



Year in Arts

Our entertainment editor looks back at a fantastic year when arts emerged. See Arts + Leisure.



Flying high

Small in number, the MUHS gymnastics team leapt into action against St. J. See Page 1B.



Ancient craft

A Vergennes boat builder launches a series that reveals secrets of the Japanese craft. See Page 7B.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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State encourages building mid-priced homes

By ADDISON INDEPENDENT STAFF

MIDDLEBURY — With many Vermonters feeling stuck because of the increasing costs of homes and the dire lack of availability, state and local officials have announced a new program to build more moderately priced homes across the state.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA) will administer the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program, which provides subsidies and incentives for

homebuilders to construct or rehabilitate modest homes affordable to Vermont homebuyers at 120% of the area median household income or lower.

“We are not building enough homes in Vermont and have not been for quite some time,” said VHFA Executive Director Maura Collins. “With the launch of this innovative, collaborative program, we are creating new homeownership opportunities by investing in the construction of for-sale homes.”

The program, which Collins and others spoke about in an event at National Bank of Middlebury’s main office on Dec. 13, is open to nonprofit and private home builders. Eligible types of housing units include: 1–4-unit houses, manufactured or modular houses, condominium units, and houses or apartments owned by cooperative housing corporations.

The program includes both a construction loan guarantee as well as a development subsidy (See Housing, Page 5A)

Ferrisburgh to buy church as congregation dwindles

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — A bittersweet ceremony held on Dec. 17 at the Ferrisburgh Center Methodist Church was a prelude for the planned transfer of the Route 7 church property to the town of Ferrisburgh. The

town will add the 131-year-old building at the north end of the village to its inventory of property dedicated to the public good.

The church congregation, the United Methodist New England (See Church, Page 19A)

Students push towns to broaden ARPA focus

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Municipal officials and citizens in Addison County differ on how towns should spend their share of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and on how extensive public participation has been in making those funding decisions.

That comes from research conducted this fall by Middlebury College students, who evaluated how Middlebury, Weybridge, Bristol and Vergennes are deciding how to use their ARPA funds with a focus on the role of public input in (See ARPA decisions, Page 19A)

New Haven celebrates its migrant farm workers

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — Through a series of events this fall, New Haven residents have been making an effort to listen to and celebrate a part of the community that often goes unheard — migrant farm workers. Community-wide activities have centered on the stories of migrant farm workers, their journeys to Vermont and experiences living and working here.

Organizers of the events say they hope sharing these stories leads to a greater understanding of the area’s migrant farm workers and their (See Migrant workers, Page 3A)



THIS TREE THAT had fallen across Foote Street in Middlebury on Friday, above, blocked traffic until it could be cleared. Below, a linden tree tumbled in front of a Bristol home Friday, just missing the porch. Large trees toppled onto power lines, buildings and roads could be seen all around Addison County Friday morning as high winds swept through Vermont. Then temperatures plummeted and utility crews were stretched thin restoring electricity to more than 80,000 Vermonters.

Independent photos/John Flowers

Pre-Christmas storm wreaks havoc

GMP crews and local DPWs work overtime to clear roads, restore power

By ADDISON INDEPENDENT and VTDIGGER.ORG

ADDISON COUNTY — On Wednesday afternoon — seven days after the start of the big storm that whacked Vermont and surrounding states just before Christmas — utility crews were still working to restore power to more than 500 Vermont customers, though power was restored in Addison County by Tuesday, according to Vermont Emergency Management.

“Often the last outages in a wind event like this one are the most difficult to restore due to the rural nature of our state and the complexity of the damage,” Erica Bornemann, director of Vermont Emergency Management, said in an email.

“We are encouraged by the immense



progress that has been made through the holiday weekend in restoring power to Vermonters but we continue to urge safety to those who are still out.”

Vermont has been walloped by big storms two weekends in a row. The second, which struck the state late in the evening of Thursday, Dec. 22. It downed trees and power lines and lead to at least one death and widespread outages across the state.

Rain and high winds with gusts of up to 70 miles per hour moved across the state Thursday night and Friday morning, according to the National Weather Service. Going toward 100,000 Vermont utility customers were in the dark with trees as large as 100 feet toppled onto power lines.

(See Storm, Page 20A)



By the way

The nonprofit Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary, off East Munger Street in Middlebury, was among many properties that sustained major damage during the high winds and snow on Dec. 22. As previously reported in (See By the way, Page 5A)

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Chronology 2022

COVID still here, but 2022 offered much to remember

Editor’s note: The start of 2022 looked something like 2021, with face masks, social distancing and everybody keeping an eye out for signs of COVID-19. Over the course of the year, we learned to deal with it and soon enough the governor started easing constraints in schools. By summer we mostly acclimated to the new normal, and we could all enjoy things like parades and public get togethers. Of course, 2022 had its rough patches. And it had many high points. Take a trip down memory lane and recall what made this past year special.

And here’s to a great 2023!

January

2022 started out with — what else? — a surge of COVID-19 cases, thanks to the highly contagious Omicron variant. After the first Vermont infection traced to Omicron was reported on Dec. 18, 2021, by early January 75% of Vermont’s reported COVID cases were due to the variant. As a result, more meetings went back to Zoom, Porter Hospital tightened its visitor policy, the social services agency HOPE (Helping Overcome (See January, Page 8A)



January 13

THE 19TH-CENTURY New Haven Junction Train Depot transits eastbound up the first hill on Route 17 on its way to a new home on North Street on Wednesday morning. State officials said the building sat too close to the tracks for new higher-speed passenger trains.

Independent file photo/Steve James



ERIKA GUTEL PETS one of the goats at Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary in Middlebury on Tuesday. The animal sanctuary was heavily damaged during the weekend’s wind storm.

Photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Storm hammers animal sanctuary

Kinder Way Farm asks for assistance

By EMMA COTTON
VTDigger.org

MIDDLEBURY — After losing their income during the COVID-19 pandemic, selling their former farm sanctuary in Benson and starting over in Middlebury this year, Erika and Mark Butel felt like they finally had their feet on the ground.

Then, on Thursday, Dec. 22, their world turned upside down when hurricane-force winds tore through the state.

In Burlington, gusts nearly set the record for highest wind ever clocked at the airport. Around 40 miles south, in Middlebury, it blew apart the structures that shelter the 100 rescued farm animals at Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary and a yurt that the family rents out, contributing significantly to their income.

“The wind had literally picked these things up and made them into toothpicks, like, 100 yards from where they belong,” Mark Butel said. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

While their home on the property remained intact, buildings that Butel and his kids constructed during the spring and summer

were gone, and left the animals — sheep, cows, goats, pigs, geese, horses, turkeys — disoriented and looking for their homes, he said.

None of their animals were hurt in the storm. But the farm’s mission — to give abused and neglected farm animals a safe forever home — doesn’t generate income on its own, and rebuilding will come at a considerable expense.

The couple formerly owned and operated a coffee shop, first in Fair Haven, then in Castleton, which “funded everything,” Butel said. Then the pandemic hit and the coffee shop shut down. The bills piled up and their funds dwindled, so they remodeled their garage and opened a coffee shop at the Fair Haven farm.

The money helped, but they still couldn’t recover. Last March, the Butels sold the farm.

“It broke our hearts but we had to,” Butel said. “It was either that, or we walked with nothing.”

With the pandemic’s signature real estate market swings, they weren’t sure they’d find a place to go — but then, one of their followers connected them with family members in Middlebury who had 65 acres of land. Without existing farming infrastructure on the property, the Butels did most of the construction themselves.

“We did like 10 years worth of work in about six months,” Butel said.

Butel got a day job working for the local sheriff’s department, and they built a primitive yurt with a woodstove, tables and chairs, and rented it out on the online platform HipCamp.

They were just getting their feet wet, Butel said, when the winds came.

Last Thursday night, Erika stayed awake, unable to sleep through what “sounded like an all-night tornado,” she said. They heard snapping and glass breaking. Mark woke — convinced the ordeal had been a dream — to Erika standing over the bed, expressionless.

“It’s all gone,” she told him.

“It’s just a thing, but it just meant so much to who we are,” Mark said. “And to see it imploded ... it was like a part of us.”

Since then, the Butels have regained faith in their future. As the day went on, they realized every animal was accounted for. Erika set up a GoFundMe over the weekend, and as of Tuesday afternoon, supporters had donated nearly \$18,000.

“We were going to flee,” Mark said. “And now, you know what, we can actually rebuild. We can actually make this work. It’s fantastic.”

“That tells me that people care,” he said. “People care, and compassion will always win.”

Across the state, Vermont agricultural producers who suffered damages from the weekend’s storm may be eligible for emergency assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program. Farmers who need help should contact their local Farm Service Agency office.

Construction kicks off on renewable energy plant

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY

Construction has begun on a new plant in the town’s industrial park that will convert organic waste from area businesses into electric power. At the same time it will lessen the workload of the town’s aging wastewater treatment plant.

The Middlebury Resource Recovery Center, or MRRC, is being built at 177 Industrial Ave. It has been in the works for around six years, according to Todd Hasselbeck, vice president of PurposeEnergy Inc., the company that will own and operate the center.

Hasselbeck led a groundbreaking ceremony at the project site on Friday, Dec. 16, which drew representatives of several businesses that will provide organic waste for the new facility to process into electricity.

“PurposeEnergy and all of our feedstock partners ... have been extraordinarily patient through this lengthy process,” Hasselbeck said during a recent interview. “We’re grateful to have finally started the project and look forward to having it join our other working projects in Vermont, as soon as possible.”

He said the MRRC will take around a year to be built and put into service. It’s one of four PurposeEnergy resource recovering centers in Vermont that are in various states of operation or planning. Two of them — in South Burlington and Shelburne — have been going for several years. Middlebury’s will be the third to come online, and a fourth is being planned for the St. Albans industrial park, according to Hasselbeck.

Once completed, the MRRC will consist of an anaerobic digester, a generator to produce renewable electricity from digester biogas, and a related building and conduit. The project will include a pipeline of roughly one mile through which it will receive organic waste from three businesses in the Middlebury industrial park: Agri-Mark/Cabot cheese plant, Vermont Cider Company and the WhistlePig Rye Whiskey distillery that recently acquired the Otter Creek Brewing



A COMPANY CALLED PurposeEnergy recently broke ground on a new Middlebury Resource Recovery Center that will convert organic waste from area businesses into renewable energy. Pictured at the groundbreaking, left to right, are Chip Dillon, PurposeEnergy’s vice president for construction; Todd Hasselbeck, the company’s vice president for worldwide sales; and Eric Fitch, the company’s founder and CEO.

Independent photo/Steve James

plant at 793 Exchange St. The pipeline will stretch through rights-of-ways on Exchange Street, with spurs into the aforementioned businesses.

Hasselbeck said he’s hoping to negotiate additional waste agreements with other Middlebury industrial park industries, such as Aqua ViTea.

The MRRC will also be fueled by waste trucked in from up to 50 miles away, according to Hasselbeck. PurposeEnergy currently has around a dozen waste partners under contract, officials said.

It should be noted that the MRCC won’t be looking for just any kind of organic waste.

“We’re looking for high-calorie waste,” Hasselbeck said. “Those things that have a lot of potential energy would be things like ice cream waste, soft-drink waste, bakery waste, cheese waste ... and cider/beer waste.”

The MRRC won’t take any hazardous, septic or sanitary waste.

“All the waste is coming from food-grade processors,” Hasselbeck said. “It’s all been ‘cooked,’ or sanitized, before we get it.”

When fully operational, the PurposeEnergy facility will treat around 80,000 gallons per day of food waste and wastewater, an organic load equivalent to roughly 1,000 homes.

Should the center receive more demand for its services, it could accommodate that by adding more storage tanks. The plant is being built with three.

A “Tribrid-Bioreactor” process at the resource recovery center will convert the organics in food and beverage waste into biogas to generate more than 1 megawatt of renewable electricity for Vermont homes and businesses on a 24/7 basis. That energy will be funneled into the Green Mountain Power (GMP) grid

and made available to consumers who specifically request a green energy option. PurposeEnergy will be compensated for the energy through Vermont’s Standard Offer program.

Unlike solar and wind, resource recovery facilities don’t see an interruption in energy production if the sun stops shining or the wind stops blowing, Hasselbeck noted.

“An advantage for GMP with (the MRRC’s) power is that it’s not intermittent,” he said.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

In addition to generating electricity and providing a productive disposal option for organic waste generators, the MRRC is expected to take some pressure off a Middlebury wastewater treatment plant that is being sized up for a multi-million-dollar modernization project.

PurposeEnergy officials said the Middlebury facility will also:

- Sequester more than 60 tons of phosphorus each year that might otherwise have escaped into the Otter Creek or Lake Champlain through conventional wastewater treatment.
- Generate a solid fertilizer — a byproduct of the anaerobic digestion process — that can be added to compost to increase its value. Or it can be directly applied to fields by local farms growing corn and bean crops, thereby reducing chemical fertilizer purchases.

PC Construction — general contractor for the MRRC project — estimates needing an average of 25 workers throughout the one-year construction period. Once operational, the facility will employ one full-time licensed wastewater operator, four part-time employees, and ancillary jobs for participating local industries.

“The project will improve economic opportunity in the area by providing a lower cost, greener alternative for disposing of food waste,” reads a project narrative provided by PurposeEnergy.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Migrant workers

(Continued from Page 1A)

experiences, and ultimately toward the creation of lasting relationships and systems of support for the migrant community.

“So many people have had experiences with the migrant community and understood how late to the game we are in celebrating and thanking them for the work that they do,” New Haven resident Kim Callahan said. “In the New Haven farming community, we’ve had a fairly large number of migrant workers here for many years and this felt like the first time in maybe forever that we could really celebrate their contributions in a public way.”

Efforts will continue into the new year with future events. Beeman Elementary School kitchen staff are collaborating with a young woman from Guatemala to plan an authentic Guatemalan lunch at the school in February, during which Beeman students will learn more about the country. Organizers are hoping to plan a similar event at Bristol Elementary School as well.

Migrant farm workers play a vital role in the health of Vermont’s agriculture industry. A 2021 University of Vermont study found the state’s dairy economy is sustained by around 1,500 migrant workers.

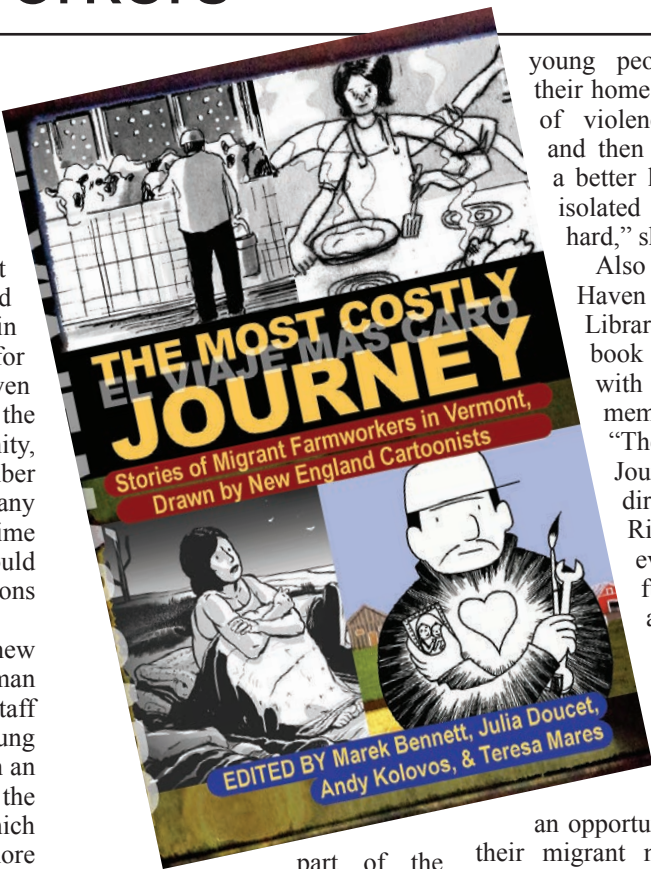
Based on 2016 estimates, many of these migrant workers are potentially undocumented, come from Latin American countries like Mexico, and work an average of 64 and a half hours per week at \$7.75 an hour — gross pay of a hair less than \$500 per week. The study concluded that, in addition to work-related health risks, Vermont’s migrant farm workers face impediments to their wellbeing such as language barriers and insufficient access to good housing, healthcare and transportation.

New Haven’s efforts to better understand the area’s migrant farm workers and their experiences started this past summer, when the Vermont Humanities Council named “The Most Costly Journey” the Vermont Reads Book of the Year.

The graphic novel is a collection of stories of Vermont’s Latin American migrant farm workers, depicted by New England graphic artists. The book chronicles the hardships migrant and immigrant farm workers face throughout their journeys to Vermont, and the new set of challenges they face once they arrive.

Communities are encouraged to read and engage with the Vermont Reads Book of the Year, an opportunity Callahan said New Haven residents were eager to take advantage of with “The Most Costly Journey.”

“It was just automatic, all of us just jumped at the opportunity because it’s been something that we’ve wanted to do for a long time. The other piece was using the book to educate our community about a



part of the population that a lot of people don’t know and don’t understand,” she said.

EYE OPENING STORIES

To engage residents with the themes of “The Most Costly Journey,” Callahan and others in New Haven on Oct. 1 organized an Honoring the Journey festival in town, intended to acknowledge the journey migrants have made and celebrate their contributions to the community.

The festival also celebrated Latin American cultures with music and food and created opportunities for residents to hear the stories of migrant farmworkers living and working in New Haven. The all-day affair featured a bilingual storytelling event at the New Haven Community Library, a cartoon drawing demonstration by New Haven graphic artist Kevin Kite (who contributed to the “Most Costly Journey”) and a soccer match between the Mount Abraham Union High School boys’ soccer team and a local migrant farmworkers squad.

Another one of the Oct. 1 events was a panel discussion at the New Haven Congregational Church. The panelists, three young farmworkers from Mexico and a young woman who

immigrated from Guatemala, told the audience their stories of migrating to the United States.

Chris Urban, a Bristol resident and Spanish teacher at Harwood Union High School, translated for the audience.

“I remember one of the questions was, ‘What do you gain and what do you lose when you move,’ and if it was worth it coming to Vermont despite the risks and what they gave up. It was a deeply human moment, they were very vulnerable,” Urban said of the event.

Callahan said the panel was insightful for her and other residents.

“I think it was really eye opening, because (attendees) had no idea the difficulties that these

young people endured in their home villages in terms of violence and poverty and then coming here for a better life and being so isolated and working so hard,” she said.

Also this fall, the New Haven Community Library hosted a book discussion with community members surrounding “The Most Costly Journey.” Library director Katie Male-Riordan said the event allowed for further education and discussion around the experiences of migrant farm workers.

“The book discussion was an opportunity to hear from their migrant neighbors, to be able to look through the window and learn of someone else’s experience from their own voice. I think everyone who read it and those that came to discuss felt more informed and some left with new perspectives,” she said.

The library also worked with the Vermont Folklife Center to house a portion of its Invisible Odysseys exhibit at the library. The exhibition is a collection of dioramas created by migrant farmworkers in Vermont, depicting their journeys to and experiences in the state.

Students from New Haven’s Beeman Elementary School in grades 3-6 visited the library to view the dioramas throughout this fall. Beeman Elementary librarian Holly Esterline said these visits were accompanied by further discussion of migration and the state’s migrant farmworkers.

“In addition, we had a guest speaker come to a school assembly to talk about her experiences migrating to the United States and to answer students’ questions,” she said. “Our goal in participating in these activities and events was to increase student awareness and knowledge about migrant workers in general and the workers’ participation in the New Haven community specifically.”

A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Event organizers intend to continue planning programs that highlight the area’s migrant farmworkers and the experiences of Vermont’s migrant community. Callahan said the young woman who spoke at Beeman Elementary School last month and the school’s kitchen staff are collaborating on a lunch of authentic Guatemalan food for students that will take place early next year.

Male-Riordan said she is also exploring long term ways to support and celebrate the migrant community at the library.

“I am thinking about what the library could be doing in terms of providing opportunities to continue to forge connections as well as support migrant workers who need access to library services. That is a work in progress and will probably take some time to develop,” she said.

Though, individuals involved in this fall’s events are more so hoping to encourage a spirit of

inviting migrant farmworkers into the community and supporting them in ways residents have neglected to in the past.

Callahan said she’s already heard from New Haven residents who are looking for ways to support the area’s migrant community following the events this fall.

“There have been a lot of people that have mentioned they wanted to volunteer with Addison Allies and help transport migrant farmworkers to work, or get involved with teaching English or learning Spanish,” she said.

Another form of support, Urban said, is by building relationships with migrant farmworkers. He recognized that the language barrier has created an obstacle between the migrant community and Vermonters who don’t speak

Spanish, though he’s found there are ways to build relationships that surpass language, such as through sports.

“I’ve found that soccer is a universal language and there’s been some friendships formed through soccer,” he said. “Breaking bread, sharing food and playing soccer are good ways to get to know them even though you might not be able to communicate as much.”

While events this fall have taken place in New Haven, Callahan said there’s an opportunity for communities throughout Vermont to learn from and support the state’s migrant community.

“This was just one community’s effort to contribute in that way and hopefully other communities in the county and throughout the state will embrace this as a way

to open the doors to the migrant community, so they don’t have to live in isolation,” she said.

The ultimate hope, Urban said, is that Vermonters start acknowledging migrant farm workers as part of their community, rather than separate from it.

“As a nation of immigrants, it’s important to recognize their story is similar to many of our stories. Many of the reasons they come here are similar to the reasons our ancestors came here,” he said. “They are a part of the community, whether we are willing to acknowledge or not. They’re here and they contribute, and I’ve found them to be really wonderful people. They bring a lot of joy to my life, and I think other people should get to know them.”

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Editorials

New Haven’s promising path to embracing migrant workers

For the past several months the town of New Haven has embraced a program to connect with migrant farm workers in its community. It’s a model other Addison County communities might want to consider.

As reporter Marin Howell reports: “The town’s efforts to better understand area migrant farm workers and their experiences started this past summer when the Vermont Humanities Council named ‘The Most Costly Journey’ the Vermont Reads Book of the Year. The graphic novel is a collection of stories of Vermont’s Latin American migrant farm workers depicted by New England graphic artists. The book chronicles the hardships migrant and immigrant farm workers face throughout their journeys to Vermont, and the... challenges they face once they arrive.”

Residents were encouraged to read the book and engage in a series of events and conversations staged by community leaders.

“It was just automatic, all of us just jumped at the opportunity because it’s been something that we’ve wanted to do for a long time,” said New Haven resident Kim Callahan, according to Howell’s report. “In the New Haven farming community, we’ve had a fairly large number of migrant workers here for many years and this felt like the first time in maybe forever that we could really celebrate their contributions in a public way.”

“The other piece was using the book to educate our community about a part of the population that a lot of people don’t know and don’t understand,” Callahan said, a comment that could pertain to almost all towns in Addison County.

A 2021 University of Vermont study found the state’s dairy economy was sustained by about 1,500 migrant farm workers, a good many of whom are based in Addison County. Getting to know them better and bringing them more into our communities will make us all stronger — and happier.

As community-wide resolutions for the New Year, Addison County towns would be well-served to follow New Haven’s path to better understanding the migrant farm community and embrace them as neighbors and fellow residents.

Angelo Lynn

The gift of hardship

Pre-Christmas storm Elliot walloped Addison County with high winds, wet snow, plunging temps and, for many, several days without power. Winds with gusts to 70-mph and higher (135 mph on top of Mount Mansfield in Stowe, and we’re told residents clocked over 80 mph on Lake Dunmore) blew hundreds of trees onto powerlines; snapped towering pines off their trunks; uprooted hundreds more and generally caused havoc from early Friday morning (3 a.m. to 5 a.m.) as power went off to almost 100,000 Vermont households and stayed off through Christmas day and into late Monday, Dec. 26, for the last few hundred — many of whom lived in Addison County.

While living without power always presents hardships, Vermonters were mostly fortunate: while Buffalo alone suffered 28 casualties in the same storm system, there was one storm-related death in Vermont; with the hurricane force winds came warm weather into the high 40s that first 12 hours, allowing many homeowners to clear debris blocking roadways and make necessary home repairs before temps plunged to single digits late Friday night into Saturday. While we got a few inches of wet snow Friday night, it was just enough to blanket the countryside (covering much of the tree litter) to make a white Christmas, while many ski areas received more than a foot of snow during a critical Christmas week.

Vermonters will have suffered damage to material things and structures, but as storm damage goes, it could have been much worse. Utilities, meanwhile, will bear the brunt of the cost.

Praise goes to the 400 or so linemen, tree removal personnel, local plumbers and others from throughout the region as they supported GMP’s own crews in dealing with the widespread power outages. A thousand thank-yous have gone out to those workers in many ways, and thousands more were said in silent whispers — or loud cheers — each time a utility truck rolled into a neighborhood, or the power came back on, perhaps just minutes ahead of a Christmas Day celebration.

Often, as in this storm, the gift of hardship is understanding how fortunate we are.

Angelo Lynn

Looking back, what’s new?

As we ponder what’s in store for the New Year, we first look to where we’ve been and what, perhaps, we’ve learned. In that spirit, each year at this time the *Addison Independent* compiles a chronology, which starts on Page 1A, of the notable events of the prior year by month.

This retrospective serves not just to refresh our memories, but to encourage us to pick up the threads of good initiatives and ideas, to redouble our efforts to complete tasks partially done, to strengthen where weaknesses were exposed and mend where we found systems broken.

In every community each of us will have our own initiatives to rekindle, tasks to complete, and weaknesses to strengthen in the never-ending effort to make our towns — and families — stronger than the day before. Doing this together, with an inkling that in doing so we strengthen each other, is what makes small communities the treasures they are.

What’s new each year is seeing who emerges from the pack to take a stand, to launch a new initiative, to break down obstacles and achieve new goals, big and small; to entertain or soothe. Those are the stories to be told in the year ahead. Your question is what role will you play?

Angelo Lynn

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The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

The longest night
A FAMILY GATHERS in the glow of headlamps to read the words of the song shared on Dec. 21 at the Watershed Center’s Solstice Celebration in Bristol. The center hosts winter revelers every December to send out the shortest day of the year and welcome the return of longer days and more light.
Photo by Jonathan Blake

It pays to listen to one’s inner self

When you follow your inner guidance or calling, amazing things can happen. For instance, I went to Mongolia, a place I never dreamed of going. A place described by my mother as the farthest and most unusual place on earth, as in “he would go to Outer Mongolia to find her.”

As a nurse and healer, I first went to Mongolia in 1994 on a tour with the American Holistic Nurses Association. I fell in love with the steppe smells, the colorful *deel*, or traditional clothing, and the whispery language. My goal was to learn about traditional Asian medicine. When I met Dr. Boldsaikhan, a doctor who used a combination of traditional Mongolian and Western medicine, the words, “Would you take an American disciple?” fell out of my mouth. They came from some deep place.

“Yes,” he said.

In 1995, I returned with Kathleen Scacciaferro of Bristol to study traditional Mongolian with him for three months. Dr. Boldsaikhan called my method of energy healing “psyche massage” since I do not touch the patient. The purpose in Mongolian medicine, whether changing diet, lifestyle behavior, herbs, or manual treatment herbs near certain energy points), or acupuncture is to balance the patients’ energy. Just like energy healing.

During our studies, Dr. Boldsaikhan took us to the countryside to introduce us to Mongolian medicine plants. He stopped at the *ger*, or yurt, of a nomadic herder to ask directions. There were no roads and certainly no road signs. For the second time with my teacher, I had an inner experience. This time words did

not come but I felt I was watching a movie set when the low *ger* door opened and a woman in a bright blue silk *deel* with a man in navy ducked out. Dr. Boldsaikhan spoke to them and soon we were on our way.

Nearly a decade later, I got an inner message to make a documentary of that lifestyle. In between, I had worked as a short-term health educator for the United Nations. I learned that women of the Gobi Desert used

only five liters of water a day. They found a way to make it meet their needs. When I got the message to make a movie on the Gobi women’s lives, I was meditating in a rocking chair at home in Middlebury. Five liters? Doesn’t the rest of the world need to know how this is possible? We in Vermont used about that much with one flush.

This started the next phase of my work in Mongolia: making documentaries about Mongolian traditional nomadic lifestyle. I was never trained as a filmmaker, but made a feature documentary called “Gobi Women’s Song” followed by three more features films about nomadic life.

What I have learned is you never know what you will be asked to do. Yet, when you listen and say, “yes” to a message from your deepest self, a way opens for you to do it.

Sas Carey’s new book, “Marrying Mongolia,” is being published by the International Polar Institute and will be released in February 2023. Her healing practice in Middlebury can found at www.lifeenergyheal.com. The documentaries and Mongolian work can be found at nomadicare.org.

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey

The Storm Before Christmas

The storm before Christmas and all through the house
No appliance was whirring, not even a mouse
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
With hope that heat, water and light would appear

Could Christmas be saved? We were not feeling merry
Ice and downed trees wreathed Middlebury
While linemen and road crews were far from their beds
Patching the wires hung over our heads

Fallen trees blocked the driveway and worsened the matter
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
Mike Adams with chainsaw round the driveway he flew

Pete Lourie, Glen and Cheryl Lower fed the stove too

Could we go see our children? We’d give it a try
To the car with a bound, through the storm did we fly
The eight tiny reindeer were nowhere in sight
But Santa Claus still made it that night

To Green Mountain Power and the road crew who came,
Ana Sansone, cat expert, we give thanks by name
House watchers An Duclos and Clay
Vermont neighbors we love you and to all a good day

Editor’s note: This little rhyme was submitted by Morris Earle of Middlebury, with apologies to Clement C. Moore, the author a more well-known poem set around Dec. 25.

Letters to the Editor

Kudos offered to GMP crews

I would like to recognize the tremendous effort put forth by the Green Mountain Power emergency crews, as well as the many plumbers and electricians who spent hours in the cold working to restore power and fix water and heating issues in the wake of our recent pre-Christmas windstorm.

These selfless workers had to spend much of the holiday away from their families. We should all tip our hats to those who helped keep us warm while Mother Nature threw us a big curveball. Much appreciated!

Ben Rosenberg
Cornwall

Power restored thanks to many

We live in Cornwall and, like many in Vermont, were out of power during the recent storm.

We want to thank and express our gratitude to all the line workers, tree workers, and other crew members who worked, and are still working, in frigid and dangerous conditions to restore power to thousands of homes. Also thank you to all road crews and emergency and law enforcement personnel who kept our roads safe. We feel fortunate to live in our little state of Vermont.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year!

Vesta and Paul Urband
Cornwall

Night lights a welcome sight

Driving home in the dark at 4:30 in the afternoon I treasure every scrap of light. Electric candles perched on windowsills, like the kernel of an idea dawning in the dark, flat glass. The porch drowning in icicle lights, fearsome in their regularity. Nets smothering bushes. The inflatable tethered in the lawn, 20 ultra-shielded extension cord feet from the house.

