



Photo worthy

Jim Westphalen's effort to capture farm buildings is part of a new film. See Arts + Leisure.



Two more fall

The Panther women's lacrosse team won big twice, once over No. 5 Tufts. See Sports, Page 1B.



Young kids

There's a lot going on in early education locally. Read our 16-page special section inside.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Search for teen ends in tragedy

Rebecca Ball's body found near TAM

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A six-day search for a missing Middlebury teen ended Tuesday afternoon in soul crushing fashion, with the recovering of 17-year-old Rebecca Ball's body in a wooded area on the west side of Otter Creek, north of Belden Falls, in Weybridge.

"It's tragic," said Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley, whose officers were part of a massive search that began during the afternoon of March 29 and also involved the Vermont State Police Search and Rescue Team, other agencies and many citizen

volunteers.

It was Hanley who had the unenviable task of informing Rebecca's father, Daniel Ball, of his daughter's death.

"This appears to be just an issue of exposure to the elements and hypothermia. There's no indication there were any injuries."

— Police Chief Tom Hanley

"I was with the father last night for several hours," the chief said on Wednesday morning. "This is going to be a rough time for him."

And also for Rebecca's mom, Jeanne Fair, as well as students, teachers and staff at Middlebury Union High School, where the teen was a senior eager to graduate this spring.

The *Independent* left a message of condolences for Fair, who felt strong enough to offer a (See Becky Ball, Page 13A)



FORMER VERMONT GOV. Jim Douglas late last month sued his alma mater and part-time employer Middlebury College for the school's 2021 decision to change the name of the historic structure known formerly as Mead Memorial Chapel.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Douglas sues college over name of chapel

Seeks return of 'Mead' on building

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A famous playwright asked, "What's in a name?" When it comes to an iconic chapel at Middlebury College, the answer includes centuries of Vermont history, a gift from a well-known alum and a lawsuit recently filed by an equally famous graduate.

Former Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas is suing the college for its 2021 decision to change the name of the historic structure, formerly known as Mead Memorial Chapel. College officials stripped from the chapel the name of the man who funded construction of the stone edifice, Gov. John Abner Mead, because he played a role in the state's eugenics movement.

Since the fall of 2021, the building has been known as "Middlebury Chapel" or simply

"the chapel."

According to Douglas, the name change broke an agreement between the institution and Mead, who had asked that the chapel be named in honor of his ancestors.

"When Gov. Mead sent his letter to the college in 1914, he specifically indicated the name that he wanted on the building, it's in quotes in his letter, 'Mead Memorial Chapel,'" Douglas told the *Independent*. "The college accepted it on that basis."

In 1914, Mead and his wife contributed around \$75,000 to Middlebury College to construct the chapel. The gift coincided with the 50th anniversary of Mead's graduation from the liberal arts institution.

In a letter to the college's then-president, Mead expressed (See Chapel, Page 9A)

River Watch addressing pollution in Barnes Brook

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Tucked behind Middlebury's Memorial Sports Center, a small stream flows southwestward, snaking its way through Addison County's shire town before emptying into the Otter Creek.

The tributary, named Barnes Brook, is unidentifiable on most maps but plays an important role in keeping the area's ecosystems healthy, according to Sophie Johnson, outreach coordinator for the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.

Barnes Brook is part of an urban watershed that supports communities of macroinvertebrates, minnows, birds and other living organisms in

(See Barnes Brook, Page 12A)



Got it!

YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYING Frisbee in front of a pile of dirty snow is surely a sign that spring has arrived in the Champlain Valley. We saw this Middlebury College student soar like the thermometer to snatch the flying disk over Youngman Field on Saturday afternoon.



Independent photos/John S. McCright

Wanted: more municipal clerks



SHOREHAM TOWN CLERK Julie Ortuno, shown at last month's town meeting, is one of several local town clerks who has given notice, but agreed to stay on the job longer while their towns find a hard-to-come-by replacement.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Lack of interest in vital position causes problems

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Longtime Middlebury Town Clerk Ann Webster knew her rigorous job might be a tough sell to would-be successors, so she announced her retirement almost a year in advance. In April 2022 she gave notice figuring that would give ample time for candidates to size up the position and get on the ballot for Town Meeting Day 2023.

But time and behind-the-scenes recruiting failed to draw any serious takers from among the shire town's more than 7,000 residents when the candidate filing deadline came and went in January.

"There were people who we thought would be good candidates who were approached by different people to (gauge) their interest, and there were a few people who approached (See Clerks wanted, Page 10A)

MAUSD explores its role in local childcare

Editor's note: See our special section on Early Childhood Education — a pull-out inside today's Arts + Leisure section.

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board is considering how the district could help address local childcare needs.

Board members on Tuesday spoke with Addison County Universal PreK Coordinator Meg Baker about early



childhood systems in Vermont and Addison County and where those systems overlap with the district's role.

Baker also talked with the board about what to keep in mind as it navigates how to meet childcare needs.

(See Childcare, Page 10A)



By the way

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is already receiving reports of waking bears — something that can be bad news for folks who live near bear habitats. State officials want these bears to associate food as something coming from in the woods and not near dwellings. They are recommending strategies for people to keep these large, and at times destructive, animals at (See By the way, Page 12A)

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DAR Award winners

THE SETH WARNER – Rhoda Farrand Chapter of the DAR held its annual awards ceremony on March 11 at VUHS. Benjamin Hargett (pictured right) and Collin Clair (not pictured) received monetary awards for their Patriot of the American Revolution essays. Jackson Bennett (pictured top right) was awarded with a pin, a cash award, and the Eleanor Pratt Good Citizen award of \$250. His name was also inscribed on the VUHS Good Citizen plaque, which is displayed in the auditorium lobby. The first chapter Good Citizen award was in 1945. In addition, Rebecca Coffey (pictured above) received recognition as the chapter's American History Teacher of the Year. Rebecca's name was submitted to the Vermont DAR and she was chosen as the Vermont American History Teacher of the Year.

Photos courtesy of Joy Minns



Bristol explores new police station options

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — After months of exploring the possibility of building an addition for the Bristol Police Department onto the town's fire station, the Bristol selectboard on Monday got a glimpse of what that addition could look like.

Cushman Design Group, the Stowe firm that designed the fire station, shared with the board two site plan options for the potential addition. The firm was tasked in October with studying the feasibility of the project.

While board members discussed the options at Monday's meeting, the selectboard decided it will need to explore the police department's needs with Police Chief Bruce Nason and carefully consider other elements of the project before moving forward.

"We have to decide with Bruce and ourselves what we think we really need and what direction we want to head," Selectman John "Pecker" Heffernan said.

The selectboard began exploring alternative locations for the Bristol Police Department this past fall, as the force has outgrown its current home in BristolWorks. Adding a headquarters for the police department onto the fire station has been the preferred location among board members, particularly the possibility of building a two-story addition onto the back of the fire station.

Since October, Cushman has explored the practicality of that project. The firm's study included discussions with police and fire chiefs about their existing facilities and the development of floor and site plans, which were presented at Monday's meeting.

Michael Perpall, an architect at Cushman, shared two site plan

options with the board, the first being a one-story building separate from the existing firehouse. The building would be around 4,050 square feet, a substantial increase from the 2,500-square-foot space the force currently occupies.

Perpall noted the increase in square footage would accommodate growth within the force, allowing the department to take on two additional fulltime employees, as well as create detective and youth officer positions. The building's floor plans include space for a conference room, meeting/training room and a two-car sally port.

"It would be a cost savings to not really touch or engage in construction with the existing firehouse, but just to place the new building right next to it," Perpall said of the one-story option.

Though, the one-story building would take up more space on the property than a two-story option, leaving less site area for the stormwater and septic design.

The other site plan option presented at Monday's meeting was a two-story addition onto the existing firehouse, connected via a second floor "bridge connector corridor." The two-story option has around 5,575 total square feet, and a smaller footprint that would allow more flexibility for parking, fenced-in storage areas, stormwater and septic design.

Chief Nason expressed his preference for the two-story option, specifically in light of storage options.

"We use the (Department of Public Works) for some of our bikes that we store, there's a trailer there. So, we should have something near the police department, some exterior storage," he said. "If we went with the two-story concept,

we could do something right there."

Perpall noted that the two-story option comes with the added costs of construction alterations to the firehouse's south entry area and that second story area typically costs more than ground level area due to structure and stairs. Cost estimates for the two site plan options were not included in Monday's presentation but will be provided to the board at a future meeting.

Selectboard members identified other elements of the project to discuss at upcoming meetings, including whether to expand the police department's service to include the entire town.

"I would say we need to have a detailed discussion before we would decide on any sort of building. If we're looking at 4,000 or 6,000 square foot of building, there's a significant price tag attached to that," Selectman Ian Albinston said. "We know that the current district is strained in terms of the budget already, so I have concerns about them taking on a bond of that nature for a building of this size."

Heffernan noted the hope is that a bond payment would be comparable

to the current cost of rent, and thus not further burden taxpayers in the police district, though the cost of such a bond payment is uncertain.

The selectboard will talk about alternative locations for the police force at a future meeting.

Vt. Senate OKs childcare funding

Would expand access & affordability

By LOLA DUFFORT

VTdigger.org

MONTPELIER — With little debate and by a 24-6 vote, the Vermont Senate gave preliminary approval on Thursday, March 30, to a bill that would inject \$150 million a year of new funding into the childcare sector and create a new parental leave benefit. The Senate gave final approval by a voice vote the next day.

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, who presented the bill to colleagues on the Senate floor, began by recalling how, upon arriving in Vermont 21 years ago, she had begun to look for childcare — before even unpacking her boxes. After signing up for waitlist after waitlist, Hardy finally landed a spot for her toddler. But each year, Hardy said, she "constantly did the math" to see if her wages would "come even close to covering the high cost of one, then two, then three kids in childcare."

"It didn't," she said. "And two decades later, this scenario has not changed. And the pandemic made it worse."

The bill, S.56, has undergone a major rewrite since it was first introduced last month. Gone, for example, is a centerpiece of the original legislation: free, full-day pre-K in public schools for all 4-year-olds.

But Hardy, who had championed the pre-K provision, told her fellow lawmakers that while the bill before them didn't have "all the elements" she'd initially hoped it would, it still represented "a monumental step forward in expanding access, affordability and equity in the

provision of childcare in Vermont."

Most agree the economics of childcare are broken in two ways: Families can ill-afford the cost, and workers can't make ends meet. By increasing reimbursement rates to providers by nearly 40% and by expanding who is eligible for subsidies, the bill attempts to address both problems.

Currently, Vermont's childcare subsidy program pays the full cost of tuition for families living at or below 150% of the federal poverty level. (That's \$45,000 for a family of four.) The Senate bill would eliminate co-payments for those making up to 185% of that threshold (\$55,500 for a family of four) and extend partial subsidies to families making up to 600% (\$180,000 for a family of four.) Under current law, childcare subsidies end for families with incomes above 350% of the federal poverty level.

Childcare is a shared priority between the House and the Senate, but the Senate's bill nevertheless sets the stage for tense negotiations with the House.

S.56 now also includes a new 12-week parental leave benefit, the inclusion of which came late in the process. The upper chamber has long been lukewarm on paid leave, and key Senate Democrats have argued this year that childcare should be the priority.

The leave amendment is generally viewed as the Senate's rebuttal to H.66, a bill backed by House leadership that would enact one of the most robust paid family and medical leave programs in the country, to the tune of over \$100 (See Bill S.56, Page 10A)

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Editorials

S.56: Here’s why childcare bill should be a top priority

In a legislative session in which the state faces several so-called crises — the lack of affordable housing and affordable childcare, labor shortages, long-term care, climate change, mental health, substance abuse, and more — legislators have two choices: pick priorities to fund or use the shotgun approach and scatter limited funds to each cause. There are pros and cons to both tactics, but we’d argue that some of the crises are best addressed in whole, while progress on others can be made incrementally.

The lack of affordable housing, for instance, could be addressed by regulatory changes that allow the free market to work its magic, rather than depend on state subsidies. That process may take longer to achieve and done in incremental steps, but it in the end progress will be more sustainable and certainly less costly to taxpayers.

Creating affordable childcare, on the other hand, will need a more holistic approach. Here’s why:

- The average cost of childcare in Vermont ranges from \$12,500 to \$15,000 per infant per year (and higher in many communities). While state subsidies cover part of the cost for most families up to 10 hours per week, that’s not enough to allow parents to return to work or to cover the remaining cost of full-time care. No one doubts the high cost of childcare is one reason many young people choose to leave Vermont and raise families elsewhere, adding to the state’s labor shortage.

- Of those families who stay in Vermont, the high cost of daycare means it often doesn’t make sense for both parents to work, so one parent stays home to provide care, while the other tries to make ends meet. This adds to the state’s lower labor force (Vermont still has 20,000 fewer workers in the market in 2023 than it did pre-pandemic), which keeps the state’s economy from growing as quickly as it otherwise could and puts more Vermont families closer to poverty.

