vergennes Fire Department's bubble pools; Fairy Kat of Fairy Hair Vermont weaves sparkling silk strands into a visitor's hair; guests from near and far browse local goods and historical displays; LC Jazz Band plays all the hits from the city green's bandstand; and two-and-a-half-year-old Elysia of Crown Point searches for the perfect bead at the Bixby Library's craft table.

Independent photos/Kelsey Wood

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Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)
to spend the entire \$25.5 million to cover the costs. The city manager has stated that earlier this year he received the assurances of city attorney Ed Adrian that Vergennes could use the whole \$25.5 million to finance the state-mandated project.

City Councilor Mel Hawley has stood by a different interpretation — that voters approved a bond that amounts to \$25.5 million minus \$8 million to \$13 million. The issue has come up at multiple city council meetings and been the subject of tense email exchanges.

On June 10, the city seemingly got the green light that it could spend the full \$25.5 million necessary.

A letter from the city’s bond attorney, Elijah Emerson of law firm Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer PC, to the Vermont Bond Bank notes that the city could bond up to \$25.5 million. Redmond requested that letter on behalf of the city, and it is a necessary step in getting a Vermont Bond Bank loan approved.

On July 21, roughly a week after city councilors got word of the low bid, Hawley emailed Emerson himself wishing to speak.

Other exchanges followed, and on July 22 Hawley stated via email to Redmond, copied to Emerson, “I am really concerned that if the City Council moves forward with associated debt for this project this is not reduced by federal grants-in-aid, the City could find itself in litigation which can be easily avoided with a November bond vote.”

Emerson subsequently made it known he intended to revise his initial opinion and after receiving a chart from Redmond with more financial information replied, “thanks for sending that — I clearly have an outdated understanding of the project.”

Emerson, Redmond and the engineering firm that has been working on the project, Wright-Pierce, were due to meet on July 24.

On July 27, Emerson followed up stating that the city only has \$17.5 million at its disposal through the bond.

Redmond replied on July 28: “I’m reaching out to ask you to reconsider the \$17.5 million limitation in your revised opinion letter and to reissue the conclusion reflected in your original June 10, 2026, opinion: that the City may issue up to \$25,500,000 in long-term general obligation bonds or notes for the wastewater collection system and treatment facility improvements approved by the voters on March 1, 2022....

“The City has relied on your original opinion in structuring this financing and moving the project forward. We were surprised when you reissued your June (10), 2026 opinion, based on a quick exchange with a single City Councilor, and no consultation with the City or the City Council. The revised opinion creates an immediate \$8 million gap and jeopardizes the USDA closing at a very late stage. Before the City is advised that another bond vote is required, the legal conclusion needs to account for the complete project, the complete funding stack, and DEC’s confirmation regarding the



RNESU NEW STAFF 2026

Say hello to 28 new RNESU employees

BRANDON — The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is excited to introduce 30 new employees who will be working throughout the district in all capacities for the 2026-2027 school year. Everyone is invited to welcome the following individuals to the Brandon-area schools:
Neshobe Elementary in Brandon: Matthew Brankman, Associate Principal; Erica Stone, Paraeducator; and Rachel Grantham, Paraeducator

Otter Creek Academy in Leicester: Christina Depoian, PreK Teacher; Laurel Gamble, Paraeducator; Melissa Nicklaw, Paraeducator; and Lorna Poljacik, 2nd & 3rd Grade Teacher
Otter Valley Union Middle and High School: Marc Cesario, Long Term Sub, Spanish; Andrew Johnson, Custodian; Carson Leary, Middle School Health Teacher; Ainsley Moore, High School Math Teacher; Catherin

Moulton, Behavioral Intervention Specialist Whitney Nichols, 7th-9th Grade Alternative Program Teacher Karyn Stannard, Associate Principal; Rachel Taylor, Receptionist; Mackenzie Thurston, Long Term Sub, Guidance; Janice Wedge, Bus Driver
RNESU District
Josh Martin, Supervisor of Pre-K and Kate Leathe, Facilitator of Teaching and Learning

Barstow Elementary in Chittenden
Sarah Elliott, Paraeducator; Mike Johnson, Bus Driver; Brooke Makepeace, Teacher; Lacey Mate Ramage, Paraeducator; and James Rivers, Custodian
Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford: Lydia Christensen, 4th Grade Teacher; Meghan Fox, Special Services; Mercedes Poirier, Custodian; and Tracey Taylor, Paraeducator

Hill

(Continued from Page 1A)
(before the Legislature) to get that rolled back.”

The Act 181 acrimony illustrated, according to Hill, that “our legislators are still not listening to us.”

So Hill, one of the driving forces behind Bristol’s Four Hills Farm and a member of her town’s planning commission, decided to join what is a four-person race for the two seats representing Addison-4, a district that encompasses Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro. The other three candidates in the race are Bristol Republican Lynn Dike, and Lincoln Democrats Jeanne Albert and Rep. Karen Lueders. Lueders is the lone incumbent in the race; the other incumbent, Starksboro Democrat Herb Olson, decided not to see reelection after serving one two-year term.

In addition to serving on the Bristol Planning Commission and on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee, Hill is a member of the Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance — and previously served on its legislative committee. She testified both in writing and in person during the drafting of the state’s Required Agricultural Practices (RAP) legislation that was

authorized under Act 64 of 2015. The RAPs were further amended in 2018 to include requirements for reducing nutrient contribution to state waters from subsurface tile drainage on agricultural fields.

Four Hills Farm is an agricultural giant in Addison County.

The Hill family runs two ag entities:

- The Four Hills Farm Partnership, headquartered at the intersection of Bristol’s Burpee and Plank roads. They milk around 2,500 cows in a series of massive barns. The family owns around 3,000 acres of land in Addison County.

The Hills more than a decade ago installed an anaerobic digester system at the farm that converts cow manure into clean, renewable electricity. The farm annually generates enough “cow power” to supply power to the equivalent of 400 homes.

- Four Hills Gen Three, in Weybridge, where an additional 200 cows are milked. Gen Three owns around 1,500 acres.

Both farms rent and work an additional 4,000 combined acres.

“Going big” is something the Hills committed to doing, given the realities of milk pricing, which is primarily set by the federal

government through the USDA using the Federal Milk Marketing Order.

“I can’t control the price I get for my milk. So what am I going to do to make more money? I’m going to make more milk,” Hill explained. “The little farmer milking 100 cows has to build the same \$500K manure pit we do; they can’t afford that. And the state’s not really going to be able to help them.”

Last year, the state made available around \$1 million in Working Lands Enterprise Initiative grants to help relieve stress on farmers, according to Hill. But that amount, she said, “isn’t even touching the surface” of the true costs farms incur from state environmental rules.

That’s a major reason why Hill decided to throw her hat into the Addison-4 ring again this year.

“We want to be good stewards of our land. We want clear water and clean air. We want healthy soils,” she said, adding the way Four Hills is able to thrive is by “scaling up milk production to cover the costs.”

While she’s most passionate about farming issues, Hill is also concerned about a variety of issues, including making the state more affordable, dealing with the state’s housing crisis, and lowering

the costs of health care.

“Defending property rights, cutting wasteful spending, and slashing red tape. I am dedicated to safeguarding parental freedom for every Vermonter,” she states on her campaign website, chaninhillforvt.com.

“We need more choice,” Hill said of health insurance cost increases, while noting Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Health Care are the only two private health insurance companies currently selling individual and small group plans on Vermont Health Connect.

Hill believes the state should allow Vermonters a variety of health insurance plans, including the high-deductible varieties.

“We need more choice. My son is 25 and doesn’t want to spend \$800 a month for health insurance. And most people can’t afford that, so we need more choice. My son should be able to buy a policy that’s just covering a catastrophe. He can’t right now, because it’s not an option,” Hill said. “We need more carriers.”

She’s also concerned about the Green Mountain Care Board’s ability to set binding limits on health insurance premium rates.

“They’re saying, ‘Here’s how

much the hospital can charge’ and ‘here’s how much the insurance company can charge.’ I’m not sure those two (rate setting powers) should be together,” she said.

Hill deferred discussing public education reforms until the Act 170 Advisory Board issues its report related to regional high school construction/renovation opportunities and preliminary siting studies. That report is due on Dec. 1.

If elected, Hill said she’d work to roll back the state’s legislative commitments to conserve 30% of Vermont’s total land area by 2030 and expand environmental protections to 50% of its land area by 2050. Those goals are outlined in Act 59.

Vermont, according to Hill, has already kept more than 50% of its land out of development, when one factors in the farm and forestry industries.

“Even though we’ve already met those (conservation) goals, (the Legislature) wants to do it in a way that can’t be reversed,” Hill said. “At the end of the day, our foresters, farmers, sugarmakers ... we’ve been doing a great job maintaining the rural landscape. (Act 59) kind of feels like a slap in the face,” Hill said.

CWSRF loan.”

On July 29 Emerson responded: “I apologize if my initial opinion caused confusion for the City and that it took me some time to better understand the full scope of funding for the project. However, as far as I can tell, the last conversation we had regarding this project was in 2022. In the context of that passage of time, it is not unreasonable to take several weeks to evaluate the details and update my opinion.”

Before Emerson sent his new

opinion to the Vermont Bond Bank, the body approved the \$25.5 million loan based on Emerson’s initial June 10 letter, per an Aug. 1 email from the bond bank. Emerson’s replacement letter to the Vermont Bond Bank is dated Aug. 6.

Emerson, one of nine Vermont Bond Bank-approved legal counsels, was not available for comment regarding what made him change his opinion.

THE FALLOUT

The news comes after the

summer started on a good note as far as the sewer project goes. Amid rising costs across the board, Vergennes received a bid from PC Construction that was lower than officials anticipated.

But now that deal is at risk. As of Tuesday night the company was evaluating whether it could hold the bid. If they are unable to, the city will have to re-bid the project, which according to a Wright-Pierce representative at Tuesday’s city council meeting could result in a

bid 6% to 8% higher than what it has been offered.

No matter what happens, the city will have to delay the project until next spring and has lost some grant money as a result of the delay.

When asked why the city can’t move forward with just the \$17.5 million bond, Redmond explained, “That doesn’t fund the project, and (the Department of Environmental Conservation) will not authorize a project to proceed without funding.”

City councilors are currently contemplating putting another bond article on the ballot this November.

On Tuesday night they discussed the possibility of voting on bonds of three different amounts: roughly \$10.8 million, \$8.2 million or \$6.2 million. They are expected to be presented a draft warning article for voters to consider during the general election this November during their next meeting, slated for Tuesday, Sept. 8.

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Recovery

(Continued from Page 1A)
has covered the roughly \$40,000 annual cost of the street outreach and mobile counseling programs through a portion of the 14% excise tax that Vermont has imposed on cannabis sales since 2022. Thirty percent of the 14% cannabis excise tax (capped at \$10 million per fiscal year) are placed in a Substance Misuse Prevention Fund that’s managed by the Vermont Department of Health (DOH).

The DOH has passed along fund proceeds to a series of “Vermont Prevention Lead Organizations” (called VPLOs) throughout the state. Addison and Rutland counties are in the Region 2 VPLO. Peer Recovery Center Executive Director Danielle Wallace said Region 2 has been faithfully funding PRC’s street outreach and mobile coaching programs — until this fiscal year, which began July 1. The problem?

Region 2 officials this time ruled that the two PRC programs didn’t meet the definition of preventative programming, according to the Vermont Division of Substance Use Programs. “After review, it was flagged that areas of your scope of work fall into recovery programming as opposed to prevention programming which does not meet the criteria of the intent of VPLO funding,” reads a July 24 email to Wallace from Region 2 Prevention Coordinator Sara Stearns. “As noted in the continued funding announcement, going forward, VPLO funding is restricted to programs that are explicitly focused on substance use prevention.”

Stearns urged PRC to narrow the focus of its scope of work to one or two substance use prevention strategies or programs “to deepen and strengthen impact,” and to “participate in at least two substance use prevention specific trainings to continue building capacity to further embed substance

use prevention into programming.” **SUPPORT BEFORE CRISIS**
But Wallace argued that PRC is already heavily invested in youth-centered offerings. That programming, led by the PRC Youth Outreach Coordinator Fable Hawthorne, is offered at the Bristol Hub teen center and the Middlebury Teen Center. “It’s creating relationships and trust and has allowed kids to access support when they need it,” she said.

Peer Recovery Center officials also pointed to state data showing Vermont youth making strides in eschewing drugs and alcohol. Teen substance use is on the decline too. Data from the most recent Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey — administered annually to high school students — found 18% of students admitting to using marijuana, 22% reporting alcohol consumption, and 6% use of cigarettes — “a marked decline across these categories compared to a decade ago,” according to a Department of Health summary.

Vaping has also declined from a peak of 29% of students saying they vaped in 2019 to just 14%

“Recovery coaching is about human connection. Sitting with someone in person is different from seeing them on a screen.”

— Danielle Wallace

in 2025, with most students saying it would be wrong for someone their age to vape. Wallace and her PRC colleagues contend street outreach and mobile counseling are also preventative in nature, albeit with a different demographic. Wallace has sent state officials testimonials from PRC coaches about how the two programs have helped steer folks away from substance use. “This is a very small investment when we think about people going to the emergency room, needing crisis services. Those are extremely expensive — not just for the people accessing them, but for all of us,” she said. “We’re able to get them the supports before it becomes a crisis.

Loss of funding since July has



TREVOR BURTON, A peer support specialist with the Peer Recovery Center of Addison County, has become an integral part of the county's street outreach program, which has hit a funding snag. The street outreach program offers lifelines to the county's homeless population.
Independent photo/John Flowers

forced PRC to reduce its street outreach efforts, though the nonprofit continues to provide mobile coaching. Wallace said the organization is doing this by redeploying some funds, scouring for grants and fundraising. PRC’s second annual “Hope in Motion 5K & 1K Run: A Celebration of Recovery and Community” on Sept. 27 will feature sponsorship and donation opportunities for participants.

“We’ve got to figure this out; we cannot stop (mobile coaching),” she said, adding most recipients of that service are battling alcoholism and need extra support because of their isolation.

The mobile coaching program allows PRC counselors to meet with folks in their homes to offer guidance on substance use matters. During fiscal year 2026, PRC served 45 Addison County residents through mobile coaching, totaling 424 hours of recovery services.

“It can be really challenging to get to Middlebury to meet with a coach,” Wallace said of the origin of the program.

And it’s not just about overcoming transportation barriers. Wallace pointed to folks dealing with a driver’s license suspension, having no vehicle, and/or not living on a bus route.

“We’re reaching people struggling with substance use who we’ve never been at our center. We’re starting to work with people who aren’t in recovery yet. And in time, we’re seeing these people get better. We also have some elderly people who, if we required them to come here, wouldn’t use the service,” she said. “(Mobile coaching), in this county, is vital.”

What about virtual coaching, which became common during COVID?

Wallace acknowledged that option but said it’s not as effective as in-person interactions.

“Recovery coaching is about human connection. Sitting with someone in person is different from seeing them on a screen,” she said.

STREET OUTREACH

Addison County has maintained a street outreach program for almost four years, in response to the area’s growing homeless population. The Charter House Emergency Shelter on North Pleasant Street is consistently full. Those who can’t secure a bed — or those who aren’t comfortable in a shelter — are staking out wooded areas in and around Middlebury village, as well as spots fronting Otter Creek.

Middlebury last year enacted an encampment policy that precludes pitching a tent on much municipal and school property, but homeless settlements still exist — even if they’re a little harder to find. Finding them and linking transients to water, food, cooling cloths, sunscreen, tents, battery-operated fans, Narcan, fentanyl test strips, referrals for medical treatment and friendly words has been the job of the county’s street outreach team. It’s spearheaded by the PRC — as many of those residing outdoors are battling substance

use — with key participation by the Counseling Service of Addison County, Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects, Middlebury police, and occasionally personnel from other nonprofits — such as the Atria Collective.

“Our team is bringing in those partners to make sure people have those supports when they’re outside our lane,” Wallace said.

The outreach team has typically gone out three days a week looking for, and helping, those who need a lifeline to sobriety, mental health services, medical care and a path to a permanent home.

Wallace stressed the team hasn’t just operated in Middlebury; it has scoured areas in Vergennes, Salisbury, Starksboro, Bristol and other communities where people are believed to be tenting amid what have been some scorching heat and humidity this summer.

“Our goal this year was to make sure we weren’t losing sight of Addison County overall,” she said.

Trevor Burton, a peer support specialist, has become the face of the now-resource-challenged street outreach program. Sporting a Grizzly Adams beard, inked forearms, T-shirt, jeans and at-times bare feet, Burton could easily be mistaken for some of the folks he’s trying to help along the hardscrabble dirt trails and backwoods settings that he patrols — much of it on his own time these days.

And it’s not just the look that allows Burton to establish a quick rapport with the marginalized. He strikes a soft, compassionate tone and has walked more than a mile in the footsteps of those he’s trying to help. Burton is in long-term recovery from substance use himself, and credits PRC programming for saving his life. It was through the Peer Recovery Center that he found his calling as a recovery coach, and he comes

straight out of central casting.

Burton as of late last week estimated there were around 15 people living outdoors in the county that are known to PRC. The actual number could be higher, because some of those living in the woods choose to do so anonymously.

Counterintuitively, the folks who need the most help can sometimes be the least inclined to ask for it. This becomes particularly worrisome when the cold weather hits, according to advocates.

“The trickiest thing is getting people to actually talk about their situation. I don’t blame them; they’re in an extremely vulnerable state,” Burton said. “These are people feeling like they’ve been abandoned. The more our resources get limited, the less of a chance we’re going to be able to get them to even want to try to come back into the community and get employment and stable living to get away from where they’re at.”

Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, is PRC’s development & community relations coordinator. She and Wallace will seek grants to replace lost funding for the recovery coaching and street outreach programs for 2027-28 fiscal year. The problem, for now, is that many of the grant cycles for fiscal year 2027 money have expired, they said.

“I think a priority should be stopping and preventing use among our most vulnerable Vermonters. Those groups are the ones living in encampments or folks without access to transportation, but who have the will to change. They literally can’t walk through our doors and need things like mobile coaching,” McGill said.

“Recovery is rooted in community,” she added. “We need to allow folks a path to redemption.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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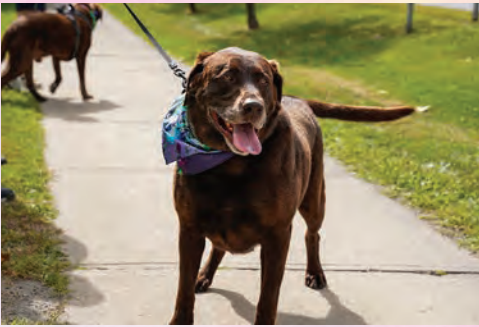
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

10:00am — Registration — Memorial Sports Center

11:00am — Walk, a 1-mile stroll around Middlebury

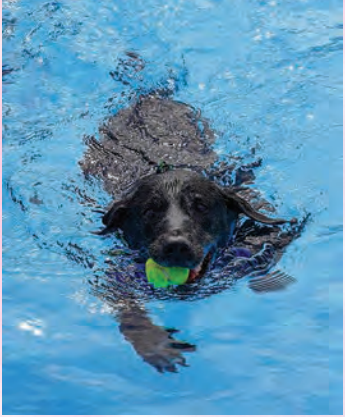
11:30am — Music, refreshments, awards, and a doggie dip in the Town Pool!

(In the event of poor weather, the event will be inside the Memorial Sports Center)



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EAGLE VOLLEYBALL, SHOWN here in a practice at Mt. Abe last week, will play its first game at Vermont Commons on Friday, Aug. 28, at 6 p.m.

Independent photo/Steve James

Sports season begins for local high schools

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
ADDISON COUNTY

Several local teams begin their fall seasons late this week and early next, including the 2025 Division II state champion Middlebury Union High School volleyball and D-III champs Vergennes Union High School girls' soccer teams.

Tiger volleyball is slated to start its season at home against Rice on Friday, Aug. 28, at 6 p.m. Last time fans got to watch the Tigers bump, set and spike was when they swept Enosburg in three sets to take the title at Saint Michael's College last November.

And on Aug. 29, the D-III state championship VUHS girls' soccer team is back on the pitch for the first time since its 2-0 victory over Peoples Academy in last fall's title game at Rutland High School. Like the Tiger volleyball players, the Commodore soccer stars will start the season at home — VUHS against the MUHS 11. They take the field in Vergennes at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The final 2025 fall state championship team, Tiger football, isn't due to start until the end of next week. MUHS heads to Burr (See HS sports, Page 2B)



ATHLETES COMPETING IN the 5K and 10K Vergennes Day races this past Saturday take off from the start on East Street in the Little City. Runners in the 15K event started earlier.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Vermonters excel at 45th Vergennes Day Races

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — Before all the Vergennes Day festivities began on the City Green and at the Bixby Library and Vergennes Opera House Saturday morning, a couple hundred athletes took a tour of the Little City on foot.

Roughly 180 people completed one of three races — a 5K, 10K or 15K — in the competition's 45th year. Another 25 participants completed a 5K walk, plus kids had the option of a 1K fun run.

Starting at the drive to the Vergennes Union Elementary

School on East Street, groups of runners lined up between 8-9 a.m. to start their treks through Vergennes.

They finished the course on the opposite end of that road, with a climb up East Street, and then (See Vergennes race, Page 3B)

Panther Cross Country comes back stronger

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College cross country running team, including last year's Division III national champion Audrey MacLean, will get their competition schedule underway on their home course with the Aldrich Invitational on Sept. 12.

"We changed some things in training last year that had a really nice positive effect on the overall strength of our team, where they just had much better times," Coach Nicole Wilkerson said.

"And I think our team physically is going to be a lot stronger than we were in the past."

"I think our team physically is going to be a lot stronger than we were in the past."

— Nicole Wilkerson

In addition to MacLean claiming multiple individual titles, the women's team closed last fall having placed second at NESCACs and the Mideast Regional Championships, and eighth at the NCAA meet.

MacLean, a rising senior, will be joined by rising sophomore Claire Palmer, the women's team number two. Her first season as a Panther looked similar to MacLean's — an All-

American nod and NESCAC Rookie of the Year award. She finished 23rd in the NCAA race with a 21:38.3 time — about a minute and a half behind MacLean on the 6K course.

As a team, the Panther men took fifth at NESCACs, third at the Mideast Region Championships and 21st at the NCAA competition.

Wilkerson pointed to rising senior Benjamin Hughes as one of her top returning athletes

"He's also one of the captains for the team, and he just leads with some quiet strength," she said.

Wilkerson noted the prospects for the nine rising sophomores on the men's team.

"Adjusting from high school to college, going from 5K to 8K, is a pretty good adjustment," she said. "Having that year of experience under their belt is going to go a long way."

MACLEAN MACHINE

While Wilkerson noted MacLean is focused on getting stronger, taking the upcoming season in stride and focusing on the team, her astounding success as a junior and what that could spell this year is hard for onlookers to ignore as the fall approaches.

In 2025 she was the NESCAC most outstanding runner, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country (See Panthers, Page 2B)



PANTHERS AUDRY MACLEAN and Claire Palmer, the Middlebury College women's cross country team's top finishers at nationals in 2025, are expected to lead the team this fall.

