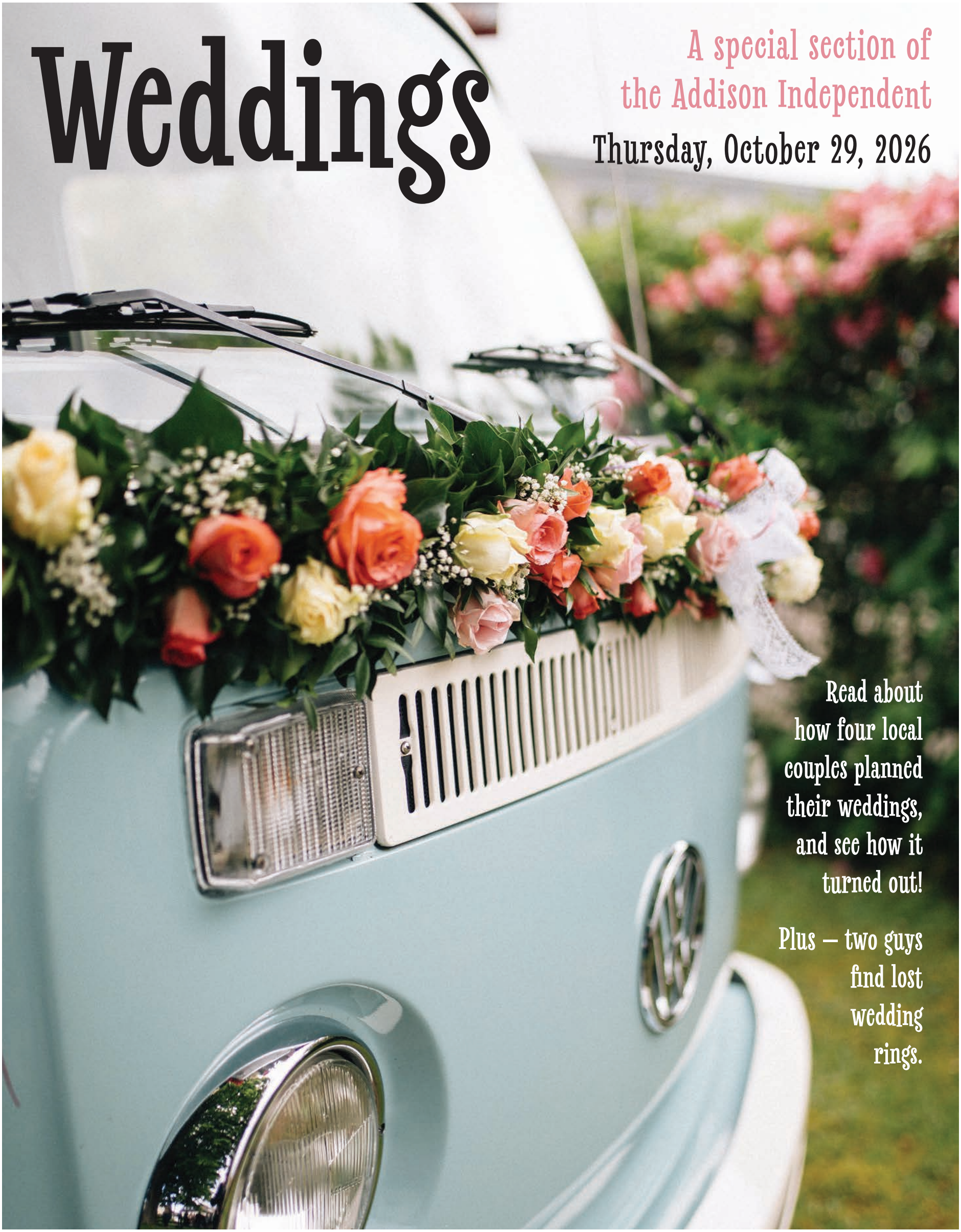
Weddings

A special section of
the Addison Independent

Thursday, October 29, 2026



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Plus – two guys find lost wedding rings.

