



## 'Amahl' redux

A year after a planned encore, a beloved opera returns to a Salisbury church. See Arts+Leisure.



## Not quite...

The Panther men's hockey team showed promise its first games, but fell just short. See Page 1B.



## Giving

Some Bristol neighbors held a festive gathering that collected food for donation. See Page 14A.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Mt. Abe seeks healing after threats

### Officials act and students speak out

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

BRISTOL — After almost 90% of students stayed away from Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School on Friday, Dec. 3, attendance returned to almost normal this week, though not fully, Principal Shannon Warden said on Wednesday morning. She was scheduled to speak later that morning with a student who was still apprehensive about resuming classes.

Students, educators and community members this week were trying to make sense of an outburst of unrest at the Bristol school last week that culminated in a threat that a student would bring a weapon to school.

The Mount Abraham Unified

School District and the Bristol Police Department worked late into the night on Thursday and determined that those threats were not credible, but by then almost all

of the school's parents had decided to keep their children home from school the following day.

Mount Abe instituted a ban on flag-related attire on Dec. 2. Warden said in an email to parents that day that the ban was

### Flag displays touched off the turmoil

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRISTOL — Only 75 of the 650 students enrolled at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School came to the Bristol school out of fear that student unrest the previous day could escalate into violence. Mount Abe had received a threat that someone would bring a weapon to the Bristol school.

The source of the unrest: flags,

some worn as capes.

School officials on Friday said a weapon threat issued Thursday was traced to one student. Following an investigation that spanned into Thursday night, Bristol police concluded there was "no credible threat to the Mount Abraham community and we were safe to hold classes on Friday," MAUSD (See *Flags*, Page 9A)

in response to a recent trend of a small number of students wearing politically themed flags or banners as capes. The school had initially permitted this activity as a form of self-expression, but banned it Thursday because it had "led to inappropriate, disrespectful, hurtful, hateful dialogue between students and adults." (See "Flag Displays" story on this page.)

As events unfolded at Mount Abe, school communities around the country were already on edge after a Nov. 30 school shooting in Oxford, Mich., left four students dead and seven others wounded. The suspect in that case, a 15-year-old student at the school, was charged with first-degree murder and terrorism. His parents have also been arrested and charged in the case.

(See *Gun scare*, Page 10A)

## Lt. gov. first to enter race for Congress

By ANGELO LYNN

BURLINGTON — Early Monday morning, Vermont Lt. Gov. Molly Gray declared her candidacy for Vermont's lone congressional seat being vacated by Congressman Peter Welch.

A lifelong Vermonter, Gray, 37, was born and raised in South Newbury, Vt., on a vegetable and dairy farm still operated by her family today. She has served Vermont in Washington as an aide to Congressman Welch, statewide as an assistant attorney general and now as lieutenant governor. Before entering public office, Gray spent her career advocating for human rights and

(See *Gray*, Page 15A)



MOLLY GRAY

## \$8M Career Center bond in the works

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Patricia Hannaford Career Center (PHCC) directors are reviewing an \$8.1 million plan to renovate the Middlebury school's Charles Avenue and North Campus buildings, in anticipation of presenting it to area voters as a bond proposal as soon as next March.

The bulk of the project would involve energy-related repairs and upgrades to the PHCC's 50-year-old main building at 51 Charles Ave. Completed in 1971, this 63,000-square-foot structure still operates with much of its original heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, electrical, plumbing and lighting infrastructure, according to PHCC Superintendent Dana Peterson.

The Career Center board recently commissioned ENE Systems Inc. and Energy Efficient Investments Inc. to audit the energy systems and operating costs in the school's two campuses. They found many deficiencies and are now pitching a menu of solutions — including

(See *Career Center*, Page 13A)



### Smile for Santa

A VERY SMALL child takes her turn having a socially distant visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the new park in downtown Middlebury this past Saturday morning. The Christmas couple sat at a safe distance while they met with youngsters during the kickoff to the Better Middlebury Partnership's Very Merry Middlebury celebration. See more photos on Page 2A.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

## Shelters fill up as temps dip

### COVID measures limiting capacity

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Addison County's two emergency homeless shelters are already full and carrying waiting lists as bone-chilling temperatures, sleet and snow once again take center stage in the Champlain Valley.

The Charter House Coalition (CHC) Emergency Shelter at 27 North Pleasant St. in Middlebury has already reached its max of 24 guests, while another 28 individuals are waiting in the wings in hopes of securing a spot, according to Heidi Lacey, the shelter's top administrator.

Meanwhile, the eight shelter units at John Graham Housing & Services in Vergennes are also full, serving a total of 22 adults and children, according to Executive Director Susan Whitmore.

Like Lacey, Whitmore has noted a recent surge in folks seeking to come in from the weather. Some

(See *Shelters*, Page 11A)

## Departing Sheldon director made his mark on local history



BILL BROOKS WILL soon step down as director of the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History after a very eventful decade. He helped bring new, vibrant exhibits to the Middlebury museum that combined art, history and the talents of Addison County residents. Here he stands in front of a series of miniature Christmas trees crafted by local residents that will be auctioned as a fundraiser for the museum.

Independent photo/John Flowers

### Brooks brought flair to museum exhibits

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Some look upon history as a dispassionate examination of objects from a bygone era, their significance buried by "progress" and the sands of time.

That's never been the case for Bill Brooks, who's always sought to make history come alive.

Brooks has helmed Middlebury's Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History for only 10 of its 137 years, but his many contributions have made an immeasurable impact on how locals and visitors will perceive Addison County for many decades to come.

Brooks began as the Sheldon's executive director on June 5, 2012, after having spent eight years as the development director of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation in Plymouth Notch. Now closing in on his 80th year, Brooks will

soon pass the torch to the next steward of the Sheldon — the oldest community-based museum in the country. He's seen a lot of

*"Having these various exhibits, two or three a year, that feature both history and art and fill the rooms of the museum, allows local visitors to come back and see new things."*

— Bill Brooks

history and wants to make some of his own, in what promises to be an active retirement.

"I think the Sheldon would benefit by new leadership," Brooks said during a recent interview at the Park Street museum. "I've certainly enjoyed my 10 years, but when you turn 80, things slow down a little. I think a younger person with new ideas is very important."

It's hard to imagine a successor topping Brooks's plentiful ideas, which have seen him pair local artists, photographers, educators, orators and other creative folks with a range of beautiful, basic, evocative and quirky items in the Sheldon's attic for delightfully themed exhibits.

(See *Brooks*, Page 16A)



## By the way

With COVID-19 around it's more difficult for people to go caroling or attend a Messiah sing-along. So Middlebury's Town Hall Theater has found a way to bring the season into everyone's living room — and raise money for hungry Addison County residents in the process. The artistic nonprofit

(See *By the way*, Page 12A)

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# MAUSD adopts sexual harassment policy

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS  
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District board at its Nov. 30 meeting adopted a new sexual harassment policy, 14 months after it was approved for posting.

“Prevention of Sexual Harassment as Prohibited by Title IX” contains new and updated regulations required by the U.S. Department of Education. Schools receiving federal funding were required to comply with the regulations by Aug. 14, 2020.

The MAUSD board approved the policy for posting on Sept. 22, 2020, and had meant to adopt it after the public comment period.

“Unfortunately this policy ... didn’t make it to the next agenda because of the amount of work we had,” board Chair Dawn Griswold said at last week’s meeting. “It just fell through a crack. So when it was brought to my attention, I put it back on the agenda.”

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. During the late 1970s, case law established that sexual harassment can be considered a form of sex-based discrimination and thus a violation of Title IX.

The Obama administration

issued guidance broadening the definition of sexual harassment and encouraging more aggressive investigations of sexual harassment complaints. The Trump administration rescinded that guidance and replaced it with legal updates to the law, which narrow the definition of sexual harassment and raise the evidentiary standards required to prove Title IX violations.

Those updates, which were finalized in May 2020, form the basis of the required sexual harassment policies adopted by the MAUSD board last month.

One of the people pointing out the district’s Title IX policy discrepancy was a parent who filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment on Nov. 10, requesting an investigation into what she alleges were “unwelcome advances, physical assault and other contact of a sexual nature” experienced by her child and at least four other children during recess at Bristol Elementary School.

According to the complaint, Bristol Elementary staff were made aware of the issue in September and a school counselor assured the parent the school was “aware and mindful of the need to supervise this situation during recess.”

But more incidents were reported (See Policy, Page 3A)

# Insurers ordered to pay for home COVID tests

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Department of Financial Regulation this week issued an emergency regulation requiring health insurers to cover the costs of COVID-19 antigen at-home tests (commonly referred to as “rapid” tests).

The emergency rule covers approximately 140,000 Vermonters who purchase commercial insurance in Vermont’s individual, small and large group markets as well as the Vermont Education Health Initiative. The emergency rule requires health insurers to cover the retail purchase of most FDA-authorized COVID-19 antigen tests without cost-sharing for home use.

“Vermont has led the nation in testing, but we must continue to adapt and improve our strategies as we move forward,” Gov. Phil Scott said in a Tuesday press release. “At-home tests will increasingly be an effective and widely used tool for managing the virus, and expanding access is a priority for my team.”

Vermont was one of the first states to require commercial insurers to cover the costs of COVID-19 PCR testing and continues to be one of

the only states to eliminate out-of-pocket insurance costs for those requiring treatment for COVID-19.

Once fully implemented, those covered by the rule will be able to obtain an at-home test through a pharmacy without upfront costs. Instead, at-home tests will be processed under an individual’s pharmacy benefit and the pharmacy will then seek reimbursement. Those purchasing at-home tests outside a pharmacy setting, however, will be required to submit a claim to their insurer for reimbursement. All covered individuals will need to file a claim through their insurance until the pharmacy benefit is fully implemented, which is likely to take several weeks.

“Eliminating financial barriers to COVID-19 testing and treatment has been an important component of Vermont’s pandemic response,” said Department of Financial Regulation Commissioner Michael Pieciak. “Making COVID-19 testing free and accessible helps limit the spread of the virus by identifying positive cases quickly, which is particularly important as we continue through the holiday (See Testing kits, Page 3A)



## Local North Pole

CHILDREN AND THEIR parents came to Triangle Park in downtown Middlebury on Saturday morning for the kick-off of the Better Middlebury Partnership’s Very Merry Middlebury celebration.

In addition to getting a chance to talk with Santa and Mrs. Claus, kids got to write out their Christmas wish lists and post them in a special mail box. Plus there were horse-drawn carriage rides and caroling at the Congo Church. Look for evening shopping downtown this Thursday and Dec. 16.

Photos by Jason Duquette-Hoffman



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# Water projects to get boost

## Vermont to receive \$63M in infrastructure funding

By EMMA COTTON  
VTDigger.org

Water projects in Vermont are set to receive a significant funding boost.

Vermont will receive \$63 million in the 2022 fiscal year from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for water infrastructure, the federal Environmental Protection Agency announced Dec. 2.

“\$63 million — that’s the first year,” said Neil Kamman, director of the state’s Water Investment Division. “The bill has five years of appropriations, and they grow over time. It is a major big deal.”

In using the water-related money, which totals \$50 billion across the country, the EPA is urging states to “address disproportionate environmental burdens in historically underserved communities across the country,” according to an announcement from the agency.

“As leaders, we must seize this moment,” said Michael Regan, EPA administrator. “Billions of dollars are about to start flowing to states and it is critical that EPA partners with states, tribes and territories to ensure the benefits of these investments are delivered in the most equitable way.”

While Vermont is still waiting on some EPA guidance to prop up guardrails for the funding, Kamman said it will be funneled into several state programs.

There are two parts to Vermont’s Revolving Loan Fund program — one for projects such as sewage treatment and pollution prevention, and another for drinking water, Kamman said. Every year, the EPA makes grants available to states for those two purposes.

“We pull down, let’s say, \$10 million into the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund,” he said. “Then we loan those dollars out to eligible borrowers at subsidized rates for them to build water infrastructure. The borrowers pay those dollars back over a period of time, the money comes back into the fund, and the fund revolves.”

But this time, borrowers — municipalities and organizations who will be designing the projects — won’t have to pay all of that money back.

“They’re making it so that the

state is authorized to essentially give away at least 50%, if not 100%, of those dollars, depending on the specific programs for the money,” Kamman said.

The three programs include a general boost in the amount of money available for water projects through the revolving funds, financing for projects that reduce lead contamination in drinking water and funding for programs that address contaminants of emerging concern, such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

The lead-focused program would use \$30 million per year to remove lead service lines, which lead from the street to a home, and distribution lines, which are pipes in the street. That’s valuable, Kamman said, because it’s expensive for a municipality to investigate each individual line. A recent project in Bennington cost \$11 million.

Over those five years, \$8 million per year will be allocated to prevent contaminants — with an emphasis on PFAS — from polluting drinking water supplies. Exposure to the toxic chemical group is known to cause an array of harmful health effects.

“There’s a growing set of communities whose water supplies have PFAS contamination that either need to move the wells, replace the wells, or install treatment,” Kamman said. “And these dollars are going to give us a lot of flexibility and leeway to do that work.”

### PRIORITIZING FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES

In using the money, state officials should assign priority to vulnerable groups who are most at risk of being harmed by pollution, according to both the EPA and advocates from state groups.

Bindu Panikkar, who focuses on environmental justice issues as an assistant professor at the Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources at University of Vermont, said she’s seen concerns pop up about water pollution throughout the state.

Through her work with a group called Rural Environmental Justice Opportunities Informed by Community Expertise, or

REJOICE, she’s learned that some mobile home communities are relying on bottled water, she said.

“I would love to see the state prioritize infrastructure spending in the most vulnerable communities, and to engage them in identifying the local concerns in planning these steps,” she said. “The flood mitigation planning in these communities, pollution mitigation, better sewage infrastructure in these communities are all things that come to mind.”

Jon Groveman, policy and water program director for the Natural Resources Council, said it could be a good time to upgrade Vermont’s aging sewage treatment facilities — particularly those that treat wastewater and stormwater together in a single system. The problem often results in overflows that spill into local waterways, but it often costs tens of millions of dollars to fix the systems.

The funding also could be used to create centralized wastewater systems in Vermont’s smaller villages, Groveman said.

The infrastructure bill is part of a suite of federal funds coming to Vermont. Of the \$1.02 billion allocated to Vermont through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Legislature has indicated a desire to allocate \$200 million for water infrastructure projects.

Another concern, Groveman said, is Vermont’s ability to efficiently distribute all of the federal money. He suggested that some of the money could be used, both at the state level and on a regional and local level, to hire staff who could review permits and implement the projects.

The projects are particularly important in historically underserved communities in Vermont, he said, such as mobile home parks, where residents often have failing water and septic systems.

Using American Rescue Plan Act funds, the state is creating a program that will specifically help residents of mobile home communities take on water infrastructure projects. Kamman said the EPA has guided the state to target these investments to vulnerable communities, and they’ve already had conversations with housing advocates.

“The area where I look forward to our folks doing more,” he said, is outreach to vulnerable and historically marginalized communities to “make sure that we have a robust conversation across Vermont.”

# Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip? Call Sally Kerschner at 802-377-1794 or smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — Celebrate the season with Bixby Library by creating a holiday wreath on Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Otter Creek Room (access from the back parking lot). There is limited space for this event, so please sign up by calling 802-877-2211 or emailing laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org. The wreath base, wire, and pine boughs will be provided but please bring your own ribbon and decorations. This event is recommended for ages 15 and older.

Share your local history with a photograph! The Bixby Library is asking area residents to share their personal historic photographs that tell an interesting story about our community. It could be a photograph of yourself or a relative, a family farm, or historic business. The library is seeking photographs dated 1970 or older, taken in Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Vergennes or Waltham. The online showcase of photographs will be

held Thursday Dec. 9, 6-7 p.m.. The Bixby will curate the photographs into a slideshow and when your photograph comes up, you will be able to share your history. For more information, visit bixbylibrary.org/events or contact Laksamee Putnam by calling the Bixby Library (802) 877-2211 or emailing her at laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org.

The Ferrisburgh selectboard is seeking volunteers to serve on the following new town committees: National Opioids Settlement Committee and the Town Trails Committee. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Pam Cousino or Laurie Curler at the Town Offices: 877-3429, or e-mail them at pam.cousino@ferrisburghvt.org or laurie.curler@ferrisburghvt.org. Participation on town committees is enjoyable and rewarding. This is an important way to contribute to the quality of life here in Ferrisburgh — and also to get to know your

neighbors! We are fortunate in that our Vermont Towns are designed to function with a host of dedicated volunteers so please consider this opportunity.

A reminder that it is now very easy to get COVID vaccinations and also boosters! Vaccine clinics are conveniently located throughout Vermont as are organized by the Vermont Department of Health or held in pharmacies and other accessible sites. Please be sure you and your family are vaccinated as appropriate following medical guidelines. Information on vaccines for children ages 5-11 years old are now widely available — parents can ask their physician or school nurse about the times and locations of the clinics for children. To learn more, visit healthvermont.gov/covid-19.

NOTE: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related news in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net.

# Testing kits

(Continued from Page 2A)

Although Vermont lacks authority to extend the emergency rule to self-insured plans, the state is encouraging those plans to voluntarily follow the rule in anticipation of new federal regulations recently announced by the Biden Administration. The University of Vermont Health Network, Vermont’s largest self-insured plan, has indicated it intends to follow the emergency

rule and the state of Vermont encourages other employers who self-insure to do the same.

It is important to inform your primary care provider if you test positive using an at-home COVID-19 test. Doing so will enable your primary care provider to discuss possible treatment options with you and allows them to report the positive case to the Vermont Department of Health to ensure the most robust surveillance data.

To help maintain an adequate supply of at-home test kits for all Vermonters, coverage is limited to eight test kits per person per month. Health insurers must process and reimburse appropriate claims for tests described in this emergency rule retroactively for tests purchased on or after Dec. 1.

For more information on the coronavirus, please visit the Vermont Department of Health online at healthvermont.gov/covid-19.

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# Policy

(Continued from Page 2A)

by multiple students in November, the complaint states. As a result, the parent said, her child expressed concerns about returning to school.

Because the parent could not readily determine who the district’s Title IX coordinator was, the complaint says “to be forwarded to Title IX coordinator.”

Five days later, at a MAUSD board meeting, the parent accused the district of not fully complying with the new regulations, which stipulate, among other things, that the title, name, office address, email address, and telephone

number of institution’s Title IX coordinator are to be prominently displayed on both the website and in publications, along with a statement that Title IX inquiries may be referred either to that coordinator or to the assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights.

On Nov. 16, the *Independent* searched the MAUSD’s district and school websites and found one reference to “the superintendent” being the Title IX coordinator, but was subsequently told by Superintendent Patrick Reen that

the district coordinator is in fact Assistant Superintendent Catrina DiNapoli.

The following day, DiNapoli informed the parent she’d been appointed to that position, that she had received the parent’s formal complaint, and that the district would be opening an investigation into the allegations.

That investigation is still ongoing, the parent told the *Independent* on Tuesday.

The text of the adopted MAUSD sexual harassment policy can be found on the district website at tinyurl.com/policyC12.



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Kent Anderson – Orwell, VT



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## Editorial

## Shocks, aftershocks at Mount Abe demand stronger responses

Perhaps the understatement of the week came from MAUSD Supt. Patrick Reen when, after 90% of Mount Abe high school students stayed home out of fear for their safety this past Friday, he said later that day: “While it was physically safe to bring students back into the building today and will be next week, it is clear to us that we have more work to do around the social, emotional, and mental health of our learning community.”

The vast majority of MAUSD students did return to classes on Monday and through the first part of this week, but there were also more stories of past intimidation at the school and an apparently blatant atmosphere described as “white supremacy” by fellow students.

Of particular concern was a letter submitted to the *Addison Independent* on Tuesday by three Mount Abe students of Jewish faith who alleged the toxic atmosphere at the school isn’t new and has been allowed to fester for far too long. (See story on Page 1A.)

In that letter the students painted a picture of fear and intimidation: “To much of the student body, these events (of last Thursday when several students paraded through the school’s hallways brandishing pro-Trump flags and shouting ‘Let’s Go, Brandon’) may feel like a stand alone issue,” they wrote. “However, as members of a minority group, we face these threats and discomforts daily. The reality is, the events of Thursday (Dec. 2) were not unusual for us or many other targeted students.

“Our concerns at school extend beyond the blatant displays of white supremacy on that specific day,” the letter continued. “White supremacy has always been an issue at Mt. Abe, and the events this past week are a result of complacency and a lack of action by the administration. For too long now, students have spoken up about white supremacy in our school community, however our fears are often minimized and dismissed. Had our concerns been listened to and properly addressed, we strongly believe this situation could have been avoided.

“Every day, we go into school scared that something will go wrong and we won’t make it out. Our concerns surpass simple discomfort. We are terrified for our mental and physical safety to the extent that we feel our lives could be threatened. We are frightened of our peers and their ability to hurt us in their use of hate symbols and speech and we are disheartened and angry at the school’s lack of action.”

More work needs to be done, indeed.

We watched a video of the students brandishing a Trump flag in the school’s hallways that Thursday. We witnessed their bullying tone and behavior, and their obvious abuse of school code to cause disruption and show disrespect toward others. In a separate story a dozen students described the atmosphere at the school and understand, to them, too little has been done to stop it. We encourage our readers to pore over the stories in today’s issue to understand their perspective.

Certainly, some fault lies with the administration’s tolerance of such misbehavior. It is likely, however, that they did not realize how pervasive the intimidation was, and likely still is. There were signs previous to last week, administrators agree, but they say those actions were being monitored. The difficulty, as administrators, is knowing how much to crack down and how much student dysfunction to excuse because of the pandemic’s disruption — disruption that has rippled across the country and caused all kinds of mischief.

## ENCOURAGING DIRECTION

What’s encouraging, nonetheless, is the frank response of both Reen and Mount Abe Principal Shannon Warden following Thursday’s incident and their announcement to ban political attire at the school, their subsequent response to an alleged threat by one student to bring a weapon to class on Friday, and their substantive and sincere recognition last Friday that the school must do better.

Mount Abe’s teachers union (Mount Abraham Education Association) also issued a strong statement in support of the administration’s actions to ban political attire at the school, but also emphasized their position that the administration needed to redouble its efforts to rebuild the school’s support staff.

“The incidents this week at Mount Abraham, like the recent incidents at Bristol Elementary School (BES)... are clear proof that our district must change, improve, and upgrade the support we provide to our neediest students. In both cases, the disruption, violence (or threats of violence) were the results of actions by a very small number of students who could not or would not regulate their behavior,” the statement from MAEA said, adding: “We must seriously consider establishing, or in some cases reestablishing, programs that would allow us to provide separate intensive interventions to these students until they are capable of successfully participating in the wider learning community.”

With the teachers and administration aligned to tackle the problems facing Mount Abe, the remaining piece is getting the community on board as well.

As Principal Warden rightfully noted, schools are a reflection of the communities they serve. To that end, the political discourse throughout the nation, and in some pockets of Vermont, has become less civil, more divisive and more disrespectful since Trump was elected in 2016. The antidote is to recognize that all members of the school community have a stake in this conversation and a role to play to re-establish a more civil, respectful tone throughout the school district.

Good behavior, respect for each other’s perspectives and empathy of one another are the cornerstones of strong communities, strong schools, and a strong country — and that all starts at home. It’s also important, as parents or guardians, to listen to your student’s concerns, treat them with the respect they deserve and be willing to share those concerns with school officials when warranted. As Warden said, it takes a village.

Angelo Lynn



## Seasonal change

**SNOW IS STARTING to accumulate on the peaks of New York’s Adirondack Mountains as they look down on landscape along the Salisbury/Middlebury town line on Tuesday. With any luck, snow will soon cover Addison County, Vt., as well.**

Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

## Gardening is truly an act of faith

I never realized how much faith and patience I had until I’d harvested my first crop of garlic over twenty years ago when I lived in Charlotte. I approached the project with a beginner’s mind, a perspective that I retain to this day. I placed cloves into the ground, mulched, and walked away assured that in the spring there would be new growth. Every year, I would plant garlic as an act of faith: faith that it would grow, faith that it would taste wonderful, faith that I would be around to watch it reach its peak and to taste its wonderful heat.

I’ve tried to grow garlic here in Bristol but the crop has never been successful. The bulbs were always tiny, nearly tasteless compared to what I was used to. The cloves were frequently shifted from the place I’d planted them by some unknown force. Long after I gave up growing garlic, it still shows up in odd places: next to the primrose, in the middle of the yard, on the west side of the property though it had been planted on the south side. The plant reminds me they have a will of their own, and I’m not in control of them.

My former garden flourished in fertile soil in a sunny location. I could grow nearly any vegetable or flower my imagination and the climate would allow. Now I live in a different terrain. Wild grasses cover a thin layer of meager soil that lies on top of an impenetrable landscape of rock. My home is surrounded by trees that cast shade nearly everywhere, except my driveway and a narrow swath, part of which contains a small plot, where I grow cherry tomatoes, herbs, and nasturtiums. It is an edible landscape for squirrels and

chipmunks, groundhogs, and birds and insects.

One day I hope to create a landscape from where I, too, can graze. I imagine a wonderland of beans, peppers, nasturtiums, garlics and onions, mustard greens and lettuces, all growing in strategically placed and aesthetically pleasing beds. The prevalence of rocks and my painful knees discouraged me from shoveling to expand my garden. So, this year, I prepared a no-dig garden, which I know very little about except what I’ve read in gardening journals, blogs, and books. It’s a layer of cardboard, compost, and leaves, which are gifts from the numerous trees that keep me company.

The garden is an act of faith. I don’t know what will happen when spring comes. I’m writing this sitting on the futon in my guest bedroom. Snow layers tree branches on this partly sunny morning. When I look down on the garden plot I’ve prepared, I wonder what is beneath the layers. What insects are living there? Is their home warm?

One day while leaving yoga class, I was complaining about a thing over which I have no control, the weather. I lamented the shift from summer to fall, the darkness and cold to come with winter. A woman said, “You can’t get to spring without going through winter.”

Now that is obvious, yes? Yet, it shifted my perspective. I began to see fall as its own season, not just a precursor to winter. I appreciated its vibrant colors, migrating birds, squirrels digging in the soil and gleefully taking what they’ve found up to their

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

## Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer



## Quick photos require long exposure

All I needed were a couple of snapshots of me wearing the pullover I had just finished knitting.

I wanted to post them to Ravelry, a fiber arts website and database that I swear is much cooler than it may sound to non-knitters. When visiting the site for inspiration, I like to see other people’s items being worn rather than displayed. In that spirit, I asked Mark to take a few pictures of me in the sweater.

What an ordeal. First he reeled from the magnitude of the request. “What? Now? Why?”

Then he sighed deeply, as though this interruption in his Sunday morning coffee drinking would throw off his schedule for the rest of the day.

The man has a cellphone and uses the camera for work all the time. But you’d have thought I was asking for daguerreotypes.

“You don’t even have to get up,” I said. “I’ll just stand right here. It’s easy.”

I handed him my phone and, facing him, struck a casual Sears catalog-type pose and smiled. And then I waited.

He raised the phone as though it were the first one he had ever seen. He furrowed his brow. He hesitated, his finger hovering over the screen.

I maintained a winning smile.

“Hm,” he said, moving his finger close to the screen

and then pulling it back. Several times.

My cheeks started to ache.

Finally, steeling his nerves and going for it, he poked at the phone.

Nothing happened.

“It’s not working,” he said, ready to call it a day.

“Come on, just take the picture,” I said. “Just take the picture!”

Sighing again, he began pinching his fingers on the screen, wide, then narrow. Then a little wider, then a little narrower.

“Never mind about the zooming,” I said through a tight smile. Suddenly he was Ansel Adams.

After several suspenseful minutes, he snapped one photo. With a perfunctory “you’re welcome” nod, he attempted to hand the phone back to me. But I asked for a shot from a different angle.

“Another one?”

Like so many of us, he seemed to carry the residual anxiety that comes with the memory of old Polaroid cameras and flash cubes. In those days, one bad picture (and they were almost all bad) was several dollars down the drain. After I reminded him that we could now take unlimited photos — and delete the bad ones at no cost — he agreed to continue.

Again, he went through the production of holding up the phone and studying it like it was a newly discovered

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

## Deer hunter shares venison

Last Thursday’s paper had an exceptional photo of Dorothy Muzzy with her 9-pointer, which she landed on the last day of hunting season. What the photo does not show is the phone call she made just a few days later. That phone call was to the Addison Community Action Food Shelf to assure me that a donation of venison was coming our way. Dorothy and her family have supported our food shelf in a multitude of ways over the past 15 years, and everyone at CVOEO including the families we serve, offers up our sincere gratitude and thanks for her continued dedication and support.

Donna Rose  
CVOEO/Addison  
Community Action

## Let’s focus on the public good

For most of his career, my father was the Director of Health in Hartford, Conn. He chose to work in public health after a short career in private practice and a couple of years in industrial medicine. He was not satisfied providing advantaged people with care — he wanted to help those who began life with a strike or two against them — people experiencing poverty, those who had not yet mastered the English language, or those who were subjects of prejudice, ignorance or powerlessness. He focused on issues like venereal disease, alcohol abuse, rat control, tuberculosis and polio vaccination. He stressed education and prevention. He believed deeply in the public good. He believed that if we all did our share, we would all be more healthy and live richer lives. He believed in helping those who needed help the most. He lived a good life dedicated to serving the public.

My oldest son is also a medical doctor. He is a pulmonary intensive care fellow. He works long hours with COVID patients in Colorado. Many die each day. He tells me that most who die are unvaccinated and regret their decision to be unvaccinated as they struggle to remain alive.

Many of these people didn’t embrace the idea of the public good that was my father’s creed. They didn’t accept that vaccination is not an issue of personal liberty, but an act that has profound community implications. They believed websites hosted by hucksters rather than the hard-won lessons of science. They didn’t realize that by remaining unvaccinated they bring greater risk to those whose medical condition is compromised and to themselves and their families. They did not realize that by being unvaccinated, they provide this dreadful virus with a host in which new and more effective killer viruses are cultivated like the recently identified omicron variant.

In my father’s day, the killer was polio. In my son’s, it is COVID. Let’s all focus on the public good and use every medically-recommended tool at our disposal — like masks and vaccinations — to reduce this public health menace.

Harry Chaucer  
New Haven

## Ripton wants a stronger voice

As a member of Ripton’s uniquely school-less school board, a day doesn’t go by that I don’t try to summarize our strange situation to an acquaintance. As we approach an important meeting of the ACSD Board on Monday, Dec. 13, I’d like to share my personal perspective with the broader Addison County community.