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Soccer

8/28 Fair Haven at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM
8/29 MUHS at VUHS.....10 AM
9/2 Montpelier at MUHS..... 4:30 PM
9/2 Mt. Abe at U-32 4:30 PM
9/5 VUHS at Mt. Abe.....10 AM
9/5 MUHS at Harwood11 AM

Boys' Soccer

8/28 Mt. Abe at VUHS 4:30 PM
9/1 MUHS at VUHS..... 4:30 PM
9/1 Rice at Mt. Abe..... 4:30 PM
9/4 Mt. Abe at BFA St. Albans 4:30 PM
9/4 MUHS at Missisquoi..... 4:30 PM

Football

9/4 Milton at MAV 7 PM
9/5 MUHS at BBA..... 7 PM

Field Hockey

8/28 Essex at Mt. Abe 4 PM
9/1 MUHS at Fair Haven 4 PM
9/4 Mt. Abe at MUHS 4:30 PM

Volleyball

8/28 Mt. Abe at Vt. Commons 6 PM
8/28 Rice at MUHS 6 PM
8/31 Vt. Commons at MUHS..... 6 PM
9/2 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi 6 PM
9/2 MUHS at Burlington 6 PM
9/4 CVU at MUHS 6 PM
9/5 Vt. Commons at Mt. Abe11:30 AM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Volleyball

(games in Potsdam, N.Y.)

9/5 SUNY Cobleskill vs Midd 1 PM
9/5 SUNY Brockport vs Midd 3 PM
9/6 Midd vs SLU.....11 AM
9/6 Midd vs Clarkson..... 1:30 PM

Field Hockey

9/5 Union College at Midd..... 12 PM

Men's Soccer

9/5 Midd at US Merchant Marine ... 1 PM

Women's Soccer

9/5 Midd at Wesleyan..... 11 AM



Fine tuning

MOUNT ABE ATHLETES have been busy training for the fall sports season. Above, an Eagle girls' soccer player passes the ball during a drill at practice late last week. The team hosts Fair Haven on Friday, Aug. 28, at 4:30 p.m. Left, an MAV football player runs with the ball during a drill at practice late last week. The combined Mount Abe-Vergennes team's first game is Friday, Sept. 4, in Bristol at 7 p.m. against Milton.

Independent photos/Steve James

Middlebury announces 2027 Hall of Famers

MIDDLEBURY — The Athletics Department at Middlebury College has announced eight members for the 2027 Hall of Fame. The 12th class represents 13 sports and includes Brian Bush '09, Brittany Cronin Geissinger '05, Susan "Sue" Follett Panella '80, Duane M. Ford '78, Rob MacLeod '88, Wendy Reeves '87, Michael "Schmidty" Schmidt '12 and Flora Weeks Athappilly '12. The ceremony will take place on April 10, 2027.

BRIAN BUSH '09 - SOCCER

Brian Bush, Class of 2009, was an anchor for the men's soccer defensive unit as a goalie.

He was a two-time All-American First Team selection, one of only four in the program's storied history to be named to the top team twice. The goalie was a two-time All-NESCAC First-Team honoree and was lauded as a 2007 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Adidas All-Region recipient. Bush was selected as the men's soccer program's initial NESCAC Player of the Year following the 2008 season, sporting a 15-2-4 record that fall with 12 shutouts and an impressive 0.37 goals against average. At the conclusion of that campaign, he was also named a CoSIDA Academic All-America District I team honoree for his combined work on the field and in the classroom.

During Bush's career, the Panthers made three NCAA Tournament appearances, claiming the 2007 national championship with a thrilling 1-0 shootout decision over Trinity (Texas) in the title match. Bush



BRIAN BUSH



BRITTANY CRONIN-GEISSINGER

guided the squad during the five NCAA contests, not allowing a goal during the impressive span. Following the tournament, he was lauded as the event's Most Outstanding Player.

The netminder has his name sprinkled throughout the record books. He graduated with the single-season mark in shutouts (13) and is atop the ranks in goals against average in a career (0.35). **BRITTANY CRONIN GEISSINGER '05 - SOCCER** (See Hall of Fame, Page 4B)



IN THE WATERS off Amalga Bay in Alaska, it takes our columnist only a few minutes of casting out among the cruising fish before he convinces a salmon to strike.

Photo by Randy Provencer

Of bears and char: Vermonters in Southeast Alaska, Part 1

Pink and chum salmon are jumping and cruising all across Amalga Bay, some out in the deep water and others in the shallows close enough to the beach to see them underwater. A large school is stacked up at the river mouth waiting for the tide to come in high enough to lift them over the small waterfall so they can begin their spawning journey. Several hungry bald eagles look down from the tall, lichen-draped Sitka spruce and Douglas fir that line the hillside above shore.

It's early morning. Wendy, Deborah and Jeff are still back at the house, but Jim has been down by the water for a while, watching the black bears, eagles, sea gulls and seals dining at the feast. Randy

and I have just walked the quarter-mile through the woods down to the water to join him. I have my saltwater salmon rod with me and after a few minutes I rig it up with a heavy salmon fly. It takes me several minutes of casting out among the cruising fish before I entice one to strike, and am able to bring in a seven- or eight-pound female chum salmon — also known as a dog salmon or keta.

This salmon, though it is strong and fights hard, has already started to change colors, taking up the mottled purple and green smears particular to its species. Soon, it will lay its eggs and die. It is far enough into the process that its flesh will not be very good to eat. I hold it up for a photo and then release it so

that it can make more salmon. I take a few more casts, and then we head back to the cabin to join the others for a morning outing.

It's our first morning together in Juneau: six Vermonters, five of whom are from Addison County, and all, except me and Deborah, are visiting Alaska for the first time. Two years earlier, when I served as an artist-in-residence for Alaska State Parks at the nearby Ernest Gruening State Historic Park, I discovered the Eagle Valley Center run by the Parks and Rec Department of Juneau. Part retreat center and part nature preserve, it sits on the edge of the beautiful Amalga Meadows down a long,

quiet, gravel driveway, far from the nearest house but only a quarter mile from Amalga Bay. In addition to the short trail down to the bay, it has a longer trail that follows the coast up to Eagle River and connects to miles of trails into the Tongass National Forest. When I learned it sleeps up to 14 in three bedrooms, and has a full kitchen, a large and comfortable meeting space, and a beautiful deck looking over the meadow, I made a mental note that it would be a lovely place to bring a small group one day for an Alaskan retreat. When our friends Jeff, Jim, Randy and Wendy all expressed interest in joining me in Alaska this summer, I reserved the center for our first four nights.

Returning from the bay to the large retreat-center cabin, we gather the crew and take a longer hike north along the coast up to Eagle River where we see — to nobody's

surprise but everyone's delight — a whole lot of bald eagles up and down the wooded riverbank where yet more salmon are spawning and dying. When we return two days later to the state park on the other side of the large glacial river, I count 14 eagles visible from one spot on the shore.

After a lunch and nap back at the cabin, we drive back down the highway and visit the central outdoor attraction for many visitors to the Juneau area: the famous Mendenhall Glacier. Since 2001, as yet another sign of dramatic climate change, a massive late summer release of water has been flooding the valley nearly every year — sometimes with catastrophic damage. With a report that

the flood is due any day, we decide to visit as soon as possible. We are not disappointed. The glacier and mountainous background is impressive and spectacular, as is the thunderous Nugget Falls that pours into the lake from the cliff on the south side. But it is the quiet, mile-long, wooded loop walk called the "Trail of Time" that I enjoy the most. When the bridge crosses a small stream, we look down into the water and see several sockeye salmon spawning in the crystal-clear water, surrounded by cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char that are circling about hoping for a meal of salmon eggs. The scene is iconic and beautiful.

And it is also a good warmup for the next day when we drive to the northern end of the Glacier Highway and Randy, Wendy and I spend the morning fishing for Dolly Varden in the cold, green-tinted water of Cowee Creek amid schools of spawning pink salmon. For (See Dickerson, Page 4B)



MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor Columnist

Panthers

(Continued from Page 1B)
Coaches Association National Women's Athlete of the Year and a Division III Honda Athlete of the Year finalist.

She didn't just win the 2025 NCAA race — she left competitors in her dust, finishing about 48 seconds (20:16.8) ahead of the nearest runner.

Though MacLean, a humble competitor and somebody who is quick to note all the others who contribute to her success, would never put it that way.

"Because of ... Audrey's season last year, I think there are going to be some eyes on her," Wilkerson said.

"But I'd rather deflect and focus on the team because that's her prerogative, too."

Strength training is key in Wilkerson's mind for MacLean to record faster times this fall.

"Her cadence is quick, but she'd like to put more power in that

stride, and then she's that much faster," Wilkerson said. "I don't know what the rest of the country looks like in terms of whom she'll be running against, but our goal with her was for her to get more power in her stride."

"But following her lead, similar to last year, all our conversations this summer have been about the team and how excited we are about everybody coming back, about how excited we are about the nice incoming freshman class that we have coming in. Truly, truly, she's so unselfish, but really has (the) team at heart."

While this will be MacLean's senior season as a Panther, it likely won't be her last running competitively.

"She has a full year of eligibility after she graduates, so she's looking to get a master's degree at a D-I school," and continue to run, Wilkerson said. "So that's pretty exciting for her."

HS sports

(Continued from Page 1B)
& Burton Academy on Saturday, Sept. 5, for its opener. If it goes anything like the team's 13-7 victory over St. Johnsbury in last year's final, the upcoming game will feature many running plays and tough defense.

The Mount Abe/Vergennes combined football team opens on Sept. 4 by hosting Milton at 7 p.m. Also getting their 2026 campaigns underway this week are:

- Mt. Abe field hockey on Friday, Aug. 28 at 4 p.m. hosts Essex.
- Mt. Abe girls' soccer on Friday, Aug. 28, at home against Fair

Haven at 4:30 p.m.

- Mt. Abe boys' soccer on Friday, Aug. 28, at Vergennes at 4:30 p.m.

- Mt. Abe volleyball team on Friday, Aug. 28, at Vermont Commons at 6 p.m.

- Mt. Abe and VUHS cross country teams on Saturday, Aug. 29, at the Essex Invitational.

- MUHS field hockey on Tuesday, Sept. 1, plays at Fair Haven at 4 p.m.

- MUHS boys' soccer on Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Vergennes at 4:30 p.m.

- MUHS boys' golf on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 4 p.m. at Ralph Myre Golf Course.



A MT. ABE GIRLS' soccer player dribbles a ball during a drill at practice in Bristol late last week. The team opens the season at home on Friday, Aug. 28, against Fair Haven at 4:30 p.m.

Independent photo/Steve James

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JOHN STROUP OF Vergennes crosses the finish line at the end of the Vergennes Day 5K race. The Democratic Addison-3 hopeful finished with a 28:54.83 time.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Vergennes Race

(Continued from Page 1B)
down a stretch to the finish line in front of the elementary school.

Multiple local racers finished in the top three.

In the 5K, Brody McGuire, 19, of Vergennes placed second with a 19:24.49 time (6:16 pace). Ferrisburgh resident Ryder Messinger, 20, came in about 11 seconds after him to take third with a 19:35.31 time (6:19 pace).

The first-place finisher, Bryce Shannon, 19, from Paul Smiths, N.Y., was about a minute-and-a-half ahead of that pair. He crossed the finish line in 17:46.05 and ran 5:44 mile splits to hit that mark.

Among the women who ran the 5K, Dylan Friedman, 18, of New Paltz, N.Y., took first. She completed the 3.1-mile course in 19:55.96 (6:26 pace), which was good for fourth overall. Corey Burdick, 46, of South Burlington placed second in the women's division and 13th overall (21:44.36, 7:01 per mile) and Torrey Hanna, 19, of Vergennes placed third (16th overall) — 22:56.3, 7:24 pace.

The 10K saw all Vermonters in the top 3.

Brian Mongeon, 41, of Shelburne was first (38:31.87,

6:13 pace); Lucas Harris, 36, of Vergennes was second (41:44.09, 6:44 pace); and David Barrett, 33, of Milton was third (43:39.32, 7:02 pace).

Lena Wood, 23, of Burlington won the women's division and was fourth overall (48:53.87, 7:53 pace), Jennifer Barrett, 33, of York, S.C., was second and 10th overall (57:30.64, 9:17 pace) and Erin Whitcomb, 52, of Cambridge, Vt., was third and 12th overall (1:01:32.31, 9:56 pace).

Among those who ran the longest distance that day — 15 kilometers — Eliot Soderholm, 21, of Paul Smiths, N.Y., made it back to the elementary school first (55:54.77, 6:00 pace). In second was Michael Zakosek, 61, of Rock Island, Ill., (1:03:34.29, 6:49 pace) and in third was C. White, 11, of Stowe (1:05:55.79, 7:04 pace).

The fastest three women in the 15K were all from Burlington. Forty-five-year-old Alison Milbury Stone won and came in fifth overall (1:09:47.88, 7:29 pace). Claire Benning, 29, was second and ninth overall (1:16:50.53, 8:15 pace) and Bridget Brett, 26, was third and 13th overall (1:21:15.5, 8:43 pace).



SPECIAL OLYMPIAN HAZEL Rakowski rounds the corner of the Vergennes Day Race 5K course on Saturday, Aug. 22. The 17-year-old completed the competition with a 49:48.58 time.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri



DYLAN FRIEDMAN OF New Paltz, N.Y., crosses the finish line first in the Vergennes Day 5K race. The 18-year-old was the women's winner, and placed fourth overall, with a 19:55.96 time.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri



THIS PAST SATURDAY morning, athletes running in the 5K and 10K Vergennes Day races took off from the start on East Street in the Little City. Bryce Shannon of Paul Smith's, N.Y., wearing the 481 bib, was the overall winner of the race.

Independent photo/Sophia Keshmiri

Vergennes police help with local road races

VERGENNES — Runners weren't the only people who attended the Vergennes Day races last Saturday. Officers in the Vergennes Police Department were spread out in the city then to provide traffic control while athletes focused their efforts on getting across the finish line.

Between Aug. 17 and 23 Vergennes police also conducted five traffic stops, six directed patrols, two foot patrols and one VIN number inspection, and took fingerprints 10 times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On Aug. 17 assisted Vermont State Police during a traffic stop.
- On Aug. 17 were notified by concerned citizens about a young child playing unsupervised on the sidewalk. Before the officers arrived the child was reunited with their family and the officers discussed child safety with them.
- On Aug. 17 assisted state police.
- On Aug. 18 assisted state police with an abandoned vehicle that was found obstructing a road in Salisbury. It was towed from the scene and impounded.

Vergennes Police Log

- On Aug. 18 received a report from a person who was concerned that her estranged husband may come to her home following an argument. The person had no information indicating that he was enroute to Vergennes. Officers provided information on how she could get a relief from abuse order and advised her to call 911 if he arrived at her home and she felt unsafe.
- On Aug. 19 conducted a background check for a local employment request.
- On Aug. 19 served a court order as requested to an individual.
- On Aug. 19 responded to an alarm at one Credit Union, but found no emergency.
- On Aug. 22 took a report of a lost wallet.
- On Aug. 22 took a report of non-vandalism property damage.
- On Aug. 22 responded to the skate park and checked a report that

the Recreation Department storage areas had been left unlocked. Police checked the area and secured the locks.

- On Aug. 22 were notified of a vehicle parked in a fire lane. The vehicle moved along.
- On Aug. 22 assisted at Vergennes Grand with a medical call.

• On Aug. 22 helped state police locate a vehicle in which the driver was suspected of being under the influence. The driver was not impaired.

- On Aug. 23 completed mandatory 2026 domestic violence training.
- On Aug. 23 assisted with a child/parent visitation exchange.
- On Aug. 23 responded to a two vehicle crash on Main Street. One vehicle collided with a parked vehicle. There were no injuries or hazards.
- On Aug. 23 took a report of a wallet lost on the side of the road. Police told the complainant police would contact them if it is recovered.
- On Aug. 23 assisted state police during a traffic stop.

MUHS senior wins regional Rotary speech contest

MAGOG, Quebec — Rotary District 7850, consisting of 41 clubs from Northern Vermont, Northern New Hampshire and Quebec, recently held their annual District Conference in Magog, Quebec. The conference highlight for the local Rotary Club was the selection of Taryn Burns, a rising senior at Middlebury Union High School, as the winner of the annual Rotary youth speech contest for high school students.

Burns clearly did a phenomenal job addressing this year's theme: "How can we be instruments of peace?"

She competed against three other students at the Rotary Club of Middlebury in February, then won the area competition in Vergennes in March, and

the April regional competition in Lyndonville. Finally, she competed against a student from New Hampshire at the final round in Magog in June. Taryn took home a total of \$1,750 in winnings and the admiration of a very proud Rotary Club of Middlebury.

Also at the conference, Ariel Mondlak, from the Rotary Club of Waterbury, took over as Governor of District 7850, and Fred Kenney took the helm as President of the Rotary Club of Middlebury.

Parents, teachers and students interested in the annual Rotary International District Speech Contest and other Rotary Youth programs can contact Jason Schnoor at Jason.schnoor@yahoo.com.



TARYN BURNS

ATM thieves strike in Hancock

ADDISON COUNTY — The spate of thefts of automatic teller machines spread to Hancock late last week.

Vermont State Police reported that on Aug. 20 at around 4:30 a.m. a burglary was reported to have occurred at the JD's Quick Stop in the Route 100 town. Police said that multiple unknown individuals forced entry into the store and stole an ATM.

A security camera saved an image of a silver station wagon the police described as a vehicle of interest.

Anyone with information on this crime is asked to contact Trooper Rode at the Royalton state police barracks at 802-234-9933. Anonymous tips

Vt. State Police Log

may also be submitted through the Vermont State Police Tip Submission Page online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On Aug. 15 cited Scott C. Blaise, 54, of New Haven for driving with a criminally suspended license on Plank Road in Ferrisburgh.
- On Aug. 17 cited William O. Wright, 42, of Addison for driving with a criminally suspended license on Route 66 in

Waltham.

• On Aug. 20 while on routine patrol in Bristol made contact with Dean Heffernan, 42, of Bristol at 10 minutes after 6 p.m. Because of warrant out for his arrest for failing to appear in court, the trooper arrested Heffernan and lodged him at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$200.

• On Aug. 22 shortly after 11 p.m. stopped a vehicle near the intersection of South Maple Street and Roberts Street in Vergennes and ended up citing David A. Ouellette, 60, of Waltham for driving without a required interlock ignition device and violation of court-ordered conditions of release.

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Sophia Keshmiri

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DUANE FORD



ROB MCLEOD



WENDY REEVES



MICHAEL SCHMIDT



FLORA WEEKS ATHAPPILY

Hall of Fame

(Continued from Page 1B)
Brittany Cronin Geissinger, Class of 2005, was one of the most prolific scorers of the women’s soccer program during her time at Middlebury.

Cronin was lauded as an All-American during her senior season, landing a spot on the second team. She was also recognized as the 2004 NESCAC Player of the Year, the NCAA Woman of the Year for the state of Vermont, and an All-New England honoree. She garnered slots on the All-NESCAC team with a first-team plaudit as a senior and a second-team accolade in her junior campaign.

Over her career, she helped lead the Panthers to a 44–14–7 mark, highlighted by a spot in the 2004 NESCAC Championship match and advancement to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in program history. That season, the squad established a program record with 15 victories, which was tied twice before it was finally broken in 2017.

The forward set Middlebury’s single-season record for goals (19) and points (42) during her final year, while she slotted fourth in points during a campaign (31) and into a fourth-place tie in goals (13) during her junior slate. She currently ranks third in school history for career goals (34) and career points (79).

SUSAN “SUE” FOLLETT PANELLA ’80 - SWIMMING & DIVING

Susan Follett Panella, Class of 1980, was a dominant and versatile swimmer who excelled in numerous strokes during the early years of the swimming and diving program at Middlebury.

Perhaps the strongest Panther swimmer of her era, Follett primarily competed in backstroke events while also finding success in freestyle and individual medley races. The co-captain helped lead her team to 44 dual meet triumphs, including an unblemished 11–0 campaign in 1979–80.

Follett also played a pivotal role in challenging and improving the

men’s swimming and diving team in its club days. Alongside her teammates, she regularly bested her male counterparts, helping further hone her craft.

She shared or outright held 12 team records and established three Brown Pool records that were never broken. One such accomplishment was the 100-yard freestyle record of 56.9 seconds, a blistering clocking during a time of slower pools that stood for many years.

DUANE M. FORD ’78 - FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, LACROSSE

Duane Ford, Class of 1978, was a three-sport standout in football, hockey, and lacrosse, as well as a storied coach, mentor, and administrator.

Ford was a driving force behind the emergence of the Middlebury football program. During his senior year, he was the team captain and secured First-Team New England honors as a linebacker. Ford was a 1977 *New York Times* All-East honoree, the only defensive player chosen from Division III that fall. He was a two-time All-ECAC selection in 1976 and 1977. As a senior, he paced the 7–1 squad with 84 tackles and 46 assisted stops.

In lacrosse, Ford was a 1978 All-American Honorable Mention, served as the team’s captain, and was tabbed the Most Valuable Player. He garnered All-New England and All-Snively Division accolades and was selected to participate in the 1978 North/South All-Star game. The two-way midfielder was named the 1977 and 1978 Midd Baggetaway Award winner, given to the player who exemplifies the best spirit and leadership in the program. He led his teams to four straight ECAC Championships, the furthest the program could advance on the national scene at that time.

Following his playing days, Ford remained involved in both sports, using his talents on the sidelines to foster the next generation. He served four seasons as Middlebury’s defensive line coach. Ford was Tufts’ defensive

coordinator for three years and later became the head football coach from 1985 through 1993. In his second season on the gridiron, he guided the Jumbos to a 7–1 record, secured the NESCAC Championship, and was recognized as the NESCAC Coach of the Year. During that period, he was also the head lacrosse coach from 1983 until 1986. Following his time at Tufts, Ford spent 32 years teaching and coaching football and lacrosse at the Holderness School in New Hampshire.

ROB MACLEOD ’88 - ALPINE SKIING

Rob MacLeod, Class of 1988, stands as one of the most decorated alpine athletes in the history of Middlebury skiing.

A four-time All-American and four-time All-East First-Team selection, MacLeod utilized a style described by his teammates as unique and unconventional to make an immediate impact with the Panthers. He shone in the slalom on the Eastern Intercollegiate Skiing Association (EISA) circuit throughout his career, accumulating 11 podium finishes and six first-place showings. MacLeod also posted seven giant slalom efforts of seventh place or higher, including a podium-topping finish at the 1988 EISA Championships.

This success translated well to the national stage. At the NCAA Championships in 1987, MacLeod claimed runner-up laurels in the slalom. He followed with a runner-up finish in the same discipline the following year, clocking the fastest second trip down the mountain of any competitor.

He broke through in his senior campaign, placing fourth in his opening run before winning the second round by 0.5 seconds to take the NCAA title. MacLeod became the first Panther since John Clough ’64 to prevail in the slalom discipline at the national event.

WENDY REEVES ’87 - CROSS COUNTRY, NORDIC SKIING, TRACK & FIELD

Wendy Reeves, Class of 1987, routinely resided inside the top five

and challenged for podium space across her stellar career on the Nordic skiing trails.

As a first-year competitor, she claimed her debut discipline victory at the Williams Carnival before stunning peers, coaches, and spectators by winning the EISA Championships on her home course. At the NCAA Championships that same year, Reeves recorded a runner-up finish for her highest collegiate placing at the event.

