



Thru the lens

Laurie Patton engages with the landscape through image-making. See our story in Arts + Leisure.



Court dramas

Local rivalry basketball games brought buzzer-beaters and a surprise this week. See Page 1B.



Babies & more

Playgroups, colic, and what to do with kids in the winter. See our Babies pullout in Arts + Leisure.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Bristol to weigh in on retail cannabis

Local merchant hoping for a 'yes'

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

BRISTOL — In addition to approving local budgets and electing local officials, Bristol voters on Town Meeting Day will decide whether to allow licensed cannabis retailers to operate in town, subject to municipal ordinances and regulations.

If voters approve the measure on March 1, retail sales of cannabis (often referred to as marijuana) could begin in the town as early as October.

Thirty Vermont communities, including Middlebury, Salisbury, Vergennes and Brandon, have already "opted in" to retail cannabis sales. A total of 18 communities,

including Ferrisburgh, will consider the question on Town Meeting Day.

Downtown Bristol business owner Greg Newman — who has operated Emerald Rose Gifts for 17 years and the garden shop Emerald Rose Grows for nearly four — spearheaded the town's opt-in movement, collecting the signatures and submitting the petition required for inclusion of the initiative on the Town Meeting Day ballot.

"Retail cannabis is a new opportunity we're exploring," Newman said last week at a virtual information meeting sponsored by the Bristol Democratic Committee. "But we (See Bristol, Page 12A)

County climate plan focuses on local action

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

ADDISON COUNTY — Addison County now has a comprehensive, data-driven plan for reducing its share of the global pollution responsible for climate disruption — and its authors are looking to the community to help improve it.

The Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County earlier this month released a draft Climate Action Plan, or CAP, for Addison County. The plan lays out specific strategies for reducing

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing the resilience of our communities and of our landscapes.

"The plan will help to identify opportunities for businesses and other enterprises, including creation and support of 'green jobs,'" CEAC said in a Feb. 7 media release. "In addition to presenting new goals and strategies, the CAP is intended to serve as a blueprint that will help guide, coordinate and align the significant ongoing climate efforts already taking place throughout Addison County."

A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting a thriving ecosystem of people, businesses and institutions, CEAC is working with partners to achieve deep reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions and to promote a healthy, sustainable local economy.

Work on the Climate Action Plan began more than a year ago, after CEAC released an inventory of county GHG emissions, including carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane, which are reported as one unit of data: CO2-equivalents.

Combining original research and local numbers crunching with state and federal data from 2017, the inventory identified agriculture (41%), motor gasoline and diesel (27%) and delivered fuels such as propane, kerosene and fuel oil (21%) as the top three contributors of GHG emissions in Addison County.

Accordingly, CEAC has focused its Addison County Climate Action Plan on three areas:

- Agriculture and forestry. (See Climate, Page 11A)

Long-awaited ACSD facilities plan is out

Sets stage for big building decisions

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison Central School District board on Monday got its first look at a first-ever facilities master plan that provides an inventory of all ACSD buildings and their repair needs. The plan will serve as a springboard for district officials to

make future decisions about how to invest in school buildings in a way that ensures each student has equal educational opportunities.

Members of the ACSD board's Facilities Committee have been working on the plan for more than two years, a process that was paused (See ACSD, Page 11A)

Vergennes to decide on \$25.5 million sewer fix

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Vergennes officials are asking voters on March 1 to support spending up to \$25.5 million for a complete overhaul of the city's failing and

aging sewer collection system and treatment plant.

They are also saying ratepayers will probably have to fund only half that amount because state and (See Vergennes, Page 14A)

Longtime probate court judge to retire her wand next year

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The word "judge" often conjures images of a stern face, a heavy gavel and a stern, black-cloaked figure ensconced behind a sturdy, nondescript wooden bench.

Addison County Probate Court Judge Eleanor "Misse" Smith shatters that mold.

You can sense her beaming smile even behind her face mask. She's no-nonsense when necessary, but is unapologetically theatrical when it comes to performing the most joyful of her magisterial duties: Adoptions. That's when she breaks out a festive, ribbon-covered wand to magically affirm new "forever families,"

unions that reverberate through the county thanks to the ceremonial ringing of a massive bell that sits in the lobby of Middlebury's Frank Mahady Courthouse.

Smith will be a tough act to follow, but someone will inherit her wand early next year. She recently confirmed to the *Independent* she

won't run for reelection to the post she won back in November of 2006. Smith wants to give prospective successors plenty of time to decide on a run for the judgeship.

"It's time to pass the gavel," Smith said during a socially distanced interview on (See Smith, Page 19A)



SHAWN WOODHOUSE, LEFT, a Middlebury Union High School junior, and Nate Muzzy, a Vergennes Union High School junior, work on a building project in the Patricia Hannaford Career Center workshop. The career center and a local nonprofit are collaborating on construction of a "tiny house" that will be made available to a local low-income household.

Independent photo/Steve James

Life's a beach

MUHS STUDENTS BRAVED the cold for a beach-themed night in the stands of the Tiger boys' basketball game vs. VUHS on Monday. Their vocal support helped as the Tigers played the Commodores tough before falling at the final buzzer.

Independent photo/Steve James



By the way

The public on Thursday, Feb. 24, is invited to testify on the judicial retention of the following Vermont Superior Court judges: Thomas Durkin, David Fenster, Kerry Ann McDonald-Cady, Robert Mello, John Pacht and Helen Toor. The hearing will take place via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public who would like to testify regarding any of these judges may sign up by emailing Peggy Delaney at pdelaney@leg.state.vt.us. Each person will have five minutes to testify. The hearing will adjourn at 8 p.m. unless there is no one remaining who has requested to (See By the way, Page 14A)

Career center thinks 'tiny' on big problem

Students take on affordable housing

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A local advocacy group and Patricia Hannaford Career Center (PHCC) students are about to take some tiny steps to help solve a big problem here in Addison County.

The problem is a lack of affordable housing, and members of the nonprofit "Homes First" organization believe the solution should include "tiny homes" — small, well-made abodes of 300 to 500 square feet that can accommodate small families at a fraction of the cost of conventional housing.

And come this fall, Homes First and the career center will celebrate completion of the first of what will hopefully be many tiny homes made by Addison County students

and made available at affordable rates to people in need.

Tiny homes have already gained a foothold as far away as the West Coast and as nearby at Syracuse, N.Y., not to mention some instances of tiny homes here in Vermont. And Homes First — which includes nine Middlebury residents dedicated to the principle of housing as a basic human need — envisions clusters of these pint-size-yet-functional residences in Addison County to give singles, doubles and small families a coveted start in what is a very challenging housing market.

"We're just trying to steer the best way forward," said local (See Tiny houses, Page 20A)

"It's nice to have a real-world project that follows our curriculum ... and is helping out the community."

— instructor Nick Cantrick

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A SEVERE STORM on Halloween washed out this already damaged stretch of Route 125 along Lake Champlain in Addison's southwest corner. According to the Vermont Agency of Transportation it won't be reopened until late June, at a cost of more than \$1 million.

Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy

Addison road to stay closed until June

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON — Nearly four months after a severe Halloween rainstorm washed away about 500 feet of Route 125 along Lake Champlain, the fix to the state highway remains about four months and more than \$1 million away, according to the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

The stretch of road in Addison's southwest corner that was destroyed is about a mile from the east end of the Lake Champlain Bridge and just north of McCuen Slang. The south end of the washout is right next to Whitney Creek Drive. It is a well-traveled route to the bridge and crossing into New York state.

That piece of the highway had been sagging and failing already before the Oct. 31 storm. VTrans reduced traffic to one lane in the summer of 2021, with traffic lights at either end of the one-lane stretch, and a project had already been planned.

The currently planned project has an at least tentative target completion date of June 24 and a price tag of \$1.3 million, according to a Feb. 11 email to the *Independent* from the VTrans project team working on a rebuild of that part of Route 125.

The team acknowledged uncertainty about the project start date, but said the process

toward its beginning is under way.

"We don't have a date yet for work starting. We are in the process of bidding/awarding and once a contractor is on board we will have a better idea of time frames," VTrans said in a follow-up email.

A Nov. 9 VTrans email to Addison officials and other stakeholders outlined the basics of the project, as well as the challenges of rebuilding a solid roadbed under the stretch of lakefront highway:

"The soils in the area are very soft and sensitive clay that is highly saturated. The design team is working on drainage features to remove groundwater from the location, building a subgrade with select materials, reinforcing the slope with stone materials and paving."

For now there are "Road Closed" signs on Route 22A, at least one "Road Work Ahead" sign on the southerly approach to the site, and barricades across Route 125 on either side of the washout.

As a completed project awaits, VTrans is telling those who need to get from one side of the washout to the other, including those driving from New York to central or southern Addison County or beyond, or vice versa, to detour along Routes 17 and 22A through

Addison Four Corners.

But, according to Addison and Bridport officials and residents, many drivers, likely commuters or those using wayfinding apps, are taking a shortcut via town roads.

One of those roads is Jersey Street in Addison, which intersects with Route 17 five miles west of Route 22A, and turns into Basin Harbor Road in Bridport. Basin Harbor Road intersects with Route 125 2.2 miles west of Route 22A. Those roads create a straight line linking Route 17 with Route 125 east of the washout.

Some Addison residents along Jersey Street have complained about speeding over the winter months, town officials said, although Bridport's town clerk is not aware of any formal protests.

The Addison selectboard has reacted to grievances. With the expectation of being at least partially reimbursed by the state for the expense, the board added \$46,000 into its 2022-2023 Fiscal Year budget proposal to pay the Addison County Sheriff's Department to patrol town roads, including Jersey Street.

Town Clerk Marilla Webb last week said those patrols have already begun.

"The selectboard did contact the sheriff," Webb said. "Jersey Street is pretty narrow."

Career Center head to retire this summer

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The superintendent of the Patricia Hannaford Career Center has given notice that he will leave the Middlebury vocational and technical school.

Saying that he fears his role as leader of the Career Center has "turned into a distraction" and that "people are not focusing all of their attention on what needs to change and be done within the district in order to do a better job of educating students and meeting their needs," Dana Peterson has elected to retire from his job at the end of this academic year — a year sooner than he had hoped.

"By making this announcement now, the district will have time to find a new superintendent, and I am hopeful that my critics will cease making me a distraction from all of the good things going on here at PHCC," he continued in his resignation statement, released Friday, Feb. 11.

The Career Center board has accepted Peterson's resignation, according to the panel's chair, Suzanne Buck.

Peterson came to the Career Center as interim superintendent in the summer of 2017, when he signed a two-year contract. The board eventually

extended his stay, removing the interim moniker. Previously Peterson served as top administrator at Woodstock Union Middle School (1999-2017) and as assistant principal (1998-1999) and French teacher (1990-1999) at Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Rutland.

Addison County's career and technical education center serves students living in the 17 towns that comprise the Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts. It has seen a recent uptick in enrollment, and Peterson has helped establish a makers' space — or "makery" — at the PHCC. He's also shepherding an \$8.1 million renovation plan that will be put to voters on March 1.

His leadership has come under fire from several former Career Center employees who allege they were mistreated and verbally abused, to the extent they resigned — in the case of one employee, after only two weeks on the job. Those complaints were detailed in a Dec. 23 article in the *Addison Independent*. Peterson at the time declined comment on the matter, saying he would allow a school board statement to speak for the situation.

That board statement read: "The PHCC board takes very seriously all comments from the community and staff. However, when the comments pertain to a

personnel matter we cannot discuss them for that very reason. The Board has systematically investigated, with the assistance of legal counsel and special investigators, all allegations

by staff and the union of recent abuse. Since these have mainly involved personnel issues the results of these investigations have had to remain confidential. Matters under current investigation have not yet been concluded and the board is still waiting on counsel's recommendations."

The *Independent* is seeking an interview with Peterson prior to his departure.

Here is Peterson's complete retirement statement:

"I love my work and I have found my job rewarding here at PHCC as Superintendent.

I have greatly enjoyed working with the Patricia Hannaford Regional Technical School District and its board.

I am very appreciative of the support that I have received from Board members, and I want to continue to support the board in the good work here at the career center. I want what is best for the District and its students, and that has always been my focus.

It has become clear that my role has turned into a distraction

within the District, and that people are not focusing all of their attention on what needs to change and be done within the District in order to do a better job of educating students and meeting their needs. Although this is not what I expected, and it is earlier than I had planned, I have decided that it is in the best interest of the district for me to retire at the end of this school year and not continue my contract with the District through

June 30, 2023. I am officially submitting my request to accept my announcement of retirement for consideration by the board. By making this announcement now, the District will have time to find a new superintendent, and I am hopeful that my critics will cease making me a distraction from all of the good things going on here at PHCC. Hopefully, everyone can now focus on, and work toward, getting our budget and capital project financing passed in March. I am proud of what we have accomplished during my tenure here as the Career Center's Superintendent. I hope that we can cap off my work with successful votes in March and begin all of the necessary steps to move forward with the plans that the District has to improve services to the students of Addison County. Submitted with the utmost appreciation and respect."

"It has become clear that my role has turned into a distraction within the district, and that people are not focusing all of their attention on what needs to change and be done within the (Hannaford Career Center) in order to do a better job of educating students and meeting their needs."

— Dana Peterson

Starksboro's Cochran-Siegle wins silver medal

By KEVIN O'CONNOR

STARKSBORO — On Feb. 8, Vermont skier Ryan Cochran-Siegle won Olympic silver in the super-G at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing.

The 29-year-old Starksboro resident won his medal almost 50 years to the day his mother, Barbara Ann Cochran, snagged gold at the 1972 Olympic competition in Sapporo, Japan.

Cochran-Siegle skied "a near perfect run," according to Rutland writer Peggy Shinn, a reporter for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee's website, TeamUSA.org. Cochran-Siegle's time of 1 minute, 19.98 seconds was only four-hundredths of a second

behind the winner, defending 2018 gold medalist Matthias Mayer of Austria.

"Part of me recognized that I was skiing well, and trusting that, and just fighting all the way to the finish," Cochran-Siegle was quoted by Shinn after the race. "It's definitely a special, special run."

Cochran-Siegle was raised at his family's Cochran's ski area in Richmond, which his grandfather Mickey Cochran started by installing a rope tow in his backyard. "Happy, relieved, a little bit of

"Just really appreciating that I'm here and able to accomplish my childhood dream on a day like today. It's a lot of really good and positive emotions."

— Ryan Cochran-Siegle

proud," Cochran-Siegle said when asked about medaling like his mother. "Just really appreciating that I'm here and able to accomplish my childhood dream on a day like today. It's a lot of really good and positive emotions." *USA Today* deemed Cochran-Siegle's victory a "surprise" in part because the skier broke his neck in a downhill racing crash just a year ago.

"You dream of these moments," he was quoted by Shinn. "You see it in your mind and at times you have

to put it away because you have to just focus on the skiing. That was what I was doing today. ... I think this was the best second place that I'll ever get in my life."

The silver medal finish came a day after Cochran-Siegle finished 14th — the top American — in the Men's Downhill. On Sunday, Feb. 13, Cochran-Siegle did not finish in his first run in the Giant Slalom race, and was out of the competition.

Another Olympic skier with a local connection is Ali Nullmeyer. The Middlebury College junior competed for Canada in the Women's Slalom on Feb. 9. She finished in 21st place, moving up from 23rd after her first run down the course by cutting more than a second off her time.

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Scott lifts mask mandate

Schools must meet 80% vaccination rate

By POLLY MIKULA
The Mountain Times

Masking in Vermont schools — among the last remaining COVID-19 mitigation measures in place for students — will soon be optional for schools with a student vaccination rate of over 80%, Gov. Phil Scott announced Tuesday.

“Before the school year began our guidance was for schools to require masking until 80% of students were vaccinated,” Scott said at his weekly press conference. “Unfortunately, that recommendation was delayed several times with a decision point scheduled for Feb. 28. Our team has decided not to delay it again.”

“I want to be clear: The 80% guidance will be the first phase in a process,” Scott added. “In the very near future, if all goes to plan, we intend to recommend lifting the mask requirement recommendation altogether.”

When asked how many schools currently have hit the 80% threshold for student vaccinations, Scott said the state was still compiling that data but said he believed it to be well under 50% of Vermont’s schools. “It’s not as high as we hoped,” he said.

He said that data should be available by next week.

“This is an important first step, albeit it does affect a very, very small group of schools,” said Secretary Dan French of the Agency of Education.

Over the last few weeks, several other states in New England have moved in that direction. French noted that Massachusetts and Connecticut will not require masks in schools as of Feb. 28; Rhode Island gives up masks March 4.

“These states started with omicron earlier than Vermont and they’re exiting the omicron surge earlier than we are as well,” French said. “Although we remain optimistic about the trends we’re seeing in Vermont, we’re not ready to jump to a recommendation for the removal of masks altogether.”

“When we wrote the guidance back in September, students at age 5-11 were not eligible for vaccination,” French added. “Now that we have achieved one of the highest student vaccination rates in the country, we are increasingly confident masks can be removed altogether. But we prefer to make incremental steps towards that goal as we have done throughout the entire pandemic.”

“A phased approach, in our opinion, works best for a couple of reasons: We’re still exiting from the omicron surge, and this approach gives us a few more weeks to see those positive trends continue to play out after the winter vacation. And we also think the schools and families need more time to prepare for this change,” French explained.

“We’re in a new phase with this virus,” Scott proclaimed. “We have more protections and tools to use, and we understand more about the impacts of mitigation measures. All this means it’s time to adapt... The time for shift is now. The risk of kids not being able to see the faces of friends, the anxiety that comes with a constant reminder of this virus and the ongoing strain on our kids’ mental health is far outweighing the risk from COVID amongst this age group — and that guided our decision,” Scott stated. “We should begin the transition as soon as possible,” he added.

LOCAL CONTROL

Scott and French also emphasized that the new guidance is simply recommendations for schools, without a state of emergency in place.

“Local school districts will be able to choose to implement it or not,” French said, adding: “Schools should be reviewing their local mitigation practices and seeking to eliminate the unnecessary ones now. By unnecessary, I mean... for example, I’ve heard about schools not letting students talk during lunch, or schools that require students to wear masks during outdoor recess or to play in small

States sets new testing efforts

Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French on Tuesday announced two new testing programs, a result of “the supply for antigen test kits for our tested home program in schools (that) remains strong,” he said at Gov. Scott’s press conference.

The first is an expansion to providing antigen tests to independent schools.

The second is a school staff assurance testing program where each school staff member will be provided two antigen tests each week to use on a voluntary basis.

“The Department of Health recommends that staff who wish

to participate in this program use the two tests three days apart. For example, staff might test on Sunday before the school week begins and then again on Wednesday,” French explained.

Additionally, the state has provided two rapid antigen tests per student to use when they return from winter break.

“Students are encouraged to test twice at least 24 hours apart in the days before returning to school after the winter vacation,” he said, adding: “Testing is voluntary and it’s not required for students to come back to school after vacation.”

— By Polly Mikula

groups or pods on the playground. None of these types of measures are necessary, and they send the wrong message to students that our schools are not safe from the virus. Eliminating these types of measures now will help students and staff with a transition to the eventual removal of masks.”

French said that while we know we’ll see COVID-19 cases in schools, our schools are very safe.

“We need to get our students in our schools back to normal as soon as possible,” French continued.

“This means we need to allow our students to do normal things in schools like talking at lunch and playing on the playground with all their friends, not just those that are in their immediate class or grade. This also means they need to be able to see the faces of their classmates by not being required to wear masks.”

Scott acknowledged that the change would make many students, teachers, staff and parents wary.

“I know for some, moving away from masking won’t be comfortable. They may want to continue wearing them. And that’s OK,” he said. “We need to be respectful and kind because, as we move forward, it’s individual circumstance that will drive these decisions. And everyone has the right to make those (risk) calculations for themselves.”

OMICRON: WHAT WE LEARNED

Addison County and Vermont as a whole have seen COVID-19 cases falling. The Vermont Department of Health on Tuesday reported three new cases of COVID-19 in Addison County since Monday, and 124 positive tests during the past two weeks. The county was in the high double digits for daily case counts only a few weeks ago.

There were 158 new COVID-19 cases statewide on Tuesday, also a big drop from mid-January.

Gov. Scott was confident that the downward trends in case and hospitalization numbers would mean fewer fatalities would soon follow — and he expects all metrics to continue falling.

“You’ve heard us all talk about listening to the health experts, watching the data, listening to the science. And when you look at the omicron variant in its predictability, it’s been incredibly consistent, both in its structure, but its trajectory, increasing and also decreasing. So that gives us great comfort when you look at other countries who have experienced omicron before us and have seen that decrease, as well as other states who started decreasing before us and they’re still decreasing. So we benefit from that — listening to the science, watching the data, and making decisions that we think are appropriate.”

Health Commissioner Mark Levine elaborated:

“Unfortunately the world has had to accept this virus is not going away. And new variants may emerge. But public health experts and scientists believe we will soon be able to coexist with the virus more safely for several reasons: First, we’ll have a lot more immunity, both from Vermont’s high vaccination rates and now for more of the population having

been infected.

“Second, omicron has proven to be milder for most people, especially those who are vaccinated.

“And third, we have experience with this virus even though it has changed. So we know who is at most risk. This means that rather than broad recommendations for all Vermonters, we will be more focused in our public health efforts on reaching higher-risk populations, working to get them up to date on vaccines, and making sure they have access to timely testing and treatment.”

Scott added: “I mean, when you think back, it was just three or four weeks ago that the Legislature was still contemplating a statewide mask mandate. I’m not sure that they feel the same way today, but they were prepared to vote on a statewide mask mandate at that point in time. That just shows you how quickly things have changed.”

“We saw this in South Africa. It peaked and then dropped like a rock afterwards... I believe, based on everything, all the data we’ve collected, it’ll continue another week or two from now or three. It (the decline) could be much more dramatic,” Scott concluded.

But Levine cautioned Vermonters not to stray too far in the “COVID’s over” direction:

“I would not advise people to throw their masks away forever and burn them in a big bonfire saying the pandemic is over, but at the same time we don’t see anything coming right now. And as these things do improve, the masks won’t be necessary and could be reserved for a time that they would be in the future,” he said.

In a final word of caution, Levine reminded Vermonters of the prevalence of long COVID among those who have tested positive — and he got in one last plug for full vaccination, including boosters:

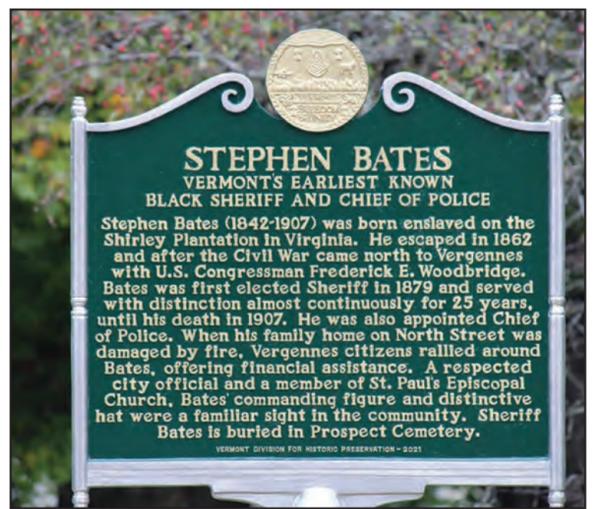
“We still believe, for adults, at least there’s a 10%-30% chance of having long COVID symptoms if you’ve contracted COVID — hopefully a little less so with omicron — but we don’t know that for a fact yet,” he said. “So if you have not taken the opportunity to either get vaccinated or to become up to date and fully protected on your vaccine (including a booster) keep those statistics in mind.”

Bixby to host online program on black sheriff

VERGENNES — In a Black History Month presentation, The Bixby Memorial Free Library will host a virtual program exploring the life and times of the first-known African American sheriff in Vermont on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 1-2:30 p.m. The program includes an illustrated lecture, documentary film, and conversation and Q&A with Bates’ family members, historians, and community volunteers who helped unearth this history over the last two years. The program is free and pre-registration is required at bit.ly/batesbixby

Stephen Bates was born into slavery in 1842 on Virginia’s Shirley Plantation. Fourteen years after the Civil War, he was elected sheriff of Vergennes, a position which he would hold for all but six of the next 29 years.

The Bixby program will feature award-winning Vergennes filmmaker Chris Spencer’s documentary film about Bates and how Vergennes celebrated him in 2021; a talk



A HISTORICAL MARKER honoring Stephen Bates, the first known Black sheriff in Vermont, was the product of two years of research into his life. Bixby Memorial Library will host a virtual program on Bates Saturday, Feb. 26, from 1-2:30 p.m.

using rare maps, documents and photographs that illustrate Bates’ remarkable life; and a panel of Bates family descendants and historians who will share their experiences and examine how a 19th-century northern community elected an African American as sheriff.

Speakers and panelists include Bates’ great-grandsons Larry and Nick Schuyler (residents of Worcester, Mass.), historians Jane Williamson (director emerita, Rokeby Museum), Jeannette Greenwood (Professor, Clark University), and Eloise Beil

(curator emerita, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum), and Bates history project organizers Bo Price, Alicia Grangent, and Liz Ryan, all of whom helped to research the new Stephen Bates Vermont Roadside Historical Marker.

To learn more about Stephen Bates, visit the Stephan Bates exhibit at the Bixby Library or view it online.

The documentary will also be available for viewing on request on Saturday, Feb. 12, in the Bixby Library Community Room.

Memoir focuses on one-room school

BRANDON — Sanford Rouse is at it again. In his recently released second memoir, the 93-year-old Brandon writer is taking readers back more than eight decades to the less complicated world he knew growing up in East Shoreham.

“The Little Red Schoolhouse” recounts some of the details of daily life in a one-room school in the years of the Great Depression, before World War II, before the world got more complicated.

This new book continues the story that Rouse told in his first book, “Days of Yesteryear,” which came out a little over two years ago.

“I have enjoyed doing my writing and there are so many memories I can remember so well,” Rouse said.

Those memories include the teacher Mary Williams of Benson, whose parents owned the hardware store in the nearby town. Miss Williams oversaw the education of seven children: Edith Delano; Arthur Timmo and his sister Joyce Timmo; Rachel LaCass and her brother Daniel LaCass; and the Rouse boys, Sanford and Charles. Those surnames are probably familiar to some people in the area.

Rouse tells about things he learned and people he grew up with in the Little Red Schoolhouse. His memories, as sharp as they are, were surely aided by the work of another teacher, Katherine Howard of Benson, whom Rouse described as “a very nice teacher... and a great photographer.” Miss Howard photographed the children in her school and recorded their names on the back of the photos — surely an aid to future historians.



SANFORD ROUSE, SEEN here in Brandon where he now resides, casts his memory back to the 1930s and the one-room school in East Shoreham where he was educated with six other children. He captures those memories in his second memoir, “The Little Red Schoolhouse.”

The writer’s memories of Miss Howard came from a second Shoreham school he attended, the Richville School, where he and his six schoolmates were sent when the little red schoolhouse was shuttered. Not to worry, the Richville School was only about a mile from Rouse’s home.

And it was bigger. The Richville School had all grades from first through eighth, Rouse said. It wasn’t quite so little, but it was still a rural Vermont school from the first half of the last century, so it was in some ways a different world.

In “The Little Red Schoolhouse” our nonagenarian scribe recounts

how at the end of the school year “Miss Howard would reward us by taking all the students to the Methodist Church for a school picnic.” And it wasn’t just the food that stuck in Rouse’s memory; after the picnic the parents would carpool the children into Middlebury to the Campus Theater on Main Street to the movies. He particularly recalls seeing Walt Disney’s “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves” — in Technicolor.

“What a great day!” Rouse effuses.

Want to read more? “The Little Red Schoolhouse” is for sale at Carr’s Gift Shop in Brandon.

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VERMONT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Editorials

Condos leaves lasting legacy

Vermont Sec. of State Jim Condos, who announced Tuesday he would be retiring and not running for re-election this November, leaves his office in a far better position than when he took over 12 years ago. In those dozen years, he has transitioned the office from a largely paper-based system to more accurate and efficient digital ones, he said, and has ensured “accessible, free, fair, election processes,” while also making it easy to register and vote, including through universal mail-in balloting.

In a written statement, Paul Burns, executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, praised Condos for his work. “Jim Condos leaves a legacy of pro-democracy reform,” Burns said. “He’s helped make Vermont one of the most voter-friendly states in the nation.”

In these partisan times, Vermonters can be proud that their top election officials kept their eye on the right prize — getting as many Vermonters engaged in voting as possible, while also keeping the voting system secure. To that end, Condos enacted or enhanced: same day registration; automatic voter registration; online voter registration; ADA accessible voting; enhanced cyber security; universal vote-by-mail; ballot drop boxes; and ballot curing.

Many of those actions — all which enable more Vermonters to participate in elections — have been under attack by the Republican Party as contributing to voter fraud, but Condos sets the record straight and points out the real danger.

Condos said democracy in the country was “in dire straits” not because of voter fraud, but because of the spread of misinformation over social media hyping such fraud, even though it is extremely rare. Condos said the number of voter fraud cases throughout the country was “miniscule,” noting there was just one case of voter fraud in Vermont in the 2020 election out of 375,000 votes cast.

Throughout his tenure, Condos was also a strong supporter of making public records and information transparent and open to public view, and he worked hard with the state’s media to let the light shine where needed. At 71, and with 35 years in public office (also serving as state senator to Chittenden County and as a city councilor for South Burlington), Condos will step down next January leaving behind a strong and memorable legacy for which all Vermonters will benefit.

Angelo Lynn

Two towns consider opting-in

Among the dozen communities considering opting-in for cannabis sales at this year’s Town Meeting are Bristol and Ferrisburgh. While the retail sale of marijuana was made legal throughout Vermont in 2018 via Act 164, legislation required towns to approve the measure by public vote.

So far 30 towns have opted-in, including Middlebury, Salisbury, Vergennes and Brandon, but also: Montpelier, Brattleboro, Bennington, Duxbury, Waterbury, Barton, Sutton, Berlin, East Burke, Saint Johnsbury, Montgomery, Strafford, Randolph, Peacham, Danville, Jamaica, Danby, Pawlet, Brownington, South Hero, Johnson, Winooski, Londonderry, Windsor, Alburgh, Morristown And Pownal. The towns of Richmond, Lyndon, Ludlow, and Newport voted their measures down.

This year at Town Meeting other towns considering opting-in are Essex, St. Albans Town, Manchester, Eden, Milton, Hartford, Wilmington and Rockingham.

The reasons for allowing the retail sale of cannabis, include some of the obvious: the sale of cannabis will promote commerce and will likely provide direct tax dollars to towns allowing its sale, though the amount has not yet been decided; because the state is focusing on small production facilities scattered across the state to supply the market, those small producers need retail operations nearby to make distribution easy, which, if done well, will help dry up illegal operations; and because towns have zoning control over where to allow the retail sales of the product, towns have some control over its impact on the community.

In Bristol, it’s worth noting that Police Chief Bruce Nason says in a front-page story in today’s *paper* that he has no law-enforcement concerns that would prevent the retail sales of cannabis in town.

Opponents can rightly argue that cannabis has proven negative health impacts on a person’s lungs if smoked excessively, and it has other negative health impacts if abused, as do most drugs. As for community concerns about how sales might change a town’s character, we see it doing little more than what alcohol currently does and the more common cannabis sales become the less noticeable the impact will be.

However voters decide the issue in Bristol and Ferrisburgh, education programs on the health impacts on area youth should be front and center during the first years of legalized sales, and woven into school curriculums statewide for the foreseeable future.

Angelo Lynn

Of going maskless and risk

Despite the headlines from Gov. Scott’s press conference trumpeting that schools that were 80% vaccinated would be able to go maskless on Feb. 28, the reality is most schools across the state will keep wearing masks for the next few weeks. That’s because very few schools have reached the 80% mark. But that’s OK — the omicron variant is still infecting high numbers of Vermonters (even as the case loads are declining), it’s cold out and we’re still inside more than outside which makes it harder to socialize and be safe without masks, and Vermont still has a fair number of people in our hospitals with Covid-19.

Reading between the lines of Gov. Scott’s Tuesday’s presser, the governor said to give the state a few more weeks, and if all was going as expected and case counts continued to plummet, the state will recommend removing the mask requirement altogether.

The strategy is interesting. The play is to get the public used to the idea of dropping masks at schools and throughout the state before actually calling for such action in a few weeks. After two years of caution, experts must surely have argued, you can’t just suddenly drop what we’ve all been told is a needed safety measure without causing alarm. But by getting used to the idea, and moving a bit closer to spring weather, it will make the transition easier and smoother. As for the risks involved, we agree the Vermont community is ready to learn to live with the virus without limiting life’s other joys.

As Gov. Scott has done from the pandemic’s outset, these next steps are a cautious approach to dealing with the public’s uncertainty and fear, and though baby steps, will likely serve Vermonters well.

Angelo Lynn

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Finger food

ALEX MEULNET OF Bristol expands his palate by sampling a variety of snacks during a break at the Addison County Parent/Child Center in Middlebury last week. See more little tykes in our Parents and New Families pullout inside the Arts + Leisure section in this edition.

Independent photo/Steve James

Productivity is tough to measure

For the past few years, I’ve had an aversion to the word “productive” or any terminology that hints at it. I delete emails with subject lines such as “How to be more productive while working at home,” “10 (or 5 or 12) strategies to enhance productivity,” or “How to write (or read or ...) faster.” My dislike extends to articles, essays, blog posts, and books in which authors insist that systematizing our lives will lead to success and fulfillment.

Today, out of curiosity, I googled “productivity” and got 504,000,000 results. Clearly, it’s a popular topic. On the website of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, productivity is defined as “a measure of economic performance that compares the amount of goods and services produced (outputs) with the amount of inputs used to produce those goods and services.”

Hmmm. That doesn’t sound like something a human should strive for.

A little over a year ago, I resigned from a college where I’d worked for 17 years, as a faculty member and a director of a graduate program. The college was in the midst of “right sizing” when the pandemic hit. I looked forward to my fulltime job becoming part-time, as it would mean working fewer hours and pursuing other interests.

As it turned out my salary decreased; however, my responsibilities remained essentially the same, because the primary focus was on getting the work done, i.e., productivity. I resigned because I realized that I would never do enough to fulfill others’ expectations of me. Also, I could no longer support an environment in

which colleagues strove to maintain the work in offices that were understaffed due to layoffs or resignations.

An average 4 million people per month resigned from their jobs in 2021, in a trend coined as the Great Resignation. Quitting my job during a pandemic was a risky, yet healthy decision. I’m grateful that I had other options: I was a part-time faculty member in another college, and I continue to teach there. I had a small

financial buffer. I could focus on moving toward peace rather than that I was leaving a job I’d loved for so many years.

As someone who has worked from home since 2004, being productive has rarely been an issue. Enjoying other aspects of my life was a constant struggle, however. Even when I wasn’t teaching, reading student papers, attending meetings, writing reports (or emails or ...), or planning for the upcoming academic year(s), I was preparing to do those activities. I was a workaholic caught up in a productivity vortex. When I look back, I have an image of myself shackled to my computer. It is not a pretty sight.

When 30% of U.S. workers began to work remotely because of the pandemic, they needed to create functional workspaces, and alter family life. Supervisors wondered how to gauge whether employees were actually working. Authors captured the attention of people faced with these unfamiliar challenges by writing books and articles that offered productivity guidelines, rituals, and hacks. When I googled “productivity and working from home and

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

Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer



Flawed Act 46 fractures districts

With Vermont schools stressed by COVID, you might expect pandemic recovery to be the only issue on the minds of those working in education. However, over the past two years a number of Vermont towns have been working diligently on another project: to withdraw from or dissolve their merged school districts formed under Vermont’s controversial 2015 law, Act 46.

Halifax and Readsboro started the ball rolling when the State Board of Education agreed to their request to dissolve their merger in September 2020. Since then, Athens, Grafton and Westminster dissolved their merger, returning to the system of electing town school boards. Stowe has withdrawn from their merger and now awaits a supervisory union assignment from the state. Lincoln voted overwhelmingly to withdraw and Starksboro is considering beginning the withdrawal process. Meanwhile, with the organizing theme “Brave Little Town,” Ripton also withdrew from their consolidated district and was given grudging state approval to establish its own school district.

Why do communities feel compelled to wrangle with this now? Simply put, because these mergers have not fulfilled Act 46’s goals. Financial savings have not materialized; costs have instead risen. Equity has not been achieved; rather inequities have become

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Margaret MacLean, a Peacham resident, life long educator and former member of the Vermont State Board of Education.

more apparent. Small schools have not been supported; instead, larger structures have actively worked to eliminate small schools altogether.

In these towns, this issue touches a nerve and stirs a passion. A powerful mix of responsibility to their children’s educations, commitment to community, and defense of democratic values motivates individuals to act. Here, not only were promises of merger dashed, but in many cases, carefully crafted articles of agreement protecting small schools have been disregarded. As one Starksboro citizen recently testified, the actions of the unified district “have resulted in a broken relationship between the community and the District.”

Long-standing Vermont law recognizes the role of local democracy in school governance. Voters can petition to vote on dissolution or withdrawal from districts. Towns then vote on this issue, and neighboring towns in the merger also cast their ballots. When voters in Salisbury, Middlebury, Bridport, Weybridge and Cornwall approved Ripton’s withdrawal, they were recognizing that Ripton had won the right to be free from a merger that would close its school and bus its young children up and down a mountain.

No community makes these decisions lightly. They can’t. Under laws passed in the early 1960s, withdrawal

(See *Community forum*, Page 5A)Letters
to the Editor

Cullinane merits another term

I’m writing to support Mary Cullinane in her bid for a seat on the ACSD board. I’ve known Mary for a number of years and have been impressed by her professionalism, candor and her dedication to the growth of this community. Mary has been an active and engaging community member and she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to a vital role. School board members have a difficult task ahead of them and I know that Mary is up for the challenge and that she’ll exceed our expectations in this position. I ask that you endorse and support Mary Cullinane for the ACSD board.

Amey Ryan
Salisbury

Delia-Lôbo is right for the job

We are lucky to live in a town where the next generation of young business owners is interested in running for selectboard. I was delighted to see that Matthew Delia-Lôbo, co-owner of Royal Oak and Lost Monarch Coffee, was throwing his hat into the ring. His interest in attracting young families to our area through having a vibrant downtown and affordable housing are on point.

Anyone who has come across Matt knows that he is always interested in good conversation and does not shy away from the issues of the day.

Sarah Kearns
Middlebury

ACSD issues need attention

We are parents, educators and community members who are deeply concerned with the current Addison Central School District board’s priorities and approach to education. It’s time for a change.

Students and educators need to be at the center of our solutions to improve our schools. For too long, the board’s reform efforts have focused narrowly on facilities — square footage, building maintenance, number of bathrooms, etc. — despite objections from the community. Rather than engaging in good faith to develop a shared vision for our schools’ futures, they brought forth a flawed plan to close rural schools and halted the transportation study before it was complete.

This process eroded the trust between the board, school administration and our towns. We would like to rebuild it by prioritizing the mental and emotional well-being at all our schools, no matter where they are in the district, and focusing on bringing community voices back into the conversation.

Our schools are struggling from disruptions brought on by the pandemic and decisions made to reorganize our district to align with the design of International Baccalaureate. Students and teachers are also dealing with increased behavioral issues. Middlebury Union Middle School, in particular, is overwhelmed. Teachers there now need more resources, not fewer, which demonstrates that consolidation does not always generate the savings promised.

Examining our budget challenges holistically, across all of our schools, will help us to better use our resources, take advantage of our varied strengths, and target student-centered initiatives. We also need to formally assess the cost and effectiveness of the International Baccalaureate program and ensure that it is meeting the needs of our students.

We invite you to join us in growing public trust from the community to the classroom. Please vote for us on March 1. We hope this is just the beginning of a collaborative relationship where we can build a board that responds to and reflects the diversity of our schools and communities.

Joanna Doria, Ripton
Jamie McCallum, Weybridge

Letters to the Editor

Delia-Lôbo heartily endorsed for Midd selectboard

I write to enthusiastically support Matt Delia-Lôbo's campaign for Middlebury selectboard.

With the rail and bridge construction project behind us, it's time for Middlebury to look forward, and to address long-ignored problems that have been holding us back from reaching our potential as a community blessed with many resources.

As a downtown business owner, as a family man, and as a multiracial Vermonter, Matt has a keen understanding of the issues facing Middlebury's leaders in the years ahead: that we must redouble our efforts toward becoming a more welcoming community to the diverse population drawn by our anchor employers; we need to encourage a thriving downtown, with

businesses that reflect the needs and wants of today's consumers; and we desperately need to encourage more housing — across every level of affordability.

I'll be filling in the ovals for Matt Delia-Lôbo and Esther Thomas on my Town Meeting Day ballot — and I hope you will, too!
Dave Silberman
Middlebury

Lincoln official addresses MAUSD 'misinformation'

As Lincoln withdraws from Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD), there is misinformation that is circulating in the community. Hopefully, I can clarify the issues focused on the duties of a supervisory union, options for middle and high school students, and tax implications.

Supervisory Union: Lincoln and Ripton are in discussions about establishing a Mountain District Supervisory Union. The supervisory union will provide all the services specified in Vermont law including special education, transportation and food services, central office services, grant

writing, curriculum development and reviewing the compatibility of the supervisory union's curriculum with other schools. These are the same services the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union (ANESU) provided to Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro before MAUSD was formed. There is nothing new here since supervisory unions have been required to provide these services for decades. The duties of a supervisory union are defined in Vermont Statute 16 V.S.A. § 261.

Where will Lincoln's 7-12 grade students attend school? Some Vermont towns don't

operate their own middle or high school identify up to three public secondary schools as their "designated" choices for tuitioning students, while other towns implement a program that includes both public and independent school options. Decisions about secondary school attendance for Lincoln students will be made by the new Lincoln School Board, with input from the community. The expectation is that the vast majority of Lincoln middle and high school students will continue going to Mt. Abe.

How will education taxes (See Forlenza letter, Page 8A)

Death and immortality

Socrates gave perspective on search for truth, end of life

5th in a series

Plato's dialogues "Crito" and "Phaedo" are sequels to the "Apology." The scene of both is Socrates' prison cell, where he was confined following his trial before the Athenian Council, which found him guilty of impiety and sentenced him to death.

Socrates received the sentence philosophically. He would make no appeal. He was old and would soon die in any case. He did not fear death.

He imagined that death is one of two things: Either it is extinction, or the release of the soul from the body and its migration to another place. He compared the former to dreamless sleep, which is the most restful sleep of all; the latter would be like joining the community of the dead, there would be opportunity for conversation and much to talk about. There was nothing to fear.

Crito was a wealthy Athenian, an old friend, of the same age as Socrates. In "Crito," he proposes that Socrates escape from prison and go into exile. He scolded Socrates; he had a responsibility to his wife and two sons. Also, he worried that Athenian public opinion would blame him and Socrates' other friends for not helping him escape. Escape would not be difficult. Crito had already bribed the jailor, who allowed Socrates' friends to visit him in prison.

Socrates refused. He would not leave Athens, indeed he must not. If he were to escape from prison he would become an outlaw. He loved Athens and respected its constitution and laws. He could never act against them.

Besides, escape would be an act of retaliation against those who condemned him, returning evil for evil, and retaliation is wrong, as wrong as the act that provoked it.

Finally, his conscience forbid it, and he could not betray his conscience.

"Crito" is the shortest of the Socratic dialogues; it is a paean

to the rule of law, the dictates of conscience, and the moral self: such things from which Socrates derived the meaning of his existence.

The "Phaedo" comes last in this trinity of dialogues. Socrates' friends have gathered in his cell on the day of execution. The narrator is Phaedo, a follower of Socrates and himself a philosopher. He describes the mood of the friends; some of them are so overcome by emotion that they cannot restrain their sobbing.

In contrast to his friends, Socrates is composed, serene, even cheerful. To comfort them, he explains that the philosopher has no reason to fear death, for, if death is the separation of the soul from the body, then philosophy is a preparation for death. This is not to suggest that Socrates had a death wish; rather he was persuaded that the life of the mind does

not end with the death of the body, for the mind is seated in the soul, and there is reason to believe that the soul is immortal.

Socrates proceeds to make the case for immortality. To begin with, there is evidence that body and soul are separate entities, for although it is evident that after death the body decomposes, there is reason to believe that the soul lives on. Consider human knowledge. It consists of ideas, which only the mind perceives. Likewise, rational thought, which involves putting ideas together, is an activity that proceeds independent of the body. Indeed, more often than not, the body, and its cognitive power, sensation, is often a hindrance to cognition. We clarify our ideas by abstracting them from their sensible qualities, which is to say, we think abstractly, and abstract thinking is a pure activity of the mind. Which leads Socrates to conclude that philosophical thinking, whose goal is truth, whose possession is knowledge, is just that: the separation of the soul from the body. So the philosophers should not fear death. And if death is not to be feared, that is because it promises

something more, the liberation of the mind to be free to think pure thoughts, which are by nature timeless.

Socrates offers other evidence to support this conclusion, for example, that the coming to be of things are from their opposite state: for example, sound from silence, presence from absence, existence from nonexistence, so why not life from death?

Yet on examination, the evidence seems inconclusive. Socrates' friends are doubtful, and Socrates admits that their doubts are credible. And this may have been Plato's intention, when he wrote the dialogue. Philosophy, after all consists of searches after truth, not the dogmatic assertion of facsimiles of truth. The love of truth and the desire to possess it may not be proof of immortality. Still he gives reason to hope for it, for the life of the mind leads us into a timeless realm whose scope is infinite. This, I believe, is the best that we can hope for after reading Plato's "Phaedo" and pondering its message.

And there is Socrates' example to us: He teaches us how to die, serenely, for if death is not the door to immortality, then it is like dreamless sleep. There is nothing to fear if one's conscience is clear.

"Phaedo" concludes: The jailor brings him a goblet with the deadly potion, he drinks it down and dies. The death scene evokes deep emotion.

Postscript: Plato provides the best introduction to Socrates in his dialogues. The three I've written about, "Apology," "Crito" and "Phaedo" are available in English translation in "The Last Days of Socrates," published by Penguin in an inexpensive paperback. The volume also includes Plato's "Euthyphro," which is a prelude to Socrates' trial, and which provides an easy to follow example of Socrates' method of philosophizing. Study of these works will prove the relevance of the life and teaching of Socrates to our current crises: a pandemic, and the moral and political crisis this nation faces. Death, gross immorality, and the denial of truth threaten our life, and our civilization. Becoming Socratic may be our remedy.