Ripton joined the ACSD through an accelerated merger process that promised merging would not result in school closure; it was sold as a protection against it. When the

(See *Witters letter*, Page 5A)

## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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# Letters to the Editor

## Ripton defines expectations for staying in the ACSD

A summary and update of Ripton's ongoing withdrawal efforts: At their September meeting, the Vermont State Board of Education (SBE) delayed their ruling on Ripton's withdrawal from Addison Central School District (ACSD) and announced that their preferred outcome is for Ripton to reintegrate back into the merged district. This consensus directive for the newly formed Ripton School District (RSD) and ACSD to begin negotiations of reentry was supported by both RSD and the ACSD board representatives, proving the collegial and cooperative sentiment of the meeting.

On Nov. 11, as a response to the SBE's Oct. 31 letter reaffirming their preferred outcome decision, the RSD board presented an outline of requests and examples to the ACSD Executive Committee. The outline asks the ACSD board to consider changes to the district's charter with regard to how the board:

- defines school-closure parameters.
- clarifies and refines the process of both grade reconfiguration and school closure.

- establishes local input by way of advisory groups and nomination of board members.

(See the full outline with this letter online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com).)

In support of the changes to be considered, the RSD Board also included several examples of Articles of Agreement from other districts across the state that merged under Act 46. These examples have already been reviewed, vetted and approved by the SBE. As more data and information are available at this stage of Act 46, the RSD board believes it is an appropriate time to review the functionality and effectiveness of the consolidation process. If the goals of Act 46 are to be met, then opportunities to adjust and refine should be afforded. This is especially true for ACSD, as it was one of a handful of districts in Vermont that formed with an accelerated merger agreement. In fact, nine out of 10 unified districts that merged later in the process have a much more inclusive and detailed decision-making process for merging and consolidating schools. For example, they include such protections as a "town vote"

before school closure. As equity and sustainability are pillars of Act 46, RSD believes such protections are necessary in all districts, not just most. It is RSD's perspective that there is value in learning and evolving as the process continues.

On Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m., the ACSD Executive Committee will bring the RSD requests and examples to their full board for discussion. RSD believes these changes will broadly protect all district communities in that they will help to create sustainable and forward-thinking relationships between our consolidated governance and valuable local community voices. The excellent education, health and well-being of our students are our collective responsibility and are not solely reliant on one institution over another. Instead, student success relies on the healthy symbiotic relationship of family, school and community. At the governance level, we must examine and make necessary adjustments to a system that may have consolidated too much power.

**Joanna Doria  
For the Ripton School District Board**

## Carefully inspect 'matching donation' appeals

As the holidays approach, many charities will send out appeals for donations, including "matching donations." Folks should be aware that these "matching donations" are often fraudulent.

Sometimes when a large donor offers a charity a large donation, say \$5,000, the charity tries to transform the donation into a "matching donation," whereby the donor supposedly agrees to match others' donations, up to \$5,000. If the others' donations amount to \$3,000, the donor will sometimes then write two checks: one for \$3,000 and the other for \$2,000. Other times, the donor doesn't even try to hide the sham and just writes one check for \$5,000.

There are exceptions. For example, I once worked for a large corporation that matched its employees' charitable donations. The corporation made no additional contributions to those charities beyond the employees' donations.

A well-known Vermont charity recently sent an email to me and its other volunteer workers seeking contributions by way of a "matching donation." I replied expressing my concerns with "matching donations." The charity responded that "84% of donors are more likely to donate if their gifts are eligible to be matched, and mentioning matching in fundraising results in 71% more donations and 51% higher donation amounts." The

charity then unabashedly admitted that the donor "did in fact make the donation outright. We were able to leverage the gift to increase community donations. We have found that matching gift campaigns incentivize public donations and raise awareness." In other words, the ends justify the means.

"Matching donations" may very well increase donations to a worthy cause, but I never respond to a "matching donation" unless I know for a fact that the match is bona fide. I urge others to do the same in order to discourage charities from engaging in this kind of unfortunate and deceptive behavior.

**Ed Rybka  
Weybridge**

# Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) tree homes. Winter is no longer monochromatic, but a kaleidoscope of browns and greens and whites and lingering reds.

When the snow piles up, I'll imagine a land beneath, waiting to receive seeds and plants that will grow and be shared by me and my animal and insect neighbors. I am

looking forward to it. I have faith. Ruth Farmer is a published essayist and poet. She is sole owner of Farmer Writing and Editing ([www.ruthfarmer.com](http://www.ruthfarmer.com)).

# Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) fossil. I almost suggested that he save time by painting my portrait instead, but he's so sensitive he would have taken that as sarcasm.

All told, he took two photos. In the interval between them, I had visibly aged. In both I was glaring, my tired mouth contorted into a painful rictus, like something from the Sears catalog zombie edition.

In the first image, in part due to his shooting upward from a seated position, the new sweater appeared to swell out below my armpits as if I were smuggling a beanbag chair. In the second image, a side angle, I had lost the beanbag weight. But that only revealed more of the background; the room looked like

it had been "tossed" by burglars. Photographs have a way of revealing details that can go unnoticed in real life. Where did all this junk — an unplugged power strip on the floor, a jug of de-icer, a pair of boots, a bucket heaped with pruned Christmas tree branches — come from? I would have been no more surprised to see a lawn gnome and a pile of dead raccoons behind me.

Worse, these pictures served as some of the only photographic proof of my existence, because in our family, I'm always behind the camera. (For some reason, Mark prefers to spend his time playing with his grandchildren instead of doing the more vital work of documenting every precious

moment with them.) Years from now, when I'm long gone, these images are how my grandkids will remember me. "Wow," they'll say. "Nana was shaped like a giant potato and had a borderline hoarding problem." Picking up on my audible disgust as I prepared to upload the photos, Mark showed genuine concern. "Want me to take some more?" he asked. I considered the offer. "Thanks," I said, "but nobody has that kind of time."

**Darin Maloney  
Monkton**

**Letters to the Editor Policy**  
The Addison Independent encourages you to write letters to the editor. We print signed letters only. Include an address and telephone number, too, so we can clear up any questions. Send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com).

# Witters letter

(Continued from Page 4A) facilities master plan and the ACSD board's guiding principles revealed the vulnerability of our school's existence, our community engaged in a long and dynamic effort to affect more democratic control on the process. Anyone reading this paper has been privy to both the diversity of efforts and the sweep of time this journey has already occupied. In some ways we have traveled a million miles, and in other ways it feels like we are right back where we started. However, in all ways, we are still here in Ripton, and we believe that keeping a thriving and successful school open in our town is important for both our young children and our community.

After Ripton failed to gain traction affecting change within the ACSD, we voted to leave. Some of you said, "congrats and best of luck," others said, "good riddance," but all of you assumed our path was diverging from the ACSD. Your towns' support and understanding was vital. It was inspiring. It was a sense of community that had never been engendered by imposed academic borders because it allowed us to recognize and support cultural differences between communities and show mutual respect for the difference in those values.

What happened next was so disheartening to me. Contrary to all predictions and guidance (including legal), rather than assigning Ripton to an existing supervisory union for central office services, a power completely afforded to the State Board of Education, they have suggested we will have to become our own supervisory district. The reality of this decision is Ripton's tiny district would need its own superintendent, director

## MAUSD isn't responding

It would be so great if the very serious problems in our school district (Mount Abraham Unified School District) were taken seriously by "the powers that be."

As we all continue to advocate for our students and teachers through letters and meetings, there seems to be a long, dead silence following these efforts.

Who is accountable? Is anybody out there? Hello?

How many letters and meetings will it take? An explanation is long overdue.

Please let us know what steps have been taken to support and protect our kids and teachers. Hello? Hello?

of special education services, business manager, HR director, curriculum coordinator, and the list could go on. In my opinion, the State Board of Education is not only punishing a town that merged early and is exercising its democratic right, but ironically, it is subverting the efficiencies and positive impact Act 46 seeks to attain.

The State Board has not imposed that decision, yet. Rather, they are waiting to see if Ripton and ACSD can come to an agreement. There is strong pressure, on both parties, to come back to the table and do a better job of working together to find a mutually beneficial solution. Here we are having traveled a million miles and none at all. But anyone who has traveled knows that the greatest gift gained is perspective.

My perspective is this: Our communities did the best we could with what we were handed at the time Act 46 was rolled out. We designed articles of agreement that we thought were appropriate and elected board members who we thought represented our values. Things change and the most successful systems accommodate those changes. As Act 46 forged forward, we have seen more and more unified districts in Vermont adopting Articles that give towns much more power than the articles drafted for the ACSD. They also offer clearer metrics for school closure and for defining repurposing of schools.

Today, nearly nine out of ten consolidated districts' articles include clauses that require a town vote to affirm the closure of a school. Some go on to clearly define metrics by which a school's closure should be determined. Ripton does not want to keep open a failing school. It doesn't want to keep open a

hopelessly dwindling school. But there's nothing dwindling about our little town right now.

In my opinion, if Act 46 is to achieve its goals, then it must become more flexible to recognize and accommodate the unique and individual qualities in a state with such community diversity. Adding more clarity and fairness to ACSD's articles of agreement will only help preserve the spirit and intention I see in Act 46. Such clarity empowers all member towns of the ACSD. Clarity and empowerment will help dictate decisions that leverage individual towns' interests and values so they contribute to the whole.

Does this fix everything? Absolutely not. The funding systems are complicated, changing and choking sometimes. But if we are willing to invest so much for the IB program whose number one stated mission is to "develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect," then we have to put structures within the governance of the ACSD that empower the cultural identity of its individual towns.

I encourage all members of our district community who are invested in evolving models of governance to attend the next ACSD Board meeting on Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in person at 208 Charles Ave. or remotely via links found on their website. A mentor of mine always reminded me to "talk with my feet" and by attending this meeting you will be helping to envision the next roadmap for our region's educational and cultural path.

**Molly Witters  
Ripton**

## Notes of appreciation

### Fiddlers thank raffle supporters

The Champlain Valley Fiddlers Club would like to thank a number of businesses and people for donating items and gift certificates for a raffle we had on Nov. 21.

They include: John Deere, Middlebury Sweets, Tractor Supply, Agway, Paris Farmer's Union, Blue Seal, Brandon House of Pizza, TJ Maxx, Rosie's Restaurant, Vermont Field Sports, Maple Meadow, Greg's Market, Champlain Beverage, Nancy Galvin, Patsy Scarborough, Jamie

Bailey Warner and Maria Murray.

The winners of the raffle were Midge Larow for the men's box of items, Polly Gearwar for the women's box items, Charlie Palmer for the homemade cherry pie, Rita Bilodeau for a set of Jar candles and wax melts, and Emma Bergeron for the scarf, hat and glove set.

Congratulations to the winners.  
**Susie Coburn  
Salisbury**

### Shoreham Memory/Honor Tree

The lights from the Shoreham Memory Tree will be a **Beacon of Hope** in our Town Gazebo this year. You may remember a loved one, or honor an individual or a group, by printing their names on the form below. The deadline is Friday, **December 17, 2021**. The names of honorees will be published. Send this form or separate paper with the names and \$5 (cash or check) for each name to:

**Shoreham Congregational Church**  
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Please **PRINT** the names and circle the correct word for each entry:

Memory / Honor \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## Kenneth W. Burton, 79, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Kenneth W. Burton, 79, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully at his home on Oct. 5, 2021, in Middlebury. He was born on Oct. 24, 1941, in Portchester, N.Y., to parents Alice and Donald Burton. He is survived by his daughter, Katherine Brande of Middlebury, Vt.; his son, Kenneth S. Burton of Weybridge, Vt.; his granddaughter, Allison Long of Deland, Fla.; grandsons Kenneth and Luke Brande of Bristol, Vt.; his brothers Bruce Burton of Castleton Vt., and Donald Burton of Churchville, N.Y.; his sisters Marcia Jones of Richmond, Vt., and Helene Balkin of Kittery Point, Maine; and their spouses and children.



KENNETH W. BURTON

Ken was a UVM Hall Of Fame athlete who had an illustrious career as a running back on the football team,

holding several records in his day. He had a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and a master's degree in Agricultural Economics. More importantly, he was a humanitarian who cared much about the world and was

particularly interested in Latin America and its economy.

Ken worked for the city of New York for almost 30 years helping bring people out of poverty. He had a great sense of humor, loved to try new things, loved sharing his ideas with others and had a deep interest in others' lives and the world in general. He loved nature — particularly waterways, writing, water color painting, playing the guitar and having meaningful discussions. He loved speaking Spanish and made many friends in the hispanic communities. The Bronx Botanical Gardens was also a special place to him, just a walk away from where he lived for many years. His legacy leaves much to be remembered and he will be missed. Contributions can be made to the United Way of Addison County. ◊

## Richard M. Brace Jr., 60, Middlebury native

JEFFERSONVILLE — Richard M. Brace, Jr., of Jeffersonville and North Hyde Park, Vt., passed away Nov. 24, 2021, at his hotel surrounded by loved ones. He was born June 27, 1961, in Middlebury, Vt., the son of Richard M. Brace, Sr. and Sandy Brace.

Rich was a kind and caring person with a heart of gold. He always tried to help anyone he could. He was a great son, brother, uncle and friend. He enjoyed antiques, his cars and loved his flower gardens, especially stargazer lilies.

and brother-in-law Norman Dunham of Vergennes; nephew Chris Perkins of Burlington; nieces Tammy Perkins Shaw of Witherbee, N.Y., and Angel Dunham of Crown Point, N.Y.; longtime friend Lisa Wildes; and his beloved dog, Bo.

Richard spent the first part of his life in Addison County, working on dairy farms and later moved to Lamoille County, where he and Juanita Larose became friends and business partners and ran the Deer Run Motor Inn together.

He was predeceased by his father, Richard Brace Sr., and his two sisters, and also his wife Juanita Larose Brace. He is survived by his mother, Sandra Brace and brother, Mark K. Brace, both of Pantong; his sister Pauline

At his request there will be no service but a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Faith Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made by visiting faithfh.net. ◊

## Elizabeth Marie Van Nostrand, 82, longtime Addison County Resident



ELIZABETH MARIE VAN NOSTRAND

RUTLAND — The family of Elizabeth (Liz) Marie Van Nostrand sadly announces her passing on Nov. 2, 2021, at Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, VT.

Liz was born in the tiny town of Stockholm, Maine, on Jan. 6, 1939, the daughter of Ida (Lozier) and Eddie Bossie. She graduated from Caribou High School in 1956 and went to work for New England Telephone as a telephone operator. In May of 1957 she married an Airman from Loring AFB named Ron who would become her lifelong love and companion. Following Ron's career with the U.S. Air Force, they moved to the lovely green mountain state of Vermont in 1965.

Liz and Ron raised two children, Valerie and Mark, and when they were in high school, she followed her passion for helping people and went back to school herself, earning her Associates Degree in Nursing from Castleton State College in 1978 (where son Mark was her chemistry lab partner!). After graduation, she worked at Porter Medical Center and then as an Occupational Health Nurse at Simmonds Precision (now Collins Aerospace) from 1979-1991. During this time she went back to school at Castleton and received her Bachelors Degree in Nursing in 1984.

She worked in the cardiovascular

field from 1991 until 1995, then devoted the last five years of her nursing career to working with Alzheimer's patients. Liz volunteered for the American Red Cross, the Heart Association, Cancer Society, and served with the Town Line First Response Squad as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

Liz loved to sing and play guitar, with a voice like an angel that was often compared to that of Joan Baez. In 1970, she won a major talent competition and appeared on the Joe Franklin TV show in New York City. She remained active in church choir groups in both Vermont and Dunnellon, Fla., where she started spending winters

after Ron passed away in 2010. She loved attending folk and bluegrass festivals, collecting antiques, and watching Dodgers baseball and Patriots football. Liz found comfort by the water and enjoyed homes next to Lake Champlain in West Addison and later by Lake Dunmore, where she spent many hours swimming and reading by the shore. She loved gardening and was happiest when up to her ankles in dirt and plantings.

Liz had a kind and gentle way about her, a reassuring presence that would put people at ease. A truly beautiful person inside and out, her spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She is predeceased by her husband and soulmate, Ron, brother Joseph, and sister Hilda. She is survived by sisters Marilyn and Joan of Caribou, Maine, daughter Valerie Strong, son Mark, daughter-in-law Nancy, and grandchildren Tess, Travis, and Timothy Strong and Seth and Sarah (Denu) Van Nostrand, and several great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Stephen C. Gregory and Son Cremation Service, with a private burial at Randolph Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In her memory, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association, Parkinson's research, or an animal shelter of your choice. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. ◊

## Joan P. Myrick, 90, of Bridport



JOAN P. MYRICK

BRIDPORT — Joan P. Myrick was born to Edward and Anna Parot April 19, 1931. She grew up first in South Hero and then Shoreham, Vt., with siblings Irving, Fred, Howard, Armand, Lincoln, Gladys, Madeline and Brenda, all of whom predeceased her. Joan passed on Nov. 24, 2021, in her new home at the Residence at Otter Creek in Middlebury with her loving husband Tom by her side.

She graduated from Shoreham High School as one of the admired basketball players and was athletic and fit her entire life. Joan enjoyed snowshoeing, loved gardening and had beautiful flowers indoors and out, used to sew beautiful clothing for others, always enjoyed her daily walk despite the weather, and more recently her Bones classes and cherished time with friends and family.

Joan was employed by Van Raalte Company as a seamstress prior to marrying Tom. At that time, she chose to become a full-time homemaker. In later years she extended her meticulous housekeeping skills to serve others — Win and Alice Dibble and Rick and Martha Lapham — then ultimately revealed her creative skills by finishing gold leafing and accentuating frames and mats, cut by Tom at the Lapham Gallery in Shoreham.

Joan is survived by her husband of 71 years, Tom Myrick. She will be missed by him most of all. They enjoyed many years in their Bridport home and shared everything from yard work, cutting wood, apple and strawberry picking, to outings with friends, local meals, and traveling the

country to visit family and friends.

Joan is also survived by her only child Deb, who she loved deeply — exemplified by the many overnights with cousins and friends, boardgames covering the dining room table for days at a time, the homemade soup and bread in the kitchen, and the many outfits and beautiful pillows she sewed for her. Deb's husband Dick Haverlick was so special to her heart. He could initiate a genuine smile or laugh. She enjoyed him immensely.

First grandchild Iva Ford has been adored and respected forever. Joan spent countless hours and an abundance of patience teaching Iva to sew, garden, and to make homemade bread in her carpeted kitchen (very brave). First, of course, Joan would tackle Iva's gnarled hair, brushing and pulling it back into a neat ponytail. Iva's husband Matthew has been an amazing addition to her wellbeing and his outwardly gruff demeanor couldn't stop Joan from planting the unexpected kiss on him. She knew it was his way of fooling and loved to make him grimace by giving him a big hug.

Grandson Isaac Haverlick was welcomed with warm, loving arms many years later. Joan enjoyed much time with him on the swing set and near the kiddie pool when he was young, making him silver dollar pancakes and playing many games of bumper pool in their basement. She was very proud of him and all of his accomplishments. He brought her great joy. Joan also loved his

partner Leslie Lemire — she was so glad they found each other and enjoyed Leslie's laughter.

Her great-granddaughter Reagan Menard was also most treasured. She spent many hours watching her grow from a baby to the wonderful woman she is today. The ray of sunlight Reagan brought helped to keep her young.

Joan is also survived by June Parot Flanagan: Married first to Joan's brother Armand, she is the sister-in-law who has always been a sister. They spent years together sharing celebrations as well as tragedies — many hours with Armand and then later with June's second husband Art Flanagan, now deceased.

Joan leaves behind many nieces, nephews and friends — too many to count — all of whom loved her and will miss her.

As per Joan's wishes there will be no services at this time. Tom chose a beautiful double urn for her ashes, which will reside in their home until he passes, at which time he will be joined with her for a burial at the Shoreham Cemetery. We will be having a celebration of her life in the future when COVID allows.

The family wishes to thank those who were intrinsic in helping Joan's final days to be as comfortable as possible: Jeff Abell for primary care that was above and beyond, the entire staff at Porter Hospital, Dr. Diana Barnard and all of the Palliative Care team, the wonderful staff at The Residence at Otter Creek, Hospice through Bayada, Father Yvon Royer, and the many friends and family who were there for anything needed. Also thanks to Sandersons/Ducharme for their guidance and support.

Condolences can be sent to Tom Myrick, 350 Lodge Road, Apt. 103, Middlebury, VT 05753. ◊

*In Memory of*

**Jody L. Cousino**

It'll be 5 years on December 12<sup>th</sup> that you've been gone. Not a day goes by that you're not thought of. You are loved and missed by your mom Jane Coffin, daughter Grace, Grandma Coffin, your cousin Andy who was more like a brother than a cousin, and the rest of your family and friends.

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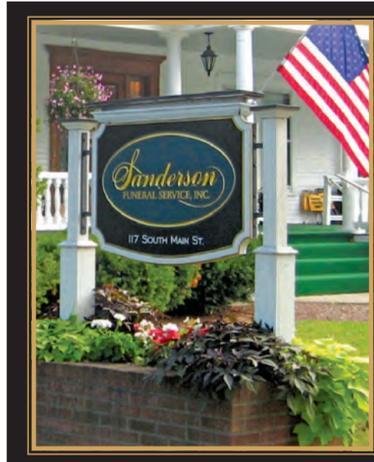
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# Obituaries

## Sister Isoline Duclos, RSM, 90, former St. Mary's teacher

WINOOSKI — Sister Isoline Duclos, RSM, (Sr. Mary Leonard), 90, of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, died at Our Lady of Providence Residence, Winooski, Vt., on Dec. 1, 2021. She was a Sister of Mercy for 72 years.



**SISTER ISOLINE DUCLOS, RSM**

Sr. Isoline was born in Weybridge, Vt., on Oct. 10, 1931, the daughter of Clarabel (Lathrop) and George Duclos. She received her early education in Middlebury and graduated from Mount Saint Mary Academy in Burlington. She received her B.S. degree in Education from Trinity College, Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Columbia University, and a MAT in Religious Education from Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vt.

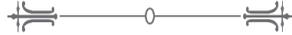
Sr. Isoline entered the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1949, and professed her vows on Aug. 18, 1952. She took as her motto "I have one soul to serve the Lord with my love."

Sr. Isoline taught first grade at Saint Mary's School in Middlebury, Cathedral Grammar School, Saint Mary's, and Mater Christi School in Burlington. She taught Religious Education in parishes throughout the Diocese of Burlington.

Sister Isoline was Director of Mercy Associates and was involved in special religious education (SPRED) at Trinity College. For

many years she served in parish ministry at St. Anthony in White River, Saint Joseph in Burlington and Saint Ambrose in Bristol. Serving with a joyful, bubbly hello, she visited the sick, elderly and homebound. While praying with them and bringing them communion she listened to them as they shared their struggles and concerns. She sensed their needs and found ways to respond to them. She was extensively involved in each parish and local community where she was ministering. Hospitality was a hallmark of her service.

For decades she was an enthusiastic participant in COTS WALK and CROP WALK



## Charles William Rouse, 91, Shoreham native

CASTLETON — Charles William Rouse, age 91, passed away Nov. 27, 2021, at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester, Va. He and his family were returning from a Thanksgiving family gathering in McMinnville, Tenn.



**CHARLES WILLIAM ROUSE**

Charlie was born in Shoreham, Vt., on Dec. 14, 1929. He was the son of William and Sofia (Feliu) Rouse. He grew up in Shoreham, where he received his early education and furthered his education at Middlebury High School. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, having served with the 808th Aviation Battalion. Following his honorable discharge in 1953, he returned home and began his career driving truck for his brother Stuart Rouse. On Sept. 16, 1950, he married Betty Jane Clark. In 1970 the family moved to Middletown Springs, and he started his own trucking company. Betty Jane predeceased him Jan. 16, 2017. Charlie was a lifelong trucker. He enjoyed country music

and loved to visit with family and friends.

He is survived by a son, Timothy Rouse (Kathy) of Middletown Springs; two daughters, Darlene Palmer (Todd) of McMinnville, Tenn., and Diane Davis (John) of Fair Haven, Vt.; a son, Terry Rouse (Pam) of Shoreham; and a brother, Sanford "Sandy" Rouse

of Brandon. Six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him. In addition to his wife he was also predeceased by a son, Todd Rouse, and a brother, Stuart Rouse.

The funeral service will be conducted on Friday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m., at the Mallory Funeral Home in Fair Haven, where friends may call for 11 a.m. until service time at 1 p.m.. Those wishing to pay their respects are asked to wear a face covering.

The graveside committal service and burial, with military honors, will take place at a later date in Pleasant View Cemetery in Middletown Springs.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to The Dodge House, c/o Veterans Assistance Office, P.O. Box 12, Rutland, VT 05701.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Mallory Funeral Home in Fair Haven.◊

## Raymond J. Swinton, 99, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Raymond J. Swinton, "Pat," died peacefully at the age of 99 at his home surrounded by family on Dec. 3, 2021. He was born March 26, 1922, in Bridport, Vt. He was the son of William Archie Swinton and Elizabeth McCray Swinton.



**RAYMOND J. SWINTON**

Pat graduated from Middlebury High School, Class of 1940. A few years after graduation he enlisted in the Army AirCorps, serving during World War II in the Pacific Arena, especially the Philippines. His primary duty was as an airplane mechanic. After the war he married Helen Barrows, settling in Vergennes.

Pat was a dedicated husband, loving father, and "Pa" was a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. He had simple values that carried him through his life.

Pat worked at Simmonds Precision, a defense plant in Vergennes, for most of his career, retiring in 1985. The various positions he held were inspector, leadman, soldering teacher and working on all the numerous space programs from the Saturn Project up to the Space Shuttle. Pat was a lifelong member of the Vergennes American Legion, Post 14, since leaving the military in 1945. In the 1960s a group of WWII veterans, including Pat, worked diligently to establish a strong Legion by organizing bingo, dinners, and dances to make it a financially solid club. Serving as Commander he continued the endeavor. Later on he was an active member of a group who envisioned a community pool. Once again his vision was successful and the community got the Sam Fishman pool.

Early in his marriage Pat and Helen started a bait and tackle shop. His evenings were often spent making fishing lures called the "Grabber". This hobby continued even after he retired from the business.

He loved to read and do crossword puzzles along with stamp and coin collecting, which he had done since he was a small child.

In addition to his parents he was

predeceased by his wife, Helen, and his brothers, Waldo Swinton and Lyndon "Mike" Swinton. He leaves his three daughters, Kitty Muzzy (Lou) of Vergennes, Constance Swinton (Richard) of Vergennes, and Jayne Saltus (Tom); five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

As a family we wish to thank all those special caregivers and doctors who cared for our father.

There will be a graveside service in the spring. Those who wish to remember Pat in a special way may make donations to the Vermont Veterans' Home, 325 North St., Bennington, VT 05201, or Addison County Home Health & Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Hwy., New Haven, VT 05472.

To send online condolences to his family please visit [brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com](http://brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com).◊

**Look who's turning 93!**  
Harry Provencher turned 93 on December 8th!  
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## 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](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com).

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper and 11 a.m. on Friday for Monday's paper. Email [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com) or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## Allen W. Shackett, 87, former Addison County resident

BURLINGTON — Allen William Shackett of Burlington, Vt., passed away Nov. 27, 2021, at the University of Vermont Medical Center following a brief illness. He was 87.

Allen, known by everyone as Bill, was born June 14, 1934, in Benson, Vt., to parents Quentin and Clarice (Couture) Shackett. He was raised alongside his siblings, Robert Shackett, Brenda LaDuke and Tom Shackett. Bill attended Shoreham High School, noting how proud he was to be a member of his high school basketball team.

During his high school years, Bill met and eventually married Marlene Carl. Following high school, Bill enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Paris Island, S.C. It is there that Bill and Marlene soon welcomed their first child, Stephanie.

Upon Bill's honorable discharge on Jan. 25, 1956, he began his career as an electronics technician. His career kept him at the forefront of the office automation industry. Bill received numerous technical training certificates and awards. Bill's career began with the G.B. Rood Company, where he earned the title of service manager. Many years later he left to continue at McAuliffe Inc., which today is known as SymQuest. Bill eventually retired from SymQuest in 2004.

After taking some much needed



ALLEN W. SHACKETT

time off and traveling with Marlene, Bill discovered he missed working and helping people. Bill found a new passion, working for the local Aubuchon Hardware Store in Shelburne, Vt. Bill was a known problem solver, and it was at Aubuchon's that he could really put this talent to use. Many people would come to Aubuchon's simply to have Bill work on their antique lamps. There are no words that can express what this job meant to him.

Bill had a passion for woodworking, where he was extremely talented with finish carpentry. Bill was very proud of the workshop he had assembled in his basement over the years.

Many who knew Bill know that he and Marlene had a passion for dancing. Just up until this year they would travel every Saturday

night to either Rutland, Brandon, or Barre to dance with their friends at the local American Legion Clubs, of which Bill was a proud member.

Bill and Marlene also enjoyed traveling around Vermont in search of its covered bridges and general stores.

Bill is survived by his wife Marlene (Burlington, Vt.) of 68 years; his three children, Penny Barron (Syracuse, N.Y.), Dennis and his wife Kathy (Shelburne, Vt.), and Melanie and her husband Chris Olio (Berwick, Maine); grandchildren Sarah (Shackett) Murphy and her husband Moses (Williston, Vt.), Chris Shackett and his wife Kerry (Williston, Vt.), Andrew Barron and his fiancé Michael O'Brien (Albany, N.Y.), and Emily Barron and her fiancé Andrew Falvey (Katy, Texas); and great-grandchildren Finnegan Murphy, Whitaker Murphy and Kenna Shackett. Bill was predeceased by his daughter, Stephanie Shackett, parents Quentin and Clarice, and his brother Robert.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at the University of Vermont Medical Center for their care of and compassion for Bill and Marlene during their stay.

A funeral service to celebrate Bill's life will take place on a later date with an announcement to follow.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Ready Funeral Home South Chapel, 261 Shelburne Road in Burlington. Please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com) to place on-line condolences.

## Ronald Robert McGuire, 73, of Orwell

ORWELL — Ronald Robert McGuire, age 73, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at Helen Porter Health & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

Ron was born in Ticonderoga, N.Y., on Aug. 5, 1948. He was the son of Robert and Dorothy (Scharpf) McGuire. He grew up in New York State, where he received his education. July 14, 1973, he married Ruth Marie Patterson in Florida City, Fla., where he worked for Withers Moving and Storage for several years. He moved his family to Orwell in 1978 and began working for Bill Smith Auto Sales and later for Bud Carpenter at County Motors. In 1987 he founded, owned and operated McGuire Enterprises on North Orwell Road in Orwell. He was a member of Independence Masonic Lodge in Orwell. He enjoyed car restoration and was extremely



RONALD ROBERT MCGUIRE

proud of caring for his property.