Throughout her career, Reeves collected a pair of All-American honors and three All-East selections. She secured a second-team selection in the region as a sophomore and earned a nomination for the U.S. Olympic Committee’s 1984 Olympia Award.

She starred in her senior slate, earning a first-team nod from the EISA after four top-five finishes on the circuit. A runner-up finish at the University of Vermont Carnival helped the Panthers secure a team upset over the Catamounts, and she went on to place seventh at the national championship to earn her second All-American honor.

Reeves also competed on the cross country and track and field teams at Middlebury. She placed fourth in the 1985 Vermont State Cross Country meet, leading the Panthers to claim the trophy, and added an eighth-place finish in the 1,500-meter run at the 1986 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Championship.

Following graduation, Reeves continued to compete at the global level. She was a member of the U.S. Ski Team for 10 years as well as the Val di Fiemme and Lahti World Championship teams and was an alternate for a pair of Winter Olympic Games. Reeves was the winner of the 1990 Erik Judeen Award, given to the woman who scores the highest at the U.S. Cross Country Championships. She led the field to the line and secured a gold medal at the U.S. National Championships in the 20K, was part of numerous relay podium

finishes, and became the first American to win a race in Russia at the 1988 Murmansk Ski Marathon.

MICHAEL “SCHMIDTY” SCHMIDT ’12 - CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK & FIELD

Michael “Schmidty” Schmidt, Class of 2012, left an indelible mark on the men’s cross country and track and field programs and continues to give back to the sport today.

Schmidt thrived in all three seasons, arguably achieving his greatest success in the outdoor slate. He concluded his career as a six-time NESCAC Champion spanning three events and as the 2012 national runner-up in the 10,000-meter run. At the NCAA Championship later that spring, Schmidt placed fourth in the 5,000 to earn a second All-American distinction and the third of his career. He holds program records in each discipline that still stand today.

Schmidt added a pair of indoor All-American accolades in his senior indoor campaign, including the 5,000 and the distance medley relay (DMR). His indoor clocking of 14:10.30 in the individual event is still a school record.

A four-time All-NESCAC selection and 2011 All-American in cross country, Schmidt was just as successful on the course. He led the men’s program to its initial NESCAC team title and an individual runner-up showing in 2010 and paced the field to the finish line the following year despite losing a shoe in the mud during the early stages. The Panther collected a pair of regional individual titles in those same two seasons. Schmidt’s efforts helped secure the program’s first two NCAA Championship berths. The Panther men’s cross country program’s Most Valuable Person, which is handed out annually at the conclusion of each season, is named after him.

Following graduation, Schmidt spent 11 years coaching at Tufts, was named the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) New England Division III Assistant Coach of the Year three times, and was part of the NESCAC Coaching Staff of the Year on five occasions. The current head coach of men’s and women’s cross country and assistant coach of men’s and women’s track and field at Brandeis, Schmidt has guided numerous stellar athletes, including 44 track and field All-Americans. He competed in the 2026 Boston Marathon, posting a clocking of 2:22.33 to finish 92nd overall and earn the title as the “fastest Bostonian.”

FLORA WEEKS ATHAPPILLY ’12 - GOLF

Flora Weeks Athappilly, Class of 2012, was a standout on the links for the women’s golf team during her time as a Panther.

Weeks’s name appears throughout the program’s record books, as she earned numerous awards and accolades. She is the only golfer in Middlebury’s history, regardless of gender, with multiple All-American laurels. Weeks earned honorable-mention certificates during her sophomore and junior years before a second-team nod followed in her senior season. She was also tabbed a National Golf Coaches Association (NGCA) All-East First-Team selection in each of her last three seasons. Weeks collected NESCAC Individual Medalist honors three times during her career.

Weeks was instrumental in guiding the Panthers to their third consecutive NCAA Tournament during the latter stages of the 2000s, highlighted by helping the team to an 8th-place showing in her initial campaign. She competed in a trio of NCAA Championships as an individual, tying for 20th place in her rookie campaign. She followed that with 14th-place ties as both a sophomore and senior.

The Panther saved her best season for last, claiming medalist honors in five of the seven invitationals with an impressive four in a row. She garnered fifth-place accolades in the other two competitions.

The Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame is located in the Peterson Family Athletics Complex. The Hall of Fame inducted its first class in January 2015, in conjunction with the opening of Virtue Field House, and will induct up to 10 individuals a year. To be eligible, former student-athletes who are nominated for consideration must be at least 10 years removed from their final year of collegiate competition. Coaches, administrators and staff must have served with distinction and be a minimum of five years removed from their employment with the college to receive consideration. Pre- and post-Middlebury accomplishments can factor into a nominee’s candidacy as long as the accomplishments fall within the sphere of athletic achievement and bear some connection to the nominee’s athletic career at Middlebury.

Nominations are now being accepted for the next class. For information about the Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame, including complete biographies of inductees and a link to the nomination form.

Dickerson

(Continued from Page 2B)
weeks we have been following the Juneau-area weather, and the daily forecast has been very consistent: rainy with daytime temps in the low 60s and nights in the low 50s. Except we woke this morning to clear skies and a forecast of 75, with four more days of the same in the forecast.

I’m not sure whether I’m more delighted to watch Wendy catch her

first Dolly (which we bring home to eat for supper that night) or when a big pink salmon takes her lure and she manages to land it in a heavy current. Though landing a 19-inch Dolly of my own was pretty fun, too. That evening, Jeff and I take a walk over to the state historic park and the cabin where I served my artist residency. We are partway down the road when a black bear

sow with two cubs steps out of the

woods only 20 yards in front of us, gives us a quick glance, ignores us, and waddles down the road with her cubs behind her.

The next morning, Randy and I return alone and Randy manages to catch several Dollies. While we are gone, Deborah and Wendy walk to Amalga Bay. They see a different pair of bears, and get to watch them fishing for salmon. The weather stays sunny. The floods come to

the Mendenhall Valley, but they are milder than in some past years and damage is minimal.

All in all, it is an amazing first visit to Alaska for several Vermonters, with an amazing gift of weather. And it isn’t over. Our schedule for the last three days is to ferry over to Glacier Bay National Park. But you’ll have to wait for our next column to hear more about that one.

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community calendar

aug 27 THURSDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Thursday, Aug. 27. Each year, we welcome more than 80 filmmakers and hundreds of audience members for five days of exceptional films, notable honorees, panels and events, topped off by happy hours and evening parties. Dedicated solely to the work of first- and second-time directors, MNFF provides a unique and supportive platform for artists taking early steps into the world of independent cinema. It runs through Sunday, Aug. 30. Passes and bundles \$35-\$230. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

Silent Disco on the Green in Middlebury. Thursday, Aug. 27, 3-7 p.m., Triangle Park. Grab a pair of wireless headphones, choose from three music channels and enjoy this free, family-friendly Silent Disco on the Green. Whether you're dancing with friends, laughing with family or trying something completely new, everyone is welcome at this unforgettable outdoor experience. First 20 folks to RSVP get a special gift. Free. For more info visit tinyurl.com/middsilentdisco.

aug 28 FRIDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Friday, Aug. 28. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

"Scriptive" Artist Talk: Calligraphic Illuminations in Brandon. Friday, Aug. 28, 7-8 p.m., Aleshire Gallery, 29 Union St. Scriptive is Aleshire Gallery's summer exhibition of calligraphic illuminations and works on paper and parchment by Candace Jensen and Sarah La Puerta. The artists show selections of their work from the last decade alongside new illuminations, decorated texts and drawings. Hors d'œuvres and refreshments. Free.

Push To the Pavilion Music Concert in Vergennes. Friday, Aug. 28, 5:30-8 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park. A kickoff fundraising event for the final money needed to build the pavilion. Music by the Pavilion Rock Band. Enjoy raffles with prizes donated by local merchants.

aug 29 SATURDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Saturday, Aug. 29. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

Labor Day Breakfast in Shoreham. Saturday, Aug. 29, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church. Feast on pancakes, French toast, sausage, home fries, quiches and beverages. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the food shelf to help those in need. Adults \$12; Kids \$6; Families \$30.

Grand Re-Opening of the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 29, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bristol Bands kicks off the show with marches, followed by a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. Open house 10:30-noon, when you can explore the building, do some crafts, enjoy refreshments and visit the rooftop terrace. Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival will screen a 20-minute movie in the conference room at 2 p.m.

Ice Cream Social & Basket Raffle in Brandon. Saturday, Aug. 29, noon-4 p.m., American Legion. The Brandon Forest Dale Lions Club hosts an ice cream social featuring chocolate, vanilla and maple walnut ice cream with all the fixings. Baskets available for a raffle. All proceeds support community needs.

Built to Last: A Resilient Bristol. Saturday, Aug. 29, 4 to 7 p.m., Bristol Recreation Pavilion. If you live, work or play in Bristol then you are invited to an evening of community conversations and future planning. There will be activities and opportunities to make your voice heard. The event will wrap up with a group visioning session on what Bristol's future will look like. Examples of discussion topics: flooding and hazard mitigation; housing and economic development; transportation and infrastructure services (power, WiFi, water, etc.); recreation and public health. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Open to all ages. Free. AZ Larsen, Planning & Zoning Administrator at zoning@bristolvt.org.

Cellist Sterling Elliott in Concert in Starksboro. Saturday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m., Common Ground Center. Cellist Sterling Elliott, still in his mid-twenties, has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the LA Phil, and more. After teaching at a 7-day cello retreat exploring well-being and the arts, he will perform with participants and as a soloist. \$12-\$18. To purchase tickets, contact Suzanne Smith: cellochan3b@gmail.com or 802-496-5273. For more info visit cellochanwoods.com.

aug 30 SUNDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival wraps up. Sunday, Aug. 30. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

Built to Last: A Resilient Bristol. Sunday, Aug. 30, 4 to 7 p.m., Bristol Recreation Pavilion. See Aug. 29 listing.

Green Mountain Club annual corn potluck social in Middlebury. Sunday, Aug. 30, 5-8 p.m., 446 Cobble Road in Middlebury. Join us for this informal social potluck Corn provided! Feel free to bring a guest. Hosted by Morris Earle. Contact Morris at morrisearle@gmail.com to let him know what you'll dish you'll bring to share. For more info visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

aug 31 MONDAY

Monday Night Bingo in Middlebury. Monday, Aug. 31, 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.

Monthly meeting of UnderCover Quilters & Crafters in Bristol. Monday, Aug. 31, 6-8 p.m., American Legion. Are you a quilter, knitter, crochet, fiber arts? This month's meeting will be a demo and conversation about wooden barn quilts. Please bring your show and tell (if you have one). We meet the first Monday of every month. This month's meeting lands on Aug. 31 due to the Labor Day holiday.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, Aug. 31, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge. Semi-monthly cribbage



Library love

AFTER EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS, a major expansion and plenty of patience from eager readers, Ilsley Library is finally unveiling its fresh new look! Join the celebration at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29, for a ribbon cutting ceremony, then stick around for refreshments and an open house to explore all the exciting new features, such as this rooftop terrace.

Independent photo

night welcomes community players for an evening of cards.

your own car to stops along the way, finishing at Hubbardton Battlefield. Jim Rowe of Crown Point Road Association historian is your leader.

sept 2 WEDNESDAY

Peer Recovery Center Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting in Middlebury. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2-4 p.m., 79 Court St. The celebration marks the culmination of years of planning, fundraising, community support, and renovation to create a permanent and welcoming home for recovery in Addison County. The Peer Recovery Center of Addison County, formerly the Turning Point Center, will offer the community an opportunity to tour the newly renovated facility, meet center staff and board, enjoy light refreshments, and learn more about the free, confidential, peer-led recovery supports available throughout the county. Free.

5 Fridays Block Party and Closet Sale in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 4, 3-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Five hours of music with Burlington art-rock headliner Billy Wylder, a dance party and a closet sale inside. More acts and surprises are still in the works. Browse and buy costumes and accessories from Opera Company of Middlebury and other resident companies. Free.

Shoreham Historical Society Program: Newton Academy and Its Role in School Centralization. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m., Shoreham's Old Stone School House. Chartered in 1811, the Newton Academy was one of the state's first private boarding schools, named for local Revolutionary War patriot Daniel C. Newton. It eventually became a public high school before closing in 1969. Presented by Jonathan Hescock. Free. For more info contact: jdstevens802@gmail.com.

sept 3 THURSDAY

Tech Night: Bring Your Own Device in Salisbury. Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 to 7 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library. Have an issue with your phone or laptop? Bring your device and your questions to the library the first Thursday of the month. Starting in Sept., our new tech guru, Kiley Benner, will be on hand to field questions about PCs and Android devices, while Alissa will help you with anything Mac-related. Free.

sept 5 SATURDAY

Special Storytime and Book Giveaway in Salisbury. Saturday, Sept. 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Branbury State Park, East Pavilion. Join the Salisbury Library for a special storytime and children's book giveaway by the shores of Lake Dunmore. Award-winning author Doug Wilhelm will be on hand to read a story, and we will have books for kids of all ages to give away. Reduced price entry available. Contact the Salisbury library for directions.

Craftnoon in Brandon. Saturday, Sept. 5, 1-3 p.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. A monthly crafting afternoon for all ages. Bring your own project or create something using library supplies. A different craft will be featured each month. Free.

Soldiers Atop the Mount Living History Weekend in Orwell. Saturday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. Reenactors honor the 250th anniversary of the 1776 building and garrisoning of Mount Independence during this living history weekend. Saturday's popular interactive Baldwin Trail Walkabout, from 10:30 to 1:30, features experts at trail stations bringing history to life. Demos of military tactics, skills, and camp life. Annual reading of Declaration of Independence, food, children's activities. \$9 adults; \$1 ages 6-16; under 6 free. Call 802-948-2000 for details.

sept 6 SUNDAY

Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road Auto Tour in Orwell. Sunday, Sept. 6, 1-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates ordered the construction of the Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road 250 years ago on Sept. 7, 1776. Start the tour with a special orientation, reading of the order and viewing of the start of the road. Then travel in

sept 8 TUESDAY

Classic Film Club Screening in Middlebury. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1-3 p.m., Ilsley Public Library Community Room, 75 Main St. Join other film lovers for a free screening of a classic film! Free.

sept 9 WEDNESDAY

Presentation: "Managing Diabetes in Older Age" in Middlebury. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 4 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury. Presented by Magie Young of Mountain View Nutrition. 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 its onset.

sept 11 FRIDAY

4th Annual Groovin' on the Green in Vergennes. Friday, Sept. 11, 6-9 p.m., City Green. Join your friends and neighbors for an evening of music, food, games, dancing and fun for all ages. Music by Magnetic Horse. Food by Meat Mafia BBQ, Rockers, La Chapina and The Stone Pour. Free.

Contra Dance in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Contra dancing taught and called by Richard Hopkins to live music by the band Northern Sugar. No experience (or even partner) needed for this family-friendly, non-gendered fun evening. Plenty of parking at nearby MUHS. Free.

sept 12 SATURDAY

Kids' Craft: Terrible Teddy Bears! in Vergennes. Saturday, Sept. 12, 1-2 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St.. Create a monstrous monstrosity! With very little skill needed and only our minds as guides, take on making your own teddy bears. Or... some version of one. No sewing skills required. Recommended for ages 5-12. Free.

Second Annual Depot Day in New Haven. Saturday, Sept. 12, 1-3 p.m., Depot Station. Celebrate the ongoing renovations of the depot building and share some history, music, fun for the kids and thoughts for the future of the building. Come learn about the community survey results and find out what's in store for the next steps of this project. A brief talk by Jim Jones, author of the book "New Haven Junction to Bristol, Vermont" and Chris Granstrom's strawberry ice cream for all.

3rd Annual East Middlebury Appreciation Day in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Valley Bible Church. Enjoy hot dogs, chicken, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, bouncy houses, face painting, games, balloons, big tractors/trucks. New this year: slip & slide, miniature horses. Located just off Route 7. Rain date Sept. 19. Free.

Around the Kitchen Table: Where the Best Stories Are Told in Monkton. Saturday, Sept. 12, 2 p.m., East Monkton Church. Come hear about the responsibilities and escapades of those who grew up on three Monkton farms in the 1950s. Story telling at its best. Sponsored by the East Monkton Church Association, Inc. Free. Donation to support building preservation is appreciated.

Clean Gravestones at Munger Street Cemetery in New Haven. Saturday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m.-noon, Munger Street Cemetery. Spend a Saturday morning learning about the history of this area and learn to maintain gravestones. Training will be provided. Wear old clothes & bring rubber gloves, a kneeling pad if you have one, and a water bucket. If you have a plastic nylon scrub brush and a wooden paint stirrer, those will be your simple tools.

CALENDAR
ONLINE

addisonindependent.com



ADDISON COUNTY

School News Briefs

Local students make Simmons dean's list

BOSTON, Mass. — The following Addison County residents were named to the 2026 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University.

- Greta Jennison, Bristol
- Avery Vant, Salisbury
- Bee Eckels, Vergennes

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MON & WED 3:30-5 PM

AFTERSCHOOL GROUP LESSONS
MON &/OR WED: AGES 5-11
TUES &/OR THURS: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-registration required.
New students can join anytime!

TO REGISTER: CALL OR EMAIL

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middleburytennis.com



Lower trail loop is now open

LINCOLN — The Burnham Presents concert series opens its new season on Saturday, Sept. 5, with a performance by acclaimed vocalist, songwriter, musician, and producer Dayna Kurtz. Joining her on the Burnham Hall stage will be guitarist Robert Maché. Known for her soul-stirring vocals and candid songwriting, Kurtz divides her time between Vermont and New Orleans. Over her career, she has earned industry acclaim, including being named Female Songwriter of the Year by the National Academy of Songwriters.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 7:30 p.m. Homemade refreshments will be available. General admission is \$22, general plus admission is \$25 and \$30 for generous admission. Kids 12 and under are \$12 and youth on laps are free.

The town is looking for residents of all ages to share their artistic talents to help highlight the natural beauty of the community for the Town Report. This year's theme is "Exploring Our Town Forests & Trails." Organizers are seeking

Lincoln

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

NEWS

creative visual contributions, including original photographs, sketches and artwork that capture the landscapes, wildlife, hiking paths and outdoor recreation throughout Lincoln.

Submit your digital images directly to lincolntownreport@gmail.com. Please include your full name and any relevant details about the image, such as location or medium, with your email address so proper credit can be given. Submissions are due by Thursday, Nov. 5.

From Lincoln Sports: We're excited to announce the long-awaited soft opening of the new Lincoln Sports multiuse trails system. The lower trail loop is now open and ready to explore. The upper trail loop is still under construction and remains closed,

but we're making great progress and expect it to be completed soon. Please respect all closures and stay on the designated open trails.

To help keep the trails safe and enjoyable for everyone, please abide by all posted signs and rules. Helmets are required for all cyclists. Bikers must yield to hikers and walkers. Dogs must be leashed at all times. E-bikes and pedal-assist bikes are permitted. Trails are open from dawn until dusk. Electric motorcycles, throttle-powered vehicles, ATVs and horses are prohibited. We're thrilled to welcome the community out to enjoy these new trails and look forward to seeing everyone out there.

Save the date: Lincoln Sports will be hosting an official trail system opening celebration on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m. and everyone is welcome! Celebrate the opening and help kick off this new chapter for outdoor recreation in the community.

Until next time...Holding on Is Believing That There Is Only A Past; Letting Go Is Knowing That There's A Future.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN get free, locally grown produce at the Bristol Veggie Van, a community produce hub located on Park Place near the First Baptist Church of Bristol.

Photos courtesy of Barbara Conner

Veggie Van offers free produce

BRISTOL — If you're on the Bristol town green, check out the little green Veggie Van located on Park Place, next to the Baptist Church.

Inspired by Lincoln's Take It or Leave It Farm Stand, the Veggie Van provides a place for community members and local farmers to drop off their extra vegetables and fruit for neighbors who may not have a garden or are in need of some fresh produce. It will be open 24/7 through mid-October.

Produce is abundant and free to all. Drop off your extra veggies to share or pick up what you need. Bring a bag and help yourselves.

The Veggie Van is truly a Bristol community project. It has been built, stocked and supported by many. Martin's Hardware, Vergennes Aubuchon, RK Miles, Goodro Lumber, Rice Lumber and Glen Peck Electric all donated some of the building materials. The Bristol Baptist Church generously offered their lawn as a home for the Veggie Van. Monetary contributions from Neat Repeats, St. Ambrose Church and Bristol Federated Church helped with the building expenses. Volunteers have offered time and



THE BRISTOL VEGGIE Van offers a space for local growers to drop off extra produce and for community members to pick up that produce for free. The van will be open through mid-October 24/7 near the First Baptist Church of Bristol on Park Place.

labor to get it built and to keep it stocked with fresh vegetables. Organizers offered many thanks to Full Belly, Footprint, Little Village Acres, Bristol Flats, Four Blooms, Paradise Fruit, Sweet Roots and Gateway Farms for generously donating their beautiful produce to the Veggie Van, Bristol's community produce hut.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — By the time this goes to print, school will have started. Please be aware of children waiting for the bus at the end of driveways or walking to school. Sometimes kids don't think about

oncoming traffic and you, the driver, need to watch out for them so that if someone should step into traffic or be fooling around at the end of a driveway you can slow your speed or stop. Keep our

children safe, they are our future!

Join Lisa Boekman for Community Yoga at the Town Hall on Saturday, Aug. 29 from 9-10 a.m. This class is suitable for all levels of experience. A donation is asked to benefit the Russell Memorial Library. You are required to bring your own mat, while blocks and straps will be provided. Contact the library at 802-453-4471 for more information.

Come to 'Around the Kitchen Table, Where All the Best Stories are Told'. This event will be on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2 p.m. in the East Monkton Church at 405 Church Rd. Listen to stories of work and play while growing up on a Monkton farm. Hear about the responsibilities and escapades of those who grew up on three farms in the 1950s. Sponsored by the East Monkton Church Association (eastmonktonchurch.org) along with their 2026 sponsors, Boot Hill Metal Benders, Fiddleback Woodworks, Green Tree Real Estate, Layn Farms, Silver Spring Farm, Vic Cousino Property Services, VT Marine and Wooden Hammer. Many thanks to all of these sponsors and to the people

who attend and donate to these happenings at the church. It is greatly appreciated!

The Poetry Club continues its meetings tentatively on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Check with Melanie Cote

for confirmation at cotem@gmail.com.

On Sundays, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Eugenie Doyle continues Ashtanga Yoga in the Community Room of the Town Hall. Contact her at edoyle@gmavt.net for more information. This is a free class.

Toddler Storytime continues at the library weekly on Wednesdays. Call the Library at 802-453-4471 for ongoing times.

It's a good idea to check in with the library weekly as happenings are always changing. The library is an abundance of information!

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Leicester

Have a news tip?
Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center at Leicester Four Corners.

Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Property tax bills will be mailed by Sept. 1. Taxes are due to be paid in full by midnight

Sunday, Nov. 15. Post marks are not accepted as proof of mailing in time. To avoid penalties or fees, make sure to pay the tax bill in a timely manner.

First up, **Alyssa Wright** brought in a lovely pepper measuring 13.25" C x 13.25" C. That was enough to take the lead!

Then came a robust 12.75" C onion from **Gary Miller**, who casually mentioned that he grew 32 of them. Pickled onions, anyone?