I love even more the little white lights swagging trees exactly as high as the ladder reaches. I love the new super-saturated LED lights that rewrite the season like the deep shocking red of a cardinal against drifts of white. I love the human hands that hang these lights and pay for the extra electricity. The generosity shines through the gloaming, drawing me on around the bends and over the hills.

I love the courage it takes to be imperfect, the off-kilter wreath and fallen toy soldier. It got dark and cold, you ran out of strings and used up all your replacement bulbs. That’s good enough, you decided, no one drives this way, no one really cares. But I do.

Everyone who has lit an extra light this winter has done so much more than good enough. You cared and you tried, and because of those things you have succeeded.

Thank you. I appreciate you. Your lights comfort me and keep me company through the dark evenings until I reach my own imperfect pink window. And if you ever want to talk; I’m the one weeping, tear-tracks flashing, as the SD Ireland cement truck slowly rolls by.

Trish Dougherty
Orwell

Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@addisonindependent.com.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
the **Addison Independent**, **Kinder Way Farm Sanctuary** provides a safe haven for “retired” farm animals, advocacy, education and regenerative agriculture. **Kinder Way’s Erika and Mark Gutel** are looking to raise funds to repair and rebuild through a GoFundMe campaign. You can learn more on the sanctuary’s Facebook page at facebook.com/kinderwayfarmVT, or go directly to their GoFundMe page at gofundme.com/f/kinder-way-emergency-rebuild. As of late Tuesday, the Gutels had reported raising \$18,000 toward a \$40,000 rebuild goal. A detailed account of the storm damage can be found at the GoFundMe page.

The Lights of Love tree at Homeward Bound honors the pets we have loved and lost, and the ones that are still here to brighten our lives. Homeward Bound, the Humane Society of Addison County, is believed to be the only organization in Vermont to offer an opportunity like this to honor pets during the holiday season. You are invited to sponsor white lights for pets who are gone and colored lights for pets who play on. The shelter has the Lights of Love tree lit all day and all night throughout the winter season, and you’re encouraged to stop by 236 Boardman St. in Middlebury to see it. In the New Year, Homeward Bound will make a slide show of pets’ names available on their website. To purchase Lights of Love, visit tinyurl.com/2s3xybj.

If you like getting out and looking for birds, you might have been planning to go on the First Day Birding walk on Sunday, New Year’s Day, at Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh, which was teased in out calendar last week. But take note, we had the wrong start time for the walk. It runs from 9 to 11 a.m. at the park at 5 Button Bay State Park Road. Don’t arrive late on account of our mistake.

Know what a “Quinzhee” is? There’s no better way to learn than to build one, and the Middlebury Area Land Trust is offering you that opportunity at Wright Park on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A Quinzhee is defined as a Canadian snow shelter made from a large pile of loose snow that’s shaped, then hollowed. It differs from an igloo, which is made from

Expert to offer talk on beavers in Salisbury

SALISBURY — Wildlife Specialist Tyler Brown of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will give a free PowerPoint presentation titled “Leave it to Beaver” on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Salisbury Congregational Church. He will provide an overview of beaver biology, history, management and the Beaver Baffle Program. Beavers were almost entirely gone from Vermont by the middle of the 1800s. As a result, they were trapped from New York and Maine and brought into Vermont in the 1920s and ’30s. Although currently well established in the Green Mountain State, there may currently be only 10% of the number of beavers here now compared to prior to European settlement. They are the largest rodent in North America. Tyler Brown started as a seasonal worker with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2012 and was hired full-time in 2022. He has BS in wildlife biology from the University of Vermont. Brown is responsible for the department’s Beaver Baffle Program, which helps landowners and towns experiencing conflicts with beavers to maintain valuable wetland habitats, and helps out with the furbearer program. He also provides technical assistance to private landowners in Windham and Windsor counties as part of the EQIP program. Brown is an avid outdoorsman, enjoying time spent hunting, fishing, trapping, foraging and beekeeping. He can often be found exploring the beautiful public lands of Vermont. This presentation was organized by the Salisbury Conservation Commission.

blocks of hard snow. Leading the Quinzhee construction project will be Simon Schreier, MALT’s education manager. “In the morning, we’ll use shovels to build a massive dome of snow,” he said of the construction process. “After a break to warm up and allow the snow to settle and pack, we’ll carve the dome from the inside-out. When we’re finished, we’ll hopefully have a shelter that can fit four-to-six people inside at a time. At the very least, we’ll have stayed warm and made some great memories.” Schreier said the project is appropriate for families and people of all ages, and folks can drop in at any time during the construction day. Dress warmly and bring your own snow shovel and a mug for hot cocoa. Register at maltvt.org/ events to stay informed of potential weather-related cancellation.

The Vermont Folklife Center (VFC) in Middlebury has received a \$3,000 grant through the Vermont Arts Council to support a memoir writing group, to be led by Stephen Longmire at two of the town’s two assisted living facilities; The Residence at Otter Creek and Eastview at Middlebury. It was one of 14 grants the council recently awarded to support arts education programming for Vermont’s youngest to oldest learners. Seven Creative Aging grants were awarded to Vermont organizations to support skill-based arts instruction and intentional social engagement programs for older adults. For the youngest Vermonters, seven grants were awarded to support arts-integrated experiences in early education classrooms supported by Head Start, a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that helps children from low-income families prepare for success in school. Since 1965, the Vermont Arts Council has been the state’s primary provider of funding, advocacy and information for the arts in Vermont. Learn more at vermontartscouncil.org.



JOSH HANFORD, COMMISSIONER of Department of Housing and Community Development, promotes the new Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program in a roll-out event at the National Bank of Middlebury earlier this month.
Independent photo/Steve James

Housing

(Continued from Page 1A)
for program-eligible homes. Additionally, the program includes a subsidy to income-eligible buyers that reduces the home sales price. At least one-third of the program funds will support the shared equity model of home ownership to provide deeper affordability. Gov. Phil Scott signed legislation in June that provides \$15 million in funding for the program, using a portion of the state’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The program represents the largest single investment in Vermont history to create new homeownership opportunities by investing in the construction of for-sale homes. “It’s no secret that housing costs have soared over the last few years, making home ownership out of reach for most middle-income Vermonters like teachers and firefighters,” Gov. Scott said in a press release. “This creative program was a top housing priority for my administration during the last legislative session and it will help build more homes, quickly bring them to the market and

ensure they are affordable for Vermonters.” Historic underproduction of housing, rising home sales prices and mortgage interest rates, and extraordinary increases in the costs of construction led to the need for the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program. Year-over-year home construction costs have increased by more than 12% between 2021 and 2022. In most cases, it now costs more to build a modest single-family home than the home will appraise for at the time of completion, officials said when they announced the program. Median home prices in Vermont have increased from \$259,900 to \$295,000 between 2021 and 2022. In many areas across the state, homes priced at median prices in good condition for potential buyers are almost non-existent. National 30-year mortgage interest rates have increased from 2.74% in early 2021 to 6.56% this week, further putting pressure on the cost of buying a home. VHFA estimates that the increase in interest rates resulted in



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Laurie Patton, right, and David Provost, executive vice president for Finance and Administration at the college, touted the work that the college is doing to help make housing affordable during a Dec. 13 event at the National Bank of Middlebury.
Independent photo/Steve James

13,400 Vermont renter households are unable to afford the mortgage on a median priced home, or put another way, 50% fewer Vermonters can afford to buy a median-priced home than in 2021. One of the first applicants for the Missing Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program is part of a 200-plus unit new construction, highly energy efficient, mixed income community in Middlebury. The project represents an innovative partnership between Middlebury College and Summit Properties to meet local housing demands. The project team also includes Addison County Community Trust and Habitat for

Humanity of Addison County. “In today’s building environment, affordable housing cannot be built without innovation and really effective partnerships,” said Zeke Davisson, chief operating officer of Summit Properties. “The Missing Middle program is allowing us to bring employers, state agencies, non-profit partners, and lenders to the table to create a partnership that can drive the next generation of economic development and vitality to communities like Middlebury.” Builders and developers interested in learning more about the program or applying can visit the program page at: tinyurl.com/ VTousingProgram.

Merry Mulch

Turn your Christmas tree into a pine mulch through Addison County Solid Waste Management District's Merry Mulch Program! After the holidays, your trees will be given away as a fragrant mulch.

!

Just the tree!
No wreaths, ornaments, garlands, tinsel, wire, or other decorations.

Curbside Tree Pickup

Pick up is **EARLY** Saturday, January 7th. Put trees out the night before so you do not miss pickup!

Vergennes

The Vergennes Lions Club will pick up trees Saturday, January 7th.

Middlebury

The Middlebury Rotary Club will pick up trees Saturday, January 7th.

Tree Drop-Off

If you missed curbside pickup or do not reside in Vergennes or Middlebury, fear not! Christmas tree drop-off at the District Transfer Station off Rte 7 South is free for the month of January during regular hours, Mon. - Fri. 7 AM - 3 PM and Sat., 8 AM - 1 PM.

Addison County
Solid Waste Management District
1223 Rte 7 South Middlebury, VT
(802) 388-2333

HOPE

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Thank you!!!

Due to the generosity of our community, this year HOPE has been able to meet an increased need for assistance with food, housing, heat, medicines, and much more. The holidays are brighter for many due to our holiday meal box program, school vacation snack bags, and books and gifts for children from our free holiday shop. The gratitude we see every day is heartwarming. To everyone who made a financial donation, volunteered at HOPE, brought in food, books and gifts for our holiday shop, donated quality goods for resale at our store, we thank you. Your contributions make life better for so many. You are truly helping to change lives.

Happy holidays to each and every one of you,
from all of us at HOPE.

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ADDISON
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Obituaries

Adele M. Coyle, 73, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Adele Coyle, 73, died on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, after a long struggle with chronic medical problems.

Adele was born in Mineville, N.Y., on July 22, 1949. She was a parishioner of St. Peter's Church in Vergennes, Vt. Adele enjoyed her family and friends and through the years was a caregiver to many. She was spiritual, fun-loving, social and had a great sense of humor. Adele made many friends, especially at Middlebury Elderly Services and Project Independence, Addison County Home Health and Helen Porter Rehab and Nursing. The family wishes to offer special thanks to the caregivers that supported Adele in many ways, especially her primary caregiver.

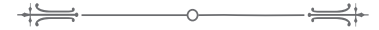
Adele was predeceased by parents, Patrick J. and Marie (Little) Coyle, and stepmother Agnes "Bonnie" (Jonzak) Coyle; siblings and their spouses, Annette and Daniel Baronoski, Harold and Jennifer (Duclos) Coyle, James and Pamela (Jewell) Coyle, Kathleen and John Provoncha, Judith and Robert Hart; and sisters Mary and



ADELE M. COYLE

Patricia Coyle, brother Ted and brothers-in-law Neil Bean and David Bitler.

Survivors include siblings and their spouses, Caroline Bitler, Therese and Leon Flanders, Joseph and Glenna (Hallock) Coyle, John Coyle and Tracy Fernandez, and sister-in-law Sherry (Boyer)



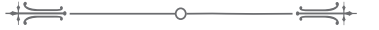
Joseph M. Trombley Jr., 72, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Joseph M. Trombley Jr., 72, of Starksboro died on Dec 25, 2022, after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

As an avid hunter and fisherman, he enjoyed spending time with his family doing his favorite things.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marjorie Trombley, four daughters, three brothers, a sister, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, Joseph Sr. and Shirley



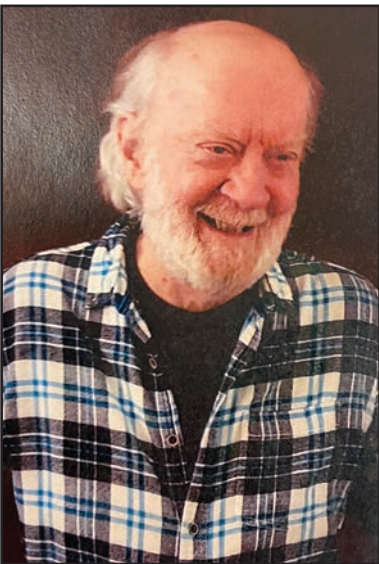
Charles Sabukewicz, 85, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY—The beautiful soul of Charlie Sabukewicz left his worn out body on Dec. 21, 2022, at his home at The Residence at Otter Creek. He was known for his kindness to others, his sense of humor, his skill as a teacher and his remarkable creativity, but most of all for his great love for his family and friends.

He was born in Washington, D.C., to Charles J. Sabukewicz and Madeline S. Mulligan Sabukewicz, but when he was just a few months old, the family moved to Narragansett, R.I., where he enjoyed a childhood near the sea. As a young adult, he earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature and later a master's degree at the University of Rhode Island while at the same time raising small children with his wife, Susan Kerr Sabukewicz.

His first teaching job was in Westerly, R.I., where he taught high school English and subsequently at the New London, Conn., high school. Following his divorce in 1975, he returned to teach again at the Westerly High School. Five years later, he met the woman who was to become his second wife, Helen L. Marsh, who was working at the Westerly Public Library.

In 1985, they both wanted to move to Vermont, and he quickly got a teaching job at the



CHARLES SABUKEWICZ

Middlebury Union High School, where he taught American Studies, Writing and Advanced Placement English classes until his retirement in 1999.

Now free to follow his muse, he began writing poetry and produced two chapbooks and a full length book of poems, "In Sleep's Circumference," in 2016. He gave several poetry readings which were attended by many and appreciated by all, even by those who said they had never liked poetry before they heard his.

In 2015, Charlie and Helen moved to a cottage at The

Coyle, all of Vermont; and also by Jeanne Bean of Texas, Louise and Mark St. Jacques of New York, Dr. Gael Coyle and Michael Skiles of Oregon, Dolores Coyle-Quirk and Jeff Quirk of New Hampshire, and E. Susan and Claus Kjaer of Massachusetts; and several nieces, nephews and dear friends.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Church in Vergennes on Dec. 27 followed by a Memorial Reception at the American Legion in Vergennes. A burial will be scheduled in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Adele's name to Elderly Services and Project Independence in Middlebury at elderlyservices.org/make-an-online-gift, Addison County Home Health & Hospice in New Haven, interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E349186&id=1, or Helen Porter Rehab & Nursing in Middlebury, fundraise.givesmart.com/form/PHTPmA?vid=wdwns.

To send online condolences to Adele's family please visit brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com. ◇

Trombley, and his sisters Janine and Jane.

Per his request there will be no services.

For a full obituary please visit gregorycremation.com/obituaries.

Residence at Otter Creek, where they made many new friends and joined in the activities. Their favorite was the group's discussion of an article from *The New Yorker* magazine. Charlie's insightful responses always added much to the discussion, and his humor and wit were most enjoyable. His recent declining health caused him to become less active and more homebound, forgoing his long walks on The Residence's campus.

Left to cherish memories of him are his loving wife Helen Marsh, daughter Stephanie Sabukewicz and children Britney and Sydney, stepdaughter Pamela Marsh and children Rhys, Kelly and Iris, his stepdaughter Lisa Cuffari and children Elena, Peter and Maddie, daughter-in-law Michele White and children Hannah and Miyah, sister Joan Teixeira, stepsister Sallie Pellman, former wife Susan Kerr, many friends and his cat Piper.

Charlie was predeceased by his sons Charles J. "Chip" Sabukewicz and Edward A. Sabukewicz, his stepdaughter Evalynne Marsh and his sister Catherine Caswell. The family would like to thank the Hospice care team led by Sarah Frisch and special caregiver Lisa Forrest for their tenderness toward Charlie.

A celebration of life is being planned for mid-May of 2023. ◇

Richard Lloyd Tatro Sr., 75, of East Middlebury

EAST MIDDLEBURY — Richard Lloyd Tatro Sr., age 75, passed away Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, at the home of his son in Leicester.

Richard was born in Burlington on Dec. 3, 1947. He was the son of Lloyd and Barbara (LaRose) Tatro. He worked as a groundskeeper and landscaper at Middlebury College for many years. He also farmed at the Hunt Farm. He had worked at Addison County Commission Sales for over 37 years. He loved fishing, hunting and his farming.

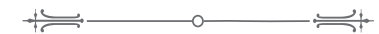
He is survived by his wife, Judith Tatro of East Middlebury; his children, Richard Tatro Jr.

(Lisa) of Leicester, Michael Tatro (Susan) of Middlebury, Tracy Chamber (Larry) of Virginia, and Joseph and Thomas Tatro, both of Middlebury; one sister, Mary Rathbun (Edson); two brothers, James Tatro (Lisa) and Michael Tatro (Pam); and a sister-in-law, Joann Tatro. Eleven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Lloyd Tatro Jr. and Francis Tatro.

Respecting his wishes a private graveside committal service and burial will take place, at a later date.



RICHARD LLOYD TATRO



Kenneth R. Weber, 81, of Vergennes

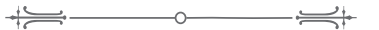
VERGENNES — Kenneth Robert Weber, dearest husband, beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend to many near and far, died peacefully in his home on December 17, 2022. Kenneth/Papa/Ken/Pops was a big man with a big personality, and could fill a room with his hearty laugh and outgoing manner. He loved camping, music, travel adventures or any activity that brought the family together. Ken was an avid photographer and spent many hours capturing Vermont landscapes and birds.

A lifelong Vermont resident, Ken was born April 3, 1941, to Wilbur and Dorothy Weber of East Dorset, Vt. He lived and grew up in East Dorset, and married his high school sweetheart, Joanne (Markey) Weber, to whom he was married for 62 years. As a teenager he worked with his father for the family business, Webco Roofing. He attended Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., and after graduation worked for 19 years for IBM in Essex Junction, Vt.



KEN WEBER

He was a great father and loved his family deeply. After leaving IBM, Ken and Joanne took on one of the highest callings of their lives, running a hospice out of their home in Bristol, Vt., which Ken built along with other volunteers. The St. Gerard Home helped patients



Kathleen Adams Ciociola, formerly of Bristol

PORT HENRY, N.Y. — Kathleen Adams Ciociola passed away on Dec. 19, 2022. She died peacefully in the loving presence of her family.

Kathy was a long-time Addison County resident before moving to Naples, Florida, in 2020. She and her husband, Mark Ciociola, returned to the region in 2022 to be closer to family and friends after her diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

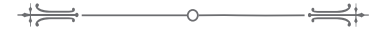
Kathy had a profound love and respect for the youth in her community. Her ability to connect with young people made her a mentor and guardian angel to many; often during the most difficult times of their lives. She had a special place in her heart for young people who were the hardest to reach or were facing the most daunting challenges. It was often said of her that "the more difficult the kid, the more she loved them." Kathy always spoke highly of the youth she came to know through her work with area high schools (including the SCRUBS), the Boys



KATHLEEN ADAMS
CIOCIOLA

and Girls Club, and the Vergennes Thundercare program. Even her home (also known as HQ) came to be known as a safe and fun place for teens to gather. So many of us came to grow into better people because of her influence and love when we were younger.

Kathy leaves her family with a lifetime of fond memories. She is



Rev. Wayne Alfred Holsman, 87, of Ripton

RIPTON — The memorial service in celebration of the life of Rev. Wayne Alfred Holsman, 87, who died on Dec. 23, 2022, will be held on Jan. 7, 2023, at 1 p.m., at the Salisbury Congregational Church.

A full obituary will appear in next week's *Addison Independent*. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral home in Brandon.



JARED JAMES MULLIN

Jared James Mullin, 43, Bristol native

KEESVILLE, N.Y. — Jared James Mullin, 43, a longtime resident of Vermont, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 22, 2022, after a battle with pneumonia.

Born Sept. 26, 1979, in Derby, Conn., Jared grew up in Bristol, Vt. Jared graduated from Mount Abe High School in Bristol. He loved fishing, camping and working with his hands.

Jared was loved and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his beloved daughter Airalee Mullin, stepson Wayne Larose, mother Raistlin Blackstone, father James Mullin and brother Nicholas Lockhart.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be given to the food shelf.

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Solstice in Middlebury

ACTORS AND PUPPETEERS of all ages gathered outside Middlebury's Town Hall Theater on Wednesday, Dec. 21, to celebrate the winter solstice with a pageant adapted from Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Barbara Paulson, of No Strings Marionette Co, and THT Education Director Lindsay Pontius worked with local students over the last several weeks to build the puppets and stage the production, which ended on the town green and brought a little light on the shortest day.

Above, young actors perform in front of the gazebo on the Middlebury Town Green. Below right, the 5- to 8-year-old group of puppeteers makes their cat puppets spit and snarl along the wall outside Town Hall Theater. Middlebury artist Claire Tebbis provided beautiful lanterns for the winter solstice pageant, including the glowing star seen below left.

Independent photos/Steve James



Thankful for our community

On behalf of the Middlebury Department for Children and Families (DCF) office, I'd like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to the following people and agencies for helping to support the children and families whom we serve this holiday season. You helped bring the holidays to light for those who may have gone without:

M&T Bank, Cyclewise Inc., Agway, North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, Toys for Tots, Tatum's Totes, LUND, Middlebury Mayhem, the Manning Family, Ten Stones Emporium, Valerie and Devon Cherry, and Robin and Rick Scott.

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Chronology 2022

(January from Page 1A)
Poverty's Effects) closed its building to the public, the town of Lincoln canceled a music series ... Basically, the beat went on, although things eventually settled down.

In Vergennes, the committee studying whether the city should create a citizen panel to work with city officials and the Vergennes Police Department concluded in a 76-page report that "some form of citizen review/advisory body will be beneficial to the city of Vergennes." With another study ongoing at that point, city officials took no action.

Although it is unlikely there were many mourners when convicted killer, former Ripton resident and New York real estate scion Robert Durst, 78, died in prison in January, it ended a chance to solve the mystery of the 1971 disappearance of then-Middlebury College freshman Lynne Schulze. Before she vanished, Schulze was last seen on Court Street eating food that she had purchased from a health food store that Durst operated. While Durst was never officially named as a suspect in Schulze's December 1971 disappearance, Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley had in 2015 called Durst "a person who is very interesting to us."

Middlebury Selectman Nick Artim had served on the board for a dozen years, and in January he decided that was enough, announcing he would not run again in March.

The Vermont State Board of Education in mid-January had good news and bad news for Ripton's bid to be an independent school district. The board granted Ripton's wish to become independent from the Addison Central School District, designating Ripton its own supervisory district. But the state board declined to compel any nearby school district to provide the costly special education, transportation and central office services Ripton would need to operate its own district.

Well-respected former State Rep. Willem Jewett, a Ripton Democrat, died in January at the age of 58 with a terminal case of cancer. Among the avid outdoorsman's many legislative accomplishments was his strong support for Vermont's "death with dignity" law. Jewett, a lawyer known locally and in Montpelier for his sense of humor as well as his work ethic, died after using a prescription obtained through Act 39, the death-with-dignity law that he helped establish and sought to improve, right up to his death.

Bristol's Three Day Stampede raised about \$2.2 million to fight cystic fibrosis over three decades operating an annual lawn sale, auction, road race and other activities each July. In January founders Bonita and David Bedard



January 20

THE GOING WAS tough on the boards in Saturday's hoop rivalry game between VUHS and visiting Mount Abe, as Abram Francis, left, would testify after running into the Eagles' Norman Benoit, with Henry Cogswell looking on. The Commodores prevailed in a tight game.

Independent file photo/Steve James

said the lawn sale that had been a major part of the annual event had run its course and would come to an end due to COVID, problematic weather and rising insurance costs. The road race and silent auction will remain, and the Bedards' children and grandchildren said they had ideas to add to the event.

The John Graham Shelter announced an ambitious plan to spend \$5 million to overhaul 18 of its affordable housing units in Bristol, Middlebury and Vergennes. Financing was to come from \$2.3 million in financing through the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the sale of tax credits.

In Addison, one of the longest-serving local public servants said she would step down in March. Marilla Webb had been the town's clerk for nine years, but had served as the town's assistant clerk for 26 years before then.

One more note about COVID: January 2022 was Vermont's second-deadliest month of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to data from the Vermont Department of Health. The department reported 64 people died of COVID during the month, a bit more than the 62 deaths reported for December 2021, but fewer than the 71 of December 2020.

February

Despite that COVID stat from January, high school and college sports went on. As of Feb. 1, Middlebury College announced



February 10

IN A file photo taken before the pandemic, Bristol postal clerk Linda Lathrop prepares another package as it begins its trip through the U.S. Postal Service. Lathrop last week marked her 55th year working for the post office.

Photo courtesy of Sue Folino

it would lift its spectator ban, allowing fans to attend its athletic events with proof of vaccination, including the most recently available booster shots. Masked spectators were already allowed at high school events.

In other sports news, Starksboro skier Ryan Cochrane-Siegle won an Olympic silver medal in the Super-G ski race in Beijing on Feb. 8. We're guessing that was even more exciting than his considerable accomplishments as a Mount Abraham Union High School soccer and baseball player.

Salisbury dairy farmer Chase Goodrich this month said he was excited about a new Vermont Agency of Agriculture program that compensates farmers based on the amount of phosphorus pollution (from manure and fertilizer) they can keep out of the waterways. He said the dissolved air flotation system that was installed on the Goodrich Farm last year in conjunction with an anaerobic digester for cow manure and food waste will make it easier for his farm to manage phosphorus in its waste stream.

A new Middlebury College student organization formed to undertake a friendly challenge among engineering minded college students all over the country. It's a first for the school, and slightly off the beaten path for a small New England liberal arts college: The students are building a hybrid formula racecar that they're planning to race at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H. The driving force behind Middlebury College Formula Hybrid was student Louis

Parizeau, a computer science major who during the pandemic developed an interest in go-kart racing.

No pandemic could slow the United Way of Addison County, or dampen county residents' generosity. By early February UWAC's 2021-2022 fund drive reached and slightly exceeded its \$665,000 goal — with five months still left in the campaign.

Sticker shock, anyone? The Vergennes City Council agreed to put a \$25.5 million bond request on the city's Town Meeting Day warning for a comprehensive sewer collection and treatment system fix. Officials told voters they hoped for grants to cut the final amount to bond by half or more.

Patricia Hannaford Career Center Superintendent Dana Peterson announced in February he would leave the school. Peterson, who came under fire from a number of current and former staff members for his leadership, said it had "become clear that my role has turned into a distraction" for the district.

Also at the Career Center, students in February were taking 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" 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 the students are working on the first of what will hopefully be many tiny
(See February, Page 9A)



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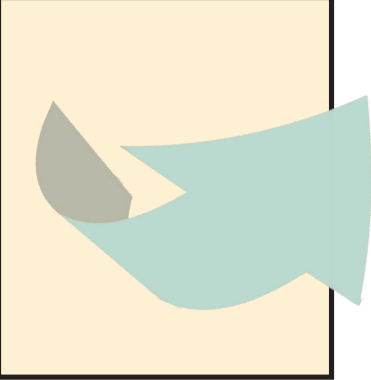
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Chronology 2022

(February from Page 8A)

homes made by Addison County students and made available at affordable rates to people in need.

The Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County this month released a draft Climate Action Plan for Addison County that lays out specific strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the resilience of our communities and of our landscapes. The plan's authors were looking to the community to help improve it.

Back to COVID: Gov. Phil Scott in mid-month lifted the mask mandate for Vermont schools, effective in March, at least for those who could demonstrate an 80% vaccination rate.

Late this month, firefighters from nine departments responded to a blaze at Tarkey's Lodge — the unusual old multi-part house that sat up the hill from Lake Dunmore off West Shore Road. No one was injured in the fire at Tarkey's, but the fire claimed the entire structure, which was well known by generations of people as a camp and event location.

On the final Saturday of February, three high school wrestlers won state championships: Mount Abe junior Devan Hemingway at 120 pounds, Middlebury freshman Avery Carl at 132 and Vergennes senior Taylor Stearns at 152. Carl was voted the meet's Outstanding Wrestler after he rallied from a 3-0 deficit to pin top-seeded Anthony Matas of Essex in the final.

And on the last day of February, the Tiger girls' Nordic ski team cruised to the Division II championship. Freshmen Beth McIntosh and Ava Schneider, junior Lia Robinson and senior Astrid Olson scored all the Tigers' points.

March

March opened with a bang: Town Meeting Day arrived as soon as possible on the calendar, on March 1, and voters chose leaders, including a number of new faces; backed school budgets (most of them, anyway); supported a major bond in Vergennes; allowed Lincoln to become its own school district; and backed cannabis sales in three communities.

Two smalltown candidates who opposed closing elementary schools, at least without more say from affected communities, ousted incumbents from the Addison Central School District Board. Ripton's Joanna Doria defeated Amy McGlashan, 1,461-802; and Weybridge's Jamie McCallum bested ACSD board Chair Mary Cullinane, 1,389-845. Votes on these races came from all seven towns in the ACSD, not just the towns of those on the ballot.

Speaking of smalltown schools, Lincoln residents had earlier already voted by a 3-to-1 margin to withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District. On Town Meeting Day residents of the four other MAUSD member towns of



March 24

PANTHER SENIOR CAPTAIN Madie Leidt, surrounded by happy teammates, shouts with joy and hoists the NCAA D-III trophy on her home rink after the Middlebury College women's team won the NCAA D-III championship in overtime on Saturday.

Independent file photo/Steve James



March 3

DAVID MCKINNON AND Tony Clark stand outside Goshen Town Hall to let people know where to vote on Tuesday.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro ratified Lincoln's vote, again by a combined 3-to-1 margin, 1,366-441.

Voters in 17 Addison County towns approved a proposal to spend up to \$8.1 million on significant renovations to the Hannaford Career Center's Charles Avenue and North Campus buildings in Middlebury. The vote was 4,278-1,470.

Residents in the ACSD, MAUSD and Addison Northwest School District supported by overwhelming margins budgets with modest spending increases. Thanks to legislative action at the state level almost none of their member towns saw tax rate increases, and most saw decreases. But residents in the Otter Valley

and Slate Valley districts defeated their respective spending proposals.

In a four-way race for three seats on the Middlebury selectboard, incumbent Esther Thomas topped the table with 955 tallies, followed by challenger Andy Hooper (845) and incumbent Heather Seeley (783). Matthew Delia-Lôbo finished fourth with 516 votes.

There were no contested races for top governing panels in the other three largest county communities, as incumbents returned to Bristol and Ferrisburgh selectboards and the Vergennes City Council, with one exception: Zoe Kaslow joined the council.

The bigger news in Vergennes, though, with apologies to Councilor Kaslow, was that the \$25.5 million bond to fix the city's

long-troubled sewer collection system and treatment plant passed overwhelmingly: 384 to 60, or about 87%-13%. Officials believe this project will put an end to the system's persistent overflows of stormwater laced with sewage into Otter Creek, among other problems.

Bristol, Ferrisburgh and Weybridge voters on Town Meeting Day approved measures that will permit licensed cannabis retailers, and in some cases wholesalers, to operate in their towns. But Leicester and New Haven defeated similar proposals.

A week into March, Gov. Scott and his health officials erased mask mandates, even in hospitals. Or, as state epidemiologist Dr. Patsy Kelso put it, "The decision to wear masks will be up to each person based on their own circumstances."