Surviving is his wife, Ruth McGuire, and his daughter, Heather Marie Ryan and her husband Ross, all of Orwell; his lads, Levi and Logan Ryan; three brothers, Randy McGuire of Clarendon, Vt., Robert

McGuire Jr. of Raleigh, N.C., and Timothy McGuire of Sudbury, Vt.; and four sisters, Linda Brown of Wallingford, Vt., Barbara Prieur of Granville, N.Y., Sandra Beebe of Milford, Conn., and Penny McGuire of Manchester, Vt. Many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents; a son, Ronald McGuire Jr.; and two brothers, Donald McGuire and Larry McGuire.

The graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date with a Graveside Masonic Service in Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Orwell First Response Squad, P.O. Box, Orwell, VT 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

## Gloria Jean Flemings, 72, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — Gloria Jean Flemings, 72, passed away in Lincoln peacefully with her family by her side on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021.

She was born on Sept. 27, 1949, in Danby, Vt., the daughter of Arthur Deo and Gladys Bertrand (Rivett).

Gloria is survived by her daughters, Veronica Sargent and Leslie, Jessie Flemings and partner Shawn, and Rosie Hardy; sons Robert Cox and Audrey, and Keith Milhottee; and daughter-in-law Tammy Flemings. Gloria is also survived by her siblings Linda Gemmell and Emma Bergeron.

Gloria was predeceased by the love of her life, Arthur Flemings; her son Arthur Jr.; granddaughter Merissa; and sisters Martha



GLORIA JEAN FLEMINGS

and Rose. Gloria leaves behind 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great granddaughter.

Gloria was an avid bingo player and enjoyed going with her best bingo buddy Sheila. She could be found at the ball fields every Sunday supporting her family. Gloria enjoyed puzzles and diamond art.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Bristol from 10 to 11 a.m., with a funeral following at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be at Maple Cemetery in Lincoln. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Addison County Home Health or Addison County Humane Society.

To send online condolences to her family please visit [brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com](http://brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com). A video of the service for those who can't attend will be located on the bottom of the obituary.

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**Happy Holidays!**  
 from all of us at the Addison Independent

## Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Due to the rise in COVID cases, the Shoreham Congregational Church has changed its plans for this year's Christmas Eve service.

An alternative service of prayer and meditation will replace the traditional Christmas Eve service.

The Church Sanctuary will be open between 4 and 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve for anyone to come for a time of prayer and meditation during this holy season. There will be recorded music and printed

meditations available to celebrate the birth of Christ. All are invited to come any time between 4 and 6 p.m. and stay for 15 minutes or an hour, to find a place of quiet and inspiration during this most busy time of year. Facemasks are required regardless of vaccination status.

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# Flags

(Continued from Page 1A)

Superintendent Patrick Reen said in a statement he read to the press on Friday afternoon.

Steps had been taken to address the needs of the student involved in making the threatening comment in order to help ensure they do not pose a threat in the future, Reen added.

On that Friday morning officers from three county law enforcement agencies stood outside to ensure a smooth beginning to the academic day at Mount Abraham Union High School, which was on full alert after hearing that a student had threatened to bring weapons to school following a school ban on flag-related attire.

That ban, announced to the school community through a Dec. 2 email from Principal Shannon Warden, was in the wake of a recent trend of a few students (more than one, but how many is unclear) wearing flags as capes in support of various people, causes and/or social/political movements. Warden explained the flag capes were initially permitted as a form of self-expression, but had to be banned on Thursday, Dec. 2, when it was clear the practice had "led to inappropriate, disrespectful, hurtful, hateful dialogue between students and adults."

The hateful dialogue, according to Warden, included some students chanting "Let's go Brandon," which has become code on the political right for "f--- Joe Biden."

"Because the flags have created a major disruption in school, causing many students to feel unwelcome, uncomfortable, mistreated and unsafe, has forced me to make the decision to disallow the wearing of flags or banners in school," Warden wrote in her email. "We

will not tolerate students engaging in uncivil discourse, showing disrespect to their peers based on their identity or beliefs, or gathering in large groups chanting things that are intimidating to others. Consequences have been, and will continue to be, assigned to students who cannot follow our school wide expectations."

A video posted on social media showed some students marching through Mount Abe halls brandishing a Trump flag and shouting. A parent of a Mount Abe student told the *Independent* that at some point that day a student stood on a cafeteria table waving the Trump flag.

Then Thursday, another student brought a Pride flag into the school, she said. The parent heard from her student that there was marching and chanting by different groups through the school, with images and videos cropping up on social media. The student relayed to the parent the same report of gun threats for Friday.

The parent in question kept her child at home on Friday. She reported she couldn't leave an absentee message at the school that morning because Mount Abe's voice mailbox was full.

Fueling parents' concerns were the Nov. 30 shootings at Oxford High School in Oxford, Mich., that left four students dead and seven others wounded. Oxford sophomore Ethan Crumbley, 15, has been charged as an adult with several counts in connection with the crime, including terrorism and murder.

Bristol police continue to investigate any and all threats, according to Chief Bruce Nason, whom the *Independent* interviewed outside the school Friday morning.

Nason said the threat(s) at Mount Abe came in via text and email. His department also received calls from community members asking if police were aware that threats had been made.

"We were notified of the concerns, and we continue to look into them," he said.

Two Bristol police officers received assistance from Vergennes police and Vermont State Police Friday morning to monitor students as they got off their buses and entered the Mount Abe building.

"I can't thank our law enforcement partners enough," Nason said. "We're a small agency and rely on each other."

Nason said he believed there was no need to search through students' bags before they walked in.

He acknowledged a diminished student body on Friday.

"We're here often, and I can tell you by looking at the parking lot and at the number of students that got off the buses, there are less students than usual," Nason said.

He said Bristol police would have an increased presence at the school "more to provide a sense of security."

On Friday Nason said there were no credible threats to Mount Abe. But he encouraged the public — if they see or hear anything that they think could be a threat — to please contact Bristol Police at 802-453-2533.

"We'll take a look at it. That's what we're here for," he said.

The Mount Abe campus was tranquil during this reporter's mid-morning visit. Two Bristol police vehicles were parked in front of the building as a brisk, chilling wind blew through an expansive parking lot harboring around half the vehicles it accommodates on



**THERE WAS AN expanded police presence at Mount Abraham Union High School on Friday morning in wake of concerns that some students would follow through on a threat to bring weapons to school. These threats came after a Dec. 2 ban on flag-related attire at the school and student chants that caused disruption during school hours.**

Independent photo/John Flowers

a normal day. The powerful wind gusts roiled the U.S., Vermont and BLM banners topping the Mount Abe flagpole.

### TEACHER COMMENTS

The school's teachers released a statement earlier Friday afternoon supporting the administration's handling of this latest incident, but reiterated their call for increased support staff.

"The Mount Abraham Education Association (MAEA) fully supports the principal of Mount Abraham Middle/High School, Shannon Warden, her co-administrators, and staff in their efforts to ensure a safe, secure, and productive learning environment for all of our students," the statement said.

"The incidents this week at Mount Abraham, like the recent incidents at Bristol Elementary

School (BES), however, are clear proof that our district must change, improve, and upgrade the support we provide to our neediest students. In both cases, the disruption, violence (or threats of violence) were the results of actions by a very small number of students who could not or would not regulate their behavior," the statement continued.

"We must seriously consider establishing, or in some cases reestablishing, programs that would allow us to provide separate intensive interventions to these students until they are capable of successfully participating in the wider learning community. Not only would this better support these students, but it would help ensure that the majority of the rest of our students have access to the safe and

productive learning environment to which they are entitled."

Superintendent Reen on Friday acknowledged that more work needs to be done.

"While it was physically safe to bring students back into the building today and will be next week, it is clear to us that we have more work to do around the social, emotional, and mental health of our learning community," he said.

With that in mind, plans are being developed to bring in additional social, emotional and mental health supports into the school, he said.

"Our equity consultants from Building Fearless Futures will also be here to provide support for our faculty and students to continue the conversations that are so essential to build trust, community, and a sense of belonging," Reen said.

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# Gun scare

(Continued from Page 1A)

## ROWDY KIDS

With the help of senior Abby Johnson, the *Independent* was able to make contact with 10 Mount Abe students this week, nine of whom said they stayed home from school on Friday.

The students recalled various encounters with classmates on Thursday, some of whom were carrying flags emblazoned with “Trump 2024,” “Don’t Tread on Me,” or the thin blue line flag commonly associated with the Blue Lives Matter movement.

Sophomore Isabelle Gallivan observed some of those students “walking around in the hallways yelling things like ‘Trump 2024’ and ‘f--- Joe Biden’ at their peers, as well as yelling slurs and using other offensive language.”

The flags were the only thing different about Thursday, said sophomore Emma Doucet. “Besides that, I was yelled and sworn at by crowds of rowdy kids. This however is not unusual ... Overall the environment felt hostile but some previous days had felt the same.”

When Doucet asked one of the students to put on a facemask, which is required in school, “he recorded me ... and yelled after me when I was walking away that he put it on TikTok.”

Doucet’s sister, Eliza, also a sophomore, noted that “these students seemed to be trying to get into people’s faces and be fishing for a reaction.”

Sophomore Emilia Colo said she witnessed, at a distance, an interaction between some students, one of whom was wearing a Trump flag as a cape, and a teacher at the school. Afterward, as the teacher passed Colo in the hall, “she looked taken aback, hurt, and slightly concerned.”

Three Jewish students at the school, who wish to remain anonymous for fear of being targeted, wrote a joint statement describing the heightened feelings of fear that are experienced every day by minority groups in the school (see story on this page).

Warden pointed out that Mount Abe is not alone in experiencing conflicts.

Indeed, in the current school year alone, incidents of conflict related to politically themed flags, including complaints about the curtailment of First Amendment rights, have

occurred in California, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Vermont and other states.

Last week Middlebury Union Middle School banned all flag-related attire in response to bad student behavior.

In November the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report detailing a rise in bullying, hate speech, hate crimes and victimization in American public schools between the 2014-2015 and the 2018-2019 school years.

According to the report, K-12 students who experience hostile behaviors at school are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, sleep and eating disorders, physical health complaints, and decreased academic achievement and school participation. Students who bully others are more likely to abuse substances in adolescence and as adults; get into fights, vandalize property and drop out of school; be abusive toward romantic partners, spouses or children as adults; and have criminal convictions.

And it’s not just schoolchildren who are misbehaving.

“The uncivil discourse, the kneejerk reactions, the reactivity — we’re seeing that other places,” Warden said. “We’re seeing adults behaving that way all across the country, so it shouldn’t be a surprise to see students behaving that way.”

In October, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to work with U.S. attorneys and other leaders around the country to develop strategies for addressing threats against public school personnel.

“In recent months there has been a disturbing spike in harassment, intimidation, and threats of violence against school administrators, board members, teachers, and staff who participate in the vital work of running our nation’s public schools,” Garland wrote. “While

spirited debate about policy matters is protected under our Constitution, that protection does not extend to threats of violence or efforts to intimidate individuals based on their views.”

## HARD WORK

Over the weekend, Bristol resident Phoebe Barash wrote a Front Porch Forum post praising Warden’s response to the situation and thanking staff and students for their commitment to civil dialogue.

“Shannon Warden showed incredible grace in the throes of a terrifying situation,” wrote Barash, who is a professional mediator. She added that Warden’s Thursday night announcement, which was shared on Facebook, “was honest, genuine, real and transparent.”

Barash also appreciated that Superintendent Patrick Reen publicly distributed the statement he read aloud in front of the school on Friday afternoon.

“There is no question that there is work to be done in our district,” she wrote, but she pointed out that “the challenges at Mt. Abe are indicative of a wider societal erosion of civility and engagement” and encouraged the community to “support our students and staff by noticing when things are done well.”

Warden, too, acknowledged that more work needs to be done.

“Attacking people’s beliefs and even more so, attacking people for who they are and their identities — that’s a line that cannot be crossed here,” she said. “So there were consequences, and some ongoing consequences for students who engaged in that hateful, hurtful discourse.”

In some cases, she said, the school has opened harassment investigations, “because we do take that very seriously.”

At the same time, she understands that it can be frustrating for people who can’t see those consequences in action.

“Because it’s confidential people don’t necessarily see a student being removed from school for a period of time or they don’t see the consequence, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t happening. It is.”

Issuing those consequences can be hard too, Warden said.

“If you are found to be somebody who has harassed or bullied somebody there needs to be consequences, but there also needs to be prevention and education, so that an individual can learn why it wasn’t OK and how to modify their behavior so it doesn’t happen again. Harassment happens in the workplace, as well, so these are lifelong skills that we are trying to teach students.”

A year and a half of fully or partially remote schooling hasn’t helped matters, she said.

“(Now that students are in person again) re-teaching general social and communication skills has been really challenging, but we’re doing our very best to work through that and teach really solid skills to help these kids communicate their beliefs in a way that’s productive.”

*“These students seemed to be trying to get into people’s faces and be fishing for a reaction.”*

— sophomore Eliza Doucet

*“While spirited debate about policy matters is protected under our Constitution, that protection does not extend to threats of violence or efforts to intimidate individuals based on their views.”*

— Attorney General Merrick Garland

*“The uncivil discourse, the kneejerk reactions, the reactivity ... we’re seeing adults behaving that way all across the country, so it shouldn’t be a surprise to see students behaving that way.”*

— Principal Shannon Warden

## At Mt. Abe

# Jewish kids express concerns

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

BRISTOL — In the wake of events at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School last week, three Jewish students at the school have written a joint statement, received by the *Independent* on Dec. 6, detailing their concerns about the school’s everyday environment.

Fearful of being targeted, they chose to issue the statement anonymously.

“To much of the student body, these events may feel like a stand alone issue,” they wrote. “However, as members of a minority group, we face these threats and discomforts daily. The reality is, the events of Thursday the 2nd were not unusual for us or many other targeted students.

“Our concerns at school extend beyond the blatant displays of white supremacy on that specific day,” they continued. “White supremacy has always been an issue at Mt. Abe, and the events this past week are a result of complacency and a lack of action by the administration. For too long now, students have spoken up about white supremacy in our school community, however our fears are often minimized and dismissed. Had our concerns been listened to and properly addressed, we strongly believe this situation could have been avoided.

“Every day, we go into school scared that something will go wrong and we won’t make it out. Our concerns surpass simple discomfort. We are terrified for our mental and physical safety to the extent that we feel our lives could be threatened. We are frightened of our peers and their ability to hurt us in their use of hate symbols and speech and we are disheartened and angry at the school’s lack of action.

“Mt. Abe is continually pouring support and resources towards the perpetrators of this hate and as much as we understand the importance of this, resources must be allotted to help the trauma the victims currently face.

The students acknowledged that the general population at the school is scared.

“However, it’s important to recognize that these feelings are elevated for minority groups,” they said. “Many of us have been feeling the fear that has now reached the rest of the school throughout our time at Mt. Abe. It’s unfortunate that it has taken an incident that targets white people as well to make our concerns heard. The general discomfort of the student body is amplified greatly in minority groups.

“As Jewish students, we walked into school on Monday terrified. We found ourselves instinctively locating every exit and hiding place in every room we entered and surveying every face we passed for signs of aggression. School has continued on similarly to normal, with an added police presence. To us, this feels like avoiding the issues at hand although we do

understand the pressure to return to normalcy as soon as possible.”

But that “normalcy,” they said, didn’t work for some people, especially minorities. It was “an environment where hate thrived because it wasn’t addressed. So as minority students, it is disappointing to see the school try to return to that.”

Instead of returning to that “normal,” they said, “it is time to address the white supremacy in our school. No more excuses, no more waiting. We demand change now.

## SCHOOL RESPONSE

The *Independent* shared the student statement with Mount Abe Principal Shannon Warden and asked for a response.

On Wednesday morning, Warden expressed empathy for the students and concerns about what they were experiencing.

“It is safe to say that there is racism in all schools,” she said. “Ours is not alone in that. Racism has been institutionalized in our country. So when we get reports and we hear certain things, we investigate. We take that very seriously and there are dire consequences for that — just as there would be for hazing or bullying.

“One of the challenges, from the school’s perspective, is that things often happen in very quiet, subtle ways that teachers don’t always hear or observe,” Warden said. “Students don’t make reports and make generalized statements about language or terms that they might hear in the hallway.”

Sometimes the reports come days later and can’t identify which students were involved.

“And that’s where we really need to take the universal approach, through education around hate speech and what is considered harassment, and why it’s not OK to make comments that are derogatory to a person because of their race or other part of their identity,” Warden said.

All of that being said, the above statement “caught me a little off-guard,” Warden acknowledged, “because since I have been here (July 2018 to the present) we have not had any complaints of anti-Semitic behavior. No one has reported to the administration to investigate. If they did, it would be investigated — thoroughly, just like any other acts of racism or hatred, or picking and teasing that leads to bullying — and we would put interventions in place.”

The school takes these kinds of behaviors very seriously, Warden said about the events of last week, (see story on Page 1A).

“Attacking people’s beliefs and even more so, attacking people for who they are and their identities —

that’s a line that cannot be crossed here,” she said. “So there were consequences, and some ongoing consequences for students who engaged in that hateful, hurtful discourse.”

## PERVASIVE

One of oldest Jewish advocacy organizations in the U.S., the American Jewish Committee (AJC), recently released the results of a survey that suggests antisemitism has been on the rise in recent years.

Among the top takeaways, according to the AJC:

- One in four Jews in the U.S. experienced antisemitism in the past year.

- Eight out of 10 American Jews believe hatred of Jews has increased over the past five years. “And neither age, political affiliation, nor level of religiosity makes much of a difference in who feels that way.”

- “At a time when American public discourse has renewed its focus on hate, racism and xenophobia, AJC’s survey shows that U.S. adults were far less likely than American Jews to have heard about the wave of violent antisemitism (during the Israel-Hamas crisis in the spring of 2021).”

- Approximately four out of every 10 American Jews have changed their behavior out of fear of antisemitism.

The survey results were released this past October on the third anniversary of the white supremacist terrorist mass shooting at the Tree of Life Jewish congregation in Pittsburgh, in which 11 people were killed and six were wounded.

HELP NEEDED

But fighting racism and other societal ills is not something the Mount Abe staff can do all by themselves, Warden said Wednesday.

She echoed that sentiment in a memo to school parents last Thursday night:

“FAMILIES! WE NEED YOUR HELP!” she wrote. “Please take the time to talk with your student(s) about how to have civil disagreements, show respect and empathy for others, not lean on social media to spread hurtful or hateful videos or pictures, demonstrate kindness every day, and other ways to build our school community up — not tear it down. If you need to, please check your students belongings before they get on the bus, or out of your car, to make sure they don’t have a flag or paraphernalia that has symbols of hate. One student wrote ‘I am ashamed of our school.’ This is so sad and together we can do better. I know we can, but we — our school faculty and staff, cannot do it alone, it is going to take a village.”

*“One of the challenges, from the school’s perspective, is that things often happen in very quiet, subtle ways that teachers don’t always hear or observe. Students don’t make reports and make generalized statements about language or terms that they might hear in the hallway.”*

— Principal Shannon Warden



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Letters received by Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> may be published with names in our December 23<sup>rd</sup> edition.

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# Shelters

(Continued from Page 1A) are people who no longer qualify for long-term, pandemic-related residency at area hotels and motels, according to Whitmore.

"I think it has a lot to do with it getting colder, and they're not able to camp outside anymore," she said. "And there's not a lot of affordable housing."

In large part due to the pandemic, the CHC shelter continues to serve only individuals, while referring families to the John Graham shelter and state programs for help. The state tightened eligibility standards for individuals and families seeking vouchers for hotel and motel stays. See accompanying story for an explanation of those standards.

As of late last week, Middlebury-area motels and hotels had set aside 36 rooms that were accommodating 45 adults and 20 children, according to Lacey, who added the number of available rooms has dwindled.

"I think we're more back to 'normal' now," she said. "Hotels don't find themselves needing as much of that sort of income now."

Most of the John Graham and CHC shelter guests have Addison County ties, officials said. Some have had a long history of difficulties nailing down local accommodations. Some have just become homeless for the first time. Others have spent the summer

and fall living outdoors in tents or cars, something that's increasingly difficult to do as the thermometer dips below freezing.



**"Shelters can't deny entry to a guest who's not vaccinated. We are allowed to ask, and we do. If they're not (vaccinated against COVID-19), it's about discussion, sharing information, talking about risks and their concerns."**

— Heidi Lacey, Charter House Coalition

Both the county's emergency shelters invested significant resources in renovations and equipment aimed at minimizing the spread of COVID-19 among guests. The upgrades have ranged from Plexiglas barriers to ventilation systems that suck air out of guest sleeping areas.

Each shelter requires that masks be worn in indoor common areas, though congregating is allowed if guests social distance. Regular cleaning, monitoring of temperatures and daily wellness checks are still part of the daily ritual.

The CHC shelter continues to maintain an isolation room for guests who might have come into contact with COVID. Lacey said only two guests have spent time in that room since July and neither one ended up having the virus.

Only one of the CHC's current 24 guests is unvaccinated by choice.

"It's about education," Lacey said. "Shelters can't deny entry to a guest who's not vaccinated. We are allowed to ask, and we do. If they're not (vaccinated), it's about discussion, sharing information, talking about risks and their concerns."

Guests are encouraged to become vaccinated. Lacey said

some of the homeless people she's encountered aren't vaccinated simply because they haven't had a primary care physician to provide encouragement.

"That's one of the first things we offer during case management, is connecting them to health services," she said. "Once people understand the availability and that there's no cost, we've really not had anyone who's declined (a shot), except for the one person."

Once sheltered, guests work with case managers to access state and local support services and to get them steered toward permanent housing. Local advocates are already on record lamenting the shortage of affordable housing in Addison County and statewide. The majority of both the CHC and John Graham guests are employed at least part-time, but don't make sufficient wages to afford a market-rate apartment.

"We have many people we're working with right now who have (an affordable housing) voucher, but can't find an apartment yet," Whitmore said. "We spend a lot of time talking to landlords and people in the community about the advantages of renting to people who have a housing voucher. The beauty of it is, that tenant comes with built-in supports for them being a good tenant. So the landlords who work with us know that they get good tenants, and if there are any problems, we help."

With few affordable homes now in play, local advocates want to make sure shelter guests don't miss opportunities when they come up.

"Our job in social services is to prepare people for the moment that (housing) comes," Lacey said. "We continuously meet with them on a regular basis to create housing and sustainability plans so as opportunities become available, they're able to respond quickly."

That's why shelter guests are encouraged to follow a path of

# Motel voucher guidelines

MIDDLEBURY — These are the current rules governing eligibility for hotel-motel vouchers for homeless households through the state's general Assistance Emergency Housing Program, according to Katarina Lisaius, senior advisor to the commissioner of the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF).

Qualifying households must not make more than 185% of the federal poverty guideline (which is currently \$49,025 for a family of four), have an urgent need for housing, have a lack of financial resources to secure housing on their own, and be facing one or more of the following:

- A natural disaster such as a flood, fire or hurricane.
- Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence against a household member that cause them to reasonably believe that they are at risk of further harm

if they remain in the unit, or if the relevant incident occurred within the applicant's home.

- Having a child or children under the age of 18, or who are 18 or 19 and attending secondary education fulltime or an equivalent level of vocational or technical training.

- Having a person age 60 or older in the household.

- Having a person with a disability, including but not limited to those receiving SSI, SSDI, or VA disability benefits.

- Having a pregnant person in the household.

- Be pursuing legal resolution of violations of the Rental Housing Health Code through the Vermont Department of Health or appropriate local officials.

- Have been physically barred entry into their dwelling through the intentional act of the landlord.

Also, DCF has updated its annual Adverse Weather Conditions policy, through which temporary housing may be authorized in increments up to 30

days. This policy annually relaxes categorical eligibility for the GA Emergency Housing Program depending on weather conditions. This year, in addition to relaxing categorical eligibility, DCF is also relaxing the weather conditions criteria, which means that eligible households can be served by the program from Nov. 22 to March 1. This will allow Vermonters greater predictability during the coldest months. The policy will still be in effect on March 2, but will return to being dependent on weather conditions. During the Adverse Weather Conditions period, households still have to meet income guidelines, have an urgent need for housing, and lack financial resources to secure housing on their own.

Temporary housing may be authorized in increments up to 30 days.

More information about the Adverse Weather Conditions policy, log in to [tinyurl.com/mum6skxn](http://tinyurl.com/mum6skxn).

— John Flowers

self-improvement.

"They're working on things like training, résumés, connecting with health care," Lacey said. "They are doing a lot of work breaking down barriers to sustainable housing, such as coming up with landlord references, filling out housing applications, and mending bridges (with past landlords)."

Optimal wellness and education programs are increasingly being offered at the CHC shelter, Lacey noted. Activities include literacy, meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous support groups and even game nights.

Guests are also expected to help maintain the shelter, whether it be sweeping floors, and wiping off surfaces or clearing tables when needed.

Many residents try hard to wean themselves from shelter dependency, but the journey toward self-sufficiency can be long and bumpy, officials noted. For that reason, those who graduate to subsidized housing continue to receive help from CHC and John Graham.

"This isn't just about finding housing; it's housing retention," Whitmore said. "We're working with people who are in affordable housing, who work with our service coordinators in order to remain in the housing they have."

Both shelters could use donations of time and money.

Those wishing to donate to John Graham Housing & Services should visit [johngrahamshelter.org](http://johngrahamshelter.org), and [tinyurl.com/2p8udw5d](http://tinyurl.com/2p8udw5d).

Learn how to help the Charter House Coalition at [chcvt.org/i-need-shelterservices](http://chcvt.org/i-need-shelterservices).

CHC is looking for volunteers, matching them with tasks that fit their skills and comfort level. Delivering meals, organizing supplies and prepping food are among the chores that could benefit from more hands.

But perhaps just as important, Lacey wants to see more community members interacting with shelter staff and residents — in a safe, socially distanced way. Set up a time to share a meal or activity.

"I don't want (volunteering) to be just about hard labor," Lacey said with a smile. "What I want most of all is a sense of community."

**"We found out that help with vaccine registration and a ride to get it is available and free."**

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## ACSD School Board News -- December 2021

From Mary Cullinane, ACSD Board Chairperson

As we draw closer to the end of the calendar year, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our educators and administrators to carry out the ACSD's mission into a third COVID-focused academic year. The heart, grit, and resilience of the professionals who show up everyday to guide and teach our youth are unsurpassed, and for that I am truly grateful. Please consider taking a moment to thank an educator in our community -- whether with a note, an email, or even a quick "thank you" the next time you see them in the grocery store line. Their work is so important to our collective success, and our acknowledgement means a lot.

This year the Board has been largely focused on supporting the District's efforts with COVID recovery planning, navigating the uncharted waters of Ripton's efforts to withdraw from the District, and filling key leadership positions as educators prepared for another year of pandemic-impacted instruction. Adding to the challenges are significant uncertainties around how the State will restructure its education funding formula, and the impact of proposed changes to pupil weighting factors on the ACSD's long-term financial outlook. We are grateful for Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding in the short term, and are keeping a close eye on the State's progress toward a final funding formula. In the meantime, the Board continues to focus on its essential work. A summary of recent accomplishments is provided in the "Board Updates" page of our website ([www.acsdvt.org/schoolboard](http://www.acsdvt.org/schoolboard)), and an update from the Facilities Committee is detailed below.

### Update From the ACSD Board Facilities Committee:

As you know, the ACSD Board paused its Facilities Master Planning (FMP) process in January 2021 in light of operational challenges caused by the pandemic and the strain it was placing on ACSD. With significant student needs requiring all available resources, it made sense to focus our energies as a community on those needs.

Much has happened during this calendar year. COVID continues to impact our learning environment, the timeline for Ripton's withdrawal from the District has been extended, and the State of Vermont has paused the spending threshold. The State has yet to finalize its pupil weighting study and proposed changes to its education funding system -- all of which underscore the uncertainty clouding the Board's planning efforts. As the Facilities Committee resumes its work to identify the best long-term educational footprint for the District, we want to update the community on how these factors will influence the final plan.

**STATUS OF THE FMP:** The investigative work of the FMP has been exhaustive, and is summarized in "Our Facilities Master Plan Journey" on the ACSD website. The Facilities Committee has analyzed information on the District's demographic and enrollment forecasts, the capacity and condition of facilities, community feedback, and a host of other variables. In addition to concerns about the long-term sustainability of our current educational footprint, the FMP process has identified a number of equity issues between some of our schools that require further investigation.

The Board has examined potential options through the lenses of student success, equity, and financial responsibility. **However, given current uncertainty around the State's new education funding formula and how updated pupil weighting factors will impact the ACSD's budget, we do not have enough clarity around the District's financial forecast to support any specific recommendations regarding the exact configuration of elementary schools at this time.** As a result, the final FMP will not be as prescriptive as some may have anticipated. But the equity concerns identified during the FMP process will be probed further in the upcoming Strategic Plan for Equity. Addressing those issues will be an integral part of designing the District's instructional footprint.

**MOVING FORWARD:** The Facilities Committee is currently working to complete the FMP and examine the final elements in the process, including identification of facility investment priorities, solidifying a vision for sustainability, and outlining some guiding principles for bonding. The Committee anticipates completion of the plan by the end of 2021, and will issue a final FMP Report shortly thereafter.

The final report will provide a summary of the Board's findings from data compiled and analyzed during the FMP process. It will outline the Board's values and priorities regarding student equity, guiding principles for a model school, sustainability and energy efficiency, and responsible investment in shared resources to provide the programming and services that all ACSD students deserve. The FMP will serve as a supporting document for implementing the District's Strategic Plan for Equity, so that when circumstances clarify the ACSD's financial forecast, the Board can use the plan to guide efficient decision making about its resources.

As always, the Board welcomes the community's involvement in this important process, and invites both written feedback through email and public comments during our Board and Committee meetings. Dates and agendas for upcoming meetings can be found on the "Board and Committee Meetings" page of our website at [www.acsdvt.org/schoolboard](http://www.acsdvt.org/schoolboard).

# By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

has enlisted some of the area's best singers and musicians to make videos, and has packaged them together as the "Holiday Jukebox," which will roll out on Christmas Eve, according to THT Artistic Director Douglas Anderson. It'll cost \$10 per household to partake, with proceeds benefiting Middlebury's Giving Fridge, an innovative program that partners with local restaurants to feed the hungry. Last year, Holiday Jukebox scored hundreds of views and raised more than \$2,600 for the HOPE Food Bank. This year's lineup includes Clint Bierman; The Almendros; Lila, Carina & Sadie Brightman; Ashley Betton; the Young Tradition Touring Group; the Middlebury College Mamajamas, an a cappella group;

Jillian Torres & Chuck Miller; the Middlebury Congregational Church Bell Choir; 8 Cuerdas; and the Middlebury College Community Choir singing an original piece by Middlebury composer Peter Hamlin. For tickets, go to townhalltheater.org, or call the THT Box Office at 802-382-9222 (Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m.).