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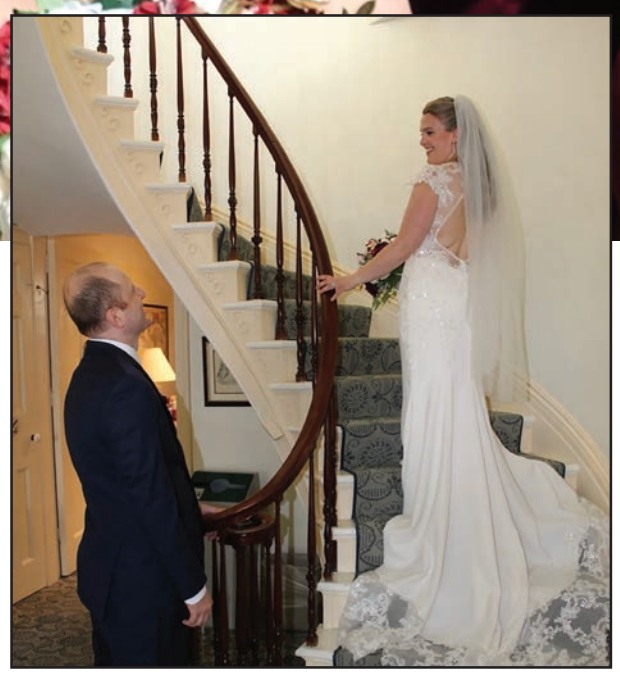
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Amanda Ruplin & Meho Jandric

Photos by Laura Campo



One day in the summer of 2018, Amanda Ruplin went over to her friend Earl's place, where he was building a treehouse. She climbed a ladder up to it and was a little nervous. But then she saw a hand reaching out from the airborne playhouse to help her complete the ascension. At the end of the helping hand was Meho Jandric.

The two ran into each other a few months later at Earl's, this time at a Halloween party. They started talking and the conversation continues to this day.

Ruplin and Jandric, who reside in Bristol, were married in a beautiful wedding at the Middlebury Inn on Sept. 19, 2026.

Although they had known each other for more than half a decade, the engagement came as a bit of surprise to Amanda.

When they first started dating, Meho and Amanda hiked Snake Mountain together, so on a nice day in July of 2024, they decided to make the same climb again.

"We reached the top and had a nice little picnic and when I turned around, Meho was on his knee with the most beautiful ring," Amanda recalls.

The answer, obviously, was "Yes."

The couple gave themselves plenty of time to plan their nuptials, which allowed the process to be fun and exciting. They wanted a fall wedding, so when they started working with the Middlebury Inn that September, they reserved the September 2026 date, and Amanda appreciated the help she got from Rachel at the Inn. They liked that the Inn was close to their home in Bristol and provided a central location for traveling family and friends to stay.

"Also, it is important to find a venue that offers a bunch of services included with your price," Amanda pointed out. "We loved the Inn because we picked a package that included food for cocktail hour and dinner, beverages for a certain time frame, as well as all the set up and clean-up, which made everything so easy for us.

"We had two years to plan, which made things super easy," Amanda added. "I did most of my wedding planning through nursing school, which was a great way to escape the challenges of the nursing program and just relax and get excited for our big day.

"We chose September for the beautiful golden early fall weather," she continued. "We did an elegant theme with a touch of rustic using our main colors of navy and burgundy along with touches of gold and wooden décor."

The long lead time resulted in a wedding day where everything went smoothly.