The Meaning of Life

by Victor Nuovo
Middlebury College
professor emeritus
of philosophy

Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 8A, 9A and 10A.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

pandemic," 55,400,000 results were listed and revealed a debate about whether working from home hindered or helped productivity. My irritation with productivity publications is that the subtext is "you are not (doing) enough." I believe that most of us don't need systems to help us do more. We need to value what we accomplish, even when others don't appreciate what we've done.

The first few months after

quitting my fulltime job were difficult. I went through withdrawal as I found myself with hours of unscheduled time. I wondered if I offered enough in the courses I taught or did enough for my students. I joined yoga, meditation, and reading challenges to keep busy.

One day, I chose to stop doing more, more, more. I decided to embrace activities with intensity and joy, whether it was for 15 minutes or three hours. Now, I

ease into my days with meditation, exercise, reading, and writing. I've found the value of taking breaks and the virtue of not having appointments. Are my inputs producing the requisite amounts of outputs? Am I productive enough? Who cares? I'm a lot less frantic, and I'm enjoying my life! That's important to me.

Ruth Farmer is a published essayist and poet. She is sole owner of Farmer Writing and Editing (www.ruthfarmer.com)

Community forum

(Continued from Page 4A)

or dissolution necessitates hours and hours of volunteer organizing, research, petitioning, and in-depth community deliberation about schooling and costs. Ultimately some towns continue toward withdrawal or dissolution, while others instead recommit to merger. The decision is made via the ballot box—twice—once in the town and again in the merged unit. All this is a healthy part of Vermont democracy.

This long-standing process stands in stark contrast to the more recent Act 46, which allowed the unelected State Board of Education to force-merge school districts against the express wishes of the electorate. Some of the mergers currently being undone were created by force; others, tellingly, were created voluntarily and the dissolution is due to dissatisfaction with the outcome.

Rather than heed communities' concerns, the State Board of Education is doubling down. The House Education Committee recently took up the State Board's recommendation to alter the law yet again, to make it even more difficult to dissolve or withdraw. Noted State Board Chair Oliver Olsen, "We don't want another Ripton."

Actually, we should. Ripton's passion for educational excellence, community engagement, and commitment to democracy are models more of us should emulate. The role of the State should be to set and maintain standards on educational quality, equity, value, and other key priorities. It should be to support, not thwart, the wishes of the electorate. Every Vermont community is different, and decisions about merger and withdrawal are deeply dependent on each town's situation. Each must be allowed to determine the structure that best meets its students' needs and the state's goals.

The value of children attending school in their home community may be difficult to quantify, but make no doubt: to these townspeople it is invaluable. Research proves that students experience better outcomes when family and community are

involved in the schools. For many, these schools are the beating heart of the town, where generations of neighbors from diverse backgrounds have built a shared sense of meaning. Small schools can better ensure that students from impoverished families get the attention they need. Investing in a local school is likely to attract families, whereas school closure signals property-value suicide.

Instead of doubling down on efforts to close small schools, the state board should be partnering

to facilitate the wishes of the electorate by placing these towns in supervisory unions where they can thrive. Vermont needs vibrant communities, and the state should be supporting rural Vermont by investigating all options for creative revitalization.

One size won't fit all — that's why local democratic engagement is so crucial to identifying solutions. At a time when citizens' faith in democracy is on the ropes, the state should not deliver another gut punch.

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JOANNA DORIA

ACSD Board Candidate, Ripton



I am a local parent, school volunteer and substitute teacher with deep ties across the district, and I am committed to being an advocate for all students and families. Specifically, I will work to:

Prioritize our students' emotional health and wellbeing

Refocus efforts to utilize all of our schools' strengths

Assert the importance of early education and intervention

Analyze our resources and involve communities in decision-making

Vote March 1st

Growing Public Trust

JAMIE MCCALLUM

ACSD Board Candidate, Weybridge



I am a local parent, an educator, and volunteer firefighter, and I am committed to advocating for all students and families. I will work to:

Support the emotional health and wellbeing of students and teachers as we recover from the pandemic

Create a student-centered budget that meets each of our schools' needs

Review and assess the sixth-grade move to MUMS

Invite community input on policy decisions

Vote March 1st

Growing Public Trust

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Christopher Bryant Fulton, 30, of Chicago, Ill.

CHICAGO, Ill. — Christopher Bryant Fulton of Chicago Ill., previously of Norwich, Vt., passed away unexpectedly in Chicago on Feb. 1, 2022. He had Covid-19 at the time of his death, but the exact cause of death is undetermined.

Chris was born Aug. 8, 1991, in Lebanon, N.H. He loved spending time at his family's place on Post Pond, Lyme, N.H. A highlight was spending hours with his brother Erik in a canoe outfitted with a trolling motor exploring all the nooks and crannies of the pond. Another highlight was summer trips to Maine with his family to visit his grandmother, going to Popham Beach, Fort Popham and Spinneys in Phippsburg, Maine. In his early years, he summited many of New Hampshire's mountains, often carried up by Dad and sometimes carried down by Mom. During elementary and middle school he spent many Saturdays at Britton Lumber in Ely, Vt., with his Dad riding in the forklift, shoveling sawdust, and mowing lawns.

Chris attended Marion Cross School in Norwich, then graduated from Hanover High School in 2010. He went on to study accounting at the University of Vermont, graduating a semester early in 2013. After graduation he worked in Boston for State Street Bank. He

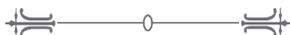


CHRISTOPHER BRYANT FULTON

loved hiking and skiing, particularly cherishing trips to Colorado with his mom. He had a goal of hiking all of New Hampshire's 4,000-foot peaks by the time he was 30 and he came so close. When he died he only had the Bonds left to have summited all 48 peaks, always together with his mom. Chris also loved visiting his step-brothers in St. Croix, U.S.V.I. and visiting his favorite beach there, Sandy Point.

Wanting a change in his career he recently joined a financial technology firm, Enfusion, in Chicago as a technical account manager.

He will be forever loved



Andrew Zachary Jewell, 18, of Monkton

MONKTON — Andrew Zachary Jewell, 18, of Monkton, Vt., passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loved ones after a long courageous battle with sickness.

Andrew is predeceased by his birth mother, Sarah Ogilvie, and grandfather Chet Jewell. Andrew is survived by his loving parents, Glen and Kim Jewell; his birth father, Eric Bresnick; siblings Christopher, Melissa and Akara Jewell and Bethany, Taylor, and Dylan Bresnick; grandmother Joyce Jewell; grandmother-mimi Patty Ogilvie; nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and lots of extended family and friends that loved him so very much.

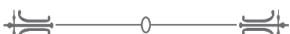
He was predeceased by his grandparents Merrill and Judy



ANDREW ZACHARY JEWELL

Carter.

Andrew was a happy boy and always had a smile on his face for everyone he met. He loved



Florence J. Wilhelm, 81, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Florence J. Wilhelm, 81, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.

She was born on May 18, 1940, in Rutland, Vt., the daughter of Gerald and Hazel (Reynolds) Bergeron.

Florence is survived by her brothers and sisters Richard Bergeron, Barbara Gile, Rose Lane, Theresa Aube and Donald Bergeron, along with many nieces and nephews.

Florence, known by many as Flossie, was predeceased by her husband Nick Wilhelm, the love of her life. She was also predeceased by several sisters and a brother.

Her faith was very important to her and she was a member of the Assembly of God Christian Center



FLORENCE J. WILHELM

in Ferrisburgh, Vt.

Visiting hours will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m.

and missed by his brother Erik Fulton of Lebanon N.H.; mother Catherine Richmond McCullough and stepfather David McCullough of Norwich, Vt.; father Thomas Fulton and stepmother Holly Fulton of Middlebury, Vt.; niece Eliza Fulton and nephew Alex Fulton; his forever friend Emily Zea; close friends from UVM including Kelsey Wooley and special friend Dale Osef as well as many cousins, aunts, uncles, stepsiblings and the friends he made and people he touched wherever he went. Chris is also loved, missed and survived by his maternal grandmother Anne Richmond of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and his grandfather, Peter Richmond and stepgrandmother Tamara Selyangina of Del Ray Oaks, Calif. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents Elmer and Effie Fulton.

Chris's life ended too soon, but his warmth, kindness, gentleness and humor will live on forever.

The family is planning a celebration of life in the spring. In lieu of flowers, please do something you love with someone you love.

You may also send a donation in his memory to The Appalachian Mountain Club: (AMC), www.outdoors.org, 10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129 in support of his beloved mountains.◇

his cars and trucks with doors and hood that opened, and he would take the tires off them! He also loved his golf cart and going for rides. He enjoyed moving all the vehicles that were in the driveway and always wanted them by his bedroom window. He loved his stuffed animals and soft blankets.

We want to thank the Bristol first responders and all of Andrew's extensive doctor team for all that they have done to help Andrew.

Flowers and donations are accepted in Andrew's honor to the Jewell family, 1915 Hardscrabble Road, Bristol VT 05443. A celebration of his life will be this spring with information to follow. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com.◇

at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 18, at Assembly of God Christian Center in Ferrisburgh. (A mask is recommended for services). Interment will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Burlington in the spring.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753.

To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com.

A recording of the funeral service will be made available on the obituary page of the Brown McClay Funeral Home website for those who are unable to attend.◇

Dirkje "Dittie" Jaring, 89, formerly of Addison

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland, Canada — Dirkje "Dittie" Jaring passed away peacefully on Feb. 8, 2022 after a long battle with cancer in St. John's, Newfoundland.

She was born in Blokler, Netherlands, to Willem and Niesje Van Polen. In December 1954 she married the love of her life and best friend, Cornelis Jaring, who predeceased her in death in 2006. She is also predeceased by her brother Willem and granddaughter Morgan.

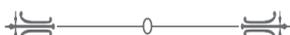
Mom loved being around people, sharing a laugh and having gatherings around the dinner table. Friend or stranger, you were always welcome to come have a cup of coffee or share a meal.

Dittie was a dedicated mother



DIRKJE "DITTIE" JARING

first and foremost. She is survived by her children Cornelis Jaring (Edna), Nel Jaring, Willem Jaring (Lisa), Eric Jaring (Susan) and



Laurie Laflin Desautels, 61, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — It is with extreme sadness that we announce the passing of Laurie Laflin Desautels, 61, on Feb. 9 after a courageous battle with cancer. She passed at home surrounded by loved ones who will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest. The spirit of our beloved Mom, Gammy, sister, and friend, gained her angel wings in style as only she could.

Laurie was born Feb 11, 1960, in Vergennes, Vt., the daughter of Ellwood and Mary Laflin. She grew up in Vergennes, attending Ferrisburgh Elementary and graduating from VUHS in 1978 and Vermont College in 1981 with an associate degree. Throughout that time she worked at Hanson's A&W.

She started her career as a medical assistant/office manager in the offices of Drs. Cope and Fifield, followed by Dr. John Ayers office and then Champlain Valley Orthopedics. Changing careers, she was a financial services representative at Yankee Farm Credit. Throughout all of these positions she also worked on the Desautels Dairy Farm in Salisbury and Bridport.

She was president of her class at VUHS, a catechism teacher at St. Mary's Catholic Church, served on the board at Shard Villa Residential Care Home, and was a natural

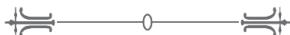


Laurie Laflin Desautels

caregiver to many family members and friends.

Laurie, aka "Frieda," was an integral part of the elite Yoyo Sisterhood. She loved spending time with her grandkids, being at the ocean, gardening, knitting and sewing, shopping, camping, and many types of painting.

Laurie is survived by her daughters Shannon Francis (Jeremy) of Vergennes and Mallory DeCoff (Matt) of Bridport; her granddaughters Rosalie and Isabella Francis; her sisters Sue Ferra of Tenant's Harbor, Maine, Pam Larrow (Dana) of Sun City, Fla., Lisa Ecker (Steve) of Morrisville, and Kathy Hubbard (Peter) of Middlebury; brothers



Stephen J. Clodgo Sr., 66, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — Stephen J. Clodgo Sr., a lifelong resident of Addison County, died unexpectedly at home on Feb. 6, 2022, at the age of 66.

Steve is survived by his children, Jessica (Matthew) Hribar and Stephen J. Clodgo Jr. (April), his mother Lucille (Collette) Clodgo, three siblings Larry, Linda, and Joel, two grandchildren Jason and Nicholas Clodgo, and his longtime partner Mary Jane Ingram. Steve is predeceased by his father Alfred J. Clodgo Jr., his brother Gary, brother David, his former wife and mother of his children Donna Hance and their first infant child.

Steve was born on May 31, 1955 in Middlebury, Vermont, to Alfred Clodgo Jr. and Lucille (Collette) Clodgo. He grew up in Bristol, where his lifelong journey of service began. In his youth, Steve was an altar server and a Boy Scout. His troop thought so highly of him and



STEPHEN J. CLODGO SR.

his character that he was awarded the Owl Scout Patch.

After graduation from high school in 1974, Steve joined the U.S. Navy as a Mess Management Specialist (Chef) and served on the U.S.S. Talbot, a guided missile frigate where he served in the

Marielle Carew (Barry). She is also survived by 15 grandchildren: Katie, Keesy, Fleur, Nathan, Jennifer, Sharon, Mitch, Reece, Rachel, Camryn, Greg Adam, Mikayla, Emily and Owen; and 13 great-grandchildren. Also left to mourn her are her sister Mieke Boeder and her brother Hans Van Polen (Elisebeth) in the Netherlands, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

As per her wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of her life is planned for May 2022 in Vankleekhill, Ontario, Canada. As expressions of sympathy, donations in Dittie's memory may be made to your local cancer society.

Doe maar rustig, want de tijd draagt je door alles.◇

Randall Laflin of Sun City, Fla., and William Grant Jr. of New York City; Andre Desautels, father of her daughters; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents; her stepfather, William Grant Sr.; her sister Claudia Enloe; her brother Kenneth Laflin; and her brothers-in-law Joe Ferra and Ron Enloe.

Calling hours will be on Friday, Feb. 18, 4-7 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Vergennes. A reception will be at American Legion in Middlebury, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury, VT 05753.

To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com. For those who can't attend there will be a video of the service at the bottom of the obituary on the website.

The family is extremely grateful for the care given to Laurie by her sister Sue and Hospice nurse Laura Dame.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Hwy, New Haven, VT 05472, or Addison County Benefit Pull, P.O. Box 126, Vergennes, VT 05491.◇

Find obituaries on pages 6A, 7A & 10A

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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Obituaries

James Edward Hunt, 63, of Bristol

BRISTOL — James Hunt, 63, passed away unexpectedly at UVM Medical Center on Feb. 6, 2022, surrounded by family.

Jim grew up in East Windsor, Conn., and moved to Vermont in the late 1980s where he steadily worked becoming a highly skilled and sought-after master carpenter. Scores of beautifully crafted, well-built homes and renovations — including his own — provide a legacy that testifies to Jim's talents, creativity and professionalism.

His clients, coworkers, friends and family all appreciated his strong, steady approach to solving problems, large and small. Jim's attentive listening was usually followed by a thoughtful consideration of what was at hand, and then a wide smile and a positive response. Requests for his expert advice or assistance were treated generously — when asked, Jim would help anyone, everyone that he could. His sense of humor sweetened any deal.

Jim thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors — gardening, cross-country skiing, and hiking gave him many enjoyable moments, on his own and those he shared with Andrea. An accomplishment that Jim was proudest of was becoming an "Adirondack 46-R" — an honor earned by hiking all 46 peaks in the Adirondack range.

He was fascinated by family history and enjoyed discovering stories and records through his



JAMES EDWARD HUNT

research. One of his most rewarding personal high points was a trip he took to Ireland, where he was able to explore his Irish roots first-hand, meeting several of his relatives living there.

Jim's deep connection to family particularly shone out in the pride and happiness of his relationships with his nieces and nephews, of two generations — his best smiles and heartiest laughs were found in their company.

Jim was a wonderful, supportive husband to his beloved wife Andrea. He was an affirming force in the lives of those who knew him best, and he influenced countless others from his reserve of character, kindness and genuine humanity. These gifts will continue, including even those he did not meet through his choice to be an organ donor.

Jim will be missed by many and remembered by all who had the



great good fortune to spend time with him.

Jim is survived by his wife of 32 years, Andrea Gordon; sisters MaryEllen (Doug) Benefit and Joan (Steve) Pixton; father and mother-in-law Ronald and Sandra Gordon; sister-in-law Julie (Bill) Pelland; and brothers-in-law John Gordon, Matt (Andrea) Gordon. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who he cherished.

Jim was predeceased by his parents, Ed and Mary, and sister, Kathy.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to Homeward Bound, Addison County Humane Society, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753, or Bristol Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 227 Bristol, VT 05443. ◊

Dale E. Hastings, 85, of New Haven

THONOTOSASSA, Fla. — Dale E. Hastings, age 85, passed Jan. 13, 2022, at his winter retreat in Florida. He was born in Hartford, Conn., the eldest child of Mervin and Marjorie Hastings.

Dale graduated from Wethersfield High (Conn.) in 1954 and the Hicks School of Agriculture at the University of Connecticut in 1956. With his formal education ending, he pursued his interests in the progressive dairy industry.

Dale first rented a farm in Southbury, Conn., and soon after purchased his own farm in Orange, Mass. Outgrowing this, he expanded to more acreage in Bridport, Vt., in 1972.

Dale became a well-known breeder of registered Holsteins. This led him to become a distributor for several companies marketing semen throughout New England and New York. A partnership was formed, in early 1980s, between Dale, a veterinarian and a professional technician, forming the business Poke-A-Moo (pioneering the practice of



DALE E. HASTINGS

embryo transfer work in the cattle industry).

Ending his dairy career in 1986, his interests turned to property management and woodworking. He was able to use his wealth of life skills acquired to further prosper.

Dale Hastings was, till the end, engaged and learning. He always found a way to use his Yankee ingenuity to tackle a challenge. Purchasing Rivers Bend Campground in 1994, under

his tutelage, he was rewarded economically in 2000 with his marketing savvy in the sale of the property.

Dale finally retired to the home he and his wife built together on Dog Team Road, New Haven, Vt. They spent 22 years there, where he enjoyed his time producing amazing hand-crafted items they both used and marketed as retirement income.

Dale is survived by his wife Jessie Whitney and their blended family of eight children; Kenn (Valerie), Greg (Suzanne), Jeff (Cheryl), Andrew (Ellen), Katrina ((Tim), Chip (Sharene), John (Cherie) and Erica (Mike). He was blessed with 21 grandchildren and seven greats to date. Survivors also include his first wife, Gretchen Kromas Masselli of South Carolina, as well as close first cousins, Patty, Joyce, David, Jan and Cheryl, and brother-in-law Jim, who have been supportive beyond imagination in the recent past.

A family-and-friends celebration of life will be held at a later date. ◊

Leo E. Cousino, 73, of Monkton

MONKTON — Leo E. Cousino 73, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, at his home in Monkton.

He was born on July 23, 1948, in Middlebury, the son of Lawrence and Marie (Guinard) Cousino.

He is survived by his son, Travys (Wendy) of Middlebury; grandsons Jonathan (Kirsten Clark, fiancée) of New Haven and Matthew of

Middlebury; great-grandsons Dominic and Jaxson Cousino of New Haven; and sisters Bernadette Carson of Florida and Lorraine Cousino Pery of Vermont.

He was predeceased by his parents, sister Rose Cousino and a brother, Bruce.

He enjoyed collecting wide variety of antiques from motorcycles

to antique firearms.

A gathering for family and friends will be held at Brown McClay Funeral Home in Bristol on Monday, Feb. 28, at 10 a.m., with a remembrance service following at 11 a.m.

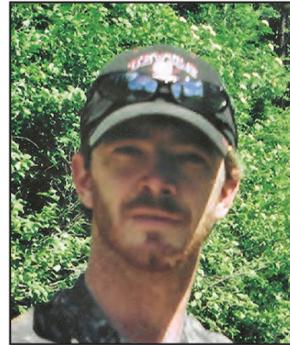
To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com. ◊

Derek "Deke" Michael Mueller, 50, Middlebury native

ATHOL, Idaho — In the early morning hours of Feb. 1, 2022, we lost Derek "Deke" Michael Mueller from a brain tumor, found to be cancer. He had no pain and was at peace when he went to be with Jesus, with his wife Stephanie by his side at their home in Athol, Idaho, where they resided with their son Gage E. Mueller.

Stephanie Mueller had cared for him throughout his illness with the help of hospice care in the end. Deke was born in Middlebury, Vt., on Nov. 23, 1971, at Porter Hospital to his parents Richard F. and Cindra L. Mueller, formerly of Middlebury, Vt. Deke attended schools in Middlebury, and also in Wyoming and Idaho.

Deke loved sports, especially hockey; his favorite team was the New Jersey Devils. His favorite hobbies were hunting, fishing, boating, and adoring his family.



DEREK "DEKE" MICHAEL MUELLER

Deke's occupation was in the computer electronic industry, primarily with Itron and Servatron in Spokane, Wash.

Deke is preceded in death by his grandparents, Abe and Ruth Jacobs of Middlebury and Elmer Frank

(Al) Mueller of Las Vegas, Nev. He is survived by his wife, Stephanie Mueller; his sons Gage Mueller and Aidan Smith, his parents Richard and Cindra Mueller; and by many beloved members of his extended family in Idaho, Vermont, Wyoming, Nevada, and California.

Deke has been a light in our lives and this world will not be the same without him. We are thankful for all the time we have been given with him and will cherish it in our hearts forever.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, March 19, at 11 a.m., at Real Life Ministries, 1860 N. Cecil Road, Building 2, Post Falls, ID 83854.

Yates Funeral Home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is entrusted with final arrangements. Please visit Deke's online memorial and sign his guestbook at www.yatesfuneralhomes.com. ◊

William T. Durfee Jr., 84, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — William "Bill" Durfee passed away on Feb. 15, 2022, in Burlington, Vt., after a brief illness. He was born in Providence, R.I., on May 21, 1937. As a child he enjoyed being on his grandparents' farm and playing CYO basketball throughout his youth.

Bill graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1959, where he met his wife of nearly 62 years, Patricia (Brooks) Durfee. Bill and Pat moved to Sudbury, Mass., and while he started his company, Durfee Advertising, in Boston, they started a family.

The proud father of five kids, Bill spent much of his free time coaching and umpiring the kids' little league teams. He was known to shock the family often when he would come home with a new television, car, or the family would wake up to walls being demolished for an unexpected addition to the house.

An avid golfer, Bill met many of his close friends on the golf course. He was a member of Brae Burn Country Club in Newton, Mass., and after retiring and moving to Vermont in 1996, joined the Manchester Country Club, where he enjoyed his weekly outings with his dear friends and trading bad jokes and playing not so good golf.



WILLIAM T. DURFEE

When advancing Parkinson's disease prevented him from enjoying the game himself, Bill could most often be found watching golf or his favorite teams, most notably the Boston Bruins and the New England Patriots. But those who knew him knew that he would watch just about any sport. Most recently he considered himself to be an expert on curling, much to his family's surprise.

Although he was not a musician himself, Bill loved almost all genres of music. While his all-time favorite was Mahler's Symphony No. 5, he was also known to blast Pink Floyd's "The Wall" and would absolutely swoon over Diana Krall.

Bill will be remembered for his quick wit, sometimes inappropriate jokes, and unsolicited suggestions on just about any subject. In his own words, it was "good to be seen." He held his family dearly in his heart and found his greatest joy in watching his grandchildren grow up.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia, and their five children: Kathleen and her husband Edward of Kalkaska, Mich.; Peter and his wife Leslie of Framingham, Mass.; Kevin and his wife Susan of Mashpee, Mass.; Chris, proud bachelor, of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; and Amy and her husband Gregor of Lincoln, Vt. He leaves behind his grandchildren Samantha, Tabetha, Emily, Sam, Shahan, Ben, Thomas, Elsa, and Owen. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Arlene Durfee.

His family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Addison County Health and Hospice, who helped support him and Patty during recent health challenges. We are incredibly grateful for the care he received at both Porter Hospital and UVM Medical Center. Donations in his name can be made to ACHHH or Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services. A spring memorial is planned.

Take that, Papa. ◊

Yvonne Mary Louise Farnsworth, 80, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Yvonne Mary Louise Farnsworth, 80, died Wednesday, Feb. 9, at Addison County Hospice and Home Health after a short illness.

Yvonne was born Aug. 25, 1941, in Underhill, Vt., the daughter of Omer and Rosale Simard. She graduated from Jericho High School, class of 1959. She met Ralph Farnsworth in the summer of 1959 at the dances; he was one year out of high school. They continued to go to many dances. Ralph volunteered for the military in 1962 to get that behind them before he and Yvonne married. They did marry on Oct. 10, 1964. Their son Mike was born nine months later.

Yvonne worked at the box factory in Bristol for a short while



YVONNE MARY LOUISE FARNSWORTH

and at Simmonds Precision in Vergennes in the stockroom for

over 22 years.

Yvonne and Ralph traveled a lot in the early years. They bought a time share near Walt Disney World in Florida in 1976 and went there every year. Their travels, including eight cruises, took them all around the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii — twice. They had a great time and took lots of photos. Yvonne and Ralph were married 57 years and four months.

Yvonne is survived by her husband, Ralph, of New Haven; and one son, Michael, and his wife, Maria. She was predeceased by her parents, Omer and Rosale, and her sister, Susan Sherman of Bristol.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown McClay Funeral Home of Vergennes, Vt. ◊

Find obituaries on pages 6A, 7A & 10A

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Letters to the Editor

It's time for the state to ban use of leghold traps

Trapping supporters, including our own Fish & Wildlife Department, often claim the word "science" to advance a political agenda. Bill S.201, a ban on leghold traps, was discussed on Feb. 2 by the Senate Natural Resources Committee that is chaired by my state senator, Christopher Bray. To those who are unfamiliar, steel-jawed leghold traps are baited and set in the woods, including our shared public lands, and slam shut with tremendous force on any unsuspecting animal who is unlucky enough to trigger them. Trapping regulations are under-enforced and place not only wildlife but also our domestic animals in tremendous danger.

Trapped animals including bobcats, grey fox and other animals labeled "furbearers" suffer from visible injuries, including bloodied paws and mouths, from biting at the trap, to unseen injuries including severed tendons, dislocated joints, broken bones and other injuries. A conservative estimate reveals that only one out of three animals trapped is the

target animal. Non-target animals trapped in Vermont include barred owls, ravens, turtles, dogs, cats and a host of other species. Surprisingly, trappers are not even required to report when they trap non-targeted wildlife, including some imperiled species like birds of prey.

Trappers continue to trap based on tradition and "recreation," and will readily admit that there's no longer monetary value in trapping. In fact, trappers are likely losing money trapping since furs are no longer selling thanks to the fashion industry evolving to meet 21st century standards around animal suffering. Trappers often target animals like bobcats and coyotes that they dislike simply due to the fact that they're classified as a predator species. Predator hatred is alive and well not just out west with wolves, but right here in Vermont as well. But let's loop back to the oft-used excuse as "science" supports trapping. Even if science did support the use of leghold traps, the ends do not justify these cruel means. But science does not support it.

It is important to remember that science does not say that we must trap and kill bobcats, for example, to manage their populations. Where's the peer reviewed science that tells us that bobcats and other animals should be trapped in leghold traps? There is none because that is a value-based argument peddled to the public as science. Science *might* inform Vermont Fish & Wildlife about bobcat reproduction and other factors and how their populations might respond to a trapping season. But it is Vermont Fish & Wildlife's values of being pro-trapping that inform their policy that allows these animals to be trapped in the first place. That is a value-based wildlife policy, not one that is rooted in science. It would be very helpful if Fish & Wildlife biologists were to state their political biases when providing testimony to the legislature. Sadly, they are acting more like lobbyists for trappers than biologists.

Susan Burns
Middlebury

Support urged for Reproductive Liberty Amendment

I support Vermont's Reproductive Liberty Amendment (Proposition 5). Nationally, reproductive liberty protections under the U.S. Constitution are threatened by the radical actions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Amending the Vermont Constitution, our state's strongest legal document, will protect the reproductive liberty of all Vermonters.

This includes the right to become pregnant, carry a pregnancy to term, and to choose or refuse contraception, sterilization and abortion care. Amending the Vermont Constitution to include the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, through the votes of Vermonters in November 2022, will ratify the amendment and make it much harder to overturn than a law.

The Reproductive Liberty Amendment would protect every Vermonter's right to make their own reproductive decisions as

it pertains to their own bodily autonomy. The Vermont Attorney General's Office states that the Reproductive Liberty Amendment would not allow anyone to force their contraceptive or reproductive choices on another. Ultimately, it is the pregnant person's right to choose what to do with their body.

Reproductive liberty gives us all the right to choose what is best for our own body and our own lives. So under the amendment, a biological father's liberty includes the right to choose or refuse contraception and sterilization. He cannot force a person to carry their pregnancy to term because he cannot force his choice on any other individual. When two individuals have conflicting rights, courts will weigh each of the interests at stake and come to a solution, which is something people have been trusting courts to do for quite some time. However, it would not allow an individual to

successfully sue to force any other individual to become pregnant or carry a pregnancy to term.

Roe v. Wade is at risk of being overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court. This is one reason why it is necessary for Vermont to amend its Constitution to include Proposal 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.

I pledge to vote yes on Prop 5 on Election Day to protect each Vermonter's right to choose what is best for their own body, and to have the liberty to choose or refuse reproductive health services, and to solidify our reproductive liberty in the Vermont Constitution. I hope you will join me to allow yourself, your children, your family and friends, and ALL Vermonters to have the freedom to choose what is right for them.

Thank you so much!

Caitlin Porter
Addison

Thank you, Middlebury, it's been an honor to serve

To my fellow Middlebury Residents:

As my tenure on the Middlebury selectboard comes to the end of its more than 12-year run, I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as one of your board members. I hope that along with the 18 other board members that I have been privileged to serve with, I have been able to make things a bit better in this wonderful community that we call home.

I also want to thank the town administrators and employees for the work that they undertake every day on the essential services of local government: fire and police emergency response, clean water and the responsible treatment of wastewater, ensuring that our roads and walkways are safe and well maintained, recreation and library services and of course fiscally responsible and efficient government operations. You are professionals of the highest integrity.

I want to express my appreciation to those who provided input on many of the issues and decisions that came before me and the board. I am especially appreciative of everyone who would call or stop me on the streets to present their thoughts on specific topics. Please rest assured that I welcomed the ability to understand multiple viewpoints on issues. Your input was always heard and it helped

me arrive at decisions that I believe were the best for our entire community.

Among the board members with whom I have served, two of them — Heather Seeley and Esther Thomas — are up for re-election. Heather has repeatedly demonstrated her ability to be objective and focused on the matters that come before the board, including the all-important town infrastructure projects. With many upcoming planned and vital improvements to our water, sewer, transportation and public buildings she brings invaluable expertise. Esther has only served for one year but during this period I have observed her excellent critical thinking skills, and remain impressed with her ability to grasp complex topics. I am convinced that they will both do well as they continue to serve Middlebury's citizens. Heather and Esther deserve to be re-elected.

As for the third selectboard position, I firmly believe that the logical and best candidate is Andy Hooper. While Andy will be new to the Middlebury selectboard, he has extensive experience in governance and public policy having previously served eight years on Montpelier's city council including its infrastructure committee. Locally he has served on the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Solid Waste District and the Ilsley

Library boards. He has an in-depth and broad understanding of town government's role and the various services that Middlebury provides for its citizens. His employment at AgriMark, one of Middlebury's largest employers, gives him an understanding about the issues that impact the workforce, including the availability of affordable housing. Andy will be one of the most experienced persons to ever join the board and will be a productive member from the onset.

With regard to experience, this is very crucial at a time in Middlebury's history when we must address many difficult issues. They include developing much needed housing, strengthening prospects for our current businesses and implementing strategies to identify and pursue new businesses and employment, and addressing the ever-increasing cost of town services while minimizing the tax impact.

Experience is paramount and Heather, Esther and Andy are the best choices. They deserve to be elected to our selectboard.

In closing, I want to state that serving on the Middlebury selectboard has been an honor and a mostly enjoyable experience. Let us all continue to do great things to make Middlebury an even better place.

Nick Artim
Middlebury

We are fortunate to have Porter Hospital as resource

I had to go into Porter Hospital this morning for what we call, I believe, a routine procedure — if I say that I had spent the previous day chugging Miralax to prepare, an inquiring reader might be able to figure out the details.

In any event, I was struck, and not for the first time, by just how lucky we are to have this facility close to hand. The doctors were great, but since I was mostly unconscious in their company it's the nursing staff that really sticks in my mind.

Six or seven people helped me at one point or another, and they were unfailingly kind, cheerful, neighborly and skilled. And when I was waking up, one of them was there to hand me a little Cabot cheddar to eat, which seemed the perfect welcome back to the world.

I have, of course, been reading about other parts of the country where hospitals are completely overwhelmed by COVID, and nurses entirely and understandably burned out and despairing. It

occurs to me that I, and all other patients, also owe some thanks to our neighbors, almost all of whom got their shots and wore their masks and generally conspired to make sure that Vermont's health care system came through the last year more or less intact. Caring — by professionals and by the rest of us amateurs — makes a real difference in the world!

Thank you.

Bill McKibben
Ripton

McCallum, Doria are wise choices for ACSD spots

I would like you to consider voting for Jamie McCallum (of Weybridge) and Joanna Doria (of Ripton), who are both looking for a seat on the Addison Central School District board. I think their fresh look at our schools and district would help us, as a community, move forward with some out-of-the-box thinking.

Our schools are wonderful places with amazing teachers. I believe that Jamie and Joanna will support these and advocate for all of our schools in an uplifting way.

Our children are the future of our community and will continue to be at the center of our thinking when planning. Jamie and Joanna are both parents of young children

as well as educators who will hear our concerns and engage with the community in a productive way.

Thank you for considering.

Samantha Farrell-Schmitt
Early Educator and Parent
Middlebury

Forlenza letter

(Continued from Page 5A) be impacted? At its Sept. 28, 2021, board meeting, MAUSD Superintendent Reen presented tax projections under the conservative assumption that 85% of Lincoln students would continue attending Mt. Abe. Under this assumption, the business office concluded that there would be a negligible change in education taxes for the four remaining district towns. Using these budget and revenue assumptions, the tax impacts would be even further reduced if a larger percentage of Lincoln's secondary

students continue at Mt. Abe. Save Community Schools is leading Lincoln's efforts to withdraw from MAUSD. This is a group of knowledgeable individuals including former superintendents, former school board members, senior education consultant, education finance director, retired college mathematics professor, special educator, early childhood educator, lawyer, parents, community members, and alumni of Lincoln Community School and Mt. Abe. Additionally, the

Lincoln selectboard has provided considerable support for the effort to withdraw.

Save Community Schools will have an informational meeting on Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. This is a virtual meeting with the link available in Front Porch Forum and on the Save Community Schools website savecommunitieschools.org, where you can also find additional information.

Paul Forlenza
Lincoln Selectboard Liaison
to Save Community Schools

Ripton's McGlashan deserves to be re-elected

Please join us in voting to re-elect Amy McGlashan to the ACSD (Addison Central School District) Board. Amy brings experience, commitment and leadership to her work on the ACSD Board. She has served on the boards of the Ripton School and the Addison Central Supervisory Union (2008-2013) and is completing her first term on the newly formed ACSD Board. Throughout this extended engagement with our schools, Amy's concerns have focused above all on ensuring that all

students have what they need to succeed. Her primary commitment has consistently been to reduce the "equity gap," whereby some students succeed while others are left behind. She is a board member who always thinks first of what is best for the kids.

Through her deep experience on different school boards, Amy has a firm grasp of the major issues facing education in Vermont and Addison County. She has a profound understanding of the many complexities embedded within the challenges the ACSD

Board must grapple with, such as how to plan for a future in which the Vermont student population continues to decrease. Amy's understanding of complex educational issues underpins her leadership, which offers a realistic path to a future in which every student is able to succeed.

A vote for Amy McGlashan is a vote for integrity, reason, and commitment to student success.

Susan Hanson and
Perry Hanson
Ripton

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Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 8A, 9A, 10A.

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Letters to the Editor

Amy McGlashan is a great asset to the ACSD board

I have worked alongside Amy McGlashan for over 20 years and write to encourage her re-election to the ACSD School Board. Amy has dedicated her life's work to supporting the education of students (pre-K through higher education). Over the years, she has helped develop nationally recognized, cutting-edge programs that have been shared and replicated elsewhere. Amy's work promotes community-connected teaching and learning, inviting students, teachers and community representatives to work together to help meet community-identified needs and opportunities in ways that also support student development and classroom learning goals. Studies show that this kind of project-based, experiential learning benefits students, teachers and communities, alike, and can help underrepresented students and those with special needs thrive. Amy has deep roots in Ripton and Addison County, as she has demonstrated. Her work has also been recognized in ways that have

provided her with pursuits that span state, regional, national and international communities and organizations. She has presented at conferences and served on various educational boards and committees. We benefit locally from this broad network and expansive perspective. Amy's breadth of experience has also included providing professional development and developing curricula for other educators, community members and organizations; overseeing the recognition of students, educators and community organizations; and seeking and distributing funds for educational innovations. These are very difficult and emotional times. Amy is a voice of reason and will put the needs of our children first, while also safeguarding fiscal responsibility. Many in Ripton will struggle to afford the potential financial burden that is looming. I recognize and applaud the deep commitment and hard work by all who are attempting mightily to address the Ripton School predicament. I believe,

however, that now is not the time for isolation. We cannot retreat with like-minded peers and serve only our few. Our democracy is in possible peril. We must work together, across our communities, to do our collective best, especially for those who are underrepresented and with the greatest need. It is important to model for our children how to collaborate and navigate across difference, providing a shared array of opportunities. If the Ripton School is sadly closed someday, I am confident that we can and will come together to develop a thriving community center that may well engage even more Ripton families than the few currently served. I will vote for Amy because she has demonstrated experience, skills and knowledge that are critical to our needs today as we strive to provide the best possible education, support and engagement of and for our children and future citizenry.

**Tiffany Nourse Sargent
Ripton**

Cullinane, McGlashan best choices in tough times

In the two contested races for the Addison Central School District board, there are two candidates with a demonstrated commitment to this unified school district as a place where all students receive a quality, equitable education. Those two are my colleagues on the board, Mary Cullinane of Weybridge and Amy McGlashan of Ripton. Mary and Amy know they have been elected to represent all students and taxpayers in the ACSD and consistently demonstrate that responsibility, often in conflict with some residents of their own communities. Both have worked tirelessly for the district. Mary replaced me as the board

chair three years ago and has led the board carefully through the challenging COVID period, responding to a shifting reality that has required pivoting on a regular basis. In a time when many school boards in Vermont and the nation have devolved into contentious social issue battlegrounds, Mary has led the board in responding to public pressure effectively and keeping public and board discourse thoughtful and respectful. Amy has remained a strong advocate for a unified school system that responds to the needs of all students so that when they come together in middle school, each has had the opportunity to thrive in their elementary schools so they may thrive together in

our union schools. As a member of the board's Communications Committee, Amy has played a key role in continually improving the board's relationship with the members of our communities. These roles have not been easy for either Mary or Amy, coming from our smallest towns where residents have long felt nervous about their futures. Throughout their board years, both have served with courage, integrity and with a commitment to the goals of our unified district. I strongly support their re-election and hope the voters of the ACSD recognize their devotion to the education of all our children.

**Peter Conlon
Cornwall**

Investing in Career Center now will pay off in future

I encourage the voters in the 17 towns served by the Hannaford Career Center to support the request for funding for renovations and energy upgrades. The planned energy efficiency measures and the addition of solar panels give the center the potential to be net-zero, cutting its energy-related carbon footprint to zero. This will also save taxpayers \$48,000 annually in energy bills. Improvements in HVAC, electrical, and security and safety equipment will provide a safe and healthy learning environment for its over 400 students. The Hannaford Career Center provides critically important services to our county. These improvements will position it to continue its important role well into the future.

As a business and property owner in Middlebury, homeowner in Cornwall, and taxpayer in both, I would like to express my categorical support of Mary Cullinane for the ACSD School Board. Mary has worked tirelessly on multiple fronts, for many years, to strengthen and enhance our towns. As a resident of Weybridge with children — not her own, but whom she cares for as though they were — who currently attend both local and district schools, Mary's understanding of the issues facing families is as complete as any parent's. And as a resident of a small-school town who owns property and a business in Middlebury, and who has been actively involved in addressing our community's economic health, Mary possesses an intimate understanding of the challenges posed by our current system of governance and taxation. I have worked closely with her in a number of capacities: as a colleague in civic work, as a client of her advisory business, as a tenant of The Stone Mill

Public Market, and as an investor in the Stone Mill project. I have also called her my friend. In every one of those contexts, I have consistently encountered an earnest, professional person who considers all sides before espousing a plan. Mary is, without question, one of the most thoughtful and dedicated people I know; I wholeheartedly endorse her candidacy for re-election to the ACSD School Board.

**Becky Dayton
Cornwall**

Climate matters Perspectives on Change

Turn to the sun, not 'treewashing'

3rd in a series

Bill McKibben is an author, educator and environmentalist who resides in Ripton. The founder of 350.org, he is Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and he has won the Gandhi Peace Prize as well as honorary degrees from 19 colleges and universities.



It was incandescently beautiful in the forests of the mountain East this past fall. I fear I am, on occasion, a literal tree-hugger, and recently I wrote at some length about the enormous value of growing elms and oaks and sycamores and the rest along city streets where they can shade people as the heat keeps climbing. So it pains me a bit to say, massive tree-planting campaigns are under assault as a climate tool, and that the assault seems to have some real merit. In mid-September a team published extensive data in the journal *Nature* on the results of a big tree-planting campaign in India. "We find that tree plantings have not, on average, increased the proportion of forest canopy cover and have modestly shifted forest composition away from the broadleaf varieties valued by local people," they wrote. "Further cross-sectional analysis, from a household livelihood survey, shows that tree planting supports little direct use by local people. We conclude that decades of expensive tree planting programs in this region have not proved effective." One member of the team, the aptly named Forrest Fleischman of the University of Minnesota, took to Twitter to expand the idea: "In the last week I've started to receive inquiries from people running tree planting programs wanting my help. I am suggesting that they shut down their programs." Given that some of the biggest companies on earth have endorsed tree planting as a solution to their

carbon emissions, and that there are several Silicon Valley startups enabling this work, and that it seems intuitively helpful, Fleischman had to make his point forcefully, and he did: 1. Land use change is already a major source of carbon emissions. The best way to think about forests absorbing new carbon is to think about this as offsetting carbon emissions lost from past forest destruction. 2. Relatedly, there isn't enough space on the planet for natural ecosystems to absorb more than a small share of fossil fuel emissions. 3. Trees planted today will absorb carbon in the future. Your emissions today start heating the planet today. 4. Tree planting projects often fail, so if you plant trees rather than reduce your emissions, you might actually be doing nothing. In addition, he pointed out, if you're counting the trees you plant, you're counting the wrong thing: since the point is to sequester carbon, and since big trees do it best, that's probably where we should be concentrating. Meanwhile, it's at least as important to keep existing forests standing. An important article from the *Guardian* beats an important drum: It is not a climate solution to cut down trees and burn them to produce electricity. I've been trying to make this case since 2016; "biomass" burning is not carbon neutral, no matter what an EU directive or a Congressional mandate might maintain. We have to stop burning stuff on this planet — coal, oil, gas, and also wood on an industrial scale, at a time when we should be going all out towards wind and sun. There's a ball of burning flame 90 million miles away — that's all the combustion we need.

Chance to vote for Thomas and Hooper welcomed

A year ago I said I wished I could vote for both Esther Thomas, who I helped recruit, and Andy Hooper, my good neighbor, for Middlebury selectboard for the one-year seat for which they were competing. It was healthy to have such a robust choice. This year I can and will vote for both of them. Esther brings a fresh, encouraging and open voice to our diversity efforts in this critical time of this focus. Andy brings local

government experience serving on Montpelier's Selectboard and on Middlebury committees, especially on our library board, working to sustain this essential town asset, and our regional planning and solid waste commissions as liaison. I'm glad both of these individuals are involved in local government and that Heather Seeley is running again and will vote for her as well. We will benefit from her continued leadership

on infrastructure projects. I am glad to see Matthew Delia-Lôbo come forward and hear more about what he has to say about our priorities. I hope that, if not elected, he'll look for opportunities to serve that are posted in March at townofmiddlebury.org and on our town list serve. Consider them, and attending selectboard meetings where you can have a voice.

**Laura Asermily
Middlebury**

ACSD Chair Cullinane a proven educational leader

Our school district continues to contend with a maelstrom of issues: COVID, staffing, equity, consolidation, student welfare and more. These issues require the resolve of an experienced and dedicated leader who understands the nuanced complexities of the problems at hand. This leader is current ACSD School Board Chair Mary Cullinane. Mary has worked diligently and collaboratively over the past four years to navigate colossal challenges and untangle intricate issues. Often, topics facing

our beloved local schools are contentious, with wildly ranging perspectives. Mary has focused on ensuring our whole community is heard and part of the process. This work continues in earnest — and should carry on with the leader in the trenches, who has the experience and resolve to tackle the hard issues. With Mary at the helm of the school board, we also collectively benefit from more than 30 years of real-world, K-12 experience. Mary was a high school teacher and administrator.

She then spearheaded education innovation efforts for Microsoft and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She is also heavily invested in the community as a partner in two local businesses, the Stone Mill and Community Barn Ventures. In sum, Mary has the knowledge, empathy and school board experience to move the needle on meaningful change. On March 1, vote for a proven leader. Elect Mary Cullinane.

**Lisa Mitchell
Middlebury**

Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 8A, 9A, 10A.