Calling all engineers! The Sheldon Museum in Middlebury is looking for volunteers interested in joining a dedicated crew which runs the model trains at the museum during late December through early January. This is the 29th year of this popular Holiday Train Display. The layout stands three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel 027 gauge trains and

an upper track running HO trains. Volunteers run the trains Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m., and Saturdays 1:30-3:00 p.m. No model train experience is necessary; one of the current engineers will provide training. This volunteer opportunity is fun and rewarding — there's nothing like seeing the reaction of visitors of all ages as they watch the trains roll along the track. If you're interested in participating please email [mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org](mailto:mmanley@henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call the Sheldon at 802-388-2117.

The Vermont Migrant Education Program is beginning a new cohort of volunteer mentors for young Spanish-speaking farmworkers who want to make connections in their community. Orientation starts in January. Mentors must be at least age 25, agree to a background check, speak conversational Spanish, have reliable transportation and access to internet, and be able to commit to mentoring about four hours a month for at least one year. Each mentor will be matched with a youth based on location, schedule and mutual interests. Most, but not all, locations are in northern and western Vermont. Mentoring can include outdoor activities such as hiking or biking, cultural events such as festivals, museum visits, business or college tours, playing games together, or simply chatting. Training and support provided. To learn more about this and other volunteer opportunities, contact Sarah Braun Hamilton at 802-503-2009, or [sarah.braunhamilton@uvm.edu](mailto:sarah.braunhamilton@uvm.edu). Download a volunteer application at [go.uvm.edu/olp](http://go.uvm.edu/olp).

It's that time of year again when the United Church of Lincoln shares surprise gifts with friends and neighbors in Lincoln and beyond who might need a hand with groceries, gift buying, hospital bills, snow tires and more. As money comes in, the congregation sends it right

out. Many gift recipients are neighbors you might already know. Volunteers hope to start delivering these gifts in a week or so. If you can, write a check to the United Church of Lincoln, and note Deacons Fund on the memo line. You can drop it off at the church anytime; someone is there every morning from 8:30-noon. Or you can mail to the church as 23 Quaker St., Lincoln, VT 05443.

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, the Shoreham Congregational Church is cancelling plans for an in-person Christmas Eve service and will instead offer a period of prayer and meditation. The Church Sanctuary will be open from 4-6 p.m. on Christmas Eve for anyone to come for prayer and meditation. There will be recorded music and printed meditations available to celebrate the birth of Christ. All are invited to stay for 15 minutes or an hour to find a place of quiet and inspiration during this busy time of year. Face masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

**Vermont State Police are looking for more than a few good men and women to fill its depleted ranks. The VSP is in the midst of an intensive recruiting effort this month to attract trooper candidates for upcoming classes at the Vermont Police Academy. The VSP is carrying around 36 vacancies, a number that takes into account the 10 newly hired troopers currently attending the Vermont Police Academy. The state police has an authorized strength of about 330 sworn personnel across 10 barracks statewide — including here in New Haven. In addition to normal attrition and retirements, state police has seen applications dip considerably during the past two years. Information on how to apply to the VSP is available online at [vsp.vermont.gov/employment](http://vsp.vermont.gov/employment).**

# Vergennes police file assault charges

VERGENNES — Vergennes police recently arrested and lodged one man on domestic assault and other charges and cited and released another man for aggravated domestic assault.

On Nov. 29, police arrested Raymond White, 35, of Vergennes, for incidents stemming back to Nov. 20 and 21 at his First Street home. Police alleged White violated conditions of his release from custody and twice assaulted another member of the household. Police claimed White eluded them until Nov. 29, when he returned to his home.

Also on Nov. 29, police cited Timothy J. Bushey, 27, of Rutland and cited him for aggravated domestic assault. They took that action following a complaint from a victim at a 45 Armory Lane apartment, who alleged that Bushey had assaulted her several times in recent weeks and had threatened to kill her.

Police responded to the scene, but said Bushey had left through a back door. They later took him into custody on Main Street.

In other action between Nov. 29 and Dec. 5, Vergennes conducted seven patrols by cruiser and one on foot, responded to one unfounded 9-11 call and one false alarm, and also:

- On Nov. 29, calmed a verbal domestic dispute at a Main Street apartment and gave a courtesy ride to one of the people involved.
- On Nov. 30:
  - Requested that the owner of a disabled vehicle remove it from the parking lot of a South Water Street business; it was moved.
  - Conducted a background investigation on behalf of Portland, Ore., police.
  - Heard a false report from an elderly person that there was a party outside her East Street home.
- On Dec. 1:
  - Responded to Booth Woods to check a report of a youth riding an ATV on public roads, but found

# Vergennes Police Log

nothing.

- Heard from a 50 Armory Lane resident who said money had been taken after her apartment had twice been entered. Police advised her to speak to building management about getting her locks changed.

On Dec. 2:
 

- Helped Vermont State Police respond to a report of a loose cow on Pantown Road; police said the animal had already been rounded up by the time they arrived.

• Assisted a woman having a medical episode in a car parked in the department's Main Street lot. Charlotte Rescue took the woman to the UVM Medical Center.

On Dec. 3:
 

- Stopped a truck that didn't have an overweight permit on Monkton Road and issued the company a ticket for \$6,430 for being 36,600 pounds more than the road's legal limit.

• Ticketed 16 vehicles for violating the city's wintertime parking ban, which affects vehicles left out on city streets from 2-6:30 a.m. Police ticketed another three vehicles the next night.

• Helped VSP and Bristol police at Mount Abraham Union High School after a threat of gun violence.

• Responded to a complaint of a man getting out of a vehicle and urinating on the North Maple Street near People's United Bank. Police said he was driving a vehicle affiliated with a local employer, and they planned to follow up on the issue with the business.

On Dec. 4
 

- Tried to help a Walker Avenue resident who was having trouble with the unit's heater and its alarm.
- Escorted the city's holiday parade through downtown.

# 2022

## NEW YEAR'S Party at Doc's and Dinner at Huntington House Inn Restaurant

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8pm

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# WELLNESS Directory

## Practitioner of the Week

Donna Belcher, M.A., psychologist-master, has been in private practice in Vermont for 34 years. She has felt privileged to work with a wide variety of people. She has experience with such challenges as: depression, anxiety, grief, chronic illness, divorce, caregiver burnout, work stress, mid life transitions and developing a deeper connection with creativity and life purpose.

My office is currently open for telephone, online, and in person appointments.

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**MA Licensed Psychologist**  
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**Caryn Etherington** ..... 802-388-4882 ext. 3  
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**Charlotte Bishop** ..... 802-388-4882 ext. 4  
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**JoAnne Kenyon** ..... 802-388-0254  
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# Record number of loons recorded in Vt.

MONTPELIER — Vermont's loons are thriving with a record 109 nesting pairs recorded in 2021, the highest since loon monitoring began in 1978, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE).

"Across Vermont, 77 loon nests produced 125 chicks this year, and 84 of those chicks survived through August," said VCE wildlife biologist

Eric Hanson. VCE leads the Vermont Loon Conservation Project in partnership with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Thanking the many volunteers who help monitor the loon populations, Fish and Wildlife's bird biologist Doug Morin said, "Vermont's loon project is a tremendous success story. It's hard to believe that in 1983 there were only seven nesting pairs." Loons were removed from

Vermont's endangered species list in 2005 following decades of recovery efforts. One of the main threats still facing loons as they continue to recover is human disturbance during the breeding season.

"Many areas where loons are nesting on Vermont's lakes are surrounded by signs reminding people to give loons the space they need, but not all nesting areas are marked," said Morin. He further encouraged people to enjoy loons from a distance, whether in a motorboat, a canoe or a kayak, and to avoid lead fishing tackle. Loons sometimes swallow stray fishing tackle and suffer the effects of lead poisoning. Lead sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less are prohibited for fishing in Vermont. And, he recommends that anglers be careful to not attract loons to their bait and lures, don't leave fishing line behind as fishing tackle does kill loons.

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# Career center

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 installation of a roof-mounted solar array at the Charles Avenue building.

"The consultants who did our audit indicated the life expectancy of this kind of capital equipment is 25-30 years," Peterson said. "We're now exceeding 50 years."

Both career center campuses offer vocational-technical education to students in 17 Addison county communities served by the Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts. The PHCC's dozen-plus course offerings include diesel power technology, sustainable agriculture, Addison Repertory Theater, medical professions, automotive technology, computer science & programming, and engineering & architecture design.

Here are some of the specific Charles Ave. campus-related recommendations offered in the ENE Systems/ Energy Efficient Investments report:

- **Asbestos abatement/ demolition: \$520,000.** Asbestos can be found in adhesive used to put cleats on walls and mount some of the floor tile, and in pipe wrap used in the ceiling. The underside of the classroom sinks also have an asbestos coating as an insulator, according to John Curler, the career center's maintenance supervisor.

"We will do full asbestos mitigation as part of this project," Peterson promised.

- **Overhaul of HVAC system: \$1.7 million.** Peterson said the aging HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning ) system has required continuous troubleshooting.

"While it's been maintained, it's really antiquated," Curler said of the system. "It doesn't measure carbon dioxide in the classrooms, for example."

- **Replacement of boilers and electrical system: \$700,000.** The plan calls for conversion to LED lighting at both campuses.

- **Extensive plumbing upgrades: \$252,700.**

- **Replacement of flooring: \$240,000.**
- **Millwork: \$780,000.** This would include such as interior trim, doors, cabinetry and shelving. The current 1970s-vintage cabinetry is starting to fall apart, according to Peterson.

- **General building condition improvements: \$852,000.**

- **Drywall/framing: \$260,000.**

- **Direct digital control: \$290,000.** This is a system that allows for building temperature, ventilation and other functions to be set and monitored. Curler said he installed a "hybrid DDC system" in 1997, which needs to be updated.

- **Roof-mounted solar array: \$336,000.** The array would be made up of 210 Hanwha Q-Cell, 480w panels and a Solar Edge inverter system. The proposed system would fully offset the building's targeted annual electricity consumption of 100,000 kwh, according to the consultants.

Panels would come with a 25-year warranty on efficiency — guaranteeing them to be 86% as efficient within 25 years as they were on day one.

Also included: repairs to the façade of the Charles Avenue building. This would involve replacing existing metal and wood mansard panels with new metal mansard on a new substrate. The current 33-year-old standing seam metal roof would remain.

Only \$400,000 of the proposed \$8.1 million bond is being pitched for the PHCC's 23,000-square-foot North Campus building at 88 Mainelli Road, which opened in 2006. The proposed North Campus upgrades largely involve new LED lighting, creation of a new classroom on the second floor, and reconfiguration of office space to add a new staircase at the front of building to allow multiple means of egress.

Peterson credited former PHCC board Chair Jason Larocque for promoting a comprehensive analysis of the center's operating systems to get "some real numbers," instead of continuing to do things piecemeal.

"What we had been doing is replacing system by system and the costs were getting very expensive," Peterson said. "Jason was right to have us do a comprehensive

analysis, which turned into a systems audit."

Career center officials have explored two financing options for the project. One involves "tax-exempt municipal leasing," which would allow PHCC to pay back the \$8.1 million debt in regular installments within the annual budget. No voter approval would be required, according to Peterson.

*"The consultants who did our audit indicated the life expectancy of this kind of capital equipment is 25-30 years. We're now exceeding 50 years."*

— Dana Peterson

"I question whether anything of this magnitude should not receive voter approval," he acknowledged.

The second — and most probable option, according to Peterson — would be a 20-year bond issue requiring a public vote. This option would be the least costly in the long run, he added.

Current estimates indicate debt service would hit its highest point (\$550,000) in year three of the bond, according to Peterson. Payments would gradually decline to \$410,000 during the final year of the issue.

Officials aren't yet sure how the bond payments will affect property taxes in the 17 towns. That picture should become clearer next month, according to Peterson.

If voters approved the project on Town Meeting Day next March, work could begin next summer, with completion during the summer of 2023, Peterson said. The most disruptive work would be timed for summer breaks.

The pandemic has triggered soaring construction prices and supply-chain delays, but Peterson believes the PHCC project won't be affected by those trends.

"The biggest spike in materials occurred last spring," he said. "Since then, costs have come down significantly."

Look for more information about the bond proposal in the *Independent* and at [hannafordcareercenter.org/](http://hannafordcareercenter.org/) during the coming weeks.



PATRICIA HANNAFORD CAREER Center officials are hoping to present area voters with an \$8.1 million repair plan, largely focusing on energy-related repairs and upgrades to the center's 50-year-old main building at 51 Charles Ave. The main switchgear and the majority of the electric panel in the main building are now obsolete. The passageway in the main electrical room is well below the minimum code requirement.

Photo courtesy of John Curler, PHCC

## Vt. Magazine looking for prize winning submissions

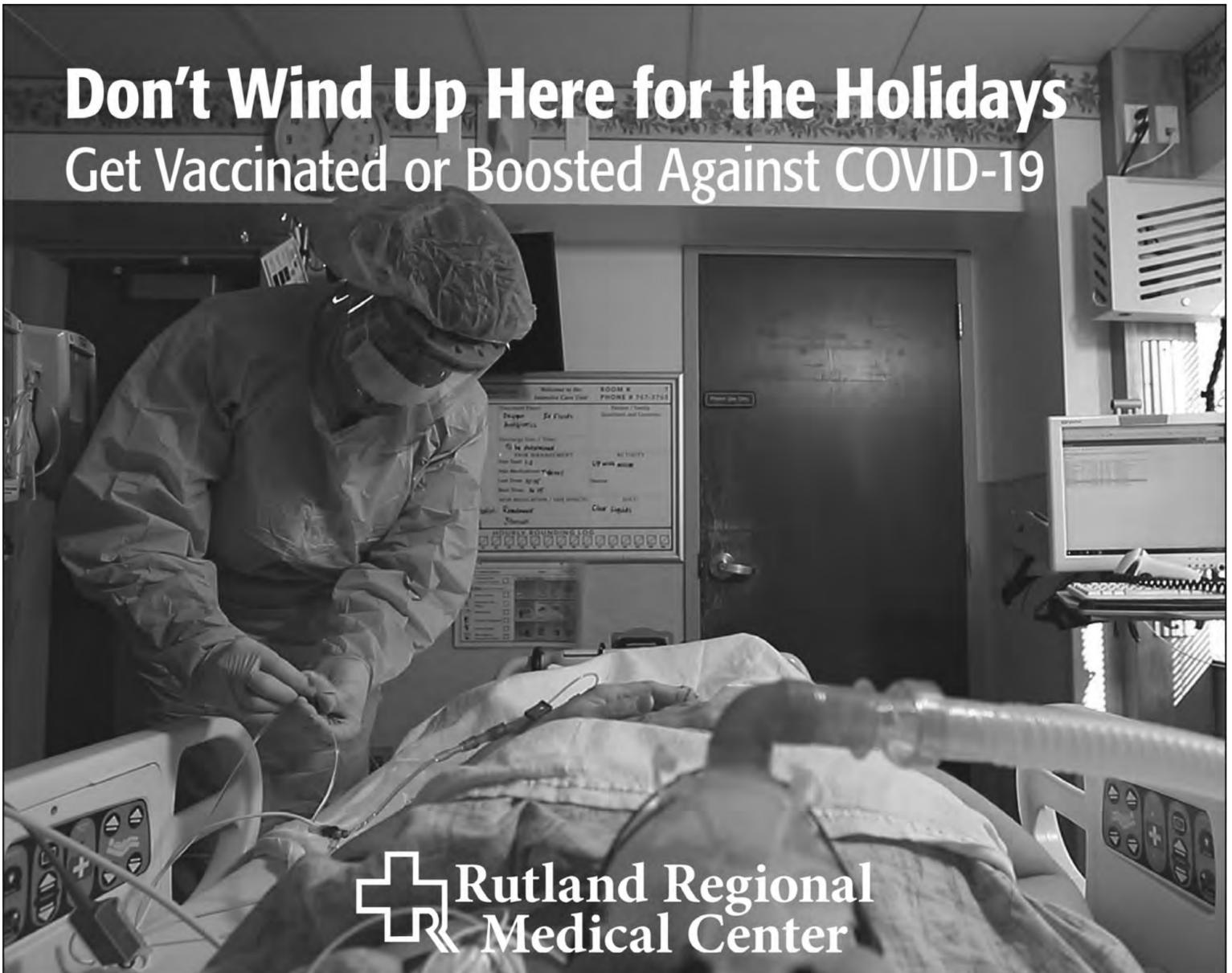
COLCHESTER — Green Mountain Power (GMP) and *VERMONT Magazine* are urging writers to get their entries ready for one of the state's premiere literary contests, the Vermont Writer's Prize. The prize is awarded in two categories — prose and poetry. Each winner receives \$1,250 and their works will be published in *VERMONT Magazine's* Summer 2022 issue.

Submissions can be essays, short stories or poems that focus on "Vermont — Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values." The prize was launched in 1989 to celebrate writing about Vermont and Vermonters, while honoring the literary legacy of the late Ralph Nading Hill Jr., a Vermont historian and writer and longtime member of GMP's board of directors.

"Vermont is full of wonderful perspectives, and what Vermont means to us is different for everyone. Each year we receive heartfelt reflections on the Vermont experience, and I'm looking forward to reading the latest entries to see how our amazing state inspires another group of talented Vermonters," said Steve Costello, a writers' prize judge and vice president at GMP.

Entries are being accepted now, and the deadline is Jan. 1. They must be unpublished, works of prose less than 1,500 words long, and poems less than 40 lines. Individuals may submit only one work. Entrants may be amateur or professional writers. Employees of *VERMONT Magazine* or Green Mountain Power and previous winners are ineligible. You can submit your entry at [vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit/86155/vermont-writers-prize](http://vermontwritersprize.submittable.com/submit/86155/vermont-writers-prize).

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# Bristol Beat

## Lincoln

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

### NEWS

LINCOLN — The library will be offering an after-school craft on Friday, Dec. 17. Crafters will be making wrapping paper and a card. The craft will start around 3 p.m. and last for about an hour. All materials and a snack will be provided.

#### FROM TORY RILEY, LCS PRINCIPAL

Dear Lincoln Community, Children and adults alike at school have simply been happier to have some parents and community members back at and in our school this year. We will, of course, continue to follow COVID guidelines and use caution as we invite people into the school.

This being said, here are some opportunities I hope some of you will consider. We're looking for a community member to train a small group of students in proper daily care of the American flag so that students can take on the responsibility for it. We are also in need of adults who would love to simply listen to a student read aloud to them. A weekly time of 15-20 minutes with the same student would be ideal. Intrepid adults to stroll, snowshoe or jog around the playground during recess to be an extra set of eyes and ears to assist staff are also welcome. Are you an adult with a hobby who might like to share a skill during a midday recess or lunch time with a group of interested students? In the past, we've had a chess club, knitting club, drawing, games, etc.

Are you an adult interested in using the gym? We can welcome small groups into the school. The gym is available many evenings for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc. Please reach out if any of these ideas appeals to you or if you have another!

#### REMINDER

The library's Holiday Sale will continue through Wednesday, Dec. 15. There will be differently priced tables with items ranging from 50 cents to \$25. All proceeds from the sale benefit the library.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Winter break for MAUSD students will be Thursday, Dec. 23, through Sunday, Jan. 2.

Until next time ... Be Happy. Be Bright. Be You.



### Giving celebration

A FEW WEEKS before Christmas, the holiday spirit was on full display at Bristol Village Cohousing during the late afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 4. Residents Sarah Stott and Howard Jennings hosted their annual "hoisting of lights" celebration that drew 66 people who enjoyed the colorful display — capped by a four-foot peace dove (Jennings works on it, top left) — as well as crackling fire pits and a variety of holiday tunes. The couple collected around 12 boxes and bags of food for Bristol's Have-A-Heart Food Shelf, and two big bags of clothes for Addison Allies, which helps migrant farmworkers in the county.

Photos by John Flowers, Midori Batten and Sarah Stott



## Citizens needed for biking advisory committee

BRISTOL — The Bristol selectboard is seeking individuals interested in serving on a Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Members of the committee will provide input on bicycle and pedestrian projects, programs, policies and constructive guidance

on bicycle and pedestrian issues.

This committee will continue and expand the work of the community-formed "Safe Roads Residents' Committee." The new panel will consist of seven members who must reside in Bristol.

The committee will conduct public meetings, have a chair and vice-chair, and follow the open-meeting process.

If you are interested in taking

part, please provide a letter explaining why you are interested and what skills you would bring to this committee. Send your letter of interest to Town Administrator Valerie Capels at P.O. Box 249, Bristol, VT 05443, or email townadmin@bristolvt.org no later than by noon on Jan. 5.

The selectboard anticipates meeting with applicants on Jan. 10 at its regular meeting.

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# Gray

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
 humanitarian assistance in Vermont, Washington and around the globe.  
 “While serving as lieutenant governor, I’ve met with hundreds of Vermonters and I know firsthand the challenges we face,” Gray said in her morning kick-off announcement. “Our workforce is shrinking, housing is unaffordable, families are forced to choose between caring for loved ones and paying the bills, and our next generation is struggling to make it work. From affordable, quality childcare to workforce development, I’m committed to working hard to bring real solutions to Vermont families. As Vermont’s Congresswoman I’ll fight for every corner of Vermont.”

Gray is the first candidate to announce her campaign for the open seat currently held by Welch, who announced on Nov. 15 his run for the U.S. Senate to replace Sen. Patrick Leahy, who will not seek reelection.

In a Zoom interview with the *Addison Independent* late Monday afternoon, Gray expounded on her desire to serve as Vermont’s lone representative in Congress, and of the experience she gained serving on Welch’s staff in D.C.

“I was deeply proud of that work (with Congressman Welch). We figured out how to make a congressional office that was responsive and accessible to Vermonters,” she recalled, adding “I know how to make a congressional office function and would certainly be ready on Day 1 to provide that amount of service and continuity to Vermonters.”

“I think the bigger question, as we end one chapter and begin another, is filling the huge hole left by Sen. Leahy. For all these years, he’s been leading the country with Vermont’s values; he’s been Vermont’s North Star... but also the North Star for the country....

“So as Vermont’s lieutenant governor I have a choice, I can step back and stay where I am... or step forward and bring my skills, bring my experience, bring my understanding of state government — and also my experience as a lifelong Vermonter who has deep roots in the state and a deep understanding of the needs of our communities — to this campaign. We need someone right now who is not only committed to fighting for Vermont’s needs, but also someone to continue to fight for our values — which our state needs, and our country needs.”

She defined those values as being embodied by “integrity and hard work, unity, putting problem-solving ahead of politics.” As a congresswoman, if elected, she said, she would put “the needs of Vermonters in the forefront... and the values around preserving democracy above all else.”

Gray was sworn in as lieutenant governor the day after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the nation’s capital, and reflected on the impact that’s had on her.

“When we see our democracy under attack — and we’re seeing it still with efforts to erode voting rights, access to reproductive rights — we must understand we’re in a moment where we really have to think long and hard about who’s representing us and how are they doing it... As a human rights lawyer, as an assistant attorney general, and now as lieutenant governor, I have lived Vermont’s values in my work every day, and I would bring those values to Washington as Vermont’s congresswoman.”

### GRAY’S MOTIVATION

What stirs Gray to action, she said, is trying to solve some of the state’s deep-seated problems.

“I’m running because Vermonters don’t have access to affordable housing, a quarter of the state still can’t get online, we have a generation that is trying to find childcare with a system that is not well funded and not functioning, and we still don’t have paid family and medical leave... And we’ve tried at the state to put forward solutions to these challenges, but the challenges Vermont faces will not be solved by Vermont alone,” she said, adding that the problems are nationwide and especially critical in rural areas across the country.

“Fighting for the needs of Vermonters, the needs of our communities, especially our rural communities, is what gets me out of bed every day. (That’s what) gives me the motivation to run, and that’s what I’ll be focused on as Vermont’s congresswoman, if elected. Which brings me to the actual work of the job, which is getting on the committees of jurisdiction, trying

to be a strong voice for our small rural state, and sticking up for Vermont... Continuing to work with our congressional delegation, and recognizing how important it is that we all work on Team Vermont every day for Vermonters.”

Gray said the three most pressing issues she hopes to tackle are affordable and effective childcare, workforce training and education, and paid family and medical leave.

“We’ve had more women leave the workplace in Vermont than a lot of other states by percentage,” Gray said. “We’ve seen that in the number of unemployment claims filed. We have a lot of unpaid caregivers who are women. If we’re going to address the economic wellbeing of women, we have to make sure we have national plans that support building a childcare workforce, and access to childcare for working families.”

Hopefully, the nation will pass President Biden’s Build Back Better plan, she said, but if it doesn’t, “we’ll have to work on a long-term policy on childcare and for family and medical leave... We simply do not have the human services workforce right now to meet the

mental health needs, the health care needs, the basic elder-care giving needs that we have in the state... I’ve discussed with Sen. Sanders this workforce crisis and as Vermont’s congresswoman, if elected, I would

work with him to make sure we are investing in our state colleges, that our vocational and technical schools have the resources they need to increase access to those jobs and training opportunities... What we know is that takes federal support, not just here in Vermont, but across rural America.”

### GENERATION STRUGGLING

Gray said she’s met with other statewide leaders throughout the past year, trying to find solutions to today’s unique challenges.

“This is a generation struggling to make it work,” Gray said. “It’s a generation that has

student loan debt, that can’t afford rent and certainly can’t afford to buy a home or get a mortgage, can’t afford childcare or even to have kids. We have a generation in crisis and Vermont is not alone in that struggle... I’m proud to have built partnerships with mayors, legislators and lieutenant governors across the nation who are dealing with these problems, and I’m encouraged to

say it’s a generation committed to the future of this country, the future of our states, but also the future of rural communities and making sure that we’re meeting basic human needs coming out of this pandemic and looking at long-term solutions.”

Gray said she’s learned as lieutenant governor that Vermont has the ability to lead the nation on specific issues and in unique ways.

“I think that our actions on voting rights, reproductive rights and on climate action can be a model for the nation,” she said, then added a broader scope to the state’s leadership.

“As a state we’ve historically always been able to work across the aisle, to come together as independents, progressives, as Democrats and to welcome Republicans into conversations on statewide issues. I think our leadership on how to work together, working collaboratively, can really be a model for the nation and I think that’s part of my leadership style, as well, and what I’ll continue to do if elected.”

Gray defined her leadership style as being “collaborative, inclusive, listening, putting people’s needs before politics, being a Vermonter first, having compassion and humility... As a state, whether with Sen. Aiken or Sen. Leahy, we have been the conscience of the nation at different points in our history. We’ve stood up for human rights, civil rights... now we are standing up for voting rights, reproductive rights...



MOLLY GRAY

That voice matters in Washington; people look to Vermont for good decision-making, good judgment. I’m proud of that legacy and I want to be part of maintaining it for our state.”

Reflecting on the fragility of the nation’s democracy in the face of the insurrection at the nation’s capital last January, and being challenged by a constant wave of misinformation from partisan sources, she says it’s time to give Vermonters, and all Americans, a keener sense of belonging.

“We need to get people off the sidelines,” Gray said. “This campaign is a campaign for the

future of Vermont in this generational moment. We have some pretty big decisions to make about where we want to go, about what we want our leadership to fight for. I’m excited for that, but I really want Vermonters to feel excited too, and to feel part of the process... We need that sense of ‘we the people.’ This democracy belongs to all of us. We need to cherish it. We need to participate in it. So I’ll run my campaign for Congress the same way I did my office as lieutenant governor — trying to create more opportunities for participation and engagement, and really give Vermonters a voice and a stake in our future.”

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# Brooks

(Continued from Page 1A)

In other instances, he and his colleagues simply released select Sheldon treasures from their homes in drawers, closets and trunks to let them speak for themselves.

A 2019 Halloween-themed exhibit titled “Conjuring the Dead” offered spirit photographs and original spirit artwork from the museum’s collections acquired by Solomon Wright Jewett (1808-94).

In 2018, “Doughboys and Flyboys” marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. Museum officials combed through their collection and archives, along with additions from private Addison County collections, to mount an exhibit that featured roles played by Vermonters in what was called the “War to End All Wars.”

You’ll understand if the WWI exhibit was particularly near and dear to Brooks’s heart. It included family archives relating to his own grandfather, Jacob Johnson Ross, who was a Middlebury MD at the time he joined the army to serve as a WWI flight surgeon in France.

In 2017, Brooks invited five esteemed Middlebury-area photographers to select, and immortalize in their own ways, objects in the Sheldon’s collection that tickled their fancy for “Focus on the Sheldon: A Five-Point Perspective.”

“Fashion and Fancy at The Edge of the Forest” in 2013 introduced selections from the museum’s vintage clothing collection paired with the unique, stunning, and imaginative couture creations from nature by Vermont artist Wendy Copp.

While the same-sex marriage debate continued at the federal level, the Sheldon in 2014 dipped into its archives for an early 19th-century example of such a pairing. The exhibit, “Charity & Sylvia: A Weybridge Couple,” explored the relationship of Charity Bryant (1777-1851) and Sylvia Drake (1784-1868). They spent 42 years together, until Charity’s death at

age 84, running a local tailoring business while participating in local church and charitable activities. They rest together in the local cemetery under a single headstone as any married couple would.

The exhibit traveled extensively and the couple’s experience is chronicled in a book titled, “Charity and Sylvia, A Same Sex Marriage in Early America” by Rachel Hope Cleves.

**“Obviously, this place couldn’t run without volunteers.”**

— Bill Brooks

“We were ahead of our time, as part of the current emphasis of museums to feature minorities of whatever sort,” said Brooks.

One of Brooks’s personal favorites was “Pedaling Through History,” a 2016 exhibit that coincided with the 150th anniversary of the first pedal bicycle patent in the world. The Sheldon showcased the extensive bicycle collection of Glenn Eames to trace the evolution of the bicycle, while spotlighting the bicycle’s golden era at end of the 19th century.

## BEYOND THE MUSEUM

While proud of all the Sheldon has to offer, Brooks has made a point of encouraging patrons to explore county history beyond the museum’s walls. To that end, the Sheldon has offered a variety of tours — to local farms, churches, sugarhouses, gardens and other interesting locations.

“The goal has been to let the public have excursions and realize the different kinds of artists and architects that make this community what it is,” he said.

Art can be seen virtually everywhere in our area, Brooks noted.

“Every gardener is an artist in his or her own way,” he said.

Scavenger hunts and antique auctions are additional ways the Sheldon has sought to impart knowledge of local history under Brooks’s watch.

He said his primary goals have been to improve the museum and increase the public’s access to its collections. Both goals have been

a challenge, as there aren’t a lot of funds floating around for small community museums.

Still, the Sheldon recently received three anonymous grants totaling \$100,000 that will go a long way toward repairing the museum’s elevator and replacing the museum’s 28 window sashes. Another \$50,000 is needed, according to Brooks.

At the same time, the museum must take action to protect its extensive, valuable textiles collection stored on the third floor of the 19th century Judd Harris House. Moths were recently discovered in that collections area, and infestation that if left unchecked could severely damage an abundance of vintage clothing, uniforms and quilts, Brooks noted. He explained the Sheldon and many other museums nationwide are facing this same problem, which surfaced while collection inventories remained unchecked during COVID.

