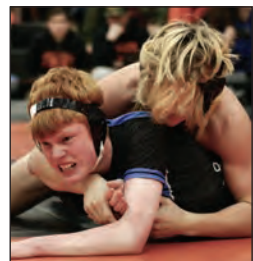




Long gone

Bill Hart acted in a forgotten 1975 horror film. A cinephile wants to find it. See Arts + Leisure.



Winning time

Local wrestlers took titles last week at MUHS, and one was the event's top grappler. See Page 1B.



Top 10 of 2022

What mattered last year? See what the news team picked as our top stories in a special section.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, January 5, 2023 ♦ 46 Pages

\$1.50

Federal money is landing in county

Turning Point secures a \$1M grant

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Christmas was a little sweeter this year for the Turning Point Center of Addison County and other area nonprofits thanks to big federal grants that will help advance major community projects on their wish lists.

President Joe Biden this past Thursday signed the Fiscal

Year 2023 (FY23) Omnibus Appropriations bill that included a series of Congressionally Directed Spending awards (aka federal "earmarks") targeting local organizations.

The bill includes funding for dozens of Vermont projects, including several in our area. The largest was \$1 million to help (See Grant, Page 8A)

ANWSD delays sixth-grade move to VUHS

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Four months after announcing that Addison Northwest School District 6th-graders would attend middle school at Vergennes Union High School in the fall of 2023, ANSWSD officials have decided the move won't occur until the 2024-2025 academic year.

Chief among the reasons for the delay is that more time is needed for teachers and staff to prepare for a new educational model emphasizing multi-age, experiential and "socio-emotional" learning, district administrators told the ANWSD board.

(See Delay, Page 11A)

Local women pool funds for charities

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — A new philanthropic initiative kicking off in Addison County this month could give \$40,000 or more to local nonprofits by the end of the year. Members of the charitable giving circle 100 Women Who Care Addison County will gather

quarterly to contribute \$100 each and decide which local organizations will receive the group's pooled donations.

At 100 members times \$100 apiece, that would net \$10,000 per quarter.

Porter Knight, a Bristol resident (See Charities, Page 12A)

Rep. Conlon leaves ACSD board to head committee

By JOHN FLOWERS

CORNWALL — State Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, is stepping down from his local school board in order to play a bigger role in shaping statewide educational policy.

Conlon — who represents the

Addison-2 district in the Vermont House — confirmed late last month he's been offered (and will accept) the chairmanship of the House Education Committee. It's a weighty assignment that's prompted him to end what has

(See Conlon, Page 9A)



JASMINE FOSTER WORKS with Rooster, a wild horse currently in training at the Rising Action Mustangs farm in New Haven. Foster and co-founder Madison Berry have trained around 30 mustangs like Rooster since opening their nonprofit training and adoption facility for the wild horses in 2021. Photo courtesy of Madison Berry

New Haven farm finds homes for wild horses

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — If you're in the market for a mustang, look no further than New Haven's Rising Action Mustangs farm, known as RAMS. Though, it's worth noting that you won't find any sports cars at the spread on East Street, if that's what you're searching for.

The nonprofit farm, run by co-founders Madison Berry and Jasmine Foster, is a training and adoption facility for wild horses. Berry and Foster bring the mustangs from out West to find forever homes in New England.

"Mustangs are incredible horses, they come in every shape and size and color you could imagine, they are brave and smart," Berry said. "People don't know that."

Mustangs are free-roaming horses of the Western United States, descendants of escaped, domestic horses that were brought to the Americas by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. They're considered feral horses, as they live in the wild but were once domesticated and often retain that domestic heritage.

As of 2021, there were around 86,000 free-roaming mustangs living on nearly 28 million acres of public lands in 10 western U.S. states. Without any natural predators, the mustang population is growing and the land they're ranging on is no longer able to support them.

"They're overpopulated, a lot of the ranges that they're living on are going through droughts, and a lot of them die each year from extreme thirst," Foster said.

Around 55,000 mustangs had (See Mustangs, Page 7A)



2023!

WHEN PARENTS ARE finally able to get their kids to sleep through the night, the last thing they want to do is keep them up until midnight on New Year's Eve to mark the change of the calendar. Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library on Saturday hosted an año nuevo party 12 hours early, where kids and families counted down to 2023 at noon. Memorializing the event in front of a Times Square backdrop are Joe and Mira Cabrera of Middlebury with their sons, Lumen, 2 and Orien, 4.

Independent photo/Steve James

Middlebury strengthens noise rules

Weekend partiers are put on notice

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury is considering amendments to its noise ordinance that would — among other things — place an earlier lid on late-night revelry, loud music, construction din and other disruptions that have spurred increasing calls to police.

The most substantial change: Noise complaints can trigger a police response after 11 p.m. and before 7 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and "special holidays," such as New Year's Eve and July 4. That's two hours earlier than the current noise ordinance trigger of 1 a.m. through 7 a.m. on those days.

The revised ordinance retains the current, so-called "quiet hours" of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday.

North Pleasant Street resident Kevin McGrath is among those who've lobbied for a tightened noise ordinance to help tamp down late-night parties hosted by Middlebury

(See Noise rules, Page 10A)



By the way

Taking down the tree? This Saturday, Jan. 7, is the annual Merry Mulch Christmas Tree Collection Day for Vergennes and Middlebury. Volunteers from the Vergennes Lions Club and the Middlebury Rotary Club will collect trees from the curb in those two towns this Saturday morning. Be sure to put your tree out the night before, as collection starts early. Remove any decorations from the trees, so there are (See By the way, Page 11A)

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CHARLOTTE RESIDENT CALLIE McGarghan recently brought her love of vintage apparel to Bristol's Main Street, with the opening of vintage clothing store Silkworm Studio. The shop, which has operated online since 2020, offers men's and women's clothing, shoes and accessories from previous eras at a range of prices.

Independent photo/Steve James

Silkworm spins home for vintage attire

New Bristol store has wide variety

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Upon entering Callie McGarghan's new shop at 27 Main St. in Bristol, customers might feel like they're taking a step back in time. The vintage clothing store, Silkworm Studio, offers a variety of pre-loved clothing items, shoes and accessories that have been around longer than the shop's 29-year-old owner.

"How I like to describe our collection is anything that I would wear, that I like, that is beautiful to me is going to be on our sales floor," McGarghan said. "We're inspired by the '60s and '70s but have pieces from all sorts of decades."

The term "vintage" is used to describe secondhand items from a previous era, typically pieces that were made between 40 and 100 years ago. At Silkworm Studio, McGarghan is hoping to pass older items along to new owners who will use and enjoy them for years to come.

The name of McGarghan's shop embodies this mission. The silkworm, the store's namesake, is an insect that metamorphoses four times throughout its transformation from egg to moth. McGarghan is trying to encourage a similar life's journey for the clothing and accessories she sells, giving them new life with new owners.

"Our mission is to extend the life cycle, and inspire the metamorphosis of curated, pre-loved treasures," Silkworm's mission statement reads.

And those that come by

Silkworm Studio will find plenty of secondhand offerings to give new life to. McGarghan's offerings include vintage men's and women's clothing, shoes, bags and other accessories.

McGarghan handpicks every item that ends up on Silkworm's sales floor. She said she sources items from sellers like other consignment shops and online secondhand marketplaces like Poshmark.

Items that wind up at Silkworm range in price.

"I have baseball hats that are \$12 and Dolce and Gabbana pants that are \$650," McGarghan said. "Since we have an online storefront as well, I've been able to curate things and choose what we sell and how

"I'm excited to create a warm shopping environment, something cozy and nice with beautiful things."

— Callie McGarghan

we price things, so we have something for anyone." McGarghan, a Charlotte resident, started Silkworm with close friend and business partner Sarah Henry in 2020. She had recently moved back to Vermont from the West Coast, where she was working in the Los Angeles fashion and consignment sector.

"We started curating our own collection and made a website to start selling our own stuff. We really loved it and it started doing pretty well so we started thinking about what it would be like to open a brick-and-mortar store," she said.

This fall, the duo found the perfect spot for a Silkworm Studio storefront on Bristol's Main Street and signed a lease in November.

The store had a soft opening earlier this month, and McGarghan is now open regularly Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Currently, she's getting everything up and running on her own, though she hopes to take on another



CALLIE MCGARGHAN STANDS outside her vintage clothing store, Silkworm Studio, which recently opened on Bristol's Main Street. The store is filled with pre-loved treasures like clothing, bags and shoes, all from previous eras.

Independent photo/Steve James

teammate at the store when she can.

"Possibly over the summertime, definitely eventually when I'm able to support myself and someone else. But right now, it's just me," she said.

McGarghan said she's hoping to cultivate an inviting atmosphere at Silkworm's storefront, one that's welcoming for all the experienced and new-to-vintage shoppers that come by.

"I'm excited to create a unique space," she said. "In Burlington, there's a lot of secondhand options but there aren't too many curated boutique-vibe

spots, and I'm excited to create a warm shopping environment, something cozy and nice with beautiful things."

McGarghan said she's enjoyed the welcome she's received from the community so far, including that of the other local business owners that make up Bristol's Main Street.

"Everyone knows each other and is working together, just having that sense of community. That's very different from what I've experienced in Los Angeles," she said. "The response (from the community) has been really, really great. I've been overwhelmed actually."

Middlebury seeks new tax bill schedule

Twice-per-year payments proposed

MIDDLEBURY — At their town meeting in March, Middlebury voters will be asked to shift the community's property tax schedule from a three-bill cycle to a two-bill cycle. Officials said the change is predicated on the fact that the current Aug. 15 tax payment falls early in the state of Vermont's Homestead Declaration cycle.

The new proposal — to be fielded at the annual gathering to be held on Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Middlebury Recreation Center at 154 Creek Road — asks that "taxes on real property for fiscal year 2023/2024 (be paid) in two equal installments due in the Treasurer's Office on the 15th day of November 2023 and the 15th day of March 2024."

The current Aug. 15 payment would be eliminated.

Although it would mean one fewer bill for taxpayers, each of the two remaining tax bills would be larger than in the three-bill system.

Middlebury Finance Director Nicholas Gill stated his case to the selectboard in the following letter:

"As you are aware, for several years the Town of Middlebury has levied property taxes in accordance with the following schedule. (Please see attached).

For several reasons, it has become apparent that this schedule is in need of an overhaul.

Of primary concern, is the Aug. 15 tax payment. The first deadline falls very early in the state of Vermont's Homestead Declaration cycle. Of course, this is a rather technical issue, but the consequences are nevertheless very distressing to taxpayers.

Given the early mailing date,

tax bills are often mailed BEFORE homestead deductions can be properly reflected, leading to routine and unnecessary panic for many taxpayers. These initial bills often reflect hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in additional tax liability compared to the prior year.

Like clockwork, the Finance Office will field dozens of frustrated and anxious taxpayers who are understandably very upset by the numbers reflected on their bill. The Finance Office is charged with fielding these complaints from a position of little knowledge. Homestead declarations are a state of Vermont program, and we at the town offices are not aware in advance what subsidy a taxpayer might receive from the state. The time it takes to respond to phone calls, emails and walk-ins absorbs precious resources for both the Finance Office and Town Assessor.

From June 30th to Oct. 30, the state sends Middlebury a monthly file containing homestead declaration subsidies. The state also sends weekly files with

changes to homestead declarations. With each of these file exchanges tax bills are updated, and the town must mail revised bills. Not only does this require more time and resources, but often leads to additional confusion when taxpayers receive two or more bills (instead of one) and taxpayers are left to guess what their final bill might be. It is safe to say that this is a mess that the town would do well to avoid.

The three-bill cycle has been adopted in the past, out of concern for budget conscious taxpayers

(See Middlebury, Page 3A)

New Haven finds property that could host fire station

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — The town of New Haven has entered into negotiations for the purchase of land that could one day house a new fire station for the town.

The piece of property, which sits on Route 17 not far from the village, is owned by the Vermont Electric Company. Selectman Steve Dupoise said the hope is to finalize negotiations in the next 30 days and ask voters to approve the purchase on Town Meeting Day in March.

Town officials have stated that the town has been searching for land to site a new station for the past couple of years, as the fire department currently shares a building with the town's highway department, and both entities could benefit from more space.

At the selectboard's Dec. 6 meeting Assistant Fire Chief Dean Gilmore updated the board on plans for the proposed fire station, which call for a one-story, roughly

12,000-square-foot building.

Dupoise said the town could use a portion of its \$509,688 share of American Rescue Plan Act funding to purchase the piece of property.

"The board has been very clear that the ARPA funding we're going to spend is going to be for the benefit of the town, and I believe this would certainly be for the benefit of the community," he said. "I'm thinking we're planning on using ARPA funding for purchasing this property, which will then open up opportunities for the fire department to bring in other grants."

Town officials have noted that selecting and purchasing a piece of land will hopefully bring additional funding opportunities for the remainder of the project. The fire station also serves as the town's emergency shelter, a designation that could draw in more grant money.

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MUHS teacher's Fulbright trip could be called off

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union High School French teacher Michelle Steele was looking forward to an eventful 2023 highlighted by an exciting and enriching trip to Morocco, where she was scheduled to spend more than three months as a Fulbright teacher — one of only 20 educators nationwide to be so honored.

But contradictory language in the Addison Central School District teachers' contract and a national shortage of educators could keep her from taking advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime.

The *Independent* reported this past September that Steele this fall would head to Rabat, Morocco, to research that North African nation's educational programming and complete a research project that could pay big dividends for MUHS students. Her trip was offered as part of being named one of 20 Fulbright Distinguished Teachers for 2022-2023.

Steele has been busy of late laying the groundwork for her Moroccan trip, including making the requisite request for a paid sabbatical from her MUHS job teaching French 1, 2 and 3, as well as IB Diploma French for grades 11 and 12.

But what Steele believed would be a relatively easy ask has instead resulted in roadblocks that could jeopardize her trip. In short, contradictory language in the ACSD teachers' contract left the fate of her sabbatical request in the hands of district administrators — rather than the school board. And Superintendent Peter Burrows has opted against her request for a sabbatical that would come with pay and benefits.

Now Steele isn't sure if she can afford the Morocco trip. While the district has instead offered her an unpaid leave of absence, such a scenario would result in a financial burden and a loss of family health insurance during her absence.

The Fulbright award includes funding for international travel expenses and living expenses, and health insurance for Steele as an individual. But it doesn't include any medical insurance for her four dependents, nor any compensation for salary or missed pay.

She's in an ironic predicament, given that the ACSD is the only public school system in Vermont that has adopted an International Baccalaureate curriculum, which



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School French teacher Michelle Steele planned on winging her way to Morocco this fall as one of 20 Fulbright Distinguished Teacher awardees nationwide, but vague teachers' contract language and a personnel shortage at MUHS could prevent her from accepting the trip.

emphasizes a broader world view, according to Steele.

"I felt like our district, and (as an) IB World district, we would want to celebrate and support an accomplishment like a Fulbright," she said of her reaction to the recent denial of a paid sabbatical. "Instead, they were telling me that if I wanted to do this research, I would have to jeopardize my family's financial situation to do it. ACSD is happy to boast about this accomplishment, putting my face and award in their Instagram and newsletters to parents, but not happy enough to back me up with financial support to make it happen."

Steele had anticipated ACSD board members would be the final arbiters on her paid sabbatical request.

Article 9 of the teachers' pact states, "a sabbatical leave may be granted at the discretion of the board to any teacher who has taught in the School District for seven years."

But subsequent language in the agreement states, "the principal and superintendent will review the application before making a recommendation to the board. The recommendation may be based on programmatic or financial considerations. Absent a favorable recommendation from both the principal and the superintendent,

the application will not be forwarded to the board."

Superintendent Burrows and MUHS Principal Justin Campbell discussed Steele's request. Steele said Campbell was supportive, but that Burrows elected to deny the request and not forward it to the ACSD board.

Steele said Burrows told her the denial was based a combination of staffing shortages and financial concerns. Unpaid leave was instead offered to her, which Steele said undercut the administration's argument of staffing shortages.

"The difference between unpaid leave and sabbatical leave largely comes down to a question of money and budgeting, in a year when ACSD is facing a budget surplus and a sizable stipend of unused ESSR funds," she said, referring to federal pandemic-recovery money that has temporarily augmented public school districts' cash reserves.

"When looking at unpaid vs sabbatical leave, the staffing issues remain the same," she added.

Also working against Steele's request is that the ACSD hasn't awarded a paid sabbatical in more than a decade, according to leaders with the Addison Central Educators Association (ACEA), the teachers' union.

It's been so long since a sabbatical was granted that ACEA and ACSD negotiators haven't adjusted the language for years, officials said. That will change when talks begin on a new contract; the current one expires in 2024.

'DISRESPECTED'

Steele described her frustration with the denial of paid leave. "When I first heard, I felt very frustrated, but more than anything I felt really disappointed and disrespected," she said. "I even offered to get paid only 0.5 FTE or use any of my (more than) 80 sick days that I have saved up. There was no room for negotiation, it was a hard no."

Burrows pointed to the vagaries in the teachers' pact, which he said would make it hard to award sabbaticals equitably.

"In terms of how many teachers can do it per year, how often, for how long — it's all completely subjective," he said.

He said his decision to deny Steele's paid-sabbatical request was based on the fact that such an ask hasn't been made recently — or perhaps never — and because the contract places no cap on annual sabbatical requests.

"It's not about 'Is the leave meaningful,'" he said. "If we grant one this year, are we granting two or three next year? There's no current process."

George Rooney is an MUHS

educator and an officer with the ACEA.

He believes the reluctance to offer paid sabbaticals could put it at a competitive disadvantage with other school districts when it comes to hiring educators — who are in short supply right now.

"If (sabbaticals) are on your list of things you want out of your district, and if another district is going to offer that, and there are two offers in play, you're going to go with the one that's going to give you the opportunities you're looking for," Rooney said. "If you're

handicapping yourself by taking away something that could be an attractive item to a prospective employee, that's a concern."

Like Steele, Rooney believes Burrows made the wrong call.

"As much as I like the superintendent, he's basically saying, 'If I do this, it's opening it up for a bunch of other people to do it,'" he said. "But there's not a waiting list of people wanting take sabbaticals right now."

Rooney said it's in the district's best interest to resolve the sabbaticals issue quickly.

"If the board and the district

want to support their teachers as they say they do, this is an area where it would really go a long way toward showing this community, 'Yes, we believe in our teachers and believe they are doing the best for our students,'" he said.

Steele appeared before the ACSD board late last month to plead her case.

But Burrows' decision is not appealable.

"It's unfortunate that (Steele is) in a position where she's caught between some dueling language in the contract that's not clear," he said. "I think this (Fulbright trip) would be a phenomenal opportunity for her and the district, for her to bring back any knowledge she gains over there."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



Healthy Cooking Demo

Start the new year with a delicious and healthy lifestyle! Otter Creek's chef, Jeff Trump, as he provides healthy cooking tips and ideas in a live cooking demonstration.

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(Continued from Page 2A) who do not wish to be hit with unexpected large payments. In theory, by receiving the bill early, taxpayers will have more time to prepare. Ironically, as we have seen, the opposite is often true.

In today's world of electronic services, Bill Pay is provided by most banking institutions as a free service. Bill Pay allows taxpayers

to pay a base amount monthly as to avoid a lump sum surprise payment later in the year.

The Finance Office would be happy to advise all townspeople on how such arrangements could be made with their banking institutions. In addition, we will gladly accept checks in the mail or in office throughout the year and out of cycle to avoid these unexpected budgeting problems.

With these issues in mind, those in our office are requesting that the billing cycle move to a two-bill schedule. Billing dates of Nov. 15 and March 15 would allow all homestead deductions to come in before initial bills are mailed. If a transition is voted in by taxpayers, the Finance Office would send a warning to taxpayers in July to alert of the change, further reducing the potential for misunderstanding."

Addison County's Hometown Dealer



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Guest editorials

Free CCV tuition is key to building Vermont's workforce

By Scott Giles and Joyce Judy

We've long known that the most promising jobs in Vermont require education and training beyond high school. Yet too often, Vermonters seeking that education and workforce training cannot afford it. Cost is the primary barrier to postsecondary continuation, and Vermont has one of the country's lowest college-going rates to show for it. Consequently, we also have a workforce in crisis.

One silver lining of the pandemic is that Vermont has come together to make historic investments in college and workforce training affordability. Last year, with generous support from legislators and the governor, Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC) announced the 802 Opportunity Grant: (that provides) free tuition at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) for Vermonters with a family income of \$50,000 or less. In 2022, legislators increased the household income threshold to \$75,000.

Thousands of Vermonters have taken VSAC up on its offer of free tuition. Among them:

- A social worker pursuing a career in mental health who depends on 802 Opportunity to stay out of debt.
- A funeral director, new to the profession, who had been laid off during the pandemic, for whom 802 Opportunity was "a huge weight off my shoulders."
- A behavioral therapist for children with autism says that 802 Opportunity allows her to access education while working full-time.

The power of this program is its inclusivity.

Vermonters of all ages and backgrounds stand to benefit, including working adults, single parents, recent high school graduates, veterans, new Americans, educators, healthcare workers, and entrepreneurs. Fully half of Vermont households are eligible.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, more than 2,000 Vermonters enrolled using 802 Opportunity—close to 50 percent of CCV's degree-seeking students. Vermonters from all 14 counties attended all 12 of CCV's academic centers. Students were 17 to 74 years old, with an average age of 30. Three-quarters or a staggering 1,500 students were the first in their family to go to college. We're learning a key lesson: when we remove the barrier of cost, Vermonters enroll.

Employers need workers with increasingly sophisticated skills, and CCV provides those skills. According to the latest report from the J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation and the Vermont Department of Labor, the high-pay, high-demand jobs with at least 500 openings this decade include jobs in health care, education, and business—the bread and butter of CCV programs. More than 250 of the 802 Opportunity recipients have already completed a certificate or degree, and most are in the fields of health care, childcare, and business.

We know that education is the greatest equalizer when it comes to economic opportunity—and as a rising tide lifts all boats, this is true for individuals and for whole communities. When Governor Scott and the legislature prioritized funding for higher education, they made a gift to individual Vermonters and to our collective economic well-being.

When we continue this positive trajectory by prioritizing and making permanent the state's funding for 802 Opportunity in 2023, Vermont will serve as a powerful example to the nation of a state invested in its future. By expanding access to education and workforce training, we are building the foundation for a more resilient, more equitable, more vibrant Vermont.

Editor's note: Scott Giles is the president and CEO of Vermont Student Assistance Corp; Joyce Judy is president of the Community College of Vermont.

Traditional Medicare is under attack

By Dr. Jack Mayer, MD., MPH

I've spent my professional life as a primary care pediatrician, mostly in Vermont. Now I'm retired and the beneficiary of Medicare.

I see alarming signs that Medicare, a public good, is being privatized and abused by for-profit insurance companies. Their greed threatens the integrity and sustainability of Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans are actively hawked on TV by aggressive private insurers who stand to gain handsomely by enrolling healthier younger seniors. Since they are paid based on each patient's medical record, these private companies routinely "upcode" or exaggerate diagnoses to make their patients appear sicker and thus receive enhanced compensation. One can only use doctors "in network" and care is often delayed or denied by requirements of prior authorization for treatments, medications, tests and consultations.

According to an independent analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation, in 2019 Medicare Advantage plans cost the government \$7 billion more compared to spending for similar beneficiaries under traditional Medicare.

So much of what troubles our current health care system is attributable to the dysfunction of private, for-profit companies seeking ways to milk Medicare for their investors' benefit and to the detriment of seniors.

This is the same "managed care" that was unsuccessful as the HMO model of our recent past. Private companies and accountable care organizations are paid a fixed monthly fee to provide care rather than billing for the care rendered, as is customary with traditional Medicare.

Traditional Medicare is chosen by 52% of seniors. It is now the target of a program initiated by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid (See *Medicare Under Attack*, Page 6A)



From the sky

THE FIRST SNOW of the season is often magical. When a photographer introduces a new perspective on the snowy landscape the magic is magnified. A Cornwall photographer made this image from above his yard back on Dec. 17 during the big storm before the Christmas windstorm. Unfortunately, some of these pines may have blown down in the windstorm.

Photo by Haakon Olsen

Rice and lentils a healthy combo

Ah, January. The magical month where so many of us vow to exercise more, eat healthier, stop wasting money, and generally Be Better. Of course the people who study these things say most of us will have dropped our resolutions, however sincerely formulated, before we even arrive at February. So what's a person to do? My own methodology involves seeking out life improvements that I genuinely enjoy, in the hopes of keeping my healthy habits going all year long.

In that spirit, I would like to share with you, Gentle Readers, my personal Breakfast of Champions: Rice and Lentils. It's cheap, it's healthy, it's good for the environment, it keeps you humming along until lunchtime, and ... it's utterly delicious! Did you know that the average American consumes about 12 pounds of legumes a year?

That's *all* kinds of beans, kidney, black, navy, etc. I couldn't find a statistic for just lentils; they are included in that 12 pounds. That's less than a quarter pound of beans per week. Compare that to how much ketchup the average American eats in a year: a whopping 71 pounds.

For my Power Breakfast, each week I cook up a pot of plain green lentils. When they're soft and tender, they are ready to eat. The cooked lentils store beautifully in the fridge, so you can pull out a small amount for breakfast each morning. I do the same with white basmati rice. It cooks quicker than the lentils, so I make and store it separately. This way, if you need some rice or lentils for any other cooking projects during the week, they are in your fridge, ready to go.

When you make lentils a bigger part of your diet,

you are in great historical company. Humans have been cultivating lentils since around 8000 BCE, where evidence of ancient lentil farming has been found in what is now northern Syria. By 6000 BCE, lentils had made their way to Greece, where apparently they were thought of as food for poor people. Not so in Egypt, however, where evidence of lentils has been found in the royal tombs of Thebes.

Not only are lentils historically valuable, they are a health superfood. The soluble fiber in lentils helps our bodies by lowering cholesterol, which may reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes. Lentils are rich in folate, a nutrient that helps the body build new cells, especially important for anyone pregnant or planning to become so — lentils nourish new life.

Even Mother Earth benefits from lentils. The roots of lentil plants, like those of all legumes, grow nitrogen-fixing nodules, enriching and revitalizing depleted soils. We are lucky that here in Vermont there are many farmers producing meat with respect for the land and with humane farming practices. But for families on a tight food budget, this kind of grass-fed, expensive meat might be better as an occasional treat than a daily staple. Lentils to the rescue.

Now let's get practical. My lentil and rice breakfast is based on an Indian comfort food called Varan Bhaat, which I first read about in a novel by Sonali Dev, called "A Recipe for Persuasion." Side note to Jane Austen fans: Sonali Dev writes beautiful, imaginative re-

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

Ways of Seeing

By Joanna Colwell



Grandkids make life 'fun' again

Over the holidays, while spending more than the usual amount of time with two of our grandchildren, I was reminded of how fun it is to be around little ones. In fact, they slept over one night, and Mark and I had so much fun it took us two days to recover.

Our kids were just as entertaining when they were that age. But it's been 20 years or so since I had a preschooler, and sometimes I forget how constant and unrelenting the fun was back then.

Over the years, as the kids grew up, Mark and I moved on to less exciting times. We had to learn how to have conversations without stopping every eight seconds to say, "Cover your mouth, please," or "Hold that with both hands!"

With just the two of us, we had to adjust to having entire meals without a single meltdown to break up the monotony. We had to get used to sleeping through the night. We had to resign ourselves to an existence rife with privacy and personal space and time to think.

Time passed, and one day I realized I couldn't remember the last time I'd found a piece of Fig Newton ground into the carpet or been startled awake at 5:30 a.m. by a concerned child, her face inches from mine, asking where her Dora the Explorer socks were.

Luckily, we have the grandkids to remind us of the good old days. When we're with them, they make sure

we're having fun every single minute, even when we're on the phone or in the bathroom or letting the dog in or out (he likes to get in on the action, too). Together, they can keep us engaged without a moment's peace for hours on end. It's invigorating, honestly.

When they were here last week and Mark was at work, they teamed up all day to eliminate any risk that I might get bored. At one point, for example, my granddaughter asked me to help her blow her nose. While I held a tissue to her face, my grandson stubbed his toe. While I attended to him as he howled and rolled around on the floor in a World Cup-worthy flop, his sister spilled her milk.