- Current estimates say the state is about 8,000 daycare slots short of fulfilling current need. Obstacles in building that capacity are two-fold: families can’t afford the high cost and providers don’t pay childcare workers enough to attract more applicants.

In short, it’s not a problem the market will solve on its own. To get out of the current pickle, the state needs to increase subsidies so families can afford childcare costs, as well as subsidize childcare centers so they can afford to increase the pay of childcare workers.

This very approach is encapsulated in S.56, a bill the Senate passed last week by a 24-6 vote. The bill injects \$150 million a year of new funding into the childcare sector and includes a 12-week parental leave benefit for parents of their new-born babies. (See story on Page 3A for more details.)

The bill now heads to House committees for review and inevitable tweaks. It won’t be smooth sailing.

While the House is in general agreement on the bill’s merits, it will take exception to the parental-leave section (which could threaten the House’s own desire to pass a more comprehensive — and expensive — family-leave program), as well as taking exception to how S.56 will be financed through an 0.42% increase in payroll taxes and eliminating the child tax credit the Legislature passed last year. That credit gives families with kids under the age of 5 up to \$1,000 per child, depending on household income, and is viewed fondly by key leaders in the House.

And once the bill comes out of the House and through reconciliation in Conference Committee, it could face a veto by Gov. Phil Scott, who has said he’s opposed to raising *any* taxes to solve Vermont’s problems.

In the bill’s journey through the House and reconciliation, we urge legislators to carefully consider Vermont’s priorities and focus on the few things the state can afford to effectively move the needle; understanding that the state’s budget, as the governor rightly says, can’t afford to fix everything. Solving the childcare crisis, nonetheless, should be at the top, and the governor should approve the spending, because:

- We need young parents to set roots, raise families and become productive workers and employers in our economy. If we can’t do that, by keeping those born here as well as attracting new residents, we’ll face a continuing downward spiral in our economy.
- Conversely, if we can grow our younger demographic, it helps address our labor shortage, adds vitality to the state’s economy, curtails declining school enrollments, and potentially boosts our state college system.
- The solutions are ideally suited for state help. That is, state aid can effectively boost the marketplace to do the right thing, just as it provides for K-12 education and for younger children in some school districts.

In short, while the state faces several legitimate crises, tackling childcare through the provisions of S.56, which Addison County’s Sen. Ruth Hardy played a significant role in drafting, stands apart as an effective use of state aid in an environment that won’t likely change otherwise. Furthermore, it not only helps Vermont families, but it boosts Vermont’s economy and provides much needed help to Vermont’s employers. Few bills are as effective in so many ways.

Angelo Lynn

Trump cited: One question remains

On Tuesday, ex-president Trump got the kind of sordid notoriety that only a publicity hound could relish: He became the first former or current president to be charged with a crime. The Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg, cited Trump with 34 felony charges related to a \$130,000 hush payment to former porn star, Stormy Daniels, who says she had an affair with Trump. Trump allegedly had his lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen, pay Daniels \$130,000 to keep her story out of the National Enquirer just weeks ahead of the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton.

At the time, Trump had recently been hit with the Access Hollywood tapes in which he boasted of grabbing women inappropriately, promptly his campaign team to fear that a scandal featuring a sexual affair with a porn star (while his wife, Melania, was at home with their infant son) wouldn’t look good to some family-minded voters. Cohen, one of the few charged with crimes in Trump’s service who was not pardoned, was convicted of tax fraud and campaign finance violations related to the same incident and served time in prison. Cohen became a witness for the prosecution.

Three other cases — Trump’s role in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, his refusal to turn over classified presidential documents, and his role in trying to reverse election results in Georgia — are on deck. Trump, of course, uses lies, deceit and accusations to deny responsibility. Nothing new there.

Only one question lurks: Will the Republican Party follow Trump, who any reasonable person now knows is seriously flawed and not fit to be president, to the bitter end?

Angelo Lynn

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What a face
THIS YOUNGSTER EXUDES contentment while enjoying some outdoor time at one of Addison County’s childcare providers. While new centers have opened in the county and the state now offers 10 hours/week of Universal Childcare, there is still a need for more options. See our special section.
Photo courtesy of Heather Armell

Vermont must fix housing deficit

“Can anybody live in Vermont?” asked the two young boys who had been visiting us for a couple of summers in the 1980s. They were here as part of the Fresh Air program, coming to stay with us from Brooklyn for two weeks each July. The first year, they saw our home as “summer camp” and were surprised that we lived here year-round. By that third summer they were 11 years old and starting to take in the scene with more maturity and awareness. They would have looked around and seen virtually no other Black people. Perhaps Vermont looked sort of like a gated community, without an actual gate.

We assured them that anyone was free to come here. They could just get on a bus; they would be welcome. But as the possibility of finding an actual place to live becomes increasingly difficult, who can move to Vermont?

There was a time, maybe when free trade agreements were getting organized under the Clinton administration, when I thought about equalizing opportunity for people around the world. Maybe it would mean those of us who had more would manage with less so that others could have what they needed. I contemplated people living in smaller houses without lots of extra rooms or anything fancy. I could be okay with that.

Until perhaps the 1950s, most houses, whatever their size, only had one bathroom. Most kids shared bedrooms. When did it become almost mandatory to

have a bedroom “ensuite”? At the same time, I was contemplating most people having smaller homes so that more people could have actual homes, I looked around. Instead of that vision, so-called “McMansions” were springing up: large, many-roomed houses where maybe 2.5 people lived.

In the ensuing years, the number of people without homes has only grown. Even people who get hired for jobs that pay a decent wage have trouble finding a house they can afford within a reasonable commute. We all know this. One of the state’s top priorities is to have more housing for low- and middle-income people, but what kind of magic is needed to actually make Vermont a place where anyone can live?

We talk about increasing the population, the workforce, the children in our schools. Climate refugees, we say, but refugees from where? Do we mean people whose million-dollar homes are washing into the sea, threatened by mudslides and wildfires, or do we mean the people of Mississippi whose mobile homes have been ravaged by tornadoes? How about the people fleeing years of drought in sub-Saharan Africa, or those from Bangladesh or the Maldives threatened by sea level rise? Who gets to come here? Who do we welcome? Indeed, who can we welcome and how many?

My home in Ripton is bigger than my husband and I need. It would be great for a family with children, but we want to stay in Ripton, a community we have come to love. Where is the smaller house for us to move to in this town? That’s a part of the quandary. People who might want to downsize can’t, so houses designed to

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



Growing old can be a joyful wisdom

Not everyone lives to be old. Many die too young. But “growing old,” at least, is a relative term. As life expectancy increases, it takes longer to grow old, at least for some of us upon whom fortune has smiled. When I was 70, I felt as though my life was beginning. At 80, I began to sense that there are limits. But now, at 91, I know that I am old.

So, what is it like to be old? It is to be aware that you are mortal. You know that your end is approaching sooner rather than later, that death is imminent. The illusions of youth are gone. One remembers the syllogism: “All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. QED Socrates is mortal.” We are, like Socrates, and like all animals, mortal beings.

Such knowledge can be enlightening. It was for the Buddha, who taught that wisdom comes to those who learn to let go those things that cannot be theirs forever, chief among them, life itself. Gautama, the Buddha, was not recommending that we become suicidal, nor did he advocate a death wish. He was simply acknowledging a fundamental fact of life. By letting go, he entered the path of enlightenment, and with it came a sense of calm, equanimity, and tranquility. He no longer feared death. He became enlightened, wise; it was a



Community Forum

This week’s writer is Victor Nuovo, Middlebury College Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and former Middlebury selectman

rather is self-sufficient by virtue of pure practical reason.”

The freedom that Kant celebrates is not license to do as you please, but the freedom to do the right thing, even when it goes against desire. Freedom is moral

(See Nuovo, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Minimum wage boost needed

Last week, on March 29, Vermont senior U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was grilling Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz on the illegal union-busting activities used by that corporation. In order to embarrass our senior senator, Schultz shot back that Vermont has a paltry minimum wage of only \$13.18/hour. His company pays more.

We all know that an individual, never mind a family with children, can’t make any headway on such a low wage in today’s economy. The Vermont Legislature should have raised the minimum wage to \$15/ hour years ago to keep pace with the actual cost of living. Now, in 2023, they could at least start there on the way toward a wage that would allow a family a living without depriving their children of the necessities of life in Vermont today.

Geoffrey Cobden
Weybridge

It’s time to use EV buses for area students

Diesel school buses harm kids. Electric buses don’t.

Addison Central School District pays roughly \$6,000/month in diesel fuel surcharges. Electric buses have no fuel surcharges.

Vermont diesel school buses emit between 25,672 to 37,760 metric tons of greenhouse gases per year. Electric school buses would reduce that number by 75%.

Let’s also not forget the noise pollution. School children get to school listening to a very loud engine.

Switching to electric school buses would save Addison County school districts money now and in the future.

Federal grants and loan subsidies provide much of the funding needed.

In Vermont, the South Burlington, Champlain Valley, Fairfax, and Barre Unified school districts have begun electric school bus programs.

So, what about that claim that diesel school buses harm kids? Is that really true? Perhaps that’s just hyperbole to get your attention? Well, no. It’s not.

(See EV buses, Page 4A)

Local fundraiser led to shopping

On Saturday, March 25, I had the exciting adventure of a one-minute shopping spree at Greg’s Market. The backstory to this adventure was that a community member won a winning ticket from the Homeward Bound Fundraiser and thoughtfully decided to pass it along by donating it to the CVOEO Food Shelf. Her generosity allowed me to run around the store and load my shopping cart with close to \$300 dollars’ worth of meat. It was fun, it was community, and we are grateful. CVOEO would like to thank Greg’s market, Homeward Bound and the ladies from Addison County Home Health & Hospice for donating the winning ticket and making this event so joyfully successful.

Donna Rose
CVOEO Food Shelf
Coordinator
Middlebury.

Addison Town Hall repair has been a saga

All those who voted last November on the bond for the Addison Town Hall renovation might be wondering what’s happening. Here’s an attempt at an update.

The majority of the vote (55%) was for the bond, with 45% against.

The Resolution of Necessity, ratified by the selectboard in Sept. 2022, identified the bond to be for “certain capital improvements and repairs.” That phrase was completely defined by the bond proposal, circulated

(See Addison, Page 5A)

Addison

(Continued from Page 4A)
to all households in the town:
“The proposal is for the Town of Addison to raise \$2,068,019* by bond to be used to restore the existing Town Hall Building for present day use as a town clerk’s office, committee workspace, and town community meeting space.”
*Subject to decrease pending successful grant funding
Furthermore, the people of the town had been invited to a number of open days at which they could view the plans and were encouraged to ask questions and pass comments.
Those plans included an addition to the current footprint, deemed necessary to accommodate an elevator and fire stairs, requirements for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for public buildings. That addition does not meet the 20’ setback required by the town of Addison’s zoning regulations, whichever side of the building to which it’s added. So, the only way for this redevelopment to take place is for a variance to be granted. The state of Vermont now encourages towns to look favorably on variances needed for ADA compliance. This wasn’t a consideration when the town hall was built.
The town body that has the authority to decide on such a variance is the Development Review Board (DRB). At the

Feb. 7 selectboard meeting, the chair made it clear that only the selectboard has the authority to submit an application to the DRB for a variance.
As yet, about five months after the vote, no such application has been made.
A little history might add some perspective. The town hall committee was formed about 15 years ago by permission of the selectboard. The committee’s mission was to study renovation of the town hall, town offices being the use most likely to attract funding. Prior to recent architectural plans, there have been two significant phases of development.
The first was a subdivision of land, since the town hall had previously belonged to the church. The town took possession of the town hall, together with the land on which it sits, in exchange for a later, no-cost connection of the church to a planned wastewater system. Since there is less than 40’ between the town hall and the church, not enough for 20’ setback on each side of the dividing line, a variance was required for this subdivision to occur. The DRB issued this variance.
The second was the wastewater system, sufficient to service not only the town hall but also the church, the fire department and the current town clerk’s office. A few years ago, the town approved

a bond for about \$500K for this system, which has now been installed.
Back to the present — the selectboard recently appointed a facilities committee to look into the future of the whole area, including the former school. To my mind, it is important to establish whether retaking possession of the school building would be a benefit for the town (it stands on about six prime acres) or a financial liability (if, for instance, remediation of asbestos or PCBs were necessary). Some selectboard members have voiced a preference (Feb. 7 meeting) that the town offices be relocated to the former school. If the facilities committee reaches a recommendation regarding the location of the future town offices, there are only two possibilities: either in the redeveloped town hall, or at another site. If it’s the latter, any action to follow through on this would effectively override last November’s vote. I have pointed this out to the selectboard twice, but their replies have not addressed this specific issue. Similarly, they have not provided any definitive answers to my requests for an explanation of the apparent delay in moving the town hall project to the next stage.
This brings you up to date, to the best of my knowledge.