“We’re now looking to hire a full-time collections manager ... so we can get control of this challenge,” Brooks said.

Moth damage is only one of the museum’s pandemic-induced headaches. COVID-19 forced the museum to close for many months, with Brooks the only employee who remained on-site. Staff dutifully composed email blasts, brochures and ultimately transitioned to virtual exhibits until the museum opened this past summer. So the pandemic hasn’t been kind to Brooks’s other goal of getting more eyes on the Sheldon’s offerings, but he and others are working at it. Part of the challenge is breaking down popular misconceptions about museums — including that when you’ve been into a museum once, you’ve seen all it has to offer.

“It isn’t the same, and it wasn’t even before my tenure,” he stressed. “Having these various exhibits, two or three a year, that feature both history and art and fill the rooms of the museum, allows local visitors to come back and see new things.”

Brooks heaped praise on his



**BILL BROOKS**

colleagues, who’ve helped him carry out his vision. They include Associate Director Mary Ward Manley, Research Center Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart, Bookkeeper Mary Caron, and Taylor Rossini, collections associate and grant writer.

But many others toil in anonymity, he noted. In 2019, there were 141 people on the Sheldon’s volunteers roster.

“Obviously, this place couldn’t run without volunteers,” Brooks said.

He added the Sheldon owes a debt of gratitude to local businesses and institutions with which the museum has forged partnerships over the years. Partners have included the *Independent*, the Middlebury Rotary Club, the Garden Club of Middlebury, and of course Middlebury College, which has provided a host of donations, professional expertise, fundraising

assistance (the annual July 4 Pops/fireworks event), loans of historical artifacts and student interns.

Brooks lauded the tight, collaborative relationship between the Sheldon, the Vermont Folklife Center, Town Hall Theater and other like-minded arts/heritage nonprofits.

Asked what he’ll miss most about leading the Sheldon, Brooks said, “working with my colleagues” and “walking through the museum and hearing people’s stories.”

It’s been an education, one that Brooks has thoroughly enjoyed.

“I’ve gotten to know the people of Middlebury.”

## AFTER THE SHELDON

His plans for retirement include ongoing research into folk artists, writing, biking, kayaking, travel, and — naturally — visiting museums.

And what of Brooks’s successor? Plans call for Zoom interviews with

a number of candidates this month, in hopes of selecting a finalist to begin this coming March.

Whomever that person is, they’ll have big shoes to fill, according to Lucinda Cockrell, president of the Sheldon Museum board.

“Over the last nine years, Bill Brooks has poured his heart and soul into the Sheldon Museum and given 150% to seeing it become an even greater source of pride in the community,” she said. “Our board thanks Bill for the years of diligence, dedication, and service he has given, especially his eye for art and quality. We are excited for Bill as he looks forward to retirement. After 137 years of service, change remains a constant at the Sheldon Museum, and we look forward to continued success and an optimistic future.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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**KARL LINDHOLM**  
Remember me now: Ken Burton



On a warm day last summer, Roch MacIntyre was having lunch with his staff at his office and warehouse on Exchange Street in Middlebury.

He saw a figure entering through one of the large open garage doors, a man about his own age, dressed indifferently to fashion, somewhat disheveled perhaps.

"You don't remember me, do you," he said.

Roch admitted he didn't.

"Do you now?" he asked, and he got down into a three-point football player's crouch.

"Kenny Burton!" Roch exclaimed.

Roch and Kenny were schoolmates at MUHS and teammates on the championship 1958 Tiger football team. Roch was just a freshman and Kenny was a senior — and Roch's brother Mike was the quarterback of that great team.

There have been many great athletes from Middlebury Union High School over the decades, and Ken Burton has to be in the very top tier.

That 1958 team was the first undefeated football team at the high school in 27 years, a juggernaut who rolled over Fair Haven, 33-0, in their final game to secure the Marble Valley League title and a 7-0 season. They did so, as the *Rutland Herald* reported, with their "electrifying offense.... Middlebury's dangerous halfback duo, seniors Jim Billings and Ken Burton, ran them dizzy."

MUHS threw only one pass in the game (for a TD) and ran for (See Lindholm, Page 3B)



PANTHER GOALIE ADAM Wisco covers up the puck as his Middlebury men's hockey teammates make sure Tufts players stay clear during Friday night action at Kenyon Arena. The Panthers dropped two one-goal games as their season finally began, but their coach is confident they will succeed this winter.

Independent photo/Florence Wu

## Panthers come up short in openers

After COVID delay, men working hard

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — After seeing its first four games canceled or called off due to COVID protocols, the Middlebury College men's hockey team finally played this past weekend.

And facing two teams, Tufts and Williams, that came into Kenyon Arena with six and five games

under their belts, respectively, the Panthers showed plenty of promise and effort, but maybe understandably came up short in a pair of 3-2 losses.

Coach Neil Sinclair said he expects good things to come because of the way the Panther men have handled the adversity they have faced and the quality of

their play, including outshooting both of their opponents.

"It's been a challenge. And I'm just proud of them how they've responded and how hard they've played. They've come to work every day. They've got great attitudes," Sinclair said. "They're a fun group to be around. And the thing that I take away from this weekend is that every period we got better. I'm really proud of the

effort."

The program had been on a steady upswing in the three years prior to last winter, when the NESCAC called off all competition due to the pandemic. Win total rose from four in 2017-18 to 10 in 2019-20, and the Panthers earned a home playoff game that latter season for the first time since 2014.

Sinclair expects more of the same despite this past weekend's setbacks, possibly starting with games at Amherst and Hamilton this Friday and Saturday.

"I think we've got a really nice team. It's about learning some lessons — puck-management-wise, and we're making some mistakes, and that's going to happen. But the thing I love about this team is they learn from them. They respond to them. They support each other," Sinclair said. "So I'm excited about what the future holds for this group."

### WILLIAMS GAME

This past Sunday, Williams (4-2, 4-0 NESCAC) controlled much of the first period, outshooting the Panthers, 11-6, but the score ended at 1-1.

The Panthers had the first great chance. Five minutes in, Eph goalie Cal Sandquist left his net to play a Panther dump-in. Middlebury got to the puck in the right corner and worked it quickly to Zach Shapiro in the slot, but defender Henry Wil Muller slid over to block the shot.

The Panthers took the lead at 10:44 on an Andrej Hromic power play goal. EMack Bentley sent a pass from behind the goal to Cole (See Hockey, Page 2B)



PANTHER SOPHOMORE FORWARD Chris Garbe moves into the attack as freshman defenseman Sam Amato (#20) puts on the brakes during the Middlebury men's hockey team's Friday game vs. Tufts. The Panthers lost a pair of hard-fought, one-goal games this past weekend.

Independent photo/Florence Wu

## Score BOARD

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Women's Basketball

12/1 Midd vs E. Nazarene .....98-58  
12/3 Babson vs Midd .....79-62  
12/4 Midd vs Cabrini .....61-54  
12/8 Midd at Plattsburgh .....Late

#### Men's Basketball

12/2 Midd vs Albertus Magnus .....83-81  
12/4 Midd vs NE College .....67-62  
12/8 Midd at Plattsburgh .....Late

#### Men's Hockey

12/3 Tufts vs Midd .....3-2  
12/4 Conn at Midd .....Ppd.  
12/5 Williams vs Midd .....3-2

#### Women's Hockey

12/3 Midd vs Amherst .....2-1  
12/4 Midd at Amherst .....1-0

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## Schedule

#### Girls' Hockey

12/11 MUHS at Hartford ..... 2 PM  
12/15 Spaulding at MUHS ..... 7 PM

#### Boys' Hockey

12/11 Harwood at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
12/18 S. Burlington at MUHS ..... 7 PM

#### Boys' Basketball

12/10 Mt. Abe at Randolph ..... 7 PM  
12/15 OV at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
12/16 VUHS at Fairfax ..... 7:30 PM  
12/17 U-32 at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
12/17 Proctor at OV ..... 7 PM  
12/17 Spaulding at Mt. Abe ..... 7 PM

#### Girls' Basketball

12/10 OV at MUHS ..... 7 PM  
12/10 Fair Haven at Mt. Abe ..... 7 PM  
12/14 Burr & Burton at Mt. Abe ..... Ppd.

(See Schedule, Page 2B)

## Men's hoop earns 2 victories in tight games

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's basketball team won a pair of close road games to push its winning streak to five games and its record to 7-2 heading into a Wednesday night game at Plattsburgh.

The Panthers will wrap up their first-semester play by hosting Skidmore at 7 p.m. on Friday and Stevens at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

On Dec. 3, the Panthers withstood a late rally to edge host Albertus Magnus 83-81,



dealing their 2-1 host their first setback.

The first half ended in a 39-39 tie when the Falcons closed with an 11-4 run. Out of the break, Sam Stevens and Alex Sobel combined for all the points in a 12-4 run that put the Panthers on top, 51-43.

Middlebury never surrendered the lead, and was up by 71-60 with 3:45 to go.

But the Falcons went on a 14-5 run to pull within 75-74 at 0:52. Noah Osher hit a key jumper to make it 77-74, and the Panthers

iced the win by going six-for-six from the free-throw line.

Stevens scored a game-high 27 points; Sobel scored 15 points, grabbed 13 rebounds, and blocked five shots; and Osher chipped in 12 points.

Terry Dawkins paced the Falcons with 13 points, while Tyreek Perkins contributed 12 points and nine rebounds.

On Saturday, the Panthers topped host New England College, 67-62, in a back-and-forth game. The Pilgrims saw a four-game winning streak snapped and dropped to 5-5.

(See Men's basketball, Page 2B)

## Sports BRIEFS

### Women's hockey still unbeaten

AMHERST, Mass. — The Middlebury College women's hockey team moved to 7-0 and retained its No. 1 ranking in NCAA Division III with two one-goal wins at NESCAC rival Amherst this past weekend.

The Panthers will wrap up their first semester by hosting UMass-Boston at 3 p.m. on Friday.

This past Friday, the Panthers scored twice in the third period to erase an Amherst lead and prevail, 2-1. Madie Leidt had a goal and an assist to spark the rally in a game in which the Panthers outshot the Mammoths by 31-18.

The Mammoths took the lead on an Alyssa Xu power-play goal with less than five minutes remaining in the second period.

Panther defender Eva Hendrickson blocked an Elizabeth DeCarlo shot, but in the scramble for the rebound that followed a Mammoth wedged herself between Panther goalie Sophia Merageas and the goal, allowing Xu to tuck the loose puck inside the right post.

The Panthers knotted the game at 8:19 of the third period. Amherst goalie Caitlin Walker stopped Leidt's initial bid, but Leidt one-timed the rebound home for her sixth goal of the season.

Middlebury took the lead on a power play five minutes later. Katie Hargrave redirected a Leidt shot from the top of the right circle into the goal. Merageas denied Mammoth Leslie Schwartz's bid in the final seconds to seal the

(See Panther hockey, Page 2B)

### Women's hoop wins 2 out of 3

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. — The Middlebury College women's basketball team won two out of three non-league games in recent action to improve to 5-3.

The Panthers were set to visit Plattsburgh on Wednesday to wrap up their first-semester play in a game completed after the deadline for this edition.

On Dec. 1, the Panthers broke loose on offense to defeat visiting Eastern Nazarene, 98-58. Middlebury closed the opening quarter with a 9-2 run to lead by 21-14. After pulling away steadily in the second period, the Panthers took a 52-30 lead into the locker room when Gianna Palli swished a buzzer-beating three-pointer from 30 feet out.

Middlebury steadily extended its advantage over the 6-3 Lions in the second half.

Alexa Mustafaj set a career high with 30 points, while Palli contributed 14 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. Augusta Dixon (13), Claire Miller (12) and Reagan McDonald (10) also scored in double figures.

Sophia Torres topped the Lions with 16 points, while Sydney Oviatt finished with 15 points and 10 boards.

Middlebury shot 64.2% and limited Eastern Nazarene to 33.8%. The Panthers also held a 42-28

(See Women's hoops, Page 2B)

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# Panther hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)  
win. Merageas made 17 saves, and Walker made 29.

On Saturday, Merageas worked a 33-save shutout as the Panthers prevailed, 1-0. It was the first-year goalie's second shutout and fifth win of the season. Walker nearly matched her, stopping 39 out of 40 shots for the 2-4 Mammoths.

The Panthers scored late in the first period, during which they outshot the Mammoths, 14-9.

Defender Alexis Ryan found the net, with assists from Jenna Letterie and Hargrave.

Both offenses generated plenty of shots in the second period, with Middlebury holding a 16-15 edge. But despite each team going on power plays, the two goalies were flawless.

The Mammoths had their most dangerous flurry midway through the third period, but Merageas made back-to-back saves.

# Women's hoops

(Continued from Page 1B)  
advantage on the boards.

Over the weekend, the Panthers split two games at Williams' Shooting Touch Classic.

On Saturday, Babson (6-1) pulled away in the second half to defeat the Panthers, 79-61, in the tournament's opening game.

A back-and-forth first half ended with the Beavers leading by 37-31. Out of the break, Middlebury chipped away at the deficit and cut the lead to 46-45 on a McDonald three with 4:36 left in the third period. But Babson went on a 14-2 run to close out the third and go up 60-47, and then stretched its lead to as many as 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Mustafaj led Middlebury with 18 points, while Dixon scored 17 points, adding team highs of six rebounds and three steals.

Kelly Walsh paced Babson with 19 points, while Rachel McMenemy recorded 13 points and 11 boards.

On Sunday, the Panthers led

throughout to defeat Cabrini University, 61-54.

Mustafa scored nine points in the first quarter as Middlebury took an 18-8 lead, and the Panthers never trailed.

The closest the Cavaliers came was seven points (twice), the final time after a 6-0 run to open the fourth quarter to make it 51-44 with just over five minutes remaining. The Panthers maintained at least that margin the rest of the way.

Mustafaj led all scorers with 20 points and added seven rebounds, McDonald scored 11, Dixon contributed nine points and nine boards off the bench, Miller added 11 rebounds and seven points, and Lucy Bethany chipped in four steals and seven points.

Middlebury outrebounded Cabrini, 46-36, and earned 14 second-chance points to Cabrini's four.

Miranda Liebttag and Brielle Fitzpatrick each had 13 points for the 2-5 Cavaliers.

# Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

12/14 Essex at MUHS	7 PM
12/16 Mt. Abe vs. BBA at FHU	5:30 PM
12/16 OV at Fair Haven (Tourn)	7 PM
12/17 Milton at VUHS	7 PM
12/17 U-32 at MUHS	7 PM
12/18 OV vs. BBA @ FHU	5:30 PM
12/18 Mt. Abe at Fair Haven	7 PM
<b>Gymnastics</b>	
12/15 Milton at MUHS	6 PM
<b>Nordic</b>	
12/15 CVU at MUHS	2:30 PM

<b>Wrestling</b>	
12/11 MUHS, Mt. Abe at MMU	6 PM
12/11	VUHS at N. Adirondack Tourn.
12/18	VUHS at Granville Tourn.
<b>COLLEGE SPORTS</b>	
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	
12/10 Skidmore at Midd.	7 PM
12/12 Stevens at Midd.	1 PM
<b>Men's Hockey</b>	
12/10 Amherst at Midd.	7 PM
12/11 Hamilton at Midd.	3 PM
<b>Women's Hockey</b>	
12/10 UMass-Boston at Midd.	3 PM



**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021**  
Public Skating 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Stick & Puck 3:30-4:45pm

**Friday, December 10, 2021**  
Stick & Puck 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**  
Public Skating 3:00 - 4:30 pm

**Monday December 13, 2021**  
Stick & Puck 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021**  
Public Skating 9:00 - 10:45 am

**Thursday, December 16, 2021**  
Public Skating 9:00 - 11:00 am

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021**  
Public Skating 9:00 - 10:45 am

**Thursday, December 23, 2021**  
Public Skating 9:00 - 11:00 am

Published schedules subject to change. See MSC website for latest updates

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**PANTHER CAPTAIN EMACK Bentley, left, picks up the puck after the Panther men's hockey team won a faceoff vs. Tufts on Friday. The Panthers lost 3-2 games to Tufts and Williams last weekend as their season opened after COVID delays, but Coach Neil Sinclair was happy with Middlebury's effort against teams that had been playing.**

Independent photo/Florence Wu

# Hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)  
Joslin in the slot. Sandquist stopped Joslin, but in a crowd Hromic got enough wood on the rebound to make it trickle in off the goalie.

Panther goalie Adam Wisco protected the lead with strong saves on Owen Stadheim from the high slot and Ethan Prout on a tip, and things looked promising when the Panthers went on another power play.

Unfortunately, a Panther at the point lost his balance on a back pass, and Eph Sean Clarke picked up the puck and headed down the right side. Wisco stopped his close range bid, but Niko Karamanis tucked the rebound inside the left post for the shorthanded score at 15:17.

Wisco made a point-blank glove late in the period that had Eph forward Mitchell Pelletier shaking his head.

The Panthers were assessed a five-minute major penalty 16 seconds into the second period, but Wisco kicked away Jamie Cates' bid from the high slot that was the best chance the Ephs mustered.

The best chance either team had during the power play came from Panther Jin Lee, but Sandquist stoned his breakaway bid in.

Sandquist made 13 saves in the scoreless period as the Panthers pressed, including on an Antoine Belisle one-timer in the slot with 13 minutes gone.

Five minutes into the third period Joslin and Hromic broke in two-on-one on Sandquist. Joslin passed across the slot to Hromic, and Sandquist slid to his left to deny the one-timer.

Then the Ephs scored twice against the flow of the game in a seven-second span in the period's ninth minute. The Panthers lost a puck battle behind the goal, and it bounced to Cates to the right of the goal. Cates relayed to Jack Sabre steaming into the slot, and he blasted an eight-footer into the upper left corner at 8:41.

Williams won the faceoff and dumped the puck in, and Jack Forest intercepted a Panther pass in the right circle and fired the puck inside the far post to make it 3-1.

Middlebury made it 3-2 at

13:19. Tyler Capello chipped a Belisle rebound over Sandquist in a scramble. The Panthers kept battling, but had only one more good chance: With 40 seconds remaining Lee tried a wraparound, but Sandquist slid to cover the right post.

Wisco made 22 saves, while Sandquist stopped 29 shots.

## TUFTS GAME

On Friday, Tufts edged the Panthers, 3-2. Brian Dobensky gave Middlebury a lead 9:51 into the game on a power play. Belisle won a faceoff in the Tufts zone back to Dobensky, who fired a shot home from the top of the right circle.

That lead lasted 14 seconds, as Jumbo defender Cam Newton tipped in a shot by Justin Brandt.

Tufts took the lead at 11:49, when Angus Scott scored from the point on a power play. Middlebury countered later in the period, when Shapiro cashed in on another faceoff win by Belisle.

The Jumbos reclaimed the lead with another power-play goal that came 1:11 before the first break:

Tom Tresca scored on a one-timer from the left wing, and that proved to be the game-winner.

In the second period Bentley had a chance from the doorstep for the Panthers early, but Jumbo goalie Josh Sarlo turned his bid aside. Jumbo Fisher Shea rang the left post on a shorthanded bid, and the Panthers also were pressing with about five minutes to go, but a penalty stalled their momentum.

In the final 20 minutes, Sarlo denied a Shapiro redirection of a Dobensky pass into the slot. With just under two minutes left in the contest, Hromic fired a shot from the right side that Sarlo steered away with his blocker. Wisco finished with 25 saves, while Sarlo made 29 for the Jumbos.

Sinclair said he believes the Panthers will tie up the loose ends moving forward.

"I'm excited about where this group is," he said. "They're going to get to the place where they win those games and they make the plays at the end they need to make."

# Men's basketball

(Continued from Page 1B)  
Middlebury opened with a 12-1 run in which Sobel and Stevens scored all the points. NEC fought back and took a 25-24 lead with 3:13 left in the first half, but the Panthers used to 7-0 run to close the half with a 37-30 lead.

NEC's Michael Tavilla tied the contest, 44-44, with a three at 12:34. The Pilgrims increased their lead to 55-46 at 9:40 on a Kyle Inglis layup. Middlebury responded with an 11-2 run, capped by an Osher jumper, to make it 57-57 with just over five minutes to go.

The game was tied twice more, but Stevens converted five straight free throws in the late going to nail down the win.

Stevens scored a game-high 21 points and Sobel recorded his sixth double-double of the season with 20 points and a career-high 19

rebounds. David Brennan scored 12 and pulled down 11 boards.

Calvin Cheek paced New England College with 20 points, nine rebounds and seven steals. Inglis tallied 18 points and four steals, and Tavilla chipped in nine points and seven boards.

# Monkton

Have a news tip?  
Call Liz Pecor at 453-2180

## NEWS

MONKTON — Are you still looking for a Christmas tree or wreath? Be sure to check out what the Boy Scouts have to offer at 265 Mountain Road. That's on the north end of Mountain Road. There is a sign at the end of the driveway so you can't miss it. Regular hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you can't make it there at those times you are welcome to still stop to get a tree or wreath and pay on the honor system. There will be a payment box to put your pay in. And if you should need assistance, call 802-989-3993 and someone will be available to help you. Sales will continue until all items are sold. Prices are as follows: a regular 6-to-8-foot tree is \$45; trees taller than 8 feet are \$50; regular wreaths

cost \$20; large wreaths are \$30. BSA Troop 525 thanks you in advance for your support.

Don't forget that December recycling dates are Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 this month — one week apart due to Christmas being on the fourth Saturday. It will still open from 9 a.m. until noon. The trash hauler will also be available on these days. Remember if you have shredded paper, it must be in a clear plastic bag. No other plastic bags are allowed in recycling. Your recycle items must be clean and covers no smaller than two inches in diameter. Regular hours and dates will resume in January.

The Russell Memorial Library, located downstairs in the new Municipal building at 92 Monkton

Ridge, will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25, and on Saturday, Jan. 1. Normal hours of Tuesday and Thursday, 3 to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will continue with the exception of those two days. Enjoy the season!

The auditors will soon be doing the end-of-year auditing and then starting the 2021 Town report. All committee members need to mark their calendars to be sure to get the yearly report to the auditors by Jan. 14, to go into the Town Report. Please be prompt. Please proofread your report before sending. You may send your report to the Town Clerk at monktonvt@comcast.net or drop a hard copy off at the Town Hall during regular working hours or in the drop box located by the back entrance. Please note whichever way you send it to put that it's for the Town Report. Thank you

in advance from the auditors. They look forward to seeing your reports. Happy Holidays!

If you are interested in running for a town position this coming March, the following offices are up for reelection:

- Town Clerk — 1 year.
- Town Moderator — 1 year.
- Selectboard — 2 years.
- Selectboard — 3 years.
- Town Constable — 1 year.
- Lister — 3 years.
- Auditor — 3 years.
- MAUSD Board — 3 years.
- Planning Commission — 3 years (3 positions available).

Petitions are now available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours at 92 Monkton Ridge, the new Municipal Building location. Your signature-filled petition needs to be returned to the Town Clerk by 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24.

# Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

"Thanks for providing great local news coverage!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



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## Lindholm

(Continued from Page 1B)

276 yards against just 22 yards for the Slaters. At the annual MVL banquet in Rutland at the Hotel Berwick, four Tigers were selected for the all-league first team, Burton, Billings, and linemen Big Don Keeler and Bob Ryan, and three were placed on the second team: Donald Burton (Ken's brother), John Barrera and Mike MacIntyre.

Both Burton and Billings were selected to play for Vermont in the annual Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl game against New Hampshire in Hanover, N.H., at Dartmouth before 6,500 fans. Led by MUHS coach John Galascione, the underdog Vermonters crushed the favored Granite Staters 27-0, and the Tiger boys played crucial roles, both scoring in the game.

While Billings did not play football further, the past was but a prelude for Kenny Burton, who went on to spectacular gridiron success at the University of Vermont. The Catamounts may not have football now (the program was abandoned in 1974), but it did for a long time. The first UVM football game was against Dartmouth in 1886.

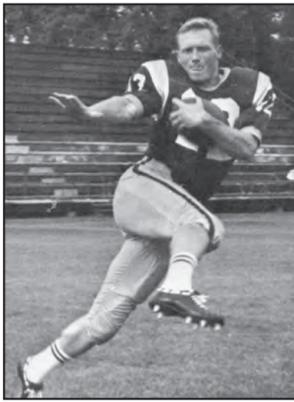
How good a player was Ken Burton at UVM? It would take the rest of this column space, and more pages, to list his athletic accomplishments and honors at UVM. He was inducted into the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977 and nominated for the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in 2018 (he declined the honor). He is the only UVM football player in the sport's long history to have his number (12) retired. He was 6'1", 190 pounds and could fly.

When he graduated in 1964, he held virtually every rushing record at UVM — total yards, yards per carry and touchdowns. In his senior season, he was named to the All-Yankee Conference, all New England, and All-East teams. In the spring, Ken joined the track and field team and set the record for the discus throw and was a member of the mile relay team that set a UVM record.

The capstone of Ken's football career was his last game as a senior against Middlebury, which had won the previous five games against the Catamounts. On a rainy day, a soggy field, he scored one of UVM's two touchdowns and ground out 100 yards on 22 carries (he had runs of 35 and 44 yards called back because of "illegal shifts" by the Cats). The headline in the *Free Press* was "Vermont Defeats Middlebury, 14-0: Burton Breaks More Records."

Kenny Burton was never the BMOC ("big man on campus") that his football stardom would suggest, either at MUHS or at UVM.

In high school, the Burtons owned a dairy farm in Cornwall and Kenny and his brothers Donnie, one year older but in the same grade, and Bruce, three years younger, milked their 30 cows by hand before school and rushed home after practice to do the evening milking. When Kenny and Donnie went off to college, the Burton farm, Abernethy Place, was sold to their MUHS teacher and mentor Frank Kelley, who



**AT 6-FOOT-1, 190 pounds, Ken Burton was a devastating running back for UVM. In 1963, he made the All-Yankee Conference, All-New England, and All-East teams. He was inducted into the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977.**

1964 UVM Yearbook, The Ariel

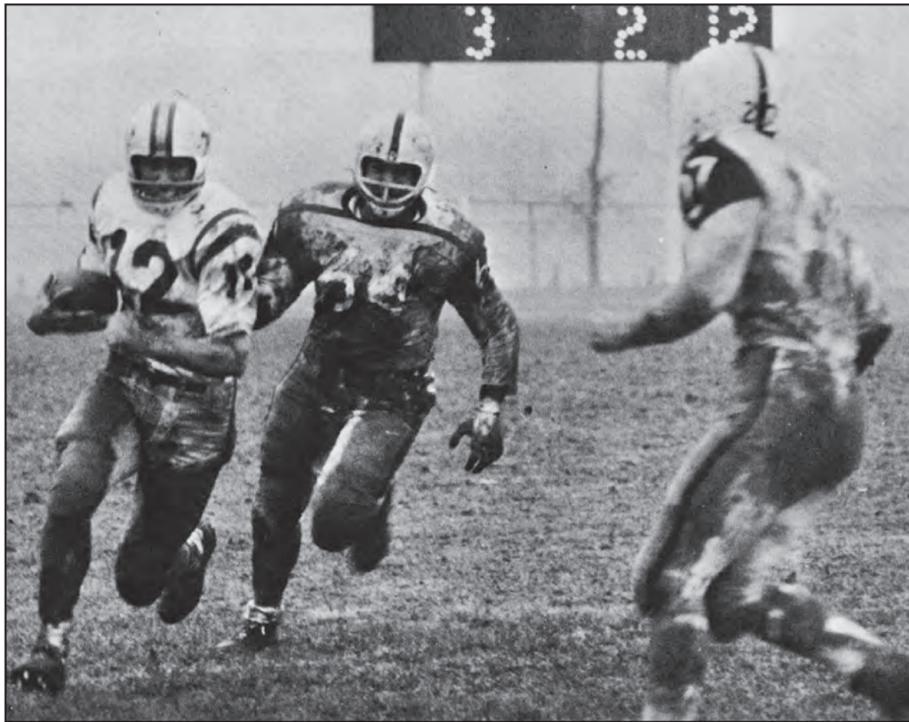
with his wife Ann raised their five kids there.

In college, Ken was not a frat boy, a Kappa Sig or Sigma Nu, like many of his teammates. He was a married man, with a child, Kathy, born in his freshman year, and Ken in 1963. He had married his high school girlfriend, Gina Guarnaccia, the daughter of Sam Guarnaccia, a beloved Middlebury College Spanish professor and dean, and himself a great football player at Middlebury.

After UVM, Ken attended Cornell University and earned a master's in Agricultural Economics, then, with his young family, lived and worked for a year and a half for the Ford Foundation in Argentina. His marriage dissolved after eight years, and the family split up. In the aftermath, never remarrying, Ken worked for three decades in New York City in an anti-poverty agency, before heading back this way after the devastation of 9/11.

Life was often a struggle for Ken. He was diagnosed fairly late in life with bipolar disorder.

The pandemic forced us all to be reclusive, and the loneliness of isolation was especially hard for



**KEN BURTON RUNNING in the rain against Middlebury at Porter Field in the last game of his UVM career, a 14-0 win for the Catamounts. He scored a touchdown and gained 100 yards on the day (and had runs of 35 and 44 yards called back on penalties).**

1964 UVM Yearbook, The Ariel



**KEN BURTON, UVM class of '64, MUHS '59, is the only Catamount football player ever to have his uniform number retired in the program's nearly 90-year history (1886-1974). When Burton graduated, he held virtually every UVM rushing record.**

UVM Archives

Ken. In the months before he died, you may have seen Ken around town riding the motorized scooter he named "Ruckus," visiting friends, doing errands, in his green reflective vest and distinctive black modified-football helmet.

Physically, Ken resembled to me one of his heroes, Pete Seeger, with wispy chin whiskers and hair in need of a trim, even down to his guttural voice. Ken and I became friends when he attended for a time the Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury. I found him enormously curious and bright, often weaving quasi-utopian designs for improving life locally, nationally and globally, in conversation and letters —

implausible plans, yes, but brilliant in many ways.

Ken Burton died of natural causes (likely a ruptured aneurysm) on October 5 at his Halladay Road residence in Middlebury, just a couple of weeks before his 80th birthday. His life, he felt, was on the upswing when he died. His obituary is on page 6A.

There is in American culture an athlete-hero archetype, a young man who soars as a youth because of his natural physical gifts, whose life off the playing field, as an adult in a world where those gifts are not so applicable, is not an unbroken series of successes: he is in fact a poignant figure.

Rest in peace, Kenny Burton!

## Hearing set on CARES fund for city youth club

VERGENNES — The final hurdle for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes in obtaining \$9,300 in federal CARES Act funding is a public hearing scheduled for Dec. 28 at Vergennes City Hall and on Zoom.

The funding was awarded to the city youth club to help it handle its extra COVID-related expenses since March 2020.

