



At the wheel

A big-time journalist always sought release in pottery; now it's her focus. See Arts + Leisure.



Season begins

The state champion VUHS soccer and MUHS volleyball teams both tally wins. See Page 1B.



Hot stuff

Learn about the 20 volunteer fire departments in the area and those who support them in our pull-out.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

Rabid foxes sighted in Middlebury, Weybridge

By MARIN HOWELL
MIDDLEBURY/WEYBRIDGE — Kelley Lamb had just loaded her children into the car at her Weybridge home on Aug. 14 when she turned and saw a fox running toward her very quickly.

“I got scared and shouted at the kids to stay in the car, and I ran into the garage to try and escape it,” she said. “In the garage it bit me on my shin and also on my thigh, and I ran out of the garage to try and escape it, and it kept jumping up on me.”

Lamb said she reached her hand out to try and send the fox off, at which point the animal bit her hand and wouldn’t let go.

While Lamb’s encounter with a rabid fox was extreme, sadly it was only one of several in the area recently. Community members during the past month have reported several instances of concerning fox behavior in Middlebury and Weybridge,

(See Rabid foxes, Page 13A)



TWO-TIME ACADEMY Award-winning actor, entrepreneur and activist Jane Fonda discusses many facets of her storied life — including her friendship with the late Dolly Parton — during a speaking event hosted by the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival on Sunday.
Independent photos/Steve James



Fonda talks Dolly & activism at MNFF12

Hollywood icon speaks volumes to a full house

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Actor, entrepreneur and activist Jane Fonda brought her star power to the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) and Town Hall Theater on Sunday, regaling a packed Main Stage crowd with anecdotes about her film career, her relationship with the late Dolly Parton, her crusades against the Vietnam War and global

warming, and her joy in getting older.

Under MNFF Artistic Director (and renowned filmmaker) Jay Craven’s gentle and incisive probing, Fonda proved ebullient, congenial, candid and voluble.

No topic was off limits.

She allowed herself, on occasion, to veer onto tangents, only to apologetically circle back to the topic at hand.

And when she took a narrative detour, she playfully — and proudly — reminded the audience of her 88 years of age. While slight in frame, Fonda still possesses the intellect and

vocal timber that helped propel her to a six-decade career in film, along with successful chapters as a fitness guru and activist.

“It’s fun being old,” she said, beaming at an audience with many folks who also had high mileage on their biological odometers.

“It’s like you’ve got nothing the f*** to lose.”

During her hour-long, on-stage interview, Fonda also discussed her relationship with her late father (the legendary actor Henry Fonda), taking direction from filmmakers, using her

(See Jane Fonda, Page 10A)

Bus driver shortage hits county schools

By JOHN FLOWERS
ADDISON COUNTY — With Addison County’s lone student transportation provider down five drivers — with no substitutes to call upon — our area’s three unified school districts are struggling to get children to local schools with fewer buses on the road.

“As we begin the school year, we want to make families aware of a transportation challenge,” reads a new post on the Mount Abraham Unified School District website, mausd.org. “Our transportation contractor, Bet-Cha Transit, is currently experiencing a driver shortage. As a result, Starksboro and Bristol will each operate with one less bus route than originally planned.”

MAUSD — which provides preK-12 public education for children in Bristol, New Haven, Monkton and Starksboro — urges parents to review the available bus routes for each town to ensure they

(See Bus drivers, Page 9A)

Accessibility sometimes starts with a bike ride

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
MIDDLEBURY — Last Thursday, work looked different than it normally does.

Rather than making phone calls, or typing away at my computer in the office, I spent about an hour-and-a-half smack in the middle of the day biking around the Marble Works parking lot. I felt like a kid at recess — and an adult breaking the rules.

I wasn’t blowing anything off, or reliving the days of peddling

(See Ride, Page 13A)



REPORTER SOPHIA KESHMIRI, in front, rides an arm-powered adaptive bicycle in Middlebury last Thursday during a demo with Kelly Brush Foundation reps. She is followed by Kelly Brush and the foundation’s Amy Rixon, who are helping educate the world about how people with spinal cord injuries can stay active.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Baker back for new run in Addison-3

By JOHN FLOWERS
FERRISBURGH — Joe Baker is looking to dust off his old Vermont House badge and update it with a correction.

The U.S. Navy veteran and retired longtime General Electric employee — who represented the West Rutland area in Montpelier for 12 years (1999-2011) — is now seeking one of the two seats representing the Addison-3

district, which includes the communities of Addison, Pantton, Vergennes, Waltham, part of New Haven, and Ferrisburgh, where Baker resides.

Baker is involved in a four-person race for the two Addison-3 spots that includes incumbent Rep. Rob North, R-Ferrisburgh, and two Democrats, Ferrisburgh’s Ariel Bolles and John Stroup of

(See Baker, Page 12A)

MAUSD picks merger panel rep

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board has chosen who will represent it on a committee set to begin exploring possible school district mergers in the region next month.

The school board voted unanimously at its Aug. 25 meeting to appoint Herb Olson as its first representative to the merger committee, one of several in the state to be created through the landmark education reform

(See MAUSD, Page 12A)



By the way

The town of Middlebury is updating its town plan, which for the first time will include an “enhanced energy plan.” This advanced energy plan will guide local energy development through policies and standards that promote investments in weatherization, renewable generation and electrification.

(See By the way, Page 9A)

Index

Obituaries.....6A-7A
Classifieds.....9B-10B
Service Directory.....7B-8B
Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....5B
Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-4B



7 18122 07300 9

Ribbon cutting opens library’s next chapter

Hundreds christen new building

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Ilsley Library Board of Trustees President Meg Baker had her choice of stunning attributes to reference while evoking the grandiosity of Middlebury’s newly renovated and expanded library building at 75 Main St., which was officially unveiled to an estimated 450 onlookers on Saturday morning, Aug. 29.

She could have saluted the new two-story addition, outdoor terrace, new spaces for youths of all ages, outdoor programming area, abundance of meeting rooms, ample natural light, and the architectural harmony between new construction and the original 1924 building.

But Baker deftly highlighted an inconspicuous door behind the library that a century of the town’s

children have dutifully traversed for nursery school, where they’ve long learned about books and the joy of reading.

“That little door reminds us that libraries have always been full of doors — some real and some found, in the pages of books. They are places where we step through and discover new ideas, new stories and new possibilities, new dreams, and one another,” said Baker, flanked by volumes of town officials, fellow library trustees and other Ilsley boosters on a picture-perfect day in downtown Middlebury.

There were no shortage of accolades on Saturday for the new-look Ilsley, the product of a \$17 million makeover completed by ReArch Construction and dozens of local subcontractors.

(See Ilsley Library, Page 15A)



ILSLEY LIBRARY BOARD of Trustees President Meg Baker and Middlebury selectboard Chair Andy Hooper on Saturday cut the ribbon formally opening the Middlebury library after 18 months of closure while it underwent \$17 million in expansion and repairs. Around 450 people came out to celebrate the opening.
Independent photo/Steve James



Noble beast

A BOBCAT PERCHES on the wall outside Sally Taylor’s home in South Lincoln this past Sunday evening, curious about its surroundings. Taylor said it’s the first time a wild cat has wandered into her yard, and it simply seemed curious.

Photo by Sally Taylor

Motorcycle accident proves fatal

Monkton man struck and killed on Route 7 in N. Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — A Monkton man was killed this past Wednesday evening when the motorcycle he was driving on Route 7 in North Ferrisburgh was rear-ended by a car driven by a Vergennes woman who police said was impaired.

Kyle Conner, 31, was driving a Triumph Tiger 850 Sport motorcycle southbound on Route 7 at around 8:30 p.m. on Aug. 26 when he stopped just south of Stage Road before making a left turn into The Village Tavern bar parking lot. While he was waiting to make the turn, a 2012 Nissan Altima came up behind and crashed into Conner, according to Vermont State Police.

Conner was seriously injured,

and the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad took him to the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington. Despite life-saving efforts, Conner died at the hospital.

Troopers spoke with the driver of the Nissan, identified as Faith Hobson, 30, and said she showed signs that she was impaired. So they screened her for driving under the influence of alcohol, arrested her for suspicion of driving under the influence and took her to the Vergennes Police Department for processing. Police cited Hobson for DUI with death resulting, grossly negligent driving, and reckless endangerment.

In Addison County Superior Court, criminal division, on Aug.

27, she pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of driving under the influence and one count of grossly negligent driving resulting in the death of another.

Judge Alison Arms released Hobson with conditions, including that she not drive, not drink alcohol and submit to alcohol testing upon request.

State police report that at the time of the crash the weather was clear and the pavement was dry. Both the car and the bike sustained extensive damage. Hobson was wearing a seatbelt and did not report any injuries.

Family and friends of Conner were invited to celebrate his life at the Village Tavern on Thursday.

Sanchez elected chair of Southwest CESA board

RNESU Superintendant to lead new group of supervisory unions

BRANDON — At the first meeting of the newly formed Southwest CESA Board, Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Superintendent Rene Sanchez was elected chair, Cheryl Gonzalez was appointed vice-chair and Tim Payne was appointed treasurer.

The meeting, which took place on Aug. 6 at Mill River Union High School, was designed to organize the new entity around the legislative guidelines passed last spring.

The Southwest Cooperative Educational Service Area, or CESA, is comprised of eight regional supervisory unions, supervisory school districts and technical centers throughout Rutland and Bennington counties. Those schools districts include Otter Valley Unified Union School District in Brandon and Slate Valley UUSD in Fair Haven, both of which served students in

southern Addison County.

The group established regular monthly meetings on the third Friday at 8 a.m. with in-person and virtual options, starting Sept. 18. Key discussions centered around developing bylaws and conducting regional asset mapping to identify shared resources and services across the eight member districts, according to Sanchez’s notes to the RNESU board.

Two working groups were established to drive foundational CESA operations, Sanchez reported. The Bylaws Working Group “will draft initial bylaws for review at the September meeting, using templates from the VSA/external partners, as well as upcoming Vermont Learning Collaborative trainings.” The Regional Asset Mapping Working Group will design a tool to evaluate

regional programs, staffing, facilities, IT, special education and back-office operations to identify shared efficiencies.

To ensure transparency, the board discussed using existing website infrastructure to host CESA agendas, minutes, and public comment forms. Board members will continue to provide updates on CESA activities to their appointing supervisory union/district boards, as required.

Until the Southwest CESA supports its own website, Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union will host the website and the required open meetings information. To send feedback or ask questions of the Southwest CESA, use this form: forms.gle/hPrLhaNzLXoZh18p6. The web address for the site is: www.brsu.org/o/cesa.

APPLE PICKING TIME!

PYO FRUIT FARM MARKET

CHAMPLAIN ORCHARDS

DIRECT SHIP CIDER GARDEN

ChamplainOrchards.com | 3597 RT 74 W. Shoreham, VT | (802)897-2777

Trusted news in Addison County since 1946.

Subscribe

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

DOUGLAS ORCHARDS

EST. 1898

1050 RT 74 W. SHOREHAM, VT 05770

PICK YOUR OWN & FARM MARKET

APPLES - RASPBERRIES - CIDER - DONUTS - PIES - LOCAL PROVISIONS

SUNRISE ORCHARDS

CIDER • DONUTS • APPLE PIES • ECO-CERTIFIED APPLES

PICK-YOUR-OWN & FARMSTAND

OPEN DAILY from 9 – 5 through the end of October.

1333 North Bingham St., Cornwall, VT

SUNRISEORCHARDS.COM

STINE ORCHARD

where good times and good apples grow!

Fresh cider, topnotch cider donuts, baked goods and seasonal produce

Live Music Thursdays 4-7 PM

Delicious seasonal fare & cocktails by Bevo Catering

Come to our store for fresh apples and pears ... or pick your own!

1823 Monkton Rd., Monkton VT 05469

Open 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., 7 Days a week

stineorchard.com • (802) 453-2676

MONKTON RIDGE ORCHARD

PICK YOUR OWN -or- PRE-PICKED!

Fresh pressed cider

Homemade cider donuts

House-baked goods • Jams • Honey

Cabot Cheddar “off the wheel!”

Beautiful hand painted barn quilts

Open Tues-Sun 9:00-5:30

79 Rotax Rd., North Ferrisburgh, VT | (802) 318-3785

MonktonRidgeOrchard.com

HAPPY VALLEY Orchard & Farmstand

We have Macintosh, Honeycrisp

And more of your favorites!

Fresh cider donuts made daily!

Cider, jams, jellies, pies, maple syrup

Honey, seasonal fruits and veggies

Locally grown pumpkins and gourds

217 Quarry Road, Middlebury • HappyValleyOrchard.com

Open Seven Days a Week 9 AM-5:30 PM

The Vermont Hillside Orchard You Didn't Know You Were Looking For

Amazing views of the Southern Champlain Valley and Adirondacks!

- PYO & pre-picked apples
- Cider donuts made daily
- Fresh-pressed cider
- Hard cider
- Award-winning maple syrup
- Apple pies
- Vermont artisan cheese
- Local Honey

1672 East Rd., Benson, VT 05743

Just off Rt. 22A, north of Devil's Bowl Speedway

Cobble Knoll Orchard

Open daily 9 am - 5 pm through Oct. 25

cobbleknollorchard.com

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATION

Wednesday, September 9th 5:30-7:30PM

JOIN US! ALL ARE WELCOME

Join us for pizza, salad, and desserts. We'll talk about the past year and the progress we've made towards meeting our Ends.

Your Co-op will be CLOSED Monday, September 7th for Labor Day

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

Sep 2 - Sep 8

THE NEW ENGLAND POULTRY COMPANY

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276 middlebury.coop

Vergennes needs to hire new clerk

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
VERGENNES — A critical municipal position is open in the Little City just two months ahead of the Nov. 3 election.
After about two-and-a-half years in the post, Vergennes Clerk/Treasurer Betsy Sullivan announced that she will be leaving the position to focus on Pioneer Mechanical, her and her husband Ken’s business.
City Manager Ron Redmond said the city hopes to have the role filled before she departs next month, and that the change will not impact elections.
In an Aug. 31 letter informing the city of her resignation, Sullivan

set Oct. 2 as her last day on the job.
“This decision was not made lightly and comes after careful consideration of my career goals and personal aspirations,” the letter states.
“During my time at the City of Vergennes, I have gained valuable skills and experience, which I am truly grateful for. I want to thank the city council for the opportunity to serve this community which I grew up. I want to give my sincere appreciation to City Manager Ron Redmond for his unwavering support, trust, and guidance during my employment. During my remaining time there, I am fully committed to a smooth transition.”

A posting on the Vermont League of Cities and Towns website lists the opening.
In addition to running elections, among the listed responsibilities are, “serve as a member of the city’s leadership team,” “manage official city records, land records, vital records, licenses, permits, minutes, tax records, and election records” and “receive, record, and reconcile payments for property taxes, sewer bills, invoices, licenses, permits, parking tickets, program fees, and other city revenues,” to name a few.
The salary is listed as \$90,000 to \$105,000. The new hire will also receive benefits.

Rev War comes to life at Mt. Independence

State historic site’s living history weekend honors U.S.A.’s 250th

ORWELL — To honor the 250th anniversary of Mount Independence, the Division for Historic Preservation will host its annual “Soldiers Atop the Mount” living history weekend on Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6. The two-day event honors the soldiers who built and garrisoned the site in 1776 and 1777, helping lay the foundation of the new United States of America.
The weekend features a variety of interactive events and family-friendly programming:
• **Baldwin Trail Walkabout:** Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Reenactors and site interpreters will staff 10 stations along the trail and encampment to bring history to life. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to explore every station.
• **Daily Activities:** Ongoing demonstrations will showcase military tactics, period skills, historic camp life and activities tailored for children.
• **Amenities:** Food and

refreshments, including a simple lunch, snacks and beverages, will be available for purchase both days.
Sunday’s events will highlight historic speeches, an auto tour, and a book signing.
• **Morning Activities:** Experience a reenactment of Rev. David Tennent’s rousing 1776 wartime oration and the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence. Visitors are also welcome to tour the active military camps.
• **1 p.m. Military Road Auto Tour:** Join Crown Point Road Association historian Jim Rowe for a self-driven auto tour. Starting at Mt. Independence with a reading of Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates’s 1776 construction order, the tour follows the historic military road, concluding at the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site.
• **2 p.m. Author Presentation:** Author and reenactor Skyler Bailey will discuss and sign his new book, “Nothing but Honor: Eyewitness Accounts of the Battle

of Hubbardton.”
All activities are included with admission: \$9 for adults, \$1 ages 6–16, under 6 free. The site is open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Most activities are outside. Visitors should dress for the weather, wear walking shoes and be prepared to walk, including around the Baldwin Trail area, which is handicapped accessible with compacted surfaces and gentle grades and the mown ground of the reenactor encampment.

260 Court St, STE 3
Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060

211 Main Street
Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312

Contact Your U.S. Senators

Sen. Bernie Sanders
1-800-339-9834
SRC-2 United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.sanders.senate.gov

Sen. Peter Welch
1-800-642-3193
124 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
<https://www.welch.senate.gov/>
email-peter/

Elderly Services, Inc.

Fall 2026 Community Education Series

September 9:
Managing diabetes in older age

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

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

September 23:
Advanced Care Planning

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

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

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

September 29:
Medicare Open Enrollment

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

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

October 14:
Driving and aging — challenges and strategies

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

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

October 28:
Building Brain-Healthy Habits

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

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

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE
FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

Elderly Services
Supporting Elders and Families since 1981
112 Exchange St., Middlebury, Vermont
802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org

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

Monkton to weigh voting changes

Petition calls for possible use of Australian ballot in some cases

By MARIN HOWELL
MONKTON — Monkton residents will gather next month to decide whether to make changes to Town Meeting Day voting in their community.
The Oct. 15 special meeting — slated for 7 p.m. that evening in the Monkton Central School gym — is being driven by a petition-driven question: “Shall the town of Monkton adopt the Australian ballot system of voting on any public question and budget?”
Supporters of the citizens petition explained their rationale at a July 23 Monkton selectboard meeting, stating they’d like to see important questions decided on by Australian ballot rather than at the town’s annual gathering. They pointed to some of the limitations that might prevent voters from attending town meeting, where residents currently decide on matters like municipal spending for the upcoming fiscal year and road repairs.
The July 23 meeting also included a presentation from Monkton Selectboard Chair Sam Peisch on citizen-backed petitions and what Town Meeting Day voting looks like in other Vermont municipalities. Peisch explained that per state statute, the question of whether to vote on more articles by Australian ballot would need to be decided at an annual or special town meeting.
That presentation can be found on the town’s website at <https://tinyurl.com/peischpresentation>.
The Monkton selectboard discussed logistics of the special meeting at its Aug. 27 meeting, where the panel unanimously validated the citizen petition.

**JOIN US IN DOWNTOWN
MIDDLEBURY FOR LABOR
DAY WEEKEND!**

*Evening Shopping
Friday, Sept. 4*

*Sidewalk Sales
all weekend long!*

**Experience
MIDDLEBURY
VERMONT**

Proudly sponsored by **National Bank
of Middlebury**

*Scan for
details and
participating
businesses*

**MIDDLEBURY
HOUSE OF JAZZ
FESTIVAL**

**OCTOBER 9-11 AT
TOWN HALL THEATER**

WWW.TOWNHALLTHEATER.ORG

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorials

MNFF: A success to celebrate

MNFF12 was a smashing success. Downtown Middlebury was full of pedestrians from Wednesday through Sunday, and many of the more than 120 films shown at five venues were sold-out affairs.

Over 1,300 individuals attended with the majority of ticketholders staying three-to-four days, said incoming MNFF managing producer Andy Mitchell. “We broke all previous attendance records for pass sales, individual ticket sales and cumulative attendance,” Mitchell said, adding that the majority of attendees came from outside Addison County.

The geographic breakdown for unique customers, he said, was 22% for Addison County, 41% for the rest of Vermont, 35% other U.S. states, and 2% international, including guests from Norway, Colombia, South Africa, Australia, Türkiye, Ireland, the UK, Canada and Europe.

While Mitchell didn’t yet know the festival’s economic impact, according to Americans for the Arts, art event attendees spent a total of \$55.4 million beyond the cost of admission in Vermont in 2025.

Beyond the economic boost MNFF12 gives Middlebury, the event has become the social event of the year.

The film “Hadestown: The Musical,” by Anais Mitchell (who was raised in Addison County) sold out its Wednesday opening night showing at Dana Auditorium, plus two other venues where it was shown remotely. The after party at Middlebury College’s Axinn Center was packed, as were most of the evening events through Saturday, and most events went well past 11 p.m.

Jane Fonda added her star-power to the festival with appearances at an exclusive meet-and-greet at the Swift House, on-stage interviews with MNFF co-founder Jay Craven and Ripton author and activist Bill McKibben after Fonda’s powerful documentary, “Gaslit.” The 88-year-old star not only sparkled when talking about her film career, but electrified the audience with her environmental and political activism.

Throughout the festival the films and documentaries touched hearts and sparked lively discussion, entertained with shorts and full-length features, and provided insight through filmmaker Q&As. In short, audiences were thrilled and filmmakers delighted.

In a conversation with master film composer Mason Daring, who starred in the film “Marblehead” along with his singing partner Jeanie Stahl, he called the festival a community treasure. “I was unprepared for the experience at the MNFFestival — we all thought we would enjoy the experience, but we came away absolutely gobsmacked by the films, the community at large, and above all else, the audiences! What a special, special time — I will never forget it! Thank you to Jay, Lloyd, and the festival audience, who were above all, charming, smart, gracious, and a joy to be around!”

It’s a pleasure to honor those who worked tirelessly to host another successful festival and easy to praise the filmmakers for their often heroic work, but the MNFF also has a secret sauce: the community. What Mr. Daring said is repeated time and again by the filmmakers who come here, and by the audiences who visit.

It’s a testament to the larger Middlebury community. It’s seen not just with the MNFF, but with the Opera Company of Middlebury, the hundreds of annual events at the Town Hall Theater, the newly renovated Ilsley Library, events at the college, the Kelly Brush Ride, the TAM Trek, the Middlebury Maple Run and hundreds of other events sponsored by the Better Middlebury Partnership, the Addison County Chamber, Rotary, Lions, MALT, the Middlebury Community Music Center, Sheldon Museum, ACORN, bike clubs, the town’s recreation department, 4-H clubs and so much more.

But here’s the take-away: none of it happens without active volunteers, dedicated employees, and committed board members. It doesn’t just take a village, it takes a committed village whose members know whatever effort they give, they’re rewarded many times over.

Kudos, then, to those putting in the effort, and to the next generation who will stand on their shoulders and raise the bar.

Angelo Lynn

USPS sure to bungle ballots

The Roberts U.S. Supreme Court will live in infamy for numerous reasons, but none more damning that its decision the president has “absolute immunity” from criminal prosecution for crimes committed as part of the official acts as president. Not only has that encouraged Trump to engage in unprecedented corruption and self-dealing, destroy the East Wing of the White House without congressional approval and build a vainglorious ballroom at taxpayer expense, but he is now on a mission to, as political commentator Elizabeth Cox Richardson recently wrote, “rig elections he cannot lose.”

She reported that Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs “exposed what appears to be a plot to steal the 2026 midterm elections,” referring to an “eye-popping” whistleblower’s report warning there are “potentially catastrophic problems in the development of the United States Postal Service’s...new system for handling federal election ballot mail” saying it has been “secretive, rushed, chaotic, and fundamentally flawed.”

The whistleblower says “the administration has hidden the high likelihood that the new ballot mail verification processes will result in major disruptions in mail ballots ever getting delivered to voters. As presently designed, if even one bar code on one single ballot in a bulk-mailing of 10,000 ballots fails to properly scan during the verification process, the entire batch is rejected and sent back to the state—effectively stopping the ballots from being mailed to voters.”

“Even under ordinary circumstances this would be problematic because of predictable errors in any barcode scanning process,” the report continues, adding “potentially millions of American voters may not receive their mail-in ballot this election cycle in a timely manner, or at all.”

Blumenthal told reporters: “The main takeaway for me is that the Postal Service has designed a system to disenfranchise millions of Americans. One third of all Americans cast their ballots by mail, and the USPS puts all of their votes at risk.”

Representative Joe Morelle (D-NY), the top-ranking Democrat on the House Committee on House Administration, which oversees the administration of federal elections, put a finer point on Trump’s intention: “These whistleblower allegations are extraordinary. If Trump Administration officials knowingly built a system designed to prevent Americans from receiving their ballots, that is not election security. It is a betrayal of our Constitution and the American people.”

Voters shouldn’t wait until they don’t get their mail-in ballots to cry foul. Howls of protest should join Blumenthal to stop USPS shenanigans now.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

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

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include digital access. 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$120.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.

Online Only – 1 Week \$3.00, 1 Month \$8.00, 1 Year \$75.00

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertiser will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.

The Addison Independent USPS 005-380



Backcourt
ADELINE RITTER, AN MUHS junior, bumps to volleyball safely vs. Rice in the Middlebury gym this past Friday afternoon while senior Ida Blackwell in the back readies her next move. MUHS won the match in three straight games.

Independent photo/Steve James

In age of isolation, build a library

On Aug. 29, Middlebury celebrated the opening of the newly expanded Ilsley Public Library. Its transformation represents more than a philanthropic home run or a beautiful new chapter for a beloved institution. It reflects something deeper about Addison County: our willingness to invest in shared places that foster learning, belonging and multigenerational connection at a time when Americans are becoming increasingly isolated from one another.

Libraries, theaters, parks, galleries and community centers are sometimes described as amenities — valuable additions to the places where we live, but not essential infrastructure. Roads move people. Water systems sustain them. Schools educate them. What, then, do our gathering places do?

They help hold us together.

Sociologists increasingly use the term “social infrastructure” to describe the physical places where relationships form: libraries, parks, cafés, cultural spaces, houses of worship and community centers. The related term “civic infrastructure” encompasses the places, programs and people that allow residents to interact, develop trust, find common ground and solve problems together.

This language matters because it changes the question. Instead of asking whether a library, performing arts center or nonprofit is a “nice thing to have,” we begin asking what happens when people no longer have places to connect and commingle.

Some cities are building formal policy around that

question. In 2021, Vancouver adopted “Spaces to Thrive,” a 10-year strategy for city-owned and city-supported social infrastructure. It treats nonprofit facilities and community hubs much as cities treat other essential systems: something to map, strengthen, finance and intentionally incorporate into future development.

Washington, D.C., has placed a similar idea at the center of its public library system. Its strategic plan is called “IRL” — internet shorthand for “in real life” — and its three pillars are joy, belonging and resilience. Cultural experiences, family programs, exhibitions and community events are not peripheral to a modern library’s mission. They build common bonds and reduce isolation. That abundance of connective experiences is also at the heart of Ilsley’s new design and vision.

Addison County has not formally adopted a social-infrastructure strategy. Yet we may be doing organically what larger cities are only beginning to codify.

An author hosted by the Vermont Book Shop can speak before a larger audience at Town Hall Theater. College students can mentor local children or contribute to community projects. A nonprofit can use the library to reach people who may never walk through its own doors. The Better Middlebury Partnership can turn streets, parks and storefronts into places of celebration and connection. The *Addison Independent* can introduce residents to an artist, public

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

Ways of Seeing

By Lisa Mitchell



We can reverse-engineer justice

First, what is reverse engineering?

- We don’t critique existing models, nor seek related exemplars; we imagine a new one.
- We collaborate; we don’t compete.
- The “common good” is a mean, not an absolute, meaning the best possible for the most — not perfect for all. The perfect is the enemy of the good.

What is a criminal justice system?

The goal of an ideal criminal justice system is to create a society and economy in which citizens have no motivation to offend ... a society in which the needs of families and children are largely met: the intergenerational chain of trauma and abuse is diminished through trauma-informed counseling; public education focuses on classroom success as a joint venture rather than “specialized learning plans” (SLPs) for each student; diverse housing options, including co-housing, are affordable and accessible; food systems support both growers and consumers; the economy supports employees and employers in a synergistic relationship; and government evens out economic inequalities through taxation and regulation ... a society in which most, even if not all, citizens can thrive.

Criminal justice is more than incarceration. It includes law enforcement agencies, legislators, judges, juries and ordinary citizens. It’s all of us.

Let’s envision an ideal criminal justice system using

healthcare as a metaphor. Primary care focuses on maintaining a healthy population as opposed to the profitable business of fixing sick people. Americans spend \$4.5 trillion on healthcare, but only 4% is spent on maintaining population health through primary care.

Meanwhile, we spend some \$417 billion annually incarcerating some 2 million offenders, the largest incarcerated population of any developed democratic country in the world.

Again “the common good” is not about everyone being their best, but about the best possible for the most. Some will inevitably fall through the cracks.

As such, an ideal criminal justice system, as in healthcare, starts with triage.

Is the genesis of the offense the result of residual poverty, mental illness or addiction?

- If so, resolve the cause and then treat the offender.
- If poverty’s the cause, ensure that their basic human needs are met.
- If addiction’s the cause, provide treatment and recovery options.
- If mental illness is the cause, treat the illness.

Science is learning that “mental illness” is, to a large degree, a fabrication of the pharmaceutical industry to market drugs, and that what we call “mental illness” is, in fact, a metabolic disorder that can present in a

(See *Schubart*, Page 5A)

Letters
to the Editor

Senate hopeful failed big test

I read with interest last week’s story on Republican Senate candidate Andrew Klein’s failure to declare his home in New Haven as his primary residence, and thus has been taxed at a lower rate since he purchased it in 2020.

I don’t know Andrew Klein, but I heard him interviewed a few weeks ago on the radio, during which he repeatedly called himself “a numbers guy.”

Here are some numbers I learned from the Town of New Haven in readily available information on its town website. Since the Kleins moved to New Haven and purchased their \$1.6 million property in 2020, they have always had it on record as a non-homestead property (think second-home), according to the property tax bills in the town’s online records. Also available online, during those six years, the property tax rate for non-homestead property in New Haven has been lower than what regular homestead property taxpayers paid.

In last week’s paper, Andrew Klein put the blame on an out-of-state tax preparer. Perhaps, but the tax bills were sent to the Klein home and over six years no one noticed the property was categorized as non-homestead and no one knew that a homestead declaration was legally required of all Vermonters with a primary residence, despite the Vermont Tax Department’s clear efforts to make sure all Vermonters know this.

I would not call myself “a numbers guy,” but I would call myself someone very familiar with Vermont’s Education Fund. I know that any dollar that does not get to the Education Fund that should be there must be paid for by everyone else. Whatever the Kleins failed to pay into the Education Fund, the rest of us covered.

I am glad that the candidate has pledged to rectify the situation, which I assume means pay in the correct tax amount to the Education Fund that should have been paid since 2020, and I take him at his word that this was an error that has been permanently corrected.

Perhaps he could let voters know the details of that.

However, this level of error by a candidate for one of our two Senate seats can’t help but give me pause.

**Peter Conlon
Cornwall**

Middlebury was in full bloom

I would like to take the time to congratulate and recognize all who are involved in the planning, planting, maintenance and design for all the lovely flowers that adorn Middlebury downtown. They add so much charm and are very much appreciated.

**Sheila Huestis
Bridport**

Hardy’s attack was misleading

In last week’s Community Forum, Senator Hardy launched a highly partisan and misleading attack on Governor Scott and her colleagues in the Legislature.

Governor Scott highlighted a tax reform bill in his FY26 Budget on January 28, 2025, which provided \$190 million in tax refunds for over 240,000 Vermonters.

Here are highlights from the Governor’s Budget Address:

“We should offer relief with a \$13.5 million tax reduction package, including:

1. Expanding the Social Security income tax exemption for those on fixed incomes.
2. Increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working adults without dependents.
3. Extending the Child Tax Credit for families with children up to age six.
4. Continuing to eliminate the income tax on military pensions to attract and support our veterans.”

Senator Hardy, despite sponsoring S.51, the bill that became Act 71, claims in her

(See *Treadway letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

State should make better use of the housing it has

According to the National Association of Home Builders, “Vermont has the highest share of households unable to afford the median-priced home, with approximately 92% of its households falling short of the income requirement,” Builder magazine reported April 29, 2024.

Knowing this fact plus the high cost and long timeline of new construction, how can Vermont promptly create more housing that most Vermonters can afford? Building new homes or apartments is not only too expensive; it takes too long due to the time needed to approve, design and finance new housing.

Fortunately, (a) 70% of Vermont households contain only one or two people; (b) over half our 50,000 unoccupied homes have three or more bedrooms; (c) a large portion of these larger homes are owned and occupied by persons 70 or older, many of whom struggle to pay the costs of maintenance and property taxes or who need renovations to increase accessibility. Consequently, “many Vermonters are living in houses with considerable extra space,” according to VTDigger on April 9, 2023.

This imbalance happened gradually as Vermont (and U.S.) household sizes shrank. In 1970, an average of 3.2 people lived in each Vermont household; now 2.18 do, the lowest in the United States. According to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, this imbalance is “the single largest contributor to Vermont’s near-term housing need,” VTDigger reported Aug. 25, 2026.

Ironically—and fortunately—this imbalance creates the opportunity to provide housing for Vermonters who seek it, help older, cash-strapped Vermonters and create housing more quickly. Under-occupied homes can be modified into two units, each with one or two bedrooms, and one that is fully accessible. Perhaps one unit on each floor. The owners can live in one unit and rent the other. Older owners would have an accessible home plus a source of needed income; home-seekers would have housing. Banks could provide loans that owners can repay with the rent they receive, and the state could fund some or all of the cost of modification through the existing Vermont Housing Improvement Program, or by selling bonds and exempting this rent from income and education taxes, VTDigger reported Aug. 27, 2026.

Such initiatives would require less permitting, take less time and cost far less than building from scratch. That’s the Vermont way to get it done.

**John S. Freidin
Middlebury**

Schubart

(Continued from Page 4A)

panoply of symptoms: anxiety, depression, ADHD, alcoholism, eating disorders, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Effective recovery may be as simple as a significant change in diet, an exercise regime and sleep, all of which enhance mitochondrial wellbeing and diminish symptoms.

Remember, a goal is just that. No matter how hard we try, there will be residual imperfection. The perfect does not exist.

In the rare case where simple evil intent is the driver, the offender is confined to protect the public in a humane and secure housing unit. Treatment includes community restorative-justice participation, exercise programs, prison journalism, vocational and wilderness training, and spiritual programs like meditation and yoga.

And finally, our criminal justice system excludes the profit motive, avoids a focus on “punishment” or “atonement,” and is guided by the goal of safely returning an offender to his or her family and community as soon as possible.

The “common good” makes all of us better as it belies perfection.

This originally appeared on his Substack page, substack.com/@billschubart

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

issue or neighbor they might not otherwise know.

The significance lies not only in what each organization contributes, but in the connective tissue among them. In my 22 years in Addison County, I have never experienced our region as more alive with shared ideas, mutual support and creative collaboration.

That ecosystem is supported by unusually ambitious local investment and philanthropy. The Ilsley 100 campaign raised \$6 million in charitable gifts and pledges. Town Hall Theater completed a multimillion-dollar campaign to expand into a regional performing arts center. Meanwhile, Bristol’s Lawrence Memorial Library is undergoing its own renovation.

These are remarkable undertakings for a rural county, but the numbers tell only part of the story. They reveal a shared conviction that public and nonprofit spaces are essential — and that future generations deserve places to gather.

Perhaps we have been measuring the value of these institutions too narrowly. We measure libraries by circulation, theaters by attendance, newspapers by subscriptions and nonprofits by programs delivered. All of those figures matter. But what if we also measured civic density — the number and strength of the connections that make a community feel alive?

How many places can a teenager go after school without spending money? How many opportunities does an older adult have to encounter other people? How many doors can a newcomer walk through without an invitation? Where can a college student and a farmer, a progressive and a conservative, a wealthy donor and a family struggling financially sit together and experience something in common?

Those encounters do not erase disagreement or inequality. But they create conditions in which recognition, trust and cooperation remain possible. That is infrastructure for democracy, even if it never appears on a municipal balance sheet.

Across the country, people are worried about declining trust, fraying civic life and the disappearance of shared physical spaces. Addison County’s response has been quieter and less formal than Vancouver’s strategy or Washington’s “IRL” plan.

We collaborate. We contribute. We restore old buildings and imagine new uses for them. We create partnerships that cross institutional lines. And last weekend, when so many communities are closing or shrinking their public spaces, Middlebury opened the doors to an extraordinary new library.

This is not only an Ilsley story. It is an Addison County story — and a reminder that one of the most powerful responses to isolation is to keep building places we can all share.

Sen. Hardy listens and connects with constituents

It was a cold January day when I first formally met Senator Ruth Hardy. After hearing of my interest in politics and policymaking, she invited me to shadow her for a day at the Statehouse to get an inside look at committee meetings and daily proceedings.

I was struck by Ruth’s ability to find common ground, stand firm on her values and ask important questions, so when Ruth asked if I’d like to intern on her campaign the following summer, I enthusiastically agreed.

In June, Ruth launched her reelection campaign alongside Hannah Sessions, a political newcomer running for the second Addison District Senate seat.

(See Sabick letter, Page 8A)

Treadway letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

forum piece that she and the Democrats deserve the credit, while ignoring that the bill reflects the Governor’s budget proposal. This mischaracterization overlooks the bipartisan nature of the effort, which included support from both parties. The bill passed unanimously in the Vermont Senate, with strong support from fellow Addison District Senator Steve Heffernan, and only members of Ruth’s party in the House voting against it.

Furthermore, Ruth’s voting record is concerning. Since taking office, property taxes have risen nearly 50%, and Ruth has supported many of those increases, including a significant 13.8% hike in 2024. She also voted for a \$100 million payroll tax and a 20% increase in DMV fees, all while seeking to raise her legislative pay.

While it’s encouraging that she is now addressing tax relief, her late involvement leaves me questioning her motives.

We need officials focused on genuinely helping Vermonters rather than seeking credit. Addison County voters can make their voices heard this November.

**Andrea Treadway
Orwell**

AHW Neighborhood Block Party

Property Tours

Live Music from The Grift!

Silent Auction

Drinks & Food from Local Vendors

Kids Activities

A Local Celebration and Fundraiser for Addison Housing Works Brought To You By:

DEPPMAN LAW
A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

&

COE OTTER CREEK ENGINEERING

September 18, 2026
Vergennes American Legion
4PM-7PM

For tickets and info:
bit.ly/AHWBlockParty
Tickets only \$10!

Thank you to our sponsors!

Good Neighbor:
 NEAGLEY & CHASE
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Community Gardeners:
 VERMONT MUTUAL
INSURANCE GROUP

MAKE YOUR HOME LIVE YOUR PASSION!

The Cottages at Otter Creek

True independence for seniors, in a village setting.

- Two-Bedrooms
- Two-Bath
- Sun room & Garage
- In-unit W/D

- Walking Paths
- Housekeeping & Landscaping
- Access to campus amenities
- and more!

Call to learn about this rare availability and ask about our special Cottages rate.

350 Lodge Road, Middlebury
802-483-4657 | residenceottercreek.com

Also offering Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

HAPPY LABOR DAY

The Addy Indy office will be closed on Monday, September 7th.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Katherine M. “Kay” George, 95, of Monkton

MONKTON — Katherine M. “Kay” (McGuire) George passed away Aug. 28, 2026.

Born in Ossining, N.Y., Nov. 8, 1930, Kay was the daughter of the late Edward L. and Katherine (Brady) McGuire. She grew up in Ossining, where she attended Ossining High School and later worked as a switchboard operator for American Telephone and Telegraph. In 1951, she married Herbert “Herb” V. George, their marriage would span 54 years. Together they welcomed four children before moving their family to Monkton, Vt., in 1971. There, Kay and Herb made their home on Monkton Road and raised their family, remaining together until Herb’s passing in 2005.

Kay truly came into her own in her later years. She embraced an active social life and became involved in many organizations, including the Vermont Watercolor Society and the Vermont Pastel Society. She always looked forward to spending time with the “red hat ladies” of the Red Hat Society. She spent many afternoons at the Charlotte Senior Center, where she even hosted her own art openings featuring her pastel work.

Her faith remained an important part of her life throughout the years. She was a longtime parishioner



KATHERINE M. “KAY”
GEORGE

of St. Peter’s Catholic Church in Vergennes, where she attended weekly Mass and was part of a church community that meant a great deal to her.

When she wasn’t tending to her full social calendar, Kay could often be found outdoors among her beloved songbirds or working in the many gardens scattered around her property. She took particular joy in the flowers she grew, drying them and turning them into beautiful arrangements, another outlet for the creativity that became such a large part of her life.

Kay was predeceased by her husband, Herbert V. George;

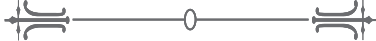
her brothers, John McGuire and Edward McGuire; and her sister, Elizabeth “Libby” Rich.

She is survived by her sons, Herbert George Jr. of Kellogg, Idaho, and Michael George (Jill) of Roxbury, Vt.; her daughters, Eileen George of Rochester, N.Y., and Karen Ramsden (Robert) of Charlotte, Vt.; her grandchildren, Herbert III (Tamie), Heather (Todd), Audrey (Jay), and Kerry (Bailey); and her great-grandchild, Sebastian. She is also survived by her brother, Thomas McGuire (Lynda), and many nieces and nephews.

Kay will be remembered for her creativity, steadfast independence, love of family, and the full and active life she continued to build for herself throughout her later years. Her gardens, artwork, friendships, and the many people whose lives she touched are a lasting reflection of a life well lived.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff, memory care unit, and hospice team at The Residence at Shelburne Bay for the kindness, compassion, and care they provided to Kay throughout her time there.