Meanwhile, even though about 14% of Middlebury College students had tested positive for COVID-19 since arriving for the spring semester in February, college official said the cases were not severe or persistent enough to warrant a change in campus policies that had been eased in recent weeks.

Also early in March, the Mount Abraham girls' basketball team, seeded sixth in Division II, reeled off consecutive victories over the Nos. 3, 2 and 1 seeds to claim the program's fifth title under Coach Connie LaRose. The feat was a tribute to the resilience and talent of the athletes and the work of a Hall of Fame coach and her staff.

Speaking of grit and skill, a little later in the month the Middlebury College women's hockey team completed a 27-0 season with an NCAA Division III championship in about the most dramatic way possible. The Panthers led, 2-1, but visiting Gustavus Adolphus tied the NCAA final with one-tenth of a second left to force overtime. Middlebury regrouped, and hard-working, but not always high-scoring, senior Ellie Barney followed her own shot and rapped in the rebound for the game-winner before almost 2,000 roaring fans at Kenyon Arena.

Work on a new map for legislative districts continued, and not all were happy about the update, which is based on the results of the 2020 Census. Because of changing demographics, according to the redistricting committee, among the changes included part of Middlebury being added to a New Haven-Weybridge-Bridport House district, which in turn lost part of New Haven to the House district that otherwise consists of the ANWSD school district towns. And Rochester was added to the county's Vermont Senate district, among other adjustments.

When Diana Herasim left her Ukrainian home in August 2021 to come to America and take part in a student exchange program, she thought that the uneasy peace between her country and her neighbors would hold. The 15-year-old MUHS student found out that wasn't the case when Russia invaded Ukraine in an unprovoked (See March, Page 10A)

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March 17

KENN HASTINGS, manages the maple operation at Bread Loaf View Farm in Cornwall. Bread Loaf will host visitors during the annual Maple Open House this year, which has been expanded to two weekends.

Independent file photo/Steve James



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Chronology 2022



April 7
SENY DAFÉ LEADS a group of Ripton Elementary School children in a dance at the school this past Friday afternoon while his partners in the Jeh Kulu drum ensemble of Guinea provide the music.

Independent file photo/Steve James



April 21
MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School senior Jae Davis races past a Rice player and lunges for the disc during a Tiger Ultimate match in Middlebury on April 13. A first-year player with the team, Davis did not make this particular catch, but he must have caught at least five in the end zone. Tied 14-14 as time ran out, Middlebury lost a heartbreaker by one goal in overtime.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

act of aggression. When Herasim came to the *Independent* offices in March, she was calm, articulate and forceful in expressing her beliefs that Ukraine would resist Russian and prevail. While she was worried about her family back home, she was equally resolute about what she had to do here in Vermont. “My mission here is to let people know what is going on in Ukraine,” she said. “Ukraine is a strong country. We are ready to fight.”

April

Two members of the county’s Vermont House delegation announced in April that they’d retire at the end of the current terms. The most senior of the two was Rep. Harvey Smith, R-New Haven, and the county’s only Republican lawmaker. Smith, 76, decided to make his 10th term representing Addison-5 his last, in large part to spend more time with family. A lifelong farmer, he proved an adept advocate for those in the agricultural sector.

Also giving his notice was Rep. Terry Norris, I-Shoreham, representative of the Addison-Rutland District of Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting and Benson. In early 2017, Gov. Phil Scott appointed Norris to serve out the balance of a two-year term vacated by Rep. Alyson Eastman, I-Orwell. Norris, 73, won two terms, but decided early this year that he wanted to leave the Legislature when he’s still healthy and energetic enough for travel and hobbies.

Another transition: Longtime Middlebury Town Clerk Ann Webster said she wouldn’t seek another term in office. Webster — who presided over many

technological modernization efforts and other upgrades over two decades — made her announcement early in order to give potential successors time to weigh a run for the office in March 2023.

And Addison County State’s Attorney Dennis Wygmans announced he’d leave his job to become one of two Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors in Vermont. His move, which took effect May 7, placed Deputy State’s Attorney Peter Bever in charge on an interim basis.

Middlebury’s wish for a major infusion of much-needed affordable housing got a boost in April when Middlebury College announced it had purchased a 35-acre parcel off Seminary Street Extension that would be earmarked for around 100 units of low-cost

and market-rate units. The college forged a relationship with Summit Properties, which is designing a project that is coalescing into a formal application to the town.

USDA officials visited Vergennes in April to bring welcome news: confirmation of the federal government’s \$17.5 million contribution of grants and loans for the city sewer system’s upcoming \$25.5-plus million overhaul.

April brought news of the return of in-person parades in Addison County to celebrate Memorial and Independence days and other holidays. Parades had been cancelled for the past couple of years due to COVID-19.

Middlebury Union Middle School hired a second principal to provide extra guidance during what had been a bumpy reintegration of students after the COVID hiatus. Joining Principal Mike Dudek would be Michaela Wisell, who was at the time serving as Mary Hogan Elementary School assistant principal.

Ferrisburgh Central School also announced a change in its leadership team. Rae Donovan was introduced as the new school principal, arriving from the Mount Abraham Union School District, where she had served as Social and Emotional Learning Coordinator since 2019.

The Vermont State Board of Education heard an initial pitch from advocates for Lincoln’s withdrawal from the Mount Abraham Unified School District, and asked those supporters to provide more clarity on their independence drive at the panel’s next meeting.

Childhood friends Max Eingorn, Ronald Williams and Zachary Tyson had often talked about going into business together — and in early 2022 they did, choosing to launch a cannabis cultivation business called Mr. Z in the former



May 26
MAROLYN BINGHAM PLACES one of the 1,400 flags that Legion Post 27 is distributing this Memorial Day.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Middlebury Boarding & Grooming Kennel property at 2819 South St. Extension. The trio was among the first to seek permitting through the state’s new recreational cannabis law.

That law led to a cannabis retail store pitched by Dave Silberman and Michael Sims. The store, at 2 Park St. in Middlebury, would be called “FLORA,” which would sell cannabis flower and an assortment of related products, including tinctures, concentrates, edibles, beverages and topicals.

Cornwall and Salisbury residents in April were asked to weigh in on replacement options for the historic Station Covered Bridge that once connected the two towns across the Otter Creek, via Creek Road in Salisbury and Swamp Road in Cornwall. The 154-foot-long span was destroyed by a Sept. 10, 2016, fire that investigators deemed suspicious. Both towns surveyed their residents on three replacement options: A new conventional steel-beam bridge, a new truss span, or a new covered bridge.

A corporate entity called Halladay Solar LLC sought permission to install a 2.2-megawatt solar farm on land off Halladay Road and Middle Road South in Middlebury. It would occupy roughly 16 acres of a 111-acre spread owned by Peter Quesnel and Mary Anne Highter.

The town of Middlebury announced a spring-summer slate of town construction projects aimed at improving water system infrastructure and road conditions on Washington Street, Court Square and Colonial Drive. Officials served notice there would be traffic inconveniences, but nothing like had been seen during the prior three years of the

(See April, Page 11A)



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(April from Page 10A)

downtown Middlebury rail tunnel project. Fortunately, plans called for a lot of the work to be done at night.

Addison County lost one of its small-scale cheesemakers in April. Monkton's Orb Weaver Creamery ceased operations, with new owners Kate Turcotte and Zack Munzer of Orb Weaver Creamery citing the pandemic, a lack of affordable housing and other factors in their decision to sell their herd and close up shop.

Residents of Orwell and the five Rutland County towns in the Slate Valley Unified Union School District on April 13 endorsed a revised 2022-2023 school budget of \$26,236,547, which was \$33,500 less than the spending plan they had rejected on Town Meeting Day.

In another reversal of a Town Meeting Day rejection of a school budget, Otter Valley Unified Union School District voters turned out in late April to support a \$22.7 million spending proposal, 420-359.

Meanwhile, after several months of negotiations, RNESU Superintendent Jeanné Collins announced that the RNESU, Otter Valley and Barstow unified union school boards and the Teachers Association had ratified a new three-year teacher contract for 2022-2025. The new pact, among other things, assured a 7% boost in a pay scale based on teachers' educational levels and years of experience in the first year of the contract, followed by 3% increases in the second and third years.

City resident Alicia Grangent on April 6 became the newest chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes. Grangent had spent most of a career spanning about two-and-a-half decades working with youth — most recently at the Dream Program, a statewide nonprofit that encourages high school students to mentor younger peers.

A Middlebury College student who told campus and town police he'd been assaulted on campus April 23 faced multiple charges himself, including providing false information to a police officer, simple assault, aggravated disorderly conduct and hate motivated crime. Matthew R. Shanklin, 22, told officers he had been "jumped" by a group of six to 10 Black students as he was walking through campus, but authorities determined Shanklin had allegedly been the aggressor, making racially charged statements to the other students and then allegedly assaulting them.

May

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Meanwhile, the Vermont State Board of Education in May narrowly approved Lincoln's plan to withdraw from the MAUSD. That approval paved the way for the town to form an independent Lincoln School District, elect its own school board, and begin work on the next step of its withdrawal process, which involved crafting an exit agreement with MAUSD to settle any outstanding fiscal matters. Lincoln's bid to withdraw from the school district was launched during the summer of 2021 by a group called Save Community Schools, which cited, among other things, concerns over the possibility that the MAUSD or a merged district consisting of the MAUSD and the Addison Northwest districts would close the Lincoln Community School, which now serves around



June 23

A SPECTRUM OF different people celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Middlebury on Saturday with the first local Pride Parade, organized by the kids and staff at Addison Central Teens with support from the Teen Advisory Group of Isley Public Library, led by the wonderful Kathryn Laliberty. Around 75 individuals paraded from College Park to the town green, where everyone relaxed with giant bubbles, kids' activities, cupcakes and the local teen band "Fitch Clinic." The goal was to feel seen and supported by each other and the community — mission accomplished!

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

85 students.

Meanwhile, the ANWSD-MAUSD Merger Study Committee had just completed draft articles of agreement that would serve as the founding document for a proposed merger. The committee began looking for public input on the draft articles, which among other things required that future school closures get approval of a supermajority of merged district residents.

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June 23

YOU COULD JUST tell that the young horses at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge knew that Saturday was their day. June 18 was Foal Day, when the public was invited to come enjoy the baby Morgans, which were all born in April and May. The youngsters ran this way and that, but the mothers were always there in the background keeping an eye on the fun. It was kind of the same for the human families.

Independent file photo/Steve James

The Addison County Democratic Committee forwarded three names to Gov. Phil Scott to consider as replacements for State's Attorney Dennis Wygmans, who left the job on May 7. They included Addison County Deputy State's Attorney Peter Bever; Middlebury Democrat Eva P. Vekos, a litigator with the Middlebury firm Marsh & Wagner; and Tim Lueders-Dumont, a Lincoln native and deputy state's attorney in Washington County. Scott ultimately declined to appoint a replacement, which meant Bever would serve as the office's acting top prosecutor until the November election.

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Speaking of pleasant diversions, May 19 saw the launched of a new
(See May, Page 12A)



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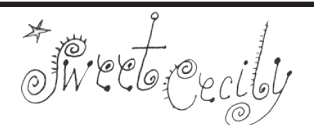
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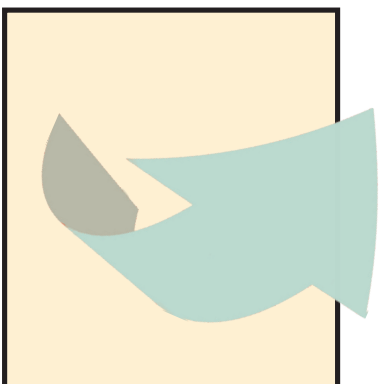
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Chronology 2022

(April from Page 11A)

series of weekly Midd Summer Market gatherings in downtown Middlebury's newly expanded Triangle Park. The markets, on 20 consecutive Thursdays, would bring together merchants, music and fun for shopping, music and socializing.

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July 7

PLAYERS PURNIMA NETI, left, Priyanka Kumari, Pundi Saru, Juhi Kumari and Henrita Toppo and translator Subhashni Kant hold up their fists in solidarity during a recent practice. The young women from East India are in Middlebury to learn field hockey skills while also broadening their horizons.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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June

June saw the arrest of Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton, who this month pleaded not guilty in Vermont Superior Court in Burlington to two felony sexual assault charges. His plea followed a months-long investigation into allegations of abuse reported by a woman with whom he relationship. Newtown had already announced that he wouldn't seek re-election in November, but declined to resign from office in spite of calls for him to do so from officials in multiple towns, the county's legislative delegation and Gov. Phil Scott. Newton's top deputy (and a candidate for sheriff) Mike Elmore began overseeing day-to-day operations at the department while Newton continued to sign documents and collect his salary.

After more than three years of building a tunnel, passenger platforms and other rail infrastructure in Middlebury, Vergennes and elsewhere in the county, state officials announced in June that passenger rail service would return to Addison County on July 29. The Amtrak Ethan Allen Express passenger train, which has already been running between Rutland and New York City, would extend service to Burlington with stops in Middlebury and Vergennes. (See June, Page 13A)



July 7

WEATHER CONDITIONS COULDN'T have been better for the long July 4 weekend, with Mother Nature providing a perfect canvas for eye popping presentations of pyrotechnics over Lake Dunmore in Salisbury on Sunday night, July 3. Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the fiery colors that danced through the sky, though some of our four-legged friends could have done without the thunderous explosions.

Photo courtesy of Kate Gridley

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Chronology 2022

(June from Page 12A)

An overflow crowd of more than 50 people flooded the Middlebury municipal building conference room in late June to hear details — and provide feedback on — a plan to build more than 88 units of “mixed-income” housing on 35 acres of land off Seminary Street Extension recently acquired by Middlebury College. Attendees listened intently as representatives of South Burlington’s Summit Properties mapped out their priorities for the development and a timetable they hoped will lead to a groundbreaking in summer 2023.

A filing deadline for major party candidates brought clarity to the Aug. 9 primary elections in Addison County. We learned, among other things, that incumbent Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, would face competition from fellow Democrat Wendy Harlin of Ripton to determine who would represent the Addison-2 House district; Republicans Jon Christiano of New Haven and Zachary Kent of Bridport would square off in a GOP primary for the Addison-5 House seat; Eva Vekos of Middlebury and Tim Lueders-Dumont of Montpelier would vie for the Democratic nomination for Addison County state’s attorney; and Michael Elmore of Addison and Ron Holmes of Middlebury would face off for the GOP nomination for Addison County sheriff.

Vergennes residents gasped collectively upon learning the cost of a necessary overhaul to the city’s sewer collection and treatment system could come in at \$34 million — around 33% more than was originally estimated.

June was a time for area school systems to say goodbyes to retiring educators and other staff. Among them: The ACSD’s Sharon Fletcher, who had spent four decades with the Middlebury-area schools, much of it as executive assistant to the superintendent.

Also taking a bow was longtime Addison Central School teacher Sharon Cram, who wrapped up 42 years in the ANWSD.

Planning continued for Ripton’s independent supervisory school district, with the town school board presenting a preliminary estimate showing a potential 22-cent increase would be needed to the community’s education property tax rate in order to transition to a preK-12 system. The Ripton School District board voted to stick to a path that would make the community’s new preK-12 school system operational during the summer of 2023, rather than waiting until 2024. Ripton had voted in January 2021 to leave ACSD, in large part to gain control over the future of its elementary school.

Middlebury College’s commencement ceremonies saw the liberal arts institution hand out diplomas twice, owing to COVID pandemic-related disruption during the past two academic years. Receiving their diplomas on separate days were around 1,000 graduates. First was the Class of 2022, who gathered for



August 4

MARY O'BRIEN AND Mark Lucas of Starksboro present their tickets before boarding the Ethan Allen Express train in Middlebury this past Friday morning; they were celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary. This was the first passenger train in Addison County with service to New York City since 1953. The \$77 million rail project that turned downtown Middlebury upside down the past five years made this trip possible.

Independent file photo/Steve James

the college’s first together-and-in-person graduation ceremony since 2019. Two days later the Class of 2020 participated in the commencement COVID-19 tried to take away.

Some Addison County residents contributed to efforts far from home. Among them were Lincoln magician Tom Verner and a team of local marine archaeologists. Verner traveled to Poland to perform for Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russia’s invasion. And a team of marine archaeologists, led by Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Director Emeritus Art Cohn, would spend more than a month surveying New York’s Seneca Lake, believed to be rich in historic shipwrecks.

The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) hired a manager for a new “food hub” on Middlebury’s Exchange Street that soon began helping area food producers get their wares to markets both near and far. The hub was also endowed with an online market. These were important steps toward helping ACORN achieve its main goal of seeing more local food on local tables.

The Hannaford Career Center learned that new federal rules governing the way Career and Technical Education is evaluated and funded could soon make it a lot harder “for the show to go on” at its cherished Addison Repertory Theater program.

Three new stores announced plans to open in downtown Middlebury, thanks to a new round of startup grants offered through the town’s Kick Start program. Grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000 were awarded to Schmetterling Wine Shop, at the former Wild Mountain Thyme spot at 48 Main St.; “Middleton,” at 66 Main St. (formerly Mendy’s), promising “classic and unique clothing options;” and Calvi’s, a seasonal ice cream and crepes shop

slotted for Frog Hollow Alley.

Green Mountain Power bestowed on nature photographer Mike Korkuc of Leicester one of the state’s most prominent environmental awards — the GMP-Zetterstrom Award. It honored Korkuc’s exceptional and passionate commitment to loons through 15 years of photography and conservation in and around Lake Dunmore.

Lincoln residents elected the town’s first school board members since withdrawing from the MAUSD. The three residents chosen to sit on the school board were Paul Forlenza, Jennifer Oldham and Abby Reynolds.

A committee studying the possibility of merging the MAUSD and ANWSD recommended that those two entities should become one. Members of the Merger Study Committee on June 21 voted 10-1 in favor of the “Addison North Unified Union School District.” The committee’s recommendation would be in for a rocky reception, however.

The *Independent* brought you some great feature stories in June, including one about “The House,” a homey place for Middlebury College students in need of a nurturing place to go between semesters and on various holidays. The House, a nonprofit offering tucked into a lot off Route 7 North below Chipman Hill, is run by Middlebury residents Annette and Tim Franklin.

July

July began with a bang, multiple bangs actually, as Fourth of July fireworks erupted throughout Addison County. And Bristol’s Fourth of July parade returned to Main Street after two years of

cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spectators packed downtown Bristol to see the bands, Bristol Rec Club bicyclists, bagpipers, lots of political candidates and the ever-popular Zeno Mountain float.

One lucky winner was celebrating long after the Independence Day festivities ended, when the lottery ticket they purchased at the Short Stop gas station on Middlebury’s Court Street made them a millionaire. The sale of the \$366.7 million ticket marked the first time in Vermont history that the winning Powerball jackpot ticket was sold by a Vermont retailer.

An Addison teen prepared to head west for this year’s National High School Road competition held in Gillette, Wyo. Lea Krause and her horse Corona were ready to give the contest another go after a setback during a run at the previous year’s competition.

Other sports attracted visitors to Vermont. A group of five young women from Jharkhand, India, came to Middlebury for a three-week trip filled with lots of field hockey, as well as lessons in English, public speaking and self-defense. The women were selected from previous field hockey camps held in the East Indian city and led by Middlebury College field hockey coach Katharine DeLorenzo, who has won five NCAA Division III field hockey championships at the college.

Residents in the North Pleasant and Washington street neighborhoods of Middlebury in July were begging the town and Middlebury College to crack down on the landlord and student tenants of two properties they said have been holding loud parties. Those bashes generated noise, underage drinking, public urination, vandalism, trespassing and other impacts to their quality of life, neighbors alleged.

Efforts to address a need for childcare in Addison County got a boost, first when parishioners at the Congregational Church of Middlebury endorsed a move to establish and host a childcare center at the church. The effort was supported by \$560,000 of seed money and has the potential to create 24 openings for children ages six weeks to three years old.

To the west, plans to expand the Otter Creek Child Center on Weybridge Street picked up, in part due to Middlebury College’s contribution of college-owned land and \$3 million to the project. The physical expansion could create up to 77 new childcare slots and 28 jobs to the area and is expected to be completed by the spring of 2025.

Other residents were also focused on meeting needs in the community this summer. SweetGreens, a food truck, began making its rounds at Middlebury stops like the Ilsley Library and the Charter House Emergency Shelter, offering free food to anyone and everyone. The free fare was offered by the Buddhist community Bread Loaf Mountain Zen in Cornwall.
(See July, Page 14A)



August 11

FIRST-DAY VISITORS FLY over the Addison County Fair and Field Days grounds on one of the Midway rides on Tuesday.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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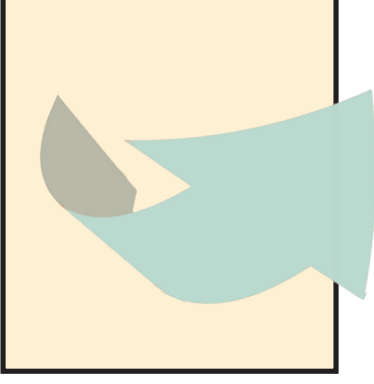
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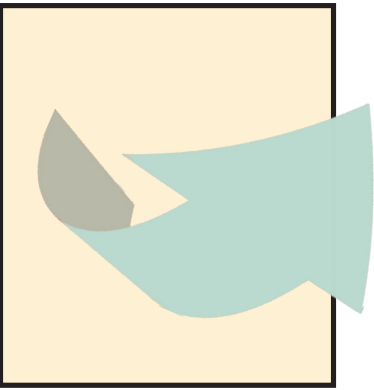


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Chronology 2022



August 11
THE RECREATION CENTER gym in Middlebury sees a brisk business of voters on Tuesday as a large number of residents come in to cast ballots in the Republican, Progressive and Democratic primaries.

Independent file photo/Steve James

(July from Page 13A)
Addison County residents said goodbye to some familiar faces who stepped away from their posts in the community. Martin and Kathleen Clark, co-owners of Martin's Hardware, sold both of their Addison County stores — one in Bristol and one in Middlebury — to Aubuchon Hardware Co. after 27 years in the business. The Clarks were looking forward to the first step toward retirement and the opportunity to serve the community in other ways.

In the county's shire town, former Middlebury town treasurer Jackie Sullivan resigned after 16 years due to health reasons. Longtime municipal employee Beth Dow stepped in to fill the role until Town Meeting Day in March, when the treasurer position will be open for the taking.

The dog days of July brought the return of passenger rail service to Addison County for the first time in seven decades. Hundreds of passengers, spectators and local train aficionados crowded platforms at the Middlebury and Ferrisburgh-Vergennes stops to welcome the arrival of the Ethan Allen Express on July 29 as it passed through the county on its way to New York City. The occasion marked the first time that passenger rail service had traveled in the area since 1953. All aboard!

August

Temperatures in Addison County weren't the only thing heating up at the start of August. Campaigns for local elections intensified leading up to Vermont's Aug. 9 primary, when Addison County voters weighed in on several contested local and state races.

In the Democratic showdowns, incumbent Rep. Peter Conlon of Cornwall prevailed over Ripton's Wendy Harlin in the race for the otherwise unopposed Addison-2 seat in the Vermont House of Representatives. Also, Middlebury's Eva Vekos



September 22
FIRST-GRADER HAILEY DURDA looks pleased with herself after painting part of a mural at Ferrisburgh Central School last Friday. Artist-in-residence Lisa Maggio, whose son Luca Crowley is an FCS first-grader, gives her an encouraging smile of approval.

Independent file photo/Steve James

defeated Tim Lueders-Dumont of Montpelier (a Lincoln native) in the Democratic primary for Addison County state's attorney.

Addison's Mike Elmore won the Republican primary for Addison County sheriff, defeating opponent Ron Holmes of Middlebury. Elmore would face Independent candidates Gerald Grant of Addison and Mark Stacey of Leicester in the November contest to replace

embattled incumbent sheriff Peter Newton.

Jon Christiano of New Haven bested opponent Zachary Kent of Bridport in the Republican primary for the Addison-5 House seat and prepared to face off against Democratic challenger Jubilee McGill of Bridport in November.

Also on Aug. 9, voters in New Haven brought an end to the town of Starksboro's effort to withdraw

from the MAUSD. The move was backed by voters in Bristol and Monkton but needed the approval from all three of the other member towns in the district in order to move forward.

Another Addison County town also faced a bump in the road on its quest to form an independent school district. At the State Board of Education's Aug. 12 meeting, the board determined the town of Ripton would not be ready to assume responsibility of its students by July of next year either as a supervisory district or as a school district within a supervisory union. Ripton readied to vote in September on rejoining the Addison Central School District from which it voted to withdraw from in January of 2021.

Despite this blow to the Ripton School District, Lincoln School Board directors remained confident in their town's ability to accomplish independence. The Lincoln School District hosted its first annual meeting on Aug. 18, at which town residents voted two new directors onto the school board and decided to allow the board to borrow up to \$50,000 from various non-tax revenue sources to cover the costs of getting the district up and running.

Vergennes Chief of Police George Merkel announced his resignation, effective at the end of October. He cited unhappiness with how he and the police department were treated as the reason for his early departure from his position, though he did not give specifics about that mistreatment. Some residents have been working to create a way to provide greater citizen oversight of city police, and the city council had commissioned a study of the department's operations.

Another Vergennes entity also made the front page at the end of August, when Vergennes Area Rescue Squad's President Josh Deppman held a series of meetings with local officials in the communities served by the rescue squad. He told leaders that the squad was in desperate need of more paid professional help and community support in order to continue supplying the area with ambulance and emergency medical needs. A combination of a lack of volunteers and a non-competitive pay scale have made it difficult to recruit help and for the rescue squad to provide 24/7 coverage to communities. Reportedly by the end of the year the agency had brought more help aboard.

Middlebury attorney Pam Marsh announced she would replace Sarah Star in the unopposed race for Addison County Probate Court judge after learning Star was a reluctant candidate in the competition. To her candidacy, Marsh brought a plethora of knowledge in the Probate Court system, from her 39 years of advocating for various individuals throughout her career in law.


ShireTown Marketplace moved into 54 College St., a space that was once home to Baba's, Sama's, Shafer's and other eateries. The soft launch of the new restaurant brought the return of creemees to downtown Middlebury late into the summer. Later that month, owner Kevin Archambeault opened the restaurant fully with a seasonal breakfast and lunch menu.

(See August, Page 14A)

September 15

WORKERS FROM BELDEN Construction continued the months-long process of replacing critical water main under Middlebury's Washington Street on Monday. Paving of the torn-up streets is due to begin on Sept. 15.

Independent file photo/Steve Jame



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Chronology 2022

(August from Page 14A)
Local thespians were busy late into the summer. The Middlebury Acting Co. presented its first ever festival of new plays at the Swift House Inn, an event filled with workshops for prospective playwrights and the debut of three original works. Later in the month, Town Hall Theater founder and Artistic Director Doug Anderson debuted his first original musical production with the opening of “Welcome to Paradise.”

Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater also received a \$120,000 grant to create a multi-camera, multimedia hub that would help the organization livestream various entertainment and cultural events for viewers. The effort was anticipated to feature the collaboration between THT and other community partners, such as Middlebury Community Television (MCTV), and would offer some livestreamed events for free and others for a price.

Over the long last weekend of the month hundreds of people came to the shire town to enjoy five days of silver screen indulgence at the eighth annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.



September 15

MOUNT ABE SCHOOL nurses and clinicians from Mountain Health Center stand in front of the new mobile health unit launching at the Bristol high school this fall. From left to right: Mount Abe school nurse Brenda Barsalou, MHC nurse manager Bridget Preston, MHC medical practice manager Roxanne Fucile, Mount Abe’s lead school nurse Wanda Bouvier, MHC family nurse practitioner Lindsay White, MHC family care physician Kate LaMancuso and Kristin Bright, an assistant professor of medical anthropology and public health at Middlebury College.

Independent file photo/Marin Howell

September

A lot of new faces welcomed students back to school as classes kicked off in Addison County. The list of new staff at local schools included new teachers, principals and, in some cases, new people holding entirely new positions. Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS) hired former Middlebury Selectswoman Esther Charlestin as the school’s first dean of climate & culture, a position that includes handling student discipline and supporting students and teachers.

New offerings were in the works at other county schools, too. A partnership between the MAUSD, Bristol’s Mountain Health Center and the Body Online Lab at Middlebury College was behind the creation of a new mobile health unit at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School. The mobile health unit, which provides students with primary health care services every Wednesday, was created in part to address the rise in student absenteeism that’s occurred throughout the pandemic.

ANWSD officials announced this school year would be the last that the sixth-grade students were included amongst the district’s elementary school students. Beginning next year, sixth-graders in ANWSD will move into the middle school at Vergennes Union High School, though details regarding the structure of the



October 6

STUART PATON, OF Burlington Taiko, leads Mary Hogan third-graders in a drumming session on Wednesday. The Japanese percussion group had a week-long residency at Middlebury College’s Mahaney Arts Center, including workshops at the college and area schools, plus public performances.

Independent file photo/Steve James

district’s expanded middle school are yet to be decided. Late in the December, the district announced the change would be postponed for a year.

Two groups landed differently on the potential impacts of the Vermont Agency of Transportation’s proposal for expansion at the Middlebury

Airport, plans that included the addition of nine new aircraft hangars, lighting and a new road. Some East Middlebury residents felt the plans would increase the noise and visual impacts of living near the airport with which they already deal. Others felt expanding the airport would have benefits for the greater community and the local economy, stating that the airport is an important tool for many businesses and business owners.

Curious Middlebury residents gathered to hear more about plans to develop over 100 units of affordable and workforce housing off Seminary Street Extension. Summit Properties shared initial details of the project ahead, which will take place on 35 acres of land owned by Middlebury College and could be completed by spring of 2025.

Also in Middlebury, five residents entered the race for a spot on the town’s selectboard following the resignation of Esther Charlestin, who had recently moved to Bridport. The selectboard voted unanimously to have Isabel Gogarty, a 23-year-old wellness teacher at MUMS, fill Charlestin’s spot.

Bristol horseshoe pitcher Debra Brown has been throwing horseshoes for over 40 years, picking up a plethora of state, regional and world championship titles along the way. In September Brown’s contributions to the sport were immortalized when she was inducted into the National Horseshoe Pitching Hall of Fame.


The town of Ripton’s 19-month long effort to begin operating an independent school district ended when residents voted to rejoin the ACSD on Sept. 29. Despite the end of the independence effort, former Ripton School Board directors vowed to continue pushing for changes to the ACSD charter that would give more local control to rural towns. The ACSD board had been opposed to such a charter change in the past, though an ad hoc committee formed had recently been exploring how other school districts addressed school closure protocols in their charters.

Over 100 Vergennes residents packed a mid-September City Council meeting, many on Zoom. Although sentiment was split, many who spoke asked that city officials call for a meeting with Police Chief George Merkel and request him not to resign in October, as he had announced he would do in August. Mayor Matt Chabot stated he had no plans to call for such a meeting, and it was announced at a later September council meeting that a committee of six city residents would help advise city officials in the search for a new police chief.