While I was grabbing a rag, her brother wailed that the dog had stolen the last bite of his bagel. Just then, his sister burst into tears because her toe had touched the milk puddle, putting her at risk of imminent death from wet sock syndrome unless she immediately changed her entire outfit.

The day carried on like that, with the kids filling in the slower periods by talking nonstop and saying "Nana!" over and over any time I failed to actively observe them, say, coloring.

Lucky for Mark, the kids saved some of their best material for when he got home after a long day on

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond



Letters to the Editor

Articles were very informative

I appreciate the articles written by Dr. G. Fjeld and Mr. Richard Hopkins in a recent *Addison Independent*.

From complicated information about Medicare and bus/train travel in Vermont, each gentleman clarified information that, for many of us, was a tangle of details.

Merci Messieurs!

Diane Mortier
Lincoln

GMP crews get kudos for work

This is a letter of a very sincere thank you from all our family to the incredible efforts by the Green Mountain Power crews who worked tirelessly to restore power to Middlebury homes (and all other homes). We watched a crew working into the very cold Christmas Eve night as they removed the fallen tree which had knocked out power to the neighborhood. Due to their efforts we had power on Christmas. Thank you.

Don Witscher
Middlebury

'Vermont Public' name a misfire

I couldn't agree more with Paul Stone's letter (12/22/22) about the new moniker for Vermont Public Radio & TV's consolidation. It also struck *me* as rather odd, perhaps even silly.

Vermont Public WHAT?

Mr. Stone pointed out the names American Public Media and Delaware Public Media as examples of sensible and descriptive monikers.

I would like to add another. OPB, which stands for Oregon Public Broadcasting. Oregon's Public Radio and TV stations are contained in one location in the southwest section of the city of Portland, Ore. During one of my many visits to Portland, I called them and asked if I could have a tour of the facility.

The employees who escorted me on the tour of the building were very welcoming and friendly. Seeing how everything was set up at OPB was so interesting to me, as a longtime radio broadcaster.

The name Oregon Public Broadcasting is simple and describes exactly what they are and do. Oregon Public Broadcasting.

In his letter, Paul mentioned that he wrote to Vermont Public, objecting to the new name. Their answer was laughable. But sad. It took them two years to come up with such a vague and stupid description?

And I will bet that they didn't ask one member of the "public" for an opinion or idea.

They replied to Paul that they were "talking long and hard." How hard can it be to come up with the word "Broadcasting" when you work in the business of broadcasting?

I've worked in broadcasting for over 35 years. They should have called me when they were trying to figure it out. Or they could have called Oregon Public Broadcasting! They would have been happy to help out.

That said, I enjoy watching Public Television and was a monthly contributor for many years. I'll just try not to cringe too often when I hear them identify the station.

Diane Desmond
Addison

Great Ice Storm of '98 recalled

As Vermonters recover from two back-to-back, end-of-year, severe storms that hammered homeowners, businesses and farms, some may recall the Great Ice Storm of early January 1998.

While my household in Middlebury was recently without power for four days as a result

(See *Terry* letter, Page 5A)

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First responders showed their value in prime time

Millions of people were watching Monday night football this week. They saw Damar Hamlin collapse and the medical staff rush in to start CPR within seconds.

We still don't know if he will recover fully, or what his condition might be after rehab.

But we do know those first responders, whether they were trainers, paramedics, physicians or the ambulance crew, gave him the best possible chance. That is what your EMTs do every day. In Vermont they are often volunteers or paid a pittance for their life-saving work!

Please, everyone, thank your local first responders, donate generously when they ask for support, and learn the basics of CPR so you can help save someone if you are first on scene when someone "goes down."
**Alice Grau, retired EMT
Bridport**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
workings of Jane Austen novels, set in modern-day California, among a loving, complicated, extended Indian-American family. I highly recommend these books.

To make one serving of my lentil-rice power breakfast, I sauté a small amount of onion in one to two tablespoons of ghee. Ghee is clarified butter, a staple of Indian cooking. You can buy it in a jar or

make your own or substitute regular butter or oil. When the onions are soft, I add a scoop each of cooked rice and lentils, plus about half a cup of water. When everything is piping hot I add a handful of washed spinach. More folate, yay! Then I season to taste with more ghee or butter, a generous squeeze of fresh lemon, and salt. Please try this delicious, inexpensive, earth-friendly, deeply nourishing

breakfast and let me know what you think. I wish you the happiest, healthiest New Year.

Joanna Colwell is the founder and director of Otter Creek Yoga and Middlebury's own Yoga Equity Project. She invites you to join her in helping people have access to lifesaving healthcare by becoming a member of the National Network of Abortion Funds — check them out online!

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)
his feet. They tackled him at the door, demanding that he get on the floor and wrestle with them for the standard duration: 30 minutes or until someone bumped their head, whichever came first. What a welcome change from his normal routine of taking a long, hot bath and then putting his feet up for the evening.

That night, we blew up the youth-sized air mattresses we had naively bought a few years ago with the notion that the kids would feel safer

sleeping in our bedroom. Invariably, our grandson ends up in bed with us after 10 minutes, citing a bad dream he predicts he will have later.

By 11 p.m. on these nights, sleeping arrangements in our bed are as follows, from left to right: blankets hanging to the floor on Mark's side, then Mark, then a child starfish in the middle, then a cat, then me on the right-hand eight inches of the mattress, with no blankets whatsoever, clinging to the edge.

This time, I wasn't in the mood to engage my grip strength all night

while risking hypothermia. So I curled up in the fetal position on the unused air mattress and pretended I was camping.

At 5:30 the next morning — after a night during which I discovered the only thing more restful than sleeping on an air mattress that is 18 inches shorter than your body — I was startled awake by a concerned child, her face inches from mine, asking where her unicorn slippers were.

It feels so good to have fun again.

Terry letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
of Storm Eliot, also known as a bomb cyclone, my mind kept wandering back to 25 years ago when a blanket of ice — up to four inches thick — smothered Northern Vermont, New York and southern Quebec from Jan. 6 to 10, 1998.

The result was devastating. The damage from the ice storm was estimated to be over \$3 billion, with millions of customers losing power, some for several weeks, as well as millions of acres of trees damaged. The human toll was even more startling as some 40 deaths were attributed to storm impacts.

I was working at Green Mountain Power then and witnessed firsthand the severe damage caused by the storm. At the time, before the 2012 acquisition of CVPS, GMP had 83,200 customers and 40,000 lost power, many for one week.

Many Vermonters still recall hearing heavily ice-laden trees with big branches, as well as power poles, come crashing down with a loud crack as the icing continued to build up to four inches on structures.

Powerline crews had great difficulty reaching some of GMP's customers. They were helped by the Vermont National Guard, who had to fight their way through roads that were blocked by downed trees.

For perspective, Vermont utility line crews start to get very nervous about prolonged outages when ice build-up is about one-half an inch. The massive 1998 storm deposited up to four inches of ice over four days. Not even the strongest tree or steel utility transmission structure could withstand that pounding.

Customers lost power as the ice storm caused many massive Hydro Quebec steel transmission towers

to topple like matchsticks, shutting off exports south to Vermont. As a result, electrons generated by Vermont Yankee and fossil-fuel fired plants in Southern New England were shifted north to Northwest Vermont to meet the demand.

There were many lessons from the Great Ice Storm.

Dotty Schnure, the longtime GMP director of communications, recently recalled that in advance of the big ice storm GMP started an advance planning effort to bring to GMP 200 line crews and support personnel from out of state to augment the home force of about 60 linemen and associated personnel. Those lessons are now standard operating procedures before any big weather event.

For example, for the recent storm, GMP had 400 line workers and contracted out-of-state crews working around the clock through Christmas to restore power for more than 75,000 customers.

In 1987, Vermont had signed a 25-year, \$4 billion contract with Hydro Quebec, the government-owned utility, to supply power to Vermont utilities known as the Vermont Joint Owners.

The 1998 ice storm had a major impact on Vermont-Hydro Quebec relations that resulted in the establishment of an international arbitration panel to decide

whether Vermont utilities should be compensated for the loss of replacement power from Jan. 5, 1998, to mid-March 1998 that it had to buy to satisfy customer demand.

The Joint Owners sued Hydro-Quebec in 1998 for breach of contract arguing that the provincial utility failed in its duty to keep its big transmission lines updated to withstand the impact of the

storm. The Vermont utilities were also seeking to end the long-term contract with HQ, which at the time was above market compared to regional energy and demand prices.

Hydro-Quebec forcefully argued that it was not at fault because the ice storm was an "Act of God" and, therefore, excused from paying Vermont for power losses. HQ was also very much opposed to ending the Vermont contract as it was quite profitable for the province of Quebec.

The International Arbitration Panel, an expensive legal proceeding, continued until April 2001 when it ruled that although the Vermont Joint Owners could recover some of the additional power costs, it agreed with Hydro-Quebec that the ice storm was an "Act of God." It also firmly rejected the effort to end the power contract.

That said, sometimes it pays to not get what you wished to achieve. Such was the case of the HQ-Vermont 1987 contract, which in the end proved to be beneficial for Vermont ratepayers.

While the decision at the time was disappointing for the Vermont parties, it proved later to be favorable for the state as regional market power costs then rose above the fixed price (except for inflation) in the HQ contract, and remained so for the duration.

A subsequent long-term contract was signed in 2010 with HQ, the same year the Legislature and the governor enacted into law hydropower as a "renewable" resource.

**Stephen C. Terry
Middlebury**

Editor's note: Stephen C. Terry retired as senior vice president of Green Mountain Power in 2014, after 29 years with the utility.

Fireworks are a fiery metaphor

For a moment, it looks as if the weather might reshape another holiday celebration.

Like many others across the United States, our family's Christmas was altered by the collision of a bomb cyclone and polar vortex, which brought gale-force winds and frigid temperatures to our corner of the world and knocked out our power for nearly two days. Thankfully, my parents, who live across town, never lost theirs. As the sun set on our cold, dark house on Christmas Eve, we packed up all our children, food, and gifts and unleashed Christmas on the grandparents. Sadly, our church never regained power in time for either the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services; my children felt this loss more keenly than I expected, but we all adjusted. God knows we've all gotten used to adjusting since this decade began.

So when it begins raining as dark falls on New Year's Eve and my already-exhausted children seem increasingly unenthusiastic about carrying on our tradition of attending Middlebury's annual fireworks display, I prepare to adjust our plans yet again.

As it turns out, the rain slows to a manageable drizzle and we're able to muster enough momentum to load everyone into the minivan and be driven very slowly by our 15-year-old (who just got her learner's permit) to the elementary school.

This is where the peculiar magic of small-town fireworks begins.

We pile out of the minivan and cross the parking lot to the sidewalk by the chain-link fence that surrounds the playing fields. The wet pavement shines under the lights from the field. Other people are lining up to watch, but it's hardly crowded. We wave to a few people we know, but for the most part, everyone seems clumped up in their family units. It's dark, and we're already turning our eyes to the spot on the field next to a U-Haul trailer, where a couple of silhouettes are preparing the fireworks.

Suddenly, the lights switch off, and the fireworks begin with a sparkling gold tail that shoots up above our heads and explodes into a ball of glittering pink fragments.

The silence is, to me, the most profound thing about our town's little fireworks display each year. There is no soundtrack, no orchestra: For about twenty minutes, we watch in relative quiet as shimmering colors pop and explode over our heads. Aside from a few murmurs in response to a particularly impressive pyrotechnic, or the occasional question from my children ("Are fireworks bad for the environment?"), we stand together with neighbors and strangers, our heads tipped silently towards the sky.

And yes, it's beautiful; every year I'm grateful to those silhouettes wielding torches on the ground, who bring us this lovely display of color and light. But the truth is

that there have probably been very few innovations in fireworks design over the decades — at least, not many that have made their way to our little Vermont town. They are round, or reminiscent of weeping willows with a delicate fall of sparkles, or flare-like. They are pink, red, green, blue, gold. One year is much like any other. So why do we keep going, year after year?

For that matter, why do we set off fireworks on New Year's Eve? Neighboring towns have their fireworks shows on July 4, which makes more sense from both a climate perspective (it's significantly warmer in July than in January) and a narrative: Fireworks have a martial quality that seems appropriate when observing the War for Independence (the rocket's red glare, and whatnot).

As it turns out, launching fireworks on the New Year can be traced back to the Chinese, who invented fireworks in the 7th century and set them off during New Year celebrations in order to scare away evil spirits with noise and light.

Perhaps to our peril, evil spirits don't enter much into the worldview of most modern, post-Enlightenment people. But standing underneath this year's fireworks display, I'm curiously moved. The noise — those booms and pops and sizzles — may ward off evil, but it's also a perfect, primal way to commemorate all the emotions of the past year. We make noise when we're very happy or very sad: A single BOOM can contain all the explosive joys and griefs stored up in a human heart over the course of a year. I used to find the lack of musical accompaniment unsettling, but now I'm grateful that our town doesn't cover up the booms with military marches.

It might have been enough for the medieval Chinese to invent

fireworks that made a loud noise and stop there, but they went the extra step and made them beautiful. During the grand finale of this year's fireworks show, I see galaxies unfolding above me — our tiny human attempt to create a manageable universe from our pinprick point in space. There is something touchingly defiant about shooting flares of light and color out into the vast darkness.

"What's the purpose of fireworks, anyway?" asks one of my adolescent cynics.

We stand there amid the booms and the sparkles, together with a couple hundred people, our heads tipped up to the sky. If you could zoom out of this moment, you would see similar clusters of people around our state, throughout our country, across the globe, faces gazing up, illuminated by tiny pops and flashes.

What's the purpose of all this useless noise and beauty?

Maybe we're scaring away evil, or celebrating another year of life, or mourning our dead, or seeking entertainment. But in this moment, all I can think of are the Whos from Dr. Seuss's classic children's book "Horton Hears a Who!" The Whos live on a speck of dust atop a clover, and when called upon to prove their existence they all cry out, "We are here! We are here! We are here! We are here!"

Fireworks may be one of the most poignant ways in which we humans declare, "We are here!" Isn't that purpose enough? Much like the past year, the year to come will be filled with successes and failures, laughter and sorrow, love and loss, and at the end of it, those who remain will again send flares of ephemeral beauty into the sky with a boom. We are here!

Faith Gong lives in Middlebury with her husband, five children, assorted chickens and ducks, one feisty cat, and one anxiety-prone labradoodle. In her "free time," she writes for her blog, The Pickle Patch.



Clippings

By Faith Gong

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It might have been enough for the medieval Chinese to invent

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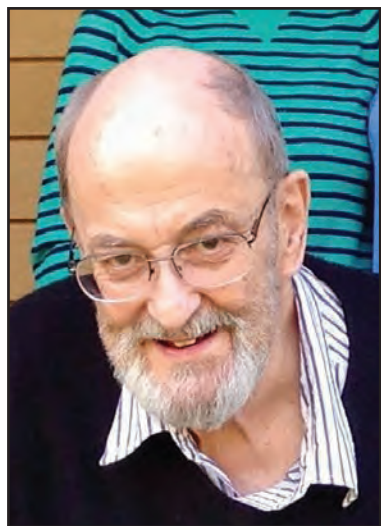
Obituaries

Rev. Wayne Alfred Holsman, 85, of Ripton

RIPTON — The Reverend Wayne Alfred Holsman, age 85, passed away on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at Mountain View Center in Rutland.

Wayne was born on Sept. 8, 1937, in Ware, Mass. Wayne was the last birth recorded in the town of Quabbin, Mass., before it was flooded to create the Quabbin Reservoir. Wayne grew up in the Amherst/Pelham area and attended public schools there. Wayne graduated from Amherst College, and his divinity degree is from Hartford Seminary, before serving as Congregational minister for churches in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont. A believer in sharing resources, and supporting those in need, Wayne was proud to have served in the founding of ACCAG/HOPE. Devoted to human and animal rights, Wayne tirelessly advocated and worked with groups associated with those causes. Coming from a poor family himself, Wayne also helped students who wanted to attend college with that process.

In 1987, Wayne made the decision to stop drinking, and with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, Wayne stayed sober from that point forward. From 1987 on, Wayne worked to help others in their



THE REVEREND WAYNE ALFRED HOLSMAN

recovery. The family would like to express their unending gratitude for the late Joyce Meacham, who was so instrumental in Wayne getting sober.

Wayne was an avid sports fan and loved talking sports with anyone and everyone. He also loved learning, especially about history, current events, and classical languages. He also enjoyed any conversation about politics, human or animal rights, why the Patriots were a disaster, and religion.

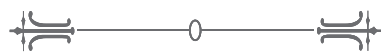
Wayne leaves behind his wife,

Eleanor Holsman, with whom he had been married for 56 years. He also leaves his daughter, Kristin, and husband Paul Francoeur. He adored his grandchildren and is survived by Ben, Amie and her wife Jen Miller, Ryan and his partner Kayla Weiss, and his great-granddaughter Sora Francoeur Miller, and his great-grandsons Rowan F. Miller and Shay F. Miller. He also leaves behind his nephew Ed Davidson (and family), with whom he loved to laugh, and his foster brother, Greg Goodrich. He was predeceased by his beloved grandson, Sam Francoeur.

Wayne loved, and was loved by, many people. He was so thankful for the friendship of many, including his friends Dana, Mac Cox, John Dick, and Nick Atwood.

A celebration of Wayne's life will be held on Jan. 7, at 1 p.m., at the Salisbury Congregational Church. George Valley will officiate. A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot at Brookside Cemetery in Leicester.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to an animal shelter of one's choice. Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. ◊

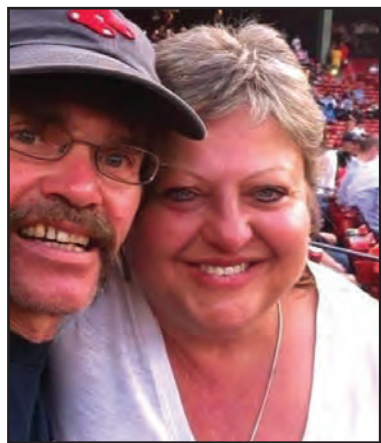


Marie Lalonde Miller, 62, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Marie Lalonde Miller, 62, of Bristol, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family and fiancé, Robert Atherton, on Dec. 17, 2022.

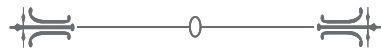
Marie was born on Sept. 28, 1960, and graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 1978. She retired from Phoenix Feeds in 2020 and loved spending her summers in her flower and vegetable gardens. She also so enjoyed her summer trips to Maine with Rob.

Marie is survived by her fiancé, Robert of Bristol; her son, Justin Miller of Middlebury; her brother, Pierre (Missy) Lalonde; niece Lindsay Lalonde; nephews PJ Lalonde and Nathan Lalonde; Aunt Carmen Desforges; Uncle Robert Audet (Claire); and many cousins, including Gail Dubois with whom Marie so enjoyed their weekly phone calls. She is also survived by



MARIE LALONDE MILLER

Rob's sister, Mary Atherton and her children; Heather Layn and family; and Josh Hurlburt and family, who were very special to Marie. She is also survived by Rob's siblings and families including niece Elizabeth and nephew Benjamin, who Marie



Michael William Charron, 56, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Michael William Charron, passed away Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington surrounded by family. He was 56 years old. Mike had been struggling with a heart condition for the past five years. He will be missed so very much!

Mike was born Sept. 13, 1966, in Trenton, N.J. and moved to Ferrisburgh, Vt., when he was three years old. He graduated from Vergennes Union High School in 1984 and attended the University of Vermont.

Mike and Nancy Perkins were married on Aug. 8, 1992. They had two wonderful children, Kyle and Kayla. Mike spent many happy hours as coach for Kyle and Kayla's softball and baseball teams at Ferrisburgh Elementary School and assisted with coaching softball at Vergennes Union High School.

Michael was a skilled carpenter. He worked on many construction projects, including building a house for his parents. He enjoyed working with fellow carpenters at local construction firms including Bristol Construction, M. Gale Builders, Conner & Buck and most recently Clearwater Builders,



MICHAEL WILLIAM CHARRON

and he was also self-employed under the name of Diamond Island Construction.

Mike loved to read, especially comic book collection — his favorite being Spider Man. He enjoyed woodworking and built beautiful furniture for his family. He was always ready to lend a helping hand when needed. On many Sunday afternoons Mike and his mom played intense and competitive games of Casino,

playing for the "championship" with Mike ultimately holding the title of "two up." He was a truly special and wonderful person.

Mike was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Nancy (Perkins) Charron; his son Kyle, and daughter Kayla; his parents Bernard and Maureen Charron; his sister Linda (John) Shandrow; and nieces Samantha (Charlie) Shandrow and Nicolle (Houston) Cote. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Harriet Perkins and her friend Bill Hopkins, and his brother-in-law, Brent Perkins and his daughter Maddie. He leaves behind many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was predeceased by his father-in-law, Dwayne Perkins.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at St. Pete's Church in Vergennes. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to UVM Children's Hospital, 111 Colchester Ave., Main Campus, East Pavilion Level 4, Burlington, VT 05401. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmclayfuneralhomes.com. ◊

Garth Otis Pecor, 51, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Garth Otis Pecor of Middlebury, Vermont passed away unexpectedly Dec. 10, 2022, at his home.

Born Feb. 11, 1971, to Archie "Bud" and Elaine (Butterfly) Pecor, Garth attended and graduated from Middlebury Union High School. He briefly attended Champlain College.

Not enjoying a formal learning environment, he soon focused on one of his passions: computers and technology. For many years, he ran a successful hardware, networking and general IT support business, Macliff Computing Services. He supported several auto dealerships and local businesses as "their IT guy" and was well respected for his keen ability to solve some of the most challenging hardware, network or technical issues.

Garth loved almost any fast vehicle. He enjoyed snowmobiling and made many day trips to places with snow, as he was super bummed when the season didn't provide enough snow to really get out and "fly" close to home.

"Blackie," his much-cherished Camaro, started as stock and over a few decades and modifications, became known to many as "the fastest car in the county." Recently, he had the engine "upgraded" and was excited to have gotten it back; most likely soon to be stored away

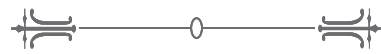


GARTH OTIS PECOR

until spring.

Growing up with family pets, Garth was a true cat-lover, and until recently a cat would be his pet of choice. Enter "Meiko," a sweet little dog who became his canine sidekick over the last year or so. Meiko sometimes accompanied Garth to work and stayed close whenever Garth was near.

In the late 1990s Garth seriously began fitness training and spent many hours at the gym, sometimes in the company of his father early on, and maintained a very active membership at Middlebury Fitness; sometimes going several times a week and sometimes "jogging in" from his residence a few miles



Mathew H. Deering, 40, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Mathew H. Deering, age 40, beloved father, husband and son passed away far too young on Dec. 29, 2022, surrounded by his family, from a ruptured cerebral aneurysm.

Matt was born Feb. 9, 1982, in Middlebury, Vt., to his loving parents David and Debbie (Carpenter) Deering.

Matt graduated from Middlebury Union High School in 2000. He attended Colby Sawyer College and Castleton State College. He drove trucks for one of his dearest friends at Misty Knoll Farm. His previous employers included Cabot Creamery, Donnell Belgians, and Champlain Valley MotorSports.

Matt is survived by his wife, Lisa (Bellmore) and children Sierra Pomainville, Victor "Cody" Pomainville and William Deering; parents David and Debbie Deering and brother Patrick Deering; father and mother-in-law, Kurt and Sandra Pope, brothers-in-law Tyler Pope (Michelle) and Zachary Bellmore; sisters-in-law Jennifer Freeman (Kevin), Kylee Rochon (Craig), Lori Blair (Darren), Jaime Cram and Brooke Bellmore; grandmothers Donna (O'Connor) Carpenter and Leola (Mitchell) Deering; goddaughter Dakota Blair; sister of the heart, Jodi Layn; daughter of the heart Hannah Hulchanski; and many beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



MATHEW H. DEERING

Matt was predeceased by his grandfathers, Russell C. Carpenter and Harold Deering, as well as aunts Zilda Deering and Anna Taylor.

Matt married his best friend, Lisa, on Aug. 19, 2006, in Middlebury, Vt. They shared a passion for travel and fine foods. Matt loved spending time with Lisa and his children on family vacations. Some of his favorite vacation destinations were Kennebunkport, Maine, Las Vegas, Nev., and Yankee stadium, where he shared his love of the New York Yankees with his sons.

Matt was the proud teamster for Donnell Belgians, where he worked for his grandparents, Donna and Russell Carpenter. With his papa at his side, papa's hobby became

away.

Garth was predeceased by his parents Archie "Bud" and Elaine (Butterfly) Pecor; beloved aunts and uncles Wilma Pecor, Caresse (Pecor) Monteith, Joyce Gilbeau, Marie (Butterfly) Reynolds and George and Glenda Butterfly; paternal grandparents, Archie and Ruth (Otis) Pecor; and maternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Costello) Butterfly.

He is survived by his son, Nicholas Otis Pecor; sisters Wendy (Pecor) Marcisofsky (Anthony) and Caresse (Pecor) Whyte (TJ); nephew Ty Whyte; cousins Orenda Pecor, Skye (Aiken) Brummert (Matthew) and Gabrielle Montieth; and the mother of his son, Kim Lizotte.

Garth also leaves behind a large circle of close friends, acquaintances, loyal customers and his longtime companion Brandy Brown and her children.

A Celebration of Life was scheduled by friends for Dec. 18, at 1 p.m., at the Middlebury VFW. The family will hold a private service in spring or summer 2023 at Greenwood Cemetery in Bristol, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations may be sent to Homeward Bound — Addison County's Humane Society in Middlebury Vt. ◊

Medicare under attack

(Continued from Page 4A)
Innovation of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services during the Trump administration called Medicare Direct Contracting. This program has been given the go-ahead to enroll up to 30 million of the 36 million current recipients of traditional Medicare without their consent in a new arrangement with a direct contracting entity, now called REACH.

These direct contracting entities would be permitted to spend as little of 60% to 75% of their payments on patient care and could keep the rest for profit and expenses. In comparison, traditional Medicare

pays 98% of its expenditures on patient care, with only 2% spent for administrative costs. Direct contracting entities have attracted lots of interest from Wall Street investors because they are profitable.

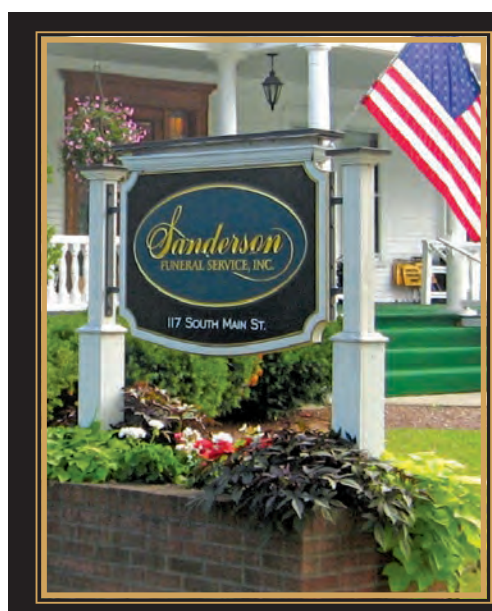
We are still tinkering about the edges of the failed model of health care as a marketplace. It is not, and our health care as a nation suffers from inequality, poor access, and personal expense.

Every other industrialized nation provides nationalized care and gets better outcomes for their public investment in care for all. There are many models, but they are based on the premise

of equal access to health care for all. That was the promise of Medicare too, but it is being undermined by greedy insurance companies and investors.

I am reminded of what Winston Churchill said of America: "You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing after they have tried everything else."

Note: Jack Mayer, M.D., MPH, of Middlebury, is a retired pediatrician and writer who founded Rainbow Pediatrics in Middlebury in 1991. He has been a persistent critic of the private health care system in the United States.



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follow certain guidelines. These guidelines are published on our web site: addisonindependent.com. Families may opt for

unedited paid obituaries, which are designated with "◊" at the end.



MUSTANGS AT THE Devil's Garden Corral in California await transport to the Rising Action Mustangs farm in New Haven, Vt., a training and adoption facility for the wild horses. RAMS co-founders Madison Berry and Jasmine Foster domesticate these horses and help them find a forever home with a New England owner.



MADISON BERRY WORKS with Merlin, a mustang she adopted in 2021. Berry runs the nonprofit farm Rising Action Mustangs with co-founder Jasmine Foster and domesticates wild horses so that they can find their forever homes.