Family and friends are invited to a graveside service for Kay at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 11, at St. Peter’s Cemetery in Vergennes, Vt.◇



Denise Diane Marie Shepard, 90, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Denise Diane Marie Shepard, age 90, passed peacefully Saturday, Aug. 22, 2024, at the Mountain View Center in Rutland. Denise was born in Whiting in 1935. She was the daughter of Dominique and Clara (Lamoureux) Quesnel. She grew up on the family farm in Whiting.

She was very good at knitting and crocheting. She made lots of sweaters, mittens and other items. She would take my sisters and I for long walks and treat us to lunch and ice cream at the park. She was a very kind and gentle person and would help you out if needed. She loved to play bingo.

Surviving is her son, Emile Shepard; daughters Estelle Thompson and husband David of Brookfield, Sandra Fairbrother and partner Thomas of Crown Point, N.Y., and Collette Morris and husband Henry of Barnett, Mo.; sister Claire Audet and husband Robert; and brother Victor Quesnel of Whiting.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Roger Quesnel and Cloude Quesnel; and three sisters, Yvette Quesnel, Regeanne Lalumier and Rita Cousineau.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11 a.m., at the St. Genevieve cemetery in Shoreham.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Sanderson-



DENISE DIANE MARIE
SHEPARD

Ducharme funeral home in Middlebury.◇

Kyle Matthew
Conner, 31, of
Monkton

MONKTON — Kyle Matthew Conner, 31, of Monkton, Vt., passed away Aug. 26, 2026, leaving behind a life filled with adventure, friendship, laughter and an incredible number of people who loved him.

Family and friends are invited to gather at the Village Tavern in North Ferrisburgh on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 3 p.m. Please visit www.awrfh.com to read Kyle’s full obituary and share memories. ◇



KYLE MATTHEW CONNER

ENJOY THE BOUNTY
OF THE SEASON!

HARE AND THE DOG

MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT
WWW.HARE.DOG

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe Online
addisonindependent.com
OR
Fill out this form and mail it in with payment

Subscriber Name _____ Card # _____
Mailing Address _____ CCV _____ Exp. Date _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____

NAME, EMAIL & CREDIT CARD INFO REQUIRED.
We will never share your information, we promise.
Credit card info is encrypted and destroyed after the first payment.

PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION
PICK A PAYMENT SCHEDULE THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

☐ MONTHLY \$10/month
☐ SENIOR \$9/month
☐ YEARLY \$120/year
☐ SENIOR \$108/year

THANK YOU!

58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944 ext 104

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Frederick M. Lathrop, 100, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Frederick M. Lathrop, age 100, passed away peacefully July 31, 2026, after experiencing a rich and full life. Fred was born March 15, 1926, in Morristown, N.J., to Helen (Bush) and Charles M. Lathrop. He was the oldest of three sons. He attended Denville Grade School and Mountain Lakes High School.

Fred learned to hunt and fish at an early age and thoroughly enjoyed being outdoors. He continued these activities until two years ago. His enthusiasm for hunting provided some unique experiences and deep friendships. His hunting adventures took him to several states and into Canada.

As a boy, he learned gardening on the Bush family vegetable farm. He used this skill throughout his life, growing vegetables for his family.

During the spring of 1944, at the age of 17, Fred enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served as signalman on the troop carrier U.S.S. Montrail. After leaving the navy in 1946, he

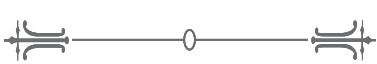


FREDERICK M. LATHROP

moved to New York and worked on a dairy farm.

Susan (Lind) and Fred were married Oct. 27, 1951, in Shushan, N.Y. They enjoyed a long marriage of almost 75 years, raising four children.

He enjoyed spending time at the Cambridge airport learning to fly small planes and earned his



Stephen “Steve” M. Fallon, 77, of Whiting

WHITING — Stephen “Steve” M. Fallon, 77, passed away peacefully at his home in Whiting Aug. 30, 2026.

Steve was born March 1, 1949, to Richard and Katherine Fallon in Forestdale, Vt. He spent his youth causing mischief with friends and was often found at the ball field. He attended Forestdale Elementary and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School in 1968. In 1968 he joined the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam until 1970, when he was honorably discharged as an E5 Sargent.

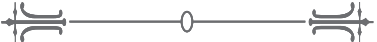
Steve will be remembered for his sense of humor, love for baseball and passion for hunting and fishing.

He is survived by the love of his life of 45 years, Rani Jo (Rice); his children, S. Patrick Fallon (Bari), Stepheni Newton (Josh), and Kimberly Cole (Robert); six grandchildren, Wyatt Fallon (Haylo Swan), Matthew and Grace Cole, Brady Fallon, and Aisling



STEPHEN “STEVE” M.
FALLON

and Finley Newton; and one great-grandchild, Scarlett Fallon; sisters Susan Lester and Shirly Scott (Paul); and many beloved nieces and nephews. Steve was predeceased by his parents, sister Arlene Tebbetts, brother-in-law



Reva Ann Cousino, 78, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Reva Ann Cousino died at her home in Bristol Aug. 25, 2026. She was born June 28, 1948, at Porter Hospital to Hector Arthur Cousino and Doris Young Cousino. She had one sibling, her brother, Arthur Hector Cousino, who predeceased her.

As a child, Reva attended the Jerusalem School in South Starksboro. Her mother then took a job teaching in South Burlington and Doris and two friends and fellow teachers and Reva commuted to South Burlington. Reva attended South Burlington High School and was in the first class to graduate in 1965.

When Doris’ friends retired, making the commute no longer practical, Doris, Hector and Arthur moved to South Burlington. Reva chose to not go with them and attended Castleton, earning a B.S. in Education in 1969.

When Reva’s father died in 2003, Reva became the sole caregiver for her mother and brother, often



REVA ANN COUSINO

making daily trips to South Burlington. Reva’s brother died in 2015, and Reva continued to be the primary caregiver for her mother, continuing to make the daily trips to South Burlington. Her mother, Doris, died in 2019.

Reva worked at the former Brandon Training School, practice taught at South Burlington and began teaching at Mount Abraham Union High School in 1969, where she taught for more than 35 years, making many treasured relationships

instrumental pilot’s license.

Fred enjoyed working with wood and building things. He built a unique four-bedroom log house in Shushan. When they moved to Vermont in 1971, he renovated an old farmhouse and barn on Dog Team Road in New Haven. A few years later he pioneered the building of an earth sheltered house utilizing solar heat water for radiant heating.

He worked a variety of jobs, including paving supervisor with Pike Industries, road commissioner for the town of New Haven, and served briefly on the New Haven selectboard.

Fred is survived by his wife, Susan; children, Elaine, Lorraine (Willey), Frederick and Nancy (Ackland); five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Raymond and Gerald.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, at the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven. ◇

Peter Lester, in-laws Harley & Elsie Rice, and life-long friends Charles (Charlie) Fredette, Jack Drake and Curt Tindall.

Steve spent his life working as a plumber, retiring from VHV. He also worked for the town of Whiting as the Road Commissioner, where he took pride in keeping the roads safe. He also volunteered as a little league coach for the Whiting Astros.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, Sept. 6, from 2-5 p.m., at the Brandon American Legion Post 55.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Steve’s memory to Whiting First Response.

The family would like to extend a special thank-you to Larry and Tammy Wilbur for their kindness and support.

Steve leaves behind a lifetime of laughter, stories, friendships, and memories that will be treasured by all who knew and loved him.◇

with students and fellow teachers and received a “Teacher of the Year” award. While teaching at Mount Abe, Reva lived on a portion of the family farm in South Starksboro, on which she remained until moving to the Residence at Otter Creek in 2020. She moved again to live with Becky Gracie and family in Bristol. There, she was the “life of the party,” visiting with the other residents, kids and pets.

Reva is survived by many special friends and coworkers including her bestie, Carol Drolette; Cindy O’Brien, Melanie Stultz-Backus, Lois Thompson, and Wally Richardson; her adopted nieces, Karen Mermagen and Donna Drolette; and her special friend, advocate and care giver, Suzy Roorda. She was also predeceased by her special and longtime friend, John Penzer, who died a month before she did, leaving a hole in her heart.

Reva asked that there be no funeral or formal special service for her but that you remember her in your own way.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Addison County Humane Society in her name. ◇

FUNERAL
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
CREMATION
PRE-PLANNING
SERVICES

BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES

BRISTOL 802-453-2301
VERGENNES 802-877-3321
brownmcclayfuneralhomes.com

OBITUARY Guidelines

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

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

Cremation
with a Service

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

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

Paulette Ann (Higbee) Leclair, 76, Monkton

MONKTON — Paulette, beloved wife, mom, sister, “Nana” and friend passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 23, 2026. Born on September 21, 1949, in Middlebury and who grew up in New Haven, her generous warm heart touched the lives of many no matter where she was.

She graduated the year of 1967 from Beeman Academy, graduating top 10 in her class which not many of us can say the same (the class size was 10). Paulette married Paul Leclair on August 31, 1968. Their love created three children who were primarily raised in Shelburne. In 1989 they purchased land and built their current home in Monkton. Over the years, they developed many deep life lasting loving friendships.

Paulette’s journey through life began as a homemaker and caregiver to their three children. She extended her caregiving to others by operating her own daycare. Additionally, over the years, Paulette watched all of her grandchildren that she enjoyed immensely. Taking them on fieldtrips to local farms, playgrounds and every place in between. Those memories are cherished and will be remembered by them ALWAYS. Paulette was an incredible parent and grandparent that never missed an opportunity to express how proud she was of each and every one of us. Paulette also claimed that the best job she ever had was being a mom and Nana!

A strong, independent and at times a stubborn woman, too, no one can argue that Paulette had a big heart who was undoubtedly a generous, caring and loving individual who thought of others before herself. Her bond with her sisters-in-law kept the families together by having countless gatherings that included her homemade spaghetti sauce and rigatoni that is now fondly named “Nana’s Rigatoni” and will be enjoyed for years to come. In her



PAULETTE ANN (HIGBEE) LECLAIR

leisure time prior to her declining vision, she enjoyed running the roads especially in her Mustang. She found joy in simple pleasures such as visiting family and friends, sightseeing, taking long drives, along with being a collector of Indian artifacts and bells. Paulette belonged to and participated her faith at the New Haven Congregational Church along with being a member of the Ladies Union. Her love of all music, whether on the radio or playing her vinyls included favorites such as Elvis Presley and Barry Manilow where she would sing and dance as well or at least try...as the phrase goes with two left feet.

Paulette held a special place in her heart for her four-legged feline kids that came into her life by choice or by accident. They brought her immense companionship, everlasting joy and love which was undoubtedly reciprocated.

She leaves behind her husband Paul of Monkton, daughter Melissa Boutin and partner Shawn Juairé of Grand Isle, son Steven Leclair and wife Shannon of Shelburne, daughter Rebecca Kilburn and husband Shawn of Vergennes, her brothers Richard Higbee and wife Suzanne of New Haven, John Higbee and partner Sue Crawford,



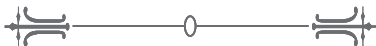
Mark Higbee and wife Donna, Michael Higbee and wife Stacie all of Florida, her grandchildren, and great-grandson, along with several brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews. Paulette was predeceased by her parents, Amos and Evelyn (Carrie) Higbee.

Paulette will continue to surround us with her love as we will continue to find comfort in our treasured memories and keep her in our hearts that will love her FOREVER.

Please join us in celebrating the life of Paulette, which begins at the New Haven Congregational Church (NHCC) in New Haven on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026, for visitation from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a service on Thursday at 11 a.m., and a burial at the Evergreen Cemetery on Town Hill Road. There will be a luncheon following at NHCC that all are welcome to attend.

The family would like to thank Dr. Grenoble and her staff at Hinesburg Family Health, Dr. Everett and her staff at UVM Medical Center along with her nurse, John, and all staff at Addison Home Health & Hospice.

For those who would like, donations may be made to Homeward Bound, Addison County Humane Society in Middlebury as one of Paulette’s final wishes. ♡



Larry Place of Bristol

BRISTOL — You might not think that a pristine, freshly swept floor is a gift. It might not signal to you a son’s devotion, a husband’s love, or a father’s care. But to us, the loved ones of Larry Place, the clean, cool cement floor of the garage, the everything-in-its-place organization of the shelves in the basement, and the neatly stacked firewood outside all represent the care he took in making our home. Larry departed this realm Aug. 10, and these things are the tiniest fraction of what we miss about him.

Larry was born in 1939 in his aunt and uncle Mildred and Guy Tracy’s farmhouse in Monkton, and he first learned to use a push broom in his father Leon Place’s dairy barn while growing up on the family farm in Hinesburg. If the mangers weren’t swept immaculately clean, well, Dad simply made him do it over again. Picture Larry as a boy, riding his bike between the rows of stanchions while listening to the Red Sox game on the radio. Picture him in a smart bow tie and jacket graduating from Hinesburg High in 1957. Picture his mother Joyce writing him every day while he was in the Army for the next three years, stationed in Germany driving heavy equipment to rebuild roads and bridges. Did he tell her about the time they went to Barcelona on leave? Is that when he got that tattoo?

If you were lucky enough to work with Larry at G.S. Blodgett in Burlington, you would know all about those spotlessly swept floors and meticulously organized workstations. Over 41 years with the company, Larry rose through the ranks from sweeping to spot welding to shipping, and retired



LARRY PLACE

as a production supervisor. Never one to rest on his laurels, his retirement jobs included helping out (yes, even cleaning the floors) at Almost Home Market in Bristol, building timber frames with his son and grandson, countless home improvement projects, and most recently, nine years at WowToyz in Vergennes. He loved his coworkers and bestowed upon them the same care and attention that he learned on the farm and carried throughout his life.

He did all of this while also maintaining the tidiest and most bountiful backyard vegetable gardens; harvesting, cutting, and splitting wood to heat the house every winter; fishing year-round; and worshipping at the altar of Fenway Park.

Larry is survived by his wife of 43 years, Beth Newman-Place; his children, Diane (Jeff) Sisters, Tracy (Rose), Stephen (Michelle), Karen (Roger) Bell, Andrew, and Amy (Nick Bosco); seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister



Kathy (David) Newton; brothers Hilton (the late Elaine), Sidney (Sallie), Jeff (Lorin), Glenn (Laurie), and Dennis (Jody); and a large, loving extended family and community of friends who remember his kindness and sense of humor.

Picture his face lit up not just by the birthday candles while we all sing. Picture him standing proudly by the trailer nearly overflowing with giant logs. Picture all of us at the ballpark together, it could be Fenway or it could be somewhere further afield, we could be sitting behind home plate or in the bleachers, but we’re having a grand time.

Please join us for a celebration of Larry’s life Sept. 20, 2026, from 2-6 p.m., at Buck Ridge Barns, 8470 Route 116, in Hinesburg. Come as you are and wear your Red Sox cap or your barn jacket.

In lieu of flowers, consider planting a tree and giving your loved ones some really good hugs. ♡

Harley B. Muzzy, 72, of Rupert

RUPERT — Harley B. Muzzy, 72, of Rupert, Vt., passed away August 9, 2026. A lifelong Vermonter, Harley was born Jan. 7, 1954, at the family home in North Ferrisburgh, Vt., to Basil and Lois Muzzy.

He graduated from Vergennes Union High School, where he was an accomplished baseball player. While attending the Addison Central Vocational Center in Middlebury, Harley specialized in auto mechanics. Under the guidance of his teacher, Ed Stanley, Harley and his partner won a troubleshooting competition, earning the opportunity to compete at the national competition in Los Angeles, Calif. The competition required them to diagnose a problem with a car, make the necessary repairs, and successfully drive it. They won the competition and returned to Vermont with a large trophy.

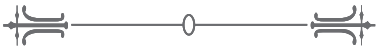
Harley owned and operated Roger’s Snack Bar, now known as



HARLEY B. MUZZY

Goodies. In 1975, he built his own home. In the 1980s, he started his own business, Muzzy’s Arco, which later become Muzzy’s Sunoco. After retiring from the business, Harley moved to Rupert, Vt.

His interests included stamp collecting and, after retirement, building birdhouses. He was a fan



William H. Finger, 80, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — It is with great sadness to announce William H Finger, age 80, died peacefully at his home in Lincoln, Vt., Aug. 24, 2026.

He was born at Mary Fletcher hospital in Burlington, Vt., Dec. 14, 1945, the son of William M. Finger and Agnes H Finger. Bill moved to Newburg, N.Y. in the 1940s and attended grade school and high school there. He later graduated from the University of Vermont in 1967.

Bill spent many summers as a child and teen at his grandmother’s house in Lincoln. Later he served in Vietnam. He moved to Lincoln permanently in 1974.

He served as Middlebury’s town manager from 2001 to 2012, retiring after a long and distinguished career in municipal government, having previously served as town manager of West Rutland and Shelburne.

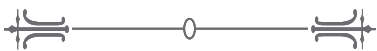
His achievements are extraordinary. Some include overseeing the building of the Grist Mill bridge, Lower Plains Road bridge, Cross Street bridge, and expensive renovations and maintenance of Pulp Mill bridge and Battell Bridge, earning him the right to be designated Bridge Builder Extraordinaire. Bill was



WILLIAM H. FINGER

a leader in the town’s needs, guiding and planning for a new Town Center, always maintaining an attitude of benevolent calm, courtesy and genuine caring for the concerns of citizens. He achieved statewide recognition as a leader in municipal government, having served as a member and president of board of directors of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. He was later named its Municipal Person of the year.

Bill’s devotion to his beloved town of Lincoln was unprecedented. He was always willing to help, to



Patricia Ann Newman, 80, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Patricia Ann Newman of Middlebury, Vt., died peacefully Aug. 3, 2026, with her daughters, Kim and Kelley by her side. Pat was known for her generous spirit, positive nature, love of laughter and ability to embrace new friendships wherever she went.

Pat was born March 16, 1940, in Boston, Mass., to William and Rose Doyle, the fourth of five children. Growing up in Hingham, Mass., by the seashore, Pat spent summers swimming and boating. During the winter months she followed her adored brothers to the ice ponds and became an avid figure skater. All this led to a lifelong love of the great outdoors. If you were looking for Pat, look outside. She spent the last years of her life at the residence at Otter Creek in Middlebury, Vt., where she enjoyed the sunshine of her patio and the company of loving, kind-hearted caregivers and residents, who became her dear friends.

Pat met the love of her life, John Harold Newman, of Northampton Mass., in the summer of 1958 when he was starting his career as a Marine while stationed in South Weymouth, Mass. It was true love at first sight. Excited to start their life together they were married in April of 1959. As a Marine Corps family, they lived throughout the



PATRICIA ANN NEWMAN

United States and abroad, raising their four children with a spirit of adventure and resilience. In addition to raising and caring for her family, Pat built a career as a civil service worker in accounting before going on to become a highly successful and respected realtor, known and trusted throughout her community.

When Pat and John retired, they continued to travel the world together celebrating the joys of retracing their ancestral roots to Ireland, and the comforts of luxury cruises from the Baltics to the Hawaiian Islands. Pat and John remained the best of friends and partners in love for 61 years until

of the Beach Boys and the Eagles. He enjoyed watching NASCAR, Little League baseball, and watching basketball player Caitlin Clark.

Harley is survived by his sons, Patrick Muzzy of New Haven, Vt., and Nicholas Muzzy of Roanoke, Va.; his grandchildren, Jarret, Nathan, Reese, Morgan, and Megan; his brother, Louis Muzzy and his wife, Kitty, of Vergennes; his sister, Marsha Hewitt and her husband, Curt, of Plattsburgh, N.Y.; his sister-in-law, Dorothy Muzzy of North Ferrisburgh, Vt.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Basil Muzzy in 1990 and Lois Muzzy in 1999; his sister, Phyllis Counter, in 2002; his brother, Frank Muzzy, in 2002; and his brother, George Muzzy, in 2013.

He will be remembered for his mechanical ingenuity, independent spirit, and the pride he took in his work and hobbies. ♡

do whatever needed to be done. He formed a task force to build a new town office in 2016, served on the selectboard from 1978 to 1984, then returned in 2013, serving nine more years as board chair. He was board chair of Weathervane senior apartments, which he helped create. His accomplishments in highway improvements, bridge rebuilding and repair are too numerous to mention.

He helped create Lincoln Sports, of which he was the chairperson, helped move a Church after the old one burned down, and even taught Bible class to children for a while. Always with humility and a calm demeanor, he had an interest in listening to others and being approachable to all. He was a good neighbor, happy to help. He had a love of animals. He was a kind and loving man.

He is survived by his spouse, Glen Bartolomeo; his cousins, Steve Harris, Ginny, Dick and Brad; his niece, Dana; and nephew, Scott.

A memorial service will be held at the United Church of Lincoln, at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19.

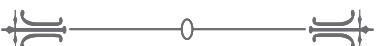
Donations may be made to Weathervane senior apartments and Homeward Bound — Addison County’s Humane Society. ♡

John’s passing in 2019.

Pat is survived by her four children, Kim Cross of New Haven, Vt., Kevin Newman of Easthampton, Mass., Kelley Newman of Lakeville, Mass., and Kristine Brennan of Gilbert, Ariz. She also leaves behind four grandsons, one granddaughter-in-law, one great-granddaughter, many nieces, nephews, and friends, who enjoyed her fun loving company.

We will all miss Pat’s perpetual appreciation for the beauty she saw every day in the ones around her and the ones she loved from afar.

In lieu of flowers our family requests Memorial donations be made to: Addison County Home Health and Hospice, PO Box 754 Middlebury, VT 05753 Contact: 802-388-7259 Toll Free:800-639-1521 V/TTY:800-253-0919. ♡



Bruce Brown graveside service

SALISBURY — A graveside service for Bruce Brown, who died Dec. 27, 2025, will be held Saturday, Sept 13, at 11 a.m., at the Westside Cemetery in Salisbury.

**VT SUMMER IS LIKE
A GOOD
GLASS OF
WINE - GONE
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT!**

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary
WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury ♦ Vergennes
www.Hare.dog

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

Letters to the Editor

Senator fails to credit GOP for legislative buy-in

I’m one who often meets op/eds by our elected officials of all political stripes with a good-natured eye roll or shake of the head. But I have to admit that I was aghast reading Senator Hardy’s Aug. 27 Community Forum column addressing recently implemented tax relief. Our Senator accused Governor Scott of “playing politics” and claims that are “inaccurate at best,” but I’m afraid that her op/ed is full of assertions more deserving of this criticism.

On Act 71 of 2025, Senator Hardy was, in fact, a lead sponsor of S.51 (the bill that was passed into law as Act 71). But in claiming that this act was “a Democratic bill,” she omits the fact that at least 2 Republican senators were co-sponsors. It’s also important to note that as S.51 was introduced and first passed in the Senate, it addressed only tax credits for unpaid caregivers. This is certainly a worthy group to relieve of some tax burden, but far from the list of those ultimately receiving relief that Senator Hardy cited in her op/ed. So how did these other categories of taxpayers get added? Senator Hardy correctly called out the work of the House Ways and

Means committee but, again, their work was not solely that of Democrats. Those interested, and perhaps Senator Hardy herself, would benefit from reading the VT Digger article on the amendments to S.51 (‘Vermont House passes tax credit bill after compromise on military pensions’). It’s, notably, described as a “bipartisan tax credit package” with provisions important to both Democrats and Republicans. The revised bill passed the House with only 2 “no” votes and went on to pass the Senate 28-0. The provisions in S.51 were neither crafted exclusively by Democrats or Republicans nor were they derived exclusively from the ideas or policy priorities of Democrats or Republicans nor was the bill passed with the exclusive support of Democrats or Republicans.

Senator Hardy also discussed Act 138 of 2022 (H.510 as it worked through the legislature). I won’t belabor the points made about S.51 above because the story on H.510 is similar: Democratic sponsorship, Republican co-sponsorship, an amendment process that involved both parties’ ideas and compromise, and bipartisan support in both chambers on

passage. Finally, Senator Hardy’s comment in her title “Scott signed the bill” seems to trivialize this important step in our lawmaking process. When Governor Scott’s option to veto these bills is considered (something we know he’s willing to do), isn’t his decision to sign them a particularly affirmative message of support? Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised by the Governor’s support for these bills as several of their provisions had been included in his budget addresses prior to being taken up by the legislature.

The reality is that these bills became law through a process that involved both parties’ collaboration in a way that ultimately resulted in consensus. Some of us wish Montpelier worked this way more often. Why Senator Hardy wants to position passage of these bills as a unilateral effort and why she chastises the Governor for taking credit for others’ work while doing just that herself, only she can say for sure. But her closure with a not-so-subtle reference to the upcoming election certainly provides a clue.

Bob Otty
Bridport

Hannah Sessions is hard working and reliable

I have known Hannah Sessions since she was very young. My wife and I became close friends with Hannah’s parents and Hannah became, and still is, a very close friend of our oldest daughter. In her youth, Hannah spent a lot of time on our farm. We ran a cow dairy farm in Cornwall with 195 cows plus young stock.

Whether the “bug” of farming bit Hannah at our farm, I do not know, but when she and her husband Greg decided that farming was a career they wished to pursue, they did it in a purposeful and thoughtful way. Over the last 25 years, they

have established a successful and sustainable goat dairy operation in Leicester. They have met the challenge of farming, how to succeed, how to make it sustainable by going at it with a different type of livestock than the more common dairy cow. They work just as hard, get up just as early, make hay under the same conditions as every other farmer in Addison County, deal with the same environmental concerns and regulations. On top of this, they developed and marketed a whole menu of different goat and cow milk, which they purchase, cheeses. They have done the work

and done it successfully.

All farmers in Addison County should be inspired that Hannah wishes to represent the residents of our region in the senate chamber of the Vermont Legislature. She will bring that farming, land use diligence and hard work to the Golden Dome. She is a thoughtful and concerned person with a strong agricultural ethic that she will, most importantly, bring to the Legislature. I am proud and inspired to support her for the Vermont Senate.

John Roberts
West Cornwall

Sabick letter

(Continued from Page 5A)

Hannah brings the professional perspective of a farmer and business owner as well as a strong sense of integrity and a love for Addison County. Since the campaigns launched in June, it’s safe to say we’ve covered a lot of ground: knocking on hundreds of doors, attending dozens of events and all the while carefully listening to the concerns of every constituent met along the way.

Where Ruth’s skills really shine is in the conversations we have while canvassing. She starts with a question: “What concerns do you have about Vermont?” This is usually met with several of the same answers. Property taxes, public education, affordable housing and frustration with the federal administration especially stand out. I found myself continuously impressed at Ruth’s expertise on a wide range of issues that allows her to explain complicated procedures in an accessible way, connect people

with resources or inform them on new initiatives. Her honesty and openness allow her to connect with people all across the political spectrum and show them her commitment to supporting all Vermonters.

Ruth has already demonstrated this commitment in the Senate for the past eight years. She is responsive to constituents, never compromises on her values and shows up every day ready to engage in meaningful conversations about policy. This is exactly the attitude and work ethic we need all of our legislators to bring. The future of our state relies on the people electing officials who are focused on creating effective policy and an equitable future rather than those who choose to dehumanize Vermonters and prioritize their own gains. Growing up in Addison County has shown me the unique qualities that make this district so special, but also that we are not immune to the problems plaguing our state and nation. In

her time in the legislature Ruth has been a leading voice in fighting for affordability, women’s rights, local voice in public education and responsible stewardship of natural resources, and will continue to advocate for these issues if reelected.

All along the campaign trail a common message has arisen: Vermonters are fed up with politicians. What they want instead is someone who can seek out new perspectives to understand real issues and take concrete steps to address the most pressing concerns in difficult times. To me, Ruth Hardy exemplifies these traits in every way. She brings the knowledge and intellect of a policy expert as well as the compassion and understanding of a mother and community member. I am proud to say I will be casting my ballot for Ruth Hardy and Hannah Sessions on Nov. 3, and I encourage you to do the same.

Quincy Sabick
Vergennes

Subsidizing off-campus housing won’t solve crisis

Tuesday night, the Middlebury Selectboard approved a Community & Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) application submitted by Middlebury Investors LLC of Philadelphia. CHIP is a Vermont state financing tool designed to encourage more residential construction. Middlebury became the first town in Vermont to approve a CHIP application for Stonecrop Meadows two weeks ago. Stonecrop Meadows provides affordable housing and is supported by grants from Vermont Housing Finance Agency and nonprofits. Providing affordable housing was

the purpose of the CHIP program, to relieve our housing crisis. In contrast, Middlebury Investors LLC is building “market rate rent” apartments on one-year leases.

Projected tenants include Middlebury College students; the CEO of Middlebury Investors, Phil Rosenzweig, has negotiated with Middlebury College regarding future student parking issues. Off-campus student housing was not the purpose of the CHIP program. Middlebury College has expanded student enrollment without a commensurate increase in student dormitories (New Battell, built in 2025, replaces Old

Battell, slated for demolition). This expanded student body is pushing into town, displacing local families. Middlebury’s former zoning officer changed regulations in 2022 that enabled a higher density of students to live in town. On Tuesday night the selectboard estimated that CHIP funding for Middlebury Investors will increase the tax burden of an average Middlebury homeowner about \$46/annually for the next 20 years ... to subsidize the college’s off-campus student housing. This will not help our housing shortage.

John McPartland
Middlebury

Bristol’s Hill a sound choice for Addison-4 seat

I have known Chanin Hill for several years, but I came to know her in a deeper way when she and my husband were both running for different seats in the Vermont State House. Even though Chanin did not win her race, that season revealed something important about who she is: she is passionate, grounded, hardworking and willing to stand up for what matters.

Chanin is deeply rooted in Vermont life. She keeps herself grounded through her work on the family farm, handling the bookkeeping and the many practical responsibilities that help keep a large farm moving forward. Farming is not just a job; it is a way of life built on commitment, long hours, family and generations of sacrifice. Chanin understands that because she lives it.

What I have come to admire most about Chanin is her tenacity. She cares deeply about her family, her children, her grandchildren, her community and the future of our state. When issues arise that affect families, schools, farms and everyday Vermonters, Chanin is not content to stand on the sidelines. She shows up, she listens, she speaks out and she is willing to do the hard work even when it takes a toll.

That is the kind of leadership Vermont needs. We need people who understand the value of service over self: doing what is necessary so that others can have a better life, stronger communities and a more secure future. Chanin carries that spirit. She knows how hard it is to keep farms, families and small communities strong

when so much seems to be working against them.

Chanin Hill loves Vermont, and she is willing to fight for the people who make this state what it is. She understands the work, the time, the love and the generational passion that live in the hills and farms of Vermont. She stands with farmers, families, businesses and citizens who want to see this state move in a better direction.

Chanin is busy, and Chanin does a lot—but more than anything, Chanin loves a lot. She has the heart, the grit and the determination to serve. That is why I believe in Chanin Hill and her bid for the Vermont House of Representatives, and why I am proud to offer my public support.

Erin Heffernan
Bristol

Changing hearts and minds key to political change

Millard Cox has the facts right — kudos — I’m with him; but we need more than just facts to understand the underlying dynamics of our existential dilemma. Speaking in generalities (maybe that’s the only way hurtful things can get published these days) will only point to the puss-boils of this deadly American plague — and leave the underlying causes — once again — hidden in our collective Freudian subconscious. Nevertheless, I will restrain myself (*this time*) not to name names, or to get into the weeds, but to add a spoonful of sugar (maple if you like) in an effort to remain publishable.

We the people did take control of this country by voting, remember — we call it democracy (decorously). And hence — we the stupid people — won! Majority rules, remember? And so, we (ourselves) have chosen stupidity to rule. And in defense of my use of the word ‘stupid,’ please recall that we the people did recklessly fail to learn our lesson and went right ahead to elect this deadly American plague a second time. Where then should we place the blame? That is the hurtful, \$64,000 question. Read ‘em and weep ‘em — we need to start pointing our fingers (curved by the intelligent design) at ourselves.

It’s called reflection! And if we are truly still attached to majority rule, we the people must gather-up a majority of informed, likeminded people who want the same good things.

But do we really want good things? And can we get them? And how?

There are takers and givers in this world and the takers are now in rule. (Duh — that part is not so complicated!) People must search their hearts to determine, earnestly and genuinely, which camp they are in. It is very much a numbers game (and man made it that way knowing that the masses rule) but — if — we can gather enough givers together, and — if — we are willing to take a sacrificial and courageous stand, and — if — we are ready to actually fight (not just with token donations to an ever-asking democratic party who has consistently let us down) and—if—we are willing to, then, share this country (as well as this earth, since it is now very much a world economy) we will be able to manage ourselves in at least a quasi-democratic way. This is not simply idealism; This is conviction; this is love — something that can’t be faked: don’t ask your daughter who to vote for! Don’t begrudge

the poor and homeless! Don’t resent the elderly for costing so much! You are now a giver. This is existential reality. You’ve got to believe it and mean it. If not; things are going to get worse. Are we still stupid? Only you and your finger will decide. We must stop letting the takers get away with this! We must force congress to do their jobs — or hand them their chance to be homeless.

Our society has always been a socialist society — stupid people don’t understand this because they have been indoctrinated by propaganda: I say, get smart! The schools, the police, the fire departments, social security, pensions, unions, the Elks, the VFW, the Masons, the military, boy scouts, the post office... ad infinitum. And, of course, Christ was a socialist, for all those nationalistic Christians who have supported Trump’s kingdom and underlings—and turned their backs of the coming Kingdom.

Some democratic socialist leaders have appeared to give us some hope — I did vote for Bernie and he is on a better path — but many hearts and minds have to change for this existential change to work.

Ronald LaDue
Middlebury

Community helped make Ilsley reopening a success

The grand opening of the new Ilsley Library on Saturday, Aug. 29 will long live in Middlebury’s history. The weather was perfect, the Bristol Band had children dancing in the parking lot and this wonderful community turned out in force to thank the many groups and individuals who made it all possible.

The Friends of Ilsley Library would like to add some special appreciation of our own. We

are very grateful to the folks at Middlebury United Methodist Church for making their lower level available to the Friends, enabling us to continue our monthly book sales and provide funding for programs at the Mini Ilsley during construction.

We also extend thanks to Nick Cantrick and his students at the Hannaford Career Center who worked with Mark Wilch and Friends’ board members to design

and build our new book carts. The carts provided a smooth transfer of our books and equipment back into Ilsley and will make for easy set-up and take-down of our monthly sales.

Our September 5 book sale will take place from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Ilsley community room. Stop by to see the new carts, thank our terrific volunteers and board members and, of course, buy books for your fall reading!

Revell Allen
Middlebury



VERGENNES GRAND

Health & Wellness Fair

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Wednesday 9/16 | 3 PM - 6:30 PM

on the Vergennes Green



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

vergennesgrand.com/health-and-wellness-fair

Connect with 18+ local organizations offering resources for healthy aging, healthcare, mental health and recovery support, and more.

Food Truck

Raffle Prizes

Live Music



Register to Play or Volunteer!

Saturday, Oct. 3rd 2026 9am-Noon

Middlebury Recreation Park

Registration Now Open! www.runsignup.com/csacbocce

Thanks to our Sponsors!



The Richards Group
An (M&B) Company



M&T Bank



KBS
Knoxville & Beyond



University of Vermont Health



Counseling Service of Addison County
89 Main St. Middlebury | 802-388-6751 | www.csac-vt.org
24/7 Emergency & Crisis Services 802-388-7641

Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities Available

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
It's supposed to improve climate resilience and energy justice while considering energy affordability and reliability. As part of this effort, the Middlebury Energy Committee is conducting a survey to better understand residents' household energy use, related challenges experienced, and their priorities for future municipal energy initiatives. The survey is now live and will be open until Sept. 15. The survey can be accessed at tinyurl.com/yp8zpbku. All responses are anonymous unless contact information is volunteered. For questions regarding the Energy Survey, email Jolyon Larsen at jlarsen@acrpc.org.

Porter Medical Center's Palliative Support Services is seeking storytellers for its next storytelling event, which will take place during the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 14, in Middlebury. The theme is "Stories from the Heart: Honoring Spirits Who Have Left This World." If 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, please consider sharing it. Each story must be limited to seven minutes, and it should be a personal and true story told from the heart (rather than read). It should also 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. Once chosen, storytellers are invited to submit a written draft, or a well-developed outline, to Jen Guenther at fishercatalley@gmail.com, on Friday, Sept. 4. For more information, contact Louella Richer at PalliativeSupportServices@portermedical.org or 802-388-4744.

Property owners are required to file a homestead declaration (Form HS-122) each year if

their home meets the definition of a Vermont homestead, and the final date those forms will be accepted this year is Oct. 15. Though filing the tax form is mandatory, Vermont Department of Taxes officials noted its possible upwards of 25,000 Vermonters neglect to file the form each year. "The Census estimates that there are roughly 200,000 owner-occupied homes in Vermont, but the Department of Taxes only gets about 175,000 Homestead Declarations each year, so the gap could be as high as 12.5% (25K out of 200K)," tax department officials told the *Independent*. The department said it uses data from its system to "identify taxpayers who likely should file a Homestead Declaration," and send them targeted letters advising them of such.

We've been bringing you news of the first week of school in several Addison County school districts. And here's an update from Brooke Olsen-Farrell, superintendent of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District, which includes Orwell. SVUUSD officially kicked off its 2026-2027 school year on Aug. 21 with an in-service day, where district officials came together to welcome new staff, celebrate colleagues, reconnect with their mission and vision, reflect on progress, and focus on the work ahead. "One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is our 96% staff retention rate from last year," Olsen-Farrell stated in a message to district residents. "Just a few years ago, our retention rate was 78.21%. That improvement did not happen by accident. We have worked intentionally to build a culture where talented educators want to stay, grow and build their careers and ultimately, our students are the beneficiaries of that stability.

Here's a reminder from the Addison County Solid Waste Management District: Batteries *don't* go in your recycling bins or the trash. Emily Johnston,

the district's public outreach coordinator, notes that batteries can cause fires, thus endangering workers who handle solid waste at the transfer station at 1223 Route 7 South in Middlebury. Batteries *are* accepted at the transfer station for special recycling for free. There are also other collection locations throughout Addison County and the state. Call2Recycle, a stewardship program for the special recycling of batteries in Vermont, has more information on battery recycling at call2recycle.org/Vermont. These specific battery varieties are banned from the trash and should be brought to the Middlebury transfer station: lithium metal, button cells, lead acid/wet cell, rechargeable batteries (nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium-ion, and small sealed lead acid batteries), and alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries. Bear in mind that damaged, defective, or swollen batteries should be handled with caution. Call the district at 802-388-2333 for advice on safe handling and disposal of puffy, swollen, damaged, or defective batteries.

More 5-Town area folks are finding the free "Veggie Van," routinely parked on the lawn of the Bristol Baptist Church off Park Street. The Veggie Van is open 24/7 through October for drop off and pick up of fresh produce. You can drop off by going inside through the door and loading up the bins. To pick up produce, open the windows and take what you need. Please be sure to close the windows and door when you're finished. All produce is free. Bring a bag and help yourself. The service has received support from several area churches, nonprofits, businesses and farms. Residential gardeners are helping to stock the shelves with surplus veggies, as are folks from Full Belly, Footprint, Gateway, Bristol Flats, Four Blooms, Paradise Fruit, Sweet Roots and Little Village Acres Farms.

Bus drivers

(Continued from Page 1A)
are aware of the most up-to-date student pickup and drop-off times. "We recognize that these changes may create some inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience and flexibility as Bet-Cha Transit continues to recruit additional drivers," the MAUSD message to parents concludes.

The news isn't much better in the Addison Northwest School District (ANWSD), which serves children in Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham. "We are down one driver and routes are doubled up," ANWSD Superintendent Sheila Soule said in an email exchange. "This happened throughout the year last year as well, often with little to no notice."

Addison Central School District (ACSD) Superintendent Wendy Baker conveyed the transportation conundrum to Middlebury-area parents through an Aug. 31 email. ACSD delivers public education to children in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

"Across our district, we also faced significant transportation challenges caused by driver shortages on multiple bus routes. Bet-Cha Transit informed us of the driver shortage on Wednesday, Aug. 19, after our bus routes were published on Monday, Aug. 17," Baker stated in the email.

"The driver shortage is impacting transportation routes and/or schedules in nearly every ACSD town," she continued. "Given the significant impact to our district, we have also escalated the matter

to the Secretary of Education and the leadership of Bet-Cha's parent company, Student Transportation of America, which is based in New Jersey.

Baker said the three Addison County school districts are working with Bet-Cha to solve the busing challenges "as quickly as possible."

So what happens when a district is down one or more bus drivers?

"Solving for a route without a driver often requires changes to multiple routes," Baker said. "Last week, we made daily route modifications on short notice to help find stable solutions across the ACSD that ensured students living within the district had transportation to and from school. We have had to redirect drivers covering out-of-district routes or routes with limited ridership."

The district has added overflow support vans and bus monitors in some situations to support students from tuitioning towns to ensure every student gets to and from school, according to Baker.

"We hope the changes we made in week one will offer stability this week," she said. "We hope to get back to our normal bus routes as quickly as possible. We will continue to make adjustments as needed."

She and Matt Corrente, ACSD director of finance and operations, referred parents to recently revised bus routes within the district.

"Bet-Cha does not currently have any substitute drivers; we do expect further disruptions if current drivers (are) unavailable," Baker said.

School officials warn that bus changes can occur at the last

minute; the affected school's front office staff remain the best point of contact to track or verify these changes.

In ACSD, Baker said principals will message their respective school communities as soon as the change is known — or the district will send notification if more than one school community is impacted.