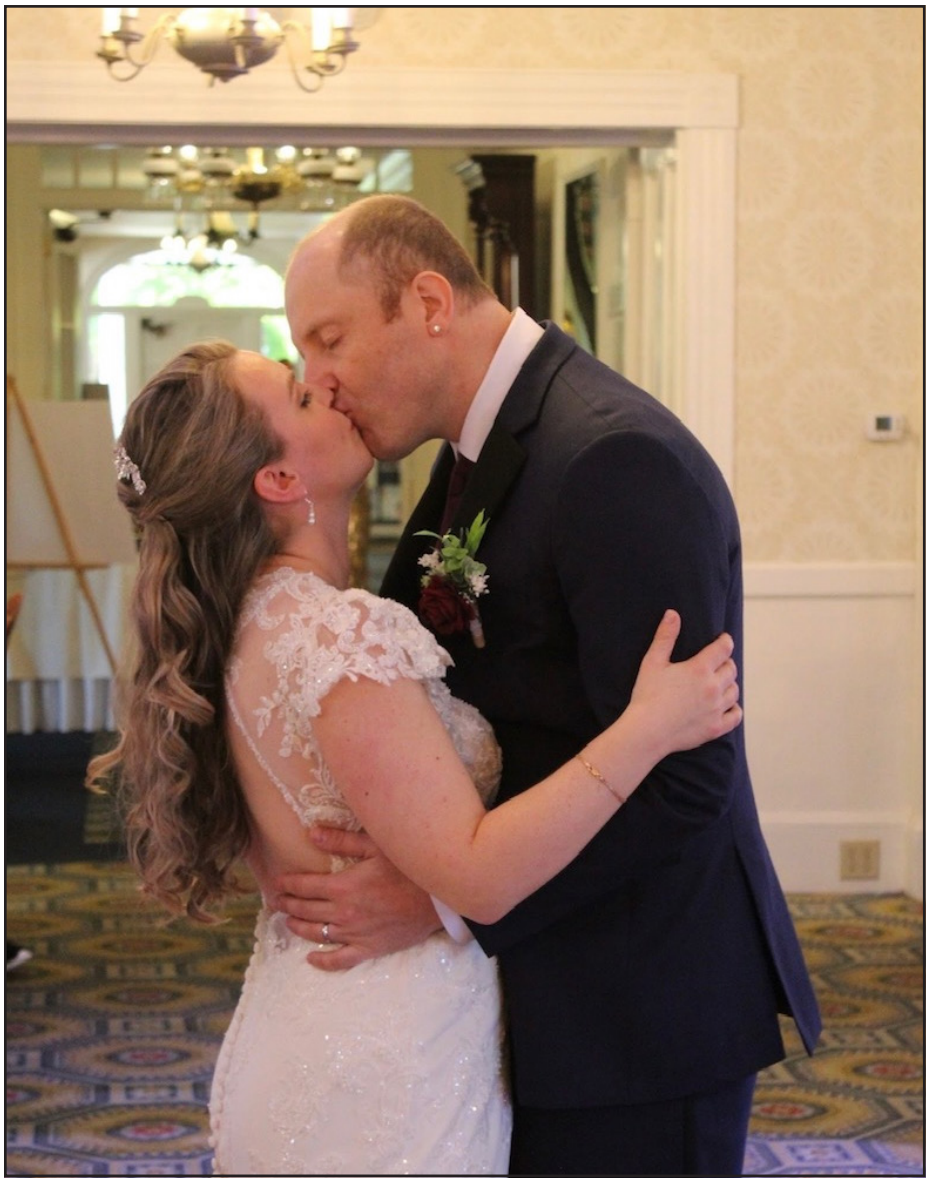
"People always say that there can be bumps and mishaps that occur but, in my opinion, everything was so relaxed and smooth, which made the vibe of the day so wonderful," Amanda summed up. "We lucked out and had amazing weather both for our rehearsal as well as our wedding day."

Amanda said that a couple memories were burned into her brain — in a good

(See Amanda & Meho, Page 4D)







Home-grown nuptials



Planning a wedding can be fun, stressful, exciting, overwhelming, emotional ... all of the above. But, as you'll see here, the end result is priceless. In this section read how a handful of local couples turned their special day into a treasure.