As summer came to an end, some tried to capture the essence of the season in a bottle. A bottle of whiskey to be precise. Middlebury’s Appalachian Gap Distillery released their Vermont Creemee Liqueur, a 34-proof beverage available in vanilla, chocolate and maple flavors.

And with colder months on the horizon, residents prepared for a

(See September, Page 16A)


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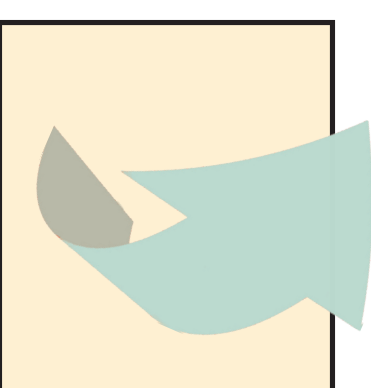

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October 13

SCORES OF CUSTOMERS from throughout the state queued up on Saturday, Oct. 1, for the opening of FLÖRA, a Middlebury-based retailer of cannabis products. The store’s opening coincided with the effective date of a new state law allowing sales of recreational cannabis in Vermont. FLÖRA was one of only three cannabis retailers statewide that had received the requisite permits to launch this past Saturday.



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Chronology 2022

(September from Page 15A)

jump in the price of fuel needed to heat their homes. Fluctuating fuel prices impacted by the ongoing war in Ukraine combined with less available federal assistance for low-income Vermonters compared to last year sparked concerns about prices for the impending winter. State agencies and local nonprofits readied to help low-income individuals receive the assistance they needed in order to afford potential hikes in heating fuel costs.

October

After a two-year pandemic-induced postponement, the Middlebury Maple Run — a 5K fun run and half-marathon that starts and ends at Porter Medical Center — drew a happy crowd of over 250 runners, spectators and volunteers for the 12th running of the event on Oct. 2.

Also as the month opened, the people of Ripton were trying to make sense of their 19-month crusade to become an independent school district after that effort ended on Sept. 29, when residents voted 148 to 89 in favor of rejoining the ACSD. This reversed a January 2021 decision by town residents to leave the district out of concern that the ACSD could close their school. After the vote, Ripton officials were vowing to press for rule changes at the state and local levels that would give the rural community, and others like it, more of a say in the future of their tiny schools and how their students are educated.

Climate activist and Ripton resident Bill McKibben was searching for reasons to be happy about the small victories in the march against global warming. In his Climate Matters column in this newspaper, he reflected on a southbound train from Middlebury to Penn Station in New York City. It was a beautiful ride through the colorful autumnal foliage at the reasonable pace of the new Amtrak train — not too fast, not too slow and more efficient than driving his car. And while the fight is long from over, he did find some reasons for hope. “This is going to be a hard century,” he wrote. “We better look for delight where we can. It could be on the ocean or on an e-bike.”

Balázs Barkóczi, a member of the anti-fascist opposition in Hungary, was in Starksboro that month as one of five Hungarian parliamentarians who visited Vermont to learn about democracy. He got to see local democracy in action at a Mount Abraham school board meeting. “I was very impressed by the fact that people seem to have real ownership of the issues that come up at the school board meeting, and that they strive to find solutions together to come up with shared solutions to the problems,” he told the *Independent*. “That I think is a celebration of democracy, and it leads to a healthier society.”

Speaking of citizen participation in government, how about Lloyd and Lynn Dike. For the past three decades, the Bristol couple have



November 10

CONCERNED MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE students and members of the broader community on Friday afternoon marched in solidarity with protests for women’s and human rights now occurring in Iran. The 50 or so participants included Middlebury Associated Professor of Religion and Iranian native Ata Anzali. Independent file photo/Steve James



November 17

THE ADDISON COUNTY Relocalization Network just opened its new food hub in Middlebury, a service that will aggregate, market and distribute food products from producers and farms around Vermont’s Champlain Valley. Here farmer Matt Lasser and Food Hub Manager Jessica Purks display some of the local produce currently transiting through the Exchange Street facility. Independent file photo/Steve James

enjoyed doing things together, including square-dancing, spending time with their six grandchildren, and, in October, running for public office. Both Lynn and Lloyd chose to appear on this year’s General Election ballot as Republican candidates: Lynn competing for one of Addison-4’s

two seats in the Vermont House, and Lloyd running to represent Addison County in the state Senate.

Vergennes Union Elementary School physical education teacher Robyn Newton was named the 2023 Vermont Teacher of the Year. Entering her 28th year on the job, Newton is credited with

making exercise fun, connecting students to their communities and introducing innovative programs, like the annual schoolwide Fun Run, which typically raised money for P.E. equipment for the school. This time it garnered more than \$4,000 toward a covered pavilion to be built in the city recreation park near VUES. “Robyn Newton exemplifies what makes Vermont educators special,” said Secretary of Education Dan French.

Sale of cannabis had been illegal in Addison County for generations, but in early October business was blooming at downtown Middlebury’s FLORA, a fully licensed and permitted cannabis retail shop that opened to brisk traffic as Vermont’s cannabis retail law took effect on Oct. 1. The company estimated 1,000 people hailing from at least eight different states and Canada walked through the store’s doors that first weekend to survey and purchase cannabis flower and related products.

A 23-year-old member of Generation Z became a member of the Middlebury selectboard this month. Isabel “Izzy” Gogarty, a wellness teacher at Middlebury Union Middle School, was among five local residents vying to replace incumbent selectboard member Esther Charlestin, who moved out of town and thus had to resign her position. The board voted 6-0 to appoint Gogarty. “I hope to bring an enthusiastic voice of a young professional that intentionally chose Middlebury to grow my roots to live, work and play,” she said.

Local high school sports teams in October offered plenty of excitement, including two championship teams. On Oct. 8 the first-year MUHS varsity bass-fishing team came back from South Hero with the state championship trophy. The Tiger duo of Riley Disorda and Dylan Stowe brought in 15.77 pounds of fish, edging second-place Mount Abraham’s 15.44 pounds, with the six biggest bass scoring. Owen Jenkins, Jordan Schroeder, Riley Coffey took turns as two anglers on the Eagle boat. The Tiger boat’s last stop made the difference: Stowe hooked a 3-pound smallmouth bass, and then Disorda reeled in one close to 4 pounds.

Five days later the Otter Valley boys’ golf team picked up the second local crown of the fall. Sparked by medalist sophomore Lucas Politano, the Otters at the Orleans Country Club claimed their second consecutive D-II title, edging second-place Hartford, 349-351. Politano shot a 77, his senior brother Thomas Politano came in at 84, and senior Matt Bryant (93) and freshman Jackson Howe (95) rounded out the scorers.

The nonprofit internet provider Maple Broadband began work in October stringing fiber-optic lines that will bring high-speed service to up to 1,400 underserved or unserved households in portions of Cornwall, Leicester, Middlebury, Orwell, Salisbury, Shoreham, and Whiting. That comes thanks to an

(See October, Page 17A)

November 17

COACH DENNIS SMITH delivered an emotional message to his team after they gave it all but came up just short in Saturday’s D-I football final against top-seeded CVU in Rutland on Saturday. Independent file photo/Steve James



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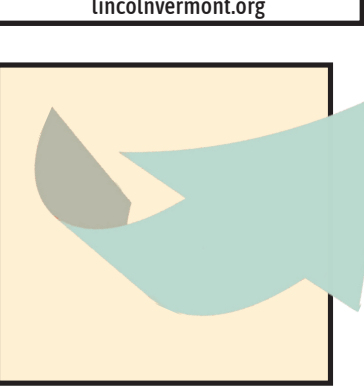


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(October from Page 16A)

\$8.7 million grant the organization got in July. Now a \$9.1 million September award to Maple Broadband’s partner, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom, will do the same for up to 2,000 of WCTV’s customers in parts of Addison, Bridport, Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Panton, Waltham, and Weybridge.

The ACSD board late in October agreed to revise the district’s charter in a manner that would give local voters more of a say in whether their schools should be closed. A majority of the panel was friendly to a change that would allow district voters to weigh in on any future proposals to shutter a local school. This was a big deal because Ripton temporarily left the district because it didn’t like the school closure rules, and others in the seven-town district discussed leaving because of the rules, too.

At the same time the ACSD board got a sneak preview of how inflation could have a major impact on the district’s next budget. ACSD Business Manager Matthew Corrente warned in October that the recent surge in the national inflation rate could influence many aspects of the spending plan — without even adding a new purchases or programs.

As the November election drew close, an advertisement in the *Independent’s* Voter’s Guide drew complaints from some candidates that the ad, submitted by a fellow GOP candidate, misrepresented their views. Around a dozen people wrote letters to the editor complaining about the views expressed in the ad, too. One of the candidates responsible for the ad said he was rushed in putting it together and he didn’t intend to misrepresent anybody. Another candidate involved in the ad couldn’t be reached to explain why his colleagues were so upset. The *Independent* itself examined its policies to see how candidates in their own ad could be misrepresented. Publisher Angelo Lynn said that in 40 years in the news business he had never seen a situation like this.

November

The Addison Central School District board in November heard that an engineering firm had placed the cost of updating the nine ACSD buildings to current code standards at \$110 million. And TruexCullins acknowledged that number was understated, due to a major surge in inflation and construction costs since the information was compiled this past May. “The number is massive and hard to wrap your mind around,” said facilities director Bruce Macintire, emphasizing that none of this was for new construction. “All this is doing is fixing what’s worn out and broken.”

Voters in the General Election invited some new faces to serve them. In her second run for the Addison-5 House seat, Bridport Democrat Jubilee McGill scored an emphatic 1,355-788 win over



November 3

MEMBERS OF THE No. 1 VUHS boys’ soccer team celebrate their fourth goal in their 4-0 D-III quarterfinal win over No. 5 Green Mt. Union on Saturday. Shamus Rooney, right, scored this one and he was assisted by Jack Wyman, No. 2, center. Also in on the fun are Elijah Duprey (No. 9) and Parker Kayhart (No. 4).

New Haven Republican Jon Christiano in the district that includes Bridport, Weybridge, most of New Haven, and a small chunk of Middlebury. Incumbent Harvey Smith, the last Republican in the Addison County legislative delegation, chose not to run.

Another Democratic newcomer, Eva Vekos of Middlebury, scored a decisive win to become the county’s new state’s attorney, besting Deputy State’s Attorney Peter Bever, 8,478-6,147.

Addison’s Michael Elmore on Nov. 8 became the county’s new sheriff after scoring a decisive win over his two independent challengers, Gerald Grant of Addison and Mark Stacey of Leicester. Elmore had already been performing the day-to-day management of the department, in wake of Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton’s arrest in June on sexual assault and domestic violence charges.

Otherwise, incumbents carried the day in Addison-1, Addison-2, Addison-3, Addison-4 and the state senate elections. First-time candidate Joe Andriano of Orwell won an open House seat for the Addison-Rutland district, which includes his hometown, Shoreham and Whiting plus two Rutland County towns.

And Addison County voters followed state trends in electing Phil Scott as governor, Peter Welch as U.S. Senator and Becca Ballint to the U.S. House.

But it wasn’t all about candidates. An important school question was on the Nov. 8 ballot. Voters in the nine towns making



November 3

VERMONT CONGRESSMAN PETER Welch made a swing through Addison County on Tuesday, where he stopped at Three Squares Café in Vergennes and at Monument Farms Dairy in Weybridge. While in Vergennes, above, he spoke about preserving democracy and posed for a photo with constituents Margaret Klohck of Middlebury (on the left) and Linda Andrews of Bristol.

up the Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham Unified school districts collectively voted 4,282-1,886 to oppose the merger of the two entities as a way to combat declining enrollment and rising overhead costs. ANWSD voters went against the merger referendum 2,001-771. In MAUSD the vote went 2,281-1,115. The “No” vote brought an end to more than 18 months of work by a merger study committee, which had drafted articles of agreement that sparked concerns regarding how potential school closures and consolidations would be handled in a merged district.

In Addison, residents approved a bond for up to \$2.07 million to renovate the town’s historic former town hall on Route 22A into a new town office building and community center. The vote ran in favor of the project, 322-262, or 55%-45%.

Concerned Middlebury College students and members of the broader community on a day in November marched in solidarity with the protests for women’s and human rights currently occurring in Iran. Around 50 participants, including members of the Middlebury Union High School Student Coalition On Human Rights club, marched from the College Chapel to Twilight Hall, where they listened to speakers and then held a “die-in.”

Nearly a year’s worth of work relocating the New Haven train depot came to an end in November when the 19th-century building was placed on a new foundation at its permanent home next to the town’s library. In January, the train depot was moved from its previous location at the junction of Routes 7 and 17 to allow for the return of passenger rail service on the tracks through New Haven this summer. However, a new foundation had to be poured before the building could rest in its new spot.

The effort to make more local foods available to consumers got two big wins in November. A million-dollar federal grant will enable a Ferrisburgh slaughterhouse to greatly expand and better serve the demand for local meat. Vermont Livestock Slaughter and Processing will use the money to enlarge its Depot Road facility, allowing the business to expand processing capacity and

workforce, modernize equipment and provide more value-added services for customers.

And in Middlebury the Addison County Relocalization Network opened a new Food Hub that could become a major player in the storage, provision and distribution of locally produced vegetables, meats and dairy to consumers in Addison County and beyond.

Following a State Board of Education’s decision to designate the Lincoln as its own supervisory district, Lincoln School Board directors expressed confidence the district would be able to provide its own transportation, central office and special education, by the time it begins operating as an independent school district next summer. Locals officials have already started working on staffing a central office, creating an FY24 budget for Lincoln residents to vote on next year, and finding additional funds to cover transition costs as the district works to get up and running.

The Middlebury Recreation Center was a hive of activity early this month as shifts of Middlebury Rotary Club members and other volunteers worked together to assemble the storm window inserts provided by the national non-profit WindowDressers. These inserts are reusable storm windows applied from inside the home to keep warmth in and cold out. WindowDressers and the Rotary provide the inserts for free to homeowners who qualify based on their income and financial situation. Some of the inserts also go to customers who pay full-fare.

Early in the fall sports season it didn’t look like MUHS football would have much to talk about at season’s end. But then the Tigers caught fire, roared through much of the season, and met CVU in the Division I final in early November. In spite of an incredible rally during the final eight minutes of the game, the Tigers fell by five points in an incredible contest. Look for more MUHS football news in December.

Another local sports team vied for a title in November. The Middlebury College field hockey team, which earlier in the season had suffered its first loss in some time, won its fifth straight NCAA Division III title, 1-0, in overtime over Johns Hopkins. The 21-1 Panthers completed a run through the NCAA tournament during which they didn’t allow a goal, snapped Johns Hopkins’s 16-game winning streak, and became the first team to score on the Blue Jays in the tournament. Coach Katharine DeLorenzo’s program became the second at Middlebury

to win five straight NCAA titles, matching Coach Bill Beaney’s men’s hockey program’s run from 1995 to 1999. And the Panthers set program single-season records of 12 shutouts and 107 goals. What an incredible season.

December

The transition that Eva Vekos had from the private practice of law to public service as the Addison County state’s attorney speeded way up. The Middlebury Democrat won the top prosecutor’s job in the Nov. 8 election and expected to take office next Feb. 1. But then the acting state’s attorney, Peter Bever, took a job with the Rutland County State’s Attorney’s Office and decided to leave at the beginning of December. Gov. Scott appointed Vekos to take over the Addison County job in light of Bever’s departure and she started the job Dec. 5.

While worker shortage have affected most Vermont employers, in December we saw how public schools across Addison County are having difficulty hiring support staff and substitute teachers. The Addison Northwest School District, for instance, was able to hire only 25% of the substitutes it needed in November. The Vergennes-area district has bene searching for a long-term substitute for a Special Education position and a second-grade teacher since September. It has had four unfilled paraeducators jobs since last year, three maintenance jobs have been looking for workers since last year and two more maintenance workers have recently resigned. “We have had trouble hiring for custodial positions and often times paras as well,” said ANWSD Superintendent Sheila Soule. “Also sub shortages continue to plague us.”

The Mount Abraham Unified School District has a very small list of available substitutes; plus, it has three educational assistant positions posted and has seen “very few applicants,” officials said. Addison Central School District (ACSD) needs to fill around 20 support staff positions over a wide range of custodial, nutrition, paraprofessional and behavioral interventionist positions. “It’s been pretty consistent over the past year and a half, and it’s been a national issue,” ACSD Superintendent Peter Burrows told the *Independent*.

Add childcare centers to the list of industries struggling to find and retain employees amid what has become a shallow pool of workers since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. Area childcare facilities, many of which operate on a thin margin, simply don’t have the resources to do what other industries have been doing: Substantially upping wages and benefits packages in order to fill jobs. Employee shortages at childcare centers can lead to employment challenges on the home front, such as when a parent has to take unpaid time off from a job to watch their youngsters. “Since COVID, hiring has been most difficult,” said Linda January of the Middlebury’s Otter Creek Child Center. “We have gone the longest with a short sub list than we ever have since I’ve been here.”

Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing geared up for \$4.5 million in exterior and interior renovations aimed at making the facility safer, more functional and more aesthetically pleasing to those who reside, receive treatment and visit there. Helen Porter is a critical, 98-bed institution that serves the elderly, those living with memory loss ailments, those rehabbing following surgeries and terminally ill individuals who’ve chosen to spend their final days in one of the facility’s Addison Respite Care Home suites.

Following a Dec. 2 incident involving a student in crisis at Bristol Elementary School, parents and staff in the Mount Abraham Unified School District were once again asking district officials for help. More than 100 (See December, Page 18A)



December 15

THE VILLAGE OF BETHLEHEM came to life on the Bristol town green on Sunday when members of 10 local churches staged a live Nativity. The Angels stopped their singing for a photo. Pictured from left are Noella, Chloe, Madison, Lisa and Raquel.

Independent file photo/Steve James



THE TOWN OF Ferrisburgh is set to accept ownership of the Ferrisburgh Center Methodist Church, which sits next to the town's Route 7 office building. The church, which like many is faced with a dwindling congregation, was deconsecrated on Dec. 17 to allow the transfer. Church Pastor Paul Hoffman said congregants are happy the historic building can be repurposed for the public good.
Photo courtesy of Paul Hoffman

Church

(Continued from Page 1A)
Conference and the Ferrisburgh selectboard have already agreed to transfer the real estate for \$1; the official transfer is planned for the final days of 2022.

But before that can happen, Pastor Paul Hoffman explained the church had to be “deconsecrated,” in accord with Methodist practice.

Hoffman described a ceremony that in some ways resembled that on any Sunday. But he was not alone speaking from the pulpit: Former church pastors Mari Clark, George Klohek and Jill Coley Robinson also accepted invitations to mark the occasion, as did other local Methodist pastors, a New England Conference official and a selectboard member.

“Basically it’s a service with hymns and prayers,” Hoffman said. “We invited former pastors of that church to come and say a few words. One of the selectman (Vice Chair Clark Hinsdale) gave a history of the church building. And then there were words by the district superintendent, who is my boss, to deconsecrate the church, so it will not be a United Methodist place of worship anymore.”

Hoffman also coordinates services for the Vergennes, West Addison and Monkton Methodist churches, meaning he arranges speakers’ schedules and handles paperwork, among other tasks.

But the Ferrisburgh Center Methodist Church has a special place in his heart. Hoffman called the deconsecration of the church and impending transfer “particularly difficult” for him and his wife: Two decades ago the congregation funded the education that allowed him to become a pastor.

“This church actually sent me to seminary,” he said. “It’s hard. It’s really hard. The good news is we may have a place for the building in our town.”

But the Dec. 17 service was inevitable, Hoffman said: Membership at the Route 7 church had dropped to about a half-dozen. Offerings from a congregation that small are not enough to pay bills and maintain the building, although town officials said it remains in good condition.

“Essentially it’s been a matter of attrition,” he said. “Church attendance has been falling off in many places, especially New England.”

BUILDING FUTURE

The good news is that many in Ferrisburgh envision the former church building playing an important role in the life of the town, possibly as a senior or childcare center, although any discussions are preliminary.

“Almost everyone I’ve talked to, members and non-members, is excited the town has taken an interest in repurposing the building,” Hoffman said.

Two Ferrisburgh committees are charged with helping the selectboard deal with the future of the church, the Town Center and Building Committee and envisions the church

building continuing to contribute to the growth of the community’s center, as the committee’s creation intended.

“We’re working toward making a center with the buildings and establishing a trails system between the buildings so that people can walk and not get into a traffic situation,” he said.

“There’s been various things suggested for it. One is daycare. We need daycare all over Vermont, and certainly I think a good daycare center there would be a good attraction for people coming to Ferrisburgh. There’s a possibility for a senior center, an arts center. Everything’s been discussed.”
— Rick Kerschner

studies of the building’s structure and systems, including its septic capacity.

“We’re getting some inspections in from the regular Building Committee budget just to find out what we need as far as asbestos, mold, anything like that,” Kerschner said. “The building is in very good shape, but of course we want to have those evaluations.”

At this point the committee also wants to make sure the building receives basic maintenance and is winterized, he added. Any major work needed or in-depth studies, such as for feasibility for a proposed use or design or engineering work for such a new use, will require new funding, Kerschner said.

“There’s no line items, no money set aside, for that building yet,” he said. “That’s to be initially discussed by the selectboard and then at town meeting.”

“Almost everyone I’ve talked to, members and non-members, is excited the town has taken an interest in repurposing the building.”

— Pastor Paul Hoffman

there would be a good attraction for people coming to Ferrisburgh,” he said.

“There’s a possibility for a senior center, an arts center. Everything’s been discussed. But we’re in very early stages with any of that. It’s in the center of town. It’s a nice historic building. It’s been well maintained in general, and we’d like to see it as part of the center of the town moving forward.”

Hinsdale concluded his history of the building at the deconsecration service with these words:

“Ferrisburgh has had a proud tradition of what we now call ‘adaptive reuse,’ finding new ways for our civic and historic buildings to serve the needs of today,” he said.

“May we be thankful for the gift of this property to the town of Ferrisburgh. May we be wise in using it to address unmet needs in our community. And may we wipe away the tears we shed today and commit ourselves to continuing your proud tradition of serving others.”

ARPA decisions

(Continued from Page 1A)

making those decisions.

ARPA grants come from the federal government and are intended to assist local and state governments in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The one-time funding must be committed to projects by December of 2024 and must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

Through their research, the class of 20 identified two main differences in opinion between local officials and community members:

- Selectboard members and local officials tended to prioritize infrastructure for ARPA funding, while citizens more often wanted the funds to go toward addressing needs like affordable housing and childcare.

- Many local officials feel they are doing a good job with community outreach as they discuss APRA funding decisions, while citizens feel selectboard members and town officials haven’t collected enough information to make good decisions about how to use that funding.

Jessica Teets is a Bristol resident and professor of political science at Middlebury college whose class conducted the research. She views the class’s findings as an opportunity for towns to incorporate more public participation in the process of deciding how to spend their ARPA funds.

“What we saw is that there’s actually a fairly large gap with how (local officials) intend to use the money and what citizens think the priorities should be,” she said. “I don’t view that as a problem in governance, I view it as an opportunity. This is a great way for selectboards to reach out, get more information and share their process so it generates more trust in government.”

THE PROJECT

The students conducting the research were all enrolled in Teets’s fall semester class on qualitative research methods, a course that focuses on different ways of collecting non-numerical data, such as through surveys or interviews.

Teets said she wanted her students to get experience using the methods they were studying and thought ongoing discussions in Addison County towns about ARPA funding would make a good focus for a research project.

“(The students) live in Addison County, but a lot of times they don’t know much beyond the boundaries of campus. So, I thought it would help them practice their research skills but also get to know Addison County,” she said.

The semester started with students reading and learning about various qualitative research methods like conducting interviews and writing surveys. Then, students split into groups and used those methods to evaluate how Middlebury, Weybridge, Vergennes and Bristol were deciding where their ARPA funds would go.

These four municipalities have received varying amounts in ARPA funding, and some have already decided how to use a portion or all of their funds. Middlebury has received \$2.6 million, Bristol \$1.1 million, Vergennes \$772,125 and Weybridge around \$119,000.

Throughout November, students interviewed selectboard and city council members and conducted surveys with local officials and community members to learn more about the towns’ process for deciding how to spend their share of ARPA funds.

WAYS TO USE FUNDS

The students found that local officials and townspeople were split on priorities for use of their ARPA funding. Selectboard members and local officials tended to give precedence to infrastructure, with over 35% of respondents in that group identifying infrastructure as their first-choice priority.

However, infrastructure was not the priority among citizens. Of the community members the class surveyed, affordable housing was most frequently selected as the highest priority, with social services and infrastructure tied for second. “Citizens are saying that infrastructure is important, but that a lot of the harm that they experienced with COVID wasn’t around their sidewalks and roads, most of the harm that they pointed out was realizing that their housing situation wasn’t good or realizing that their childcare wasn’t affordable,” Teets explained.

The class’s surveys also found

that citizens were interested in using ARPA funds to invest in recreation or arts and culture, which local officials did not often identify as a priority.

“(Citizens) talked about the mental health challenges that they and their family had faced, and that being able to get back into the community in safe, open spaces became one of the most important things that they had in their lives,” Teets said. “A lot of people picked recreation not as something frivolous, but because it was so important to their children’s mental health and their mental health.”

SPLIT ON PUBLIC INPUT

The students also noticed that local officials and citizens differed in how extensive they felt solicitation of public participation has been in their town’s ARPA decision-making process.

Teets noted that some of the four towns the class researched were not soliciting public suggestions on how to use ARPA funds. Middlebury, for instance, has no plans to solicit public input beyond selectboard subcommittees and communication with town staff, she said.

Bristol has been eager to hear its residents’ ARPA recommendations and has tallied over 500 suggestions through conversations with citizens, surveys and postcards.

Vergennes and Weybridge fell in the middle on public outreach efforts, and neither has solicited the community’s input yet.

In their surveying, students found that selectboard and city council members felt they’ve done a public outreach. However, surveys with community members showed that many citizens were

less confident in the effectiveness of local officials’ outreach efforts.

Thirty-three citizen survey respondents said they felt their towns’ collection of public input was not effective or only slightly effective, compared to 11 respondents that felt the solicitation was very effective. Twenty-eight respondents landed in the middle, saying their town’s solicitation of public input was moderately effective.

Teets noted this difference in perception might be because many towns have made ARPA funding discussions a reoccurring agenda item for public meetings, which local officials count as an outreach effort, but citizens might not find as engaging.

“We see this gap between the selectboard thinking that they’re reaching out and that they’re getting feedback because they’re making this a part of their agenda, but the public not necessarily thinking that the selectboard has collected enough information to make good decisions,” Teets said during a Dec. 19 presentation of the class’s research.

Following their research, the class is recommending that local officials collect more public input about how COVID has impacted citizens and what citizens’ priorities are for ARPA funding. Another recommendation is that municipalities focus on maintaining active communication between citizens and town officials as they make these decisions, beyond discussing ARPA funding during open meetings.

Teets’s students presented their research to the Bristol selectboard on Monday and will continue presenting their research to officials

in Middlebury, Weybridge and Vergennes in January.

“I hope the presentation shows people that public input is actually a great thing,” Teets said. “It doesn’t mean that you necessarily change your decision, but it means that extra information is good because then if you decide to spend it a different way, at least you know why.”

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

As her class’s work comes to an end, Teets said she feels the project has been beneficial for her students.

“It’s been really successful in accelerating their learning in a way that I don’t think asking them to write a paper or interview a couple of their friends would have done,” she said.

Her students agree.

Caroline Harding, a junior at Middlebury College studying political science and economics, said she enjoyed how Teets’s class veered from traditional assignments and offered students firsthand experience in the research methods they were studying.

“This was the first kind of community outreach that I’ve done at Middlebury, and I feel that I’m leaving with a good understanding of how to do experimental design,” she said. “I was able to learn about research design, but also we’re presenting towns with something that we hope is productive and useful for them, so I feel that it was mutually beneficial.”

In addition to research skills, Teets said she noticed an increased interest in Addison County towns among her students, which she hopes will have a lasting impact.

“It’s been really fascinating to see them learn what the local situation is around them, and I hope that even if they don’t choose to live in Vermont, that they think about public service and the types of people that are willing to give up their time and their family life to do this sort of work,” she said.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



THANK YOU

to all who helped keep our community
safe and warm this holiday season.



A 40-FOOT pine fell in Middlebury last Friday between a Buttolph Drive garage and the neighboring home missing both.
Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy



A TREE CAME down across Washington Street in Middlebury blocking traffic on Friday morning.
Independent photo/Sadie Messenger



AFTER WINDS BLEW over five big trees off Storrs Avenue near the Middlebury College library Thursday night five big root balls were left exposed above ground.
Independent photo/Steve James

Storm

(Continued from Page 1A)
It's not clear how many Addison County residents lost power, but Emergency Management officials said Addison was among the hard hit counties.
Whole trees were uprooted around Addison County — most of them pine trees. Some large trees simply broke in the high winds.
Trees were reported down across Route 17 in Starksboro, on Route 7 in New Haven, Washington and Foote streets in Middlebury and elsewhere. Five pines on Storrs Avenue on the Middlebury College campus toppled with the root balls left sticking out of the ground.
Town of Middlebury Emergency

Management Director Tom Hanley at noon on Friday noted that the winds would be dying down but urged everyone to take care as the storm progressed.
“No, folks, it's not over,” he said in an early Friday afternoon alert. “The second half of the storm, a cold front, is approaching from the west. It is expected to arrive between 5 and 6 p.m. today. With it comes cascading temperatures, forecast to be sub-freezing between 5 and 6 p.m. and continuing to fall into the single numbers this evening, with wind chills of zero to the minus 0's.
“Expect blustery winds, and rapidly freezing surfaces as

the temperatures fall,” Hanley continued.
On Friday afternoon temperatures plummeted by 20-40 degrees over a couple of hours as a winter weather front moved in.
Agency of Transportation spokesperson Amy Tatko said the state had not officially closed any roads, but officials urged everyone to skip non-essential travel — on Christmas weekend.
The governor closed all non-essential state offices at 1 p.m. on Friday and urged state workers to work from home, if possible. Other employers followed the state's lead and sent workers home early.

The Middlebury Police Department opened up its community room as a warming shelter, and a place where people without power could find respite.
“It's not a 5-star hotel by any means, but you can warm up, charge your devices, use the internet, have a warm drink and otherwise get a break from the cold,” Chief Hanley said on Friday.
The state announced it had opened a warming shelter in Cornwall.
Power companies were prepared for outages, and, boy, did they have outages. Crews and repair trucks could be seen

prowling around Addison County all weekend — cutting down trees that were resting on power lines and restoring snapped wires. Town highway crews cleared fallen trees and branches off the roads, then salted and sanded as the ice formed. A member of the Salisbury selectboard was impressed into duty clearing fallen trees in that town.
Work continued throughout the weekend with linemen seen working on Christmas Day. Green Mountain Power restored power to 93,000 customers by Monday afternoon.
Most people saw the power of nature and knew they could not

fight back against the elements. So they took care and appreciated those who helped return life to normal.
“I would like to recognize the tremendous effort put forth by the Green Mountain Power emergency crews, as well as the many plumbers and electricians who spent hours in the cold working to restore power and fix water and heating issues in the wake of our recent pre-Christmas windstorm,” Cornwall resident Ben Rosenberg wrote in a letter to this newspaper. “These selfless workers had to spend much of the holiday away from their families.”