Photos courtesy of Madison Berry

Mustangs

(Continued from Page 1A)
 been taken off the land by 2021 and placed in federal holding facilities, managed by government entities like the U.S. Forestry Service.

“Long term, having a lot of horses in pens is not an option. So, having people who train and adopt them and are willing to give them a chance is really, really important as a solution long term for the environment and for the wellbeing of those horses,” Foster said.

At RAMS, Berry and Foster socialize, train and adopt out mustangs that were previously kept in federal holding facilities out West. Berry said these mustangs make for great horses, but their potential is often unseen.

“That’s one of our biggest things, being a marketing face for mustangs. Getting them out there and promoting them and showing people not only are they incredible horses, but they can be affordable and there’s tons of them that need help,” she said.

Berry and Foster opened RAMS in October of 2021, though they hadn’t originally planned to start a nonprofit. Their experience with mustangs began a year earlier, when the pair was looking to purchase some horses of their own.

Both had a love for horses and experience in the horse racing industry. They were originally in the market for a couple of thoroughbreds, a breed of horse popular for their reputation as racehorses.

“The horse market kind of popped off in 2020 and so we were looking at mustangs because they were more affordable, and that was something we had talked

about doing at some point,” Berry explained.

The pair were easy converts and quickly fell in love with the two mustangs they purchased in 2020. Foster said they both realized their experiences working in the horse racing industry had provided them with a lot of the skills they needed to train mustangs.

“They’re overpopulated, a lot of the ranges that they’re living on are going through droughts, and a lot of them die each year from extreme thirst.”

— Jasmine Foster

Berry spent years working at Hinesburg’s After the Track, a nonprofit that retrains and rehomes former thoroughbred racehorses. Foster has a degree in animal biology and previously worked at the Ashford Stud in Kentucky, a farm that breeds thoroughbreds for racing.

“We came from different parts of the same world and that gave us a surprising amount of baseline skills of teaching horses new things and resocializing a horse from one environment that they’re used to being in to another environment,” Foster said.

Berry and Foster began training wild horses for people they knew, and the operation continued to grow as more people learned about the farm. Foster said that there are few mustang adoption facilities in New England, so people were excited to learn that someone in Vermont was training and adopting out the wild horses.

“Word got out in the broader mustang community, which is really active on Facebook, that there was someone in Vermont doing mustangs. It just kind of snowballed from there and we realized early on that the nonprofit route was the way that we wanted to go,” she said.

Over the past 14 months, the pair has helped train and rehome

around 30 horses. Their farm gets its horses from a few different herd management areas in the West, but mostly the Devil’s Garden corral in California. They serve as a remote pick-up location for Devil’s Garden and have received most of their horses from that corral as a result of connections they’ve made there.

READY FOR ADOPTION
 Once the horses arrive in New Haven, Berry and Foster socialize and train them, getting the mustangs ready for adoption. Foster said that the length of this process differs with every horse, usually taking around two months for younger horses and as much as a year for older ones.

“The older (mustangs) get, I like to say they’ve lived in the wild long enough that they know they don’t need you. So, they take longer to convince that the domestic life is a good one,” Foster explained.

After the horses are trained, Foster and Berry work with prospective owners throughout New England and upstate New York to find the horse that’s right for them. Adoption fees range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 and are determined based on training level, athletic potential and operating costs.

They said finding the right match is an important part of the adoption process and of making sure each horse finds its forever home.

“I like to tell people that if you’re a horse person, there is a mustang out there for you,” Foster said. “I don’t think there would be a well-meaning person that has some horse experience that I would turn away, it’s just a matter of finding the mustang for you.”

Berry and Foster said it’s also OK if a match doesn’t work out. They take in horses from owners that have realized a mustang isn’t a good fit for them, and Foster said there are some horses that might not ever be ready for adoption and RAMS will continue to care for

them at the farm.

As of now, Berry and Foster are running most of the operations at the farm on their own. They have help from a few volunteers and are actively looking to train more people to help with chores like feeding, watering and grooming.

The pair is also hoping to expand their operations by creating a program that would allow for youth riders in the area to lease available horses for competitions. The effort is a work in progress, but something Berry and Foster are excited to get started.

“We’d love to be able to have available horses for free or for super cheap for kids who otherwise don’t really have access to that,” she said. “The first time I see a youth rider riding one of our horses, it’s going to be exciting.”

In the meantime, the duo is enjoying the work on the farm they’ve grown together and the progress they’re making with the horses they receive. Foster said watching each horse’s progression is what she enjoys most about her work at RAMS.

“There’s something about whenever the switch flips from ‘you’re a wild horse and I’m a human’ to ‘we’re just pals.’ There’s just this beat where you realize that they’ve come all the way around, and it’s just really wonderful,” she said.

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Thank you

To all who sent cards and greetings for my 80th birthday during this busy time of year, thank you!

It made it special.
 — Kirk Fiske

Festival on Green meeting set Jan. 11

MIDDLEBURY — The 44th season of the Middlebury Summer Festival on the Green brings a free week of fantastic performances to the Middlebury Village Green during the week of July 9 through 15, 2023. The Festival, which is planned and hosted entirely by

volunteers, is one of the premier summer arts events in Addison County.

We need you to help make this year’s Festival on the Green a great success. Please join us for our Virtual Annual Meeting on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan.

11, 2023. Virtually “meet” your neighbors, co-workers and friends who are current festival volunteers and let us know how you’d like to be involved.

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Wallace takes reins of Turning Point Ctr.

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Turning Point Center of Addison County will continue planning for a new headquarters under the leadership of a relatively new executive director.

Her name is Danielle Wallace. She served on the TPC board for around three years until she resigned this past February to take what was a newly created position of assistant director of the nonprofit organization, which delivers direct services and group programs for individuals in recovery for substance use disorder.

Wallace was named Turning Point Center's executive director in late June when Mayhew resigned under strained circumstances, according with those with knowledge of the split. Mayhew, a new mom who led TPC through a period of tremendous growth during her 18-month tenure, said she's not yet at liberty to discuss the circumstances surrounding her departure.

Prior to joining TPC staff, Wallace had spent five years coordinator of the Court Diversion, Driving License Suspended, and Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program for Addison County Restorative Justice Services. She completed her bachelor's degree in Mental Health and Human Services with an Addiction focus through the University of Maine at Augusta during the summer of 2017. She participated in a two-semester senior internship with WomenSafe in Middlebury as a domestic and sexual violence advocate and has continued to work with WomenSafe as a part-



DANIELLE WALLACE

time advocate.

A native of Mount Desert Island, Maine, Wallace moved to Vermont in 2016. She resides in Vergennes with her two-year-old daughter.

Past TPC directors have had a history of dealing with substance use disorder personally or as a family member, and Wallace continues that tradition.

"I am a person in recovery, and I am extremely passionate about (the TPC's) mission," she said. "The first self-help meeting I went to when I moved to Vermont was at the TPC. It was the first place I really found community, and community is key to recovery."

Wallace helms TPC during a particularly exciting time in its history. The organization just landed a \$1 million federal grant to fix up the former St. Mary's School on Shannon Street to use as an Addison County Hope & Recovery Center (see story on



Getting out and about

A GROUP OF Frost Mountain Nordic Ski Club skiers made the most of the snow — while we had it — with a training run around the course at the Rikert Nordic Center in Ripton in mid-December. The pre-Christmas thaw and windstorm put a temporary end to most skiing in the area, but there is a little white stuff in the forecast for next week.

Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

Grant

(Continued from Page 1A) transform the former St. Mary's Catholic School at 86 Shannon St. in Middlebury into a multi-use "Addison County Hope & Recovery Community Center."

It's a project that's being championed by the Turning Point Center of Addison County, which will be one of several health and human services tenants that will deliver direct services and group programs for individuals in recovery for substance use disorder. This grant was advanced by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee while the legislation was working its way through Congress.

The other locally focused appropriations, some of which were shepherded through the process by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders or Congressman Peter Welch, include:

- \$550,000 for the Patricia Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury to create a new program that will provide advanced manufacturing training and internships to Addison County students. Around \$300,000 of that

grant award will be spent on new career center equipment, with the remaining \$250,000 spent on coordination, training and instruction. Supported by Leahy.

- \$425,000 for Ferrisburgh's Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to digitize and publish documents, archives and primary sources in the museum's collection relating to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and other important maritime activities on Lake Champlain. Supported by Leahy.

- \$250,000 for the Yellow House Community, a Middlebury residential care facility that provides safe housing, supported community engagement and meaningful activities for Vermont adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's one of only two intentional communities in Vermont offering an alternative to adult foster care. Advanced by Welch.

- \$55,000 for Ferrisburgh's Rokeby Museum, for an exhibit that explores the history of enslavement and the Underground Railroad in Vermont, and the impacts of slavery and racism in Vermont communities today.

Advanced by Sanders.

- \$18,000 for an electric motorcycle for the Brandon Police Department, and \$7,000 for a solar array to reduce energy costs for — and the carbon footprint of — the Brandon Senior Citizens Center. Sanders advanced both of these grants.

All three members of the state's Congressional delegation were pleased to see the grants survive a bruising FY23 budget process.

The FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill ended up being the final piece of legislation to be passed by Leahy during his 48-year career in the Senate. Leahy's last day as a U.S. Senator was Jan. 3 — the day that Welch was sworn in as his replacement. Leahy departed having cast 17,374 votes — the second-highest vote total in Senate history.

"I am proud that I have been able to give Vermont a center seat at the table as this bill was written and fund programs that will make a real difference in the lives of Vermonters," Leahy said of the FY23 earmarks. "Whether it is supporting the revitalization of our historic downtowns or providing the resources to grow born-in-Vermont ideas into national programs, these bills make worthwhile investments

across Vermont."

TURNING POINT GRANT

Danielle Wallace, executive director of the Turning Point Center (TPC), stressed the importance of the \$1 million grant for the Hope & Recovery Center, estimated at \$3.5 million. The \$1 million earmark was a make-or-break component for the project, which will involve major repairs to the now-dormant, 11,000-square-foot St. Mary's School. The structure's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems need to be completely revamped.

"Without this earmark, I think the project looked bleak, in terms of being able to make it a possibility," Wallace said.

Now TPC can show prospective donors, foundations and lending institutions that the project has a \$1 million foundation that can be built upon. Wallace said Turning Point will apply for more grants in the coming weeks.

TPC is one of 12 peer recovery centers in Vermont that offer support for individuals and their families seeking recovery from substance use disorder and other addictions. The organization and its recovery programs are currently wedged into 3,300 square feet at 54A Creek Road.

"To be able to move from this space that's small into a building where there would be so many opportunities is exciting," Wallace said.

Terms of the project call for St. Mary's to maintain ownership of its improved Shannon Street building, with TPC and like-minded organizations receiving long-term, affordable tenancies.

Wallace is looking forward to being able to offer Turning Point guests a larger venue close to the downtown that could accommodate group sessions and one-on-one recovery coaching. She explained TPC's Creek Road spot is tougher to get to for people who don't have vehicles or find it difficult to take public transportation.

"It opens up opportunities for having more volunteers and for people to walk to our services," she said of the Shannon Street building.

Much of the groundwork for the Hope & Recovery Community Center was laid by former TPC Executive Director Jennifer Mayhew. Now a consultant with Vermont Healthcare Consulting who's helping other nonprofits navigate growth, Mayhew said TPC's \$1 million earmark should also be seen as "an affirmation

offer outdoor education around car camping, backpacking, hiking, hunting and outdoor wilderness skills.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Leahy told the *Independent* the following about his support for the TPC's \$1 million request: "This request stood out because it restores a building in the community and, more importantly, allows Turning Point to improve and expand its services, which have never been needed more," he said. "I am proud of their work and proud to support this project, and I was proud to include these funds in this bill."

Father Luke Austin, pastor of St. Mary's Church, believes higher forces than even Vermont's Congressional delegation may have been at work on the TPC's financial request.

"At a time when it looked like the project was stalled, someone on the Parish Council suggested we ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession, under her title, 'Mary, Undoer of Knots,'" Austin said through an email. "It's one of Pope Francis's favorite prayers. It appears she has undone a pretty big knot."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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VERMONT FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION

Conlon

(Continued from Page 1A)
 been a 17-year run serving the Addison Central School District (ACSD). He said he would officially leave by the end of this month.

His service on the school board began in 2005, when he was first elected as Cornwall's delegate to the former UD-3 school board, which presided over Middlebury Union middle and high schools.

Conlon went on to chair the UD-3 board, a leadership assignment that carried over to the ACSD board when that panel was formed as a result of school governance consolidation through Act 46 in 2016.

"It's clear my role in the Legislature ... is going to take up a lot of my bandwidth, and as a result I didn't think I could be as good a board member as I would want to be," Conlon told the *Independent* — where he was once employed as a reporter and then news editor. "It also can be challenging to serve two separate sets of voters, and this will make things much cleaner for me."

The departure of Conlon could be the tip of the iceberg in terms of major turnover on the ACSD board this winter; four other incumbents will see their terms expire this March. Conlon's latest term was to have run until March 2024. Cornwall's Chris Kramer has already confirmed his interest in being appointed to the vacancy until this March, when he (and other Cornwall residents) will have the option of running for the remaining year on Conlon's term.

It will be one of five ACSD board spots up for grabs on Town Meeting Day, March 7. The 13-member board sets budgets and educational policy for preK-grade 12 students in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge. Incumbents whose terms are up in March include Suzanne Buck, board Chair Victoria Jette, Mary Gill and Jennifer Nuceder.

The *Independent* reached out to all four incumbents to get a sense of their 2023 election plans. Nuceder confirmed she won't run again, while Gill said she is undecided. The *Independent* has yet to hear back from Buck and Jette.

The filing deadline for candidates is Jan. 30.

Substantial turnover on the ACSD board could prompt major changes board policy on a variety of topics — including district charter changes. The board has been wrestling with a charter change that would give ACSD residents more of a say in whether their local school should be closed in the future. A supermajority vote of the board can now close a school, but the



PETER CONLON

board is considering a charter change that would also require either a majority vote of district residents, or a majority vote of people in the town where the school is located.

A group called Save Our Schools was scheduled to file a petition this week asking the ACSD board to put those two choices on the March 7 Town Meeting Day ballot.

The *Independent* will offer more reporting on the petition when it makes its way to the ACSD board for consideration.

CONLON LEGACY
 M e a n w h i l e , Conlon leaves the ACSD board having been a part of major decisions and changes in the district's operations and framework. Among them: A transition to the International Baccalaureate

program, adding 6th-graders to Middlebury Union Middle School, school governance consolidation, the withdrawal (and subsequent re-entry) of Ripton from the district, the creation of a first-ever strategic plan and a facilities plan, and the current debate over a major bond

to make basic repairs to ACSD schools.

He also chaired three separate sets of contract negotiations with ACSD teachers and support staff.

Looking ahead, Conlon believes the ACSD board will face a big challenge keeping expenses in check, given rising education costs and capital needs.

"I think the cost of education for the taxpayers of the district will continue to increase and will be coupled with a recognition there are significant facilities needs," he said. "Those two together are going to be challenging for both the board and the voters to deal with."

And the pandemic brought other student needs into focus, he noted.

"The increasing social and emotional needs of children will continue to tax the school system, and the school system has to address them, because (the schools) take whatever lands at their door every day," he said. "But that work has to include the community, families and social services in Addison County."

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 Conlon has served on the House Education Committee since 2017. He takes over for former chair Kathryn Webb, D-Shelburne, who has retired.

He said House Education will have a busy 2023 session that will include school construction needs; evaluations of PCB chemicals in school buildings; a potential major change in how childcare is funded in Vermont, which could in turn affect public school systems; and the continuing implementation of new laws revamping special education (Act 173) and the pupil weighting system — both of which will have a major bearing on education funding.

Kramer in 2021 ran unsuccessfully against Conlon for Cornwall's lone seat on the ACSD board. But he's remained active on the local education scene. He's now in his fourth year as co-chair of the nonprofit Friends of Cornwall School and has two children enrolled at Bingham Memorial School.

Among other things, Kramer

has worked with selectboard to secure recovery money for programs, and led the effort for the purchase of an additional outdoor tent and other outdoor teaching and learning supplies to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

If appointed to the Cornwall spot, Kramer intends to run for re-election in March and has mapped out two sets of priorities for his work on the ACSD board. In the shorter term, he'd like to help the board potentially select a new superintendent (current Superintendent Peter Burrows

has worked with his town's selectboard to secure recovery money for programs, and led the effort for the purchase of an additional outdoor tent and other outdoor teaching and learning supplies to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

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said he's looking at other jobs), determine the scope of a major bond to repair the district's school buildings, and decide how to change the ACSD charter on the matter of school closures (he is an officer of Save Our Schools).

He's mapped out three other, broader goals that include addressing the phase-out of federal ESSER funds for COVID recovery, overseeing the continued improvement of MUMS operations, and approving the district's next strategic plan.

While Kramer would favor allowing ACSD towns a direct referendum, he said he doesn't support the notion of the ACSD

reverting to a supervisory union, where towns would again have jurisdiction over their own local schools.

"It is important to remember, first of all, that the State Board of Education (SBE) defines supervisory union boundaries," he said. "Therefore, even if we were all our own separate districts, there is no guarantee that the SBE would redraw the same SU boundary that we previously had. The SBE has just demonstrated its unpredictability in drawing SU boundaries, by choosing to isolate Ripton rather than draw a boundary that would have allowed them to work with us or a neighboring supervisory union. So, I would be hesitant to rely on them to recreate our previous SU configuration, even if it seemed logical."

The *Independent* will provide more coverage on ACSD board candidates during the lead-up to Town Meeting Day.

"I think the cost of education for the taxpayers of the district will continue to increase and will be coupled with a recognition there are significant facilities needs ... Those two together are going to be challenging for both the board and the voters to deal with."

— Peter Conlon

REPAIR FAIR FIXERS NEEDED

Addison County Solid Waste Management District is seeking volunteers repair experts for our upcoming **Clothing Repair Fair and Swap Shop on February 25th!**

This winter's fair will be for clothing, jewelry, and accessories to teach residents mending skills, offer simple repairs, and promote re-use in one fun community event!

Examples of fixer skills include:

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MIDDLEBURY, VT

WELLNESS Directory

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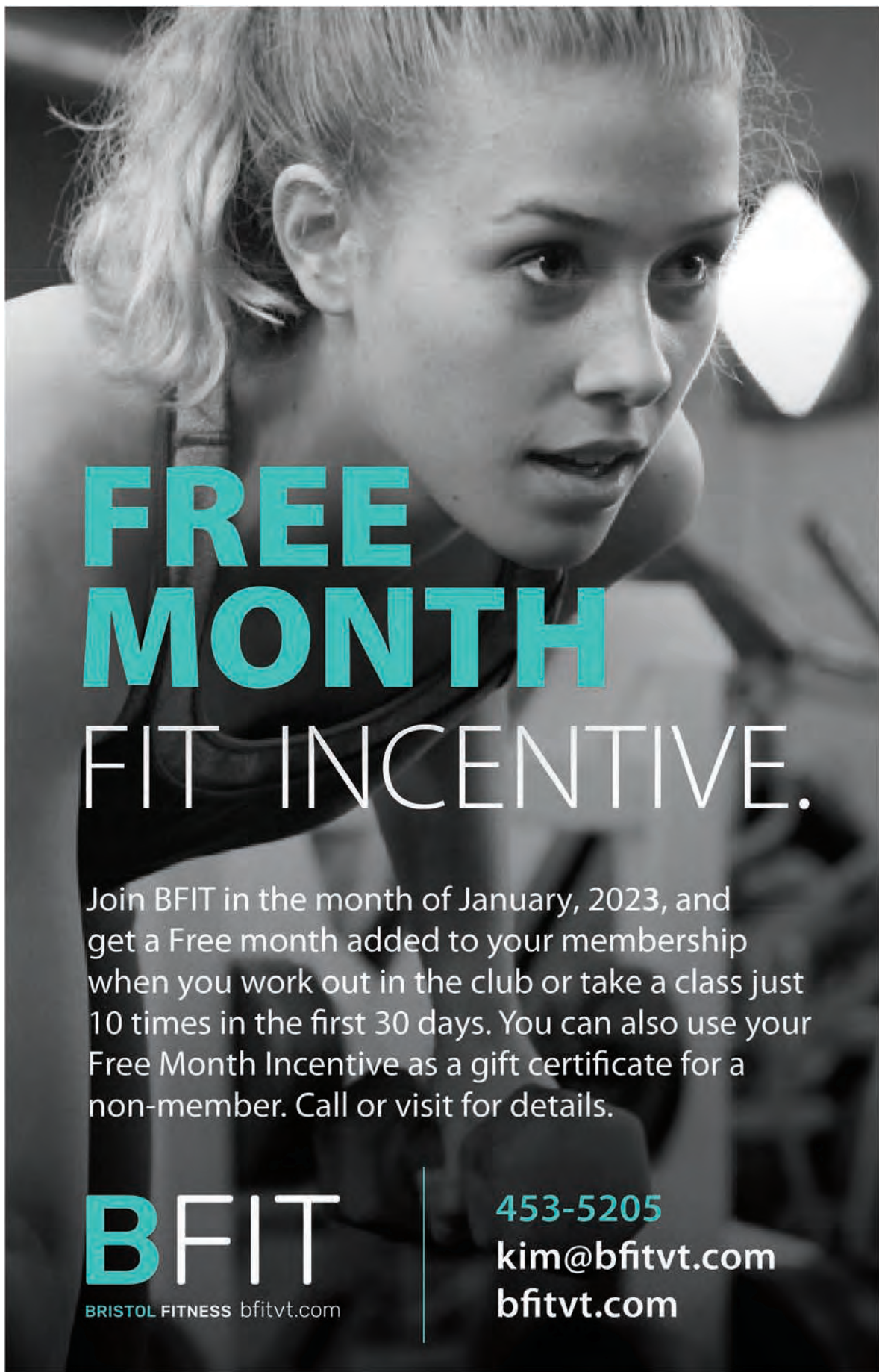
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Police asking for help identifying robber

VERGENNES — Police in Vergennes this week were asking for the public's help in finding a young man who broke into a city convenience store on the night of New Year's Day.

Police on Monday reported on their Facebook page that they had surveillance camera photos of a man using a rock to break the glass door of the Maplefields on South Water Street at around 11:50 p.m. on Jan. 1. The assailant was described as "a

young white male with brown hair, wearing gray slippers, black socks, black/gray plaid fleece pajama pants, a black jacket, and an orange hooded sweatshirt, which was used to conceal his face."

Another distinguishing feature was a dark-colored bracelet on the man's left wrist.

The surveillance photos showed the man inside store taking a drink and perhaps cigarettes.

On Monday evening, at least one

person on the VPD Facebook page claimed to be able to identify the man in the photos. Shortly thereafter, the post was taken down from the page.

Police ask that anyone with any information call Vergennes Police Officer Mark Barber at 802-877-1152.

On Wednesday afternoon, a police officer at the department declined to say if the break-in was still being investigated or if anyone had been charged.

Hunting & Trapping lawbooks available

MONTPELIER — Vermont 2023 hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses, as well as the 2023 lawbooks for these activities, are now available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website and wherever licenses are sold.

"License sales have helped pay for some of Vermont's greatest conservation successes," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick, "from managing habitat for game species, to restoring our populations of the bald eagle and common loon."

With ice fishing opening around the state as soon as cold temperatures arrive in January, Vermonters are encouraged to pick up their 2023 licenses at the earliest convenience. Existing five-year,



permanent or lifetime licenses can be updated online on Jan. 1.

License buyers can also easily add a \$15 Habitat Stamp to their purchase to further support habitat conservation in Vermont.

"In addition to updating your license, it is helpful for hunters, trappers, and anglers to pick up the current 2023 lawbook," added Commissioner Herrick. "Hunters and trappers will find important details on several new laws passed in 2022, and anglers can revisit the simplified fishing regulations introduced last year."

Print copies of the 2023 Hunting & Trapping Lawbook and the 2023 Fishing Lawbook are available from license agents statewide. The department's website has links to online versions as well.

Noise rules

(Continued from Page 1A)
College student who are tenants of off-campus housing.

"The existing noise ordinance, at 1 a.m., it's almost like a no-noise-ordinance at all," McGrath told selectboard members at their Tuesday meeting. "Rolling back the timeline to 11 p.m., I think, sends the right message that noise and disruption are taken seriously. The 1 a.m. timeline is simply an enabler, not a deterrent. To me, it's no coincidence that the college parties that I have to endure break up between 12:30-1 a.m. And the 12:30-1 a.m. time is kind of the worst of it... So rolling the timeline back will no doubt bring back some level of civility to the neighborhoods with a message that makes sense."

Residents will have a final opportunity to comment on the proposed ordinance at a public hearing to be held Tuesday, Jan. 24.

Other changes in the noise ordinance are minor and involve tightening language, noted Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley, who revised the law based on feedback from town officials and residents.

"It's an attempt to keep things calm in the face of noise, while keeping it as simple as possible," Hanley said

of the ordinance amendments. "We want this to be as straightforward as possible."

But officials conceded the ordinance might not be straightforward for the college, which hosts a variety of functions each year, some of them in the evening. Selectboard members said dispensation for occasional late, on-campus events could be made through the noise ordinance or, as Selectman Andy Hooper said, an application for a Class 2 assemblage permit that could include exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

The revised ordinance will continue to include exemptions for "emergency vehicles operated by fire, police or rescue agencies and public works or public utility vehicles when used during snow operation or emergency repairs to service."

Construction noises related to "excavation, erection, demolition, alteration, or repair of any buildings, structure, property or street" are potential noise violations between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., "except for necessary emergency repairs to

protect property of persons when such activity utilizes motorized or powered tools or equipment."

Trash haulers must also adhere to the ordinance restrictions.

The revised ordinance, unlike the current version, doesn't specify types of noise that will trigger a visit from police. It simply speaks to "any excessive, unnecessary, or unreasonably loud noise or disturbance."

"It is subjective, and the majority of it isn't hours-based, it's noise-based complaints," selectboard Chair Brian Carpenter said. "I think our police department does a really nice job with that."

Violators can be fined up to \$800 for each offense, with a waiver fine of \$200. Each violation constitutes a separate offense.

North Street resident John Tenny, who like McGrath lives close to student housing, thanked the selectboard for tightening the noise ordinance.

"As a resident who has come to you before on this issue, I'd like to say I appreciate what's been done here," he told the board.

"We want to be mindful of protecting the neighborhood while allowing people to have a reasonable time," he added. "The changes and time limits are certainly reasonable in residential neighborhoods."

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MIDDLEBURY, VT

Delay

(Continued from Page 1A)

“What we’re describing here is a transformed middle school,” Superintendent Sheila Soule told the board on Dec. 12.

ANWSD Director of Learning Gabe Hamilton and Equity & Inclusion Coordinator Monica Desrochers also spoke at that meeting.

Hamilton said the administrative team made the decision after research that included consultations with teachers, staff members, students and parents (at least some of whom were skeptical, officials acknowledged) in small groups, individually and in forums; visits to other middle schools; and, in Hamilton’s case, acting as an 8th-grader for a day at VUHS.

Their conclusion was that ANWSD’s middle school should focus on “socio-emotional, cognitive, psychological and physical” development, and support the “development of empathy and healthy peer relationships.”

It should also provide “learning that is active, is personally meaningful, and invites students to make a difference in the world,” Hamilton said, in part by incorporating proficiency-based and experiential learning with flexible scheduling.

Most of the rest of the nation has already changed to a middle-school model that includes 6th-graders — and often 5th-graders — in with grades 7-8, district officials have said.

Soule explained why back in early September, after the district first announced it would move 6th-graders (current 5th-graders) from Vergennes Union Elementary and Ferrisburgh Central schools to VUHS in 2023.

Soule said 6th-graders have more in common with students in grades 7 and 8 than with younger elementary school pupils.

“They’re entering into a stage in their lives that is just unique and different,” she said. “Their needs change, and it makes sense to create a learning environment that can really support them through this transition period.”

Soule said an interdisciplinary, team-oriented middle-school approach is more effective for 6th-graders.