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MARY CULLINANE

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Letters to the Editor

Doria, McCallum would serve ACSD with integrity

As a current school board member, I am pleased to announce my support for Joanna Doria and Jamie McCallum for ACSD Board. I am confident that Joanna and Jamie will both be an excellent addition to the board and fulfill their board role with integrity and transparency on behalf of all our children regardless of the town they live in. According to the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), "The school board acts as trustees on behalf of the community to provide strong oversight of public education." And the VSBA "Essential Work of Vermont School Boards" handbook further states this includes effective engagement with the community; responsible fiscal management and oversight;

and establishing measurable performance goals and monitoring learning outcomes.

After having had the opportunity to substitute teach in several of our schools, I believe that it is critical that we fully understand how the learning outcomes and emotional well-being of our students have been impacted as well as our educators by the pandemic. In parallel, there have been other decisions that have impacted our learning outcomes. I believe it is the responsibility of the board to ensure that we have an accurate checkpoint for how well our children and educators are doing. We must then ask tough questions regarding the effectiveness of the measures that have been put in place, ensure that

any needed changes are addressed, establish indicators of success, and routinely monitor our progress. This will help to ensure that our district takes advantage of the remaining emergency federal funding in the best way possible.

I know Joanna and Jamie well and I look forward to working with them as board members. Joanna and Jamie will take their role seriously on behalf of the ACSD community and be willing to ask the tough questions and provide the oversight needed.

The views expressed in this submission are my own and are not intended to represent the views of the ACSD board.

Barbara Wilson Shoreham

Disabled anglers need, deserve more state support

Several years back, a petition signed by hundreds of local citizens was sent to the legislature in Montpelier, asking to amend Vermont Fishing License regulations. A bill was proposed to provide free fishing licenses to people who meet the current legal definition of "disabled" in Vermont. The bill has not been brought up for a vote, despite the passage of several

legislative sessions.

During times like these, all Vermonters need recreational outlets, and disabled people are no exception. Please consider asking your representatives in Montpelier to move this bill forward for a vote.

Additionally, current rules require that any person taking a disabled individual fishing must also have a fishing license, even if they don't do

any fishing themselves. We believe this rule does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and think the legislature should address this, either by removing the requirement, or including caregivers of disabled people as eligible for a free fishing license.

Thank you.

Raymond Bapp East Middlebury

H.493 means more Ed Board power, less local voice

My reading of State Board of Education Chair Oliver Olsen's expansive essay ("Vt. law limits Ripton options," Letters, Feb. 3) is that he is correct when he explains that it is not the State Board of Education that is targeting schools for closure. It is actually Act 46, the law under which the State Board is making its decisions, that has targeted small schools for consolidation — by force, if necessary. In my opinion, Act 46 was intended specifically to bring about the closing of small towns' schools in Vermont, despite what the text of the law itself states. Under this law, once a small school has been consolidated, the way is then open for that town's school to be closed, as is being attempted with Ripton.

The chairman writes that, "the

question of whether the Ripton (or any other) school should close or stay open was simply not relevant to the process before us." But, of course, that was precisely the question, and it still is.

The situation in which the State Board finds itself is that since a small town has escaped having its school closed under Act 46, then an arrangement must be made for that school to fail in order to preserve the intent of Act 46 and the power of the State Board of Education. And all along, the assumption underlying this process is that the State Board has the well-being and the education of the Ripton children as their primary concern. This has also been the primary concern of the people of Ripton who want their children and their school to thrive.

The state continues its efforts,

now through even more destructive legislation in the form of a bill presently being considered in the House Education Committee, bill H.493. This bill will make the process of a town withdrawal from a union school district so arcane and byzantine as to be essentially impossible. It greatly strengthens Act 46, and provides that the ultimate arbiter of a town withdrawal will be the Vermont Board of Education. If this bill passes into law, the future hope of small towns to save their schools from closure will be virtually nil. Somewhere in these current and proposed statutes is the loss of the more direct democratic voice that has been the essence of Vermont government.

Millard Cox Ripton

Cullinane, Malcolm, McGlashan best ACSD choices

Voting is one of the most important contributions we as citizens make to the workings of our community. I encourage everyone to vote in our local municipal and school board elections in March. I currently serve on the Addison Central School Board and want to encourage everyone to become familiar with the work of the ACSD board. In addition to our mission of providing an innovative, rigorous and supportive educational community, we remain focused on ensuring that all students receive equitable opportunities throughout the district. Educational funds are finite, and the board and the administration must make informed, sage decisions on how best to allocate these funds. A report describing the research

generated thus far by the Facilities Master Plan highlights the challenges the board and community must address.

Sitting on the ACSD Board for the last five years has broadened my understanding of the critical issues facing our local schools, and the decisions before the board are daunting. I would like to endorse three incumbent candidates for your vote to continue on the ACSD School Board.

Mary Cullinane (Weybridge), the board chair, has a wonderful ability to consider different perspectives and then lead the members to consensus. We are all grateful for the experience and clarity she brings to board functions.

Amy McGlashan (Ripton) has a deep understanding of the

challenge of providing educational opportunities to diverse communities. She masterfully educates us in the nuances of differing points of view. ACSD is fortunate she continues to offer her contribution.

James Malcolm, M.D., (Middlebury). As a 15-year veteran of the Middlebury MS/HS (1985-2000) school board (including five years as chair), Dr. Malcolm has a wealth of institutional knowledge. His practical advice keeps us grounded in the reality of what the community will support.

Board meetings are open to the public and welcome community engagement.

Mary Gill Middlebury

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Richard "Ricky" Burnett, 64, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — On Feb. 12, 2022, Richard Burnett of Middlebury, Vt., left this earthly world at Porter Medical Center after a brief illness. Born March 14, 1957, to Janice Burnett, Richard was raised by his maternal grandmother, Rachel Burnett, in Vergennes, Vt., where he resided most of his life.

Richard spent his career as a commercial driver in the Middlebury and Burlington areas. He drove dump trucks for S.T. Griswold, but the majority of his career was driving for BETCHA Transit in Middlebury. It was his

passion. He loved hauling kids to and from school, sports, and field trips for the better part of 25 years. After driving a school bus he drove for ACTR in Middlebury, Vt., taking the elderly to doctor appointments.

He is survived by his son Chad Burnett of Canaan, N.Y., and his partner Sandra Bevens and their sons, Alex and Hunter Bevens; and grandchildren Austin Burnett of Rutland, Vt., Logan Burnett of Hudson, N.Y., Samantha Burnett of Bridport, Vt., and Marcus and Jenna LaBarge of Hyde Park, Vt. Also surviving him are aunts,

cousins, caregivers, dear friends, and special people whom he loved talking about food with. Richard was predeceased by his one true love and wife, Cynthia Burnett; his mother, Janice Burnett; his grandmother, Rachel Burnett; his daughter-in-law Krystal Irons-Burnett; paternal grandson, Dawson McGrath; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

There will be a celebration of life for Richard at the Middlebury VFW Saturday, Feb. 26, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. This will be a potluck gathering. ◊



Martin W. Williams Jr., 74, of North Ferrisburgh

NORTH FERRISBURGH — Martin W. Williams Jr. of North Ferrisburgh unexpectedly passed away Feb. 13, 2022, at the age of 74.

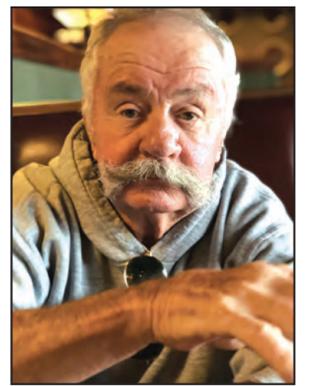
He was born Oct. 21, 1947 in Columbus, Ohio. Surviving him are his wife, Deborah Rossetti Williams; children Martha and Dick Greene, Leah and Tim Deering, Rebecca and Jim Hefin, and Stephen and Christine Williams; stepchildren Sarah Rossetti, Joshua Rossetti and Arthur Rossetti; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren, with three more on the way. He is predeceased by his first wife, Lynn Williams

Wing, who died in 2018.

Marty was an avid hunter and fisherman and was involved with the Lake Champlain walleye association and Ducks Unlimited for many years. He worked as a wastewater operator for several area towns, most recently Vergennes, from which he retired.

Marty enjoyed the time he spent outdoors with his family and friends passing on his knowledge to his grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of life March 2 at the American Legion, 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, VT 05491 from 3-6 p.m. Private interment will be held at a later date. ◊



MARTIN W. WILLIAMS JR.

VUHS honor roll

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union High School has released its honor roll for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school years. Students named to the roll include:

12TH GRADE
High honors: Jasmine Beenen, Ila Collette, Bradley Kutchukian and Clarinda McAllister.

Honors: Byron Beck, Alexis Boise, Olivia Brooks, Alisdair Chauvin, Ryley Dubois, Jade Edwards, Felicia Poirier, Trent Richardson, Tori Scott, Michael Serpico, Audrey Tembreull, Paul Thurber, Jordan Visser, Samuel Visser and Olivia Wyckoff.

11TH GRADE
High honors: Jackson Bennett, Frances Eckels, Thane Gill, Morgan Hurlburt, Jasmine Little, Peyton Paquette, Shamus Rooney, Opal Sutton and Maja Zagolla.

Honors: Raia Bryant, Kelsey Clark, Claire Hatch, Gideon Palmer, Carlyn Rapoport and James Steadman.

10TH GRADE
High honors: Elizabeth Bennett, Mackenzie Flint, Ryder Messinger, Calder Rakowski, Zoe Reid-St. John, and Julia Rice.

Honors: Ava Almeida, Acadia

Clark, Kimari Collins, Calvin Gramling, Benjamin Hargett, Natalie Jackman, Matilda Seyler and Eyon Tembreull.

9TH GRADE
High honors: Mary Cosgrove, Rory Couture, Ethan Croke, Kira Emmons, Sophia Johnson, Mia Kutchukian, Katelyn Laberge, Megan Mentzer, Elsa Michaels, Nora Nelson, Kestin Puechl-Sproul, Silas Quinn, Lily Root and Jing Williams.

Honors: Owen Collette, Grey Fearon Spencer Gebo, Torrey Hanna, Kendra Jackson and Reese Paquette.

Democracy is not a spectator sport, especially now

I don't agonize, I organize! Inspiring words from The Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, as quoted in the Washington Post. Democrats must not be silent,

speaking out is necessary in order to maintain our democracy. Speak with respect, but speak out, in any legal way that is possible. One of my ways is by writing letters to

the editor. With thanks, and respect!
Sally Roth Bristol

Doria, McCallum social justice vision vital to ACSD

I am pleased to endorse two candidates, Joanna Doria (Ripton) and Jamie McCallum (Weybridge) who are running for the Addison Central School District Board on a platform of social justice.

According to information they shared with the group Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), Joanna and Jamie "are committed to anti-racism, social equity, and

funding for nurses and counselors in schools." They believe that fighting for racial and socio-economic justice is vital to ensure the safety and well-being of all students in our district. They have recently been endorsed by Rights and Democracy.

In addition to being local parents and educators, Joanna and Jamie are committed to a vision

for a just, multiracial democracy that works for all. Please join me in voting for Jamie McCallum and Joanna Doria on Town Meeting Day, March 1. They are running at-large, which means they will both be on the ballot in every town in the ACSD.

Fran Putnam Weybridge

Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 8A, 9A, 10A

To voters of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

During your town meeting, please vote yes to ratify Lincoln's decision to withdraw from the Mount Abe Unified School District (MAUSD).

Last August by a 3 to 1 margin, Lincoln overwhelmingly voted in favor of withdrawing from the MAUSD district. Like many Vermonters, we appreciate the importance of local control and see community schools as essential to the well-being of rural towns and their students.

By voting yes, you will allow us to re-establish the Lincoln school board. We believe a school board of community leaders is best equipped to provide the appropriate and affordable resources to educate and support our children.



MAUSD's financial analysis shows no essential tax impact on your towns when Lincoln withdraws. Under one scenario, the calculation showed a one cent decrease, under another a one cent increase.

We are currently working with Ripton and a team of professionals to design a supervisory union appropriate for our schools. Our intent is to design a sustainable model for use by us and other small towns and schools in Vermont.

We ask you to support local control and our decision to withdraw from the school district.

PLEASE VOTE YES
Town Meeting Day
March 1st 2022

paid for by Save Community Schools

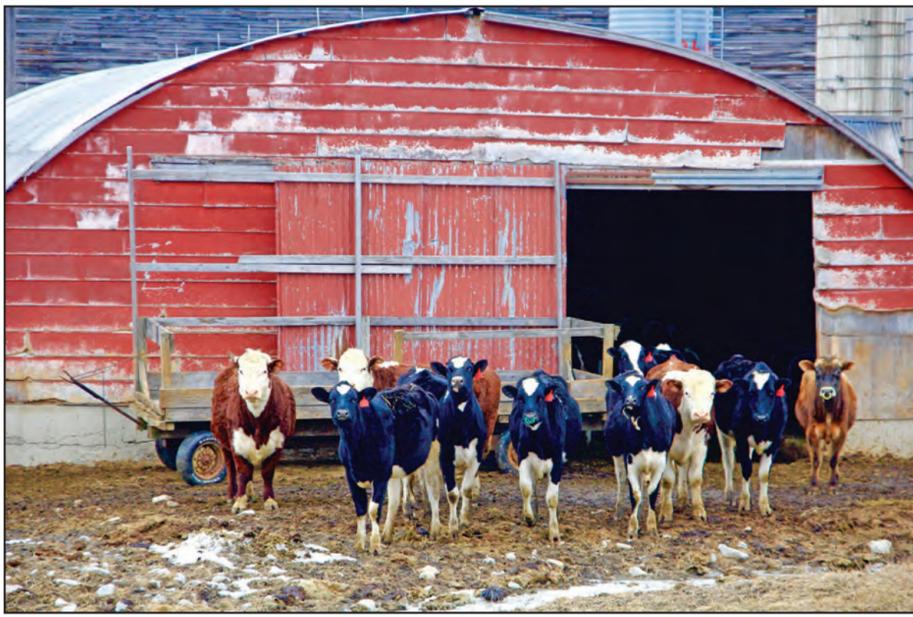


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ADDISON COUNTY HAS nearly a quarter of all the cattle in Vermont. Cattle are a primary emitters of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas. The new local action plan sets priorities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from manure management and increasing adoption of carbon-positive soil- and crop-management practices.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Climate

(Continued from Page 1A)

- Transportation and equipment.
- Buildings and energy.

GOALS

Key goals of the plan include reducing climate pollution, transitioning to a more sustainable economy, identifying “green jobs” opportunities, and guiding and coordinating the actions of community sectors and major institutions such as Middlebury College and Porter Medical Center.

CEAC and its partners assessed potential CAP strategies and actions using three criteria:

- Is it likely to be supported by community partners? Is it politically feasible?
- When implemented, would it be game-changing in reducing GHG releases?
- Will implementation advance equity within the community? Does it address the needs of vulnerable or historically marginalized populations?

For each sector, in addition to proposing initial strategies for reducing GHG emissions, the CAP also highlights equity considerations that are essential to that particular sector.

TARGETS

Specific county emissions targets are based on CEAC’s GHG inventory, as well as the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act (2020) and the Vermont Climate Action Plan (2021).

Vermont’s Climate Action Plan calls for a 35% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 — from about 8 million metric tons of CO₂-equivalents a year in 2017 to 5.2 metric tons.

In turn, the CAP uses Addison County’s current share of the Vermont population, 5.6%, to determine what its maximum GHG emissions should be in 2030: roughly 0.3 metric tons of CO₂-equivalents.

Achieving that goal locally would not be possible by adopting the state’s “35% reduction” goal, however.

According to CEAC’s GHG inventory, our 5.6% of Vermont’s population collectively produced more than 9% of the state’s climate pollution in 2017, about 0.74 metric tons of CO₂-equivalents, which means we’d need to achieve far more dramatic reductions by

2030 — closer to 60%.

So CEAC and its partners recommend a more realistic but still ambitious 50%.

The CAP sets a 2030 deadline for many of its initial strategies. Others are more open-ended.

FARMS & FORESTS

The old saw that “there are more cows here than people” may not hold up for Vermont as a whole. But it certainly does in Addison County, which in 2017 had a population of nearly 37,000 people and nearly 59,000 cattle and calves.

Having nearly a quarter of all the cattle in the state makes Addison County one of the primary emitters of methane, a highly potent greenhouse gas.

Thus, agriculture in Addison County accounts for a far greater proportion of GHG emissions (41%) than it does in Vermont as a whole (16%) or nationwide (10%).

But, as it emphasized in its GHG inventory, CEAC has no interest in “putting farmers out of business.”

Instead, Climate Action Plan authors have focused on agricultural innovation.

In addition, they look at ways to improve the health and capacity of our forests through better land management.

To that end, the CAP proposes nine initial strategies for agriculture and forestry, including

- Reducing GHG emissions from manure management.
- Supporting and increasing the number of farms focusing on diversified agricultural products, including human foods, energy production, and other locally or regionally consumed products.
- Increasing adoption of carbon-positive soil- and crop-management practices to increase measured soil organic matter.
- Increasing county-wide carbon sequestration on urban, forest and agricultural lands by 10%.

The CAP also proposed several considerations regarding equity in agriculture and forestry, including:

- Creating collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations and affinity groups, including low-income populations and communities of color.
- Seeking grant and other funding opportunities for farming, forestry and related activities for low-income populations and communities of color.

- Exploring partnerships with Abenakis and others to learn and then demonstrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge in Addison County.

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers travel a lot of miles in rural Vermont, and transportation is the leading contributor of GHG emissions statewide. In Addison County it accounts for more than a quarter of all emissions.

With an eye toward improving the sustainability of our transportation systems, as well as improving quality of life and equity, the CAP proposes four initial strategies for transportation and equipment:

- Decreasing consumption of gasoline and diesel fuel for equipment and vehicles by 25%.
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled by 25%, through increased efficiency, carpooling, biking, walking, public transportation and working from home.
- Updating town plans and zoning to further encourage efficient, high-density, small-footprint development.
- Dramatically increasing the number of registered electric vehicles in Addison County.

Implementing each of these actions will include input from local equity experts, as improving equity will strengthen overall community resilience, the CAP notes. Some examples of equity considerations include for transportation and equipment include:

- Expanding public transit and active transportation can help address health disparities for many at-risk populations.
- Incentives can help people afford to switch to cleaner equipment and vehicles.
- Improving accessibility to reliable and affordable transportation can increase access to education, employment, healthcare, housing and participation in community life.

BUILDINGS, ENERGY

According to CEAC’s GHG inventory, heating and lighting our buildings account for nearly 30% of our GHG emissions, with the greatest contributors being

(See Energy, Page 18A)

ACSD

(Continued from Page 1A)

due to the COVID-19 pandemic and tempered by school-closure concerns voiced by residents in some of the district’s smallest, rural communities — Ripton and Weybridge, in particular.

With those concerns and the pandemic duly noted, the board pivoted from what was shaping up as a prescriptive plan to one that “summarizes the driving forces behind the Facilities Master Planning process; reviews the work that has been done to date; updates the communities we serve on the board’s findings to date; and outlines the work that remains to be done,” according to its executive summary.

District officials have absorbed a wealth of studies and feedback while crafting the 71-page plan. Among the ingredients is a 2019 report by TruexCullins — an architectural firm specializing in educational facility construction and design — that scrutinized the age, size, condition and repair needs for all seven ACSD elementary schools.

Drivers travel a lot of miles in rural Vermont, and transportation is the leading contributor of GHG emissions statewide. In Addison County it accounts for more than a quarter of all emissions.

With an eye toward improving the sustainability of our transportation systems, as well as improving quality of life and equity, the CAP proposes four initial strategies for transportation and equipment:

“It’s super exciting; we’re finally here,” ACSD board member and Facilities Committee Chair Victoria Jette said of the new master plan at Monday’s board meeting.

She added she believes the new facilities plan “does the job of showing the people of this district the process, the thinking, the analysis, the debate and the learning that we as a board have done (about ACSD facilities).”

The board heaped praise on member Mary Heather Noble for her role in bringing the facilities plan material together.

“This document is a testament to (her) hard work,” Jette said.

Board members spent more than an hour offering their comments on, and potential tweaks to, the document, which they’re scheduled to approve on Feb. 22.

The complete master plan can be viewed with this story online at addisonindependent.com. But here are some highlights:

- Charts and graphs showing what has been an ongoing trend of declining enrollment amid rising education expenses in the ACSD — a pattern present in a majority of the state’s school districts. Enrollment dipped by almost 200 students between 2010 and 2020, and spending — if not contained — is expected to exceed the state’s prescribed spending threshold by around \$5 million by 2026, according to the facilities master plan.
- An acknowledgement that there exist “persistent differences in student opportunity and experience

across the district,” attributable in part to a difference in the quality of facilities and equipment among the schools.

“Maintaining the status quo is neither a viable nor affordable option,” reads a passage in the plan.

• A reminder that MUMS and MUHS are also in need of upgrades. A 2017 SchoolDude “conditions assessment” indicating the need for \$1,938,300 at MUMS and \$7,384,741 at MUHS. Updated for 2022 those numbers rise to \$3,505,334 for MUMS and \$11,685,693 for MUHS, according to the report. A new analysis of MUMS/MUHS needs is underway.

• A recap of a series of

Tackling equity issues and achievement gaps across the district “is as much of a driving force for a facilities master plan as the financial sustainability concerns.”

— ACSD facilities master plan

“Building our Future” community forums held during the spring of 2019, during which attendees reacted to the concept of school consolidation options. They ranged from the idea of one district elementary school, to maintaining up to six primary schools.

The master plan acknowledges “mixed reactions” to school consolidation scenarios, with some expressing “shock, anger, and concern.”

“Reasons for opposition were primarily based upon the inter-connectedness between community schools and community identities, but were also likely grounded in the fact that prior community input had revealed participants’ strong preference for reconfiguration options that included three or more elementary schools,” the report states. “Others shared concerns about longer bus rides, particularly for the district’s youngest students, and the accuracy of enrollment and spending projections. With no tangible data regarding the estimated costs and savings for each option, resistance to any of the proposed changes was firm.”

• A list of priorities for a “model school” experience, including creating a welcoming, safe and secure environment and promoting a sense of community; providing equitable academic, social, athletic and co-curricular opportunities for all district students; ensuring facilities are of sufficient size with adequate resources and spaces to support learning; and providing learning environments with an optimized number of students not reliant on multi-age classrooms.

‘LOOKING FORWARD’

But the most scrutinized section of the report is likely to be its concluding chapter, “Looking Forward,” which offers a variety of board “takeaways” from the master planning process, including:

- The financial pressures on ACSD “are significant and likely to increase in the future.”
- Tackling equity issues and achievement gaps across the district “is as much of a driving force for a facilities master plan as the financial sustainability concerns.”
- Many ACSD community members value the small-school experience and strongly oppose school consolidation.
- There is a need to “balance

desire for small-school experience with affordability; the current board holds its responsibility to ACSD taxpayers in high regard, and does not support keeping all seven elementary schools open at all cost.”

• Unless the state’s financial landscape changes “substantially,” the ACSD board “fully expects that some degree of school consolidation will be needed to support appropriate staffing levels for equitable access to academic opportunities and student services across the district.”

• The board believes the decision to recommend closure of a school should be “grounded in data, and preceded by substantial community engagement. The board would need to develop a closure plan that includes among other things: transition of affected students to new learning environments, creation of a community-based action team to assist in the development of plans for the building, transfer of facilities to the town, and a timeline for transition milestones.”

• Any proposed school closure “should be justified by supporting data and preceded by significant community engagement.”

• If consolidation or reconfiguration is employed, “ACSD will need to invest time and energy into creating/ maintaining a strong sense of community within newly configured learning environments.”

• The board recognizes that “school choice may need to be among the options for ACSD families if consolidation were to occur... Should it reconsider school choice as part of a broader reconfiguration plan, the board will need to determine whether school choice is offered to families, and whether providing transportation should be a component of that offering.”

• Looking ahead, the board’s facilities work should include a “comprehensive transportation analysis” showing how to get students to and from school “in a manner that promotes learning and safety”; identifying short- and long-term facility investment priorities; developing funding models, potential bond strategies and timelines for moving forward; and creating a community-based action team to build a vision around the future of potential vacant buildings.

Individual board members will have until Feb. 22 to offer changes to the document before finalizing it.

ACSD board Chair Mary Cullinane is pleased with the overall plan, but recognizes not everyone will share that view.

“There are going to be a lot of folks who disagree with components of this report, and that’s OK,” she said. “It’s not a report of the public; we’re not asking the public to review it and approve it — that’s not their role in this. Our job is to make sure this accurately reflects this process, the best we can.”

“It has been a long time trying to navigate through this, so to get us to this place with such a significant document reflecting significant work is a nice demonstration of contributions to this district,” she added.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Bristol, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

We are so pleased with our electric solar panels that we want to tell everyone about our great experience! The wonderful team at Bristol Electronics installed the ground-mount array last fall. We had them put in our solar hot water system several years prior and had established a good working relationship with them. We already knew them to be reliable and quick to fix any problems that arose.

We enjoy the idea of being a part of protecting the environment so when it came time to deciding on what type of solar panels to install for electricity, we contacted Bristol Electronics first, while also considering other companies and products as well. There’s a big world out there with a variety of choices and it was hard to know whose product was actually best for our needs. Finally in the end, we decided on choosing Bristol Electronics because of their reliability, best price, the best installment time frame and most efficient system using micro-inverters instead of the conventional less expensive string inverters.

The team provided very professional and pleasant service all the way from the planning stages to final clean-up. When we finally made the decision to “break ground”, they were exceptionally fast, professional and easy to work with. From start to finish, we were making electricity in about 2 weeks. Indeed, our yard looks better now than before they started! In the end, we are saving a lot of money on both our solar hot water and solar electric systems. Thank you Bristol Electronics for your excellent service in meeting our hopes and expectations!

Sincerely, Ed & Emily Hilbert – Bristol, VT




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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)

don't want to change the character or dynamic of the downtown."

Adding retail cannabis to Emerald Rose Grows, which sells a variety of garden supplies and supplements, as well as hemp plants, cannabis seeds and growing supplies, wouldn't even change the nature of the shop that much, he said. A new counter might go up in the back, and that would be about it. And the shop would require no new signage.

Emerald Rose Grows already supports youth prevention programming in the community, Newman added, and will continue to seek ways to do so in the future.

The minimum legal age in Vermont for possessing — and eventually purchasing — cannabis is 21.

REGULATIONS

The Legislature legalized possession of up to 1 ounce of cannabis in 2018. Two years later, Act 164 set the stage for a "regulated market," according to Middlebury attorney and advocate for cannabis legal reform Dave Silberman, who also spoke at the informational meeting.

Regulations for the market, which a newly formed Vermont Cannabis Control Board began developing last summer, are in their final stages, Silberman said.

Beginning this year, Vermont plans to issue five different types of cannabis-related licenses, pertaining to:



DAVE SILBERMAN

- growing cannabis for sale.
- manufacturing cannabis products, including "edibles."
- laboratory testing of cannabis plants and products.
- wholesale distribution.
- retail.

The state is expected to begin accepting applications for growers' licenses in April, Silberman said. Those for manufacturing, testing and wholesale would follow over the next few months, with retail applications opening up in September. Cannabis supporters are hoping retail sales can begin as soon as Oct. 1 — in communities that have permitted them.

Growing, testing, manufacturing and wholesale cannabis will be legal everywhere and no municipality may opt in or out of those activities, according to current rules.

State law does provide towns with limited regulatory rights regarding retail cannabis — through zoning,



GREG NEWMAN STANDS in his Bristol shop Emerald Rose Grows, which he said would add retail sale of marijuana if Bristol voters OK a Town Meeting Day article accepting retail cannabis there.

sign ordinances and nuisance ordinances. Municipalities can't, however, use regulatory rights to effectively prohibit a cannabis establishment.

The Cannabis Control Board's January 2022 guidance for municipalities is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/cannabisregsVT>.

Bristol Police Chief Bruce Nason said he doesn't have any concerns at this time about retail

cannabis in the village.

"I've talked to Greg a few times," he said at the meeting. "He's a knowledgeable business person and I'm sure he'll invest properly and have security in place."

TAX REVENUE

Vermont will impose a 14% excise tax on retail cannabis products, including food and beverages. This is separate from and in addition to existing general sales and use taxes.

The Legislature will be considering local fees and option taxes during the 2022 session, which could determine how much direct revenue municipalities can expect to see from retail cannabis sales.

One lingering question is how many percentage points of the 14% excise tax should go directly to towns. The Vermont Senate at one point had considered 2%. A Vermont League of Cities and

Independent file photos/Christopher Ross

Towns pitch for 5% was rejected. At the moment, legislation is pending that would provide 2%, but it's not clear if the House and Senate will come to an agreement on it, Silberman told the *Independent*.

Providing municipalities with such a direct financial incentive for retail cannabis makes a lot of sense, Silberman added, and would likely increase the number of communities willing to opt in.

For the few communities that have them, local option taxes would generate additional municipal revenue from cannabis sales. But towns that don't have them already might not establish local option taxes for the express purpose of generating revenue from retail cannabis, according to current Cannabis Control Board guidance.

In any event, establishing a local option tax is a complicated process requiring legislative approval, Silberman pointed out. Middlebury is the only town in Addison County that has one.

IN OR OUT?

The "opt-in" question on Bristol's Town Meeting Day ballot will appear as Article 15:

"Shall the voters of the Town of Bristol permit the operation of licensed cannabis retailers, subject to such municipal ordinance and regulation as the Selectboard may lawfully adopt and implement pursuant to 7 V.S.A. §863?"

Opting out would eliminate the possibility of regulated cannabis sales in the town, but it would not eliminate cannabis sales altogether, Silberman noted.

"Cannabis is being bought and sold in Bristol today," he said. "The question is: Does Bristol want that to be happening in the park or in the streets? Or in a store on Main Street, where it can be regulated?"

ADDISON COUNTY

Business News

CVE to purchase Essex business

MIDDLEBURY/ESSEX — Middlebury's Champlain Valley Equipment this week closed on a deal to buy Essex Equipment's Kubota Dealership. The transfer wrapped up on Feb. 15.

The dealership was slated to move down the road to 157 Pearl St. in Essex Junction. Essex Equipment's Kubota employees joined the staff of Champlain Valley Equipment.

"We are grateful to Gary and Jason Morse of Essex Equipment for providing us the inroads into both Chittenden County and Kubota compact construction equipment," said Brian Carpenter, president and general manager of CVE. "As Vermont's largest consumer and compact construction market, Chittenden County has been on our future plans list for some time. We at CVE are extremely excited to now make this a reality, offering a local store for this customer base and an expansion into Kubota compact CE for northern Vermont. Please come check out our new facility at 157 Pearl St in Essex."

Champlain Valley Equipment, which serves the agricultural, construction, turf and other markets with equipment, parts and service, was founded in Middlebury in 1970 and also includes stores in St. Albans, Derby and Berlin.

2022

WINTER FUN

Break out those markers and let your creativity flow!

1. Color and decorate this picture any way you wish (you can use this one, photocopy it, or go to addisonindependent.com/contests for a printable version).

2. Then submit your masterpiece:

- Online at addisonindependent.com/contests
- By Email to contests@addisonindependent.com
- By Mail to
Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Entries will be accepted through Thursday, Feb. 24th.

Two winners from each age group will win gift certificates from local businesses. All prizes will be mailed. Winners will be announced in the March 3rd edition of the *Addison Independent*.



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- Ground source heat pump: up to \$2,100/ton + \$500 income bonus
- Smart thermostats: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Water heaters: \$300-\$600 for select heat pump water heaters + \$200 income bonus
- Window air conditioners: \$100 rebate for select ENERGY STAR models
- Wood pellet furnaces & boilers: \$6,000 rebate
- Wood and pellet stoves: \$200 discount at select retailers



Electric Vehicles

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ENERGY STAR Appliances

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**Efficiency
Vermont**

Vergennes

(Continued from Page 1A)
 federal grants, some already locked in and others that officials describe as highly likely to be awarded, will pay for at least half of the cost.

The most obvious of the sewer system's failures are the persistent overflows — mostly stormwater, but also some untreated waste — into Otter Creek from its Macdonough Drive pump station, which handles about 70 percent of the city's wastewater. Those overflows can at times be measured in hundreds of thousands of gallons.

The system also includes a 60-year-old cast iron sewer main that runs under the river from that pump station to the treatment plant, at least some collection pipes that are more than 100 years old, and a city full of sump pumps that are major contributors to the overflows.

The treatment plant itself, built in the early 1960s and according to officials twice unsuccessfully updated, has two lagoons stuffed with sludge, an inefficient layout, and obsolete equipment that, according to plant operator Rick Chaput, never worked properly even when it was installed two decades ago.

He and the only other plant employee thus must remove solid materials by hand, including from chlorine treatment tanks after passing through the plant's non-functional filters.

The good news, according to city officials, is the probability of the funding support for the project, and its modern, state-approved design from engineering firm Hoyle, Tanner & Associates that will solve those many problems.

City Manager Ron Redmond points out Vergennes is facing a four-year-old standing order to fix the overflow problem from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and DEQ officials have signed off on the solution.

"The state has been very clear and helpful about making sure we have a system that meets their needs," he said. "They are very comfortable with the way we're approaching things."

Redmond acknowledged the skepticism some council members expressed before they backed the sewer bond proposal. Previous fixes to the plant in 1978 and 2000 failed to address the overflows.

This proposal will do so, according to Hoyle Tanner and the DEQ.

"There's better technology ... vs. 20 or 30 years ago," Redmond said. "We have so many people from the state and from Hoyle Tanner who are looking at this, and they've developed a really good plan."

FUNDING

To pay for the work, sewer rates will have to rise over the next few years, beginning in the coming 2022-23 fiscal year.

Most users, except large metered users like Collins Aerospace or Northlands Job Corps, pay a basic per-unit fee of \$125 per quarter, or \$500 per year. That rate applies to homes, businesses and apartment units.

If city officials are correct about outside funding for the sewer project, those fees would rise gradually to \$860 per year:

- The first annual increase would be by \$25 per quarter to \$150, or \$600 a year.
- The second annual increase would be by \$30 per quarter to \$180, or \$720 a year.
- The third and final increase would be by \$35 per quarter to \$215, or \$860 annually.

Officials are calling that the best-case scenario, but Redmond said it makes a conservative assumption about a major source of funding, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development arm.

Hoyle Tanner and city officials are assuming the minimum commitment of 20% of the project cost from the USDA, and said it could easily be more.

Meanwhile, officials

acknowledge there is another scenario if the city were to receive only about \$8 million in support:

- The first annual increase would be by \$35 per quarter to \$160, or \$640 a year.

- The second annual increase would be by \$44 per quarter to \$204, or \$816 a year.

- The third and final increase would be by \$56 per quarter to \$260, or \$1,040 annually.

Redmond said even the unlikely worst-case scenario would result in typical Vermont sewer rates.

"Our sewer rates are some of the lowest in the state," Redmond said. "We would get up to what about the average is for the state."

He described a conversation with a public works employee that he said put higher sewer bills in perspective. Even a fee increase to about \$1,000 a year, the employee said, would still be reasonable because it would be lower than his family's annual cable TV and cellphone bills.

"He put it in that context, and that's a really good way of looking at it," Redmond said.

Redmond also reiterated his confidence in the level of funding other communities are getting for similar projects and "the signals the state and the feds are sending" to city officials and engineers designing the project.

OTHER DETAILS

Redmond acknowledged one objection raised at a public meeting — the difficulty many property owners, especially those of older buildings in crowded neighborhoods, would face in weaning themselves from sump pumps.

But he said the city would have no choice but to crack down — in a cooperative manner — on sump pumps no matter how the March 1

vote turns out.

Hoyle Tanner concluded the city's hundreds of sump pumps tend to come on at the same time after heavy rains and are the single largest contributor to the overflow problem.

Redmond said he understands residents' concerns, but the council's to-do list already includes creating a sump pump "elimination program" and finding ways to work with property owners on the problem.

"We're going to have to help them find ways to disconnect," Redmond said. "We want to be very thoughtful and supportive to our homeowners, but at the same time we have to get people to disconnect."

Other details on the bond may be found in the "BOND VOTE" section of the town's website, vergennes.org. More key points about the project:

- Extensive work to the main treatment plant would include replacing the outdated and, according to Hoyle Tanner, "highly inefficient" (Chaput would use in blunter language) cloth filters and lagoon system with a modern "sequencing batch reactor" system, and adding a "secondary clarifier" to remove more solids.

- It would replace 5,000 feet of sewer collection pipes in five sections. More study would be done to "indicate the location & scope of other necessary repairs in the collection system, which consists of approximately 100,000 linear feet of sewer pipe."

- The Macdonough Drive pump station would get more storage "to allow for flow equalization during wet weather events & keep sewage out of the river" and new screening technology to remove "rags & other debris ... which can damage or clog pumps."

- The headworks building across the river, which intakes from the collection system and forwards it to the main treatment plant, would receive better metering, ventilation upgrades to project equipment and "More efficient grit & rag removal processes" to replace work now done by hand.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
testify, in which case the meeting might adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

A welcome byproduct of dwindling COVID-19 case numbers: Some hospitals are starting to relax visitation restrictions. Among them is Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC), which on Monday, Feb. 14, expanded visitation for patients, allowing each patient to have two consistent visitors. The hospital also closed its public COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Prior to Monday, visitors hadn't been allowed to visit RRMC patients except in rare circumstances. Now patients are allowed to designate two consistent people to visit them during their stay. All visitors, whether inpatient or outpatient, must wear a hospital-issued mask while they are at the hospital. Rutland Regional will continue to use video conferencing and other means of communication to keep patients connected to family and friends. The full visitor policy can be viewed at tinyurl.com/yne6meyt. Meanwhile, what about Porter Medical Center? No reduction of visitation restrictions yet, according to spokesman Christopher Morris. "To date, most of these decisions have been made network-wide with small variations based on the needs of the care area," he said. "I think we will look at this as the numbers continue to fall — but we're not at that point yet."

A hopeful reminder that spring is just around the corner: Vermont state law requires that ice fishing shanties be removed from the ice before it weakens. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is specifying March 27, or before "the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to support the shanty out of the water" — whichever comes first. All contents, debris, wood, and supports must also be removed so they don't become a hazard to boaters during the spring. The fine for leaving your ice fishing shanty on the ice can be \$1,000, and shanties can't be left at state fishing access areas.

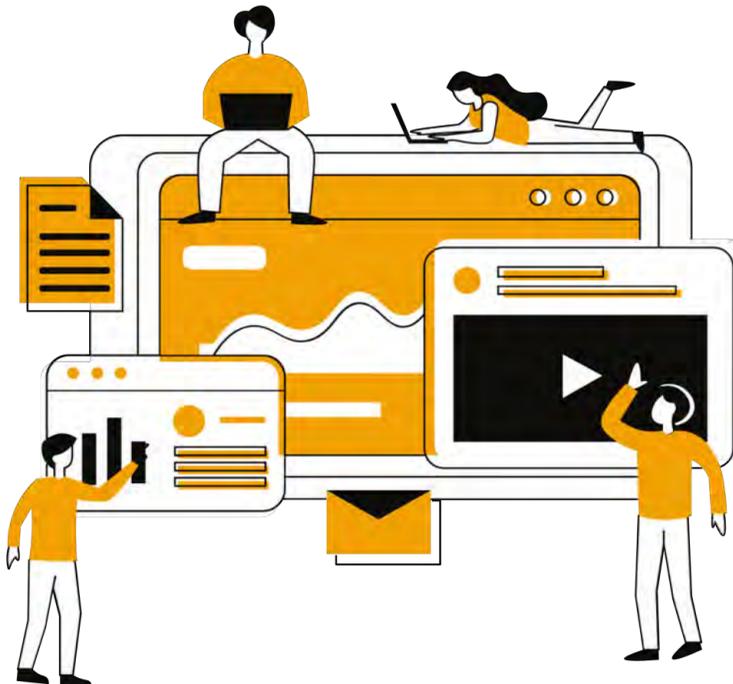
What do you love about living

in Bristol? This is your chance to declare your love for this little town, and be part of a community project. "Love Notes to Bristol" is a public arts effort celebrating the town by bringing the community together through poetry and art. More information and details about how to submit your Love Note can be found at lawrencelibraryvt.org/love-notes. Excerpts from each Love Note will be compiled by a local poet into one free-verse poem titled "Ode to Bristol." Then each line of the ode will be printed on a lawn sign to be displayed throughout the village during April (National Poetry Month). A map will be available indicating where all the signs are that will allow people to walk or bike around the village and read the lines from the poem. The completed Ode to Bristol will be published online and be on display at Lawrence Memorial Library through April.

Mary Hogan Elementary School is in need of reading mentors for young students. It's specifically for the "Everybody Wins!" program, through which mentors are carefully matched with children to consistently spend time with every week. Readers are paired based on such things as personality, interests, and preferences. Everybody Wins! mentors aren't teachers, tutors, or testers; they're friends who read with the same child every week. When children are read to one-on-one by a caring adult, research shows that their reading improves — and so does their interest in other subjects, their confidence, social skills, and interest in school. Mentors attend reading sessions one day a week (either Tuesday or Thursday from noon to 1 p.m.) during the lunch/recess hour. Most of the volunteer's time will be spent reading, although there's also time for conversation, games and other literacy activities. Mentors provide structure, and help children choose the book(s) to read, keep them engaged, and encourage questioning and conversation. If you have questions, email Middlebury@everybodywinsvermont.org.



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Police assist drivers trapped in vehicles

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police responded along with Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services, heavy rescue and Middlebury firefighters to a two-vehicle car crash — with entrapment — on Route 7 South on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at around 6:45 p.m.

Police said that although the vehicles in the crash sustained major damage the people involved sustained only minor injuries.

In other action last week, Middlebury police ticketed vehicles for violating the town's winter parking ban in downtown on Feb. 7, 8, 12 and 13.

During that period, police also:

- Responded to a report of a person holding a gun in a vehicle parked off Court Street Extension on Feb. 7. Police said a person was examining a newly purchased BB gun.

- Identified, and served with a no-trespass order, a man who had been illegally dumping trash into a private Dumpster off Exchange Street on Feb. 7.

- Investigated a report of a driver leaving the scene of an accident on Case Street on Feb. 7.

- Investigated a reported theft from a Court Street Extension business on Feb. 8.

- Checked on the welfare of a local woman said to be contemplating self-harm in the Court Street area on Feb. 8. Police said they de-escalated the situation to a point where the woman said she felt stable.

- Assisted a person on Feb. 8 whose bank account had been tapped after she had unwittingly released personal information.

- Helped Mary Hogan Elementary with a student who had

Middlebury Police Log

left campus at around noon on Feb. 8.

- Received a complaint on Feb. 9 about frequent cases of vehicles speeding on Charles Avenue.

- Received a report of someone cashing a forged check at a local bank on Feb. 10. The case remains under investigation.

- Served a no-trespass order on a man who had been causing a disturbance inside of Shaw's Supermarket on Feb. 11.

- Assisted a local resident who was having a mental health issue on Feb. 11.

- Investigated an ominous report of dismembered hands and feet at the side of East Main Street on Feb. 11. Police determined the "body parts" were in fact Halloween decorations.

- Responded to a report of a loud party in a Merchants Row apartment at around 4:40 a.m. on Feb. 11.

- Responded with Middlebury firefighters to a report of a chimney fire at a Mead Lane home on Feb. 12.

- Investigated a report of a rubbish truck spilling some of its cargo on Route 7 South on Feb. 12.

- Warned some Valley View residents about making excessive noise on Feb. 12.

- Responded to a complaint about loud music at a Valley View Drive apartment on Feb. 13.

- Investigated two elevator alarms at a Buttolph Drive building on Feb. 13, and determined there was no emergency.



Raptors on parade

TWO RED-TAILED HAWKS duke it out over a dead crow recently on Foote Street in Middlebury. The Red-tailed Hawk on the left was happily eating the crow when a second hawk (on the right) flew in and stole it. They were not interested in sharing. A few minutes later the photographer spotted a third red-tailed hawk in a tree — or at least she thought it was. Turns out it was a juvenile Peregrine falcon. Maybe it was considering stealing the crow, or perhaps just deciding not to get involved.

Photos/Dottie Nelson

City police handle a variety of issues

VERGENNES — Among other incidents between Feb. 7 and 13, Vergennes police began looking into an allegation of using a stolen check to withdraw money from a bank account, concluded a report of a sex assault that they said was unfounded, checked on the welfare of two residents, and looked into a possible violation of a no-trespass order.

During that week, Vergennes police conducted 13 patrols by cruiser and four on foot, responded to one false burglar alarm, ticketed two vehicles left on city streets during the city's wintertime ban on overnight parking, and also:

- On Feb. 7:
 - Handled a minor one-car accident on West Main Street.

- Looked unsuccessfully for a customer of Maplefields on Main Street who left without paying for two alcoholic beverages.

- On Feb. 8:
 - Responded to a West Main Street residence after a man alleged his wife had been sexually assaulted by another resident. Police determined after an investigation no assault had occurred.

- Stopped a truck on Main Street after receiving a report of erratic driving southbound on Route 7, but concluded there was no issue of impairment.

- On Feb. 9:
 - Were told by Champlain Farms employees that a woman was at the store in violation of a no-trespass order, but she had left by the time police arrived. Police are following up on the report.

- Checked on the welfare of a woman at a School Street residence, and determined she was fine.

- On Feb. 10, opened an investigation after hearing an allegation from New York State Police that a Vergennes resident had stolen checks from her ex-husband (residing in New York) and had used one to withdraw money from a bank account.

- On Feb. 11:
 - Checked the welfare of a Comfort Hill resident after a

Vergennes Police Log

Meals-on-Wheels driver reported she hadn't answered the door even though a TV was on in the home. Police said she was fine.

- Searched unsuccessfully for a man wandering in the North Main Street area during the early morning hours, who had been seen tearing a delivery package.

- Dealt with a minor two-car accident on Pantown Road.

- On Feb. 12, responded to a dispute between a West Main Street resident and a neighboring tenant and landlord regarding careless snow blower uses and pet ownership. Police calmed the scene and told the parties involved that the complaints were civil in nature.

Police investigate Maine man on seven chages

ADDISON COUNTY — After investigating a report that a Maine man had posted sexually explicit images of a Bristol resident on social media, Vermont State Police invited him to answer seven criminal charges in court.