Leaders

(Continued from Page 1A)
in executive session and sent an email a little more than a month ago to MAUSD employees, copying the MAUSD board, informing them that I had applied for the

superintendent/director position at the PAHCC,” Reen said.
He added he doesn't know much yet about the status of his application, except that he's “advancing through the process.”

“It was important to me that folks heard about this from me and not through the grapevine,” Reen said.
The career center board is looking for a permanent successor

to former Superintendent Dana Peterson, who retired this past June. Tim Williams is serving a one-year stint as interim leader at the center, which provides career and technical education to students in the Addison Central, Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham school districts.

Burrows, reached by phone on Tuesday, confirmed his own search, adding he's been named a finalist for the Milton (Massachusetts) Public Schools superintendency. The *Patriot Ledger* newspaper reported on Nov. 9 that the Milton School Committee is “conducting an expedited search” for a new school superintendent in hopes of making a selection next month. The newspaper further indicated former Milton Public Schools Superintendent James Jette resigned on Nov. 4, “after having been on paid administrative leave since July following his arrest on a domestic violence charge, which was later dropped.”
This isn't the first time that Burrows, 52, has considered other job opportunities. In February 2020, he emerged as one of three finalists to lead the Burlington (Vt.) School District. Burrows ultimately withdrew his name from consideration, however, because he said he didn't feel comfortable leaving the ACSD without an experienced leader at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic.
He's continued to helm the ACSD during the pandemic, but he again feels the pull to a new challenge.
“This is an amazing community,” he said. “I love working with staff, with the community and students here, but was feeling professionally it was time for something bigger, more diverse and more urban.”
Burrows said he's focusing his job search in the Northeast, given he has family ties to Massachusetts and Connecticut.
Burrows took the administrative reins of the ACSD on July 1, 2013. He'd previously worked nine years at Willamette (Oregon) High School, first as a teacher (beginning in 2004), then as an assistant principal before becoming principal in 2010.
His resumé also includes stints as a language arts teacher at Sisters High School and Middle School (2003-2004) in Oregon, and as a teacher and designer of English and other courses at universities in

South Korea, Mexico, Japan and India.
It's been an eventful nine-plus years for Burrows and the ACSD. Among other things, the district has:
• Consolidated its school governance through Vermont's Act 46. The resulting Addison Central School District was one of the first Vermont public education systems to make the transition to a single school board presiding over a global budget for all member schools.
• Transitioned to an International Baccalaureate curriculum that emphasizes experiential learning and transforming students into world citizens. The ACSD added grade 6 to its Middlebury Union Middle School population as part of the IB transition.
• Adopted a strategic plan outlining the district's educational priorities.
• Worked on a facilities master plan to help the ACSD prioritize investments in its aging school buildings. That plan is expected to inform a district debate on which schools will fit in the ACSD's long-term plans and which could be candidates for closure or consolidation.
ACSD officials are in the early stages of planning a major capital project aimed at bringing all nine of the district's school buildings up to code.
Burrows has also seen two of the ACSD's member communities launch bids to withdraw from the district. Weybridge residents voted against an independence bid in January of 2021. Ripton residents overwhelmingly embraced withdrawal before electing to rejoin the district this past September when it became apparent the town wouldn't be ready to operate its own school system beginning next summer.
DECADE-LONG RUN
While some might view Burrows's time with the ACSD as being relatively short, 9-10 years is a long run these days for a school district superintendent.
The average tenure for a superintendent is five to six years, and the annual turnover rate for superintendents is between 14-16%, according to the national School Superintendents Association.
Longevity among top administrators has only gotten shorter during the pandemic, officials acknowledged. School

systems have had to take on more responsibilities — particularly in the areas of health and human services — during COVID-19. And they're having to do it amid a major shortage of teachers and support staff.
“I think if you talk to any superintendent in the country, the last three years have been pretty challenging on staff, communities and everyone,” Burrows said. “If you look around the country, there are probably a record number of superintendent openings. The work has been hard — not just for the superintendent, but all of us.”
Asked about his current status, Burrows said, “If and when I get an offer, I'll then determine whether it's the right fit, or if staying makes sense.”
If Burrows is offered (and accepts) the Milton job, he'll be presiding over an education system that serves approximately 4,400 students in four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In addition, the Milton district offers a developmental preschool, before- and afterschool programs, and summer school programs. All six of the district's buildings have been rebuilt or updated to state-of-the-art facilities, according to miltonps.org.
Milton, population 28,382, is in eastern Massachusetts, about 10 miles south of Boston.
Victoria Jette, chair of the ACSD board, provided the *Independent* the following statement about Burrows' potential departure:
“Although I am saddened to learn that Peter Burrows is pursuing other opportunities, I understand his desire to seek new challenges ... We have been incredibly lucky to have Peter at the helm of this district for as long as we have. If he is to move on in his career, one of the legacies he leaves behind is a fantastic group of administrators who I have no doubt will continue to lead our schools in the same thoughtful way they have under Peter's direction. Because of them, we are in a good position to weather this transition period well and attract excellent candidates. If the perfect opportunity does not present itself for Peter, I look forward to him continuing to lead ACSD.”
The *Independent* sought to get teachers' perspective on Burrows' potential departure. Efforts to reach Larry O'Connor, a veteran special educator at Middlebury Union High School and an officer with the Addison Central Educators' Association, were unsuccessful before deadline.
Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Lyndon too much for MUHS

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys’ hockey team on Dec. 21 was coming off an encouraging Dec. 17 win at Lyndon, when the Tigers scored three times in the third period to rally past a solid Viking squad, 3-2.

The momentum did not carry over to that Wednesday night last week, when the Tigers hosted Division I South Burlington.

The Wolves took advantage of a defensive breakdown on the first shift of the game to take the lead on the way to a 6-0 victory, a result that dropped the Tigers to 1-2 heading into Wednesday and Thursday evening home games this week against the high school team from Brookline, Mass.

The Tigers did outshoot the Wolves, 19-14, thanks largely to another surge in the third period (a 10-2 edge in shots on goal). But for most of the game SB controlled the action and limited the Tigers’ chances, including on four power plays.

Still MUHS Coach Jordan Stearns was not discouraged afterward, noting the shots and his team’s continued determination to compete.

“There were a lot of positives

there. We’ve just got to find the back of the net,” Stearns said. “We had more shots than they did.”

That said, Stearns credited the Wolves.

“That’s a really good team, too. Those guys can move. They’re big, they’re physical, they’re fast, they can all shoot the puck,” he said. “So it was a really good learning opportunity for the guys. Obviously it’s tough going down 6-0. But it is what it is ... It’s not the outcome you want, but they (the Tigers) fought to the end, and that’s all we could ask from them.”

The trouble began when Wolf Nick Kelly powered past a defender down the right boards, circled the net, and found Jules Butler open off the left post for the one-time doorstep conversion 39 seconds after the puck was dropped.

The Tigers had two power plays in the first period, but struggled to link up and create any sustained pressure. Sophomore Quinn Collins launched one shot from the right circle during the first that SB goalie James Bradley stuck aside, and during the second Bradley stopped Eliot Heminway from the left point.

Tiger goalie TJ Baron did his best work between the power

(See Hockey, Page 3B)



TIGER FORWARD HENRY Hunsdorfer had a golden chance during the MUHS boys’ hockey team loss to visiting South Burlington on Dec. 21, but Wolf goalie James Bradley denied the breakaway bid.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

12/21 MUHS vs S. Burlington. 2-1 (OT)
12/28 U-32 at MUHSLate

Boys' Hockey

12/21 S. Burlington vs MUHS.....6-0
12/28 Brookline (MA) at MUHS...Late

Boys' Basketball

12/22 VUHS vs Richford.....60-48
12/22 OV at Hartford.....Ppd. to 12/30
12/22 Colchester vs MUHS.....60-28
12/27 Winooski vs VUHS.....57-35
12/27 OV vs Proctor.....78-40
12/27 Spaulding vs Mt. Abe77-39

Girls' Basketball

12/21 Hazen vs VUHS50-32
12/22 Mt. Abe vs U-32.....50-29
12/23 MUHS at OVPpd. to 1/10
12/27 Burr & Burton vs Mt. Abe..36-35
12/27 VUHS vs Williamstown43-27

Schedule Continued...

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Hockey

Tourney at Kenyon Arena*

12/31 Midd vs Manhattanville* ..1 PM
12/31 UNE vs Cortland*4 PM
1/1 Consolation/Final*.....2/5 PM
1/6 Wesleyan at Midd.....7 PM
1/7 Trinity at Midd.....4 PM

Women's Hockey

1/4 Lake Forest at Midd7 PM
1/7 Midd at Endicott3 PM

Women's Basketball

Tourney at Babson*

12/30 Midd at Babson*.....1 PM
12/31 Midd vs. E. Conn*.....Noon
1/3 Midd at Wellesley4 PM
1/6 Hamilton at Midd7 PM
1/7 Amherst at Midd3 PM

Men's Basketball

Tourney at E. Conn*

12/29 Midd vs New Paltz*5 PM
12/30 Midd vs TBD*Noon/2 PM
1/6 Midd at Hamilton7 PM
1/7 Midd at Amherst3 PM



MUHS FORWARD KELLAN Bartlett (No. 23) tries to pick off South Burlington goalie James Bradley's clearing pass during the visiting Wolves' Dec. 21 victory over the Tigers.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS and Eagle girls' hoop teams taste victory, defeat

ADDISON COUNTY — Vergennes and Mount Abraham each split two games in recent high school girls’ basketball play.

Middlebury had been set to visit Otter Valley on Friday, Dec. 23, but that game was postponed to Jan. 10 due to poor weather.

COMMODORES

On Dec. 21, host Hazen pulled away in the second half for a 50-32 victory over the Commodores. Hazen led at the break by just 19-17 and then outscored VUHS in the third period, 19-5, on the way to the win. Caitlyn Davidson led Hazen with 17 points.

Kyra Bradford paced the Commodores with 10 points, and Finnley Jacobson added eight.

On Tuesday, the Commodores broke open a close game with a 22-3 advantage in the third quarter for a 43-27 victory at Williamstown. Jacobson led the way with 19 points and seven

rebounds. Bradford chipped in 11 points, nine rebounds, five assists and five steals, and Ava Almeida contributed seven points, five rebounds and six steals as the Commodores improved to 3-2.

EAGLES

On Dec. 22, the Eagles coasted at U-32, 50-29. Mount Abe bolted to a 32-18 halftime lead on the way to the victory.

Maia Jensen tossed in 21 points to lead all scorers, and Eagle teammate Louisa Painter added 15 while the Eagle defense forced 19 turnovers. Cara Richardson’s 19 points led the Raiders.

On Tuesday, visiting Burr & Burton scratched out a 36-35 victory over the Eagles. It was the 6-1 Bulldogs’ second win of the season over Mount Abe. Josie Powers (10 points) and Navaeh Camp (eight) led a balanced BBA attack. Jensen scored 16 as the Eagles dropped to 2-4.

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

12/29 Harwood at MUHS5 PM
1/4 MUHS at Missisquoi.....4:30 PM
1/7 MUHS at BBA5 PM

Boys' Hockey

12/29 Brookline (MA) at MUHS..7 PM
1/2 MUHS at Northfield7 PM
1/4 Harwood at MUHS7 PM
1/7 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield...7:15 PM

Boys' Basketball

12/29 MUHS at Mill River.....5:30 PM
12/30 Mt. Abe at RandolphPpd.
12/30 OV at Hartford.....7 PM
1/3 Mt. Abe at Mill River5:30 PM
1/3 OV at VUHS.....7 PM
1/3 Spaulding at MUHS.....7 PM
1/6 VUHS at Stowe7 PM
1/6 OV at Mt. Abe.....7 PM
1/6 Fair Haven at MUHS.....7 PM

Girls' Basketball

12/29 VUHS at Winooski7 PM
12/29 OV at West Rutland7 PM
12/30 Montpelier at MUHS.....7 PM
1/2 Fair Haven at OV7 PM
1/2 VUHS at Milton7 PM
1/4 Mt. Abe at MUHS.....7 PM
1/4 Colchester at VUHS.....7 PM
1/5 Rutland at OV.....7 PM
1/7 North Country at VUHS...2:30 PM
1/7 Enosburg at Mt. Abe.....12:30 PM
1/7 MUHS at Missisquoi.....1:30 PM
1/7 OV at Windsor.....2:30 PM

Gymnastics

12/29 MUHS at Harwood7 PM
1/5 Essex at MUHS.....6 PM

Nordic

1/3 MUHS at Rutland
1/7 MUHS at Mt. Anthony

Wrestling

12/28&29. Mt. Abe/VUHS/OV at MUHS
12/31 .. Mt. Abe at Fair Haven Tourney
1/3 Fair Haven at OV6 PM
1/4 VUHS at MMU.....6 PM
1/5 Mt. Abe at MUHS6:30 PM
1/7Mt. Abe/OV at MAU Tourney



FRESHMAN COOPER CANNON works on the parallel bars on Dec. 21, when the MUHS gymnastics team hosted St. Johnsbury and several independents in its first home meet.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger gymnasts leap into action

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — A visiting St. Johnsbury gymnastics team with a dozen competitors on Dec. 21 prevailed over the Middlebury Union High School squad, which fielded only three gymnasts in its season debut in the Middlebury Union Middle School gym, 110.9-62.9.

Tiger Senior Mary Johnson and freshman Alexis Williams performed well and scored all the points for the MUHS team.

Johnson’s fourth-place effort on

the bars was the high point for the squad, and she was also sixth in the floor exercises.

Williams scored in four events, taking sixth on the bars, fifth on the beam and floor and fifth in the all-around standings.

The meet also welcomed independent gymnasts from Hazen and Danville, according to Tiger Coach Natalia Harthman, whose team is set to visit Harwood this Thursday before hosting Vermont gymnastics power Essex on Jan. 5.

The scores for the top-six

finishers in the individual events were (Harthman said visiting coaches did not provide last names):

VAULT: 1. Lydia H., Hazen; 8.20; 2. Lydia R., St. J, 8.15; 3. Katy, St. J, 8.10; 4. Emily M., Hazen, 7.60; 5. Faith, St. J, 7.50; 6. Brooke, Danville, 7.4.

BARs: 1. Lydia R., St. J, 8.10; 2. Lydia H., Hazen, 7.60; 3. Zoe, St. J, 7.30; 4. Johnson, MUHS, 6.60; 5. Emily M., Hazen, 5.90; 6. Williams, MUHS, 5.5.

(See Gymnastics, Page 2B)



SENIOR MARY JOHNSON, the only upperclassman on the Tiger gymnastics team, flies through the air on her dismount as her routine on the beam concludes during the squad’s Dec. 21 home meet.

Independent photo/Steve James

Warming up to the college’s sports hall of fame

About 10 years ago, I got wind of a plan to initiate a Middlebury College Athletics Hall of Fame to coincide with the construction of the new field house. I thought this was a very bad idea and I wrote to the big shots at Middlebury and told them so.

KARL LINDHOLM

I have never been a huge fan of Halls of Fame as they recognize individual achievement over all other aspects of sports participation. They honor the players who score the most points, and not those who are the “glue,” the heart of a team, the leaders, the unselfish contributors, the hardest workers, the most team-oriented, the defensive specialists — and the coaches who win the most games, not necessarily those with the highest standards who get the most out of their players’ abilities and contribute in less obvious but meaningful ways to their growth.

I know, I know, this attitude places me in the liberal-weenie camp, the “every kid gets a trophy” school, a charge I can live with. Even now, I maintain an idealized view of sports. At the core, they are an enterprise of the spirit, a passionate engagement, a source of tremendous intimacy, yes love, among teammates and their leaders, their coaches, that cannot be quantified and fairly evaluated by points scored and games won and honors accumulated.

Those making the decision

wrote politely back to me and said, in effect, “Sorry, Karl. It’s a done deal. There will be a Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame.” Naturally, I said, “count me out!” Well, not so fast. I actually made the kind of pivot that I have become somewhat accustomed to as I age — falling off my high horse. “If it’s *fait accompli*, can I be a part of the process?” I inquired. To their credit and my everlasting gratitude, they said, “Sure.”

The Middlebury College Athletics Hall of Fame has now inducted eight classes and honored 53 athletes and five coach/administrators (25 women, 33 men) from 25 varsity teams from 1910 to 2004. I have been on the selection committee from the outset.

It is the most meaningful connection I have to the college I attended and where I was employed for 35 years. Having been a part of the college community for a half century, I do represent something of the “historical memory” of the college (though that memory is subject to lapses and embellishment!). I’ve been to a lot of sporting events.

I have enjoyed enormously being involved in the Hall of Fame process. It is safe to say I have moderated my view of Halls of Fame, at least the one here at Middlebury College.

About a dozen people serve on the selection committee, which includes the various constituencies of the college and is now co-chaired by the Director of Athletic Communications Alexis Paquette and varsity softball coach Kelly Bevere.

The committee meets frequently

and discusses those Middlebury athletes (and coaches) who are nominated from the outside or are brought forth from a master list of viable candidates, eventually selecting the inductees for that year, from five to 10 in number. The discussions are lively and respectful, keenly collaborative.

This “master list” has been crucial to our work. Deliberations for the first six classes of inductees were overseen by Brad Nadeau, the director of athletic communications from 1993-2021. In 2015, he hired a recent graduate,



SINCE ITS ORIGIN in 2014, Middlebury College has inducted 53 athletes and five coaches into its Athletic Hall of Fame. The “oldest” Hall of Fame member is Ray Fisher, class of 1910, shown here in his New York Highlanders uniform. Fisher was born in Middlebury, attended Middlebury High School and Middlebury College, played 10 years of major league baseball and coached baseball at the University of Michigan for 38 years.
Photo courtesy Middlebury College Archives

Damon Hatheway, as an intern in his office to research the athletic history of the college and develop a list of potential candidates for Hall of Fame consideration.

That was an enormous task and Damon (now a third-year doctoral student in Classics at Boston University) did a brilliant job, providing for the committee a comprehensive set of names and their credentials from all of Middlebury’s varsity teams (14 men’s teams and 15 women’s teams). If we had an appropriate category, I’d nominate Damon for the Hall of Fame.

I am something of Damon legatee: I genuinely enjoy doing Hall of Fame research. According to the bylaws (Hall of Fame information is easily accessed online), we must have a “pre-NESCAC” honoree (before 1971) in every class. I feel a responsibility to the old timers from the 1940s and ’50s and before that too, the great early athletes who have died: I tell people, that’s the group I’m closest to in age!

I find happiness in the College Archives on the bottom floor of the library, pouring over the *Campus* newspaper and yearbooks, and the abundant other materials in their collection. I lose myself in the lives represented in image and text, so exuberant are they, so apparently confident, forever young. Some of it no doubt is vicarious appreciation.

At the moment, I’m looking at the careers of great skiers, Olympians all, from a time when Middlebury was atop the collegiate ski world in the 1950s. I’m trying to develop a pecking order for their consideration for the Hall of Fame.



THE 2022 MIDDLEBURY College Hall of Fame inductees last month included (from left) Alice Tower Knapp ’81 (Nordic skiing, cross-country running), Matt Dunn ’04 (ice hockey, lacrosse), Tracey Thompson Turner ’79 (track and field), Athletic Director Erin Quinn, Ellie Wendell Reiter ’02 (soccer), Sam Guarnaccia Jr. ’67 (accepting for his father is Sam Guarnaccia ’30, football, track and field, coach), Mark Spence ’98 (ice hockey, track and field).

Photo by Todd Balfour

The student newspaper and yearbooks go all the way back to the 1880s and the birth of organized competitive intercollegiate sports at Middlebury — for men anyway. For women, intercollegiate competition largely began with the passage of the groundbreaking Title IX legislation in 1972. The exception of course is skiing, where Middlebury women excelled. Middlebury’s first Olympian in skiing was Becky Fraser in 1948.

These sources, the *Campus* and *Kaleidoscope*, are reliable historical documents — except for the decade right after my graduation in 1967, the era of the youthful counterculture and Vietnam War protest, the newspaper a pastiche of radical commentary and the yearbooks a collection of photographic images, not even a team picture among them.

It’s not accidental that that decade is unrepresented in

the Hall of Fame, so I’m also working on developing profiles of deserving athletes from that time when so little information on campus is available. Versions of the *Burlington Free Press* and (especially) the *Rutland Herald* on microfilm are helpful.

The induction ceremony every November is a wonderful party. The athletes, now mostly middle-aged or older, return with family and friends to celebrate and recall with emotion their experience of sports at Middlebury, and the glory of teamwork and collective effort, and *always*, their abiding affection for their teammates.

Karl Lindholm, Ph.D., is the Emeritus Dean of Advising and retired Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College. He can be reached at lindholm@middlebury.edu.



SENIOR MARY JOHNSON is ready to launch off the vaulting apparatus on Dec. 21 during the Tiger gymnastic team’s home meet, its first of the season in the Middlebury Union Middle School gym.

Independent photo/Steve James



FRESHMAN ALIXIS WILLIAMS goes high during her routine on the beam during the MUHS gymnastics team’s home meet at Middlebury Union Middle School on Dec. 21.

Independent photo/Steve James

Upcoming Events

Thursday Dec. 29:
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating

Friday, Dec. 30:
11:00-12:30 AM - Public Skating

Saturday Dec. 31:
7:00 - 8:30 PM - FREE Public Skating (sponsored by town of Middlebury)

Happy New Year!

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023:
2:30-4:00 PM - Public Skating

Tuesday, Jan. 3:
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
3:30-5:00 PM - Stick & Puck

Thursday Jan. 5:
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating

Happy Holidays!

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Gymnastics

(Continued from Page 1B)

BEAM: 1. Lydia R, St. J, 9.10; 2. Lydia H., Hazen, 7.85; 3. Zoe, St. J, 7.80; 4. Emily M, Hazen, 6.70; 5. (tie) Williams, MUHS, and Brooke, Danville, 6.60.

FLOOR: 1. Lydia R, St. J, 8.20; 2. Zoe, St. J, 7.60; 3. Lydia H., Hazen, 7.55; 4. Emily M., Hazen, 6.55; 5. Williams, MUHS, 6.40; 6. Johnson, MUHS, 6.30.

ALL AROUND: 1. Lydia R,

St. J, 33.55; 2. Lydia H, Hazen, 31.20; 3. Emily M, Hazen, 26.75; 4. Brooke, Danville, 25.40; 5. Williams, MUHS, 24.9; 6. Faith, St. J, 24.85.

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Hockey

(Continued from Page 1B)

plays, stopping Lucas Van Mullen from the left circle and then two point-blank rebound bids at around the six-minute mark. But with 1:13 to go in the first period Baron could not find Andrew Chandler's long drive from the center point through a screen, and the Wolves took a 2-0 lead into the locker room.

Baron (nine saves) denied Colby Reagan from the slot early in the second period, but by the end of the second 15 minutes the Wolves led by 5-0. At 3:09 Cyril Vandromme stuffed home a Harry Poquette feed from the right corner, at 11:56 Will Bradley skated down the left side and found the upper right corner from the left circle, and at 12:43 Bradley skated out of the right corner and stuffed the puck home short-side.

The Tigers had two chances on a mid-period power play, but Bradley turned aside Kellan Bartlett from the center point and Iver Anderson from the high slot.

Van Mullen's screened shot from the center point made it 6-0 two minutes into the final period.

Then the Tigers came to life. Bradley, who made 10 of his 19 saves in the final period, had to kick away a close-range Henry Hunsdorder backhand on a feed from Bartlett five minutes in, and shortly afterward he gloved similar bids by Anderson and Landon Kean from the high slot.

With two minutes to go, Bradley denied Sawyer Leonard from the left circle and then absolutely robbed Bartlett by gloving his low point-blank one-timer on the rebound.

Stearns was pleased to see the



TIGER FORWARD LANDON Kean carries the puck up the ice during the MUHS boys' hockey teams' home loss to South Burlington last week. The 1-2 Tigers are hosting games at 7 p.m. this Wednesday and Thursday.

Independent photo/Steve James

energy and determination despite the adversity. Consistency will be the next step, he concluded.

"It's just coming out and playing three periods of hockey," he said. "We really haven't done that yet. So that's going to be the key."

He acknowledged a couple areas where he would like to see improvement. Against a speedy team like the Wolves the Tigers will need to be more careful of not overcommitting in open ice, for example.

"That was for sure the fastest team we've seen so far," he said.

"So we've just got to work on our angling. We've been working on that a lot and not watching the puck too much. We're not out there to wreck guys, but we're out there to play the body, use our body to angle out of the open ice toward the boards or angle them into pressure."

The power play also could be more effective, although the return of first-line player Toby Draper in two weeks will help there, Stearns believes.

"We're missing one of our guys on our top line, so we had

to throw someone in there, and those guys hadn't played together yet," Stearns said. "We're trying to figure out who is going to slot in there while Toby is out of town."

Overall, Stearns said he would like to see a bit more out of the Tigers, and he expects to do so given the positives he has also seen.

"I think we're still kind of feeling things out, probably not quite where I'd want to be," Stearns said. "But we're learning. We're building towards the end of the season. So that's when it really counts."

Otter boys' hoop wins big, other results mixed

ADDISON COUNTY — In recent high school boys' basketball play, Vergennes split a pair of games, Otter Valley won big in its only outing, and both Middlebury and Mount Abraham came up short in their only games.

COMMODORES

On Dec. 22, the Commodores got past host Richford, 60-48, as **Elijah Duprey** (18 points), **Abram Francis** (15) and **Oakley Francis** (14) all scored in double figures. Elia Varisco splashed five threes and scored 24 points to keep the Rockets in the running.

On Tuesday, visiting Winooski defeated VUHS, 57-35. The Spartans led by 26-19 at the half before taking control with a 15-4 edge in the third period. Trevon Bradley scored 21 points, and Daniel Surma recorded 11 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocked shots for Winooski. Duprey (15 points) and Oakley Francis (five points, 12 rebounds) put up numbers for the 2-3 Commodores.

OTTERS

On Tuesday, OV led host Proctor by 37-30 at halftime and then dominated the second half

in a 78-40 victory. **Ben Adams** sparked OV with 16 points and nine rebounds, **Logan Letourneau** scored 16, **Connor Denis** scored 10, and **Matt Bryant** added nine in a balanced attack.

The Otters' Dec. 22 game at Hartford was postponed to this Friday, at 7 p.m.

TIGERS

On Dec. 22, host Colchester pulled away in the fourth quarter to dismiss the visiting Tigers, 60-28. MUHS Coach Chris Altemose said, "Most of the game was a step forward" for the team, with a good defensive effort, but "the wheels came off" in the final eight minutes. **Penn Riney** led the Tigers with 12 points, and **Jack Trudeau** chipped in six points and seven rebounds.

EAGLES

On Tuesday, host Spaulding took a 16-0 lead on the way to a 78-40 victory over the Eagles. Senior Riley Severy sparked the Tide with a 25-point night that included three dunks, 12 rebounds and four assists.

Owen Frizzell scored nine points to lead the 1-2 Eagles

Tiger girls' hockey tops SB, extends win streak

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team on Dec. 21 stretched its winning streak to three games by topping visiting South Burlington in overtime, 2-1.

Nyna Cole scored the game-winner, rushing to the net to finish off a goal-front scramble.

Tiger Erin Sears and Wolf Hadia Ahmed traded goals in regulation. SB goalie Oli Roy made 15 saves.

Sawyer Witscher and Ireland Hanley picked up assists on the MUHS goals, and Tiger goalie Ruby Hubbell backstopped the victory with 19 saves.

The Tigers were set to host U-32 this Wednesday (after deadline) in the first round of their annual four-team holiday tournament, and Harwood is on the docket for a 5 p.m. Thursday visit in the tournament finale.



TIGER GOALIE TJ Baron holds the short side against this South Burlington scoring bid during the visiting Wolves' victory over the MUHS boys' hockey team on Dec. 21.

Independent photo/Steve James

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BRIDPORT: Pratt's Store	MIDDLEBURY: Addison Independent Office Champlain Farms Costello's Market Greg's Market Hannaford Kinney Drugs Maplefields Middlebury Discount Beverage Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op Middlebury Short Stop Otter Creek Bakery	NEW HAVEN: Jiffy Mart (7 & 17) Maplefields Village Green Market	VERGENNES: BJ's Farm Supply Champlain Farms Community Market Kinney Drugs Shaw's Maplefields Vergennes Vergennes Wine
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Bristol Police reunite multiple dogs with owners, assist in property dispute

BRISTOL — Bristol police helped return multiple loose dogs to their owners in the Bristol area between Dec. 5 and 7.

On Dec. 5 an officer found a loose dog at the intersection of West Street and Munsill Avenue and returned it to its home.

On Dec. 7 a dog that had been running at large on Route 17 was dropped off at the Bristol Police Department. The owner was identified, and the dog was returned.

Also on Dec. 7, an officer responded to South Street following a report of a dog running around without its owner. The dog was returned to its owner, who was warned about a dog at large

violation.

Between Nov. 21 and Dec. 10 Bristol police completed 49 foot patrols and nine car patrols, conducted 29 traffic stops and checked the security at Mount Abraham Union High School 16 times, at Bristol Elementary School 11 times and at local businesses 16 times.

Police also processed 32 fingerprint requests, conducted four welfare checks and helped one individual get into a locked vehicle.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Nov. 23 cited Dylan Harris, 31, of Salisbury for operating his motor vehicle with a criminally

suspended license.

- On Nov. 23 assisted an individual with a property dispute on Church Street.
- On Nov. 23 responded to West Street for a possible trespass but found no evidence that one had occurred.
- On Nov. 25 received a report of an attempted theft on Stonewall Drive. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Nov. 25 assisted someone on Mountain Street with a custodial dispute.
- On Nov. 25 received a report of a possible theft on Prince Lane. An

investigation is ongoing.

- On Nov. 26 responded to a report of a dispute on South Street. When police arrived one individual had left the area and the other involved person was uncooperative. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Nov. 26 received a threatening c o m p l a i n t via social media from someone on Pumphouse Road. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Nov. 27 assisted someone at the police station who had concerns about a theft.
- On Nov. 28 responded to

Bristol Police Log

State police respond to DUI calls in Ferrisburgh and Middlebury

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police operating out of the New Haven barracks issued two citations for drunken driving last week.

In the first incident, on Dec. 19 at a little after 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 19, troopers responded to a report of a vehicle in a ditch off Hawkins Road in Ferrisburgh. They identified the driver as 43-year-old Holly Gonyeau of Ferrisburgh.