“For example, they’re very peer-oriented in this age group, so engaging them in a way that allows them to interact more with their peers (is effective),” she said. “They’re very motivated by ideas of fairness, social justice, so giving them more leadership opportunities to be involved as peers with each other ... and leadership of the school, those are all really wonderful, appropriate experiences for them.”

GROUNDWORK

Because of those pluses, the district remains committed to the move. But officials said more preparation is necessary. Soule said teachers told administrators they want more training in the new directions being planned, and that meanwhile the district will introduce the concepts to ANWSD 6th-graders in their elementary schools.

“They don’t feel like they have the right foundation to move those kids over with this in its current

state,” Soule said. “They feel like they need that support to prioritize social and emotional learning and have those tools in place to really feel good about having the 6th grade over here. So, again, we’re teaming with 6th grade next year. We’re engaging with sixth grade next year. They’re just not going to be under this roof.”

Desrochers said, however, educators have been on board with the process.

“Ultimately we want to bring students over when they are really well received and prepared,” she said. “And our teachers were expressing a need for a little bit more time, and in that time we are making forward progress. We are moving closer than ever. Our middle-level teachers are doing an incredible job of just brainstorming and researching and going on school visits with us and giving feedback and working with us to make this an incredible experience.”

Soule said in her written report to the board that “We are eager to have all middle school students together in one building, however, it became clear as we listened to our staff and families that there would be a benefit in delaying only this aspect of the change while we accelerate and place a stronger emphasis on other aspects of the plan ...

“An important part of our plan includes hiring our middle school principal this spring so this individual can be part of the decision-making and relationship-building going forward.”

Hamilton added there are other details that add uncertainty to the timing, including the redesign and renovation of the upper floor of the classroom wing to accommodate the middle school. That floor now houses high school classrooms.

On the other hand, ANWSD Board Chair John Stroup added that once the middle school space is worked out to accommodate the change, that process will resolve other space issues in the district.

Stroup said VUES is tight on space, Ferrisburgh’s school is ideal for preschool expansion and could use more room for that purpose, and VUHS currently is an under-used structure due to declining enrollment.

The postponement of moving ANWSD 6th-graders to the middle school also comes in wake of the rocky transition that Addison Central School District experienced when it moved its 6th-graders to Middlebury Union Middle School in the fall of 2021. After a school year that saw an avalanche of student behavior problems — many of them associated with a transition back to in-person classes following virtual learning during the pandemic. Several MUMS teachers left for other jobs and the school hired a co-principal and a dean of climate & culture to bring more order to the middle school.

NEW MODEL?

In their Dec. 12 presentation to the ANWSD board, Hamilton and Desrochers used PowerPoint slides that indicated the importance of middle school, including that 8th-grade academic performance is “the best indicator” of college success, and that success in the middle grades “strongly affects the likelihood of high school graduation.”

They presented research on one approach that might accomplish those goals — a “house model,” that could eventually create three multi-age groups of about 65 students each at the VUHS middle school.

That model would offer a number of benefits, according to the presentation:

- “Inquiry-based interdisciplinary learning experiences.”
- “Opportunities for educators to co-create these rich learning opportunities with students & colleagues on their team.”
- “Additional opportunities for school-community partnerships.”
- “Student-driven learning experiences aligned to content proficiencies and transferable skills.”
- “Enrichment of Personalized Learning Plans.”
- Closer ties to the community through learning partnerships and celebrations.

Hamilton said there is no set timetable for a decision on exactly what that transformation would look like, reminding the board the house model is not set in stone.

In her written report to the board, Soule said:

“The most important work currently underway is related to establishing the foundation for stronger social-emotional learning. Systems and structures as well as teaching and learning practices all need to be considered and addressed as we look ahead. Additionally, we will establish the middle school model that will best serve our students. A variety of proposals are being considered and a model will be collaboratively developed over the next few months.”

In response to a question whether the change could be put off again, Soule said that was not likely. She said although the move of 6th grade was postponed for a year, the preparation, including working with the class that will make the move, continues.

“We’re full speed ahead on this,” Soule said.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

no ornaments, tinsel, wire or garlands. This collection is only for trees, so please don’t put out wreaths. If you miss the curbside collection or don’t reside in Vergennes and Middlebury, fear not: Any Addison County Solid Waste Management District resident can drop off Christmas trees at the transfer station (off Route 7 South in Middlebury) during operating hours for free through the month of January. Same rules: No decorations, no wreaths.

Rearranging that closet to make room for the old because you received something new? Is your New Year’s resolution to downsize or declutter? Consider donating those gently used items to the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation, which is in the planning stages for its annual Indoor Yard Sale, to be held in late February. Organizers are looking for clean, gently used items, including some types of furniture. Organizers aren’t able to take old electronics, computers, books, cassettes or VHS. Also, no clothes, please. Items can be dropped off at 3319 South Route 116, Bristol. Last year, the foundation awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to area tech students and supported three area rescue squads with \$1,000 grants. The foundation also supported the Have A Heart Food Shelf and homeless veterans, both with \$500 contributions, as well as gave \$2,000 to the Jackman Heatshare Program and \$500 to the Charter House Emergency Shelter in Middlebury. Established in memory of the late Brendon Cousino, the Med47 Foundation raises funds to provide equipment to area rescue squads and scholarships for students to attend trade schools. For more information, call Cindy Cousino at 802-233-8334 or

email emcousino@gmavt.net

Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife Specialist Tyler Brown will give a PowerPoint presentation titled “Leave it to Beaver” on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 7-8 p.m., at the Salisbury Congregational Church. He’ll provide an overview of beaver biology, history, management and the beaver baffle program. The program is free.

Vermont House Rep. Joe Andriano, D-Orwell, will hold his first legislative office hours at the Whiting Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 1-3 p.m. Stop in to meet the new rep. for Addison-Rutland (Whiting, Shoreham, Orwell, Hubbardton, Sudbury). There will be snacks,

beverages and a warm welcome for all. Contact Carolyn Schmidt at 802-623-8075, or at carolynschmidt@hushmail.com for more information.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 2.3 cents per gallon during the past week, now averaging \$3.35 per gallon, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations in Vermont. Prices in Vermont are 40.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and 1.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The cheapest station in Vermont this week was \$3.13, the most expensive \$3.99. The national average price of gasoline is \$3.17.




SUPERINTENDENT SHEILA SOULE

ANSWERS:

Addy Indy Numbers Quiz

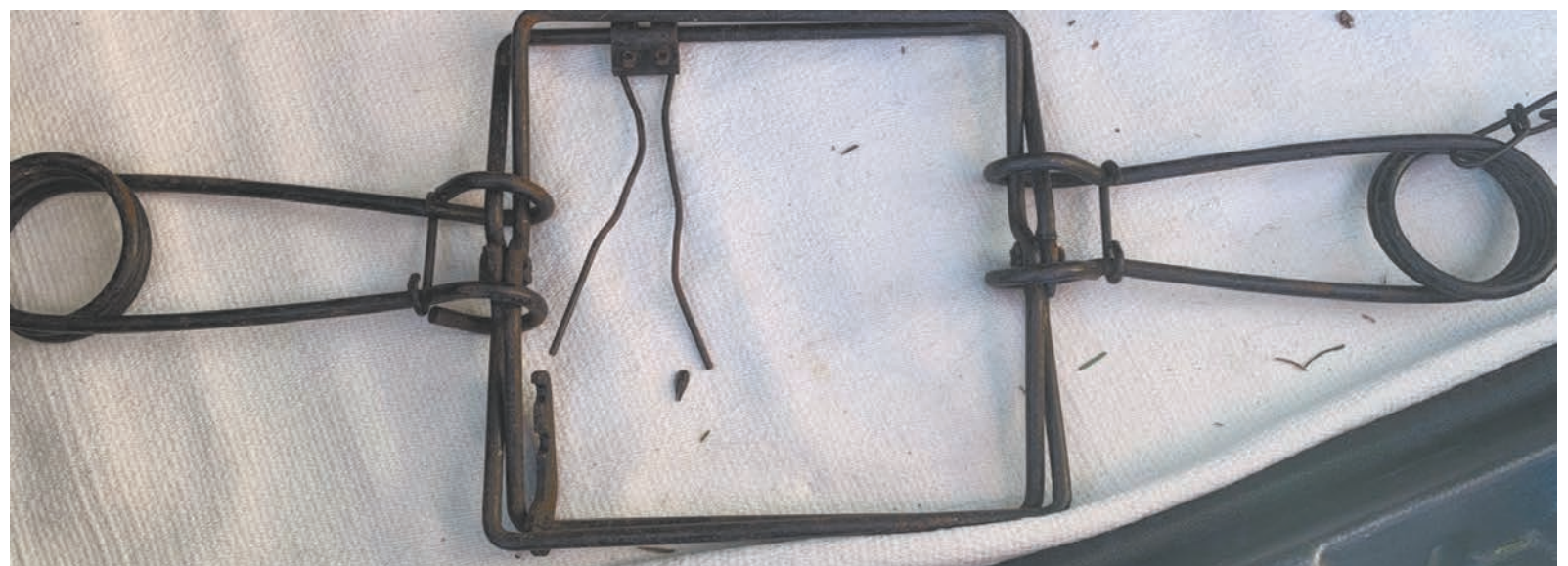
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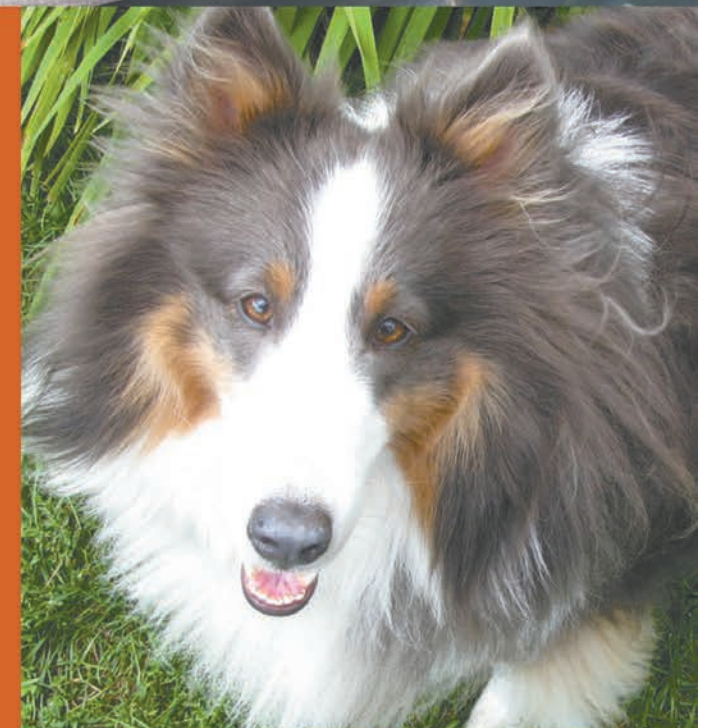
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Shoreham Memory Tree 2022

The following names were remembered on the Shoreham Memory Tree this year:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maize Hescok | Megan Barber | Edgar Turpin |
| Alberta Wood | Caroline Menard | Larry Rogers |
| Gloria Rathbun | James B. Walker | Sherry Kerr |
| Malcolm & Adah Douglas | Paul & Ethel Bohne | Elizabeth & Eric Causton |
| Alonzo Audet | Catherine Menard | Lawrence J Bishop |
| Grandma Bessie Menard | Jean Silver | SSGT Jordan Phillip Snow |
| Margaret A. Bishop | Peg Greenwood | Emerelda Ferland |
| Andy & Myrna Tremblay | Cherry Bohne | Leslie Wood Sr. |
| Haleg | Joan & Bill Watt | Stephen Bass |
| Margaret Bishop | Pete Coe | Ernest Turpin |
| Bob & Betty Douglas | Chris Bass | Louise Hubbell |
| Helen Landon | Joe Warren | Thomas Menard |
| Mary Ann Turpin | Ralph Menard | Ernie Franzgrote |
| Bobby Warren | Cindy Orleans | Lyle Greenwood |
| Howard Warren | Katherine M. Walker | Thomas Edwards |
| Maudie M Bishop | Robert E. Taylor | Ethel Edwards |
| Buttons Ortuno | Clinton & Patricia Bass | Mabelle Audet |
| Inez Hubbell | Katie Lynch | Todd Michael Savage |
| | Robert Hubbell | Frank Silver |
| | Dennis Spruit | Magloire Audet |
| | Ken Van Hazinga | Tom & Alice Bass |
| | Ruth Turpin | |

Special Thanks to Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham for donating the tree.

Charities

(Continued from Page 1A)

Addison County and sits on its steering committee, said the group is not limited to 100 members and could bring in more than \$10,000 for local nonprofits every three months.

"I hope to be funneling a lot more than \$40,000 a year to local organizations through this effort," she said. "There's been a lot of enthusiasm for it, which is great."

The county effort is part of a larger movement. The first 100 Women Who Care meeting took place in 2006, when a Michigan resident rallied 100 women together to quickly and efficiently raise money for local charities. The giving circle model has been recreated throughout the country

ever since.

Women who join the local giving circle donate \$100 quarterly and are at the same time may nominate an area charitable cause to receive the pooled gifts. Nominated organizations must have been in operation for at least three years as of the date of nomination, and must serve Addison County and be a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit.

The group's steering committee handles the members' nominations. Two weeks before the group's quarterly meeting, the committee randomly selects three of the nominated organizations. Their representatives make short presentations at the group's meeting, sharing how they would use the funds if selected.

The group then votes on to which nonprofit they'd like to donate their funds. The organization that receives the most votes receives 70% of the funds. The two runners-up each receive 15%.

100 Women Who Care chapters have started up in other Vermont counties. Knight said she first learned of the giving circle model through the Chittenden County group, and she was invited to attend one of the chapter's meetings this past summer.

"I said, 'I totally want to do this in Addison County,'" she recalled. "Every single person I talked to was like, 'Yes, I want to do that too.'"

Knight worked with fellow steering committee members



PORTER KNIGHT



KIRSTEN PITTS



MELISSA WEST

Kirsten Pitts and Melissa West to put together the Addison County group, which went live last month. Knight said 63 local women have already joined the chapter, and the group is hoping to welcome more members ahead of its first quarterly meeting on Jan. 17.

The group is also putting together a fund that would create spots in the giving circle for local women that are unable to contribute \$100.

"We want to build a list of people who would like to be participating and invite donors to contribute more than the monthly

amount for them to have a spot," Knight explained. "We already have one person who signed up as an anonymous donor and did not want to vote at meetings, so we have one slot now, and maybe we'll have more slots by Jan. 16."

The Addison County group is also looking to take on a fourth steering committee member; interested individuals are encouraged to reach out to Knight or another steering committee member. Knight said there's some flexibility in terms of what that position entails, though the unfilled role involves managing the nomination process. With more nominations expected there will be plenty for a fourth steering committee member to do.

As the steering committee readies for its first meeting, Knight said she's excited about the potential impact the group could have on local organizations.

Soon, the steering committee will randomly select three nonprofits to hear from at its first meeting. Organizations that have been nominated thus far include Bristol's Have A Heart Community Food Shelf, Turning Point Center of Addison County and WomenSafe.

"I think there's so much to love about this, I think a lot of people are excited about learning about new organizations in the region as well as sharing with other women the organizations that they're interested in," Knight said. "I think we'll have more than 100 women so I'm excited to channel that money back into organizations that do good work for our community."

Those interested in joining 100 Women Who Care, Addison County can learn more online at www.100wacvt.org.

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SPORTS

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- School News
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Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey
 12/28 MUHS vs U-32.....5-0
 12/29 MUHS vs Harwood.....3-0
 1/4 MUHS at Missisquoi.....Late

Boys' Hockey
 12/28 Brookline (MA) vs MUHS.....8-2
 12/29 Milton vs MUHS.....2-2
 1/2 MUHS vs Northfield.....7-0
 1/4 Harwood at MUHS.....Postponed

Boys' Basketball
 12/29 MUHS vs Mill River.....59-24
 Mt. Abe at Randolph.....Postponed to 1/9
 12/30 Hartford vs OV.....70-48
 1/3 Mt. Abe vs Mill River.....73-25
 1/3 VUHS vs OV.....67-60
 1/3 Spaulding at MUHS.....Postponed

Girls' Basketball
 12/29 VUHS vs Winooski.....52-26
 12/29 West Rutland vs OV.....75-25
 12/30 Montpelier vs MUHS.....49-41
 1/2 Fair Haven vs OV.....62-33
 1/2 VUHS at Milton.....56-51 (OT)
 1/4 MUHS at Mt. Abe.....Late
 1/4 Colchester at VUHS.....Late

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Hockey

Tourney at Kenyon Arena

12/31 Manhattanville vs Midd.....4-3
 12/31 UNE vs Cortland.....10-4
 1/1 Cortland vs Midd.....4-1
 1/1 Manhattanville vs UNE.....1-1
Manhattanville Wins Shootout, 2-0

Women's Hockey

1/4 Lake Forest at Midd.....Late

Women's Basketball

Tourney at Babson*

12/30 Babson vs Midd*.....60-51
 12/31 E. Conn vs Midd*.....66-61 (2OT)
 1/3 Midd vs Wellesley.....63-42

Men's Basketball

Tourney at E. Conn*

12/29 Midd vs New Paltz*.....77-61
 12/30 Midd vs E. Conn*.....67-62

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

1/7 MUHS at BBA 5 PM
 1/11 Rice at MUHS 7 PM
 1/14 MUHS at NCU/Lyndon 3 PM

Boys' Hockey

1/7 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield..... 7:15 PM
 1/11 MUHS at Burlington..... 4:30 PM
 1/14 MUHS at Stowe..... 7:30 PM

Boys' Basketball

1/5 VUHS at Stowe 7 PM
 1/6 OV at Mt. Abe 7 PM
 1/6 Fair Haven at MUHS 7 PM
 1/9 MUHS at Rutland..... 6:30 PM
 1/9 Mt. Abe at Randolph 7 PM
 1/10 Mt. Anthony at OV 7 PM
 1/11 Missisquoi at VUHS 7 PM
 1/11 Mt. Abe at N. Country 6:30 PM
 1/13 Mt. Abe at VUHS 7 PM
 1/14 MSJ at OV 2:30 PM
 1/14 MUHS at Missisquoi 1:30 PM

Girls' Basketball

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
 1/7 North Country at VUHS 2:30 PM
 1/7 Enosburg at Mt. Abe 12:30 PM
 1/7 MUHS at Missisquoi 1:30PM
 1/7 OV at Windsor 2:30 PM
 1/10 Missisquoi at VUHS 7 PM
 1/10 Mt. Abe at Colchester 7 PM
 1/10 MUHS at OV 7 PM
 1/12 MUHS at Enosburg..... 7 PM
 1/12 North Country at Mt. Abe..... 7 PM
 1/14 VUHS at OV 6:30 PM

Gymnastics

1/5 Essex at MUHS 6 PM
 1/10 Randolph at MUHS 6 PM

Nordic skiing

1/7..... MUHS at Mt. Anthony
 1/12..... MUHS at Woodstock

Wrestling

1/7.....Mt. Abe/OV at MAU Tourney
 1/11 Mt. Abe at St. J 5:30 PM
 1/12 OV at Springfield 6 PM
 1/13&14..... Essex Tourney

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Hockey

1/6 Wesleyan at Midd 7 PM
 1/7 Trinity at Midd 4 PM
 1/13 Plattsburgh at Midd..... 7 PM

Women's Hockey

1/7 Midd at Endicott..... 3 PM
 1/10 Plattsburgh at Midd..... 7 PM
 1/13 Midd at Colby..... 7 PM
 1/14 Midd at Colby..... 3 PM

Women's Basketball

1/6 Hamilton at Midd..... 7 PM
 1/7 Amherst at Midd..... 3 PM
 1/13 Midd at Bowdoin..... 7 PM
 1/14 Midd at Colby..... 3 PM

Men's Basketball

1/6 Midd at Hamilton..... 7 PM
 1/7 Midd at Amherst..... 3 PM
 1/13 Bowdoin at Midd 7 PM
 1/14 Colby at Midd..... 3 PM



TIGER OWEN LARROW keeps his legs out of the reach of Burr & Burton's Spencer Sheldon on the way to a first-round pin during last week's tournament at MUHS. Larrow pinned four 145-pound opponents.

Independent photo/Steve James

Wrestlers take titles at Tiger meet

Otters take second at 50th annual Hubie Wagner Invitational

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — A deep Otter Valley wrestling team claimed second place out of 19 teams at last week's 50th annual Hubie Wagner Invitational Tournament in Middlebury as the team champions. OV senior Caleb Whitney at 138 pounds was the only Otter to win a weight class, defeating Granville, N.Y.'s Nathan Barber, 6-2, in the final and pinning five opponents while winning seven matches.

But a number of other Otters reached the podium, including three second-place finishers. According to the corrected results, Colchester won the team title with 223 points, followed by OV with

214. Granville was third (214). Fourth-place Springfield was well back with 117 points.

Local wrestlers winning weight classes included Commodore Eli Brace at 132 pounds. The Vergennes Union High Schooler was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler after pinning five straight foes to reach the final, where he upset defending state champion Avery Carl of Middlebury Union High School, 2-0.

Also winning their weight classes were Tiger heavyweight Nick Sheldrick, who steamrolled all six of his foes by pin to win his weight class, and Commodore Caden Howell in the competitive

220-pound class, in which three local wrestlers reached the podium. Howell lost to Mount Abraham's Wyatt Allenson in the round robin phase, where Howell finished second to reach the semifinal round. But he pinned both his semifinal foe and then Springfield's Trent Rumril in the final. Allenson and OV's Keevon Parks ended up squaring off for third and fourth places, with Parks prevailing.

In a 19-team field that also included three New Hampshire schools, MUHS was seventh with 95 points, VUHS was ninth (70.5), and Mount Abe, like the Commodores shorthanded on the day, was 14th (37).



OV SENIOR CALEB Whitney poses on top of the podium after winning the 138-title at the 50th Annual Hubie Wagner Invitational at MUHS last week. Whitney was the only Otter to take a title, but his team claimed second place.

Photo courtesy of Barry Whitney

The tournament consisted of a round robin in each weight class, with the top finishers advancing to semi- or quarterfinals depending on the size of the field. The format guarantees all wrestlers several matches, as opposed to many tournaments with single-elimination formats.

OTTERS

Also reaching the podium for OV were:

- Lincoln Wilcox, third at 132 with a 6-1 record with five pins.
- Kingston Cotter, fourth at 138 with a 4-3 record and three pins.
- Carter Giles, third at 145 with a 5-2 record and four pins.
- Tucker Babcock, second at 153.

Babcock pinned seven opponents to reach the final, where he lost a 4-2 decision to Colchester's Jordan Lavoie.

• Chase Cram, second at 160. Cram finished with a 5-2 record and four pins, losing by pin the Colchester's Cam Katon in the final.

• Isaac Whitney, second at 182 with a 5-1 record and four pins. Champlain Valley's Thomas Murphy pinned him in the final.

Also competing for OV were Thomas Givens (4-3 at 113), Ethan Ross (0-3 at 120), Malachi Sheldrick (3-3 at 152), Lilly Mahoney (0-5 at 160), Drake (See Wrestling, Page 3B)

Commodores pull away late vs. Otters

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Ultimately, Tuesday's boys' high school basketball game between host Vergennes Union and Otter Valley pivoted on a four-minute stretch of the fourth quarter.

The period began with the Commodores nursing a 46-43 lead after the Otters scored the final five points of the third quarter on a Logan Letourneau three and two free throws by Luciano Falco.

OV's Aiden Decker then opened the final eight minutes with a steal and lay-up, and the VUHS lead was a single point.

The teams traded baskets for 90 seconds: Spencer Gebo hit two short jumpers for the Commodores, with Owen Thomas and Letourneau answering with drives each time, with Letourneau's layup at 6:00 setting the score at 48-47, VUHS.

But then the Otters' shots stopped falling, and Commodores started grabbing every miss. OV entered

the period with a 30-25 edge in team rebounding, but the Commodores nabbed 14 of 19 boards in the final eight minutes.

And over the next four minutes the Commodores scored nine unanswered points on the way to a 67-60 victory: Elijah Duprey stuck in a putback, Gebo scored in transition, Levi Cogger converted a three-point play in the lane, and Oakley Francis and Duprey capped the decisive run with free throws, Duprey's making it 59-49 at 1:56.

OV erupted for 11 points down the stretch, seven from Thomas, but the Commodores made eight of 14 free throws to nail down a win that evened their record at 3-3.

VUHS Coach Josh Carter agreed that the late work on the boards was critical. He in particular praised Gebo, who led with 10 boards, and Oakley Francis, who played only the second half as he worked back from an injury. But Coach Carter (See Basketball, Page 2B)



OTTER LOGAN LETOURNEAU soars through the lane on the way to a layup attempt during Tuesday's game at VUHS. Letourneau's 21 points led OV in the losing cause.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther women salvage one in Mass.

WELLESLEY, Mass. — The Middlebury College women's basketball team won once in three recent tries in Wellesley, Mass., dropping two tight contests in Babson's holiday tournament over the weekend before topping host Wellesley on Tuesday.

The 7-5 Panthers will host Hamilton and Amherst this coming Friday and Saturday as their NESCAC schedule opens.

On Dec. 30, host Babson prevailed in the first round of its holiday tournament, 60-51. The Panthers took a 28-20 lead into halftime, but the Beavers outscored them by 21-13 in the third quarter to knot the score at 41-41 entering the final period.

The teams then traded runs. With the score tied at 44-44, Babson rattled off eight unanswered points to take a 52-44 lead with just over five minutes remaining. The Panthers responded with a 7-0 surge capped by a layup from Alex Mustafaj to pull within 52-51 with 3:28 left.

But Babson, ranked No. 9 in NCAA Division III, shut

Middlebury down the rest of the half, but ECSU took the victory by hitting its free throws.

Mustafaj scored 23 to lead the Panthers, and Augusta Dixon added 10. Megan Bauman scored 20 for the Beavers, who improved to 9-1.

On Sunday, Middlebury battled back from a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit against Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), but ended up falling in double overtime, 66-61, in the tournament's consolation game at Babson.

The game was tied late in the half, but ECSU took a 29-25 edge into the final four minutes. ECSU opened the fourth quarter with a 12-4 run to take a 41-29 lead with 5:43 remaining. The Panthers battled back with a 13-1 surge to force overtime, and a three from Reagan McDonald with eight seconds forced overtime at 42-42.

The first extra session saw seven lead changes before a layup by Mustafaj with eight seconds left made it 53-53. ECSU then turned the ball over, but Panther Claire Miller's jumper at the buzzer rimmed out to send the game to a

second overtime.

There, a free throw from Mustafaj leveled the game at 55-55 with 2:16 left. ECSU then went on a 7-3 run to take a 62-57 lead with 39 seconds remaining. A McDonald hoop cut the lead to three, but the Warriors converted four free throws to nail down the win. Danielle O'Brien (18 points) led four Warriors in double figures as they improved to 9-3.

Mustafaj (24), Dixon (13), and Miller and Calie Messina (nine apiece) led the Panthers.

On Tuesday, the Panthers pulled away in the third quarter to post a 63-42 victory at Wellesley. McDonald paced the Panthers with 19 points and hit five of seven three-point attempts, and Mustafaj and Emily Downer added 12 points apiece.

The Panthers lead at the half, 34-24. The teams exchanged runs in the third period, but the Panthers had the last and most significant, hitting three three-pointers and a layup to close the quarter and take an insurmountable 54-32 lead.



VUHS GUARD ELIJAH Duprey winds up on top of OV's Aiden Decker after winning a scramble for a loose ball late in Tuesday's game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James



OV FORWARD DREW Pelkey rejects this shot attempt by VUHS forward Spencer Gebo during Tuesday's game at VUHS. Gebo managed 13 points despite this block.

Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' basketball: VUHS only winner

ADDISON COUNTY — In high school girls' basketball action between Dec. 28 and Jan. 3, Vergennes won two games, Middlebury dropped its only contest, and Otter Valley lost twice to undefeated foes.

Mount Abraham was idle until Wednesday, when the Eagles were scheduled to visit MUHS after the deadline for the sports section.

COMMODORES

On Dec. 29, the Commodores pulled away in the second half to double up host Winooski, 52-26. VUHS led by just nine at the half, 23-14. Ashtin Stearns scored 18 points to lead the Commodores, and Sani Stewart-McIver tossed in 10 points for the Spartans.