Amanda & Meho

(Continued from Page 3D)

way:

"Although it felt super-fast, (one memory) is walking down the aisle to my husband. Seeing the tears in his eyes, the emotion on his face and his smile will forever stay with me."

Another standout was the newlyweds' first dance.

"We practiced horribly at times to try and get the dance right, but in that moment, it came together so well and everyone else in the background faded away while we both held each other and looked into each other's eyes," Amanda recalled.

Having gone through the experience, the couple urged other people planning a wedding to enjoy, relax and have fun.

"It is not supposed to be super stressful; in fact, it was exciting for me," Amanda said. "Enjoy your day and make sure to step back and take in moments when you can. It goes by so quick!"

It went quickly for Amanda and Meho, but not so fast that they missed the gravity of the day.

"I also was so surprised with how emotional it was at certain times," Amanda remembers. "You never truly know how a moment is going to affect you or others around you, but it was so good to see the happy tears from not only myself and my husband, but from many other family members and guests, which made us feel like our day was so special that it touched everyone in their own way."



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Lindsay Delisle & Chris Littlefield

Photos by Amy Goss Venables





When Lindsay Delisle met Chris Littlefield through mutual friends, Lindsay looks back and recalls that she didn't want anything to do with Chris.

She laughs now, though, and continues the story.

"Then both of our kids were actually in the hospital in Burlington together for a bit and we started talking after then," she said.

A romantic spark was kindled, and eventually the couple and their families got to know each other, and they grew closer. Still, Lindsay was not expecting what occurred on Christmas Day, 2024.

"I walked into our kitchen after our kids opened up their Christmas presents and didn't know Chris was following me," she recounts. "He said, 'Hey babe, will you marry me?' I turned around and he was standing there with the ring."

And, what do you know, they had a wedding to plan.

Lindsay recalled the planning process as "absolutely stressful," but recognized that planning was actually fun when the big event started coming together.

The Whiting couple looked at several venues for their wedding, and they landed on the home of Addison County

(See Lindsay a & Chris, Page 6D)






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Lindsay & Chris

(Continued from Page 5D)

Fair and Field Days in New Haven, which featured both indoor and outdoor space for the ceremony and the party. They set the date: June 6, 2026.

"The fairgrounds was so affordable," Lindsay said. "We had cover if needed, plenty of space, they loaned tables and chairs as well so it was everything in one place for one price."

She appreciated the help they got from Field Days Business Manager Katie Shimel.

"She was amazing to deal with and worked around our schedules regarding showing us the space and answering any and all questions," Lindsay said.

With the venue in hand, there was still a lot more for Chis and Lindsay to plan. Looking back, Lindsay put it in perspective for future brides and grooms.

"While it may seem stressful when planning and you worry about all the little things, those things no longer matter when you are in the moment celebrating with your family and friends so try not to sweat the little things," she said, noting one other piece of advice:

"Don't be afraid to ask for help, trying to do everything on your own just adds more stress."



As it turned out, the wedding was pretty great. Among the memorable pieces of it was the reception, where Lindsay and Chris honored family members who were not there that day.

"On the back of three of our chairs right up front were plaques for Chris's brother that had passed, his uncle Brian and my grandmother," Lindsay said. "They were all people who meant a lot to us and were there in spirit."

Before the ceremony, Chris's mother, Patty, came up to Lindsay and handed her a blue butterfly charm from Danforth Pewter for her something blue. She gave Chris a green butterfly charm before the ceremony.

"She associates butterflies with her son that had passed," Lindsay said.

The whole day — the setting, the family, the emotion, the couple — was made all the more special by a possible sign in the sky above the fairgrounds.

"We had a beautiful rainbow that developed through the day," Lindsay recalled.





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Bethany Orvis & Kenneth Marcelle

Photos by Zach Stagg of Stagg Photography



When Bethany Orvis and Kenneth Marcelle were setting a date for their nuptials they liked the idea of a fall wedding and they landed on Sept. 26 as the perfect date. Why? Goose season would end on the 25th and bow season would begin Oct. 1, so they had a small window where it didn't interfere with hunting.