While speaking with Gonyeau, troopers detected indicators of impairment, so they screened her, arrested her for driving under the influence and took her to the New Haven barracks for processing. During the course of the investigation, police determined at the time of the incident there was a juvenile in the vehicle who was improperly restrained; police said the youngster had been removed from the vehicle before authorities

got there. Police said the juvenile was uninjured.

Police cited Gonyeau for driving DUI, second offense, and gross negligent driving.

Separately, on Dec. 24 shortly after 7 p.m., state police received a report of a vehicle unable to maintain its lane on Route 7 and crossing the center line into oncoming traffic.

Vt. State Police Log

A trooper from the New Haven barracks stopped the suspected vehicle on Route 7 at Exchange Street in Middlebury, and identified the driver as Leslie A. Davignon, 33, of Weybridge. The trooper noted seeing a child in the

rear passenger seat.

While speaking with Davignon, after seeing indicators of alcohol impairment, state police arrested Davignon for the suspicion of driving under the influence and took her to the New Haven barracks for processing. Davignon was cited for DUI and cruelty to a child and then released.

Vermont State Police remind drivers not to drink and drive. Make plans beforehand for alternative means of transportation if you plan to consume alcohol.

The only other activity that state police reported locally between Dec. 19 and 26 was work dealing with the bad roads as a result of the storm late last week. State police reported that Route 17 in Starksboro between Lafayette and Dan Sargent roads was closed due to downed trees and power lines after 10:15 a.m. on Dec. 23.

Storm stretches public safety Officers, DPW help with downed trees and power lines

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on Friday, Dec. 23, responded along with fire and public works officials to multiple reports of downed trees and power/cable wires because of stormy weather.

“The (Middlebury PD) community room was opened on Friday for folks to use for shelter or to charge devices, etc.,” said Middlebury police Sgt. Vegar Boe. “We had a scattering of folks that used it to charge devices, but overall, it seems that most folks found other solutions. We had a few calls for welfare checks, and all were found to be just fine.”

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Enforced Middlebury’s overnight winter parking ban downtown on Dec. 19.
- Responded to a family dispute at a Maecliff Court residence on Dec. 19.
- Gave a ride to a person who was no longer wanted at a Sugarwood Court home on Dec. 19.
- Assisted with a student issue at Mary Hogan Elementary School on Dec. 19.
- Responded to a report of someone using a Maecliff Court resident’s vehicle without their permission on Dec. 20. Police contacted the person in question, who agreed to bring it back.

- Investigated a noise complaint at a Court Street residence on Dec. 20.
- On Dec. 20 checked the welfare of a Cedar Court resident, who was taken to Porter Hospital.
- Returned a truant child to Mary Hogan on Dec. 20.
- Assisted a local family with a juvenile problem on Dec. 21.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a drunken patient on Dec. 21.
- Began an investigation into a possible burglary at an unoccupied Maecliff Court home on Dec. 21.
- Helped calm a property

Middlebury Police Log

dispute in the Court Street Extension area on Dec. 21.

- Were informed on Dec. 22 that someone had had cashed a check they had stolen from a U.S. mail drop box in East Middlebury.
- Tried to find a possibly impaired driver on Weybridge Street on Dec. 22.
- Calmed a child custody dispute on Dec. 22.
- Responded to a report of a vehicle sliding off Creek Road on Dec. 22.
- Cited Lucien Paquette, 38, of Bridport for driving under the

disorderly person at the town park who appeared to be experiencing a mental health crisis. Police spoke with the individual and offered them assistance, which was declined.

- On Dec. 6 responded to an animal complaint on Lower Notch Road and issued an ordinance violation for a barking dog.
- On Dec. 8 responded to a report of a suspicious unoccupied vehicle parked in a driveway in the Morgan Horse Lane area. The officer found the vehicle belonged to a group of solicitors, who moved the vehicle without incident.
- On Dec. 10 responded to a noise complaint on Spring Street. The individual turned the music

online @ addisonindependent.com



Lincoln, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics



Phase I - 2014

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

Phase II - 2016

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

Phase III - 2019

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

~ Paul Webb, Lincoln, VT



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community calendar

dec 30 FRIDAY

Platt Library Read-a-thon. Friday, Dec. 30, 9 a.m. to noon in Shoreham. Kids will read (independently or with a grown-up) in 20-minute chunks with fun break activities in between. Every kid who completes at least 2 hours of reading goes home with a prize.

dec 31 SATURDAY

Best Night in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 31, 3:30-11 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Say farewell to 2022 in Bristol fashion with hats and crafts, Mt. Abe's a capella group Sweet Transitions, Magicians without Borders, a Mt. Abe Musical revue, a coffee house set with local talent, and headline performers Patrick Fitzsimmons and Scarlet Annie's Jazz Quartet. More info at www.bristolbestnight.org.

New Year's Eve fireworks and free skating in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, 277 Mary Hogan Dr. Join the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department as they send 2022 out with a bang. Fireworks presented by the American Legion Post 27 will begin at 6:30 p.m. with free skating at the Memorial Sports Center to directly follow from 7-8:30 p.m. Parking for the show will be at the Mary Hogan and Court House parking lots. Please note that the Memorial Sports Center lot will be closed during the show.

New Year's Eve with Soule Monde in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Celebrate in the New Year with Town Hall Theater's Soule Monde (drummer Russ Lawton and organ wizard Ray Paczkowski). Pizza from American Flatbread included in ticket price as well as a champagne toast with a countdown at 10 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets \$32 adult/\$15 children under 12, available at townhalltheater.org.

jan 1 SUNDAY

First Day walk in Vergennes. Sunday, Jan. 1, 9-11 a.m., Button Bay State Park, 5 Button Bay State Park Rd. CORRECTED STARTING TIME! New Year's Day birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. We have combined that tradition with the more recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at State Parks across the country. Meet us at Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh as we search for overwintering birds.

jan 3 TUESDAY

Jack Mayer poetry reading in Middlebury. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The Vermont Book Shop revives its collaboration with Ilsley Library with an inaugural VBS First Tuesdays at Ilsley author event with local poet and novelist Jack Mayer, M.D. Mayer will read from his new collection, "Entanglements: Physics, Love, and Wilderness Dreams," and discuss its inspiration, creation, and development. There will be a Q&A following Jack's presentation, books will be for sale, and Jack will be available to sign them.

Swedish Sancta Lucia Festival in Middlebury. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, North Pleasant St. Celebrate the legend of Saint Lucia, who brought food to Christians hiding in the catacombs of Rome wearing a crown of candles on her head. Traditionally celebrated on Dec. 13th, it has been rescheduled to January.

jan 4 WEDNESDAY

The Making of "No Other Lake" in Middlebury. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. In 2021, UVM student Jordan Rowell kayaked the 120-mile length of Lake Champlain. Over a two-week journey, Rowell and local filmmaker Duane Peterson conducted interviews to better understand the challenges facing the lake and to explore our relationship with natural resources in the era of climate change. The pair shares excerpts from their short documentary film and discusses its creation in this Vermont Humanities presentation. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81940YJw>.

jan 5 THURSDAY

Chess Club in Middlebury. Thursday, Jan. 5, 3:30-5 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Mary Jane Simpson in the Jessica Swift Community Room, chess players of all ages are invited to bring a board and play chess. Continues every Tuesday.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 5, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose & St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs and the upcoming trip to Rome.

Swedish Sancta Lucia Festival in Brandon. Thursday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m., St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church, Route 7, Brandon Village. Celebrate the story of Saint Lucia, who brought food to Christians hiding in the catacombs of Rome wearing a crown of candles on her head. Traditionally celebrated on Dec. 13, it has been rescheduled to January.

jan 6 FRIDAY

Photography exhibit opening in Middlebury. Friday, Jan. 6, 4-7 p.m., Photoplace Gallery, 3 Park Street. Portrait: Self and Others. A great portrait reveals something of the depth, history, and emotional state of the subject, at least as captured in a single moment in time. Although many portraits zero in on the face, many fine images don't show



Adieu 2022

RING IN 2023 with fireworks, Gilbert and Sullivan, local performers, food and skating, among other things. In Middlebury the town will display fireworks and open up Memorial Sports Center for free skating on New Year's Eve, and Town Hall Theater will host a party with music by Soul Monde and Flatbread pizza. Bristol will hold its annual Best Night with performances by Patrick Fitzsimmons and Scarlet Annie, along with all sorts of other festivities and activities. Barn Opera in Brandon will hold a gala evening performance of the "Pirates of Penzance," including champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and lots of laughter.

Independent photo/Steve James

the face at all, instead using light, gesture, context, and other nuances of expression to create an informative portrait.

jan 8 SUNDAY

"Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am" on screen in Middlebury. Sunday, Jan. 8, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. This MNFF Selects film examines the life of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison. Audience discussion following the film will be led by Bill Hart, Professor Emeritus of History, Middlebury College. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 walk-up/7-film series pass \$90, available at townhalltheater.org or midffilmfest.org.

jan 12 THURSDAY

Grief support group hosted by Porter online. First session is Thursday, Jan. 12, 7-8:30 p.m., Zoom. A support group for people dealing with grief will be hosted by the Porter Medical Center and the Palliative Care Department for seven weeks in January and February. Not a drop-in group — pre-registration is required by emailing mikavt@gmail.com or lricher@portermedical.org by Jan. 5.

Heart of Afghanistan in Middlebury. Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Four brilliant Afghan musicians — famed singer/Afghan TV star Ahmad Fanoos on vocals and harmonium, his sons Elham on piano and Mehran on violin, and Hamid Habibzoda on table — carry the flame of Afghanistan's rich and complex musical heritage from its pre-Islamic Buddhist period to the modern era. Tickets \$25/20/10/5; streaming tickets \$15/5, available at middlebury.universitytickets.com.

jan 14 SATURDAY

Green Mountain Club snowshoe in Ripton. Saturday, Jan. 14, Widow's Clearing to Brooks Road, Goshen Rd. Hike or snowshoe three miles on trails from Widow's Clearing on Goshen Road eastward to Brooks Road. Requires car spot. Bring a snack or lunch, water and dress to the weather in thermal layers (avoid cotton). Ankle gaiters and hiking poles recommended. Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact Ruth Penfield at 802-458-1116 or ruthpenfield@gmail.com for details including start time. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

Adult snowshoe scavenger hunt in Middlebury. Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.-

12:30 p.m., Chipman Hill trailhead parking lot. Come Join MALT for a morning of snowshoeing and exploration on Chipman Hill. Snowshoes will be provided. No experience necessary. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered to win a MALT-swap bag for two, filled with sunglasses, hats and other gear. We'll also have a fire set up at an overlook to enjoy at the end and hot cocoa. Dress warmly, bring a phone or camera to take photos. Registration required. For Adults 18+. Drop in whenever you'd like. Snowshoes must be returned by 1:30 p.m. More info at maltvt.org/events.

"1776 Supplying our Army in Canada" living history event in Ticonderoga, N.Y. Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga was a vital link in the supply chain keeping an American Army alive at the gates of Quebec City in January 1776. In this one-day living history event, explore the many needs of an army in winter from shot to shoes. See how soldiers and teamsters kept sleds running over the ice of Lake Champlain to keep Continental Army soldiers fed and clothed in Canada.

"Fedora" live in HD in Middlebury. Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The METOpera HD Broadcast of Umberto Giordano's exhilarating drama. Packed with memorable melodies, showstopping arias, and explosive confrontations, Fedora requires a cast of thrilling voices to take flight, and the Met's new production promises to deliver. Tickets \$24 adult/\$10 student, available at townhalltheater.org.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 14, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.

Roast pork supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 14, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, 129 Main St. (across from the Opera House). Takeout and pre-order only. Enjoy roast pork, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetable, applesauce, roll and dessert for \$12. To preorder, call 802- 877-3150 before 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12.



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Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Gingerbread for food shelf

HERE IS ONE of the delectable gingerbread dwellings decorated at Bristol's Holley Hall this past Saturday during a community-wide event. Residents purchased and decorated around 80 gingerbread houses, the proceeds from which totaled \$1,350 and went to Bristol's Have-a-Heart community food shelf.

Photo by Jill Kopel



AROUND 125 COMMUNITY members visited Bristol's Holley Hall this past weekend for a sweet Saturday afternoon of decorating gingerbread houses. The event, which returned after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, raised \$1,350 for Bristol's Have-a-Heart community food shelf.

Photo by Krista Siringo

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INDEPENDENT

Porter to host grief support groups

MIDDLEBURY — A support group for people dealing with grief will be hosted by the Porter Medical Center and the Palliative Care Department for seven weeks in January and February. People interested in participating must register by Jan. 5 so that facilitators can connect with them beforehand to make

sure the group is appropriate for them. This is not a drop-in group; participants are expected to attend all sessions. The Grief Group will take place on Zoom each Thursday from Jan. 12 through Feb. 23, from 7-8:30 p.m. Facilitators for the meetings will be Mika Barker-Hart and

Taylor Zak, both licensed clinical social workers. Louella Richer, manager of End of Life Services, will host the group. To do the required registration contact Mika Barker-Hart via email at mikavt@gmail.com or Louella Richer at richer@portermedical.org.

ADDISON COUNTY AgeWell meals schedule

ADDISON COUNTY — During the first few weeks of January, Age Well will serve a number of takeout and sit-down meals in the county. These meals are open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. **GRAB-N-GO MEALS** The week of Jan. 2 will offer a meal of roast pork with apple craisin gravy, diced potatoes, Harvard beets, roll, pumpkin cookie and milk at the following locations: **Monday, Jan. 2** Bristol: American Legion, Closed for the holiday. No meal.

Tuesday, Jan. 3 Bridport: 10:30 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, 54 Middle Rd. **Wednesday Jan. 4** Monkton: 11:30 a.m., New Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Middlebury: 11 a.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. **Thursday, Jan. 5** Vergennes: 10:45 a.m., St. Peter's Church Garage 85 S. Maple St. **Friday, Jan. 6** Starksboro: 3:30 p.m. Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. The week of Jan. 9 will offer

a meal of meatloaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, roll, banana/craisin/oat cookie and milk at the following locations: **Monday, Jan. 9** Bristol: 11 a.m., American Legion, Airport Dr. **Tuesday, Jan. 10** Bridport: 10:30 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, 54 Middle Rd. **Wednesday Jan. 11** Monkton: 11:30 a.m., New Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Middlebury: 11 a.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. Shoreham: 11 a.m., Halfway House, Route 22A. Chicken and biscuit dinner. Order 24 hours in advance. 802-897-5160

Thursday, Jan. 12 Vergennes: 10:45 a.m., St. Peter's Church Garage, 85 S. Maple St. **Friday, Jan. 13** Starksboro: 3:30 p.m. Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. The week of Jan. 16 will offer a meal of oven fried chicken breast, diced potatoes, peas and onions, roll, date/craisin bar and milk; locations will appear next week. For all grab-and-go meals, please stay in your car for drive-up, check-in, contact-free pick up. Donations accepted and advanced reservations are required. Call Michelle to reserve at 802-377-1419. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call Tri-Valley Transit at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

SITDOWN MEALS **Tuesday, Jan. 3** Vergennes: 10 a.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water St. Doors open at 10 a.m. Meal served at noon of vegetable quiche, California veggies with black beans, biscuit, tropical fruit salad and milk. **Friday, Jan. 6.** Middlebury: 11 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. First Friday luncheon serving Roast pork with gravy, oven potatoes and onions, broccoli florets, roll, congo bar and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 Vergennes: 10 a.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 South Water St. Doors open at 10 a.m. Meal served at noon of chicken corn chowder, broccoli, crackers, roll, fruit parfait and milk. All sit-down meals require registration. Call Michelle to reserve five days in advance at 802-377-1419. \$5 suggested donation does not include gratuity. Please bring your own place setting. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Masks encouraged unless seated and eating. Local bus provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to arrange. TVT requires a 48-hour notice. Please stay home if you don't feel well.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Mount Abraham Union High School

Andrew Lester

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduces Andrew Lester, an amazing, kind, intelligent scholar and community member as our Student of the Week. He is an active volunteer, leader and participant in theater and sports. He lives in Monkton with his parents, Anna and Jeffrey Lester, and his younger brother, 9th-grader Nathan. Andrew has been on the high honor roll while attending Mt. Abe. He enjoys learning about forensic science and technology-related courses. His favorite teacher is Mr. Beckwith because he keeps the class engaged and interested in an inviting and often funny way. Andrew participates in many extracurricular activities, such as indoor track and spring track and field as well as tech crew for the fall and spring musicals. He works at Yates Orchard in the fall picking apples, running the stand, helping run the day-to-day operations, and making cider, doughnuts and "dreamees." He also works with people who live at the Residence Assisted Living Center in Shelburne. Andrew has participated in many different volunteer and leadership opportunities. He is a long-standing member of 4-H, recently attending a week-long National Dairy Expo Conference

in Madison, Wisc. He has raised and shown Holsteins and Jerseys since he was 8 years old. Andrew is also a member of Boy Scout Troop 525 since 1st grade and has worked his way to Patrol Leader. With his troop he has traveled to Yellowstone, gone whitewater rafting in New York, and attended summer camp at Mount Norris. He is also a member of the St. Ambrose and St. Peter's Youth Group. He volunteers locally as well as at week-long service trips in Ohio and Connecticut as part of Catholic Heart Work Camp, and will be traveling to Rome with his youth group in July. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, biking, boating, playing guitar and motor sledding. Andrew says that collaboration and communication skills are the most important things he has learned while at Mt. Abe, and he values the ability to work with others and effectively complete projects, which has been fostered in his classes. "Being able to advocate for yourself and talk to teachers and other students is a highly valued skill," he says. The Mt. Abe community wishes Andrew all the best with his plans of attending college and majoring in Information Technology with interest in sustainability and transportation.



Andrew Lester
MAUHS

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VERGENNES WOODEN BOAT-BUILDING expert Douglas Brooks, shown in a YouTube video, kicked off a new series of book on Japanese boat-building techniques with his new volume, “The Cormorant Fishing Boat.”

Brooks launches new series on boats

First book of many to reveal secrets of Japanese techniques

VERGENNES — Wooden boat-building expert Douglas Brooks of Vergennes has just released his latest book, “The Cormorant Fishing Boat: A Japanese Craftsman’s Methods.”

The book is a how-to volume, describing the process of building a 42-foot wooden boat in Mino, Gifu Prefecture, Japan in 2017. During that building project, Brooks worked under the direction of Seiichi Nasu, who was 85 years old at the time and one of the last active builders of a very distinctive boat used in a unique fishery.

Fishing with cormorants has been conducted in Gifu for 1,300 years, but today it is done solely for tourists.

“The six *usho*, or cormorant fishermen, maintain hereditary positions and are paid a stipend by the Emperor via the Imperial Household Agency,” Brooks said.

The book’s introduction, written by Richard King, describes the history and culture of this fishery.

Brooks said his work and this book are the direct outgrowth of his research in Japan that goes back to 1996 documenting traditional Japanese boatbuilding. He has apprenticed with nine boatbuilders from throughout Japan, all craftspeople in their 70s and 80s at the time, building a wide variety of traditional boats.

“I lived and worked in the role as *deshi*, or apprentice, one that has been integral to the transmission of crafts in Japan for centuries,” Brooks said. “Mr. Nasu was my seventh teacher. During my last research trip in 2019, just before the country shut down due to COVID, I studied with two more craftspeople in Niigata and Toyama Prefectures.”

Brooks first met Mr. Nasu in 2002. When the novice asked the expert if he could study with him, Nasu at that time said no. Brooks returned to see him twice more over the years and received the same answer.

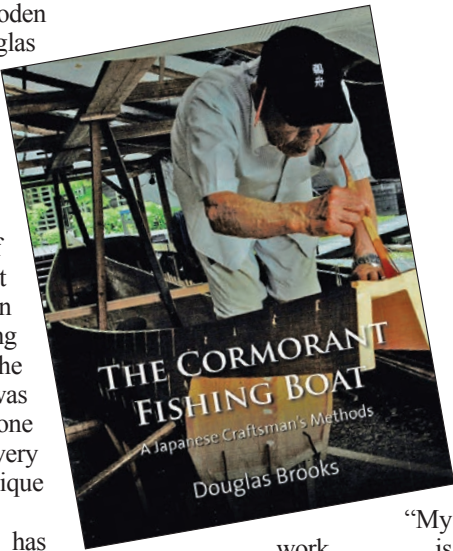
“Finally, he told me he had become too old to build these boats and had passed his customers on to an apprentice he had taught 40 years previously,” Brooks explained.

Brooks briefly explored working with the younger man but that fell through in 2016. Brooks was shocked when after that Nasu asked to meet with him.

“He got right to the point: ‘I can no longer do the physical work,’ he said. ‘If I lay down the dimensions and lines are you willing to do all the labor?’ I agreed instantly,” Brooks recounted.

The Vergennes craftsman secured funding from the Freeman Foundation (formerly based in Stowe and the earliest supporter of Brooks’s work in Japan). Later Tobunken, an arm of the Japanese Ministry of Culture, became involved. The actual boat building for this project was at the Gifu Academy of Forest Science and Culture, where Brooks and his colleagues built a temporary shop outside their woodworking department.

Like many crafts in Japan, boatbuilding is threatened first by a loss of apprentices as generations turned away from crafts due to the country’s meteoric economic rise. Also, the nature of the craft leaves almost no documentation. Most boatbuilders work entirely by memory, using no drawings whatsoever. All dimensions are memorized, along with various patterns that only the boatbuilder knows how to use. Secrecy is central to the craft, Brooks points out.



“My work is

challenging because I must first fulfill the duties of the apprentice, but also make sure to record, transcribe, photograph, and sketch all the myriad details and information pertinent to building the boat,” he said. “My goal is to create a publication containing all the information necessary to build this particular boat (which includes drawings).

“The Cormorant Fishing Boat” records the design secrets and techniques of Brooks’s teachers, which in the past would have been carried forward by apprentices of old who carried on their masters’ work.

“My goal has been to document the processes and publish the results,” Brooks said. “I also actively teach, involving Japanese apprentices in various boatbuilding exhibitions I have done in Japan for museums and arts organizations, and leading students here in both university and craft school boatbuilding classes.

Brooks has taught Japanese boat-building classes four times in Middlebury College, as well as at Bates College, University of Illinois and Deep Springs College. In January he will teach in the graduate program at Harvard University’s Reischauer Center for Japanese Studies. He has lectured on his work throughout Vermont through the Vermont Humanities Council’s Speakers Bureau series.

“The Cormorant Fishing Boat” is the first in a planned series to be published by Floating World Editions of Monroe, Conn. Each title in the series will detail the construction of a particular Japanese boat type.

Floating World published Brooks’s most ambitious book to date, the beautiful 2015 work “Japanese Wooden Boatbuilding,” which chronicled his first five apprenticeships in Japan and is the first comprehensive survey of the craft.

Cheers!

to the New Year

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Man cited for assault on elderly relative

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Dec. 20 cited a High Street resident for domestic assault on an elderly relative.

Cited was Benjamin Wallace, 38. Police allege Wallace grabbed and wrestled his relative to prevent her from accessing a handicap ramp at a High Street residence. Police said he was due to answer the charge in court on Dec. 21.

In other actions between Dec. 19 and 25, Vergennes police responded to four false alarms, conducted three property watches and one VIN inspection, fingerprinted five job applicants,

Vergennes Police Log

and also:

On Dec. 21:
• Responded to an accident on West Main Street in which a tractor-trailer unit struck another vehicle.

• Were told that a man’s credit card had been stolen while he was at the New Haven Road car wash; police said the man then found it on his person.
On Dec. 22:

• Took what they said was an unfounded complaint that a Main Street resident’s cellphone was being hacked. Police said they planned to consult with Project Vision North about the incident.

• Helped a motorist get into a locked vehicle on Depot Road.

On Dec. 24:

• Ticketed and ordered towed a vehicle left out overnight on South Water Street in violation of the city’s winter parking ban.

• Backed up Charlotte Rescue at 1 Alden Place while they helped a potentially uncooperative Valley Vista client undergoing a mental health crisis.

City Lions Club’s Christmas cash winners announced

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Lions Club’s 2022 “Cash for Christmas 50/50 Raffle” was drawn on Dec. 7, and the winner of over \$2,600 is Dan Bachand of Vergennes. Congratulations Dan! The club’s

half will be used to help fund the many community projects the Lions are involved with.

The members wish to thank the many individuals who purchased tickets. It really takes a community to help individuals in need.

The Winter Warmth Raffle drawing was also held, with John Carr winning the cord of firewood and Chris Hanfield winning the handmade quilt. The club made \$1,500, which will be used for emergency heating fuel assistance.

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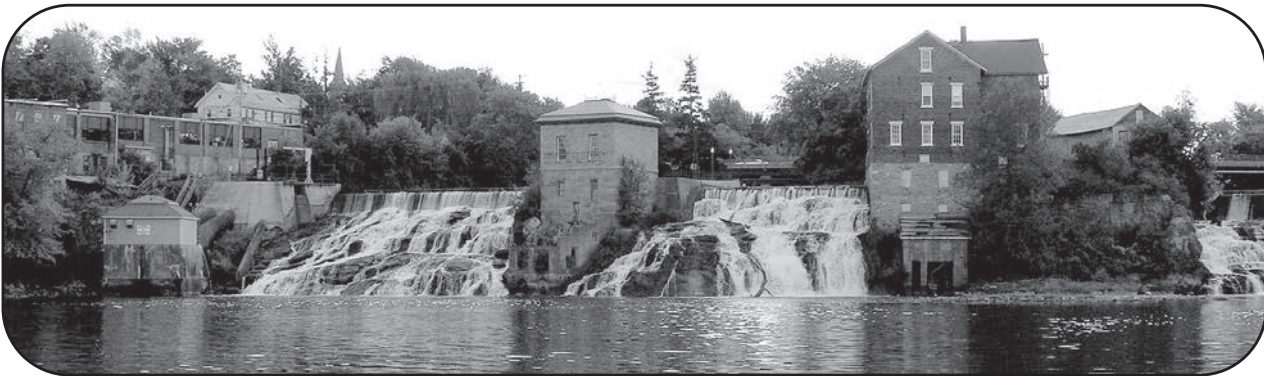
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Monroe Tractor, an established company with 71 years as an agriculture dealership is growing in VT and we are seeking to add **Service Technicians** to perform repair and maintenance on industry-leading Agricultural and Construction equipment in shop and on the road.

Applicant will be responsible for troubleshooting and repairing of electrical, hydraulic, transmission and diesel engine components. Ideal candidate will be self-motivated, safety-minded, organized, reliable and a strong communicator. Applicant must have a clean driving record, have reliable transportation, successfully pass a background check and drug test. Must be able to meet the physical requirements of the job which include bending, lifting heavy components and working in confined spaces. Competitive pay and benefits provided.

Please send resume to mhendy@monroetractor.com or call 802-771-3007.

Help Wanted

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits

Help Wanted

For Rent

apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831. AJ Neri Property Rentals.

Help Wanted

For Rent

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.

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.

Help Wanted

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-758-2007.

Animals

PUPPIES! CKC F1 Goldendoodles. Cream and gold from dual-registered, health and genetic tested parents that excel in retrieving, service, and as trusted family companions. Info at lewisecreekgoldendoodles.com. Call 802-324-2761.

Att. Farmers

CORRAL PANELS, CATTLE gates, round bale feeders and Dry Shod boots. Call Brian's Farm Supply 802-355-2076.

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

SAWDUST FOR SALE, 30 cents per cubic foot. 802-265-3675. Second cut silage bales, \$55. 802-265-4274.

MAPLEFIELDS

Looking for work in your hometown?

We offer medical, dental, paid vacation, personal time, sick time and 401K for full time positions.

ALL ADDISON COUNTY LOCATIONS CURRENTLY HIRING!

For openings and to apply, visit Maplefields.com

WE ARE HIRING!

FULL TIME POSITIONS



APPLY NOW!

Drivers

Requirements:

- Commercial driver's license
- Clean driving record
- Willing to learn and handle multiple tasks
- Positive Attitude
- Willing to work long hours in the spring
- Agricultural background preferred

Benefits include: Medical, 401k, & Vacation days

TO APPLY:

88 Seymour St., Middlebury

Contact Skip Cray at 802-388-7000 or scray@bbinc.us

Looking for something different?

Your local newspaper
is your
BEST RESOURCE
for local
job opportunities!

Also available online:
addisonindependent.com

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
VERMONT'S TWICE-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
58 Maple Street • Middlebury, Vermont 05753 • (802) 388-4944

Att. Farmers

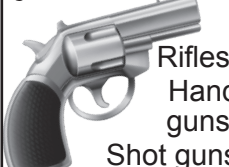
SMALL SQUARE BALES \$3.50. Excellent round bales \$30.00. Call 802-377-5455.

Att. Farmers

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

For Rent

It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing

It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing. Its easier to break the law than you might think. You can't say "no children" or "adults only."

There's a lot you can't say.

The Federal Government
is watching for such discrimination.

Let us help you sift through the complexities of the Fair Housing Law. Stay legal. Stay on the right side of the nation's Fair Housing Law.

Call the Addison Independent at (802)
388-4944.

Talk to our sales professionals.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Auctions

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 12/22/22 & 12/26/22

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Blue Spruce Farm	1885	.80	\$1508.00
Westminster Farms	1700	.77	\$1309.00
Gosluga Farm	1600	.80	\$1280.00
Harold Sunderland	1605	.75	\$1203.75
Vorstevelde	1720	.65	\$1118.00
Kayhart Bros	1775	.60	\$1065.00
Nop Bros & Sons	1470	.65	\$955.50

CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Barnes Black & White	100	3.00	\$300.00
Putnam Farm	94	2.80	\$263.20
Joe Allen	97	2.50	\$242.50
Champlainside	98	2.40	\$235.20
UVM Cream Farm	88	2.50	\$220.00

Total Beef - 223 Total Calves - 282
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Department of Liquor and Lottery, Administrative Rules Update.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P037

AGENCY: Department of Liquor and Lottery

CONCISE SUMMARY: The rules adopted by the Board of Liquor and Lottery includes several groups of regulations to ensure public safety by preventing the misuse of alcohol and tobacco through controlled distribution, providing for applicable enforcement, and establishing robust education requirements. Several Acts as enacted by the Vermont Legislature in recent years have amended significant portions of Title 7, including the consolidation of the Departments of Liquor and Lottery.

As such, many contradictions between statute and regulation have emerged. Additionally, the impact of modern business practices is ever-changing, and regulatory agencies must remain agile to respond. This proposed rule removes General Regulations 9, 39, 44, 46, Advertising Regulation 2, Section 7, Wholesale Regulations 4, 5, and 7, and Education Regulations 4, 5 and 6. Many additional sections and regulations were updated, renumbered, and clarified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Skyler Genest, Chief, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery, 1311 US Rt 302, Barre VT 05641 Tel: 802-477-2429 Fax: 802-828-2803 Email: skyler.genest@vermont.gov URL: <http://liquorandlottery.vermont.gov>.