Young gardener **Sam Weir** returned from vacation to discover that his zucchini had been busy while he was away. The result? A whopping 23" L x 16.5" C. Looks like zucchini boats are in his future... and he took the lead!

Randy Fleming brought in a luscious red tomato measuring 16.25" C, putting him at the top of the tomato standings.

Gary Miller came back with a green giant. His 40.5" L green bean unseated his previous record and will be a tough one to beat. Of course, Gary says he has several more at home that are already pushing 30" long.

Kris Bowdish brought in the first bright orange carrot of the season, a very respectable 12.5" L x 7.5" C.

Barbara Pelton arrived with what can only be described as a child-sized eggplant. Measuring 26" C x 16" C, it's obviously in the star position.

And finally, two young gardeners, **Case Pope** and **Reagan Whittemore**, teamed up to bring in an impressive zucchini that just eked out a win. At 23" L x 17.75" C, this zucchini has a very specific destiny: zucchini bread with chocolate and white chocolate chips.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

The Garden Game is heating up!

This week brought big vegetables, bragging rights, and some serious competition!

WOW. Your gardens are clearly showing off this week. What's in store next?!

Fun Fact

Think Gary's 40.5" green bean is long? The Guinness World Record for the longest green bean measured 48.75 inches. That's more than four feet long! It was grown by H. Hurley in North Carolina in 1996. Gary, you're not too far off!

Categories & Front-Runners:

Asparagus (length x circumference) - Monica Przyperhart, 16" x 4.25"
Beet (circumference)
Broccoli (diameter) - Peter Szymkowicz, 17"
Cabbage (circumference) - Maëlle Remsen, 19.5"
Cantaloupe (circumference)
Carrot (length x circumference) - Kris Bowdish, 12.5" x 7.5"
Cauliflower (diameter)
Corn (length x circumference)
Cucumber (length x circumference) - Ted Foster, 13" x 9.75"
Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Christy Lynn, 31" x 10.25"
Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Barbara Pelton, 26" x 16"
Fennel (length x circumference)
Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 40.5"
Kohlrabi (circumference)
Leek (length x circumference)
Melon (circumference)
Onion (circumference) - Gary Miller, 12.75"
Parsnip (circumference)
Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Alyssa Wright, 13.25" x 13.25"
Potato (length x circumference) - Annie Moore-Cox, 9" x 11"
Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
Radish (circumference) - Gary Miller, 9.25"
Rhubarb (stalk length) - Dorothy Hayes, 25.5"
Rutabaga (circumference)
Summer Squash (length x circumference)
Sunflower (diameter) - Lisa Valley, 6.5"
*Sweet Potato (length x circumference)
Tomato (circumference) - Randy Fleming - 16.25"
Turnip (circumference)
Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Zucchini (length x circumference) - Case Pope & Reagan Whittemore, 23" x 17.75"
*new category

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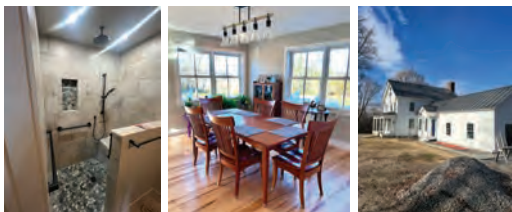
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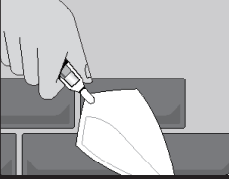
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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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Public Meetings

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ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS and regional Rotary Gov. Ariel Mondlak plant milkweed in the Helen Porter garden in an effort to support monarch butterflies.

Rotary plants milkweed to support butterflies

MIDDLEBURY — As part of her duties as governor for Rotary International District 7850, Ariel Mondlak recently visited the Rotary Club of Middlebury. The Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing facility in Middlebury hosted Mondlak, where the Middlebury club helped her meet her goal to plant milkweed in all 41 communities with Rotary Clubs in her district, which encompasses clubs from

Northern Vermont, Northern New Hampshire and Quebec. Mondlak and the Rotary Club of Middlebury were joined by members of the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County, who helped with the planting and added plant starts to the seeds that were sown. The club is extremely grateful to the staff of Helen Porter and the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County for their assistance.

Next spring the residents of Helen Porter can look forward to a garden full of butterflies and other pollinators and the monarch butterflies will have more milkweed plants available, which are critical to their reproduction cycle. For more information on Rotary International and the service projects of the Rotary Club of Middlebury email Fred Kenney at kenneyfred@gmail.com.

Man booked for hate crime, disorderly conduct

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Timothy E. Edwards Jr., 38, of Ripton, for disorderly conduct, a hate crime, violating his conditions of release, and resisting arrest, following an incident near the pavilion off Mary Hogan Drive at around 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 17. Police said the hate crime citation stemmed from allegations that Edwards had used racial slurs while shouting at people in the area. Police had cited Edwards earlier that afternoon with disorderly conduct and violations of his conditions of release following an incident at the same location. In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Found, and euthanized, a fox that had bitten a dog off Hallady Road during the afternoon of Aug. 17. The Vermont Department of Health is warning folks in the Middlebury area to be on guard in wake of several recent reports of strange acting foxes, including a confirmed rabid fox incident in the shire town on July 30.
- Served a no-trespass order on Aug. 17 on a woman who wasn't wanted at a Seymour Street address.
- Received a report about a potentially sick fox off Route 7 South on Aug. 17. Police said a Vermont Fish & Game warden euthanized the fox.
- Conducted downtown foot patrols on Aug. 18 and 21.
- Responded to the Bakery Lane area on Aug. 18 on a complaint about the theft of used cooking oil.
- Were called to the Lindale Circle neighborhood on Aug. 18 on a report of a youth experiencing a mental health crisis. Police said the youth was taken to Porter Hospital.
- Separated both parties involved in a domestic dispute at a Jackson Lane home on Aug. 18.

Middlebury Police Log

- Responded to a report of a man yelling from his window off Stonercrop Road on Aug. 19.
- Cited Phillip Jerome, 28, of Cornwall for two counts of simple assault, after investigating a complaint at the intersection of College and Main streets on Aug. 19.
- On Aug. 19, helped a Vermont Fish & Game warden find the driver of a four-wheeler who had evaded him on Halpin Road in New Haven.
- Checked on the welfare of a man who had expressed a desire to harm himself while at the Academy Street bus stop on Aug. 19. Police said the man declined help.
- Loaned the department's K-9 unit to Vermont State Police on Aug. 20 to conduct an open-air sniff on a vehicle suspected to contain illegal drugs.
- Investigated a trespassing complaint in the Court Street area on Aug. 20.
- Helped Middlebury Regional EMS with a call to the Otterside Court neighborhood on Aug. 20.
- Spoke with a Rogers Road resident about a concern with a tenant on Aug. 20.
- Checked on an encampment near South Pleasant Street on Aug. 20.
- Told an unhoused person on Aug. 21 they couldn't sleep in an Exchange Street building.
- Responded to a report of a drunken woman in the Pine Meadows neighborhood on Aug. 21.
- Received a call about a possible assault off Boardman

- Street on Aug. 21. Police said the case remains under investigation.
- Cited Amanda Rogers-Wilson, 31, of Middlebury for driving with a criminally suspended license after an interview at police headquarters. While speaking with Rogers-Wilson about her license, police said they also noted she didn't have an ignition interlock in the vehicle, which they said was a condition of her driving privilege.
 - Warned a group of youths about a trespassing issue in the Main Street area on Aug. 21.
 - Helped a lost individual get to a Creek Road bus stop on Aug. 21.
 - Served court paperwork on a Jayne Court resident on Aug. 21.
 - Investigated a reported domestic dispute at a South Village Green residence on Aug. 21.
 - Responded to a report of a person walking in the middle of Court Street in Court Square on Aug. 22.
 - Responded to a domestic disturbance in the North Pleasant Street area on Aug. 22.
 - Investigated an alleged assault in the Court Street area on Aug. 22.
 - Responded to a dispute between some Rogers Road neighbors on Aug. 22.
 - Investigated a reported theft in the Route 7 South area on Aug. 22.
 - Checked on the welfare of a Creek Road resident on Aug. 22 as part of the department's "Project Good Morning."
 - Defused an argument between some citizens on Court Street on Aug. 23.
 - Took a local juvenile into custody on a warrant for an emergency mental health evaluation on Aug. 23.
 - Responded to a "juvenile problem" on Valley View Drive on Aug. 23. Police said the youth had left prior to their arrival.

TOWN OF SHOREHAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on September 15, 2026 at 7:00 PM at Shoreham Town Office (297 Main St.) to consider a change of use of application #26-007B in accordance with the Town Zoning Regulations. The project involves changing use from Residential to Farm Labor housing. The applicant (Stephanie Wilbur) requests a change in use.

The application is available at the Town Office and on the town website for review. Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

Contact the Town Office for information on attending the hearing by videoconference or by phone.

John Kiernan, Chair

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 26-PR-02946 IN RE ESTATE OF: BERNARD LEONARD NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated: 08/19/26

Attn: Amy R. Menard, Esq.
1 Cross Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-7966
amy@pmlawvt.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 8/27/26
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing(s) at the Middlebury Municipal Offices, Large Conference Room, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT on Monday, September 14, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following application(s). The hearing will be available to participants via a Zoom video link. The Zoom link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website.

Application (file #2026_022071.000) is a request by Christopher Griggs for review of a proposed 3-lot subdivision and associated site improvements and residential construction at 356 Washington Street Extension, pursuant to the Middlebury Zoning and Subdivision Regulations. The applicant proposes subdividing the existing 0.90-acre parcel (PID #022071.000) into three lots. Lot 1 will contain the existing multi-unit residential structure, which is proposed to be converted from 4 units to 2 units without changes to the existing building footprint. Lots 2 and 3 will contain new single-family dwellings, each with an attached two-car garage and additional parking. The project also includes improvements to vehicle access, parking, landscaping, privacy fencing, and utility connections. The property is in the R-8 Residential Zoning District.

Application (file #2026-024113.000-HR) is a request by Jeff Olson (owner/applicant) for proposed exterior modifications to a contributing residential structure within the Village Historic District and listed on the Historic Register. Pursuant to Section 690.II and 520 IV, the project is being referred to the DRB for review. The structure is located at 31 Middle Seymour Street, parcel #024113.000, within the Heritage Industrial (HI) Zoning district.

The applications will be heard in the order listed. Plans and additional information may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal as an "interested person(s)". Interested persons wishing to participate in this hearing may do so by contacting Elisha Bartlett at 388-8100, Ext 210 or email to EBartlett@TownOfMiddlebury.org. All hearing participants must take an oath administered by the DRB chair. Please arrive at the meeting on time.

Elisha Bartlett
Planning & Development Director, Middlebury AZA

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found on 10B, 11B & 12B.	
Act 250 (1)	Rutland Northeast Supervisory
Bridport (1)	Union (1)
Leicester (1)	Salisbury (1)
Lincoln (1)	Shoreham (1)
Middlebury (1)	Starksboro (1)
Panton (1)	

TOWN OF BRIDPORT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Bridport Developmental Review Board will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2026 at 6pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Rd., on each of the following applications:

1. At 6:05 PM on Application (#26-19) by Haley Stearns. Applicant requests a variance for addition to dwelling at 2147 Market Road, PID# 08-024E.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling 802-758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Developmental Review Board proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Dinah Bain, Chair
Louis Cocci, Zoning Administrator

TOWN OF STARKSBORO PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to **24 V.S.A. § 4415**, the Starksboro Selectboard will hold a public hearing to hear from all persons interested and receive public comment on the proposed **Interim Flood Hazard – River Corridor Overlay District Zoning Bylaw** ("Interim Bylaw"). The Selectboard has set this public hearing in accordance with **24 V.S.A. § 4444(b)**.

The public hearing has been scheduled for: Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Starksboro Town Office, 2849 Route 116, Starksboro, Vermont or via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88130628379?pwd=1jan1LWsiXgzH23cUyauCtwi8QnDY.1>
Meeting ID: 881 3062 8379 – Passcode: izQ.SE^9
OR dial +1 929 436 2866 – Meeting ID: 881 3062 8379 – Passcode: 77091945

Statement of Purpose: Selectboard intends to adopt as an emergency measure, effective immediately:

1. To implement the goals, policies, and recommendations in the municipal plan;
2. To protect health, safety and welfare of the public, minimize and prevent the loss of life and property, the disruption of commerce, the impairment of the tax base, and the extraordinary public expenditures and demands on public services that result from flooding-related inundation and erosion hazards;
3. Support equitable wellbeing for the entire community;
4. Ensure that development in our community protects floodplain and river corridor functions, and avoids and reduces damage from flooding and erosion;
5. Manage all flood hazard areas pursuant to 24 VSA §4382 and 10 VSA §§751, 753; and
6. Make the Town of Starksboro, its citizens, and businesses eligible for federal flood insurance, federal disaster recovery funds, and hazard mitigation funds, as may be available.

Geographic Area Affected: The Flood Hazard-River Corridor Overlay District applies to land development within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and River Corridors in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, §§ 4424 and 4414, and the policies of the Starksboro Town Plan.

Summary of Proposed Amendments: Per 24 V.S.A. § 4415, this interim bylaw supersedes Chapter 280 Flood Hazard Overlay District (FHO) from the 2020 Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations for a period of two years from the date of adoption.

Location Where Full Text May be Examined: In accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4444(b), hard copies of the proposed Interim Bylaw are available at the Town Clerk's Office, located at 2849 Route 116, Starksboro, Vermont during regular business hours. Electronic copies are available at starksborovt.org/public-notices or may be requested from the Town Administrator at amanda@starksborovt.org.

How to Participate: This is a hybrid meeting. Members of the public may participate in person at the location above or remotely via the Zoom link provided. Written comments may be submitted in advance to the Town Clerk's Office or by email to amanda@starksborovt.org.

Police get school supplies

BRISTOL — The Bristol Police Department recently received donations of backpacks and other school supplies from community members and the United Way. The department's selection includes backpacks in elementary and middle/high school sizes. Those in need of assistance getting school supplies and other items are asked to reach out to Bristol's community resource specialist at 802-453-2533.

Between Aug. 2 and 15 Bristol police completed 13 foot patrols,

Bristol

Police Log

conducted 11 traffic stops and checked security at local schools 24 times and area businesses four times.

Police also processed 23 fingerprint requests, conducted one welfare check, attended two events, dealt with one traffic hazard, responded to one family fight/domestic incident, conducted one background investigation, responded to one intoxicated person, dealt with one fraud and assisted with one animal problem.

In other recent activity, Bristol police responded to three incidents involving suspicious activity, conducted community outreach, responded to one alarm dealt with one citizen dispute and assisted community members on four occasions and other agencies in six cases.

AUCTIONS



REAL ESTATE AUCTION

3-BED, 1-BATH HOME ON 0.29 ACRES IN BRANDON, VT

LIVE AUCTION: Tuesday | Sept. 15 | 2PM
OPEN HOUSE: Wednesday | Sept. 2 | 11AM-1PM
ADDRESS: 724 Union St., Brandon, VT 05733



Built in 1900, this 2-story home offers 1,184± square feet and includes a detached garage. The home is only a short drive to US Route 7 and everyday amenities around Brandon.

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

Field Days 2026: Open dairy competition results

NEW HAVEN — Below are the results from the Open Dairy Competition at Addison County Fair & Field Days, which took place on Aug. 8 at the fairgrounds in New Haven.

- AYRSHIRES**
Spring Calf: Blue Spruce Farm – 1; Iroquois Acres – 2; Blue Spruce Farm – 3
Winter Calf: Chandler Goodhue 1; Blue Spruce Farm – 2; Blue Spruce Farm – 3
Fall Calf: Rick and Justine Allyn/Tim and Don Putnam –1; Blue Spruce Farm –2; Blue Spruce Farm – 3
Summer Yearling: Bella Roell – 1; Bella Roell –2; Blue Spruce Farm –3
Spring Yearling: Blue Spruce Farm – 1; Elizabeth and John Henry Tiffany – 2
Winter Yearling: Caroline Compagna –1
Fall Yearling: Sarah Hill – 1; Blue Spruce Farm – 2
Junior Champion: Rick and Justine Allyn/ Tim and Don Putnam
Junior Best 3: Sarah Hill
Junior Two-year-old: Aislynn Farr – 1; Elizabeth and John Henry Tiffany – 2
Senior Two-year-old: Elizabeth and John Henry Tiffany – 1
Senior Three-year-old: Blue



TOM ALLEN OF Pantan stands proudly with his calf Unbreakable in the cattle barn at Addison County Fair and Field Days at the beginning of the month.

Independent photo/Steve James

- Spruce Farm – 1; Sarah Hill – 2
Four-year-old: Sarah Hill
Six-year-old: Morning Meadows Farm – 1
Grand and Senior Champion: Blue Spruce Farm
Dam & Daughter: Sarah Hill – 1; Morning Meadows – 2
Produce of Dam: Sarah Hill – 1
HOLSTEINS
Spring Calf: Iroquois Acres – 1;

- Karissa and Mason Livingston – 2; Harper Cole-Howrigan – 3
Winter Calf: Karissa Livingston – 1; Iroquois Acres – 2; Jenna Legault – 3
Fall Calf: Putnam Allyndale Jablonski – 1; Elizabeth Menard – 2; Jonathan Flores Tores – 3
Summer Yearling: Elizabeth Menard – 1; Harper Cole-Howrigan – 2; Caroline

- Compagna – 3
Spring Yearling: Elizabeth Menard – 1; Payton Lucas – 2; Tenley Chittenden – 3
Winter Yearling: Blue Spruce Farm – 1; Robeth Holsteins LLC – 2; Logan Russell – 3
Junior Champion: Blue Spruce Farm
Junior Best Three Females: Iroquois Acres – 1; Elizabeth Menard – 2; Karissa Livingston – 3; Robeth Holsteins – 4; Compagna Dairy – 5
Junior Two-year-old: Elizabeth Menard – 1; Robeth Holsteins – 2; Robeth Holsteins – 3
Senior Two-year-old: Karissa Livingston – 1; Blue Spruce Farm – 2; Nathan Bingham – 3
Four-year-old: Karissa Livingston – 1; Nathan Bingham – 2
Five-year-old: Jonathan Flores Torres
Six-year-old: Robeth Holsteins – 1
Grand and Senior Champion: Robeth Holsteins LLC
Senior Best Three Females: Robeth Holsteins – 1; Nathan Bingham – 2
Dam & Daughter: Jonathan Flores Torres
Produce of Dam: Karissa Livingston – 1; Elizabeth Menard (See Open dairy results, Page 12B)

Field Days Home & Garden winners announced

NEW HAVEN — Every year, the Home & Garden Departments at the Addison County Fair and Field Days host amateur competition in five departments in the Frances Monroe Building on the fairgrounds.

This year, during the fair from Aug 4-8, Home & Garden had more entries in every department and the Monroe Building was filled almost to capacity, including daily exhibits from local organizations like the Milk and Honey Quilters Guild, the Middlebury Studio School, the Lemon Fair Mosquito Control District, and a weeklong booth staffed by members of UVM’s Master Gardeners!

In addition to prizes offered by local businesses and individuals, two special awards are granted every year. Since 1974, the best all-around adult participant in the Foods and Handicrafts Departments is awarded with the Leona Thompson Award, named for long-time UVM Extension Agent Leona Thompson. This year’s winner is **Jeffrey Heath**. Starting in 2012, the Home & Garden Departments have honored former Director Frances Monroe with an award in her name for a youth 18 and under who has submitted outstanding entries in at least 2 departments. This year’s winner is again **Willa Pickens** — her second time winning this honor! Congratulations to these two talented people!

- HANDICRAFTS**
Ervin Henecke Award: best natural fiber in knitting and crochet- Elizabeth von Nagy
Patricia Henecke Award: outstanding socks- Sarah Johnson
Superintendents’ Award: outstanding mittens- Megan Sutton
Maria Ammatuna Award: Willa Pickens
Twist O’ Wool Award: outstanding item from handspun yarn- Alice Smolinsky
Janet Winkler Award: best yarn



JUDGES IN THE Food Department at Addison County Fair and Field Days this month place ribbons on prize-winning entries in contests at the 2026 fair.

Photo courtesy of Johanna Vaczy

- spun on a drop spindle- Chrissy Bedard
Twist O’ Wool Award: outstanding felted article- Heather Layn
Eleanor Boucher Award: outstanding weaving- Jeffrey Heath
Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: best sewn item- Courtney Allenson
Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: best sewing by youth- Hope Levasseur
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: most outstanding quilt- Laura Marcelle
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: outstanding quilt quilted by a professional- Gail Pope
Quilters Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: best quilted item- Abi Sessions
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: outstanding quilt by youth- Harmonee Kennett
Rae Dwight Award: outstanding embroidery- Nicolee Torrey
Rae Dwight Award: outstanding

- embroidery by youth- Nora Zeno
Amy Oxford Award: best entry in hooking and braiding- Nancy Lee Ross
Suzanne Douglas Award: outstanding entry in hooking and braiding- Pearl Riney
Jack Brown Award: outstanding woodworking- Paul Gingras

- Jack Brown Award: outstanding woodworking- Edward Malzac
Jack Brown Award: outstanding woodworking- Paul Denavit
Addison County Solid Waste – Recycled Materials – Camden Roleau
Golden Years Award: outstanding handicraft by exhibitor over 80 years of age- Karen Herrmann
Jerry and Cheryl Connor Award: best handicraft by youth- Camden Roleau
Grand Prize in Handicrafts- Paul Gingras
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
Best Entry in Art- Katherine Moran
Best Color Rendering (Adult)-Melissa Plouffe
Best Color Rendering (Teen)-Waverley Dodd
Best Color Rendering (Youth)-Mara Bissonette
Best Black & White Rendering (Adult)- Courtney Allenson
Best Black & White Rendering (Teen)- Isaac Haskell
Best Black & White Rendering (Youth)- Willa Pickens
People’s Choice in Art – Hunter Coyle
Best Folk Art (Adult)- Cyndi Watrous
(See Home & Garden, Page 12B)

TOWN OF PANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Development Review Board will convene the following public hearing at the Town Hall, 3176 Jersey St., Panton, VT 05491 and by Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10th, 2026.

To consider an appeal of a Notice of Violation from MSFE LLC, 404 Station Drive, Panton, VT 05491. This notice and appeal is available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office. Interested parties who wish to appeal or be heard at the hearing may do so by attending in person or by a Zoom session and may also be represented by an agent or an attorney. (Information for the Zoom session login can be found on the Town of Panton web page or by contacting the Assistant Town Clerk at 802 475 2335) Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearing.

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

ACT 250 NOTICE MINOR APPLICATION #9A0158-19 10 V.S.A. §§ 6000 - 6111

Sean Flynn and State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation, have filed application #9A0158-19 for a project generally described as construction of a ±9,800 square foot, 2-unit airplane hangar on a leased site at Middlebury State Airport. The hangar will be the southernmost hangar at the airport, and will be used solely for aircraft storage, with no connections to water or sewer. Commercial use and operations of the hangar, along with servicing, fueling, and fuel storage, are prohibited. The project is located at Airport Road in Middlebury, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Land Use Review Board’s Act 250 Database (https://annweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/default.aspx) by entering project number “9A0158-19.”

No hearing will be held, and a permit may be issued unless, on or before September 16, 2026, a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board’s website: https://act250.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form, and email it to the District 9 Office at: Act250.Essex@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing. For more information contact the District Coordinator listed below.