**Peter Macfarlane
Addison**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
hold more people end up occupied by only one or two.
Driving into and around Middlebury, I notice the large number of houses which in former years were turned into the offices of lawyers, dentists, real estate agencies and such. What if those buildings returned to being homes, while the current occupants moved to a couple of new office buildings? At the time, the transition from a family home to an office space seemed a good use for a house on Route 7 that was, perhaps, a less desirable location for a family. Now, a family might welcome such a location. While other plans and developments are in the works, these are houses that could quickly be resurrected into their previous life as family homes.
Most of us are not keen on change. When I mentioned the need to create more housing in Ripton to a friend, she said “We don’t need more people here. I want to live in a place that is not very populated,” and I get that. There have been a couple of times

where homes built within my vicinity brought new lights in the evening to places that used to be all in darkness. I got used to that change, but initially I chafed at it. “There shouldn’t be lights over there!” I would mutter as night came on. So how do we make the changes we need without totally changing the nature of our state? Is it even possible to do both?
I think back to our Brooklyn boys — now grown men: Who gets to live here? I recall reading a short story in a magazine when I was in my early teens. It was about a Black family moving into a home in a midwestern town where they were not welcome, as it was a “whites only” neighborhood, not by covenant but by practice. I knew about segregation in the South but had never realized how this functioned in the rest of the country.
I felt a bit smug, however, living in Seattle where such things didn’t happen — or did they? While doing some research recently, I happened upon the fact that between the 1920s and the 1960s, there were many areas

of that city with racially specific covenants (or the legacy of such restrictions) on the homes in those neighborhoods. Given its very rural nature, Vermont had few such restrictions during that period when exclusionary practices flourished in other parts of the country. So, yes, anybody could and can live here. But if there is no place to buy or rent, what is the actuality?
Of course, we should welcome people of wealth who no longer want their summers filled with wildfire smoke and their autumns threatened by hurricanes. But let’s also find a way to welcome people who might arrive here with nothing but their willingness to work and to have a safe and stable place to live and possibly raise children. They might be just the ones to help our communities flourish in the future.
Laurie Cox is a retired school counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.

EV buses

(Continued from Page 4A)
People die from lung and bladder cancer caused by diesel fumes in school buses, either as children or later as adults. Based on an intensive study of available evidence, the World Health Organization (WHO) found that diesel exhaust increases the risk of lung cancer in humans. The black mixture of nitrous oxide (NOx) and fine particles irritates the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, contributing to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses and premature death.
These same fumes contribute to asthma and allergy problems. These toxins circulate inside the bus as kids travel to and from school

Vermont’s Global Warming Solutions Act requires the state to take effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Switching to electric school buses as fast as possible will help do that.
As chair of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, Bernie Sanders worked to get \$5 billion into the Inflation Reduction Act to fund a transition to electric school buses. Addison County can help make sure our senior senator’s efforts bear fruit in Vermont.
Let’s get Addison County kids to school in electric buses!

**Mike Palmer
Cornwall**

Nuovo

(Continued from Page 4A)
self-government, autonomy, self rule. It is the capacity to be “the master of your fate, the captain of your soul.” It is the foundation of morality, and when you come to stand on that ground, you will know that you are free.
The sense of being free is an antidote to the sadness of old age.
Indeed, because we are morally free, we remain creatures with power — physically frail, finite, and forgetful, yes — but with a power to act that is ours until our last breath. The power to do the right thing and to obey the unconditional laws of morality is joyful. Understanding that we are free agents is joyful wisdom.
I hasten to add that Kant was not an atheist. But he was certain that the fear of God is not a necessary motive to do good. His point was that morality is not founded on religion, rather it leads to religion “within the limits of pure reason.”
One of the philosophers

with whom Kant was well schooled, was the English philosopher John Locke. Kant appropriated Locke’s conception of a “personal” identity. Personal identity is self-consciousness. Locke observed that each morning we awaken to ourselves. Kant labelled this awakening state of mind, the discovery of one’s “invisible self.” It is the notion that we do not see ourselves in the mirror, we see our bodies, but know it to be ours because of our invisible self. It is in this secret place of the invisible self, accessible only in moments of self-consciousness, that all our aspirations, hopes, fears and longings occur. All our moral struggles to overcome our prejudices and selfish desires and do the right thing happen there and are seen only by us. This state of mind is called *Conscience*.
Kant imagined that through our self-struggles to do what is just, the invisible self rises to a state nobler and higher than what

he called “mere animality.” He expected that through our moral striving our invisible selves would reach beyond the sensible world, beyond our bodies, and develop a sensibility “not restricted to the boundaries of the physical world, but reaching into the infinite.”
Kant did not profess immortality, but he suggests that the invisible self, through moral striving and by its endeavor to be just, is not limited to this world. Old age is a time of self-assessment, a time of reflection on our invisible selves, a time for self-scrutiny. Its fate may be death, but in the meantime, there is the prospect of joyful wisdom and an invincible capacity to do what is right and good.
Postscript: I must not ignore all those who die young because of war, criminal violence, chronic depression, despair and other causes that end their lives too soon. The fortunate circumstances which I and others like me have enjoyed should be theirs also.



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Obituaries

Claude Michael Forand Sr., 75, of Moriah, N.Y.

MORIAH CENTER, N.Y. — Mike Forand was born June 7, 1947, to John Paul and Elaine (Briggs) Forand in Burlington, Vt. Dad passed Saturday, March 25, 2023, at his home.

Dad grew up on the family farm, the youngest of four, in Addison, Vt., and graduated from Vergennes High School in 1966. In 1967, he married his first love, Constance Weddell. They went on to have two children. In April of 1975, Dad moved his family to Moriah, N.Y. to farm at Hill Top Farm. In June of 1978, Dad started logging. He then went back to his love of farming at different farms. Just before retirement, he was working at DuBois Farm in Addison.

Dad also served in the Vergennes Fire Department and Moriah Fire Department.

Dad shot his first deer at the age of 14. When adding up his total of deer, he had said that he shot about 25 deer in his lifetime along with two bears. Around 2007, Dad got the chance to go Moose hunting with his friend Rich Redman. Sadly, they did not get one.

Dad enjoyed riding his motorcycle with the light of his life Joyce Brace. They went everywhere together. Joyce was the only one who could keep Dad in line. Dad was lost without her.

In 2013, Dad set out by himself to Sturgis with his Harley in the back of his truck. He also had a love for flea markets, country music and



CLAUDE MICHAEL FORAND SR.

talking to anyone who would listen. Dad could be found at Boyea’s having coffee, or Mineville Oil visiting with everyone who came in.

Dad was predeceased by his parents, sister Anne Gardener in 2003, brother-in-law Greg Kirby in 2019 and the love of his life, Joyce Brace, in 2010.

Dad leaves behind a sister, Beth Kirby; a brother, John (Mary); and brother-in-law George Gardner; his son, C. Michael Forand Jr. (Hilda); and daughter, Wendy Harper (Sonny); three grandsons, Eric Forand, Jake Shahan and Thomas Forand; and great-grandchildren Eliza, Jayden and Ander. Dad is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dad also leaves behind Joyce’s children (that he considered his



own) Dorothy Steitz, Jimmy Brace (Lee) and Judy Bemis (Dean); grandchildren Brian Steitz (Shannon) and Elizabeth McPherson (Chris), James Brace (Samantha), David Brace (Neddy), Hilary Primo (Bobby) and Heather O’Hara (Jake); great-grandchildren Lucas, Azriella, Ariaah, Aiden, Harrison, Holden, Hudson, Jenevieve and Journey.

Dad is also survived by his furry children, Rowlf and Annie Oakley. They were his life, and they will miss him dearly. Dad had many friends, near and far.

Dad is now with Joyce. The services will be private at Dad’s request.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Town of Moriah Ambulance or North Country SPCA in Elizabethtown, N.Y.◇

Donald Sidney Groll, 84, formerly of Middlebury

SHELBRUNE — Donald Sidney Groll passed away on Thursday, March 9, at The Arbors in Shelburne, Vt.

He was born on Sept. 24, 1938, in Massachusetts, to Otto and Nellie (Haan) Groll. They had a very close-knit family. Donald and his whole family were longtime members of the United Methodist Church in South Walpole, Mass. David, Donald’s younger brother, always looked up to his older brother and both relied on each other through the years. Donald was affectionately called “Jake” by his family and very close friends.

He grew up in South Walpole, Mass., and graduated from Walpole High School and then went on to receive an undergraduate and graduate degree in engineering from MIT. He went on to work for many years at an engineering firm in Vermont that designed and produced precision fuel gauges for airplanes.



DONALD SIDNEY GROLL

He was a very quiet and unassuming person. He loved living in Vermont, and he lived for many years in Middlebury. He was an avid hiker and walker in the mountains, and he just loved being outdoors. He also loved just getting on his bicycle and going into the

countryside for a long ride.

One of his many volunteer activities was to assist people needing rides to and from trailheads on the Appalachian Trail. He met many interesting people doing this. He was a member for many years of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society and volunteered in many capacities at the church.

Donald served very successfully as the president of the Homeowner’s Association of his condo for 17 years. He was liked by everyone because he was fair, responsive, and genuinely cared about the people living there.

Donald loved to read and so it was natural that he volunteered with the Friends of Ilsley Library, especially in their monthly book sales.

Survivors include his sister-in-law, Betty Crowder. It is with a sad heart that the two Groll brothers are now gone, but never forgotten.◇

Robert Leo Trudo, 76, formerly of Brandon

BOWLING GREEN, Ind. — Robert Leo Trudo, 76, of Bowling Green, Ind., formerly of Brandon, Vt., passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Majestic Care of Avon, Ind. He was born on May 17, 1946, in Burlington, Vt. to Joseph Trudo and Doris (Steady) Mitchell.

Robert graduated from Otter Valley Union High School. He was a radioman in the United States

Navy from 1965-1969. Robert retired from Standard Register Company. He was an avid hunter, enjoyed fishing, and loved spending time with his family and friends.

Robert is survived by two sons, Eric Trudo (Michelle) of Avon, Ind., and Jason “Jake” Trudo of Bridport, Vt.; grandchildren Steven Sayers, Emilee Trudo, Mikayla Rodriguez and Devon Rodriguez;

and three great-grandchildren, Kahiau Sayers, Iolana Sayers and Mattingly Hobson.

There will be no service. Arrangements have been entrusted to West & Parrish & Pedigo Funeral Home in Spencer, Ind.

Online condolences can be shared with Robert’s family at www.westparrishpedigo.com◇

John Elmer Mallory, 89, of Brandon

BRANDON — John Elmer Mallory, age 89, passed away peacefully, on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, with family by his side.

John was born in Rutland on Sept. 8, 1933. He was the son of Elmer and Lola (Sanderson) Mallory. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1951. John Joined the United States Air Force and served until receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1956.

John worked for 37 years at the A&P grocery chain. He retired in 1996 as the Dairy Manager. He was a member of St. Paul’s Masonic Lodge, Farmers Chapter & Council as well as a member of Mount Calvary Commandry. He belonged to Brandon American Legion Post 55, where he served as commander numerous times. He was also a former member of the Brandon Fire



JOHN ELMER MALLORY

Department and had been a scout leader as well. He and his father Elmer helped establish Mallory’s Garage in Forest Dale, where he worked with his son following retirement for several years.

He is survived by two sons, Eric J. Mallory and his wife Brenda of

Audrey Madge (Lee) Scarborough, 85, formerly of Leicester

RUTLAND TOWN — Audrey Madge (Lee) Scarborough passed peacefully at her home Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

Audrey was born July 26, 1937, to Frank E and Dorothy Dean Lee in Benson, Vt. Audrey graduated from Brandon High School in 1955. After graduation, she worked at the Ayrshire Breeders Association. She married Kenneth (Bucky) Scarborough Sept. 30, 1955, and they made their home in Leicester for the first 57 years of their marriage, moving to Rutland Town in 2015.

While their daughters were young, Audrey was a full-time mom. She was active in the Leicester PTO, was instrumental in starting the Leicester swimming program, and was Treasurer of the Salisbury Congregational Church. In 1964, Audrey began her life-long career at First Brandon National Bank, working her way from bookkeeping to Vice President and manager of the FBNB branch



AUDREY MADGE (LEE) SCARBOROUGH

in Pittsford, retiring in 1998. She was treasurer for the BHS Alumni Association for more than 30 years.

Audrey loved animals, especially horses. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, cooking a nice family meal, coffee with the girls, yearly fall trips to Maine and winters in Florida.