"We are avid waterfowl hunters," they told the *Independent*.

But there was a long road to get to that special day, and they began traveling it a decade ago. Bethany, a Middlebury Union High School softball player, and Kenneth, a Mount Abe baseball player, met when the rival Tiger and Eagle teams met each other in the spring of 2015. Kenneth reached out to Bethany later, and they started hanging out. After a couple weeks they were dating, and that summer they had the time of their lives. Bethany dropped lunch off in Kenneth's truck when he was farming those hot days, and they went swimming and did lots of bowling. Summer turned to fall and fall turned to winter and they found that 2016 wasn't a time for them. Although dating had ended, the two still stayed connected. They decided to go their separate ways after Kenneth moved to Tennessee with his family and Bethany went off to college.



But a couple years later, Kenneth moved back to Vermont, and he made sure to drive by Bethany's house — just to make sure she was OK. He drove an extremely fast truck with a loud exhaust, so his approach wasn't very secretive. They kept in contact but never hung out, even though Kenneth was pretty persistent. In the fall of 2022, Bethany finally "gave in" and hung out with him. People say Kenneth will never show up on time, but golly he showed up five minutes early for Bethany this time.

After a while, they just made it official. Since March 2023 they have been inseparable.

"From raising cattle, loving up on our dogs, concerts and lots of traveling it's been a fun, wild adventure," the couple said.

One of Bethany and Kenneth's first dates was looking at Christmas lights together, so Kenneth made a plan for a Christmas light viewing. On Dec. 23, 2024, they went out to look at lights around the county, and Bethany requested hot cocoa. Kenneth dutifully got cocoa for two at Dunkin but told Bethany she wasn't allowed to enjoy it until they were in front of the lights. Once they got there, Kenneth added whip cream and another little surprise to Bethany's cup. She turned around for the hot cocoa, and there was the ring on the whip cream and on the side of the cup facing Bethany was written, "Will you marry me."



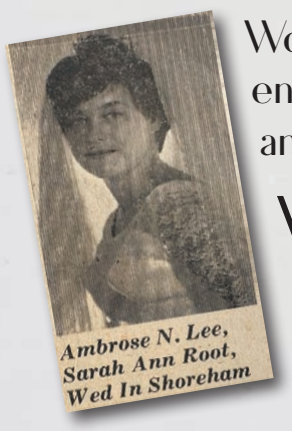
> "From raising cattle, loving up on our dogs, concerts and lots of traveling it's been a fun, wild adventure."
>
> – Bethany & Kenneth Marcelle

After all these years, the answer was, "Yes!"

The couple had fun planning their wedding and learned some things during the process. They urged other betrothed couples to check out multiple venues, because the one they think they want may not actually be a very good fit. "Also, go to the bridal shows," Bethany urged. "We got many contacts for others about different services, which helped price check and build connections."

The Marcelles had the wedding at Buck

(See Bethany & Kenneth, Page 11D)