Technically, however, the Vermont Community Development Program was required to give the funds to the City of Vergennes to be

forwarded to the Boys & Girls Club. As part of that process a public hearing is required.

That hearing has been scheduled for noon on Dec. 28 at city hall at 120 Main St., Vergennes. Those interested may also log onto us02web.zoom.us/j/5737235099 to participate and learn more about how the club proposed to use the funds on its grant application and why they are needed.

That link will also be available on the city's website, vergennes.org.

## Convicted felon accused of possessing a firearm

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Nathan Hansen, 35, of Bristol for being in possession of a firearm as a convicted felon, in the Case Street area on Dec. 1.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Provided a ride to Vergennes to a person seen walking down Route 7 North on Nov. 29.
- Responded to a report of a group of people videotaping through a window into the Hannaford Supermarket on Nov. 29.
- Responded to a report of a disoriented, elderly male who was found walking on Foote Street on Nov. 29.
- Checked on the mental health of a man in the Foote Street area on Nov. 29.
- Assisted Vermont State Police with a domestic disturbance in Salisbury on Nov. 30.
- Served legal paperwork to a Washington Street resident on Nov. 30 in connection with an alcohol violation.
- Assisted state police in contacting a Middlebury resident who had been involved in a car crash in Monkton on Nov. 30.
- Checked on the welfare of a local resident who appeared to be confused on Nov. 30.
- Helped a Middlebury College student deal with a fraud case on Nov. 30.
- Issued winter parking ban tickets to vehicles parked off Merchants Row on Nov. 30.
- Assisted state police with a vehicle off Smead Road in Salisbury on Dec. 1 in which the operator was believed to be impaired.
- Helped a drunken, homeless woman return back to the Charter House emergency shelter during the evening of Dec. 2.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a man who was reportedly experiencing hallucinations at the Charter House emergency shelter on Dec. 2.
- Responded to a Court Street home where a drunken man was allegedly causing a disturbance on Dec. 2.
- Investigated a report of a man driving the wrong way on Route 7 South on Dec. 2. Police determined the man was in need of medical care.
- Helped a person who had

## Middlebury Police Log

driven into a ditch off Foote Street on Dec. 2.

- Investigated a suspected retail theft at Hannaford Supermarket on Dec. 2.
- Assisted employees of a Merchants Row business who had received what police described as a "profound" phone message that had left them feeling uncomfortable on Dec. 2.
- Issued winter parking ban tickets to vehicles parked off Merchants Row on Dec. 2.
- Assisted MREMS with a man who was experiencing mental health issues in the Exchange Street area on Dec. 2.
- Responded to a verbal dispute between some Court Street neighbors on Dec. 3.
- Received a report that someone had cashed a bad check at a Court Street business on Dec. 3. Police said the case is being investigated.
- Went to Middlebury Union Middle School on Dec. 3 to stand by in anticipation of a visit of a parent who had previously exhibited bad behavior.
- Investigated a report of someone allegedly driving unsafely on Quarry Road on Dec. 4.
- Heard an allegation that someone had stolen a firearm from a Jayne Court residence on Dec. 4.
- Assisted Vermont State Police in finding a missing woman off Court Street Extension on Dec. 4.
- Were informed of a loud "crash" sound followed by the loss of electricity in the Benedict Lane neighborhood on Dec. 5. Police said they notified the power company.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the South Pleasant Street neighborhood on Dec. 5.
- Responded to a domestic disturbance in an East Main Street area on Dec. 5.
- Assisted Middlebury firefighters at the scene of a truck fire off Case Street on Dec. 5.
- Assisted a Middlebury College student who was having a mental health crisis at Porter Hospital on Dec. 6.

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# community calendar

## THURSDAY

**Dec 9 Friends of Brandon Library silent holiday auction in Brandon.** Thursday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, One Conant Sq. A wide selection of gifts by local artisans and supporters. Many items will offer a buy-it-now option. Holiday books, CDs, cards also available from our book sale. \$1 donation accepted at the door, for a bidding number. Bidding will close at 4 p.m. Friday the 10th. Winners will be contacted to pick-up all items by 7 p.m. Friday night. Payment by cash or check is requested.

**Counseling Service of Addison County virtual Annual Meeting with performances by Sweet Transition and Lida Winfield.** Thursday, Dec. 9, 4:30-6 pm. Zoom. CSAC board of directors, agency leadership and staff, consumers, community partners and friends will come together for dynamic performances, heartfelt tributes and unity. Register at [tinyurl.com/CSAC-annual-mtg21](http://tinyurl.com/CSAC-annual-mtg21).

**Magic on Main in Vergennes.** Thursday, Dec. 9, downtown. Shops open into the evening. Specials, surprises and more.

**Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 9, downtown. Middlebury businesses will be open late, so stroll around town and get some of your shopping done. Take a break on the new plaza around the fountain for free popcorn and relax around the fire table. Cross the footbridge to view the falls, which will be lit up again this year.

**Local history in photographs virtual showcase.** Thursday Dec. 9, 6-7 p.m. Bixby Library will present a slideshow of pre-1970 photos they've collected from residents of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham. More info on submitting a photo or for the slideshow link at [bixbylibrary.org/events](http://bixbylibrary.org/events).

**Ronnie Romano in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 9, until 8 p.m., The Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. As part of Middlebury's Holiday stroll, Romano will be playing holiday music on the Sheldon's antique Chickering piano and the Museum Store will be open until 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY

**Winter Wonderland Weekend in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 10, downtown. Shop downtown Bristol and enjoy wintery delights, including a scavenger hunt with great prizes.

**Friends of Brandon Library silent holiday auction in Brandon.** Friday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, One Conant Sq. See Dec. 9 entry.

**Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro.** Friday, Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Roast pork with gravy, cheesy scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll, chocolate chip cookie and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Nov. 28. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Take-out fish dinner in Vergennes.** Friday, Dec. 10, 5-6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church Hall, 85 South Maple St. Menu includes beer battered fish, zesty wedges, coleslaw, mixed veggies, roll with butter and chocolate chip brownie. Adults \$10/\$5 children 5-12. Reserve your meal at 802-877-2367.

**Memory Tree lighting in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m., town green. Names of all honorees will be displayed next to the Memory Tree. Registration for the Memory Tree can also be done at the Recreation Office or down in the Town Office. Please make checks for \$5 out to Bristol Recreation Department and list your honoree on the memo portion.

**"A Christmas Carol" on stage in Middlebury.** Friday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join in a new holiday tradition as the Middlebury Acting Company presents the Charles Dickens classic in an original adaptation, true to the novella, which deftly integrates Dickens's witty, pointed and socially conscious narrative with the heartwarming and familiar journey Ebenezer Scrooge makes from profiteer to philanthropist. Tickets pay-as-you-can, general admission, can be purchased in advance on a pay-as-you-can basis at different price levels (make your price choices when ordering) or at the door. Available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org), 802-382-9222, or the THT Box Office Mon-Fri, 12-5 p.m. Masks and COVID vaccinations required. Unvaccinated youth under age 12 may attend wearing masks.

## SATURDAY

**Green Mountain Club hike in Mendon.** Saturday, Dec. 11, Bald Mountain. Bald Mountain Trail is a moderate 3.3-mile loop with an elevation gain of 849 feet near Rutland. Four vistas located at rock promontories along the trail. The hike has mostly moderate grades with a few steep descents on the West Loop and the end of the East Loop. Dogs are allowed. Contact trip leader Ken Corey at [kac4964@gmail.com](mailto:kac4964@gmail.com) for questions or to register.

**Monthly Wildlife Walk in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense COVID-19 precautions. Stay home if you are feeling ill. Wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. For more information call 802-388-6019.

**Winter Wonderland Weekend in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 11, downtown. See Dec. 10 entry.

**Santa at Maple Landmark Woodcraft in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m.-noon, 1297 Exchange St. Santa will be greeting children and will accept their Christmas wishlists in this drive-thru event. Sign-up for a time slot on Maple Landmark's Eventbrite page which can be found linked at [www.maplelandmark.com/santa](http://www.maplelandmark.com/santa).

**Coffee, Doughnuts and Discussion with State**



## The perfect marshmallow

TEST YOUR MARSHMALLOW toasting skills on the Vergennes Green on Saturday, Dec. 11, and again on Saturday, Dec. 18, from 4-6 p.m. Enjoy the festive vibe and the fire pits while you create your own sweet treats.

Photo/Metro Creative

**Rep. Peter Conlon in Salisbury.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. Come to an informal coffee hour with Rep. Conlon before the legislative session. Zoom and in-person. Email [salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com) for Zoom information.

**Christmas Cookie sale in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-noon, Champlain Valley Christian Reformed Church, Church St. Choose from a large selection of Dutch specialties, fancy homemade cookies, and treats for sale by the half-dozen. All baked goods will be wrapped and priced in half-dozen increments. Specialty items will also be individually wrapped and priced. Masks required; gloves and boxes will be provided. Enjoy festive music while you shop. We do the baking for you so you won't have to. More info contact Martha at 802-349-0229.

**Family ornament day in Orwell.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Peace Of My Art Studio, 318 Route 22A. Celebrate the season with homemade ornaments, hot cocoa, and cookies. Santa will be there. Pre-register at [peaceofmyart.studio](http://peaceofmyart.studio). Kits and instructions will be ready upon arrival. Choose from five different ornaments that all take less than 1/2 hour to complete.

**Holiday wreath-making in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 11, noon-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Celebrate the season with Bixby Library by creating a wreath in the Otter Creek Room (access from the back parking lot.) Space is limited. Sign up by calling 802-877-2211 or emailing [laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org). The wreath base, wire, and pine boughs will be provided. Bring your own ribbon and decorations. For age 15 and older.

**Marshmallow Melts and Fire pits Too! in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 4-6 p.m., City green.

**Santa in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 2-3:30 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Santa Claus is coming to town. Come to the Marquis and talk to him. Post your photo with Santa with the hashtag #marquismagic for a chance to be featured on one of the social channels and a Marquis Prize. Free.

**Take-out only chicken and biscuit supper in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, (across from the Vergennes Opera House). Menu includes chicken and gravy over biscuits, stuffing, vegetable, cranberry sauce and dessert. Adults \$12. Take-out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9. To order call 802-877-3150.

**"A Christmas Carol" on stage in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 10 entry.

## SATURDAY

**Winter Wonderland Weekend in Bristol.** Sunday, Dec. 12, downtown. See Dec. 10 entry.

**"A Christmas Carol" on stage in Middlebury.** Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 10 entry.

**Outdoor live Nativity in Bristol.** Sunday, Dec. 12, 3-4 p.m., begins at Veterans Memorial, Bristol town green. Churches in the Bristol area invite the community to experience taking a "Journey to Bethlehem." The Nativity will include live animals along the way, a bake shop, a carpenter shop and more in the town of Bethlehem. Donations of food for the Have a Heart food shelf appreciated, Weather permitting. Call 802-453-6302 for more info.

## TUESDAY

**Age Well holiday grab and go meal in Bridport.** Tuesday, Dec. 14, 11:15 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, Middle Rd. Chicken breast stuffed with apple cranberry stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberry sauce, roll, pumpkin cake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Dec. 9, at 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

## WEDNESDAY

**Age Well holiday grab and go meal in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Dec. 15, 11:30 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Chicken breast stuffed with apple cranberry stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberry sauce, roll, pumpkin cake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Dec. 9. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

**Caroling in East Middlebury.** Monday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., meet at Waybury Inn parking lot. Carol up and down East Main Street and Ossie Road.

Words to carols will be handed out. Bring a flashlight. Cookies and hot chocolate at Waybury after caroling. If you would like the singers to stop at your porch, turn on outside light. All are welcome.

## THURSDAY

**Age Well holiday grab and go meal in Vergennes.** Thursday, Dec. 16, 10:45 a.m., St Peter's Parish, 85 S. Maple St. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Chicken breast stuffed with apple cranberry stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberry sauce, roll, pumpkin cake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Dec. 9. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

**Midd Night Stroll in Middlebury.** Thursday, Dec. 16, downtown. Middlebury businesses will be open late until 8 p.m., so stroll around town and get some of your shopping done. Take a break on the new plaza around the fountain for free popcorn and relax around the fire table. Cross the footbridge to view the falls, which will be lit up again this year.

## FRIDAY

**Age Well holiday grab and go meal in Starksboro.** Friday, Dec. 17, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Chicken breast stuffed with apple cranberry stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberry sauce, roll, pumpkin cake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Dec. 9. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

**Candy Cane Hunt in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 17, Bristol town green. Bundle up to help Santa find his lost candy canes. Santa will be arriving at the Town Green with his friends from S.D. Ireland in a lighted cement mixer at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to kids who find 10 candy canes and a special prize will be awarded to the person who finds the golden candy cane. Free and open to the public.

**Food distribution in Bristol.** Friday, Dec. 17, 5-6 p.m., St. Ambrose Church, 11 School St. Have A Heart food shelf will distribute food to those in need. Curbside pick-up only. Unvaccinated people need to mask. Newcomers always welcome. No sign up — just show up. See you there.

## SATURDAY

**Ornament-making in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St.. Families can celebrate the holidays by making ornaments at a special event at the Bixby's Community Room. Parents can either Take-and-Make ornaments at home, or drop in and create them at the Bixby Library at the in-person event.

**American Red Cross blood donation in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bristol Recreation Dept., 1 South St. Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). There is no blood donation waiting period for those who have received a flu shot or a Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine or booster, so long as they are symptom-free.

**Kids Cafe free movie in Middlebury.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 12:30-2 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Catch a kids' movie for free in the Marquis cafe.

**Marshmallow Melts and Fire pits Too! in Vergennes.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 4-6 p.m., City green.

**Lumen Celebration of Fire & Light in Bristol.** Saturday, Dec. 18, downtown. Experience fire performers, a lighted walk down Main Street, and cozy fires.

**An Evening of Carols with Ronnie Romano virtual concert.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m., Zoom. Join pianist Ronnie Romano for an evening of carols at the Henry Sheldon Museum. The virtual program will feature holiday favorites played on Henry L. Sheldon's historic Chickering piano. Ronnie will take requests. Pre-register on the Sheldon's website, [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org) s/holiday-concert-2021 to receive the Zoom link. Call the Sheldon, 802-388-2117 for more information.

## CALENDAR ONLINE

[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

# Area Holiday Services



If your holiday services are missing from this listing, send them to the Addison Independent and the paper will run them in upcoming editions. Submit holiday services via email to sarahp@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944.

**ADDISON COUNTY** — A number of Addison County-area churches have set their schedules for special Christmas events and services. Note that these plans may change due to ongoing developments with COVID-19.

**BRIDPORT**  
**St. Bernadette's Catholic Church** in Bridport will hold Christmas Day Mass on Saturday, Dec. 25, at 9 a.m. On Sunday, Dec. 26, Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family will be held at 5:15 p.m. Please also see the listing for St. Mary's in Middlebury. Tel. 388-2943, stmary.vermontcatholic.org.

**BRISTOL**  
**The First Baptist Church of Bristol** Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service at 7 p.m. Holy Scripture readings, Christmas carols, special music and the lighting of candles will remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas Worship Service 10:15 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 19. All are welcome.

Bristol Federated Church will have its Christmas Service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23, in the church sanctuary. For everyone's protection masks should be worn at all times while in our church building. Attend in person or watch live on Zoom. Find the link at www.bristolfederated.com.

**LINCOLN**  
**The United Church of Lincoln** Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24: 4 p.m., Families and Children Service; 7 p.m. Traditional Service; 11 p.m., Communion Service. The Families and Children Service and Traditional Service will also be online at unitedchurchoflincoln.org. More info at 802-453-4280.

**MIDDLEBURY**  
**Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society** Christmas Eve Traditional Service: The Prayers the Nativity Answers — A traditional UU Christmas Service. Friday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m. Led by Rev. Barnaby. Special music. Readings from the Christmas Story. Ends with traditional lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night. Attend in person or online via Zoom link at cvuus.org. Collecting donations for HOPE.

**Memorial Baptist Church** Christmas Eve Nativity Walk, Dec. 24; Christmas Day Service, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.; Christmas Sunday Worship, Dec. 26, 10 a.m. Masks required and available. For more information contact memorialbaptistvt.org or email membaptistvt@gmail.com.

**St. Mary's Catholic Church** in Middlebury will hold Christmas Eve Masses on Friday, Dec. 24, at 4 and 9 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will be held on Saturday, Dec. 25, at 11 a.m. (and 9 a.m. at St. Bernadette's). On Sunday, Dec. 26, Masses for the Feast of the Holy Family will be held at 8 and 10 a.m. (and 5:15 p.m. at St. Bernadette's). Tel. 388-2943, stmary.vermontcatholic.org.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 4 p.m., Holy Eucharist with Pageant; 9 p.m., Festive

Holy Eucharist with a 20-minute choral prelude of carols sung by the choir. Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist with Hymns & Carols. First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26, 10 a.m., Christmas Lessons & Carols Service. Please visit our website at ststephensmid.org for the latest updates on Christmas, worship, and life at St. Stephen's.

**The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC** will have in-person Christmas Eve Services at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Masks are required. Both services will also be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Links can be found on our website. www.midducc.org No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**SHOREHAM**  
 The Shoreham Congregational Church has changed its plans for the Christmas Eve Service due to the rise in COVID cases. An alternative service of prayer and meditation will replace the traditional Christmas Eve service. The Church Sanctuary will be open between 4 and 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, for anyone to come for a time of prayer and meditation. There will be recorded music and printed meditations available. All are invited to come any time between those hours and stay for 15 minutes or an hour to find a place of quiet and inspiration. Face masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

**WHITING**  
**Whiting Community Church** will have Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 24. In-person service. Masking is recommended but optional.

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**Public Notices** can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 5B, 9B and 10B.

**WARNING**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDDLEBURY SUMMER FESTIVAL ON-THE-GREEN, INC.**  
 The officers, directors, and all parties interested in the Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green, Inc. are hereby warned and notified to meet virtually on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, to transact the following business:

- 1) To approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting;
- 2) To hear reports from Festival Committees;
- 3) To elect Directors/Officers for 2022;
- 4) To discuss unfinished business from 2021;
- 5) To discuss new business for 2022.

**Any community members interested in attending should email midfog@gmail.com to request the Zoom link.**

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont  
 December 9, 2021  
 Patricia A. Boera, Secretary  
 Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION**  
**HIGH MEADOWS FUND, INC**

In 2004, High Meadows Fund, Inc. was formed with the ambitious goal of coupling the promotion of vibrant communities in Vermont with the preservation of a healthy natural environment. Since its formation, HMF has supported Vermont-focused projects in land use, farm and forest enterprises, and clean energy, with an increasing focus on environmental justice. HMF has supported leadership and innovation in these core areas by funding research, convenings, and direct engagement, investing for mission impact, and awarding charitable grants of over \$14.8 million to organizations across the Northeast.

After over 16 years of pursuing this vital mission, HMF has decided to pass the torch of its important work to the Vermont Community Foundation. HMF intends to wind up its operations by December 31, 2021.

In connection with winding up its affairs, HMF wants to ensure that all of its vendors have been paid and seeks to verify that all outstanding invoices have been paid in full. Accordingly, if you believe your company/organization is owed any amounts from HMF, please mail us your written claim to the following address: 3 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, Attn: Deb Debrowski.

If you submit a claim to us, please include in your submission (i) the specific amount owed, (ii) the date the debt was incurred, and (iii) a description of the service or product that your company/organization provided to HMF.

Please note that your claim against HMF will be time-barred under Vermont law unless you commence a proceeding to enforce your claim within five years after the publication of this notice. This notice is published in compliance with 11B V.S.A. Section 14.07.

For more information on the winding down of HMF, please see our blog post about this new chapter (at <http://www.highmeadowsfund.org/meadow-muffins-food-for-thought/2021/2/17/a-new-chapter-for-the-high-meadows-fund>).

We thank Vermont communities and nonprofit organizations for your effective work and for all we have learned from you over HMF's long history as we have worked to grow vibrant communities, nurture healthy ecosystems, and champion economic vitality in Vermont. We are confident that this next step in our history is one that will honor that important and pressing mission.

Gaye Symington, President  
 High Meadows Fund, Inc.

## Leicester

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

### NEWS

**LEICESTER** — The Leicester Historical Society will not be holding Bingo in December due to high COVID numbers in the area. Members hope that conditions will be better in April 2022, to gather again.

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring the annual Memory Tree after a hiatus last year. The deadline is Monday, Dec. 20. The cost is one dollar per each name listed, six names for five dollars. Send payment and names, clearly written, to Diane

Benware at 1594 Old Jerusalem Road, Salisbury, VT 05769. Names will be found on the town website after Dec. 23. The tree, at the Four Corners, will be lighted Thursday, Dec. 23, at dusk. For more info, call Diane at 802-247-3786 evenings.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Middlebury Union High School

### Fairley Olson

Middlebury Union High School introduces Fairley Olson of Middlebury as its Student of the Week. She is the daughter of Amy Roberts and Chris Olson and her older sister, Isabel, is a first-year student at Colorado College.

Fairley has been involved in a wide range of activities while enrolled at MUHS and is widely respected. She is one of five students to serve as a Peer Leader Coordinator and she helps organize and orchestrate activities for the newly enrolling ninth-graders.

As a member of the human rights group, SCHOR, she was instrumental in helping to get the Black Lives Matter flag raised at the high school. Fairley says that being asked to speak publicly on the day that the flag first flew at the school was extremely meaningful and significant. She loves her involvement in Best Buddies and is partnered with a student who she frequently interacts with in a variety of ways. Fairley is actively involved in Tiger athletics and runs cross country, plays basketball, and this spring will captain the varsity lacrosse team. Fairley is also involved in MAC and likes working with Mr. Farrell and Sarah Johnstone on programming for students. She has spent her summers at Camp Coniston in New Hampshire and last summer was counselor to young campers and taught swim lessons.

Fairley is pursuing the full International Baccalaureate diploma and has just completed her 4,000-word extended essay. She says IB has "pushed me to focus academically and has taught me time management skills!" She adds that the curriculum has "made me look at the bigger picture." Her favorite class is Mr. Harrington's Physics class as she says he creates such interesting experiments.

During her sophomore year, she was one of two student representatives on the search committee for the new principal. She enjoyed the process and is grateful that Mr. Campbell accepted the position as she believes he has been a great addition to the MUHS community and loves that he greets students every morning at the front door.

As Fairley looks ahead to college, she is undecided about a possible major, but she seeks a smaller liberal arts college in the Northeast or Colorado where she can explore a wide array of offerings. Everyone at MUHS wishes her well on what promises to be a great future!



Fairley Olson  
 MUHS

## Vergennes Union High School

### Christopher Therrien

Christopher Therrien of Vergennes has been selected as Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. Chris is the son of Susan and Shawn Therrien of Vergennes.

Chris is a capable student with appearances on the honor roll. He says his favorite class is History with Mr. Richmond. He is a contributing member for VUHS on both the track & field and cross country teams and has been running since 6th grade. He ran on the Commodore team that competed at the state cross country championship this fall. His favorite events on the track are the 1,500 and 800 meters.

Most notably, Chris is involved with the Vermont National Guard. He reserves one weekend every month to attend Army National Guard training and is working to be in the Military Police. His interest was spurred by his grandfather, who served in the U.S. Navy, and his father, who was unable to do military service despite his desire to. "My father couldn't get in the military so I wanted to try and I wanted to serve my country," he says.

Chris is also an Eagle Scout, and has participated in Boy Scouts since he was in first grade. He says Scouting has taught him leadership skills, survival skills, and more community-oriented skills — learning about his community and how he can help it. Chris likes to get outside and go hiking and ride four-wheelers. He says he especially enjoys these activities because they give him time to spend with his friends.

The last four years in high school have taught Chris how to deal with challenges; he says putting your head down and pushing through is much more rewarding than giving up. "My philosophy is if there are tough times, I am always stronger and will stand and endure whatever is ahead," he says.

Once he has finished at VUHS, Chris will be heading back to military training. From there he will see what happens. The VUHS community wishes him good luck!



Christopher Therrien  
 VUHS

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*Students of the Week from all area high schools will receive a gift certificate from Vermont Book Shop and a mug from Otter Creek Bakery. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.*

**Best of Luck to All Addison County Students!**

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!**

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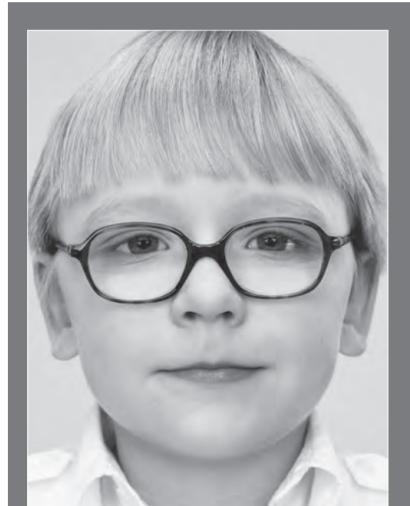
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**Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.  
Call 388-4944 or email ads@addisonindependent.com for details.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Public Meetings**

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts online meetings, Sunday nights at 7:15 pm and Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. Visit [vermontalananonlateen.org](http://vermontalananonlateen.org) for the link 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 suspended until further notice. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9a>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-388-9284.

**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 [Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com](mailto:Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

**Public Meetings**

**THE TURNING POINT CENTER** of Addison County is temporarily closed. Due to COVID-19 we are now holding our meetings online. For up-to-date information on how to access recovery services remotely please visit <https://turningpointaddisonvt.org/covid-19-page-2/>.

**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.

**Services**

**C+DRYWALL** and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545.

**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.

**WE BUY OLD STUFF** Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://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!

**FREE CAMP WOOD.** You haul away. Monday - Wednesday pick up. 453-2897.

**Garage Sales**

**CRAFT FAIR** Saturday December 4th from 10am-3pm. PCBC 49 Adams Ferry Rd, Pantton, VT. Jewelry, Photography, Knitting, Flower Art, Aprons, Soy Candles, Advent Calendars and so much more!

**Help Wanted**

**AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY** Hearth is hiring! Offering good compensation, respectful co-workers, and great food. We are hiring for multiple full time and part time positions including bar leadership, daytime prep and evening shifts. Ample opportunities for growth in a positive work environment. Please stop in for an application or email Joe at [joe@americanflatbread.com](mailto:joe@americanflatbread.com). EOE.

**BLUEBERRY HILL IS** hiring! Part/Full-time winter positions available. Morning and evening shifts. Responsibilities include; Serving meals, checking in guests, meal prep, house-keeping, and general guest services. Seasonal housing available. Opportunities for growth and continues employment. Send resume and letting of interest detailing relevant experience and availability to [info@blueberryhillinn.com](mailto:info@blueberryhillinn.com).

**HERITAGE FAMILY CREDIT UNION** is hiring for: Computer & Network Technician, Mortgage Closer, Teller, and more. HFCU has several openings in the Rutland area. These positions require a high attention to detail and strong member service, communication, and interpersonal skills. Please visit [www.hfcuvt.com](http://www.hfcuvt.com) for more information. E.O.E.

**Help Wanted**

**HIRING PER DIEM** Alyssum is a peer-run alternative mental health respite program in Rochester. Hiring Per Diem, paid training, with room to grow. Seeking kind, nonjudgmental people who can use their lived experience with mental health to support others. Good listening and communication skills, ability to self-reflect and interact with a broad

**Help Wanted**

spectrum of worldviews/experiences/opinions are essential. Must be available to work evenings, awake overnights and weekends. More info: [www.alyssum.org](http://www.alyssum.org). To apply, send resume and cover letter (outlining your personal experience with mental health and why you want to work here) to [information@alyssum.org](mailto:information@alyssum.org).

**For Sale**

**FOR SALE; 4** Firestone Winter Tires. Tire size: 215-70R16. Under 2000 miles. Price \$200. Please call 802-388-2631.

**Help Wanted**

**For Rent**

**12' X 24' STORAGE SPACES** in Brandon. Call 802-349-4212.

**Help Wanted**

**For Rent**

**BRANDON ROOM** for rent. 802-417-4057.

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 8B, and 9B.

**M MAPLEFIELDS**  
NOW HIRING:  
*MyfreshCafe*  
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11:30am - 7:30pm and  
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We offer Paid vacation, Sick, medical, dental, 401k and supplemental insurance

Apply in person at:  
**Maplefields,**  
2 South Water St., Vergennes

Or fill out an online application at:  
[Maplefields.com/employment](http://Maplefields.com/employment)

**Seeking Public Engagement & Communications Services**

The Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County (CEAC) seeks public engagement and communications consulting services to support its Climate Action Planning (CAP) project.

CEAC is a non-profit organization working for deep reduction in greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining a healthy economy in Addison County, VT. Our Climate Action Planning process will address the climate crisis while at the same time grow our local community and its economic and social institutions.

**Submission details and deadlines are available at:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8bpdtc>

**VIA Architect/Designer**  
VERMONT INTEGRATED ARCHITECTURE, P.C.

Architect/Designer - Vermont Integrated Architecture, P.C. (VIA) of Middlebury, VT seeks a designer or newly-licensed architect with a minimum of 5 years of experience with design and construction documentation for sustainable residential, commercial, and institutional projects. Position requires excellent communication skills, strong proficiency producing technical drawings with Revit, detailed knowledge of construction documentation and related systems, and a willingness to collaborate. Commitment to and experience with energy efficiency and sustainability strategies in buildings required. Experience with Revit and Adobe Creative Suite programs required. Strong graphic design skills a plus. Ideally, candidates would already be located in Vermont. Send letter of interest and resume to:  
[gwen@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com](mailto:gwen@vermontintegratedarchitecture.com)

**Begin a career in 2022, don't start a job.**  
Spend your time doing work that makes a real difference.  
We need great people who want to help great people.

Are you compassionate, kind, resilient, and adaptable? Specialized Community Care is seeking unique individuals who will act as mentors, coaches, and friends to provide support for adults in Addison, Rutland, Franklin and Chittenden Counties with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This is a fun and rewarding career spent "Off the Couch." We provide extensive training, support, professional growth and advancement opportunities in a family work environment. We offer pay increases after a probationary period and further advancement and pay for self-paced skill building. We want to hire your values and train the skills that will help make you successful.

**Let's talk!**  
Please contact us at 802-388-6388  
Web: [www.sccvt.org](http://www.sccvt.org) | Email: [denise.smith@sccvt.org](mailto:denise.smith@sccvt.org)

**Director of Nursing Services**  
Looking for a change?  
Are you a leader who is ready to take the next step?  
We want to talk with you!  
**Elderwood at Ticonderoga has a Director of Nursing Services position available! \$10,000 Sign-On Bonus!**

The Director of Nursing Services team member at Elderwood assists with ensuring the health and well-being of our residents by be responsible for overall nurse staffing, staff training and development, and management of personnel in the Nursing Services Department of a residential health care facility; quality of nursing care assessment, planning, documentation and provision of services to residents; coordination of medical and pharmaceutical services in cooperation with the Medical Director, Pharmacy Consultant and Major Vendor Pharmacy; proper placement for care of residents, determined in cooperation with facility staff and Attending Physician; coordination of interdisciplinary health care services for residents that are provided by facility staff, other service providers, and consultants and participation and promotion of Quality Management activities and programs for ongoing improvement in nursing services to the facility.