She was predeceased by her

Barbara Andrews, 77, of Hancock

HANCOCK — Barbara Andrews, 77, died Thursday evening, March 30, 2023, at her grandson’s home in Leicester.

She was born July 26, 1946, in Randolph, daughter of Reginald and Helen (White) Hill. She attended Hancock Elementary and Rochester High School. She worked at G W Plastics of Bethel, Weyerhaeuser of Hancock, and retired from General Electric of Rutland. She married Reginald L. Andrews in Rochester on Feb. 9, 1964.

She enjoyed her many pets over the years, music, reading, watching movies, fishing, camping and her grand- and great-grandkids.

Survivors include Denise



BARBARA ANDREWS

Andrews of Salisbury; sons Jeffrey Andrews of Hancock and Reginald

Edward Clark Walton Jr., 75, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Edward Clark Walton Jr., 75, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away on March 15, 2023. Visitation will be on May 5, 2023, at Sanderson Funeral Home, 117 S. Main St., Middlebury, from 10-11 a.m., with a graveside service to follow at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Middlebury at 11 a.m. Military honors will be rendered at the cemetery. For a full obituary, go to www.sandersonfuneralservice.com/obits.

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Lawrence J. Begnoche, 86, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Lawrence J. Begnoche of Middlebury, Vt., passed away after a long illness on March 23, 2023, at the age of 86.

Lawrence was born on May 31, 1936, and raised by Venah and Alcide Benoit. Lawrence grew up in Bridport, Vt. He worked 27 years for J.P. Carrera as a truck driver.

Lawrence is survived by his sister, Muriel Blythe of Courtland, Va.; his wife, Laura Begnoche of Middlebury, Vt.; his children, Edward Kennedy and James Begnoche; four beautiful grandchildren; and a great-grandson, Wesley Begnoche.

Lawrence will be put to rest at St. Mary’s Church in Middlebury.

Forest Dale and Kevin M. Mallory of Palm Springs, Calif.; his long-time companion, Sharon Perry of Brandon; his grandson, Matthew Mallory and his wife Jennifer; and his great-grandchildren, Austin, Emmett and Jasper Mallory. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Jessica Mallory.

A gathering in celebration of his life will be held on Friday, April 7, 2023, from 1-4 p.m., at Brandon American legion Post 55.

A private graveside committal service and burial with military honors will take place in the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory, to Brandon American legion Post 55, Brandon, Vt., 05733, or The Dodge House, 95 Crescent Street, Rutland, Vt., 05701.

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

parents; three brothers, Allyn, Edwin and Dean; and her sister, Anna. She is survived by her husband, Bucky; daughters Vicki Scarborough of Sarasota, Fla., and Lisa Shaddock (Chris) of Mendon; two grandsons, Lema Carter (Ashley) and Blair Shaddock (Makayla); two great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Camellia Carter; a special niece, Jude Butterfoss; and several other nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life on Saturday, April 15, at the Brandon American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, Vt., beginning at noon with a brief service at 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch.

Memorial contributions in her name can be made to VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, Vt., 05701, or Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, Vt., 05763

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

Andrews Jr. of Hancock; eight grandkids; two great-grandkids; sisters Linda Smith of Bethel, Regina Ashley of Quechee, Bonnie Phillips of Rutland, and brother Dennis Hill of Barre. She was predeceased by her parents, Reginald and Helen Hill, and sister Carol Lumbra.

A memorial graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery in Rochester will be announced at a later date. Contributions in her memory may be made to Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Online condolences may be left at www.dayfunerals.com. Arrangements are by The Day Funeral Home in Randolph.◇



LAWRENCE J. BEGNOCHE

In lieu of flowers, we request that memorials be sent to Addison County food shelves. ◇

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Sandra Dutra Dragon, 82, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Sandra Dutra Dragon died peacefully on March 25 after a valiant battle with cancer. She was born on Aug. 5, 1940, at Bishop DeGoesbriand Hospital, now part of the UVM Medical Center.

She attended Cathedral Elementary and High Schools, where she excelled in academics, Pollyette dancing, and as majorette for the High School Band.

Sandra advanced steadily in her career, starting as a clerk at a local stock brokerage, then to the newly created Federal War Poverty, where she would become the Vermont head, then to Governor Snelling's Administration, where she would become Commissioner of Employment and Training. And finally, to Associated Industries of Vermont, where she would become president.

Sandra was a force of nature — known for her boundless energy, irrepressible spirit, and unmistakable style of communication — direct, forceful, and unequivocal — with a sprinkling of colorful, even salty, language to make sure she had your attention. You never had any doubt as to where she stood, where she believed you stood, and what you should be doing to get to where you should be.

At the same time, she was a person of profound compassion and empathy. Some would never see this side of her. Those who did would never forget it. She was a fierce advocate for principles and causes in which she believed, and for the people she loved. For this reason, and in this way, she formed deep bonds of friendship, respect, and love with whom and for whom



SANDRA DUTRA DRAGON

she advocated.

She had a quick wit, a facetious sense of humor, and was a great storyteller. She had a little bit of a temper, but sometimes that's necessary when shattering glass ceilings decades ago, in a culture dominated by men who didn't understand the changes ahead, for which she was a pioneer. But many did listen, and learn — not just because of her forceful personality, but because they knew she was a person of honor and integrity and could support with evidence and principle whatever point she was making. She was unafraid to disagree with those in power, and to challenge what they proposed or concluded, when she believed they were misguided.

Most of all she loved her family. And like a good Italian grandmother, she loved to cook, and holiday celebrations. We will miss her Easter Baskets this year.

Sandra is survived by her partner, William Sayre of Bristol; her daughter, Paula Dragon of Middlebury; her sisters, Angelina

Beardsley and Marianna Dutra of Burlington; her brothers, Clifford (Kathy) of South Burlington, James (Kellie) of Colchester, and Joseph (Diane) of Austin, Texas; her grandchildren, Justin Bristol of Burlington, Christopher Loyer of Colchester, David Loyer of Burlington, Robert Loyer of Burlington, Eric Loyer of Bristol, Jennifer Loyer (James Goodyear) of Bristol, Allison Weston of Jacksonville, N.C., and Elizabeth Sayre (Mark Deering) of Bristol; as well as many great-grandchildren whom she loved dearly, as she did her many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Sandra was predeceased by her parents, Clifford Dutra and Victoria Olio Dutra son Robert "Bobby" Dragon of Burlington, her grandson Anthony Loyer of Burlington and her sister Marie Dutra of Burlington.

The family would like to thank the staff at UVMHC as well as Addison County Home Health & Hospice, and Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Middlebury for their care and kindness. For those who wish, donations to St. Jude Hospital, Veterans support groups, and Native American organizations, she would have welcomed.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 11 a.m., at St Anthony's Church, 305 Flynn Ave., Burlington, Vt., with burial following at Resurrection Park, 200 Hinesburg Rd, South Burlington. This was immediately followed by a celebration of Sandra's life that was open to all family and friends wishing to pay their respects, at the Double Tree Hotel at 870 Williston Rd., S. Burlington. ◇

Letters to the Editor

Confused about Affordabe Heat bill? Then read it

There has been a great deal of misinformation circulating around about the Affordable Heat Act. I would encourage anyone who is interested in gaining an accurate understanding of the bill to go online and look up the text of the bill itself. It is readily accessible, and, though long, is written in language that is quite clear and straightforward. It can be found at legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.5.

When I checked it out, I found the Affordable Heat Act to be a remarkably thoughtful and well-crafted bill. It is designed to provide a clear, gradual, and affordable pathway for Vermonters to move away from fossil fuel to cleaner, less expensive, and more economically stable ways to heat their homes.

Equally important, the bill also provides a pathway for fuel dealers whose livelihood has depended on selling fossil fuels to diversify and grow their businesses in a direction more in line with selling cleaner fuels, or installing and servicing cleaner heating equipment — heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, pellet stoves and pellet boilers — while continuing to serve many of their traditional customers.

The bill is charged specifically with providing solutions that accommodate the needs of low- and moderate-income Vermonters and those with an unusually high energy burden — meaning those who have to pay a larger portion of their income on energy costs. Furthermore, it provides that the goals of the bill and the strategies for achieving those goals be overseen by the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC is a non-partisan, public body whose primary responsibility is managing energy costs to the benefit of all Vermonters.

The bill doesn't pretend it can solve all the nuanced issues of Vermont's energy markets and carbon-reduction mandates in one piece of legislation, or that it can do so overnight. Instead, it provides a mechanism and a public process in which those nuances can be fully articulated and addressed over the coming decades, through periodic updates in policy, in a way that is fair and equitable, but which clearly and steadily moves us all in the

direction we have to move — toward cleaner, less expensive, and carbon-free energy.

There is no tax associated with the Affordable Heat Act. Instead, it would establish a market structure called a Performance Standard that will encourage fossil fuel businesses to move in the direction of selling cleaner fuels or of providing clean heat services that directly and effectively reduce carbon emissions. It does so by requiring them to retire a specified number of "Clean Heat Credits" each year. A business that sells fossil fuels can retire Clean Heat Credits by including services in their businesses that relate to cleaner technologies, or simply by selling B100 biodiesel as an alternative to #2 fuel oil, or by purchasing the credits outright, if it's unwilling to undertake the former two options. This credit structure is designed to help fuel dealers respond to the reality that fossil fuels are a dead-end option in the long-run, and gives them opportunities to move their businesses in a direction with a positive, cleaner energy future. Only businesses that fail to do so will have to purchase retired credits outright.

This type of performance standard has been shown to work very well within the market structures businesses are familiar with, while gently nudging the market itself in a direction away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy. Other states — Washington, Oregon, and California — have successfully established performance standards, and Vermont's own Renewable Energy Standard provides a similar credit-based incentive structure for electric utilities. The Renewable Energy Standard has been in effect in Vermont since 2017, and has helped make significant incentives available for Vermonters to purchase heat pumps and appliances, and to receive higher returns on produced solar energy by selling credits to their utility — all while responsibly managing rate-payer costs.

Vermonters contribute just as much in climate pollution as most people on the planet — more, in fact, per capita than neighboring states — and there is nothing that exempts us from the responsibility

we all have to reduce pollution and to do our part to bring climate change under control. Doing nothing, and suggesting it's someone else's responsibility to address climate change, is to turn our backs on our communities — and our children. We are not going to solve the climate crisis by continuing to burn fossil fuels — in Vermont or anywhere else.

Lastly, it's important to recognize that Vermont's climate pollution reduction obligations are real, and backed by existing Vermont state law — specifically the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020. They are also tied to our obligations under the Paris climate accords. This bill is a solid good-faith effort to seriously and effectively address one of Vermont's largest sources of climate pollution — the thermal fuels sector — and to do so by providing maximum flexibility to achieve the most cost-effective and equitable clean heating transition possible. Without this policy, Vermont has almost no chance to meet its legal obligations to reduce climate pollution 40% by 2030.

If you still have questions or concerns, talk to your legislators. This bill is going through a lengthy legislative process. It will need to pass through the House and then go back to the Senate, before going to the governor. Then, a multi-year Public Utility Commission process will begin. Then it will come back to the Legislature for another vote in 2025. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions, and to raise appropriate concerns over the next two years.

What is unacceptable — and frankly, irresponsible — is to scuttle the whole thing in favor of a status quo that has done nothing to reduce climate pollution, that continues to be geared toward maximizing oil company profits, that perpetuates commodity-based price volatility and broad economic inequities, and that will ultimately devastate human life on earth. Again, read the bill: legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2024/S.5.

Make no mistake — the Affordable Heat Act deserves our support.

Thomas Perry
Starksboro

Obituary Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos

(optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

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

Don't pan the Affordable Heat Act, improve it

At the Legislative Breakfast on March 27, Representative Joe Andriano made a strong statement in opposition to S. 5, the Affordable Heat Act. I hope he can be persuaded to change his position.

The most troubling assertion by Rep. Andriano was that what we do in Vermont makes no difference in countering climate change, which he agrees is human caused and needs addressing. Vermont punches above its weight in many areas, and combating

climate change is one of them. What we do in Vermont gets noticed. Furthermore, if people everywhere took this attitude there would be no progress on reducing harmful emissions. The fact is, Vermont lags behind many states in reducing its CO2 emissions, particularly in transportation. We have a responsibility to do everything we can to address climate change.

Rep. Andriano has valid questions about how the recommendations of S. 5 will be

funded, and how the costs will affect those in our state least able to afford them. The bill has been changed to allow another two years to study the true costs and to figure out how to pay for them. I hope his constituents will urge Rep. Andriano to support this bill now and join in the discussion over the next two years as to how it can be improved before it is implemented.

Spencer Putnam
Weybridge

We must have courage to address gun problem

At my local school board (of which I am a member) budget meeting last week, a community member asked, "What keeps you (individual board members) awake at night?" In that moment, I wasn't able to find the courage to be candid. The weight of what I wanted to say, my sincere answer, felt too great for me to share with my fellow board and community members.