Troopers say they received a report on Jan. 23 that Kyle L. Wilson, 27, of Biddeford, Maine, had posted sexually explicit images of the Bristol resident after they had ended their relationship. Police said they also discovered that Wilson keyed the victim's vehicle, disturbed the peace and harassed the victim, state police explained.

While in possession of the victim's stolen cell phone, Wilson spent more than \$300 of the victim's money through the Venmo online payments platform, police allege. During the course of their investigation, police said they also learned Wilson had a firearm, which he is legally allowed to possess.

VSP reached out to the Biddeford (Maine) Police Department, who located Wilson and, on behalf of the VSP, cited him for four counts of disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent, hate motivated crimes, disturbing the peace by use of telephone or other electronic communications, stalking, petit larceny, unlawful mischief and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Wilson is due to answer the charges in Addison County Superior Court, criminal division, on May 2.

Vt. State Police Log

Meanwhile, state police were called to a very bad traffic crash in Orwell on Feb. 8 that resulted in a New Hampshire man losing his life.

At a little after 9:30 a.m. on that date, state police responded to a multi-vehicle collision involving a tractor-trailer at the intersection of Routes 22A and 73. Power lines were down across the roadway and people sustained serious injuries, police said. They added an International tractor-trailer driven by Timothy M. Cote, 55, of Essex Junction, was southbound on Route 22A, while a Chrysler Town Car driven by 73-year-old Thomas F. Thompson of Lancaster, N.H., was westbound on Route 73. Police said Thompson failed to stop at the stop sign, traveled onto 22A and collided with the semi. Both vehicles traveled off the roadway and into the parking lot of the Orwell Gas n Go on the west side of 22A. Those two vehicles collided with two unoccupied vehicles parked at the Gas n Go.

Both Thompson and Cote were taken to Porter Hospital in Middlebury to be treated for their injuries. Thompson was subsequently taken to UVM Medical Center, where he died from his injuries on Feb. 10. Cote's injuries were reported as "minor."

Route 22A was shut town for about an hour and a half.

The VSP were assisted by members of the Orwell Fire Department and Orwell First Response, along with members of the Middlebury Regional EMS, along with deputies from the Addison County Sheriff's Department.

Separately, Vermont State

Police dealt with several domestic violence cases over the last week.

In the first instance, on Feb. 3 at 7:45 p.m., VSP received a report that a New Britain, Conn., couple — Elizabeth Petersen, 48, and Michael Perron, 51 — took a 73-year-old New Haven resident from the victim's home without consent of a legal guardian. Police report the person is considered a vulnerable adult by the Addison County Superior Court.

Since police didn't know where the victim was, and considered them a missing person. Police alleged Petersen forged several checks in the person's name and cashed them at various locations around New Haven. Petersen also used the person's debit card to make purchases, police allege.

While in the care of Petersen and Perron, the 73-year-old fell and suffered a serious injury, requiring hospitalization, according to VSP. Officers from the Southington (Conn.) Police Department contacted the New Haven state police barracks and identified the 73-year-old as the missing person.

The legal guardians were contacted and safely returned the elderly person to their residence in New Haven.

New Britain (Conn.) Police located Petersen and Perron in their city, and cited them on behalf of the VSP for second-degree unlawful restraint and for abuse of a vulnerable adult.

Petersen was additionally cited for four counts of identity theft and one count of grand larceny.

In a separate case, state police received a report at around midnight on Feb. 10 that an assault had taken place at a Bridport home. Troopers allege that Larry S. Sunderland, 43, of Bridport, had assaulted a domestic partner and vandalized and destroyed the victim's cell phone during the incident. Police cited Sunderland

for domestic assault and unlawful mischief.

In a third incident, state police on Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m. received a report of a domestic disturbance at a South Lincoln Road home in Lincoln. Troopers reported that Jason Cousino, 31, of Lincoln, had assaulted a household member. Cousino came to the New Haven barracks, where he was cited for domestic assault.

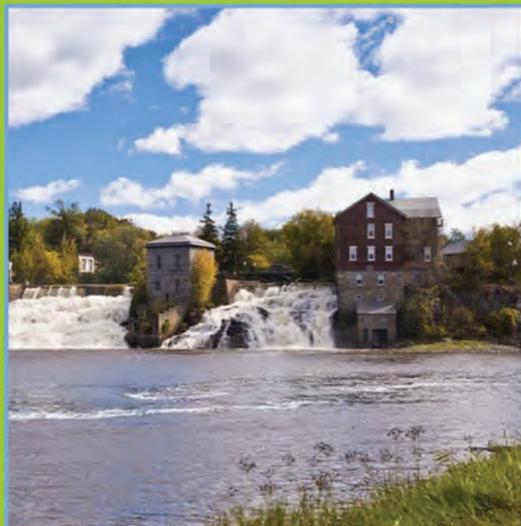
Finally, also on Feb. 14, this time at a little after 10 p.m., state police responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a Brookside Drive home in Starksboro. State police cited Kareem Louard, 32, of Starksboro, for domestic assault.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On Feb. 8 at 5:50 p.m. responded to a two-car crash on Route 7, north of Dakin Road in Ferrisburgh. Troopers alleged that Larry Sunderland, 43, of Bridport, was driving a 2013 Subaru Crosstrek too closely behind a 2006 Pontiac Vibe driven by K.O. Onufry, 69, of Salisbury. When the Vibe stopped at a red light approaching a construction zone, the Crosstrek rear-ended it, police allege. Vergennes Area Rescue Squad took Onufry to Porter Hospital as a precaution. Police issued Sunderland a ticket for following too closely. Route 7 was reduced to one lane of traffic for more than an hour.

- On Feb. 14 at around 12:45 a.m., looked into the report of a domestic disturbance on Hunt Farm Road in Bristol. Police allege Dean Bushee, 24, of Bristol had violated three different sets of active court ordered conditions stemming from multiple incidents. They took him to the New Haven barracks, cited him for three counts of violating conditions of release, took him to a detox facility, and ultimately issued him more conditions of release.

Vergennes Residents: Vote YES on Article 2



The time to rebuild our outdated sewer system is **NOW**.
VOTE YES
 on Article 2 on the March 1, 2022 ballot.
 There has never been a better time!

"Otter Creek is a gem that speaks to Vergennes' location and history. We need to remove all sources of pollution for future generations. Further, a state of the art waste water treatment facility can support incremental commercial and residential growth to maintain reasonable tax rates going forward."

William Benton
 Former Mayor, City of Vergennes

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For more information, visit:
www.Vergennes.org

OBSOLETE

The City's Collection and Treatment Facilities are 60+ years old, under functioning and in need of replacement. The facilities are dangerous for city operators to continually maintain.

UNSAFE

Otter Creek & Lake Champlain are being polluted with untreated sewage during heavy rains and snowfalls. By order by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (2018), the system must be fixed or fines will be affixed.

OPPORTUNITY

The City of Vergennes has already secured \$6 million in federal and grant funding. Opportunities for state & federal funding are available NOW during this unprecedented time to help offset costs.

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From the Candidates

Weybridge and Ripton seats on ACSD board are contested

RIPTON/WEYBRIDGE — On March 1 voters in the seven Addison Central School District towns will vote for five three-year seats on the 13-member ACSD board. Three of those seats belong to Middlebury, and they've attracted three takers: incumbent James "Chip" Malcolm, former ACSD board member Steve

Orzech and resident Brian Bauer.

While there's no race for the ACSD board's Middlebury seats, there will be competition for the other two seats in play, one in Ripton, the other in Weybridge.

In Ripton, incumbent Amy McGlashan faces challenger Joanna Doria. In Weybridge, it is incumbent Mary Cullinane vs.

challenger Jamie McCallum.

All ACSD candidates run at-large, meaning voters in all seven member-towns get to cast ballots in all of the races. Due to space and time limitations, we asked those with a head-to-head race to answer four questions and gave them a word limit.

Mary Cullinane

1. Will it be possible to sustain Weybridge Elementary School through the current conditions of declining enrollment and rising education costs? If so, how?

Today, I don't know the answer to the first part of that question, nor do I think anyone does. I do know Weybridge is a fantastic elementary school that serves an important role in our community, as do all our schools. I also believe that it is the Board's responsibility to ensure all kids in our district can attend amazing schools. If and when the time comes, and we are no longer able to do that, I believe it is our responsibility to address the challenge. Members of our community expect us to recognize the financial pressures they are under AND find ways to support and invest in our schools. There is no simple solution. As we come through the impact of the pandemic, understand better how the legislature is going to fund our schools moving forward, and complete the work of the district's Strategic Plan for Equity that is now under way, I am confident we will figure this out, together, as a community.

2. Is the district's IB program proving effective?

I do (think it is). We now have a curriculum that creates a consistent framework for instruction within all our schools. This has been one of the most important outcomes of the unification process. It has enabled our educators to collaborate and improve their instructional practice as a community of learners. It has provided our students with a framework for learning that is rigorous. And it provides different pathways to ensure our learners can be met where they are, and be challenged along the way. The best part is, we are just getting started and will continue to improve as a learning community.

3. What should the ACSD board's top priorities be?

I think our role as a Board is clear. We must make sure all students have access to a learning environment that is effective and can address their needs as a learner. To accomplish this, we must prioritize our financial stability, our commitment to excellence and equity, and ensure our policies reflect what we value as a community. The next three years will challenge us every step of the way. We need a board that can work in partnership with our educators and our community. We need to recognize our fiscal constraints and find solutions that work. We are a unified district now, and as such, we must work together for what is best for all. That's the hard part. And that is why it is so



MARY CULLINANE

important that as board members we come to the table with an open mind, free of agenda, and committed to our success as a unified district.

4. Are ACSD schools offering the right mix of subjects for students?

Every kid is different, and I believe we have a flexible framework in place that allows for and encourages multiple pathways for our students. Most every job has changed significantly over the past 10 years and will continue to change over the next 10 years. The reality is, so many of our students will find themselves in jobs that today don't even exist. Our number one responsibility is to prepare them with a strong foundation and passion for learning, while exposing them to different opportunities as they investigate their future. I think we do that. Through curriculum, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, the Hannaford Career Center, personal investigation, mentorship and so many other learning opportunities, our students are finding out what it means to be challenged and learn. And while the past few years have been unprecedented and unpredictable, I believe our kids have demonstrated a resilience that will serve them well in the future.

Jamie McCallum

1. Will it be possible to sustain Weybridge Elementary School through the current conditions of declining enrollment and rising education costs? If so, how?

Yes, Weybridge is a thriving school and the district will be stronger to sustain it. Closing rural schools will not produce the savings that consolidation advocates claim. Besides, enrollments in elementary schools have actually stabilized. Yet the Board has focused on pitting primary schools against each other, viewing them as a liability rather than a resource. The ACSD is a "unified school district" and we should start acting like it. As a Board member, I will work collaboratively with other Board members, administrators and elected representatives to produce a student-centered budget that meets the needs of all our schools. Currently Weybridge can accommodate the growing number of young families in town, and helps to maintain appropriate teacher-to-student ratios across the district. Smaller schools also have the flexibility to experiment with innovative learning models, like dual-grade classrooms, that also reduce costs. Our district should recognize the value of this educational diversity.

2. Is the district's IB program proving effective?

I regularly teach students who have graduated from IB schools, and they're usually exceptional. IB offers a compelling educational framework that I see reflected even in my son's elementary classroom. Yet there is no hard data to show if the program is working as planned. What I hear from parents, students and School Board members is that the IB program at the high school is too rigid to serve the tiny number of elite students it is intended for. The program surrenders local control over testing and course structure to a central office of administrators. The result is a curriculum that may not be suitable for the varied needs of ACSD students — IB diploma classes are nearly impossible for students with after-school jobs, family obligations, sports commitments or extracurricular arts. In short, the IB program is promising, but requires greater flexibility to make it more accessible to our diverse student body.

3. What should the ACSD board's top priorities be?

We must prioritize mental and emotional wellness as we recover from the pandemic. This is especially true for those who have difficulties learning in traditional settings and those with marginalized identities. If elected, I will urge the Board to hold open meetings at every ACSD school to hear what mental health challenges they're facing. A second priority is to listen to teachers and provide the appropriate resources at MUMS. Teachers warned the Board that inviting a new cohort of sixth graders, while cutting teachers, was a recipe for disaster — they were right.



JAMIE MCCALLUM

Finally, our budget challenges require that we address our entire financial predicament. Why have we increased the number of administrative employees in the central office? What are cost-saving opportunities at all our schools, from kindergarten to 12th grade? Asking such questions will build a Board that is more accountable and responsive to the needs of the whole district.

4. Are ACSD schools offering the right mix of subjects for students?

Students and parents appreciate the diversity of curricular offerings throughout ACSD schools. MUHS ranks high on the breadth of its college-readiness curriculum. It's possible, however, that the IB program at MUHS is reducing opportunities for career and technical education. Many career-bound students will need hard skills to compete for jobs in the sectors that have rebounded since the recession. We should therefore provide all students with the opportunity to pursue careers in construction, computer programming, manufacturing and financial services — which often happen through the Hannaford Career Center. The Flexible Pathways program, which promotes curricular diversity, is a step in this direction. Yet the IB diploma program forces some juniors and seniors to choose between a technical education and the liberal arts. Students need the ability to combine these two important approaches and build the future that is right for them, and all of Vermont.

Joanna Doria

1. Should Ripton proceed with its independence drive, or is it more advisable for the town to stay in the ACSD?

At this point, Ripton is in the midst of performing a feasibility study to respond to the State Board's January ruling. There is a lot of community support, philosophically, to pursue the path to independence. It's clear that Ripton believes a vibrant, local education that exists in a symbiotic relationship with the community that shares a lived experience will best serve its rural students. Talented outside consultants have been hired to help with budget development and as always, transparency in the process is a priority.

As for ACSD, it was disappointing to learn that the board found no value in any of the suggestions Ripton presented this past December. These suggestions, like establishing local advisory groups and prioritizing transparency and accountability, would have absolutely brought about more equitable policies and fair governance. In the end, I hope that the future holds opportunities for collaboration and productive dialogue.

2. How can the ACSD board preserve rural schools, or is consolidation inevitable?

I believe ACSD should be acting with precaution when making drastic consolidation plans. It should not be a "first act, then figure it out" type of scheme. Education, as an institution, is ever-evolving and fluid, and to approach its nuances in the same manner one would approach corporate consolidation is dangerous. Additionally, it is a misconception that our district's rural schools are the driving factor of the increasing education costs. That ideology is attempting to pit towns against each other, and I think we are better than that. Consolidation of governance led to a more facile budget development but it also diminished transparency and accountability. If we consider the budget holistically, we will be more informed to target savings and act equitably with resilience in mind, especially as the high school continues to see declining enrollment over the next few years.

3. Is the district's IB program proving effective?

The IB program is a commodity that the district bought into and continues to buy into every year. It is a concept-based framework that provides educators with consistency and flexibility. It is not designed for targeted intervention.

My place is not to challenge the quality of the product, but I do think it is important to assess the value for and impact on our students and teachers. I know that due to the IB rollout, programs like Diversified Occupation, Alternative Education, and others needed



JOANNA DORIA

to be dismantled.

We should be ready to honestly ask if this elite program, especially the 11th and 12th grade Diploma Program, is strengthening our district's assets and working for all of our children across our diverse socioeconomic spectrum and if it is right for our budget. I hope to ask those questions with more authority, if elected.

4. What should the ACSD board's top priorities be?

I believe the ACSD board needs to engage the community in the vision and mission of the district by establishing avenues, like local working groups, made accessible to and inclusive of all stakeholders. A lot of trust has been eroded over the past couple of years and it will take enormous work to build it back. That work needs to start with the board. The board needs to trust the community they serve if they are to expect trust in return. Without that fundamental trust, hard decisions will be doomed. I would also list: quality early education programming for all families, racial and socioeconomic justice, climate justice, listening to our educators, and critically assessing student outcomes as other top priorities. We can achieve great things if we align our systems and values and build off of our existing strengths.

Amy McGlashan

1. Should Ripton proceed with its independence drive, or is it more advisable for the town to stay in the ACSD?

The hasty move to withdraw from ACSD is a disservice to our students, especially our neediest, and our secondary students. While I understand the frustration of those who feel unheard protesting potential Ripton Elementary School closure, we have to ask whether avoiding the pain of closing is worth the steep price Ripton is about to pay. We are already challenged to meet our most vulnerable students' needs. Ripton gives up greater educational resources and services, a larger, more diverse learning community, and being a voting member in a K-12 system known for excellence. How will running its own supervisory district and hiring all new staff to reopen a school for 40+ students do better? Ripton hit the state spending threshold before joining ACSD because running a small school costs disproportionately more. We can predict Ripton taxes from this move surging to levels that will burden families and steer homebuyers away. Going alone harms so many more than it benefits.

2. How can the ACSD board preserve rural schools, or is consolidation inevitable?

The ACSD Board's primary job is to plan and manage our resources and facilities responsibly to educate all of our students. We face reduced enrollment, increased student needs, and increased fixed costs. Meanwhile, our disadvantaged, special education, and/or students of color are doing significantly less well than their counterparts in almost every way. We simply can't make progress operating 6 of 7 elementary schools with under 100 students, many part-time staff, and half-filled classrooms. This is NOT a drive to save money. It IS about fixing our equity gap. To ensure the success of all students, we need to pool our assets together.

We enjoy robust community engagement in Vermont. Our small schools are a REFLECTION of our vibrant communities. I believe those community strengths can use the school building in new ways that engage all generations and citizens and make our communities even stronger.

3. Is the district's IB program proving effective?

The IB curriculum aligns well with our aim to address inequitable outcomes in our district and sets us up to meet our obligations under Act 77, the Flexible Pathways Act passed by the legislature in 2013. It is particularly exciting to see the inquiry-based teaching transforming what and how well students are learning, and how it is energizing our teachers. I understand that while IB provides many new and diverse pathways to success for our high school students, it has created problems for some, and we have some work to do to



AMY MCGLASHAN

achieve our goal of IB success for all of our students. We've only been an approved program for 2 years. Growing pains and the need to make adjustments are a necessary part of the process. What makes me hopeful is that many students who didn't feel successful in school before IB are now flourishing.

4. What should the ACSD board's top priorities be?

1. Most urgent, we have to ensure that all students recover from the impact the COVID pandemic has had on their education.

2. Our strategic plan for equity and making certain that ALL students feel welcome and supported and are succeeding is a critical undertaking and should be a top priority.

3. We face significant decisions regarding the future of our district, such as determining where we will educate our students and how we will achieve equity throughout the district. An essential part of that process is engaging our educational community to understand our reasoning and the results we hope to achieve. Not everyone is going to like our choices, that is inevitable. We face very challenging decisions. But we need to collaborate with our stakeholders on the best ways moving forward, including, for example, helping to realize other community-strengthening uses for a school building we decide to close.

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From the Candidates

Schmidt challenges Sipsey in Lincoln selectboard contest

LINCOLN — In Town Meeting Day voting in Lincoln, incumbent selectboard member Bay Jackson is running unopposed for another two-year term, while incumbent

Will Sipsey, who's finishing a three-year term, will face a challenge from Alan Schmidt in the only contested selectboard race across the 5-Towns. We asked

those with a head-to-head race to answer four questions and gave them a word limit.

Alan Schmidt

1. What are the most pressing issues facing the town?

As a municipality, I am interested in what role Lincoln can play to continue to encourage and support a diversity of families, young and old, to enjoy the uniqueness of this area. The cost of living and the lack of young families moving here is a growing problem in all of the five towns.

2. How will you work to address these issues?

By using an unbiased approach and working collaboratively with the other board members, as well as members of the community, I want to ensure that Lincoln is an affordable and vibrant community for all to enjoy — whether that be through economic growth, cost of living, or affordable taxes.

3. Which of your qualities will be useful in doing this work?

As a contractor, I have to be open and accommodating to different personalities, backgrounds and perspectives, regardless of my personal opinion. This often requires a combination of open mindedness and strategy. I will bring these qualities to the selectboard.

4. What is the most important thing people need to know about your candidacy?

I am a small business owner, raising my young children in this community. I care about the future of our town and the future of the next generation, meanwhile preserving qualities that make Lincoln the special place that we all know and love. As a lifelong Vermonter, I have witnessed significant change, our community as well as the surrounding towns are facing long lasting issues, some of which include education, town services and bylaws. I hope to add a voice that recognizes change is inevitable, however it is how we prepare, adapt, and tolerate change that is integral to this town.



ALAN SCHMIDT

I've been the owner of Belgian Woodworks and Building Company for the past five years.

I look forward to bringing my experience from having grown up in the five towns and more recently living in Lincoln, being a parent in the community, and owning a business to this position. A lot of my interest in the selectboard is to become more involved in the community. I believe it's important that younger people become more active in our communities and be represented on town boards.

Will Sipsey

1. What are the most pressing issues facing the town?

I feel the town of Lincoln is fighting for survival. The current manifestation of that is the Agency of Education/MAUSD threat to close the LCS. In short the state of Vermont has a wildly dysfunctional educational governance model. I have looked on the AOE website. We don't have a model per se, so we are left with the amalgamation of reforms to the 19th century one-room school model. It is a mess. This is all outside the scope of the selectboard.

The transportation assets of the town are deteriorating more rapidly than we have the taxing capability to repair and replace. Specifically, York Hill and Grimes Road bridges need replacement, with no state aid in sight.

We have a significant percentage of our 52 miles non-compliant with DEC standards and we have a short runway to catch up.

We have IT and organizational challenges in the Town Office, including basic communication among our volunteer boards.

We have public safety issues.

2. How will you work to address these issues?

There is one-time money that could be captured to replace town bridges. I was successful in lobbying the Gove Bridge funding included in the last Jim Jeffords Transportation Bill. I'm praying for Build Back Better to pass. Then we lobby.

DEC challenge on stormwater road runoff mitigation unevenly burdens the taxpayers of Lincoln. The state needs to equitably fund stormwater mitigation from non-property tax dollars.

We need to de-silo administrative work in the office. We need to replace old software and replace it with COTS (commercial off the shelf software) that accommodates our workflows rather than defining them.

The town needs to continue the dialog on public safety. I'm sure the recent daylight home invasion

was an eye opener for some.

3. Which of your qualities will be useful in doing this work?

There is a 150-word limit, (lol) Modesty, a good sense of humor and the ability to put the business of the Town before my personal concerns. I have no problem telling the unvarnished truth. I can also be diplomatic. Honesty is my constant practice. I have a keen eye and a sharp mind.

4. What is the most important thing people need to know about your candidacy?

I am not so much running for office as I am standing for election. I am the most qualified candidate. I am happy to offer my experience with municipal governance, town institutional knowledge and residence in Lincoln now spanning four decades. My mother worked on JFK's '58 senatorial campaign while carrying me. I saw JFK speak on 04/20/1963. I have Irish pols up my family tree since the potato famine. I have always, since I was young child, wanted to run and serve in public office. I have done it several times, thanks to the voters of Lincoln. I am ready to get off the merry-go-round and give another kid a turn if that is the will of the people. It has been a good run.

a) How long have you served on the selectboard?

Honestly, I don't remember. I have been on twice. Once was after Bill Masterson got done. That was after the flood of '98. You probably don't realize everything Bill did for the town during and after the flood. Stop by his farm stand. I am sure he will tell you some



WILL SIPSEY

stories. I survived that go around 'til I couldn't stand it anymore. I ran again and forgive me I am not going to look up the year, to help bring stability and ironically harmony to the board. Much to the chagrin of the current members as I am at least as cantankerous as the fella I replaced. Maybe that's why I have an opponent?

I am a retired IT professional. I did a whole bunch of really cool stuff as an engineer. One thing I did was design workflows around a software thing called Enterprise Content Management. I did that at for the state of Vermont as an Enterprise Architect. Introducing a concept like that to the town would make it more efficient and more effective.

My current focus is on highway management, IT modernization, Public safety. On the selectboard, I serve as the Chair of the Addison County Regional Transportation Advisory committee. I am an erstwhile member of the Burnham Board. Hoping to become more active in that as COVID-19 pandemic ebbs.

Two vie for MAUSD board seats

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District board will see new faces after March 1 voting; two of four incumbents decided not to seek reelection.

MAUSD board member Kristin Blanchette of Monkton is not running. Fellow Monkton resident Bailey Layn is unopposed to fill her seat for a three-year term. Another MAUSD board member not seeking re-election is Andrew Morton of New Haven. Because no one had come forward by the filing deadline, the school board portion

of the ballot will be blank.

The contested election is in Bristol, where MAUSD's newest board member, Erin Jipner, who was appointed last fall, will be running to keep her seat. She will face a challenge from fellow resident William Mount.

Jipner is a behavior specialist for individuals with comorbid intellectual and mental health disabilities. She is also a Ph.D. Candidate at Fielding Graduate University in the School of Psychology; Infant and Early Childhood Development. She is

a volunteer teacher at 4-Winds and volunteer soccer coach in the fall at Bristol Elementary. These programs help provide a diverse scientific program for local kiddos and a really fun way for children to get out in the fresh fall air to play

Mount works in financial services and volunteers with Scouts BSA, Troop 543 and Pack 543 — both in Bristol.

We asked MAUSD board candidates with a head-to-head race to answer four questions and gave them a word limit.

Erin Jipner

1. What is the most immediate challenge faced by the MAUSD school board?

Unfortunately, the immediate issue we face is a grand vision that supports organization and cohesion. Without the vision, the other pressing issues such as: possible merger, the Nate Levenson report, behavior, principal search, etc., are hindered. I do think we are working to make meaningful change and create for ourselves a structure of organization and decision making. It is a slow, broken process in light of the other challenges being faced.

2. What does the board need in order to address that challenge?

In lieu of being able to take time to create organization, the board needs to make a grand vision for MAUSD. Use community input, the latest trends in education, and follow where money is being invested in education (globally throughout the U.S.), and make a vision board. My sense is, there is not one grand vision or goal the board is working under, which can damage our ability to make decisions.

3. How would you work to help address it?

To address this issue, I continue to try and take in community input about their perspectives, learn (as I am still green in this school board world) how processes work and what we are capable of. This is meaningful work that will take a herculean effort on top of all else the board faces.

4. How would you ensure that educators, community members and other stakeholders have a voice in solving this challenge?

To ensure that all stakeholders, educators, and community members have a voice, I would like to see the use of forums- perhaps door-to-door canvassing, using the library, gas stations, the town hall, local



ERIN JIPNER

businesses, or other public space to put out suggestion boxes. To me, although many of our stakeholders have access to the internet, it is limiting to rely on the internet for canvassing. The old fashion approach may be more appropriate for our remote communities. We have a plethora of old families in our communities as well as brand new families to the area. What better time to collect information from this diverse group than to create a new vision for MAUSD?

William Mount

1. What is the most immediate challenge faced by the MAUSD school board?

In my opinion as a Parent with Children in both Elementary and Middle School here, the support for teachers and other children when a child with emotional or behavioral issues gets out of hand must be addressed. Many of our teachers have approached and spoken to the board not only for themselves but also for their peers (with very much support when doing so in person and in writing) and are legitimately concerned that they do not have the tools or support to be able to react and handle the behavioral situations that they are increasingly faced with.

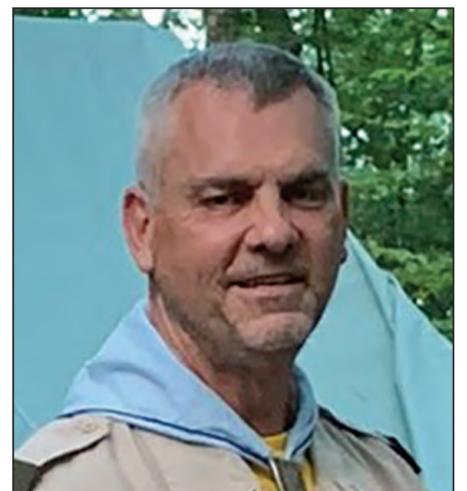
2. What does the board need in order to address that challenge?

The Board needs to find a way, and quickly, to move away from the remove the class from the situation mentality to one that directly addresses the needs, health and safety of the child in crisis. Different guidelines than the hands-off approach, which appears to be heading to injury both physically and mentally for all children affected, not just the ones directly in crisis.

3. How would you work to help address it?

Research quickly and efficiently nationwide for an approach that is having positive effects and work again quickly, to bring that positive methodology to our schools and to our teachers.

4. How would you ensure that educators, community members and other stakeholders have a voice in solving this challenge?



WILLIAM MOUNT

By more effective outreach in local media including the *Addison Independent*, PPF, and email blasts with information, progress reports and detailed agendas for School Board meetings which are written for the public and not just for internal use by the board.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

Ashlie Fay of Bristol recently graduated from Champlain College after the fall 2021 semester. Fay was one of 273 students who completed their degree requirements and received their diploma at that time. Fay completed master's degree in Business Administration.

Abigail Hoff of Bristol earned dean's list honors at the University of Tampa for the fall 2021 semester. Hoff is majoring in Psychology. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

William Ross of Brandon recently graduated from Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y., with a B.S. in Outdoor Adventure Leadership.

Dylan Rapoport of Vergennes, a member of the class of 2023 majoring in Chemical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense research project titled *Climathon Venice: Facilitating the Development of Startups*.

Undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world.

Five local students have been named to the dean's list at Paul Smith's College for the fall 2021 semester. They include: **Hailey Quenneville** of Weybridge, **Jacob Martin** and **Cassidy Lucia** of Middlebury, **Ryan Quenneville** of Salisbury and **Eben Clifford** of Starksboro.

The following students have been named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2021 semester:

High honors: Rebecca Laurent of Bristol, Sadie Thomas of Bristol, Brianna Bernstein of Orwell, and Emily Nottanson of Vergennes.

Honors: Olivia Audet of Cornwall and Christopher Boyer of Monkton.

Emily Aldrich of Bristol and **Gwen Stafford** of Shoreham have been named to the dean's list at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. Aldrich, daughter of Elizabeth and Robert Aldrich, is majoring in Sport Management. Stafford is an Exercise Science/Pre-AT major and is the daughter of Heather and Travis Stafford.

Mary Lynch of New Haven has been named to the University of Hartford's dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

Keep up to date with all the action, read

Arts + Leisure

every Thursday in the Addy Indy!

From the Candidates

Meet Middlebury incumbents

MIDDLEBURY — On March 1, Town Meeting Day, residents of Middlebury will choose from among four names on the Middlebury selectboard ballot for three, three-year terms on the board. Running are incumbents

Esther Thomas and Heather Seeley, and residents Andy Hooper and Matthew Delia-Lôbo. The *Independent* ran full stories on the newcomers, Hooper and Delia-Lôbo, so we offered incumbents Thomas and

Seeley the opportunity to answer four questions relevant to voters and gave them a word limit. Look for the Hooper and Delia-Lôbo stories on addisonindependent.com.

Heather Seeley



HEATHER SEELEY

1. What have been the selectboard's biggest accomplishments during the past three years?

As a community, we have accomplished so much in just the last year! Obviously, our biggest accomplishment is the completion of the Downtown Rail and Bridge project. After that, the East Middlebury Flood Resiliency project, the Police Department Adaptive Reuse project and the completion of parking and site amenities for the new rail platform are high on my list. I'm excited that we've begun addressing deferred water system maintenance and have secured grant funding to help complete larger projects like the Court Street watermain improvements. We have completed an evaluation of our wastewater system and have a plan for upgrades and expansions. The completion of our Downtown Master Plan is significant.

The selectboard's commitment and maintenance of level funded budgets for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 are also notable. I am also proud of the work we have started over the last year to address systemic racism with our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work.

2. What are your priorities for the next three years?

Infrastructure is what I know best and so my priorities continue to be improving and maintaining Middlebury's infrastructure. While grant money is available I'd like to see additional water system repairs completed. I would like to support Maple Broadband and the rollout of internet access to underserved areas. I'm interested in exploring creative ways our municipal government can assist and support the addition of more affordable housing and childcare services. I'd also like to continue to fund and support our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work. Of equal significance is continuing to support planning projects that evaluate and plan our transportation links.

3. How would you promote affordable housing in Middlebury?

I do not have a clear answer to this question but do hope I have the opportunity to explore the options over the next three years. I would like to explore how a public/private partnership to expand municipal infrastructure might impact housing development. I'd

like to see us bring stakeholders together to brainstorm creative solutions to the problem. I also would like to continue to support our amazing town staff and provide them with the time and resources to continue to work on this multi-faceted and challenging problem.

4. In addition to the Kick Start program, how can Middlebury attract and retain businesses?

I believe that by working to increase the availability of affordable housing and quality childcare services, we will increase the available local workforce. Increasing our local workforce would naturally help support and grow our businesses. I would also consider expanding support to the Better Middlebury Partnership so that they can continue the great work they do to support and grow our local businesses. I also hope we might someday develop and start a revolving loan fund. I also firmly believe that continuing to maintain and expand our infrastructure helps to attract new businesses and grow our existing businesses.

Esther Thomas



ESTHER THOMAS

1. What have been the selectboard's biggest accomplishments during the past three years?

Over the past year, I had the honor of seeing the completion of several of our downtown projects. From the completion of the bridges, finishing the train station and of course the amazing Kick Start program. We have revitalized the downtown area.

2. What are your priorities for the next three years?

My priorities for the next three years include housing, supporting the library revamp project and continuing to make Middlebury a welcoming community through our work with Lisa Ryan and Tabitha Moore.

3. How would you promote affordable housing in Middlebury?

I hope to promote affordable housing by making sure it is a top priority for us on the selectboard. Seeking out solutions and learning what strategies others have used to meet that need.

4. In addition to the Kick Start program, how can Middlebury attract and retain businesses?

I believe in creating a space where businesses can support each other. Through groups and events, folks can get to know each other. I would also like to lead periodic business check-ins to see how we can best support them.

Energy

(Continued from Page 11A) delivered fuels such as propane, kerosene and fuel oil.

The CAP proposes eight initial strategies for buildings and energy, a mix of increasing efficiency and fuel switching, including:

- Increasing the proportion of existing residential, commercial and industrial buildings that are 100% electrified (with no onsite fossil fuel combustion except as emergency backup) to 50%.
- Decreasing annual energy consumption by all buildings (including energy used for industrial processes) by 25%.
- Making all new residential and commercial buildings net-zero-ready.
- Reducing the number of Addison County households that spend more than 6% of their income

on energy, through conservation and energy efficiency renovations and equipment updates.

• Increasing the proportion of locally generated and non-GHG-producing energy consumed in Addison County to 60%.

Ensuring these strategies are implemented equitably will be essential to their effectiveness, according to the CAP. Things to keep in mind include:

- Families with fewer resources must dedicate a disproportionately larger share of their income toward energy costs, which increases their vulnerability to food insecurity, inability to pay rent, and overexposure to heat and extreme cold, as they must often choose between groceries, rent or access to fuel service.
- Often, the families living in properties that are not energy efficient are those who can least afford energy efficiency improvements or access to renewable energy options.

• Renters are not typically in a position to implement energy-efficiency measures to the buildings they live in, which prevents them from benefitting from those improvements.

FUNDING, JOBS

Meeting the goals laid out in the Addison County Climate Action Plan will require money.

"Addison County's general success in meeting climate change goals will depend partly on new or redirected funding from federal and state governments, partly on new levels private investment, and partly on implementing novel financing methods that allow upfront expenses to be paid off from future operational savings," the CAP authors acknowledge.

They also point out that significant funding has already been proposed at the state and federal level, including \$200 million earmarked for climate and energy initiatives in Vermont's proposed FY 2023 budget and even greater amounts from federal programs like President Biden's Build Back Better plan — though both of these sources require

legislative approval and could change.

At the same time, meeting these climate goals will also require new jobs and some specialty job retraining to increase the pace of local building weatherization, conversions to cold-climate heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, and installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Some of our local workforce will also be needed for a host of other projects, like bolstering and expanding our electric grid, installing solar arrays, pursuing agricultural and forestry innovations, and remaking our built landscape to support more non-motorized transportation, the CAP noted.

PUBLIC INPUT

The plan's authors emphasized that this is an initial draft, which they hope to revise and re-release in April — after they've received public input.

To that end, CEAC has scheduled five remote discussions:

- Thursday, Feb. 17, 4:30 p.m. — general overview No. 1.
- Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. — general overview No. 2.
- Tuesday, March 1, 4 p.m. — agriculture and forestry.
- Thursday, March 3, 4 p.m. — buildings and energy.
- Tuesday, March 8, 4 p.m. — transportation and equipment.

Registration is required: ceacac.org/climate-action-planning.

The authors also welcome comments and feedback via online comment forms (ceacac.org/climate-action-planning), email (office@ceacac.org) — through the end of March.

Even after CEAC releases an updated edition, they won't consider it "final."

"This first CAP represents the beginning of a community journey," they write in their introduction. "We consider local climate planning and action to be ongoing activities and we expect the CAP to be updated and revised over time."

The Climate Action Plan for Addison County is available online at ceacac.org/climate-action-planning.

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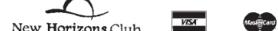


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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Smith

(Continued from Page 1A)
Monday at the Mahady Courthouse. “When I get done in February of 2023, I will have been on the bench for 16 years, and I’ll be 72. And I think it’s good to have new blood, new insight, new energy, and better technological skills than I have.”

Smith was already a seasoned lawyer when she challenged former Probate Court Judge Amy Douglas. She was a partner with Neuse, Smith & Venman, practicing criminal defense, civil litigation and family law. But she aspired to the judgeship, and ended up defeating Douglas, 8,224 to 7,413, amid huge turnout.

She credited Douglas for originating the bell ringing tradition following formalized adoptions. Smith has continued that practice while injecting even more pizzazz into the creation of new families — arguably the most joyful assignment a judge can fulfill in a venue often associated with punishment, dissolution of marriages and the termination of parental rights.

Technically, an adoption is a basic court proceeding, finalized when the judge signs an order. Still, Smith has always believed adoptions merit special celebrations; after all, it’s about the creation of a new family. She encouraged families to play their favorite music, to clap, cheer and show copious amounts of emotion.

But something was still missing. “I had one child, after we had signed the decree, ask, ‘When am

I going to be adopted?’” Smith recalled.

This led to creation of the “magic adoption wand.”

It’s really a soap-bubble wand that’s been pressed into special service. But it gets a colorful makeover prior to the final adoption decree; the parents and child each select a colorful ribbon, which they attach to the wand. The child keeps a fragment of their ribbon to take home.

Wand in hand, Smith reads the last part of the adoption decree, then goes around the room tapping family members on the shoulder, as if they were being knighted. She recites, “By the authority vested in me by the state of Vermont and the magic adoption wand, I pronounce you a ‘forever family.’”

Following the ceremony, Smith and her staff peel the ribbons off the wand and frame them to hang on the courtroom wall.

Symbols of family unity, sometimes against tremendous odds.

Pre-COVID, these adoption ceremonies were a huge hit. Families were allowed to linger and savor the moment.

Each union generates its own highlights, all of them producing a tear, a lump in the throat and rewarded faith in humanity. Smith has presided over hundreds of adoptions — around 80 per year — during her time on the bench.

“It’s very moving,” she said. And it never gets old.

Alas, the adoptions have slowed down during the pandemic, and

by necessity, so has the pomp and circumstance. Smith estimated she’s signing off on less than half as many family unions as during a typical year.

Pandemic adoptions have been remote affairs, but Smith is making them as special as possible. She has the ribbons, and shows them to the child on video screen. The child picks one and Smith ties it onto the wand, waving it at the screen when the adoption is completed. She plays a recording of the courthouse bell as the grand finale.

While it’s a bummer that the various parties can’t be together in person, Smith noted a silver lining to the virtual ceremony: It enables family members from throughout the world to participate. The technology bodes well for the future, as it will allow online celebrants to enjoy the adoption moment with the in-person contingent.

“That’s going to be a really positive thing,” she said.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

While adoptions are a highlight of her job, they’re far from the only thing on a probate court judge’s docket.

There’s also:

- The administration of estates (wills).
- The administration of trusts.

One of the oldest and most significant is the Battell Trust that owns Chipman Hill in Middlebury. There’s also a trust that benefits Shard Villa, a historic senior care facility in Salisbury.

- Guardianships — both voluntary and involuntary — for adults who don’t have the capacity to tend to their day-to-day affairs.
- Custodial guardianships for minors, until they reach 18.

Unfortunately, business has been booming in this category, according to Smith.

“We’ve seen a big uptick because of the opioid crisis,” she said. “Either mom or dad or both can’t parent their children, so grandma or grandpa or auntie or a friend steps in to be the child’s guardian.”

Suspending or terminating parental rights is one of the toughest decisions a court must occasionally make, Smith said. But there are times when a child can be reunited with their biological family.

“One of the best days in anybody’s life is when we terminate a minor custodial guardianship because the parents can resume parental duties, because they’ve dealt with the obstacles — either substance abuse or homelessness — that prevented them from being able to parent,” she said.

- Name changes.

“Name changes have become interesting over the years, because



ADDISON COUNTY PROBATE Court Judge Eleanor “Misse” Smith will retire from the bench when her term is up early next year. She’s added her own flourishes to court business during her 15 years on the bench, including sealing adoptions with a colorful wand.

Independent photo/Steve James

of people transitioning from one sex to another,” Smith said. “That’s also a case of changing their birth certificate to reflect their gender identity (through the Vital Records division).”

- Correcting various vital records.
- Conferring permits to officiate weddings.

“It is such a fulfilling job when you get to help people through really difficult times,” Smith said. “We see people at the best of times, when they’re creating new families and doing adoptions, but then we see them in really challenging times, when they’ve lost a loved one, or a loved one is seriously injured, or seriously sick, and you have to essentially make end-of-life decisions.”

Smith stressed she couldn’t do all this work without help. She praised her supporting cast, which includes Court Register Pam Bassett and Probate Docket Clerk Ashley Smith. Together, they are navigating the implementation of Odyssey, a new suite of software programs that will govern the state judiciary’s case management system.

Chores have increased to the point Smith now sees the probate court judgeship as a full-time job, though the Vermont judiciary sees it as a part-time gig, with compensation to match. It would be an economic blow for most lawyers to go from private practice to a judgeship that pays \$50,000-\$60,000 per year. With that in mind, Smith is concerned there might be few takers for the probate judge post.

She provided advice for prospective candidates.

“Whoever is going to be the next probate judge, you have to have lots of empathy for people and a willingness to listen — even if you rule against them, they should at least feel like they were heard,” she said. “So much of this job is helping people through crises and trying to ensure they feel heard.”

Asked what she’d do with her newfound time, Smith promised to do more traveling, skiing, walking, hiking, reading and trying her hand at music.

But “it will be bittersweet leaving the bench,” she confessed.

Financial reality fair to be held March 22

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County Workforce Alliance (ACWA) is hosting a Financial Reality Fair on Tuesday, March 22, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury.

The fair is targeted for high school juniors and seniors, but is open to any 15- to 24-year-old community members who would like to learn about real-life budgeting and making lifestyle choices.

In this festive atmosphere, participants will “play the game of life” by picking a career and learning how much it pays — and the cost of required training and education for that career. They will then move through several lifestyle choices to build a monthly budget and get a sense of the associated financial realities.

Along the way participants will be guided and advised by ACWA partners and volunteers to consider resources and options that will support their unique path to success. People will leave with a fresh perspective, some solid next steps, and a take-out meal courtesy of the Hannaford Career Center’s café, The Onion.

The Financial Reality Fair is free to attend. The Career Center, which serves people throughout Addison County, is located at 51 Charles Ave. next to Middlebury Union High School.

Everyone in Addison County is asked share this news with students, friends and colleagues who are looking for a fun opportunity to explore career pathways and learn about personal budgeting.

To register visit <https://acedc.glueup.com/event/2022-financial-reality-fair-50090>.



A VENERABLE BELL stationed in Middlebury’s Frank Mahady Courthouse lobby tolls each time an adoption decree is signed by Addison County Probate Court Judge Eleanor “Misse” Smith. The four-term incumbent won’t be running for re-election this year.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Tiny houses

(Continued from Page 1A)
resident Mary Simons, a member of Homes First.

The steering has been tough in these choppy housing waters. The dearth of affordable housing has been well chronicled, and the situation has extended itself to mid-range homes during the pandemic. Folks from urban areas, many of them from out of state, have been snapping up homes the moment they come onto the market in order to have a rural pied-à-terre. Homes in some areas have been selling at \$100,000 or more above their listed price.

A national report titled "Out of Reach" released last summer by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition notes that here in Addison County, a renter must earn an hourly wage of \$20.35 to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the market monthly rate of \$1,058. Only Chittenden and Washington counties feature more acute salary-rent challenges than in Addison County, according to the report.

Simons and her Homes First colleagues reasoned tiny homes could be a low-cost solution for people of limited means. They're weather-tight, energy efficient and cozy for those who aren't wed to high ceilings and spacious living rooms. Because of their size, tiny homes are quite portable; some are even equipped with wheels.

Homes First has been talking



TAYLOR STEARNS, LEFT, a VUHS senior, and Eli Brace (center), a VUHS junior, look at building plans with Patricia Hannaford Career Center teacher Nick Cantrick. Career center students will build a "tiny house" that will go to a local household in need.
Independent photo/Steve James

about villages of tiny homes since its formation in 2018. Members reached out to PHCC Cooperative Education Coordinator Len Schmidt last August to discuss a possible partnership. Schmitt, Simons and Nick Cantrick — instructor for PHCC's Construction Technology 1 and 2 classes — brainstormed last August to see if the career center could help further the Homes First cause.

The answer was an emphatic "yes." And it helps that Cantrick's program last year built a tiny house on wheels for a client, career center superintendent Dana Peterson noted.

"After talking with Mary that first time, I thought it was going to be a beautiful marriage of her

organization and the career center," Cantrick said. "From our end, the PHCC's mission is to give rigorous and relevant programming for our students. In the Construction Technology program, it's nice to have a real-world project that follows our curriculum ... and is helping out the community."

The players mapped out a debut project: A 325-square-foot tiny house that's expected to be completed this fall and then sold or rented to a low-income household. The total budget is \$50,000, made possible by free labor supplied by the Cantrick crew, coupled with wonderful pricing and support from East Middlebury's Goodro Lumber.