Middlebury-area parents are being encouraged to document the impacts bus route changes might be having on their families, to allow quicker resolution of problems.

Meanwhile, Bet-Cha continues to recruit in Addison County and throughout the state. The company is offering \$29.50–\$31.50 per hour, with paid training and the ability to "bring your child to work" to save on daycare costs. The company's Addison County headquarters is at 202 Mainelli Road in Middlebury, reachable by phone at 802-388-7800.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family for the birthday party they gave me and I want to thank so many other people for all the cards, gifts, flowers and caring shown to me on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I also want to thank Kinney Drugs and Neat Repeats for the parties I was given. It was a week I shall cherish for the rest of my life. Thanks so much to everyone.

— Phyllis Allen

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District's member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Common items include:

Acetone	DRAINER opener/cleaner	Mercury thermometers	Primers or shellacs
Acids	Driveway sealer	Mercury thermostats	Rechargeable batteries
Adhesives	Dry cleaning solvents	Mineral spirits	Roach traps/poison
Algaecides	Flea & tick killer	Mothballs	Rug/upholstery cleaner
Aerosols	Fluorescent bulbs*	Motor oil	Solvent-based glues
Antifreeze	Fly killer	Mouse/rat poison	Stains
Ant killer	Formaldehyde	Nail polish	Stump remover
Ammonia	Fuel additives	Nail polish remover	Tars or resins
Auto body filler	Fungicides	Naphtha	Transmission fluid
Automotive fluids	Furniture polish	Oil-based paint	Tub & tile cleaner
Chlorine bleach	Gasoline	Oily waste	Varnish
Brake fluid	Hair dyes	Oven cleaner	Weed killer/fertilizer
Bug spray	Kerosene	Paint thinner/turpentine	Wood preservative
Button cell batteries	Latex paint	Parts cleaner	
Contact cement	Lead paint chips	Pesticides/herbicides	
Deck sealer	Lead-acid batteries	Photographic chemicals	
Diesel fuel	Lime/rust remover	Pool chemicals	



Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **Warning! Danger! Poison! Caution!**

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.

Not accepted: laboratory chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fireworks, flares, explosives, smoke detectors, ammunition, and radioactive waste.

HazWaste Center Hours of Operation:
Mon.-Fri., 8 AM to 2 PM, and Sat., 8 AM to 1 PM

Addison County Solid Waste Management District
www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org | 802-388-2333

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



Woofstock

Walk for the Animals

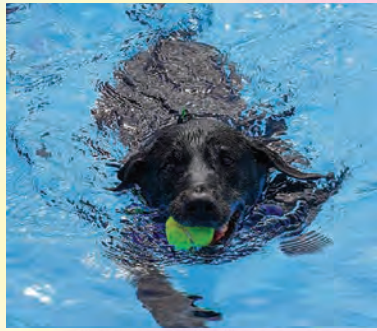
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 at 10am

Memorial Sports Center & Middlebury Town Pool

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Adults: \$25 | Youth: \$15 | Children 5 and Under: Free.

Presented by:



Thank you to our sponsors:



Full Circle Home Veterinary Care
(802) 881-0220





Scan the QR code or visit www.homewardboundanimals.org to register in advance

Well-behaved, socialized dogs welcome!



Questions about Woofstock?

Contact Hannah Manley at development@homewardboundanimals.org or call 802-388-1100 ext. 101.

Jane Fonda

(Continued from Page 1A)
celebrity to promote social change, and showing empathy for those you don't like.

But she spent a good chunk of her time eulogizing Dolly Parton, with whom Fonda (and Lily Tomlin) made the film "9 to 5." Parton died on Aug. 25 at age 80 following a brief battle with cancer. Parton was perhaps best remembered for her kindness and philanthropy, though her musical and comedic talents made her famous.

Fonda said she got the idea for making "9 to 5" from a friend who'd relayed some of the abuse that office secretaries were experiencing at the hands of their male bosses during the 1970s. She said she picked Tomlin for her superb character acting skills, and Parton after hearing her sing the song, "Two Doors Down."

"Imagine Dolly as a secretary," Fonda recalled thinking at the time, noting Parton's platinum blond hair, makeup, tight clothing and curves that would be sure to trigger a lecherous boss.

"She can't see her fingers when she types," Fonda joked of her late friend's trademark bustline. "I didn't know if she could act. She'd never been in a movie, and it didn't matter."

"9 to 5," released in 1980, would go on to gross more than \$103 million.

Fonda began to tear up thinking of Parton, whereupon Craven offered this: "She was extraordinary. She was the last person everyone loved."

Fonda said she later lobbied for a "9 to 5" sequel that focused on the three women having to work "two or three jobs" to get by.

"My prior life (before becoming an activist) had been so frivolous. I was not happy. The acting wasn't what was going to save me."

— Jane Fonda

researching what she called a "hillbilly" role for 1984's "The Dollmaker," for which she won an Emmy.

On Sunday, she revisited her hillbilly tutelage under Parton.

"The only hillbilly I knew was Dolly," Fonda recounted. "She knew I was working on this project and I would ask her for ideas... I was looking for someone I could spend time with who could frame my character. And that's exactly what happened."

The pair of friends spent all 10 days drunk, Fonda joked, adding she imbibed moonshine from a still maintained by one of Parton's cousins.

"I asked (Parton), 'What makes this the 'best' white lightning?' and she said, 'It's been put through the sieve three times.' She came out with this big earthen jug and she taught me how to hoist it," Fonda said.

Fonda was struck by some of the people she encountered in Appalachia, who lived in tarpaper shacks and kept all their photographs underneath the bed in a shoebox. No electricity, no radio, no TV.

Parton proved the consummate host, according to Fonda.

"Dolly could not go to bed unless everybody around her had laughed so hard they had to cross their legs so they wouldn't pee themselves," she said.

BECOMING AN ACTIVIST

Fonda said she became an activist in 1970, with a particular focus on ending the Vietnam War. She recounted going to Detroit to learn how to become an organizer. She invited Craven — a fellow opponent of the war — to participate in the "Winter Soldier" investigation organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War in the Motor City from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, 1971.

She also connected in Detroit with a lawyer named Ken Cochrell, who'd send Fonda out with organizers from the United Auto



JANE FONDA

Workers union. She learned how to network for a cause, enjoyed it, and informed Cochrell she was done with Hollywood.

Cochrell disabused her of that idea.

"He said, 'Listen to me, Fonda; we have hundreds of organizers. We don't have movie stars. We need you. Go back to Hollywood and take your career seriously. Start making movies that reflect your values. Be a movie star.' And I did," Fonda said.

She'd go on to make, among other films, "Coming Home," "The China Syndrome," "Julia," "Klute," and "9 to 5."

Craven credited Fonda with being a risk-taker, noting her activism could have ended her acting career. Fonda is still reviled by some — especially those in military circles — for her January 1972 protest trip to North Vietnam. She was dubbed "Hanoi Jane" by her detractors.

"I didn't care," Fonda said of the potential professional repercussions. "My prior life had been so frivolous. I was not happy. The acting wasn't what was going to save me."

She asked audience members to ask themselves a fundamental question: "Why am I here?"

Her own response to that question was, "I don't like the thought of being left behind by history."

She recalled being on pregnancy-related bed rest in 1968 and watching footage of the Vietnam War's Tet Offensive, violent images juxtapositioned with footage of protestors sticking flowers in the barrels of National Guard soldiers' rifles here in the U.S.

"I remember thinking, 'What the (expletive) am I doing?'" she said. "I felt left behind."

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

Just as Fonda had issues with Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, so does she oppose most of the policies of current President Donald Trump.

She has mellowed some with age, taking a more practical and philosophical approach to politicians she doesn't like.

MNFF12 bestows VTeddy awards

MIDDLEBURY — The 12th annual event, the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival on Sunday wrapped up five days of screening 120 films, workshops, parties and good times.

Movie star Jane Fonda and Addison County's own superstar Anais Mitchell made appearances.

The films, mostly by first- and second-time filmmakers, were shown at venues around downtown Middlebury. On Sunday evening at the Town Hall Theater the festival handed out the following awards:

- Audience Award/Feature: Bucks Harbor
- Audience Award/Short: Women Laughing
- Best Narrative Feature: Nandauri
- Best Documentary Feature: Bucks Harbor
- Best Narrative Short: Somewhere To Be
- Best Documentary Short:

Stalin Boys

- Hernandez/Bayliss Prize for Triumph of the Human Spirit: A Place of Absence
- Clio Prize for Visualizing History: A Place of Absence
- Gaia Prize for Environmental Filmmaking: Gaslit and The Lake
- Cadwell Family Prize for Best Vermont-Made Film: Prickly Mountain and My Design/Build Life
- Thaddeus Stevens Prize for Social Engagement: Seized
- PhotoPlace Gallery Prize for Poetic Cinema: In Excess
- Kate Hearst Prize for Human Connectivity: Kiloran Bay
- Gamble-Paison Prize for Best International Feature Film: Born That Way and Jail Time Records
- Swift House Prize for Best Depiction of the Arts: Acting Like Women
- Jeanine Basinger Prize for Best Student Film: Truant

"Evil behavior is the behavior of the traumatized. You hate the behavior, but you don't hate the traumatized," Fonda said. "Just deal with the behavior. Let's end the behavior."

With that in mind, Fonda is urging people to vote out the politicians advancing authoritarianism, wars and climate change. To that end, she has created the "Jane Fonda Climate PAC," which supports candidates that commit to protecting the environment and weaning the nation off fossil fuels.

"If you can't change the people, change the people," she said of her efforts to elect a more environmentally friendly Congress.

"What needs to happen is legislation that's commensurate with what science is talking about."

Ending climate change is Fonda's latest rallying cry, and she's putting the full force of her celebrity behind it.

She plays a prominent role in a heralded environmental

documentary called "Gaslit," which screened at MNFF12. Produced by Greenpeace, the "Gaslit" follows Fonda as she travels across the oil fields of the West Texas Permian Basin and through the Gulf Coast of Louisiana visiting communities and talking with residents adversely affected by oil and gas production. At the festival she was honored with aa VTeddy Award for Fearless Artistry.

Fonda was also asked about her acting collaboration with her late father in the film "On Golden Pond."

She had an at-times strained relationship with her dad, who proved emotionally inaccessible. "On Golden Pond" allowed the two to spend time with each other as peers and friends.

"It was (cathartic) for me," she said of the film collaboration with her dad. "I don't know if it was for him."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

CELEBRATING 1 year IN DOWNTOWN VERGENNES

At Vergennes Grand, every day brings something to enjoy.

Come see what makes life here so special!
(802) 877-3562 | www.VergennesGrand.com
34 North Street, Vergennes VT 05491
Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care

Elderly Services Recommends Bristol Electronics

"When we embarked on a major renovation to our building, including the installation of 193 solar panels and the addition of a large pavilion at our center, we chose Bristol Electronics. We couldn't be more delighted with the careful, timely work they did and how they partnered with us at every step of the way. They listened to what we needed, promptly got us information, and gave us updates on progress and challenges. Their work was excellent and their customer service was exceptional as well. Even more, their kindness to our staff and participants made them fit right in. We have now cut our electric bill in half through our solar panels, and have a gorgeous new space for our activities, thanks to Bristol Electronics."

Kristin Bolton
Executive Director, Elderly Services
Middlebury, VT

FREE SITE EVALUATIONS
802-453-2500 | BristolElectronicsVT.com

BUY A CAR, GET A ZUCCHINI. OUR FRESHEST DEAL YET!

2019 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE
Lt, 3.6L V6, AWD, Auto, 3rd row seat, 100k miles
\$18,995

WIMETT TRADING COMPANY
USED CARS AND TRUCKS
802 465 4688

2019 SUBARU IMPREZA
2.0L I4, Auto, AWD, 129k miles
\$12,995

2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
LT, 2.4L I4, AWD, Auto, 33k miles
\$12,995

2022 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN
SE, 2.0L I4, Auto, AWD, 108k miles
\$18,995

2017 HONDA CIVIC
Lx, 2.0L I4, Auto, AWD, 50k miles
\$16,999

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS
We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company
at the Big White Barn in Leicester
Michael Jackman, 53 Years Experience
David Wimett, 40 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 12 Years Experience

802-465-4688
2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com



THE 12TH ANNUAL Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival took center stage in the shire town Aug. 26-30 with five days of screenings, parties, talks and special events. Clockwise from top left: Opening night honoree Anaïs Mitchell of "Hadestown" fame is flanked by her parents Don and Cheryl; folks line up at Town Hall Theater for Sunday's conversation with film icon Jane Fonda; Allie Rood, director of "Prickly Mountain: My Design/Build Life," poses with her VTeddy Award for best Vermont-made film; Indian-American filmmakers Rianjali Bhowmick (left) and Ishq Pradhan premiere their short film "Portrait"; THT's Rothrock Main Stage venue is packed for Fonda's Sunday appearance; Pete Muller (left) picks up one of two awards for the film he directed, "Bucks Harbor"; director Cheri Gaulke looks happy that her film, "Acting Like Women," won the "Swift House Prize for Best Depiction of the Arts"; Fonda displays her VTeddy Award for "Fearless Artistry"; and journalist Amy Goodman, executive producer of the news program Democracy Now!, speaks at the Middlebury Inn on Saturday.

Independent photos/Steve James



Baker

(Continued from Page 1A)
Vergennes.

Voters will have their say on that, and a variety of other races, during the Nov. 3 general election.

Baker, a self-proclaimed fiscal conservative who fosters a “live-and-let-live” attitude on social issues, believes he could hit the ground running if returned to the House.

As a West Rutland representative, he served stints on the House Local Government, Government Operations, Healthcare, and General Housing & Military Affairs committees.

“It was like going to school for 12 years and I loved it,” he said of his prior legislative experience.

“It was like a free education.”

He learned his way around the Statehouse, including the ABCs of lawmaking and forging relationships with Republicans, Democrats and Progressives.

But Baker decided to take a pass on another run in 2010, for two reasons.

“I had spoken in favor of term limits, and I didn’t want to be a hypocrite,” he said. “Also, (serving in the Legislature) was killing my (GE) pension.”

So he left the statehouse and returned full-time to GE’s Rutland plant, finally retiring in 2019 after more than 34 years as quality-control specialist, largely focusing on blade and vein components of the company’s aircraft engines.

It was the U.S. Navy — which Baker joined soon after graduating from Proctor High School in 1978 — that prepared him for his GE career. He spent four years maintaining and repairing submarines. He left the Navy, settled in West Rutland, and found the GE work to his liking.

“It was a fun job and a good job,” Baker, 67, said. “You had to get it right.”

He’s enjoyed being busy and has found no shortage of volunteer/service activities.

Baker’s resume includes service on the West Rutland selectboard, the Rutland County Solid Waste District, West Rutland American Legion Post 87 (past commander), and various leadership posts with West Rutland’s St. Bridget’s Catholic Church. He’s a member of Middlebury VFW Post 7823.

Soon after his 2019 retirement, Baker and his spouse — Diane (Humiston) Baker — settled in her native Ferrisburgh. He found things to do, but returning to the Legislature wasn’t on his list.

Until he received some tenacious lobbying from former Rep. Connie Houston, R-Ferrisburgh.

Houston coaxed him into a

belated entry into the 2024 race in the Addison-3 House district.

At the time, future Rep. Rob North was the lone Republican candidate on the Addison-3 ballot. Then-incumbent Vergennes Democrats Diane Lanpher and Matt Birong were both seeking re-election.

“(Houston) said, ‘We can’t just give the Democrats a seat,’” recalled Baker, who earned more than enough write-ins in the 2024 primary to secure a spot on the general election ballot.

North and Birong won the two Addison-3 seats in a close four-way race. Baker finished fourth with 2,240 tallies — just 134 short of Birong’s second-place total of 2,374.

A health setback had precluded Baker from being an active campaigner during the election cycle.

While he didn’t win a seat, Baker was proud of his participation in an election cycle that saw the GOP make substantial statewide gains in the general assembly.

“I feel being (on the ballot), I was the ‘sponge candidate’ that helped Rob (North) get elected,” he said of being able to give Republican voters two Adison-3 choices.

During the spring of 2026, Houston again knocked on Baker’s door, and again he agreed to run after assessing his health and checking in with his family.

HEALTH CARE, SCHOOLS

While he hasn’t roamed the Statehouse halls for 16 years, some of the state’s challenges remain the same.

Among them are spiraling health care costs.

If elected, Baker said he’d advocate the same approach he recommended during his first House experience. Divide the health care system into smaller categories — such as surgery, home health and administration,

among others — and set spending reduction targets.

“The system is way too big. Something that big, you can’t attack it all at once,” he said. “If you can chew away at little things, eventually (economies) starts adding up.”

Baker acknowledged his plan might be a tough sell in Vermont right now. The Legislature in 2011 created the Green Mountain Care Board. Its responsibilities



FERRISBURGH REPUBLICAN JOE Baker, who represented the West Rutland area for 12 years in the Vermont House, is hoping to get a second chapter as a delegate from the Vergennes-area Addison-3 district.

Independent photo/John Flowers

include reviewing and approving hospital budgets, regulating health insurance premium rates, and overseeing major capital investments in the system.

Vermont’s public schools continue to shed students, even as education taxes rise. The Legislature this year passed Act 170, which has grouped each of the state’s 119 school districts into one of seven Cooperative Education Service Agencies, or CESAs. Each regional CESA will promote shared resources and services among the member districts to save money.

The new law also calls for study committees to be created within each CESA to sort out a voluntary merger process for the member districts.

Baker has a different idea.

He’d like to see school districts grouped around their respective career centers, of which there are 17 in the state. In Addison County, that would mean the Addison Central, Mountain Abraham, Lincoln and Vergennes school districts would be part of an expanded district along with the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center. Baker envisions that expanded district being governed by one superintendent and central

“The system is way too big. Something that big, you can’t attack it all at once. If you can chew away at little things, eventually (economies) starts adding up.”

— Joe Baker

Learn about the ecology of ticks at talk in Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Over the last three decades, tick populations and cases of tick-borne diseases have increased dramatically in Vermont. Tick populations and their associated pathogens are influenced by a complex set of biotic (e.g., deer and mouse populations) and abiotic (e.g., climate) drivers. As a result, it is challenging to pinpoint a single cause of this increase in tick populations.

This presentation, titled “The Ecology of ticks and tick-borne diseases,” will give a brief introduction to tick biology and discuss research efforts to

understand what drives tick-borne disease risk in Vermont. Speaker Dave Allen grew up in Springfield in the ‘80s and ‘90s without ever seeing any ticks. He returned in 2010 and, like many others, was surprised and dismayed by how often he encountered them. He is now an Associate Professor of Biology at Middlebury College and studies the ecological, climate and landscape factors that determine tick-borne disease risk.

This Middlebury Conservation Talk will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 9 in the Community Room of the Ilsley Library.

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)

law Act 170. Mike Dash will serve as a second representative on the committee, if one is needed.

Act 170 — signed into law earlier this year — outlines next steps for transforming the state’s education system, including establishing “a district-led merger process supported by seven regional facilitators and a lead facilitator,” according to the Vermont Agency of Education.

School districts are required to take part in the process, identifying representatives to serve on a local merger committee. Facilitators will determine the merger committee groupings. Guidance for those groupings provided in Act 170 places the MAUSD in a group with the Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Lincoln school districts.

Merger committees will evaluate governance options over the next year and are required to submit a report by September 2027 with recommendations for forming a new unified union school district. Reports will be due at that point whether or not the committee recommends a merger. Those proposals would be reviewed by state officials, and voters would weigh in on proposed mergers in March 2028.

Olson expressed his interest in serving on the merger committee at the board’s Aug. 25 meeting.

“I think there’s a lot of trepidation in some parts around the merger study committee itself, I actually think that there’s a lot of great positives that could come through it,” he said. “The details really matter in terms of what our community’s values are and making sure that they’re expressed, or at least communicating win or lose in

terms of the process. But I can see a lot of positive.”

MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen noted the school board may need to appoint more than one person to serve on the committee, depending on how proportionality shakes out. The Agency of Education states that committees “will be comprised proportionally of appointed school board members from each member school district.”

“It’s unclear at this point how many reps this board will send to that merger study committee because there are a few other steps that need to settle down to even know that,” Reen explained.

Merger committees are expected to be formed and hold their first meetings by Oct. 15.

School board members on Aug. 25 also began discussing board charges for work with the merger committee and Cooperative Educational Service Areas (CESAs). Another aspect of Act 170, CESAs are regional entities comprised of multiple learning communities that are aimed at offering shared services and programs.

MAUSD is part of the Champlain Valley South CESA, made up of several school districts in and around Addison County. The school board in June appointed Reen to represent the MAUSD on the Champlain Valley South CESA board.

MAUSD board members last week reviewed potential language for board charges and discussed what could be expected of the representatives serving on the regional panels, such as updating the MAUSD board on important votes.

The board ultimately decided to table designating those board charges.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Sunday, OCT. 18
5K / 10K HALF MARATHON
MIDDLEBURY, VT



FIND OUT MORE!

MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN

Brought to you by
ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

2026

VERMONT'S "SWEETEST" HALF MARATHON

RIVER PARTY!

Saturday, Sept 12th
Sycamore Park
• Rte 116, 3 miles south of Bristol Village •
12-3pm

In partnership with the Town of Bristol, Audubon VT, Lewis Creek Association, and more!

MUSIC · FOOD · FAMILY FUN

Come Celebrate the New Haven River!

Questions? Contact us at acrwcvt@gmail.com
@addisoncountyriverwatch



Ride

(Continued from Page 1A)

up and down the driveway in loops with my siblings. I was fulfilling my journalistic duty: learning and asking questions about a topic that I, and lots of others, don't know much about — adaptive bikes.

Instead of the two-wheeled, leg-powered equipment I am used to, I was cruising around corners on a three-wheeled, low-to-the-ground apparatus that I propelled with a hand crank.

The Kelly Brush Foundation gave me the opportunity to try out two different, very expensive, adaptive bikes ahead of its 21st annual bike ride on Sept. 12.

The organization and event were founded after Kelly Brush, a Vermont-native and Middlebury College skier, was in a life-altering crash in an alpine ski race during her sophomore year. The spinal cord injury left her in a wheelchair.

“Left” isn't really the right word. Brush wasn't going to let her altered mobility stop her from being active — she still skis to this day.

Through her remarkable sense of perseverance, love of sport, can-do attitude, and the backing of a supportive community, she was able to get back on the slopes, hit the golf course and continue her life as an athlete, a core piece of her identity.

For 20 years since Brush's accident, her organization has promoted accessibility initiatives, supported skiing safety, raised over \$15 million and given out 1,900 grants to help people across the country buy adaptive equipment and access recreation.

That money can be the difference between getting to participate in an activity and not. The bikes KBF brought for me to ride were really expensive. Buy-a-used-car-expensive. Upwards of \$15,000, \$20,000, expensive.

Brush, Program and Research Director Amy Rixon and Chief Marketing Officer Bruce Downes told me the equipment is so pricey partly because there are fewer people who are in the market for of the contraptions, so adaptive bikes aren't mass-produced. Other production factors lead to the high cost. Brush explained that on a standard bike, there are 10 places where metal is welded; on the adaptive bikes I rode it is around 30 places.

Also, the necessary features and adjustments can be more person-specific, depending on a particular rider's mobility.

For someone with a disability looking to participate in multiple sports, that may mean multiple apparatuses. Brush has equipment that she uses to play golf and tennis in addition to her bikes and skis.

After the cost barrier is hurdled, you need somebody to teach you. Like a lot of people, my parents taught me how to ride a bike. But adaptive bike-riding knowledge is often not generational. There aren't as many people who would know how to ride one, and thus teach a student trying to make one go, the idiosyncrasies of the equipment and handy tips for the territory.

I had three people — Brush, Rixon and Downes —guiding me and making sure I wasn't going to crash.

GETTING STARTED

I first sat down on a yellow bike, which Rixon described as a “town toodler” — essentially a commuter.

One of the first things I noticed when I sat down was that even though there was nothing to peddle, something in my brain clicked that told my legs “it's time to go” and they started pumping. After taking a minute to observe this phenomenon, I focused, paying close attention on how to make this new machine move — and more importantly, brake.

My legs outstretched and resting in footholds, I moved the handles in front of me in circles, just like my feet would do on bike pedals. I practiced using the brakes, which were controlled by a lever on the right side of the handle, very similar to my own bike. But instead of being stationary, that tool moved with the handles.

After getting the hang of stopping and going, I tried out the gears, which were adjusted with a lever right near the brake, and were also familiar from my prior riding experience.

The trio from the foundation warned me that turns would need to be wide, and that sharp ones weren't really possible. I found turning to be the most difficult part.

After taking a loop, I switched to



SOPHIA KESHMIRI REALLY takes to the handcycle she is trying out last week, and it shows in her face. The Kelly Brush Ride on Sept. 12 will feature Brush, herself, and others riding both adaptive bicycles and traditional bicycles in the annual fundraiser.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

a mountain bike.

It wasn't just any mountain bike — it was Brush's.

While the town toodler had one wheel in the front and two in the back, this one was the opposite. The seat was higher, and my legs were more bent than in the first.

My new knowledge of the hand cranks was transferable though, kind of. In addition to the cranks, it had another set of handlebars, these ones stationary, just like the ones on a conventional bike. This is where the brakes and gear-shifters were.

This mountain bike also had e-assist, which is good for mountain biking or hiking, Brush said. She had recently climbed Snake Mountain with it.

On mountain bike trails, the e-assist can also be used to make the bike go so a rider can hold onto the second, lower set of handles to have more control while traversing uneven terrain.

Brush had me take it on the nearby grass, so I could feel what it would be like on a mountain bike trail (kind of). I got to crank the e-assist up from level 1 to 2, and was riding around gleefully. I whipped what felt like one really good turn that I'm sure looked less impressive than what my senses told me.

Another tip I got — I was buckled in with a loose strap that went over my legs, so I was going to stay with the bike if it tipped over. If I fell, Rixon told me to tuck in my arms, rather than extend them in an effort to catch myself. If I did, given the weight of the bike, I would get hurt.

BEYOND EQUIPMENT

There's a lot more to making recreation accessible than simply having the right bike, or even having a teacher, which can be hard to come by.

The KBF representatives said you need the right car to be able to fit the equipment. You need to be able to get the equipment into and out of the car yourself. And you need to be able to get to the trail.

Another area that needs improvement is on-trail accessibility. The adaptive mountain bike was much wider, which made me wonder if it would be able to traverse any old mountain bike trail.

Brush said not all trails are wide enough. The entire trail doesn't necessarily need to be wider. There could be loosely defined tracks, just like for a standard mountain bike trail, on either side of the narrow stretch to accommodate adaptive bikes.

KBF has been working to make accessible mountain bike trails a reality, by teaching about how to make them.

“At home in Vermont, we've collaborated on hundreds of miles of universally accessible trails,” according to the foundation's website.

“We are now taking that blueprint and sharing it at conferences and events across North America. Together, we can build a world of recreation for everyone.”

After getting injured the winter of her sophomore year of college, Brush was right back on the notoriously hilly Middlebury College campus the following fall. She wanted to go to classes, the dining hall and to parties, and was determined to figure it out.

She said her arms got strong

traversing the winding sidewalks in a wheelchair.

COMMUNITY

When winter hit, and those paths became piled with snow and caked with ice, she reached out to her ski teammates to let them know when she'd be heading to classes and where from to see if anybody else would be heading in the same direction, and they stepped up to help.

The ADA office was exceptionally supportive, Brush recalled, making sure she had an accessible, and comfortable, place to live. They also had the classes she was enrolled in moved to rooms and buildings that she could get to.

Brush kept up with the ski team, doing workouts alongside teammates, and timed them during meets.

A tennis instructor stepped in to help Brush get around, too. Rixon told a story that Brush has shared. Brush had access to a car that was adapted so that she could drive, but at the time didn't know how to get herself and her wheelchair in and out. The tennis instructor showed her how to, re-opening so many opportunities. It was an example that Rixon provided to express how important community is to accessibility.

While Brush had the enthusiastic support of her family, the college and her peers, she said that's not the case for everybody.

But it's that very experience that her foundation aims to recreate for others with ability-altering spinal cord injuries.

Not only does the organization provide grants to help people finance the purchase of adaptive recreation equipment, it also works with people to help them figure out what they need and how to use it.

One of the ways they create community is through camps.

Rixon noted the surprising results of a post-camp survey the organization took. She had thought the feedback would be about the content and what people learned.

But what stood out to participants was overwhelmingly the community it gave them access to.

Rabid foxes

(Continued from Page 1A)

including other incidents in which rabid foxes have attacked residents.

Those incidents don't appear to reflect a clear uptick in rabies activity in the county, but Vermont Department of Health (DOH) officials said rabies activity statewide has risen in recent years — with the number of rabid animals reported in 2024 and 2025 (66) more than doubling the previous 10-year annual average.

In Vermont, rabies is most often found in raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats.

Officials encourage residents to reach out to their town's animal control officer if they see an animal behaving strangely. Concerns about wildlife can be reported to the Rabies Hotline (1-800-472-2437 or 1-802-223-8690) or a local game warden.

Justin Goodwin, a local game warden, urged people to report unusual animal behavior, even “calls that are perhaps on the side of caution.”

“Anything that seems like a deviation (from normal interactions with wildlife) ... if animals are being lethargic, odd behavior, seeming very indifferent or coming close to you. Anything you kind of get that feeling about, we probably want to give it a little more space,” he told the *Independent*.

Incidents around Middlebury and Weybridge during the past month have specifically involved foxes. More recently, Middlebury police found and euthanized a fox that had bitten a dog off Halladay Road on Aug. 17. That same day, police were told of a potentially sick fox off Routh 7 south and reported that a Vermont Fish & Game warden had euthanized the fox.

Foxes have also attacked other

saliva or bites from infected animals, according to the Vermont Department of Health. The disease is treatable in humans when caught soon after exposure. Early signs of rabies in animals “include unusual aggression, extreme depression or bizarre behavior,” according to DOH officials.

Rabies treatment includes wound care, human rabies immune globulin (known as HRIG) and a four-dose vaccine series.

“(Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP) recommendations differ for people depending on previous rabies vaccine status and for those who are immunocompromised,” Health Department spokesman Kyle Casteel said. “PEP

recommendations do not change significantly depending on severity of injuries; bigger wounds might require more wound care and cleansing.”

Daly credited the game warden and DOH officials with their help in responding to the attack and said it was comforting to learn residents can get treatment through ExpressCare at Porter Medical Center.

“I thought that that process was really great,” Daly said. “But again, I do feel like my (case) was really lucky.”

2ND WEYBRIDGE INCIDENT

Around the time of Lamb's attack, wildlife officials were looking into another incident on Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Weybridge. Levi Norris was helping build a work trailer in that area when a fox attacked him.

“It came after me a few times, at first I thought it was a racoon or something,” he said. “I couldn't hear it or see it coming after me because we had one of the doors (to the trailer) blocking the view of one area of shrubs and stuff.”

Norris said the fox bit him on the front of his shin, and he's been receiving rabies treatment. He and his coworkers had heard foxes in the area prior to the attack. A fox killed in the area the day of the incident had tested negative for rabies, though the rabid fox picked up after Lamb's attack was collected that

same day.

Is the recent rabid fox activity in the Middlebury area out of the ordinary?

“This is typical rabies activity in Addison County for this time of year,” health officials stated, noting the increase in rabies activity in the state in recent years. “Rabies has been found in nearly every county in Vermont, but more recently has been more common in Northern Vermont.”

“While the DOH can't comment on the number of people currently receiving rabies postexposure prophylaxis (rPEP) in Middlebury, syndromic surveillance estimates

that the percent of patient visits to the emergency room or urgent care for rPEP in 2026 is above the historic average,” Casteel said.

The DOH notifies a town's health officer whenever rabies is detected in that community. It also provides a rabies messaging toolkit with ready-to-use messages and resources to support community partners in sharing clear and accurate information about rabies prevention.

Health officials are trying to understand why more animals are testing positive for rabies in northern Vermont, and they said surveillance efforts to monitor the increase are ongoing.

Officials also referenced the rabies vaccine bait drop that started on Aug. 1, an annual initiative aimed at combating increasing rates of rabies in the state. This year's drop was set to spread 915,700 rabies vaccines baits in 10 counties across Vermont, including Addison County.

The DOH has a webpage dedicated to information about rabies and what to do if you see an animal acting strangely or if an animal bites you or your pet (tinyurl.com/vtrabiesinfo).

Goodwin recommended residents stay away from wildlife they see behaving oddly, as well as keep their dogs on a leash if they know of an animal in the area acting out of the ordinary.

“It's good that people are cautious,” he said. “We're certainly happy to get the call if you have specific interactions with wildlife you're concerned about.”

Back on Aug. 14, as Kelley Lamb was responding to the fox biting her hand, she tried grabbing the animal by its neck but the fox stayed tight. Lamb said her child rolled down the window of the car and hit the fox with a stick, after which the fox let go.

Her son called 911, and Lamb was taken to Porter Medical Center. When speaking with the *Independent* on Tuesday, she said she'd had to get stitches and is still recovering from the bite on her hand. The fox later tested positive for rabies, and Lamb has been receiving rabies treatment.

Lamb noted the importance of being alert.

“The fox was very quiet and came out of nowhere,” she said. “I would just encourage the public to be very aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the wildlife that might be in the area.”

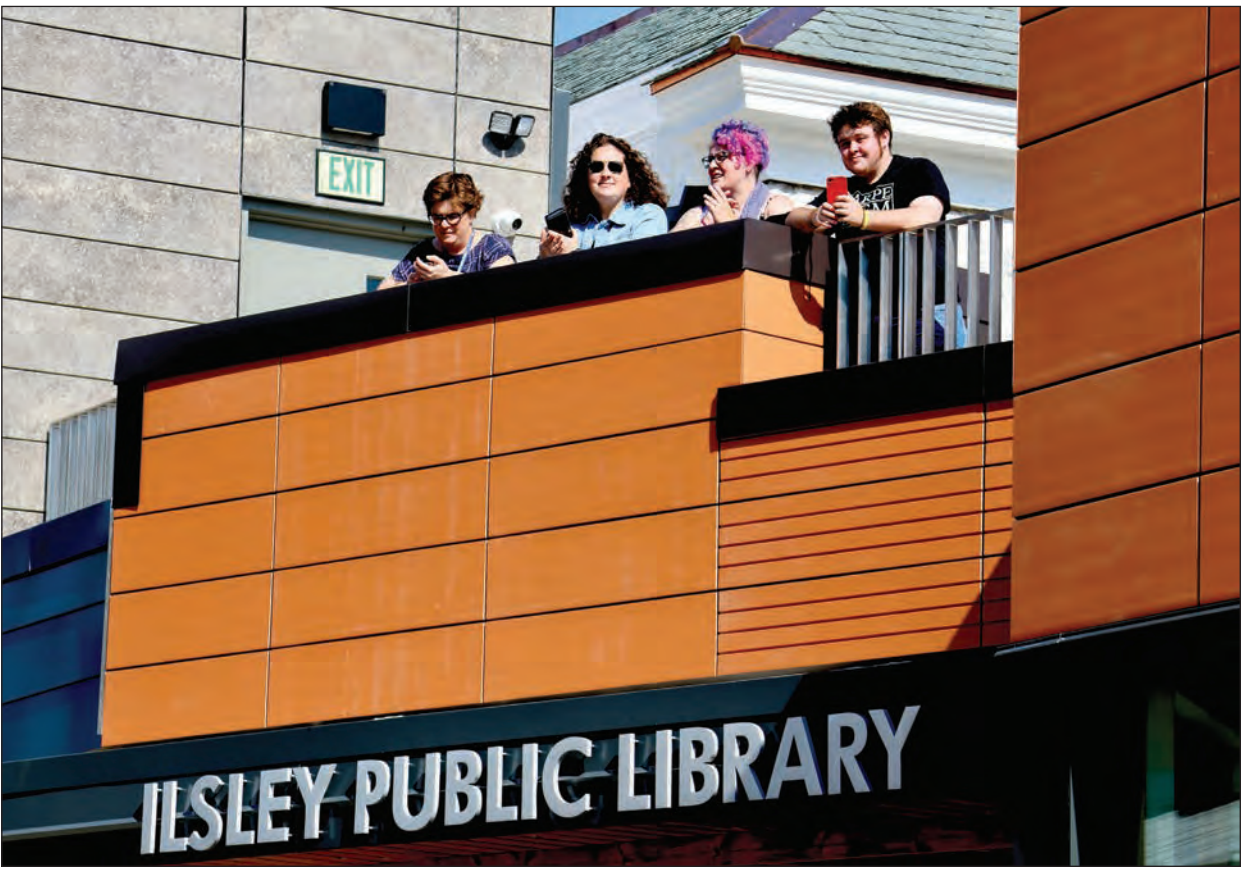


ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
**Sign up for our
email newsletter**

**News highlights delivered straight
to your inbox, three days a week.**



www.addisonindependent.com/newsletter-signup



Ribbon cutting

AN ESTIMATED 450 lovers of books, other media, and community gathered to celebrate the re-opening of the Ilseley Public Library this past Saturday, a milestone years in the making. Pictured at the newly renovated Ilseley on Aug. 29, counterclockwise from bottom left, are: Ilseley Trustee Meg Baker; Library Director Dana Hart; the library's new outdoor terrace; library patrons Lydia, Leni, Rocco and Paul Lengyel; library staff enjoying the terrace; community members cheering the formal opening; Hart and library supporters cheering amid the festivities; Hazel Brakeley reading a Ted Schue poem; Dog Mayor Otto making an appearance and Ilseley 100 Team Chair Joe McVeigh.

Photos by Steve James, John Flowers.
John S. McCright and Betzi Bilodeau



Ilsley Library

(Continued from Page 1A)
While the construction story was written over 18 months, the prologue proved a much longer tale, prolonged by a lack of resources, a global pandemic, and a downtown rail tunnel project. Saturday's celebratory gathering gave Middlebury residents a chance to salute "Ilsley 2.0" and look forward to the next chapter of community library services.

Library Director Dana Hart was among those credited for shepherding the project through the planning process and a hearty endorsement by Middlebury voters in May 2024. Organizers put together a financing plan that — with selectboard input — included a combination of private fundraising, a \$4.5 million bond and the use of proceeds from Middlebury's local options tax surplus fund.

The ad hoc Ilsley 100 Project Team — made up of town officials and other citizens — met 52 times to steer the project conversation with ReArch on the design. The ReArch workers and subcontractors took the plans from the drawing board to bricks and mortar, while a temporary "Mini Ilsley" was housed in Main Street's Duclos Building, courtesy of the National Bank of Middlebury.

On Saturday, workers at the new-and-improved Ilsley checked out 556 books and issued 40 new library cards.

With many more to come. Hart's message, during the ribbon cutting, was one of thanks. "When you supported the bond for this project, you made an extraordinary investment; not simply in a building, but in the future of this community," she said. "You affirmed that a public library matters; that everyone deserves access to knowledge, technology, culture, connection and a welcoming place to belong. We understood the trust you placed in us, and we have worked hard to honor it."

Former trustee and Ilsley 100 Team Chair Joe McVeigh marveled at the new structure, which he said was planned to be welcoming, accessibly safe, flexible, sustainable and seen as a community hub.

"You can be the judges to see if this renovated and expanded building successfully fulfills all of these pillars," he told the crowds, adding, "I think we succeeded."

Saturday's speakers also included Ben Scribner, ReArch's construction superintendent for the Ilsley project.

Scribner described some of the unique challenges his staff encountered during 18 months of work.

"I'll always remember this as

the building with very few right angles. With over 40 exterior walls, 52 different elevations in the concrete, and seven different exterior siding types. The close proximity to the neighboring properties (about 5 inches) and the task of bringing old and new construction methods together," he said. "And where do you get marble that matches the building perfectly, when the quarry it came from hasn't been in operation for over a century?"

"Libraries are places where we step through and discover new ideas, new stories and new possibilities, new dreams, and one another."

— Meg Baker

But workers overcame those challenges through doggedness and teamwork, he noted.

"The relationships that were built within the team are what made this project a success. Very little of what we did here was straightforward. If it wasn't for the open communication between the trade partners, the designers and the owners, we would have never gotten out of the ground," Scribner said. "This group continually found creative solutions to a steady stream of new discoveries and complex conditions. So many, in fact, that the joke became, 'problems create opportunities for solutions.'"

Selectboard member Dan Brown was also a member of the Ilsley 100 Team. He thanked the library's many contributors and marveled at the many community projects Middlebury has undertaken — and completed — since 2010. They include the Cross Street Bridge, Fire station No. 1 on Seymour Street, a new municipal building, recreation center, Town Hall Theater addition, and now an expanded library.

"What's been said here this morning will not be remembered for very long, but the new Ilsley Library will be appreciated for generations to come," Brown said.

He closed his remarks with an acknowledgement of the late Dolly Parton, who contributed more than 330 million free books to children worldwide through her early childhood literacy initiative.

"Dolly said, 'I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor, a minster, or possibly a composer-musician. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books. And the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world,'" Brown said.

FOUNDING BENEFACTOR

Could the original benefactor of the Ilsley Library — Col. Silas A. Ilsley, a prominent Civil War veteran — have ever imagined the sizable new investment the community would make in the building he and his spouse seeded for \$50,000 in 1924?

Former Gov. James Douglas — a

keen student of Vermont history — believes the colonel would have been proud of the scene that played out on Saturday. Library officials made sure to acknowledge Ilsley, including with a Bristol Band rendition of a song titled, "Colonel Ilsley's March."