For more information contact the District Coordinator listed below.
Josh Donabedian
District 9 Coordinator
111 West Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 10B , 11B and 12B.**

TOWN OF SALISBURY DRB PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a Public Hearing in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, to consider the following:

Application 2026-04

An application submitted by property Owner/Applicant, Heather Best, for a Planned Unit Development/Subdivision, in connection with a proposed 2-Lot subdivision and Planned Unit Development of Parcel ID #0617012, located at 896 Morgan Road, Salisbury, Vermont. The existing lot contains 21.22 acres, and the proposed subdivision will create a total of two lots, Lot #1, 17.38+/- acres, and Lot #2, 3.85+/- acres. This property is located in both Rural Agriculture 1 and 2, which requires DRB review under §2.4.3 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations and has been classified as a Minor Subdivision.

This application is pursuant to §4.0.1-§4.7.9, and applicable sections of §7.0 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF TAX SALE

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

Jacqueline Burr Foley: Delinquent 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being .92 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 186 Cam Road, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Jacqueline Burr Foley in a Decree of Distribution for the Estate of Frank E. Burr, late of Leicester, dated January 16, 1976, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 31 at Page 418. Reference is made to a Quit Claim Deed from Barry Mulcahy and Mari Mulcahy to Jacqueline Burr Foley dated January 15, 2001, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 53 at Page 371; and to a Quit Claim Deed from Jacqueline Burr Foley to Barry Mulcahy and Mari Mulcahy dated February 7, 2001, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 53 at Page 391. Reference is further made to a Vermont Modular Home Uniform Bill of Sale from Factory Direct Homes of Vermont d/b/a Bean’s Mobile Homes, Inc. to Jackee Foley dated December 11, 2015, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Mobile Home Book 1 at Page 319, wherein the following modular home was conveyed: 2015 24x40 KBS Modular Expandable Cape, with serial number KBS2585. (Parcel I.D. #060069).

Larry Lanpher and Melissa Lanpher: Delinquent 2022, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 5.0 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1352 US Route 7, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Larry L. Lanpher in a Warranty Deed from Hartwell E. Palmer and Helen Palmer dated May 23, 1988, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 39 at Page 95. The property has the benefit of an easement for ingress, egress and utilities as more particularly described in an Easement Deed from Helen P. Palmer and Larry Lee Lanpher to Larry Lee Lanpher dated February 9, 2000, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 52 at Page 298. (Parcel I.D. #060018.1).

Daniel A. Lounsbury: Delinquent 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 2.0 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1866 Hooker Road, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Daniel A. Lounsbury in a Warranty Deed from Charles E. Lounsbury, Jr. survivor of Virginia M. Lounsbury, dated February 23, 2016, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 77 at Page 471. (Parcel I.D. #202039.1).

William M. Skidmore: Delinquent 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being .46 acre of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1454 Fern Lake Road, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to William M. Skidmore in a Warranty Deed from James M. Skidmore and Nancy J. Skidmore dated November 6, 2014, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 75 at Page 563. (Parcel I.D. #070008).

Mark O. VanAmburg and Cristina C. VanAmburg: Delinquent 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 55.0 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 1302 Delorm Road, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Mark VanAmburg and Cindy VanAmburg in a Warranty Deed from Jeanette D. Cole dated September 23, 2002, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 56 at Page 389. Reference is made to the following: (a) Quit Claim Deed from Cynthia S. VanAmburg (a/k/a Cindy VanAmburg) to Mark O. VanAmburg dated March 8, 2019, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 82 at Page 261; and (b) Quit Claim Deed from Mark O. VanAmburg and Cristina C. VanAmburg to Mark O. VanAmburg and Cristina C. VanAmburg dated March 18, 2019, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 82 at Page 263. Subject to an Easement Deed from Mark VanAmburg and Cynthia S. VanAmburg to Daniel K. Jennings dated April 10, 2013, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 73 at Page 271. (Parcel I.D. #070019).

Michele Witherbee (f/k/a Michele Carter) and John Witherbee: Delinquent 2023, 2024 and 2025 Property Taxes

Being 12.17 acres of land, more or less, with dwelling and any and all improvements thereon, located at 428 Shackett Road, Leicester, Vermont, and being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Michele Carter in a Warranty Deed from Sharon J. Pfenning dated May 3, 2006, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 62 at Page 276. Reference is made to the following: (a) Quit Claim Deed from Michele Carter to Robert W. Carter and Michele Carter dated October 26, 2006, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 63 at Page 67; and (b) Quit Claim Deed from Michele Witherbee and Robert Carter to Michele Witherbee and John Witherbee dated February 18, 2022, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 87 at Page 433. Reference is made to State of Vermont Potable Water Supply and Wastewater System Permit WW-9-0866-1 dated February 23, 2007, and recorded in the Leicester Land Records in Book 63 at Page 349. (Parcel I.D. #030027.4).

And so much of said real estate will be sold at public auction at the Leicester Town Clerk’s office, a public place in said Town of Leicester on the 22nd day of October, 2026 at 9:00 o’clock in the forenoon, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes and sewer fees with costs and fees, unless previously paid. Be advised that the owner or mortgagee, or the owner’s or mortgagee’s representatives or assigns, of lands sold for taxes shall have a right to redemption for a period of one year from the date of sale pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §5260.

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

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

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

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

Dated at Leicester, Vermont this 17th day of August, 2026.

Dianne M. Harvey, Town of Leicester Delinquent Tax Collector

TOWN OF LINCOLN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LINCOLN LANDFILL POST-CLOSURE SERVICES

The Town of Lincoln, Vermont is seeking proposals from qualified environmental consulting firms or appropriately licensed environmental professionals to provide services related to the closed Lincoln Landfill, 1111 Downingsville Road, Lincoln, Vermont (AD380).

The project includes:

- Reinstallation of compromised monitoring well MW-2;
- Preparation of a Post-Closure Care Plan pursuant to § 6-1008 of the Vermont Solid Waste Management Rules;
- Development of a groundwater/PFAS monitoring program for MW-2 and MW-3;
- Development of an annual landfill inspection program;
- Development of an annual landfill cap maintenance program; and
- Optional ongoing annual monitoring, sample collection, laboratory coordination, inspections, reporting, and regulatory support.

The Town currently performs routine mowing and maintenance of the landfill cap and intends to continue these activities. The selected consultant will develop the appropriate maintenance requirements as part of the Post-Closure Care Plan but will not be responsible for routine mowing or brush-hogging.

Proposals are due: September 14, 2026, at 5:00PM

RFP materials, including project information and applicable VT DEC documents, are available on the **Town of Lincoln website at www.LincolnVermont.org**.

Questions and proposals should be directed to:

Patricia Waugh, Town Administrator
Town of Lincoln
62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT 05443
townadmin@lincolnvermont.org
802-453-4502

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to select the proposal determined to be in the best interest of the Town.

Open Dairy results

(Continued from Page 11B)

– 2; Karissa Livingston – 3

MILKING SHORTHORN

Spring Calf: Lucy Bartholomew – 1; Brailey Livingston – 2; Martha Hayward – 3

Winter Calf: Cole Goodhue – 1; Brailey Livingston – 2; Wyatt Carter – 3

Fall Calf: Brailey Livingston – 1; Ava Wood – 2; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 3

Summer Yearling: Mitchell O'Neill and Cassie Westcom – 1; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 2; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 3

Spring Yearling: Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 1

Winter Yearling: Hailey Chase – 1

Junior Champion: Cole Goodhue

Junior Best Three Females: Brailey Livingstone/Bryan Chicoine – 1; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 2

Senior Three-year-old: Brailey Livingston – 1;

Grand and Senior Champion: Brailey Livingston

Dam & Daughter: Brailey

Livingston

Produce of Dam: Brailey Livingston

GUERNSEY

Spring Calf: Andrew Levesque – 1; Richard Giddings – 2; Martha Hayward – 3

Winter Calf: Andrew Levesque – 1

Fall Calf: Colton Sheldrick – 1; Thomas Allen – 2; Martha Hayward – 3

Summer Yearling: Thomas Allen – 1

Spring Yearling: Lola Rollins – 1; Torrey Hanna – 2

Junior Champion: Andrew Levesque

Junior Best 3 Females: Richard Giddings

Senior Two-year-old: Thomas Allen – 1; Colton Sheldrick – 2

Junior Three-year-old: Malachi Sheldrick – 1

Senior Three-year-old: Elaina Sheldrick – 1

Senior Champion: Thomas Allen

Grand Champion: Andrew Levesque

Premier Breeder & Exhibitor: Richard Giddings

BROWN SWISS

Spring Calf: Tudhope Farm LLC – 1; Case Pope – 2; Martha Hayward – 3

Winter Calf: Erica Goodhue – 1; Adele Biasini – 2; Silver Top Swiss – 3

Fall Calf: Sarah Hill – 1; Iroquois Acres – 2; Iroquois Acres – 3

Summer Yearling: Iroquois Acres – 1; Tenley Chittenden – 2; Brailey Livingston – 3

Spring Yearling: Brailey Livingston – 1; Tenley Chittenden – 2; Noa Sauve – 3

Winter Yearling: Brailey Livingston – 1; Silver Top Swiss – 2; Taryn Burns – 3

Fall Yearling: Isabella Wilbur – 1; Jordan Hutchins – 2

Junior Champion: Sarah Hill

Junior Best Three Females: Silver Top Swiss – 1; Iroquois Acres – 2; Shelburne Farms – 3; Tenley Chittenden – 4

Milking Yearling: Tudhope Farm – 1; Tudhope Farm – 2; Jonathan Flores Torres – 3

Junior Two-year-old: Kaitlyn Brown – 1; Shelburne Farms – 2; Ashley Brown – 3

Senior Two-year-old: Allan Brisson – 1

Junior Three-year-old: Jonathan Flores Torres – 1

Senior Three-year-old: Shelburne Farms – 1; Brailey Livingston – 2; Tudhope Farm – 3

Intermediate Champion: Kaitlyn Brown

Five-year-old: Allan Brisson – 1; Tudhope Farm – 2; Tudhope Farm – 3

Six-year-old: Shelby Biasini



THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Caroline Compagna of Whiting introduces a photographer her yearling Thunder at Field Days earlier this month.
Independent photo/Steve James

150,000 Lifetime Production: Tudhope Farm

Senior Champion: Shelby Biasini

Grand Champion: Kaitlyn Brown

Senior Best Three Females: Tudhope Farm

Dam & Daughter: Kaitlyn Brown

Produce of Dam: Allan Brisson – 1; Brailey Livingston – 2; Silver Top Swiss – 3; Silver Top Swiss – 4

Premier Breeder & Exhibitor: Tudhope Farm

SHOW JERSEYS

Spring Calf: Blake Moulton – 1; Isabella Wilbur – 2; Sophee Shephard – 3

Winter Calf: Addison and Ruby

Hubbell – 1; Lanie Howrigan – 2; Kylee Shepard – 3

Fall Calf: Caroline Allen – 1; Kylee Shepard – 2; Annabelle Farr – 3

Summer Yearling: Sarah Hill – 1; Medallion Jerseys – 2; Caroline Allen – 3

Spring Yearling: Hailey Chase – 1; Jade Gorton/Bailey Livingston – 2; Lola Rollins – 3

Winter Yearling: Sarah Hill – 1; Jayden Ploof – 2; Medallion Jerseys/Joe and Caroline Allen – 3

Fall Yearling: Torrey Hanna – 1

Junior Champion: Sarah Hill

Junior Best Three Females: Four-Hills Farm – 1; Allandale Farm – 2; St. Pierre Farm – 3; Glen Mar - 4

Milking Yearling: Thomas

Allen – 1

Junior Two-year-old: Courtney Curler – 1

Senior Two-year-old: Megan Hill and Phillip Sullivan – 1; Addison and Ruby Hubbell – 2; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 3

Junior Three-year-old: Sarah Hill – 1; Medallion Jerseys/Allandale/Four-Hills Farm – 2; Medallion Jerseys/Allandale/Four-Hills Farm – 3

Four-year-old: Medallion Jerseys – 1

Five-year-old: Joseph, Thomas and Caroline Allen – 1

Six-year-old: Kassidy Buley – 1

Grand and Senior Champion: Sarah Hill

Dam & Daughter: Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 1; Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 2; Kassidy Buley – 3

Produce of Dam: Katelyn Tracey/Molly Laframboise – 1; Joe, Caroline and Thomas Allen – 2

GRANDS

Ayrshire: Blue Spruce Farm – Blue Spruce Reynolds Reynolds 19501 ET

Brown Swiss: Shelburne Darrin Evelina 252

Guernsey: Thomas Allen – Digligle Queenies Drone QPC ET

Holstein: Robeth Holsteins, LLC – Robeth Tattoo Sandago

Jersey: Sarah Hill — Four-Hills Glory Bandit

Milking Shorthorn: Brailey Livingston — Hafta-Have TB Aura ET

Supreme: Bob Kerr and Sons — IBA

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 10B , 11B and 12B.**

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 26-PR-4834
IN RE ESTATE OF: ANN FERM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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

Dated: 08/19/26

W. Scott Thurston
Attn: Amy R. Menard, Esq.
1 Cross Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-7966
amy@pmlawvt.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 8/27/26
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

(Continued from Page 11B)

Best Folk Art (Teen/Youth)- Alexander Meyers

Best Photograph (Adult)- Lily Gordon

Best Photograph (Teen)- Natalie Layn

Best Photograph (Youth)-

Tommy Armell

Photo Challenge (All ages)- Heather Morse

Judge's Choice Photography – Gail Williams

People's Choice in Photography – Gail Williams

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

Premier Gardener – Karen DeMoy

Outstanding Youth Gardener – Fletcher Aube

Biggest Vegetable – Willie Foote

Perfect scores:

Karen Demoy – Blueberries and Kohlrabi

Broccoli – Kris Bowdish

Mini pumpkins - Alden and

Anya Wolfe

Watermelon – Jack Foster

Baskets – Margaret Merrill and Rosemary Zzulinski

Commercial Garden Award – Golden Russet Farm

FLOWER DEPARTMENT

Best Entry by Youth 4-8 – Lucille Bowdish

Most Outstanding Exhibit by Youth 9 – 18 years old – Emma Delabruere

Most Outstanding Exhibitor – Heather Morse

Most Unique Design by Adult – Jack Foster

Most Outstanding Plant Entry –

Valerie Negron

Most Outstanding Entry Adult – Nancy Lee Ross

Commercial Nursery Award – 1st – Peet Farm Greenhouses

2nd – Pete's Pines and Needles

Commercial Flower Award – 1st – Golden Russet Farm

FOODS DEPARTMENT

King Arthur Baking Contest – Dutch Chocolate Cake

Adult 1st Place – Kacie O'Connell;

2nd Place – Heather Morse; 3rd Place – Michelle Black

Youth 1st Place – Tommy Armell;

2nd Place – Walter Armell

Best Honey Baked Goods

Champlain Valley Apiaries

Outstanding Baked Item – Heather Morse

Champlain Valley Apiaries

Outstanding Baked Item – Jordan Gendreau

Lillian Humphries Canning Award – Jeffrey Heath

Lillian Humphries Canning Award – George Dunne

Monument Farms Prize – Jordan Gendreau

Maple Meadows Best Cake – Heather Morse

Middlebury Natural Foods Coop Prize – Lillian Renninger

Otter Creek Bakery Prize – Pearl Riney

STATE OF VERMONT

CIVIL DIVISION

**SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT**

DOCKET NO: 25-CV-04986

**PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
PLAINTIFF**

VS.

**JOAN M. FREEGARD; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 8 COMFORT HILL, VERGENNES, VT 05491
DEFENDANT(S)**

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered on July 9, 2026, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Roger A. Freegard and Joan M. Freegard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, dated August 21, 2014, and recorded in Book 77, at Page 243, of the City of Vergennes Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by Assignment of Mortgage recorded in Book 98, at Page 539, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on September 23, 2026 at 12:00 PM at 8 Comfort Hill, Vergennes, VT 05491 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Tax Id Number(s): 250137

Land Situated in the City of Vergennes in the County of Addison in the State of VT

Land and premises at 8 Comfort Hill in Vergennes, and being the same lands and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Ruth E. Baker to Edward A. Sears and Ruth A. Sears dated July 10, 1974, and recorded in Volume 25 Page 495 of the Land Records of the City of Vergennes, and being therein described as follows:

“Being all and the same land and premises described in a Warranty Deed from James T. Tracey and Ellen O. Tracey to Clarence Baker and Ruth Baker, dated March 10, 1961, and recorded in Volume 21, Page 405, of the Land Records of the City of Vergennes, and described therein as follows:

“It being situated on the easterly side of Comfort Street, so-called, and beginning on Comfort Street, so-called, which point is the western extremity of the dividing line between this property and the adjoining property of Frank Moorby;

“Thence running easterly in said dividing line 73 feet to land formerly of Stygles, now Arthur and Eleanor Moorby;

“Thence southerly in said Moorby line 53 feet;

“Thence westerly still in said Moorby line 73 feet, more or less, to said Comfort Street;

“Thence northerly on said Street to the point of beginning.

“It also being all and the same land and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Ernest Begnoche and Clara Begnoche to James T. Tracey and Ellen O. Tracey, dated June 10, 1947, and recorded in Volume 18, Page 486, of the Land Records of the City of Vergennes.

“Reference is made to the aforementioned deeds and deeds and records therein referenced, all in further aid of this description.”

NOTE: The Company is prohibited from insuring the area or quantity of the land. The Company does not represent that any acreage or footage calculations are correct. References to quantity are for identification purposes only.

Being the same property conveyed to Roger A. Freegard and Joan M. Freegard, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, by deed dated October 4, 1995 of record in Deed Book 44, Page 198, in the County Clerk's Office.

Commonly known as: 8 Comfort Hill, Vergennes, VT 05491-1019

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

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.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises 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 sale.

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

**NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF
EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
Barstow, Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester,
Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting (Otter Valley &
Barstow Unified Union School Districts)**

Let this serve as notice that educational records, including Special Education Records, of students who last attended local schools through the 2015-2016 school year 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 Kayla Emerson at 802.247.5757 or kemerson@mesu.org, prior to September 17th to make an appointment to pick them up. Identification will be required.

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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent

August 27, 2026



Bridesmaids touch up their makeup and chat during a scene of *"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,"* during rehearsal before the Middlebury Community Players' five performances last weekend.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO/STEVE JAMES

One pink monstrosity bonds bridesmaids

GENDER, SEXUALITY, RACE, RELIGION, CLASS — SUMMED UP IN A HORRIBLE DRESS

I really didn't think the dress was that bad. Just kidding!

The two-piece, hot pink, corseted monstrosity was, rightly so, the butt of many jokes during the Middlebury Community Player's production of *"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,"* which played five shows — three of them sold out — at the Vergennes Opera House this past weekend.

One-liners such as, "I look like a hooker from the twilight zone," are on the extreme end of the commonplace critiques characters make throughout Alan Ball's 1993 comedy about the outfit. The unmissable costumes of the



Theater review

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

bridesmaids, who are part of a lavish Tennessee wedding, were just one element of a very intentionally curated array of props and purposefully designed set that made the local rendition so compelling.

Ball, who won the 1999 Academy Award for his *"American Beauty"* script, here tells the story of five bridesmaids, their shared bedroom hideout spot from the wedding they are supposed to be supportive guests of, and the collective dismay for the dress they have all been forced to wear. Another target is the

bride who forced them to wear it. The entirety of the play is set in that one room.

The six local actors — Molly Tatlock, Avery Cutroni, Christina Dewar, Jillian Torres, Addison Pollard and Ethan DeWitt — from communities up and down Route 7, delivered the witty, f-bomb-laced script with the extravagance it deserved.

It felt like watching a 1993 version of the *"Barbie Movie,"* a play that 30 years before the 2023 film tried to convey what it's like to walk through life as a woman — the hard, but also joyful truths, the many contradictions and the camaraderie that can be borne out of what at times feels like a comedically depressing existence.

During brief remarks before his players took

See *THE DRESS* on page 3



Rare air: A look into planetary atmospheres

A few months ago, a friend told me about her recent experiences sliding down a glacier at more than 13,000 feet above sea level. What a blast that must have been! At that altitude, most people would need some acclimatization to the low oxygen. Several days later, someone told me about a single IPA at Fiddlehead Brewery called Rarefied Air, a great theme for discussing planetary atmospheres. This column will highlight human physiology and adaptation to low oxygen, Earth's atmosphere, and other planetary atmospheres.

High Altitude Physiology

Without acclimatization, acute illness at high altitude may begin to occur above 2,500 meters (8,202 feet), depending upon an individual's physiology. Headaches, nausea, dizziness and disturbance of sleep are common symptoms. The symptoms can be progressively worse at higher altitudes leading to high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE) where symptoms may include loss of body control, mild fever, reduced consciousness, and even coma. High-altitude and fast ascents can lead to pulmonary edema (HAPE) manifest as decreased stamina, dry cough, cyanosis (bluish lips and skin), and a pink, frothy phlegm due to fluid accumulation in the lungs. The death zone occurs at an altitude above 8,000 meters (26,247 feet), where oxygen depletion occurs

faster than it can be breathed in, and survival is limited to hours without supplemental oxygen.

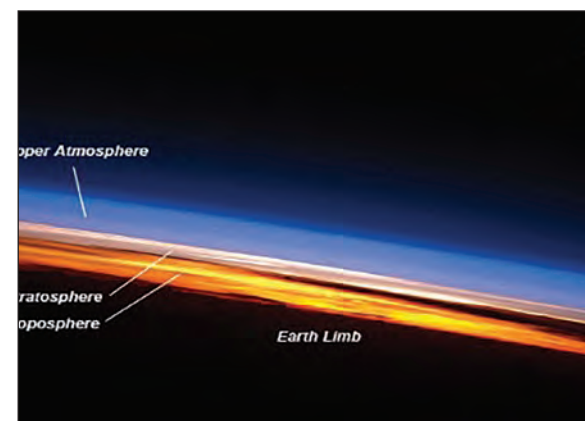
In 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first to conquer the 29,035-foot summit of Mount Everest. They were able to endure hours in the death zone with the use of supplemental oxygen while sleeping and on their final climb to the summit. In 1978, Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler summited Everest without supplemental oxygen, defying the idea that the body could not survive without it.

Acclimatization involves allowing your body to adapt physiologically to the decreased oxygen partial pressure. The body first adapts with increased breathing and pulse to get more oxygen into the bloodstream. Over days and weeks, a hormone made by the kidneys called EPO (erythropoietin) stimulates red blood cell synthesis with accompanying shifts in blood chemistry and tissue growth leading to increased numbers of tiny blood vessels that deliver oxygen. In the red blood cells, there is a large molecule with protein chains and heme groups with central iron atoms. That substance is hemoglobin and on specific regions of the heme groups there are binding sites for oxygen which get released to body tissues. Low oxygen and high carbon dioxide lead to that release.

Natural selection has led to the Sherpas of the Himalayan mountains and indigenous peoples living in the Andes to possess adaptations to the lower oxygen partial pressure at high altitudes. The Sherpas of Tibet have been found to use oxygen more efficiently at lower hemoglobin concentrations and Andean populations have been found to produce more hemoglobin and grow a larger chest to support a larger lung capacity.