Simons and Cantrick presented the PHCC board with the proposed



STUDENTS AT THE Patricia Hannaford Career Center, under the direction of teacher Nick Cantrick, will soon get to work on what could be the first of many "tiny houses" that could form part of the solution to the county's affordable housing shortage.
Independent photo/Steve James

budget and a basic floorplan. The board OK'd the project at its Feb. 9 meeting.

The Construction Technology 1 class is performing the framing and basic carpentry that should produce an exterior, weather-tight tiny home shell by the end of this school year. The Construction Tech 2 class late this summer will take on the more advanced finishing phases, such as ventilation, mechanicals, electrical and interior details.

Cantrick is very cognizant of the time constraints. The students in question have two two-hour sessions each week, so the work will need to proceed diligently in the career center workshop.

"We would love to venture out to do site-build stuff in the future, but as of right now, with our program being two two-hour chunks, we'd be spending half our time commuting and setting up the job site," Cantrick said. "It makes more

sense for us to build in our shop and then transport it onto site."

The end product will be a 12-foot-by-28-foot tiny home, with wheels.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Students will get more than a mere exercise in hammering and sawing. They'll also learn a general contractor's role of project budgeting and gathering materials, thanks to tutelage from Cantrick and Goodro Lumber professionals.

And they'll get pointers on green technology. Since the goal is to minimize expenses for the future owner, the tiny-home builders will place a premium on keeping household utility costs to a minimum. That means working with Efficiency Vermont, a state utility that offers energy- and money-saving programs to consumers, businesses, and farmers.

"We're going to work with them to make sure we meet their energy codes and standards, and figure out the best balance between costs and occupant comfortability," Cantrick said. "Step one in making an energy efficient home is to right-size the home. It should have a small footprint that's not going to use a lot of energy. It will be well insulated, and will need minimal heating and cooling inputs because we're going to build a tight envelope and ventilate it right."

This first home will hopefully lead to many more. Homes First will diligently seek contributions and grants to enable Cantrick and his protégés to crank out a home each year.

"The idea is to keep churning them out with each student class," Simons said.

Fundraising is still in progress for the maiden tiny home. Homes First has been reaching out to area churches and individuals for financial support. Anyone wishing to donate can visit homesfirstvt.org.

Simons and her colleagues want to build a sustainable model for the tiny homes project.

"Do we sell it for still way under market rate, but (allow a margin) for seed money for future PHCC builds? Or do we rent (the home)? How do we continue this effort?" she said.

There's also the obvious question about where to site the home(s), as a low-income family isn't likely to have real estate on which to plopp their abode. Ideally, Homes First would like to see tiny home neighborhoods, perhaps powered by a central solar array.

Peterson echoed Cantrick's enthusiastic endorsement of the tiny homes project.

"This project will help our students gain additional valuable experience in many aspects of the construction trades similar to (last year's) tiny house on wheels project," Peterson said. "It will also provide an important opportunity to offer a service to the community in terms of providing affordable housing."

"We are extremely grateful to our industry partners for their guidance, assistance and contributions to student learning," he added. "We look forward to continuing partnerships both with sponsors as well as industry professionals in order to advance students' skill development and provide qualified prospective employees to the workforce, all while giving back to the community."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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SPORTS

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EAGLE JUNIOR MAIA Jensen takes a tumble after being bumped by Commodore junior Kyra Bradford (#5), who was whistled for a foul. The host Commodores prevailed in the game on Tuesday, avenging an earlier loss at Mount Abe.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS girls' basketball holds court vs. Eagles

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Back on Jan. 22, the Vergennes Union girls' basketball team lost by 19 points at Mount Abraham.

The Commodores were in the middle of a nine-game losing streak at that point that left them at 4-10.

On Tuesday they avenged that loss. The Commodores look the lead four minutes into the game, held the Eagles to 10 first-half points, and knocked off their rivals, 43-32, on the night they

honored seniors Felicia Poirier, Ryley Dubois and Geneva Verburg at their final home game.

They also improved to 7-11, 3-2 in their past five games since the final setback in that losing streak.

VUHS Coach Billy Waller said the key for his team was its positive approach despite the lack of results on the scoreboard.

"We kept battling. We laid a couple eggs in there, but for the most part it was every day grinding," Waller said.

(See Court, Page 3B)



VUHS SENIOR FORWARD Ryley Dubois goes high into the air to snag a transition pass during the Commodores' 43-32 victory over visiting Mount Abe on Tuesday. Dubois contributed eight points for VUHS.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS JUNIOR CENTER Penn Riney shoots over the outstretched arms of VUHS seniors Adam Clark (left) and Tim Ashley on Monday. Riney led the Tigers with 13 points in their strong, but ultimately unsuccessful, effort.

Independent photo/Steve James



VUHS SOPHOMORE TYLER Bergmans goes up for the buzzer-beating game-winner in the Commodores' nail-biting win at MUHS on Monday. Bergmans scored the final four VUHS points in a 53-51 victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

Commodores beat buzzer, MUHS boys

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — It's not every game that sees three buzzer-beaters, including the game-winner.

Nor is it typical to see a 4-11 boys' basketball team coming off its worst loss of the season facing an 11-4 team coming off its best win take a game to the final buzzer before falling.

But those things happened at Middlebury Union High School on Monday, when the outcome was in doubt until Vergennes sophomore Tyler Bergmans, after briefly slipping near the top of the key, drove the right baseline through traffic as the last seconds ticked away.

Bergmans laid up a soft shot off the backboard that rolled over the rim and in to give the Commodores a hard-fought 55-53 win over the Tigers.

Bergmans has done a lot for his team, but said afterward that was his first game-winner at the final horn.

Before then he had tossed in a three-pointer to beat the first-period horn, and Tiger senior sparkplug Nikolai Luksch had banked in a transition layup as the third quarter buzzer sounded to give MUHS a

42-40 lead as the teams exchanged haymakers.

But Bergmans delivered the knockout blow after Coach Josh Carter called his number in a timeout at 0:6.6.

"We were running Phoenix, which is kind of a pick-and-roll play for me. I kind of lost it a little bit," Bergmans said. "But I knew I was going to the basket, and that's what I'm best at. So I was definitely confident in that play. It's a rival, and it's a game-winner, so it's definitely very exciting. It was a great game."

He credited the Tigers, who led four times in the fourth quarter, including at 53-51 before Bergmans scored the game's final four points.

"It was their home court. They brought it. I've got to give it to them for that," he said.

MUHS Coach John Howe was pleased with an effort that came after a 44-point loss on Saturday at undefeated North Country, Division II's top team.

To start with, he was pleased with the grit.

"They showed phenomenal character and never quit," Howe said. "To recover from the North

Country game this way gives me a lot of hope for how they're handling the season."

Howe has also said all season the Tigers have struggled to run their offense properly. On Monday they moved their feet and the ball well

on the attack, set effective picks, and only turned the ball over nine times.

"They played amazing basketball today. They took everything we've been working on ... in practice

(See Commodores, Page 3B)



TIGER JUNIOR GUARD Jack Trudeau drives into the lane on Monday against the defense of VUHS sophomore Tyler Bergmans. Trudeau finished with 11 points, and Bergmans tossed in 22 in the tight battle between the two county rivals.

Independent photo/Steve James

South Burlington tops MUHS in gymnastics

MIDDLEBURY — Visiting South Burlington defeated the Middlebury Union High School gymnastics team on Feb. 9, 100.70 to 86.45, as Wolf gymnast Ella Maynard swept all five disciplines.

Alyza Alger and Mary Johnson combined for seven top-four finishes to lead the Tiger team.

With the cancellation of a competition vs. Burr & Burton, the Feb. 9 meet was the last before the state competition that will be held in Essex on Feb. 19.

The results in individual events were:

Vault: 1. Maynard, SB, 8.1; 2. Kyra Papariello, SB, 7.9; 3. Marisa Biddle, SB, 7.55; 4. Johnson, MUHS, 7.3.

Bars: 1. Maynard, SB, 7.0; 2. Papariello, SB, 6.0; 3. Alger, MUHS, 5.3; 4. Johnson, MUHS, 4.5.

Beam: 1. Ella Maynard, SB, 9.2; 2. Papariello, SB, and Alger, MUHS, 5.37.3; 4. Lily Dulin, SB, 7.05.

Floor: 1. Maynard, SB, 7.85; 2. Papariello, SB, 7.4; 3. Alger, MUHS, 6.7; 4. Johnson, MUHS, 6.6.

All Around: 1. Ella Maynard, SB, 32.15; 2. Papariello, SB, 28.6; 3. Johnson, MUHS, 25.2; 4. Biddle, SB, 23.7.

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

2/19 MUHS at Bratt 4:45 PM
2/23 MVU at MUHS 7 PM
2/25&26 Playoffs Begin

Boys' Hockey

2/19 Lyndon at MUHS 7:15 PM
2/21 S. Burlington at MUHS 5 PM
2/23 MUHS at Brattleboro 7:15 PM
2/25&26 Playoffs Begin

Boys' Basketball

2/17 Missisquoi at Mt. Abe 7 PM
2/17 VUHS at Enosburg 7 PM
2/17 MUHS at Milton 7 PM
2/17 OV at Woodstock 7 PM
2/19 MUHS at Fair Haven 2:30 PM
2/19 Mt. Abe at OV 2:30 PM
2/21 Enosburg at MUHS 7 PM
2/21 North Country at VUHS ... 6:30 PM
2/21 OV at Mt. Abe 7 PM
2/23 Mt. Abe at N. Country 6:30 PM
2/24 Mt. Abe at MUHS 7 PM
2/24 Springfield at OV 7 PM
2/24 Milton at VUHS 7 PM
3/1&2 Playoffs Begin

Girls' Basketball

2/17 Mt. Abe at MUHS 7 PM
2/18 Montpelier at Mt. Abe 7 PM
2/18 OV at Springfield 7 PM
2/18 VUHS at MUHS 7 PM
2/23&24 Playoffs Begin

Gymnastics

2/19 State Meet at Essex

Dance

2/19 State Competition at VUHS

Cheer

2/19 State Competition at VUHS

Wrestling

2/25 State Meet at CVU

Nordic

2/24 State Meet Day One at Stowe
2/28 State Meet Day Two at Rikert

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

2/18 Bowdoin at Midd 7 PM
2/19 Bowdoin at Midd 3 PM

NESCAC Playoffs

2/27 #8/9 seed at #1 Midd 2 PM

Men's Hockey

2/18 Midd at Amherst 7 PM
2/19 Midd at Hamilton 3 PM

NESCAC Playoffs

2/25&27 Games TBD

Women's Basketball

2/19 #5 Bates at #4 Midd 2 PM
2/26&27 Final Four TBD

Men's Basketball

2/20 TBD at #3 Midd TBA
2/26&27 Final Four TBD

Given rapidly changing schedules those interested in attending or viewing events are advised to check school websites for the latest updates.

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

2/9 Woodstock vs MUHS 8-1
2/12 MUHS vs Stowe 6-4
2/16 Rice at MUHS Late

Boys' Hockey

2/12 MUHS vs Northfield 6-0
2/14 U-32 vs MUHS 4-2
2/16 MUHS at MMU Late

Boys' Basketball

2/9 Missisquoi vs MUHS 57-50
2/9 Mt. Abe vs VUHS 64-57 (OT)
2/10 Fair Haven vs OV 72-61
2/12 Mt. Abe vs Milton 40-39
2/12 VUHS vs Fair Haven 60-49
2/12 N. Country vs MUHS 74-30
2/14 VUHS vs MUHS 55-53
2/14 Mt. Abe vs Enosburg 63-52

Girls' Basketball

2/10 Colchester vs MUHS 50-28
2/11 OV vs. Woodstock 55-37
2/11 Enosburg at VUHS 48-38
2/11 Mt. Abe vs Missisquoi 57-38
2/12 Rutland vs MUHS 49-23
2/12 Missisquoi vs. VUHS 48-34
2/14 VUHS vs. Hazen 40-35
2/14 Fair Haven at OV 47-40
2/15 VUHS vs Mt. Abe 43-32

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

2/13 Midd at Williams Canceled
2/15 Midd vs Williams 6-1

Men's Hockey

2/12 Midd vs Williams 4-1
2/15 Midd vs Conn 5-3

Women's Basketball

2/11 Tufts vs Midd 77-71
2/12 Midd vs Bates 63-55

Men's Basketball

2/12 Midd vs Bates 69-52
2/13 Tufts vs Midd 81-73



PANTHER FORWARD BETHANY Lucey drives toward the lane and eyes the basket during Saturday's victory over Bates by the Middlebury women's basketball team. The Panthers clinched a winning record with the result.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER GUARD ALYNA Baharozian goes up for a shot against visiting Bates on Saturday. The Middlebury College women's basketball team prevailed to clinch a winning record and a home NESCAC playoff game.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther hoop teams net high seeds

Home carnival next for skiers; women's, men's hockey squads both win

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's and women's basketball teams each split two games this past weekend, efforts good enough for both to nail down top-four seeds for the NESCAC playoffs.

Both will host postseason games this coming weekend. Panther women's basketball will play No. 5 Bates in Middlebury on Saturday at 2 p.m.; on Sunday at 2 p.m. the Panther men will play the winner of a Friday game between No. 6 Connecticut College and No. 11 Bowdoin.

Meanwhile, in other recent Middlebury College sports action, the women's hockey team maintained its unbeaten roll; the men's hockey team pulled off two road wins, but will open the playoffs on the road; and the ski team saw a few strong individual results while finishing fourth at the Dartmouth Winter Carnival.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The weekend road split of two NESCAC games left the men's basketball team with a 7-3 league mark, good for third place, to go with a 17-5 overall record.

On Saturday, the Panthers pulled away from host Bates in the second half to prevail, 69-52. The Bobcats finished at 9-11, 2-8 in the league.

A tight first half ended with Middlebury up, 30-29. The game remained close, with Bates on top, 45-43, at the second half's midpoint. The Panthers then went on a decisive 12-0 run, and the Bobcats came no closer than eight the rest of the way.

Alex Sobel scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. David Brennan tallied 11 points and 12 rebounds, and Sam Stevens added 14 points and six boards. Stephen Baxter paced Bates with 19 points.

In a Sunday battle for second place, host Tufts (13-9, 8-2 league) ended the game strong to topple the Panthers, 81-73.

Tufts led at the half, 40-26. The Panthers surged midway through the second half to tie the game at 48-48 with a 12-1 run capped by a Brennan bucket. A Charley Moore hoop gave the Panthers their first lead at 56-54 at 7:02.

The game stayed close, and it was tied at 68-68 at 3:05. The

Jumbos then closed the game with a 13-5 run.

Middlebury's Noah Osher scored 23 points, 18 after halftime. Stevens added 14 points, and Sobel contributed 12 points and 10 boards. His 269 rebounds this winter put Sobel in fourth place in the program's single-season list. Brennan had 10 points and nine rebounds.

Dylan Thoerner paced four Jumbos in double figures with 19 points. The Panthers shot 38.2% from the floor, while Tufts hit on 47.4 percent.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

After splitting two home NESCAC games this weekend, the Panthers finished the regular season at 12-10, 6-4 NESCAC; they earned the league's No. 4 seed.

On Feb. 11, No. 12 Tufts (19-3, 8-2 NESCAC) overcame a 24-15 deficit after the first period to edge the Panthers, 77-71.

The game was tied at 70-70 with 2:17 left. Tufts then went up by three on a Sofia Rosa hoop and Maggie Russell free throw. Panther Alexa Mustafaj hit a free throw to make it 73-71 with 13 seconds left, but Jumbo Molly Ryan made four free throws to clinch the win.

Mustafaj, NESCAC's leading scorer, tossed in 27 points to go along with three assists. Augusta Dixon added 14 points and seven rebounds, and Emily Downer chipped in 11 points and six boards.

On Saturday, the Panthers held off a late Bates rally to prevail, 63-55. Bates fell to 14-7 overall as well as ending with the same 6-4 NESCAC mark as Middlebury, but the Panthers owned the head-to-head tiebreaker. Middlebury led, 23-6, early in the second quarter before the Bobcats worked back to make it 29-20 at the break.

The Panthers never trailed, but Bates closed to within 33-32 late in the third before points from Mustafaj and senior Michaela Sullivan gave the Panthers a 41-34 edge entering the fourth.

In the final period, Mustafaj helped spark the Panthers to a 54-40 lead, but Bates' press forced turnovers that twice pulled the Bobcats to within three points. Two baskets by Sullivan, one assisted by Musafaj, and three Mustafaj free throws helped secure the win.

The Panther defense held the Bobcats to 32% shooting from the floor, while Middlebury shot 41%.

Mustafaj scored 20 points, and her 449 points this winter put her fourth on the program's single-season list.

Sullivan netted 13, while Dixon scored 12. Brianna Gadaleta paced Bates with 20 points and 11 boards.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

After dismissing visiting Williams, 6-1, on Tuesday, the women skaters will try to complete their undefeated regular season when they host Bowdoin this Friday and Saturday.

The Panthers, ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division III, have clinched the top seed for the upcoming NESCAC playoffs and will host a quarterfinal on Feb. 27.

Against Williams (11-9, 7-8) on Tuesday the Panthers took the first-period lead on Caroline Cutter's first collegiate goal. Kate Dudley and Julia Johnson scored for the Panthers in the second period to make it 3-0.

Cat Appleyard scored twice for Middlebury in the third, when Maddie Bayard also found the net. Brynn Puppe scored for Williams in the final period.

Sophie Merageas stopped 14 shots for Middlebury, while Eph goalie Amanda Lackmann made 34 saves.

SKIING

The Middlebury ski teams took fourth at the Dartmouth Winter Carnival. Vermont took top honors, followed by Dartmouth and New Hampshire. The Middlebury Carnival is this weekend.

Panther Nordic skier Peter Wolter won the men's 10-kilometer classic race in 28:06.5 to highlight Middlebury's efforts on Feb. 10, the carnival's first day. Teammates

Sam Hodges (sixth in 29:02.3) and Willson Moore (eighth in 29:14.6) cracked the top 10.

In the women's classic 5K, Avery Ellis led the Panthers by taking 20th in 17:56.

On the slopes, Mika-Anne Reha led the Panther women in the giant slalom by placing fifth with a two-run time of 1:35.88, and Lucia Bailey was 13th in 1:37.04. Axel Bailey was 19th for the men in 1:43.71.

The Panther alpine women placed three in the top 10 of Saturday's slalom. Bailey finished in seventh in 1:41.10, Sofia Yubero was eighth in 1:41.15, and Sarah Brown was 10th in 1:41.28.

On the men's side, Holden Parazette led the Panther men by taking 18th in 1:41.

Wolter led the men's Nordic squad in the 10K freestyle by taking second in 26:10.7. Ellis paced the Panther women in the 10K freestyle, taking 19th in 34:31.9.

Of note: on Feb. 9, Panther sophomore Ali Nullmeyer finished 21st in the Olympic slalom while skiing for Canada.

MEN'S HOCKEY

The Panther men's hockey team (4-12-3, 3-11-2 NESCAC) will play two more games on the road this weekend and are currently in 10th place, two points behind Connecticut and six behind Tufts.

They play at Amherst and Hamilton this weekend. Next up will be a Feb. 25 play-in game, with a top-two seed waiting on Feb. 27.

This past Saturday, Jin Lee's hat trick propelled the Panthers past host Williams, 4-1. The Ephs dropped to 9-10, 9-7.

Lee's first goal came in the first period on a break-in. Eph Jack Forrest equalized at 5:40 of the second period, and Paddy Bogart restored the Panther lead four minutes later on a rebound.

Lee made it a 3-1 at 13:52 of the third with an end-to-end rush, and then completed the hat trick with an empty-netter.

Middlebury goalie Jake Horoho made 35 saves for Middlebury, while Evan Ruschil made 23 for the Ephs.

Eagles, Commodores, Otters all win in girls' basketball

ADDISON COUNTY — Mount Abraham, Vergennes and Otter Valley all won once in girls' high school basketball games played between Feb. 9 and 15, but Middlebury's late-season woes continued.

The Commodores also hosted the Eagles on Tuesday; see story on Page 1B.

EAGLES

On Feb. 11 Mount Abe got big games from **Abby Reen** and **Maia Jensen** in rolling to a 57-38 victory over host Missisquoi. Reen filled

up the stat sheet with 21 points, eight rebounds, five assists and five steals, while Jensen tossed in 18 points and added six assists as the Eagles moved to 10-7 heading into Tuesday's game. McKenzie Vincent scored 16 for the T-Birds.

TIGERS

On Feb. 10 the Tigers dropped a 50-28 decision to Colchester. Nicole Norton led three Lakers in double figures with 13 points. **Ele Sellers** led MUHS with 17 points and 10 rebounds, and **Hannah Turner** chipped in seven points and 11

boards.

On Saturday host Rutland topped the Tigers, 49-23. The Ravens broke the game open with a 19-3 third period. Karsyn Bellomo paced a balanced RHS attack with 12 points.

Cady Pitner scored 11 points for MUHS.

On Tuesday visiting North Country edged the Tigers, 41-38. Sabine Brueck led the Falcons with 16 points. Sellers (19 points) and Pitner (10) paced the Tigers, who dropped to 7-11.

COMMODORES

On Feb. 11 Enosburg outlasted the Commodores, 38-28. The Hornets took an 18-7 lead after one period, but VUHS cut the margin to four in the late going before Enosburg scored the game's final six points. Emily Adams led Enosburg with 15.

Kyra Bradford scored 11 points to pace VUHS, and **Felicia Poirier** added nine.

On Saturday host Missisquoi pulled away in the second half to defeat VUHS, 48-34. T-Bird center McKenzie Vincent tossed in 17 points. **Ryley Dubois** scored seven

for the Commodores.

On Monday the Commodores pulled away from visiting Hazen in the final three minutes to prevail, 40-35, in a game that was tight throughout. Caitlyn Davison paced Hazen with 13 points, while Poirier (15) and Bradford (11) led the way as VUHS improved to 6-11 heading into Tuesday's home game vs. Mt. Abe.

OTTERS

On Feb. 11 the Otters coasted to a 55-37 victory over visiting Woodstock. **Alice Keith** led a

balanced effort with 15 points, and **Anna Lee** added 12. Emma Tarleton scored 23 for the Wasps.

On Monday Fair Haven outlasted the Otters, 47-40. Slater **Brittney Love** had 23 points and made eight fourth-quarter free throws, four to seal the win after OV pulled to within 43-40 in the final minute. Fair Haven improved to 14-5.

Keith scored 16 points and teammate **Elena Politano** added 13 points for OV, which stands at 10-8 in its quest for a D-III home game and a winning record.



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Boys' hockey splits games, sits at .500

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' hockey team split a pair of recent games and stands at 7-7-2, unofficially good for eighth place in Division II as they hit the final week of the regular season.

The Tigers were heading into a Wednesday game at Mount Mansfield that was played after the deadline for this section. They will conclude the regular season with games at home vs. Lyndon on Saturday (7:15 p.m.) and South Burlington on Monday (5 p.m.) and one at Brattleboro this coming Wednesday. Playoff pairings will be announced late next week.

This past Saturday, the Tigers blanked host Northfield, 6-0, as goalie Casey Calzini worked a 16-save shutout. Jordan Martin (two goals and an assist) and Toby Draper and Gavin McNulty (two goals apiece) led the attack, and Kellan Bartlett set up two goals.

On Monday, the Tigers outshot host U-32, 35-24, but came up short, 4-2, on the scoreboard. The 11-4 Raiders scored once in the first period before breaking the game open with three goals in the second period. Bartlett led the Tigers with a goal in the second period and an assist, and Matthew Kiernan added a goal late in the fourth. Goalie Eddie Hodde made 20 saves.



COMMODORE SOPHOMORE GUARD Kaelin Sullivan tries to get around the defense of Eagle sophomore guard Morgan Barnard during Tuesday's game at VUHS. The host Commodores avenged an earlier loss to the Eagles with a 43-32 victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

Court

(Continued from Page 1B)

The Division III Commodores were also playing their fourth game in five days. They lost to Enosburg and Missisquoi, D-II teams with winning records, on the previous Friday and Saturday, before defeating Hazen at home on Monday.

"We didn't get a chance to prepare for any of them, and I said you've just got to play basketball," Waller said.

He said things began to click after tough first half vs. Hazen on Monday.

"The second half we played really good basketball, and it fed into tonight," Waller said. "The key thing was we got the lead early and didn't have to chase."

Coach Connie LaRose credited the Commodores, while saying her 10-8 team simply couldn't make a shot early on and maybe lost a bit of its confidence when the ball wouldn't drop.

"They played good basketball tonight, and we just weren't hitting," LaRose said. "We have nights like this, and it's like we can't get ourselves out of it when it starts."

The situation puzzled LaRose because the Eagles were coming off a convincing win over Missisquoi team on the road.

"It looked like we could have beaten anybody up there. Everything was clicking," she said. "And tonight nothing was."

The trouble started for Mount Abe with the score tied at 4-4 in the first period after Eagle senior center Laura Bonar hit in the post at 4:25.

Twenty seconds later Poirier converted inside for VUHS, and it sparked a 7-1 run to close the quarter. Poirier and junior guard Kyra Bradford both turned steals into layups, and VUHS forward Acadia Clark hit a free throw after being fouled in transition to make it 11-4.

Points remained hard to come by in the second period. It was 16-10 with 1:25 to go, and VUHS scored the final four points of the half by hitting the offensive glass. Verburg grabbed one board and hit two free throws after a foul, and Clark put in a missed free throw to make it 20-10.

With the Eagles misfiring from outside and senior guard Abby Reen often sitting with foul trouble, Bonar and junior forward Payton Vincent kept Mount Abe close in the second half. But the Commodores answered every time the Eagles made a run.

A Vincent jumper three minutes into the third period cut the lead to

22-16, but a Dubois three and free throw and a Kaelin Sullivan jumper made it 28-16.

Then Vincent cut in the lane for two on a feed from Maia Jensen, and Bonar scored inside and hit a free throw after an offensive rebound to cut the lead back to seven.

But a strong drive from Jasmin Little and a Poirier post move pushed it to 32-21 before a Bonar putback beat the buzzer to make it 32-23 after three periods.

The Commodores put the game away with a 6-0 run over the first 2:30 of the final period. Sophomore Ava Almeida laid in a nifty feed from Little, Dubois scored in the lane, and Little took it to the hoop to make it 38-23.

The Eagles cut the lead to 40-32 with 2:34 to go, but Little hit Poirier for a layup after a Bradford offensive board, and Poirier added a late free throw.

Bonar finished with 10 points and eight blocked shots and strong work on the boards, while Vincent scored all seven of her points in the second half. Jensen was next with six points.

"It's the best game Laura's played," LaRose said. "Payton had a good game. We just had too many shots that didn't drop that normally drop. Everybody has those nights."

The Eagles played without junior starter Madi Gile, whose sore back leaves her status in doubt for games at Middlebury (7-11) on Thursday and at home vs. Montpelier (5-13) on Friday.

The Eagles remain in good shape for a D-II home playoff game, and LaRose believes they will bounce back.

"I just hope we come back with a positive mindset and new energy tomorrow and get ready for Middlebury," LaRose said.

For VUHS Poirier led the way with 15 points. Every Commodore who played scored, including Dubois (eight points) and Bradford (five). Waller was pleased with the ball movement and contributions from the entire team.

"We found the people we needed to get the ball to," he said.

The Commodores close out their regular season at MUHS on Friday and should end up as the No. 10 or 11 seed in Division III. They have been competitive in the tournament in recent years even with a low seed.

Waller said he was also happy for his seniors.

"Felicia and Ryley and Geneva are great friends," he said. "I'm glad they beat Mount Abe in their last chance in their gym. It felt good,"

Tiger, Eagle skiers compete at Harwood

By ANDY KIRKALDY

WARREN — The Middlebury Union High School Nordic ski team and two Mount Abraham independents skied at a meet hosted by Harwood on Feb. 8, with the highlights a third-place finish by the Tiger boys in a five-team competition and five top-10 finishes by Tiger and Eagle skiers.

In the boys' race, Eagle Lorenzo Atocha had the best finish, taking sixth, one place ahead of Eliot Schneider and Trey Bosworth from MUHS, who tied for seventh.

Lia Robinson led the Tiger girls by finishing sixth.

Several Tiger racers sat out the 5-kilometer races, which were held between two regional events held the weekends before and after and were not affiliated with their high school programs.

Champlain Valley won the boys' event with 19 points, followed by

Mount Mansfield, 33; MUHS, 42; Harwood, 67; and Spaulding, 86. CVU's Matthew Servin won the race in 11:33.

CVU also prevailed in a closer four-team girls' race with 24 points, edging out MMU at 30. Harwood, 42, and MUHS, 60, trailed. CVU's Emma Crum, a Bristol resident, won in 13:37.9.

The Eagles and top five Tigers in the boys' race were: 6. Lorenzo Atocha, Mt. Abe, 12:47.6; 7. Schneider and Bosworth, MUHS, 12:59.4; 10. Abel Atocha, Mt. Abe, 13:01.1; 11. Haakon Olson, MUHS, 13:10.6; 25. Ben Munkres, MUHS, 26. Matthew Berg, MUHS, 13:43.5.

The top five Tigers in the girls' race were: 7. Robinson, 14:37.2; 16. Ella Landis, 15:28.3; 18. Naomi Brightman, 15:34.4; 31. Ari Graham-Gurland, 17:07.5; 33. Dahlia Harrison-Irwin, 17:20.7.

(Continued from Page 1B)

brought it into this game," Howe said. "When a great player hits a great shot to finish a great game, that's what competition is about, and it's the best game they've played all year."

VUHS Coach Josh Carter called the Tigers' effort inspired.

"They moved the ball so well.



TIGER SENIOR NIKOLAI Luksch beats the third-quarter buzzer to give his team one of its second-half leads on Monday. But visiting Vergennes took the final lead of the night on Tyler Bergmann's game-ending buzzer-beater.

Independent photo/Steve James

They ran their sets effectively. They gave us everything we could handle and more," Carter said. "I was really impressed with their picks, how they screened and picked. They got every loose ball. They fought for the offensive rebounds."

It looked like VUHS had taken charge when Bergmans hit the three to cap the first period to make it 19-13. That ended a 12-4 run in which four Commodores scored, and it looked like they had seized the momentum despite four points apiece in the quarter from Tigers Graham Matrick and Willem Berry.

But Luksch drilled a jumper and a three to open the second quarter, and Fynn Whitlock's transition hoop tied the score at 3:50.

The teams traded the lead to close the half, with VUHS guard Abram Francis assisting all three of his team's buckets, and Jeremiah Tinker and Berry hitting threes for MUHS before a Jack Trudeau putback put the Tigers up at the break, 27-26.

VUHS opened the second half on a 10-4 run in the first 3:30. Bergmans scored eight, and center Ian Henderson scored the other hoop. But MUHS closed the quarter with an 11-4 surge to go up, 42-40. Before Luksch beat the buzzer, Matrick drove for two and hit a three, Trudeau sank a jumper and center Penn Riney scored inside.

The fourth quarter saw five lead changes. At 45-45, Bergmans sank two from the line. After Riney hit a free throw at 5:39 the offenses went cold until Trudeau followed his own missed free throw to make it 48-47 at 2:53.

Bergmans again went two-for-two from the line at 2:23 to make it 49-48. Free throws were a factor: VUHS went eight-for-eight, MUHS four-for-10.

At 2:10 Trudeau swished a jumper: 50-49, MUHS. At 1:50

Henderson hit in the post: 51-50. Berry drained a three-pointer, and VUHS, down by 53-51, turned to Bergmans. A drive and two points: Tie game at 1:05.

The Tigers had two chances. They rebounded a missed free throw, but turned the ball over, and VUHS had one more chance. Bergmans made the most of it, scoring his 22nd points of the night just before his teammates and the VUHS student section mobbed him.

For VUHS, Henderson and Tim Ashley added eight points each, Hayden Bowen scored six, and Oakley Francis chipped in five.

But Bergmans earned the spotlight.

"I can't say enough about how hard he's worked, in the offseason and all the work I've seen him

put in," Carter said. "And to see it pay off with a game-winner is just awesome."

Carter feels good about the Commodores, who moved to third place in the D-III standings with the playoff's nearing.

"We played our best basketball against Fair Haven, and I think we showed we can beat anybody on any given night," he said.

MUHS benefited from balanced offense: Riney scored 13; Trudeau, 11; Berry, 10; Luksch, nine; and Matrick, eight.

Howe said Monday was a step forward for his group.

"My boys have taken some things to heart in the past week," he said. "This was proof positive to them they can play with these teams who are doing really well."

Girls' hockey splits contests

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team split two road games last week and stood at 8-9 heading into a home game vs. Rice played Wednesday after deadline for this section.

The Tigers are scheduled to wrap up their regular season by visiting Brattleboro on Saturday and hosting Missisquoi on this coming Wednesday at 7 p.m. Division II playoff pairings will be announced next Thursday.

On Feb. 9, host Woodstock, D-II's first-place team, coasted past the Tigers, 8-1, as Wasp

Isabel Konijnenberg scored four times and Gracelyn Laperle added three goals. Wasp goalie Meridian Bremel made 10 saves.

Hana Doria scored for the Tigers, and goalie Ruby Hubbell made 21 saves.

On Saturday, the Tigers bounced back to top host Stowe, 6-4, as McKenna Raymond recorded a hat trick. The game was tied at 2-2 after one period, and the Tigers took charge by outscoring Stowe, 4-1, in the second period. Avery Gale scored twice, Patience Hanley added a goal and an assist, and Hubbell stopped 16 shots.

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"I look forward to it every week! Keep up the good work. Always appreciate the Arts+Leisure section. And, the obituaries."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

VERMONT Sun

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WELLNESS Directory

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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.



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Contact Sydney for
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[sydneys@
addisonindependent.com](mailto:sydneys@addisonindependent.com)
or call 802-388-4944

Boys' hoop: Mount Abe nips VUHS, clinches winning mark

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Mount Abraham worked overtime to defeat Vergennes last week and highlight local boys' basketball action between Feb. 9 and 16.

In other high school games, the Eagles picked up two more victories to add to a major winning streak and clinch the program's first winning record in more than a decade, VUHS bounced back with a big win, Middlebury dropped two road games, and Otter Valley lost at home.

The Tigers also hosted the Commodores on Monday; see story on Page 1B.

EAGLES VS. VUHS

On Feb. 9 the Eagles got two **Chance Denecker** three-pointers and three **Henry Cogswell** free throws in overtime to defeat the Commodores, 64-57. It was Mount Abe's seventh straight win.

VUHS had rallied to force overtime as **Tim Ashley** scored seven of his 25 points in the fourth quarter after Mount Abe had led at every checkpoint. **Elijah Duprey** added nine for VUHS.

Balanced scoring boosted the Eagles. Cogswell led the way with 17 points, followed by **Gavin Bannister** (16), **Daniel Rodriguez** (12) and **Denecker** (nine).

EAGLES VS. Milton

On Saturday, the Eagles won another nail biter, 40-39 at Milton. **Ian Funk** scored the decisive point on a free throw with 6.6 seconds to go after grabbing an offensive rebound.

The Eagles had a 31-15 lead at the half before going cold in the second half. Milton tied the score at 39-39 with a about a minute to go.

Bannister led the Eagles with 15 points, and Cogswell added 12. Hunter McClellan led three Yellowjackets with eight points; two of his teammates scored seven in the defensive struggle.

Cogswell helped the Eagle offense get back on track on Monday by tossing in a career-high 33 points as the Eagles knocked off visiting Enosburg, 63-52. Cogswell scored 19 in the first half and added seven free throws in the fourth quarter to seal the verdict.

Domenic DiNapoli chipped in 11 points for the Eagles, while Devyn Gleason and Nathaniel Robby each had 13 for Enosburg.

The win was the Eagles' ninth straight as they improved to 11-4 after a 2-4 start and ensured the team will enjoy a winning season.

COMMODORES

On Saturday, VUHS picked up a big win over Fair Haven, a top D-II team, 60-49. **Tyler Bergmans** led four Commodores in double figures with 16 points, 10 rebounds and four assists. **Hayden Bowen** chipped in 12 points and five rebounds, and **Ian Henderson** and **Ashley** added 10 points apiece.

The Commodores shot 68% from the floor for the game in improving to 10-4 heading into MUHS on Monday.

Fair Haven slipped to 11-4, still good for sixth place in D-II. Standout guard Sawyer Ramey poured in 28 points for the Slaters.

TIGERS

On Feb. 9, host Missisquoi topped the Tigers, 57-50, in a game that was close throughout. Hayzen Luneau sparked the T-Birds with 23 points, and Maliki Unwin-Jackson added 14.

Three Tigers reached double figures: **Jack Trudeau** scored 13 points; **Nikolai Luksch**, 12; and **Penn Riney**, 10.

On Saturday, undefeated host North Country coasted past the visiting Tigers, 74-30. Austin Giroux led NCU with 18 points. Riney scored 18 as MUHS dropped to 4-10 heading into Monday.

OTTERS

On Feb. 10, visiting Fair Haven pulled away in a high-scoring fourth quarter to defeat the Otters, 72-61. The Slaters led by 27-25 at the half and 36-31 entering the fourth before both teams erupted on offense. Sam Barber nailed three treys early in the period to trigger the Slaters' scoring spree.

Sawyer Ramey's 20 led five Slaters in double figures, followed by Brandon Eastman, 15; Phil Bean and Barber, 13 apiece; and Joe Buxton, 11.

Elijah Tucker-Bryant and **Hayden Bernhardt** tossed in 21 points apiece, but the Otters fell to 3-13 despite the competitive effort.

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT

Addison Unit
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-7741
www.vermontjudiciary.org

CIVIL DIVISION

Case No. 22-CV-00442
Date: February 09, 2022

NOTICE OF HEARING

Addison County Community Trust Inc. v. Patrick Lathbury et al

This is to notify you to appear at the Court named above in connection with the above-named case on:

DATE: **March 03, 2022** TIME: **10:00 AM** DURATION: **15 Minutes**

HEARING RE: **ABANDONED MOBILE HOME OF PATRICK LATHBURY AND DONALD CATELLA. A hearing on ACCT's Verified Complaint to declare as abandoned the mobile home of Patrick Lathbury and Donald Catella will be held on this date by Webex.**

THIS HEARING WILL BE HELD BY WEBEX VIDEO. You must join from a device that has a camera. If you are unable to join by video, you must come to the court named above for this hearing or you may file a request in writing to appear by phone at least three days prior to the hearing.

TO JOIN BY VIDEO: Open a web browser and go to <https://vtcourts.webex.com/> then enter the meeting number and password. You may use a smart phone, smart tablet, laptop or desktop computer with a camera. When your device asks, allow access to your camera and microphone.

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Meeting number: 1797 61 9878 Password: sfNVXSM3Y66

If you received the hearing notice by email enter the hearing by clicking on the green "join meeting" box. The "join meeting" box may appear in your electronic calendar if you accepted the meeting invitation, or it may remain in your email.

Please pre-mark and exchange all exhibits and supply a copy to the court at least three business days before the hearing. Each exhibit should be sent as a separate document and marked as follows: Plaintiff Exhibits shall be marked 1,2,3 etc, and Defendant Exhibits shall be marked A, B, C etc.

Log in/join the hearing 5 minutes before your hearing is to begin. If there is another hearing in progress, please wait quietly until your case is called. You may be moved to the virtual lobby and returned to the meeting when the Court is ready to call your case.

Civil Division Clerk
ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST, INC. Plaintiff, v. PATRICK LATHBURY and all other occupants at 36 Cherry Lane, Lot 33 Starksboro VT Defendant(S)s.

COMPLAINT for EVICTION

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST, INC. (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by and through its attorneys of record, Deppman Law PLC, and complains against the Defendant PATRICK LATHBURY (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") as follows:

1. Plaintiff is a corporation with a principal place of business in Burlington, County of Chittenden, and State of Vermont.
2. Defendant is a resident of Starksboro in the County of Addison and State of Vermont.
3. Plaintiff is the owner of Lazy Brook Mobile Home Park, 36 Cherry Lane, Lot #33, in Starksboro, Vermont (hereinafter the "Premises"). By virtue of a Lease (the "Lease Agreement"), Plaintiff leased the Premises to Defendant (a true and complete copy is attached as Exhibit A).
4. Pursuant to the Lease Agreement, Defendant agreed to make regularly monthly rental payments payable on or before the first day of each month.
5. Defendant's rent is \$303/month.
6. Defendant has failed and refused and continue to fail and refuse to make full lease payments due on account of the Lease Agreement. Defendant now owes \$2285 on account of past due rent.
7. Through the date of this Complaint, Defendant owes \$2285 on account of past due rental payments and will owe \$303 each month thereafter until judgment is rendered hereon.
8. Defendant has also failed and refused and continues to fail and refuse to vacate the Premises despite having received a Notice of Termination of Tenancy.
9. Pursuant to law, Defendant has been given notice of the termination of the Lease Agreement. A true and correct copy of said notice is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and incorporated herein by reference.
10. Notwithstanding actual notice of the termination of the Lease Agreement, Defendant failed and refused to remove himself from the Premises by July 15, 2021. Defendant has remained, and continue to remain wrongfully in possession of the Premises, and continues to refuse making the rent payments contemplated under the Lease Agreement.
11. Further, Defendant is in breach of the Lease Agreement which provides in pertinent part as follows: "The RESIDENT shall use and maintain the premises in good condition, keeping the premises... in such a manner as to not be detrimental... to the operation of the Park for health, safety or aesthetic reasons"... Defendant breached this provision by failing to fix holes in the structure, and heating the Premises with a space heater.
12. Pursuant to law, Defendant has been given notice of the termination of his tenancy on this basis, a true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit C. Notwithstanding receipt, Defendant has failed to remove himself from the premises by July 20, 2021.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST, INC. demands judgment against the Defendant PATRICK LATHBURY as follows:

- (a) For all past due rents, or in the alternative for the reasonable value of lost rentals due to Defendant's failure to make rental payments during their occupancy;
- (b) For a writ of possession in favor of Plaintiff;
- (c) For an order of ejectment of the Defendant and all occupants from the Premises and an order restoring Plaintiff to lawful possession thereof;
- (d) For all costs of court;
- (e) For reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Plaintiff in connection with these proceedings, including attorney's fees; and,
- (f) For all such other and further relief at law or in equity to which Plaintiff may show itself justly entitled.

DATED at Starksboro, Vermont this ____ day of August 2021.

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST, INC.
by DEPPMAN LAW PLC, its attorneys

Lesley B. Deppman, Esq.
2 Park Street, Starksboro, Vermont 05753
Email: ldeppman@midclaw.com • Telephone: (802) 388-6337 • Telefacsimile: (802) 382-8840

2022 SUPER SUNDAY CONTEST

The LA Rams beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 in Sunday's big game. We had a lot of very close guesses in this year's contest so there are FOUR instead of three winners.

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Christina Shaw - American Flatbread Pizza

Jenna will reach out to each winner within the next week to coordinate prize claiming.

Many thanks to our sponsors:

**More PUBLIC NOTICES can be found
on pages 13B and 14B**

community calendar

feb 17 THURSDAY

Great Decisions Lecture Series: "Outer Space" in Middlebury. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m. Eastview at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Terrace. Be a virtual participant in AI Bourdeau's presentation on Outer Space at EastView. Lecture will be conducted in-person (for EV residents) and virtually on Zoom. For Zoom links, call the EastView Concierge at 802-989-7500.

feb 18 FRIDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, Feb. 18, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Spaghetti and meatballs, with marinara and Parmesan cheese, spinach, roll, grapes and milk. Please stay in your car. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Feb. 10, 802-377-1419. For 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.

Knights in Italy walk-up/drive-up spaghetti dinner in Bristol. Friday, Feb. 18, 4:30-6 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. The St. Ambrose Knights of Columbus are host. Menu includes spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Please pull around to the School Street side of the church building, place your order and your meal(s) will be brought out, packaged up for you to bring home. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and \$25 for a family. All proceeds will go toward furthering the Knights' mission of aiding the community in a variety of ways including a donation of winter coats to 5-town schools. No pre-order necessary.

feb 19 SATURDAY

Indoor yard sale benefit in New Haven. Saturday, Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 70 North St. An abundance of treasure. Something for everyone. A well-organized event, with clean, gently used items. All proceeds go to the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation, which provides scholarships to area tech students, supporting area rescue squads, 1st response groups and support to the community. Please wear a mask.

feb 20 SUNDAY

Indoor yard sale benefit in New Haven. Sunday, Feb. 20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 70 North St. See Feb. 19 listing.

feb 23 WEDNESDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Shoreham. Wednesday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.-noon, Halfway House Route 22A. Pick up at back door, meals will be brought out. Chicken and biscuit, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, and dessert. For 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. Call the restaurant to reserve at least 24-hours in advance. 802-897-5160.

feb 24 THURSDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Vergennes. Thursday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m., St Peter's Parish, 85 S. Maple St. Oven friend chicken breast, mashed potatoes, Capri blend vegetables, roll, pumpkin pudding and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Feb. 20, 802-377-1419. For 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.

Great Decisions Lecture Series: "Climate Change" in Middlebury. Thursday, Feb. 24, 2:30 p.m., EastView at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Terrace. Be a virtual participant in Alan Bett's presentation on Climate Change. Lecture will be conducted in-person (for EV residents) and virtually on Zoom. For Zoom links, call the EastView Concierge at 802-989-7500.

feb 25 FRIDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, Feb. 25, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Oven friend chicken breast, mashed potatoes, Capri blend vegetables, roll, pumpkin pudding and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Feb. 20, 802-377-1419. For 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.

feb 26 SATURDAY

4th Annual LEGO contest and exhibit in Vergennes. Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. The Bixby and Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes join forces for the return of their LEGO building competition. Registration for participants ended Feb. 14. More info contact steven@bgcvergenes.org or martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org.

feb 27 SUNDAY

Skating party in Middlebury. Sunday, Feb. 27, noon-2 p.m., Memorial Sports Center, 296 Buttolph Dr. Middlebury College's Sister-to-Sister and Brother-to-Brother programs invite all vaccinated middle schoolers who are over 12 years old to a skating party at the Memorial Sports Center. Proper mask wearing required.

feb 28 MONDAY

Age Well sit-down meal in Middlebury. Monday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m., Rosie's Restaurant, Route 7 South. Doors open at 11 a.m., meal served at 11:30 a.m. Meatloaf dinner and Chef's choice of dessert. Call Michelle to reserve by Feb. 23, 802-377-1419. \$5 suggested donation does not include gratuity. For 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. Masks strongly encouraged unless seated and eating.

mar 1 TUESDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Bridport. Tuesday, March 1, 11 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, 54 Middle Rd. Beef stroganoff over egg noodles, broccoli florets, cauliflower, roll, strawberry shortcake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Feb. 24, 802-377-1419. Open to



Fixin' to fix

THE REPAIR FAIR returns to Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury on Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Register to bring in your broken objects and volunteers will do their best to set them right and teach you how in the process. It's a great way to save money and keep items out of the landfill, like this Kitchenaid mixer repaired back in November 2019 at the first repair fair.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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.

will call you back.