On Monday, the Commodores picked up an overtime road

win, 56-51, over Milton. Maeli Rutherford's late hoop for the Yellowjackets forced overtime, but VUHS controlled the extra session. Finnley Jacobson (16 points) and Stearns combined for 30 points as the Commodores improved to 5-2. Marlie Bushey (15 points) and Rutherford (13) led Milton.

OTTERS

On Dec. 29, undefeated West Rutland blitzed visiting OV, 75-25. It was 36-19 at the break. Peyton Guay (30 points) and Arianna Coombs (18 points, 15 in the third quarter) led the 6-0 Horde. Bella Coombs added 10 points. Elena Politano led the Otters with nine points.

On Monday, visiting Fair Haven erupted in the second half for a 62-33 victory over the Otters. The 7-0

Slaters led by eight at the break but kicked it up a notch at both ends in the second half.

Brittney Love (15 points) and Lily Briggs and Izzy Cole (13 points each) sparked a balanced Slater attack. Politano (11 points) and Anna Lee (10) reached double figures as the Otters slipped to 0-6.

TIGERS

On Dec. 30, visiting Montpelier defeated the Tigers, 49-41. Ireland Donahue led the Solons with 22 points.

Ele Sellers's 23 points for MUHS led all scorers, and Cassidy Brown (six points) and Cady Pitner (five) also contributed in the scoring column. The Tigers fell to 1-3 heading into the Wednesday matchup with the 1-4 Eagles.

Basketball

(Continued from Page 1B)

said it was a team-wide effort.

"It was just guys really locking in at that end of the floor. It's the message we've had all season is that we've got to be able to control the boards," Carter said. "I thought Oakley and Spencer did a really nice job getting bodies (boxing out), and everybody else chipped in and did a nice job grabbing rebounds."

OV Coach Mike Stark saw his team fall to 2-3, with all the losses coming on the road to teams with records of .500 or better. He said his young team could have played with more poise down the stretch, but also pointed to six missed layups and five errant free throws in the first half.

"We missed a lot of layups. In the first half we were three for eight from the line, and we're usually at 60 to 78% foul shooting," Stark said. "Missed opportunities and turnovers hurt us. It was a good night for Vergennes and a bad night for us."

Both teams were effective in transition in the first period. VUHS started strong as Duprey scored six points as VUHS took an early 10-4 lead. But OV responded with a 9-0 run that included one of Letourneau's four threes, a Thomas drive and two fast-break hoops to lead, 13-10. Duprey and Abram Francis took turns stealing the ball and assisting each other in transition, but a late Thomas drive gave OV the lead after one period, 15-14.

Duprey scored eight points in the second period, and Gebo added two putbacks as the Commodores took a 27-22 lead into halftime. OV missed its free throws and layups in this period, to Stark's frustration, but still ran its fast break well, with seven transition points, including Ben Adams's buzzer-beater.

Abram Francis sparked the Commodores in the third period with nine points. At the other end, Letourneau hit three threes, and Thomas added one for OV. Two of those threes came when Carter started out the Commodores in a zone in an attempt to slow OV down.

But Stark wasn't excited about the threes. He said his team fell in love with long-range shooting and got away from attacking the basket.

"In the first half we beat them by running, and in the second half we wanted to play halfcourt, sit on the three-point line and shoot," he said.

Stark said he urged the Otters in a second-half timeout to return to playing up-tempo and driving the ball, but the plea went unheard: "The next three possessions were three-point shots."

Carter said the zone didn't work, but the return to the press and man-to-man defense seemed more effective than it was in the first half.

"We were back in their face, and I think that made a little bit of a difference in disrupting them down the stretch," he said. "But Otter Valley is a really scrappy team. I think they moved the ball really

well, they cut really well, and they knocked down some big shots."

Leading OV in the scoring column were Letourneau (21), Thomas (20), Decker (six) and Adams (five).

Stark expects his team to learn from Tuesday and other outings.

"It's a relatively young team," he said. "There's a lot to build off. They just need to make the right decisions at the right time, and a young bunch can do that."

Duprey led VUHS with 23 points, and Abram Francis contributed 17 points, five assists and four steals. Gebo added 13 points, Cogger scored seven, and Oakley Francis added five points.

Carter said the Commodores' defensive work could improve, but appreciated the effort.

"We gambled and got out of position and they made us pay, and I also thought they missed some shots they normally make. That's something we can work on controlling on the defensive end, staying in front and recovering in the full court," Carter said. "But the spirit and energy which the guys played with tonight was the best so far, and I think that we could build off that energy."

Overall, he sees room for progress, and he expects it.

"We're up and down. I'm looking for a little more consistency from our guys. And I think it's about having an attack mentality," he said. "We're working on that aspect, and I think we're growing."

Girls' hockey pushes winning streak to five

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team picked up a pair of shutout victories at its annual holiday tournament last week as the Tigers pushed their winning streak to five games and their record to 5-2.

But the Tigers didn't claim the tournament title, as Burr & Burton also defeated the same two opponents — U-32 and Harwood — and earned the crown based on a better goal differential, 10-0 after two 5-0 victories, as opposed to the

Tigers' 8-0 advantage.

In the opening round of the tournament on Dec. 28, the Tigers blanked U-32, 5-0. Erin Sears paced the MUHS attack with a hat trick, and Nyna Cole and Ila Crowley added a goal apiece. Cole, Sawyer Witscher, Ireland Hanley, Lily Finn and Kenyon Connors chipped in assists, and goalie Ruby Hubbell earned the shutout with 10 saves. Raider goalie Renee Porter stopped 30 shots.

On Dec. 29, MUHS pelted Harwood goalie Jordan Hunter

with 59 shots, and Hunter blocked 56 of them in the Tigers' 3-0 win. Sears, Cole and Hanley managed to get pucks by the Highlander netminder, and Sears, Hanley and Witscher assisted the goals. Hubbell had an easier day of it, making seven saves for her fourth shutout of the winter.

The Tigers were scheduled to visit Missisquoi on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition, and they're set for a head-to-head meeting at Burr & Burton on Saturday.

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EAGLE WYATT ALLENSON pins Joseph Gershon of Essex at last week's tournament at MUHS. Allenson pinned four foes on the way to a fourth-place finish at 220 pounds.

Independent photo/Steve James

Wrestling

(Continued from Page 1B)

Felk (3 2 at 132), Khasey Nolette Gilbert (4 3 at 132), Simon Martin (4 3 at 132), Brice Dusablon (0 4 at 220), and Derek Li (3 3 at 220).

TIGERS

After Sheldrick and Carl, who reached the final at 132 with six

straight pins, the top finish for MUHS came from Alex Sperry, who took third at 26 pounds with a 5 2 record.

Also competing for the Tigers were:

- Kegan Stone, 1 3 at 132
- Owen Larrow, 4 1 at 132

Larrow won his round-robin pool with four pins, but lost his quarterfinal match.

- John Deering, 2-3 at 132
- Stephen Lackard, 1 3 at 132
- Liam Wagner, 1 3 at 220

COMMODORES

After Brace and Howell, no



COMMODORE TIEGEN BUSKEY tries to prevent an opponent from escaping his grasp during a 152-pound match at Middlebury's 50th Annual Hubie Wagner Invitational last week.

Independent photo/Steve James

other VUHS wrestlers reached the podium. Payton Lavoie at 10 pounds fared best with a 3 2 record and three pins.

Also taking to the mat for the Commodores were:

- Jackon Paquin, 0 5 at 132
- Tiegen Buskey, 0 5 at 132

EAGLES

Allenson was the only wrestler from Mount Abe to earn a place on a podium. Also wrestling for Mount Abe were:

- Connor Meacham, 2-3 at 132 pounds
- Maisa Allen, 1 3 at 26

- Clayton Markwell, 1 3 at 132
 - Wesley Husk 4 2 at 132
- Husk was second in his round robin pool, but lost to the eventual champ in a quarterfinal.

Men's hockey drops home contests

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's hockey team dropped a pair of games at its own holiday tournament this past Saturday and Sunday and fell to 1-9 on the season. The Panthers will look to bounce back this weekend when they host NESCAC foes Wesleyan and Trinity on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

This past Saturday, Manhattanville edged the Panthers, 4-3, and the University of New England topped SUNY-Cortland, 10-4. In Sunday's consolation game, Cortland defeated Middlebury, 4-1. In the final, UNE and Manhattanville tied, 1-1, and Manhattanville won a shootout, 2-0, to claim the tourney title.

In Saturday's game, the Panthers lost despite outshooting Manhattanville, 46-16. Valiant goalie Sebastian Woods made 43 saves, while Panther goalie Jake Horoho stopped 12 shots.

Middlebury took the lead at 8:36 of the opening period on a Tucker Lamb goal. Kevin Golden picked up the rebound of a Cole Joslin shot and fed Lamb, who pinged his shot under the crossbar.

Manhattanville responded with three goals in the final 3:56 of the period. At 16:04, Hayden Taylor intercepted a pass and finished high. The Valiants took the lead a minute later, when Lane Paddison converted Mitchell Watson's cross-ice pass. With eight seconds remaining in the period, AJ Bella added a power-play goal.

Middlebury made it 3-2 at 14:36 of the second period on a three-

on-one rush: Joslin blasted home a cross-crease pass from Lamb.

Manhattanville's Josh Fletcher redirected a shot at 6:25 of the third period to restore the two-goal lead. Panther Jin Lee made it 4-3 with 7:09 to go: He collected a loose puck near center ice, skated in and wristed a shot home.

The Panthers fired 11 straight shots over the next five minutes, but the Valiants hung on.

On Sunday, Middlebury lost again despite a 46-25 advantage in shots on goal. Cortland goalie Luca Durante made 45 saves, and the Panthers' Thomas Giroux stopped 21 of the 23 shots he faced. The score was 2-1 when Giroux left his net for an extra skater, and Cortland clinched its win with two empty-net scores.

Cortland netted the only goal of

the opening period at 8:04, when Andrew Clifford skated onto a loose puck at the blueline and ripped a shot that found its way home.

The Red Dragons made it 2-0 at 8:19 of the third period, when Anthony Bernardo shoveled in a cross-crease pass.

With five minutes left in the period, Giroux denied back-to-back shots just outside the crease.

Middlebury sliced the lead to 2-1 at 8:19 of the third period. Wyatt Pastor lifted a shot into the upper-left corner following a stick-to-stick pass from the right slot from Antoine Belisle.

Late in the period, Middlebury fired 14 shots during a four-minute stretch, but Durante and his defense held, and the 7-5-1 Red Dragons added the empty-netters.

Men's hoop wins tournament

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — The Middlebury College men's basketball team opened second-semester play last week by winning Eastern Connecticut's four-team holiday invitational tournament, improving to 10-1 in the process.

The Panthers, ranked No. 9 in last week's NCAA Division III poll, will open their NESCAC schedule this Friday and Saturday with games at Hamilton and Amherst.

On Dec. 30, the Panthers snapped a late tie to defeat host Eastern Connecticut, 67-62, in the championship game of the tournament. With the score tied at 50-50, the Panthers went on an 8-3 run during which Alex Sobel

scored six points, and they cruised to the win from there, hitting five free throws in the waning minutes to nail down the result.

Sobel led the way with 26 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots; he's blocked at least one shot in 36 straight games. Sam Stevens hit four threes and finished with 15 points, freshman guard Even Flaks added nine points, and David Brennan chipped in 10 rebounds and three assists. Jalen Williams scored 20 for 4-8 Eastern Conn.

On the previous day, the Panthers reached the final by turning aside SUNY-New Paltz, 77-61. Middlebury led at the half, 49-29, but New Paltz pulled to within 53-48 with a surge over the

first nine minutes of the second half and then whittled the lead down to 61-59 at 4:25. But Sobel hit three straight hoops and stole the ball at the other end to stall the New Paltz rally, and the Panther defense allowed only two more points the rest of the way.

Sobel finished with 16 points, 14 rebounds, eight assists and four blocks. Stevens scored 19 points, Noah Osher had 16 points, and Flaks tossed in a career-high 13. Rylan Blondo led 7-3 New Paltz with 19 points.

Sobel received the Player of the Tournament Award, and he, Stevens and Flaks earned all-tournament honors.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Middlebury Union High School

Aidan Chance

Middlebury Union High School introduces Aidan Chance, the son of Nicole and Jason Chance of Middlebury, as its Student of the Week. His younger sister, Sadie, is a student at MUMS. Aidan is a well-respected member of the MUHS community and he defines the term "well rounded." He is an accomplished student, a competitive athlete, a volunteer and works in the summer at the Middlebury town pool as a lifeguard.

Aidan has been able to successfully manage his time between his academics and extracurricular commitments, providing him with a healthy balance. He is a candidate for the full International Baccalaureate Diploma and has been a diligent student in each of his classes. He especially enjoys mathematics and science and credits Mr. Harrington for being an inspiration. He also thanks Mr. Krahn for his constant encouragement in the classroom. His teachers appreciate his thoughtful engagement in class. His hard work has paid off as his name regularly appears on the Honor Roll at MUHS.

He's been involved in Scholars Bowl (he says that it is a fun way

to keep on top of trivia) and has run cross country for the Tigers, serving as team captain in the fall. He also plays tennis, but his primary love is swimming, a sport he has participated in since he was seven. He is a member of the Middlebury Aquatic Club, and he hopes to continue to swim in college, likely as a club sport. Aidan's favorite hobbies include mountain biking locally. He also loves to go snowboarding at the Snow Bowl with friends and has done volunteer work with the Vermont Mountain Bike Association in Addison County.

As he looks ahead to life after graduation, Aidan is focusing on smaller colleges in an urban setting. He's considering majors in engineering and economics but is eager to explore a range of options in science-oriented fields. Aidan says he finds it hard to believe how quickly the school year is passing. He has enjoyed his time at MUHS and is grateful for his teachers and friends. He will be missed when he graduates from MUHS, but we know that a bright future awaits Aidan.



Aidan Chance
MUHS



Upcoming Events

- Thursday Jan. 5:**
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
 - Saturday Jan. 7:**
6:30-8:00 PM - Public Skating
 - Sunday Jan. 8:**
2:30-4:00 PM - Public Skating
 - Tuesday, Jan. 10:**
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
3:30-5:00 PM - Stick & Puck
 - Thursday Jan. 12:**
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
3:30-5:00 PM - Stick & Puck
 - Tuesday, Jan. 17:**
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
3:30-5:00 PM - Stick & Puck
 - Thursday Jan. 19:**
9:00-11:00 AM - Public Skating
- Memorial Sports Center
296 Buttolph Drive • Middlebury, VT
802-388-1238
info@memorialsportscenter.org
MemorialSportsCenter.org

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

BTS
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Middlebury

Students of the Week from all area high schools will receive a gift from Otter Creek Bakery. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of Luck to All Addison County Students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

Congratulations Aidan

Rainbow Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT



Way to go,
Aidan

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • Jackmansinc.com

JOHNSON LAW GROUP

Congratulations Students!

Affordable & client-focused legal services

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Keep up the great work,
Aidan

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Vergennes, VT



The wrestling faithful

MANY FORMER TIGER wrestlers returned to the MUHS gym last Wednesday and Friday for the 50th Annual Hubie Wagner Invitational to honor the program and their former coach Hubie Wagner. The list of alumni included Tigers from as far back as the class of 1971. Those who signed in, and the year they graduated, were: Dennis Smith 1986, John Laframboise 1978, Randy Butler 1976, David Sunderland 1983, Donald Patterson 1978, David Shaw 1988, Jason Mercier 1999, Gabe Laberge 2013, Bill Bearor 1975, Scott Sperry 1975 and Chip Piper 1986. And also Steven Lackard 2005, Peter Bearor 1974, Derek Coombs 1998, David Davio 1994, Laurent Lussier 1998, Jake Trautwein 2014, Ethan Raymond 2007, Matt Carl 1988, Brian Sperry 1978 and Scott Elithorpe 1982. And also Wyatt Laberge 2016, Justin Harrington 2002, Tucker Kennett 2022, Calvin Kennett 2022, Liza Raymond (manager) 2007, Erin Gebo (manager) 2017, Nathan Gebo 2016, Craige Burnham 1985, Justin Jackson 2019, and Brian Wager 1981.

Photo by Anna Harrington

Boys' hoop: Eagles, Tigers win

ADDISON COUNTY — In high school boys' basketball action between Dec. 29 and Jan. 3, Mount Abraham and Middlebury each picked up big road wins, and Otter Valley fell away from home.

Vergennes also hosted the Otters on Tuesday; see story on Page 1B.

EAGLES

On Tuesday, Mount Abe breezed past host Mill River, 73-25, after taking a 31-11 halftime lead. Ian Funke scored 10 of his game-high 16 points in the first half for the Eagles, and Hayden Lutz (11 points) and Gavin Bannister (10) joined him in leading 10 Eagles in

the scoring column as their team improved to 2-2. Ryan Smith lead MRU with nine points.

The Eagles' Dec. 30 game at Randolph was postponed to Jan. 9 due to problems with the Randolph school's heating system.

TIGERS

On Dec. 29, the Tigers toasted host Mill River, 59-24. Penn Riney led the Tigers with 21 points and a strong effort on the boards, and more points came from Cole Ashelin (eight), Jack Trudeau (seven) and Willem Berry (six).

The 2-1 Tigers' Tuesday home game vs. undefeated Spaulding

was postponed because of water damage to the MUHS gym floor.

OTTERS

On Dec. 30, host Hartford pulled away late for a 70-48 victory over the Otters. OV pulled to within 10 points after three periods, but the Hurricanes dominated the final eight minutes. Brody Tyburski's 15 points led Hartford.

Connor Denis matched that 15 points for OV, and Logan Letourneau added 10.

The Otters dropped to 2-2 heading into VUHS on Tuesday.

Boys' hockey sees mixed results

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' hockey team went 1-1-1 in action between Dec. 28 and Jan. 2 and stood at 2-3-1 overall heading into a Wednesday evening home game vs. Harwood. The Tigers are scheduled to visit Mount Mansfield on Saturday.

Last week, the Tigers lost the opener of their annual holiday tournament and settled for tie in the consolation game. Brookline, Mass., defeated them on Dec. 28, 8-2. Henry Hunsdorfer, from Kellan Bartlett, and Landon Kean, from Iver Anderson, scored for

the Tigers, and goalie Devon Cyr made 33 saves.

On Dec. 29, the Tigers and Milton skated to a 2-2 tie in a back-and-forth, statistically even game. Milton took the lead in the first period on a Jack Devlin strike, and Sawyer Leonard equalized in the second period for MUHS, assisted by Gus Hodde.

Quinn Collins, again from Hodde, gave the Tigers the lead at 3:09 of the third period, but 1:31 later, Yellowjacket Noah Keeler scored to tie the game. Both goalies, Casey Calzini for MUHS and Milton's Christian Gaudio,

made 20 saves.

On Monday, the Tigers erupted on offense for a 7-0 victory at Northfield. Bartlett led the assault with three goals and an assist, and Collins scored twice and assisted a goal.

Kean and Eliot Heminway also scored. Reed Grant assisted both of Collins's goals, and Jake Kadar, Trevor Schnoor, Hodde, Heminway and Cole Schnoor added assists. Cyr worked a 14-save shutout in goal.

Public Notices can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

WARNING COUNTY OF ADDISON ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A Section 133(3)(a), the taxpayers of the County of Addison are hereby given notice that the annual meeting to discuss the final budget for 2023-2024 will be held at 9:30 am on Friday, January 20, 2023. The meeting will be held in the County Clerk's office at the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury. More information and extra copies of the budget may be obtained by contacting the Addison County Clerk at 802-388-1966 or addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com.

Patricia Ross, Assistant Judge & Jacqueline D. Street, Assistant Judge

REVENUE	2023 – 2024
County Tax 0.005522 Estimate	\$287,201.00
Interest earned	\$40.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$10.00
Passports	\$6,500.00
Wills for Safekeeping	\$6,500.00
Total Income	\$300,251.00

Expenses Court

Contingency	\$200.00
Contracted Services	\$5,320.50
Dues & membership	\$1,350.00
Insurance	\$2,750.00
Passport/Budget Advertising	\$1,700.00
Office expense	\$3,500.00
Court personnel	
Benefits	\$5,525.00
Salaries	\$66,080.50
Audit	\$0.00
Court Subtotal	\$86,426.00

Probate Court

Contingency	\$200.00
Dues	\$225.00
Training & Education	\$100.00
Supplies/equipment	\$100.00
Probate Court subtotal	\$625.00

Sheriff's Building

Bldg & grounds	\$11,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$2,500.00
Custodial	\$3,000.00
Inspections	\$2,200.00
Insurance	\$7,000.00
Utilities	\$18,000.00
Sheriff's Building Subtotal	\$43,700.00

Sheriff's Department

Insurance/Bonds	\$21,000.00
Radio	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$500.00
Telephone	\$4,000.00
Training	\$26,000.00
Valcour/Spillman Personnel	\$3,000.00
Total benefits	\$11,000.00
Total salaries	\$78,000.00
Subtotal	\$144,500.00
Sheriff Capital Reserve	\$25,000.00
Total Expenses	\$300,251.00

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT

CIVIL DIVISION 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

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police operating out of the New Haven barracks dealt with two incidents of drunken driving between Christmas and New Year's.

In the first case, on Dec. 26 at around 9:39 p.m. troopers traveling through Ferrisburgh on Route 7 near Monkton Road saw a motor vehicle violation and stopped a car driven by a man police identified as Eric Hall, 33, of Burlington. The trooper screened Hall, arrested him and took him to the barracks for processing. They cited Hall for driving under the influence, third offense, refusal. He was released to a sober person.

The second local drunken driving case was on Dec. 31, when at around 10 minutes before 8 p.m. troopers responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at a home on Hunt Farm Road in Bristol.

Police report that investigation of this call led them to determine that the complainant, identified Allan Ayala, 40, of Bristol, had operated a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Police cited Ayala for DUI and took him to a detox center.

During this holiday season, the Vermont State Police are reminding Vermonters that neither the state police nor the Vermont Troopers Association solicit money via telephone calls, text messages, emails or by any other means. If you are contacted by someone claiming to represent either the Vermont State Police or the Vermont Troopers Association, and that person is asking for a donation, please do not give them any money or any financial or personal information.

These communications are not legitimate and are part of a phone scam.

Middlebury Police Log

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police launched an investigation into the cause of a car-versus-tree accident off Case Street on Dec. 27. Police said the driver was taken to Porter Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with an unresponsive man on Dec. 26.

- Investigated a report of a domestic disturbance in the South Village Green neighborhood on Dec. 26.

- Received a report of a utility line down across Weybridge Street on Dec. 27.

- Checked on the welfare of a Washington Street resident on Dec. 28 after that person had allegedly sent out "concerning messages," according to police. The person was OK.

- Responded to a report of a tree that had fallen on Halladay Road on Dec. 29.

- Received a report that a vehicle recently reported stolen in Middlebury had been recovered in Rutland on Dec. 29.

- Investigated a report on Dec. 29 of a local resident's credit cards being used after having recently been stolen.

- Enforced Middlebury's overnight winter parking ban in the downtown on Dec. 29 and again on Dec. 31.

- Helped a local family obtain mental health services on Dec. 30.

- Helped calm a family dispute at a Maecliff Court residence on Dec. 30.

- Checked on a report of a person driving erratically on Court Street on Dec. 30.

- Helped defuse a dispute between Jayne Court neighbors on Dec. 30.

- Responded to a report of a youth who had been breaking things in their family home off Munson Road on Dec. 31.

- Received a report on Jan. 1 about a drunken person causing a disturbance at a family member's home off Court Street.

- Checked the welfare of a local person who had allegedly threatened self-harm on Jan. 1.

- Checked on a vehicle in a ditch off Three Mile Bridge Road on Jan. 1. Police said the person had apparently fallen asleep while driving.

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with the successful resuscitation of a suspected narcotic-overdose victim off Green Mountain Drive on Jan. 2.

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community calendar

jan 6 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.

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 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.

jan 7 SATURDAY

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The sale will feature an abundance of newly donated school-age fiction books.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 7, 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.

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 midfilmfest.org.

jan 11 WEDNESDAY

Festival on the Green virtual annual meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Zoom. Virtually "meet" your neighbors, co-workers and friends who are current Festival volunteers and let us know how you'd like to be involved. For further information and to request the meeting link, email midfog@gmail.com.

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 Iricher@portermmedical.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 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.

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.



Looking forward to summer

FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. You can join in and get involved in one of Addison County's favorite summer highlights.

Independent Photo by John S. McCright

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.

jan 19 THURSDAY

"The Most Costly Journey" Latin American migrant workers, health care, and collaborative non-fiction comics in Middlebury. Thursday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Andy Kolovos from the Vermont Folklife Center and Julia Grand Doucet from the Open Door Clinic will provide an overview of the goals of the El Viaje Más Caro Project, the collaborative methods that define its approach, and insight into the lives and experiences of the workers whose labor supports the continued viability of dairy farming in Vermont.

jan 21 SATURDAY

Green Mountain Club hike in Ripton. Saturday, Jan. 21, Spirit in Nature, Goshen Rd. Snowshoe or hike along beautiful trails by the Middlebury River, just off the Goshen Road. Inspirational readings posted along the way. Contact Liana Merrill at Merrill.liana@gmail.com for information or to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

Parenting workshop: "How to Raise Enjoyable & Cooperative Kids Without Yelling, Bribing or Losing Your Cool" in Vergennes. Saturday, Jan. 21, 1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Free Library, 258 Main St. Certified life coach Krista Diego leads this free workshop about empowering you as a parent. Learn how to create a more peaceful home life today, why kids often act out in undesirable ways — and how you can turn that around. Learn how to feel empowered, when it comes to your parenting skills, instead of feeling disconnected, out of control, and "not enough." Questions? Email: krista@letsbloomcoaching.com.

jan 25 WEDNESDAY

"Spirit Traffic:" C. Jane Taylor author talk in Middlebury. Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. C. Jane Taylor is a writer, biker, adventurer, and mom. At the age of 16, she went to Bard College at Simon's Rock, where she earned a B.A. in Literature and Music History. She's been a cook for a baroque orchestra, a sculptor's assistant, a resume writer, and a yoga teacher. She started (and stopped) her own welding shop. She has repaired farm equipment under the blazing sun on the Fourth of July and decorated cakes resembling the Palace of Versailles on Bastille Day. Writing is her foundation.

jan 27 FRIDAY

Green Mountain Club snowshoe in Hancock. Friday, Jan. 27, Burnt Hill Trail to Boyce Shelter. Beautiful, backcountry climb, 2.2 miles to the Long Trail, then 0.6 miles north to the shelter. Prepare for snowy conditions and possible trail breaking. Contact Ellen Cronan for details or to register, ecronana@yahoo.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

jan 28 SATURDAY

Green Mountain Club snowshoe in Leicester. Saturday, Jan. 28, Silver Lake, Route 53. Beautiful, easy trek from route 53, past the Falls of Lana. 1.5 miles each way, 525 feet ascent, on a jeep road, 2 hours round trip. Contact Jennifer Kluever for information or to register, jennifer.kluever@

yahoo.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

Fat Bike Roundup in Ripton. Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m., Rikert Nordic Center, Route 125. Addison County Bike Club hosts guided group fat bike rides for all abilities, one set of rides in the morning, one in the afternoon. Rain/snow date: Jan. 29. Register at www.bikereg.com/acbc-fat-bike-roundup.

jan 31 TUESDAY

Spencer Prize in Oratory 2023 Grand Championship in Middlebury. Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. In honor of the late Professor Emeritus and former trustee John Spencer, Oratory Now presents the sixth annual speech competition for first-year students. Qualifying rounds culminate in this Championship event featuring the 2023 finalists. Details are at oratorynow.org/spencer. Free. Open to the Public

LIVEMUSIC

Seamus Egan and Yann Falquet in Lincoln. Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in Middlebury. Friday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center.

LC Jazz Winter Thaw in Vergennes. Saturday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Vergennes Opera House.

Choral Chameleon in Middlebury. Friday, March 3, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center

HEALTHWELLNESS

AI-Anon meetings in Middlebury. For a list of online meetings, visit vermontalanonateen.org. Online Sundays, 7:15 p.m. and Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. If you'd like to speak to an AI-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an AI-Anon member will call you back.