As a father of a three-and-a-half-year-old, my genuine answer is an ever-growing list epitomized by names such as Covenant School, Robb Elementary School, Columbine High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School.

What keeps me awake at night?

We live in a country in which there are no parents, guardians, family members, neighbors, friends or bus drivers who are entitled to drop a child off at school in the morning and be guaranteed that their "see you later" will ring true.

What keeps me awake at night?

The fact that we live in a country in which no child is safe from gun violence at school — the place where safety is paramount to generate the social, emotional, physical and intellectual vulnerability to open oneself up to engage in the learning process. The fact that we live in a country where we are not able to agree about the one common thread of any mass shooting — a gun. And to be very clear, the facts demonstrate that guns are the only common denominator. It is not the shooter. It is not their mental health. It is not their race. It is not their religion. It is not their socioeconomic status. It is not their level of education. It's not their gender. It is not their age. It is not their political party. The fact that we live in a country where we have the data to demonstrate this, and, yet, we still do nothing different, keeps me awake.

I am a gun owner. I hunt. I

inherited guns passed down from my grandfather. However, I dream of the opportunity to watch those family heirlooms disappear if it meant that my daughter and her generation did not have to inherit the epidemic of daily mass shootings. And I know that my grandfather would agree with me, because it would mean that the world his great-granddaughter was growing up in was left better off by the generation that passed before (the one common goal we should all strive for as adults).

But that is not the country we live in at the moment. And it will not be until we have the courage to address the real problem — guns.

What keeps me awake at night?

The realization that the "see you later" I say to my daughter at her school tomorrow may ultimately be a "good bye." This should keep all of us awake at night.

Rob Backlund
Lincoln

milestones

BIRTHS

Emily Zirk and Jacob Gebo of Vergennes, March 30, a boy, Oliver Joseph Edward Gebo. Grandparents, Tricia and Stephen Leone, Ron and Kristie LaFountain, Amy and Paul Russo. Great-grandparents Cecile and Edward Gebo and Josey Zirk.

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ADDISON COUNTY

Ag Briefs

Chloe LaMarche of Starksboro placed second in her age group (ages 12-13) in the 2023 Chittenden County 4-H Invitational Horse Quiz Bowl, March 17.

The event, hosted by Chittenden County 4-H, took place at Essex High School in Essex Junction. Eighteen 4-H'ers, ages 8-18, from four counties participated in the contest, which also serves as preparation for the annual State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl, April 1 in Castleton.

ACHHH Advance Care Planning seminar hosted by the National Bank of Middlebury

Who will make medical decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself? Join ACHHH CEO and RN Deborah Wesley and Stephanie Corliss, LICSW at the National Bank of Middlebury Community Room on April 17 5:30-6:30 as they explore advance care planning. Whether you are just beginning the process or well on your way to considering your wishes for end of life, they will share invaluable information and answer your questions.

Open to all and free of charge. RSVP to Kimberly.Richards@nbmvt.com or 388-1632

254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven (Rt. 7), Middlebury 05753 | 802-388-7259 | ACHHH.org



Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
Email Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — Come to the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall for “Dancing in the Stars,” a fun dance event for 5th- and 6th-grade students from Ferrisburgh Central School and Vergennes Union Elementary School. This free offering will be held on Friday, April 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There will dancing, music by Sound Rock DJ and light refreshments. Come dressed in space-themed attire, but please leave the lightsabers and blasters at home. Since this is a no drop-off event, a parents’ lounge will be provided for the adults to socialize while youths enjoy the dance. For more information, email

unionmeetinghall@gmail.com. Keep on top of upcoming events at the FUMH by visiting www.unionmeetinghall.org. The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is offering one- and two-week kayaking, rowing, and sailing expeditions on Lake Champlain this summer for teens ages 13-16. These excursions are well known throughout our area and many of the adult “graduates” remember these camps as a highlight of their summer vacations. The museum strongly believes in making these unforgettable adventures available to all, so registration is on a pay-what-you-can basis. For more information, visit www.

lcmm.org/expeditions or contact expeditionary program manager Rebecca Burns at rebeccab@lcmm.org. Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of April 15 and April 29 at 6:30 p.m. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves “trick-taking” such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!
(See Ferrisburgh, Page 9A)

Leicester: It’s time to register your dogs

LEICESTER — Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds dog owners that all dogs in town are required to be registered by April 1. A dog census will be conducted this spring and registration of dogs avoids the potential of fines and fees. A spayed/neutered dog costs \$11 to register. Unspayed or unneutered dogs cost \$15. Valid rabies certificate is required. Failing to comply with registration requirements can lead to fines of up to \$500 per violation or lead to unregistered dogs being removed or destroyed. The Selectboard is seeking two individuals to represent the town on the Maple Broadband Communications District, one as

Leicester

Have a news tip? Call the
Addison Independent
at 388-4944

NEWS

the delegate and the other as an alternate. Maple Broadband meets about once a month and meetings are conducted via Zoom. For more information, contact Selectboard Chair Diane Benware at 247-3786. The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat, April 15, at 1:00 pm, at the Senior Center at the Four Corners.

Refreshments served, all are welcome. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory. Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6. Bags will be available at the Town Shed during the first week of May. A free lunch for volunteers will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Four Corners that day. Volunteers can pick up a raffle ticket at the town shed when filled bags are dropped off. Raffle prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of the free lunch. Committee members hope that 100% of the roads can be cleared/cleaned, as last year. For more information or to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 247-3786.



A sure sign of Spring
A REDWING BLACKBIRD sings a tune to herald Spring while resting in the cattails on Bristol Pond, perhaps a rousing chorus of “Moonlight in Vermont?”
Photo by Dale Cockrell

LEGOs, dedication at Lincoln Library

LINCOLN — It’s all about LEGO during the month of April. Join the library’s LEGO Expo, where you can submit your own creation for display. Create something using your own bricks or pick some up at the library. Choose a challenge card at the library if you’d like to enter your creation in a specific category or create something from your own imagination. Some examples of challenge card categories include a fairy tale scene or a superhero vehicle. Choose a fairy tale and bring it to life with LEGOs. Ideas include Snow White, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood. Design a vehicle that you might drive around if you were a superhero. It can be a car,


Lincoln

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

NEWS

plane, boat, train or motorcycle. Whatever you can dream up, you can do. Creations will be on display all month. At the completion of the expo, there will be a recognition ceremony party after school on Wednesday, May 3. Visit the library on Friday, April 14, at 9 a.m. as they will be celebrating the kiddos with a special meet and greet. There will be baby book dedications and breakfast refreshments for adults will be served.

Russian photojournalist Dimitri Beliakov will visit Lincoln and give a presentation of his photos on Monday, April 17, at 7 p.m., at the library. He has covered war and terrorism while working for various news outlets such as *The Sunday Times of London*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. His photographs have been shown internationally and have won numerous awards. With help from the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, Beliakov is now looking to put down roots in Vermont. REMINDER: The Lincoln School District Board Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m., at Burnham Hall. Until next time ... Live Simply. Be Grateful. Laugh Lots.




Spitfire

A story of adversity, acceptance & resurrection



By Leslie C. Smith

Addison County native Leslie C. Smith has recently published a memoir that describes her battle with Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy (MMD) and endless drive to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life despite a diagnosis seemingly set to cut it short. From her youth as a tennis star, she faced blow after blow as the condition rendered her unable to keep living as she had known and adapt nearly every element of her life. Through gripping prose the reader follows a journey that could inspire anyone. The first person narrative is personal and relatable for anyone who has been faced with adversity.

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Chapel

(Continued from Page 1A)

his desire to construct a chapel “to be known as the Mead Memorial Chapel” and represent “the simplicity and strength of character for which the inhabitants of this valley and the State of Vermont have always been distinguished.”

The 79-page lawsuit filed by Douglas on March 24 details that, in this letter, Mead also invoked the names of his great-great-grandfather, James Mead (and Rutland’s first settler), and his great-great-grandmother, whose lives he saw as “embodying the simplicity, strength of character, and religious faith that Mead envisioned the Mead Memorial Chapel would symbolize.”

mead and eugenics

For more than a century — including the period when Douglas was a student here during the early 1970s — the chapel bore the name that Mead proposed. On Sept. 27, 2021, George C. Lee, chair of the college’s board of trustees, and Middlebury College President Laurie Patton announced the institution would slash Mead from the chapel’s name.

Earlier that year, the Vermont Legislature had issued a public apology for the early-20th-century legislation that authorized the forced sterilization of at least 250 Vermonters as part of a eugenics policy in the state.

“That statement by the state Legislature raised a question

for us at Middlebury about the role played by Gov. John A. Mead, Class of 1864, whose gift established Mead Memorial Chapel, in advocating and promoting eugenics policies in Vermont in the early 1900s,” Patton and Lee wrote in their 2021 letter to the college community.

“We can all disagree with those specific recommendations that (Mead) made, and I think we all would, but that doesn’t really represent the totality of who the man was.”

— Jim Douglas

no hope of permanent recovery, and the great question that is now being considered by the lawmakers in many of our states is how best to restrain this defective class and how best to restrict the propagation of defective children,” Mead said in the 1912 speech.

Mead included in this group “the insane, the epileptics, the imbeciles, the idiots, the sexual perverts, together with many of the confirmed inebriates, prostitutes, tramps and criminals that fill our penitentiaries, jails, asylums and poor farms.”

The outgoing governor encouraged the Legislature to restrict the issuing of marriage licenses to such individuals, as well as to form a commission to study the use of vasectomy (making a man infertile) as a means of preventing the spread of diseases and hereditary defects.

Lee and Patton’s statement claims this speech catalyzed the state’s eugenics movement and the creation of a state institution that sterilized individuals. The college officials wrote that such actions were in opposition to the institution’s values and “counter to the spiritual purpose of a chapel, a place to nurture human dignity and possibility, and to inspire, embrace, and comfort all people.”

lawsuit’s claims

The complaint filed by Douglas objects to multiple statements made in Lee and Patton’s letter, such as that the chapel’s name honored Mead and his wife.

“The Chapel was not named for John Mead, nor was it built to honor or memorialize John Mead,” the lawsuit reads. “Instead, it was erected by John Mead and named the “Mead Memorial Chapel,” in memory of the Mead family ancestors who embodied the values that were symbolized by the Chapel itself.”

The complaint also argues against the college’s assertion that Mead was responsible for the sterilization of Vermonters, noting the legislation referenced in Lee and Patton’s statement was enacted 19 years after Mead’s 1912 address and more than a decade after his death.

The lawsuit goes on to state the college’s decision to remove the Mead name from the chapel “obliterated any memory of selfless acts and the altruistic contributions John Mead made to his nation, state, county, town, church, and to Middlebury College itself.”

“We can all disagree with those specific recommendations that (Mead) made, and I think we all would, but that doesn’t really represent the totality of who the man was,” Douglas



JIM DOUGLAS

told the *Independent*. “In making those remarks, the college has besmirched him and sullied his legacy and his life of public service and philanthropy.”

The lawsuit details the former governor’s life, including Mead’s time fighting in the Civil War, operating a Rutland medical practice and providing financial donations to Middlebury College and toward the establishment of a community center for youth in Rutland.

The lawsuit seeks restoration of the Mead name to the chapel, or compensatory and punitive compensation of an unspecified

amount. Douglas said Mead’s descendants are hoping to see the family name returned to the chapel.

Like Mead, Douglas has his own multiple ties to Middlebury College. The former, four-term governor is himself a Middlebury College alum, and in 2022 boycotted his 50th college reunion in light of the institution’s decision.

Since 2011, Douglas, a Middlebury resident, has also held the title of executive in residence at Middlebury College. In this position, Douglas instructs academic classes at the college

and conducts independent studies with students.

“Middlebury’s been an important part of my life, as much as it was Gov. Mead’s, and I hope we’re able to solve this quickly and satisfactorily,” Douglas told the *Independent*.

Julia Ferrante, associate vice president for public affairs at the college, told the *Independent* Douglas continues to hold his executive in residence position at the college. Ferrante added the college had “received the complaint but I am not able to discuss pending litigation.”

Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 8A)

The Bixby Library continues to offer a wide variety of events for its patrons. Bixby’s Young Writers’ Club meets the first Saturday monthly, 10:30-11 a.m. for children ages 5- 10. The Bixby Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m., both in person and virtually. The April 11 session will discuss the book “The Bean Trees” by Barbara Kingsolver. This tale of rural Kentucky follows Taylor Greer and a 3-year-old Native American girl named Turtle as they search for a new life from Oklahoma to Arizona. This is a story of discovery, love and friendship, abandonment and belonging.