FOR COPIES: Brandon King, Lieutenant, Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery, 1311 US Rt 302, Barre VT 05641 Tel: 802-522-8954 Fax: 802-828-2803 Email: brandon.king@vermont.gov.

Did you know?

ACSD is hiring custodians
and we need... *you!*



Addison Central School District

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CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on January 16, 2022, at 7:15 PM for the following purpose:
To consider site plan review for application #2022-032 by Friends of Vergennes Opera House for an addition to the property at 120 Main Street. Reviews will consider Article VII, Section 1608, and Section 311.
Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.
Join by computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85906470948>, meeting password: 656417.
Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; meeting ID: 859 0647 0948; meeting passcode: 656417.
For participants joining by phone:
To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.
To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6
If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact Zoning Administrator Peter Garon at 802-377-9527.
You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.
A copy of the application is available for public review by contacting Peter Garon at pgaron@vergennes.org.

December 20, 2022
Peter Garon, Administrative Officer

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SALT / SAND SHED REPLACEMENT PROJECT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP):
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

The Town of Cornwall is seeking a General Contractor, to oversee the permitting, demolition of the existing salt/sand shed and preparation of the site for its hoop-structure replacement, including demolition of the existing structure, the setting of the block walls and installation of the floor and apron to the specifications of new structure's manufacturer.
The new structure will be contracted by the town. Erection of the structure will be done by the structure manufacturer as part of that contract.
The project site work can start May 1, 2023 and will be completed by September 1, 2023. The contractor will carry and provide proof of appropriate insurance.

Responses to this Request for Proposal
Should be sent by Friday, January 20, 2023 to:

Town of Cornwall
2629 Vermont Route 30
Cornwall, Vermont 05753
Attn.: Town Clerk
cornwallvt@shoreham.net

SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

This project will include several stages to be completed between May 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023. It will include coordination and communication with a town appointed representative as needed. All processes will conform to Accepted Construction Practices and those prescribed by the structure manufacturer.
1: Secure all required permits related to this project, including but not limited to demolition, town zoning, and construction. Scheduling/coordination with the structure manufacturer and any other contractor will be required.
2: The demolition of the existing salt/sand building including the structure, concrete, and asphalt according to permits and state regulations.
3: The excavation and site preparation for the new structure. This includes but is not limited to drainage, stone base for the walls and the base for the floor and apron.
4: The setting of new concrete block walls to meet the requirements of the structure manufacturer. The eight (8) foot walls will be of high-quality concrete blocks, keyed and secured.
5: Placement of a concrete or asphalt floor and apron.
6: The fabric structure will be erected by the structure manufacturer.

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION
ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO: 21-CV-02398

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDERS OF THE HOME EQUITY ASSET TRUST 2006-4 HOME EQUITY PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-4
PLAINTIFF
VS.
HALEY AHEARN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF DANIEL L. AHEARN; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 967 WASHINGTON, MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Daniel L. Ahearn, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Home Loan Center, Inc., dba Lendingtree Loans, dated December 8, 2005, and recorded in Book 220, at Page 384, of the Town of Middlebury Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by Assignment of Mortgage recorded in Book 251, Page 177, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at January 13, 2023 at 04:00 PM at 967 Washington, Middlebury, VT 05753 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Daniel L. Ahearn by QUIT CLAIM DEED of Laurie B. Ahearn dated December 9, 2005 and recorded December 15, 2005 in Book 219, at Page 893 of the Middlebury Land Records and further described therein.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale. Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale
U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the Home Equity Asset Trust 2006-4 Home Equity Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-4

/s/ Caryn L. Connolly
Caryn L. Connolly, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860

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, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9am to 1pm
Tuesday 12:30pm to 4:30pm
APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.
802-388-1966
addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REVIEW OF WHITING ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's (ACRPC) Energy Committee along with the Whiting Planning Commission will meet in a hybrid format for a joint public hearing on January 25rd, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The Town of Whiting has requested that ACRPC grant regional approval of its Enhanced Energy Plan, which is included in its town plan, as to whether that portion of the plan meets the determination standards outlined in 24 V.S.A. §4352. ACRPC shall review Whiting's Town Plan to determine whether the Plan:
(1) is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. §4302;
(2) is compatible with its regional plan;
(3) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region;
(4) contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. §4382;
(5) includes an energy element with components as described in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3);
(6) is consistent with the state energy policy as described in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)(1); and
(7) meets the Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans as published by the Vermont Department of Public Service required prior to issuing a determination of energy compliance (24 V.S.A. §4352, as noted above). Copies of the Whiting Enhanced Energy Plan can be found on ACRPC's website: <https://acrpc.org/communities/whiting/>
Join the meeting remotely:
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 · 9:00 – 10:00 am
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/nzm-mite-ufj>
Or dial: +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 432 636 424 7219#
Questions, please call either: Maddison Shropshire, Energy Planner- Addison County Regional Planning Commission 802-388-3141 -or- Heather Bouchard, Town Clerk & Treasurer 802 623-7813.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD
Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 7:10 p.m.
Town Office Conference Room • 77 Main St., Middlebury, Vermont 05753
(Video conference information provided below)
Please visit the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88051559525>
Or Telephone: Dial+1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 880 5155 9525
PUBLIC HEARING and INFORMATION MEETING
on PRELIMINARY PROPOSED TOWN GENERAL FUND BUDGET
(Includes capital project funds) for FY24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)
Your comments, suggestions and input are important and appreciated. If you can't make the meeting on the 10th, we invite you to submit your input via e-mail, kramsay@townofmiddlebury.org, or mail, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.
Copies of the proposed budget may be obtained from the Town's website, www.townofmiddlebury.org, at the Town Manager's office, 77 Main Street, or by calling 802-458-8000.
If you need special accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact the Town Manager's Office as early as possible.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.
Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87299101002>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 872 9910 1002

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 December 13, 2022, Regular Selectboard Meeting 3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes • December 21, 2022 - Energy Committee 3.c. Selectboard Letter of Support Re: VELCO's Application to Expand Quarry Road Substation 3.d. Town Manager's Report • Middlebury Resource Recovery Center - Broke ground on their new facility on 12/15/22 • Vacancy - Town's Representative on the Addison County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors • Grant Opportunity - Town Letter of Commitment - 2022 Northwest Vermont TOD Grant - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission 4. **Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]
7:10	5. **Agenda Placeholder
7:20	6. Continued Review of Draft FY24 General Fund Budget • Kathleen Ramsay, Town Manager, Update of Latest Draft of Budget, including Correspondence with Battell Trustees regarding Land Conservation Fund • Presentation - Addison County Economic Development - Proposed Annual Town Funding - Fred Kenney • Presentation - Middlebury Community TV - Proposed Annual Town Funding - (speaker TBD)
7:45	7. First draft of the Town Meeting Warning, including the Finance Department's proposal to Shift the Town's property tax schedule from a 3-bill cycle to a 2-bill cycle
7:55	8. **Middlebury Diversity Report/Racial Equity Survey Results - Next Steps/Discussion - Consultants Tabitha Moore & Lisa Ryan
8:10	9. Update on Municipal Carbon Footprint - Yearly Progress Report - From Town Energy Committee member Richard Hopkins
8:25	10. **Proposed Revisions/Amendments to the Town Noise Ordinance - Chief Hanley
8:40	11. **Airport Master Plan & Upcoming Close of State Public Comment Period - Discussion
8:55	12. *Approval of Check Warrants 13. **Board Member Concerns 14. *Executive Session – Anticipated – Real Estate 15. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
9:05	16. *Adjourn
* Decision Item ** Possible Decision	

Repair fair set Feb. 25 in Vergennes

VERGENNES — Give your clothes a second chance, and get them repaired! The Addison County Solid Waste Management District will host its next "Repair Fair" in Vergennes on Feb. 25.
The "Clothing Repair Fair and Swap Shop" will be held that

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT
on Pages 11B and 12B.

Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bixby Memorial Free Library at 258 Main St.
At this free event residents can learn basic mending; have small repairs made on their clothing, shoes, accessories or jewelry; and help build a culture of repair in

STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT
PROBATE DIVISION
DOCKET NO: 22-PR-06281
IN RE ESTATE OF:
ALBERT BROUILLARD
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Albert Brouillard, late of Bridport, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent, or the estate must present their claims in writing within (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.
Dated: December 19, 2022
Executor /Administrator:
Andrew H. Montroll, Esq.
PO Box 1045,
Burlington, VT 05402-1045
802-540-0250
Email: amontroll@mblawoffice.com
Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 12/29/22
Address of Probate Court:
Addison Unit, Probate Court
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

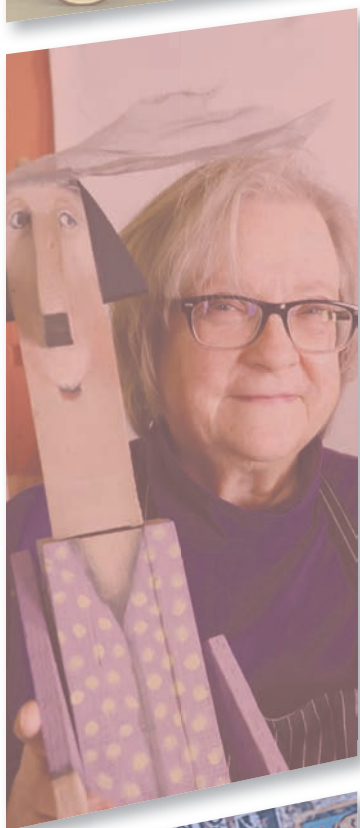
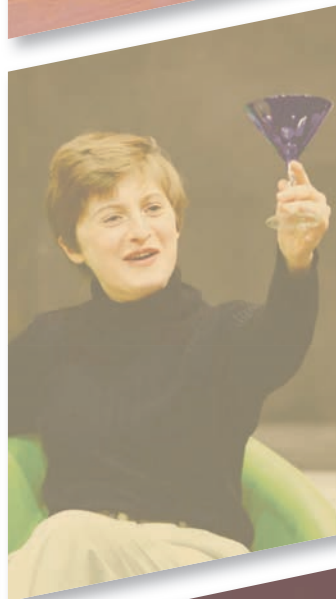
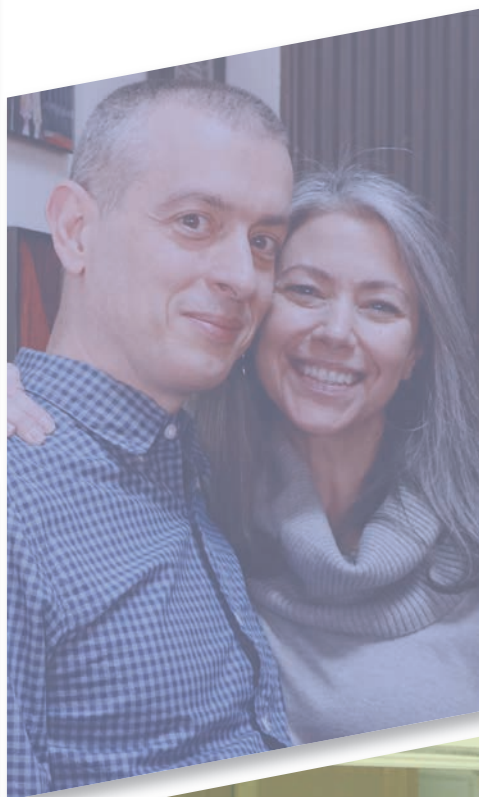
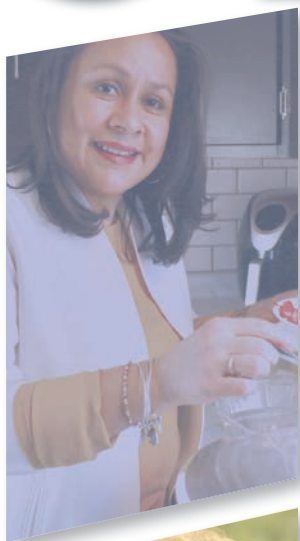
Addison County.
Head online to addisoncountyreccycles.org/repair-fair to register to have your clothing/jewelry fixed. All are welcome.
For more information call 802-388-2333.
STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT
PROBATE DIVISION
DOCKET NO: 22-PR-06834
IN RE ESTATE OF:
PHILIP LIVINGSTON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Philip Livingston, late of Addison, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent, or the estate must present their claims in writing within (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.
Dated: December 19, 2022
Executor /Administrator:
Andrew H. Montroll, Esq.
PO Box 1045,
Burlington, VT 05402-1045
802-540-0250
Email: amontroll@mblawoffice.com
Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 12/29/22
Address of Probate Court:
Addison Unit, Probate Court
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

ANWSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS JANUARY 2023			
The following schedule of the Board of School Directors' meetings is announced for the month of January 2023:			
Fri., January 6	7:30 AM	Facilities Committee Meeting	ANWSD Conference Room
Mon., January 9	5:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	VUHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting	VUHS Library
Tues., January 10	5:15 PM	Negotiations Committee & ANSSA Meeting	VUHS Library
Wed., January 11	6:00 PM	Community Engagement Committee Meeting	VUHS Library
Wed., January 18	4:30 PM	Policy Committee Meeting	VUHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting	VUHS Library
Mon., January 23	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting (if needed)	VUHS Library
Mon., January 30	5:30 PM	Negotiations Committee & ANTA Meeting	VUHS Library

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF ADDISON
The Addison Planning Commission will hold a monthly meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Addison Town Clerk's Office.
To consider the following:
1. To approve the meeting minutes for November 21, 2022.
2. To transact any business found necessary before the board.
3. To allow time for public comment interaction at beginning of the meeting.
4. We need to work on updating & referencing some sections for implementing Subdivision & Zoning Regulations into the Town Plan. Continue to work on definitions & reviewing The Vermont State Statutes (Chapter 117). Do we add "Cannabis" to our regulations?
5. Continue working on items that are considered projects in progress at the January meeting & continue to review the Zoning Regulations pertaining to Districts & sections.
6. We will review the revised notes on items that the Z.A. helped with. (Zoning) PUDS and density-zoning, tables & road frontages within the districts. We have a rough draft to work from to review corrections/revisions from the S.B.
7. Plan to work on definitions and study the VT State Statues (new laws).
8. Adjournment stating time.
We are planning to have a work meeting after the regular monthly meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023 at Addison Town Clerk's Office. Let's get on a roll again.
Amber Riley, Vice Chair, Starr Phillips, Secretary
Addison Planning Commission

WARNING
ANNUAL MEETING, FIRE DISTRICT #1
EAST MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
The legal voters of Fire District #1 in the Town of Middlebury are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Sarah Partridge Community House, 431 East Main Street, East Middlebury on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM to transact the following business, to wit:
FIRST: To hear, discuss and act upon the reports from the Prudential Committee, the Treasurer/Collector of Water Rents, and the Auditor.
SECOND: To hear reports from the Fire Department, the Historical Society, the Sarah Partridge Library, and the Town of Middlebury.
THIRD: To elect Officers of the District as follows:
• A Moderator
• A Clerk
• A Treasurer/Collector of Water Rents
• An Auditor
• A Member of the Prudential Committee to serve for three years
FOURTH: To vote a tax on the taxable property within the District sufficient to defray maintenance and other expenses of the Sarah Partridge Community House, the Sarah Partridge Library, the Curtiss Recreation Area, and the Harry Goodro Recreation Area.
FIFTH: To see if the voters of the Fire District will give the Prudential Committee authority to borrow money on the credit of the District to make emergency repairs on the water system.
SIXTH: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
Dated at East Middlebury, Vermont
December 8, 2022
Jason Larocque, Chairperson

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



ARTS + LEISURE

December 29, 2022

Addison Independent

2022

IN REVIEW

LOOKING BACK AT A YEAR'S WORTH OF ARTS & LEISURE

Wow, can you believe it's been six years since the Addison Independent added the Arts + Leisure section? This section is a joy to put together, and every year I am beyond impressed by the incredible work and talent we see right here in Addison County.

Over the past 12 months, 52 issues and over 800 pages, we highlighted the work of more than 39 local artists, actors, musicians and craftspeople; saw more than 47 exhibits and 18 film events; suggested 177 don't-miss events happening right here in Addison County; learned six valuable gardening lessons from our own Master Gardener Judith Irvén and 33 more from the University of Vermont's Master Gardener Extension. We spoke with 11 authors about their most recent books; analyzed 10 poems with Susan Jefts; and featured family-friendly events with a monthly MiniBury page. Oh, and we followed the hot real estate market with a look at 49 properties listed this year.

2022 brought a mix of virtual and in-person programming. While most of us would prefer to see a show in person, digital tools are just that — tools — and can help make art accessible. After all, some art is better than none!

This year Arts + Leisure honored Black History Month in February with a four-part series from Rokeby Museum, celebrated the reopening of the Middlebury College Art Museum to the public, stood alongside artists' efforts to support Ukraine as well as Women's Reproductive Rights, and cheered for Josh Panda and Clint Bierman as they competed on NBC's music-competition show "American Song Contest." Regular annual events like the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, Foodaroo, spring and fall open studio weekends, and the Opera Company of Middlebury's show were joined by new seasonal line-ups from our favorite



OLIVER, ELSIE, IDA AND MASSIMO PARINI

local venues, a renewed Marrowbone performance, and the new Cornwall Community Coffee House monthly music series.

Phew, and that's just to name a few. Isn't it amazing how much our little corner of Vermont creates? More of our favorite feature stories of 2022 are featured on the next several pages.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we're excited to continue publishing the Addison Independent's Arts

+ Leisure section, and rely on your support and participation to help make it an engaging, creative and fun companion every Thursday. Your subscriptions and donations make it possible for us to keep up this focused work on our arts community. Thank you!

— Elsie Lynn Parini, editor Arts+Leisure

Have a tip for Arts+Leisure?

Email: elsie@addisonindependent.com.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAY 2023 BE FULL OF PEACE, JOY AND
ARTS+LEISURE

SIX EXHIBITS TO REMEMBER

2022

IN REVIEW

GALLERIES WERE OPEN THIS YEAR! SOMETIMES BY APPOINTMENT, BUT IT WAS A WELCOME CHANGE TO SEE ART IN PERSON AGAIN. HERE ARE SIX EXHIBITS TO REMEMBER FROM 2022.



Northern Daughters

Hannah Sessions exhibited a show of new work in April at Northern Daughters Gallery in Vergennes, called "Life in the Valley." Early spring — just before the light and warmth tip the scale — was the perfect time to be immersed in her work and the loving gaze with which she views the land, the light and her muses.



Art on Main

Art on Main Gallery in Bristol opened a special Earth Day exhibit on April 22. The show "OurEarth Appreciation Community Exhibit" featured art from community members who responded with paintings, photography, prints and sculptures that represent their appreciation for "OurEarth."



Jackson Gallery

The Jackson Gallery offered an intimate retrospective show of Prindle Wissler's work in June. "It Runs With The Territory: A Prindle Wissler Retrospective" featured work by the late local artist who passed away at age 99 in 2011. The paintings and prints in this exhibit spanned from the 1940s to the early 2000s.



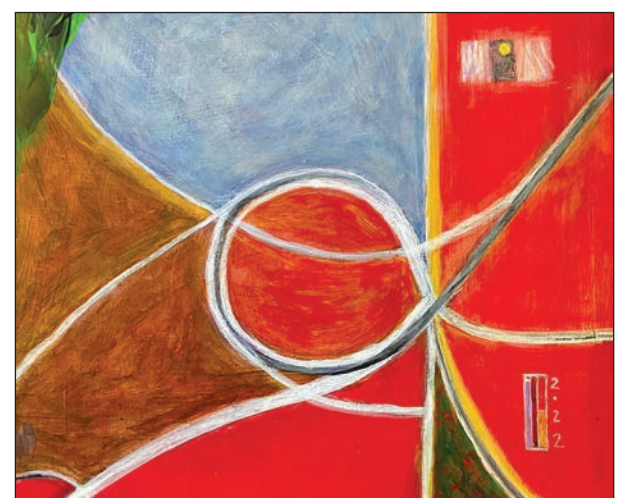
Edgewater Gallery

Photographer Jim Westphalen exhibited "Land & Tide: Scenes from New England," at Edgewater Gallery in July. Viewers experienced the majesty of the New England landscape through Westphalen's lens with pastoral farms and snow dusted mountains of Vermont and the rocky shorelines and surf of the Atlantic coast.



Brandon Artists Guild

"Vermont: On the Road," was the third in a series of three Vermont-centric shows this summer at Brandon Artists Guild. An all-member and all-media display, "Vermont: On the Road" shared each artist's favorite spots across Vermont, from crowd-favorite occasions to secret hideaways to even the road that gets you there.



Sparrow Art Supply

A teeny tiny exhibition, literally, came to Sparrow Art Supply this fall with "6x6." The exhibit featured 2D artwork only 6 inches square. Spanning painting to collage to fibers across all subject matters, "6x6" showcased pieces by over 50 local artists. The theme of this mini show commemorates Sparrow Art Supply turning 6 months old.

2022

IN REVIEW

January



SO-FULL SISTERS FILL BELLIES

Leah and Rachel Klatzker opened their new food trailer at Rikert Nordic Center in January 2022. The twins served up hearty bowls and warming drinks four days a week. The 37-year-old Klatzker sisters call their new business So-Full Sisters — filling customers' bellies and their souls with holistic and healing food. Most recently the twins served hungry guests at Lumen Festival in Bristol; and they're coming back to Rikert and the Snow Bowl this winter.



'COMPANY' TAKES THE STAGE

The Town Hall Theater and the Middlebury College Department of Music put on Stephen Sondheim's "Company" at the end of January. The show came just a few months after the master composer's death in November. This event marked the 16th co-production of Town Hall Theater and the Middlebury College Department of Music. THT Artistic Director Douglas Anderson and Middlebury College Music Director Carol Christensen have built the program into a much-awaited annual event.

February

A COUPLE'S LOVE STORY

Alex Belth and Emily Shapiro completed their Audible Original "Here I Are: The Anatomy of A Marriage," which aired Feb. 10. The audio story shares the highs and lows of this Bristol couple's relationship as they navigate life with chronic illness. "Love is not enough to save a relationship," said Belth. "You have to be willing to grow and put in the work with each other."



MEET FOLK ARTIST ROBIN KENT

Folk artist Robin Kent has called Brandon home for the past 25 years. She crafts wooden and canvas art with a bristle brush, soft lines and a pinch of whimsy from her barn-converted-studio with her shadow Callie (the calico cat). "I've never had the angst of 'what am I gonna do when I grow up,'" Kent said, remembering the giant piece of slate in her childhood kitchen where she would draw. "I always knew what my calling was." Kent shared her story with us back in February. She regularly exhibits at the Brandon Artists Guild.



March

TURNING PROTESTS INTO PARTIES

Paul Marr Hilliard, Judd Markowski, Dan Brett and Ethan Nelson are the creative minds behind Hearthunder Art Collective. This group that formed early this year is setting out to "inspire the public in movements for positive change." You'll see Hearthunder at local parades riding uniquely crafted bikes and aiding protesters who want to "change the world, with love and passion and relentless positivity. With Heart and Thunder."



SMALL SCALE CHEFS SERVE UP NEW PREPARED FOOD MENUS

Several small-scale food producers popped up in Addison County and made a business selling specialty food directly to consumers. We caught up with Alicia Rodriguez, John Maru, Emily Ohlinger and Jessica Markowski and learned about new menus of Mexican cuisine, specialty cakes, sushi and hearty Italian dinners.



April

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The Middlebury College Museum of Art reopened its doors to the public this April — almost exactly two years after it restricted access when the pandemic locked everything down in 2020. When closed the staff reinstalled all of the permanent collections. Director Richard Saunders gave us a tour of the newly opened museum and detailed the new levels of accessibility. "We want everyone to feel welcome and at home right away," Saunders said.



LOCAL ROCK STARS COMPETE FOR BEST SONG ON NATIONAL TV

Addison County's Clint Bierman and Burlington's Josh Panda represented Vermont on America's Song Contest, an NBC reality TV show where musicians compete for the Best Original Song title. An official watch party was held at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on April 18. The duo headed to Los Angeles to compete with their song "Rollercoaster." Unfortunately, Panda and Bierman didn't claim the title for this competition, but they're still total rockstars here in Addison County.



May

AUTHOR PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL

Local author and Middlebury College professor Estela González published her first novel, "Arribada," this spring. González had been trying to publish this historically rooted and deeply personal narrative for the past eight years. "I'm kind of giddy!" she said. "One of the main points of the book, is to emphasize the need to take care of each other better," González added. "We need to choose love for each other, the place that we live and our environment."



LESSONS IN LOSS: PET GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON ZOOM TO FORM COMMUNITY

Don Glauber is an active volunteer with Homeward Bound and held a unique Zoom session in May for the local humane society. "It can be as hard or harder to loose a pet companion as it can to loose a human companion," said Homeward Bound's director of development Hannah Manley. With deep personal experience, Glauber facilitated a valuable group discussion on pet loss and grief.



2022

IN REVIEW

June



BIG APPLE COMICS COMES TO TOWN

Middlebury native Tina Friml produced the Big Apple Comics comedy series this summer, which featured Friml and friends — all electrifying performers on the New York City and international comedy circuit. The monthly shows were held at the Town Hall Theater June, July and August.



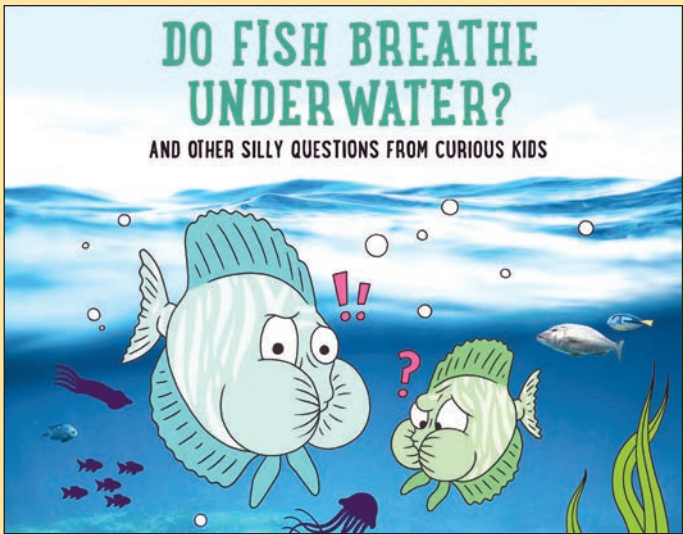
A HELLISH GOOD TIME AT THE OPERA

Jorge Martin reviewed the Opera Company of Middlebury's summer production of "Orphée aux enfers." The famed mythic couple Orphée and Eurydice, who usually share passionate conjugal bliss, share nothing of the sort here. "Everything is stood on its head in this version, or cheerful perversion, of the story..." Martin's review read. "It was a GREAT show. Who knew that hell could be such FUN?"

2022

IN REVIEW

July



BUT WHY? LIVE IN MIDDLEBURY

Can cows and pigs be friends? Do lambs get cold when they are fleeced? How can I tell the difference between a duck and a waterfowl? Melody Bodette and Jane Lindholm, who make the “But Why?” podcast, visited farms big and small around Vermont to record farmers answering questions from curious kids. They played the answers during a show at Town Hall Theater in early July.



WAYBURY CHEF TRANSITIONS

The Waybury Inn in East Middlebury has been serving delicious food to the community for over 200 years; and for a fifth of those two centuries, Donna Siebert has overseen the kitchen. This summer, after 40 years as its head chef, Siebert began training Tony Petri of Middlebury as the Waybury's new head chef. “I’m not going anywhere and we’re still a team,” Siebert said. “It’s just that I’m handing over a lot of the spatulas.”

August

CHRISTAL BROWN AWARDED OUTSTANDING ACHIVEMENT HONOR

Middlebury’s Christal Brown, received the Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts for her sustained contribution to the arts and its impact on Vermont cultural life from the Vermont Art Council this year. Brown is the founder of the dance company INSPIRIT, the nonprofit Project: BECOMING, and the creator of the Liquid Strength training module for dance. Locally, she works at Middlebury College in a variety of fields including dance.



CURTAIN RISES ON MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL 8

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival 8 screened more than 140 films on six screens in Middlebury during the annual festival, which ran Aug. 24-28. MNFF8 also included other attractions for film enthusiasts, including interviews with filmmakers, a celebration of some giants in the industry, a special performance by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, gala opening and closing events, and parties galore.



September

ABENAKI EXHIBIT EXPLORES WATER

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum exhibited “Nebizun: Water is Life” at the Schoolhouse Gallery, which featured work by Abenaki artists together with photographs and commentaries that illustrated the dynamic relationship between the people and water in the Abenaki homeland, past and present. Vera Longtoe Sheehan, who curated the exhibit and is the director of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, walked us through the exhibit and its importance.



MARROWBONE RETURNS WITH A COMPOSTING THEME FOR 2022

Justine Jackson, Sara Granstrom, Marianne Lust and Sophie Pickens organized this year’s Marrowbone — an outdoor, fall theater tradition held in Lincoln. Lust, an original organizer for more than 20 years, returned with an inspired idea for 2022. Lust focused the theme of the six performances on “composting, in all manners of speaking,” she explained.



October

PHOTOGRAPHER SHARES FAMILIAR SCENES IN NEW WAYS

Bristol photographer Anne Majusiak likes to capture familiar scenes with a new lens. She shared an exhibit of her work at Art on Main in Bristol this October. "There's so much to see right in this area," she said. "I like to try to find things people who've been here a long time might not see... The roads and hills and villages and farms are familiar, but when I am in that magical place of openness, I see familiar scenes through new eyes."



EMPTY BOWLS SILENT AUCTION RAISES FUNDS TO FEED COMMUNITY

About 20 local potters came together to make 100 bowls for the Empty Bowls silent auction fundraiser at the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op. This is the 30th year that Middlebury Studio School has teamed up with MNFC to benefit local food shelves, CVOEO and HOPE. In the past, the event was a dinner... but COVID changed it into a silent auction.



November

PANTON ARTIST RETURNS TO PAINTING IN RETIREMENT

Nadie VanZandt invited us to her Panton studio where she is spending her retirement perfecting the oil painting skills she has developed after careers as an engineer and a home school teacher. VanZandt is also a master gardener and contributed regularly to our Arts+Leisure garden columns. "My goal now that I'm in my 60s is to always have this (painting) for the rest of my life."



COFFEE HOUSE IN CORNWALL STARTS NEW WINTER MUSIC SERIES

Drummer Dan Whittemore partnered with the Cornwall Congregational Church to launch the new Cornwall Community Coffeehouse — a monthly live music series through the cold months. The series presents local acts on the third Thursday of the month October through April. Sean & Gerry played in November. At each show the Friends of Cornwall School also sells refreshments and baked goods to raise funds for the school.



2022

IN REVIEW

December



ART FROM ABOVE

Local photographer and Middlebury resident Caleb Kenna released a new photo book of his drone images and spoke with us about his creative process. "So much of what makes a good image for me is about good light," Kenna explained. "I try to get out and practice every day... It is a meditation in some ways." He held an open studio this month in Brandon just in time for the holiday giving season.