Earth's Atmosphere

The thickness of the atmosphere is often likened to that of a skin on an apple. It consists of 78% nitrogen, 20.9% oxygen with argon, carbon dioxide, and water vapor



Earth's atmosphere at sunset from the International Space Station. Astronaut photograph ISS023-E-57948, May 25, 2010 provided by the ISS Crew Earth Observations experiment and Image Science & Analysis Laboratory, Johnson Space Center.

IMAGE CREDIT: BY THE EXPEDITION 23 CREW.

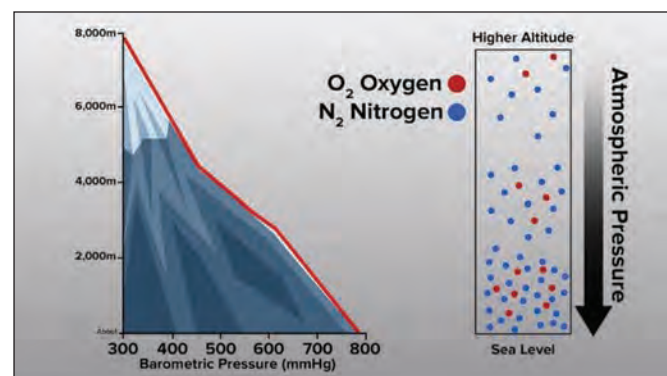
making up most of the rest. Consider a column of air extending from sea level to the exosphere where the atmosphere virtually ends. The mass of all the gas molecules pushing down due to gravity exerts a force. The force per unit surface area is called barometric pressure; given the designation of 1 atm pressure at sea level. The figure shows the decline in atmospheric pressure and oxygen partial pressure with altitude.

Our atmosphere has undergone major changes since its beginnings about 4.6 billion years ago. Initially, it consisted mainly of the light gases hydrogen and helium, most of which was lost to space by the combination of extreme heat and the solar wind. In a second phase, plate tectonics and vulcanism led to emission of carbon dioxide, water, nitrogen, and other gases to create the early environment lacking oxygen. The first organisms to evolve were those capable of making chemical energy in the absence of oxygen. About 2.7 billion years ago, cyanobacteria arose which could use light, carbon dioxide, and water to make carbohydrates needed for growth and development. The splitting of water in the presence of light resulted in oxygen evolution, slowly causing an increase in the oxygen concentration in the atmosphere and the continued evolution of aerobic organisms. Life created an atmosphere suited to itself, a restatement of the Gaia hypothesis.

Planetary Atmospheres

Seven of the eight planets in our solar system have atmospheres, and they vary widely. The atmosphere of Venus is over 96% carbon dioxide, that when combined with its close distance from the Sun, has a runaway greenhouse effect making the temperature hot enough to melt lead. The crushing atmospheric pressure of over 90 atm would be like being almost 3,000 feet underwater. Add to that the sulfuric acid clouds, and there is a recipe for truly hellish conditions. In contrast, the Martian

See LOOK UP on page 9



Oxygen molecules are compressed at lower elevations and higher pressure and are more dispersed at higher elevations with lower pressure. The percentage of the total doesn't change, but the partial pressure does decline with decreasing total pressure.

IMAGE COURTESY OF KOAA WEATHER, KOAA NEWS 5, SOUTHERN COLORADO

THE DRESS

continued from page 1

the stage, director Kush Sharma took a moment to share his reflections on the show. The play, he said, was about what happens when women drop

the performance in a world where we are expected to smile. He also described it as a display of how messy life can be. "Give yourself the permission to feel it all," he told the audience.

Those were wise words, considering the sheer number of topics the play covers — gender, sexuality, race, religion, class and likely a few other issues that I missed.

The set, arranged in front of the Vergennes Opera House stage rather than on it, was devised so that audience members would feel like flies on the wall. In charge of those features was Skylar Franklin (set design/coordinator), and crew members Matthew Chamberlain, Henry Dora, Tom Noble and Benjo Torres. In charge of props and furniture was Heidi Klauber.

Instantly noticeable was the placement of a vanity at the very front of the stage, facing the audience and void of a mirror. Instead, while touching up their makeup, frowning at their feigned reflections and basking in the hideousness of the pink puff-ball they're wearing, the characters peer out of the open space and at the audience, making us spectators the mirror. Characters return to the seat alone, and together, throughout the show.

This was one of the design elements of the minimalist set that aided the Players in conveying the story. Others helped the actors



Tripp (Ethan Dewitt) snaps a photo of the bridesmaids during the final scene of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress." The Middlebury Community Players ran five performances at the Vergennes Opera House this past weekend.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS/STEVE JAMES

convince the audience that there was an entire wedding going on, just out of view. While each Player was responsible for representing a character we see in the show, it was also up to the ensemble to portray a much larger cast of other characters "downstairs" at the wedding that audience members never see. Many more names and personalities are dropped, and that richened the story.

With a limited set, no changes and few props, it was up to the Players to engage the audience with their delivery of lines, both verbal and physical — truly a feat considering the voluminous dress.

If you look up the play, there are countless variations of overdone bridesmaids gowns that have been used in the production over the years.

In addition to portraying two characters, Jillian Torres and Christian Dewar took on creation of the costumes. They hit the nail on the head with their gaudy selection of a dress. The look, completed with oversized headpieces and little white slippers with a matching flower on the toe, more than fit the bill of what was a, if not *the*, integral element of the show.

It all comes back to the dress.

"TOUCHING UP THEIR MAKEUP, FROWNING AT THEIR FEIGNED REFLECTIONS AND BASKING IN THE HIDEOUSNESS OF THE PINK PUFF-BALL... THE CHARACTERS PEER OUT OF THE OPEN SPACE AND AT THE AUDIENCE, MAKING US SPECTATORS THE MIRROR."



Georgeanne (Jillian Torres), left, and Trisha (Christina Dewar) talk about their makeup and chat during a scene of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress." This past weekend, the Middlebury Community Players ran five performances at the Vergennes Opera House.

Middlebury Dance Centre

Weight/Stretch and Ballet Classes for teens and adults!

For more information please contact Barbara Elias at (802) 388-8253

14 Seminary Street | Middlebury

FILM SCREENING

Action! Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is now in motion

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is now fully underway, and this year's event has surpassed all previous years in the number of passholders, films, special guests, and overall sales. I'm holding my breath.

Films and events with special guest and honoree Jane Fonda are sold out — but additional screening sites have now been set up for those events, where the films and on-stage conversations are streamed. Otherwise, ticket sales are brisk, with availability still widespread — including free events like the 4 p.m., Saturday conversation with Democracy Now! journalist Amy Goodman on the Middlebury Inn patio.

Also, the funny and whimsical free closing-night 7:30 p.m., Sunday film, "The History of Concrete" by Emmy nominee John Wilson (HBO's "How to With John Wilson") will be followed by an on-stage conversation with Wilson.

Additional honorees you should note include pioneering indie master of the personal documentary, Ross McElwee ("Sherman's March" and "Remake"); acclaimed and fearless indie cinematographer and filmmaker, Kirsten Johnson ("Cameraperson" and "Dick Johnson is Dead"); intrepid Hollywood producer, Allyn Stewart ("Sully," "Land"); and prolific film composer, Mason Daring (85 films, including 17 with John Sayles).



Fest preview

By JAY CRAVEN

Some of our films will focus on distinctive, accomplished, larger-than-life personalities, including tennis phenom Billy Jean King ("Give Me the Ball"); "5th Beatle" Billy Preston ("Billy Preston: That's How God Planned It"); experimental indie filmmaker Barbara Hammer ("Barbara Forever"); poet Mary Oliver ("Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the Word"); journalist Amy Goodman ("Steal This Story, Please!"); political cartoonist Pat Oliphant ("The Savage Art"); fabled rock critic Robert Cristgau ("The Last Critic"); skydiving cinematographer Joe Jennings ("Space Cowboy"); kayak champion Mariann Sæther ("I Follow Rivers"); and the Palestinian, Jewish, and Zoroastrian doctors who find common cause in Gaza, working to save lives ("American Doctor").

Sean Ono Lennon's first film, "threeASFOUR: FULL CIRCLE," will be shown, along with "Jail Time Records," an in-depth look inside an overpopulated prison in Cameroon where inmates produce groundbreaking music to public acclaim.



The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is now underway with screenings continuing all over Middlebury through Aug. 30.

COURTESY PHOTO

And let's not forget our live musical accompaniment for Buster Keaton's classic silent comedy, "The General."

And I'm just getting started. Check out midfilmfest.org for details.

Thanks to our filmmakers and special guests — all of them. Thanks also to founding producer Lloyd Komesar, who is returning for a bonus year and passing the reins to his rising successor, Andy Mitchell. Thanks, also, to our many donors and sponsors, including The Addison Independent, who make all this possible. Ticket sales barely cover half the costs.

We're proud that our festival remains a home for emerging filmmakers. At a time

See MNFF on page 16



Hey Rob, what's for Sunday Supper?

SUNDAY SUPPER

A comforting three-course prix fixe dinner at a special price! Regular menu also available.

Follow @swifthouseinn on Instagram or visit our website for the latest menu.



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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. 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 Main's Dietlind Vander Schaaf, two artists whose practices move between observation and recollection. Though working in distinct mediums, both create images that resist straightforward description, inviting viewers into spaces where memory, atmosphere, and emotion become inseparable. On view July 11-Sept. 6.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Between" brings together the work of Vermont painters Bonnie Baird and Kathryn Milillo, two artists whose paintings emerge from remarkably different visual languages while sharing a common pursuit. Both explore how our connection to familiar places seeps inward, shaping how we perceive and embrace the world. An opening reception will be held Aug. 29, from 4-6 p.m. The artists will speak and then open the floor for questions and discussion. Guest poets, Mary Elder Jacobsen and Rebecca McMeekin, will accompany the discussion with spoken poetry. On view through Oct. 4.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events.

Johnson Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Johnson Memorial Building (78 Chateau Rd. in Middlebury).

"You Are Here" features a combination of artistic and scientific studies of the Central Vermont landscape and geology. Included are recent works by artists Jill Madden and Dorothy Punderson and Professor Will Amidon from Middlebury's Earth and Climate Sciences Department. An artist's reception will take place on Sept. 17, from 5-7 p.m. On view through Sept. 25. Free and open to the public.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

4472 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes

For more info contact info@lcmm.org or 802-475-2022.

See EXHIBITS on page 12



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, you are bursting with momentum, but your tongue may move faster than your brain this week. You don't need to force a final decision or push an agenda right now. Speak thoughtfully.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Reshuffled schedules might test your patience, Taurus. Focus on finding a healthy balance and do your best to adjust.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. A gap between your grand vision and your current reality might feel frustrating, Gemini. However, necessity is the mother of invention. Trust the small opportunities that crop up.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, right now you are focused on rest and relaxation. It's been a busy time for you and the batteries certainly could use some recharging.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, even though you love supporting others, this week is all about redirecting energy inward. Practice care with whom you trust. Allow yourself to rest later in the week.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Your hands may be tied by technicalities, but you have creative free rein to improvise in a situation that pops up this week, Virgo. Stick with your intuition right now.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. A roadblock might delay you for a little while, but it's not going to completely stop your progress, Libra. Find a way to settle a discrepancy with a coworker before it escalates.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, if you recently came out on top of a conflict, let the other person bow out with dignity. Do not make a big deal of your win.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You are in a position where you need to be direct but not very pushy, Sagittarius. Figure out what you need or want, and then step back to let others make up their own minds.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, you cannot expect others to read your mind. You must spell out in detail what you mean and what you expect from those around you.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Pay attention to informal conversations around you this week, Aquarius. The "little things" often can provide a lot of meaning and insight.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Step into natural leadership roles at work or in a volunteer environment, Pisces. Trust the opportunities that come from your steady presence.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 28 — Jennifer Coolidge, actor (65)

AUG. 29 — Ingrid Bergman, actor (d)

AUG. 30 — Mary Shelley, writer (d)

AUG. 31 — Van Morrison, singer (81)

SEPT. 1 — Lily Tomlin, actor (87)

SEPT. 2 — Keanu Reeves, actor (62)

SEPT. 3 — Noah Baumbach, filmmaker (57)

CALENDAR

Aug. 27-Sept. 19 2026

READ MORE Online!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



THURSDAY, AUG. 27

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

Thursday, Aug. 27. Each year, we welcome more than 80 filmmakers and hundreds of audience members for five days of exceptional films, notable honorees, panels and events, topped off by happy hours and evening parties. Dedicated solely to the work of first- and second-time directors, MNFF provides a unique and supportive platform for artists taking early steps into the world of independent cinema. It runs through Sunday, Aug. 30. Passes and bundles \$35-\$230. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

SILENT DISCO ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 3-7 p.m., Triangle Park. Grab a pair of wireless headphones, choose from three music channels and enjoy this free, family-friendly Silent Disco on the Green. Whether you're dancing with friends, laughing with family or trying something completely new, everyone is welcome at this unforgettable outdoor experience. First 20 folks to RSVP get a special gift. Free. For more info visit tinyurl.com/middsilentdisco.

PIZZA BY THE POND: JADE RAVINS PLAYS LIVE IN GOSHEN.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 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. Great food, music and outdoor atmosphere. Modern day Johnny and June duo Jaded Ravins play soulful original music. 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. 28

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

Friday, Aug. 28. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 28, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Road. Enjoy live music by Electric Bear, food from Cravens and Vermont wines. Bring a blanket and relax at the vineyard. Free

"SCRIPTIVE" ARTIST TALK: CALLIGRAPHIC ILLUMINATIONS IN BRANDON.

Friday, Aug. 28, 7-8 p.m., Aleshire Gallery, 29 Union St. Scriptive is Aleshire Gallery's summer exhibition

of calligraphic illuminations and works on paper and parchment by Candace Jensen and Sarah La Puerta. The artists show selections of their work from the last decade alongside new illuminations, decorated texts and drawings. Hors d'œuvres and refreshments. Free.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

Saturday, Aug. 29. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

THE VERMONT YAZZ FESTIVAL IN FERRISBURGH.

Saturday, Aug. 29, 2-6 p.m., Town Offices and Community Center, 3279 Route 7. The experimental, improvisational sound-art festival formerly known as BTV Yazz Fest returns for a family-friendly afternoon of left-of-center music, food and art. Face painting courtesy of Unpredictable Artist. Free parking. BYO NA drinks and snacks. Other art offerings, crafts & vendors. \$15 suggested donation; no one turned away for lack of funds. Contact JB Ledoux with questions: theleduo@gmail.com.

CELLIST STERLING ELLIOTT IN CONCERT IN STARKSBORO. Saturday, Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m., Common Ground Center. Cellist Sterling Elliott, still in his mid-

twenties, has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the LA Phil, and more. After teaching at a 7-day cello retreat exploring well-being and the arts, he will perform with participants and as a soloist. \$12-\$18. To purchase tickets, contact Suzanne Smith: cellochan3b@gmail.com or 802-496-5273. For more info visit cellochanwoods.com.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL WRAPS UP.

Sunday, Aug. 30. See Aug. 27 listing. For more info visit middfilmfest.org.

MONDAY, AUG. 31

AFRICAN DRUMMING FOR BEGINNERS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Monday, Aug. 31, 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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6-8 p.m., Tilleran, 1868

Route 116, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3

PIZZA BY THE POND: REMEMBER BAKER PLAYS

LIVE IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Sept. 3, 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. Five-piece string band Remember Baker plays bluegrass and old-time music with a nod to our region's Yankee roots. 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, SEPT. 4

FIVE FRIDAYS CONCERT:

BILLY WYLDER IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Sept. 4, 3-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Merchants Row Maloney Plaza, 68 South Pleasant Street. Art-rock ensemble

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- All Things LGBTQ - 09/1 - 5PM
- Governor's Press Conference - 9/2 - 5PM
- Energy Week - 9/3 - 5PM
- Democracy Now - Live - Weekdays - 8AM
- MCTV Late Night Lofi - All Night - 10PM
- Church Services - Sunday - 7AM

This ad is sponsored by the Addison County Independent
middleburycommunitytv.org

Billy Wylder blends global influences, American folk and rock, African rhythms, and groove-driven percussion into an electrifying live performance. Food trucks and bar offerings available on site. Free. For more info visit Townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

SOLDIERS ATOP THE MOUNT LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND IN ORWELL.

Saturday, Sept. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. Reenactors honor the 250th anniversary of the 1776 building and garrisoning of Mount Independence during this living history weekend. Saturday's popular interactive Baldwin Trail Walkabout, from 10:30 to 1:30, features experts at trail stations bringing history to life. Demos of military tactics, skills, and camp life. Annual reading of Declaration of Independence, food, children's activities. \$9 adults; \$1 ages 6-16; under 6 free. Call 802-948-2000 for details.

BREAD + PUPPET PRESENTS: THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD CIRCUS IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 5, 3:30 p.m., Middlebury College Snowbowl, 6886 Route 125. With stilt dancers, paper maché beasts of all sizes, and a riotous brass band, The Upside Down World Circus is an urgent spectacle of protest and celebration. After each show Bread & Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and "Cheap Art" — books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread & Puppet Press — will be for sale. Bring chairs, picnics, and a sense of humor. \$20. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.

BURNHAM PRESENTS: DAYNA KURTZ IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m., Burnham Hall. Dayna Kurtz is a powerhouse vocalist, writer, musician & producer who doesn't shy away from singing the truth. She has been bestowed with many awards, including Female Songwriter of the Year by the National Academy of Songwriters. Her songs straddle a space between jazz, rock and folk. She'll be joined by Memphis guitarist and longtime musical partner Robert Maché.

Homemade refreshments served at the break. \$22-\$30 sliding scale. For more info visit burnhampresents.org.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE-HUBBARDTON MILITARY ROAD AUTO TOUR IN ORWELL.

Sunday, Sept. 6, 1-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd. Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates ordered the construction of the Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road 250 years ago on Sept. 7, 1776. Start the tour with a special orientation, reading of the order and viewing of the start of the road. Then travel in your own car to stops along the way, finishing at Hubbardton Battlefield. Jim Rowe of Crown Point Road Association historian is your leader.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALUM RIDGE BOYS & ASHLEE AND STEAM MACHINE IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Route 116, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

PIZZA BY THE POND: UNRULY ALLIES PLAYS LIVE IN GOSHEN.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 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. Unruly Allies plays a mix of originals and covers with a sound that can be hushed fingerstyle guitar one moment and explosive harmony the next. 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, SEPT. 11

4TH ANNUAL GROOVIN' ON THE GREEN IN VERGENNES. Friday, Sept. 11, 6-9 p.m., City

Green. Join your friends and neighbors for an evening of music, food, games, dancing and fun for all ages. Music by Magnetic Horse. Food by Meat Mafia BBQ, Rockers, La Chapina and The Stone Pour. Free.

CONTRA DANCE IN

MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. Contra dancing taught and called by Richard Hopkins to live music by the band Northern Sugar. No experience (or even partner) needed for this family-friendly, non-gendered fun evening. Plenty of parking at nearby MUHS. Free.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

PEET FARM SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: SWING NOIRE IN CORNWALL.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 5-7 p.m., Peet Farm Greenhouses. Spread out a blanket, unfold a lawn chair, pull up a picnic and let the music find you as the sun settles over the hills. Swing Noire brings the unmistakable energy of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grapelli into the present day. Free admission.

SILENT FILM SCREENING: "HOT WATER" IN BRANDON.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Starring Harold Llyod. A domestic comedy about marrying the girl of his dreams but having to deal with a house full of dreadful in-laws. Jeff Rapsis provides live music. Free; donations accepted.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

SNUGFEST IN HANCOCK.

Sunday, Sept. 13, noon-9 p.m., Middlebury Snowbowl. An annual family-friendly celebration of art, music and sustainable fashion. Music lineup includes Mike & Tessa Gordon, Jen Hartswick, Nick Cassarino & Nate Edgar, Ray

Paczkowski & Russ Lawton, Bob Wagner, Hot Pickin' Party, and Electric Bear. All proceeds support the

Snug Foundation, a 501c3 dedicated to spreading kindness and compassion

See *CALENDAR* on page 11



Announcing Auditions

for Middlebury Acting Company's 2027 Season

Sunday, September 13 from 2 – 5pm at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury

Please email Melissa at: melissa@middleburyactors.org to schedule an appointment.

We would like to see 2 contrasting short monologues.

MACo is a professional company and all our artists and crew are paid.

middleburyactors.org/auditions



Saturday, Sep 5, 7:30 pm: Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury,

Sunday, Sep 13, 5 pm: Brandon Town Hall, New Music On The Point is recreating "Murmur in the Trees" with an immersive Listening Party

And save the date! May 22, 2027: David Finckel & Wu Han PCP Foundation Concert, Boston

Admission is FREE. All are welcome! Goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

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A

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— Erin Brennan, left, owner of Middleton in Middlebury



Stylish Soirée

Fine art met fashion on Friday, Aug. 21, at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls in Middlebury. 10 local community-member models strutted clothing available at Middleton in a light-hearted runway show. The event was a fundraiser for Addison County’s HOPE.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES





Tallying more than \$500 in ticket sales, attendees like Kathryn Torres, co-director of Better Middlebury Partnership, and Middlebury College President Ian Baucom, were treated to wine, light bites and music by DJ Serena Kim, all while taking in newly installed works by artists Victoria Blewer of Weybridge, and Dietlind Vander Schaaf of Maine.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

LOOK UP

continued from page 2

atmosphere also contains about 95% carbon dioxide, but its atmospheric pressure is truly rarefied air, a

surface pressure of just one, one hundredth that of Earth's atmosphere. Jupiter and Saturn have deep, massive atmospheres comprised of hydrogen and helium, enormous storms with wind speeds far in excess of Category 5 hurricanes, and show brilliant aurorae in polar regions. The outer Jovian planets Uranus and Neptune also have significant quantities of methane in their hydrogen, helium mix. Mercury is too small and hot to hold an atmosphere other than a scant exosphere. Titan is the solar system's only moon with a dense atmosphere, one rich in nitrogen. The 5% methane in its atmosphere creates its own cycle analogous to Earth's water cycle, producing methane clouds and rain.

Outside our solar system, astronomers have used spectroscopic measurements of planetary atmospheres to determine their chemical composition. Absorption blips at different wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum are chemical signatures for specific molecules, some of which could be used and generated by life. If exoplanets in the habitable or "Goldilocks" zone have living organisms, their atmospheres have likely been modified by them. That would support the ideas of James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis, who championed the Gaia hypothesis, which views the Earth itself as a large-scale,

SKY WATCH EVENTS

Sept. 1 – At dusk, Venus is just 1.5 degrees below left of Virgo's brightest light, blue-white Spica.

Sept. 3 – In the morning sky the last quarter Moon appears near the Pleiades star cluster, a pretty pairing through binoculars.

Sept. 7 – Before dawn in the east will be a beautiful grouping of a thin crescent Moon above Jupiter, with Mars to the upper right and Gemini's brightest star Pollux all shining a few degrees away.

Sept. 8 – A daytime occultation event will occur when the lunar crescent is a few degrees above Jupiter and then it eclipses it at about 3-3:30 EDT. Observe from shade through a small telescope with a solar filter.

Sept. 11 – New Moon – check out the Summer

Triangle and the star clouds of the Milky Way, particularly rich in the southern sky constellations Scorpius and Sagittarius.

Sept. 13 – After dusk, observe the beautiful trio of crescent Moon, Venus, and Spica.