"I have to believe that if he could foresee a century later, he'd be delighted to see the modernization, the expansion and the preservation of his legacy, which means so much to Middlebury," Douglas said.

Ilsley 100 Team member and state Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, was among those admiring the library's new features.

"I couldn't be more thrilled with the opening of this new library," she said. "It's a gorgeous space for our community. Libraries are so important to building and maintaining community in our small towns in Vermont."

Hardy has proved a champion of libraries statewide. The Vermont Library Association earlier this year bestowed upon Hardy the "Sen. Patrick Leahy Library Advocate of the Year" award, in recognition for "outstanding public advocacy for libraries in state government."

Former Ilsley Library Director David Clark was also taking in Ilsley 2.0's new amenities, which have changed a lot since he retired back in 2013.

He said ReArch did a great job solving the library deficiencies he encountered during his 18-year tenure, while making the Ilsley a "safe and welcoming space."

Many people gushed over the new Children's Room in the addition. In the original building it was in the basement and did not get much natural light. In the new addition it is right next to the entrance with huge windows letting sunlight stream in. It also features a middle school and high school room, a Middlebury Community Television office and recording studio, a bigger conference room, a smaller conference room and that



WELL-WISHERS AND THE simply curious through the new entrance to Middlebury's Ilsley Library on Saturday morning as they stream in to check out the beautiful architecture, and some even checked out books.

Independent photo/Steve James

second-story outdoor deck.

Resident Lydia Lengyel wanted to make sure her two children, Leni, 5, and Rocco, 3, got to witness the Ilsley reopening. Will they remember it years from now? Who knows. But they'll become

well acquainted with the library, its generous spaces and wonderful books as they grow up, their mom promised. Lydia was also accompanied on this day by her dad-in-law, Paul Lengyel, a 70-year devotee of the Ilsley.

"(The library) has been a real cornerstone of our children's lives," Lydia said. "We really believe in libraries and spent a ton of time in the Ilsley when they were babies. It's really important for us to be here to see this special occasion."



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

FLEXSTEEL®
Live Your Lifestyle®

PROTECT WHAT MOVES YOU

NH OIL UNDERCOAT

SHIELD YOUR VEHICLE. EXTEND ITS LIFE.

WHY UNDERCOAT?

- ✓ Protects against rust & corrosion
- ✓ Shields from salt, moisture & road grime
- ✓ Helps maintain value & performance
- ✓ Year-round protection

BOOK IN SEPTEMBER & GET \$50 OFF

A NEW HAMPSHIRE OIL UNDERCOAT

CALL FOR A QUOTE
(802) 771-4936

523 Middle Rd
Salisbury VT 05769

802-388-6297

www.woodwarevt.com

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
Email Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — Our area schools have begun the 2026-2027 academic year that will be full of events and programs to enrich our students’ learning experiences. Families and the community are encouraged to follow the schools’ websites and other social media to stay informed of school events and to learn how we all can support the education of our community’s children. Visit the Vergennes Union High School website to learn how to volunteer for such groups as the Commodore Friends of Music, the Parent Teachers’ Group, or the Booster Club: www.vuhs.org. The site for Ferrisburgh Central School, www.ferrisburghcentral.org, will have information for parents and families about how to support the many school activities. The Addison Northwest School District welcomes parent volunteers to help as a chaperone, coach, classroom helper, or mentor. For a description of these opportunities and how to sign up, visit www.anwsd.org/for-families/volunteer-opportunities.

And don’t forget to come out for all the Homecoming Activities on Sept. 25-26, including the parade on Friday.

My Dentist’s Son will hold its next storytelling session on Sunday, Sept. 20, at 3 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. This group is where stories of magic and miracle are shared. Group reflections will explore the joyous and sometimes unexplainable moments that appear in our lives. For more information, visit www.mydentistsson.com.

This fall, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum continues to offer its free lecture series “Deep Dives.” On Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6–7 p.m., the topic will be “The Row Galleys of the American Revolution.” The Row Galleys of the American fleet at the Battle of Valcour Island are the larger vessels that added significantly to the

capabilities of the American fighting force under Benedict Arnold. This presentation will discuss the design and construction of the row galleys as well as examining how they were armed, crewed, and employed during the naval actions on Lake Champlain in 1776. On Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6–7 p.m., the presentation will be about “The Great Bridge.” The Great Bridge at Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence was part of a larger defensive works project constructed by American forces during the Revolutionary War in 1776 and 1777. The presentation will review the historical background of the Great Bridge and its importance to the defense of Lake Champlain during the American Revolution. Additional information will be presented from the archaeological research and the Museum’s recent involvement with the submerged cultural resource mitigation project.

The Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pedo” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of Sept. 12 and 26. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pedo requires some serious thinking so come prepared to use your strategic skills in this longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition.

Create a monstrous terrible Teddy Bear at the Bixby Library on Saturday, Sept. 12, 1–2 p.m.. This fun craft activity is for ages 5–12 so bring the kids and let them use their imaginations to create their very own Bear. On Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m., stop by the Bixby to create your own personalized buttons for your backpacks and other gear. Come with ideas for your images and transfer them to a pinnable format. This event is for ages 13 to 18.

On the third Saturday of every month, the Bixby will open one hour

early to allow for youth under 12 who need an ASD/sensory friendly environment to experience the library without excess stimulation. A calm, self-directed craft will also be provided. The dates are the Saturdays of Sept. 19. Oct. 17, and Nov. 21.

There will be a public talk entitled “Vermont Conversation on Peace and Power: Bridging Divides in a Nation at War,” with Isaac Evans-Frantz. This free event, sponsored by Rokeby Museum and the Vermont Humanities, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, 3–4:30 p.m., at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. Considering that the U.S. has been at war in one form or another for all but about 18 years of the country’s existence, the discussion will explore the costs and benefits of war for Vermonters and the role of our state in a country that is nearly constantly at war. Isaac Evans-Frantz is a lifelong Vermonter, political activist, and public servant. For more information, visit: www.vermonthumanities.org/event/bridging-divides-in-a-nation-at-war-rokeby-museum-2026.

Visit the Ferrisburgh Fire Department’s Open House on Saturday, Sept. 19, to learn about fire and emergency response in our town. There will be tours of the fire station, equipment demonstrations, fun activities for the kids, and hot dogs and drinks. More information such as the times and updates on the activities will be posted at the Fire House FB page and Front Porch Forum in the coming weeks.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.



MATEO KEHLER, CO-FOUNDER of Jasper Hill Farm, criticizes President Donald Trump’s latest round of tariffs on Canadian goods at a panel at Jay Peak Resort hosted by U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., on Tuesday.
Photo by Shaun Robinson/VtDigger

Trump tariffs:

‘We’re not going to have a business’

By SHAUN ROBINSON, VtDigger

JAY — Mike Desmarais, who sells snow grooming equipment at a dealer in Newport, is planning to deliver three new vehicles to Canadian customers this month. The machines currently cost about \$500,000 Canadian dollars each, he said — but soon, they could cost far more.

Two of the machines were made in the U.S. If the tariffs Canada plans to impose next week take effect, in response to the latest tariffs enacted by President Donald Trump, they will be subject to new duties of 50%, he said. That CA\$250,000 per vehicle is an amount so large it’s hard to know what his small business should do in response.

“How do you address that?” Desmarais asked a room of business leaders from around the state Tuesday, speaking at a panel hosted by U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt.

Throughout the panel, hosted about 5 miles south of the U.S.-Canada border at Jay Peak Resort, Desmarais and others shared a similar sentiment. They thought business was on the upswing after a slump caused by Canadians who have spurned Vermont since Trump took office a second time. But the president’s newest tariffs, which took effect last month, washed away that glimmer of hope.

In recent weeks, “the workbooks have just slammed shut,” Desmarais said.

Last year, when Trump first imposed tariffs on Canada — which have since been

ruled illegal — “Canadians were disappointed. They were disillusioned. They were sad. They were surprised,” said Steve Wright, the president of Jay Peak Resort. The resort, which typically draws half its visitors from Canada, has said it saw a 35% drop in cross-border visitors over the 2025-26 ski season.

“This year around trade policies, they’re angry,” he said. “And you can’t talk to anger.”

Jasper Hill Farm, the renowned cheesemaker in Greensboro, had its worst business year ever in 2025, co-founder Mateo Kehler said. The company had been rapidly growing its business in Canada, he said, until relations between the two countries plummeted last year and that growth “went absolutely cold.”

The company was excited recently when Jasper Hill importer put in an order for the upcoming holiday season, he said. He saw it as a sign of things turning a corner. But then, the importer canceled after Trump announced the latest round of tariffs.

“So it looked like half a step forward, and about three steps back,” Kehler said.

Jasper Hill has been in the process of modernizing its manufacturing facility at the Vermont Food Venture Center in nearby Hardwick. The company has had to pay tariffs as high as 50% on new cheesemaking equipment it’s bought from Canada for the project, he said, costs that have been “devastating” to its bottom line.

Before the latest tariffs were announced, it ordered another machine to automate a particularly tedious part of the cheesemaking process. But the company has not taken delivery of it yet and left it on the other side of the border, because no one is sure exactly how much it’s going to cost, he said.

“It becomes almost impossible to manage a budget within the context of this environment,” he said. “It’s horrendous.”

Welch, at the event, touted a bill he introduced last week with U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, that would repeal the 1930 federal law Trump used to enact the latest tariffs and that would order refunds to everyone who has paid the new duties so far.

The senator acknowledged that there is little hope of the bill becoming law with Republicans controlling both houses of Congress. While a growing number of GOP senators have voiced opposition to at least parts of Trump’s trade plans, the president’s policies enjoy far broader support among Republicans in the U.S. House.

“If you’re a member of Congress, and you’ve been elected to represent the people you represent, you’ve got to put them first,” Welch said.

Desmarais, the snow equipment dealer, said he appreciated the bill but thinks that the only solution is more members of Congress getting elected this fall who will repudiate the president’s efforts. He said he’s unsure how his company can continue operating in Vermont, or out of its offices in Wisconsin and Quebec, without a shift in political power.

“If these tariffs stay active, we’re not going to have a business,” he said. “We’re going to close.”

Hunsinger steps down as chair

By SHAUN ROBINSON VTDigger.org

The chair of Vermont’s Progressive Party, Bill Hunsinger, resigned from his post last week.

The Ripton resident stepped down Aug. 25 after less than a year in the job as the leader of the state’s third-largest political party, according to Heather Thomas, the party’s executive director. The chair is the party’s public-facing leader, while the executive director manages its day-to-day operations and is the organization’s only full-time staffer.

According to Thomas, Hunsinger’s decision was a result of the challenges of balancing the job’s significant workload with his full-time job, raising a young daughter and serving on the selectboard in Ripton.

“It takes an incredible amount of time and energy to work within structures that are designed by and for the wealthy,” Thomas said told VTDigger. “We’re very grateful for his time and all the ways that he’s helped advance our mission.”

Hunsinger did not respond to a request for comment last week.

His resignation leaves one of the state’s major political parties without a figurehead in the middle of an election cycle with about a month until voters start receiving their ballots in the mail.

Hunsinger was elected to the post in November and succeeded Anthony Pollina, a former state senator who had chaired the party for a decade. Shortly

before Hunsinger’s election, the party hired Thomas to replace its previous executive director, Josh Wronski, who resigned after nine years on the job.

In addition to Hunsinger, the party is set to lose another key leader: Rep. Kate Logan, P/D-Burlington, who chairs its caucus in the Vermont House. Logan is not running for reelection.

Thomas said that despite the turnover, she is confident in the party’s organizational capacity around the state. She said it has a “strong group of members who are deeply committed to the movement,” whether they’re involved in top leadership or not.

The Progressive Party is the state’s third-largest by a wide margin. Including Logan, there are three current House members and one state senator who identify primarily as Progressives. All of them caucus with Democrats on many issues.

The party sees far fewer people participate in its statewide primary elections than either the Democratic or Republican parties — and that number of participants has been somewhat lower in recent years, data from the Vermont secretary of state’s office shows.

In the primary last month, 474 people pulled a Progressive ballot. That’s up from 414 people in 2024, according to the data, but lower than the 610 and 941 people who took part in the Progressive primaries in 2022 and 2020, respectively.

By comparison, 88,906 people

voted in this year’s Democratic primary and 23,067 voted in the GOP primary.

Thomas said she does not think the number of ballots cast in Progressive primaries gives the full picture of the party’s support. That’s because many of the candidates it backs run in the Democratic contests, she said, leading many Progressive Party members to vote in Democratic primaries instead.

This year, Progressives had just two statewide candidates of their own: Rachel Shaw for secretary of state and Zachary Hampl for treasurer. Notably, only Shaw has the party’s endorsement; its leadership has so far rejected Hampl, who by his own telling does not fully support the party’s agenda.

In all, the party has endorsed more than two dozen candidates for state and county-level office ahead of this year’s general election. Most of them identify primarily as Democrats. The party is particularly excited to support Democrat Amanda Janoo, whom it sees as the most progressive candidate for governor the state has had in years, Thomas has said.

Progressive Party leaders will meet soon to choose an interim chair to replace Hunsinger, Thomas said. The party will formally elect a new one at its state convention the week after the Nov. 3 election.

Hunsinger will stay involved with the party, including as chair of its Addison County committee, Thomas said.

Low Waiting List!

For 1 and 2 bedroom units
in Vergennes and Middlebury
(income limits apply)

Apply Today!

For More Information:
(802) 877-2626 x100
info@addisonhousingworks.org
or
www.addisonhousingworks.org

ADDISON HOUSING WORKS
AFFORDABLE HOMES
STRONG COMMUNITIES

Equal Housing Opportunity

DO YOU LOVE DOGS?

Yes, of course!

How about your community?

Absolutely!

And local businesses?

100% vital to our towns!

Well then, we have the perfect job for YOU!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Turn to page 9B to find your dream job!

State police find five impaired drivers

ADDISON COUNTY — The last week of August saw the local barracks of the Vermont State Police involved in a lot of driving under the influence (DUI) cases.

The most notorious was on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at around 10:30 p.m., when Nissan Altima struck and killed a motorcyclist stopped to make a left-hand turn on Route 7 in North Ferrisburgh. Kyle Conner, 31, of Monkton was killed in the crash, and Faith Hobson, 30, of Vergennes was driving the Nissan.

Police cited Hobson for DUI with death resulting, grossly negligent driving and reckless endangerment. She pleaded not guilty on Friday. See the full story on Page 2A.

Elsewhere on the DUI beat, troopers were notified of a person who was driving while intoxicated on Aug. 26 at a quarter after 5 p.m. Police report that Roman De Los Santos Ventura, 35, of Ferrisburgh had been driving on Monkton Road in Ferrisburgh before going off the roadway. While speaking with Ventura, troopers detected indicators of impairment, screened him and ultimately cited Ventura for refusing to take a DUI test. He's due to answer the charge in court this month.

Vt. State Police Log

Separately, on Aug. 28 just before 8 p.m. a saw a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Lewis Creek Road in Ferrisburgh and pulled the car over. The trooper suspected impaired driving, and took Izabel J. Ingham, 20, of Burlington to the Vergennes Police Department for an evaluation by a drug recognition expert. They cited her for driving under the influence of drugs.

The next day, Aug. 29, at a little after 10:30 p.m., a trooper stopped a car on Route 7 near Town Hill Road in New Haven and identified the driver as Thomas J. Huestis, 52, of Weybridge. The officer discovered that Huestis had an active warrant for failure to appear stemming from an earlier DUI charge.

While talking with him, trooper also noticed indicators of impairment, arrested Huestis, took him to Vergennes for evaluation and ultimately cited him for DUI-drugs and failure to appear in court.

Police jailed Huestis at Marble

Valley Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$100.

Finally, on Aug. 30 shortly after 4:30 p.m., a trooper checked the welfare of a driver of a motor vehicle located in a pull-off on Route 7 near Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh. With help from Middlebury police, the trooper ended up citing Fawn Wood, 43, of Crown Point, N.Y., for DUI – drugs.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On Aug. 23 at 4:44 p.m. cited Scott F. Lee, 56, of South Burlington for driving with a criminally suspended license on Monkton Road in Ferrisburgh.

- On Aug. 28 at noon, while on routine patrol in New Haven, a trooper made contact with Andrew Germain, 39, of Bristol. The officer found that Germain had an outstanding in-state warrant. The officer cited Germain for driving with a criminally suspended license and took him to the Marble Valley Correctional Facility.

- At around the same day and time, checked a report of an assault on Greenbush Road in Ferrisburgh. Police allege that Kira M. Degray, 30, of Ferrisburgh assaulted a 64-year-old Ferrisburgh woman, so the trooper arrested Degray and

cited her for simple assault.

- On Aug. 31 at 11:27 a.m. stopped a car in New Haven and made contact with a passenger identified as Kevin Langlais, 44, of Rutland City. Troopers found that Langlais had an outstanding in-state warrant, so they arrested him and took him to the Addison County Court, Criminal Division, for arraignment.

2★26 Election VT Senate Vote Lesley Bienvenue, MBA

Learn more at www.facebook.com/lesley.bienvenue

Paid for by Lesley Bienvenue



★ ENFORCE ALL LAWS ★

JUDD

FOR

GOVERNOR

STOP RAISING TAXES, LOWER TAXES, RETURN TAX PAYER MONEY TO THE TAX PAYERS !!!

1) COMPLETE AND TOTAL REPEAL OF ACT 181.

2) END HOMELESSNESS BY BRINGING BACK VERMONT STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS.

3) AUDIT THE STATE OF VERMONT AND AUDIT ALL NON PROFITS IN THE STATE OF VERMONT.

THERE'S MUCH, MUCH, MUCH MORE.

CALL ME OR EMAIL ME TO FIND OUT.

802-839-9985 ★ brianjuddward2@gmail.com

★ SAVE VERMONT, VOTE JUDD !!! ★

GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS THE STATE OF VERMONT AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA !!!

PAID FOR BY BRIAN JUDD, 8 NORTH ST. # 1 BARRE, VT. 05641 802-839-9985

City police help state law enforcement

VERGENNES — Last week the Vergennes Police Department assisted Vermont State Police three times.

On Aug. 26 local law enforcement assisted the state agency at a fatal motor vehicle crash on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh that involved a motorcyclist and an impaired driver. The motorcyclist, Kyle Conner, 31, died at the Vermont Medical Center in Burlington (See story on Page 2A).

Faith Hobson, 30, was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence and police cited her for DUI with death resulting, grossly negligent driving and reckless endangerment. In Addison County Superior Court the following day she pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of driving under the influence and one count of grossly negligent driving resulting in the death of another.

On Aug. 28 and 29 Vergennes Police conducted drug influence evaluations for the Vermont State Police.

Between Aug. 24 and Aug 30 Vergennes police also conducted 23 traffic stops, two directed patrols, 11 commercial vehicle inspections and one VIN number inspection, and took fingerprints six times.

In other recent activity, city police:

- On Aug. 24 took a report from two people at the police department who were concerned someone was

Vergennes Police Log

stalking them. Once they described the situation police told them that the person lives and does business in and around Vergennes.

- On Aug. 24 police took a report that a man left Valley Vista on a day pass and did not return when he was supposed to. Officers checked the area and issued a be-on-the-look-out request to other law enforcement. It was later found that he was fine, in good health and did not wish to provide details on his location.

- On Aug. 24 took the report of a possible violation of conditions of release. After reviewing the paperwork, police determined that there was no violation.

- On Aug. 24 were notified of a motor vehicle complaint involving road rage. The parties were located by Vergennes officers and the issue was resolved.

- On Aug. 24 were notified of a motor vehicle complaint entering Vergennes. The vehicle was located and there was no issue.

- On Aug. 25 found a loose dog in Vergennes and took it to the animal hospital.

- On Aug. 25 assisted a resident with what they perceived to be fraudulent use of a credit card.

The resident was told to contact the business involved and the credit card company.

- On Aug. 26 took a report from a Vergennes resident that their ex-spouse violated a court order. The case is under review by the State Attorney's office to determine if charges will be filed.

- On Aug. 26 took a report of a missing person. They later made contact with the complainant and advised they were OK and safe.

- On Aug. 27 were notified of a landlord-tenant dispute.

- On Aug. 27 responded to a dispute between neighbors. Officers calmed them down.

- On Aug. 27 responded to Valley Vista for the report of a possible overdose and mental health crisis. Police determined the person did not overdose and arrangements for care were made.

- On Aug. 27 conducted one of the 23 traffic stops and arrested a female passenger identified as Sabrina Prim, 32, of Bristol after determining she had multiple outstanding in-state warrants with bail. She was transported to the Chittenden County Regional Correction Facility.

- On Aug. 28 took a report of a person violating their conditions of release by smoking marijuana. Review of the court order found that there was no condition prohibiting consumption of marijuana. No further action was taken.

Area Girl Scouts share joy with Stories & Scoops

BRISTOL — Girls in pre-kindergarten and up are invited to Stories & Scoops for an afternoon of stories, a fun craft and a scoop of ice cream hosted by Girl Scouts of the Green & White Mountains. Families have the opportunity to see how the Girl Scouts program can help girls find the power within, bring their dreams to life, and work together to build a better world.

Stories & Scoops is free and takes place Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Lawrence Memorial Library in Bristol. Bring a friend and make new ones! RSVP to 888-474-9686 or customer care@girlscoutsgwm.org — or just drop in. See more at bit.ly/3Sx4bHY. Anyone can also join Girl Scouts anytime online at girlscoutsgwm.org.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — The East Monkton Church Association is sponsoring an event at the East Monkton Church, 405 Church Road on Saturday, September 12, at 2 p.m. This occasion is called ‘Around the Kitchen Table: Where all the best stories are told.’ 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.

The East Monkton Church Association, Inc. (eastmonktonchurch.org) wishes to thank all of the wonderful sponsors for 2026 that make these events possible: Boot Hill Metal Benders, Fiddleback Woodworks, Green Tree Real Estate, Layn Farms, Silver Spring Farm, Vic Cousino Property Services, VT Marine and Wooden Hammer. This event is free, but donations are always appreciated. Note that there are no

facilities at the church.

Join Melanie Cote and the Poetry Club for a morning of listening to poems and other by participants. This month's meeting will be held in the Town Hall Community Room at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 19. Bring a poem to share or just come and listen to others recite theirs. Contact Melanie at cotem@ymail.com for more information.

As usual, Eugenie Doyle will continue ashtanga Yoga on Sundays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the library. Contact Eugenie at edoyle@gmavt.net for more information.

Check with the Russell Memorial Library for continuing happenings such as Toddler Storytime, Community Yoga and other events going on in the Community Room and library. Call 802-453-4471 to inquire.

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

2ND ANNUAL HOPE IN MOTION EVERY STEP MATTERS

Timed 5K Run/Walk • Timed 1K Fun Run

A Community Celebration For Everyone

Live Music • Food Trucks • Community Resource Fair • Family Activities

SUNDAY, SEPT 27, 2026

55 Collins Drive, Middlebury, VT

Bib Pick-Up Begins: 8:00 AM

1K Fun Run: 9:00 AM • 5K Run/Walk: 9:45 AM

Please join us for a day dedicated to celebrate recovery, promote wellness, and bring our community together.

Whether you choose to run, walk, volunteer, visit the Community Resource Fair, or simply enjoy the day's festivities, your participation helps reduce stigma, strengthen community connections, and support recovery for individuals and families throughout Addison County.

For event information, sponsorship opportunities, or to volunteer:

info@prcv.org or (802) 388-4249 • prcv.org

Together, we can build a healthier, stronger Addison County, one connection at a time.



Peer Recovery Center OF ADDISON COUNTY

79 Court St., Middlebury, VT

With special thanks to:

The **M&T** Charitable Foundation



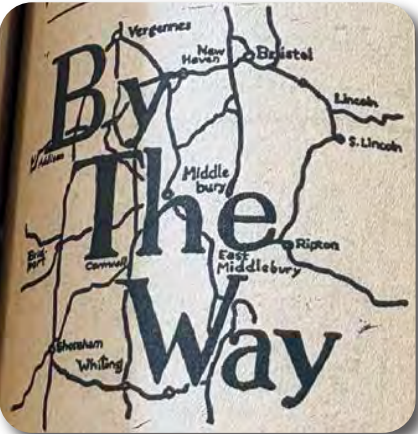
University of Vermont Health Porter Medical Center



Registration Is Open Now!

Register today by scanning the QR code

This By The Way from January in the 1950s was particularly clever.



On the light side: An English teacher offered a pie to the pupil who would write the briefest essay on two of life's problems. The winner used only one word: "Twins."

Back in Aug. 25, 1950, Carr Hall was built on the Middlebury College campus.



Sequentennial year of Middlebury College will be marked by the erection of a new recitation building to be named Carr Hall and completed by the first of the year. Construction will start immediately.

College To Erect New Recitation Building To Be Known As Carr Hall

Contract Given Austin & Co. For \$150,000 Structure; Work To Start At Once

With Battell Hall, new women's \$400,000 dormitory unit nearing completion, Dr. Samuel S. Stratton, president of Middlebury College announced Thursday that work is starting immediately on the construction of a recitation building to be named Carr Hall and erected in memory of Reid L. Carr, native of nearby Cornwall, prominent New York lawyer, trustee and alumnus of Middlebury College prior to his death two years ago.

Carr Hall will be of modified Georgian style and faced with limestone from local quarries. The building will be two stories high with a full basement and the cost of construction of this newest addition to the Middlebury campus will be approximately \$150,000. Funds for the construction and en-

dowment have been provided by the estate of Mrs. Reid L. Carr. When Carr Hall is completed sometime in late January, it will be used to house the Fine Arts and other departments of the college. A well lighted basement will provide facilities for lectures and classrooms. The first floor will have a memorial lobby, a Fine Arts library, offices and classrooms, while the upper floor will contain two art studios.

The Memorial Baptist Church in Middlebury welcomed Rev. Rowe to the pulpit in November 1958.



Rev. G. M. Rowe Called To Midd Baptist Pulpit

Rev. Gerald M. Rowe, pastor of the Advent Christian Church in Schenectady, has accepted a call to become pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Middlebury. Rev. Mr. Rowe, who has served the Schenectady Church for the past ten years, will begin his ministry in Middlebury on January 4.

A graduate of Gordon Divinity School in Beverly Falls, Mass., he was president of the Schenectady County Ministerial Assn. in 1952, and served as its secretary-treasurer for two years. For several years he has been a member of the Evangelism and Comity committee of the Schenectady County Council of Churches. He has been evangelist and youth director at Bible Conferences and Camp meeting.

Middlebury Union High School Varsity football players claimed victory over Fair Haven and took the 1958 championship title for the Marble Valley League. This classic team photo was the cover image of The Addison Independent on Nov. 28, 1958.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1958 14 PAGES

Easter Of 1958 To Be Heralded At Dawn Services

Cornwall, Midd, Bristol Groups Planning Rites

Down of Charles Burdick, April 6 will be marked at Sunrise Services conducted by several churches throughout the County.

Youth groups of the Methodist, Congregational, and Baptist Churches will join in the Middlebury College Golf Course at 5:45 a. m. Easter morning for their annual union service, to be held at the Congregational Church in case of rain. Breakfast will be served at the Methodist Church after sunrise service and breakfast at 8:15 a.m.

Bristol Baptists will have their sunrise service at the church at 6:30 a.m., with breakfast there at 8 a.m. The Youth Fellowship and Senior Chorus will lead services at the Bristol Federated Church at 6 a.m. with breakfast at 7:15 served by the Ladies Aid.

Cornwall Congregational Fellowship will hold its annual Easter sunrise service and breakfast at 8:15 a.m.

Traditional three-hour Good Friday services will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Episcopal churches of St. Stephen's in Middlebury and St. Paul's in Vermont. The Middlebury Baptist chapel will be open all day Good Friday for prayer and meditation.

Liturgical Action will be held at 2:30 p.m. Good Friday afternoon at St. Mary's Church of Middlebury, including Scripture readings, golden prayers, Veneration of the Cross, and Stations and Veneration of the Cross at 8 p.m.

Baptist Saturday services at St. Mary's will include the Easter Vigil at 11 p.m., and Holy Mass at midnight. Masses on Easter Sunday will be at the customary times, and communion will be at the customary times.

Walter "Duke" Nelson was honored by members of his record-breaking 1907 - 58 Middlebury College Hockey team Monday evening at the Middlebury Inn during the meeting of the Addison County Hockey Association.

The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team.

Chittenden Trust Co. Addison County Trust

Walter "Duke" Nelson was honored by members of his record-breaking 1907 - 58 Middlebury College Hockey team Monday evening at the Middlebury Inn during the meeting of the Addison County Hockey Association.

The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team.

Nelson Honored By Hockey Team As Lions Meet

Walter "Duke" Nelson was honored by members of his record-breaking 1907 - 58 Middlebury College Hockey team Monday evening at the Middlebury Inn during the meeting of the Addison County Hockey Association.

The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team.

Town Caucuses For Both Parties Slated April 20-30

Republican town caucuses are scheduled to be held the week of April 29 to 30, according to State GOP chairman Carlton G. Howe. It is likely that most of them will be held on Monday, April 28, but in Middlebury Town Chairman Ralph Fode announced that he expects to call the Middlebury caucuses for Tuesday, April 29. The April 29 - 30 period applies to Democrats as well as Republicans under the law.

This is the first step in the election year organization of the state committees - from the town caucuses are set to elect town committee members.

These committees are established and eventually the state committees of both parties hold organizational meetings as a prelude to the fall elections.

VFW Bowlers

Walter "Duke" Nelson was honored by members of his record-breaking 1907 - 58 Middlebury College Hockey team Monday evening at the Middlebury Inn during the meeting of the Addison County Hockey Association.

The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team.

Carter Advocates Wider Use Of TV For Education

College Music Head Sees Need For Cooperation

Vermont's needs in educational television cannot be met by closed-circuit broadcasting, says Dr. Alan Carter, professor of music at Middlebury College. Carter, is founder and director of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Association which last year pioneered in TV programs for the state's educational schools by offering weekly musical broadcasts to schools by means of closed-circuit TV.

Carter's plan is to set up a range is at present only approximately 25 miles. This is adequate in areas, as in Boston's very successful school program. However, several costly booster stations would be needed to cover Vermont.

The FCC has allocated a channel to Vermont, but to wait until we could utilize the closed-circuit system would only delay the program, says Carter.

Use of television to expand educational facilities in Vermont were begun more than a year ago when the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Association, under Carter's leadership, installed a system of weekly ship, installed a system of weekly ship, installed a system of weekly ship.

Oakley Palmer To Captain Rifle Team In Matches

Sgt. I. C. Oakley M. Palmer of Middlebury has been designated as captain for the Vermont Army Reserve team which will represent the 10th Corps at the First U.S. Army Rifle matches at Fort Dix, N. J. early in May. Sgt. Robert L. McDonald of Milton will function as team coach. Both men are members of the 24th Engineer Co. of Edwin Allen AFB.

Other firing members of the team representing Vermont are Sgt. I. C. Richard Pook, Windsor, and Sgt. I. C. Bear Karkus of Burlington. From the Burlington army, reserve, are Sgt. I. C. Edwin Sweeney, Milton, Sp. 2 Robert Larrick, Hinton, Sp. 2 Robert Larrick, Hinton, Sp. 2 Robert Larrick, Hinton.

In commenting on the current year's payroll at the University, Dr. Stratton stated "it is interesting to note that our total payroll for this year exceeds last year's total of \$1,154,188 by over \$100,000."

Ferrisburg F.R. Gets 60 M In State

Walter "Duke" Nelson was honored by members of his record-breaking 1907 - 58 Middlebury College Hockey team Monday evening at the Middlebury Inn during the meeting of the Addison County Hockey Association.

The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team. The girls, an intercollegiate team, will be the Middlebury team.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

80 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT LOCAL JOURNALISM

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 the 1950s.

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.

Check out these real estate prices for a five-room home in Weybridge and seven-room home in Shoreham from January 1956.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOME IN WEYBRIDGE, Vermont, 1 1/2 story, 5 rooms and bath, one-half acre of land. \$4,000

A FINE HOME in Shoreham, Vermont, 7 rooms, insulated, 2 car garage, spring water, excellent view. \$6,500

Several Good Apartment Houses and Homes in Middlebury.

All Kinds of Business Properties Stores, Garages, Restaurants, etc.

CYRUS A. METCALF
Insurance and Real Estate



KING AND QUEEN, chosen to rule over Bristol's Country A-Fair are, at center, brother and sister Robert Jr. and Mary Ann Page of Bristol, attended by the runners-up in the contest, Prince and Princess Gene Hallock of New Haven and Patricia Murphy of Bristol. Ekman photo



1958 CHAMPIONS OF THE MARBLE VALLEY LEAGUE, the Middlebury Union High School Tiger football team posed for this team picture with their uniforms still bearing the smudges and scars of their tie-breaking victory over Fair Haven. Varsity players are, from left to right: Front row: Gary Cooke, Fletcher Fode, MVL All-Star backs Jim Billings and Ken Burton, Mike Machynre, Jim Brown, John Barrera, Larry Elaise, John Quesnel. Second row: David Brooker, John Winstel, Sid Emili, Donald Burton, Dick Turner, All-Stars tackle Don Keeler and center Bob Ryan, Bob Smith, Bruce Barton, Walter Stirling, Eric Brooker, Barrera, Don Burton and quarterback Machynre won All-Star second team honors. Third row: Tiger Coach John Galasone, and the Jivve squad: Kendall Fode, Larry Duffay, Reg Boutwell, Peter White, Dick Bingham, David Fountain, Dick Rouse, Peter Burton, Steve Myhre, John Eddy, Coach Anthony Trono, Roch Machynre. Fourth row: Joseph Hamilton, Lynn Ricknell, Michael Gay, Middle Spencer, Bill Stearns, Keith Naylor, Rodney Blaise, John Halligan, Maurice Rheame. Not present for the photograph were Marcel Larocque and Gibb Smith. Bernard L. Cole, photo

Technicolor movies screened at Town Hall in Middlebury, like "Peter Pan" on Nov. 7, 1958.

TOWN HALL

MIDDLEBURY, DU 8-2552

THURS.-SAT NOV. 6-8

Matinee Sat. - 1:30

EVERYONE'S GREAT ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME!

Walt Disney's **PETER PAN**

TECHNICOLOR

It's that wonderful, memorable All-Cartoon Entertainment!

Distributed by BUENA VISTA Film Dist. Co. © WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

President Eisenhower wrote a letter of appreciation to the chairman of the Addison County Republican Committee back in the spring of 1956.

Ike Appreciates Message From County Republicans

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a personal letter to Dr. H. I. Slocum, chairman of the Addison County Republican Committee, has expressed his appreciation of the message sent him by the Addison County group on his announcement that he is willing to run again. The message from the President reads:

"I am indeed grateful to you and your associates for the thoughtful message you sent on my announcement that I would be available for renomination and reelection if the Republican Convention and, later, the American people, should decide to continue me in this post.

"The importance to Americans of major governmental policies is clearly reflected in the active interest taken by the members of your organization in the political life of our country. You know that this Administration has strived constantly for the achievement of lasting peace and dynamic growth in the prosperity and wellbeing of our people. I am thankful that the record of achievement thus far commends itself to all of you, and I am glad of your support toward the fulfillment of our purpose.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,
Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Teens complained that Middlebury needs to do more for its teens in the May 25, 1956 edition of the paper.

Our Teen-age Problem

One of our teen-agers complained to us recently that "Nothing is done for us teen-agers in Middlebury; that's why so many of us go out of town for amusement and entertainment." This boy has a point, we think, for we do not recall any sort of gathering for teenagers since last Christmas holidays and that was a private affair. It was a dance held at the American Legion Home with about 150 present and if we recall correctly, the total cost was in the neighborhood of \$25.

Covered Bridge Spanning Century To Fall Shortly

This century-old covered bridge in The Hollow at North Ferrisburg was slated to come down and be replaced with concrete in 1858. Pictured is Earl Ambrose driving to market from his home on Monkton Road.



Telephones were becoming a common household technology in the late 1950s. Here's a telephone ad from March 1958 promoting illuminated dials and volume control.

Women’s soccer aims to score more goals this fall

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
MIDDLEBURY — In 2025, the Middlebury College women’s soccer team had a locked-down defense. Panther Coach Peter Kim views that as an area where the team will be strong again this year.

But if they want to leap beyond one noteworthy stat on the leaderboards, he says they’ll need to put balls in the back of the net.

“I think the question will be whether we can put the points on the board,” he said.

“If we’re able to, I think that we could be an exciting team to watch. We play a style of soccer that’s different than most of the teams that we play against. We have the ball a lot and we have a lot of creative players.”

The team’s defense was part of what propelled the young Panther women’s soccer team to a solidly winning 13-4-3 season, which included an at-large NCAA bid. Middlebury concluded last fall ranked 15th among Division III schools. They were behind fellow NESCAC schools Tufts (4th) and Williams (8th).

The latter ousted the Panthers from the league tournament in the semifinals, 2-1. The former knocked Middlebury out of the NCAA tournament in the third round, defeating the Panthers by two goals to none.

With 32 goals scored last year, Middlebury fell right in the middle of the rankings for that statistic (See *Women’s soccer*, Page 4B)



TIGER ALICE LIVESAY, left, and Commodore Sophia James vie for a ball during a game in Vergennes on Saturday, Aug. 29. James scored the only goal in the game.

Independent photo/Steve James

Top-shelf goal starts VUHS girls’ soccer season

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
VERGENNES — The 2026 Vergennes Union High School girls’ soccer season started Saturday morning the way last year ended in the 2025 Division-III title game.

A win, and a top-shelf shot knocked into the net by Commodore Sophia James.

That strike, which James slotted into the left corner of the net from the right side of the box, sealed the Commodores’ 2-0 victory over Peoples last November, and propelled the VUHS team to a 1-0

victory over Middlebury Union High School on Aug. 29.

After James’s goal early on Saturday, the 16-member VUHS squad held onto the one-goal lead for the remaining 70 minutes of the game, securing the “w” in their season- and home-opener

“It’s hard to just fly back into a season after a big season last year, and there’s a lot of pressure on the girls, and there’s a lot of expectations. I think that coming in, we were nervous. It’s a rival school, it’s a big game, season- (See *Girls’ soccer*, Page 3B)



MIDDLEBURY JUNIORS THEA Porter, left, and Willow Heywood defend against a Rice hit during the opening match of the season for the two teams on Friday. Middlebury came away the winner.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger volleyball opens with two wins

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
MIDDLEBURY — The defending state champions Tiger volleyball team kept a double-digit winning streak alive during their first two games of the season this past Friday and Monday.

And the Middlebury Union High School squad needed just three sets in both games to do so. First, they defeated Rice three sets to none — 25-11, 25-16 and 25-13 — in what was their 17th consecutive victory. Then the Tigers nabbed their 18th straight win at home against Vermont Commons — 25-7, 25-19, 25-9. MUHS hasn’t lost a game since September 2025.

“We have a large team; 16 on our roster today. And everybody played,” Coach Bethany Morrissey said after the team’s 2026 debut game. “I think everybody probably had some statistic to claim.”

After allowing Rice the first point of the Aug. 28 game, the Tigers came back to go on a five-point run, bringing the score to 8-3. Rice closed the gap to 9-6, but after that never got within four points of Middlebury.

MUHS took their biggest leads of the set during their last five points, bouncing between 10 and 14 ahead of Rice. The set ended 25-11, Tigers.

In the second set the Tigers pulled away after their ninth point. MUHS and Rice were tied at 3 apiece when the Tigers sent themselves on a six-point scoring run to make it 11-6. A 9-1 run in the middle of the round propelled the Tigers a 20-10 edge, and allowed them to coast to a 25-16 victory.

The most competitive time of the match was during the third set. Between the 10th and 13th points, MUHS and Rice traded one or two points back and forth. MUHS didn’t allow Rice another point after they locked the set at 13-13.

After the 24th point of the game, players and coaches on the bench became the most enthusiastic they had been the entire game.

And after a brief back and forth, junior Willow Heywood sealed the Tigers’ 2026 debut with a hit from her post right at the front and



center of the net. A Rice player got a tip on the ball Heywood had sent, but it ultimately sailed behind her. The Tigers finished it 25-13.

Aiding in that victory were the 21 aces the Tigers managed across the three sets. Many of those, eight total, came from senior co-captain Tenny (See *Tiger volleyball*, Page 3B)



TIGER CAPTAIN JULIA Morrissey serves the ball during Friday’s match vs. Rice in the Middlebury gymnasium. Middlebury won in straight sets.

Independent photo/Steve James

Vt. Sun triathlon season closes
Hundreds of competitors participate in final races

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
SALISBURY — The Vermont Sun Triathlon series capped the summer with one final day of events over the weekend.

The last set of races for the season, held on Sunday, featured a number of offerings — a sprint triathlon, sprint aquabike, Olympic-length triathlon and Olympic-length aquabike.

Olympic length triathlon featured a 0.9-mile swim, 28-mile bike and 6.2-mile run. Aquabikers completed that length swim and bike.

Participants in the sprint triathlon completed a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike and 3.1-mile run, and sprint aquabikers just the former two sections.

In addition to the hundreds of participants in those races,

team sprint and Olympic-length events drew five and three teams, respectively.

The big winner of the day was Kris Freeman, 46, of Campton, N.H. He was top finisher in the Olympic-length triathlon in 2:11:20.24.

Second out of the water with a swim time of 22:51.47, Freeman was more than five minutes ahead of the next competitor in the bike with a time of 1:05:34 (25.5 mph pace). His 41:18 run was fourth-fastest and good enough to bring him in more than four minutes ahead of second-place Kyle Friis of Middlebury.