Rokeby Museum will open for

the season on Saturday, May 15. In preparation for the 2023 season, Rokeby is seeking volunteers to get involved in a variety of ways. Volunteers can assist as tour guides, at the welcome desk, with events and fundraising, doing trail maintenance, collections care, etc. There is something for all interests and skills. Visit www.rokeby.org to learn more.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related news in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh

news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.

email us:

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14th Annual

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Clerks wanted

(Continued from Page 1A)

me who were interested,” Webster recalled. “But then they decided at the last moment that they weren’t going to submit petitions.

“Looking at it with the selectboard, I started getting kind of nervous,” she added.

Fortunately for Middlebury, Webster’s loyalty to her community prompted her to place her own name on the March 7 election ballot, with the proviso that her tenure would end at the conclusion of this fiscal year (June 30). So the Middlebury selectboard is now focused on appointing a new clerk who’ll hopefully get some training with Webster before the latter moves on to a well-deserved retirement.

Middlebury is not alone in seeing a lack of interest in its clerk position. Town clerks statewide — including here in Salisbury, Shoreham and Cornwall — have also been searching for successors so that they, like Webster, can enjoy either their golden years or move into different careers.

This reporter remembers competitive races for town clerk some 30 years ago, a time when the job was done on paper during an era when you knew most of your fellow residents.

But the mounting job duties, a municipal pay scale, the increasingly electronic nature of the work and the sometimes part-time hours offered for the job have made it a tougher sell — particularly in a state with a 2.8% jobless rate and better offers through the private sector.

And it’s a job that — unlike the school board or selectboard — where waves are rarely made.

“You’ve got this lone office where there’s very seldom a lot of controversy,” Webster said. “Sadly, if people think of running for clerk in some towns, it frequently has to do with the fact they think someone’s doing a bad job, or the office is in bad shape.”

RESPONSIBILITIES

Town clerk is a non-political yet essential position in municipal government. The clerk’s duties, among other things, include:

- Taking care of the town’s land records, including deeds, mortgages, liens and surveys.
- Overseeing (and issuing certified copies of) vital records, such as births, marriages, deaths and burials.
- Issuing marriage licenses.
- Registering dogs.
- Issuing car registration renewals.
- Issuing hunting and fishing licenses.
- Serving as clerk of the Board of Civil Authority and Board of Abatement, including scheduling meetings and hearings, contacting a p p e l l a n t s , researching pertinent background files and other materials.
- Managing local elections, including registering voters and managing the voter checklist.
- Assisting researchers needing access to documents — such as land records, property transfer information and tax bills — in the municipal vault.
- Serving as custodian of the municipality’s historical documents, such as town reports, grand lists, property transfer tax returns and school registers.

“These are professional careers that take a lot, and ... there aren’t enough people to fill these jobs with the hours and the pay to go with them. Towns have had to get creative and do a little more recruitment than they’re used to doing.”

— Ted Brady, Vermont League of Cities & Towns

thing,” she said. “Yesterday, I had a man come do the door who said, ‘My wife was just diagnosed with cancer, and they told me someone had storage where I could get a walker and other things.’”

Ortuno helped the man find what he needed in Orwell.

“You just take care of what comes

through the door,” she said.

Ortuno made it known last year she wanted to get done as Shoreham town clerk when her term was set to expire on Town Meeting Day 2023. An heir-apparent failed to emerge, prompting the selectboard to propose — and the voters endorsed — a change in the town charter this past March that allows future town clerks to be appointed instead of elected.

It’s a move several other Addison County communities have made to cast a wider net for town clerk candidates.

Since that change, Ortuno’s post has attracted one serious applicant, with two others asking for more information.

“Hopefully they’ll follow through, which would at least provide three people to choose from,” said Ortuno, who has agreed to extend her tenure for a while to train her yet-to-be-decided successor.

IN CORNWALL

Cornwall Town Clerk Sue Johnson will move on next March after 23 years of faithful service. She, too, gave her selectboard plenty of notice her retirement plans. And fortunately, she’s got an assistant town clerk who’s game for a promotion — Carolyn Anderson.

“When I was re-elected (to a three-year term) in 2021, I told the selectboard it’d be the last time I’d run,” Johnson said. “I’ve basically been thinking about it for the past five years, because I know someone isn’t just going to walk through the door and say, ‘I want to do that.’ So it’s helpful to find someone ahead of time to impart at least some of the knowledge you’ve accumulated over the years.”

Like Shoreham, Cornwall recently transitioned to a system of appointing town clerks. It’s a job that hadn’t drawn much interest among Cornwall residents. Johnson — and Joan Bingham before her — have held down the job for around 50 years.

“My goal was to let everyone know there was going to be a job opening and to come in and talk to me if they had an interest, Johnson said, “and no one ever did.”

She agreed with Ortuno that the demands of the position exceed its job

(See Town clerk, Page 12A)



MIDDLEBURY TOWN CLERK ANN WEBSTER

Childcare

(Continued from Page 1A)

“Whatever you do, I think that you want to make sure that the needs of all kids and families, when you’re thinking about access, about support and about quality, that you’re thinking about all of those pieces. But you’re going to have to think about it with an audience that’s much bigger than the audience that’s here,” Baker said at Tuesday’s board meeting.

The board began exploring the district’s role in addressing the childcare crisis on Feb. 7. Supporting childcare programs for residents is a goal outlined in the town plans of multiple MAUSD member communities.

Providing school-based early childcare was also a component included in the report compiled by New Solutions K12 for the district in 2022. The firm was hired to evaluate community proposals for how to address ongoing challenges of declining enrollment and increasing costs in MAUSD.

During the Feb. 7 meeting, board members discussed the potential benefits and challenges of increasing access to childcare in the district. They continued exploring those challenges on Tuesday, including the potential impact creating childcare opportunities in the district could have on existing local programs.

Superintendent Patrick Reen noted early childhood educators in the school district receive benefits and pay under the district’s contract that could be two to three times of that of their counterparts outside of the district.

“If we look to expand, there’s a potential that we’re going to pull people away from other programs, who are probably not swimming in lots of people looking to take on jobs,” he said. “That’s one example of lots of examples that have to be considered as we think about our role and how we help the system. We need to think about that broader system with anything that we do.”

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Conversation at Tuesday’s meeting also centered on the major components of the state’s early childhood systems, including Universal Prekindergarten, or UPK.

Signed into law in 2014, the state’s universal prekindergarten act gives eligible three- to five-year-olds access to 10 hours per week of publicly funded prekindergarten education for up to 35 weeks a year.

Addison County school districts offer a variety of program types for students enrolled in UPK, including school-based programs and partnerships with community programs.

Baker told the board that there are

around 400 students enrolled in countywide prekindergarten programs, including 174 students living in MAUSD member towns. She noted that a decrease in available childcare slots due to the pandemic has impacted access to preschool programming in recent years.

“Right now, almost every local program, public and private, is running at capacity. So, if a family called me today and said I’m looking for a preschool program, I would not easily be able to find them an opening,” Baker said. “That would not, I would say, have been true a couple of years ago.”

Baker also talked about the school-based prekindergarten programs currently offered by MAUSD.

The district’s preschool program operates out of Bristol Elementary School and is open to all students in MAUSD. The program consists of three groups, a fulltime preschool program and an early education program that serves two groups of students for 10 hours each week.

Baker said that next fall, one of the early education program groups will begin operating for an additional seven hours each week. Those hours will come at a cost.

MOVING FORWARD

In thinking about how to further navigate addressing childcare needs in the MAUSD, Baker left the board with a series of questions to consider, including:

- How can the district ensure equitable access, supports and success across all preschool programs — particularly for marginalized populations?
- How would in-district changes to early childhood programs impact partner programs, children and families?

“You have to have a vision for what is the role and what is the purpose,” Baker told board members. “Because everything in the early childhood system is so interconnected, it’s going to be really important that you involve a broad group of stakeholders in making any of those decisions.”

Board members noted the importance of engaging with those stakeholders as the board continues navigating the topic of childcare. Baker also shared with board members where she might start tackling local childcare needs if she were in their position.

“I think our region could use more programming for kids who are really struggling with challenging behaviors. This is the biggest need I’m seeing right now,” Baker said. “Kids who for one reason or another are being asked to leave programs and where I don’t have

Bill S.56

(Continued from Page 3A)

\$100 million a year.

In the Senate bill, one eligible parent could use all 12 weeks of the parental leave benefit, or two eligible parents could split the 12 weeks. The benefit would max out at \$600 a week. Mirroring the childcare subsidy cut-off, families at or below 600% of the federal poverty level would be eligible.

The upper chamber’s parental leave proposal, which would cost an estimated \$15 million a year, doesn’t include benefits for any other types of time off — such as medical or caregiving leave — though those are included in the House bill.

And to shave the payroll tax

needed to fund S.56 down to 0.42%, the bill also would repeal Vermont’s child tax credit — a measure passed only last year that was championed by House leadership.

The tax credit gives families with kids under the age of 5 up to \$1,000 per child, depending on their income. Sen. Ann Cummings, D-Washington, who chairs the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, argued on the floor Thursday that the credit had initially been agreed to in the absence of more ambitious action on childcare.

“Children 0-5 were chosen because of the cost of childcare. Tweens and teens cost a lot of money, they outgrow their clothes every three months,” Cummings said. “You have to keep re-supplying them. And they eat a lot. But we specifically took the younger kids because of the cost of childcare.”

But critics of the Senate’s attempt to repeal the credit have noted that it’s been claimed most often by people so poor that they already receive free childcare. And at a budget briefing last Thursday, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, said she was “deeply concerned” about the idea.

“We have seen time after time that this program works,” she said, pointing to its impact on “lower income, vulnerable families.”

NAY VOTES

Last week’s vote on the Senate floor wasn’t completely by party line. Sen. Richard Westman, R-Lamoille, voted alongside Democrats and Progressives to advance S.56. But Republicans in the Legislature have otherwise largely echoed Gov. Phil Scott, who, while supportive of increasing funding for childcare, has made clear he’s not willing to raise taxes to do it.

Senate Minority Leader Randy Brock, R-Franklin, told his fellow senators that while S.56 was a “great bill” that would do “wonderful things,” he worried about Vermont’s capacity to afford it in the long term.

“I’m very concerned about the clouds on our fiscal horizon,” he said. “We see the disruption in the banking industry. We see high inflation, the potential of a recession on the horizon. I’m not sure that this is the wisest thing to do.”

Aly Richards, CEO of Let’s Grow Kids, a childcare advocacy group, predicted that the bill “would change the trajectory of our state.”

Spring Safety Tips from VGS



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Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 800-639-8081 or call 911 with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might result in a dangerous condition.

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DIRECTOR TAL BIRDSEY (far right) gives instructions to Ethan Ernstrom of Bristol, while Charlotte Case of Middlebury and Teagan Flinner of Ripton look on. The students' production "All's Fair in Love and Business" will be staged April 14 and 15 at the Ripton Community House.

Photo Courtesy of North Branch School

North Branch to stage annual student show

RIPTON — The students of the North Branch School, an independent school for grades 7-9 in Ripton, will present this year's epic theatrical production, "All's Fair In Love and Business," on Friday and Saturday, April 14-15, at 7:30 in the Ripton Community House.

As in previous years, the play is completely original. All 26 students have had a hand in

devising the concept, creating the characters, and writing the story. The play contains poetry, biblical text, riddles, terrible dad jokes, pathetic pick-up lines, and straight up hilarity. Additionally, serious themes discussed throughout the year — love, truth, beauty, purity, human connection — serve as a philosophical foundation for the play.

"It's sort of an adolescent SNL,

mixed with Monty Python mixed with Mary Oliver and Buddhism," said Birdsey. "It's a pretty good combination, and it's appropriate for ages eight to 108."

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 — \$3 from each ticket will be donated to a children's relief fund in Ukraine.

For more information, call 802-388-3269, or visit www.northbranchschool.org.

Gensler Symposium comes to Middlebury

Scholars, activists and artists to expolore 'Performing Feminist Joy'

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College's annual Gensler Symposium on Feminisms in the Global Arena will take place Thursday and Friday, April 13 and 14.

Themed "Performing Feminist Joy," the symposium will explore how feminist joy interrupts gender, raced, and classed histories of happiness and reinserts all bodies as sites for pleasure activism. If, as Judith Butler says, gender is created and naturalized through its repetitive performance, then what happens when we perform feminist joy over and over again?

A variety of feminist scholars, activists, and artists will join together to help create new worlds and new forms of resistance through pleasure. Anahi Russo-Garrido, Treasure Brooks, Jae Basiliere, Stina Soderling, Kelly Sharron and Abe Weil will give a combination of workshops and lectures. These events are an invitation to think with feminist and queer theory about affect, praxis, politics, and ethics — and how they play out in our lives.