Sept. 17 – The heart of the Scorpion, the red supergiant Antares, is just a few degrees from the waxing crescent Moon in the south-southwest.

Sept. 22 – Happy Autumnal Equinox! Autumn commences, marking the onset of shorter days in the northern hemisphere.

Sept. 26 – As the Full Moon rises above the Green Mountains in the east after dusk, Saturn follows just a few degrees away in the east-northeast evening sky.

Sept. 30 – Waning gibbous Moon a few degrees behind the Pleiades in the east-northeast.

self-regulating unit.

Humans have already created atmospheres to support life in spacesuits, hospitals, capsules, space stations and Earth-based labs. Some have considered various ways to terraform Mars by creating an atmosphere; a grandiose scheme. Space colonies will likely be very "clean" places to live, possessing artificial atmospheres that will emulate natural processes using plants. The principle of

reciprocity where plants and people each give something the other needs will make the air just right and hopefully with "zero" toxins entering the mix.

The Earth is a precious, living, breathing planet that may be extremely rare. The stakes are high for the harm one species has done to the air we breathe. Environmentally conscious living and becoming involved with climate action are ways we can care for the rare air of planet Earth.

PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa

7. Reciprocal of a sine

10. Type of phone

12. Biblical figure

13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person
22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor Nicolas

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

DOWN

1. Slovenly person

2. In addition

3.hovels

4. Pie _ _ _ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They _ _

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

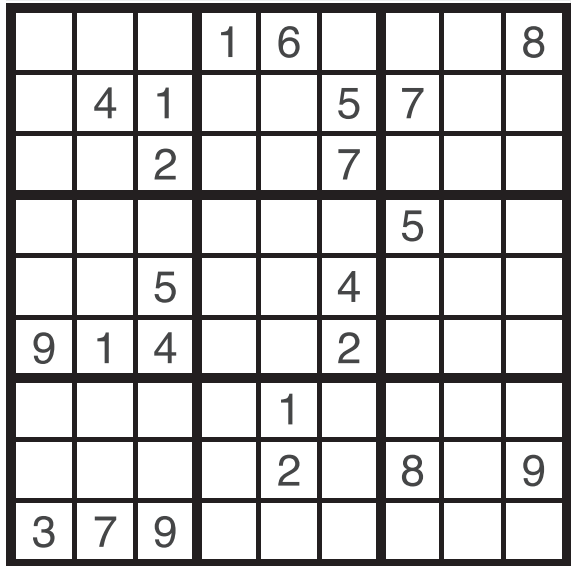
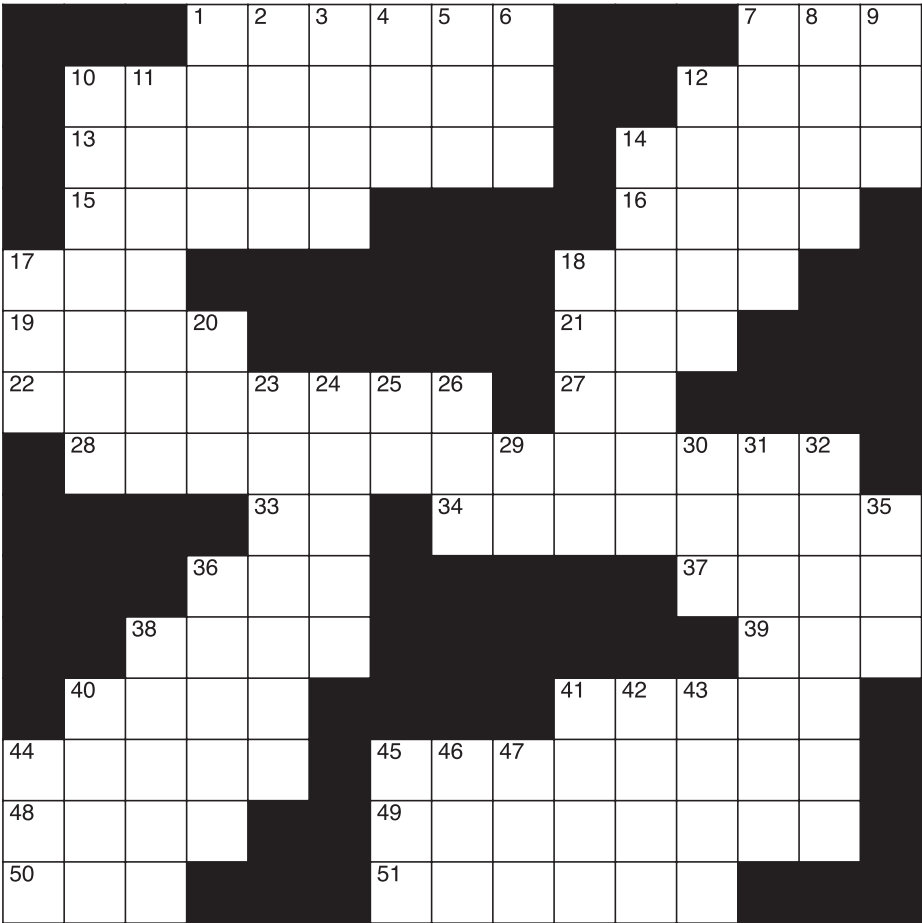
9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub entertainment

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain



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

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. "Succession" actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul
- Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird's beak

36. Partner to "oohed"

38. Ray-finned fishes
40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snakelike fish

47. Compensate

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

Stay Sharp

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CALENDAR

continued from page 7

towards animals, each other and the planet. \$65 general admission; Kids 12 and under are free.

POINTS OF INTEREST: LAKE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE GUIDED WALK IN ADDISON.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 1-3 p.m., meet at Chimney Point. Learn the history of what surrounds you as you walk across the Lake Champlain Bridge. Chimney Point site administrator Elsa Gilbertson and Crown Point, N.Y., site manager Sam Huntington lead this guided round-trip walk. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. Bring a picnic to enjoy before. Museum admission included. Light refreshments afterwards. \$9.

SESSION AMERICANA WITH KRIS DELMHORST IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater. An intimate, raucous evening featuring original music and works from throughout the American Songbook. A Boston-based cast of top-shelf players, singers and writers who tour internationally, taking their own songs, plus hundreds more from the American songbook, on the road. \$10-\$50.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15

THE MOTH STORY HOUR IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater. Listen to true stories or share your own at this open-mic storytelling competition. Theme: Nine to Five. Prepare a five-minute story about being on the clock. First jobs and corporate climbing. Dream gigs, survival work, side hustles. Water cooler gossip, awkward HR meetings. Burning the midnight oil or goofing off on the company dime. Punch in. Punch out. Repeat. What a way to make a livin'! The event will be recorded, with select stories potentially broadcast by The Moth Radio Hour on NPR. Visit townhalltheater.org.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: A SOLO DANCE PERFORMANCE BY RACHEL

SIEGEL IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Sept. 18, 5-6 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre. This feminist dance performance explores eating disorders, patriarchy, capitalism and racism. It is also a celebration of body liberation, pleasure, dancing alone in the mirror, eating mangoes, and shaking off that which binds us.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

THE 31ST ANNUAL NORTHEASTERN OPEN ATLATL CHAMPIONSHIP IN ADDISON. Saturday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site. Participate in or watch the annual atlatl championship testing skills in accuracy and distance. The sport is based on the ancient hunting technique. Newcomers to

experts welcome. Flint-knapping demonstrations and lessons, and traditional to contemporary basket making, throughout the day. Pre-registration for competitors required. Competitors: \$12; visitors: \$6; free under 15. Call 802-759-2412 to register.

WALKING TOUR OF MIDDLEBURY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 19, 2-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Learn about the history of Middlebury with a 60-minute, 1-mile narrated walking tour. Follow Todd Goodyear as he weaves through town and time, from the 1780s to the 1980s, spotlighting the people who helped shape Middlebury's character. \$20 for adults; \$12 for ages 13 and under.

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Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Ridge



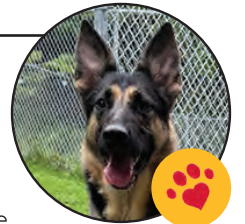
Ridge has had a rough start to life, but we're hoping to turn that around now. He was rescued from a collapsed building with a lot of other cats and is now settling into the safety of the shelter. He arrived with his good buddy, a possible brother, and the two of them prefer to cuddle up together and give each other comfort. Ridge will need an understanding and patient family that is willing to let him find his footing at his own pace. He would benefit from a quiet, calm home. Ridge may be shy right now, but that doesn't mean there isn't a loving companion waiting underneath.

Rafter



Rafter has had a rough start to life, but we are determined to turn that around! Don't let his lazy eye scare you away; he can't help it! He was rescued from a collapsed building along with many other cats. He arrived here with a buddy who could possibly be his brother. The two are a source of comfort and security for one another and can often be found snuggled up. Rafter is a shy and sensitive cat who will need a patient, understanding family willing to let him adjust at his own pace. A quiet environment, predictable routine, and gentle interactions will be important as he begins to come out of his shell.

Tia



Tia came to the shelter together with her sister, Tamara, after being housed with multiple dogs. She has not had the chance to explore the world at its fullest and is quite fearful of many things. She will need some patience and time to adjust to a new environment, but once she trusts someone, she will show them the loyal companion she is meant to be. Tia has not yet gotten used to a leash, so a fenced-in yard is required. She has figured out that toys are a lot of fun, and she loves anything food! She will do best with someone who understands that good things take time and will let her settle in at her own pace.

Tamara



Tamara arrived at the shelter with her sister, Tia, after living in a home with several other dogs. Because she hasn't had many opportunities to experience the world, she's understandably shy and cautious in new situations. With patience, consistency, and time to build trust, Tamara will blossom into the loyal and loving companion she's meant to be. Tamara is still learning to walk on a leash, so she'll need a home with a securely fenced yard where she can safely explore and gain confidence. She's also discovered that toys are a lot of fun and especially enjoys puzzle games that keep her mind busy. Tamara will thrive with someone who understands that trust takes time and is willing to let her adjust at her own pace.

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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learn more?**

Call or check our website.
We may have a pet for you!

802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

"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.

PHOTOPPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

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. The exhibit will be on view Aug. 7-29.

PLANK ROAD ART STAND

7824 Plank Rd., Bristol

Open Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays or by appointment. For more info visit brendamyrickart.com, call 802-458-1415 or email brendamyrickart@gmail.com

"Past and Present" featuring the artwork of Brenda Myrick, the estate of Barbara Lane, and Jim Lienau. This self-serve roadside gallery is housed in a repurposed horse trailer, lovingly transformed into a one-of-a-kind art space. The art stand features original artwork, hand carved wooden fish, animal step stools, and cards, with new work being added regularly. On view through October.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Help Each Other," is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The Quaker Pirate creates art that challenges us to help one another, to be emotionally and spiritually connected, and to persist and survive in today's world. The exhibit will open May 16 to the public.

"Cyanotype: Process & Possibility" will open at PhotoPlace Gallery in downtown Middlebury on Friday, Sept. 4, with a reception from 4-7 p.m. Free and open to all.

Exploring one of photography's oldest and most enduring alternative processes, "Cyanotype: Process & Possibility" highlights artists who embrace the cyanotype medium in both traditional and innovative ways. Visitors will experience work ranging from classic contact prints to contemporary mixed-media interpretations that push the process in exciting new directions. The exhibit will be on view through Sept. 26.



"Blue Pieces" by Isabelle Ehle (NASA / GSFC / Arizona State University).

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden's Charity & Sylvia," invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary illustrations. Together, these materials illuminate the lives of one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a shared home, tailoring business, and life in early Vermont. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Time Keeping." Artifacts and archival treasures from the 18th century through today will be presented in conversation with New England contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio's 'Clockworks,' the magically crafted worlds of paper theater within vintage clocks and watch housings. Showcasing stories of far-reaching possibilities in layers of time, Luciana Frigerio's captivating mixed media collages mirror Henry Sheldon's own passion for storytelling through paper and material culture. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

"Uncovering Wallpaper Design: 1800 – Present." The wallpaper in the Museum's collection tells the story of artistic process, globalization, and design tastes from the 1800s to present day. While wallpaper operates as a backdrop, bringing it to the forefront sheds light on the skill and process of creating these designs. Many the wallpapers on display are block printed. In a contemporary world where so much of production is now automated, these wallpapers invite viewers to slow down

and consider the process, layers, and method on display in these prints. On view May 2-Nov. 7.

"Remembering the American Revolution."

This exhibition features objects related to the American Revolution, as well as items produced to commemorate those events, notably for the World's Fairs of 1876 and 1926, and the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976. Collected by Henry Sheldon and community members, past and present, these artifacts illuminate how methods of commemoration and exhibition have shaped public memory, attesting to different ideas about American identity, gender roles, race, war and pacificism, rebellion or resistance, across different historical and political contexts. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

Featured artist Ashlee Guiles. A collection of thoughtful stained glass mosaics. Guiles highlights the vibrant colors, light and movement that she observes in nature. On view through August.

THE CHIPMAN INN

1233 Vermont Rte 125, Ripton. For more info visit thechipmaninn.com or call 802-345-4448.

Abstract paintings by Tal Birdsey. North Branch School co-founder and director Tal Birdsey will exhibit his abstract paintings on the walls of The Chipman Inn. Birdsey and fellow author and retired educator Jim Ellefson will offer readings from their new and forthcoming books on Thursday, Aug. 27, from 5-7 p.m., at the inn. Free and open to all. On view through Oct. 17.



THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Renovated historic property shows character

Beautifully renovated historic property with extensive improvements since 2021. The home features new wide-plank pine floors crafted from old-growth lumber sourced from Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, brand new kitchen featuring quartz countertops and energy rated stainless appliances, a stainless farmhouse sink and new light fixtures. There are new bathrooms on both levels, new attic and basement insulation, fresh exterior paint, and a new large deck overlooking the south side of the property. Two covered porches include a screened front porch with views toward Snake Mountain. Only 10 minutes to Vergennes, and 15 minutes to Middlebury for shopping, dining and entertainment. The beautifully landscaped grounds feature a gorgeous perennial garden. The renovated main level of the barn currently serves as an art gallery and craft shop, while the lower level provides a naturally lit garage. A unique property offering historic character, thoughtful updates, and versatile space.

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY
GROUP

This property is listed and marketed by Sean Dye, Listing Broker, and managed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. For more info, please call Sean directly at 802-338-0136 or visit vtregroup.com.



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802-388-4944

advertising@addisonindependent.com



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES



VERMONT REALTY GROUP



PRICE IMPROVEMENT

1301 Pearson Road, New Haven

Nestled on 5 peaceful acres with a tree-lined drive, this charming property offers both privacy and country living with views. The interior features a versatile layout with 3 bedrooms and 2 separate living areas. Outside, you will find a deck, plenty of garden space, a detached garage, a storage shed, and an additional outbuilding. Conveniently located, just 10-15 minutes from surrounding towns. Make this peaceful home yours. Motivated seller!!

MLS# 5101747 \$434,900



PRICE IMPROVEMENT

95 Seminary Street Extension, Middlebury

Enjoy Vermont living in this updated mid-century home. Recent improvements include new flooring, fresh interior paint, and a new back deck overlooking a private setting. Set on 1.1 acres, this property offers room for gardening and an oversized two-car garage with workshop space. Conveniently located near Middlebury College, Porter Medical Center and area amenities. This home is ready to enjoy. Schedule your showing today!

MLS# 5090864 \$470,000

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Aug. 27, 2026

S	A	H	A	R	A	C	S	C									
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NEW TO MARKET

OPEN HOUSE: 8/29, 10 AM - NOON
WHITING | 179 MURRAY ROAD | MLS #5105976
4 BD | 4 BA | 3556 SF | 11.17 AC | \$589,000



This versatile Whiting property is ideal for buyers seeking a homestead, flexible living space, and potential income generation. Enjoy sweeping pastoral views across beautifully maintained acreage combining gently sloping land, established outdoor spaces, a large pond, a 4-stall barn with an additional bay, and a chicken coop. A nearly 1,200-square-foot walk-out accessory space offers its own kitchen and bath, supplementing the 3 bedrooms in the main house. A whole-house generator, multiple heating sources, and a 2-car attached garage, add convenience and comfort.

Enjoy views of Lake Champlain along with private lake access from this meticulously maintained year-round home. Central air, hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, double-sided wood-burning fireplace, built-ins, and a finished basement (currently a great recreation room) are among the highlights. Two-car attached garage plus an accessory barn. Outside, you'll enjoy perennial beds, fruit trees, patios, and a pergola, along with sixty feet of deeded lakeshore and a mooring. In just twenty minutes you'll have the amenities of Vergennes and Middlebury to choose from. Sold fully-furnished—even including the kayaks!



NEW TO MARKET



ADDISON | 727 GOOSE BAY DR | MLS #5106083
3 BR | 2 BA | 3147 SF | 0.91 AC | \$795,000



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Bread + Puppet Theatre to bring 'Upside Down World Circus' to Hancock

The circus is coming! The circus is coming! Bread + Puppet Theatre's circus, that is. On Saturday, Sept. 5, Town Hall Theater presents the premiere of Bread + Puppet's annual circus tour at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl in Hancock. The performance of the "Upside Down World Circus" will be set against the iconic Bread + Puppet hand-painted bus — and begin with Bread & Puppet's brass band at 3:20 p.m., with the show to start at 3:30 p.m.

This year's show will be a spectacle of protest and celebration that addresses the urgent themes of the moment using paper maché, dance, and a live brass band. In Bread & Puppet's words: *"Is it or is it not? Am I asleep or am I awake? Am I a cockroach or am I a me? We must demonstrate humanity's upside-down situation in the face of the government's depraved falsehoods. Luxury silence and despair must be replaced by revolt orchestras that radically oppose the radically wrong system. It is time to forget the revolution-in-progress and aim for the evermore on the universe's shore."*

Circus is perhaps the most iconic of the many performance genres for which Bread & Puppet is known. A

Bread & Puppet Circus is a large-scale political puppet show which borrows from traditional Circus tropes and is performed in-the-round. Made up of a bright, raucous melee of short acts using diverse puppetry styles, it spans many moods, from slapstick to the sublime.

After the show, Bread + Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread + Puppet's "Cheap Art" — books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread + Puppet Press — will be for sale.

Tickets are \$20. All ticket proceeds benefit Bread + Puppet Theatre and Town Hall Theater. Tickets are required and available for purchase at townhalltheater.org. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you need assistance with the price of the ticket, contact tickets@townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222. Bring chairs, picnics, and a sense of humor. Parking is limited, so do not delay on purchasing tickets.

Bread + Puppet will perform through a light rain, pause a performance and play band tunes to keep spirits up if heavy rain comes, and end a show prematurely if heavy rain persists.



Wake up with Bread + Puppet Theatre's presentation of "Upside Down World Circus" on Saturday, Sept. 5, 3:30 p.m., at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl in Hancock. Tickets are required and available at the Town Hall Theater website. COURTESY PHOTO

theREAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

244 Bull Run Road, Lincoln

This charming 3-bedroom, 2-bath chalet offers stunning views over the pond and an evening alpenglow on Mount Abe from the house and deck. Inside, a cozy layout with large stone fireplace, natural wood, vaulted ceilings, and a light filled four-season sunroom create an efficient and comfortable space all on a private lot 3.83 acre lot.

MLS No. 5106065 | \$ 420,000

for more information, contact:



Tammy Petersen
Agent/Realtor®



Jill Fraga
Broker/Owner/Realtor®




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268 Main St, Vergennes | HickokandBoardman.com | 802-863-1500

Post & Beam Cape - 20A




20-A Country Farmhouse & Barn. Mainly open, rolling meadows/pastures. Property features 30x60 barn, attachmilk house(both w/metal roof) - space for farming, livestock or storage. Charming post/ beam 9 Rm Cape: 3 BRs, 1 1/2 Bs, LR w/wood stove, formal DR, galley Kitchen, Office/Den w/cathedral ceiling & Sun Room w/ceramic floor & southern exposure, FHA heat by oil. Separate workshop bldg. w/power. A fenced dog area located next to house. Country living with open land, traditional farmhouse character, and useful outbuildings. \$550,000.

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CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

UPCOMING MUSIC

5 Fridays Concert Series celebrates with costumes

Town Hall Theater's free 5 Fridays Concert Series in Middlebury, held at the outdoor Maloney Plaza, will continue to delight audiences following appearances by Dwight + Nicole Band, the Vermont National Guard Band, Redd and the Paper Flowers, and Atom & the Orbits. The series returns on Friday, Sept. 4 with a lively afternoon and evening of music, dancing, food and shopping, featuring Billy Wylder, DJ Serena Kim, a go-go dancer during the late-night DJ set, and a Theatrical Closet Sale.



Made possible through generous grant funding, the 5 Fridays Concert Series coincides with downtown Middlebury's popular First Friday celebrations, when local businesses stay open late and the town is full of energy.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4 SCHEDULE: 3-8 P.M.

3 P.M.

Plaza opens / DJ Serena Kim kicks off the party

DJ Serena Kim opens the festivities in Maloney Plaza with an upbeat opening set.

3-8 P.M.

Theatrical Closet Sale

Town Hall Theater's new wing at 72 Merchants Row, Middlebury, will open its doors for a special costume and accessory sale in the Anderson Studio. Guests can browse and purchase one-of-a-kind pieces from Opera Company of Middlebury, Middlebury Community Players, and other resident companies. Ever admired a dress from Moon Over Buffalo or a jacket from La Bohème? This is your chance to take home the real thing. Proceeds benefit Town Hall Theater and its resident companies.

Food and drinks available for purchase from Las Hermosas Tacos, La Chata's Churros, Good Times Co. Charcuterie, and the event bar.

5:30-7 P.M.

Billy Wylder live in concert

Acclaimed art-rock ensemble Billy Wylder, led by singer-songwriter Avi Salloway, brings together global influences, adventurous



Billy Wylder (above) will perform from 5:30-7 p.m., on Friday, Sept. 4, after an opening set by DJ Serena Kim (left) at Town Hall Theater's Maloney Plaza in Middlebury.

COURTESY PHOTOS

musicianship, and an electrifying live performance. Drawing inspiration from travels spanning Standing Rock, Jerusalem, the Sahara, and stages from Coachella to Carnegie Hall, the band blends American folk and rock with African rhythms, art-rock textures, soaring violins, synths, and groove-driven percussion.

Salloway is also the creator of the acclaimed All Rivers project, a cross-cultural musical collaboration that has sold out performances at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, further cementing his reputation for building powerful, community-centered musical experiences that bridge cultures and traditions.

7-8 P.M.

Late-night DJ set with DJ Serena Kim and a go-go dancer

After Billy Wylder, DJ Serena Kim returns to close out the evening with a high-energy dance set featuring a go-go dancer in Maloney Plaza.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

Theatrical Closet Sale continues

The costume sale resumes in the Anderson Studio for a second day on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

MNFF

continued from page 4

when independent filmmaking has never been more creatively vibrant — or more economically challenging — we believe these voices deserve to be seen, heard and celebrated. Every ticket purchased, every conversation after a screening, and every question asked during a Q&A helps sustain an independent film culture built on curiosity and artistic vision rather than on algorithms and commercial

certainty.

Start conversations while waiting in line. Carry them over coffee or into the streets of Middlebury. Share laughter, debate, inspiration and the simple pleasure of experiencing freshly told stories together in a darkened theater.