Jessie Donovan, 50, of Middlebury was the first woman, and sixth person overall to complete the swim, bike, run trifecta. Her 2:35:13.81 time was made up of a (See *Triathlon*, Page 2B)



CORNWALL 19-YEAR-OLD and MUHS grad Ava Schneider was the women’s champ in Sunday’s Vermont Sun Sprint triathlon with a time of 1:15:50.11.

Photo by Pat Hendricks Photography

Local boys’ soccer teams face each other

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI
ADDISON COUNTY — The boys’ soccer teams from Middlebury and Vergennes union high schools both nabbed wins to start their seasons. Mount Abraham is 0-2 after losing two close games this past week.

The Tigers defeated the Commodores on Tuesday, 1-0. Junior Oliver Wetzel scored a goal 10 minutes into the game that was enough to get MUHS the win. Tiger goalie Eric Chen, a freshman, had three saves. The VUHS goalie, senior Colton Reed, had seven.

Up next, MUHS heads to Missisquoi on Friday, Sept. 4.

VUHS will have a chance to tip the scales of their season to a winning record on Sept. 9 at home against Enosburg.

Though the Commodores fell to MUHS, they won their season opener at home against Mt. Abe on Friday, Aug. 28. The game ended 1-0. Junior Liam Paquette scored the sole goal off an assist from senior Elliot Cosgrove five minutes into the second half.

Reed had six saves, as did the Eagle goalie, junior Keller Obarski.

Mt. Abe dropped a second close game, again by one goal, on Tuesday. Rice went up 1-0 early in the contest and held the lead through half. Eagle senior Jaran Griffin tied the game, 1-1, right out of half. His goal was assisted by senior Abraham Camara.

But Rice took a 3-1 lead after back to back goals in the 59th and 62nd minutes of the game.

Griffin gave the Eagles a chance to tie the game again with a second goal, but the match ended 3-2.

Obarski had five saves.

Mt. Abe plays on Friday at BFA St. Albans.

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Girls’ Soccer	
8/28 Mt. Abe vs Fair Haven.....	2-0
8/29 VUHS vs MUHS	1-0
9/2 Montpelier at MUHS.....	Late
9/2 Mt. Abe at U-32	Late
Boys’ Soccer	
8/28 VUHS vs Mt. Abe	1-0
9/1 MUHS vs VUHS	1-0
9/1 Rice vs Mt. Abe	3-2
Field Hockey	
8/28 Essex vs Mt. Abe.....	4-0
9/1 Fair Haven vs MUHS	7-0
Volleyball	
8/28 Vt. Commons vs Mt. Abe.....	3-1
8/28 MUHS vs Rice	3-0
8/31 MUHS vs Vt. Commons	3-0
9/2 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi	Late

Schedule

9/2 MUHS at Burlington		Late
HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS		
Girls’ Soccer		
9/5 VUHS at Mt. Abe	10 AM	
9/5 MUHS at Harwood	11 AM	
9/8 Richford at VUHS	4:30 PM	
9/8 Rutland at MUHS	4:30 PM	
9/8 Mt. Abe at Spaulding	4:30 PM	
9/10 Rutland at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM	
Boys’ Soccer		
9/4 Mt. Abe at BFA St. Albans	4:30 PM	
9/4 MUHS at Missisquoi	4:30 PM	
9/9 Enosburg at VUHS.....	4:30 PM	
9/9 MUHS at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM	
Football		
9/4 Milton at MAV	7 PM	
9/5 MUHS at BBA.....	7 PM	
9/12 MAV at Windsor	1 PM	
9/12 MUHS at CVU	1 PM	
Field Hockey		
9/4 Mt. Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM	
9/8 Colchester at Mt. Abe.....	4 PM	
9/8 MUHS at Otter Valley	4:30 PM	
9/10 Mt. Abe at Montpelier	4 PM	
9/10 MUHS at Milton	4:30 PM	
Volleyball		
9/4 CVU at MUHS	6:30 PM	
9/5 Vt. Commons at Mt. Abe	11:30 AM	
9/9 Hartford at Mt. Abe	6 PM	
9/9 Missisquoi at MUHS.....	6 PM	
Cross Country		
9/5 MUHS, Mt. Abe, VUHS ..at Burlington		
9/8 Mt. Abe at Milton	3:30 PM	
(See <i>Schedule</i> , Page 3B)		



Major Leaguers play in the Field of Dreams

There are those who don't like the baseball movie "Field of Dreams." They find it too sentimental, corny. It is based on the cliché of the once-timeless bond of fathers playing catch with their sons.

I understand their resistance but do not count myself in their company. I am a sucker for "Field of Dreams." I loved the movie when I first saw it — and still do.

Many a night when I was a kid, I

played catch with my dad when he came home from work.

I saw the movie when it first came out in 1989. My excitement was spurred by having read the book "Shoeless Joe" by W.P. Kinsella from which the film was adapted — and follows closely. As wonderful as the movie is, the book is even better.

In 2008, on one of our family trips cross-country, I saw a sign

that read "Chisholm 15" miles, so the family succumbed to my pleas to make a detour to Chisholm, Minnesota.

We couldn't be that close to Chisholm and not set foot in the hometown of Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, just about my favorite secondary character in all of literature.

W.P. Kinsella plucked Moonlight Graham from real life, an actual ballplayer who appeared in only one major league game for just two innings the last game of the season for the New York Giants in 1905 playing in right field. He never got to bat.



IN THE 1989 film "Field of Dreams," actor Burt Lancaster plays ex-ballplayer Dr. Archibald "Moonlight" Graham in his final film role.



IOWA FARMER RAY Kinsella (Kevin Costner) hears a voice in his cornfield instructing, "If you build it, he will come" — and he does and brings his friends!

emanating from his cornfield, instructing, "If you build it, he will come."

(W.P. Kinsella gave his protagonist his own surname. That's allowed: it's fiction!)

Ray plows part of his cornfield and builds a ballfield — and he does come and he brings his teammates. "He" is Shoeless Joe Jackson, the greatest player in the era before Babe Ruth. Jackson disgraced baseball by accepting a bribe to throw games in the 1919 World Series. He and seven of his teammates were banned for life and branded forever the "Black" Sox.

Joe and those teammates, all dead in the present, are brought back to life on the ballyard that Ray constructs in his cornfield and emerge spectrally out the cornstalks for joyful nocturnal ballgames.

Joe asks Ray at one point, "Is this heaven?" and Ray responds, "No, it's Iowa." That line has become the film's signature.

Ray receives other whispered instructions by the mysterious cornfield voice: "Ease his pain" is next and this sends Ray off to New England to rescue from despair famous recluse J.D. Salinger (in the novel) and the fictional Terrence Mann, a disillusioned counterculture icon from the Sixties (in the film).

Mann is played robustly by James Earl Jones (Salinger never would allow his privacy to be violated in this way).

Then, heeding the voice calling to them (in Fenway Park no less) to "Go the distance," Ray and Salinger/Mann head to Chisholm to encounter Dr. Graham before traveling back to Iowa for the story's deeply satisfying climax.

And yes, Ray does play catch with dad, John Kinsella, who appears among the ghost players. His dad died when Ray was a teenager just after they had argued, to Ray's eternal regret.

At the end of the story, the



Sports (Mostly) **KARL LINDHOLM**

(See Lindholm, Page 4B)

Eagle, Tiger field hockey to face off

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — Both local high school field hockey teams took losses to start their 2026 seasons.

The Mount Abraham Union High School team fell 4-0 to Essex at home on Friday, Aug. 28. Freshman goalie Jillian Cousino had 14 saves.

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, the Middlebury Union High School team lost 7-0 to Fair Haven on the road. The Tigers' 19-person roster includes 12 freshmen and just one senior.

Both will have a shot to even their records on Friday when they meet in the shire town at 4 p.m.

Triathlon

(Continued from Page 1B)

29:15.96 swim, 1:19:30.1 bike and 44:08.89 run.

In the Olympic-length aquabike, Mark Pitts, 64, of North Woodstock, N.H. took first overall in 1:44:15.28 (26:23.79 swim, 1:16:16.88 bike). In first place among women, and second overall, in 1:58:41.03 was Suzan Ballmer, 68, also of North Woodstock, N.H. (27:05.27 swim, 1:29:48.93 bike).

The sprint triathlon winner was David Connery, 58, of Shelburne, who completed the course in 1:11:03.56. His splits were 10:51 swim, 36:12 bike, 22:22 run. The women's victor, and 8th place finisher overall, was 19-year-old Ava Scheider of Cornwall, who completed the course in 1:15:50.11. Her splits were 9:56 swim, 41:04 bike, 22:47 run.

First overall in the sprint aquabike and women's winner was Mary Clifton, 69, of Charlotte in 1:02:46.03. Her splits were 12:03 swim, 49:01 bike). Howard Brown, 72, of New York City (1:14:00.12) was first among the men and third overall. His splits were 15:34.84 swim, 54:54.63 bike.

Here were the second and third place finishers in each event:

Sprint Triathlon, Men:

2nd William Haig, 28, Londonderry, 1:11:44.09 (9:19 swim, 40:36 bike, 20:34 run)

3rd Cameron Atkinson, 25, Windham, N.H., 1:12:29.55 (9:07 swim, 40:05 bike, 21:06 run)

Sprint Triathlon, Women:

2nd Stephanie Renouf (15th overall), 21, Cinnaminson, N.J., 1:18:30.07, 10:05.63 swim, 46:02.05 bike, 20:05.32 run

3rd Meghan Zimmerman (16th overall), 41, Enfield, N.H., 1:18:36.78, 11:52.24 swim, 41:43.98 bike, 23:07.67 run

Sprint Aquabike, Women:

2nd Mora Holmgren-Ly, 27, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 1:11:14.53, 16:33.4 swim, 52:02.12 bike

3rd Rochelle Grise (5th overall), 65, Merced, Calif., 1:24:31.91, 14:25.9 swim, 1:06:42.85 bike

Spring Aquabike, Men:

2nd Dan Grise (4th overall), 65, Merced Calif., 1:14:25.41, 11:37.15 swim, 58:14.69 bike

3rd Patrick Flaherty (sixth overall), 35, Winooski, 1:27:51.78, 14:12.89 swim, 1:10:42.36 bike

Olympic Triathlon, Men:

2nd Kyle Friis, 40, Middlebury, 2:15:34.28 (23:30.76 swim, 1:12:37.27 bike, 37:54.71 run)

3rd William Schumann, 63, West Hartford, Conn., 2:20:42.24 (21:31.02 swim, 1:14:29.37 bike, 42:54.56 run)

Olympic Triathlon, Women:

2nd Becca Kuss (7th overall), 34, South Burlington, 2:43:00.33 (24:38.83 swim, 1:29:39.35 bike, 46:50.42 run)

3rd Hannah Dyal (14th overall), 25, Auburn, Ala., 2:46:47.59 (30:22.41 swim, 1:34:24.03 bike, 39:54.08 run)

Olympic Aquabike, Women:

2nd Kitty Fair (3rd overall), 70, Fort Ann, N.Y., 2:17:51.65 (33:57.76 swim, 1:40:19.25 bike)

3rd Jennifer Lisle (4th overall), 56, Charlotte, 2:29:41.4 (36:32.71 swim, 1:49:55.09 bike)



DAVID CONNERY OF Shelburne cruises through a 5K in 22:22 at the end of Sunday's Sprint triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury and wins the race.

Photo by Pat Hendricks Photography

Stop by any of these 50+ locations for your copy of Addison County's award-winning community newspaper!

Interested in selling the Addison Independent at your business?

Call Sean at 802.388.4944 or email frontdesk@addisonindependent.com.

ADDISON:

- West Addison General Store

BRANDON:

- Brandon Discount Beverage
- Champlain Farms
- Hannaford
- Green Mountain Market
- Junction Store & Deli
- Morningside Bakery
- Union Street Grocery
- Walgreen's

BRIDPORT:

- Broughton's Big Country Hardware
- Pratt's Store

BRISTOL:

- Bristol Country Store
- Bristol Discount Beverage
- Champlain Farms
- Maplefields
- Shaw's
- Walgreen's

EAST MIDDLEBURY:

- Goodro Lumber
- Green Mountain Market
- Maplefields

FERRISBURGH:

- Green Mountain Market

LEICESTER:

- Leicester General Store

LINCOLN:

- Lincoln General Store

MIDDLEBURY:

- Addison Independent Office
- Champlain Farms
- Costello's Market
- Greg's Market
- Hannaford
- Hare and the Dog
- Kinney Drugs
- Maplefields
- Middlebury Discount Beverage
- Middlebury Natural

Foods Co-op

- Otter Creek Bakery
- Rosie's
- Shaw's
- Stewart's Shop
- Stone Mill Public Market
- Vermont Book Shop
- Vermont's Own
- Village Depot
- Walgreen's

MONKTON

- Russell Memorial Library

NEW HAVEN:

- Village Green Market

N. FERRISBURGH:

- Stewart's Shop

ORWELL:

- Orwell Free Library

RIPTON:

- Ripton Country Store

SALISBURY:

- Kampersville Store (seasonal)

SHOREHAM:

- Shoreham Service Center

STARKSBORO:

- Jerusalem 4-Corners Store

VERGENNES:

- BJ's Farm Supply
- Champlain Farms
- Hare and the Dog
- Kinney Drugs
- Shaw's
- Maplefields Vergennes

WHITING

- Whiting General Store

ALSO AVAILABLE AT:

- Eastview at Middlebury
- Porter Hospital/Rehab

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County Vt., Since 1946

REGISTER NOW!

MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND TRUST
23rd Annual
TAM TREK
Sept 20 2026

A benefit event for the Middlebury Area Land Trust.

19-mile, 10k, 5k or 2 mile fun run options

All races start/end at Wright Park

www.maltvt.org/tam-trek



TIGER IZZY QUINN, right, sends a pass to her teammate as Commodore Isabelle Van Voorst defends her during a game in Vergennes on Saturday, Aug. 29. VUHS won the game, 1-0. Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

opener on our home field after a fabulous last year," Coach Morgan Kathan said after the game.

"I think that we just held really strong to realizing that it's a brand new season, it's a brand new team and it's a brand new start for us to have our own success this year."

The team, which went 17-1 last season, controlled the first half with their passing and physicality.

"We have a really strong attacking sense. We like to score goals. We like to work together up forward," Kathan said. Her team launched 13 shots to the Tigers' six.

Part of that goal-hungry front line is James, a junior this year who occupies the center forward position.

Just under 10 minutes into the game, she got the ball from sophomore Ella Maneen and scored her game-winning goal.

"Ella played me the ball, and I just kind of took a shot. I didn't really think much. I just put it in," she recalled of the moment.

James was inches away from

repeating the play with under 10 minutes left in the match. She sent the ball flying, again from outside the box, but this time from the left, to the right corner where it bounced off the spot where the post and cross-bar meet.

While her offense is eager, Kathan said the team has each part of the field covered.

"We have a really strong keeper in net," she said of junior goalie Addie Smith, who had five saves on Saturday.

And in front of the returner is a "cohesive defense that just really works together," Kathan noted.

And then there's her midfielders, such as sophomore Ayla Kittredge and freshman Sophia Buck, who each had a strong on-field presence during their varsity debuts.

"I think our biggest strength is that everyone has a specific role and they play it very well, unified," Kathan said.

"Our biggest asset is that we know each other, we like each other, we have great relationships on and off the field, and that when we play,

we play together, and we're using every inch of the field to do those things."

While the game didn't go the way the Tigers hoped, Coach Reeves Livesay was nonetheless positive about the team's prospects.

"I thought as the game went on, we definitely got stronger, and I thought our second half was definitely an improvement over the first half," he said.

"In the second half we got pressure on the ball more quickly, and I think the first half Vergennes was playing great, but we gave them a little bit more time than we'd like to."

During the latter 40 minutes the Tigers mixed things up with a number of dangerous corner kicks, and other plays, that generated promising opportunities. Unfortunately, they couldn't convert, and will have to wait until Oct. 9 when they host VUHS to get one past the Little City's team.

"The team's working really hard. It's a fun group," Livesay said. "They bring a nice balance of sort of joy and purpose to practice. So we're just having a good time and ready to go."



TIGER EVELYN SCHOELZELAND, left, and Commodore Ella Maneen vie for the ball during a game in Vergennes on Saturday, Aug. 29. VUHS won the game, 1-0. Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)

LaRoche, who is back on the court this year after a torn-ACL kept her sidelined last season. Three were at the hands of senior co-captain Julia Morrissey, and another two each from sophomore Millie Tenny, junior Thea Porter and senior Gaby Araujo. Also noteworthy, according to the coach, was Addie Young's lengthy serving run and her flawless performance at the line.

Heywood and senior co-captain Ida Blackwell combined for seven kills, with four and three, respectively. The team had six more throughout the game.

Three days later against Vermont Commons, the Tigers exceeded their previous ace statistic, this time earning 23 points across the game. With six each, Tenny and Julia

Morrissey led the Tigers in that area. Junior Maya Jacobs repeated Young's time from the service line during the team's previous game.

Additionally, with 26 kills, MUHS more than doubled the number from their debut game. Junior Adeline Ritter, senior Kate Kozak and Heywood each tallied four, Araujo three, and sophomore Morgan McNulty, sophomore Kali Lenihan and Blackwell two.

The team also totaled 17 digs that night.

"What's cool is we're consistently deep together, if that makes sense. If someone's having a bad day, it's not scary to make a switch," Morrissey said following the Rice game.

In the lead-up to the Tigers' 2026 debut, they had the tutelage of the Middlebury College volleyball

team. The Panther squad showed up to a few practices last week.

"They help with attacking and serve speed and all that stuff, which is really nice," LaRoche said.

After the game, once the Tigers had shaken the hands of their opponents and the referees, the Panther athletes were waiting to distribute high fives. Many of them had the phrase "Panthers watch women's sports" displayed across their shirts.

The Tigers, who went 14-1 in 2025, went into their first road game at Burlington on Wednesday night 2-0. That game was played after deadline.

MUHS is due to host Champlain Valley Union on Friday, Sept. 4, at 6 p.m. That team dealt the Tigers their sole loss last year.



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School senior Ida Blackwell leaps sky high for a shot against the Rice defense during Friday's game in Middlebury. Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle volleyball starts second year

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Union High School volleyball team's sequel season has officially started.

Though the eight Eagles took a 4-1 road loss to Vermont Commons in their 2026 debut on Friday, Aug. 28, Coach Bre Sykes took away plenty of positives from the first game of their second season.

"The girls played amazing. I asked them all to focus on consistent serves, positive attitudes and loud communication and they really came through shining last night," she said.

"I could not be more proud of how they played. We are a smaller team this year so there isn't a lot of rest time. They were hustling for every ball and I

could tell they really put their all on that court."

Mt. Abe, who went 5-10 last year, in Friday's contest fell 25-20 and 25-11 in the first two sets.

The Eagles held onto the game during the third, defeating Vermont Commons 25-14 and forcing a fourth. Though that final round was close, Mt. Abe ultimately fell, 25-18.

Here were some of the leading statistics from the Friday night game:

- Junior Charlotte Delisets, 8 aces, 3 kills, 2 blocks.
- Junior Amelia Desilets, 5 aces, 1 kill.
- Junior Meg Park, 3 aces, 2 kills.
- Senior Gemma Lyles, 6 aces.
- Junior Camille Hamilton, 4 aces.

The Eagles were scheduled to play their second game at Missisquoi on Wednesday night after deadline. Their home-opener is slated for Saturday, Sept. 5, at 11:30 a.m. against Vermont Commons.



Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

COLLEGE SPORTS

Volleyball

(9/5-6 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

9/8 Midd at Saint Mike's 7 PM

(9/11-12 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.)

9/11 Roger Williams vs Midd 7 PM

9/12 St. John Fisher vs Midd 11 AM

9/12 Oswego vs Midd 1 PM

Field Hockey

9/5 Union College at Midd 12 PM

9/12 Conn. College at Midd 11 AM

9/13 Babson at Midd 12 PM

Men's Soccer

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

9/8 Endicott at Midd 4 PM

9/12 Conn. College at Midd 12 PM

Women's Soccer

9/5 Midd at Wesleyan 11 AM

9/8 Midd at Union College 5 PM

9/12 Conn. College at Midd 11 AM

9/13 Vassar at Midd 12 PM

Cross Country

9/12 Aldrich Invitational at Midd 10 AM

Heat pump & energy solutions that work for you.

vgsvt.com/clover



39th Annual Ripton Ridge Run

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Online registration is now open!

Former Ripton Elementary School
753 Lincoln Rd., Ripton

Race Day Registration: 11am-12pm 🍁 Race Start: 12:30pm

A 10.4K & 5K Footrace and 5K Fun-Walk on scenic country roads

Register online to guarantee your spot!



Scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/RiptonRidgeRun

Commodore, Eagle and Tiger XC compete in Essex

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — All three local cross country teams joined almost two dozen other squads in Essex on Saturday to get their seasons underway. Athletes from the Middlebury, Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high schools ran their first 5,000-meter race on Saturday, Aug. 29.

The three Division-II teams from Addison County, all of which ran under 15 athletes in the varsity events, were just a few of the 26 schools that attended the multi-division Essex Invitational. The boys' field was 125 racers and the girls' 109.

The top local finishers were Eagle sophomore Del Guilmette, whose 17:23 time was good for 21st and a personal best finish in the boys' race; Tiger freshman Finn Ray, who placed 24th in the same competition (17:40.4, personal best); and Tiger junior Louisa Orten, who placed 25th in the girls' race (21:15.7).

Here's how the other varsity competitors from each school did, with their year, place and time. A personal best is indicated with *:

GIRLS
Mount Abe

- Sophomore Elena Placencia, 102, (36:16.2)
- Junior Sadie Nezin, 103, (36:56.5)
- Freshman Noa Tzuriel, 104, (37:22.4*)
- Freshman Iris Bassett, 105, (39:40.9*)

Middlebury

- Freshman Rosie Barry, 30, (21:26.4*)
- Junior Meredith Carr-Perlow, 49, (22:38.4*)
- Freshman Sedsel Gillette, 50, (22:44.2*)
- Freshman Evelyn Fuller, 58, (23:31.1*)
- Sophomore Mia Rosen, 59, (23:40.4*)
- Freshman Sydney Safran, 75, (25:38.9*)

Vergennes

- Junior Georgia Kunkel, 69, (25:07.6)

- Senior Madeleine Stroup, 84, (27:24.5)

BOYS
Mount Abe

- Senior Elias Bennett Eberhardy, 121, (26:38.5)

Middlebury

- Senior Jase Kozak, 61, (19:12.1)
- Junior Jorgen Pirrung, 68, (19:32.0)
- Freshman Beowulf Yarbough, 88, (20:40.8*)
- Junior George Cammack, 100, (21:13.4*)
- Senior Blake Davidson, 108, (22:16.1)
- Senior Charlie Reiderer, 119, (25:27.9)

Vergennes

- Junior Emerson Morrill, 70, (19:35.6*)
- Sophomore Quin Dubois, 71, (19:38.7*)
- Junior David Coburn, 76, (19:57.7*)
- Sophomore Hudson Wagner, 117, (24:44.3*)

All three teams will head to Burlington on Saturday, Sept. 5, for the Burlington Invitational.



PHILLIES SLUGGER KYLE Schwarber (#12) hitting his second home run here into the cornfield in the fourth inning of this year's Major League Field of Dreams game in Dyersville, Iowa.

Lindholm

(Continued from Page 2B)

Salinger/Mann character reassures Ray that plowing under his corn will not have been in vain. “People will come,” James Earl Jones intones in his most stentorian voice.

“The one constant through all the years has been baseball, Ray . . . People will most definitely come.”

And people have come. In a melding of fiction and fact, the Field of Dreams has become a reality. The farm and ballfield where the movie was set in Dyersville, Iowa, (population 4,500) is a major tourist destination in the heartland of America, attracting between 65,000 and 100,000 tourists every year.

Three weeks ago, Aug. 13, Major League Baseball held its third Field of Dreams game and the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Minnesota Twins, 7-1. These games count in the standings! Next year the Red Sox play the Kansas City Royals on Aug. 12. I already have it on the calendar.

Just as I am with the movie, I

am absorbed with this actual game in this fantastical setting. The best part is at the beginning when the current players in their vintage uniforms come out from the cornfield on to the ballfield, just as they do in the movie.

This year, 28 members of baseball’s Hall of Fame preceded the Phillies and the Twins players on to the field, and ringed the infield. The first of those of those great players introduced was Vermont’s own Jim Kaat, 87 years old. He spends half the year, the warm weather months, in Manchester.

Before the game, a number of fathers played catch with their sons. Roger Clemens played with his son Kody, the Twins second baseman. Phillies Manager Don Mattingly played catch with his son Preston, the Phillies General Manager — his boss!

The game itself was one-sided but not without excitement. The very first batter, Phillies slugger Kyle Schwarber, hit a home run into the cornfield and then socked

another in the fourth inning. Schwarber certainly resembles an old-time ballplayer, all squat and square in his high socks.

At the end of the telecast, stars from the teams invoked the famous lines from the movie: “Dad, wanna have a catch?” (Bryon Buxton, Twins); “If you build it, he will come” (Bryce Harper, Phillies); “Go the distance” (Brandon Marsh, Phillies); “Is this heaven?” (Josh Bell, Twins); “No, it’s Iowa.” (Schwarber, Phillies).

If you haven’t seen “Field of Dreams,” do.

While you’re at it, read the book too.

Karl Lindholm, Ph.D., is the Middlebury College emeritus dean of advising and assistant professor of American Studies (retired). He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

Women’s soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

among the 11 NESCAC teams. Tufts, which won the league crown and were NCAA semifinalists, was top with 53. The next-highest scoring team was Williams, which put up 39.

“We always create lots of great chances,” Kim said.

“It’s a question of whether we will convert them or not. If we do, then I think it could be a great season. But soccer is, of course, the most tragic of games, and probably the most like life, where you can be the best team and still lose, so we don’t take any game for granted.”

But with just 11 goals allowed last season, the Panthers were toward the top of the charts for that statistic. Only Williams beat them out, with 10 against.

Though the Panthers only graduated three seniors, they lost a key player in each part of the field — the net, offense and defense.

That’s not to say Kim is without experience. The team has returners

from the endline to endline.

While expected starting goalie Frankie Marston, a rising junior, didn’t start last year, she got ample time in the net.

In front of her will be Tessa Broderick and Wynne Braemer, a rising junior and sophomore, respectively. Both started the majority of games played last year, and played the most and third-most minutes of anybody on the team.

Rising senior midfielders Gigi Day and Stella Espinasse were close behind them in terms of minutes played. Day tallied three goals last year and Espinasse three assists. Also core to the midfield, but on the attacking side, will be rising senior Chloe Swindle, and rising sophomores Lauren Tracey and Sarah Hall.

Tracey, who scored four goals in 2025, was one of three Panthers Kim said could generate the needed points this season.

Two other teammates, rising sophomore Olivia Colby and rising

junior Taya McLennan, could also be prolific on offense. McLennan had five goals and an assist and Colby three goals and six assists in her rookie season. The former was the front-running Panther for goals, and the latter for assists.

Kim expects the depth of this team will amount to a good amount of subbing.

“I think we’re notorious for having a different starting lineup every game, and I would suspect that that would continue,” he said.

The first starting rotation will see the field in Connecticut this Saturday when the Panther 11 take on Wesleyan. The Panthers defeated the Cardinals, 2-1, last season.

“That will be a big one,” he said.

“Every NESCAC game is huge, but I think we always get up a little bit extra for the purple teams, Amherst and Williams. But really every NESCAC team is a rival, and it’s the kind of conference where anyone can win the games and the conference.”

MIDDLEBURY TIGERS FOOTBALL

Every Game ... All Season Long

On the radio
at 92.1
WVTK - FM

Online at
921wvtk.com

92.1 WVTK
Your SOURCE for Local Sports!

INDEPENDENT DIGITAL marketing

by the Addison County Independent

DID YOU KNOW THE ADDY INDY DESIGNS WEBSITES?

To learn more about Independent Digital Marketing, visit our website or reach out to us directly. We'd love to chat!

HELPING ADDISON COUNTY BUSINESSES THRIVE

IN PRINT AND ONLINE.

independentdigitalmarketing.com

digital@addisonindependent.com



sept 3 THURSDAY

Beginning Crochet Class in Salisbury. Thursday, Sept. 3, 4-5 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library. Learn how to crochet with fiber artist Stephanie LaFountain. It's almost fall — time for crafty afternoons with a hot beverage and good company! Please register at the library. \$5. Alissa Shethar Salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com.

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 4 FRIDAY

Five Fridays Concert: Billy Wylder in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 4, 3-8 p.m., Town Hall Theater, Maloney Plaza, Merchants Row. Art-rock ensemble 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. More info: townhalltheater.org.

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 4, 3-4:45 p.m., at CSAC's The Center, 17 Court St.. Every Friday afternoon (excluding holidays) stop by for games with Stephen before heading over to the weekly community supper. Attending the meal is optional. Parking is available behind the building, please use the street facing entrance. Free.

sept 5 SATURDAY

New Haven Neighbors Coffee Hour. Saturday, Sept. 5, 9-10 a.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Come visit neighbors old and new, enjoy free coffee and baked goods in a beautiful setting. This coffee hour happens on the first Saturday of most months with the generous sharing of the tasting room by our neighbors Nicole and Kevin.

Green Mountain Club Hike: Killington Peak in Mendon. Saturday, Sept. 5, 28 Wheelerville Rd. Hike the Bucklin Trail out and back. Panoramic views of the Green Mountains, the Adirondacks and the White Mountains. Strenuous 7.5-mile hike with 2,470 feet of elevation gain. Some very steep sections right before the summit. Free. Contact Cary Beckwith at cbeckwith@yahoo.com for more information. Visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

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.

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.

Crafternoon 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.

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 soughdough 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.

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

Rogers Road Block Party For All in Middlebury. Sunday, Sept. 6, 2-6 p.m., Rogers Road, Middlebury. Come celebrate community with the Greater Buttolph Neighborhood. Enjoy free popsicles and ice cream bars courtesy of Deb Martin's fabulous ice cream truck; live music (by our neighbors!); a potluck; a fired-up grill (BYO grillables); cornhole, a sprinkler and other simple games. Walk or bike if you can, otherwise you're welcome to park at the Addison County Parent/Child Center lot on Monroe St. Free. Megan James megajames@gmail.com.

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.

Working with Yarn in Middlebury. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 3-4:30 p.m., CSAC's The Center, 17 Court St.. Learn to crochet/knit or share your skills. Not



Go upside-down

BREAD + PUPPET'S whimsical, satirical circus comes to the Middlebury Snowbowl in Hancock this Saturday, Sept. 5, parading papier-mâché puppets and their signature blend of DIY art and sharp political commentary. Don't miss your chance to catch the iconic Glover-based troupe's tour, 'The Upside-Down World Circus.' Tickets are required; grab one through Town Hall Theater's website or box office.

Photo courtesy of Bread + Puppet Theater

interested in working with yarn? No problem, bring your own crafts & supplies to work on while spending time with other crafty folks. Every Tuesday. Parking is available behind the building, please use the street-facing entrance. Free. Lisa Grover lgrover@csac-vt.org.

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.

Conservation Talk: The Ecology of Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases in Middlebury. Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Library. A conservation talk by Professor David Allen providing a brief introduction to tick biology and then discussion of Middlebury College research efforts to understand what drives tick-borne disease risk in Vermont. Sponsored by the Middlebury Conservation Commission. Free.

sept 11 FRIDAY

Cards & Board Games in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 11, 3-4:45 p.m., at CSAC's The Center, 17 Court St.. Every Friday afternoon (excluding holidays) stop by for games with Stephen before heading over to the weekly community supper. Attending the meal is optional. Parking is available behind the building, please use the street facing entrance. Free.

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.

Green Mountain Club Hike: Hogback Mountain Loop in Goshen. Friday, Sept. 11. This is an easy to moderate 3.5-mile loop that includes great views as well as forest trails. Depending on conditions and interest there are options to extend the hike to include additional trails and distance. Contact Dwight at dwight.griesman@gmail.com to sign up and with questions. Bug spray and poles are always a good idea. For more info, visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

sept 12 SATURDAY

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.

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.

Milk & Honey Quilters Guild Fabric Sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., American Legion. Browse 25 tables of fabulous fabrics at the annual fabric stash sale. Proceeds benefit community projects. Free.

Used Book Sale Bixby Library in Vergennes. Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Otter Creek Room, Bixby Library. Make book shopping part of a crispy fall weekend. Used book sale sponsored by the Friends of Bixby Library. Enter the Otter

Creek Room from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. New donations from our Sept. Donation Day on carts. Priced by donation. Venmo accepted.

River Party in Bristol. Saturday, Sept. 12, noon-3 p.m., Sycamore Park. Join Addison County River Watch Collaborative for an afternoon of family-friendly fun celebrating the New Haven River. We'll have local music, free food, educational activities about the river and park and a raffle. We'll be joined by awesome community partners including Audubon Vermont, the Bristol Rec Department, the Bristol Conservation Commission and more. Come hang out and celebrate the river! Free. For more info visit acrcwc.org.

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.

"Vermont Peace and Power: Bridging Divides in a Nation at War" talk in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Sept. 12, 3-4:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Isaac Evans-Frantz presents a conversation exploring the impact on Americans from living in a country constantly engaged in war. This event invites participants to discuss peace, power and how Vermonters can help foster unity in a divided nation.

King Pede Card Party in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Sandwich supper followed by an evening of fun and games. King Pede requires some serious thinking, so come prepared to use your strategic skills in this longstanding Ferrisburgh tradition.

Silent Film Screening: "Hot Water" in Brandon. Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall. Starring Harold Liyod. 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.

Contra Dance in Cornwall. Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall. Kick up your heels to live fiddle and banjo music with Red Dog Riley and dances taught by Peter Stix from Albany. Come alone or bring a friend. Beginners welcome. Pay what you can.

sept 13 SUNDAY

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 towards animals, each other and the planet. \$55 Early Bird; \$65 Day of Event; Kids 12 and under are free.

CALENDAR
ONLINE

addisonindependent.com



MILK & HONEY QUILTERS GUILD

Quilters Stash Fabric Sale

Saturday, September 12, 2026
9:00am - 3:00 pm

40+ tables of treasures at bargain prices!

American Legion
49 Wilson Rd, Middlebury, VT, 05753
milkandhoneyquilters.com

Addison County Parent/Child Center

info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org
388-3171

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

Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start

2026

FALL YOUTH TENNIS

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!

TO REGISTER: CALL OR EMAIL

360 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT
(802) 388-3733
contact@middleburytennis.com
middleburytennis.com

MIDDLEBURY INDOORTENNIS

PLEASE
REGISTER
IN
ADVANCE!

READER comments

“ The Addi is well appreciated in this house. ”

—Carl, Vergennes subscriber

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County Vt. Since 1946

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



MIDDLEBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT Lt. Andrew Klein, center, shows off some technical rescue equipment bought with a large donation to the department by the two local Stone dealerships. With Klein are Todd Stone, right, and Justin Stone, left.

Stone gift aids fire dept. readiness

MIDDLEBURY — Two Middlebury motor vehicle dealerships, G. Stone Motors Inc. and Stone Chrysler Dodge Ram Jeep, have each contributed \$10,000 to the Battell Hose Company in support of the Middlebury Fire Department. The combined \$20,000 donation will help replace aging technical rescue equipment that is essential to the department’s emergency response capabilities.

Todd Stone, owner of both dealerships, emphasized his companies’ longstanding commitment to the local community as a driving force behind the donations. He noted that supporting the local fire department is an important way to give back to the community through the first responders who serve and protect the area. Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw expressed his gratitude for the contributions noting that the

upgraded equipment will help ensure the safety of both the department’s technical rescue members and the members of the public who may need their assistance. Chief Shaw noted that Stone’s focus on the local community aligns with the fire department’s mission to “deliver protection, day and night, worthy of a big city yet reflective of the small community in which we live.”

City energy committee asks you to stop idling

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Energy Committee (VEC) has recently engaged in an educational campaign to remind the residents of and visitors to Vergennes about a very important law to help keep our air cleaner and reduce the use of fossil fuels. The state of Vermont passed a law that makes it illegal to idle a motor vehicle for more than five minutes in any 60-minute period. Specifically, Vermont Statutes Title 23, Motor Vehicles, 1110, has prohibited idling of motor vehicles since Jan. 1, 2024. The goal with this VEC campaign is to emphasize the committee’s support of this law by education, and increasing awareness of the importance of not idling.

Letting a car idle while running into a convenience store, for instance, is like leaving a light on when you exit a room or letting the water run the whole time we are brushing our teeth. It is wasting fuel and money, while polluting the air with fumes and toxins. Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting.

The VEC learned last fall that the City of Vergennes no longer needed the winter parking ban signs that were posted at the entrances to the city and were earmarked to be removed. VEC saw this as an opportunity to use those sign posts for an alternate sign, a No Idle of Motor Vehicles sign. The committee purchased signs using grant funds and approached the city council with the proposal last September. Councilors approved of the educational approach without any requirement of penalties or police involvement. The Public Works Department’s Jim Larrow replaced the Winter Parking Ban signs at the entrances to Vergennes.

VEC also approached and received permission for the signs to be posted on the buildings of the two convenience stores/gas stations in the city, Maplefields and Champlain Farms. For safety reasons, gas stations already require shutting off engines when pumping gas, so this was a good fit. And just running into the convenience store is exactly when people need the reminder. VEC reached out to the local



AT THE URGING of the Vergennes Energy Committee, the city Public Works Department recently hung signs in Vergennes reminding people that the law requires shutting off their car if they are going to be away for more than a few seconds.



and worked with the school’s maintenance department to post it near the entrance door. Vergennes Union Elementary School had a no-idling sign and just needed a reminder to repost it.

For outreach, VEC has made ongoing postings on social to highlight why you do not need to idle the engine to warm your car in the winter, why idling is harmful to the community, and that it is against the law in Vermont. VEC plans to display bulletin board posters around the city. People learned to turn off the water while brushing our teeth, turn off the lights when exiting a room or turning the heat down at night. It’s being mindful of conserving resources.

The added benefit of turning off our engines when not in use, is not just conserving gas and money but also not contributing to unnecessary air pollution, which benefits our health and the planet. It is a choice to idle or turn the car off when not moving, Vergennes Energy Committee wishes to encourage the latter.

Counselor, storyteller offers talk Sept 14

LINCOLN — The Lincoln mentoring program will host a presentation with counselor and storyteller Kevin Gallagher on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mount Abraham Union High School. With nearly 40 years of experience as a Burlington-based clinical mental health counselor, Gallagher brings deep insight and humor to the stage to explore the challenges of adolescence from shifting social dynamics and relationships to screen time and growing independence.

In addition to his counseling work, Gallagher is an internationally acclaimed professional storyteller who has performed across five continents and on radio and television worldwide. His presentation will offer practical advice to help both

teens and adults navigate these pivotal years. This event is free and open to all community members. In the wake of Dolly Parton’s passing, the world reflects on her extraordinary legacy not only as a beloved cultural icon, but as a passionate champion for childhood literacy whose vision transformed millions of lives. Dolly’s dedication to inspiring a love of reading began in 1995 when she founded the Imagination Library in her home county, driven by her father’s inability to read and write. Since its inception, the program

NEWS

has grown across five countries gifting more than 332 million free books to children through shared funding between the program and local community partners. Here at home, that incredible global legacy comes to life through Addison County Readers. As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, Addison County Readers is devoted to supporting early literacy throughout Addison County by distributing books, providing educational opportunities, and raising literacy awareness. Working as a local affiliate of Dolly’s Imagination Library, Addison County Readers registers local children from birth to age five to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail every month. It stands as the oldest and largest Imagination Library affiliate in Vermont, with approximately

900 children currently enrolled. To honor Dolly’s memory and support local children, you can register a child, invite other Addison County preschoolers to

join, or make a donation to keep the books coming by visiting imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/VTMIDDLEBURY/. Registration forms are also available at the Lincoln Library. Until next time...“If I’m Remembered a 100 years from now, I hope it will not be for looks but for books.” -Dolly Parton

Leicester

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. Postmarks 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.

join, or make a donation to keep the books coming by visiting imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/VTMIDDLEBURY/. Registration forms are also available at the Lincoln Library. Until next time...“If I’m Remembered a 100 years from now, I hope it will not be for looks but for books.” -Dolly Parton



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



The 2026 Addy Indy Garden Game

We had a bumper crop of Garden Game entries this week with 9 official entries, plus one spectacular gourd that wasn't technically entered in the competition but was far too fabulous not to share!

First up, **Donna Bezanson** brought in a rotund 18.5" C tomato and a 24.75" C x 23" C watermelon. She takes the lead in both categories. **Pam Thomas** brought in a 10" C radish, knocking the previous champ out of the top spot. How does she get such robust radishes? Goat and rabbit manure!

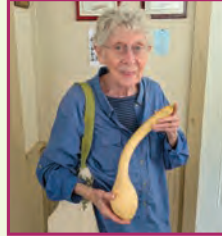
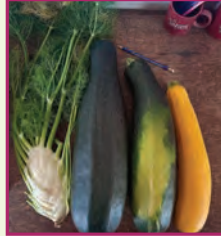
Ted Foster brought in the first cauliflower of the season. At 11" D, it heads straight into the premier position. **Donna Bezanson** returned with a particularly plump pepper measuring 13.5" C x 14.5" C, which takes the lead.

Rounding out the week, **Susan Hanson** submitted four vibrant veggies, including two truly gigantic zucchinis measuring 20" L x 14.75" C and 22" L x 17" C. Surprisingly, neither was quite big enough to steal the top spot, but they certainly earned some bragging rights! Susan's summer squash and fennel were the first entries of the year in their respective categories and will be tough to top. Her 8.5" L x 11.5" C fennel and 17" L x 11" C summer squash take the lead.