**DON Qualifications:**

- Credentials of a Registered Professional Nurse with a current State license required.
- Bachelor's degree in nursing or administration preferred.
- At least two years of supervisory nursing experience and additional training and experience commensurate with the size of the facility and responsibilities of the position required.
- Geriatric nursing training preferred.
- Ability to communicate well verbally and in writing, utilize creative problem solving, and handle problems diplomatically required.
- Exhibits characteristics of effective managerial leadership skills. These characteristics should include: desire for improvement; builder of trust; creating an environment where staff can experience pride. Their efforts are directed at allowing each worker to perform his or her own work and performing in a manner consistent with the aims and standards of the organization.

Elderwood expects all current and new employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.  
If hired, you will be required to provide proof of vaccination.  
Employees may request a medical exemption from vaccination.

**Opportunities**

**The Bixby Memorial Free Library is Seeking Volunteers!**

The Bixby Library in Vergennes is currently looking for individuals with the following expertise:

**Tech Support** - A volunteer to assist in evaluating whether or not to retire, refurbish or recycle their current computers and technology, to provide patron support in the library on a weekly basis and consult with library staff, as needed.

**Accounting** - A volunteer to assist with the monthly QuickBooks accounting and reconciliation and offer advice on how to better take advantage of that platform for managerial reporting and decision-making.

Please contact RSVP of Addison County at 388-7044 or [rsvpfpg@gmail.com](mailto:rsvpfpg@gmail.com) to learn more about volunteering at the library.

Addison Independent  
**CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

ADDISON INDEPENDENT  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[www.addisonindependent.com](http://www.addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

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An ad placed for consecutive issues (Mondays & Thursdays) is run 4th time free!

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- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

**RATES**

**DEADLINES:** Thurs. noon for Mon. paper  
Mon. 5 p.m. for Thurs. paper

• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad  
• \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

\*\* no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...**

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Internet Listing: **\$2.00**  
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

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

For Rent



**MAPLEFIELDS**  
Looking for work in your hometown?  
We offer medical, dental, paid vacation, personal time, sick time and 401K for full time positions.  
ALL ADDISON COUNTY LOCATIONS CURRENTLY HIRING!  
For openings and to apply, visit [Maplefields.com](http://Maplefields.com)

**BRANDON: PARK VILLAGE** apartments is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Senior 62+ housing available. Minimum occupancy requirements for affordable units. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

**BRISTOL: SHARE NEWER HOME W/ SENIOR MAN** who enjoys scenic drives & neighborhood walks. Reduced rent of \$300/mo. in exchange for healthy meal prep 2-3x/wk, groc. shopping & light household help. Private 1/2 BA. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, background checks req. EHO.

**EAST MIDDLEBURY** furnished room. All included; fully equipped kitchen, wi-fi, w/d, parking, all utilities. Private entrance. Clean, quiet, safe. \$450 per month. Text Sue 802-989-8941.

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.

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.  
**FOR RENT: BRANDON** Share a newer home w/ senior man who enjoys scenic drives & neighborhood walks. Reduced rent of \$300/mo. in exchange for healthy meal prep 3-4x/week, grocery shopping & light household help. Private 1/2 BA. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, background checks req. EHO

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

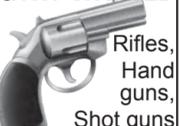
**Att. Farmers**  
**FOR SALE: SAWDUST** delivered. 85 cubic yard loads. Call Paul for pricing. 802-623-6731.

**WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK** Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

**Att. Farmers**  
**HORSE BLANKET WASH** and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.  
**SMALL SQUARE BALES** \$3.50. Excellent round bales \$30.00. Call 802-377-5455.

**Wanted**  
**FREON WANTED** We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12, R500, R11, R113, R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com.

**OLD & USED GUNS WANTED**  
Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns  
Top prices paid.  
P: 802-775-2859  
C: 802-236-7213



✓  
**Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 8B, and 9B.**



**MAPLEFIELDS**  
**Manager in Training - Full Time**  
Maplefields Addison County  
Position Based in Middlebury  
**Position Description**  
The primary role of the Assistant Manager/Manager in Training is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.  
*For additional benefits and further job description apply to: [Maplefields.com/employment](http://Maplefields.com/employment)*



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Your local newspaper is your **BEST RESOURCE** for local job opportunities!  
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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT  
VERMONT'S TWICE-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
58 Maple Street • Middlebury, Vermont 05753 • (802) 588-4944

**It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing**  
It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing. Its easier to break the law than you might think. You can't say "no children" or "adults only."  
There's a lot you can't say.  
The Federal Government is watching for such discrimination.  
Let us help you sift through the complexities of the Fair Housing Law. Stay legal. Stay on the right side of the nation's Fair Housing Law.  
Call the Addison Independent at (802) 388-4944.  
Talk to our sales professionals.  
ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT  
VERMONT'S TWICE-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



**MEETING OF THE ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2021 AT 12PM**  
The first meeting of the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) will be held on December 15, 2021 at 12pm (in person at the ACRPC office 14 Seminary St with Zoom option).  
The REMC conducts All-Hazards preparedness planning and coordinates with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the new statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).  
The REMC is made up of Local Emergency Management Directors and Emergency Services Representatives from each municipality in the region. Representatives from fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, media, transportation, hospitals, the department of health district office, organizations serving vulnerable populations, and any other interested public or private individual or organization, are welcome to attend and participate!  
For more information, contact ACRPC Emergency Management Planner Andrew L'Roe at [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org) or 802-388-3141 x3.

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
Town of Middlebury  
77 Main St., Middlebury, VT 05753  
Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of:  
Colonial Drive Improvements Project will be received by The Town of Middlebury, Public Works Department at: 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 until 1:00 p.m. (prevailing local time) Thursday, December 23, 2021 if mailing, or to the Public Works Department at 1020 South Route 7 if hand delivering, and then at Middlebury Public Works Dept. publicly opened and read aloud.  
Each BID must be accompanied by a certified check payable to the OWNER for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the BID. A BID bond may be used in lieu of a certified check.  
The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:  
**Green Mountain Engineering, Inc.,**  
1438 South Brownell Road, Williston, VT 05495  
**Town of Middlebury, Public Works Offices,**  
1020 South Rt. 7, Middlebury, VT 05753  
**Works in Progress,** 20 Farrell Street, Suite 103, South Burlington, VT 05403  
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of Green Mountain Engineering, Inc., located at 1438 South Brownell Road, Williston, VT 05495 upon payment of \$120.00 for each set.  
A Performance BOND and a Payment BOND each in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price, will be required.  
Federal minimum wage rates and public work employment laws are applicable.  
A pre-bid conference for prospective bidders will be held at the Middlebury Public Works Building, located at 1020 South Route 7 in Middlebury, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021.  
Representatives of Green Mountain Engineering and the Town of Middlebury will be present to answer questions from bidders and discuss participation requirements.  
Ms. Kathleen Ramsay  
Town Manager



272 Main St. - P.O. Box 311, Vergennes, VT 05491  
Phone: 802-877-2626 • Fax: 802-877-2627  
**VERGENNES, VT**  
**1, 2 AND 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
Addison County Community Trust is updating the waiting lists for the Smallest City Apartments located in Vergennes, Vermont. Beginning on January 1st 2022 rent for one bedrooms will be \$914, two bedroom \$1,022, three bedroom \$1,155 all utilities included except electricity. Rental assistance may be available. Income restrictions apply. Handicap Accessible units available  
To request an application visit [www.addisontrust.org](http://www.addisontrust.org), call (802) 877-2626 x109 TDD 711 or email [carolyn@addisontrust.org](mailto:carolyn@addisontrust.org)  
Equal Housing Opportunity



272 Main St. - P.O. Box 311, Vergennes, VT 05491  
Phone: 802-877-2626 • Fax: 802-877-2627  
**VERGENNES, VT**  
**1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
Addison County Community Trust is updating the waiting lists for the Creekview Apartments located in Vergennes, Vermont. Beginning on January 1st 2022 rent for one bedroom apartments will be \$870, two bedroom apartments will be \$995, all utilities included and rental assistance may be available. Income restrictions apply. Handicap Accessible units available.  
To request an application visit [www.addisontrust.org](http://www.addisontrust.org), call (802) 877-2626 x109 TDD 711 or email [carolyn@addisontrust.org](mailto:carolyn@addisontrust.org)  
Equal Housing Opportunity

**Public Notices Index**  
Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 5B, 9B and 10B.  
Addison County Courthouse (1)  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)  
Addison Northwest Supervisory District (2)  
High Meadows Fund (1)  
Middlebury (2)  
Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green (1)  
Vergennes Panton Water District (1)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING**  
**ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE**  
**TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.**  
Also available via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83382863605>  
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)  
Webinar ID: 833 8286 3605  
For those wishing to watch but not participate: Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV\\_Vermont](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont) and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071  
**AGENDA**  
7:00 1. \*\*Call to Order  
2. \*Approval of Agenda  
3. \*Approval of Consent Agenda  
3.a. Approval of Minutes of the November 16, 2021 Regular Selectboard Meeting  
3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
3.c. Application for 2021 Tree City USA re-certification  
3.d. Thank you letter to Tom Scanlon, of American Legion Post #27, for the Legion's donation toward Middlebury's annual New Year's Eve fireworks show  
3.e. Town Manager's Report  
3.e.1. Year-to-Date Budget Reports 10.31.21  
3.e.2. First Draft of Revised Purchasing Policy  
4. \*Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]  
5. \*Liquor license applications  
5.a. Ales Family Restaurant, 54 College Street, request for approval of 1<sup>st</sup> Class and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Liquor Licenses  
5.b. \*Vermont Hard Cider, 1321 Exchange Street, request for approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Liquor License  
6. \*\*Agenda Placeholder  
7. \*\*First Draft of FY23 General Fund Budget  
7.a. Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager, Review of Major Budget Drivers Based on First Draft Budget; Review of Budget Requests for Administration, Employee Benefits & Debt Service  
7.b. \*\*Dana Hart, Director, Ilsley Public Library, Budget Request for Libraries  
7.c. \*\*Thomas Hanley, Chief of Police, Budget Request for Police Department  
7.d. \*\*David Shaw, Fire Chief, Budget Request for Fire Department  
7.e. \*\*Bill Kernan, Director of Public Works Operations, Budget request for Public Works  
7.f. \*\*Dustin Hunt, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, Budget Request for Parks & Recreation  
7:55 8. \*Dan Werner, Director of Public Works Planning, with recommendations from the December 9, 2021 Infrastructure Committee Meeting  
8.a. Statement of Qualifications from Landmark Engineering  
8.b. Colonial Drive Engineering Amendment No. 3 for Colonial Drive  
8:05 9. \*Participation in the National Opioids Settlement  
8:10 10. \*\*Discussion of Legislation Permitting Towns to Enact Local Indoor Mask Policies  
8:20 11. \*\*Updates on Inquiry to Vermont Community Broadband Board regarding funding Maple Broadband's purchase of fiber optic cable and electronics equipment (if available)  
8:30 12. \*\*Lisa Rubin of Ossie Road (Route 116) East Middlebury requesting Town Support, including Funding of, Traffic Calming Measures on Route 116  
8:40 13. \*Report from Town-College Lunch  
14. \*Approval of Check Warrants  
15. \*\*Board Member Concerns  
16. \*Executive Session – None Anticipated  
17. \*\*Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session  
8:55 18. \*Adjourn  
\* Decision Item \*\* Possible Decision

**Public Notices** can be found in this  
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 5B, 9B and 10B.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS  
DECEMBER 2021**

The following schedule of the Board of School Directors' meetings is announced for the month of December 2021:

Friday, Dec 3	7:30 AM	<b>Facilities Committee Meeting</b> ANWSD Office
Monday, Dec 13	4:50 PM	<b>Finance Committee Meeting</b> VUHS Main Conference Room
	6:00 PM	<b>ANWSD Regular Board Meeting</b> VUHS Library
Thursday, Dec 16	6:00 PM	<b>Community Engagement Committee Meeting</b> VUHS Library

**ANWSD VISION STATEMENT**

*We envision a kind, collaborative, and creative community for all that nurtures a diverse and accessible learning environment. Students will flourish as critical thinkers and productive citizens, cultivating resilience in an ever changing world.*

**ANWSD NOTICE  
RECORDS DESTRUCTION**

ATTN: Vergennes Union High School graduates born between 1985-1997 and who received Special Education services.

The Vermont Department of Education's State Board of Education Manual of Rights and Practices, Section 2365, 2.13(a) Destruction of Information, State:

"For purposes of an audit, when a participating agency has counted a child to justify receipt of IDEA funds, the district shall retain copies of the child's IEP and Special Education eligibility evaluations, for a minimum of five years from the end of the school year in which the document was in effect"

If you were a graduate of Vergennes Union High School, received Special Education services, and were born between 1985-1997, you are entitled to a copy of your records. **These students have reached the age of maturity; therefore, only the student may request their record.**

The Addison Northwest School District will be destroying these records on Monday, January 17, 2022. If you wish a copy of your records please contact Rachel Cornellier at rcornellier@anwsd.org or 802-877-3332.

**We must receive your request prior to January 17, 2022.**

**Vermont State** Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police cited out-of-staters for driving under the influence in Addison County in separate incidents this past week.

In the first incident, troopers received a report on Dec. 2 at a little after 11 a.m. of a man slurring his speech and unable to walk properly at a Route 7 convenience store in New Haven. The man left the store and drove southbound on

Route 7, authorities were told.

Police caught up with the man's vehicle headed southbound on Route 30 in Middlebury and stopped it after seeing a violation. While speaking with the driver, identified as Francis Schaub, 35, of Astoria, NY., troopers alleged they saw signs of impairment. They then screened Schaub and cited him for DUI.

Middlebury police assisted state

police on the scene.

About 25 hours later, at just after midnight on Dec. 4, state police received a report of a vehicle unable to maintain its lane on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. Troopers found and stopped the vehicle on Main Street in Vergennes. They identified the driver as James Dunleavy, 24, of Denver, Colo.

As in the last case, troopers detected signs of impairment while speaking with the driver. Police

screened and cited Dunleavy for DUI. After processing at the state police barracks in New Haven, they released Dunleavy to the ACT 1 detox center in Burlington.

In a separate incident state police reported this week, on Nov. 25 a trooper stopped 32-year-old Joseph Lilly, who was described as homeless, on Court Street in Middlebury. Since then the trooper has attempted to contact Lilly again to issue him a citation for driving with a criminally suspended license, police report.

**WARNING  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC.  
DECEMBER 14, 2021**

The legal voters of VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. are hereby notified and warned to meet at the V.P.W.D. office building on Canal Street in the City of Vergennes in said District, on the 14th day of December, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in person to transact the following business to wit:

**ARTICLE I:** To elect by ballot the following officers:

- (a) a moderator
- (b) a clerk
- (c) a treasurer

**ARTICLE II:** To hear and act upon the reports from the officers of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC.

**ARTICLE III:** To have presented by the Board of Commissioners of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. their estimate of expenses for the ensuring year and to appropriate such sum as it, the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. deems necessary for said expenses together with the amount required to pay the balance, if any, left unpaid expressing said sum in dollars in its vote.

**ARTICLE IV:** To establish salaries for the Commissioners and other elected officers of the Water District.

**ARTICLE V:** To see whether the voters of said Water District will authorize its Board to borrow money pending receipt of water rents, by issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one(1) year to date.

**ARTICLE VI:** To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont, this 11th day of November, 2021  
Maria L. Brown, Clerk  
VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT

**PUBLIC  
NOTICE**

**Full Passport Service**

**Addison County Courthouse**

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

**REGULAR HOURS**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
**9am to 1pm**

Wednesday **12:30pm to 4:30pm**

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.

FACE MASKS REQUIRED.

(even if vaccinated)

**802-388-1966**

addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com

**STATE OF VERMONT  
SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
ADDISON UNIT**

**DOCKET NO. 21-PR-04400  
IN RE THE ESTATE OF  
BETSY JO RIPPNER**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the creditors of the estate of Betsy Joe Rippner late of Addison.

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: December 7, 2021

Stacey Rippner  
2728 Rocklyn Road  
Shaker Heights, OH 44122  
(440)343-7107  
stacerip@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 12/9/21

Address of Probate Court:

Addison Probate Court,

7 Mahady Court,

Middlebury VT 05753

**Auctions**

**MARKET REPORT  
ADDISON COUNTY  
COMMISSION SALES**

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 12/02 & 12/06, 2021

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
G. Beaudoin	1040	.70	728.00
Quarry Rd.	1510	.68	1026.80
Woodnotch Farm	1245	.685	852.83
J. Skiff	1035	.65	672.75
Gosliga Farm	1940	.62	1202.80
A. Brisson	1660	.60	996.00
Blue Spruce Farm	1700	.59	1003.00

CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
L. Garvey	100	2.475	247.50
Quarry Rd.	97	2.30	223.10
Conant's Riverside	82	2.025	166.05
G. Lynd	101	2.00	202.80
Barnes Bros.	123	1.80	221.40

Total # Beef: 205 • Total # Calves: 326

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# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

December 9, 2021



Josh Collier, artistic director of Barn Opera in Brandon, will bring "Amahl and the Night Visitors" — a 40-minute Christmastime opera — back to the Salisbury Congregational Church on Dec. 17 and 18. Two performances will be held each night, the first at 5:30 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m.

## 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' resumes in Salisbury

Perhaps these dark weeks of December bring sweet, warm smells of mulled wine and gingerbread to your kitchen, or perhaps a family trip to a tree farm, followed by a mess of tangled twinkle lights and familiar memories unwrapped with each paper-

BY **ELSIE**  
LYNN PARINI

covered ornament. Yes, 'tis the season for traditions.

But let's be honest, sometimes — just like that gingerbread house hardening on your counter — traditions can get a little stale.

Josh Collier, artistic director of Barn Opera in Brandon, has just what we need to spice up our holiday traditions. He's bringing "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a 40-minute opera to the Salisbury Congregational Church on Dec. 17 and 18.

Actually, he's bringing it back to the Salisbury church.

"Glenn Andres (a member of the church and Salisbury resident) contacted me and asked me if I'd be interested in putting on the production," Collier remembered. "I said, yeah, let's do it!"

That was 2019 — pre-pandemic.

"When we realized we were going to sell out, I talked to the cast about doing the performance again in 2020 and we announced that we were launching this as an annual tradition," Collier paused. "And then... Covid."

For 2020, Barn Opera made a virtual effort, but this year, the original 2019 cast is coming back in person and Collier is committed to making the tradition stick.

"My plan is to do this annually," he said. "It'll be the same story, the same show, but with a different take each year."

SEE AMAHL ON PAGE 3

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## EXHIBIT IN VERGENNES 'KNOWS DARKNESS'

A group show centered around winter solstice has become a mainstay on the exhibition calendar at Northern Daughters Fine Art Gallery on Main Street in Vergennes. In celebration of the many talented artists who carry us through this dark time of year the gallery opened the exhibit "Knowing Darkness" on Dec. 3. This exhibit features the work of artists Christina Atkinson, Bonnie Baird, Charlotte Dworshak, Julia Jensen, Hannah Morris, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, and Susanne Strater and will be on view through Jan. 31 in Vergennes, and again from Feb. 1-March 15 at the Annex Gallery at Village Wine and Coffee in Shelburne. There will be an opening reception held in Vergennes on Friday, Dec. 17, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

"The idea behind 'Knowing Darkness' is to feature work created for the darkness," the gallery wrote in a press release for the exhibit. "We often talk with artists about about the way Vermont and New England artists tend to lean into the darker time of year to create work, or retreat to their artwork as a(nother) way to enjoy the colder months, and we were interested in exhibiting work that brought that feeling and experience to the otherwise bright space of NoDa."

"When I heard the title my first thought was of psychological and political darkness," Pamela Smith said. "But as I started imagining what to paint, what came was

magical, mysterious, uplifting and exhilarating!"

Hannah Sessions was reminded of a quote from Anais Mitchell that hangs in her kitchen:

"Some birds sing when the sun shines bright  
wMy praise is not for them  
But the one who sings in the dead of night  
I raise my cup to him"

"The 'dead of night' can of course be literal or metaphorical," Sessions elaborated. "We might enter the 'dead of night' when our life circumstances feel overly challenging or taxing. When we are spiritually depleted or deeply sad or discouraged. The approaching of the literal winter has not always been easy for me of late. That time before the snow flies and calls us outside; the time when the day ends impossibly early, and the darkness can feel never ending and oppressive. What keeps us singing? As I have resolved to relish shorter days, I have appreciated the opportunity that this show has presented: an opportunity to literally embrace the darkness and find unique beauty in it. I have found the subtle hues of a late day sky, the warmth and life that emanate from barn windows in the dark and the sparkle of stars are all wonderful things that this time of year, the 'dead of night,' possesses."

For more information email [info@northerndaughters.com](mailto:info@northerndaughters.com), call 802-877-2173 or visit [northerndaughters.com](http://northerndaughters.com).



"Stick Season" by Hannah Morris.



"Is There Anything More Important" by Julia Jensen.



"Queens of Darkness" by Pamela Smith.



"Barn Lights Beckon, Blue Ledge" by Hannah Sessions.

# AMAHL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

What makes the show different for 2021?

Well, the biggest difference is the protagonist, Amahl.

In 2019, Amahl was played on alternating nights by brothers Joshua and Jonathan Kafumbe. But, as it happens, their voices matured and Collier needed to find a new singer for the role.

"There is a problematic moment in this opera," Collier noted; a moment that made him consider not producing the show.

A little background first: "Amahl and the Night Visitors" was the first opera to be broadcast to a national television audience — that was back on Dec. 24, 1951. The story revolves around a young handicapped boy and his mother, who live in a poor village on the route the three kings travel to meet the Christ-child after his birth. The kings arrive, weary from their journey and they stop for the night, enjoying the hospitality of Amahl and his mother. There is a great disparity in the wealth of the kings and Amahl's mother, and socio-economic conflict ensues, with a beautiful resolution fitting the spirit of the season you'll have to see.

"One of the kings, King Balthsazar, is black and in every production that's how it should be," Collier explained. "The problematic scene is when

"BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE STORY, THE SACRED SPACE GIVES THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE... **THE STORY IS ABOUT UNBRIDLED GENEROSITY AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDS RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES.**"

— Josh Collier

Amahl answers the door and says something to the effect of 'Mom, there are kings at the door, and one of them is black.' It lands really poorly. So I decided if I'm going to put on this opera, Amahl is going to be black — that way when he says that line it comes across as 'that man looks like me and someday I could be a king too.'"

This year Amahl will be played by Ambrose Cusick.

"Ambrose is 15 years old, his father is a white American and his mother is of Asian descent," Collier described. "And Ambrose is openly transgender.

"I'm really excited about the prospect of working with Ambrose," Collier continued. "He's a sophomore at Burlington High and has worked with Lyric Theater a few times. What I love most is the fact that he is so comfortable in his skin.

The lyrics reference "oh, little boy" a lot, so the character does need to be a boy. I think this is a great opportunity to give visibility to the trans community in anyway we can."

Collier has decided that whenever he produces this show, that sensitive line will be changed to resonate with whomever is playing Amahl.

Joining Cusick will be Helen Lyons as Amahl's mother, Cailin Marcel Manson as King Balthsazar, Nicholas Tocci as King Melchoir, Collier as King Kaspar and Tobias Duke as Servant. The principle performers are joined by a nine-member community chorus and accompanied by the "remarkable" pianist Felix Jarrar.

The performers have all been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and will perform unmasked in the Salisbury Congregational Church. Capacity will be limited to 120 (the max is 150), and audience members will need to show proof of vaccination and are encouraged to wear masks indoors.

Performances will be held at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 18, with a run time of no longer than 45 minutes.

"Because of the nature of the story, the sacred space gives the right atmosphere," said Collier, adding that the show will not be reproduced at Barn Opera in Brandon. "We don't have a heavy handed Christian approach... the characters are, for sure, but the story is about unbridled generosity and that's something that transcends religious boundaries."

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children (plus fees) and are available at barnopera.com.

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# UPCOMING MUSIC

## THE ALMENDROS BRING MUSICAL MIX TO MIDDLEBURY



The Almendros, pictured from left, Naunau Belu, John Wallace, Clint Bierman, Doug Wilhelm, Pete Ryan, Kemi Fuentes-George, Mark Pelletier and Liz Cleveland, will bring a musical mix to the Town Hall Theater stage in Middlebury on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

The new Addison County band The Almendros was a hit at its album release concert in September at the Marble Works. The Town Hall Theater, producers of that show, are thrilled to bring the band to the theater stage on Thursday, Dec. 16, for a 7 p.m. performance.

The group's album "All Over the Place" was recorded at Middlebury's LionTone Studio, and its title captures the Almendros's lively range of styles, from reggae, ska and world music to alt-country and rootsy rock 'n' roll. All the album's songs were written by bassist and vocalist Pete Ryan of Weybridge; the Dec. 16

show will also feature songs by band members Mark Pelletier of Weybridge and Naunau Belu of Middlebury. The band also offers its treatments of material by writers ranging from Bob Marley, Sly Stone and Smokey Robinson to John Fogerty, Lucinda Williams and the Clash.

"There's something really comfortable about the eight of us," Ryan said of the group. "It's like the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

"What I like the most is the band's siblinghood," agreed Belu, who is originally from

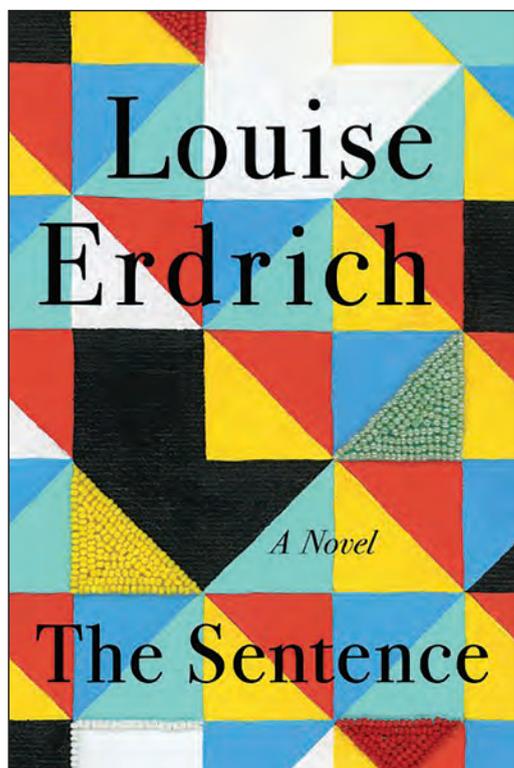
Madagascar. "Everybody is caring, attentive and lovely."

Most the Almendros also play in other well-known area bands. Pelletier and drummer John Wallace, of Cornwall, are with the Horse Traders and Deb Brisson & the Hay Burners, while Belu also plays with Gumbo Yaya. Guitarist and vocalist Clint Bierman plays in the Grift and other groups; vocalist and guitarist Liz Cleveland of Middlebury appears with LC Jazz and the Avant-Garde Dogs, and vocalist, harmonica player and percussionist Doug

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 11

# REVIEW BOOK

THE SENTENCE — BY LOUISE ERDRICH  
(Harper)



When we first meet Tookie, she's in the midst of making one of the worst decisions of her life, which is, in fact, a crime, and lands her in jail. After she serves her sentence, starting over, she takes a few steps in the right direction, and comes to Minneapolis to work as a bookseller at Birchbark Books, which happens to be the real-life bookstore owned, in real-life, by Louise Erdrich herself, the Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author of this book. That's what meta is. The focus shifts to the presence of a ghost, a former picky, fairly annoying customer who doesn't leave the bookstore after it's her time to go, and then shifts again as the pandemic begins and then upends business as usual at the bookstore, and then shifts to depict the killing of George Floyd and the aftermath that gripped the city where it occurred. Contemporary indigenous culture and community is woven in as a natural layer of richness in a novel I think will stand the test of time as an accurate representation of these times. Erdrich is so skilled at letting the non-Native in even as she bestows dignity and respect on the Native. And as a bonus, it's an entertaining and fun ride of a read.

— Reviewed by Jenny Lyons. Connect with her on Instagram @jennysbookshop to find more great book reviews and recommendations. Look for these titles and more at your local bookstore.



## SHORT PERFECT NOVELS

(A book list from *The Sentence*)

**Train Dreams**, by Denis Johnson

**Sula**, by Toni Morrison

**The Shadow Line**,  
by Joseph Conrad

**The All of It**, by Jeannette Haien

**Winter in the Blood**,  
by James Welch

**The Blue Flower**,  
by Penelope Fitzgerald

**First Love**, by Ivan Turgenev

**Wide Sargasso Sea**, by Jean Rhys

**Mrs. Dalloway**, by Virginia Woolf

**Waiting for the Barbarians**,  
by J. M. Coetzee

**Fire on the Mountain**,  
by Anita Desai

## BLOODROOT GAP PLAYS AT BRANDON MUSIC ON SATURDAY

For the final concert of 2021 Brandon Music welcomes Bloodroot Gap to Brandon Music on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Performing their special combination of bluegrass, jazz, Celtic and traditional American string music, steeped in the hills of Vermont this concert promises to provide an incredible night of entertainment from some of Vermont's finest musicians.

Formed after a serendipitous jam session at a Vermont bluegrass festival, Bloodroot Gap is a musical collaboration between brothers Rob and Jim McCuen (Swing Noire), Freeman Corey (Catamount Crossing, Big Spike Bluegrass) and Jake Munson.

Corey, a fiddle player who grew up on a dairy farm in Benson, is the son of a fine, old-time fiddler. He started playing at age 10, learning hundreds of Irish, Scottish and French-Canadian fiddle tunes from his father.

The McCuen Brothers have been performing side-by-side for nearly 30 years, founding the bands Wiley Dobbs, Acoustic Undermind, and Swing Noire. The brothers provide tight vocal harmonies and rhythmic accompaniment, as only twins can. Rob dazzles audiences with his fluid solos on mandolin and guitar, while Jim holds down the low end on upright bass.

Munson sings and plays guitar with the skill and confidence of one who was raised in a musical family. Since joining Bloodroot Gap for four sets at the Basin Bluegrass Festival last July, he has become an integral band member.

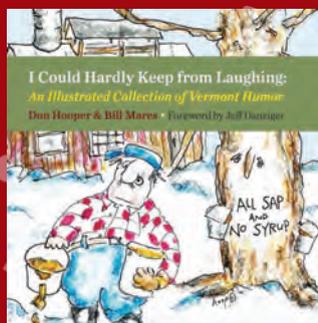
Saturday's concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Concert tickets are \$25. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$35. Reservations are required for dinners and recommended for the show and can be made online at [brandon-music.net](http://brandon-music.net). Venue is BYOB. For more info call 802-247 4295.