Thursday's schedule begins at 4:30 p.m. with the presentation "From Self to Collective Care: Anti-racist Mindfulness and Meditation Practices" Anahi Russo Garrido, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair/Director of Gender, Women and Sexualities Studies/The Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy (GITA), Denver, Colo., will discuss comparative analysis of scholarly discussions on self-care in feminist and queer studies and perspectives shared by meditation practitioners of color.

While some scholars of care tend to frame meditation and mindfulness as a neoliberal technique of governance with the only goal of personal happiness and self-improvement, people of color who use contemplative practices in their recently published teachings instead present a complicated picture of the relationship of self-

to collective care.

For the latter, these practices are crucial not only to communal survival but also to contemporary racial justice activism. The presentation also reflects on gardening, as a contemplative practice, in a community garden in a predominantly black and latinx neighborhood in Colorado. Gardeners and meditators posit these contemplative practices as a mode of interconnected self and collective care in support of anti-racist activism, which function against neoliberal imperatives that privilege privatization, speed, and individualism.

Friday's schedule begins at 2 p.m. with "Fun and Freedom: Alternative Praxis for Feminist Coalition Building," an hour-long presentation by Treasure Brooks. Brooks will discuss how her work co-creating the feminist media company "The Meteor" was a pursuit of creative resistance. Drawing upon the scholarship of activists such as adrienne maree brown (Pleasure Activism) and Tricia Hearsay (Rest as Resistance), Brooks will also discuss her theory of communal play as a viable strategy for feminist coalition

building. Her talk will examine the adverse effects of premature adulthood in communities of color and offer historical examples of playful resistance within Black diasporic and indigenous traditions. Additionally, there will be a creative exercise facilitated among participants focused on architecting feminist future.

From 3-3:30 p.m. Brook will lead a workshop "Tea and Creative Exercises on Architecting Feminist Futures."

At 4 p.m. Jae Basiliere will give a joint talk and Drag performance, "Does Resistance Have To Be A Drag?" As part of the backlash against trans rights, conservative

lawmakers in eight states have passed more than a dozen bills attempting to criminalize or restrict drag performances. Despite this marked increase in hateful rhetoric in the public sphere, drag performers across the country continue to make art, celebrate community,

and find joy in the spaces they occupy. This joint talk and drag performance will consider what it looks like to counter hate with art, perform in the face of fear, and infuse unrestrained joy into activist projects.



ANAHI RUSSO-GARRIDO



TREASURE BROOKS

Sodbusters 2023 season starts May 9

BRISTOL — The Sodbusters Horseshoe Pitching Club in Bristol, Vermont will be starting up its Tuesday Night Handicap Singles Summer League on the second Tuesday May 9, starting at 6:30 p.m., and ending on Sept. 5.

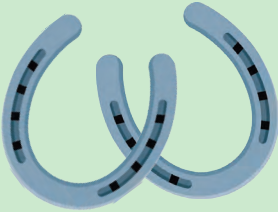
The cost to enter the league is \$40 for fulltime, \$25 for substitute, and \$15 for non-

league members. You must purchase a NHPA Sanction Card at \$29 since this is a Sanction League with the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association.

We have 32 spots to fill for regulars and subs to fill in.

Sign-up is Wednesday, April 19, at 7 p.m., at Roger and Bev's house; let Debra Brown know if you are interested; she may be

reached at 68 Mountain Terrace, Bristol, VT 05443; 802-453-2219; or mbrownie56@comcast.net.



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BTW

(Continued from Page 1A)
bay. Among other things, you should take down birdfeeders, store garbage in bear-proof containers or structures, use electric fences for chickens and bees, follow steps for composting in bear country, feed pets indoors, clean grills’ grease traps, and never feed bears — deliberately or accidentally. If you see a bear engaging in potentially dangerous behavior like targeting birdfeeders, garbage or crops, report them on the Living with Black Bears web page at tinyurl.com/yy72ae7t, where you also can find additional information on this subject.

Who will make medical decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself? Have you appointed a health care agent who can do this for you? Did you know that in the state of Vermont, your spouse is not necessarily the person who would be chosen to speak for you? Come and discuss these questions, and more, when Deborah Wesley, RN, and CEO of Addison County Home Health & Hospice, and Stephanie Corliss, LICSW, offer an advance care planning seminar on Sunday, April 16, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the National Bank of Middlebury’s Community Room at 30 Main St. Organizers of this free program note that making your loved ones aware of your wishes is one of the best gifts you can give them. If you’d like to attend, RSVP to Kimberly Richards at 802-388-1632 or krichards@nbmvt.com.

After a three-year hiatus, the “New Haven Race” for kayakers returns this coming Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It’ll be staged on the New Haven River just around a half mile up Lincoln Hill Road from Route 116. Come watch as whitewater kayakers navigate the rapids and drop over Bartlett Falls in timed laps. Racers will get a short break in between heats. Spectators are invited to attend, but are reminded to use good judgment around the road and river. The riverbank can be icy, steep and slippery — especially around the falls. All vehicles must be parked off the traveled portion of the road. There are several pull-offs between Route 116 and Eagle Park that are best for parking. Portable toilets will be available at the lowest pull-off, just above the intersection with Briggs Hill Road.

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Barnes Brook

(Continued from Page 1A)
Middlebury village. “We as humans living in this urban watershed get a lot of benefit out of having healthy ecosystems. Birds make people happy; streams make people happy, and a healthy stream is a more resilient stream,” Johnson said. The Middlebury stream is the focus of a campaign launched by the collaborative this past winter. The group is working with multiple community partners to introduce county residents to Barnes Brook and address pollution in the stream. “We would like first and foremost to help people get to know Barnes Brook, that it has a name, and that water is something that can bring people together,” Johnson said. “We’d also like to see if we can help the ecosystem stability. If we can help the minnows, the macroinvertebrate and the birds, that’s also great.”

River Watch volunteers collect samples at 98 sites in Addison County watersheds, measuring E. coli bacteria, total phosphorus levels, pH and water temperature. These measurements are used to gauge the health of local rivers and help guide watershed management decisions. The collaborative has monitored Barnes Brooks for two years and found high levels of chloride and phosphorus in the stream. Barnes Brook starts at the base of Chipman Hill in Middlebury. The stream flows through residential neighborhoods and wetlands, runs behind the sports center and Mary Hogan Elementary School, crosses under Route 7 and enters Otter Creek just south of Middlebury Union High School. Johnson said the urban surroundings of the stream help explain the higher amounts of chloride the collaborative is finding. “The biggest source we speculate for chloride is road salt. That itself is a whole world of nuance, because we need people to be safe, businesses need to ensure their walkways and parking lots are

safe for their customers,” Johnson said. “It’s not inherently good or bad for waterways to be salty, but this stream has communities of macroinvertebrate that are sensitive to salt and inhibits some of their natural living activities.” **GREEN STORMWATER** One focus of the group’s ongoing campaign is exploring remediation approaches that address the watershed’s high chloride and phosphorus levels, with the help of community partners. The collaborative is working with ecological design students at the University of Vermont to identify green stormwater infrastructure options that could be used in the watershed. Green stormwater infrastructure uses plants, soil and stone to filter and manage stormwater runoff in a way that resembles the natural water cycle. Examples include “living” roofs, bioswales and riparian buffers that filter pollutants from runoff while helping control erosion and providing useful habitat and nutrients for the waterway. The collaborative’s work in Barnes Brook has also involved younger students. Johnson has been collaborating with the Middlebury Area Land Trust and with second- and fourth-grade teachers at Mary Hogan Elementary to design educational programming related to the brook. Johnson said the hope is to incorporate students in the MALT afterschool program in remediation efforts by identifying and removing invasive plant species and planting remediating plants in the part of the watershed behind the elementary school. “As it gets warmer, I’m hoping to blend the remediation with the education side,” Johnson said. “I think (planting) would be a really exciting way for them to feel connected, to be able to go out at recess and say, ‘I planted that.’” Curriculum with Mary Hogan students is expected to focus more generally on water and characteristics of bodies of water,



SOPHIE JOHNSON, OUTREACH Coordinator for the Addison County River Watch Collaborative points to a part of the Barnes Brook. The collaborative has launched a campaign focused on addressing pollution in the Middlebury watershed and increasing community awareness of the stream.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

as well as creating informational posters about Barnes Brook. Johnson hopes to get students excited about local watersheds. “Ultimately, kids are our strongest advocates. They have a big impact on what their parents care about and support,” Johnson said. “In my experience working with kids, they see things in a very raw way, they don’t hold the biases that we develop as we grow.” Work with these community partners is set to coalesce next month, when River Watch will host a public forum to introduce community members to the Barnes Brook and share the fruits of the ongoing collaborations. The forum, scheduled for May 2 at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, is expected

to include brief presentations from each of the community partners, information about possible remediation approaches and opportunities for residents to get involved with River Watch and other environmental groups in the county. “In addition to connecting people to the brook, we hope to connect people to groups and resources that already exist if they find that this is something they care about and would like to do more,” Johnson said of the forum. **TRAINING SESSIONS** Community members are invited to join the collaborative as it gears up its monitoring season later this month, in the Barnes Brook and other watersheds throughout the county. The collaborative will host

Town clerk

(Continued from Page 10A)
description. “In my case, I don’t know how to say ‘no,’” she said of the varied asks she receives while on the job. “I want to make everything to go smoothly and whatever I can do to help out is what I do.” **A PROBLEM WITH PAY** Salisbury Town Clerk Sue Scott told her selectboard a year ago she wanted to move on in March 2023. But no one ran on Town Meeting Day to fill the breach. Scott has agreed to extend her stay until June 30, and town officials are searching for her replacement. “If no one was interested before the election, I’m not quite sure what’s going to happen now,” Scott lamented. She put out feelers last fall through social media and word of mouth, and two people inquired about the job. One of them balked at the salary, the other never called back. The (part-time) Salisbury clerk’s job currently pays a \$22,500 annual base, with another \$2,500 offered for longevity. The job calls for 15 hours a week though Scott said it’s not unusual for her to put in 30. “I do think the salary is quite low;

the selectboard has done a good job raising it over the past few years. But in comparison to what I think the job (should be paid), it’s low,” Scott said. Salisbury still requires its clerk to be a resident of the community, which reduces the candidate pool. “I’d hate to see (the position) appointed, but I don’t know what else we can do,” she said. Ted Brady is executive director of the Vermont League of Cities & Towns, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1967 with the mission of “serving and strengthening Vermont local government.” He said towns statewide are having trouble recruiting and retaining town clerks. “Every position out there requiring a specific skillset that’s unique and is difficult to fill right now, whether it’s a clerk, road foreman, town manager or zoning administrator,” Brady said. “These are professional careers that take a lot, and (in line) with the state’s workforce issues, there aren’t enough people to fill these jobs with the hours and the pay to go with them. Towns have had to get creative and do a little more recruitment than they’re used to

two training sessions for interested volunteers later this month, in Bristol and Middlebury. “This is a first of its kind project for River Watch, and it’s a great time to get involved with our organization because we’re going through such a creative process of what we can be and what we can become,” Johnson said. “We’re seeing what our place in the community could be, for bringing together different groups.” Work in the Barnes Brook is part of the collaborative’s ongoing work to expand its community outreach. During the past two years, River Watch has worked to build relationships with landowners along county watersheds and work together to address problems like erosion and high levels of phosphorus in local rivers. Johnson said ongoing projects and the May 2 forum will help inform similar remediation work the collaborative plans in the future. “We want to get a lot more place-specific in our actions,” Johnson said. “To take this model but keep it flexible enough that we can meet streams where their needs are.” Johnson added that River Watch hopes to have a unifying role in the community as it carries out the Barnes Brook campaign and future projects. “When we talk about streams being affected by things it can be really easy to start pointing fingers,” Johnson said. “We want to be a resource, we want to help educate, but we’re not an iron fist. We’re trying to be encouraging and speak for streams without coming in as an end-all, be-all of what a healthy stream looks like.” *Learn more about Addison County River Watch Collaborative online at acrwc-acrpc.hub.arcgis.com.*

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MORE THAN 200 people showed up Sunday at a vigil for Middlebury’s Rebecca Ball, who’d been missing since this past Wednesday, March 29. Police and volunteers continued to search for the 17-year-old, both day and night, but, unfortunately, she died before help could find her.
Independent photo/John Flowers

Becky Ball

(Continued from Page 1A)
few words about her late daughter and the legions who tried to find her safe and sound following her fateful, impromptu journey into Wright Park last Wednesday, March 29.

“She was everything to me — her and all of her siblings,” Fair said through sobs of anguish.

“I’m on the way out there right now to get my baby. I’m trying to figure out how to get her cremated so I can bring her home, where she belongs,” added Fair, who lives in Iowa.

In a brief press release issued at 9:16 p.m. on Tuesday, state police confirmed the recovery of Rebecca’s body at 4:26 p.m., about a mile off the Middlebury Area Land Trust’s Trail Around Middlebury path through Belden Falls. A canine search team from New England K-9 Search and Rescue was credited with the discovery.