Chilly nights have rolled in, but local gardens are still growing. Show us what you've got!

Fun Fact

This week, we didn't even have to scour the internet for a fun fact. **Dotty McCarty** brought in a lovely tromboncino, which arrived with a few fun facts of its own! This musically named squash has a dual-purpose harvest. Pick it young, while it's light green, and enjoy it like a summer squash, with a sweet, zucchini-like flavor and texture. Leave it hanging on the vine until the skin turns beige, then it can be used as a winter squash with denser flesh, similar to butternut squash. Amazing!



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"
Carrot (length x circumference)	- Kris Bowdish, 12.5" x 7.5"
Cauliflower (diameter)	- Ted Foster, 11"
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)	- Susan Hanson, 8.5" x 11.5"
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)	- Donna Bezanson, 13.5" x 14.5"
Potato (length x circumference)	- Annie Moore-Cox, 9" x 11"
Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)	
Radish (circumference)	- Pam Thomas, 10"
Rhubarb (stalk length)	- Dorothy Hayes, 25.5"
Rutabaga (circumference)	
Summer Squash (length x circumference)	- Susan Hanson, 17" x 11"
Sunflower (diameter)	- Lisa Valley, 6.5"
*Sweet Potato (length x circumference)	
Tomato (circumference)	- Donna Bezanson, 18.5"
Turnip (circumference)	
*Watermelon (circumference x circumference)	- Donna Bezanson, 24.75" x 23"
Winter Squash (length x circumference)	
Zucchini (length x circumference)	- Case Pope & Reagan Whittemore, 23" x 17.75"
*new category	

SPONSORED BY:

PLEASE NOTE: EACH INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE TO WIN ONE MIDDLEBURY AGWAY GIFT CERTIFICATE, EVEN IF THEY WIN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.



Thursday & service Business & DIRECTORY

asphalt and sealing
carpentry/contractors
cleaning services

computers
construction
duct work & duct
cleaning

flooring

ASPHALT & SEALING

W. WELLS
SEALCOATING
PAVING - REPAIR
(518) 361-6996



**Get Your
Fall Rates**

FREE ESTIMATES

COMMERCIAL

RESIDENTIAL

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS



VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS

www.vermontcustommoldings.com

**Golden Ruler
Construction**

AFFORDABLE & HONEST
Residential & Agricultural Construction
Old Home Renovations
Custom Homes • Barns
Interior Painting • General Repairs
Call Jonathan Hescoc
649 Harrington Hill Rd., Shoreham
802-462-3737



**Quaker Village
CARPENTRY**

We have immediate
availability!

Siding, Windows, Garages, Decks & Porches,
New Construction, Renovations and Repairs

Maurice Plouffe • 802-545-2251
1736 Quaker Village Road | Weybridge, VT 05753



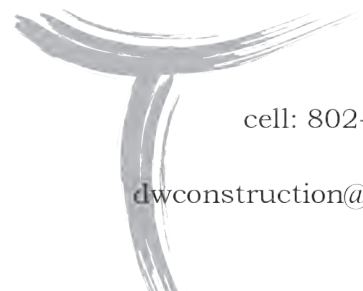
**CHECK US OUT
ONLINE AT**

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

David Walker Construction

298 Biddle Road
Lincoln, Vermont
05443



cell: 802-989-0320

email:
dwconstruction@gmavt.net

Small projects
Entry doors • Decks • Porches



Handling all phases of residential and
light commercial carpentry since 1992

Mark Raymond, Middlebury, VT
802-388-0742
raymondrenovationvt.com

FULLY INSURED

CLEANING SERVICES

**Melissa's Quality
Cleaning Services**

Residential & Commercial
GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED
Reliable & Thorough

802 345-6257

COMPUTERS

PC MEDIC
of Vermont

Is Microsoft
hassling you about
Windows 11?
I have a **FREE**
alternative for many
customers, called
Linux.

Call today
to learn more!

For an appointment, call The PC Medic of Vermont
802-734-6815
www.pcmedicvt.com

COMPUTERS

Vermont Computer
Services & Support LLC



IT's what we do!

Residential IT Services

- Computer Support
- Home Network/Wi-Fi
- Setup / Installation
- Data Backup
- Troubleshooting
- Technology Consulting
- Senior-Friendly

Business IT Services

- Managed IT Services
- Cybersecurity
- Servers / Storage
- Network Infrastructure
- Backup / Recovery
- Business Email
- Remote & Onsite

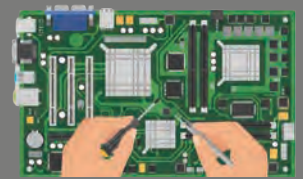
(802) 349-4653 (802) 458-2777
www.VTComputerServices.com

Fully Insured

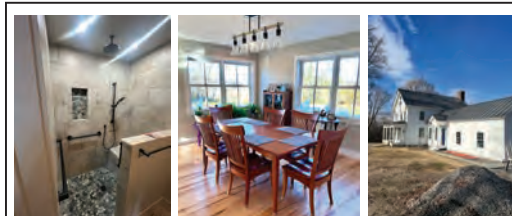
Repair or Service Computers?

We've got ad space

FOR YOU!



CONSTRUCTION



Vantage Point Homes
All aspects of home renovations

Kitchen • Bath • Flooring • Decks • Additions

New construction featuring
Design/Build Services

**Vantage
Point
Homes**



Salisbury, VT
802-989-3974

DUCT WORK & DUCT CLEANING



**Specializing in
Duct Cleaning**

And Duct Work
for Heating, Ventilation
and Air Conditioning

We use 5,000+ cfm HEPA Vacuum Cleaning Systems

We can design, fabricate, seal, insulate, clean,
anything to do with your ducted systems.

Buy Local! 802.989.0396

Commercial/Residential • Owner Operated
Fully Insured • Neat & Clean

**FALL INTO SUCCESS
WITH A B&S DIRECTORY
AD FOR LESS THAN \$10/
WEEK.**

ADVERTISING
@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM
802-388-4944

FLOORING

Chris Mulliss
FLOOR & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Stripping - Waxing - Buffing
Carpet Cleaning &
Emergency Water Removal

802-759-2706
phone or fax

802-349-6050
cell phone



email: cmulliss@gmavt.net
1900 Jersey St., S. Addison, VT 05491

Wales Floors, Inc.

For a free estimate call 877-8323

Fully insured

Custom & non-toxic finishes

Installation refinishing & restoration of
residential and commercial wood floors

Forty Years Experience!



Make your ad

**Add color to
your B&S ad
for just \$50***

Email

advertising@addisonindependent.com
or call 802-388-4944 to get started!

* Per 13-week campaign

POP!

**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

Thursday & service
Business & DIRECTORY

masonry
painting
plumbing & heating

renewable energy
roofing
septic and water

surveying
tree service
window treatments

MASONRY

FINE DRY STONE MASONRY

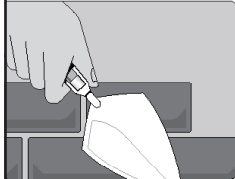


JAMIE MASEFIELD
CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS
ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

802-233-4670
jmasefield@gmavt.net

Bruce A. Maheu's
MASONRY

NEW & REPAIR
Residential • Lake Camps (Dunmore)
Brick – Block – Stone
Chimneys, Fireplaces, Outside Barbecues,
Steps, Patios, Stone Walls



35 Years Experience
Honest & Fair Pricing
Free Estimates
Fully Insured

Salisbury, VT
Call Bruce
802-352-6050

PAINTING

HESCOCK PAINTING



A friendly, professional,
and affordable family business.
Interior Painting
462-3737 or 989-9107
Kim or Jonathan Hescock
hescock@shoreham.net

GET RESULTS!
ADVERTISE HERE
802-388-4944

PLUMBING & HEATING



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

Timothy C. Ryan, P.E.
Serving the Champlain Valley
Since 1887
877-3118
Main St., Vergennes, VT

J.D. FULLER



PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

MIDDLEBURY
John Fuller, Master Plumber
802-388-2019
Serving Addison County since 1989

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Soak Up The Sun!

When you're ready for a solar,
heat pump or battery installation,
we're here for you!
Since 1972!



Go Green with us -
Call for a FREE on-site evaluation



802 • 453 • 2500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

ROOFING



roofing
Michael Doran
as seen at Addison County Field Days!

• Standing seam
• Asphalt shingles
• Slate

Free estimates • Fully Insured
mpdoransr@gmail.com
Phone (802) 537-3555

SEPTIC AND WATER



LINCOLN
APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.
Celebrating 40 Years

Environmental Consultants – Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BW
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BW

• Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
• On-Site Wastewater Design • Single & Multiple Lot Subdivision
• Property Development & Permitting
• State and Local Permitting
• Underground Storage Tank Removal & Assessment

802-453-4384

Fax 802-453-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443
www.lagvt.com

SURVEYING



SHORT SURVEYING, INC.

Serving Addison County Since 1991
Timothy L. Short, L.S.
Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys
FEMA Elevation Certificates
135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT
802-388-3511
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com

SURVEYING



Philo.
Surveying
LLC

Serving all of Vermont!

ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat
Commercial and Residential Subdivisions
Light Boundary Work and Boundary Line Staking
Easement Surveys • Elevation Certificates
LOMA Surveys • Topographic Surveys
(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT
Philosurveying.com • References available

TREE SERVICE



SARGENT'S
TREE
SERVICE
349-7459

• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning
• Storm Damage
Clean up
• Stump Grinding

Serving all of
Addison County

Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Your local source for window treatments
from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!



Vermont Window Treatments LLC
Over 20 years experience

M-F: 8am-5pm
Hours by appointment only
Visit our Facebook page or
check us out on Instagram!

802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury
vermontwindowtreatments.com

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

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

ID_m

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

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

Contact us today!

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

independentdigitalmarketing.com



CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

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

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

Public Meetings

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

Services

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

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

FALL GUTTER CLEANING Call or text Ian 802-349-7871

Services

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

Free

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

Garage Sales

CORNWALL MOVING SALE Friday/Sat. Sept. 4/ Sept 5. 812 Wooster Rd. West Cornwall.

MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE Sept 4th and 5th. 3 to 7 pm Friday the 4th. 8 to 2 on Saturday. Variety of items, slide for playground, horse equipment, garden items, household goods. 799 Nortontown Rd. Addison VT.

Opportunities

MOOSE MOUNTAIN HUNTING CLUB Crown Point, NY. Seeking recreational and hunting club members. 700 acres bordering 45,000 acres of NY state land. Fully equipped camp. 518-546-7025

E-Mail Us! News Articles news@addisonindependent.com Advertising advertising@addisonindependent.com or classifieds@addisonindependent.com

For Sale

2015 HARLEY DAVIDSON Fat boy w/ 13.5k mi. new tires and battery, lots of extras \$8200 OBO. 2023 Ranger canoe, 16ft kevlar body, weight 50lbs. Excellent condition w/ wood paddles. \$1100 OBO. 4 new winter tires on rims, 275R65 by 20 \$600. Harley Davidson parts new jugs, piston rings, chips and other hardware for 88 cubic inch engine, \$250 OBO. 802-759-2030

CAST IRON STOVE airtight and heats 1500 sqft, and a Craftsman snow blower. Call Paul 802-388-2812

CHIPPER DR Chipper purchased new in 2007. 13 hp Vanguard engine - pull start. \$1000. OBO cash. 802-377-5427. Calls only, no texts.

Help Wanted

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

Help Wanted

SWIFT HOUSE INN Custodian Wanted -\$18/ Hour. Seeking a personable custodian to clean common and public areas, including floors, dusting, light housekeeping, and ironing restaurant tablecloths. Position includes occasional guest interaction, so customer service experience is a plus. Weekdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Full- or part-time depending on availability. Email resume and interest to jeremythomas@swifthouseinn.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

ALLARD LUMBER CO.

Allard Lumber Company is seeking to hire a part-time fork lift operator/yard helper in our Bristol Vermont log yard. (formerly A. Johnson Lumber).

Qualified candidates should have at least 3 years of forklift operation experience. Knowledge of trees and tree species in log form is a bonus. Pay commensurate with experience: \$19-\$22 to start.

Ideal for a semi-retired person or anyone looking for a little extra work.

Call Jeanette for more information at 802-254-3349, or send resume to jeanettebarrows@allardlumber.com.

Help Wanted

Vacation Rentals

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

For Rent

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

ADDISON HOUSING WORKS is now accepting pre-applications for 1,2,3-bedroom apartments in Middlebury and Vergennes. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and complete the full application process when offered a unit. Income limits apply. No smoking. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-877-2626 www.addisonhousingworks.org

Help Wanted

RSVP is Seeking Handmade Hats, Mittens, & Blankets



We are looking for volunteers to make hats (all sizes), mittens (all sizes), and blankets. We can help provide some materials.

If you would like to volunteer, please call us at 802-468-7056.

 **AmeriCorps Seniors**

GREAT WORK!
You found your dream job...

We're HIRING!

Marketing & Advertising Account Manager

Join us as we pursue excellence in local media!



A successful candidate would have:

- A passion to help local businesses pursue effective marketing and advertising platforms.
- A tenacious drive to support and grow sales.
- An outgoing personality eager to work collaboratively to grow and support advertising sales.
- Excellent communication skills and comfort conducting business over email, phone, and in person.
- Exceptional organization skills and the capacity to help clients navigate the expanding field of marketing options effectively.

Full time position with great earning potential, a flexible schedule and room for self-direction, as well as the opportunity to join a cheerful, family-owned company in Middlebury.

If this is you, let Christy know!

Christy Lynn, Director of Sales
58 Maple St. Middlebury, VT 05753
christy@addisonindependent.com

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, VT, since 1961

Learn more about us at addisonindependent.com

Addison Independent

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: \$ _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: \$ _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

✓

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

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

For Rent

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

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

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

Wood Heat

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

Help Wanted

Real Estate

3 BED/1.5 BATH EXPANDABLE Nice place in Pittsford, looking to trade or negotiate for a place in the country or back road suitable for miniature dachshunds. Well maintained home with lots of potential. Second full bath ready for plumbing. New flooring, and 2 recently redone rooms. 802-855-0029, call only, anytime.

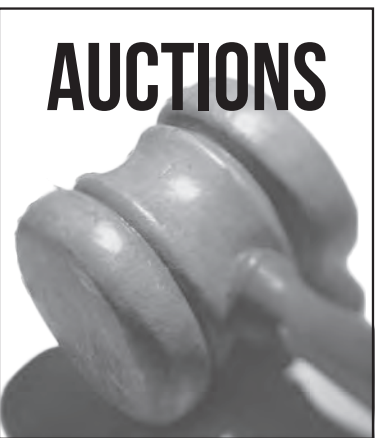
Att. Farmers

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

Trucks

2011 SILVERADO 1500, 4WD, automatic, small 8 cyl., 101,000 miles. 3 passenger single cab. Grey/blue. Good shape. \$6,800. 802-349-0727.

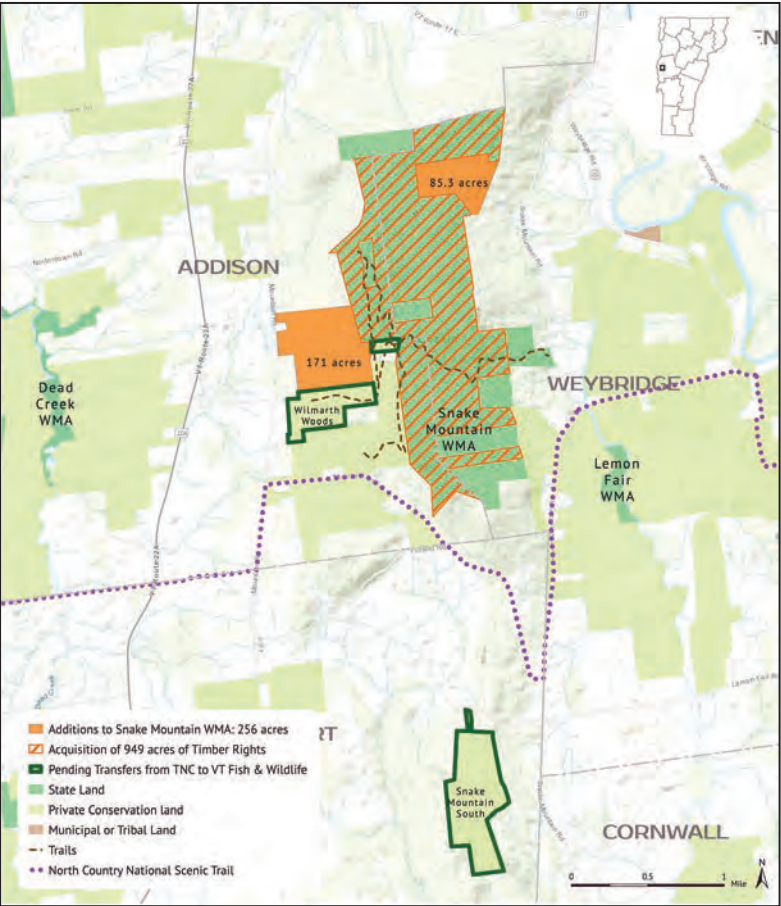
Help Wanted



MARKET REPORT				
ADDISON COUNTY				
COMMISSION SALES				
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT				
Sales for 8/27/26 & 8/31/26				
COST				
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
G. Kendall	1135	1.79		\$2031.65
Nop Bros	1095	1.75		\$1916.25
Blue Spruce	1910	1.70		\$3247.00
J. Fifield	1595	1.70		\$2711.50
Gosliga	1725	1.65		\$2846.25
Westminster	1630	1.60		\$2608.00
B. Dykema	1680	1.58		\$2654.40
CALVES				\$
J. Fifield				\$1450.00
Barnes Bros				\$1400.00
M+L Quesnel				\$1267.20
Iroquois				\$1232.00
Deer Valley				\$1226.70
Total Beef - 169		Total Calves - 180		
We value our faithful customers.				
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.				
call 1-802-388-2661				

Snake Mtn. sanctuary is expanding

ADDISON/WEYBRIDGE — With the support of Trust for Public Land, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recently announced it will secure 949 acres of timber rights of the Snake Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a highly popular natural destination in the Champlain Valley. The effort will also expand Snake Mountain WMA by 256 acres in Addison and Weybridge — growing it by more than 20% — which will improve natural habitat and connectivity as well as creating significant new opportunities for hikers, hunters and wildlife watchers. Both transactions are anticipated to be completed by early 2027, according to the Trust for Public Land organization. “By securing these lands, we are preserving a cherished recreation area and safeguarding a landscape uniquely suited to help boost climate resilience. This expansion and reunification of timber rights will improve climate resiliency by providing a larger stepping stone of lowland forest habitat, protecting vital wetlands and headwater streams, and ensuring the property will serve as a natural stronghold for biodiversity as the climate changes,” said Shelby Semmes, Trust for Public Land vice president New England Region. “We are thrilled to expand the protections on this remarkable piece of Vermont’s geography,” said Will Duane, land acquisition coordinator with the Vermont Department of



Fish & Wildlife. “Snake Mountain is surrounded by farmland and located close to Vermont’s largest population centers, but still rich in unique natural communities and rare species. That makes any work we can do in its vicinity jump up to the highest priority.”

Located on the border of Addison and Weybridge, the 1,215-acre Snake Mountain WMA is a prominent island of forested land overseen by the Fish & Wildlife. Standing out from the surrounding farmlands, Snake Mountain WMA delivers robust natural beauty, gentle trails and striking summit views.

Snake Mountain WMA features eight types of wetlands, among them a 9,500-year-old glacial bog, and vital habitat for many species, including peregrine falcons who nest on the western cliffs of the mountain, federally endangered Indiana and Northern Long-eared bats who roost in mature trees, and a full complement of woodland mammals, game birds and songbirds.

In 1959, the lands that now make up Snake Mountain WMA were purchased by the state of Vermont with the goal of conserving wildlife habitat and providing public access. The timber rights of the land were retained by the owner, who kept the responsibility of growing, managing and harvesting timber. While separate ownership of timber management and wildlife management have historically been common on Fish & Wildlife lands, bringing those roles together through acquisition has been a priority for the agency over the past two decades.

By uniting 949 acres of Snake Mountain WMA timber rights with state land ownership, the Fish & Wildlife Department says it will be better able to manage the lands for both public access as well as the benefit of wildlife, including the endangered, threatened, and state-significant species that live on the property. It will also ensure any new roads or skid trails needed for timber harvesting will be coordinated with Department strategies to protect the water, wildlife, ecosystem and natural communities.

The timber rights and expanded acreage for Snake Mountain are being purchased from The A. Johnson Co. LLC using a

combination of local, state, federal and private funds. Those funds were secured by Vermont Fish & Wildlife and Trust for Public Land, and include a \$1.35 million grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Recovery Land Acquisition Grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; \$417,500 from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; a grant from the Town of Weybridge Conservation Fund and significant private donations.

“Funding for this expansion of Snake Mountain WMA is available primarily because it supports habitat for federally endangered bat species,” Duane said. “Along with the bats, though, the WMA also supports habitats for myriad birds, amphibians, large and small mammals, wetlands, and headwater streams. The quality of those habitats is in no small part due to The A Johnson Company’s stewardship over the past several decades. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment to conservation and their diligent work to rejoin these timber rights with the underlying land.”

“Our management of Snake Mountain timber rights over the last two-thirds of a century has shown how sound forestry, for purposes of growing forest products, is highly compatible with improving and sustaining habitat for a wide range of wildlife, song birds, and natural communities, as well as recreation opportunities for hunters and hikers. We are hopeful that the state will continue to manage this area for these multiple uses and for the benefits they bring to everyone in Vermont,” said Ken Johnson, of A. Johnson.

In 2026, Snake Mountain WMA is also anticipated to receive the generous donation from The Nature Conservancy of another two abutting parcels totaling 88 acres in Addison, known as Willmarth Woods Natural Area. This natural area is one of the largest low-elevation, mature forest stands in the Champlain Valley, and has been planned as a Snake Mountain WMA addition since 1992. The soils are deep and rich and support one of the finest mesic red oak-northern hardwood forests in western Vermont. Willmarth Woods hosts the trailhead of one of the primary hiking trails leading to the summit of Snake Mountain.

Woman arrested, cited for drunken driving

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Aug. 22 arrested Emily Abair, 37, of Bristol and cited her for driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Between Aug. 16 and 22 Bristol police completed five foot patrols and one car patrol, conducted three traffic stops and checked security at local schools eight times and at area businesses twice.

Police also processed 11 fingerprint requests, responded to one motor vehicle complaint, dealt with two incidents involving suspicious activity, and assisted one citizen and three other agencies.

In other recent activity, police responded to two parking problems, one incident involving crash damage, one animal problem and one simple assault.

Bristol Police Log

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and take action on the following policies:

To Adopt (with changes): C31 Admission of Resident Students

A copy of the policy is available on the district website at slatevalleyunified.org.

Brooke Olsen-Farrell
Superintendent of Schools

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

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**

Public Notices Index	
Public Notices for the following can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.	
Addison (2)	Middlebury (1)
Addison County Clerk (1)	New Haven (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Slate Valley Unified School District (1)
Bridport (1)	Vergennes (2)
Leicester (1)	

**TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The regular monthly meeting of the Addison Planning Commission will be held on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:30PM at the Addison Community Center.

Agenda

- Open the meeting.
- Roll call given.
- Public Comment Time. (beginning & end if needed)
- Open discussion of any items to add to the log of future Town Plan updates.
- Open discussion of any items to add to the future Zoning Regulation updates
- Discussion about preliminary suggested edits to the Town Plan Draft from the Selectboard.
- Discuss any preliminary work/outline for a Recreation Plan.
- Continue to discuss the next steps for the Planning Commission.
- Approve the meeting minutes for August 17, 2026.
- Discuss any remaining miscellaneous Planning Commission business or concerns.
- Public Comment Time.
- Adjourn the meeting.

Michael Hollis, Chair
Starr Phillips, Secretary
Addison Planning Commission

**TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN PLAN UPDATE
October 6, 2026
Addison Community Center**

Public Hearing will start at the conclusion of the regularly scheduled Selectboard Meeting (6:30PM). The public is invited to make comments on the Proposed Town Plan. The Plan and the Selectboard edits can be found on the Town website: addisonvt.gov.

**TOWN OF BRIDPORT
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
*CORRECTION***

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 conditional use permit for an in-home business 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

**STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 26-PR-04302
IN RE ESTATE OF: DORIS DOWNS**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: **Doris Downs**, 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: 08/25/26

Robin Litchfield
2 Pheasant Way, South Burlington, VT 05403
802-316-7331
roblitchfield1117@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 09/03/26
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 21, 2026, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2026- 26 by Dennis Coakley to construct a 12ft. x 28ft. Carport attached to the Principal Structure on the Parcel located at 38 Bowman Rd. Reviews will consider Article VI Section 605, Article VII, and Article XVI Section 1604.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held at Vergennes City Hall located at 120 Main Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 666 140 8733**

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an “on the record” Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

August 31, 2026
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

Dog lovers gather for Pug Social on Sept. 19

SALISBURY — Green Mountain Pug Rescue’s largest annual fundraiser brings together pug lovers, rescue supporters, families and their four-legged friends for a fun day while raising critical funds to support the dogs in the organization’s care.

Join the fun on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Branbury State Park in Salisbury, rain or shine.

This year celebrates 24 years

of Green Mountain Pug Rescue. The event will feature adoptable and forever foster dogs, vendors, food, a silent auction and raffles, pug races, a pup cup bar, photo booth and several fun contests — including a costume contest, dog talent contest and our dog-friendly cake eating contest.

The Pug Social is open to the whole family, and friendly dogs are welcome to join in the fun! Find out more at gmpr.org/pugsocial.html

Midd woman cited in alleged stalking case

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on Aug. 29 arrested Julia E. Benjamin, 40, of Middlebury and cited her for violating her conditions of release, violation of an abuse prevention order, and aggravated stalking in the Jayne Court neighborhood. Police said Benjamin was held on \$500 bail at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility pending her arraignment.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Took into protective custody a “highly intoxicated” man who had passed out off Halladay Road on Aug. 24. Police said the man was taken to Rutland to receive detox services.
- Investigated an alleged assault reported on the town green on Aug. 24.
- Cited into family court a local juvenile in connection with an alleged theft in the Wilson Road area on Aug. 25.
- Responded to a report of someone ringing doorbells on homes in the Cottage Lane neighborhood during the early morning of Aug. 25.
- Got help for a man in crisis who was found sitting in the middle of the Pulp Mill Bridge on Aug. 26.
- Cited Errol K. Gayle, 18, in connection with the alleged theft of an iPhone from a vehicle parked on Old Chapel Road on Aug. 26.
- Arrested Julia Benjamin, 40, of Starksboro on an outstanding warrant on Aug. 26.
- Were informed of the theft of property from the Middlebury Teen Center off Mary Hogan Drive on Aug. 26.
- Were informed that a bike had been stolen from a South Main Street residence on Aug. 26.
- Cited Kailey A. Bougor, 28, of Salisbury for suspicion of driving under the influence, following a stop on Seminary Street Extension on Aug. 27.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance in the Lindale Circle area on Aug. 27.
- Arrested Joshua Emmons, 41, of Starksboro on an outstanding warrant on Aug. 27.
- Arrested Michelle Seck, 47, of Rutland on an outstanding warrant

New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Happy Back to School to the kids and families of New Haven! Be mindful of speed limits in school zones and around buses and kids on our roads. Here’s to a safe and fun school year for all.

COFFEE HOUR

The New Haven Neighbors will once again be hosting its monthly coffee hour at the Lincoln Peak Vineyard tasting room on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 9-10 am. Come visit neighbors old and new, enjoy free coffee and baked goods in a beautiful setting. This coffee hour happens on the first Saturday of most months with the generous sharing of the tasting room by our neighbors Nicole and Kevin.

DEPOT DAY

The New Haven Community Trust and the New Haven Neighbors are excited to be hosting the second annual Depot Day on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 1-3 p.m. It’s a celebration of the ongoing renovations of the depot, its history and its future. There will be live music, a model train set up at the library, activities for kids, disc golf and Chris Granstrom will be serving free strawberry ice cream cones. Jim Jones will talk about the importance of New Haven Junction to the Bristol railroad for our region and the New Haven Historical Society will have displays showcasing this history. NHCT will share survey results and preliminary ideas for the depot’s interior floorplan. Come join the fun, visit with your neighbors and see what’s happening in New Haven.

TIME CAPSULE

The New Haven Community Library is continuing its celebration of 125 years of serving the New Haven community with a video time capsule to be viewed at the library’s 200th celebration. In conjunction with a student from

Middlebury College, the library is collecting video stories from folks young and old who’ve been patrons of the library, on the library board, and its Friends group. You can schedule an appointment to be interviewed or record yourself at home and send us the file. Be a part of the library’s past, present and future! Contact Kim at kimcallahan99@gmail.com for details.

CONSERVATION

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been confirmed in New Haven. Mark your calendar for Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. at the town offices to understand this threat. The Conservation Commission will host Noah Hoffman, Invasive Species Coordinator for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. He’ll provide an overview of emerald ash borer and its history in North America and Vermont. He’ll share what the state of Vermont’s Forestry Division is doing to address the impacts of this forest pest and discuss landowner considerations for the management of ash trees in the face of EAB. If unable to attend, follow this link to learn more: tinyurl.com/48xv9dr4.

GOT BATS?

Vermont bats are in trouble. The New Haven Conservation Commission will host Alyssa Bennett, Small Mammals Biologist at the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. Alyssa will be leading an outdoor field trip about bats and bat habitat. This exploration is a great way to help people learn to see the woods like a bat and understand what they can do in their own backyard or woods for bat conservation. Date, time and location will be posted on Front Porch Forum. Come see our table at Depot Day for more information and to learn how you can join our committee.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the New Haven Development Review Board will be held at the Town Clerk’s Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT on **Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** to consider the following:

1. Final Plat Hearing on Application #2026-DRB-14-SD submitted by applicant Leon A. DeMers, IV (classified as a minor subdivision August 3, 2026), per Section 923 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations adopted April 2024. Parcel #747 located at 1928 Halpin Road in New Haven lies in the RA-10, Forest and Flood Hazard zoning districts.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Clerk’s office, or by remote:

https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdQ2a1ZRzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09
Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing the zoning administrator at zoning@newhavenvt.com; a hard copy is available at the Town Clerk’s office during normal business hours, or on the Town’s website: https://www.newhavenvt.com/

New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516

Email your Public Notices
to legals@addisonindependent.com
and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET 26-CV-03663

In Re: Abandoned Mobile Home of Jamie Leduc and Rebecca Merrihew
6 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an Order of the Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Civil Division, dated August 14, 2026, and filed by the Court on August 18, 2026, the abandoned mobile home of Jamie Leduc and Rebecca Merrihew located at 6 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont, will be sold at public auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 9th day of September, 2026, at 6 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont:

To wit:
Being a 1981 Hallmark mobile home, serial number 70143 FDK-Special, sited at 6 Hillside Drive, Starksboro, Vermont.

Terms of Sale: The mobile home to be conveyed in “as is” condition, free and clear of all liens and other encumbrances of record. The minimum bid established by the Court, sufficient to cover costs of sale, is \$11,699.94. The mobile home shall be sold to the highest bidder over the minimum bid. The successful bidder shall make full payment at auction if the bid does not exceed \$2,000. If the bid exceeds \$2,000, the successful bidder shall provide a non-refundable deposit at the time of the auction of at least \$2,000 or 25% of the bid, whichever is greater, and shall make full payment within three working days after the auction. A successful bidder, if other than the park owner, shall remove the mobile home from the park within five working days after the auction unless the park owner permits removal at a later date.

Other terms to be announced at the sale or make inquiries to Lesley B. Deppman, Esq., Deppman Law, 56 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont, 802-388-6337.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont this 27th day of August, 2026.

Plaintiff, ACCT MOBILE HOME PARKS, LLC,
by DEPPMAN LAW PLC, its attorneys

By: /s/ Lesley B. Deppman
Lesley B. Deppman, Esq.
Deppman Law PLC
56 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6337; (802) 382-8840 (fax)

Have a news tip?

Contact Kim Callahan at kimcallahan99@gmail.com.

HOUSING TASK FORCE

The New Haven Housing Taskforce has been continuing its outreach to the community for input around Housing and related issues. Through the recent Summerfest event, surveys at town recycling and the municipal website, feedback was compiled for five important areas of consideration. The survey and updated results can be found at

newhavenhousingVT.com.

The taskforce is moving forward with visits to interested property owners, while exploring funding for feasibility studies supporting housing, municipal septic and village traffic control. Please continue to provide your feedback or request a property visit either at newhavenhousingVT.com or newhavenhousingVT@gmail.com

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

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 Cram 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

★★
This draft Selectboard meeting agenda is subject to change.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING 1st FLOOR – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84029317708>
Phone one-tap: +13092053325, 84029317708# US
Webinar ID: 840 2931 7708
For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV’s YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont>
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 7:00pm | 1. Call to Order
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
3a. *Approval of Minutes - August 25, 2026 Selectboard Meeting
3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any)
3d. *Approval of Check Warrants
3e. *Town Policies - IT Policies (New) & No Trespass Orders (Amend)
3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
3g. **Town Manager’s Report |
| 7:05pm | 4. **Citizen Comments |
| 7:10pm | 5. **Finance Department - Quarterly Presentation to Selectboard |
| 7:30pm | 6. *Design Advisory Committee - Nomination - James Pulver |
| 7:40pm | 7. **Town Staffing Update
8. Agenda Placeholder |
| 7:50pm | 9. **Selectboard Member Comments
10. Executive Session - Not Anticipated |
| 8:00pm | 11. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
12. *Adjourn |

* Possible Decision ** Discussion

MAUSD announces 2026-27 new staff members

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District announced that it has hired 30 new employees for the 2026-2027 school year. Classes in the Bristol-area schools began on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

The news teachers and staff are:



NICOLE DONER

Districtwide

Hannah Sheehy, SLP to Eval Team (no photo)
Nicole Doner, Special Educator Coordinator for SEL & LEA



CAITLIN ZARRIELLO

Monkton Central School

Margaret Phelan, Educational Assistant (no photo)
Caitlin Zarriello, Classroom Teacher Grades 5-6



CHRISTOPHER NICHOLS



DANIEL GOLDSTEIN



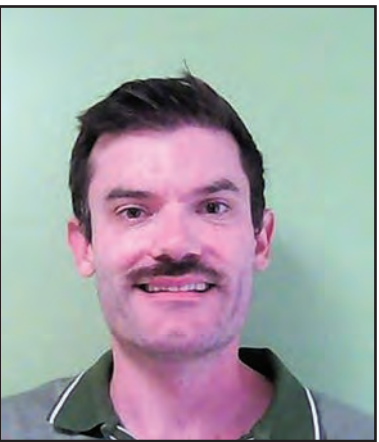
DEVIN CIVIELLO



SOPHIE SCHNEIDER



HUNTER WILSON



JONATHAN THOMPSON

Mount Abraham Union Middle and High School

Sophie Schneider, MS Science Teacher
Christopher Nichols, Middle School Principal
Jonathan Thompson, MS Math Teacher
Hunter Wilson, Science Teacher .50
Devin Civiello, MS Math Teacher
Daniel Goldstein, MS English Teacher
Gabe Billings, Athletics and Activities Director (no photo)
Lilith Blackwell, Literacy Interventionist (no photo)
Edward Bolin, Custodian 2nd shift (no photo)
Will Chaney, Social Studies (no photo)
Frank McGowan, Behavior Assistant (no photo)
Nicole Schlenter, School Nutrition Assistant Manager (no photo)

ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026		
Wednesday, Sept 2	5:00 - 9:00 PM	ANWSD Board Special Mtg. VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Sept 9	5:00 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. Ferrisburgh Central School Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Mtg. Ferrisburgh Central School
Monday, Sept 14	4:00 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	5:00 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Mtg. VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Sept 16	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual Only



CAITLIN DOWNEY

Portia Senning, Literacy Interventionist (no photo)
Caitlynn Duval, Custodian (no photo)



KP "KELSEY" ROBINS

Beeman Elementary School in New Haven

Lisa Bresler, Art Teacher
Caitlin Downey, School Counselor
KP "Kelsey" Robins, Special Educator



JENNIFER THOMPSON

Jennifer Thompson, Literacy & Math Interventionist



LISA BRESLER

Public Notices

can be found on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.**

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT

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)

CIVIL DIVISION
DOCKET NO: 25-CV-04986

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



ELIZABETH BRISSON



JAMES GAMBLE

Bethany Orvis, Educational Assistant (no photo)
Elizabeth Brisson, Mathematics Interventionist

Bristol Elementary School

James Gamble, Educational Assistant
Shannon Huda, Classroom Teacher Grade 5



SHANNON HUDA



CARL ELLERKAMP



CLARINDA MCALLISTER



EMMA PAGLIARO

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on September 21, 2026, at 7 pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Application# 2026-27 by Ashley Paquette for a Change of Use from Office to Personal Service within a portion of the Principal Structure on the Parcel located at 64 Main St. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article VIII, and Article XVI Section 1606.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held at Vergennes City Hall, located at 120 Main Street, Vergennes, Vermont.

Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 666 140 8733

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.

To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore ensure that their participation in the Public Hearing is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

August 31, 2026
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

Robinson Elementary School in Starksboro

Michelle Bennett, Educational Assistant for SPED (no photo)
Carl Ellerkamp, Classroom Teacher Grade 3
Clarinda McAllister, Classroom Teacher 5/6
Emma Pagliaro, Classroom Teacher Grade 5/6

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

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

REGULAR HOURS

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

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

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

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

September 3, 2026



Catherine Manegold sits at her pottery wheel in her small studio on the side of Snake Mountain in Bridport, trimming a pot she had thrown earlier. On display around her are the tools with which she does the delicate and demanding work of turning porcelain into art.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO/ELOISE CHRISTY

The country potter, Catherine Manegold

Inside the Bridport Hill Pottery studio on Snake Mountain, Catherine S. Manegold's bird figures sit atop porcelain jars, some awaiting more tweaks, others glazed and ready to be taken home by collectors.

A pale blue lid and jar rest on her worktable, three birds clustered in conversation on top.

By **ELOISE
CHRISTY**

"This one's fun," she said, picking it up and fiddling with the beaks. "I call this one 'Conclave' because they're having a big meeting, like deciding the next leader."

Her small studio is neat, with one side containing tools and a potter's wheel, and the other a shelf and table displaying her creations. Through the window, she can see her garden of tomatoes, greens and tall bush willows swaying in the wind.

For Manegold, this quiet space is where her creative juices flow and where she was able to realize a dream she carried for much of her life: to be a country potter.

But this path to becoming a potter did not lie straight before her from the beginning.

Born in Boston and raised between Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Manegold thought of the East Coast as her home. After high school, she attended four colleges in two and a half years. She began at the University of Pennsylvania but found Philadelphia too urban for her tastes. With the money she had saved for a car, she traveled through Europe before attending Carlton College in Minnesota.

"I was a little anxious to be out of school," she explained. "I just kind of arrived with my suitcase. I was (at Carlton College for) two years and ... did summer school at Georgetown

and Colorado College. Then I graduated. It was a little nuts, but it worked for me."

Her many-pronged path continued out of college, as she took on different jobs. She started at the publishing company Little, Brown and Company in the medical books division, where she was eventually fired.

"It was very humbling," she said, "but I highly recommend as a focusing agent because, you know, I was really miserable anyway and it also puts the fear of God in you for the rest of your life. So you work quite hard after that. I was already working hard, but that got me a little more focused."

This experience pushed her toward journalism, a field she had admired since growing up in Washington during Watergate.

See **MANEGOLD** on page 3

Hancock home for the fourth annual Snugfest

FOURTH ANNUAL SNUGFEST RETURNS WITH MUSIC, ART, SUSTAINABLE FASHION AND COMMUNITY ON SEPT. 13

Snugfest, the annual celebration of music, art, sustainable fashion, and community, will return to the heart of the Green Mountains on Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Middlebury Snowbowl in Hancock. Music this year will include performances from Mike & Tessa Gordon, Jen Hartswick, Nick Cassarino, Nate Edgar, Ray Paczkowski, Russ Lawton, Bob Wagner, Hot Pickin' Party, and Electric Bear.

Snugfest-goers can also explore an artisan market that will feature Vermont makers and small businesses; plus there will be art activities, and food and beverages from local vendors including Viva el Sabor, Gene's Chili Hut, Lincoln Peak Vineyard, and Weird Window Brewing. The festival also celebrates handmade, vintage, upcycled, and sustainably sourced goods, reinforcing the Snug Foundation's commitment to more sustainable ways of living.

The Snugfest Committee (Colleen Todd, Ray Paczkowski, Jenna & Bill Hunsinger, Brooke Wilcox, Jenn & Eric Montgomery, and Alex Cox) founded Snugfest in Ripton, from a desire to create a welcoming community where people could coexist with kindness, acceptance and respect for the planet. Since its inception, proceeds from the festival have supported local community programs and individuals experiencing unexpected hardships. Past beneficiaries have included Ripton flood victims, the Ripton Country Store, Wiley Side Farm (a therapeutic farm program for adults with intellectual differences), and Silver Towers Camp (a residential camp for people with disabilities ages six to 75 who are physically and mentally challenged).