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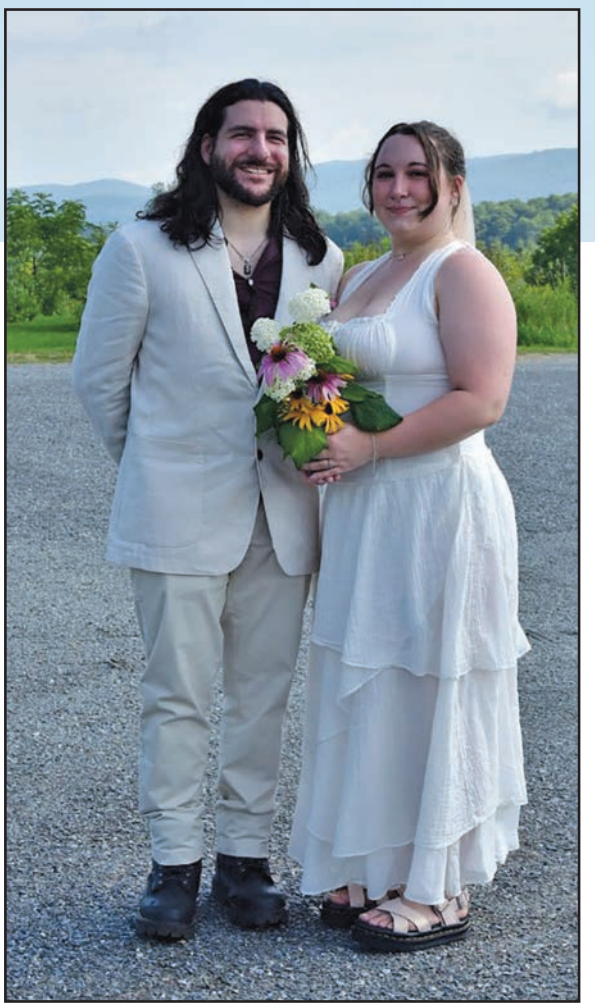
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Cheyenne & Erick Costa

Photo by Olivia Panko



Photo by Erick Costa



Cheyenne and Erick Costa of Vergennes both knew early on in their relationship that they wanted to be together for life. So Cheyenne was not surprised that a marriage proposal was coming. She even gave him some guidance on what she would like in an engagement ring. But when Erick did propose — and how he did it! — did surprise Cheyenne.

On Aug. 24, 2025, they went to Adams Berry Farm to pick some blueberries and Cheyenne noticed that they also had flowers to pick your own bouquet. Being a natural wanderer, she was distracted by a butterfly flitting around the flowers and followed. When she turned around to see where Erick had gone, she found him right behind her on his knees presenting the most beautiful bouquet and the most perfect ring.

"It was truly more beautiful than I ever expected … it was most certainly more perfect than I could have dreamed," Cheyenne said. "It was so well thought out, and such a magical experience."

Erick deeply understands Cheyenne's love/passion for the outdoors and the natural world. She had been a high school student at the Willowell Foundation's Walden Project, which runs classes in a mostly outdoors setting in Monkton. When the newly engaged couple began to discuss potential locations for their wedding, he brought up the Willowell property as a possibility. (They gave a shout out to Willowell's Tasha Ball and Matt Schlein for helping make that possible and allowing them to borrow the land that day.)

"We wanted something special, intimate, and personal to us on our day," Cheyenne recalled.

(See Cheyenne & Erick, Page 11D)

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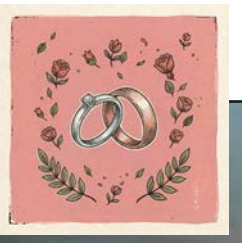
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Metal detectorist finds lost wedding rings (among other items)



By ERIN PETENKO
VTDigger.org

On a sunny July Fourth weekend at Salisbury's Lake Dunmore, with his family running around "pretending to be sharks," David Miles noticed an odd sensation — his wedding ring was no longer on his finger.

Miles, a Montpelier resident, was about to celebrate his 46th wedding anniversary, and he rarely, if ever, removed his ring. He didn't think it had been very long since it had slipped off his finger. Yet the prospect of finding it in the lake, which was full of swimmers, was daunting.

After hours of digging around, Miles called off the search. As they were leaving, his daughter started a Google search.

Enter Mike Baker, a professional ring finder.

A family member called him immediately, and Baker assured Miles he would find the ring for him. He was right: They met the next morning, and two hours later Baker fished the ring from 3 feet of water and an inch of silt and pebbles.

He's done it hundreds of times over 15 years, venturing up mountains, into deep rapids and across state lines to turn up lost rings, jewelry, keys and other types of the most financially and emotionally valuable things humans own.