Grief Support Group on Zoom. A support group for people dealing with grief hosted by the Porter Medical Center and the Palliative Care Department every 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. Pre-registration is required: email mikavt@gmail.com or Iricher@portermmedical.org.

Tai Chi classes in Middlebury. Congregational Church, 27 N. Pleasant Street. Fall Prevention Tai Chi, Tuesdays 10-11 a.m., Contact Lindsay Hart lindsayhart09@gmail.com. Ongoing tai chi practice, Tuesdays, 11:15-12:15 p.m. Contact Lindsay Hart lindsayhart09@gmail.com. Yang 24 for Beginners, Mondays 4-6 p.m., starting Sept. 12. Contact Elizabeth Wirts wirtselizabeth@gmail.com

Tai Chi Classes in Vergennes. St. Peter's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple Street. Fall Prevention Tai Chi Level 1 and 2, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., starting Sept. 13. Contact Lee Francis lfrancis839@gmail.com. Fall Prevention Tai Chi Level 3, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11 a.m., starting Sept. 13. Contact Lee Francis lfrancis839@gmail.com. Bixby Memorial Free Library (258 Main Street): Long Form Sun 73, Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. starting Sept. 14. Contact Beverly Blakeney beverlyblakeney@gmail.com Yang 24, Wednesdays, 1-2:30 p.m. starting Sept. 14. Contact Beverly Blakeney at beverlyblakeney@gmail.com.

Women's alcohol use virtual support group. Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Zoom. More info., contact Kathy@MountainLakeCounseling.com

Yoga Philosophy virtual discussion with Prem Prakash. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Zoom. Go to Ilsley Public Library website to register: ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from E. Middlebury writes:

"Thanks for such a great local paper - we understand how hard it is to do this - Kudos!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

**HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ORWELL
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Friday, January 20th, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

By Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87159590685> or phone 1-929-205-6099 use meeting ID: #871 5959 0685 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #01-02-22: Wayne and Jeannine Partridge for a 2 lot Subdivision Permit located at, 471 Route 22A, Orwell, VT 05760

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th & Fr. 9:30-12:00 and 1:00-3:30 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.
Joseph Andriano, Chair
Orwell Development Review Board

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT
CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET NO. 22-CV-03611**

In re: Abandoned Mobile Home of Babeca Tahair
22 Vaughn Court, Monkton, Vermont

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an Order of the Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Civil Division, dated December 29, 2022, the abandoned mobile home of Babeca Tahair located at 22 Vaughn Court, Monkton, Vermont, will be sold at public auction at 11:00 a.m. on the 13th day of January, 2023, at 22 Vaughn Court, Monkton, Vermont:

To Wit:

Being a 1983 Commodore mobile home, model number 900-17-1983 and serial number CH6618A, sited at the Vaughn Trailer Park on Hollow Road in Monkton, Vermont.

Terms of Sale: The minimum bid established by the Court, sufficient to cover costs of sale, is \$5,974.36. The mobile home shall be sold to the highest bidder over the minimum bid. The successful bidder shall make full payment at auction if the bid does not exceed \$2,000. If the bid exceeds \$2,000, the successful bidder shall provide a non-refundable deposit at the time of the auction of at least \$2,000 or 25% of the bid, whichever is greater, and shall make full payment within three working days after the auction. A successful bidder other than the park owner shall remove the mobile home from the park within five working days after the auction unless the park owner permits removal at a later date.

Other terms to be announced at the sale or make inquiries to Lesley Deppman, Deppman Law, 56 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont, (802) 388-6337.

DATED AT Middlebury, Vermont this 3rd day of January, 2023.

ADDISON COUNTY COMMUNITY TRUST
By: Lesley Deppman, Esq.
Deppman Law PLC
56 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 388-6337; (802) 382-8840 (fax)

**TOWN OF MONKTON
Notice of Public Hearing
On the Proposed Amendments to the Unified Planning Document**

The Monkton Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing at 6:45 PM, Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at Monkton Town Offices (92 Monkton Ridge), to take public testimony on the proposed Amendments to the Unified Planning Document. The Selectboard will discuss and vote on any proposed changes after this Public Hearing.

Statement of Purpose
Monkton's Unified Planning Document exists to provide process and procedure to guide orderly development within the town. It is comprised of two parts, Section I that contains the town's Zoning Regulations and Section II that addresses the Subdivision Regulations. All development regulations take their guidance from the Town Plan, but unlike the Town Plan do not expire. Once adopted these regulations remain in effect until amended by the voters. The amendments proposed here, are intended to streamline the Zoning and Subdivision process and to make the process more open to the community.

All of the proposed amendments support the goals of the Town Plan and provide clarity and greater community input in the development process. They are compatible with proposed future land uses and densities of the municipal plan and planned community facilities.

The most substantial change to the Unified Planning Document is on Planned United Developments (PUDs) sections 830 and 905. Section 905 was completely rewritten to modernize it to promote affordable housing, lessen impacts on farmers, and better conserve open space. Section 830 makes it clear that PUDs may be a normal part of the subdivision process. Specifically, we:

1. Revised the purpose and added Village and Rural districts.
2. Revised use of open space.
3. Addressed non-contiguous parcels for open space.
4. Created new thresholds for PUDs.
5. Rewrote common land requirements.
6. Addresses density bonuses, affordable housing, elderly housing.
7. Changes to Section 830 Preliminary Plat Application and Review.

Other changes include:

8. Added Section 594 on Trees in the Municipal Right of Way.
9. Added Section 595 on Erosion Control.
10. Added Section 596 on Stormwater Management.
11. Added Section 597 on Riparian Buffers.
12. Added Section 598 on Wetlands.
13. Added Section 599 on Steep Slopes.
14. Added decibel levels to Section 584 General Performance Standards.
15. Article VI Flood Hazard Area Regulations was rewritten.
16. Removed Conditional Use for Accessory Dwelling Units.
17. Added Conditional Use for land development on steep slopes as indicated in Section 595 Erosion Control and Section 599 Steep Slopes.
18. Added Wildlife Corridors to Section 900 – General Planning and Design Standards for Subdivisions.

The areas of the town affected the proposed Amendments are:
Changes to the Ridgeline district impact that district.
Changes to the Flood Hazard Area Regulations impact that district.
All other proposed amendments affect all districts of the town.

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Copies of the Unified Planning Document and copies of the proposed amendments are available for review or obtained at the Town Offices, 92 Monkton Ridge during normal business hours.

For more information please contact: Stephen Pilcher Selectboard Chair at spilcher@monktonvt.com (802) 598-1931, or Sharon Gomez, the Town Clerk at (802) 453-3800.

Please note:
There will be an informational session from 6:30 to 6:45 PM on January 24, 2023 at the Monkton Town Hall prior to the public hearing. If necessary both the informational session and the hearing will be extended to ensure all members of the public that wish to speak will be heard.

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88051559525>
By phone: +1 646 558 8656
Webinar ID: 880 5155 9525

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVermont>
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

7:00 1. **Call to Order
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
3a. *Approval of Minutes of the January 3, 2023 Special Selectboard Meeting
3b. Consent Agenda Placeholder
3c. Town Manager's Report
4. **Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]

7:10 5. **Agenda Placeholder

7:20 6. **Public Hearing - Town FY24 General Fund Budget

7:35 7. **Continued Review of Draft FY24 General Fund Budget

- Overall List of Agency Fundings Requests
- **Presentation from Tri-Valley Transit - FY24 Funding Request to Town, Overall Update on TVT Activities, and possible local micro-transit initiatives
- NeighborWorks of Western Vermont - FY24 Funding Request

7:50 8. *State of Vermont - Equalization Study Results

8:05 9. **Presentation from Middlebury College - How Addison County communities have spent ARPA funding, and their methods of deciding how the funding would be spent

8:20 10. *Approval of Check Warrants
11. **Board Member Concerns
12. *Executive Session - Anticipated - Real Estate
13. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

8:25 14. *Adjourn

* Decision Item ** Possible Decision

Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

Addison County Courthouse (2)	Orwell (1)
Ferrisburgh (2)	Starksboro (1)
Middlebury (1)	State of Vermont (1)
Monkton (1)	Vermont Electric Power Company (1)

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).

Antidegradation Implementation Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P038
AGENCY: Agency of Natural Resources
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rule lays out the process for implementing Vermont's antidegradation policy. Vermont's antidegradation policy requires that existing uses of waters and the level of water quality necessary to protect those uses shall be maintained and protected. To implement this policy, the proposed rule requires an analysis of water quality impacts, to be conducted during the review of applications for permits authorizing activities that are required to comply with the Vermont WQS. The rule includes a list of permits subject to antidegradation review, the required public process, and the three-tiered analysis of water quality impacts: Protection of Outstanding Resource Waters, protection of High Quality Waters, and protection of Existing Uses. The rule also includes an analysis for determining when a reduction in receiving-water quality is allowable, based on evaluation of the subsequent socioeconomic impact of not allowing the proposed activity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Bethany Sargent, DEC Monitoring and Assessment Program, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 3, Montpelier, Vermont, 05620-3522 Tel: 802-490-6131 Fax: 802-828-1544 Email: bethany.sargent@vermont.gov URL: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/laws#Rulemaking>.

FOR COPIES: Hannah Smith, DEC Office of General Counsel, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, Vermont, 05620-1544 Tel: 802-461-8187 Fax: 802-828-1544 Email: hannah.smith@vermont.gov

NOTE: The three rules below have been promulgated by the Agency of Human Services who has requested the notices be combined to facilitate a savings for the agency. When contacting the agency about these rules please note the title and rule number of the proposed rule(s) you are interested in.

- Health Care Administrative Rules Definitions – Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P039
- Inpatient Hospital Services – Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P040
- Outpatient Hospital Services – Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P041

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services
CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rules set forth criteria for coverage and service delivery for the Medicaid program. These rules are part of the sequential adoption of Health Care Administrative Rules designed to improve public accessibility and comprehension of the rules under Vermont's Medicaid program. The amendments to each of the three rules align with relevant federal and state law and guidance. The amendment to Definitions adds a definition for hospital. The amendments to Inpatient Hospital Services and Outpatient Hospital Services were made to be consistent with HCAR language and formatting, revised to include new definitions informed by federal Medicaid law, and removed content described in other policies or beyond the scope of these rules.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Dani Fuoco Agency of Human Services 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1000; Tel: 802-585-4265; Fax: 802-241-0450; E-mail: danielle.fuoco@vermont.gov; URL: <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar>



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Important Annual Notice Regarding Herbicide Use in the Maintenance of Electric Utility Rights-of-Way

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. Sign up to receive written notification from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2023 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. Watch and listen for public service announcements in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. Check with your local electric utility regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. You have the right to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are distribution lines, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. You have the right to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are transmission lines or sub-transmission lines, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353-3584	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
---	---	--

Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2023.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List			
Name	Home Phone Number		
Street Address	Work Phone Number		
Town	O.K. to use work number?	Yes	No
State	Zip Code	(circle one)	
Electric Utility Account Number	Best time to contact you		
Affected Property: Year-Round Residence Summer Residence Commercial Property Water Supply Organic Farm Land Other			
(Circle all that apply)			
Line/Pole Identification:			
Utility Initials	Pole Numbers		
Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.			
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2023			

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Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalanonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-388-9284.

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Help Wanted

Services

CH DRYWALL and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545.

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

ODD JOBS lawn work, cut brush, some tree work. Snow removal services for your roof. Call us we do other jobs too! 802-999-2194 John.

WE BUY OLD STUFF Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

Help Wanted

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings.

EXCESS NEWSPAPERS, MANY USES! Newspapers work great as a fire starter, wrapping paper, window cleaner, compost material and so much more! Printed with soy-based ink. Available at The Addison Independent, 58 Maple St. Middlebury, in the Marble Works. Office is open M-F, 9am-4pm.

Help Wanted

AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY Hearth is hiring! Offering good compensation, respectful co-workers, and great food. We are hiring for multiple full time and part time positions including bar leadership, daytime prep and evening shifts. Ample opportunities for growth in a positive work environment. Please stop in for an application or email Joe at joe@americanflatbread.com. EOE.

Help Wanted

FOREST PRODUCTS COMPANY looking to hire Class A driver to deliver throughout New England, New York, and Quebec. Health, retirement, and vacation time. Enhanced license a plus. 1-2 overnights per week, maximum. Pay commensurate with experience. If interested, please call 802-388-1548, or email canopytimber@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

GREAT HOUSEKEEPER WANTED At EastView. Be respected and loved by an entire community of elders. Work with a supportive team in a beautiful location. EastView at Middlebury, the vital nonprofit senior living community, has an opening for a responsible, courteous individual to join our housekeeping team. Full-time or part-time. Flexible hours. To apply, or for a full job description, contact tdukin@eastviewmiddlebury.com. Check out all our jobs at <http://www.eastviewmiddlebury.com/join-our-team/>.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

RESPONSIBLE ADULT FOR home care, Brandon. Looking for a rewarding, non-stressful side job? We are currently looking for an individual who would be willing to provide respite support two (6 hour days) weekly in your home. Flexible employer and excellent pay. The position is for an independent elderly individual. Please call or email for more information. 802-398-5657 or respite2022@gmail.com

For Rent

12' X 24' STORAGE SPACES in Brandon. Call 802-349-4212.

CORNWALL: 5 miles to Middlebury! Share a spacious rural home w/ senior couple who enjoy theater & community involvement. \$500/mo. plus help w/ snow removal & occas. errands. Private bath, bedroom, & sitting room. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, bg check req. EHO.


For Rent

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



We're hiring and we need... you!

Paraprofessionals:

- Are essential to our schools!
- Collaborate with teachers and support class instruction
- Support and supervise students with school work, social emotional needs, and play

Intensive Services Paras:

- Provide one-on-one support to a student needing individual services


This could be a great fit if you:

- Love supporting kids!
- Are flexible, energetic, inclusive, and kind
- Have experience with special needs students (but this is not required)

Benefits:

- Health insurance for you/r family
- Dental insurance
- Work school hours on the school calendar in a friendly environment
- Benefits include paid sick, holiday time and retirement
- Starting pay: \$16-\$24/hr
- Intensive Services Paras now earn an extra \$4/hr on top of starting pay plus paid professional development

To apply: acsdv.org/Page/4418 or scan the QRcode which will show all available ACSD jobs:
Questions: 802-382-1281





WE'RE HIRING!

- Snowmakers
- Groomers

www.rikertoutdoor.com



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MIDDLEBURY

WE'RE HIRING!

- Snowmakers
- Groomers

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MIDDLEBURY

VERMONT COFFEE COMPANY
by STONEWALL KITCHEN

New Year, New Career!

Join our team in Middlebury as a Manufacturing Associate today!

Full-time year-round starting at \$18/hour
Comprehensive benefits package
Monday-Friday schedule
Opportunity for advancement
Hard-working but fun-loving team that takes pride in who we are and what we do
Plus FREE COFFEE at work and to take home!

Previous manufacturing experience preferred but not required- we will train you!
Apply today at stonewallkitchen.com/jobs

Because we are a sensory-sensitive company we cannot employ smokers. Stonewall Kitchen, LLC is an equal opportunity employer

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Volunteer Scheduler & Mailer Needed!

The AARP Foundation & RSVP provide free tax assistance to low- and middle-income residents of Addison County each tax season. We are seeking a Volunteer Scheduler and Volunteer Mailer to join our team. This rewarding work would be done from home February through mid-April and volunteers set their own schedule.

Volunteer Scheduler

Help the team schedule client appointments one or more days per week. Skills required include:

- Organization skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent computer skills and the ability to use and update shared Google spreadsheets/calendars.
- Being comfortable on the phone, a great listener and a clear communicator.

Volunteer Mailer

Help the team address envelopes and mail letters to clients. Computer skills are needed as this position utilizes a Google spreadsheet.

Please contact RSVP of Addison County at 802-388-7044 or lynnsrvpfgp@gmail.com if you would like to join our team!




Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

RATES

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free** | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals |

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: _____
Internet Listing: **\$2.00**
TOTAL: _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



MAD RIVER GLEN
SINCE 1949

NOW HIRING

Mad River Glen is seeking to hire immediately for the winter season for positions indoors with food & beverage and outside in the mountain operations department.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...
Cooks
Lift Attendants
Ticket Checkers

Benefits include a free season pass, competitive pay, and discounts here at the mountain and with local partnering businesses. Schedules are flexible, positions can be full or part-time.

Inquire at madriverglen.com/employment or call 802.496.3551.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted




MONROE TRACTOR
we keep you working

SERVICE TECHNICIANS

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.



KEEWAYDIN FOUNDATION

Development and Alumni Relations Coordinator

The Keewaydin Foundation, located on the shores of Lake Dunmore, outside Middlebury, VT, is a small non-profit which operates three summer camps and an environmental education center. The Foundation's programs provide unique opportunities for youth to develop self-confidence, character, and leadership while living simply in beautiful wilderness settings. The Foundation is now offering an opportunity to a detail-oriented, systems-driven individual to join the team as the Development and Alumni Relations Coordinator.

Reporting to the Director of Development, the Coordinator will manage the Foundation's gift processing, including acknowledgment letters; perform data entry maintaining the general integrity and consistency of the Raiser's Edge database; manage financial reporting and serve as liaison to the Foundation's business office; provide support for on-line and print mailings; and provide planning assistance for campaign events; and provide administrative support for the capital campaign.

Successful candidates will have a proven track record managing detail-oriented systems, experience working with financial data using a complex database, an interest in and experience with event planning and management, and a willingness to join a high-functioning, energetic, and collaborative team. Facility with Excel and Raiser's Edge is preferred. Good writing and organizational skills are a must.

This position offers a generous compensation package, including retirement, health care, and a significant tuition reduction for foundation employee children who attend our renowned camps. This is an on-site position located at the Keewaydin Foundation office in Salisbury, VT. Some weekend and evening work is required.

To learn more about this position, please visit our employment website at www.keewaydin.org/employment
To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Debbie Andrews at deborahandrews@comcast.net EOE

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

For Rent

TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

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

For Rent

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

Att. Farmers

FEED FOR SALE

Corn silage, haylage, round bales, large square bales, small square bales

CALL RANDY QUESNEL AT 802-349-9566

Att. Farmers

For Rent

Wanted

OLD & USED GUNS WANTED

Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns

Top prices paid.
P: 802-775-2859
C: 802-236-7213

EastView AT MIDDLEBURY

CAREGIVER AND SERVER WANTED AT EASTVIEW

Do you love people?
Working with a supportive team?
Making a difference in the lives of those around you?

Then join us at EastView, Middlebury's nonprofit, locally governed retirement community.

We have openings for full-time and part-time Caregivers and Servers. We offer a generous benefits package, free shift meals, and paid time off. If you are a student, a retiree, or just looking for a second job, our flexible hours & per diem shifts may be perfect for you!

To apply, or for full job descriptions, contact tdunakin@eastviewmiddlebury.com.
Check out all our jobs at <http://www.eastviewmiddlebury.com/join-our-team/>.

Att. Farmers

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

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Help Wanted

Ferrisburgh Town Treasurer

The Town Treasurer position is responsible for the management of all the Town's financial activities including:

- Receipt and investment of funds
- Acts as the Town's collector of current taxes
- Collection of other funds receivable by the Town
- Oversee the Annual Budget process
- Manage the annual audit by the professional CPA firm
- Accounts Payable as approved by the Ferrisburgh Selectboard
- Human Resources administration
- Support for certain Town Clerk duties

A bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration or a similarly applicable field is preferred or at least three years' experience in the areas of municipal, public or private accounting including payroll, employee benefits, Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable. Experience in grant reporting is desired.

This will be a 20-hour-per-week position. Salary commensurate with experience.

To apply please email or send a cover letter, resume and two references to:

Pam Cousino, Town Clerk
Town of Ferrisburgh
3279 US Route 7
Ferrisburgh, VT 05456
802-877-3429
TownClerk@FerrisburghVT.org

For Rent

For Rent

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.

Auctions



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

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 12/29/22 & 1/2/23

COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
UVM Cream Farm	1995	.75	\$1496.25
Keith Gray	1790	.82	\$1467.80
Allen Brisson	1484	.90	\$1323.00
Blue Spruce Farm	1530	.85	\$1300.50
Jeff Fifield	1705	.70	\$1193.50
Dave Russell	1605	.80	\$1284.00
Gosliga Farm	1410	.75	\$1057.50

COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Champlainside	107	3.00	\$321.00
H. Sunderland	118	2.30	\$271.40
Arthur Morrill	87	3.00	\$261.00
Champlainside	96	2.50	\$240.00
Barnes Black & White	94	2.00	\$188.00

Total Beef - 125 Total Calves - 281

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Ferrisburgh Town Officer Open Positions

The following open positions in the Town of Ferrisburgh will be on the March 7, 2023 ballot. A petition with 24 signatures of valid voters and The Consent of Candidate form must be filed at the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 2023.

- Moderator - 1-year term
- Selectboard - 2-year term
- Selectboard - 3-year term
- Auditor - 3-year term
- Auditor - 2-year term
- Lister - 3-year term
- Lister - 2-year term
- First Constable - 1-year term
- Town Agent - 1-year term
- Rogers & Hazard Fund Trustee - 2-year term
- ANWSD School Director - 3-year term
- ANWSD School Director - 1-year term

Please contact the Town Clerk at 877-3429 or TownClerk@Ferrisburghvt.org to find out more about these positions and how to apply.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on
Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PLANNING COMMISSION JANUARY 18th, 2023

AGENDA

A public hearing before the Planning Commission of the Town of Ferrisburgh will be held at the Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, January 18th, 2023, beginning at 7pm to consider the following applications and other business:

1. Application 22-148 Sketch Plan review for a forty-four (44) lot Planned Unit Development (PUD): 302 Monkton Road; applicant(s): Cornerstone Solutions; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) district; tax id no. 15/02/37.2
2. Application: 22-142 Waiver; 189 Four Winds Road; applicant(s): Brenna Mead & Sarah Richardson; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) district; tax id no. 05/02/11.3

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Town of Starksboro has submitted an application (22-501) for a site plan review and waiver request for property located at 397 Jerusalem Road in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed project is for removal of the existing fire station and construction of new station.

The Starksboro Development Review Board will hold a site plan and waiver request hearing on this application on January 26, 2023, at 7pm at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). Application copy available by request at the Starksboro zoning office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Remote Access via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/MeetingID:87884166793> • Passcode: Stk@drb1
Phone line: 1-929-436-2866 • Passcode: 44885153

Zoning Administrator
Town of Starksboro, Vermont
1/5/2023

Help Wanted ads can be found on Page 9B and 10B.

Addison County Parent/Child Center

Outreach Position

We are seeking a staff person to be a part of our Outreach team, which provides support to young families through center and home-based services.

Position includes individual and group work opportunities, collaboration with community agencies and home visiting. MSW preferred or a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Great working environment and benefits!
Total hours are negotiable.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to Donna Bailey at d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org

WE ARE HIRING!

FULL TIME POSITIONS

BOURDEAU BROS. OF MIDDLEBURY

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

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

January 5, 2023



One of Middlebury College Professor Emeritus of History Bill Hart's first roles as a young actor was in the 1975 feature film "Sasqua." Unfortunately, this film is "lost," but an active crew of niche horror film enthusiasts are putting the pieces back together and producing a documentary about the original feature.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Retired history professor helps find 'Sasqua'

The large mid-1970s film poster for "Sasqua" hanging on the wall in Bill Hart's office at Middlebury College doesn't seem too out of place. It tracks for a Professor Emeritus of History to have some retro paraphernalia... A hobby perhaps? You start to wonder...

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Why does Hart have this midnight blue poster with a sketchy graphite

line drawing of Big Foot lurking in the woods? The tagline grabs your attention: "No longer a myth, No longer a legend, A horrifying reality, killing to survive!"

OK, now we have to know: What is this local history professor's connection to a 1975 horror flick about Sasquatch?

"This was the second film I was in," explained Hart in an interview last week. "It was a hoot!"

You got it; before settling into a long and successful career as a professor of American and Atlantic-World history, Hart started off in his early 20s as an actor.

Fresh out of college, the Massachusetts native first began acting with the Theater Company of Boston. He moved to New York City in 1973 and acted alongside James Earl Jones in Shakespeare in the Park's film production of

"King Lear," which was released by PBS the following year.

"I had a speaking part," remembered Hart, who played a doctor. "I was 23 years old."

Next he followed a lead up to Lowell, Mass., where Hart took a role as "Bill," and they filmed "Sasqua" — a feature-length motion picture — in the fall of '73.

"Every single character had the actor's first name," Hart explained. "My character, Bill, was a black militant running from the police after a recent murder... Bill winds up at this commune and is very distrustful."

SEE SASQUA ON PAGE 2

SASQUA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Then the cryptids attack.

"It was perhaps the worst horror film ever made," Hart said, jesting at the quality

of the special effects. "But it also was a kind of a break-through film because of its multi-racial cast."

The 82-minute feature was released the same year as "Jaws," and was featured in local advertisements for drive-ins and regional cinemas. But then something happened...

"Sasqua" vanished.

The lost film became a thing of legends for niche film buffs like John Campopiano.

"I've been a monster and creature guy since I was a kid," Campopiano said. "I was an only child, but I had a friend who had an older brother... and he showed us stuff way too young. I've always been fascinated with Big Foot, UFOs and all that."

By day, Campopiano is an archivist & rights officer for the WGBH documentary film series "Frontline," but last week he came to the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury to interview Hart for a documentary he's co-producing about finding "Sasqua: the lost Bigfoot film of Massachusetts."

"Sasqua" was on my and my co-producer Nat Spry's radar for years," Campopiano explained. "This coveted lost horror film was finished and released, and has since vanished."

How exactly does a film like this get "lost?"

Short answer: who knows?

"Sometimes all it takes is a film getting mis-cataloged and then it's 'lost,'" Campopiano said. "So we decided to put together a documentary about this lost film with the hope that we can find it"

Through some pretty remote and lucky connections, Campopiano has gathered about 12 interviews from people associated with creating the film back in the mid-'70s; including Hart, who they think may have been the only paid actor.

"I demanded \$150 at the time," Hart laughed.



"IT'S THE THRILL OF THE HUNT..."

—John Campopiano

"IT WAS PERHAPS THE WORST HORROR FILM EVER MADE... BUT ALSO A KIND OF A BREAK-THROUGH FILM."

— Bill Hart

Middlebury documentary photographer Corey Hendrickson joined John Campopiano and the "Sasqua" crew on Friday last week at the Sheldon Museum to film Bill Hart's interview for the new documentary about this 1975 "lost" film. Pictured above is Professor Emeritus of History at Middlebury College Bill Hart. Pictured to the far right is the new poster for the documentary about finding "Sasqua," and an old film advertisement from the original picture.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Campopiano found Hart through Joe Citro — who Hart calls "Vermont's expert on the paranormal." Hart had met Citro a couple years earlier, through an exhibit about Spirit Drawings at the Sheldon.

"I met Joe, a regional guy who knows a lot about this stuff; and Joe knew that Bill had been a part of the original movie," remembered Campopiano, who lives in Rhode Island. "There's also the connection of my father-in-law, who's been a locksmith at Middlebury College for 35 years, and Bill also works at the college... small world."

Things got a little more meta when Campopiano discovered the interview with Hart was to take place in the "Artist and the Archives" room at the Sheldon. "My dissertation was on 'Artists and Archives,'" Campopiano said.

"It's been a fortuitous hoot," Hart summarized.

Sometimes it does feel like the universe is rooting for you. Yes, Campopiano and the fans of "Sasqua" all hope to find the lost film, but there's been something special afoot through the whole process.

"It's the thrill of the hunt," he said. "We shine a light on these people and these stories and that can feel like uncharted territory... We get to discover



people like Bill and hear their amazing stories."

Campopiano and the "Finding Sasqua" crew began the project last October and they hope to finalize the documentary later this year. Middlebury documentary filmmaker and photographer Corey Hendrickson is to thank for Hart's interview footage.

The crew is planning a couple more interviews, and then post-processing begins. A premiere is planned at the Luna Theater in Lowell, Mass., hopefully this fall.

"The folks at Luna Theater have been supporting us financially and emotionally," Campopiano said. "It's a team effort; it always is."

After the premiere, Campopiano hopes the documentary will screen at the Boston Underground Film Festival, and have a run in some other New England film festivals too.

Editor's Note: Know something about the 1975 film "Sasqua" that you want to share with John Campopiano? Email him at jcampopiano@gmail.com.