DJ Cheetatah spins at the 2025 Snugfest. Snugfest is a time to celebrate kindness and compassion in our community. Don't miss this year's annual event at the Snowbowl in Hancock on Sunday, Sept. 13. Tickets are \$65 for general admission.

PHOTOS / VINCE BRAZEN

The Details

WHAT: Snugfest 2026

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 13

WHERE: Middlebury Snowbowl, 6886 Vermont Route 125, Hancock, VT 05748

MORE INFO: snugfest.com

Tickets cost \$65 and are available through the Snugfest website, with additional opportunities to support the festival through sponsorships, donations, volunteering and participation in the artisan market. All festival proceeds benefit The Snug Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to promoting kindness and compassion toward animals, people and the planet.



PHOTO / ELEANOR O'LEARY



PHOTO / ELEANOR O'LEARY



MANEGOLD

continued from page 1

"I was completely aware of and profoundly enamored of the power of the press to do good — significant good," she explained.

ADVENTURES IN JOURNALISM

There was a tiny paper, the Talbot County Banner, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that she tried her luck at.

"I went and camped out on the front door basically and told them I would sweep the floors," she said. "At that point, everybody wanted to be a journalist. I got hired and it was a circulation of 6,000 and an annual salary of \$6,000. I saved money on that salary too."

From there, Manegold went to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Newsweek and eventually The New York Times. She became a foreign correspondent and was sent to New Delhi in her early 30s as the Southeast Asia bureau chief.

"The Bureau was just me, so chief of no one," she said with a laugh.

In a span of three and a half years, she traveled throughout Southeast Asia covering countries including Vietnam, South Korea and Sri Lanka. In 1986, she traveled repeatedly to the Philippines to cover the fall of Ferdinand Marcos and the People Power Revolution.

"It was pretty drastic, at times, very scary," she said. "But it was overwhelming because I had no idea how to be a foreign correspondent. I had always wanted to be one, but I was clueless."

At The New York Times, Manegold worked as a general assignment reporter on the national desk in D.C. She covered the case of Shannon Faulkner, a woman who was admitted to the Citadel before the school rescinded her admission after discovering she was a woman.

"It became the most expensive civil rights fight in American history," she explained.

Many of Manegold's stories met the front page of the Times, but she still had this feeling that she wasn't getting as deep into the difficult history of the subjects she was writing about. When the work became too heavy, she had another place to turn.

Pottery had been ever-present in Manegold's life, starting from when her mother introduced her to it. Growing up in Washington, she spent a significant amount of time at the Freer Gallery of Art at the Smithsonian, where she was enthralled by Asian and Middle Eastern ceramics and art.



Sitting on the worktable in her Bridport studio are some of Catherine Manegold's porcelain bird jars. This one with the pale blue glaze features three birds clustered on top in conversation.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO/ELOISE CHRISTY

"I loved it," she said. "Just incredible. I'd been really steeped in Asian ceramics, art and history and loved it."

Manegold briefly left journalism to attend art school and pursue her love of ceramics at Cranbrook College but eventually made her way back to reporting.

"I had taken pottery up again when I was working on my first book," she explained. "I'd be working on a paragraph and really feel that level of huge frustration, like I did not understand well enough what I was trying to say. So I would bike five miles away to this pottery studio ... and I'd throw pots for a couple hours and I'd come back and I could write my paragraph. It was just really amazing."

She later wrote books, including "In Glory's Shadow: Shannon Faulkner, the Citadel and a Changing America" and "Ten Hills Farm," which depicts the story of a 600-acre farm owned by Colonial Gov. John Winthrop in the 1630s and the enslavement of Native Americans and black workers from the Caribbean there.

Following these books, Manegold moved into teaching classes at colleges such as journalism and nonfiction writing. Plattsburgh, N.Y., is where she ended up and it became a place she grew to love.

"Plattsburgh was fascinating because it had farm kids from upstate New York and the inner-city kids from New York City," she said. "Two really different racial, political groups. So to have them together in a classroom in

journalism was just gold ... and it also felt like just truly good work. A lot of the students were food insecure so it felt like a genuine contribution."

IMPULSE TO CREATE

But even with the switch to teaching, pottery remained the ballast for the rest of her life. She had family nearby in Vermont and in 2021 she moved into the Bridport property and set up her pottery studio. Making the move here allowed her to continue her love of art in a way that wasn't broken up by the relentless nature of the press.

"I was a very serious student and it was a beautiful balance," she said. "To me, language was all engrossing...I found that pottery was a really beautiful, leavening, centering, grounding thing for me. I had started in high school thanks to my mother and just adored it. Plus, I went to a private school with uniforms and I could go to class with blue jeans covered with clay... that was the height of my rebellion. It worked for me."

Pottery offered a safe, free, and beautiful respite in her life that was a throughline with everything she did. Even overseas, she was able to admire the careful hands of artists around the world.

"I was always fascinated, not just by pottery, but by kind of the creative impulse you find no matter where you are, not geographically or economically," she said. "The smallest township in South Africa, the poorest township in South Africa, people are creating these incredibly beautiful things. So wherever we go in the world, you just see this remarkable impulse to create."

Over the years, Manegold realized that she felt jealous interviewing these great creators, writing about their work and successes. She wanted to be the one exploring that impulse to create.

Now, at age 70 and having been away from the journalism world for quite a while, Manegold has tucked in and begun doing her own thing. She makes her bird jars and other usable porcelain wares.

"I work only in porcelain now, it's like throwing with cream cheese," she said. "It's got no grog, or grit, or sand, so it doesn't have much substance, so it can just flop over. It also shrinks a lot. So you think you did a big bowl and it shrinks 15%."

Porcelain's difficulty is part of the appeal to Manegold. The purity of the material and the malleability of it to take sharp curves and lines or become so thin it's translucent are things

See POTTER on page 12

UPCOMING
MUSIC

Session Americana with Kris Delmhorst takes the stage in Middlebury, Sept. 13

Town Hall Theater and Valley Stage welcome the acclaimed Boston-based musical collective Session Americana with Kris Delmhorst for an intimate, joy-filled evening of American roots music on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 5:30-7 p.m. The concert will be held on the Town Hall Theater's Rothrock Mainstage in Middlebury.

Described by Rolling Stone as an "ultra-gifted, rotating collective of singers and multi-instrumentalists," Session Americana brings together top-shelf players, singers, and songwriters for performances that blur the boundaries between folk, rock, country, jazz, and the great American songbook.

The group began simply — a loose collection of musician friends gathering around a table, swapping songs in a neighborhood bar. That informal collaboration grew into a hot-ticket weekly residency and eventually an internationally touring collective. Along the way, Session Americana has released nine records, performed at clubs and festivals throughout the United States



Kris Delmhorst will perform with Session Americana at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 5:30-7 p.m.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

and Europe, and built a wide community of musical collaborators.

For the Town Hall Theater performance, acclaimed singer-songwriter and longtime Session Americana friend and collaborator Kris Delmhorst will join the band. Expect instrument swapping, shared lead vocals, original songs, unexpected covers, exceptional

See MUSIC on page 15



Hey Rob, what's for Sunday Supper?

SUNDAY SUPPER

A comforting three-course prix fixe dinner at a special price! Regular menu also available.

Follow @swifthouseinn on Instagram or visit our website for the latest menu.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 Stewart Ln. Middlebury, VT
802-388-9925
swifthouseinn.com

Leicester ceramicist Dasha Kalisz to talk in Brandon

Brandon Artists Guild will host an Artist Talk with ceramicist Dasha Kalisz on Friday, Sept. 11, at the Guild's gallery, located at 7 Center Street in Brandon. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the artist's talk at 7 p.m. A Q&A will follow. Kalisz work will be on view for the month of September at BAG.

Kalisz obtained her MFA from the Maine College of Art and Design, and holds a BA in ceramics and art history from Burlington College. Kalisz works in her Leicester home studio where she creates functional and sculptural ceramics inspired by seasonal transformation and rural landscapes.

"My work celebrates the maker's mark, connecting my hands to yours through tactile, one-of-a-kind pieces," Kalisz said. "These are objects that nourish the spirit and honor the home by celebrating our daily routines."

The evening offers visitors the chance to hear directly from the artist about her process, influences, and the ideas behind her ceramic work.

This event is free and open to all. For more information visit brandonartistsguild.org.



Leicester ceramicist Dasha Kalisz will give a talk at the Brandon Artists Guild on Friday, Sept. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. Free and open to all.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



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: Dasha Kalisz. Leicester ceramicist Kalisz currently lives in Leicester, where she operates out of her home studio. She is a public art teacher at Otter Valley and teaches occasionally at Middlebury Studio School. Kalisz will offer an artist talk at BAG on Friday, Sept. 11, beginning at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to all. On view through September.

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. On view through Oct. 4.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"The Middlebury Foods Coop Turns 50!" Explore the MNFC 50th Anniversary Memory Gallery, an exhibition celebrating the people, stories, and moments that shaped the Co-op over the last five decades. On view through Sept. 30.

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

See EXHIBITS on page 12



ARIES: March 21/April 20. It may feel like you're coming out of the dark and into the light this week, Aries. A weight has been lifted, but there are still some emotional components to work out.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, have a look at the world around you this week instead of just moving forward with your nose to the grindstone. Enjoy a night out with friends and take an active role in the evening.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, question what you hear this week, and do not take all the information you receive at face value. You might need to read between the lines.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. This is a great week to go out and get things done, Cancer. Even if you feel a little indecisive, don't sweat the small details. You don't have to make any great commitments.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, action is the name of the game for you right now. You might notice a sudden burst of physical energy at some point, and that can be channeled into a walk or bike ride.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Take some of the knowledge you have picked up and processed over the past few weeks and spread it around, Virgo. It is time to put your communication skills to work.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Physical stamina is strong for you this week, Libra. Consider working out to release some of that pent-up energy.

A sport or hobby can channel it as well.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Take a break from the seriousness that has taken root lately, Scorpio. You'll find that some upbeat conversations are the way to navigate the waters this week.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. The things you say to others will have a profound effect, Sagittarius. Be mindful of the words you choose. Enjoy a physical group activity.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, your solid footing may become a bit unstable this week. Don't fret. In fact, infuse a bit of laughter and playfulness into things.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. There is no excuse for laziness this week, Aquarius. Make sure you get out of bed each day and engage in something that gets your body and mind working.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. It is time to act,

Pisces. See how far you can take all the tasks that are on your to-do list. You may be surprised to find that you accomplish so much.

Adagio Chocolates
ALL SIGNS POINT TO CHOCOLATE
Proceed accordingly
Tue-Sat 11-6 • 52 Main Street Middlebury, VT
www.adagiochocolates.com • 802-382-4000

Middlebury FLORAL & GIFTS
Reward yourself with flowers...
You've survived summer vacation!
Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 So., Middlebury
802-388-2800 • www.middleburyflorallandgifts.com

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC
September is National Sewing Month
We are celebrating with deals from all the big sewing machine brands!
Handi Quilter JANOME PFAFF Husqvarna VIKING SINGER
260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753 (802)388-3559
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

SEPT. 4 — Richard Wright, novelist (d)
SEPT. 5 — Werner Herzog, filmmaker (84)
SEPT. 6 — Idris Elba, actor (54)
SEPT. 7 — Chrissie Hynde, singer (75)

SEPT. 8 — Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator (85)
SEPT. 9 — Leo Tolstoy, novelist (d)
SEPT. 10 — Mary Oliver, poet (d)

CALENDAR

September 3-18 2026

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. 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, Maloney Plaza, Merchants Row. Art-rock ensemble 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 mâché 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.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: KILLINGTON PEAK IN MENDON.

Saturday, Sept. 5, 28 Wheelerville Rd. Hike the Bucklin Trail out and back. Panoramic views of the Green Mountains, the Adirondacks and the White Mountains. Strenuous 7.5-mile hike with 2,470 feet of elevation gain. Some very steep sections right before the summit. Free. Contact Cary Beckwith at cwbeckwith@yahoo.com for more information. Visit gmcbreadloaf.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.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

CLASSIC FILM CLUB SCREENING: "WAYNE'S WORLD" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library. Two friends and public-access TV hosts must fight corrupt executives for their creative freedom in this comedy starring Mike Myers and Dana Carvey.

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

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

Continued on next page



View Middlebury Community Television's Schedule Online!



Programs to Look Out For:

- All Things LGBTQ - 09/7 - 5PM
- Governor's Press Conference - 9/7 - 5PM
- Middlebury Selectboard Live! - 9/8 - 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

experience (or even partner) needed for this family-friendly, non-gendered fun evening. Plenty of parking at nearby MUHS. Free.

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.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: HOGBACK MOUNTAIN LOOP IN GOSHEN. Friday, Sept. 11. This is an easy to moderate 3.5-mile loop that includes great views as well as forest trails. Depending on conditions and interest there are options to extend the hike to include additional trails and distance. Contact Dwight at dwight.griesman@gmail.com to sign up and with questions. Bug spray and poles are always a good idea. For more info, visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

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.

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 towards animals, each other and the planet. \$55 Early Bird; \$65 Day of Event; 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.

PEET FARM SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: SWING NOIRE IN CORNWALL. Sunday, Sept. 13, 5-7 p.m., Peet Farm Greenhouses. Spread out a blanket, pull up 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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16
SUMMER LIVE MUSIC: ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 Rt 116 Road, Bristol. Enjoy live music and tacos, creative cocktails and mocktails, snacks, and paletas. You are welcome to bring your own blankets & chairs for the lawn. We also set up some tables and chairs. For more info visit thetillermanvt.com/live-music.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17
"YOU ARE HERE" ARTIST'S RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Sept. 17, 5 - 7 p.m., Johnson Exhibition Gallery, 78 Chateau Rd. The exhibit 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.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE: CHIPMAN HILL IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday Sept. 18. Hike up and around Chipman Hill from Washington Street Ext. TAM parking. Moderate, 2+ miles RT, 400 ft elevation gain. Contact trip leader David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com for meeting time and to register. For more info, visit gmcbreadloaf.org.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: AN ANTI-DIET DANCE THEATER PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday Sept. 18., 5 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre. Using ensemble and solo dance, song, storytelling, research and projections, this one-hour show is about anti-fatness, body liberation, pleasure, dancing alone in the mirror, eating mangoes and shaking off that which binds us. Performed by Laura Haines, Winnie Looby, Alex Heister, Zoraya Hightower, Hadley Mueller, Rhonda Doonan and Rachel Siegel.

READ MORE Online!
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



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



**Teaching Aiki
Jitsu - A Self
Defense Focused
Martial Art**

Fall Program Starts Soon!

September 16-December 9

Morning Classes: MF 9-10:30 AM
Evening Classes: MWF 7-8:30PM

**Space is
Limited**



• Learn new skills & confidence to
defend yourself
• Experience a vigorous and
dynamic workout



**Register
Now!**

Age 14 and Up • Middlebury Rec Center • No experience needed
For more info: zenbudokaieast.org or Call: (860) 488-0429



SEE
WHAT'S
HAPPENING

**SUBMIT
your event!**

THE ADDY INDY'S
NEW CALENDAR
MAKES IT EASY.



Submissions due Sundays at 5 p.m. See guidelines online.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



**25 years of
Art on Main**

Art on Main celebrated its 25th anniversary on Friday, Aug. 21, at the gallery on Main Street in Bristol, with cake, art and music by Marcos Levy. The evening honored the makers, founders, members, merchants, customers and volunteers who have contributed to the gallery's lasting presence in Bristol.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



WHAT'S HAPPENING

NEXT DOOR

Addison County artists on display at 55th annual Mad River Valley Craft Fair this Saturday & Sunday

The Valley Players community theater group will present the 55th Mad River Valley Craft Fair, held rain or shine on Labor Day weekend, Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Kenyon's Field, 3337 Main Street (Rt.100), in Waitsfield. Enjoy a great family day with a food court and bar, four live bands, door prizes, shopping galore for handmade items from 100+ artists including six from Addison County, and the Dinoman Science show for the young and young at heart both days at noon.

ADDISON COUNTY ARTISTS

Zapata Courage from Whisked Away Vermont in Middlebury will bring her unique, hand-made whisk brooms.

Stan Katz and Maureen Short from New Haven will offer their prints, photocards, jewelry, and metal landscapes.

Woody Jackson from Cornwall will be on hand with his iconic cows printed on calendars, tote bags, cards, and framed prints.

Reed Prescott of Prescott Galleries at Verde Mountain from Lincoln will have wood ornaments, bracelets, and light switch covers.

Michael Dever of The Giving Bowl from Lincoln will bring his uniquely designed wooden bowls.

MUSIC

Local, live music has always been a big feature at the Fair. On Saturday morning, Green

Mountain Swing, a 17-piece 'big band' that recently appeared at the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, will play Big Band classics, and on Saturday afternoon, the Jason Lee Duo from Warren will perform Indie Rock/Pop and Alt. Country tunes. On Sunday morning Madigan Linnane will return to play in her modern folk/pop/indie musical style with songs that appeal to a broad audience, and on Sunday afternoon the Medicine Tribe, featuring Colleen Mari Mays of Warren, will play Americana-style covers and original songs.

FOOD and PRIZES

The Food Court at the Craft Fair features a variety of festive fare from international to classic. Hangry Hogg, Jason Evans' mobile food truck specializing in southern smoked Bar-B-Que, will be on sight along with Vamo Arriba with roots in Argentina and Uruguay, serving empanadas and gluten-free sweets like pastafrola, alfajor and flan with dulce de leche. Silver Spring Scoops Ice Cream and Lemonade will serve up homemade ice cream, sundaes, shakes, and hand squeezed lemonade with a maple lemonade option. On Sunday only, American Flatbread's Waitsfield Hearth will create hand thrown pizza in their onsite woodfired oven. For adults 21+, The Mad River Distillers will have cocktails and mocktails for onsite consumption.

There will also be many door prizes announced throughout the Fair on both days. Many area Inns, artists, restaurants and retail



The craft fair will be held rain or shine on Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sunday Sept. 6, and is a fundraiser for the Valley Players community theater group. Dinoman! will host shows both Saturday and Sunday at noon.

PHOTO BY BOB LISAIUS

establishments are participating.

HISTORY

The Valley Players purchased the highly successful Craft Fair in 1989, after 19 years of private ownership. Staffed by numerous volunteers and the Players' Board of Directors, the Fair provides support to maintain the Valley Players Theater on Main Street in Waitsfield with a small entry fee: kids 12 and under enter for free.

"The Craft Fair is our major source of funding for the year and is vital for the upkeep of our building" said Board of Directors member Ruth Ann Pattee. "We hope our family of vendors and visitors alike will stop by our Information Tent as you enter the Fair to learn more about the Valley Players and our upcoming productions."

The Valley Players would like to remind everyone to please leave pets at home. For the full list of door prizes, artists, directions, and more information go to madrivercraftfair.com.



Cornwall artist Woody Jackson will be one of over 100 artists selling and exhibiting artwork during the fair.



PUZZLES

Sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant

6. Turkish river

10. Something to read

14. In a way, initiated

15. Popular Apple TV series

17. King Charles is part of it

19. Earlier

20. Foot (Latin)

21. Zodiac sign

22. A browning of the skin

23. Remain as is

24. Turfs

26. It's used to slaughter animals

29. Volcanic crater

31. The mother of Jesus

32. One's life story

34. One-time
- Liverpool coach Slot

35. Counterparts

37. Jacob __, American journalist

38. Digital audiotape

39. River in South Africa

40. Kimono sashes

41. Rooting somewhere

43. American spy Aldrich

45. A way to call for

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)

53. Have surgery

57. Formal withdrawal from a union

58. Performs spoken

- improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee
4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghastly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15				16					
17						18									
19						20				21					
					22				23						
			24	25					26				27	28	
29	30							31					32	33	
34						35	36					37			
38						39						40			
	41			42						43	44				
				45					46						
	47	48						49					50	51	52
53							54				55	56			
57											58				
59						60					61				

11. At some prior time

12. American protest singer

13. Opener

16. Seldom

18. Relaxing places

22. Touchdown

23. From end to end

24. Kids love him

25. Metal-bearing solid

27. Skin care product manufacturer

28. Thirteen

29. Angry

30. Member of a
- Semitic people

31. One-thousandth of an inch

33. Former CIA

35. Most lemony

36. Engage in

37. Mass of fish eggs

39. Food supplies

42. Backbones

43. American real estate investment firm

44. Megabyte

46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter

47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish

49. Emergency prep expert Edwards

50. Flute

51. Dismissive sound

52. Slang term for marijuana

53. Young women's association

54. Cosmopolitan city

55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand

56. Pointed end of a pen

		3		5			2	
		4						
		9	4	6	8			
8					4	1		
						4		3
4		1	6	8			9	
	9		8		6	2		
			2	1				8
	7							

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St, Middlebury, VT
Open Daily
sparrowartsupply.com

SPOTLIGHT @ SPARROW

Farmstand Favorites

A celebration of late summer bounty!
Local artwork inspired by local farmstands, markets, and orchards.

On view thru September 30



Rokeby Museum hosts talk about the costs of war for Vermonters

Join Rokeby Museum at Ferrisburgh Town Hall on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m., for "Bridging Divides in a Nation at War: A Vermont Conversation on Peace and Power" with Isaac Evans-Frantz.

Evans-Frantz, a lifelong Vermonter, political activist and public servant, will join audience members to explore the costs and benefits of war for Vermonters and the role of the Green Mountain State in a country nearly constantly at war.

Evans-Frantz holds a master's degree in public administration from the City University of New York. With the nonpartisan Action Corps, he played a pivotal role in Congress' historic passage of bipartisan legislation reasserting Congress' power over war during the first Trump administration. Through his leadership, Evans-Frantz remains committed to advancing



ISAAC EVANS-FRANTZ

freedom and unity for Vermonters and people everywhere.

"Bridging Divides in a Nation at War" is a Vermont Humanities program hosted by Rokeby Museum. This program is free and accessible to the public.

MNFF2 alum J Brooke returns Sept. 3 to discuss new book

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 12 captured the awe and excitement of our community and visitors last week, so it's still on theme to welcome the writer from the MNFF 2 film, *Legs: A Big Issue in a Small Town*, back to Addison County on Thursday, Sept. 3 to discuss their new book at The Meeting House in Cornwall.

"I Can Tell You The Version That Will Make You Take My Side" by J Brooke is a collection of poetry that explores Brooke's own life, not as a self-described poet, but as a writer. The story begins in a rich and specific New York City childhood full of binaries, then catapults into a fully realized, self-aware adulthood. The series of connected poems over these two parts force us to confront opposing ideologies of self in connection with loved ones and family. Born intrinsically male, assigned female at birth, and raised in affluent dysfunction in New York City, Brooke's gender expression attempted male, cis straight female, and cis gay female before embracing a nonbinary identity. Living without surgical or hormonal interventions, their struggle to find authentic place traverses female anatomy, friendship, suicide, family, testosterone, politics, packers, social media, motherhood, royalty, natural phenomena, cancer, marriage and the pope.



J BROOKE

In their first experimental season, The Meeting House in Cornwall is excited to see how the community responds to book talks. The venue especially wants to put on events that create a welcoming safe space for our underserved communities, and to provide a platform for artists who share a connection to this corner of Vermont.

The discussion and Q&A, will take place Thursday, Sept. 3, at 6:30 p.m., in The Meeting House at Cornwall's upstairs studio. The event is free and open to all, and registration is helpful. Reserve your seat at TheMeetingHouseVT.org/JBrooke-BookTalk.

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Bard



Bard is a 2-month-old tabby boy with a big personality inside that's just waiting to bloom. He sadly grew up in a space without much affection, but he's a smart cookie and eager to learn what love looks like with you. Bard is great with other cats, and an indoor-only guy who would love a calm, caring environment where he can build his confidence at his own pace. He's already neutered and litter box trained, so he's ready to settle into your home right away.

Lucky



Lucky Charms is a 4-month-old longhair tabby girl who's already spayed and litter box trained! She's on the shy side, so she'd do best in a calm environment where she can take her time opening up to you. She's great with other cats, especially her sister! Come say hello and let her show you what a special companion she can be!

Mr. Meow Meow



Mr. Meow Meow is a 3-year-old orange boy who will fill your home with affection and conversation! He arrived as a stray, but he's shown us that he's born for that cozy indoor life. Mr. Meow Meow is a purr machine who loves people, including kids, and he's not shy about letting you know when it's time for dinner!

Maple



Maple is a 7-year-old female Coonhound with a sweet, gentle personality and a love for people. Maple is friendly with new people, enjoys car rides, and has lived successfully with children of all ages. She has also coexisted peacefully with cats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, and other small animals, although she may chase wild rabbits outside. She knows basic commands like sit and come, enjoys Kongs, and marrow bones, and is happiest when she has a secure yard to sniff and explore.

Roan



Meet **Roan**, a striking good boy looking for his forever home! Roan has come a long way since he first arrived as a stray dog. He was quite unsure about many things but will now greet people with full wiggles and leans in for affection. It's become clear to us that Roan is quite agile, but he still needs a booty-boost to get into a car! Roan has become a great office buddy and will snooze on his bed during work hours. He's made dog friends here at the shelter, but we're unsure of how he is with cats or children. He'd do best in a patient household where he can continue building confidence and trust. So far, Roan's favorite snack is peanut butter!

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



Want to
learn more?

Call or check our website.
We may have a pet for you!

802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

EXHIBITS

continued from page 5

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.

"Fragments: Voices of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain." Combining archaeological research, shipwrecks, original artifacts, and first-person accounts, visitors can reflect on the events of the American Revolution on Lake Champlain, including the Battle of Lake Champlain, and the impact it had on people from multiple perspectives. On view May through Oct. 18.

"Parley and Protocol, War and Peace."

This exhibition by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association brings together historical documents, maps, and art with work by present-day American Abenaki artists, sharing Indigenous perspectives on the founding of the United States. On view June through Oct. 18.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Michelangelo Lovelace: Art Saved My Life."

Lovelace hoped for ideas and experiences to flow straight from his mind to the canvas, as honestly and forthrightly as he could manage. Before his life was cut short by pancreatic cancer, he had shown his work from New York to Los Angeles and was thrilled with what he had achieved. Taking stock of his personal journey and the sense of purpose that he found in creativity, he remarked "I'm one of those people who say 'art saved my life,' and it truly did." On view Sept. 4-Jan. 10, 2027.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Cyanotype: Process & Possibility," a juried exhibition celebrating the enduring appeal and creative versatility of the cyanotype process. Juried by Sam Wang. This exhibition coincides with World Cyanotype Day, an international celebration of one of photography's most beloved alternative processes. PhotoPlace Gallery will mark the occasion with a special reception, workshops, and cyanotype-focused programming on Sept. 26, bringing artists and the community together to celebrate the many possibilities of this historic and continually evolving medium. On view through Sept. 26.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Help Each Other," is the 2026 seasonal exhibit created by Quaker Pirate, Todd Drake. The

Quaker Pirate creates art that challenges us to help one another, to be emotionally and spiritually connected, and to persist and survive in today's world. On view through Oct. 11.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden's Charity & Sylvia," invites visitors into a layered conversation between past and present, pairing the Museum's archival and object collections with Tillie Walden's contemporary illustrations. Together, these materials illuminate the lives of one of America's earliest documented same-sex couples, who built a shared home, tailoring business, and life in early Vermont. On view May 2-Jan. 2, 2027.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Farmstand Favorites." A celebration of late summer bounty. Local artwork inspired by local farmstands, markets and orchards. On view through Sept. 30.

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. Free and open to all. On view through Oct. 17.

POTTERY

continued from page 3

that she admires about porcelain.

"It's hard," she argued. "It wants to shrink a lot, it wants to collapse. It wants

to mock you. But when it works really well, it can be just beautiful. So that's the chase. It's just a lifelong chase. And I guess that's why I like it, because you're never quite there."

One of her favorite things to make is her bird jars. These are not only useful jars, as all her pottery is, but they are products of thoughtfulness.

"Sometimes I'll spend days and days on a little bird, not because it's so fine-tuned, like some incredibly precious thing, but because it hasn't found its personality yet," she explained. "And then I'll tear off the beak or I'll go in the morning and tear off a wing...and then at some point, it's just this kind of bird that has a whole personality that I love."

Porcelain's ability to take color from glaze is

another quality Manegold admires. When working with any clay, one of the hardest things to overcome is dealing with glaze. Understanding how it works is a science that is fine-tuned so ceramics look nice and are functional.

"It's always a hard thing understanding the glaze," she said. "I'd have a pot I really liked, and then it'd come out of the kiln, and a lot of people say it was like Christmas, and I'd be like, no, it's like Halloween. I realized so much of that was that I'd have a pot I liked and that it would be glazed and I would just think it was disgusting. Which I still often think."

The trial and error of ceramics is part of what makes it unique and the uncertainty is something that Manegold believes pottery and journalism share.

"It's like journalism," she explained. "It can be really easy and it could be incredibly, magnificently difficult to do well. And just trying to move up that ladder is what's so, to me, engaging."

In her Bridport Hill Pottery studio, the shelves

hold the results of this ongoing pursuit: cups, jars, butter bells, mugs and plates, each with its own unique glaze and shape, most in shades of blue, red and cream.

Manegold opens this studio to visitors during the spring and fall open studio weekends and sells her work to collectors and others looking for a piece of art to take home.

"I really had a fantasy from quite young that I would be a country potter," she said. "I just thought, what could be more delicious?"

With all of her experiences and all that she has learned, Manegold does not wish to leave the comfort of her forested home any time soon.

"And so, on the path, you know, I've managed to go around the world a couple times and have these incredible experiences for which I'm forever grateful," she said, "but now wild horses can't pull me off Snake Mountain."

See Catherine Mangold's artwork online at bridporthill.com.



\$899,000

CONTRACT
PENDING

254 NORTH STREET
NEW HAVEN

THE HOME

A LOOK AT LOCAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Eco-luxury living on 11 acres in New Haven

Set on a stunning 11-acre property with panoramic mountain views, this beautifully crafted, high-efficiency home delivers a sustainable lifestyle without compromise. Custom-designed by the owners and built by Fiddlehead Construction in 2015, the residence boasts double-wall construction, an impressive 5 Stars Plus energy rating from Efficiency Vermont, and a HERS Index of 30. Combined with owned solar, the annual utility bill is under \$500. Entering from the covered front porch, the inviting foyer features Vermont Slate flooring and provides direct access to the attached two-car garage, a guest bath, and main living spaces. Throughout the home, 9-foot ceilings, Schüco windows, and abundant natural light create an open, airy feel. The gorgeous kitchen is anchored by a rich walnut island and pantry and flows seamlessly into the dining and living areas. The primary suite offers a peaceful retreat with a walk-in closet, tiled en-suite bath, and convenient walk-through laundry access. Thoughtfully designed for main-level living, the walkout lower level provides additional living space and flexibility for guests or a home office. Outside, enjoy your morning coffee on the deck, watch the sunset over the Adirondacks from the porch, tend the gardens, or entertain on the spacious Trex deck by the pool.

the
REAL ESTATE
COMPANY
of VERMONT

This week's property is managed by The Real Estate Company of Vermont. More info at therealestatecompanyvt.com.



REAL ESTATE

Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.

802-388-4944 advertising@addisonindependent.com

theREAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

1655 Lincoln Gap Rd, Lincoln

This mountain retreat features two houses set on a private 4.7-acre lot bordering the Green Mtn National Forest. Both the 4-bed main house and the 2-bed chalet/guest house were designed to embrace the breathtaking natural surroundings, with an emphasis on indoor/outdoor living and easy access to local trails.

MLS No. 5085194 | \$ 950,000

for more information, contact:

Tammy Petersen
Agent/Realtor®

Jill Fraga
Broker/Owner/Realtor®

www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com
3 MAIN STREET, BRISTOL, VERMONT 05443
802.453.6161

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY GROUP

the real estate experts
good to know!

WWW.VTREGROUP.COM
(802) 388-9836

OPEN HOUSE * SATURDAY SEPT 5 * 12 PM - 3 PM

10 CASE ST * RTE 116 * EAST MIDDLEBURY

\$410,000 ~ MLS #5104160

Vermont Farmhouse Character! 3 bedrooms with first-floor primary & 2 baths at an affordable price! Gleaming wood floors, ample kitchen, sunny living room, beautiful gardens & spacious yard, convenient location in close-knit East Middlebury community.

Listing Agent: Nikhil Plouffe | 802-458-2968 | nikhilplouffe@vtregroup.com

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Sept. 3, 2026

A	B	A	C	A	A	R	A	S	B	O	O	K			
B	E	G	A	N	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E		
B	R	I	T	I	S	H	M	O	N	A	R	C	H	Y	
A	G	O	P	E	S	A	R	I	E	S					
			T	A	N	S	T	E	T						
	S	O	D	S		P	O	L	E	A	X				
M	A	A	R			M	A	R	Y	B	I	O			
A	R	N	E		T	W	I	N	S	R	I	I	S		
D	A	T		V	A	A	L			O	B	I	S		
	B	A	S	I	N	G		A	M	E	S				
		P	A	G	E		C	A	B						
	B	L	I	N	I		A	A	R		F	P	S		
	G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
	S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		R	I	F	F	S
	A	R	E	S		T	O	N		A	B	E	T	S	

6	1	3	7	5	9	8	2	4
5	8	4	1	2	3	6	7	9
7	2	9	4	6	8	5	3	1
8	5	7	3	9	4	1	6	2
9	6	2	5	7	1	4	8	3
4	3	1	6	8	2	7	9	5
1	9	5	8	3	6	2	4	7
3	4	6	2	1	7	9	5	8
2	7	8	9	4	5	3	1	6

NEW TO MARKET

MIDDLEBURY | 40 South St | MLS #5107309
5 BD | 5 BA | 3997 SF | 0.44 AC | \$1,250,000

Meticulously renovated with exquisite craftsmanship, refined finishes, and effortless livability. A haven and a retreat that is equally suited for entertaining and long-term stays by family and friends—a true gem in the heart of Middlebury.

NEW TO MARKET

MIDDLEBURY | 200 Morningside Dr | MLS # 5107445
3 BD | 3 BA | 2288 SF | 0.59 AC | \$785,000

Thoughtfully cared-for on a quaint cul-de-sac, offering: a spacious layout, custom kitchen cabinetry, heat pumps, hardwood floors, abundant natural light, finished space on 3rd flr, a large, dry basement, and extensive perennial plantings.

NEW TO MARKET

SHOREHAM | 2922 Route 74 E | MLS #5107518
3 BR | 3 BA | 2406 SF | 5.06 AC | \$415,000

Two-car attached garage plus a separate heated shop providing excellent space for vehicles, hobbies, and equipment. Lower level includes guest living area complete with a full kitchen and a 3/4 bath. Space, privacy, and functionality!

IPJ Real Estate

IPJREALSTATE.COM

34 MAIN STREET | MIDDLEBURY
E: INFO@IPJREALSTATE.COM
P: 802.388.4242

Serving buyers, sellers, and community, since 2006.

Amey Ryan

Sarah Peluso

Beth Stanway

Jamie Warner

Katrina James

Levi Doria

MUSIC

continued from page 4

musicianship, and the spontaneous musical conversation that has become the group's hallmark.

"A raucous and holy thing!" said Vermont singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell of Session

Americana. "The job is simple — access the joy — and if you can do that, it opens a portal."

That sense of connection is at the heart of a Session Americana show. Part rock band in a teacup, part folk band in a whiskey bottle, the musicians have built their following by ignoring many of the music business "shoulds" and instead pursuing a quirky, collaborative, and

deeply joyful path.

The performance will feature two sets with an intermission, with the Town Hall Theater bar open throughout the event. The theater will be arranged in an intimate cabaret configuration with both table and riser seating. Tickets: \$10/ students; \$25/general; \$35/table seating; \$50 generous. For more info visit townhalltheater.org.



creating real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®



802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com



One Person. Start to Finish.

When you call us about a loan, you talk to a person who lives here, understands the local market, and will be with you through every step.



I love this bank. When you call an actual person answers the phone and is always helpful. They hold our mortgage, and most of our personal accounts. Having been a customer at bigger banks... we really appreciate the contrast and [NBM]'s more personal style. —Andrew M.

802-388-4982 | nbmvt.com | NMLS #: 403372



Post & Beam Cape - 20A



After 50 years in the same caring hands the owner has decided it is time to move on. Home to a variety of farm fowl and animal the land is fenced for pasture plots and meadow. The home is well cared for and features a large living room with wood stove and dining room with updated galley kitchen. The office/den has a finely crafted beamed ceiling. Up - 3 BR and a bath. The barn can be configured to accommodate practically any use. A small separate building serves a variety of purposes from studio to shop. \$550,000.

WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802)236-9076(T) (802)236-9075(C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT



CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.



729 NORTH STREET, BRANDON, VT 05733
MLS #5106998 - \$399,000

Once home to a beloved farmstand, this property is ready to inspire new ventures. Whether you envision reviving the farmstand, creating a hobby farm or simply enjoying the abundant gardening possibilities, this property is a perfect homestead. Set on 33



acres, this charming five bedroom, two bath farmhouse is ready for you to come bring your new ideas and touches. The first floor has an eat-in kitchen with a walk-in pantry, a primary bedroom with full bath, a den which would work great as a home office, a dining room and a living room which leads to a covered porch. The second floor has four additional bedrooms and a full bath. Outside you will find



a detached two car garage, storage barns, a greenhouse and the original farmstand. This home is convenient to Middlebury, Rutland, Lake Dunmore and downtown Brandon where you can enjoy breweries, live music, shops and restaurants.



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net



Wishing you and your family
a happy Labor Day Weekend!

Standing, L-R: Heather Foster-Provencher, Liz Marino,
Mandy Daly Hodson, Amy Young, Lisa Sargent.
Seated, L-R: John Snyder-White, January Stearns

Champlain Valley
Properties



September Events at TOWN HALL THEATER



THT & Valley Stage Present
Session Americana
with **Kris Delmhorst**
Sun Sept 13
5:30-7pm
Tickets: \$10-\$50



THT Presents
The Loop:
The Conversations Trio
Fri Sept 25
6pm
Tickets: \$8-\$25



THT Presents
The MOTH
Story Hour
Tue Sept 15
7pm
Tickets: \$18



THT Presents
Addison String
Quartet
Sat Sept 26
11am
Tickets: \$10-\$50



THT Presents
Young Masters:
Ben & Romy Munkres
Sat Sept 19
7pm
Tickets: \$10-\$25



THT Presents
Zig Zag Issue 21.
Release Party
Sun Sept 27
4pm
Suggested: \$5-\$20



Season Sponsor:



72-76 Merchant's Row Middlebury, VT
townhalltheater.org | Box Office: 802.382.9222

Save the Dates!



THT & Jazz Middlebury Present
MIDDLEBURY HOUSE OF JAZZ FESTIVAL
Friday October 9 - Sunday October 11
3 extraordinary days of exceptional, world-class jazz



Saluting our

Firefighters



September 3, 2026

A special section of the Addison Independent

Table of Contents

Addison Vol. Fire Department.....	3	New Haven Fire Department.....	14
Mike Collette: Vergennes Historian.....	4	Bridport Ladies Auxillary.....	15
Brandon Fire Department	5	Orwell Fire Department.....	16
Bridport Vol. Fire Department	6	Ripton Fire Department	17
Bristol Fire Department	8	Salisbury Vol. Fire Department	17
Cornwall Vol. Fire Department.....	9	Shoreham Fire Department	18
Ferrisburgh Vol. Fire Department.....	9	Starksboro Vol. Fire Department.....	19
Granville Vol. Fire Department	10	Vergennes Fire Department	20
Hancock Vol. Fire Department.....	11	College Students Strengthen	21
Lincoln Vol. Fire Department.....	11	Weybridge Fire Department.....	22
Middlebury Fire Department	13	Whiting Vol. Fire Department.....	22
Monkton Vol. Fire Department	14		



THANK YOU FIREFIGHTERS!

We're your  Headquarters.
Great Deals All Year Long!



Thanks to all the dedicated men & women whose tireless work saves lives.

 **Women's Carhartt is back in stock! New fall styles arriving!**



MIDDLEBURY AGWAY FARM & GARDEN

338 Exchange St., Middlebury, VT • 802-388-4937
Monday - Friday 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com







Standing strong with those who protect our community.

Thank you for all that you do.



802.779.1928 

Extinguisher Sales & Service



Addison Volunteer Fire Department

Chase Atkins
John Baker
Joshua Barnes
Josiah Barnes
Rob Barrows

Adam Berno
Gerrit Beenen
Bradley Clark, Chief
Kyle Clark
Corey Collette

Kevin Comes
Jordan Fleming
Dan Flynn
Ethan Gevry
Matthew Gevry

Howard Grant
Scott Howard
Chris Mulliss
Matt Murphy
Geoff Nelson

Devin Parker
Chris Reed
Kevin Reed
Todd Reed
Phil Stearns

Randy Stearns
Logan Thibeault
Henry Tierney
Steve Torrey
Ryan Wright



*They're our
insurance,
We are yours.*



Laberge
Insurance Agency Inc.
Since 1955

1 Washington Street, Middlebury • 388-2772

**Reed's
Equipment**



GEA Engineering
for a better
world.

Our appreciation goes out to all
Addison County Firefighters!

4373 VT RT 17W • Addison, VT 05491 • (802) 759-2562 • gea.com



RE/MAX
NORTH PROFESSIONALS

**Gratitude for all
the brave, selfless
firemen and women
who protect us.**

Bonnie Gridley – Broker | 802-349-8646
bgridleyvt@gmail.com

Judy Murdock – Realtor | 802-458-7589
judymurdockvt@gmail.com



Mike Collette: Vergennes Fire Department's historian

By SOPHIA KESHMIRI

VERGENNES — From the opposite side of the room, Mike Collette can point to one of the numerous images decorating the walls in the basement of the Vergennes

service remains a significant part of his life.