Yoga Philosophy virtual discussion with Prem Prakash. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Zoom. Go to Ilsley Public Library website to register: ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

mar 3 THURSDAY

Great Decisions Lecture Series: "Putin's Russia" in Middlebury. Thursday, March 3, 2:30 p.m., EastView at Middlebury, 100 EastView Terrace. Be a virtual participant in Lisa Chalidze's presentation on Putin's Russia at EastView. Lecture will be conducted in-person (for EV residents) and virtually on Zoom. For Zoom links, call the EastView Concierge at 802-989-7500.

mar 4 FRIDAY

Age Well indoor sit-down special St. Patty's Picnic in Middlebury. Friday, March 4, 11 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Doors open at 11 a.m. for Irish music by O'Hanleigh. Meal will be served at noon of BBQ chicken, O'Brien red potatoes, gourmet blend vegetables, green leaf salad with two dressings, roll, Congo bar and milk. Please bring your own place setting. \$5 Suggested donation collected in advance. Must arrange advance tickets by Sunday, Feb. 27. Call Michelle at 802-377-1419.

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, March 4, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Beef stroganoff over egg noodles, broccoli florets, cauliflower, roll, strawberry shortcake and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Feb. 27, 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.

mar 5 SATURDAY

Repair Fair in Middlebury. Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Don't trash it, repair it. Addison County Solid Waste Management District and the Hannaford Career Center co-host this free community event where members of the community with relevant skills volunteer their time and knowledge to fix broken items. Bring broken objects to the event and engage with the fixers to learn a new skill. All attendees must register for a time slot to bring in their items. More info and registration at AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

Book Sale in Middlebury. Saturday, March 5, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St.

LIVEMUSIC

Nobuntu in Middlebury. Friday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center.

Queens of the Blues, Misty Blues Band in Vergennes. Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House.

Yann Falquet and Keith Murphy in Lincoln. Saturday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall.

Pops Concert in Bristol. Tuesday, March 8, 6-9 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School.

LC Jazz Winter Thaw in Vergennes. *RESCHEDULED FROM FEB. 12* Saturday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House.

ONGOING EVENTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AI-Anon meetings in Middlebury. For a list of online meetings visit vermontanonlateen.org. Online Sundays, 7:15 p.m. and Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. If you'd like to speak to an AI-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an AI-Anon member

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Town Reports are in the mail. You should receive yours this week if your mail is coming regularly. Be patient. Some of our post offices are short staffed and are doing their best to get your mail to you in a timely manner.

Be aware that Town meeting is actually Saturday, Feb. 26, at

10 a.m. via Zoom. There is an informational page on page one of your Town Report. On Tuesday, March 1, Australian Ballot voting will be at the new Town Hall this year, located at 95 Monkton Ridge, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, contact the Town Clerk at 802-453-3800 for information.

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ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Changes would limit lawsuits against farms

By EMMA COTTON
VTDigger.org

Legislators in the state's Senate Committee on Agriculture are discussing a bill that would limit the types of nuisance suits property owners can bring against farms.

It would bring the state's "right to farm" law, which exists in all 50 states, closer to laws in a majority of other states, including Arkansas and Michigan, Michael O'Grady, a lawyer for the Office of Legislative Council, told the committee this month.

If passed, the new law could protect farms against suits such as the one neighbors recently brought against the Vorsteveld farm in Panton. The trial played out in Addison County Superior Court in December and early January, and the judge has not yet issued a decision.

In that case, neighbors allege that a vast amount of runoff flowing from the farm, through their property and into Lake Champlain, is a nuisance and a trespass.

The Hopper family moved to their property after the Vorstevelds had started farming the adjoining land. The runoff, most parties in the case agreed, comes during

rainstorms from tile drains, a technology the farmers installed while the neighbors lived there.

Currently, the nuisance clause in Vermont's right to farm bill states that farms are entitled to "a rebuttable presumption" that the activities on the farm can't be considered a nuisance if the farm conforms to certain conditions.

Those include: The farm complies with state laws, maintains good agricultural practices, was established prior to nearby nonagricultural activities (a neighbor moving in, for example) and hasn't changed significantly since nearby non-farming activities came to exist.

Right to farm laws typically exist to protect farmers from people who "move into a rural area where normal farming operations exist, and who later use nuisance actions to attempt to stop those ongoing operations," according to the National Agricultural Law Center.

The bill, S.268, strengthens protections for farmers. Instead of farmers having a "rebuttable presumption," the new law says a farm "shall not be found to be a public or private nuisance" under

certain conditions.

Those conditions include that a farm existed before a change of occupancy near the farm, the farm is "in good standing with the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets" and the farm had been conducting the activity for at least two years before the nuisance action commenced.

Farms also couldn't be considered a nuisance as a result of a change in ownership or size, a temporary halt to farming activities, enrollment in government programs, adoption of new technology or a change in the farming product, the bill says.

The bill also proposes that the court require landowners who bring nuisance suits to pay for the farmer's legal fees if the suit fails.

A path forward on the bill is unclear. While S.268 is currently under the jurisdiction of the Senate Judiciary Committee, senators in the chamber's Agriculture Committee started the conversation because Sen. Dick Sears, D-Bennington, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, hasn't yet held hearings on it.

Sen. Bobby Starr, D-Essex/Orleans, who chairs the committee, (See Changes, Page 7B)

UVM hires new horticulture program manager

BURLINGTON — Deb Heleba recently joined University of Vermont Extension as the statewide outreach and education program manager for Community Horticulture Programs.

In this role, she leads the Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter programs and helps support more than 500 active volunteers who provide gardening and composting education in their local communities around the state. Heleba brings in-depth experience in online educational programs for adults, public communications and social media, program evaluation and

web management to the program.

"I started my career as a field research technician in the UVM Department of Plant and Soil Science, working in the apple orchards at the UVM Hort Farm," Heleba said. "Over the years, I have dabbled with many aspects of sustainable agriculture in my work with UVM from business development with the Women's Agricultural Network and farm business succession with the Land Link Vermont program to online education for organic dairy farmers for the Northwest Crops and Soils Team.

"After some exciting work on the regional level with

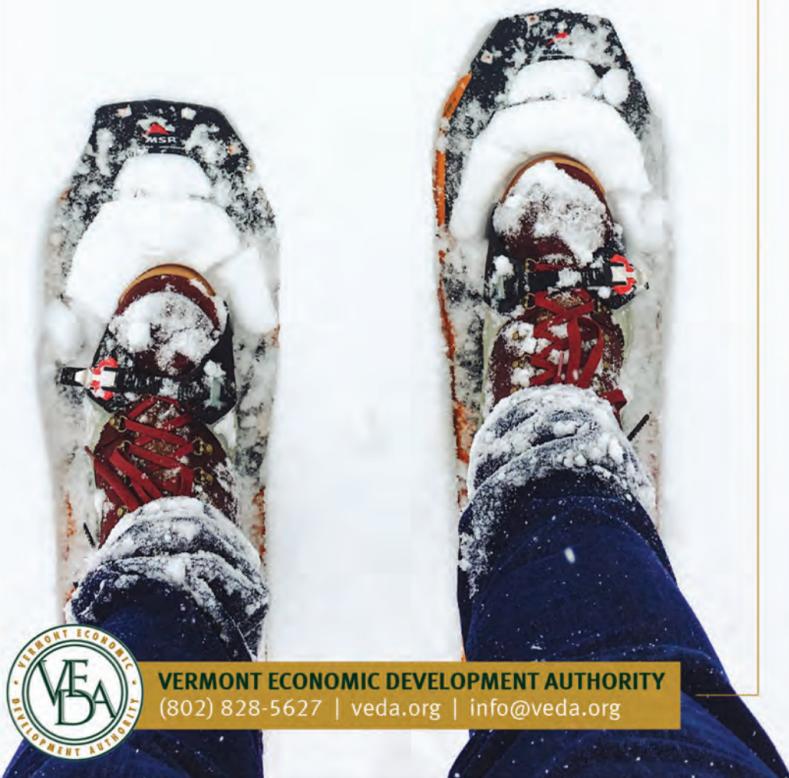
the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research Education program, it feels great to return to UVM Extension to work with our state's Master Gardeners and Composters who are committed to science, education, their communities and the environment."

Heleba grew up in southern Vermont and has a Master of Science degree in community development and applied economics from UVM.

She can be reached at debra.heleba@uvm.edu. To learn more about the Community Horticulture Programs, visit uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener.

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FARMERS OF COMMERCIAL flocks of turkeys, such as the ones shown here, are being urged to take precautions to prevent the fowl from being infected with avian flu that apparently is spreading through some wild birds.

Photo courtesy of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture

Bird Flu found in North America

MONTPELIER — As daylight lengthens, the weather warms and the calendar continues its slow march toward spring, the state of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) and state departments of Fish & Wildlife and Health would like all Vermonters to be on the alert for highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI. The disease can be particularly destructive to poultry farms.

This year, multiple cases of the bird virus have been detected in Canada and multiple U.S. states outside of Vermont involving both domestic flocks and migrant waterfowl. Most recently the virus has been detected in domestic turkeys in Indiana, broiler chickens in Kentucky, wild ducks in New Hampshire, and a backyard flock of mixed species birds in Virginia. It is important to note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to the general public from this HPAI virus to be low. At this time, state officials are able to provide the following guidance.

For the agriculture community and poultry owners:

The HPAI virus is often initially introduced to domestic poultry by infected wild birds, through direct contact or contact with their droppings, and then may spread

between poultry flocks due to poor biosecurity and/or unfavorable environmental conditions. While some waterfowl species can carry the disease without becoming sick, the HPAI virus is generally fatal for domestic poultry. Risk factors for the spread of HPAI include:

- Poultry housed outside
- Ponds or other wild bird attractants on the farm
- Piles of debris located close to poultry areas
- Introduction of poultry from other farms without a quarantine period
- Lack of personal protective equipment such as dedicated coveralls and boots
- Sharing of equipment between farms
- Unrestricted human movement and interaction with poultry

Anyone involved with poultry production, from the small backyard coop to the large commercial producer, should review their biosecurity activities to ensure the health of their birds, restrict human movement onto the farm and limit contact with poultry to only those who NEED to be there. Non-essential personnel and visitors should not be allowed.

USDA has materials about biosecurity, including videos,

checklists, and a toolkit available online at tinyurl.com/YourFlock. In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials, VAAFAM at 802-828-2421 or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593 as soon as possible. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found online at tinyurl.com/AvianHealth.

For the fish and wildlife community:

If you hunt wild fowl during Vermont's available hunting seasons, please keep in mind tips you can read online at tinyurl.com/BirdHuntersFlu.

For Vermonters:

No human infections with this HPAI virus have been detected in the United States, and Vermonters may take steps found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/prevention.htm> to prevent infection. Influenza in poultry does not constitute a food safety risk. Vermonters are asked to be alert for dead or sick birds and alert the USDA or Vermont authorities at 802-828-2421 or through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593 as soon as possible.

Changes

(Continued from Page 6B) has asked Sears to send the bill to Senate Agriculture, but Sears said he may begin taking testimony on the bill in his committee soon, and he could work with the Agriculture Committee to that end.

"It really is properly in the Judiciary Committee," Sears said. In the committee meeting early this month, Starr said farms could need more protection as people move to Vermont in greater numbers, now able to work remotely.

"I think as people move into the rural parts of Vermont, they're going to bump up against our 400, 500 farmers that we've got left," he said. "I think some of these folks are coming from places where they never had to experience living beside a farm."

Sens. Starr, Corey Parent, R-Franklin, and Brian Collamore,

R-Rutland, advocated for pushing ahead with the bill while Sen. Chris Pearson, P/D-Chittenden, and Sen. Anthony Pollina, P/D-Washington, expressed hesitation. The right to farm law was created in 1981, O'Grady said, and was updated in 2003.

"This isn't trying to fix anything," Starr said. "It's just trying to keep a law that's been around for, well, 40-odd years, trying to keep it up to date, and somewhat accurate with the situations that we face now compared to back then."

Rob Woolmington, the attorney who represents the neighbors against the Vorsteveld farm, said he thinks the bill, if passed, would take rights away from Vermont property owners.

In the Vorsteveld case, neighbors turned to the law because enforcement actions from the state

didn't address the impacts to their property, Woolmington said.

"There was some really serious impact on the property — at least that's what they believed, and that's what we think the evidence showed — and agencies were not addressing it," he said.

Woolmington said he doesn't know of many nuisance suits related to Vermont farms. In committee, O'Grady said the law, in its current form, hasn't been used very often.

"My sense is that those lawsuits don't go far because, you know, when you move next to a farm, they are protected by a current law," Pearson told the agriculture committee. "I mean, I'm open to understanding this better. I'm not clear on the problem we're trying to solve."



It's Pet Photo Time again At Paris Farmers Union!

Professional Photographer Gini Haines of Haines Photography will be in the Middlebury, Vermont Paris Farmers Union on **Saturday, February 19th from 9am - 1pm** to take professional photos of your pet!



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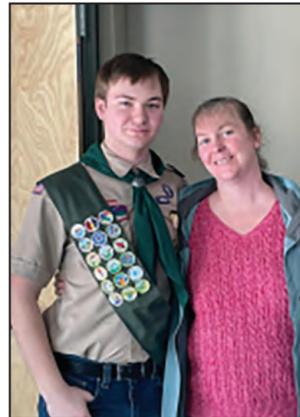
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RICHARD COSGROVE AND MOTHER, HEATHER



ANDREW KACHMAR AND MOTHER, SAMANTHA

Vergennes boys receive their Eagle Scout ranking

VERGENNES — Andrew Kachmar and Richard Cosgrove, both seniors of Vergennes Union High School and members of Vergennes Scout Troop 539, reached Scouts BSA's highest rank: Eagle Scout. Kachmar passed his Eagle Scout board of review on Jan. 9, and Cosgrove on Feb. 13.

These youth have been involved in Scouting in the Vergennes area since first grade. In striving to reach this rank, both youth had to complete a minimum requirement of achieving 21 merit badges. 11 of the 21 have minimum requirements such as first aid, personal finance, cooking, citizenship requirements, and personal fitness to name a few. In addition, each Scout had to complete a community service project that was to benefit a non-profit organization.

Kachmar's project included painting and building maintenance at the Dodge House in Rutland, Vt. The Dodge House is an outreach organization that supports homeless military veterans and helps them transition to longer-term housing. "I have family that served in the military and I myself joined the VT Army National Guard in 2020," he said. "It makes me feel good to know that I am able to do something to support the veterans that support us every day. They sacrificed and served,

it's only right that we give back to them."

Cosgrove chose to support his church and the Vergennes community by holding bingo fundraisers to help purchase Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AED's) for the St. Peter's Parish Hall in Vergennes. "My family is very active with the church and with the Parish Hall being used for many functions across the community, it seemed that having this emergency medical equipment on site was important," he said. "I hope it never needs to be used, but if so, I'm glad I was able to help make sure it was available."

Kachmar and Cosgrove now join a long list of Eagle Scouts to come out of the Vergennes Troop in the last few years.

Vergennes Troop 539 has produced 10 Eagle Scouts since 2019 and hopes to see four to five more within the next 12 months. "The Vergennes Troop, its leaders and Scouts are one of the largest units in the state," said Assistant Scoutmaster and District Committee Chair Shawn Therrien. "They remain active even through COVID-19 and are a strong example of what we want Scouting to be: Strong volunteer leadership, engaged youth, and strong ties to the community."

Presidential Scholars named at MUHS

MIDDLEBURY — Five members of the Middlebury Union High School Class of 2022, Viviana Hammond, Zoe Noble, Astrid Olsen, Henry Carpenter, and Quinn Davignon, have been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholar program. The program was founded in 1964 by President Johnson to honor students who have distinguished themselves in the classroom and in their communities.

There are approximately 3.6 million students in the Class of 2022 nationwide and 2,600 students were selected for this recognition, five of whom are current seniors at MUHS.

Students are identified for the Presidential Scholars program by the strength of their academic achievement, artistic contributions, and community involvement. Additionally, some students are considered based on the results of their standardized testing results. Each student, if they wish to further the process of participating in the Presidential Scholars program,



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL seniors Viviana Hammond, left, Zoe Noble, Astrid Olsen, Henry Carpenter, and Quinn Davignon have been selected by the U.S. Department of Education as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholar program.

Photo courtesy of Middlebury Union High School

will submit an application, essay, and supporting academic materials.

Approximately 500 students

from across the country will be named as semi-finalists and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars will select

up to 121 Academic Scholars, each of whom is invited to a national recognition ceremony in Washington, DC in June.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Valentine's Day is soon approaching and this year the library will be showcasing non-fiction books. There are so many great books in the non-fiction section, from cookbooks, craft books, travel books, self help, and economics, to real life thrillers, memoirs, essays, poetry and history. There really is something for everyone, including in the kids section, where there are wonderful books about our world, our bodies, animals, trucks, dinosaurs and more!

While celebrating all things

non-fiction, there are two ways to earn a chocolate heart. Everyone who checks out a non-fiction book receives a chocolate heart (one per person). There will also be paper hearts hidden on the shelves in non-fiction sections of the library. Once you find the paper heart, you can turn that into a real chocolate heart (one per person). Have fun reading non-fiction while enjoying chocolate.

The library is offering two heart themed Take and Make craft packets this week and another one in two weeks. Make sure to stop by the library to grab yours.

The Lincoln Cooperative Preschool (LCP) is a delightful place for children ages 3-5 to begin their school years. As a member of a cooperative preschool, you and your family are partnering in your child's experience. LCSP provides a loving atmosphere where children are valued, safe, nurtured and respected. If you'd like to enroll at LCP for the 2022-2023 school year, please find enrollment documents online at lincolnpreschool.org/application.html. Applications are due back to LCP by Friday, March 4 for new families. Please feel free

to email or call the preschool at preschool@gmavt.net or 802-453-3113 with any questions about the enrollment process, universal pre-k, the preschool curriculum and cooperative structure.

SAVE THE DATE: Winter break for MAUSD students will be Feb. 21 through Feb. 25.

Until next time...Always Remember That Your Present Situation Isn't Your Final Destination. Inhale Confidence Exhale Doubt. If You Change The Way You Look At Things, The Things You Look At Change.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Amanda Kearns

Amanda Kearns, the daughter of Sarah and David Kearns of Middlebury, is the latest Student of the Week at Middlebury Union High School. Her brother Devon attends the University of Vermont. She will graduate in June and expects to complete several International Baccalaureate certificates.

Amanda loves the performing arts and has been actively involved in each of the MUHS theatrical productions since her ninth-grade year. She is looking forward to the senior play, "Footloose," which will be staged this spring. Reflecting on her time at MUHS, Amanda says a personal highlight has been her enrollment in Addison Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at the Hannaford Career Center, which has allowed her to focus on her love of theater. She credits Eric St. John, her teacher, as being a true mentor and inspiration, and the curriculum for exposing her to so many aspects of theater. She's enjoyed it all and, by the time she graduates, she will have had exposure to technical skills, lighting, script writing, directing and performance in a wide range of shows. Amanda describes A.R.T. as "one big family." Additionally, Amanda has participated in Town Hall Theater's Young Company focusing on classical pieces and character development. She has been connected to the Town Hall Theater's programming since she was in the first grade.

Music is an important part of Amanda's life and she has played the trumpet for nine years. She is in the school band and Midd Jazz and has enjoyed her participation in the Discover Jazz Festival in Burlington on the Church Street Marketplace. She loved the trip to New York City in 9th grade to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the school's marching band.

Additionally, Amanda has studied dance, having started at Midd Kid Dance Studio before moving on to the Middlebury Dance Center. She serves as the Co-Captain of the varsity dance team at MUHS. She rounds out her busy schedule between school and extracurricular activities with a part-time job at Tourterelle in New Haven where she serves as a runner in the busy restaurant.

Amanda seeks to pursue a BFA in Musical Theater in college and has submitted her applications and looks forward to what lies ahead. Given her myriad of talents, everyone at MUHS knows that a bright future awaits!



Amanda Kearns MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Alex Rice

Alex Rice of Vergennes is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. She is the daughter of Amy Rice and Eric Rice.

Alex has been in Addison Repertory Theater at Hannaford Career Center since her junior year. She says the program has helped her grow her knowledge of theater arts, and gain confidence in herself and her communication skills — good assets to have in every aspect of life. She calls A.R.T. her gang. "We are all different outside of theater, but once we come together we connect so well," she says. She and her peers are in production for Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," which they will be performing in early March.

Working as a stage manager for the VUHS musical her freshman year was the inspiration for her interest in theater. She has been stage manager or a crew member in most all of the VUHS productions during her tenure. Alex is also on the VUHS math team, is doing the yearbook this year, and has been on the rowing team, which she loves, since 7th grade.

Alex has worked for Olsen's Ice Cream in Vergennes and as a summer intern at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, where she helped with productions of "Newsies" and "Servant of Two Masters." She says she made some amazing connections during her internship. She now works at THT running films and helping out wherever she can. She has done productions with Middlebury College, Middlebury Acting Company, The Opera Company of Middlebury and Middlebury Town Hall Theater. She says she's having a great time there and is sad she can't stay there forever.

Outside of school, Alex is either at a rehearsal for a show, or skiing. While theater takes up most of her time, when she is skiing Alex can get "lost in the woods," decompressing and breaking away from all of the stress from school, work and rehearsals.

Her high school experience has taught Alex to make sure to have fun, not only in school, but everywhere. "It's not all about being perfect and doing the best. Do what you want and enjoy," she says.

Alex plans to pursue a B.F.A. in Stage Management with a minor in Lighting Design. Her dream would be to work, in any form, on a Broadway show. She is well on her way to achieving that goal. Everyone at VUHS looks forward to seeing her succeed.



Alex Rice VUHS

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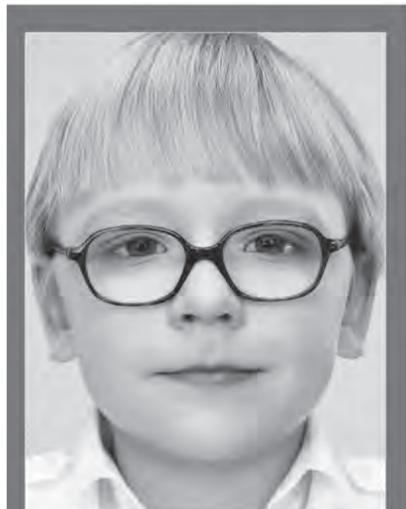
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CLASSIFIEDS

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| <p>Notices</p> <p>THE TOWN OF Middlebury seeks proposals for treating and restoring eight historic exterior windows, three historic interior windows, and two interior entry doors with hinged transoms at Ilsley Public Library. Proposals will be received at Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St., Middlebury, Vermont 05753 by Friday, April 1, 2022 and will be publicly opened and read aloud soon thereafter. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24th at 10:00 am at the Ilsley Public Library. A full copy of the Request for Proposals may be obtained, without charge, at the Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St., Middlebury, Vermont 05753, 802-388-4098.</p> | <p>Public Meetings</p> <p>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 for Zoom and in-person meeting information.</p> | <p>Public Meetings</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Free</p> <p>DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!</p> <p>FREE CAMP WOOD. You haul away. Monday - Wednesday pick up. 453-2897.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>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. EOE.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>CAREGIVER FOR: week-end care of kind, elderly man with short-term memory loss in Bristol Village. Simple meal prep, companionship, engagement. Any or all of 8:00-10:00 AM; 11:30AM-1:30 PM, 4:30-7:30 PM Saturdays and Sundays. \$15-\$20/hr depending on experience. If interested, please contact lindahansondesign@gmail.com or bethynp@gmail.com.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>MAUSD BRISTOL • LINCOLN • MONKTON • NEW HAVEN • STARKSBORO</p> <p>Custodian & Maintenance/Utility</p> <p>Mount Abraham Unified School District in Bristol, Vermont is seeking individuals to join our custodial/maintenance team to help create a clean, safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff.</p> <p>MAUSD offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Apply at schoolspring.com or in person at 72 Munsill Avenue, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443</p> <p>Equal Opportunity Employer</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Nursery and Greenhouse Sales and Care Associate</p> <p>Middlebury Agway is seeking a highly motivated individual to assist in our Nursery and Greenhouse during our busy season. The main focus of this position will be on sales, customer service, care and display of all plant material inventory. Knowledge of Trees, Shrubs, a wide variety of plants and garden/landscape design. We're looking for someone to pleasantly and confidently interact with customers in a demanding, fast paced environment. Full Time or Part Time candidates will be considered but weekend availability is required. Multiple positions available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to lift and assist in loading and unloading of plant material and in the store. • Knowledge of Growing/Caring for/Harvesting: Vegetables, Annuals, Perennials, Trees and Shrubs • Excellent Customer Service Skills a must plus ability to recommend and sell plant material as well as complementary products • Must be available to work weekends • Team oriented, co-operative and a positive attitude required. <p>Please send Resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or fill out Application at Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury.</p> <p>Middlebury Agway • 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> |
| <p>Public Meetings</p> <p>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 vermont-alanonalateen.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.</p> | <p>Public Meetings</p> | <p>Services</p> <p>CH DRYWALL and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 11B, and 12B.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>MAPLEFIELDS Looking for work in your hometown?</p> <p>We offer medical, dental, paid vacation, personal time, sick time and 401K for full time positions.</p> <p>ALL ADDISON COUNTY LOCATIONS CURRENTLY HIRING!</p> <p>For openings and to apply, visit Maplefields.com</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> |
| <p>Public Meetings</p> <p>ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are suspended until further notice. For a list of local virtual meetings visit http://bit.ly/district9aa. For more information visit https://aa.vt.org/ or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-388-9284.</p> <p>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/.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> <p>WE BUY OLD STUFF Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE CLASSROOM SUPPORT ADDISON COUNTY EARLY LEARNING</p> <p>Head Start is a federally-funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families. Services for children promote school readiness, and include early education, health, nutrition, mental health, and services for children with special needs. Services for parents promote family engagement, and include parent leadership and social service supports. As a CVHS long term classroom support, you will work in an outcomes-oriented, team environment, supporting a Toddler classroom for 15 hours per week at an agreed upon schedule providing individualized support to specific children and or the classroom teaching team.</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS High school diploma; 1-3 years related experience, or a combination of education and experience from which comparable knowledge and skills are acquired; a commitment to social justice and to working with families with limited financial resources; effective verbal and written communication (bilingual abilities a plus!), documentation, and record-keeping skills; valid driver's license, clean driving record and access to reliable transportation; physical ability to carry out required tasks, and a can-do, extra-mile attitude.</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 15 hours/week, February to June \$18.00 /hour.</p> <p>Please apply at www.cvoeo.org/careers and include a cover letter, resume, and three work references.</p> <p>CHAMPLAIN VALLEY Head Start cvoeo Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity</p> <p>THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> | <p>Help Wanted</p> |

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RSVP Volunteer Spotlight: Judy Sperry Gibbs



In 2006, a devoted group of volunteers worked to get HomeShare Vermont services up and running in Addison County. Shortly thereafter, Judy Sperry Gibbs got involved as a Staff Volunteer with the program. She proved to have the perfect skill set for interviewing Homeshare Hosts interested in sharing their homes, as well as Guests hoping to find housing and provide help to a Host. As a Staff Volunteer, Judy enjoyed the team effort, working with other volunteers and HomeShare staff to make just the right homesharing matches. Judy says, "I think my combination of being a registered nurse and a realtor was helpful. I knew my way around the county well! I loved meeting the people and trying to help them." Judy's thoughtful and direct personality—combined with her dedication to fitting volunteering into her busy schedule—made her truly invaluable to HomeShare Vermont. Judy is now retiring from this role, but you'll still see her volunteering at Neat Repeats. Volunteers are a big reason HomeShare Vermont is a strong organization. Thank you, Judy, for the time and energy you have shared for so many years!

HomeShare Vermont is looking for new folks to join them in the role of Staff Volunteers. Many of their best volunteers have been retired social workers, nurses, teachers, and guidance counselors. **If you have a few hours each month and enjoy helping others, please visit homesharevermont.org!**



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Help Wanted

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Join the Shelburne Farms Cheese Team!

Ship award-winning cheese alongside amazing people!

Learn more about the Order Fulfillment Coordinator position at Shelburnefarms.org

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

For Sale

Engaging minds that change the world

Office/Program Support Generalist

Provide administrative support in the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science, including management of Chair calendar, coordinating course schedules for five academic programs, faculty recruitments and a variety of departmental and programmatic events. Includes general office support to faculty and students. Associate's Degree and 1-2 years' experience, or equivalent relevant experience. The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal.

To apply, please visit: www.uvmjobs.com (Posting #S3079PO)

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any category legally protected by federal or state law.

GENERAC STANDBY GENERATORS provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-855-516-3651

For Rent

BRANDON: Senior woman who enjoys country music & Antique Road Show, seeking housemate to do occas. cooking, errands & light snow removal. \$300 + internet. A pet would be considered! Shared BA. 802-863-5625 or homeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, background checks req. EHO

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT ANTICIPATED VACANCIES 2022-2023

7-12 DIGITAL ARTS TEACHER
The Slate Valley School District is seeking a 7-12 Digital Arts Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. A Vermont teaching license with an endorsement in Art and/or computer science preferred.

WORKPLACE & ENTREPRENEURSHIP TEACHER

Fair Haven Union High School is seeking qualified candidates to lead Workplace Learning and Entrepreneurship for the 2022-2023 school year. A Vermont teaching license with an endorsement in Work Based Learning Coordinator (60) is preferred. The school serves students in Grades 9-12.

STUDENT SUPPORT COACH

Student Support Coach needed at Fair Haven Middle & High Schools to help manage the In-School Restoration room.

For more information, please contact Ben Worthing, Principal at bworthing@svuvt.org 802-265-4966.

All applicants must apply on www.SchoolSpring.com. The above position will remain open until filled.
EOE

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL MUHS COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union High School is seeking the following spring coaches:

Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach
Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Coach
JV Girls' Softball Coach

Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:

Sean Farrell/Athletic Director
Middlebury Union Middle School
73 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until the positions have been filled.
E.O.E.

WATER PLANT OPERATOR

Tri Town Water District provides and maintains the drinking water system for the towns of Addison, Bridport, and Shoreham. We currently have a full time Plant Operator position available.

Candidates for this position should have basic plumbing and electrical skills. You must also be proficient in high school math and have basic computer skills. This position also performs general maintenance of buildings and property. Employment does require sharing on-call duties and that you have a valid Drivers' License. Competitive wages and benefits package including Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement, medical and paid time off.

Send resume to: **Darwin Pratt, Tri-Town Water District No. 1, P.O. Box 85, Bridport, VT 05734 or email to: tritownwater@gmavt.net.**

Help Wanted

Ready for a RACE?

We're seeking a meticulously organized, energetic and positive individual to be the Race Director for the Middlebury Maple Run.

Part time position starting in April and ramping up until race day in early October.

Be a part of a dedicated team working to keep this event thriving in downtown Middlebury.

To apply, email Christy Lynn at christy@addisonindependent.com with a letter of interest and resume.



Help Wanted

FAIR HAVEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL COACHING VACANCY - SPRING 2022

JV BASEBALL COACH

Fair Haven Union High School is looking for an experienced, dynamic coach for our JV Baseball program starting Spring of 2022. For additional information, contact Kimberly Alexander, Athletic Director at 802-265-4966 or kalexander@svuvt.org

All applicants must apply on www.schoolspring.com

Position will remain open until filled.
EOE

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT SERVICES COACH

Castleton Elementary School is seeking an instructional assistant to assist our Social Emotional Interventionist.

This position will work directly with students focusing on social and emotional needs as well as behavior intervention. For additional information, contact Kim Prehoda at kprehoda@svuvt.org

All applicants must apply on www.SchoolSpring.com.

Position will remain open until filled
EOE

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT VACANCY ANTICIPATED ELEMENTARY TEACHER 2022-2023

Slate Valley School District is seeking an Anticipated Elementary School Teacher at the Fair Haven Grade School beginning 2022-2023 school year.

Must meet Vermont State Teacher Licensing requirements. For additional information, contact Deb Infurna, Principal at 802-265-3883 or dinfurna@svuvt.org

All applicants must apply on www.SchoolSpring.com

Position will remain open until filled
EOE

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



We are proud of our reputation for quality, reliability, and service that we have earned over the years, and are confident in our continued commitment to provide the best quality concrete products, delivered and erected on time, and to meet the most demanding construction schedules.

Laborer - Precast Concrete Location: Middlebury, VT

- ESSENTIAL DUTIES:**
- Performing manual work in preparing surfaces.
 - Placing cables, steel, and then concrete into precast forms.
 - Leveling the top of the concrete using a flat tool and straightedge.
 - Maintain a clean job site each day in order to eliminate potential hazards.
 - Material handling and storage, including cutting pieces.
 - Load and unload trucks and haul and hoist materials using various hand and powered lifting machines.

- REQUIREMENTS:**
- Some knowledge of proper use of equipment, materials and supplies used in construction work.
 - Ability to work independently and complete daily activities according to work schedule.
 - Ability to lift heavy objects, walk and stand for long periods of time and perform strenuous physical labor.
 - Ability to meet attendance schedule with dependability and consistency.

Our benefit package includes: Health Insurance/Dental/Vision/Paid Vacation/401(k) and Profit Sharing Retirement Plan/STD/Life Insurance.

Please submit resume: Lynn/ HR Manager at lynn@jpcarrara.com or download an application from our website at www.jpcarrara.com and fax to (802) 775-1048.
Equal Opportunity Employer

The Town of Starksboro is searching for a full-time road crew member. Under the direction of the Road Foreman, this position is one that implements all municipal highway operations in order to advance the safe and effective functioning of the Starksboro road system, including municipal construction projects and maintenance of municipal roads, sidewalks, vehicles, and equipment. The full job description and required application form is available at www.starksborovt.org. Must live or be willing to relocate to within reasonable distance of Starksboro. Full benefit package offered as outlined in the town's personnel policy.

Submit applications to the Starksboro Selectboard c/o Rebecca Elder at PO Box 91, Starksboro, VT 05487 or email to rebecca@starksborovt.org

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE

Full-Time CSR/Dispatcher

Immediate on-site office position
M-Fr 8-5

Are you willing to work in a fast-paced environment, individually or with a team of people? Are you a problem solver, multi-tasker, and great listener who has strong computer skills?

Daily interactions with customers, answering phone, order taking, data entry, invoicing, filing, scheduling deliveries.

Send resume to:
Vermont Natural Ag Products, Inc.
297 Lower Foote Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
Fax: 802-388-1135
tfmoodoo@sover.net

For Rent

It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing



It's 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.

IMAGINE...

Going to work every day and knowing that YOU are helping businesses grow. YOU are helping sustain your local newspaper. YOU are contributing to a community where people are informed and connected to what's going on around them.

INSPIRED?

The Addy Indy is actively hiring dynamic individuals to join our marketing team.

Contact Christy at christy@addisonindependent.com to learn more.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, Vt. Since 1946

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

EAST MIDDLEBURY furnished room. All included; fully equipped kitchen, wi-fi, w/d, parking, all utilities. Private entrance. Share kitchen, share bath with one other tenant. Clean, quiet, safe. \$500 per month. Text Sue 802-989-8941.

MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

FOR RENT: Private upstairs apartment in sweet home in Bristol Village for quiet tenant. Elderly man with short-term memory loss lives downstairs with daytime caregivers. Apartment includes bedroom w/large closet, bath, kitchenette, large sitting/living room; downstairs kitchen use negotiable. \$1050 includes electric, heat, fiber optic wifi, GMAVvideo. If interested, please email lindahan-sondesign@gmail.com or bethynp@gmail.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

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.

Want to Rent

WANT TO RENT: Single male, non smoker, seeking quiet reasonably priced apartment within commuting distance from Middlebury. My current rental has been 8 years and 20 years at current employer. No Pets. \$1200. range. Utilities included? Hope to move by March or April but have until June. References provided. Thanks! email: pauljoec@gmail.com .

Want to Rent

WANTED TO RENT seeking a summer rental on Lake Dunmore to accommodate 4 adults and 2 teens the week of July 30th-August 6th. We are visiting for a family reunion. Please contact Nancy 617.645-7690.

Att. Farmers

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line.

SMALL SQUARE BALES \$3.50. Excellent round bales \$30.00. Call 802-377-5455.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Wanted

OLD & USED GUNS WANTED



Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns
Top prices paid.
P: 802-775-2859
C: 802-236-7213

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.



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 2/3 & 2/7, 2022

| BEEF | LBS. | LB | \$ |
|-------------|------|-----|---------|
| Ethan Allen | 1885 | 305 | 1705.93 |
| McCleughlin | 1891 | 285 | 1631.55 |
| Vorstveid | 1575 | 165 | 1570.50 |
| Deer Valley | 1590 | 30 | 1590.30 |
| Vorstveid | 1570 | 97 | 1435.50 |
| Correa | 1550 | 79 | 1440.75 |
| Conaris | 1570 | 79 | 1440.75 |
| Gosliga | 1311 | 75 | 1311.75 |

Updated market report next week!

| CALVES | LBS. | LB | \$ |
|---------------|------|------|--------|
| A. Brisson | 113 | 250 | 292.50 |
| Quarry Rd | 126 | 2525 | 318.15 |
| Pinello Farm | 96 | 240 | 228 |
| DeFreest Farm | 112 | 220 | 246.40 |
| Barnes Bros | 99 | 220 | 217.80 |

Total # Beef: 170 Total # Calves: 278
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Page 4B, 13B and 14B.**

- Addison County Courthouse (1)
- Addison County School District (2)
- Bristol (1)
- Hannaford Career Center (1)
- Lincoln (1)
- Middlebury (6)
- Middlebury Cemetary Association (1)
- New Haven (1)
- Ripton (1)
- Shoreham (1)
- Vergennes (1)

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 VSA §4464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Clerk's Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

1. A variance request by Terri Lyons Permit # DRB-2022-02-SD per New Haven Zoning Bylaws Section 342 related to minor subdivision located at 956 South Street.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Clerk's office or by remote:
<https://meet.goto.com/986465469>
access code: 986-465-469

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing the zoning administrator at: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours, or on the Town's website: <https://www.newhavenvt.com/>

New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516

TOWN OF SHOREHAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office to consider a request for a waiver of setbacks of application (#22-022) in accordance with provisions of the Town Zoning Regulations. The project involves construction of an attached 3-bay garage onto an existing single family home at 146 Kerrfield Drive. The applicant (Darren and Molly Kerr) requests a waiver of rear yard setback on an existing non-conforming lot. The application is available at the Town Office for review, by appointment only. Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

Attendees are expected to comply with current State of Vermont guidance regarding the Executive Order No. 01-20, Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19, including maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet with others, and wearing a facial covering.

For those who prefer to attend the meeting remotely either by videoconference or by phone, please contact the Town Office or email johnk.zbashoreham@gmail.com prior to 4 p.m. on the date prior to the hearing (March 2, 2022) to obtain a web conference link or phone number to call-in.
John Kiernan, Chair

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

The following tax rate information is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Town of Middlebury's Charter. Tax rates are per \$100 of assessed property value.

| MUNICIPAL TAX RATE | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | FY22 | FY23 Estimated* | |
| General Fund | \$0.7757 | \$ 0.8057 | |
| Voted Exemptions (Veterans) | \$0.0012 | \$ 0.0012 | |
| Fire Equipment Fund | \$0.0200 | \$ 0.0200 | |
| Total Municipal | \$0.7969 | \$ 0.8269 | |
| Amount to be Raised ¹ | \$ 7,571,924 | \$ 7,881,063 | |
| Grand List ² | \$ 9,761,785 | \$ 9,781,785 | |
| EDUCATION TAX RATE | | | |
| | FY22 | FY23 Estimated* | |
| Residential Education Tax Rate ³ | \$1.6485 | \$ 1.660 | |
| Non-Residential Education Tax Rate ³ | \$ 1.6120 | \$ 1.482 | |

¹ FY23 tax rates are estimated. The final tax rate and resulting tax bills will be affected by the budget and other decision items voted at Town & School Annual Meetings.

² Property tax rates are applied per \$100 of property valuation; therefore, the FY23 estimated full and fair cash value of taxable real property, \$978,178,500, is divided by \$100 to determine the Town's Grand List, \$9,781,785.

³ Education Tax Rates provided Addison Central School District Business Office

TOWN OF BRISTOL

Bristol FY2021 Town Report Available for the March 1, 2022 Town Meeting

The Bristol FY2021 Annual Town Report is available to be picked up or reviewed at the Bristol Town Office, at the Bristol Post Office, and on the Bristol Web site at www.bristolvt.org.

This year's Town Meeting and annual Police District Meeting will be by Australian ballot only on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 7:00am to 7:00pm, upstairs at Holley Hall. Absentee ballots may be obtained by calling the Town Office at (802) 453-2410 ext. 5, by visiting the Town Office Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 4:30pm, or by requesting one online through the My Voter Page on the Secretary State's Web site: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Absentee ballots must be returned and received by 7:00pm, Tuesday, March 1, so be sure to leave enough time if requesting or returning ballots by mail. Absentee ballots may be dropped off at the Town Office after hours in the special Absentee Ballot Drop Box.

Public information meetings will be held by the Selectboard via Zoom on Mondays, February 21 and February 28, 2022, starting at 6:30pm for the Police District review and at 7:00pm for the Town Meeting review and discussion about matters on the Annual Town Meeting warning.

Same log in for both Zoom meetings:

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday, February 21, 2022, 6:30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912810018 Meeting ID: 879 1281 0018 Passcode: 619003 Phone in: 1 (646) 558-8656 | Monday, February 28, 2022, 6:30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912810018 Meeting ID: 879 1281 0018 Passcode: 619003 Phone in: 1 (646) 558-8656 |
|--|--|

Questions? Contact Town Clerk Sharon Lucia at (802) 453-2410 ext. 5 or clerk@bristolvt.org.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY (OWNER) 77 MAIN STREET, MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of: Reclamation & Paving Project for Leno Lane, Kings Row, and North Branch Road will be received by The Town of Middlebury, Public Works Department at: **1020 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753 - PREFERRED**, or by mailing to the Public Works Department at 77 Main Street until **9:15 am** (prevailing local time) on Monday, **February 28, 2022**, and then at said office 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:
Town of Middlebury, Public Works Offices, 1020 Route 7 South, 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 Landmark Engineering & Design, LLC., located at 25 Star Point Terrace, Middlebury, VT 05753 upon a non-refundable payment of \$50.00 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.
A pre-bid conference for prospective bidders will be held at the Department of Public Works, located at: **1020 Route 7 South in Middlebury, at 9:15 a.m. on February 22, 2022.**

Representatives of Landmark Engineering & Design, LLC. and the Town of Middlebury will be present to answer questions from bidders and discuss participation requirements.
February 14, 2022
Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager

NOTICE TO VERGENNES VOTERS NOTICE OF BOND INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND BOND VOTE

The qualified voters of the City of Vergennes are hereby warned and notified that an informational meeting and bond vote will be held to consider indebtedness for the purposes of upgrading the City wastewater treatment facility and sewer sanitary collection system. The bond informational meeting and bond vote will be held in conjunction with the Annual City Meeting.

The following question will be voted on by Australian Ballot at the Annual City Election Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at the Vergennes Fire Station located at 50 Green Street. The polls will open at 9 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.:

Article 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the City of Vergennes in an amount not to exceed Twenty-Five Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$25,500,000), which authorized amount shall be reduced by state and federal grants-in-aid estimated at eight million to thirteen million dollars received by the City for the improvements, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of improvements to the City's wastewater collection system and treatment facility, the estimated cost of such improvements being Twenty-Five Million Five Hundred Thousand dollars (\$25,500,000)?

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE VERGENNES OPERA HOUSE LOCATED AT 120 MAIN STREET IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL CITY MEETING. THE MEETING CAN BE ACCESSED VIA ZOOM USING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/561577976>
Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 561 577 976
Meeting Password: 1234

VISIT CITY WEBSITE: WWW.VERGENNES.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY 77 MAIN STREET, MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753

Invitation for Bids / Instructions to Bidders

You are hereby invited to submit a bid proposal for the implementation of **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY TEEN CENTER ECM UPGRADES**. The building is located between the tennis courts and the baseball diamond in The Town of Middlebury Recreation Park, 77 Mary Hogan Drive, Middlebury VT 05753.

Bid Proposal Forms

Your complete and inclusive bid will be received BY 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2022.

- via mail to Bill Kernan at Middlebury Department of Public Works, 1020 Route 7 South, Middlebury VT 05753 - OR -
- Via email to bkernan@townofmiddlebury.org Cc to judith@harrisandharrisvt.com

All technical questions are to be addressed to the designated Bid Document Contact: Judith B. Harris

Harris & Harris Consulting, Inc.
Phone: 802.922.1321
156 Beaver Meadow Brook
Lincoln, VT 05443-8701
judith@harrisandharrisvt.com

All proposals shall stand available for acceptance for a period of sixty (60) days from the date received. Submit all bids only on the forms provided herein, in accordance with bid packages as issued. Voluntary alternates for value engineering and cost and/or time savings are welcomed. Please list these alternates, separately on your letterhead.

PROJECT NAME: Middlebury Teen Center ECM Upgrades
SUBMITTER'S INFO: NAME & ADDRESS OF BIDDER
NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS
OF APPROPRIATE CONTACT

Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Final selection will be made by the Owner's project team. The project team reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bids or bidding, and to accept the one responsive and responsible Bid that in its judgment will be best for the project.

Information for Bidders, Specifications and Bid Forms may be obtained free of charge at the Municipal Building at 77 Main Street, the Department of Public Works at 1020 Route 7 South or on the Town's webpage at http://www.townofmiddlebury.org/town_notices/. Questions may be addressed to Patti Kirby via email at pkirby@townofmiddlebury.org or by phone at (802) 388-4045.

DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

Email your Letter to the Editor to: news@addisonindependent.com

WARNING

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 1, 2022

Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 1, 2022 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

| District | Location | Polling Hours |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| Bridport | Bridport Community/Masonic Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Cornwall | Cornwall Town Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Middlebury | Middlebury Recreation Center/Gym 154 Creek Road | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Ripton | Ripton Community House | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Salisbury | Salisbury Town Office | 8:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Shoreham | Shoreham Town Office | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Weybridge | Weybridge Town Clerk's Office | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of the Addison Central School District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District (ACSD) vote to authorize the ACSD School Board to expend \$41,578,089 which is the amount the ACSD School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$20,076.16 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.1% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District (ACSD) vote to authorize the ACSD School Board to appropriate \$2,323,099 the FY2021 Unassigned Fund Balance (estimated at \$2,323,099) to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 4: To elect five (5) school directors from the nominees to serve on the Addison Central School District Board for the following terms:
Three (3) who are residents of Middlebury for a three-year term.
One (1) who is a resident of Ripton for a three-year term.
One (1) who is a resident of Weybridge for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 5: To elect the following school district officers from the nominees for a one-year term:
a) Moderator b) Treasurer c) Clerk

Ballots shall be commingled and counted at Middlebury Union High School by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the member town school districts under the supervision of the District Clerk of the Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk, Addison Central School District
Mary Cullinane, Chair, Addison Central School District

MIDDLEBURY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Middlebury Cemetery Association will be held at the offices of Langrock, Sperry & Wool, 111 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 5pm.



For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

facebook.com/addisonindependent
twitter.com/addyindy

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

WARNING ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Member Towns are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge
The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby notified of the Public Information Hearing on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM, to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Virtual connection details may be found on the ACSD website: <https://www.acsdvt.org>

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk, Addison Central School District
Mary Cullinane, Chair, Addison Central School District

The Addison Central School District Annual Report and FY23 Budget Book will be available in the following manner: <http://www.acsdvt.org/domain/30> (Departments/Finance) or call 802-382-1274 to request a copy.

Public Notices Index

Can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Page 4B, 13B and 14B.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT WARNING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING February 28 and March 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury, in the County of Addison, the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 1 through 5 on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M. at the Recreation Center, 154 Creek Road in Middlebury, as provided by the Middlebury Town Charter and by Senate Bill 172 (Act 77), signed into law by the Governor on January 14, 2022, which, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, temporarily allows a municipality to apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its Town Meetings.

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury are further notified that the Middlebury Selectboard will hold an informational meeting on Articles 1 through 5 on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room of the Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street in Middlebury and via Zoom

- Article 1 Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote to adopt the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) in the amount of \$11,927,483 with a portion thereof in the amount of \$7,881,063 to be raised by taxes and \$731,632 to be allocated from annual local option tax receipts in excess of debt and maintenance requirements of the Cross Street Bridge to offset spending for Capital Improvements?
- Article 2 Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote to collect taxes on real property for fiscal year 2022/2023 in THREE equal installments due in the Treasurer's Office on the 15th day of August 2022, the 15th day of November 2022 and the 15th day of March 2023?
- Article 3 Shall the Town of Middlebury vote to exempt the real property of the Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services, Inc. from taxation for a period of five years commencing April 1, 2022?
- Article 4 Shall the Town appropriate \$750 to Addison Allies Network, Inc., so that it can continue its work to assist migrant farm workers and immigrants living and working in the county in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691?
- Article 5 To elect officers as required by the Middlebury Town Charter.

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Brian Carpenter, Chair, Heather Seeley, Vice Chair, Nick Artim Farhad Khan, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Dan Brown, Esther Thomas
MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

Accessing the Informational Meeting

You may participate in the meeting either in-person or via Zoom.

To view and participate in the Selectboard meeting: Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88633344181>
By phone: +1 646 558 8656 (not toll free)
Webinar ID: 886 3334 4181

For those wishing to watch but not participate: For those not wishing to participate, Selectboard Meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont> and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071.

Keep up to date with all the action, read

Arts + Leisure

every Thursday in the Addy Indy!

NOTICE TO RIPTON VOTERS

Three Ripton School District Directors were elected June 30, 2021 in an election warned by the Vermont Secretary of State. The Ripton School Directors would like to expand the Board from 3 to 5 members. This requires voter approval, see the Warning below.

WARNING

RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Ripton School District are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Ripton Community House on March 1, 2022, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business by Australian ballot:

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Ripton School District approve to expand the number of school directors from three directors to five directors?

Dated this 19th day of January, 2022

By the School Directors of the Ripton School District: Chair Steven Cash, Joanna Doria, Molly Witters

Note: The Annual Ripton Town and School Meetings are postponed until a May 9th floor meeting and May 10th Australian ballot voting.

WARNING

PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 1, 2022

Member Towns: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham and Weybridge.

The legal voters of the Regional Technical School District are hereby warned that the District's Annual meeting will be held this year on March 1, 2022, and all articles will be voted by Australian Ballot. Voters are further warned to vote on the articles listed below at their respective polling places, which places and times are listed according to the schedule on the next page:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payment from member districts, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date of issuance for the purpose of paying the sum approved by the voters.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign One Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) of the school district's FY21 fund balance into the Building & Equipment Reserve Fund and further authorize its Board of Directors to use such funds for expenses related for capital improvements and program equipment.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) of the school district's FY21 fund balance into the Health Reserve Fund and further authorize its Board of Directors to use such funds for expenses related to Health Care Coverage.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to allocate its remaining FY21 fund balance as follows: assign Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) of the school district's FY21 fund balance as revenue for the 2022-2023 operating budget, and assign Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000) as revenue for future budgets.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters of said District will vote to approve the stipend of \$2,500 for the Board Chair; to approve the stipend of \$1,200 for each board member; and to approve the stipend of \$2,000 for the Board Treasurer.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend \$4,104,157 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? This budget represents a 7.2% increase over expenses for the current year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center to be \$24,348 per full-time equivalent student on a 6-semester trailing average. This projected spending per full-time equivalent student is 2.19% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District authorize the Board of Directors to incur indebtedness in the form of general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Eight Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,100,000) for the purpose of making capital improvements to district property including, without limitation, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical & Boiler Upgrades, Asbestos Mitigation and Solar Generation, the estimated cost of such capital improvements being \$8,100,000?

ARTICLE 8: To elect the following officers:
a) A Moderator b) A Treasurer c) A Clerk

The legal voters and residents of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held on the above-listed Australian ballot articles remotely on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:00 pm. the public may join by using the following link: (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221821884?pwd=bnpJYVpQlMwWmNqUERrc3M0TW1EQT09>).

Dated this 14th day of January, 2022 at Middlebury, Vermont.

The polling places and hours of the member districts of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District are as follows:

| DISTRICT | LOCATION | POLLING HOURS |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| Addison | Addison Town Clerk's Office | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Bridport | Bridport Masonic/Community Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Bristol | Holley Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Cornwall | Cornwall Town Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Ferrisburgh | Town Hall - RT 7 | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Lincoln | Burnham Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Middlebury | Town of Middlebury Recreation Center/Gymnasium | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Monkton | Monkton Town Hal, 92 Monkton Ridge | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| New Haven | New Haven Town Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Panton | Panton Town Hall, Second Floor | 10:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Ripton | Ripton Community House | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Salisbury | Salisbury Town Office | 8:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Shoreham | Shoreham Town Office | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Starksboro | Robinson Elementary School | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Vergennes | Vergennes Fire Station | 9:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Waltham | Waltham Town Office | 10:00 AM-7:00 PM |
| Weybridge | Weybridge Town Clerk's Office/Hall | 7:00 AM-7:00 PM |

The legal voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated, and by Section 706W of Title 16, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Australian ballots shall be commingled and counted at the Middlebury Union High School cafeteria by representatives of the Boards of Civil authority of the member town school districts under the supervision of the Clerk of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District.



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398753197>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 863 9875 3197

For those wishing to watch but not participate: Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont> and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. **Call to Order
- 2. *Approval of Agenda
- 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 3.a. Approval of Minutes of the February 8, 2022 Regular Selectboard Meeting
 - 3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 - 3.c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits and Entertainment Permits (if Any)
 - 3.d. Authorization to Submit Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) Grant Application
 - 3.e. Town Manager's Report
 - Nomination of Middlebury River Flood Mitigation Project for Vermont Engineering Excellence Award
 - Update from Better Middlebury Partnership on Kick Start Program
- 4. *Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]
- 5. **Agenda Place Holder
- 7:10 6. *Consideration of Application for Appointment as the Town's Representative to the Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDEC) Executive Board
- 7:15 7. *Updates from the Infrastructure Committee Meeting of February 10, 2022, including a recommendation of the award of the engineering contract for Colonial Drive to Landmark Engineering, as Green Mountain Engineering, the engineering firm previously awarded the contract, will be closing later this month
- 7:20 8. *Preparation for Informational Town Meeting on Monday, February 28th, in the Large Conference Room and via Zoom, for Voting all Matters (including the FY23 budget and the election of town officers) which will take place on Tuesday, March 1 (at the Recreation Center 154 Creek Road)
- 7:30 9. *Approval of Check Warrants
- 10. **Board Member Concerns
- 11. *Executive Session – Not Anticipated
- 12. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 7:50 13. *Adjourn

* Decision Item ** Possible Decision

TOWN OF LINCOLN WARNING

OUR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE DIFFERENT AGAIN THIS YEAR! PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND ALL VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln are hereby warned to vote at Burnham Hall on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian Ballot on all Annual Town Meeting Articles, 1-17, including the election of Town Officers. (The Lincoln Selectboard has determined by unanimous vote to present all Town Meeting Articles for decision by Australian Ballot in 2022, as authorized by the Vermont Legislature, to reduce the possibility of exposure to Covid-19.)

The legal voters of Lincoln are further notified that a virtual informational hearing will be held on Monday, February 28, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., accessible via this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93980649479?pwd=VzEzNUh2Wmd3U0dnYWFKNkd5T2ZlQT09>

Meeting ID: 939 8064 9479
Passcode: 208821
To call in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Article 1 To elect all Town Officers as required by law:

| Office | Term Length | Vote for |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Selectboard | 3 years | 1 |
| Selectboard | 2 years | 1 |
| Town Clerk | 1 year | 1 |
| Town Treasurer | 1 year | 1 |
| First Constable | 1 year | 1 |
| Second Constable | 1 year | 1 |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1 year | 1 |
| Town Meeting Moderator | 1 year | 1 |
| Lister | 3 years | 1 |
| Lincoln Library Trustee | 3 years | 2 |

Article 2 Shall the Town establish due dates for the payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer, in two equal installments as follows: the second Wednesday of October (October 12, 2022) and the third Wednesday of March (March 15, 2023) per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Article 3 Shall the Town collect interest on overdue taxes from the due date of each installment in the amount of .5% (1/2 of 1%) per month or fraction thereof, in accordance with 32 V.S.A. 4873?

Article 4 Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,069,057 of which \$732,121 shall be raised by taxes and \$308,000 by non-tax revenues and \$28,936 is surplus revenue?

Article 5 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$496,425 (incorporating a prior year deficit \$40,171) of which \$356,075 shall be raised by taxes and \$140,350 by non-tax revenues?

Article 6 Shall the Town vote to authorize its selectboard to appoint a Town Treasurer {17 V.S.A. Sect. 2651f (a)}?

Article 7 Shall the Town vote to establish a reserve fund (24 V.S.A Sect. 2804) to be under control and direction of the selectboard to be used for the sole purpose of paying periodic costs for reclamation of Town sand pit property after extraction of sand?

Article 8 Shall the voters authorize a sum of \$175,000 for further restoration and improvement of existing Class 2 asphalt surface Town Highways, to be deposited in the Paving Reserve Fund?

Article 9 Shall the Town of Lincoln appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

Article 10 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,000 to help support the Lincoln Library?

Article 11 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.?

Article 12 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$55,896 to help support the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to help support Bristol Rescue?

Article 14 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to help support the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to help support the Lincoln Community School Mentor Program?

Article 16 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate \$300 to Addison Allies Network in order to continue their direct support towards the migrant farmworkers in Addison County?

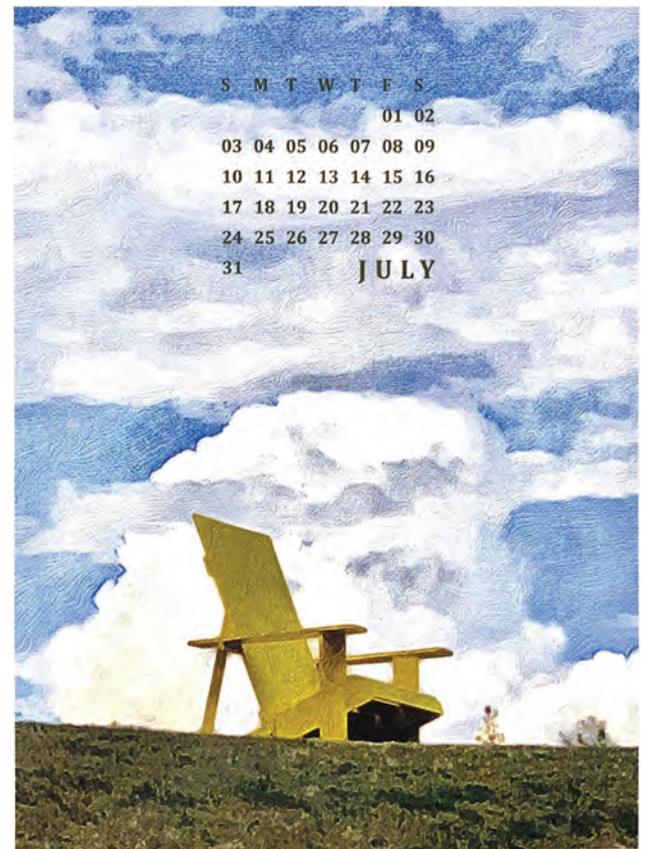
Article 17 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following agency requests?

| Agency Name | Am't \$ |
|---|-----------------|
| Addison County Economic Development Corporation | 500 |
| Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc. | 1,250 |
| Addison County Parent-Child Center | 1,300 |
| Addison County Readers | 600 |
| Addison County Restorative Justice Services | 200 |
| Addison County River Watch | 400 |
| Age Well (formerly CVAA) | 1,100 |
| Bristol Recreation Department | 2,500 |
| Charter House Coalition | 1,000 |
| Counseling Service of Addison County | 1,600 |
| Elderly Services, Inc. | 700 |
| Homeward Bound (Addison County Humane Society) | 250 |
| H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects) | 2,000 |
| John Graham Emergency Shelter | 1,000 |
| Open Door Clinic (Community Health Services of Addison County) | 750 |
| Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) | 490 |
| Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR) | 1,170 |
| Turning Point Center of Addison County (substance use recovery) | 1,000 |
| Vermont Adult Learning | 500 |
| WomenSafe | 1,250 |
| Total | \$19,560 |

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

February 17, 2022



Laurie Patton keeps a camera handy so she can pull it out and capture the beauty she comes across every day. Recently she enhanced her photos using software and created a calendar portraying scenes around Addison County, including the manipulated image at right.

Patton understands place by making images

Local poet, photographer and scholar Laurie Patton has always carried a camera around to take pictures during the day. When a bulky camera is not an option, she uses her cellphone.

"Part of what's so interesting about being in a place like this is you're going about

BY **CHRISTOPHER ROSS**

your workaday world and at the same time you

have this gorgeous landscape around you, which is where some people come to get away," said Patton, whose workaday world revolves primarily around being president of Middlebury College.

Taking photographs helps her stay connected with that beauty — otherwise she'll just be "stressing with scenery," she added with a laugh.

Patton thinks of photography as a practice of contemplation, drawing inspiration from the

mid-20th-century American photographer, critic and educator Minor White, who incorporated into his work a fascination with the viewer's response to photos. "I've always wanted to reinstate photography with something that's invitational and social and contemplative all at the same time, which is what I see in poetry," Patton said. "That's why I like to write."

This thoughtful approach to image making has deeply informed Patton's latest creative project: an 11x14-inch Middlebury Poster Calendar featuring a dozen photographs she took of various spots around the area. The project combines her visual and philosophical sensibilities with a religio-historic interest in the calendrical form and an appreciation for New England's poster calendar tradition.

Rather than producing a series of "calendar photos," however, Patton has heightened and complicated the appeal of her images by applying to them an additional layer of contemplation. Using a software program, she

has translated each photograph into a kind of digital painting.

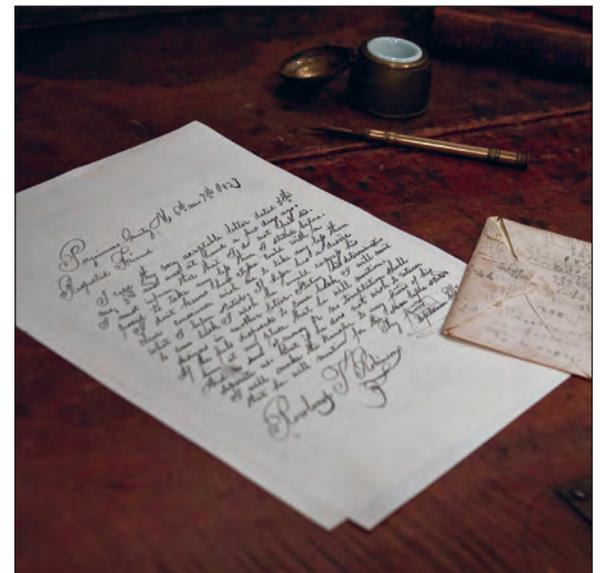
"I became a little obsessed," she said. "For me, working on the images was absolute stress relief, so in between meetings, literally for 10 minutes, I'd be like 'Oh, I need to work on December now' or 'I want to work on July.'"

This slow and careful process helped Patton better see what her intention had been when she'd taken the photograph.

"We all have experiences where we know a photograph isn't going to be very good, or we hope the photograph is going to be good but turns out not to be," Patton explained. "I think some of that comes from wanting something from the photograph that it can't give you. At the same time — and this is why Minor White is so interesting as a thinker about photography — the photograph also teaches you something about yourself."

SEE IMAGES ON PAGE 3

H O N O R I N G BLACK HISTORY



IMAGES COURTESY OF ROKEBY MUSEUM

JESSE'S FREEDOM SEEKING JOURNEY

The Underground Railroad (UGRR) provided an avenue for enslaved persons to find freedom, but in recent years historians have learned that freedom seekers found many ways to fight for autonomy. The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, explores this broad

BY **LINDSAY HOUPT-VARNER**

understanding of seeking freedom by recognizing that enslaved

people found freedom in many ways. The program brings together sites from across the United States with verifiable connections to the UGRR, and "advances the idea that all human beings embrace the right to self-determination and freedom from oppression."

Under the Network to Freedom program, Rokeby Museum is one of approximately 700 locations across the United States designated as having a verifiable connection to the UGRR.

For Rokeby, links to the UGRR are through the Abolitionist activities of the Robinson family and the freedom seekers who traveled to Rokeby. Among the accounts in the Museum's collection is the story of Jesse and his desire for self-determination and legal freedom from enslavement.

Within the collection there is no documentation recorded in Jesse's voice. Instead, what is known about Jesse comes from a series of letters between Rowland T. Robinson and Jesse's owner, Ephraim Elliott, in North Carolina. Additionally, tax records from North Carolina have allowed the Museum to piece together parts of Jesse's history to understand his journey to freedom.

In 1837, Jesse is working and possibly living with the Robinsons. Like so many freedom seekers, his physical journey to freedom is unknown, and it is unclear when or how he arrived at Rokeby. Tax records from North Carolina show that in 1831, Jesse is recorded

as "taxable" property, but by 1836, he is missing from the tax list. At some point during this time, Jesse arrived at Rokeby and began working for the Robinsons.

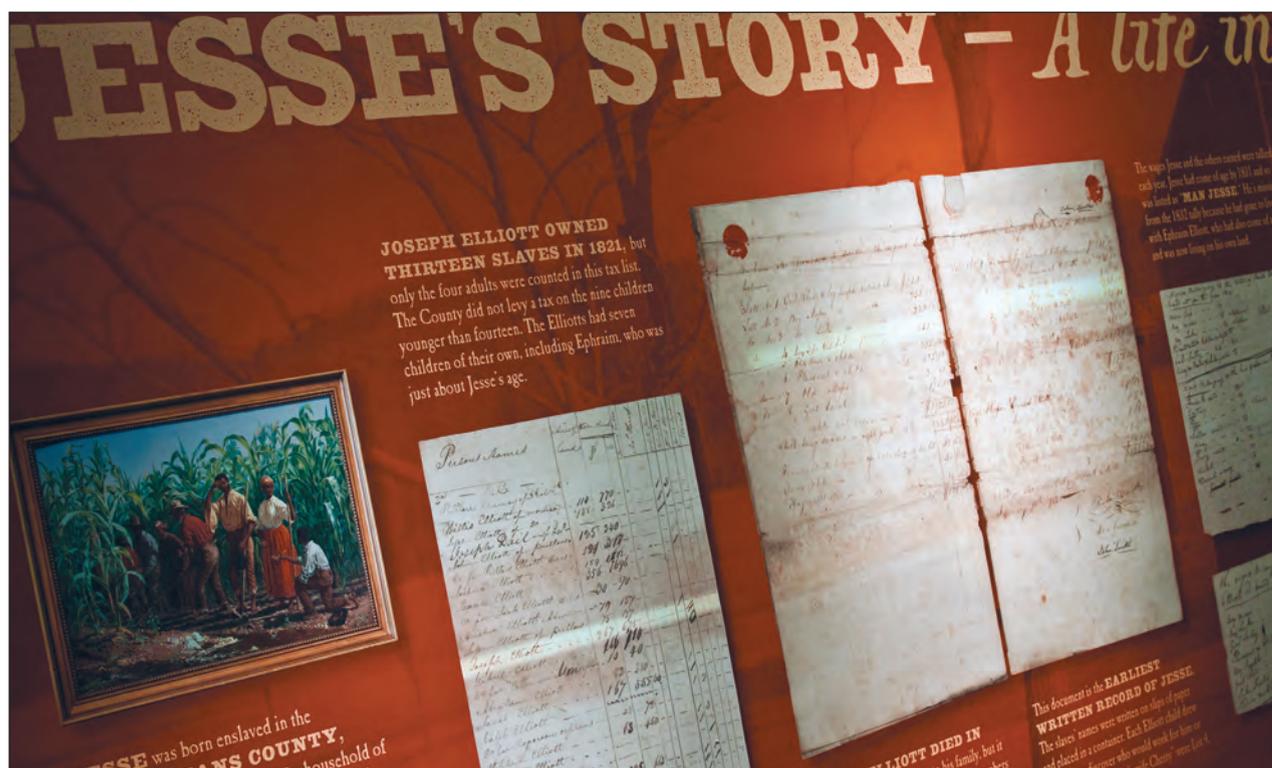
Rokeby's collection contains a series of letters, starting in April 1837, that document Jesse's attempt to purchase manumission papers, which would provide him legal freedom. The letters are between Jesse's owner with Robinson writing on behalf of Jesse. In an April letter, Elliott's writes to Robinson and notes, "I do not feel disposed to make any title for him for less than Three Hundred Dollars which is not more than one third what I could have had for him before he absconded."

Robinson responds in May and notes to Elliott that "the sum thou requires for the freedom of Jesse places this desirable object — the most anxious wish of his heart beyond his reach." Jesse saved \$150 to purchase his freedom and Robinson writes, "he is willing to give the whole of this sum." However, in June, Elliott responds in a in a final letter to Robinson and informs him that he does "not feel disposed to take any less than I stated before." The correspondence between the two ends here. The question of Jesse's freedom remains unclear and there is no documentation of what happens to him after 1837.

We may never know if Jesse achieves the "wish of his heart," but what is clear is Jesse exemplifies the many ways many ways freedom seekers pursued agency over their future.

Lindsay Hought-Varner, PhD, is the Rokeby Museum Director.

Rokeby Museum is a National Historic Landmark that connects visitors with the human experience of the Underground Railroad and with the lives of the four generations of the Robinson who lived at Rokeby in Ferrisburgh from 1793-1961. This is the third in a four-part series Rokeby Museum is contributing to honor Black History Month. For more information visit rokeby.org.



IMAGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Pausing to take note of a particular spot in a particular moment, of contemplating it, has deepened Patton's understanding of these places, she said. Take December's "Moonrise over Route 7," for instance. Patton will never be able to drive through Salisbury on Route 7 again without thinking about the gorgeous moon she saw in the distance, how she stopped to photograph it, how that moon, variously clad, will return to the same spot in the sky again and again.

"In the Jewish tradition there's this idea of saying a blessing when you see something wondrous or beautiful," she said. "I think of each photograph as kind of a blessing over that space."

Sharing the photograph with someone else both reinforces and expands that new sense of place, she said. "Really I think that was the point of the calendar."

And it can lead to unexpected delights.

Middlebury College's new Vice President for Human Resources, Caitlin Goss, recently shared with her young son that she could look out from her office in the Marble Works and see the big yellow chair that overlooks the Middlebury Falls. Her son loved that, and he loves the yellow chair.

Goss told Patton this story right after Patton had finished her calendar, which features that very chair in July's "Big Chair Siesta."

"That's the kind of meaning-making that happens when your projects leave you and suddenly become significant for other people in different ways," Patton said. "That chair has meaning for people in ways I don't even know, and I think that's true for all of the images in some way or other."

Patton photographed June's image — a glass of vibrant red punch on the edge of a stone patio — in her own garden, where she frequently walks when she's having meetings on the phone. Patton calls the image "Garden Pause." Some of her colleagues, in fun, have called it "Laurie having her meeting," which,

Patton acknowledged with a laugh, is often true.

"But it can also just be this beautiful glass of punch in a garden."

Another thing Patton has appreciated about the project is the opportunity to show another side of herself. "In my role (at Middlebury College) I'm experienced in a very particular policy-based or bureaucratic way," she said. "And I do want to create good policy, I do want to build a better community. But that's only a part of who I am. So it's really exciting and incredible to be able to share another part of who I am."

The 2022 Middlebury Poster Calendar is available for sale online. Patton has also sent some as gifts to Middlebury's community partners, a gesture she'd love to repeat with a new calendar every year.

"FOR ME, **WORKING ON THE IMAGES WAS ABSOLUTE STRESS RELIEF**, SO IN BETWEEN MEETINGS, LITERALLY FOR 10 MINUTES, I'D BE LIKE 'OH, I NEED TO WORK ON DECEMBER NOW' OR 'I WANT TO WORK ON JULY.'"

— Laurie Patton

One of her next projects will be a book of cards featuring Middlebury townscapes. "There's an incredible sense of the built environment in the history that we share and that I think we as citizens of Middlebury take incredible pride in," she said. "I love that."

It could be the story of a bridge being built, or

the way that bridge gets used.

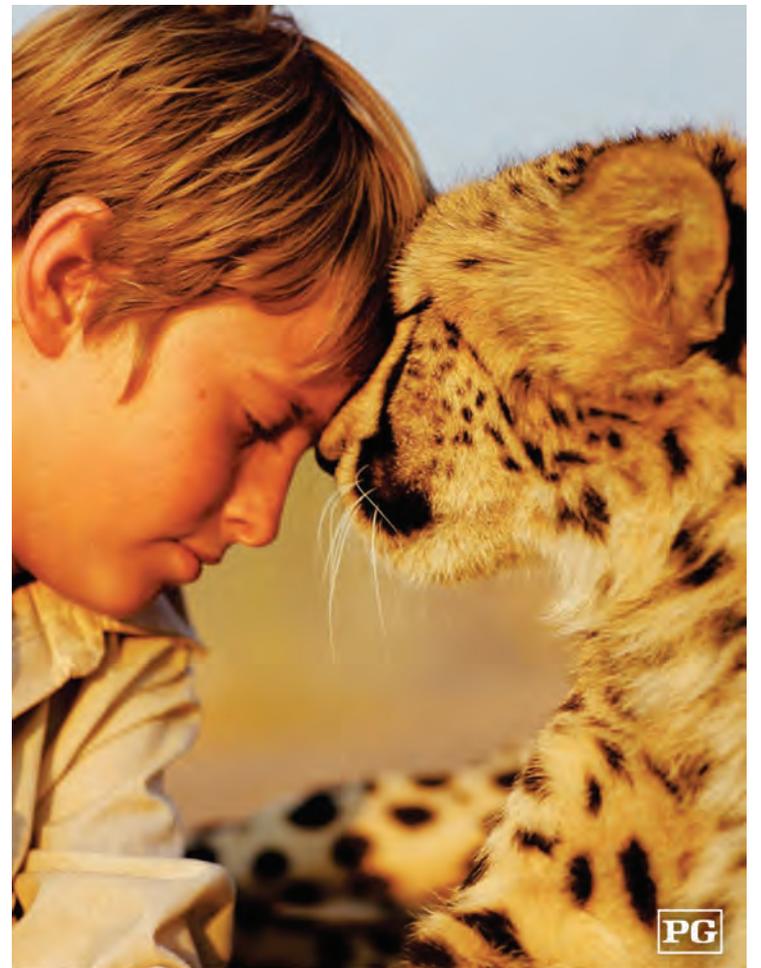
Patton recalled spending some time watching a kayaker go down the Middlebury Falls, over and over and over again.

"Everyone is watching as they do their flips and turns, practicing in the river," she said. "Those are really amazing moments of contemplation because even though it was the natural world, you could feel the town there — people were standing on both bridges, watching. So each moment has a social element to it even if it may not be immediately apparent in the picture."

Patton could have shared her calendar images via email or social media, but she deliberately chose paper.

"I think it helps people better understand the wonder of the shared space they live in. That's why I sent it to all our community partners. It was a way of saying, 'Hey, isn't this something very profound that we all share?'"

If you want to see the full Middlebury calendar, head online <https://py.pl/8l7vxxvHOdIT>.



DUMA

SUNDAY, FEB 20

2PM

TOWN HALL THEATER

MNFF
SELECTS\$7
CHILDREN
UNDER 12\$11
YOUTH
12-17\$16
ADULT
TICKET

PROOF OF FULL COVID-19 VACCINATION AND MASKS REQUIRED. VISIT TOWNHALLTHEATER.ORG FOR MORE PROTOCOL INFO.

GET TICKETS & SEE TRAILERS
middfilmfest.orgTICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL THEATER
WALK-UP TICKETS AVAILABLE DAY OF SHOWNEXT
MONTH
BUCK
THURS,
MAR 24
7PM

SERIES SPONSORED BY



FILM SCREENING

MNFF SELECTS FILM SERIES REVIVES A CLASSIC FAMILY ADVENTURE: 'DUMA' SCREENS FEB. 20

MNFF Selects, the monthly screening series presented by the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, is pleased to announce the revival of the stirring family adventure drama "Duma" on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. In keeping with the theme of this year's Selects series, "Humans and Animals: Shared Experiences, Intersecting Worlds," this exquisite and colorful film, directed by Carroll Ballard, is the story of an orphaned cheetah that becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film, "Duma" offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassionate storytelling with a beautiful and grand landscape as its backdrop. Starring Campbell Scott and Hope Davis, and Alexander Michaletos as the young boy Xan, and based on the book "How It Was

with Dooms," by Carol Cawthra Hopcraft, Duma embodies a style of filmmaking that is warm in tone and generous in spirit. The film is rated PG.

At the time of "Duma's" release in 2005, several prominent film critics pointed out in their favorable reviews that Warner Brothers, its distributor, did precious little to market and promote the film. As a result, "Duma" languished at the box office and was never widely seen.

In her original review of the film, Manohla Dargis of the New York Times wrote that "in a movie year already distinguished by stalwart penguins and volatile grizzlies comes another film that puts nonhuman concerns front and center. 'Duma,' a soulful, piercingly beautiful story about a boy and his cheetah — and a boy and his patrimony — marks the welcome



MNFF Selects will screen the stirring family adventure drama "Duma" on Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

return to the screen of the director Carroll Ballard, whose previous films include 'The Black Stallion' and 'Fly Away Home.' As in these earlier works, Mr. Ballard has taken up the mystery of human existence through a story that plumbs the depths of that original kingdom we have long tried to abandon, the animal world."

It has been nearly 17 years since "Duma" was available to movie going audiences. MNFF is truly pleased to revive this gorgeous and entertaining film on the big screen at Town Hall Theater and bring it to a new generation of families.

SEE FILM ON PAGE 22

REVIEW

BOOK

10

TALES OF TRANSFORMATIVE FICTION

Snowflake, by Louise Nealon

Almond, by Won-Pyung Sohn

Fresh Water for Flowers, by Valérie Perrin

The Round House, by Louise Erdrich

What Alice Forgot, by Liane Moriarty

In Five Years, by Rebecca Serle

The Paper Palace, by Miranda Cowley Heller

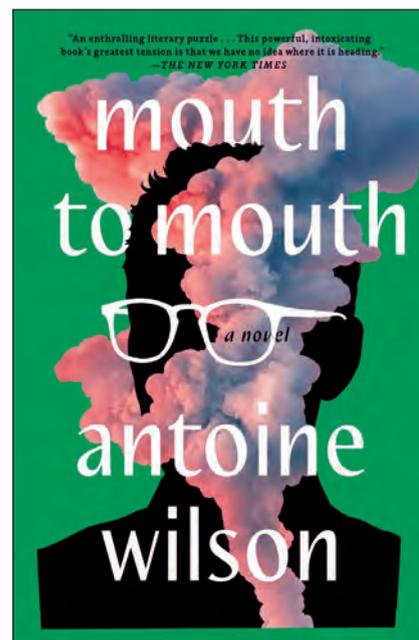
Animal, by Lisa Taddeo

The Two Lives of Lydia Bird, by Josie Silver

Lake Success, by Gary Shteyngart

MOUTH TO MOUTH — BY ANTOINE WILSON

(Avid Reader Press)



Our unnamed narrator is a writer who, finding himself on an extended layover at LAX, recognizes an old college classmate. Jeff Cook seems genuinely pleased to see him and invites our narrator to join him in the members' lounge while they wait. Cook has a tale to tell, and he's chosen our narrator as the ideal audience, because he might transform the account into a story of redemption, and because he was "there from the beginning," he knew Cook to be a good person, and this was very important to Cook. The events that took place one day, through no planning or forethought on Cook's part, would shape the course of his life — he saves a man's life. But rather than feeling like a hero, he has complicated, mixed emotions and he wants to be sure he has done a good thing. This framing device works in large part because of the animated performance given by Cook and our narrator serves as a foil, an impartial witness, but as the story goes on, he becomes increasingly uncomfortable. This slim novel is nothing short of astounding; I loved it and I trust it will be compared to another tragic story, "The Great Gatsby," and the final line of this novel may be just as memorable.

— 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.

ART ON EXHIBIT

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury.
Visit photos@photoplacegallery.com or call (802) 388-4500 for more info.

"Traces." This exhibit was juried and curated by Jeff Curto. Artists responded to the call for images that hint of humans come and gone by the evidence left behind. Thirty-five images were selected for exhibition in the gallery and 40 more for the digital gallery. On view through Feb. 26.

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon.
Visit brandonartistsguild.org or call (802) 247-4956 for more info.

"Pow! The 2022 Student Art Show." For the month of February BAG dedicates the gallery to the annual Student Art Show, featuring work from students in local elementary schools, middle and high school. It's an exuberant display of creativity that's sure to lift your spirits. On view through February.

EDGEWATER GALLERY AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury
Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more information.

"Time and Memory," featuring work by Alexis Serio. Serio uses a horizon line as a foothold to suggest the landscape but from there she describes her abstract compositions as visual perceptions of time, and memory. On view for the month of February.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury.
Visit museum.middlebury.edu/exhibitions or call (802) 443-5007 to make your free reservations.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 7



ARIES: March 21-April 20. Aries, you keep looking inward to realize your goals and you're making very good progress in that regard. Communication is a key to success, so keep dialogues open.

TAURUS: April 21-May 21. Lately you seem to radiate success in all you do, Taurus. Others naturally want to flock to where you are and spend more time with you. Enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.

GEMINI: May 22-June 21. If communication with family members has been difficult lately, you may find that things change in the next few days, Gemini. This is a welcome change.

CANCER: June 22-July 22. Disagreements are not necessarily a bad thing, Cancer. They can open people up to discussions that can be enlightening. Disagree, but don't let it get heated.

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23. Romance may be on your mind a lot more than usual, Leo. This can be a good thing. Use your free time to foster nuances in your relationship.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22. Virgo, you may have to take a different route than you initially expected in order to reach a destination. The journey could be very eye-opening and inspirational.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23. In order to be the brightest and the best you can be, you may find that you rub certain people the wrong way, Libra. Find ways to make amends.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Scorpio, a challenging week ahead will require some focus and a willingness to accept support. Surround yourself with people who have your back.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21. An especially busy social schedule may leave you feeling a little tired for some time. Schedule some time for rest and relaxation to recharge your batteries.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20. A great deal of unexpected information is coming your way, Capricorn. You may have to sort through it to figure out what is useful and what is not essential.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Don't neglect the help that people are willing to offer you, Aquarius. Teamwork makes the dream work, and working with others is beneficial to all involved.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20. Use creativity in any way you can to solve issues that come your way, Pisces. You may be surprised at what you come up with.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

FEB. 17 — Michael Jordan, basketball great (58)
FEB. 18 — Audre Lorde, writer (d)
FEB. 19 — Constantin Brancusi, sculptor (d)
FEB. 20 — Louis Kahn, Architect (d)
FEB. 21 — Nina Simone, musician (d)
FEB. 22 — Edward Gorey, illustrator (d)
FEB. 23 — W. E. B. Dubois, Civil Rights activist (d)

CALENDAR

FEB. 17-27 | 22

THURSDAY, FEB. 17

"12 ANGRY MEN" ZOOM

DISCUSSION. Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m., via Zoom and Ilsley Public Library. Watch the film in your own time (available through Kanopy at your local library) then join The Middlebury Community Classic Film Club for their spring film series "A Higher Loyalty and the Test of Character." The trial is over. The jury has adjourned. Everyone is ready to convict a young man of a terrible crime, except one man. Under heavy pressure to relent to the will of the group, this man presses forward methodically with a quiet passion to uncover the truth.

"THE ROBINSONS OF ROKEBY AND KAUFFMAN'S STATION: A STORY OF TWO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SITES" VIRTUAL PRESENTATION.

Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., Zoom. Join Tucker Folz, Rokeby's Education Programs Manager, and Matthew March, Education Curator at Cumberland County Historical Society in Pennsylvania, for a discussion on two very different sites that operated as part of the Underground Railroad. This event is part of Rokeby's Black History Month Lecture Series. It is free to the public however pre-registration is required. Go to rokeby.org/visit/programmevents.

DADDYLONGLEGS VIRTUAL CONCERT.

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m., NEAT TV. Part of the monthly winter concerts organized by the 5 Town Friends of the Arts, Lawrence Memorial Library and NEAT TV. The concerts will be filmed and broadcast from the library with no in-person audience and broadcast live on NEAT TV. The shows will also be streamed live through the NEAT TV website neatbristol.com. For those unable to see the original broadcasts, the show can be seen afterwards on the NEAT archives.

FRIDAY, FEB. 18

NOBUNTU ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Nobuntu, the dazzling female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe, will kick off the Middlebury Performing Arts Series' spring 2022 season. Vaccinations and boosters (or valid medical or religious exemptions) and masks are required. Tickets \$25 general public/\$20 Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni/\$10 youth/\$5 Middlebury College students. More info at 802-443-MIDD (6433) or go to tmiddlebury.edu/arts.

SATURDAY, FEB. 19

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN SHELBURNE. Saturday, Feb. 19, Shelburne Farms. Walk or snowshoe the Farm Trail from the Welcome Center. Moderately difficult; 5 miles.

Bring a snack or lunch, water, and dress to the weather in thermal layers (avoid cotton). Ankle gaiters and hiking poles are recommended. Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact leader Ruth Penfield for information, meeting time and possible carpooling from Middlebury area at 802-388-5407 or ruthpenfield@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEB. 20

"DUMA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film, and inspired by a true story, Duma offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion with a beautiful and grand landscape as its backdrop. Part of the MNFF Selects series. More info and tickets at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org.

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SNOWSHOE IN HANCOCK. *RESCHEDULED TO MARCH 3*. Worth Mountain from Middlebury Gap. Strenuous, about 2 miles each way. Will go to top of Middlebury Snowbowl and explore forgotten ski trails. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com with questions or to register.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

| MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091 | | MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753 | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>MCTV Channel 1071</p> <p>Friday, Feb. 18 Through the Night Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard, State House 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 7 p.m. Cannabis Control Board (CCB)</p> <p>Saturday, Feb. 19 12 a.m. Green Mountain Care (GMC) Board 10 a.m. Selectboard, Gov. Scott 3:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Vermont State House 8:30 p.m. Energy Week</p> <p>Sunday, Feb. 20 5 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m. Energy Week 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 3:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 4 p.m. Congregational Service</p> | <p>6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7:00 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 a.m. Gov. Scott</p> <p>Monday, Feb. 21 12 a.m. CCB 9:30 a.m. Middlebury Edition 10 a.m. Selectboard, State House 6 p.m. GMC Board</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 22 12 a.m. State House 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, State House 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6 p.m. Middlebury Edition 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs</p> <p>Wednesday, Feb. 23 5 a.m. Middlebury Edition 5:30 a.m. Gov. Scott 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 5 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs</p> <p>Thursday, Feb. 24 5 a.m. Selectboard 7:30 a.m. Middlebury Edition</p> | <p>8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, State House 8 p.m. Energy Week 10 p.m. Eckankar 10:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 11 p.m. Gov. Scott</p> <p>MCTV Channel 1091</p> <p>Friday, Feb. 18 5 a.m. Festival on the Green 7 a.m. Local School Board</p> <p>Meetings 12 p.m. Festival on the Green 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. VICII - The Real Deal with Fake News</p> <p>7:30 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition 9:02 p.m. Shay's Honorable Rebellion</p> <p>Saturday, Feb. 19 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Local School Board</p> <p>Meetings 12 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition 1 p.m. Kids Yoga 1:30 p.m. Yoga 3 p.m. The Real Deal with Fake News</p> | <p>5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Otter Creek Audubon Society - Ecuador 7:30 p.m. Festival on the Green</p> <p>Sunday, Feb. 20 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Otter Creek Audubon Society - Iceland 7 a.m. Shay's Honorable Rebellion 8:30 a.m. Sheldon Museum 10 a.m. The Real Deal with Fake News 12 p.m. Festival on the Green 2 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition 3:02 p.m. Local School Board</p> <p>Meetings 8 p.m. State Board of Education</p> <p>Monday, Feb. 21 4 a.m. Sheldon Museum 5:30 a.m. Shay's Honorable Rebellion 6:30 a.m. Poets & Authors 9:30 a.m. The Real Deal with Fake News 11 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. Local School Board Meetings 5 p.m. Otter Creek Audubon - Martens</p> | <p>7 p.m. State Board of Education</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 22 6 a.m. The Real Deal with Fake News 7:30 a.m. Authors & Poets 12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 1 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition</p> <p>Wednesday, Feb. 23 7 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. Authors & Poets 12 p.m. The Story Matters 3:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 4:30 p.m. Otter Creek Audubon - Antarctica 6 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition 9:30 p.m. State Board of Education</p> <p>Thursday, Feb. 24 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Yoga 9 a.m. At the Ilsley 12 p.m. Shay's Honorable Rebellion 4 p.m. The Real Deal with Fake News 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. MUHS Dance Competition 7 p.m. School Board Meetings</p> |

Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, 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.

COMMUNITY SKI DAY IN BRISTOL.

Thursday, Feb. 24, 3-6 p.m., Bristol Hub Teen Center, Airport Rd. Come out to the Bristol Rec Field for an afternoon of cross-country skiing. The Hub Teen Center will provide hot cocoa and s'mores. Skis, boots and poles will be provided by Catamount Trail Association. No experience necessary. Free. All participants must sign a waiver. Youth under 18 must have waiver signed by parent/guardian.

SATURDAY, FEB. 26

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN KEENE VALLEY, N.Y.

Saturday, Feb. 26, Giant's Nubble. Moderate to difficult 1.5-mile hike one-way with an elevation gain of 1150 ft. Views of the west face of Giant Mountain, the Chapel Pond valley and on to the Dix Range. Microspikes and/or snowshoes required depending on conditions. Contact leader Barry Francis for information, meeting time and possible carpooling from the Crown Point Bridge at 802-349-9207 or barryfrancis@gmavt.net.

THE BATTLE ON SNOWSHOES

REENACTMENT IN TICONDEROGA, N.Y.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Robert Rogers and his Rangers recreate the final winter battle between a scout of Mohawk warriors, British Regulars, and Rogers' Rangers, versus the French garrison of soldiers, Canadians and Native American warriors

at Fort Ticonderoga on March 7, 1759. T. More info at fortticonderoga.com.

STEPHEN BATES VIRTUAL

PRESENTATION. Saturday, Feb. 26, 1-2:30 p.m. The Bixby Memorial Free Library will host a virtual program exploring the life and times Stephen Bates, the first-known African American sheriff in Vermont. The program includes an illustrated lecture, documentary film, and conversation and Q &A with Bates' family members, historians, and community volunteers who helped unearth this history over the last two years. The program is free and pre-registration is required at bit.ly/batesbixby.

SUNDAY, FEB. 27

"HEROES OF THE FOURTH TURNING" STAGED READING IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Feb. 27, at 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The first installment of Middlebury Acting Company's Cutting Edge Staged Reading Series returns with this award-winning play by Will Arbery. Near midnight in Wyoming, four young conservatives return for a reunion. They've come to toast their mentor, Gina, newly inducted as president of the tiny Catholic college from which they graduated. But as their reunion spirals into spiritual chaos and clashing generational politics it becomes less a celebration than a vicious fight to be understood. Proof of vaccination, photo id and masks required.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"Contemporary to Classical: Highlights from the New Collection Handbook,"

featuring more than 40 works from the museum's new permanent collection

handbook. Objects range from modern to ancient and include prints, photographs, paintings, and sculpture. Among the artists represented are Derrick Adams, Banksy, Judy Chicago, Robert Gober, Fairfield Porter, Medardo Rosso, Anna Stanichi, Paul Strand, Edmund de Waal, and William Zorach. On view Jan. 28-Aug. 7.