Botanical abstracts brighten Edgewater Gallery at the Falls

A new collection of paintings by Sara Katz, "Inner Landscapes," is on view this month at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill St., Middlebury.

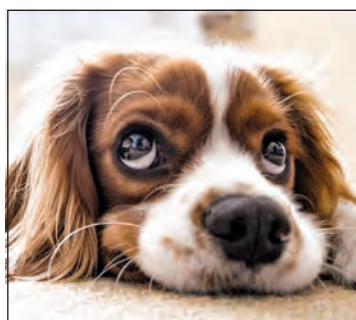
In this solo exhibit, Katz introduces a new collection of abstract paintings based on an exploration of botanical forms. Katz was raised in Cabot, Vt., on a vegetable farm with a greenhouse and nursery and therefore often returns to the study of plant life which is both a familiar and important theme in her life. In this series the forms dance with bold colors and dynamic compositions filled with movement and energy.

"The garden is a setting I turn to for contemplation and revisit often as a subject in my work," Katz shared in an artist statement. "Intuition almost always takes the lead at a point in my process: a series of layers, color and marks, blending memory with the moment through the physical act of mark-making. In this series, I am releasing the recognizable sooner than I have before — blurring the distinction between the figure and ground and dropping all references to perspective and the horizon. Botanical forms reassuringly repeat themselves throughout the natural world. A painting can connect a viewer to reality and an inner landscape simultaneously, offering a proxy for a memory."

For more information on this exhibit visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



"INNER LANDSCAPES" BY SARA KATZ



Pet of the WEEK

Send us a pic of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Heart of Afghanistan

Thursday, January 12 ■ 7:30 PM
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TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM

SUNDAY, JAN 8

2PM

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THE MONTH IN POETRY



Susan Jefts is a poet and editor living in the southern Adirondacks of New York and part of the year in Middlebury. She writes from the land she lives on and places she visits, and leads people in poetic exploration of their own connections to land and water. Her poetry has been published in numerous journals locally and nationally.

I wrote this poem a few years ago on a December night as I was beginning to settle into the beauty of the crystalline mornings and the snowy blue evenings, even as something else made me think of another kind of blue — that of the deep lakes of summer and white birches leaning lithely over the water. In that moment the two seemed not so different; the lakes of summer and the woods of winter both have their own kind of reach, their own depths that lure.

Both can pull you in directions of longing and exploration. Summer, towards connection to earth through our feet on warm ground and our bodies caressed by silky water. And winter, for connection of a different kind — indoor warmth, fire light touched skin, deep reading and soulful conversations — all of which can lead to a different kind of deep dive, into all that we might not have seen in the brilliant light of summer. Some of this we might welcome, some we might not due to their complexity and challenge, but often we are the better and the richer for taking those plunges.

It seems this is an age-old journey we're drawn toward taking in winter, aided by the contrast of the cold outdoors and a warm interior home from where we can consider the enduring cycles of darkness descending, followed by those crystalline mornings and all the paradox and wonder they offer.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BLUE

TO SWIM DEEP

*All that is beautiful
that slips away--
a December night
that before was November
and September and before that,
July when days were blue silver
waves we swam through.
Droplets alighted our skin,
grass became silk to our feet
under white birches—
day after day went on like that.
Now this cold winter night
drift us into whiteness
and so we go into soft lit houses
with our books and our work,
and our voices that know
this is the time to dive deep
into questions put aside too long.
To go far into this blue light,
the winter hours plunging
to where we might find
each other's shore, you and I.*

— Susan Jefts



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Volunteer for the 44th Festival on-the-Green

The 44th season of the Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green brings a free week of fantastic performances to the Middlebury Village Green during the week of July 9 through 15. The Festival, which is planned and hosted entirely by volunteers, is one of the premier summer arts events in Addison County. The Festival needs you to help make this year's event a great success. Join a Virtual Annual Meeting on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11, to virtually "meet" neighbors, co-workers and friends who are current Festival volunteers and let the organizers know how you'd like to be involved. For further information and to request the meeting link, email midfog@gmail.com.

WHAT:
Festival on-the-Green
Volunteer meeting
WHEN:
Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
WHERE:
Zoom

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 AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Inner Landscapes," a new collection of abstract paintings by Sara Katz based on an exploration of botanical forms. Katz was raised in Cabot, Vt., on a vegetable farm with a greenhouse and nursery and therefore often returns to the study of plant life, which is both a familiar and important theme in her life. In this series the forms dance with bold colors and dynamic compositions filled with movement and energy. On view through January.

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.

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

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 20



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, you are willing to take risks and never afraid to try new things. This benefits you as you seek new solutions regarding how to get things done.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, figure out a new goal to pursue and start to make a list of how to get to the finish line. You may need to recruit a few volunteers to help along the way.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, when a project at work lands on your desk, you may be ambivalent about it. You appreciate the challenge, but already have a long list of things to do.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Could this be the right time to think about making a career move, Cancer? The new year marks a fresh start, and perhaps you have had your eyes on a new work opportunity.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. There's more than meets the eye this week when someone from your past suddenly pops up on your radar again, Leo. Learn all of the facts before you make assumptions.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, try to stay in the loop around the office. Doing so might pay professional dividends that could open the door to new possibilities.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. You've been keeping quite busy, Libra, but don't forget to make time to touch base with friends and loved ones from time to time. Keep those lines of communication open.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Patience is a virtue of which you are in short supply recently, Scorpio. You have no control over the timeline on certain things and that can be frustrating. Wait it out.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It's time to tackle all of those tasks you have been putting since the end of last year, Sagittarius. If you need help getting organized, reach out to someone you trust.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Think about all the possibilities you have before you, Capricorn. When you consider all of the positives in your life, the negatives just may fade away.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Your name is on the lips of so many people. That is likely because you are affecting change wherever you go. Keep forging ahead because you are helping others.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Now that spending has ceased, take a closer look at how you can budget for the new year. Make your money work for you, Pisces.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 5 — Hayao Miyazaki, animated filmmaker (81)
JAN. 6 — Joan of Arc, saint (d)
JAN. 7 — Gerald Durrell, naturalist (d)
JAN. 8 — Cynthia Erivo, actor, singer (36)

JAN. 9 — Simone de Beauvoir, writer (d)
JAN. 10 — Max Roach, jazz drummer (d)
JAN. 11 — Aldo Leopold, writer, environmentalist (d)

CALENDAR

JAN. 5-15
2023



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

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, Route 7. The evening begins with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and card games. King Pede is an unusual game that involves "trick-taking" techniques such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

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 welcomes 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.

TUESDAY, JAN. 10

BIXBY BOOK CLUB IN VERGENNES. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Free Library, 258 Main St. This month's book is "Hamnet" by Maggie O'Farrell, a story about 1580s England, during the Black Plague, and a young Latin tutor who falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. "Hamnet" has been named the best-selling winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction. Email Martha Sanborn at martha.sanborn@bixbylibrary.org to join virtually. Books can be picked up at the circulation desk. Call to reserve a copy: 802-877-2211.

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. 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.

BIXBY LIBRARY CRAFT SWAP IN VERGENNES.

Registration through Jan. 14, Bixby Memorial Free Library, 258 Main St. Love crafting and love seeing others enjoy what you make? Thinking about starting a hobby in the new year? Join the Winter Craft Swap where you will be partnered with another crafter in Addison County. All skill levels encouraged. Make your partner a custom craft, while they do the same for you. All crafting mediums welcome — knitting, crocheting, sewing, candle making, pottery, scrapbooking, needle felting, etc. More info and register at <https://forms.gle/dvHGvoPX244xcFv8>.

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.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 20

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		
<p>MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, January 6 Public Affairs - Through the Night 4:30 a.m. Green Mountain Care (GMC) Board 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Gov. Scott Press Conference 2:20 p.m. The Crazyness of Vermont's Health Care System 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 8 p.m. VT Legislative Summit on Child Care and Paid Family Leave Saturday, January 7 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</p>	<p>8 p.m. Childcare, Paid Family Leave Sunday, January 8 Public Affairs - Through the Night 6 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 9 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 10 Public Affairs - Through the Night 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. 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</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Abolishing Incarceration for Women and Girls Wednesday, January 11 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 12 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. Crazy Health Care System 10:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell</p>	<p>MCTV Channel 1091 Friday, January 6 5 a.m. Cameo Baroque 5:34 a.m. Christ Church Concert Series 7 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. Growing Bright Futures - Holly Laramee 5:30 p.m. Christ Church Concert Series 7 p.m. State Board of Education 10:40 p.m. Cameo Baroque Saturday, January 7 4 a.m. Yoga 8:30 a.m. Wild Branch Bluegrass at the Round Church Richmond 10 a.m. School Board Meetings 2 p.m. Holly Laramee 5:30 p.m. Christ Church Concert Series 7 p.m. State Board of Education 10:40 p.m. Wild Branch Bluegrass Sunday, January 8 5 a.m. All Things LGTQ 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Cameo Baroque 8:30 a.m. The Woodland Period in Vermont 9:30 a.m. Gardens and Gardening 3 p.m. Christ Church Concert Series 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Romeo and Juliet</p>	<p>Monday, January 9 5 a.m. Raw Food Chef Elcin Ofiaz 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 2:30 p.m. Green Burials 4 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 a.m. Gardens and Gardening Tuesday, January 10 5:28 a.m. Green Burials 6:30 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 1 p.m. Conservation, Ecology and Nature Programs all afternoon & evening Wednesday, January 11 5:30 a.m. First Wednesdays 6:30 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 12 p.m. Gardens and Gardening 4 p.m. Kid's Yoga, Yoga 5:30 p.m. School Board Meetings Thursday, January 12 5:30 a.m. Elcin Ofiaz & Pot Luck Kitchen 7 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 5 p.m. All Things LGTQ 6 p.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Architecture Programs</p>

Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.

Starksboro denied exit from MAUSD Vekos wins primary for state's attorney

New Haven voters end withdrawal

MAUSD, as a means of preserving the town's control over the fate of

Bristol residents voting in favor of 496-408 and Monkton following suit 361-211.

John Flowers

Top Ten 2022

Rep. Conlon

The stories and photos that meant the most in the past year.

Addison-2

GOP taps

Filmco

for sheriff

#1 Living with COVID in 2022

Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, and a year after vaccines first began to be distributed, Addison County residents were still dealing with a lot of sickness at the beginning of 2022. But, after a bad winter, we mostly learned to live with COVID over the course of the year and for most of us it became more of a constant drone in the background rather than a pounding drumbeat in our face. It is still with us, it is still a threat and we are still living with the fallout from the pandemic — that's why we are calling it our top story of the year.

2022 started out with a surge of COVID-19 cases. January 2022 was Vermont's second-deadliest month of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Vermont Department of Health. VOH reported that 64 people died of COVID during the month, seven fewer than in December 2020.

Despite that COVID stat, high school and college sports went on. In February, Middlebury College lifted its spectator ban, allowing fans to attend its athletic events with proof of vaccination. Masked spectators were already allowed at high school events. Gov. Phil Scott lifted the mask mandate for Vermont schools that could demonstrate an 80% vaccination rate in early March.

Most annual town meetings featured an informational meeting component on Zoom and voting via mail or in-person with lots of social distancing at the polls. But tiny Goshen was one of the few places that held an in-person town meeting. Mask-wearing was encouraged, but not required. "If people are uncomfortable due to COVID, they can stay outside and someone will relay information (on) what was discussed," officials said. Addison and Whiting also held in-person town meetings. Two county towns postponed town meetings until spring so they could gather in the flesh.

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.

In April, Middlebury Union Middle School hired a second principal to provide extra guidance during what had been a bumpy reintegration of students following the lengthy COVID pandemic hiatus. Student behavior would continue to be an issue at some schools through the end of 2022.

May was the first month in two years that the Addison Independent did not write a major COVID story. Or, at least, when we published a COVID story, it felt like a typical event, not a sign of the apocalypse. Like on May 12 when we reported that the Addison Central School District was urging vigilance after three schools reported COVID-19 outbreaks — 12 cases at Shoreham Elementary, 10 at Cornwall and 43 at MUMS.

The virus was still with us, and public health officials were urging Vermonters to get their COVID vaccination boosters.

Residents of Ripton and Granville gathered in their respective towns in May to hold in-person town meetings that had been postponed because of COVID.

More signs that communities were opening up after suffering from COVID restrictions came on Memorial Day Weekend, when local towns hosted parades and Middlebury College hosted its regular graduation and then a second commencement ceremony two days later to celebrate in-person the graduation of the Class of 2020, which held a Zoom graduation in the first year of the pandemic.

In-person musical performances returned in June, when the Opera Company of Middlebury staged "Orphée aux enfers." Two cast members and Artistic Director Douglas Anderson were diagnosed with COVID-19, but all recovered and the show went on.

July began with a bang. Bristol's Fourth of July parade returned to Main Street after two years of cancellations due to COVID-19. Spectators packed downtown Bristol to see the bands, Bristol Rec Club bicyclists, bagpipers lots of political candidates and the ever-

popular Zeno Mountain float that highlighted the parade.

A new COVID-19 vaccine booster targeted at Omicron strains arrived in Vermont in September. Still, over the fall and into the winter Vermonters here and there were still catching COVID-19. It hasn't gone away.

The Mount Abraham Unified School District partnered with Bristol's Mountain Health Center and the Body Online Lab at Middlebury College to create a new mobile health unit at Mount Abe high school, which was created in part to address the rise in student absenteeism that's occurred throughout the pandemic.

After a two-year pandemic-induced postponement, the Middlebury Maple Run returned on Oct. 2.

But plenty of things were not returning to normal. Housing prices, which had skyrocketed when city folk moved to rural Vermont, did not come down. More and more employers were reporting that they couldn't bring in new employees because they couldn't find housing. Worker shortages that became apparent in trades and service jobs during the pandemic, were now hurting many other sectors of the Addison County economy. Schools in November said they were still having difficulty filling support staff and substitute teacher jobs. And we added 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 COVID-19.

And schools were still struggling with some students who had suffered the loss of opportunities to learn both subject matter and behavior control. More than 100 community members turned out at



AGWAY

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#5



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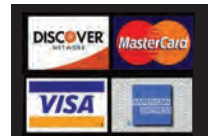
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Towns foster local schools # 2

A handful of Addison County towns worked tirelessly this year to keep or gain control of their local elementary schools in an effort to ensure they'd stay open amid declining enrollment and rising education costs.

Results varied.

In January, the State Board of Education granted Ripton's request to

leave the Addison Central School District. The board designated Ripton its own supervisory district, responsible for providing its students with the budgeting, busing, special education and central office services a supervisory union typically provides.

The Ripton School District needed to find a way to provide these services by July 2023, when the town was slated to launch its own PreK-12 district.

Other Addison County towns followed suit with Ripton.

On Town Meeting Day, residents in Bristol, Monkton, Starksboro and New Haven ratified Lincoln's vote to leave the Mount Abraham Unified School District.

In May, the State Board of Education narrowly approved Lincoln's withdrawal plan. The Lincoln School District elected its first school board directors, began negotiating an exit agreement with MAUSD and prepared to assume responsibility of Lincoln students in July 2023.

Also in May, Starksboro residents voted overwhelmingly to withdraw from the MAUSD. Starksboro residents had been eyeing withdrawal for months as a means of having more say over the fate of Robinson Elementary School.

Lincoln and Ripton school directors discussed forming a

"Mountain Supervisory Union" that could serve students in Ripton, Lincoln and potentially Starksboro. Those efforts hit a major roadblock late into the summer.

At an August meeting, the State Board of Education determined there was a big risk Ripton wouldn't be ready to assume responsibility for the education of its students by July of 2023 — either as a supervisory district, or as a school district within an existing supervisory union.

August also brought an end to Starksboro's withdrawal effort, when New Haven residents on Aug. 9 voted down Starksboro's bid to leave MAUSD. The withdrawal was supported by voters in Bristol and Monkton but needed approval from all three of the district's other member towns to move forward.

Following the state board's determination, Ripton school board directors called for a vote, asking residents whether they'd like to rejoin the ACSD. Ripton residents on Sept. 29 voted 148-89 in favor of rejoining, thus ending the town's long-fought independence effort.

But Ripton school officials vowed to continue fighting for rural towns to have more control over the local schools. And some ACSD board members expressed a willingness to amend the district's charter to give member communities a bigger say over potential school closures, though the panel had not voted on such a charter change by the year's end.

Despite Ripton's and Starksboro's fates,

Lincoln remained confident in its ability to form an operational, independent school district by this July. The Lincoln School District held its first annual meeting in August, expanding its school board and gaining voters' approval to borrow funds needed to get the district up and running.

In November, the State Board of Education designated Lincoln its own supervisory district after a dozen Vermont supervisory unions refused to partner with the community to provide support services, such as central office administration and student transportation.

But Lincoln school directors were pleased with the state board's designation and forged ahead on the work of forming an operational supervisory district for local students.

Meanwhile, the town of Addison regained ownership of its elementary school building as the year drew to a close. The Addison Northwest School District board voted in October to offer the former Addison Central School building back to the town for \$1, since the district wasn't using it anymore. Addison's youngest students switched over to Vergennes Union Elementary School two years ago, and the former Addison School was no longer being used for the Addison Wayfinder Experience special education program that's now being offered in Middlebury.

As of the year's end, a new use for the former Addison Elementary School building had not been determined.



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#3 Housing crunch worsens

Addison County's — and Vermont's — dearth of affordable housing has been well-chronicled during the past three decades. And 2022 added another sad chapter to a housing dilemma that began to touch all segments of the market.

This year featured the continuation of a trend that saw the county's small stock of available homes for sale shrink even further, as out-of-state buyers snapped up abodes of all kinds, in some cases for a lot more than the asking price.

As a result, young families in particular were hard-pressed to find any available housing — for rent or for sale — in their income brackets. This forced younger generations of some Addison County families to start their households out of state, and delayed the relocation of folks wanting to settle in our area.

At the same time, emergency homeless shelters in Vergennes and Middlebury were consistently filled. Some of the guests had found themselves houseless for the first time and had simply run out of options.

Area communities and nonprofits appealed to state and federal authorities for new policies and incentives to create more affordable and workforce housing. In the meantime, several Addison County towns, including Middlebury, amended their zoning bylaws to incentivize the construction of more homes for people at multiple income levels.

The Addison County Community

Trust — the county's largest provider of affordable housing — saw its units filled, with a lengthy waiting list. The ACCT worked hard to bring new units on line.

Middlebury College — one of many Addison County businesses contending with a shallow labor pool — lent its considerable resources and clout to the housing debate. In early April, the institution announced its collaboration with a developer called Summit Properties on what was billed as a \$40 million effort to create around 100 units of affordable, workforce and market-rate units on a 35-acre parcel located off Seminary Street Extension, adjacent to downtown Middlebury.

The college bought the property, which had been for sale for several years, from Marjorie Mooney for \$1.5 million. Plans call for the institution to sell the land to Summit in increments as the company develops the property in phases.

"Middlebury College's goal with this project is to support one of the community's greatest challenges — affordable housing," said David Provost, executive vice president for finance and administration at Middlebury, of the Summit Properties collaboration. "The college's ability to attract and retain faculty and staff is dependent on the economic development of the town of Middlebury, Addison County, and the state of Vermont. This provides the beginning of a solution

for the college, Porter Medical Center, and all businesses in the region."

As of this writing, Summit was seeking an affordable housing financing subsidy through the Vermont Housing Finance Agency and was targeting early January for submission of a project sketch plan with the town.

With many Vermonters feeling stuck because of the increasing costs of homes and the dire lack of availability, state and local officials in December announced a new program to build more moderately priced homes across the state. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency 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. The program is open to nonprofit and private home builders, officials said at a National Bank of Middlebury event.

Meanwhile, students at the Patricia Hannaford Career Center stepped forward to become part of the housing solution. A

local group called Homes First teamed up with the students in the career center's Construction Technology 1 and 2 classes to build the first of what could be many "tiny homes" offering affordable lodging to people of modest means. The term "tiny homes" has come to describe small, well-made abodes of 300 to 500 square feet that can accommodate a couple or small family at a fraction of the cost of conventional housing.



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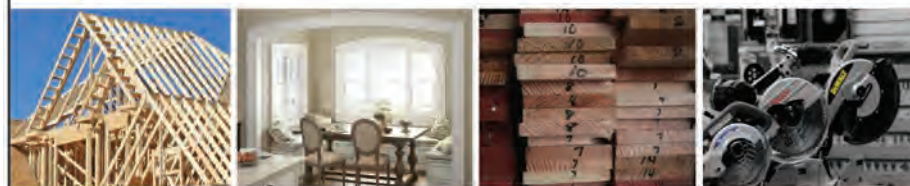
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It was a lively election # 4

The midterm elections of Nov. 8, 2022, arrived and left without an anticipated “red wave” of Republicans winning a bushel of Congressional positions. Conversely, here in

Addison County there was somewhat of a “blue wave” that swept Democrats into every single one of Addison County’s allotted seats in the Vermont House and Senate. It was the first time ever that Democrats had been voted to a legislative monopoly in a county that only 22 years prior had counted just two Dems on its House/Senate roster.

Jon Christiano prevailed in the Aug. 9 GOP primary and then faced Bridport Democrat Jubilee McGill in the General Election for Smith’s Addison-5 House seat, which represents Bridport, Weybridge, most of New Haven, and a small chunk of Middlebury. McGill, who was running for the seat a second time, prevailed, 1,355-788.

a deputy prosecutor’s job in Rutland County.

A familiar face was elected as the new Addison County sheriff, replacing embattled incumbent Peter Newton.

Addison Republican Mike Elmore on Nov. 8 reaped more than double the votes (8,177) of each of his two independent opponents, Gerald Grant of Addison and Mark Stacey of Leicester.

Orwell Democrat Joe Andriano was unopposed in his bid for Norris’s seat representing the Addison-Rutland district, which includes Shoreham, Orwell, Whiting, Sudbury and Hubbardton.

Meanwhile, incumbent Addison County Democrats in both the House and Senate all comfortably won re-election to their respective seats.

The 2022 General Election brought other new faces to key leadership positions.

Middlebury Democrat Eva Vekos defeated Middlebury Independent Peter Bever, 8,478-6,147, in the race for Addison County State’s Attorney. Bever had been serving as the county’s acting top prosecutor, after State’s Attorney Dennis Wygmans left in May to take a different job. Vekos, an attorney with Marsh & Wagner P.C., had advanced to the General Election thanks to an Aug. 9 primary win over fellow Democrat Tim Lueders-Dumont, a Lincoln native.

As it turned out, Vekos was called upon to begin her new job early, in light of Bever’s post-election decision to take

It will be a fairly easy transition for Elmore, an Addison County Sheriff’s Department sergeant who has been handling day-to-day operations since the June arrest of Newton on charges of sexual assault, domestic violence and unlawful restraint. Newton, who pleaded innocent to the charges, refused widespread calls for his resignation (including from Gov. Phil Scott) and continued to sign sheriff’s department contracts and draw his sheriff’s salary.

There was no suspense or intrigue in the election of new Addison County Probate Court Judge Pam Marsh, a New Haven Democrat. Longtime attorney Marsh, who will be succeeding retiring judge Eleanor “Misse” Smith, ran unopposed for the job.

In voting for statewide office, the Addison County electorate followed the rest of Vermont in voting for mostly Democrats to Congressional and state offices, except — like everywhere else — for Republican Phil Scott for governor for the fourth time.



Two notable retirements opened the door for area Democrats, beginning with longtime Rep. Harvey Smith, a New Haven Republican, who in recent years had been the GOP’s lone member of Addison County’s legislative delegation. Also taking a pass on re-election was Rep. Terry Norris, an Independent from Shoreham, who had a history of voting more often with Republicans than Democrats.

Both Smith and Norris announced their impending retirements last spring, in hopes of spurring interest from potential, like-minded candidates.

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#5 Passenger rail returns

2022 saw the return of passenger rail service to Addison County with the expansion of Amtrak's Ethan Allen Express train, which now moves people between New York City and Burlington each day.

Hundreds of eager passengers, train aficionados and other curious spectators greeted the Ethan Allen Express on July 29 as it entered the new Ferrisburgh/Vergennes and Middlebury stops. There was good reason for excitement, as passenger rail service had not passed through the county since 1953.

Around 100 individuals awaited the arrival of the Ethan Allen at the Ferrisburgh-Vergennes depot. Those milling around the station were offered goodies, coupons for local businesses and an article about amateur rail historian and former local teacher Ron Nimblett.

Nimblett played a major role in raising awareness about the historic Vergennes Rail Depot, which was built in 1849. The station needed a lot of restoration work prior to its 2012 move from a site off North Main Street to its current spot next to the Route 22A Park-and-Ride lot and railroad tracks. Nimblett's wife, Jane Nimblett, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the celebration welcoming the train.

Further down Route 7 in Middlebury, more than 200 residents and travelers crowded the town's new rail platform near the northern entrance to the Marble

Works. A ribbon cutting ceremony took place, with Middlebury selectboard members snipping the ribbon in front of the tracks to celebrate the occasion.

Prior to the train's arrival, Addison County communities had spent years preparing for the occasion. An estimated \$117 million — \$88 million in federal money and \$29 million in Vermont money — was spent on the necessary upgrades to the track and right of way.

The town of Middlebury helped pave the way for the new train services by taking on a roughly four-year-long, \$77 million effort to replace two 100-year-old downtown rail bridges with a tunnel. The project was mostly completed during the fall of 2021, with some cosmetic work done early this year.

Middlebury's new passenger rail platform sits across the track from the old rail station, which was used until the 1950s but is now under private ownership.

In New Haven, residents spent months coordinating the relocation of the town's 19th-century train depot, which needed to be either demolished or moved from its location near the intersection of Routes 17 and 7 in order to allow for rail service to return to county tracks this past summer. The depot was too close to the tracks, officials said.

In January, the historic building was moved to its new home next to the New Haven Community Library. A new

foundation has been poured for the train depot, and town officials are now gathering funds for interior renovations for the building to prepare it for future tenants.

As they welcomed the Ethan Allen Express into Addison County, some local officials acknowledged the opportunities rail service will create for residents looking to travel and or wanting to host guests. Prospective passengers also expressed excitement about the Amtrak expansion and the ease of travel it affords.

Town officials in Middlebury and Ferrisburgh were also optimistic about a potential boost to their local economies resulting from passenger rail-related

tourism. Some Addison County business owners were excited about a potential rise in sales, though many acknowledged it would take time to see exactly how rail service would affect the local economy.



Childcare shortage affects families #6

Childcare centers have for years been waging a battle to attract and retain educators, while providing enough slots to meet the needs of Addison County households.

And 2022 was a year of momentum toward solving childcare

challenges in our county.

Planning and financing started to come together for a Community Child Care Expansion Project at the Otter Creek Child Care Center property at 150 Weybridge St. in Middlebury. Once completed, the estimated \$10 million project would add as many as 77 new childcare slots and 28 new jobs to our area by the spring of 2025, according to organizers, which included the OCCC and Middlebury College — one of many Addison County employers with workers in desperate need of quality childcare options.

Plans call for renovating OCCC and equipping it with a 12,000- to 14,000-square-foot addition. Organizers have been diligently applying for grants to help underwrite the ambitious project. In addition to seeking a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant, advocates have applied for a \$350,000 grant through the Northern Border Regional Commission, and \$100,000 through Let's Grow Kids.

Meanwhile, the Congregational Church of Middlebury in 2022 launched an effort to create an independent, non-profit childcare center within its historic place of worship at the corner of North

Pleasant and Main streets. The center will provide slots for 24 children ages six weeks to three years old — a population in particular need of childcare services.

It's a plan that got off to a flying start, thanks to \$560,000 in donated seed money. As 2022 ended, church officials were working hard to make physical upgrades to the targeted childcare space within the church.

The new slots of the two aforementioned projects are expected to lessen the county's childcare problem, but not solve it. A non-profit advocacy group called Let's Grow Kids has estimated Addison County needs an additional 452 childcare spots just to meet the needs of working parents with children aged 3 and younger.

While providers agreed that expanded childcare offerings would be welcomed, they were concerned about having enough staff just to keep up with their current clientele. Childcare centers continue to struggle 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, the *Independent* learned through its reporting.