“He comes to trainings and certainly our community events. Due to his age, he has slowed down. He’s not the first

He called the trade “hereditary.”

Not only did his grandfather and father-in-law answer the call — so did Collette’s father, brothers, and for a time his wife, Jackman’s daughter.

When asked what made him initially join in 1961, Collette acknowledged the images on the table in front of him and answered simply, “probably one of these guys.”

What does Collette enjoy about firefighting?

“It’s dangerous now, as it was then, but it’s a civic duty to the community,” he said.

He’s not one to gloss over the intensity of the work.

“We’ve had some good fires. I have seen a lot in my day,” he said. “Sometimes you have to just go home and cry because they bother you so bad.”

While Collette has amassed a book-worth of experiences firefighting, he’s also collected decades worth of observations on the change and growth of a crucial service, both far-reaching measures and locally.

Though fighting fires is still dangerous, improvements in technology, training and protocols have made the job safer than it once was.

The Vergennes department has expanded as well.

“They’re a great bunch of guys,” Collette said. “There’s 40 of them. When I came in in 1961, well, there was probably anywhere from 15 to 18 volunteers.”

When prompted about his favorite aspect of the job, Collette’s mind goes to the people he serves alongside.

“I’m proud of them,” he said. “Proud of this department, where it’s come from.”

PRESERVING HISTORY

Among the collection of documents Collette brought to the fire station this summer were a copy of the VFD bylaws and two other packets explaining parts of the Vergennes Fire Department’s history.

Collette made sure to point out that these offerings were just a small subset of the records he has stored in his collection at home.

One of the roles Collette has assumed is preserving the volunteer organization’s storied past. He’s responsible for much of the memorabilia adorning the walls, and filling trophy cases he built, in the Vergennes fire station basement.

A piece of history that he wants people to remember is the story of volunteer firefighter

Leigh Schroeder, who was thrown from a firetruck while responding to call in 1948. He died from the injuries he suffered in the line of duty.

“He was my dad’s best friend,” Collette recounted.

“Mike is a wealth of knowledge,” DiBiase said. “He’s also somebody that he can always put a smile on your face and crack a joke at any given moment, and certainly in the places that you least expect it.”

Collette’s contribution to maintaining that history is far more than a feel-good project.

“He can just tell us about those things and it helps us understand,” DiBiase said.

“We’re pretty lucky to see where we’ve come to and what we have today, as well as him going, ‘Guys, we’ve always progressed. That’s always been what we’ve done. We’ve always just gone through and gone to the next thing and gotten better every time we do it.’ So Mike’s ability to add that outlook on the department is always helpful.”

Collette wondered, with a chuckle, why DiBiase keeps him on the 40-person roster.

“Ain’t figured it out yet,” he joked.

For the chief, Collette’s contributions are invaluable:

“I don’t know how we’d do it without him.”

“We always make sure we find a place for (Mike Collette) to be useful and helpful. And it’s not hard to do because he’s a guy that is willing to do anything to this day.”

— Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase



VERGENNES FIRE DEPARTMENT members Mike Collette, left, and Dean Gilmore show off a banner celebrating the department's sesquicentennial. As of this past summer, volunteers have provided fire protection to Vergennes for 150 years.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Fire Station and provide a verbal caption. That extends to the fire station itself.

“This building was the gym to the high school until 1959,” he told a recent visitor while motioning to the vast space where the Vergennes Fire Department trucks are parked. “The ag department was downstairs. That’s were Ray Davison taught.”

Collette, of course, was referring to firefighter who served the county for 46 years not just putting out blazes, but also improving the training of firefighters not just locally, but throughout the region.

Collette’s knowledge extends beyond the people in the local fire service; he can recite the decade the Little City’s firefighters wore the uniform dressing a mannequin in another corner of the station.

And if given the chance to share why the bucket hanging from a hook a few steps away is rounded, not flat on the bottom, he’s likely to explain the hardcore rationale of his hoseless predecessors — bucket brigaders wouldn’t be tempted to set down a vessel with a curved base because it would spill the much-needed contents.

After 65-years volunteering with the department, the 84-year-old, whose red pickup truck matches the hue of the massive apparatuses inside the VFD garage, doesn’t just rattle off dates, facts and tenets about the profession. He speaks “fire,” and VFD history, like it’s his mother tongue.

Collette’s name has been a fixture of the Vergennes Fire Department roster since 1961. And after 65 years in the field, the

one out the door generally, but he will certainly still respond to calls and offer whatever assistance that he can,” Chief David DiBiase said.

“And we always make sure we find a place for him to be useful and helpful. And it’s not hard to do because he’s a guy that is willing to do anything to this day.”

While still being involved in the day-to-day work of a volunteer firefighter, Collette has grown into a role only somebody with decades of experience could.

“He’s an anchor for the fire department when it comes to acknowledging our history and also welcoming the future,” DiBiase said.

“He’s a gentleman that obviously has seen a lot of change in the fire service, but he’s also not stuck in the old ways. And as much as he likes to make sure that we remember, he always supports us in the new technology and the new endeavors and the future path of Vergennes Fire Department. So, he’s certainly an inspiration to me.”

FAMILY OF FIREFIGHTERS

Collette came to the fire station for an interview this summer equipped with prints of family members dressed in firefighter uniforms.

One showed his father-in-law, Ralph Jackman, who served as chief for many years. And another of his son, a career firefighter who currently heads the Williston Fire Department. Collette’s grandfather also served.

Collette, a third-generation VFD member, attributes the longevity of his stay with the organization to being surrounded by firefighting his whole life.



LONGTIME VERGENNES FIREFIGHTER Mike Collette points to a mannequin in the city fire station while explaining how an early breathing device operated to help firefighters battle smokey blazes up close. Despite his love of the past, Collette is up on the latest firefighting technologies and advocates for their use.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



Brandon Fire Department

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ken Backus | Steve Bilodeau | Lexi Duby | Harry S. Hunt Sr. | Alan Knapp | Marc Muth | Alexis Beaulieu |
| Jake Bertrand | Jeff Cohen | Ron Euber | Kyle Hutchins | Graham Kresfelder | Robertas Nielsen | Hannah Bertrand |
| Scott Bertrand | Bradley Danforth | Oscar Gardner | Brian Kilpeck | Jordan Martin | Brent Scarborough | Jason Hartwell |
| Jesse Bilodeau | Adam Duby | Harry L Hunt Jr. | Tom Kilpeck | Tracey Murray | Brent Young | William Kilpeck |

To those who give their time,
strength, and heart — We Thank You
Your courage keeps our community safe.



802-388-2500
M- F 7:30-5, Sat. 8-1
distinctivepaintandinteriors.com
1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT

**THANK YOU,
FIREFIGHTERS**



We're proud to serve communities where neighbors look out for one another. Few embody that spirit more than our local firefighters, including these members of the extended Goodro family:

- Donald Patterson**, Middlebury Firefighter
- Kaitlyn Sawyer**, New Haven Auxiliary
- Joseph Sawyer**, New Haven Truck Captain
- Richard Gomez**, Monkton Lieutenant
- Zach Welch**, Bridport Firefighter
- Taylor Betourney**, Bridport Auxiliary

To all who answer the call, thank you for your courage and service.





Bridport Volunteer Fire Department

- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Nick Audet | Levi Gordon | Rayne Plante | Logan Luftus | Dexter Oliver | Tony Boulanger | Sam Wheeler |
| Mike Barrett | Clifford E. Huestis, Chief | Corey Pratt | Colin Foster | Dan Thomas | Mark Foster | Logan Yustin |
| Colby Beinhaur | Eric Huestis | Obidiah Ranney | Cody Devries | Honorary Members: | Timothy Howlett | Chaz Welch |
| Micheal Carter | Morgan Huestis | Silas Ranney | Ernest Audet | Missy Audet, Dispatcher | Kate Ingwersen | Micheal Prime |
| Richard Coursey | Michael Lawton | Richard Shimel | Keith Betourney | Tyler Audet | Anthony Korda | |
| Daron Gendron | Kobe Loftus | Philip Wagner | Dean DeGray | Jason Betourney | Morgan Lilly | |
| Aidin Girard | Gary Novosel | Charles Welch Jr. | Joseph DeGray | Alex Bishop | Michael Nyisalosky | |
| Chris Gordon | Aaron Oullette | Zach Welch | Clement Gaboriault | | Mike Smith | |



The residents of Bridport would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment to the safety of our community!



82 CROWN POINT ROAD • BRIDPORT, VT 05734
802-758-2483

J.D. FULLER

PLUMBING & HEATING INC

Honoring the courage that keeps Addison County safe

Thank you to all area Fire Departments

802-989-2251 John D. Fuller Serving Addison County since 1989
Master Plumber

Honoring the courage that keeps Addison County safe.

Thank you to all of our Firefighters!



Mon-Fri
7am - 3pm

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
PLOUFFE'S
BOILER & MECHANICAL SERVICE

802-388-2296
24/7 Pager Service

1786 Route 7 South • Middlebury, VT



A TRIBUTE TO ADDISON COUNTY'S BRAVEST

Thank You, Addison County Firefighters

Your dedication keeps our homes, our families, and our neighbors safe
- we're proud to build in the communities you protect.

At Addison Residential, we design and build homes throughout Addison County with safety built in from the studs out: thoughtful kitchen layouts, quality millwork, and spray foam & cellulose insulation rated to today's fire and energy codes.

BUILT WITH CARE, FROM THE GROUND UP



Find us online and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date on all of our projects!





Bristol Fire Department

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Bouvier | Terry Farr | Amos Martin, Captain | Anthony Robideau | Nick Guilbeault | Sawyer Visco-Lyons, Cadet |
| Peter Coffey | Kevin LaRose, Assistant Chief | Eric Forand, Deputy Chief | Adrian Ludka, Lieutenant | Koby LaRose | Eliza Ruble, Cadet |
| Peter Bouvier | Brett LaRose, Chief | Jarrett Kimball, Emerg. Veh. Tech. | Caleb Rockwood, Emerg. Veh. Tech. | Michael Stienss | |
| Joel Bouvier | Matt Lathrop | Carl Gile | Greg Swain | Dana Nagy | |
| James Robideau | Brian W. Wendel | Kris Perlee | Ethan DeWitt | Paige Guilbeault, Cadet | |
| John Heffernan | Lance Perlee | Nathan Booska | James Cole | Mason Forand, Cadet | |
| Jim Whitcomb | Nathan Bouvier | | | Kai Ludka, Cadet | |

Thank you Addison County Firefighters for Protecting our Community!

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol, VT 05443
For information on all your energy needs, please call us at:
802-453-2381 or www.JackmansInc.com

STAY IN THE KNOW

Subscribe Online
addisonindependent.com
OR
Scan the QR code

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944 ext 104

Land Surveying, Topographic Surveying, Land Planning, Septic Design and State & Local Permitting
We will assist you through the permitting process.

“We are very proud of our firefighters, Kevin and Brett!”

25 West St. • PO Box 388 • Bristol, VT 05443
Telephone: 802-453-3818 • Fax: 802-329-2138 • www.larosesurveys.com



Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department

- Josiah Benoit
Dave Berno
Vaughn Berno
Charlie Bearor
Justin Boyer
Lew Castle
- Peter Conlon
Chris Dayton
Dennis Dougherty
Aven Frankovic
Megan Frankovic
Alex Getty
- Will Glass
Ingrid Jackson
Gail Isenberg
Richard Isenberg
Sue Johnson
Luke Jerome
- Bruce Koontz
Cait LaVerne-Lily
Mike Magluilo
Ken Manchester
Ben Marks
Nathan Nyein
- Ed Peet
Blair Peterson
Lauren Ringley
Haley Stearns
Josh Stearns
Sean Stearns
- Conor Stinson
Daniel Tso
Chief Raph Worrick

Thank you,
Addison County
Volunteer Firefighters!

A special Silver Maple salute
to Cornwall firefighter
Ingrid Jackson,
who shows up for us every day as well.

Thank you for your service.



From our crew to
yours – thank you for
keeping us safe.



Collaborating with Municipalities
throughout Vermont to Design
Essential Services Facilities

VERMONT INTEGRATED
ARCHITECTURE, PC

WAITSFIELD VT | MIDDLEBURY VT | 802-989-7249
WWW.VERMONTINTEGRATEDARCHITECTURE.COM







Thank you to all
Addison County
Firefighters

Interested in joining
our volunteer team?
Please send an email to
PMC-Volunteers@portermmedical.org
or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444



Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jim Averill | Adam Deslile | Emily Patterson | Garret Crift | Dave Bowles, Life Member |
| Evan Ambrose | Matt Duval | Anthony Porter | Rodney Hill | Tony Caruso, Life Member |
| Joe Bashaw, Treasurer | Caylib Gaboriault | Roger Richmond | Randi Thompson | Michael Donnelly, Life Member |
| Crew Bertrand, Captain | Joshua Hanlon | Jeff Vinge | Chris Cervi | George Gardner, Life Member |
| Mark Chaffee | Rob Healy | Bill Wager, Chief | Kyle Clark, Sr. Cadet | Dave Grippin, Life Member |
| Art Cohn, Chaplain | Finnley Jacobson | Hannah Webber, Secretary | William Cervi, Sr. Cadet | Paul Hoffman, Life Member |
| Mike Coyle, Assistant Chief | Travis Kimball | C.J. Webber | Izaiha Deyette, Sr. Cadet | George Marcotte, Life Member |
| Shane Coyle, Deputy Chief | Peter Markowski | Rick White | Emmytt Duval, Cadet | Kenny Lemner, Life Member |
| Ryan Cushing, Captain | Rob Mullin | Spencer White | Zachary Gaboriault, Cadet | Peter McNichol, Life Member |



Granville Volunteer Fire Department

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Danial Sargeant, Fire Chief | Henry Webb | Grace Lambert | John Weiner | Theodore Smith |
| Logan Wright, Asst. Chief | Jon Lambert, Captain | Hunter Lambert, Cadet | John Hirsch | |
| Louis Englehardt, 2nd Asst. Chief | Nichole Lambert | Kira Sargeant, Lieutenant | Jacob Doyle | |



Hancock Volunteer Fire Department

Jacques Veilleux, Chief
Jordan Champney, First Asst.
Tim Brown, Second Asst.
Kevin Hewitt

Garrett Brown
Cathrin Denis
Kim Trenholm
Joe Shaw

Talen Champion-Veilleux
Renee Veilleux, Secretary/Treasurer
Scott Krouse
Thomas Veilleux



Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department

Matt Atkins
Chase Atkins
Mason Atkins
Chelsea Bashaw
Jesse Bashaw

Grady Brokaw
Matt Brown
Jeff Cousino
Graham Huntington
Sprague Huntington

Dudley Leavitt
Will Mathis
Bob Maurer
Dan Ober, Chief
Jake Orvis

Henry Orvis
Grace Orvis
Jake Peirce
Alex Peterson
Jeremy Ratta

Aaron Thomas
Tyler Willey
Terence Zecha



A M E R I C A N
FLATBREAD
Middlebury Hearth

**You Give So Much.
You Ask for So Little.
Our Community Is So Grateful.**

To the firefighters of Addison County:
Thank you for answering the call, protecting our communities, and making sacrifices that can never truly be repaid.

**Proper fire management isn't easy.
Thank you for all that you do.**

Marble Works, Middlebury • (802) 388-3300
americanflatbread.com
Lunch: Wed-Sat 11-2
Dinner: Tues-Th 5-9 • Fri-Sat 4:30-9



**THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY
SALUTES ITS DEDICATED
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.**



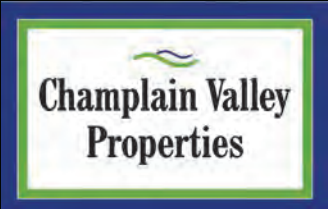
**THANK YOU ALL FOR THE COMMITMENT YOU
SHOW AND THE SERVICE YOU PROVIDE US!**

WWW.TOWNOFMIDDLEBURY.ORG



**Thanking the hundreds of Addison
County Fire Volunteers for
protecting Property and People!**

802-989-7522
ChamplainValleyProperty.net
70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT





Middlebury Fire Department

Michael Bougor
Jonathan Brooks
David Broughton
Jeff Carpenter
Rick Cole
Joe D'Avignon
Josh DiShaw
Jon Duckworth

Shawn Frost
Paul Garrow
Randy Garrow
LeRoy Graham
Blake Harrison
Ruby Harrison-Irwin
Brian Hayes
Knox Hayunga

Andy Klein
Ethan Klosseck
Delaynah Leavitt
Andrew L'Roe
Laurent Lussier
Mike Mayone
Dylan Montagu
Piper O'Neill

Donald Patterson
Skip Patterson
Karissa Peltier
Tim Porter
Dan Ribaudo
Audrey AJ Rossbach
Gabe Schine
Myron Selleck

Scott Selleck
Pat Shaw
David Shaw, Chief
August Stauffer
Aidan Ulian
Larry Volkert
Brett Wilhelm



FIRE & ICE RESTAURANT

Huge Thanks

**TO OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE MIDDLEBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT!
WE'RE THANKFUL FOR ALL YOU DO TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.**

WWW.FIREANDICERESTAURANT.COM



Monkton Volunteer Fire Department

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Chief Robert Howard | Buzz Kuhns | David Bristol | Lucas Charbonneau | Life Members |
| Matt DuPont | Curtis Layn | Jesse Freegard | Ben Charboneau | Buck Bennett |
| Rick Gomez | Daniel Reinhart | Sean Henry | Greg Cota | David Layn |
| Cody Haines | Dylan Layn | Colin Judge | Mike New | Bill Van Steanburg |
| Chris Kruckel | Logan Young | Lee Delarm | | |



New Haven Fire Department

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Neil Allen | Jerad Gorton, Truck Capt. | Mark Livingston, Chief | Aaron Napoleon, 2nd Asst. Chief | Evan Audy |
| Jon Boise | Roger Hamilton | Mason Livingston | John Palmer | Chris Brown |
| Andrew Bouton | Moriah Sullivan Hebert | Phil Livingston Jr., Line Capt. | Dick Sawyer | |
| Cody Cyr, 1st Asst. Chief | Collin Jennings | Phil Livingston Sr. | Joe Sawyer, Truck Capt. | |
| Alex Bishop, Line Capt. | Marcel Kimball | Alan Mayer | Anna Jo Smith | |

Bridport Ladies Auxiliary revives the decades-long tradition of supporting their firefighters

By ELOISE CHRISTY

BRIDPORT — Founded in 1961, the Bridport Ladies Auxiliary has supported the Bridport Volunteer Fire Department for decades, but as people got busier, the group became quiet for a time. Revived in 2023, the auxiliary has grown into a group of volunteers who organize community events, raise money for equipment, provide food and refreshments at emergency scenes and support the department's firefighters on and off duty.

Current members include Tricia Gordon, Katie Welch, Taylor Betourney, Liz Bordreau, Laurie Pratt, Mary Beth Novosel, JoAnna Cater, Joanne Reynolds, Katie Shimel, Tajah Marsden, Sophia Welch and Nicole Reilly. The auxiliary also recognizes Sherry Ouellette, who died in May, as a fundamental member of the auxiliary.

"I think initially back in the day when the ladies auxiliary existed, it was more for support when the firemen were out fighting a fire," Tricia Gordon said. "Making sure they had coffee on a cold night or their bellies were full. We're that as well, but we do a lot of fundraising for them because it's all volunteer."

Members say supporting both the fire department and the Bridport community is at the heart of everything they do. The Bridport Ladies Auxiliary is the only ladies auxiliary in Addison County and one of the very few that exist in all of Vermont.

"This is my second family," one of the youngest members of the auxiliary Taylor Betourney said. "I used to work at Pratt's (Store) and that's a whole sense of community, and now I work in Middlebury and I didn't find that community anymore. So this keeps me involved, which I really enjoy. Just doing anything I can to support my family."

Betourney is not the only one who sees this auxiliary as more than a

volunteer organization — they all do. For many members, supporting the Bridport Volunteer Fire Department also means supporting their own families and neighbors.

"One of the big things about this fire department is it's family," Mary Beth Novosel said. "It goes back generations. We have some firemen that — I mean, it's just generation after generation. You'll find fathers, sons. It's very much a family and community-oriented department."

This sense of family that is cultivated in the ladies auxiliary is also reflected in the work they do. Members organize around one fundraiser a month, varying from bingo nights and paint-and-sip events to community lunches, all aiming to raise money for the volunteer fire department. One key role the auxiliary performs is providing food and drinks for the firefighters during long emergencies. They stock bins with snacks,

water and coffee and deliver meals to the crew while they work on fire emergencies.

Although many of the members have relatives or spouses in the department, auxiliary membership is not limited to firefighters' families.

"It's important to also note that you don't have to be a wife of a fire department member," Liz Bordreau said. "I'm not a wife. I'm not a mother. But I've been in this, I grew up in this community and I've lived in Bridport my entire life. So when the auxiliary started, I wanted to be able to help and fundraise. So for me, it was 'how can I support our fire department?' Because this is my community."

Bordreau said volunteering is a personal matter for her when it comes to supporting the fire department. When she was five years old, her family's home caught fire, allowing her to fully appreciate the work these firefighters do and the fundraising they rely on to get equipment. If people

support the auxiliary, she said, this is one way to help ensure the department has the resources it needs to keep the community safe.

"Our firemen wanted us to revive the ladies' auxiliary," Gordon said. "It's open to the public ... Anyone's welcome really. We do it for the community, too. There are events that we put together for the community, but they're also mostly fundraising for the fire department."

Some of these events include cookouts, a Texas Hold'em poker tournament, bingo nights and turkey bingo, a Father's Day barbecue, a Christmas-time memory tree tradition, trunk or treat for the kids and more. The businesses in the community pitch in to help their local fire department through donating prizes or other items for raffles during these events. The women themselves are some of the main donors to the fire department as well.

During a recent overnight fire in New Haven that drew multiple departments, auxiliary members packed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, snacks, crackers and water to keep the firefighters going through the night. Along with sandwiches, members often bring homemade meals and baked goods for firefighters working

long hours. Gordon's homemade macaroni and cheese and maple cookies have become favorites among the crew.

One of the auxiliary's newest projects is a community cookbook featuring recipes alongside photographs and stories from the history of both the auxiliary and the fire department. Members also recently designed their own Bridport Ladies Auxiliary t-shirts, another symbol of the organization's revival and presence in the community.

More than 60 years after it was founded, members hope the auxiliary will continue to strengthen not only the Bridport Volunteer Fire Department, but the community surrounding it. They believe they could inspire other volunteer departments to begin similar auxiliaries.

"How wonderful would it be for other small volunteer departments to have more support?" Laurie Pratt said.

"It doesn't take a lot, you can put into it what you want," Novosel added. "It's not mandatory. You show up when you can, you go to what events you can. We all have busy lives. The commitment is what you can make of it ... But it really makes a huge difference and it gave me a sense of being involved in my community."

"Back in the day when the ladies auxiliary existed, it was more for support when the firemen were out fighting a fire — making sure they had coffee on a cold night or their bellies were full."

— Tricia Gordon



MEMBERS OF THE Bridport Ladies Auxiliary work to support their local fire department, and they also have a good time doing it. Here they stand with a poster celebrating Sherry Ouellette, a fundamental member of the auxiliary who died this spring.

Your courage is always in clear view.

Thank you, firefighters.

MIDDLEBURY EYE ASSOCIATES Inc.

(802) 388-2811 • 91 Main Street • Middlebury, VT
www.middleburyeye.com

OPEN: M, W, F: 7:45am- 5:00pm
T, TH: 7:45am-8:00pm

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE HEROES WHO SAFEGUARD OUR TOWNS.

Addison County Commission Sales, Inc.
Thomas G. Wisnowski & Sons
Rt. 125, East Middlebury, VT 05740 • 802-388-2661



Orwell Fire Department

Chief Alex Kansky
1st Asst. Chief Paul Metcalf
2nd Asst. Chief Seth Gero
Capt. Ben Alger
Peter Ochs

Jesse Booska
Susan Hauck
Louis Hall
Bob Arnebold
Sandy Korda

Thomas "TJ" Benard
Scott Messer
Samuel St. Peter
Jeremiah Nolan
Max Carpenter

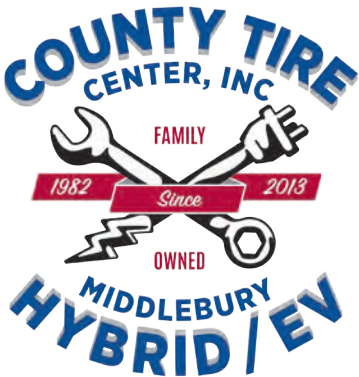
David Carpenter
Jess Krol
Jim Booska
Allen M. Alger
Devon Kibbey

Travis Betourney

**Addison County's
Oldest Locally-Owned Tire Shop**

*Thank you Addison County
Firefighters for keeping
everyone in our
communities safe!*

**The Under-the-car
care specialist.**



Let us help you drive safely. Stop in today!

33 Seymour Street | Middlebury | 802-388-7620



**Proud to Support our local
Fire and Rescue squads!**
Thank you!



7409 Ethan Allen Hwy, Ste 1, New Haven VT 05472 • 802-723-2227



Ripton Fire Department

Patrick Albertini
Justin Allen
George Cammack
Jaime Cammack
Levi Doria
Ross Elliot
Erik Eriksen
Baxter Harrington

Jay Harrington
Jack Hoyler
John Hughes Jr.
Alison Joseph
Marty Kulczyk
Chris Lacey
Bobby Lau
Wendy Leeds

Erica Mathis
Will Mathis
Dennis Mayer
Tomas McElhaney
Laura McIntosh
Matthew McIntosh
Shelby Monica
Mark Nelson

Reid Peck
Chief Chris Pike
Colvin Pike
Elias Pike
Zoe Pike
Ingrid Punderson-Jackson
Irene Poole
Chris Roche

Amy Sheldon
Gary Smith
Joel Tickner
Graeham Zieger
Jim Zieger



Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department

Justin Allen
Levi Cram
Craig Bielawski
Ryan Emilio
Matt Booska
Gary English

Kevin Charbonneau
Mark Foster, Chief
Colin Foster
Ben Fuller
Nicole Hamer
John Hughes

Hunter Lloyd
Reid Lumbr
Dean Mandigo
Tommy Nop
John Nuceder
Foster Provencher

Gary Smith
Sean Sullivan
Fred Kenny
Connor Lussier
Michaela Charbonneau
Ben Nop

Dylan Stowe
Jordan Stearns



Shoreham Fire Department

Chief Jason Paquette
1st Assistant Chief Jeff Treadway
2nd Assistant Chief Chris Stearns
1st Captain Tiffany Littlefield

2nd Captain Jesse Wing
1st Lieutenant Brent Lafountain
2nd Lieutenant Tristian Stearns
Larry Wanamaker

Bob Warren
Nicole Hamer
Nathan Littlefield
Tim Steady

David Pinkerton
Christian Paske
Wyatt Stearns
Jeremy Putnam

Rick Brisson
Tierek Quesnel
Larry Bougor

Thank you,
Addison County
Volunteer Firefighters!

An extra dose of gratitude
to Shoreham firefighter
Nathan Littlefield,
a valued member of our
Silver Maple family as well.

Thank you for your service.



Crafting strong
communities, thanks to
those who protect them.



*Thank you, Addison County Emergency Responders
for your help in our community.*



As a member-focused insurer, we offer financial security and
trusted protection through personal, commercial, and farm
insurance—delivering on our promise with integrity and care.

HOME • BUSINESS • AUTO • FARM
Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-7917 • co-opinsurance.com

Ci Committed to our MEMBERS,
protecting what matters most.



Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Carter Antos-Ketcham | Matt Estey, Asst. Chief | Ryan Lee, Capt. | Ian Roulat | Kaitlyn Ward |
| Dennis Casey | Tom Estey, Chief | David Orvis | Noah Roulat | |
| Eric Cota, Truck Capt. | Shawn Euber | Jeb Orvis | Leslie Rublee | |
| Norman Cota, Safety Officer | Sprague Huntington | Tony Porter, Asst. Chief | Roger Thibault | |
| Will Elwell | Dan Kuzio, Capt. | Tucker Porter | Ryan Senna, Capt. | |

EastView thanks the Middlebury Fire Department.
We all sleep better ... knowing you're here for us.



INDEPENDENT LIVING • RESIDENTIAL CARE • MEMORY CARE
100 EastView Terrace • Middlebury, Vermont 05753 • (802) 989-7501
www.EastViewMiddlebury.com



Vergennes Fire Department

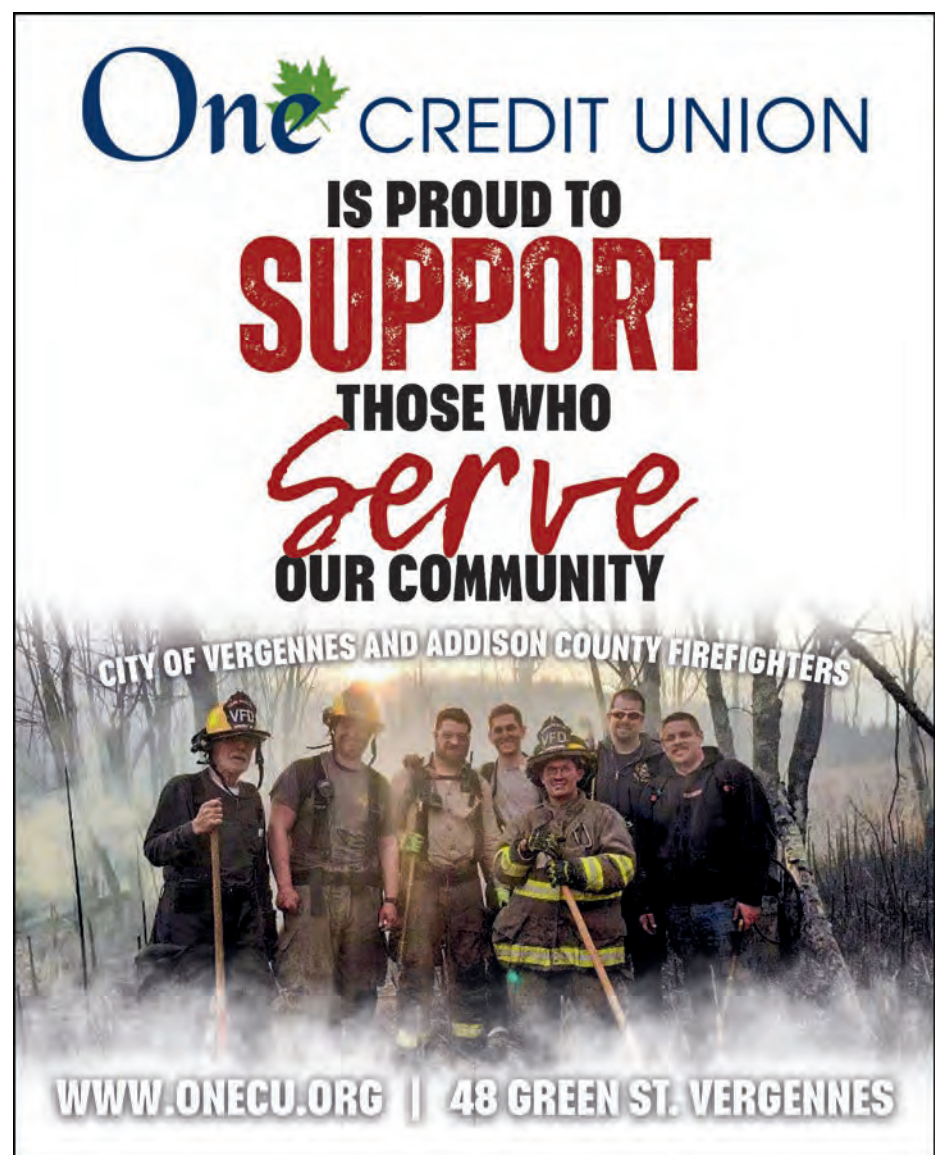
David DiBiase, Chief
Matt Crowley, Deputy Chief
Matt Fraley, Deputy Chief
Liam Casey, Captain
Peter McDurfee, Captain
Steven Sickles, Captain
Keegan Sullivan, Captain
Ryan Donnelly

John Dugan
Brian Fraser
Cory Lumbr
Jeff Stone
KC Ambrose
Jack Badger
Benjamin Beaudoin
Bill Brown

Adam Bunde
Robert Burbo
Kevin Charbonneau
Jackson Coffey
Mike Collette
Trevor Currier
Mike Daniels
Benedict Diehl-Noble

Caleb Dion
Tyler Farnsworth
Dan Flynn
Zachary Gebo
Dean Gilmore
Kyle Goucher
Jeremy Kelly
Ben Laflam

Reid Lumbr
Jared Macintire
Chris McKirryher
Zack Norris
Walker Randall
Ryan Sheehan
Caroline Stapleton
Simon Diehl-Noble, Cadet



Middlebury College students strengthen community fire department

By RACHELLE TALBERT

MIDDLEBURY — If you call the fire department in Middlebury, the ones helping you will not only be your neighbors. The Middlebury Fire Department has seven Middlebury College students on staff at all times.

One of these is 21-year-old Aidan Ulian, a rising senior and Physics major from Wellesley Hills, Mass. Like the other firefighters, he is on call 24/7 for any emergency.

Though balancing his studies with firefighting is not an easy task, Ulian said he volunteers to fight fires so he can get involved in the broader Middlebury community.

“I didn’t want to come to school and just go to Middlebury College. I wanted to come here and live here for four years,” Ulian told the *Independent*.

In his first year at the college, Ulian felt that it was easy to stay isolated on campus and not come into town. Since becoming a firefighter, though, he has built connections with the department in addition to interacting with the Middlebury community. On each call, he discovers new parts of town and meets Middlebury residents.

“This is such a great way to get to know the people in the department who have all different types of jobs in the community,” Ulian said. “And it’s a really good community here within the station.”

Ulian has built close working

relationships with gas delivery drivers, people who work at Goodro Lumber and all varieties of Middlebury residents. But Ulian’s interest in the fire department doesn’t end with connecting to the local community. It also came from a dream that began at age five.

Sixteen years ago, Ulian’s mom took him to hear Charlie Duke, an Apollo astronaut. Duke was a spacecraft communicator for the first ever moon landing, and in 1972, he was the 10th person to walk on the moon — and the youngest. When Ulian heard him speak, he wanted to be an astronaut, too.

“I was five years old — I was blown away. He was on the moon, oh my goodness. I immediately went into my astronaut phase,” Ulian said, “and then as I got a little bit older, I was like, how could I do this?”

After doing some research, Ulian found out that many astronauts start out in the Navy. At around age 12, Ulian decided that if he wanted to be an astronaut, he should work toward entering the Navy.

To Ulian, the Middlebury Fire Department is another step in that journey.

“The Navy has a big emphasis on firefighting,” Ulian said. “They’re carrying weaponry on boats, and a fire on a boat is not going to be the best thing in the world.”

Before Ulian began working for the fire

(See College Students, Page 23)



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SENIOR Aidan Ulian, shown dressed in full protective gear at Middlebury Fire Station No. 1, is always ready to take an emergency call. He is one of seven Middlebury students on the Middlebury Fire Department.

Independent photo/Rachelle Talbert

The Town of Panton extends its thanks and gratitude to the Vergennes Fire Department and all our area firefighters who help keep Panton safe.

Peak View
EYE CARE

Dr. Robert Austin, Optometrist

THANK YOU TO ALL ADDISON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE!

EMERGENCY & ROUTINE EYE EXAMS • FASHIONABLE EYEWEAR • CONTACT LENSES

Open every other Monday 8-4:30, Tuesday-Friday 8-4:30

27 Main Street, Vergennes (802) 877-2422

Proud to be there for you when the smoke clears.

Thank you, Addison County Emergency Responders.

Gaines Insurance Agency, Inc.

Scott Gaines

scott@gainesinsurance.com

802.877.2878 | gainesinsurance.com

AN INDEPENDENT PRODUCER FOR



Weybridge Fire Department

Chief Rob Gaboriault
Assistant Chief Reid Peck
Captain Cody Broughton
Captain Drew Murray

A.J. Piper
T. Charlie Jordan
Dylan Bougor
Abigail Copeland

Nancy Myrick
Lawrence Pyne
Ian Bayliss
Alex Sinks

Ben Haskell
Roger Hamilton
Don Kenney
Dick Unger

Dylan Stowe
Maragret Hulka
Megan Lussier
Hunter Evans



Whiting Volunteer Fire Department

Jonathon Ashley
David Bertrand
Matthew Berry
Tom Bouchard
Randy Bertrand

David Curran
Randy Denis
Gary Freeguard
Stacey Freeguard
Calvin Hogan

Greg Kokinis
Garrett Law
Danielle Morse
Austin Quesnel
Cody Quesnel

Lawrence Quesnel
Olivia Quinn
Noel Sirozich
Steve White, Chief
Larry Wilbur

Mike Wilbur
Robert Wood

College Student

(Continued from Page 21)

department, though, he had to go through the competitive application process. The Middlebury Fire Department limits its force to seven students at a time. This ensures that the department isn't overwhelmed in the summer when the majority of college students leave.

However, this strict limit means that when one or two firefighters graduate, 20-30 students will apply for a single opening.

In his sophomore year, Ulian was accepted.

"If you get accepted, you're enrolled into the Vermont Fire Academy," Ulian explained. "It's a Fire One Certification, which is literally our national firefighting standard, and then Vermont will also teach you hazardous materials certifications."

The training program lasts nine months, an entire school year for Ulian. According to Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw, the students accepted into the program are an essential link between the college and the community — one that not many residents know about.

"The Middlebury students are an integral part of our department. We rely on those seven students for their ability to get trained," Shaw said. "They have to go through the Firefighter One program and maintain good grades and be good students, and then we want them to be good town servants as well."

During his training, Ulian built a close bond with two firefighters that he worked with, Joe D'Avignon and Dan Ribaudo. Since completing training last year, Ulian has been thriving in the program and is now an important part of the team.

"Aidan is excelling in the program. He's setting the bar for others to reach," Chief Shaw said.

Now, Ulian is a 24/7 paid on call firefighter. At any point in the day, Ulian will receive a call from his pager alerting him to an emergency. Every time Ulian is on a call, he's paid \$15 per hour for his work.

BALANCING ACT

Though Ulian loves the job, it can

sometimes be hard to balance with his schoolwork.

"As a student, the 24/7 part can get tricky to handle, because you're in class or you're studying for an exam. And it's crunch time," Ulian said.

"The exam's tomorrow, it's 9 p.m., and I started studying just a few hours ago. And a call can go off," Ulian said. "You have to make a decision."

Last year, Ulian had an exam for a physics class — one of the hardest he had taken. The night before the exam, after he finished studying, he went to bed at 11 p.m. Just two hours later, he was woken up at 1 a.m. by his pager. A call came in for a structure fire.

Structure fires happen when fire spreads to the walls, roof or other structural components of a building. The calls can take upwards of five hours. Ulian had to make a choice: would he get enough rest for one of the largest exams of his college career, or take the call and help someone in need?

He took the call.

From 1 to 6 a.m., Ulian was on the

scene. After the call, he went home, slept for a quick hour and went to all his classes. That evening, he took the exam.

"I should have emailed my professor, 'Hey look, professor, I was up all night. Can I move the exam?'" Ulian said. "I didn't."

Ulian ended up with a 46% on the exam — not the worst score for a class average of 56%, but far lower than what he wanted. Afterwards, he emailed his professor to explain what happened and arrange a way to retake the exam.

"I learned my lesson," Ulian said.

Outside of exams, Ulian's friends have gotten used to him excusing himself from the dining hall to head to the fire station. Whenever his

pager vibrates in his pocket, he assesses the call.

"I do feel bad for my roommate, though, because I'm a deep sleeper," Ulian said.

Though during the day he keeps his pager on vibrate, Ulian turns the sound on at night so he can hear the calls. Every time he wakes up to hear what's happening, his roommate wakes up with him.

Unlike the other students in the program, Ulian rides his bike to the department, which takes just three minutes. The short ride — sometimes at 1 o'clock in the morning — is another reminder that the Middlebury community is just outside his door.

"The Middlebury students are an integral part of our department ... They have to go through the Firefighter One program and maintain good grades and be good students, and then we want them to be good town servants as well."

— Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw



Thank you

to all our area firefighters and first responders for your dedication and service to our communities.



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

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Thank you to our local fire squads!

Telecommunications Sales & Service • Data Cabling Wireless
Fiber Optics • Security Surveillance Systems

Visit our new website! bts-vt.com

802-388-8999 • John and Jim Fitzgerald

FUNCTIONAL, CUSTOM
KITCHEN DESIGNS
WILL KEEP YOU & YOUR FAMILY
SAFE

DID YOU KNOW?

The leading causes of residential emergencies occur in the kitchen or bathroom? (cooking fires, cuts & burns, plumbing leaks, appliance malfunctions, etc.)

Functional, customized designs can help!

Give us a call today and let us help you design a safe, comfortable and beautiful space to call home.




BRADFORD KITCHEN & BATH, LLC




CALL US TODAY!
(802) 458-8999

- KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN
- CABINETRY & COUNTERTOPS
- PLUMBING FIXTURES
- HARDWARE & MORE!

MON-FRI 8-5, SAT 8-12 OR BY APPOINTMENT | 18 CREEK RD | MIDDLEBURY, VT
BRADFORDKITCHENANDBATH.COM

WE CAN HELP
DESIGN YOUR NEW
**OUTDOOR
KITCHEN!**