"Into the Screen: Digital Art from teamLab."

Founded in 2001 by Toshiyuki Inoko, teamLab is a Tokyo-based collaboration of more than 500 designers, engineers, and technologists with a shared mission to integrate art, technology, and nature. This exhibition highlights a singular immersive digital experience by teamLab and the traditional 17th- to 20th-century screens and prints that inspired it. On view Jan. 28-Aug. 7.

Want your exhibit listed?

Email us!

news@addisonindependent.com

GREAT DECISIONS - A SERIES OF EIGHT LECTURES

Lectures will be conducted in-person (for EV residents) and virtually on Zoom.



Climate Change

with Alan Betts
February 24, 2:30 pm



Quad Alliance

with John Berninghausen
March 24, 2:30 p.m.



Putin's Russia

with Lisa Chalidze
March 3, 2:30 pm



Industrial Policy

with Will Pyle
April 1, 2:30 pm



Drug Policy in Latin America

with Mark Williams
March 10, 3 p.m.



Changing Demographics

with Molly Anderson
April 7, 2:30 pm



Myanmar & ASEAN

with David Rosenberg
March 17, 2:30 pm



Biden's Agenda

with Bert Johnson
April 13, 3:00 pm

To register and for Zoom links, please call the EastView Concierge at (802) 989-7500



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MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



Nobuntu

Friday, February 18 ■ 7:30 PM

Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall

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Activities you'll want to do in-person

The days are getting longer, and COVID case numbers are finally dropping — which means in-person activities are making a comeback. Here are some family-friendly events to look forward to!

The Middlebury Performing Arts Series is returning to in-person shows! Catch *Nobuntu*, a female a cappella quartet from Zimbabwe this Friday, Feb. 18.

The Platt Memorial Library has booked Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham for the entire community to come sled, skate and cross-country ski for free on Saturday, Feb. 19. Librarian Abby Adams will be there with free kids' books and the library's collection of 6 pairs of kid snowshoes and 4 pairs of adult snowshoes available to borrow.

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival continues its family-friendly animal film series with a Sunday matinee (Feb. 20) of *Duma*, which

tells the story of an orphaned cheetah that befriends a young boy living in South Africa.

February school vacation is next week! Bristol Rec is hosting swim sessions at the Mount Abe pool every morning (call to book your slot) and a community ski day that Thursday. Vergennes Parks & Rec is offering special storywalks and ski races all week. And the Better Middlebury Partnership has a lantern parade with live music planned for Feb. 26.

Bixby Library's annual Lego Contest & Exhibit will be on view at the library on Feb. 26. Come see the creations!

Middlebury Parks & Rec is planning to start up its much-loved Tot Time Open Gym on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. starting March 9. "If all goes well in March we will return to two days a week in April," wrote Superintendent Dustin Hunt in an email. Masks will be required for unvaccinated children under age 5.



Farther Afield

My family recently visited Echo in Burlington for the first time since the pandemic struck in 2020 — and it was a thousand times cooler than we remembered. There were so many things to touch and explore, including this amazing interactive topographic map projected onto a huge pile of kinetic sand that rains when you wave your hands over it!



See more online

MiniBury.com

THINGS TO DO • MEET PARENTS & FRIENDS
• NEWS FOR FAMILIES • TIPS, TRICKS & TRENDS • CALENDAR



Babies & Families

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Thursday, February 17, 2022



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When will playgroups return to Addison County?

By MEGAN JAMES

If you had a baby or toddler in Addison County before 2020, you likely have fond memories of community playgroups: eating Ritz crackers with cream cheese in the Memorial Baptist Church basement; zooming around on tricycles at the Middlebury Rec Center; playing with homemade playdough at Weybridge Elementary School; dancing to Raffi songs in the community room at Helen Porter Rehab.

When the pandemic struck in March 2020, it abruptly put an end to playgroups, open gyms and drop-in storytimes, cutting off an essential social and emotional outlet for families with babies and toddlers.

In the nearly two years since then, families have found other ways to connect. In the early weeks of the pandemic, local children's librarians stayed engaged with their adoring fans with lively virtual storytimes. Many shifted to outdoor in-person gatherings in the summer, and some hardy librarians — lookin' at

you, Bixby Library in Vergennes and Lincoln Library — have managed to stay outdoors throughout this winter.

Others, such as Middlebury's Ilsley Library, have shifted to limited-capacity indoor gatherings that require pre-registration. Librarians at Lawrence Memorial in Bristol gave themselves a little more breathing room by moving their in-person storytimes into Holley Hall. But those were put on hold with the arrival of the omicron variant earlier this winter.

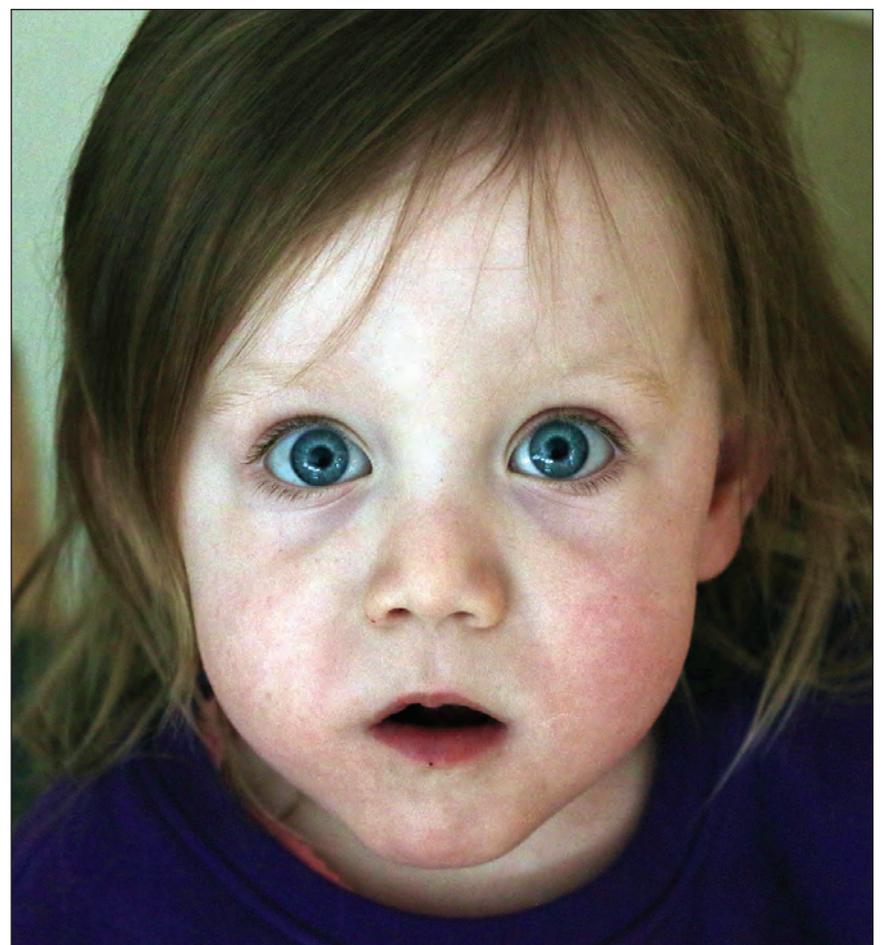
Some determined families have taken to studying the Middlebury Parks & Rec gym schedule on the town website to find open windows when they can enjoy the space.

Some determined families have taken to studying the Middlebury Parks & Rec gym schedule on the town website to find open windows when they can enjoy the space.

The playgroups run by the Addison County Parent/Child Center at

various area church basements are on hold indefinitely. And as long as local schools are still restricting entry to the general public, playgroups that used to be held at Mary Hogan School in Middlebury and Weybridge Elementary

(See *Playgroups*, Page 12)



Oh my

AMELIA FOURNIER OF Whiting takes a break from playtime at the Addison County Parent/Child Center in Middlebury last week to check out a journalist photographing the kids there.

Independent photo/Steve James

Baby's colic doesn't last forever

New parents know there is a learning curve when an infant comes home for the first time. Even with the best planning and research, it takes time for new parents to find their grooves caring for a newborn whose abilities to communicate are limited.

Babies cry to alert their caregivers when they are hungry, tired or wet. Tears are a normal part of the parenting process — as babies can cry for as much as two hours per day, according to WebMD. But excessive crying may be a symptom of colic.

What is colic?

The Mayo Clinic defines colic as frequent, prolonged and intense crying or fussiness in an otherwise healthy infant. When experiencing colic, a baby cries for no apparent reason and no amount of consolation seems to bring any relief. Johns Hopkins Medicine indicates that colic is most common during the first six weeks and usually will go away on its own in three to four months. Twenty-five percent of newborn babies may have colic.

Identifying colic

Crying is not necessarily indicative of colic, though certain types of crying, especially when accompanied by other symptoms, are suggestive of colic.

- Crying for more than three hours a day.

- Crying jags more than 3 days a week.
- Crying for more than 3 weeks at a time.
- Crying that often begins suddenly, with mostly loud, nonstop sessions.
- Crying that starts in the evening, typically at the same time each day.
- Extreme fussiness even after crying has diminished.
- Facial discoloration, such as reddening of the face and pale skin around the mouth.
- A tense body that includes stiffened legs and arms, clenched fists, an arched back, or tense abdomen.
- Excessive gas, likely resulting from swallowed air during prolonged crying.

Ruling out other issues

Collect information when the infant cries and share it with the pediatrician to determine if colic is the culprit. Sometimes fussiness is for other reasons, including food allergies, hunger or weakness, pain from an illness or injury, acid reflux, or discomfort from being too hot or too cold.

All symptoms should be checked by the pediatrician, such as a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher. Even if colic is suspected, a doctor can help manage colic to help reduce parents' stress and make it easier to cope with the condition.

— Metro Creative

The little darlings shown on the front of this section (Page 9) are, from left to right, top row: Esmee Rinder-Goddard at the Bristol Family Center; Vanessa Kennedy at the Addison County Parent/

Child Center; and Calder Osborne at the Otter Creek Child Center; and bottom row: Amelia at Mary Johnson Children's Center and Aven Sanborn at Addison County Parent/Child Center.

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Time to play!

ELI, LEFT, AND Avery demonstrate that they know how to explore their world and have fun at Mary Johnson Children's Center in Middlebury last week.
 Photo courtesy of Mary Johnson Children's Center

Playgroups

(Continued from Page 11)

aren't an option.

But there's some good news: As COVID case counts continue to drop, and a vaccine for children under age 5 is expected later this month, some local organizations are making plans to restart drop-in programs.

Here's what we know so far:

Middlebury Parks & Rec is planning to start up its much-loved Tot Time open gym session on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. starting March 9. "If all goes well

in March we will return to two days a week in April," Superintendent Dustin Hunt told us. Masks will be required for unvaccinated children under age 5.

At Ilsley, Children's Librarian Tricia Allen is starting up another limited capacity storytime session in March. "After April break, I am tentatively planning to have three or four drop-in storytimes until we take a break from programming in mid-May to prep for summer," she said. Allen noted that summer programming — Preschool Art

in the Garden, Book Bike Storytime and Bounce and Play Storytime — will all be drop-in style.

In Bristol, Lawrence Memorial Library Director Coco Moseley and Children's Librarian Marita Schine are hoping to bring back two weekly in-person storytimes the week of March 14, "as long as things keep trending in the right direction re: COVID infections," Moseley said. Those storytimes will take place in the library children's room on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Additionally, Lawrence Library recently received funding from the Children's Trust Fund to offer programming for parents and caregivers of children under age 1. "We are still working on the details of those programs, especially how to safely bring infants and babies together," wrote Moseley. "I hope to launch the programming this summer, but I'm hesitant to move too quickly given the ever-changing landscape. Stay tuned!"

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THE ABUNDANCE OF snow this winter has prompted Georgia and Abigail Gong to jump at the opportunity to go skiing at Rikert Nordic Center in Ripton.

Photo by Erick Gong

Embrace the cold, make the most of the winter

By FAITH GONG

During our family's early years in Vermont, my friend Deborah warned me that January was the coldest month. "There's usually one week every January when the temperature never gets above freezing," she said.

So far, history has proven her correct. But January 2022 was an overachiever: As I write this column and look ahead at the 10-day forecast I see only one day with temperatures over 30 degrees. Most nights dip down into negative temperatures; this morning at our house it was minus-22 degrees.

My daughter — the same one who shouted snowfall spells at the sky in October — now moans, "I'm tired of winter; I want spring!" But, in general, we take the frigid temperatures in stride. We make jokes like, "Oh look, it's warmed up to a balmy minus-5 degrees!" We stay inside and are grateful for woodstoves, good books, hot drinks, and Darn Tough socks. And when the temperature is reasonable — anything above 10 degrees — we jump at the opportunity to go skiing.

Still, things got so bad that our school district cancelled school one day because of the cold. Nothing was falling from the sky, but the wind chill was supposed to make temperatures feel like -35 degrees. It was a surprising move for Vermonters, and there were mixed reactions to the district's rationale (something about buses not starting and kids getting hypothermia at recess). The independent school that my two oldest daughters attend, which usually



FAITH GONG

follows the district's closures, announced in multiple emails with capitalized subject lines that school WOULD carry on. One of these communications included the sentence: "We aren't a bunch of weenies."

That afternoon was my turn to pick up our carpool group from the Tri-Valley Transit bus stop (no issues with those buses starting, apparently). According to my minivan the outside temperature was zero degrees. When I asked the four middle schoolers in our carpool whether they'd stayed indoors, I was informed that the whole school had taken an outdoor meditation walk in order to ponder their personal struggles and how they might

resolve them. (One wonders if, "I'm freezing, and I might go inside," was a common meditation). Then they stood outside for five minutes to "get in the mood" for viewing of a documentary film on Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Antarctic expedition aboard the *Endurance*, in which the entire crew survived being trapped by the ice for nearly two years.

"Well," I said, "at least you're not weenies."

A teenage boy in the backseat muttered, "I wouldn't have minded being a weenie." A heated discussion followed on whether they would've eaten their dogs to survive (as the Shackleton expedition did) or starved on principle.

.....

The worst part about frigid temperatures is how they confine us indoors. I am the sort of mother who encourages my children to play outside in all conditions, adhering to the philosophy that there's no poor weather if you have appropriate outerwear (a philosophy I share with my daughters' school). But sub-zero weather forces me to compromise: When my husband says, "I just heard that any exposed skin will be frostbitten in eight minutes," I do not boot our children out the door.

Cabin fever sets in quickly. For the past week, our daughters have been trying to convince us that our house is too small. "We need two more bedrooms," they argue (so that they may each have their own room), "and a big playroom. Can we build an addition?" When it becomes clear that this isn't happening, they start rearranging the furniture, reconfiguring their rooms and building forts and obstacle courses.

On one day when temperatures were forecast to soar up to 31 degrees Fahrenheit, I decided to take our 2-year-old to the playground.

I bundled him up in the appropriate outerwear: snow pants, boots, coat, hat and mittens. He navigated the playground heartily, not minding the snow on the ground or the ice at the bottom of the slides. He asked to be put into the swing — one of those bucket swings for babies, with holes for their legs — and squealed joyfully as I

I realized I was in trouble: I couldn't get him out of the bucket swing at the park. His snowsuit was too puffy, his boots too big to fit through the leg holes.

pushed him.

When he asked to be taken out of the swing, I realized I was in trouble: I couldn't get him out. His snowsuit was too puffy, his boots too big to fit through the leg holes. Removing his boots might have helped, but they were tucked securely

(See *Being outside*, Page 14)

Being outside

(Continued from Page 13)

under the elastic of his snow pants; plus, we still had time to play, and I didn't want to risk getting his feet cold and wet. The boots weren't the only issue: I am a short person, this swing was hung high, and my toddler is a solid little guy, so I couldn't achieve the proper angle to pull his puffy little body out of the seat.

After attempting vigorous tugs from various positions, I had to admit that this

was a mama first — something that's pretty rare after five children. Apparently I hadn't taken many snow-suited toddlers to the playground in the past.

"I don't know if I can get you out, buddy," I said to him. He smiled happily, thinking this was a great joke, but I felt panic starting to rise. I cast my eyes around at the houses surrounding the park but saw no potential helpers in yards or windows. Calling the fire department for a child stuck in a swing seemed overdramatic. So I took desperate measures.

"OK, hold on tight; we're going upside down!" I said. I looked at the surrounding houses again, this time hoping nobody was watching.

Then, I got a firm grip on my son and turned the entire seat upside down. As he hung like a bat with his head at my knees, I painstakingly worked his booted feet out of the leg holes. Thankfully our son is a laid-back little guy, so he thought the whole thing was one big game.

This was the moment when I started looking forward to summer, when it no longer takes 15 minutes to suit up my children for outdoor play, and swings become harmless again.

.....

I don't see much wildlife in January aside from the chickadees that cluster around the suet in our birdfeeder. So, although there are plenty of deer in our back field in other seasons, it was a shock when a female white-tailed deer emerged from the bushes about 50 yards from my kitchen window.

"Oh wow!" I said aloud, pausing my dishwashing to watch her progress across the field. Head held high and with perfect posture, she had places to go but wasn't rushed. The doe seemed to flow over the frozen ground with a gracefulness that took my breath away.

I know that winter is difficult for deer, too, but this doe was so perfectly at home in our January world that it felt like a reminder.

We are housebound, bundled into awkward layers, hunched against the harsh cold, and sometimes trapped by the ice, but the world around us remains a place of startling beauty and wonder.

Isn't this how it always is? Life is



GEORGIA GONG CLEARLY knows how to have a good time in cold weather — cover yourself with snow!
Photo by Erick Gong



TWO-YEAR-OLD LEVI GONG'S puffy coat, snow pants, mittens and boots keep him snug as a bug in a rug even during this very cold winter.

Photo by Erick Gong

hard, harsh, heartbreaking; life is full of light, love, and laughter. Both things are absolutely true at the exact same time, which is how it is to be human on earth.

elementary school teacher, a freelance photographer, and a nonprofit director. She lives in Middlebury with her husband, five children, assorted chickens and ducks, one feisty cat, and one anxiety-prone labradoodle. In her "free time" she writes for her blog, The Pickle Patch.

Faith Gong has worked as an

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Vicki is a board certified registered lactation consultant that offers home, phone, or telemedicine visits for mothers who are facing a variety of breastfeeding challenges in Addison and Rutland counties, and some areas in New York State. She also has a prenatal monthly breastfeeding class available on Zoom. Mothers can feel overwhelmed when trying to balance milk production, latching issues, nipple soreness, engorgement, pumping and returning to work, and much more. Vicki is available to help mothers during this transitional period — you are not alone.

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Home births rise in Vermont

In the early 1900s, nearly all American women gave birth outside a hospital. By the 1940s, less than 50% of them delivered their babies at home. And by the late 1960s, just 1% did so.

That's pretty much where things stand today. Almost all babies in the U.S. are now delivered in a hospital — in stark contrast to what was commonplace a century or so ago.

No one is likely to argue the tide is racing back toward out-of-hospital births, but it does seem to be leaning in that direction — if only slightly.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the percentage of U.S. out-of-hospital birth deliveries increased from 1.26% in 2011 to 1.36% in 2012.

Most of these “alternative” deliveries occur at home, although a good number take place in freestanding birthing centers. (In 2012, just over 35,000 of the nearly 54,000 out-of-hospital births in the U.S. happened at home. Birthing centers served as the setting for around 15,500 of them.)

The pandemic appears to have prompted more families to opt for home births. With 155 home births in the first year of the pandemic, the number of mothers who chose to give birth at home has increased 30% in Vermont in the first year of the pandemic. That's the 13th largest increase nationwide, according to CDC data.

The percentage change in home births from 2019 to 2020 was up 22% for all of the United States. South Dakota saw the biggest jump — 68% — and only one state saw a decrease in home births — New Hampshire recorded a 1% decrease.

Recent increases are directly attributable to the pandemic, as concerns over getting COVID-19 at the hospital, hospital

lockdowns and fears of family separation prompted more mothers to deliver at home.

HOME BIRTHS

Women who give birth at home often usually want to give birth in a comfortable setting. They want to be surrounded by family or friends. They want to avoid all the medications and medical interventions or interruptions that are so common during hospital deliveries. And they typically want to feel more in control of the entire birthing process.

Cost tends to be a concern, too. Many pregnant women choose home birth so they can bypass the bills associated with most hospital births. How much does a home birth usually cost? Around \$3,000, or about 60% less than you'd pay if you gave birth in a hospital, according to the American Pregnancy Association.

But outside-of-hospital deliveries have their own costs, and you may have to pay some or all of them out of pocket, whether you have

health insurance or not. Although a number of U.S. insurers now cover certain midwife services, many still balk at covering planned home births, characterizing them as “risky” or “not medically appropriate”

There are health insurance companies that cover home births, though, so don't give up if that's how you want to deliver your baby. Contact your insurance provider to see how — or if — your plan treats this sort of situation. And even if your health plan covers home births, don't be surprised if it ties some requirements to that coverage. One example: you may have to use a midwife who has been certified by state regulators. Also, you might need to pay for various supplies or pieces of equipment.

This story was provided by QuoteWizard.com.

The percentage change in home births from 2019 to 2020 was up 22% for all of the United States.

Premature babies require specialized care

Infants born before the 37th week of gestation are considered premature (Normal gestation is around 40 weeks). The American Academy of Pediatrics says premature births occur in about 11% to 13% of pregnancies in the United States. In addition, almost 60% of multiples pregnancies (twins, triplets, etc.) result in preterm births.

Initially, caring for children born prematurely, often referred to as “preemies,” may differ from parenting a full-term baby. It is important that parents recognize this and acknowledge that premature babies require different care than those born at full-term.

The average full-term baby weighs around seven pounds, but a preemie may weigh five pounds or less. A preemie may look different from a full-term infant. When compared to full-term babies, preemies' heads will seem much larger in relation to the rest of their bodies. Also, preemies tend to have less fat, so their

skin can appear thin and transparent. His or her features will seem sharper and less round than the features of babies born at full-term. The absence of protective fat means a preemie will quickly get cold in normal room temperatures. It's common for premature infants to be placed in an incubator or under a radiant warmer to help maintain body temperature.

Depending on how prematurely they were born, preemies may spend days or weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Preemies sometimes have trouble breathing due to immature respiratory systems. Respiration and heart rate will be monitored, and oxygen may be supplied to help ensure the organs get an adequate supply. A continued positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine may be used temporarily to assist in breathing as well, according to the Houston-based Sprout Pediatrics.

Parents may be temporarily prevented
(See *Preemies*, Page 16)



Little man

AT BRISTOL FAMILY CENTER last week Colton Cousino uses a drum as a seat and plans the next move for the block in his hand.

Independent photo/
Steve James



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Childproofing your home takes some time and planning

It's not long before newborns who need their parents to cater to their every need become toddlers who can't wait to go exploring on their own.

The curiosity can come quickly, which underscores how important it is for parents to childproof their homes.

Childproofing is essential in the nursery where children tend to spend much of their time, but it's necessary elsewhere in the house as well. The Children's Hospital of Los Angeles says fractures are the most common injuries among infants and toddlers as they develop a sense of curiosity and gain mobility. Head and mouth/tooth injuries are some additional

injuries curious kids may suffer during this period in their lives. This childproofing checklist can help reduce the risk of injury.

Install a temperature guard on the water heater and never set it above 120 degrees F.

- Follow United States Consumer Product Safety Commission crib safety regulations, which include fixed sides, a firm mattress and slats that are no more than 2 and 3/8 inches apart.

- Install carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors on every story of the house and check batteries in detectors frequently.

- Install a temperature guard on the water heater and never set it above 120 degrees F.

- Cover all sharp furniture edges and corners with safety padding or specialty

bumpers.

- Block all open outlets with outlet covers or safety plugs.

- Place lockable covers on the garbage.

- Install stove knob covers.

- Use latches on any drawers, toilets, doors or cabinets within the child's reach.

- Anchor heavy furniture, such as televisions, bookshelves and dressers, to the walls.

- Install safety guards on windows.
- Pull the crib away from other furniture.

- Use cordless window blinds.

- Place gates at the top and bottom of stairs and use them to prevent access to rooms that are off limits.

- Store cleaning supplies, tools and breakable items out of reach or in a locked cabinet.

- When the child reaches 35 inches in height or can climb out of the crib, it's time to transition to a toddler bed.

- Choose toy chests or other furniture with spring-loaded hinges.

- Do not hang heavy wall art or shelving over cribs.

- Cover radiators, hot pipes, etc. with protective materials.

- Remove flaking paint and be sure to have paint tested for lead.

- Inspect the home for protruding nails, bolts or other hardware that can cause injury.

These are some childproofing measures parents can implement to keep kids safe. Parents can customize childproofing plans based on their needs and the designs of their homes. Consult with a pediatrician for other tips on making a home safe for young children.

— Metro Creative

Preemies

(Continued from Page 15)

from holding their infant while they are in the NICU. However, once the child becomes stable, and only after careful sanitation, it's possible for new moms and dads to hold their baby. Visitors to the NICU likely will not be allowed to hold the child, however.

A preemie must meet certain criteria in

order to be discharged from the hospital:

- Maintain body temperature in an open crib for at least 24 to 48 hours, depending on how premature the baby was at birth.

- Feed by bottle or breast without supplemental tube feedings.

- Gain weight steadily.

Most premature infants do not need specialized medical support after leaving

the hospital, regular medical care and evaluation are advised.

Preemies often need extra nourishment because they have to catch up to the growth of full-term infants. Patience is necessary since preemies require smaller, more frequent feedings. Preemies have delicate immune systems, so they may be vulnerable to viral infections once they go

home from the hospital. As a result, parents may have to wait to welcome visitors until the infant is a little older.

Premature babies require some extra care to help them thrive. Parents can work with trusted pediatricians to give their infants the best opportunities to grow and develop.

— Metro Creative

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Happy learner

YOU CAN TELL just how much fun Brynn McClellan has while finding the raccoon faces on her toy at the Otter Creek Child Center in Middlebury.
Photo courtesy of Otter Creek Child Center



ACROSS

- 1. Remain as is
- 5. Functional
- 11. News magazine
- 12. Popular treat
- 16. Area units
- 17. Artificial intelligence
- 18. Marten valued for its fur
- 19. Forms of matter
- 24. Home of the Dodgers
- 25. Bordering
- 26. Part of the eye
- 27. It might be nervous
- 28. Visualizes
- 29. Crest of a hill
- 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
- 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
- 33. Not easily explained
- 34 **Song in short stanzas**
- 38. Detonations
- 39. Intestinal
- 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri --
- 43. Balmy
- 44. New Mexico mountain town

- 45. Gobblers
- 49. Insecticide
- 50. Golf scores
- 51. Has its own altar
- 53. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 54. Being livable
- 56. NHL play-by-play man
- 58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
- 59. Unpainted
- 60. Swam underwater
- 63. Native American people
- 64. Containing salt
- 65. Exam

DOWN

- 1. Small bone in middle ear
- 2. Long, angry speech
- 3. Move out of
- 4. Male organ
- 5. Two-toed sloth
- 6. Making dirty
- 7. Article
- 8. Oil company
- 9. Emits coherent radiation
- 10. Amounts of time
- 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | 12 | | | | | 13 | 14 | 15 | |
| 16 | | | | | | 17 | | | 18 | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | 20 | 21 | | | 22 | 23 | | | | 24 | |
| 25 | | | | | | | 26 | | | | | 27 | | |
| 28 | | | | | | 29 | | | | | 30 | | | |
| | | | | 31 | 32 | | | | | 33 | | | | |
| 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | | | | | | 38 | | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | | 40 | 41 | 42 | | | | | | |
| 43 | | | | | | 44 | | | | | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| 49 | | | | | 50 | | | | | 51 | 52 | | | |
| 53 | | | 54 | | | | | | 55 | | | | | |
| 56 | | 57 | | | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | |
| 60 | | | | | | 61 | 62 | | | | | 63 | | |
| | | | | 64 | | | | | | | | 65 | | |

- 14. Forbidden by law
- 15. Drains away
- 20. Not out
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Bird genus
- 23. Gratuity
- 27. __ and feathers
- 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- 30. Hot beverage
- 31. Pouch
- 32. It followed the cassette
- 33. Large northern deer
- 34. Ones who offer formally
- 35. Famed genie
- 36. Bequeathed
- 37. Skeletal muscle
- 38. Atomic #56
- 40. Silk garment
- 41. They deliver the mail
- 42. Equally
- 44. Check
- 45. Light-colored breed of hound
- 46. Drug that soothes
- 47. Railroads
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Jacket
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Hello
- 54. His and __
- 55. Supporter
- 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
- 61. Railway
- 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 5 | 7 | |
| | 9 | | 4 | | 1 | | |
| 8 | | 5 | 9 | 1 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 8 |
| | 6 | | 5 | | | | |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| | | | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 6 | | 9 | 3 | | 2 | | 7 |
| | 8 | | | 4 | | | |

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 22.



Add your piece!
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Dear Addison:

It's taken me 3.5 years to write you this letter. You should know it wasn't love at first sight. Moving from Burlington where everything was 2 minutes away to the rural countryside wasn't easy but now I can say there is true love between us. You've welcomed me with open arms.

Your soft and gentle nature provides many spots to just stop and take in the scenery. You welcome me into town with your old white steepled church, where if passing by on a Sunday, the hymns can be heard. You boast a few rolling hills among the miles of flat farm fields where the farmer sits poised on their tractor tending to their crops. Its just a short hike up Snake Mountain to gaze out over Lake Champlain and see the best sunsets in the town. Or a stop off at the lake for a quick dip to cool down in the summer's heat. You've also provided me with many good walking trails along Dead Creek.

There is so much to explore with you. Your bridge connects history from both sides of the lake allowing us to travel back in time. Then we can take a quick stop at Champs and play a round of mini golf. Why not end the perfect summer's night at Goodies with a heaping mount of ice cream perfectly twirled and balanced on the cone where we will find half the town hanging out too.

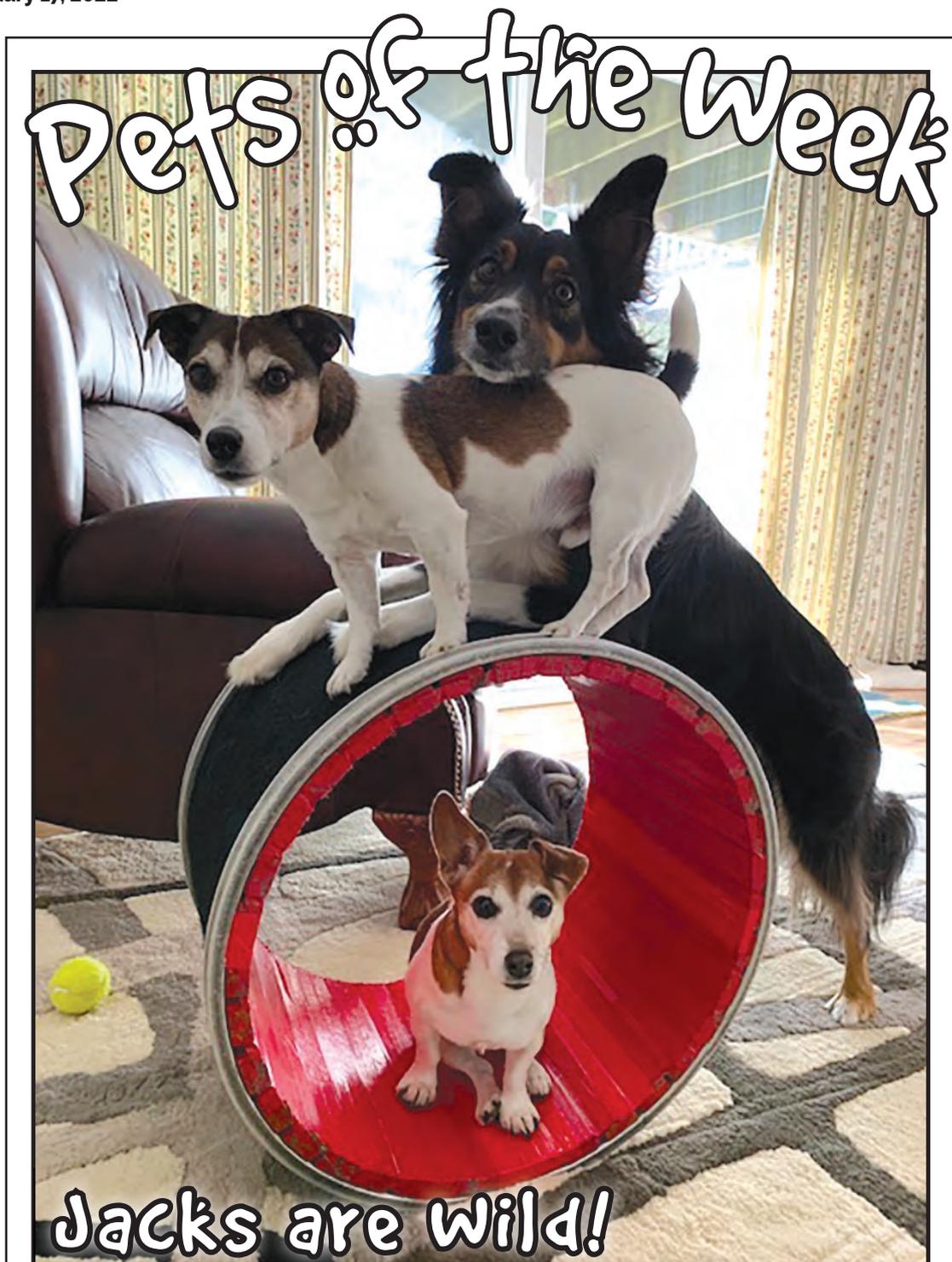
You bring out the true meaning to the phrases: neighbors helping neighbors, "hometown," and a small community coming together. Everyone here is so friendly and it didn't take long to meet the town and become friends. Walk into WAGS in the morning and there you'll find Mr. Fisher and the gang seated around the only table in the store having coffee together and reading the paper. Need an egg or a cup of sugar? Swing on over to the neighbors house and they'll certainly share with you. Tractor broke during first cut? Certainly one of the neighboring farms has one you can borrow, or better yet offers to help you finish. Then there are plentiful little roadside farm stands in the summer flowing over with fresh produce to share. Look down the street and you'll find kids playing in the yard. The sis what a town should be like!

You've got me wrapped around your fingers at the point Addison and I don't plan on ever leaving you. I hope you're as committed to me as I am to you.

Love,
Courtney



This was a submission to Come Alive Outside's call for love letters to Vermont towns. Find more at comealiveoutside.com.



This is my trio, also known as Jacks are Wild. They are my dearest pals, pets and show team.

Reggie's a four-year-old Border Collie/Aussie mix who loves to hike, swim, play frisbee, practice agility and can do lots of tricks.

Bella, at bottom, is a 20-year-old Jack Russell Terrier. She likes living in Vermont because it's quiet. She likes going for walks, especially when her Daddy carries her when she gets tired. She loves meeting new people and watching TV. She can do tricks, too, but says she's pretty much done doing shows. (Maybe a few more...)

Mario is Bella's brother, he's a 10-year-old Jack Russell Terrier. He loves to play, play, play. He's curious and must stick his nose in boxes or bags to see if there's anything inside for him. Mario is also known as Super Mario for his ability to do various tricks including the balancing kind.

Marian DeAngelo
Middlebury

Pet of the week

 Send us your pet!

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A note from Dr. Munschauer

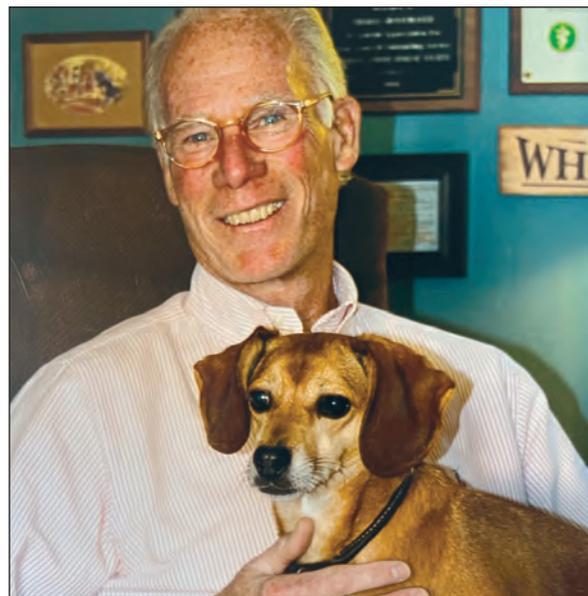
It was in an eighth-grade biology class that I realized I could marry an interest in science with a love of animals to make a career. Veterinary medicine became the goal. The goal brought me to the University of Vermont for my undergraduate years. My time there fostered a love for Vermont. After vet school, and some additional wandering, I was able to return to Vermont in 1986. I settled in Middlebury and began my career at the Middlebury Animal Hospital. Two years later I purchased the hospital from Dr. Arthur Greiner. Over time the practice grew. Dr. Scott Sutor joined in 1997. Dr Tracy Winters and Dr. Mark Doran came in 2007. We have made a great team. Two years ago, they bought me out. I am proud of the animal hospital and feel fortunate to have great colleagues who are willing and able to take it forward.

At the end of February, I will be retiring. While this is bittersweet, it comes with the opportunity to welcome back Dr. Matthew Quinn. Dr. Quinn was with us from 2001-06. He is an experienced veterinarian and an accomplished surgeon. The support staff remains well established, compassionate and knowledgeable. You will be in good hands.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve the animals and people of Addison County. Thank-you for your trust and your friendship. It's been a great ride.

— Thomas L. Munschauer, DVM

Dr. Munschauer has served the community for over 35 years. He was instrumental in raising funds for the Humane Society of Addison County and The Town Hall Theater.



Dr. Thomas Munschauer and peanut.

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Addison County's Humane Society



PETS IN NEED HOMEWARD BOUND

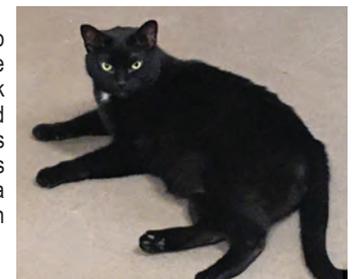
Addison County's Humane Society

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 pup. He really needs a BFF human – it is literally all he wants. He says hi to everyone he sees and has such a happy-go-lucky vibe. He loves every single human he meets, riding in the car and being showered with attention. Irish has been lovingly dubbed the Linebacker Lapdog!



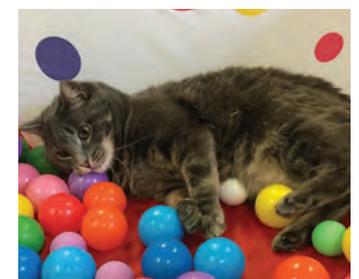
Holly is a sweet 6-year-old cat with beautiful coloring. She has a resting grump face but really isn't like that at all. She likes attention and to be loved on, but not to be picked up. The grumpiness is real with other cats so being the only cat in the home would work best.

James is a 7-year-old guy who likes to wander around the Cat Land until he tires himself out. He is a very laidback cat until he gets into the catnip and then he changes into a rambunctious kitten. He is affectionate and loves to explore. James would do best in a home without other pets where he can be adventurous on his own.



Levi is an independent guy who shows his affection by rubbing his head on everything he can reach. He will come to you when he wants head rubs, but he does not like to be caught off guard. He will make it clear when he's had enough lovin' and wants some alone time. He does not want the company of other cats.

Little Miss is a 6-year old puffball that purrs like it's her life mission. This sweetheart is full of love for people, toys, fishy fancy feast, and catnip. Little Miss is FIV+ and does not want to live with other cats or dogs.



Wispa is about 10 months old and spayed. She came to the shelter with several other rabbits. She is still working on her social skills and could use some tender love and care. Moving into a permanent home is what she really needs. She doesn't like other rabbits. We have tried to bond her with a friend and it didn't work out. She would need to be your one and only!

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you.

388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org



4655 SNAKE MOUNTAIN ROAD, WEYBRIDGE
\$ 995,000

THE HOME

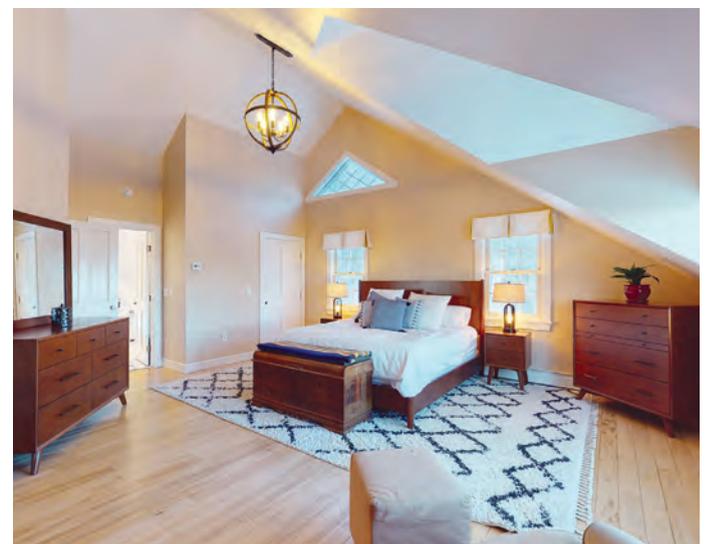
A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

Nestle into this Snake Mountain home

You'll be in a constant state of awe looking out onto the panoramic views of the Green Mountains from this remarkable home. Nestled on the eastern slope of Snake Mountain, enjoy 20 acres of privacy as well as access to miles of trails while abutting the 1,200 acres of the Snake Mountain Wildlife Management area. Among the most notable of the special features could be the wood detailing: abundant custom built-ins including a bar crafted from property-harvested butternut in the study, tiger maple and cherry paneling surrounding the living room fireplace, reclaimed doors, and maple floors. Sunlight filters through a collection of antique stained glass windows featured in many rooms. A stone fireplace and cathedral ceilings create a tranquil master bedroom suite. With over 3,100 square feet, four bedrooms, heated multipurpose room and a large basement (think wine cellar or workshop), there's an opportunity to offer getaway space for everyone. Of course they can spill outside onto a sprawling lawn, dig in the dirt in raised beds, access a network of trails, tap into network of sugar maples, or just watch it all from the red balau deck or expansive screened-in porch.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.



MAIN STREET, MIDDLEBURY

Downtown Middlebury Retail Space 48 Main Street.

Known locally as the Wild Mountain Thyme building, 48 Main Street in Middlebury has an approximately 950 SF retail space available for lease with additional office and storage space on the second floor. For over 40 years Wild Mountain Thyme was a thriving retail business located above the falls in Addison County's Shire Town. The owner has retired and now we are seeking the next tenant to fill this beautiful, recently renovated, air conditioned, space with their creativity and fresh ideas. Please call Duncan for more information and to schedule a showing.

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WE NEED U



Quaker Village Rd, Weybridge 9 A - \$125,000
Building lot located on the banks of Otter Creek. Sunny southern exposure on open pasture.



Mead Ln Investment \$350,000
Great investment opportunity in Middlebury! This just listed 4-unit apartment building has the benefits of having town water, being in the Middlebury School district and being situated in a neighborhood setting all while having the feel of living in the Vermont countryside. This building has a great rental history and is currently fully rented! Make an appointment to tour the property today!



Watchpoint- Shoreham \$384,900
This large 4 bedroom, 3 bath home on a 3.7+ acre open and sunny lot with deeded access to Lake Champlain is waiting for its new owners to come and enjoy lake life. With over 2,300 SF of living space there is plenty of space for everyone as well as room in the 2-car garage for the boat and all your toys. With a recent price reduction, and motivated sellers, this might just be the property you have been waiting for.

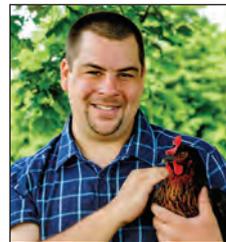
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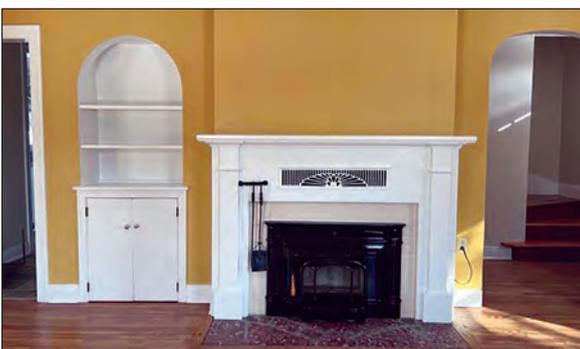
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Middlebury, VT MLS#4897807 \$400,000
This adorable 3 BDR, 2 BA Cape style home on South Street Ext. in Middlebury. Just steps away from the hospital and a short distance to Middlebury College, downtown Middlebury and the TAM.



Whiting, VT MLS#4897519 \$249,000
This lovingly maintained home has 3 BDR, 2 BA and sits in the middle of the town of Whiting. Nice level lot with views to the East of the Green Mountain and the Adirondacks to the West. The roof is 7 yrs old, the electric hot water heater is 5 yrs old and the furnace is 4 yrs old.

Community Corner:
Not sure what to do in the cold?
Go ice skating!

Check out these two local rinks:
Memorial Sports Center
(memorialsportscenter.org)
and

Vermont Trade Winds Farm
(skiatradewindsfarm.com/hescocksrink)



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FEBRUARY

26

LIGHTEN UP

A celebration of community, music and light!

Lantern Walk (bring your own!)

Music & Entertainment

Firepits

Food and Beverages to Purchase

Friends and Neighbors

Bring light to our community on Saturday, February 26th with a lantern walk through the downtown with stops at American Flatbread, the Stone Mill and Town Hall Theater, all offering up free outdoor entertainment and food/beverages for purchase. Begins at 5:30pm at American Flatbread. Free to attend.

Bring your own lanterns! Free lantern kits available at [Ilsley Library Children's Room](#) and make-your-own instructions available at [ExperienceMiddlebury.com](#)

DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY
SATURDAY 2.26 FROM 5:30-7:30PM