### Come to Brandon & Visit The Bookstore

Located in the historic Briggs Carriage Building

#### Friday, Dec. 10:

Bill Mares, co-author of *I Could Hardly Keep from Laughing: An Illustrated Collection of Vermont Humor* will be signing books from 5:00-7:00 pm



Call The Bookstore at (802) 465-8009 to reserve your copies!

THE BOOKSTORE

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**ARIES:** March 21-April 20. Dig deep into matters of the heart this week, Aries. Explore ways to nurture a relationship or push it to the next level. Don't hold back on love.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Someone connected to your job may be doing things you don't agree with, Libra. It's a sticky situation that requires patience, finesse and caution.

**TAURUS:** April 21-May 21. You may rediscover your love for a good book this week, Taurus. Ask others what they're into and peruse the best-sellers lists for even more inspiration.

**GEMINI:** May 22-June 21. Gemini, you often trust your instincts regarding money, but this week you'll be even more in tune with your finances. Your income could increase soon.

**CANCER:** June 22-July 22. Cancer, some shake-ups at work could be on the horizon. Right now there's no telling what will happen, but preparation can ensure you're ready for whatever comes your way.

**LEO:** July 23-Aug. 23. Leo, if you have been thinking about changing jobs or taking up a new profession, now is the time to lay that groundwork. A new opportunity could surprise you.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24-Sept. 22. Virgo, radical changes to your life are just around the corner. A big move or career change will shake things up for you and anyone in your household.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Scorpio, channel much of your energy this into making solid partnerships this week. This way you can call on your network whenever you need advice or a helping hand.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Sagittarius, research opportunities for a new business opportunity or promotion at your current place of employment. Now is a great time to take the next step in your career.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Capricorn, a midweek burst of energy makes a project you have been working on suddenly seem like a piece of cake. Enjoy the fruits your labors.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Repairs around the house may be on your mind, Aquarius. Once you tackle these issues, you can focus on more recreational tasks. Enjoy the well-deserved R&R.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19-March 20. Pisces, a creative project could take up much of your time this week. You'll be so caught up that the real world may pass you by for a bit.

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Closed Sunday

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- DEC. 9 — Judi Dench, actor (87)
- DEC. 10 — Emily Dickinson, poet (d)
- DEC. 11 — Naguib Mahfouz, novelist (d)
- DEC. 12 — Dionne Warwick, singer (81)
- DEC. 13 — Jamie Foxx, actor (54)
- DEC. 14 — B. K. S Iyengar, yoga master (d)
- DEC. 15 — Freeman Dyson, mathematician (d)

# CALENDAR

DEC. 9-JAN. 12  
2021 & 2022

## THURSDAY, DEC. 9

**"THE HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY" FILM DISCUSSION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. When two rich culinary cultures meet face-to-face what will happen? Watch the film at your convenience on Kanopy (using your IPL membership) or borrow the DVD. Then join Steve Gross either virtually over Zoom or in person in the Library Lobby. Masks required for in-person attendees. We kindly ask patrons that are unvaccinated or not comfortable wearing a mask to participate via Zoom. Contact Chris Kirby for more info.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 10

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join in a new holiday tradition as the Middlebury Acting Company presents Charles Dickens' classic in an original adaptation, true to the novella, which deftly integrates Dickens' witty, pointed, and socially conscious narrative with the heartwarming and familiar journey Ebenezer Scrooge makes from profiteer to philanthropist. Tickets pay-as-you-can, general admission, can be purchased in advance on a pay-as-you-can basis at different price levels (make your price choices when ordering) or at the door. Available at townhalltheater.org, 802-382-9222, or the THT Box Office Mon-Fri, 12-5 p.m. Masks and Covid

vaccinations required. Unvaccinated youth under age 12 may attend wearing masks.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 11

**"TUCK EVERLASTING" AUDITIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (registration at 10 a.m.) Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Audition for the Middlebury Community Players' April 2022 production of "Tuck Everlasting The Musical." Auditions also on Monday, Dec. 6. Please come to only one audition day. Auditioners must be at least 11 years old. For Covid protocols and other details, visit middleburycommunityplayers.org.

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 10 entry.

**THE DAVE KELLER BAND IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 River Rd. Come hear soul and blues for the Burnham Music Series at Burnham Hall, Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults, teens and kids free. Refreshments are served. Masks are required. Please bring a vaccination card. For more information, call 802-388-6863.

**BLOODROOT GAP IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Music, 62 Country Club Rd. Formed after a serendipitous jam session at a Vermont bluegrass festival, Bloodroot Gap is a musical collaboration between brothers Rob and Jim McCuen of Swing Noire and Freeman Corey of Catamount Crossing to provide a special evening of Vermont based bluegrass and traditional string music. Tickets \$25. Pre-concert dinner available for \$35. Reservations are required for dinners and recommended for the show and can be made on-line at brandon-music.net. Venue is BYOB. Call 802-247 4295 or e-mail info@brandonmusic.net for reservations or for more info.

**VOCAL CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck share the culmination of their studies in a lively evening of songs and arias. Free. Open to audiences from both on- and off-campus; vaccinations (or valid medical or religious exemptions)

and masks required. Additional health and safety information at middlebury.edu/college/arts/about/health-and-safety.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 12

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Dec. 10 entry.

**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Dec. 12, 4 and 7 p.m., Middlebury College Chapel, Old Chapel Rd. This annual traditional program combines choral music and the Biblical texts of the season. The celebratory community service features the Middlebury College Choir, performing under the direction of Jeffrey Buettner, and readings by students, faculty, and staff. George Matthew Jr. and his students ring in the service with selections on the chapel carillon. Free; donations accepted for local charities. The 4 p.m. service will have ASL interpretation. Open to audiences from both on- and off-campus; vaccinations (or valid medical or religious exemptions) and masks required. Additional health and safety information at middlebury.edu/college/arts/about/health-and-safety.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 16

**ART OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 16, 5-7 p.m., Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Town Hall Theater for Winter Sun in its Jackson Gallery, a colorful exhibit to warm the winter. Pastels by Cristine Kossow and Judith Albright, turned wood by Justin Morande, Bridport Hill Pottery, and Elinor Steele Tapestries. Exhibit runs through Jan. 30. Free.

**THE ALMENDROS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Almendros plays a lively range of styles, from reggae, ska and world music to alt-country and rootsy rock 'n' roll. The band also offers its treatments of material by writers ranging from Bob Marley, Sly Stone and Smokey Robinson to John Fogerty, Lucinda Williams and the Clash. Tickets \$10. All attendees are asked to wear a mask and be vaccinated against Covid-19. Unvaccinated youth under age 12 may attend wearing masks. More info at townhalltheater.org.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 17

**"AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS" IN**

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

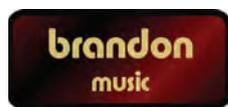
Please join us:



**Bloodroot Gap**  
will perform their special blend of bluegrass, jazz, Celtic and traditional American string music. At Brandon Music on December 11 at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$25. Dinner and concert \$60.  
Go to <http://www.brandon-music.net> for details and on-line booking.

Brandon Music  
62 Country Club Road, Brandon, VT  
802-247-4295 or 802-282-8655



**SALISBURY.** Friday, Dec. 17, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Amahl and the Night Visitors concerns a young handicapped boy and his mother, who live in a poor village that is on the route for the three kings to travel to meet the Christ-child after his birth. More info and tickets, \$25, at barnopera.com.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 18

**LUMEN CELEBRATION OF FIRE & LIGHT IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, Dec. 18, downtown. Experience fire performers, a lighted walk down Main Street, and cozy fires.

**"AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS" IN SALISBURY.** Saturday, Dec. 18, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. See Dec. 17 listing.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 21

**WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, Dec. 21, beginning at 4 p.m., Merchants Row. Lanterns, puppets pageantry, a show of St. George and the Dragon and more surprises will illuminate Merchants Row. Free.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 24

**TOWN HALL THEATER VIRTUAL HOLIDAY JUKEBOX.** Friday, Dec. 24-Saturday, Jan. 1, online at townhalltheater.org. THT presents a new concert showcasing an uplifting collection of local music videos. \$10. Proceeds benefit the Giving Fridge.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 30

**"SHEPHERD: THE STORY OF A JEWISH DOG" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Dec.

30, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. From award winning director Lynn Roth, this film sensitively portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his faithful dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930's Germany. When the Nuremberg Laws are passed forbidding Jews to own pets, Kaleb, a German Shepherd, is separated from his Jewish family and his beloved 10 year old master, Joshua. What follows is a story of love and courage during an unforgettable time in history seen through the eyes and perspective of a dog. More info at mnff.org or townhalltheater.org.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 31

**NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS AND ICE SKATING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Dec. 31, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Field, Mary Hogan Dr. American Legion Post 27, is sponsoring this year's New Year's Eve fireworks and ice skating. Fireworks will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. When they're done head over to the Memorial Sports Center and enjoy free ice skating from 7-8:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 2

**"CINDERELLA" LIVE IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Jan. 2, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Maple St. Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's Cendrillon is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90-minute adaptation, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess. Encore screening of the January 1 Met performance. Tickets \$24 adults/\$10 students, available at townhalltheater.org.

## THURSDAY, JAN. 6

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB CROSS-COUNTRY**

**SKI IN RIPTON.** Thursday, Jan. 6, Goshen Dam. A 2-4 mile ski to Goshen Dam, depending on route, snow conditions, and if group prefers to do as a loop. If snow is not good, will do as a hike or snowshoe. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com with questions or to register.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 8

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN RIPTON.** Saturday, Jan. 8, Spirit in Nature, Goshen Rd. Easy to moderate hike on the Spirit in Nature trails, 3-4 miles maximum, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Contact leader Liana Merrill at merrill.liana@gmail.com to get details and register.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SNOWSHOE IN HANCOCK.** Wednesday, Jan. 12. Snowshoe north from Middlebury Gap on the Long Trail to Silent Cliffs and towards Burnt Hill turnoff. 1-2 miles each way, depending on group interest. Strenuous. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com with questions or to register.

**"THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM" VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Zoom. In "Picturing Difference: Photography, Democracy, and Race in the 19th Century," Dr. Michelle Smiley will discuss American daguerreotype portraiture, its uses as both as a scientific instrument and as a means of picturing loved ones, as well as the photographic portrait as a medium of democratic participation, particularly for African American, Asian, and women subjects. More info and registration at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.

<b>MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 &amp; 1091</b>		<b>MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION:</b> P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a> , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
<b>MCTV Channel 1071</b> <b>Friday, Dec. 10</b> 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 7:30 p.m. Cannabis Control Board (CCB) <b>Saturday, Dec. 11</b> 7 a.m. Central Vermont Public Safety 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 9 p.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update <b>Sunday, Dec. 12</b> 12 a.m. CCB 5 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Energy Week 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service	4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 10 p.m. Middlebury Edition <b>Monday, Dec. 13</b> 12 a.m. CCB 6 a.m. Middlebury Edition, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update 6 p.m. Green Mountain Care (GMC) Board <b>Tuesday, Dec. 14</b> 12 a.m. GMC Board 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Wednesday, Dec. 15</b> 12 a.m. GMC Board 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Gov. Scott	5 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard, Middlebury Edition 10 p.m. Gov. Scott <b>Thursday, Dec. 16</b> 5 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Gov. Scott 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. CCB 8 p.m. Energy Week 10:30 p.m. Eckankar <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, Dec. 10</b> 5:30 a.m. Eric Story Time 5:45 a.m. ACSD & HCC School Boards 12 p.m. MUHS Choir and Band 3 p.m. Poets and Authors 5:32 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. "The Sound of Music" 8:30 p.m. First Wednesdays 10 p.m. Yestermorrow Speaker Series	<b>Saturday, Dec. 11</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. "The Sound of Music" 8 a.m. ACSD & HCC School Boards 12 p.m. "The Sound of Music" 2:45 p.m. Kids Yoga 3 p.m. Yoga with Nicole 3:45 p.m. Eric Story Time 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. MUHS Band and Choir 9 p.m. First Wednesdays <b>Sunday, Dec. 12</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. First Wednesdays 8 a.m. "The Sound of Music" 10 a.m. MUHS Band and Choir 2 p.m. "The Sound of Music" 4 p.m. MUHS Band and Choir 6:30 p.m. ACSD, HCC Boards <b>Monday, Dec. 13</b> 5 a.m. Poets and Authors 11 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. The Sound of Music 3 p.m. Yestermorrow	4:30 p.m. "The Sound of Music" 6 p.m. MUHS Band and Choir 8 p.m. ACSD, HCC Boards <b>Tuesday, Dec. 14</b> 9:30 a.m. Yestermorrow 12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 1 p.m. ACSD, HCC Boards 4 p.m. "The Sound of Music" 6 p.m. State Board of Education <b>Wednesday, Dec. 15</b> 12 a.m. Programs on Architecture 7 a.m. MUHS Band and Choir 12 p.m. MUHS Band and Choir 3:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 4:30 p.m. ACSD, HCC Boards 10 p.m. State Board of Education <b>Thursday, Dec. 16</b> 12 a.m. State Board of Education 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. First Wednesdays 12 p.m. ACSD, HCC Boards 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 p.m. "The Sound of Music"	

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Thank you for supporting these and other Middlebury businesses during the holiday season and all year long!

[EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM](http://EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM)

**The Middlebury Shop (Forth 'N Goal Sports)** Stop in for our "Mystery Sale!"

**Sweet Cecily** Enter to win a great gift for yourself or for someone else.

**Little Seed Coffee Roasters** 3 of 4 of our single origin offerings with free samples and info plus bags of coffee for sale.

**Danforth Pewter** Enter to win a \$100 Danforth Pewter Gift Card.

**Addison West** 20% off all ornaments and a free gourmet lollipop with every purchase!

**Buy Again Alley** 20% off all holiday items.

**Sparrow Art Supply** (52 Main St, down the stairs) 10% off all DIY kits and Stocking Stuffers! Raffle to win an easel! Everyone who makes a purchase is entered to win. Additional tickets can be purchased. All money from extra ticket sales will go towards a scholarship at Middlebury Studio School. Winner announced at the end of the evening.

**Your Home** Gift certificate drawing! Check our new location at 56 College St.

**Frog Hollow Bikes Discounts** 5% - 25% off and treats from **Thistle and Honey Baking**.

**Green Mountain Adventures** Enter to win a pair of Blundstone Chelsea

**Boots** (\$199.95 value)

**Vermont Book Shop** Enter to win a \$100 gift card to the Vermont Book Shop.

**Main Street Stationery** 10% off all art supplies

**Stone Mill** Several makers and producers on hand! Check @thestonemillvt on instagram for the latest lineup throughout the holiday season. We have the gifts, cards, wine and coffee to delight everyone on your list.

**Parlour** Bottles of whiskey along with cocktail drinks, for sale by **Whistle Pig** plus Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be serving free Christmas cookies. Chair massages (\$1/min) by Kim Doane available first come, first serve. Free **Tata Harper** facials with the purchase of \$100 or more and a free gift. Sign up sheets to reserve your spot or call 989-4993. Sneak peak of our clothing line and everyone who makes a purchase has a chance to win up to 50% off all items. All purchases enter to win a year of free facials (one per month) and more!

**Tinker and Smithy** Pop up by **Good Vibes Tie Dye**

**Autumn Gold** will be open.

**Edgewater Gallery** will be open at their Merchants Row location.

**Juice Amour** come check out our new location on Merchants Row! Samples, retail items and gift certificates available.

**Two Brothers Tavern** We'll be serving \$7 champagne and \$2 oysters (minimum of 6) as supplies last!

**Fire and Ice** Receive a free \$20 gift card when you purchase \$100 gift card.

**Vermont's Own Gifts and Goods** Surprise discount at the register, plus tastings from **Lincoln Peak/Shelburne Vineyards**.

**IPJ Real Estate** Golden Hour Goods LLC with baby onesies, sweatshirts, ornaments, mugs, glassware and photo cards.

**National Bank of Middlebury** stop by for FREE gift wrapping.

**Triangle Park Plaza** Enjoy heaters, a fire table, free popcorn and the hot cocoa cart with all the fixings!

**Swift House** Stop by for a delicious tasting menu!

Plus Middlebury Money giveaways all evening!

And, be sure to check out the illuminated falls at the Marble Works.

*We are excited to host this final stroll of the year and we want everyone to be safe this holiday season. If a store is very crowded, please wait until people come out before going inside and wear a mask if the business has asked you to do so. Practice patience, kindness and good cheer! Thank you for supporting our local businesses!*

Find updated info about the strolls and other Very Merry Middlebury happenings at [EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM](http://EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM)

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## ACROSS

- 1. Polish city
- 6. Very eager
- 10. Identifies a specific person or thing
- 14. Tennis great Naomi
- 15. One concerned by professional advancement
- 17. PGA Championship reward
- 19. A fashionable hotel
- 20. Norse mythology afterlife location
- 21. Stood up
- 22. Car mechanics group
- 23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
- 24. Broken branch
- 26. Astronomy unit
- 29. East Asian nursemaid
- 31. "Airplane!" actor
- 32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 34. "Batman" villain
- 35. Downfalls
- 37. Philippine province
- 38. Once-vital TV part
- 39. Valley

- 40. Tax
- 41. Classic Scorsese film
- 43. Subway dwellers
- 45. Book part
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Founder of Babism
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
- 58. Lot's father
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Lemur

## DOWN

- 1. Quarrels
- 2. Right away
- 3. Comedian Carvey
- 4. Egyptian unit of weight
- 5. A Brit's mother
- 6. Tropical tree
- 7. One who speaks Gaelic
- 8. NHL legend Bobby
- 9. Vacation spots
- 10. Military personnel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18								
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- 11. Shakira's don't lie
- 12. Wimbledon champ
- 13. Teletypewriter
- 16. Mistakes
- 18. Whale ship captain
- 22. Thus
- 23. From end to end
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. One and only
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Taxis
- 29. Basics
- 30. Refuse of grapes
- 31. Go quickly
- 33. French ballet dynasty
- 35. Most open
- 36. Popular soap ingredient
- 37. US time zone (abbr.)
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Backbones
- 43. Infrequent
- 44. Blood type
- 46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Pike
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. A cardinal is one
- 51. From a distance
- 52. Bolivian river
- 53. N. American student organization (abbr.)
- 54. River (Spanish)
- 55. Chinese life force
- 56. Chinese surname

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## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 15.

# Stay Sharp

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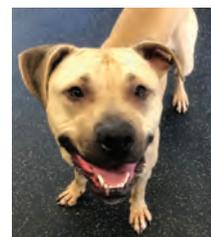
Homeward Bound  
Addison County's Humane Society



**PETS IN NEED  
HOMEWARD BOUND**

Addison County's Humane Society

**Henny** is a hunk of love who is just waiting for his human to come along. He is all wiggles and playtime, energetic and fun. He loves people and would be an amazing companion dog. He needs to be the only pet in the home at this time. He is a big, sweet goober who doesn't deserve to be stuck in shelter! Come meet him today!



**Irish** is a spring-loaded pupper with the most loving personality. He has great energy and needs an owner who is down for endless snuggles, play and adventure time. Irish can't be with other pets in the home, and has shown significant prey drive for small animals, as he unfortunately wasn't socialized properly as a baby. He really needs a BFF human – it is literally all he wants. He says hi to everyone he sees and is nothing if not happy-go-lucky. He loves

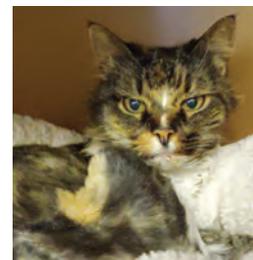
the car, attention, drive-throughs, every single human that he meets. Look at his face... he is the cutest!

We are seeking a mellow home that can focus on socialization and love for **Miss JJ**. She became overstressed in her last home with too many additional animals. She is sweet, albeit nervous at the moment, but with the right environment we know she is going to make the most loving companion. JJ needs no other pets in the home. Respectful, dog-savvy children are okay over the age of 13. JJ needs a family that can really focus on her for the rest of her life.



**Radke** came to us after living a very limited life. He had low exposure to the world due to a sheltered lifestyle and is startled by loud noises and fast movements. For this reason, homes with small children wouldn't be appropriate for him - older kids are fine. He needs a calm and relaxing retirement with lots of love and yummy food to make up for his previously marginalized lifestyle. Another calm dog may be okay for him. He has done well with other chill dogs. He is safe to live with cats. He is very timid, but loves nothing more than human affection.

Meet **Oldielocks!** She's a senior lady at 10 years old. At no fault of her own she has found herself here. She lived previously with a dog. She would like a quiet home where she can lounge around and live out the rest of her sunny days.



This guy here is **Cesar**. At 14 years old this friendly guy finds himself here in shelter at no fault to his own. He's made himself very cozy here in "Senior City". He resides in a room with other senior cats including his friend Butter, who he came in with. Cesar enjoys sleeping in his cat hut, sitting in the windows watching the birds, or munching on some treats! He will play for short periods of time and take a quick cat nap to regain his energy for

another round. Have you been looking for a little Cesar in your life? He does not have to go home with Butter, however that is an option!

**Carson** is 13 years old and 16 pounds of pure love and affection! He was surrendered to the shelter when his owners could no longer keep him. He loves to eat! Food is this guy's best friend, whether it's wet food, dry or just some treats - he is happy! He likes to lay in the cat tree or sprawl out on the floor for belly rubs! Yes, that's right... belly rubs just like a dog would like! He would do well in a home with other cats, dogs, or kids. Call today to take Carson away!



Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you.  
388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org  
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

**MUSIC**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Wilhelm of Weybridge plays with the Hay Burners and the Avant-Garde Dogs. Kemi Fuentes-George of East Middlebury joins the Almendros on trumpet and guitar, while Lolly Otis of Lincoln adds vocals.

"Listening, knocking around different thoughts, and coming out with great new songs makes it fun and worthwhile," said Pelletier of the group's creative process.

The show begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16 at the Town Hall Theater. Tickets are \$10 at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222. Find "All Over the Place" on Spotify and Apple Music, and at almendrosband.com.

**Pet of the WEEK**

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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## HOLIDAY PLANTS: CARE & SAFETY



*Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of Vermont's Bennington County Chapter.*

It's that time of year again when amaryllis, Christmas cactus and poinsettias appear in stores and find their way into our homes. Whether you receive a new plant as a gift or purchase it, it's always a good idea to familiarize yourself with the plant's needs and any safety concerns it might present.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) is easily recognized by its tall flower stalk

topped with multiple large, trumpet-shaped flowers. It's available as a bulb ready to plant or already flowering.

This popular holiday plant is easy to care for. Just provide some light, and keep the soil moist, but not wet. Turning the plant regularly will help the stalk grow straight rather than lean into the light.

Keep amaryllis out of reach of pets and children. The bulb, leaves and flowers contain

toxins that can cause abdominal pain, vomiting and other physical distress.

After the flowers have faded, remove them. Continue to water and enjoy the foliage until the leaves begin to die, and then cut them back.

Store the bulb in a cool, dry place until you're ready to plant it again in the fall. For more information on growing amaryllis, visit [go.uvm.edu/amaryllis](http://go.uvm.edu/amaryllis).

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) generally is available to purchase during November and December. It's an attractive plant with arching branches and colorful flowers.

If you receive or bring home a Christmas cactus, place it in a bright window for the winter season. Water when the soil begins to dry out, but don't let the soil dry completely or buds may drop.

Likewise, don't over water. Soggy soil can lead to root rot. With minimal care, those bright blooms should last 4-6 weeks, plenty of time to enjoy through the holidays and into the new year.

Christmas cactus is an easy-care houseplant that can last for many years. Once the flowers have faded, continue to water as needed. Place in bright, but indirect light during the summer when sunlight will be more intense and could burn the leaves.

You also can move it outdoors while temperatures remain above 50 F. Gradually acclimate it to the stronger sunlight as you would seedlings in the spring. Be sure to bring it back indoors before the danger of frost returns.

And if you decide you want more?

Christmas cactus roots easily in water. Just remove a section with several segments and place in water. Once roots have grown to at least an inch, the new plant can be potted up using a potting soil or cactus mix.

Christmas cactus is not poisonous to humans or pets, but ingesting the fibrous leaf segments may cause digestive issues.

Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) seem to be everywhere during the holiday season. The plant's showy "flowers" are not really flowers at all but leaves called bracts that have changed color. The real flower is hidden at the center of the bracts.

Perhaps the best thing you can do to keep your poinsettia happy is to remove that pretty foil covering its pot. The foil will capture water and keep the soil too wet. And be sure to provide lots of light.

The poinsettia is not considered poisonous. Its milky white sap may cause skin irritation, and if eaten, result in a mild stomachache, vomiting or diarrhea.

If you're interested in keeping your poinsettia after the holidays and coaxing it to bloom again, find more information at [go.uvm.edu/poinsettia](http://go.uvm.edu/poinsettia).



*Poinsettias are available in a range of colors from the traditional red to pink, white and speckled varieties.*

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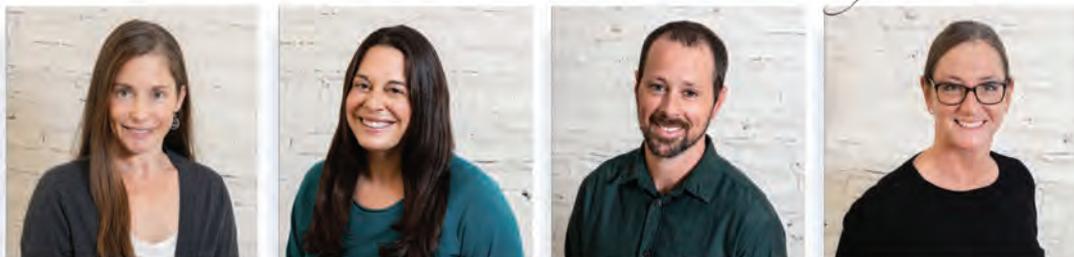
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## Tips to keep your tree fresh this holiday season

Christmas trees are often the pièce de résistance of holiday decor. Few things draw the attention of holiday guests quite like an awe-inspiring Christmas tree, especially when that tree maintains its fresh, healthy sheen throughout December.

Many families purchase fresh trees over Thanksgiving weekend or during the first weekend of December. Though the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day may seem like a long time to keep a tree looking great, there are a handful of ways for holiday celebrants

to help their trees maintain that undeniable appeal for the long haul.

Pick the right tree. Choosing the right tree is one of the simplest ways to keep a tree looking good throughout the holiday season. A freshly cut tree that buyers choose and cut down themselves or have cut down can reassure them that the tree is likely to stay strong throughout December. Trees purchased from a tree lot may have been cut down long before they made it to the lot, which can make it harder to keep them looking good until Christmas Day.

SEE TREE ON PAGE 15

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## Join us for the Midd Night Stroll on 12/9 from 5-8pm



**Salisbury, VT**      **MLS#4891049**      **\$79,900**  
This lovely wooded house site is in a quiet location conveniently close to Lake Dunmore, Middlebury, and Brandon. 4-Bedroom wastewater permit in place. Great location for outdoor activities in the nearby Green Mountain National Forest.



**Addison, VT**      **MLS#4891514**      **\$545,000**  
Located on a quiet country road, this lovingly maintained home boasts three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a large insulated two car garage with storage above. Enjoy views of the Green Mountains to the east or watch the wildlife outback from your spacious deck.



**Middlebury, VT**      **MLS#4887622**      **\$285,000**  
This 4-unit property has a spacious back yard with established perennial gardens. Just on the outskirts of town but easy access to restaurants, shopping, and all that Middlebury has to offer.



Back row L-R Liz Marino, Nikhil Plouffe, Deb Hillman, Sue Mackey, Amy Young Front row L-R Mandy Hodson, Neil Mackey, Lisa Sargent, Jeff Olson, Jan Bark



**Community Corner:**  
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**TREE**

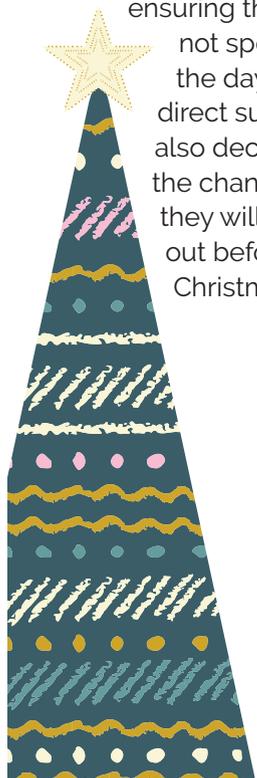
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Cut an inch off the base of any tree that is not freshly cut. Once a tree is cut, the resin can block the pores and make it harder for the tree to take in water. Cutting an inch off the base of a tree that was not freshly cut just before putting it in the stand can help ensure it gets the water it needs to stay healthy and firm.

Replenish the water supply every day. Fresh tree veterans recognize that Christmas trees can be very thirsty, especially within the first week or so of being cut and brought home. Fill the stand with water each morning and, if necessary, refill it each night before going to bed. The more water a tree gets and drinks, the more likely it is that the tree will look healthy all the way to Christmas Day.

Keep the tree away from a heat source. For safety's sake, trees should be kept away from heating vents, fireplaces and space heaters. But keeping trees away from such heat sources, and ensuring they are not spending the daytime in direct sunlight, also decreases the chances they will dry out before Christmas Day.

— Metro Creative



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# TOWN HALL THEATER'S HOLIDAY SEASON



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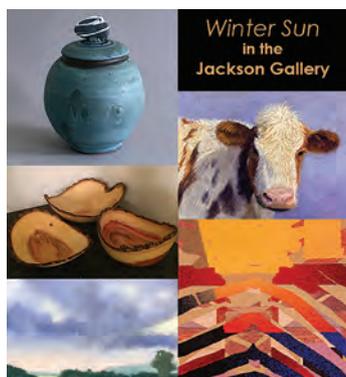
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## THT's All-New Holiday Jukebox

Building on the success of last year's Holiday Jukebox, THT presents a new concert showcasing an uplifting collection of local music videos. Debuts Christmas Eve. Through New Year's Day.

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## Winter in the Sun: Jackson Gallery Exhibit

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Gallery reception, Dec. 16, 5-7pm



## MNFF Selects: Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog

Shepherd: The Story of a Jewish Dog sensitively portrays the timeless and unbreakable bond between a boy and his faithful dog as it is put to the ultimate test in 1930's Germany.

**Thurs., Dec. 30 at 7pm; Adult \$16; Youth 12-17 \$11; Child under 12 \$7**



## NEW Winter Solstice Celebration

Lanterns, puppets, pageantry, a show of St. George & The Dragon, and more surprises will illuminate Merchants Row, starting at 4pm.

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