We encourage you to take chances. See a film you know nothing about. Stay for the Q&A. Introduce yourself to someone you've never met. Attend our parties. Tell us what moved,

surprised, challenged or made you laugh.

Enjoy every minute.

Editor's Note: The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival runs Aug. 26-30. Festival passes and tickets are now on sale 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.

Fall Activity Guide

Programs, Athletics and Special Events for Adults, Youth and Families



Registration Site: middleburyvt.myrec.com

Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department • townofmiddlebury.org • Sept. - Nov. 2026



classes for all ages



celebration rentals

72-76 Merchants Row Middlebury VT | 802.388.1436

General Information

Mission Statement

The Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department (MPR) shall provide lands, facilities, and services for community members of all ages and all income levels. It shall provide programs for both sport and leisure. The department shall serve as instructor, facilitator, and partner in efforts to promote and improve quality of life for participants. MPR will work with an involved public and business community to provide a healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment with opportunities for cultural growth.

The department should be flexible enough to meet the changing needs and tastes of the community, while finding creative ways to deliver recreation programs and facilities that are affordable to the residents of Middlebury.

Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Physical Address: 154 Creek Road, Middlebury, VT 05753

Mailing Address: 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Phone: 802-458-8015

Facebook: Town of Middlebury Parks and Recreation

Staff of Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department

Scott Bourne – Director

802-458-8015 sbourne@townofmiddlebury.org

Bonnie Moore — Program Coordinator

programcoordinator@townofmiddlebury.org

Middlebury Parks & Recreation Committee

The Parks and Recreation Committee is currently undergoing a reorganization process aimed at improving overall efficiency, clarity of roles, and effectiveness in supporting the department’s operations. This effort is intended to better align the Committee’s work with the needs of the department, the Town, and key stakeholders, including board and committee members.

As part of this transition, updates and refinements will continue to be made to ensure the Committee structure remains practical, responsive, and valuable in guiding decision-making and long-term planning. Please keep an eye out for future updates as this work progresses.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Programs may be cancelled in the event of severe weather or power outages.

MPR encourages you to do the following if you have any questions:

Call: MPR Offices, 802-458-8015

Check: Facebook – Town of Middlebury Parks & Recreation

ADVERTISING

The Addison Independent prints and distributes this publication four times per year.

We welcome your advertisement for a business, program or event in our publication for a fee; please contact us for more specific information: advertising@addisonindependent.com or 802-388-4944.

Reservations: Facilities and Sports Fields

Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department requests that all groups planning to use our facilities or fields please notify us in advance by making a reservation. Anyone wishing to make a reservation must complete a facility use application, available in our offices or online at www.middleburyvt.myrec.com. Facility Use Request Forms are considered on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on availability. Rental fees may apply. For additional information regarding availability, rates, and reservations, contact the MPR offices at (802) 458-8015.





Non-Resident Policy

Non-Residents of Middlebury are allowed to register for all Parks and Recreation programs. Non-Residents will be charged an additional fee of 25% for each program registered for. A Non-Resident is defined as someone who does not live in Middlebury or pay property taxes to the Town of Middlebury.

Scholarships

Middlebury Parks and Recreation is pleased to be able to offer scholarships to participate in all our programs. The scholarship guidelines are based on the free and reduced lunch guidelines within the schools. If you would like to apply for a scholarship or for more information, please contact our office.

Accessibility

Individuals with or without disabilities may register for all programs offered by MPR provided program safety can be met. The Department provides reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Contact MPR offices in advance of the program start date to discuss accommodation on a case-by-case basis.

Refund Policy

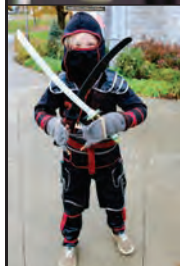
If you need to cancel your registration before the second session of the program, we will refund you a pro-rated registration fee, minus a 10% processing fee. After attending the second session, eligibility for a refund is void.

- Please be aware that refund requests may take up to 30 days to process.
- Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate. We reserve the right to add, withdraw, or revise programs or events as needed. For more updated information, please visit our website often.

WEBSITE: WWW.TOWNOFMIDDLEBURY.ORG

REGISTRATION SITE: MIDDLEBURYVT.MYREC.COM

A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY


SPOOKTACULAR IS COMING!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

11-1PM

DON'T MISS THE POPULAR MAIN STREET SPOOKTACULAR PARADE! ORGANIZE AT THE GAZEBO FOR 11:30AM DEPARTURE.

GET READY FOR TRICKS, TREATS AND LOTS OF FUN NEW ACTIVITIES ON THE GREEN IN MIDDLEBURY!



VISIT EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM FOR MORE INFO ABOUT SPOOKTACULAR, THE REST OF EXPERIENCE MIDDLEBURY SIGNATURE EVENTS AND ALL OF THE WAYS YOU CAN LIVE, WORK AND PLAY BETTER IN MIDDLEBURY!



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Take your skiing and snowboarding to new heights!



Registration is now open until December 1
Register early to participate in dryland training!

Financial Assistance Available



Join the Middlebury Ski & Snowboard Club and level up your ski and snowboard skills. Learn ski racing or refine your free-ride ski and snowboard techniques with other young enthusiasts this winter!

For more information, please visit us online at
www.middleburyskiandsnowboardclub.org



Walk and Bike Activities

Middlebury E-bike Lending Library:

Ilsley Public Library is partnering with Frog Hollow Bikes to loan out three e-bikes through October. E-bikes have an electric assist that helps riders get around with less effort and scale hills that previously seemed impossible. For complete details, loan rules, and descriptions of the bikes please visit: <https://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/find-it/library-of-things-e-bike/>

To reserve a bike, call the library front desk at 802.388.4098



Middlebury Bike Pump Track: Check out the town's bike pump track at Rec Park next to the town pool. Pump Tracks are small, confined loops consisting of banked corners and rollers that are spaced and shaped to enable riders to generate momentum by "pumping" the bike through the rollers. Pump tracks are fun, and also develop bike handling skills for riders of all ages.

Safe Routes Middlebury hosts "Walk and Roll to School Day" on the first Wednesday of each month at Mary Hogan School, monitors traffic patterns and travel behavior, plans activities to teach bike skills and rules of the road, and recommends improvements to roads, parking lots, drop offs, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lights, signage, bus routes, bike routes, bike racks, and more.

Walk/Bike Council of Addison County is a county-wide, citizen-led advisory group that meets to discuss county-wide walking and cycling topics. The Council seeks to build momentum and capacity for safer walking and biking to our towns and villages. Council members work with state and regional agencies, municipal staff, schools and other interested community partners. Anyone interested should visit <https://www.walkbikeaddison.org/>

International Walk and Bike to School Day

is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. Over time, this event has become part of a movement for year-round safe routes to school and a celebration – with record-breaking participation – each October.

This year the date is October 7th, 2026.



Aim for Archery Archery Class 101

Instructor: Melinda Laben-Hardt

Age: 8 to 99

Level: Beginning to Intermediate

Dates: Thursdays – 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Price: \$100 dollars

Type of bow – Recurve

Minimum of 8 students per class with a maximum of 14 students per class.

Location: TBD

The equipment will be provided by instructor:

Recurve Bows, Arrows w/Field tips, Targets. The course content will review range safety, range set-up, basic equipment and use, and the basic steps of shooting and scoring.

Qualifications: Melinda Hardt has been instructing Archery classes for youth since 2007. She has taught Archery programs all over the country, from California to Maine. She is a certified Level 2 Archery Instructor through USA Archery.



SPOTLIGHT VERMONT

www.spotlightvermont.com

South Burlington
& Middlebury



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Is your child ready to spin, glide, and shine? The Middlebury Figure Skating Club, in partnership with Middlebury Rec and Middlebury College, offers fun and inclusive figure skating lessons for kids ages 5–18.

Classes begin in October and end with a joyful group Ice Show in February during Middlebury College's Winter Carnival.

Skaters are grouped by ability and taught using the U.S. Figure Skating model by experienced, supportive coaches.

Most beginner and intermediate lessons are Sunday mornings;

Advanced lessons are Sunday evenings with an additional weekday morning option.

All practices are held at the Chip Kenyon '85 Arena at Middlebury College.

Skaters need their own skates—figure skates are encouraged for ages 8+.

Registration opens in September through the Middlebury Rec Department.

Questions? Email us at skating@middfsc.org.





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Fall Highlights at the Sheldon!

Mingle at the Museum

**Saturday, September 26, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**



Support the Sheldon by joining us for live music with Ernest James Zydeco, dinner by Crooked Ladle, treats by Cookie Love, beverages, photo booth, scavenger hunt, games and a silent auction!

\$50 General admission; Kids are free

Illustrating Vermont History

**A Panel of Storytelling and Graphic Novels
A VT Humanities Fall Festival event**

**Saturday, October 24, 2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

Featuring authors Dan Nott, Daryl Deitchik and Tillie Walden, moderated by Middlebury College Professor of History, Rebecca Bennette.

Free and Open to All.



One Park Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-2117

HenrySheldonMuseum.org
Scan QR code for more events



Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Advanced beginner and above volleyball. Players aim for good ball-handling skills, trying bumps, sets, and spike on most plays. Teams are formed each week depending on who attends to keep the skill levels balanced on both sides and fun for all.

Location: Middlebury Rec Center Gym –
154 Creek Road, Middlebury, VT



Date/Time: Mondays –
6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**\$4.00 per drop-in or buy
a \$20 punch card for 7
visits.**

For more information,
please contact
Sue Richardson at
suerichardson@gmavt.net
or 802-557-2724. We use
the GroupMe app to do
weekly headcounts and
communicate time changes
and cancellations.



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by the *Addison Independent*



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2026 Middlebury Flag Football

REGISTRATION and EQUIPMENT ISSUED at the Middlebury Rec Gym – 154 Creek Road

Tuesday, September 1, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

8th grade: 6:00 p.m.

7th grade: 6:15 p.m.

6th grade: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2, 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

1st – 3rd grade: 6:00 p.m.

(Grades 1–3 can also register online)

4th grade: 6:15 p.m.

5th grade: 6:30 p.m.

****Please bring two (2) separate checks to registration, one for registration fee and one for equipment deposit. Cash is also accepted.**

REGISTRATION FEE: Payable to Middlebury Flag Football (MFF)

Grades 5–8: \$50.00 for first player *see below for family rate information

Grade 4: \$25.00

Grades 1–3: Free

***Family Rate: \$50.00 for 1st player, \$25 for 2nd player, free for additional players**

EQUIPMENT DEPOSIT: All players, grades 4–8:

\$125.00 payable to Middlebury Flag Football (MFF).

Original checks will be returned when all equipment is returned on time in satisfactory condition.

**SKILLS CLINIC/TEAM ASSIGNMENT:
GRADES 4–8**

Saturday, September 5, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Flag Football Clinic hosted by Middlebury College Football team at Middlebury College Alumni Stadium.

- Bring your flags only – leave the rest of your gear at home
- Cleats are optional
- There are many events at the college on the 5th; you may need to park a distance and walk. Please allow enough time to find parking and get to the field for players to be ready to go by 11:00.



Sunday, September 6

Coaches contact each player regarding team assignments, practice details, and their contact information. If you do not hear from the coach by 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening, contact Peter Brakeley at 802-989-6992 or June Kaufmann at 802-349-8534.

Week of September 7

Grades 5–8: Four (4) practices, 2 hours each. Practice days and times determined by team coach.

Grade 4: Monday and Wednesday 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Grades 1–3: Monday 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Practice for all grade levels takes place on the MUHS practice fields.

Saturday, September 12

Games begin! All games will be played at the MUHS practice fields.

• 9:00 a.m. – **Grades 7 and 8**

• 10:30 a.m. – **Grades 5 and 6**

Grades 1–4 do not have Saturday games

Week of September 14

Grades 5–8: Two (2) practices, 1½ hours each.

Grade 4: Continue 2 practice sessions per week.

Grades 1–3: Continue with 1 practice a week. No Saturday games for grades 1–4.

Remainder of the Season:

Repeat of the above

Grades 5–8: 2 practices each week, games on Saturday through October 17th.

Grade 4: Monday, Wednesday practice 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Grades 1–3: Monday practice 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Yoga with Vanessa Dunleavy

Time: Fridays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Middlebury Rec Center
Multipurpose Room

Cost: \$15

Come revitalize your body and relax your mind with Yoga asanas and breath work. With a focus on alignment and awareness, we will work on strength, balance, and flexibility, all while honoring our body's intuition and individual needs.

Learn more about Vanessa at
www.vanessadunleavy.com



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www.MemorialSportsCenter.org



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2026 Fall Soccer

All practices will be held at the Middlebury Recreation Park.

Soccer will begin the week of September 7.

You can register on middleburyvt.myrec.com.

Registration will close September 4.

Cost: \$85 for residents of Middlebury, \$106.25 for non-residents. (Scholarships available)

Each registrant will receive a ball and jersey to keep.

If you are interested in coaching a team, please email Bonnie at programcoordinator@townofmiddlebury.org

Division 1: Grades 1 and 2 (Co-ed)

Wednesday and Friday 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Division 2: Grades 3 and 4

Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Division 3: Grades 5 and 6

Boys: Monday and Wednesday 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Girls: Monday and Wednesday 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please note that 6th graders will have the option of playing both Rec and Middle School Soccer this fall (practices are later for that age group so they have the option to do both).



Preschool and Kindergarten Soccer (Ages 4–5)

Mondays: September 14th – October 14th

4-Year-Olds: 3:40 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

5-Year-Olds: 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$60 for residents of Middlebury, \$75 for non-residents. (Scholarships available)

This session will focus on teaching the fundamentals of soccer. This program is designed to be clinic-based skills work, which will help players get ready for the next level of competitive soccer while keeping it fun and engaging. The groups will be age-specific this year, and we will be limiting it to 20 players per age group so we can keep these group sizes small and offer more one-on-one direction.

MUHS 2nd–5th Grade Field Hockey Clinic

Description: The MUHS Field Hockey team is excited to offer a fall field hockey clinic for youth interested in learning about the game! These weekly clinics led by high school players and coaches will touch on fundamental field hockey skills, teamwork, and gameplay. This clinic is open to players in 2nd–5th grade with any amount of experience. A stick selection is available for players who do not have their own stick. Players should bring their own shin guards, mouth guard, and water. Please notify MaKayla if your child is riding the bus and a Varsity player will meet them. We are hosting a total of four practices and one scrimmage. Please take note of



the dates below. Registration funds support the MUHS Varsity Field Hockey Program.

Schedule:

Practices (3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.) – Wednesday 9/9, 9/16, 9/30, 10/14

Youth Day – 9/23 @ 4:30 p.m. Come cheer on your Varsity Tigers at Jette Field!

Home Scrimmage (5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) – Thursday 10/8 vs. Bristol

Location: MUHS Field Hockey fields (below high school football fields)

Cost: \$60

Instructors: MUHS Field Hockey players and coaches (MaKayla Broughton & Tajah Marsden)

Contact: mbroughton@acsdvt.org



MARK RAYMOND • raymondrenovation@gmail.com

The logo for Raymond Renovation & New Construction, LLC. It features the word 'RAYMOND' in a large, serif font, with 'RENOVATION' and '& NEW CONSTRUCTION, LLC' in smaller fonts below it, all enclosed within a decorative blue border.

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The logo for the Middlebury Dance Centre, featuring the name 'Middlebury Dance Centre' in a stylized, cursive font.

Weight/Stretch and Ballet Classes for teens and adults!

For more information please contact Barbara Elias at (802) 388-8253

14 Seminary Street | Middlebury



Self Defense Aiki Jitsu Adults Program

Ages: 14 and up

Cost: \$50.00

Maximum Class Size: 10

Aiki Jitsu is a dynamic, self-defense oriented martial art encompassing strikes, throws, joint locks, and ground fighting. It focuses on using leverage and body mechanics to allow a smaller person to defeat a larger, stronger attacker.

No experience needed
(but welcome if you have some!)

Come ready to learn and enjoy a challenging and dynamic workout!

Instructor: Sensei Bruce Andrews

Schedule: September 16 – December 9.

Morning Classes: Monday, Friday 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Evening Classes: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Note: Signing up will enable you to participate in any combination of morning and evening classes. Students will need to purchase their own Judo Gi with white belt before class (Available at awma.com, amazon.com, or sporting goods stores). Note that a karate, tae kwon do or ju-jitsu gi will be unlikely to stand up to the strain of throwing techniques. Students without a suitable gi will not be able to participate in throwing techniques.

Questions: Contact Sensei Andrews at 860-488-0429 or bruce@zenbudokaieast.org.



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Tot Time

Location: Middlebury Rec Gym

Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free, thanks to generous sponsorship
by Junebug

**Tot Time begins on
Wednesday, September 9!**



District Transfer Station

1223 Rte 7 South Middlebury, VT
HOURS: Monday-Friday 7 AM to 3 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 1 PM
NO RESIDENTIAL TRASH OR RECYCLING
HazWaste Center:
HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8 AM to 2 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 1 PM
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- Tubing • Natural Wood Waste
- Plastic Bags & Film
- Scrap Metal • Tires..... and more!

District Residential Drop-Off

100 Kings Way (off Campground Rd.) New Haven, VT
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2026

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STARTS SEPTEMBER 14

FREE TIGER TENNIS
MON & WED 3:30-5 PM

AFTERSCHOOL GROUP LESSONS
MON &/OR WED: AGES 5-11
TUES &/OR THURS: MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-registration required.
New students can join anytime!

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE!

TO REGISTER: CALL OR EMAIL

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REGISTER NOW!

MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND TRUST
23rd Annual
TAM TREK
Sept 20 2026
www.maltvt.org/tam-trek

A benefit event for the
Middlebury Area Land Trust.
19-mile, 10k, 5k or
2 mile fun run options
All races start/end at Wright Park

Adult Pick-Up Basketball

Times: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Middlebury Rec. Center Gym

Ages: 30+

Drop-in Fee: \$4.00 per drop-in or buy a \$20 punch card for 7 visits.

For more information, please contact Bryan Jones at 802- 989-8399



Pickleball

Outdoor play will continue at Midd Rec Park until the first snowfall.

Indoor courts (starting approx. Early November) Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. All abilities are welcome.



Court 1 will be for beginners; Courts 2 and 3 will be for intermediate/advanced players.

Cost: \$4.00 per drop-in or buy a \$20 punch card for 7 visits.

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REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS AT WWW.MIDDHOCKEY.COM

Registration for youth hockey in Middlebury is now open!

Join the **Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association** for programs tailored to boys and girls aged 5-14.

Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned player, we have something for everyone:

Learn to Play, recreational programs, and team play.

Financial aid and equipment are available to ensure everyone can join in the fun.

GIRLS TRY HOCKEY FREE

Sundays • Dates and Times TBD • Attend all 4 or just 1!

Ages 5+, some skating ability helpful. No equipment needed, bring what you have, and we'll loan you the rest. Pre-registration required. Check our website for more details. Registration should open mid-September. Girls only. Time TBD.



BOSTON BRUINS ACADEMY

LEARN TO PLAY! Saturdays 10/24, 10/31, 11/7 and 11/14 • Time TBD

Does your 5- to 9-year-old want to learn to play hockey this fall?

Now's the time to sign up for this great co-ed introductory program!

Bruins Academy is a program for kids who haven't played organized hockey before. It's organized and sponsored by the NHL's Boston Bruins and we are so happy to host it at Memorial Sports Center again. For \$225, kids will receive a complete set of hockey equipment and 4 on-ice sessions in Middlebury. The on-ice sessions provide a little introduction to the great sport of hockey. Some skating skills are necessary. Check our website for more details

GIRLS HOUSE LEAGUE

A once-a-week program, starting in November. \$168 plus USA Hockey registration. It will be a girls-only ice time opportunity to work on and build hockey skills. More details will be announced on our website soon!



NEW FOR 2026-2027!

FALL LEARN TO SKATE!

Please watch our Facebook page and website for more details!



Middlebury Amateur
Hockey Association



@middleburyhockeymaha

Thank you to Friends of Middlebury Hockey and Memorial Sports Center for supporting our youth hockey programs!



BE A TIGER. PLAY HOCKEY!

2026 Fall Gymnastics

Instructor: Terri Phelps 802-236-1315

Registration will begin Wednesday, September 2nd at 5:30 p.m.

Students will work to improve strength, flexibility, and coordination, and skill development in a safe and fun environment. Instruction will be included on uneven bars, beam, floor exercise, springboard, and vault.

Dates: September 8 – December 15

No classes: 9/12, 9/21, 10/8–10/12, 10/22, 11/10, 11/23–11/28

***Please note: Price changes are due to the fall session being extended by a month. Cost per class remains the same.**

Preschool (Ages 3–4)

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

\$260 (\$325)

Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$260 (\$325)

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. \$220 (\$275)

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. \$220 (\$275)

Young Beginner (Ages 4–5)

Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$198 (\$247.50)

Beginner (ages 5–6)

Saturday 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. \$198 (\$247.50)

Beg/Adv Beginner Advanced

Tuesday 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. \$234 (\$292.50)

Wednesday 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. \$234 (\$292.50)

Advanced Beginner/Intermediate

Saturday 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. \$198 (\$247.50)





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39th Annual
Ripton Ridge Run

Online registration is now open!

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Former Ripton Elementary School 753 Lincoln Rd.
Race Day Registration: 11am-12pm
Race Start: 12:30pm

Register online!

Scan the QR code or visit
tinyurl.com/RiptonRidgeRun



Intermediate/Advanced

Tuesday 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
\$260 (\$325)

Wednesday 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
\$260 (\$325)

Saturday 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
\$220 (\$275)

The Gymnastics Afterschool Program
(Ages 6–10)

Program includes a 1-hour class, games/activities, and free time. Please bring a snack as well.

Monday 3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
\$352 (\$440)

Thursday 3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
\$352 (\$440)



**Watch for the 2026
Winter Activity Guide
Coming November 5th!**



2ND ANNUAL HOPE IN MOTION RACE

A Community Celebration For Everyone

Timed 5K Run/Walk • Timed 1K Fun Run

SUNDAY, SEPT 27, 2026

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Live Music • Food Trucks • Community Resource Fair • Family Activities • Door prizes, Giveaways & More!



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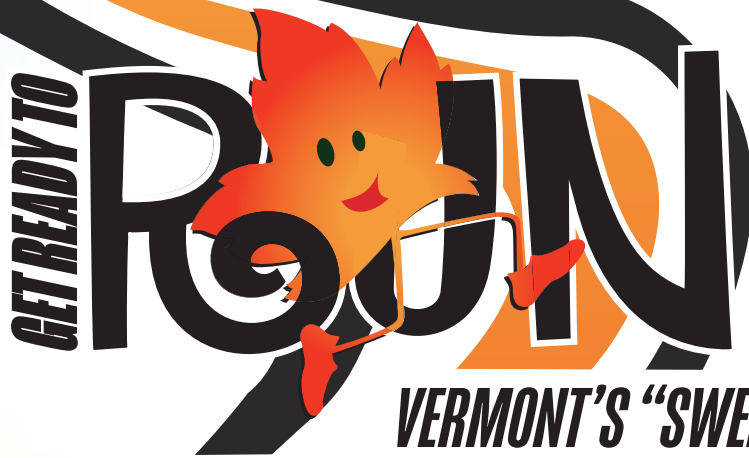
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