Baker, a Barre resident, isn't in it for the money. Half the reward money that people give him goes to his charity of choice, the Central Vermont Humane Society. He chose the local rescue organization because he has friends who work there and has adopted a few dogs from them over the years. He now has two dogs, Minnie and Brody.

But he's never set a specific rate for his efforts, because he wants to help everyone, regardless of their financial circumstances.

"Even if they're looking for a tractor part, something that's not very expensive, but it's very important, and they don't have much money, it's all part of it," he said.

'LIKE A JOURNALIST'

Baker demonstrated his search technique to VTDigger on a July morning in Hubbard Park, in his former hometown of Montpelier. He swung his metal detector in smooth, methodical passes back and forth, keeping an eye on the detector's readings to distinguish precious metals from scrap metal and trash.

Baker first bought a metal detector secondhand 15 years ago. At first he used it for nothing more than exploring his own property and the local forest.

Once he'd "really been bitten by the bug," he began watching YouTube videos from fellow metal detectorists. One of those YouTubers was Chris Turner, the founder of The Ring Finder, where hundreds of finder specialists around the world advertise their services.

Baker is now one of three ring finders in the directory, including a recent addition, Amos Martin of Bristol, who now covers most Champlain Valley calls. Baker has worked with him on a find before.

"You got to ask a lot of questions, like a journalist or a detective," Baker said.

DAVID MILES AND his wife, Deb Dwyer, show off their wedding rings, including the one Miles lost in Lake Dunmore and found this past summer.
Photo contributed by David Miles

One of Baker's proudest finds was for a widow who kept her husband's ring on her thumb. When she lost it, she believed she'd flushed it down the toilet, prompting her children to comb through the septic system. It wasn't there.

(See Ring finder, Page 10D)

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Ring finder

(Continued from Page 9D)

By the time they called in Baker, the widow was in danger of losing her house to a tax sale, putting a looming deadline on the hunt.

He spent five or six hours on a Saturday searching all around the area where the septic tank had gone to nature, finding sheet metal, toys and other old items, but no ring. He returned again the following Saturday and had spent another four hours searching when he thought to check near a clothesline where the woman might have chosen to hang her clothes.

Buried 4 inches into the dirt was a thin, bent piece of metal, he said.



METAL DETECTORIST AND finder of lost rings (among other items) Mike Baker discusses his work this past summer.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

"When I went into her kitchen, she turned, I held out my hand and I said, 'Is that your husband's ring?' And she said, 'Yeah, it is.' And she turned white as a sheet," he said. "It was just like her husband was part of that ring."

'THERE IT WAS'

Along with hours of labor, Baker's efforts often require him to brave less-than-ideal conditions out in nature, from searching through the rapids of the Hudson River to digging around in poison ivy.

And then there's snow. He once received a call from a woman who had lost a rare vintage watch, worth tens of thousands of dollars, at the Okemo ski area in Ludlow. Okemo had received a foot of fresh snow the day she lost it, he said.

"As soon as the spring started melting the snow, I went back down," he said. On his third trip, he was in the parking lot which still had 8 or 9 inches of snow that had been plowed in the parking lot.

Bingo. "There it was," he said, bringing a reward that made it his "best year ever" for donations to the humane society.

After the Lake Dunmore episode, Miles brought Baker a rhubarb coffee cake alongside the reward money when he went to see him the following week. The two ended up chatting about their overlapping friends and places they've been.

"Just a great guy, and really a happy ending to a ring that just spent an overnight in Lake Dunmore," Miles said.

Bristol man finds rings, too

On Sept. 24 Amos Martin of Bristol received a call at work from a Cornwall man about a lost ring. After a five-minute conversation. Martin told the man that he would be by after work to help him out.

It is not unusual for Martin to get such calls; the guy had been referred by a colleague, Mike Baker, on TheRingfinders.com.

"That means you pay me what my service is worth to you and what you can afford for me to find your lost item," Martin explains in his profile. It's not based on how long the search takes, it's based on whether or not I find it."