For example, OCCC in December was trying to fill three full-time educator positions to work with its preschoolers, infants and toddlers. The organization also put out the call for part-time substitutes to fill in for educators absent due to illness, maternity leave, or a variety of other reasons. Being short-staffed with few subs led OCCC to reduce its hours by 15 minutes during the month of December, a situation that's likely to spill into January, center Director Linda January told the *Independent*.

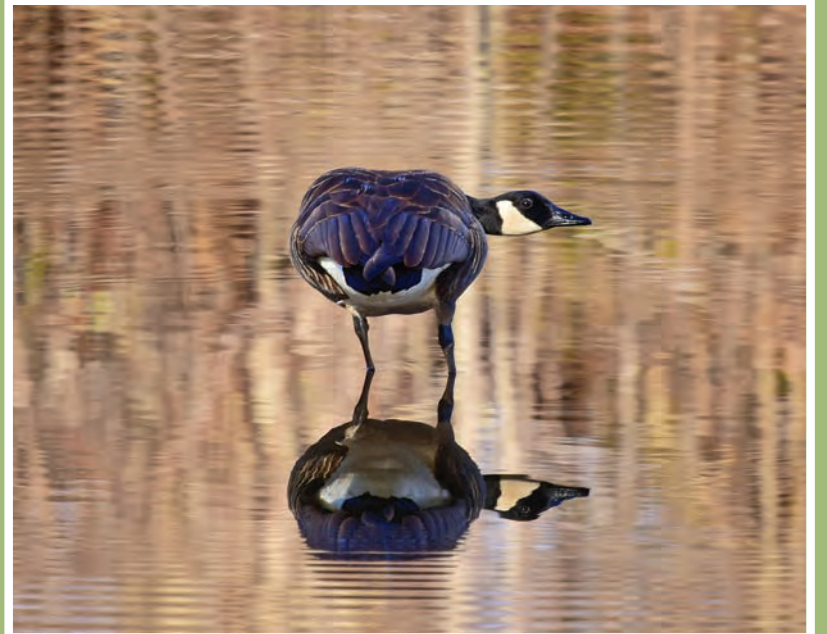
Area childcare centers are limited to a salary scale of roughly \$14-\$20 per hour (depending on experience) due to their limited resources, providers explained. Center directors added they're hard-pressed to offer health benefits that can compete with the private sector or Vermont's healthcare exchange.

"We have tried to continue to increase our wages, but they're still not where they should be," Bristol Family Center's Amie Whitcomb told the *Independent*. "There are teachers who will notice that you can go work at McDonald's for \$17 an hour, and some of our teachers aren't making that."

As 2022 ended, childcare advocates were urging local lawmakers to consider new strategies or subsidies that could make a career as an early childhood educator more financially attractive.



2022 in Photos



What we saw

While we all love to read about the news in our county, one thing I like about my job is getting to see what's going on, too. I couldn't pick the absolute best of 2022, so here are a variety of images that give a taste of the breadth of our coverage.

A classic case of an image being so much more powerful than telling with words came in January of 2022, when *Independent* photographer Steve James captured the image (top left) of the huge New Haven train depot rolling up Route 17. Among the many talented local photographers who share their work with us is Lincoln's Dale Cockrell, who snapped this fun shot of a goose and its reflection (top right).

I took this photo, right, of Evelynn (age 4) and Peyton Laplant (6) at Middlebury's Memorial Day parade. I liked the red truck and the contrasting images of one girl smiling happily and the other utterly bored after a mile creeping along. Steve captured the expression on Eagle shortstop Chance Denecker's face just before he tagged the Middlebury baserunner (below right). Steve has a knack for catching expressions and in this shot he also froze the fast-flying ball just before it reached Chance's glove.

And talk about facial expressions, Steve did a great job at the Middlebury College commencement (below left) when he shot these three grads shooting a video of themselves for a TikTok post.

Finally, Steve's daughter Megan James showed in the photo at left that she has an eye as well. Minutes after the Christmas tree went up, Megan took this photo of 11-month-old kitten Bart climbing its boughs.

— John McCright, news editor



#7 ANWSD/MAUSD merger defeated

The study committee tasked with exploring the feasibility of merging the Mount Abraham Unified and Addison Northwest school districts wrapped up its work in 2022. The 15-member committee, formed by the two districts in 2021, had been looking at whether such a merger would help both districts address shared challenges of continued declining enrollment and rising education costs.

In June, the committee voted in favor, 10-1, of recommending a merger between the two districts and began finalizing a drafted articles of agreement for the proposed "Addison North Union Unified School District" on which residents in the nine towns that would make up the district would vote on in November.

In its final report, the committee stated that its rationale for recommending a merger was based on the belief that consolidating the MAUSD and ANWSD districts would create a more cost-effective structure for taxpayers and better educational opportunities for students.

That consensus was reached after 18 months of hearing reports on enrollment trends and financial projections, learning about school governance models, gathering community input and drafting articles of agreement for the new district.

Despite their optimistic findings, the committee's drafted articles of agreement sparked concerns from many community members, particularly

regarding how potential school closures and consolidations would be handled in a merged district.

The committee had spent months discussing how to address the issue of school closure in a merged district. Committee members sought common ground on the issue, which ANWSD and MAUSD handle differently in their articles of agreement.

Ultimately, the group decided on an article that would require a majority vote from the school board and voters in the district in order to close an elementary school after the first four years of operation in the new district.

Though, this article faced scrutiny as some community members felt it did not do enough to protect small schools from closure or give enough of a say to the towns hosting the school.

Another concern that arose among community members was the potential for further consolidation in a merged district, namely at the high school and middle school level. Whether to merge the districts' middle and high schools would have been decided upon by an elected school board and community members later down the road, and some worried about the possibility of consolidating the schools.

School district officials also had concerns. MAUSD board members were split on whether to adopt a resolution in

support of the study committees' recommendation. The board ultimately voted in favor, 6-5, of adopting the resolution, but some board members disagreed with the article's handling of school closure and worried voters would not have enough time to weigh the pros and cons of a merger before voting. ANWSD board members also passed a resolution in relation to the committee's recommendation and encouraged community members to consider the merger proposal and vote on the matter.

It appeared various concerns held weight among voters, as residents in the nine combined ANWSD and MAUSD towns in November defeated the merger proposal by a wide margin: 4,282-1,886.

Former merger committee members, school district officials and community members vowed to continue to explore opportunities for addressing ongoing challenges in the two districts.

Committee members also hoped their work would remain useful for the districts



in the future and inspire further collaboration when possible as school officials in both districts continue to navigate fiscal and educational challenges.

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Vergennes finds a big sewer fix # 8

For years the troubled Vergennes treatment system has had a distressing habit of overflowing and then dumping sewage-laced stormwater into Otter Creek, with amounts at times running into hundreds of thousands of gallons.

City officials have acknowledged that treatment plant operator Rick Chaput has held that facility and the system's problematic — and critical, because it serves most of the city — Macdonough Drive pump station together in recent years, metaphorically with baling wire and chewing gum.

Meanwhile the city has been under a standing order from state environmental officials to solve problems that earlier fixes to the system had failed to resolve.

Finally, on March 1, Vergennes residents approved a new comprehensive solution. Voters

backed a \$25.5 million bond proposal overwhelmingly; the tally was 384-60, or about 87%-13%. City officials told them that approval would probably, but not certainly, be 50% supported by a mix of federal and state grant funding.

Residents expressed that strong support despite projections that their per-unit (home, apartment or business) annual user rates could rise from \$500 to \$1,040 over the next five years to fund the balance of the cost. City officials noted the higher rate would mirror the norm among municipal sewer ratepayers around Vermont.

Good news and bad news followed. The better news came in late April. Officials had expected the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development arm to fund at least 20% of the project. Instead, about two months after the March vote, USDA officials unveiled a \$17.5 million funding package that included a \$7.08 million grant and a \$10.5 million loan, payable over 30 years with an interest rate of just 1.75%. Maybe user rates would not have to rise as much.

But a month after the USDA announcement City Manager Ron Redmond and Hoyle & Tanner & Associates Project Manager Jennie Auster told the city council to hold the phone: Inflation had hit hard since the original project estimates were calculated, and the actual project cost could approach \$34 million.

Redmond described that figure as a worst-case scenario, and all involved agreed the new number was speculative and wouldn't be known until bids on the first phases start coming in over the months and years ahead.

Auster and Redmond also said given the USDA's unexpected largesse the impact to ratepayers should be back in line with residents' pre-vote expectations: A gradual increase to \$950 by 2027 should fund the more expensive project. And, they noted again that higher rate was also comparable to what most municipal sewer system users pay around Vermont.

"You're still in a position where you have significant grants and are in a very good position to move forward," Auster said.

The work proposed included new laws to remove sump pumps from privately owned buildings, a major source of the overflows; replacement of aging and leaky sewer lines, some 100 years old; an upgrade to the Macdonough Drive pump station that is a bottleneck for the overflows; a new sewer main under Otter Creek from that pump station to the treatment plant to replace the existing 60-year-old cast iron main; and a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the treatment plant itself.

At year's end the project remained for the most part in the design and planning stages.





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Top Ten changes to reduce waste in 2023

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- Make your own non-hazardous cleaners.
- Donate usable items instead of throwing them away.
- Say no to freebies from events, work, and other gatherings.
- Shop secondhand instead of new to extend an item's life.
- Buy items made from recycled content, not raw materials.
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#9 Police arrest sheriff

News broke in late April that Vermont State Police were investigating a reported “domestic disturbance” at the Middlebury home of Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton in February. Newton said he hadn’t heard about the investigation, and a few days later he posted a YouTube video in which he said he wouldn’t seek re-election in November after just one four-year term. His sometimes rambling 19-minute announcement — which he quickly withdrew from YouTube — included criticism of other people and revelations of the mental health problems he claimed he had been facing.

After the February police visit to Newton’s home, Middlebury police asked the state’s attorney to look into the case because Newton had once worked for the department. State’s Attorney Dennis Wygmans recused himself and asked the Washington County state’s attorney to look into the incident, and he apparently brought in the state police.

The hammer came down on June 28, when troopers after a months-long investigation arrested Newton on charges of felony sexual assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and domestic assault. Newton was taken into custody while he was conducting contractor work at a construction job site in Middlebury. Troopers involved with the arrest said Newton did not resist. Two police cruisers could be seen in front of his Middlebury

home that afternoon while an investigation of his premises took place. A state police affidavit described an abusive relationship between Newton and a woman involved in the February police call to his home.

Newton pleaded not guilty to the charges. He was released on \$100,000 bail, with conditions that preclude him from engaging in law enforcement. Newton told media assembled at the courthouse that he would continue to carry out the administrative functions of sheriff.

Meanwhile, Addison County High Bailiff Dave Silberman became acting sheriff while Newton was in custody, and in a statement called for Newton to immediately resign from office. Then multiple citizens, local legislators and even Gov. Phil Scott called on Newton to resign. In July, selectboards in Pantton and Ripton called on Newton to resign. State law requires a legislative impeachment process to remove a sheriff from office.

Newton refused to resign.

With the sheriff barred from law enforcement, 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.

Newton’s term in office has been marked by an at-times acrimonious relationship with other local police and municipal officials. Soon after being elected, he ended the Addison County Unit for

Special Investigation’s tenancy in the sheriff’s department building, saying he hoped his department could provide those services itself.

In 2021, Newton was involved in a public spat with the town manager of Brandon over the conduct of one of Newton’s deputies and Newton’s refusal to release body cam video of the incident. It was not the first time that Newton was criticized for shielding one of his deputies.

In 2020, Newton and one of his deputies, Brent Newton, accused Vergennes Police Chief George Merkel of mis-assigning hours he was working for the city to the Governor’s Highway Safety Program, and that he

had also failed to keep complete data on the racial identities of those his department dealt with in traffic stops. A state police review of evidence culminated in Merkel being cleared of the allegations.

Around the same time Vergennes police and the sheriff’s department were competing for a contract to enforce traffic laws in Ferrisburgh. Newton also said he would launch an interagency co-operative network to improve social services delivery — an effort that looked



remarkably like an effort Merkel had already been leading through the Vergennes Police Department.

Elmore was elected Addison County sheriff in his own right on Nov. 8. But he won’t get to take on that job until Newton leaves, and Newton’s term expires at the end of January. In the meantime, the sign on the front of the Addison County Sheriff’s Department office in Middlebury still says, “Sheriff Peter D. Newton.”

Addy Indy Numbers Quiz

Take this little numbers quiz to test how well you know what we do at the Addison Independent!

1. How many people read the Addison Independent each week?
2. How many towns do we regularly cover?
3. How many special sections do we feature throughout each year?
4. How many pages did we print in 2022?
5. How many people visited our website this year?
6. How many email newsletter opens did we have this year?

(Answers on page 11A)

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Top Ten Online 2022

The *Addison Independent* news team picked the top 10 stories you just read, but how would readers pick Addison County’s top 10 stories of 2022? One measure is to see what you, dear readers, clicked on in 2022. On the Addy Indy website, people in 2022 wanted to read some of the same things that we thought were most important, but not necessarily in the same order.

Our top story online by a considerable margin was our June 28 story on Vermont State Police arresting Addison County Sheriff Peter Newton. Like the other stories that the news team picked for our list, this sheriff-arrested story actually appeared in print in several iterations over several months, and that contributed to our decision to make it a top 10 selection.

Another story in our chosen top 10 is reflected in our No. 8 most popular story online: “College buys land to build affordable housing in Middlebury,” which we posted on Apr. 8. Again, this was a component of the Housing Crunch story we picked as a top story, but one of many stories we published on the topic.

We were a bit surprised that there were no COVID-19 stories in the top 10 stories on our website or our Instagram page. But that just shows the nature of online media when you measure a single story compared to judging the agglomeration of stories on a given topic or theme that we considered for the staff’s top 10.

The rest of the top 10 stories on our website in terms of clicks were pretty much one-off stories that people read out of curiosity or because they were unique. And talk about unique, our No. 2 story online certainly fits the bill: “Winning \$300 million Powerball ticket purchased in Middlebury,” published June 30.

And online readers weren’t just clicking on frivolous stories that didn’t necessarily affect them. Our readers were reading stories that in many cases were breaking news, but also news stories with context about how they affected their lives. No. 3 online was “City police chief to retire early, cites lack of respect,” posted Aug. 25.

The rest of our online top 10 were: No. 4. “Otter Creek Brew Pub closing after this weekend” (Oct. 28); No. 5. “Local man found dead on ice in Middlebury gorge” (Jan. 24); No. 6. “Big fire destroys Tarkey’s Lodge on Lake Dunmore” (Feb. 21); No. 7. “New high-speed internet coming to 14 towns” (Oct. 27); No. 9. “Middlebury College student charged with multiple crimes” (Apr. 28); and No. 10. “Where has the water gone at Middlebury falls?” (July 28).

Links to each will appear with this story when it is posted on addisonindependent.com. Check them out there.

Thanks for a great 2022; we’ll see you all online in 2023!

Recreational cannabis sold legally # 10

Smoking or even possessing cannabis became illegal in the United States for the most part during the Great Depression. Generations of American lived in a society that looked down on and

jailed people found with cannabis.

A law passed in 2020 allowed adult Vermonters to possess —legally — up to one ounce of marijuana, two mature cannabis plants and four immature plants. The law, called Act 164, also greenlighted retail sales of recreational cannabis beginning on Oct. 1, 2022, and a good number of Addison County consumers, communities and prospective vendors were ready to flirt with the new cannabis marketplace.

The groundwork for that local marketplace was laid in 2021, when residents in several local communities — including Middlebury, Vergennes, Salisbury and Brandon — voted to allow their municipalities to consider future cannabis retail store applications. On Town Meeting Day in 2022, Bristol, Ferrisburgh and Weybridge voters OK'd measures that will permit licensed cannabis retailers, and in some cases wholesalers, to operate in their towns. That same day, Leicester

and New Haven defeated similar proposals.

Middlebury received two cannabis-related applications this past spring: One for a proposed cultivating operation, the other for a retail store.

The cultivating operation, dubbed “Mister Z,” was pitched by childhood friends Max Eingorn, Ronald Williams and Zachary Tyson. Their proposal called for cultivating cannabis in a 3,000-square-foot space in the former Middlebury Boarding & Grooming Kennel property at 2819 South Street Ext.

Dave Silberman and Michael Sims proposed Middlebury’s first cannabis retail store, called “FLÖRA,” at 2 Park St. in the downtown.

Both applications earned approval from both the town and the Vermont Cannabis Control Board.

Realizing other entrepreneurs would also want to enter the industry, some Middlebury selectboard members sought to ensure the downtown wouldn’t become saturated with cannabis retailers. The board in July agreed to divorce cannabis retail from a sweeping set of municipal zoning bylaw revisions. The panel elected to follow a separate review path for the cannabis retail bylaws, and in the meantime proceed with its approval of the broader, remaining bylaws package.

Middlebury’s FLÖRA became one of only three fully licensed and permitted

cannabis retail shops statewide to open in early October. It helped that Silberman, a Middlebury attorney, had been a longtime advocate for the legalization of recreational cannabis in the Green Mountain State, had provided input for Act 164, and was well-versed in its requirements.

Silberman estimated 1,000 people hailing from at least eight different states and Canada walked through the store’s doors at 2 Park St. during opening weekend in October to survey and purchase cannabis flower and an assortment of related products, including tinctures, edibles, beverages, topicals and CBD items. FLÖRA’s initial cannabis selection included product from multiple Vermont growers, including two in Addison County — one in Bristol and another in Starksboro.

At one point on Saturday, Oct. 1, the line of FLÖRA customers stretched from the store’s front door all the way up Park Street, almost to the Cross Street Bridge roundabout.

“I think there’s plenty of business to go around,” Silberman said that week, noting entrepreneurs in Bristol and Ferrisburgh were among those seeking to open stores in the near future.

“As more stores open up, people will have more choices, and that’s great,” he said. “We’ll see how things develop. This market will take a while to find its level.”



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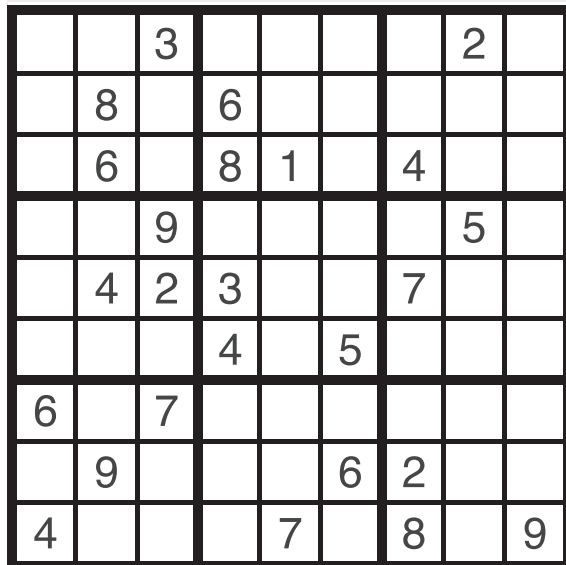
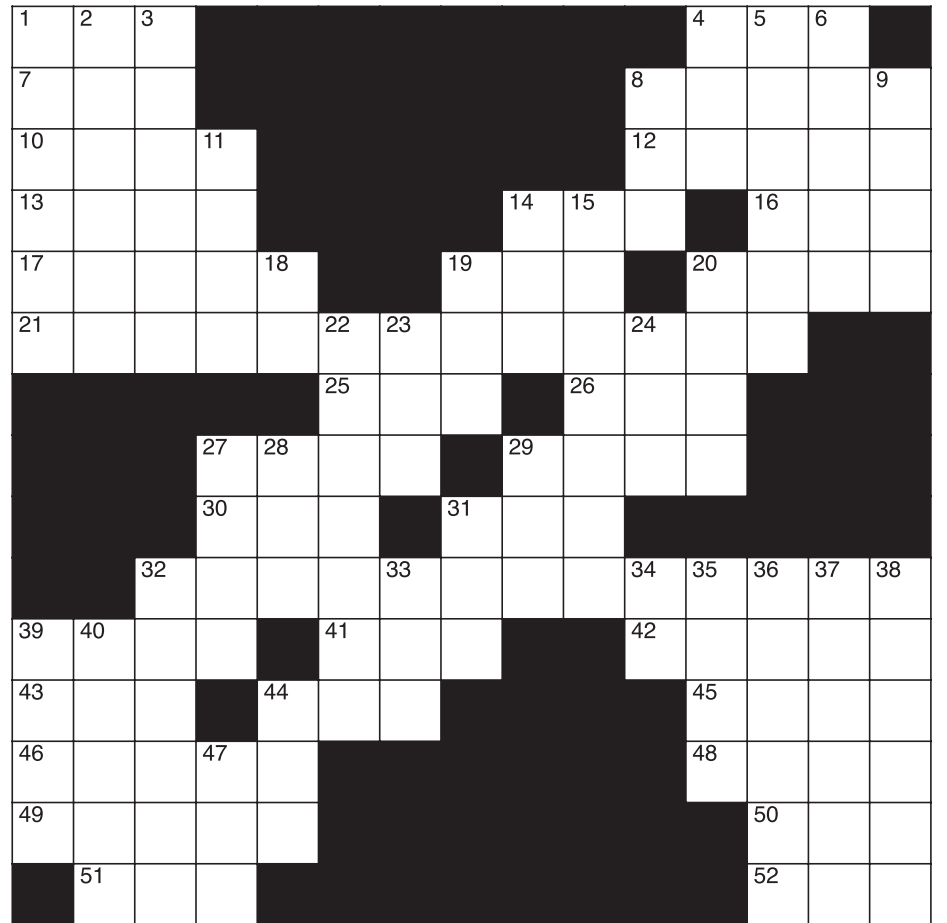
ACROSS

- 1. Basics
- 4. Swiss river
- 7. Constrictor snake
- 8. Building occupied by monks
- 10. Discount
- 12. Deal a blow to
- 13. Relating to the ear
- 14. Thyrotropin
- 16. Loud, unpleasant noise
- 17. Large intestines
- 19. Move with a curving trajectory
- 20. Witnesses
- 21. You need both to live
- 25. Dash
- 26. Network
- 27. Dig
- 29. C. European river
- 30. Supplement with difficulty
- 31. Corporate executive
- 32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
- 39. No variation
- 41. Airborne (abbr.)
- 42. "Heidi" author
- 43. Affirmative
- 44. Pie _ _ _ mode
- 45. W. Asian country
- 46. Grotesque or bizarre

- 48. Delicacy (archaic)
- 49. Textile
- 50. Denial
- 51. Electronic data processing
- 52. Attempt

DOWN

- 1. Engulf
- 2. Waterside hotel
- 3. Printed cotton fabric
- 4. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 5. One who follows the rules
- 6. Lace up once more
- 8. Fire byproduct



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 23.

- 9. Hankerings
- 11. Outer
- 14. One-time aerospace firm
- 15. Seafood
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
- 20. Samoan monetary unit
- 22. Type of gland
- 23. Arrest
- 24. Check
- 27. Past participle of be
- 28. Alias
- 29. A major division of geological time
- 31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
- 32. Joked
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Roman numeral 50
- 35. Impressive in size
- 36. Domineering leader
- 37. A person who delivers a speech
- 38. One after 8g
- 39. Young hawk
- 40. The scene of any event or action
- 44. A team's best pitcher
- 47. Integrated data processing



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Miss Fluffy Tail

Miss Fluffy Tail is an almost 9-year-old long-haired lady. She may have a grumpy expression but don't let that deceive you! She has a lot of love to give. Miss Fluff loves to take naps and would be a perfect couch cuddle buddy. She has hyperthyroidism and requires twice-daily medication to regulate her thyroid. She willingly devours her meds in her wet food. Miss Fluffy Tail would like to be the only pet where she can get all the attention she deserves.



Otter

Otter is a handsome and affectionate 2-year-old guy. He is chatty and likes to lounge on high perches. Otter gets along well with female cats, but he is aggressive with male cats. He is cautious but okay with dogs.

Otter came to the shelter with some missing toes on one of his back feet, but that doesn't slow him down! He recently visited the first graders at the Bristol Elementary School and was a hit with the little ones!

Sally

Sally is a sweet and talkative 5.5-year-old. She was surrendered due to her high anxiety and litterbox issues, but she has been religiously using her litterbox here in the shelter and she is doing very well behaviorally. Sally loves wet food and meows like crazy to beg for her breakfast. She loves to play with wand toys and laser pointers. Sally is startled by loud noises and likes the comfort of her hiding spots. She is unsure how to approach and interact with other cats, but has gotten along well with them once the awkward introduction is behind her. We are unsure about how she feels about dogs.



Thelma & Louise

Thelma & Louise came to the shelter as strays. They are 1.5-year-old loving, playful pups with a lot of energy.

Thelma gets nervous on walks and wants to come back to the shelter quickly. She is more confident around her sister, Louise, and will gladly go for walks with her. They are both dog friendly and enjoy being around people. They are not housebroken and would benefit from a home with a fenced-in yard so they can be encouraged to use the 'outside facilities.'



Max

Max is a 5-year-old German Shepherd with a lot of energy! He needs an experienced Shepherd owner who understands the breed. Max loves going for walks and playing in our training room. He can be quite the jumper and shelter staff is working with him on his impulse control. Since he is a 90-pound ball of energy, he needs someone able to manage his energetic outbursts. Max is dog-friendly, but can be dominant around other dogs and therefore should be the only pet in a home. He likes to chase cats and is not good with children.



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

an emotional response from the viewer." Juried by Aline Smithson. On view through Jan. 20, with an opening reception on Friday, Jan. 6, from 4-7 p.m.

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 through Jan. 7.

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"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 through Jan. 14.

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"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.

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UPCOMING MUSIC

The Heart of Afghanistan gives live performance in Middlebury on Jan. 12

The Middlebury Performing Arts Series opens 2023 with a concert by The Heart of Afghanistan on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Mahaney Arts Center.

The concert program will feature traditional ghazals based on the Sufi-inspired poetry of Rumi (who was born in Afghanistan), Afghan folk music, and the iconic hits of legendary singer Ahmad Zahir, ever popular in the 1960s and 70s and still wildly popular today.

This live concert will also be streamed, with a 48-hour window to access.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The ensemble features four brilliant Afghan musicians: famed singer and Afghan TV star Ahmad Fanoos on vocals and harmonium, his sons Elham Fanoos on piano and Mehran Fanoos on violin, and Hamid Habibzada on tabla. Unable to perform inside Afghanistan today, where the Taliban has banned all music,



The Heart of Afghanistan will perform on Thursday, Jan. 12 at the Mahaney Arts Center.

the group carries the flame of Afghanistan's rich and complex musical heritage from its pre-Islamic Buddhist period to the modern era. Only recently reunited in the U.S., the ensemble offers a 360-degree view of Afghan culture through music, poetry, art, and cultural heritage.

The Heart Of Afghanistan is an American Voices Production.

Don't miss this special event next Thursday,

Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students. Vaccinations and boosters (or valid medical or religious exemptions) are required; masks are optional, except under certain circumstances, but welcome. Streaming tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets, health and safety protocols, or information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

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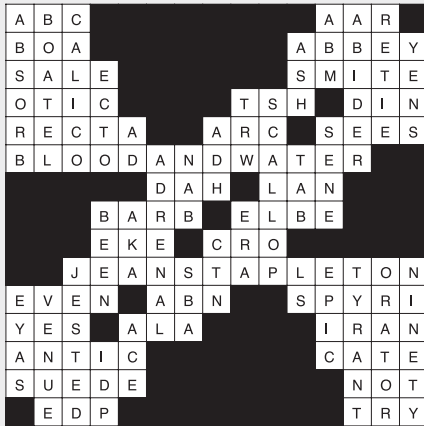


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Fun Home

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FUN HOME is the ground-breaking musical based on a graphic memoir by Vermont's own Alison Bechdel. The winner of the 2015 Tony Award for best musical, it's a funny and emotional tale of a young woman's coming of age, in counterpoint to the unraveling of her tormented, closeted father. This is the 14th collaboration between THT and the Middlebury College Department of Music—an immensely popular series that tends to sell out the entire run in a matter of days. Once again, Doug Anderson directs a cast of talented students. Ronnie Romano conducts the amazing student orchestra. Carol Christensen serves as music director.

The American musical has touched on gay themes before (La Cage aux Folles, Falsettos) but Fun Home is in a class by itself — a frank, funny, compelling look at the American family in the grip of social change.

Tickets:

College ID Holder \$20

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