NEW EP FROM VERGENNES MUSICIAN

Vergennes musician Kevin Kareckas released his newest EP "Oh Jen" on Dec. 27. The title track explains the story of a found wedding band and an awkward family dinner. Kareckas shared his story about becoming a musician, his 15 years as a DJ and process in writing "Oh Jen!"

CALENDAR

DEC. 31-JAN. 14
22-23

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

BEST NIGHT IN BRISTOL.

Saturday, Dec. 31, 3:30-11 p.m.,
Holley Hall, 1 South St. Say

farewell to 2022 in Bristol fashion with hats and crafts, Mt. Abe's a capella group Sweet Transitions, Magicians without Borders, a Mt. Abe Musical revue, a coffee house set with local talent, and headline performers Patrick Fitzsimmons and Scarlet Annie's Jazz Quartet. More info at www.bristolbestnight.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS AND FREE SKATING IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, Dec. 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, 277 Mary Hogan Dr. Join the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department as they send 2022 out with a bang. Fireworks presented by the American Legion Post 27 will begin at 6:30 p.m. with free skating at the Memorial Sports Center, 7-8:30 p.m. Park for the show at the Mary Hogan and Court House parking lots. Memorial Sports Center lot will be closed during the show.

SOLD OUT! NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH SOULE

MONDE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 31, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Ring in the New Year with Town Hall Theater and Soule Monde, avant funk born of the syncopated minds

of power drummer Russ Lawton and organ wizard Ray Paczkowski. Pizza from American Flatbread will be provided in the price of your ticket as well as a champagne toast at the end of the night when we ring in 2023 early with a countdown at 10 p.m. (celebrating with Rio de Janeiro). Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets \$32 adult/\$15 children under 12, available at townhalltheater.org.

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE" GALA

PERFORMANCE IN BRANDON. Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Barn Opera House, 1321 Pearl St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for this New Year's Eve celebration. Barn Opera continues the New Year's Eve tradition begun in 2021 with an operetta in a gala/semi-staged version of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance." Tickets \$93.51, include: show, champagne toast, catered hors d'oeuvres, and a lot of laughter. Available at barnopera.com/tickets.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

FIRST DAY WALK IN FERRISBURGH. Sunday, Jan. 1, 9-11 a.m., Button Bay State Park, 5 Button Bay State Park Rd. CORRECTED STARTING TIME! New Year's Day birding trips are a tradition held by many in the birdwatching community as they begin to fill their annual bird lists. We have combined that tradition with the more

recent tradition of First Day Hikes held at State Parks across the country. Meet us at Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh as we search for overwintering birds.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3

JACK MAYER POETRY READING IN

MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The Vermont Book Shop revives its collaboration with Ilsley Library with an inaugural VBS First Tuesdays at Ilsley author event with local poet and novelist Jack Mayer, M.D. He will read from his new collection, "Entanglements: Physics, Love, and Wilderness Dreams," and discuss its inspiration, creation, and development. There will be a Q&A following Mayer's presentation, books will be for sale, and Jack will be available to sign them.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4

THE MAKING OF "NO OTHER LAKE" IN

MIDDLEBURY, ZOOM. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. In 2021, UVM student Jordan Rowell kayaked the 120-mile length of Lake Champlain. Over a two-week journey, Rowell and local filmmaker Duane Peterson conducted interviews to

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 14

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		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.	
MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, December 30 Public Affairs - Through the Night 4:30 a.m. Green Mountain Care (GMC) Board 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Ser 10 a.m. Selectboard, Gov. Scott Press Conference 2:20 p.m. The Craziness of Vermont's Health Care System 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 8 p.m. VT Legislative Summit on Child Care and Paid Family Leave Saturday, December 31 Public Affairs - Through the Night 5 a.m. Select Board, Public Affairs 8:30 a.m. VICII Abolishing Incarceration of Women and Girls 9:38 a.m. The Science of Effective Prevention 10 a.m. Select Board, Public Affairs 3:30 p.m. New Mental Health Treatment Facility 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. New Mental Health Facility 8 p.m. Childcare, Paid Family Leave Sunday, January 1 Public Affairs - Through the Night 6:30 a.m. Childcare, Paid Family Leave 9 a.m. Catholic Mass		10 a.m. Energy Week 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 1 p.m. Childcare, Paid Family Leave 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Abolishing Incarceration for Women and Girls. 8:38 p.m. Statewide Housing Conference Monday, January 2 Public Affairs - Through the Night 6 a.m. Child Care, Paid Family Leave 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. VT Housing Conference 7:45 p.m. Gov. Scott 9 p.m. Green Home Burial Tuesday, January 3 Public Affairs - Through the Night 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Vermont's Crazy Health Care System 7:40 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Abolishing Incarceration for Women and Girls Wednesday, January 4 Public Affairs - Through the Night 6 a.m. New Mental Health Facility 6:30 a.m. Energy Week	7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, GMC Board 4:50 p.m. Abolishing Incarceration for Women and Girls 6 p.m. Energy Week, 7 p.m. Selectboard, Press Conf., Public Affairs Thursday, January 5 Public Affairs - Through the Night 5 a.m. Selectboard, Press Conf., Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard 3:22 p.m. Abolishing Incarceration for Women and Girls 4:30 p.m. GMC Board 7:30 p.m. New Mental Health Facility 8 p.m. Energy Week 9 p.m. Eckankar 9:30 p.m. Vermont's Crazy Health Care System 10:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell MCTV Channel 1091 Friday, December 30 5 a.m. Hardwick Community Holiday Concert 5:32 a.m. Scrag Mountain Music 7:12 a.m. Poetry Reading With Toussaint St Negritude 8:06 a.m. Honey Bee Steel Band 9:20 a.m. Jack Mayer - Poems from the Wilderness	10 a.m. Woodcuts and Illustrations of Rockwell Kent 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 5 p.m. Growing Bright Futures - Holly Laramee 5:30 p.m. Romeo and Juliet 6:11 p.m. Harwood Union High Winter Concert 6:50 p.m. Cameo Baroque 11:30 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night Saturday, December 31 4 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. The Bees of Vermont 11:30 a.m. Growing Bright Futures 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. Growing Bright Futures 6:30 p.m. Romeo and Juliet 7:10 p.m. Harwood Winter Concert 6:50 p.m. Cameo Baroque 8:30 p.m. Scrag Mountain Music 7:42 p.m. Toussaint St Negritude 8:36 p.m. Jack Mayer 9:17 p.m. Honey Bee Steel Band 10:30 p.m. Rockwell Kent Sunday, January 1 5 a.m. All Things LGTQ 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Wild Branch Bluegrass at the Round Church Richmond 8:30 a.m. Romeo and Juliet 9:10 a.m. Growing Bright 12 p.m. Romeo and Juliet 1:40 p.m. The Bees of Vermont 3 p.m. Romeo and Juliet	5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Romeo and Juliet Monday, January 2 5 a.m. Raw Food Chef Elcin Ofiaz 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 12 p.m. North Country Chorus Holiday Concert 4 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 a.m. Montpelier PLACE Program 6:37 a.m. Rockwell Kent 7:35 a.m. Lyndon Institute Winter Concert Tuesday, January 3 6:30 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 1 p.m. Conservation, Ecology and Nature Programs Wednesday, January 4 5:30 a.m. OLLI Lecture: Finding Answers to Family Mysteries 6:30 a.m. All Things LGBTQ Vermont's Poor Houses 12 p.m. Gardens and Gardening 4 p.m. Kid's Yoga, Yoga 5:30 p.m. School Board Meetings Thursday, January 5 5:30 a.m. Elcin Ofiaz & Pot Luck Kitchen 7 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 5 p.m. All Things LGTQ 6 p.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Romeo and Juliet 8:10 p.m. Growing Bright Futures

ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon

Visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956 for more info.

"2022 Holiday Show," showcases finely crafted original artworks by more than 30 Vermont artists. Joining BAG this season are Ashley Wolff, Catherine Palmer and Judith Reilly. On view Nov. 11-Jan. 29.

EDGEWATER GALLERIES

1 Mill Street, Middlebury & 6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Define Small." Edgewater Gallery's annual small works show, featuring new work from established artists, as well as new work from Larry Horowitz. On view Nov. 23-Dec. 31.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"We're All At A Party Called Life On Earth!" An art installation celebrating humanity, harmony, and diversity, by Fran Bull and Robert Black. The exhibit will be on view through Feb. 18.

NORTHERN DAUGHTERS

221 Main Street, Vergennes

Visit northerndaughters.com or call 802-877-2173 for more info.

"Solace," a new winter exhibit at Northern Daughters features work by Anne Cady, Bonnie Baird, Jessica Parker Foley, Chelsea Granger, Julia Jensen, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, Susanne Strater and Carla Weeks. The prompt: What do you turn to? On view through Jan. 31, 2023.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Portrait: Self and Others," featuring 35 images for exhibition in the gallery, and 40 for the Online Gallery. Submissions responded to the call for "portraits, self- or otherwise, that go beyond the surface to explore a deeper vision of the subject and, hopefully, draw an emotional response from the viewer." Juried by Aline Smithson. On view Dec. 29-Jan. 20, with an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6, from 4-7 p.m.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 13

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Sometimes you have to hold some things in to safeguard others from sticky situations. It can be tricky keeping secrets, but this week it is for the best.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, there are a lot of people in your corner right now who are willing to pitch in when you need help. If you encounter an obstacle, just ask for assistance.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, change your schedule or your scenery, especially if you feel like you are in a rut. All it may take is one modification to bring on an entirely new perspective.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. If a person comes to you needing a friend in the next few days, resist the urge to offer advice. Simply listen and provide companionship. This is all the person needs at the moment.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Prioritize getting your finances in order, Leo. Make this one New Year's resolution that you maintain; otherwise, you may have financial troubles in the months to come.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept.

22. A few opportunities are coming your way in regard to your career, Virgo. Sort through all of the offers and figure out what works best for your situation.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, there is a lot of momentum around you, but for some reason you cannot find your footing. Sooner than later you'll find your path and will be moving along.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Take charge of your priorities, Scorpio. It can be easy to get swept away in other people's drama. Make a list of all the things you want to accomplish and start working.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, people are expecting much of you this week, especially higher-ups at work. You may need to find the motivation to keep going. The end result will be worth it.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Family time is a hot commodity for you right now, Capricorn. Even after the holidays, you have a few other events on the calendar that will bring relatives together.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. It can be difficult to let things go and trust other people. However, the free time that you'll get will enable you to tackle other items on your to-do list, Aquarius.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March

20. If you are thinking about going back to school or learning a new skill, this is the time to do it, Pisces. Start shopping around for programs.

Closed December
31st to January 6th
Happy Holidays!

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 29 — Pablo Casals, cellist (d)
DEC. 30 — LeBron James, basketball player (38)
DEC. 31 — Andreas Vesalius, founder of modern human anatomy (d)

JAN. 1 — E. M. Forster, author (d)
JAN. 2 — John Hope Franklin, historian (d)
JAN. 3 — Greta Thunberg, environmental activist (19)
JAN. 4 — Dafne Keen, actor (17)

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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Addison County's Humane Society

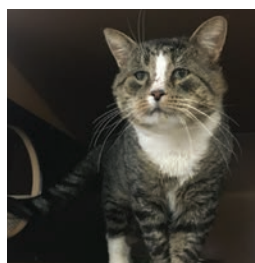
Hoot Hoot is a sweet and shy 3-year-old, who is very playful. He loves affection and catnip. Hoot came to us as a stray and would be a good indoor/outdoor candidate. He gets startled by loud noises and might be more comfortable in a quiet environment. He is selective about which cats he hangs out with and we are unsure about dogs.



Olgard is a food-crazed 3-year-old. He is the loudest cat during breakfast feeding and he is convinced that every person walking by should be giving him treats. Olgard is super affectionate and loves to play. Olgard was found abandoned after the owners couldn't find a home for him. He has been diagnosed as FIV-positive and would be okay with another FIV-positive cat.

We are unsure about how he feels about dogs. Because of his FIV status, Olgard is considered special needs and his adoption fee is on a donation basis.

Snorlax is a 14.5-pound, 4-year-old guy with an equally big heart. He came in as a stray who had clearly been in some fights. Snorlax may look like a bully, but he is a gentle giant. He is very affectionate and loves food. He enjoys lazily playing with toys and sleeping most of the day away. He doesn't seem to be aggressive with cats, but considering his history he may not want to share space with other cats.



Vermont is a 6-year-old female who has been in the shelter too long! She is super sweet and gives love bites. She is not a fan of dogs but has tolerated other cats. Vermont will be the queen of the house and wants everyone to know it. Vermont has been spending her time roaming the halls and greeting visitors at the shelter as our "working cat." She is relaxed, even with the shelter's busyness, and sleeps on several available comfy surfaces during the day despite all that's going on around her. She is getting a lot of attention from staff and visitors and is quick to give licks and accept petting. She is not fond of being picked up but will tolerate it for a short time.

Amber is a sweet and loving 47-pound 5-year-old who likes to snuggle up on your lap! She came in as a stray and it has taken her some time to get used to shelter life. She's on the right path to becoming more trusting and relaxed. Amber needs a family that has dog-ownership experience. She's working on her leash training and how to stay calm when passing other dogs. Amber loves playtime in our training room and hanging out in the backyard. She's curious about cats, but should be the only pet in a home for now. Amber should be in a home without young children.



Skippy is a 2.5-year-old, 70-pound hound mix. Once he has gotten some energy out at the beginning of his walk, he calms down and becomes more attentive toward his walker. He is just so excited to be going out and doing things when first starting out. Having a fenced-in yard where he can bounce off some of his energy would be helpful for him. Skippy loves to get belly rubs and have long play sessions. He is still a young dog and needs as much exercise and play as someone is willing to do with him. Swimming is something he loves as well as playing with his stuffed animals, which he will take outside with him. He's a smart dog and an excellent puzzle toy solver. Skippy is happiest when he gets a lot of mental stimulation. Skippy does well with other socialized dogs but has a strong prey drive for cats and birds. We are currently working on a training protocol for Skippy's resource guarding. His new owner must be willing to continue this training and has to understand that it takes time and commitment to reach successful goals.

Call or check our website.

We may have a pet for you.

802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
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Get ready for the year of the rabbit

Chinese New Year 2023 will fall on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, starting a year of the Rabbit. The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

The Rabbit is the fourth animal sign in the Chinese zodiac cycle. The 12 zodiac animals are, in order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. Each year has an animal sign according to the 12-year-cycle.

Now here are 10 fun facts about these cute, fuzzy, fluffy and hoppy little critters, courtesy of natgeokids.com:

- 1) **A baby rabbit is called a kit**, a female is called a doe and a male is called a buck.
- 2) **Rabbits are very social creatures** that live in groups. They live in warrens — a series of tunnels and rooms that they dig underground.
- 3) **A rabbit's teeth never stop growing!** Instead, they're gradually worn down as the rabbit chews on grasses, wildflowers

and vegetables — meaning they never get too long.

4) **Rabbits perform an athletic leap**, known as a "binky," when they're happy — performing twists and kicks in mid air.

5) **Rabbits' eyes are on the sides of their head**, meaning they can see almost all the way around them. This helps them to keep a close watch for predators while they're going about their business!

6) Like cats, **happy rabbits purr** when they're content and relaxed.

7) Rabbits are amazing athletes — **they can jump as high as 90 centimeters** in one leap!

8) A rabbit's best

feature? **Their long ears!** Growing up to 10 centimeters in length, rabbits can turn their ears by 180 degrees, keeping a careful listen out for predators.

9) One of the world's best-known rabbits is the Warner Bros cartoon character, Bugs Bunny — who's often seen munching on a carrot. In fact, **carrots aren't a natural part of a rabbit's diet and can give bunnies an upset stomach** if they eat too many.

10) Rabbits are very effective baby-makers. **Mother rabbits are pregnant for between 28-31 days, giving birth to up to 14 baby rabbits** — called kittens — in a single litter.



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Pet of the WEEK

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PUZZLES

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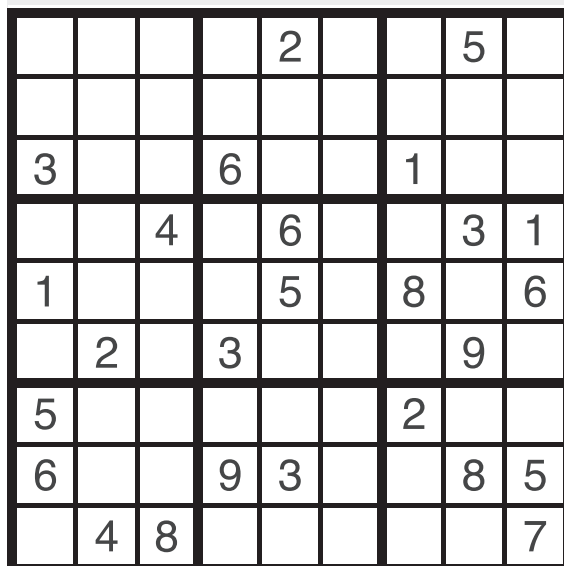
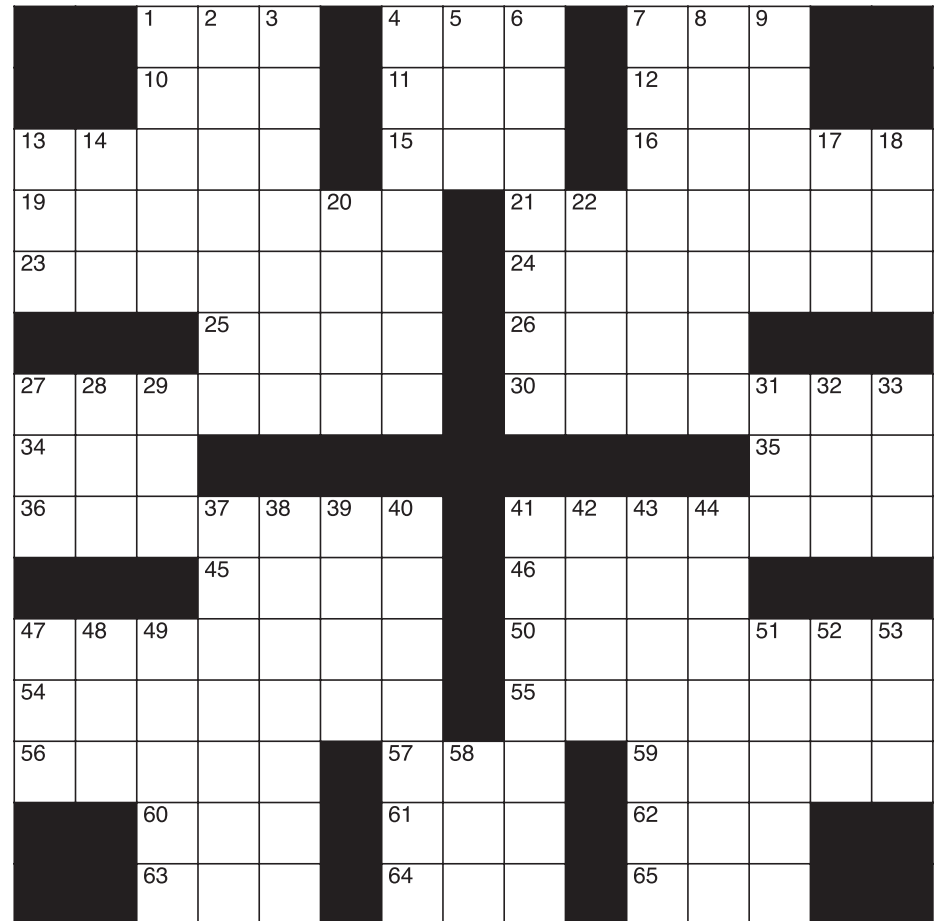
1. Single Lens Reflex
4. People of southern Benin
7. One who is learned (abbr.)
10. Neckwear
11. Solid water
12. A way to work the soil
13. Inspiring
15. Pick up
16. It wakes you up
19. Parcel
21. Popular dog breed
23. Lets out a sigh
24. Embedded into the surface
25. Hard liquors
26. One from Scotland
27. Satisfy

30. Used to introduce a contrasting statement
34. Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)
35. Similar
36. Winged horse
41. Soft drink maker
45. One who doesn't live up to expectations
46. Nursemaid
47. Inheritor
50. Hot, often dusty wind
54. Serves as an introduction
55. Earned top billing
56. Mansion
57. A partner to a carrot
59. War-horse

60. Midway between northeast and east
61. It checks the heartbeat
62. Aquatic salamander
63. CNN's founder
64. Being precisely suitable and right
65. Strongly alkaline solution

DOWN

1. Pinochle trick
2. A system of connections
3. Emblems of royalty
4. Work with a soft hand
5. Plant cultivated in Peru



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 13.

6. A timid man
7. Lacking intellectual depth
8. A way to order
9. Intoxicating
13. Mimic
14. Surfers use it
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Popular Miller beer
20. Finds out about
22. Unusual
27. Small European viper

28. Indicates before
29. Birth swine
31. 7
32. Useful keyboard key
33. Letter of the Greek alphabet
37. Edible mollusk
38. Stitched up
39. Utilized
40. __ in tradition
41. A way to get through
42. Let off

43. Fashionable source of shade
44. In due time
47. Printing speed
48. A major division of geological time
49. Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
51. __ de la __
52. After B
53. Unusual
58. Former money of the EU



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THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

Multi-purpose opportunity in Vergennes

This commercial property features 5 single bedroom apartments as well as a commercial retail space at street level. Off-street parking is available for residential tenants, with ample public parking in the immediate surrounding area for customers and guests. This historic property is located at the southern entrance of the business district in Vergennes, which features an eclectic mix of businesses offering some of the best shopping and dining in New England. It's an easy walk to the Vergennes Opera House, Bixby Library, and beautiful walking trails along the Otter Creek. The first floor of this property is thought to have been constructed in 1787. In 1805, it expanded to include two additional stories with a gabled roof. The attic area is unfinished and offers the potential for an additional living space with spectacular views of the Adirondacks.


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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury
For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Artists in the Archives: Community, History & Collage." Artists from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Ukraine, and several US states

created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. On view Sept. 2 through Jan. 7, 2023.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

52 Main Street, Middlebury
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for more info.

"A Merry Little Market," a maker market featuring creations by over 40 local artisans. The gallery is decked with all sorts of truly unique gifts, from fine artwork to pottery to candles to fused glass and more. With a tree full of hand-crafted ornaments, this show is guaranteed to get you in the holly jolly spirit. On view Nov. 18-Jan. 14.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.

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4	6	7	1	2	3	9	5	8
2	8	1	4	9	5	6	7	3
3	9	5	6	7	8	1	4	2
8	5	4	2	6	9	7	3	1
1	3	9	7	5	4	8	2	6
7	2	6	3	8	1	5	9	4
5	7	3	8	4	6	2	1	9
6	1	2	9	3	7	4	8	5
9	4	8	5	1	2	3	6	7

	S	L	R		F	O	N		S	C	H	
	T	I	E		I	C	E		H	O	E	
A	W	I	N	G		N	A	B		A	L	A
P	A	C	K	A	G	E		B	U	L	L	D
E	X	H	A	L	E	S		I	N	L	A	Y
			G	I	N	S		S	C	O	T	
A	P	P	E	A	S	E		H	O	W	E	V
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			B	U	S	T		A	M	A	H	
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We are grateful for...

- our neighbors —friends and family, colleagues, and the businesses next door—you make our days
- our uniquely special communities—you make us Addison County-proud
- the exquisite beauty that is all around us, from mountaintop to valley to lakeshore
- unlimited opportunities for fresh air and recreation 365 days/yr
- the knowledge that 2023 will be different from 2022 but no matter what it brings we know we'll take it on together

*We're looking forward
to sharing the new year with you.*

*A happy & healthy
2023, to each and all!*

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

better understand the challenges facing the lake and to explore our relationship with natural resources in the era of climate change. The pair shares excerpts from their short documentary film

and discusses its creation in this Vermont Humanities presentation. https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_CoFPqyoGTPyio8l94ojYJw.

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Jan. 6, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. Portrait: Self and Others. A great portrait reveals something of the depth, history and emotional state of the subject, at least as captured in a single moment in time. Although many portraits zero in on the face, many fine images don't show the face at all, instead using light, gesture, context and other nuances of expression to create an informative portrait.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

SEAMUS EGAN AND YANN FALQUET IN LINCOLN.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. The Ripton Coffee House in Lincoln welcome Seamus Egan and Yann Falquet, two world-renowned artists in the Irish and Quebecois tradition. General admission \$15/generous admission \$20-\$25/or pay what you can. Refreshments available during the break. Info and tickets at rcch.org/ or rcchfolks@gmail.com. Admission is also available at the door. Live-streaming available on YouTube or Facebook.

SUNDAY, JAN. 8

"TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Jan. 8, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. This MNFF Selects film examines the life of Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison. Audience discussion following the film will be led by Bill Hart, Professor Emeritus of History, Middlebury College. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 walk-up/7-film series pass \$90, available at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 16



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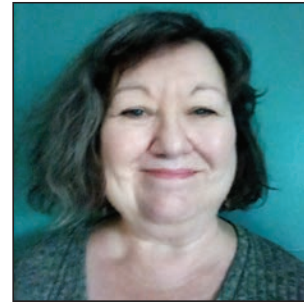
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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

HOW TO GROW ORCHIDS



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of Vermont's Bennington County Chapter.

Do you admire orchids from afar but haven't considered growing them or gifting them to a plant lover you know? Sure, they're a pretty plant, but orchids have a reputation as being difficult to grow.

When you think of orchids, do you picture a climate-controlled greenhouse devoted to a collection of

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

beautiful but fussy plants? The truth is, orchids can be grown as easily as any other houseplant. All it takes is a little know-how and some TLC.

Most orchids require similar care, but there's one orchid you're likely to see more than the rest. Moth orchids (*Phalaenopsis*) are so common you can find them not only at your local nursery or florist, but also in department and grocery stores.

Orchids come in many shapes, sizes and colors that are hard to resist when in bloom. If you've given in to temptation and brought home an orchid in full bloom only to give up on the plant and its plain looking foliage when the flowers have faded, you aren't alone.

Moth orchids aren't particularly expensive,

so many people consider them a temporary houseplant, to be replaced once the flowers are gone. After all, that's what we do with cut flowers. But if you give them a chance, you can enjoy their flowers for years to come.

While your first inclination may be to select the plant with the most flowers, think again. Choose an orchid with many buds. Even small buds will develop into flowers, giving you an extended bloom time with flowering lasting weeks, sometimes months.

When the last of the flowers have finally faded, you may be tempted to cut the stem back, but wait. As long as the stem of a moth orchid is green, it may produce additional buds.

Once the stem begins to turn brown and die on its own, cut it back to where it meets the leaves so that the plant can use its resources to grow and rebloom. During this time, continue to care for the orchid as usual.

Like any houseplant, an orchid will thrive in conditions it favors. Moth orchids prefer temperatures between 65-75 F along with bright, indirect sunlight. A grow light also can be used. Orchids are potted in moss or bark rather than potting soil. If repotting, use a similar media.

Water as needed. Depending on growing conditions, that may be weekly or less frequently. Some moth orchids come with instructions to water using ice cubes. While convenient, if the ice contacts the roots or foliage, damage may occur.

A better method is to use room temperature water when the moss is dry. Give the orchid a good watering, letting excess water drain from the pot. Allowing the moss to remain too wet can result in damage to the roots.

Fertilizer can be beneficial, but over fertilizing can burn leaves and roots. An orchid fertilizer can be used according to directions on the package. Alternatively, a urea-free houseplant fertilizer can be used either at half strength once a month when watering or at one-quarter strength each watering.

When your moth orchid is ready to rebloom, it will send up a green stalk that points upward and has a more pointed tip than the paler, rounded end roots. Soon you'll see buds develop and then the main event, flowers.

So, the next time you're tempted by the fancy floral display of an orchid, give it a chance. Bring it home. With a little TLC it will bloom again and again for years to come.



Moth orchids do best when placed in a location with bright, indirect sunlight and temperatures between 65-75 F.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT



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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

THURSDAY, JAN. 12

HEART OF AFGHANISTAN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Four brilliant Afghan musicians — famed singer/ Afghan TV star Ahmad Fanoos on vocals and harmonium, his sons Elham on piano and Mehran on violin, and Hamid Habibzada on table — carry the flame of Afghanistan's rich and complex musical heritage from its pre-Islamic Buddhist period to the modern era. Tickets \$25/20/10/5; streaming tickets \$15/5, available at middlebury.universitytickets.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SNOWSHOE IN RIPTON. Saturday, Jan. 14, Widow's Clearing to Brooks Road, Goshen Rd. Hike or snowshoe three miles on trails from Widow's Clearing on Goshen Road eastward to Brooks Road. Requires car spot. Bring a snack or lunch, water and dress to the weather in thermal layers (avoid cotton). Ankle gaiters and hiking poles recommended.

top pick

SCAVENGER HUNTS ARE AWESOME, AND THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR KIDS! **CHECK OUT MALT'S ADULT SNOWSHOE SCAVENGER HUNT ON CHIPMAN HILL, SATURDAY, JAN. 14 FOR A GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE MORNING.**

Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact Ruth Penfield at 802-458-1116 or ruthpenfield@gmail.com for details including start time. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ADULT SNOWSHOE SCAVENGER HUNT IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Chipman Hill trailhead parking lot. Come Join MALT for a morning of snowshoeing and exploration on Chipman Hill. Snowshoes will be provided. No experience necessary. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered to win a MALT-swig bag for two, filled with sunglasses, hats and other gear. We'll also have a fire set up at an overlook to enjoy at the end and hot cocoa. Dress warmly, bring a phone or camera



to take photos. Registration required. For Adults 18+. Drop in whenever you'd like. Snowshoes must be returned by 1:30 p.m. More info at maltvt.org/events.

"1776 SUPPLYING OUR ARMY IN CANADA" LIVING HISTORY EVENT IN TICONDEROGA, N.Y. Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Ticonderoga was a vital link in the supply chain keeping an American Army alive at the gates of Quebec City in January 1776.

In this one-day living history event, explore the many needs of an army in winter from shot to shoes. See how soldiers and teamsters kept sleds running over the ice of Lake Champlain to keep Continental Army soldiers fed and clothed in Canada.

"FEDORA" LIVE IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The METOpera HD Broadcast of Umberto Giordano's exhilarating drama. Packed with memorable melodies, show-stopping arias, and explosive confrontations, Fedora requires a cast of thrilling voices to take flight, and the Met's new production promises to deliver. Tickets \$24 adult/\$10 student, available at townhalltheater.org.

MAY THIS NEW YEAR BE FULL OF ADVENTURE & GROWTH!

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices The Vermont Realty Group Vergennes Office would like to thank all of our clients and customers from 2022 who helped us achieve our goal of earning the prestigious Chairman's Circle Platinum Award and Quality Service Award from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices.

*We wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!
We look forward to helping more buyers and sellers achieve their real estate goals in 2023.*



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