He does ask for $35 in travel expenses outside the 5-towns area.

"I will do my absolute best to reunite you with your lost item," he says.

When Martin got to Cornwall, he found that the man who had lost his ring had been trimming brush and then throwing it onto a pile and then into the woods. He had not luck searching those spots. He suggested that the man trim back brush from the lawn to improve the possibility of finding the ring, and he did. After that task was completed, Martin returned to Cornwall on Oct.3, and after about 15 minutes of a small grid search of the brush he had cleared Martin found the ring!

"Although I have located several lost rings this was officially my first as a 'Ring Finder,'" Martin wrote on the website.

A full-time truck driver and an officer with the Bristol Fire Department, Martin has used a metal detector as a hobby on and off over 20 years. He has really kickup his passion for the hobby over the past three years.

Martin's profile on TheRingFinders.com explains that he works on a reward basis. He searches for rings and other things in all sorts of places: beaches, fields, woods, yards, gardens, yards, parks, shallow water and snow. He will look on other people's property — if the gets permission. He acknowledges that using a metal detector is not permitted in National Parks, cemeteries and some historical sites.

"I've saved a lot of history from being taken by the Earth permanently," Martin says in his RingFinder profile. He says his top finds are "a 1789 George Washington Inaugural Button and a Royal Newfoundland Regiment Cross Plate from the War of 1812, which is now on display in their museum in Saint Johns, Newfoundland."



THIS IS THE ring that Bristol's Amos Martin found when a Cornwall man reached out to him thanks to the RingFinders website.





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Cheyenne & Erick

(Continued from Page 8D)

A typical/traditional wedding with bridesmaids and groomsmen, reception and ceremony and the rest seemed way too stressful for the couple, and way too complicated. Having a private ceremony was important to them.

"We are simple folks," Cheyenne summed up.

Besides the bride and groom, the Aug. 9, 2026, nuptials included their officiant and Cheyenne's best friend Liv on photography duty. They are planning a big party for their family and friends to celebrate.

When their wedding day dawned, the weather was beautiful; it felt as if the sun was shining just for them. On the walk down a path into the woods where they would exchange vows, a butterfly appeared and led the couple for a bit. That element struck Cheyenne, because the image of butterflies have always been a special image throughout her life.

"I have always believed that my passed grandmother sends me butterflies when I'm on the right path, so for a butterfly to show up both on the proposal day and wedding day shows me that Erick and I are undoubtedly meant to be!" she said.

"It really couldn't have been a more perfect day!"

Bethany & Kenneth

(Continued from Page 7D)

Ridge Barns in Hinesburg. They said that Jess at Buck Ridge was so lovely to work with — answering any and all questions. "She was also so kind enough to make sure our dessert bar was everything and more, plus a doughnut wall!," Bethany and Kenneth said. "A bonus is us two farmers loving cows and the rustic feel, Jess let us incorporate the cows into our wedding!"

They had perfect weather for their beautiful fall wedding with "our girls wearing terracotta and boys looked sharp with navy blue." Stagg Photography's Zach Stagg of Shoreham captured some unforgettable images.

To entertain the guests during the cocktail hour, the Marcelles gave them cow treats to feed the bovine guests during cocktail hour, which was fun. DJ Jonathon Carter of Rock the Floor Entertainment of Starksboro provided his own style of upbeat entertainment. The dessert bar, courtesy of Sugar Mommas Catering of Hinesburg, featured many yummy treats and the doughnut wall offered so many flavors to choose from.

"The doughnut wall was one of the things Kenneth and I wished for during our planning process," Bethany noted.

Kenneth said that the moment that will always stick with him is watching Bethany walk down the aisle with her dad.

"Seeing her coming toward me, knowing we were about to become husband and wife, is something I'll never forget," he said. "I was filled with love and excitement, anxiously waiting for our next adventure to begin together!"





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