Becky’s body was taken to the Chief Medical Examiner’s Office in Burlington for an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of her death.

“The death is not considered suspicious,” reads the release. “VSP will provide updates as the investigation continues.”

Hanley was able to fill in some details based on his work on the Rebecca Ball case and his extensive experience in that realm.

In addition to there being no signs of foul play, Hanley said there was no evidence to suggest that Rebecca committed an act of self-harm.

“This was purely an accident,” Hanley said, explaining that Rebecca had shown a history of “walking off” — in this case, after an appointment at the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) — whenever she was “upset or angry with something.”

Hanley noted that Middlebury police have in the past responded to calls to locate Rebecca, who had favorite hiding places to enjoy some alone time.

“This was common, and we’d get called and we usually went and found her and brought her home,” Hanley said.

At the same time, Rebecca maintained a respectful relationship with police — particularly with MPD School Resource Officer Connor Souza, according to Hanley.

“She would go and sit in his little cubicle at (MUHS), just to talk to him. So we knew that if she saw an officer, she would go with that officer,” he said.

But officials also realized that Rebecca didn’t respond well to hailing efforts. So they knew shouting her name in the wilderness might not draw a response.

Hanley believes Rebecca’s fate was sealed by a confluence of events that she ultimately couldn’t overcome.

“She had no coat, no gloves, no hat, water or cell phone,” he noted. “She was off her medication.”

And with no sustenance or warm clothing, Rebecca was ill-equipped to deal with sub-freezing temperatures during the nights of March 29 and 30. A small snowstorm followed. Based on his knowledge of past searches in similar temperatures, Hanley believes Rebecca succumbed after one, perhaps two days in the elements.

“We won’t know definitely until we get the medical examiner’s report, but this appears to be just an issue of exposure to the elements and hypothermia,” Hanley said, adding, “there’s no indication there were any injuries.”

“She was out there exposed to sub-freezing weather the entire time she was out there, without appropriate clothing, without food and water,” Hanley said. “And without water, you dehydrate really quickly in the cold. She had everything working against her.”

‘LAY DOWN AND GO TO SLEEP’

While Rebecca wanted to be alone that day, Hanley doesn’t believe she *didn’t* want to be found. He believes that by the time she felt a sense of urgency to get to safety, her body wouldn’t comply.

“The process of hypothermia is, once the (teeth) chattering stops,

you don’t feel the cold — you feel like you’re overheating,” he said. “Then you pretty much lay down and go to sleep.”

News of Rebecca’s death reverberated through the community—especially at MUHS, where she was remembered as a nice, fun loving person and voracious reader.

Caitlin Steele, principal of MUHS, participated in a **Sunday night vigil** for Rebecca on the Middlebury Town Green. That was a hopeful gathering — a sharp contrast to the message she had to send out to the school community early Wednesday morning. It had to do with a series of on-campus services to help students, faculty

and staff through the grieving process. Those entering MUHS on Wednesday had access to CSAC counselors and clinicians, a therapy dog, and a space for students to craft and write messages in honor of Rebecca.

“Over the next few days and weeks, grief will look different across our community,” Steele said.

“We also want to remind you of the 24-hour CSAC line for any community member at 388-7641.”

Peter Burrows, Addison Central School District superintendent, also reached out to the community via email.

“Our thoughts and sympathies are with Rebecca’s family and



THE LONG SEARCH for 17-year-old Rebecca Ball of Middlebury sadly culminated Tuesday afternoon in the recovery of her body from a wooded area on the west side of Otter Creek, north of Belden Falls.

all those who love her,” he said. “Rebecca had a wonderful, creative spirit that we will miss deeply. Our whole community will feel this loss.”

Indeed, it’s clear Rebecca touched many people during her short life. More than 200 people showed up at Sunday’s vigil hosted by St. Stephen’s Church, where Rebecca had recently become a parishioner.


Many of her supporters — as well as some folks who had never met her — gathered for regular searches covering hundreds of acres in and around Wright Park. Dora Soboral helped organize the searches, and Hanley also gave a big shout-out to Amanda Vincent, whom he credited for doing “an absolutely superlative job” mobilizing volunteers in a helpful

way that was not redundant with police efforts, which also included help from the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, New England K-9 Search and Rescue and the Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team.

Citizen searchers were slated to meet at Middlebury’s recreation facility on Creek Road at 11 a.m. on Wednesday for a debriefing.

Jeanne Fair gave her thanks to all those who looked for her daughter as she embarks on her own, long quest for healing.

“I want to let everyone who volunteered know that there are greatly appreciated by me and my family,” she said. “They did what they could to bring my baby home and I appreciate it — and so do her siblings and her nieces and nephews.”





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Votes for Festival on-the-Green t-shirt designs sought

Diverse performer line-up also released for annual summer music event

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Summer Festival on-the-Green celebrates its 44th season this year! Look for it under the big white tent on the Village Green next to St. Stephen's Church during the week of July 9 through 15.

During four-plus decades as a top attraction on the arts calendar

in Vermont, the festival has showcased an impressive list of talent — artists with long résumés and up-and-comers, quiet solo acts and lively bands — accessible to all and never with an admission fee.

For the 10th year, the Festival has partnered with students from Lisa Rader's Design & Illustration Program at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center to create a T-shirt design. The Festival Committee reviewed an impressive portfolio of eight designs and narrowed the selection to three: "This Way to the Festival," "Drumset & Musical Notes," and "Musical Instruments & Monarch Butterflies." They invite the community to cast a vote for this year's design. Voting will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 23. To cast a vote go to <https://bit.ly/votefor2023festivaltshirtdesign>.

The Durham County Poets — a Québec-based blues, roots, and soul band — opens this year's Festival on Sunday, July 9. The lineup for the week also features Faux Paws, Kyshona, Yacouba Sissoko, Bombajazzendo, The Garifuna Collective, The Ruta Beggars, Genticorum, Sarah King, and The Krishna Guthrie Band. A Street Dance with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble closes the Festival on Saturday night. The popular

"Brown Bag" noontime series returns with Magician Tom Verner, Comic Mime Robert Rivest, No Strings Marionette Company, Vermont troubadour Jon Gailmor, and the Middlebury Community Music Center Steel Drum Camp Band. To learn more about this year's festival or about donating and volunteering, visit our Facebook page or the festival website at www.festivalonthegreen.org.

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Which is your favorite?
THREE DESIGNS FOR this year's Festival on-the-Green T-shirts, designed by students at Hannaford Career Center, are up for a vote. Community members can vote for their favorite by Sunday, April 23. See article for website.





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ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs
Nick Catlin from Lincoln has been named to St. Lawrence University's dean's list for achieving academic excellence during the Fall 2022 semester. Catlin is a member of the Class of 2023 and is majoring in Environmental Studies. Catlin attended Mount Abraham Union High School.

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Panther women’s lax shows its mettle against Tufts, Hamilton

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — Another challenge answered: On Saturday the Middlebury College women’s lacrosse team protected first place in NESCAC and its top ranking in NCAA Division III by defeated visiting Tufts, 16-9.

The Jumbos came into the game, a rematch of the 2022 national championship game that the Panthers won, undefeated in the league. They dropped to 6-2, 3-1 in NESCAC play.

The Panthers also won at Hamilton on Sunday, 13-6, to improve to 10-0, 6-0 in league action.

In Saturday’s game, the Panthers set the tone early by scoring the first four goals. Kelcey Dion started the party, with an assist from Caroline Messer in the second minute. Jane Earley then scored the next three goals, all in the first 6:19.

The Jumbos answered with goals from Madeline Delaney and Emma Joyce, but Middlebury’s Hope Shue closed the period with a pair free position scores to make it 6-2 after one period.

The scoring pace slowed in the second period. Messer made it 7-2 on a free position 8:30 in, and Joyce responded with her second goal shortly afterward. Middlebury regained its five-goal edge when Shue scored with 31 seconds in the half.

Out of the break, the Jumbos sliced the lead to 8-5 on goals by Ella Lesperance and Caroline Conaghan.

The Panthers responded by putting the game away with four goals over the next eight minutes (See Lacrosse, Page 3B)



PANTHER MIDFIELDER SUSAN Rowley defends against a Tufts ballcarrier during the Middlebury women’s lacrosse team’s victory on Saturday.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



MIDDLEBURY ATTACKER HOPE Shue lines up a successful shot late in Saturday’s second quarter that extended the Panther women’s lacrosse team’s lead in their victory over visiting Tufts.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Tiger girls’ lax opens with loss to Bulldogs

MANCHESTER CENTER — The Middlebury Union High School girls’ lacrosse team on Tuesday opened its season with a loss at 2022 Division I finalist Burr & Burton. Tuesday’s final score was 18-6.

The Tigers were led by two goals apiece from Nora Wootten and Lia Robinson. Nyna Cole scored a goal and assisted two goals, and Erin Sears chipped in an assist. Goalie Ava Schneider made five saves.

The Tigers will next play on Friday at Burlington at 4:30 p.m. That game was moved from the Tigers’ Fucile Field because Burlington, like Burr & Burton, plays on an artificial turf surface that is playball despite the wet early spring conditions. Fucile Field is not expected to be ready for game action due to weather conditions.

No. 2 Tufts tops men’s lax

Host Jumbos prevail in battle of NESCAC unbeatens

MEDFORD, Mass. — Undefeated host Tufts on Saturday dealt the Middlebury men’s lacrosse team its first loss of the season, 19-15. The Jumbos, ranked No. 2 in NCAA Division III, scored the game’s first six goals and were never headed, although the Panthers scored three straight goals late in the fourth quarter to put some pressure on Tufts.

The Panthers (7-1 overall, 4-1 NESCAC and ranked No. 7 last week) were set to host Hamilton on Wednesday afternoon (after the deadline for this section) before Wesleyan (6-1, 3-1 NESCAC) visits at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Their 7-0 start was their best since 2008, when the Panthers started 9-0.

On this past Saturday, the Jumbos opened with their 6-0 run over the game’s first 12:15 before William Ryan broke the ice for Middlebury late in the first period.

The Jumbos and Ryan traded goals early in the second period, but the Jumbos pushed their lead to 11-4 at the break despite goals by Cooper DeMallie and Patrick Jamin late in the period.

Tufts stretched its advantage to 17-9 after three periods despite two goals in the third by Panther Will Zink and one each by Ryan and J.D. Farkas.

Ryan made it 17-10 with his fourth goal early in the fourth, and goals by Farkas and Zink later brought Middlebury within 18-12. But the Jumbos got the

next goal, and late strikes by Jamin, Jack Sheehan and Billy Curtis were too little too late.

Ryan added two assists to his four goals, and Zink had a hat trick. DeMallie added an assist to his two goals, while Curtis finished with a goal, three assists, and four ground balls. Luke Simpson and Finn Muldoon led Middlebury with six ground balls each, and goalie Hayden Kern made 15 saves.

Jack Boyden sparked the Jumbos with four goals and seven assists, while Kurt Bruun, Charlie Tagliaferri and Cam Delcristo each scored three times. Tufts goalie Connor Garzone made 19 saves.

Vermont Sun announces slate of triathlons for series’ 38th year

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont Sun 5K, 10K and Half Marathon will be held Sunday, May 14 at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury.

The series continues with three Triathlon dates in what is its 38th year.

Signature Vermont Sun sprint triathlons will be held June 18, July 16, and Aug. 13. Lake Dunmore Olympic distance triathlons will be held June 18 and Aug. 13. The sprint event consists of a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike ride and 3.1-mile run. The Olympic distance is 1,600 -yard swim, 28-mile bike ride and 6.2-mile run.

For those that would like to paddle as opposed to swim the Branbury Classic Triathlon on July 16 consists of a 1.5-mile paddle, 14-mile bike, and 3.1-mile run.

The June Triathlons are the USA

Triathlon state championships. Those events and all the others are open to anyone. The short sprint races attract many first-time recreational athletes.

Each triathlon is friendly to those that don’t want to do all three legs, as it offers a team division. There is also an aqua-bike option in each race, where individuals just do the water and bike courses and do not run.

The events include amenities such as food, refreshments, professional photography, water bottles, swim caps, chip timing, custom awards, race tactical T-shirts, race numbers, massage and more.

Complete information on entering or helping with the triathlons and Road Runs can be found at vermontsun.com or 802-388-6888.

Of bluebonnets and butterflies

I confess that walking around a wildflower preserve does not jump to the forefront of my mind when I ponder outdoor activities. I confess this with the same sort of embarrassment with which I recently acknowledged to a group of writers (many of whom also teach literature) that I don’t read Shakespeare. Not only do I not *regularly* read Shakespeare, but I haven’t read a Shakespeare play in several decades. I was appropriately chastised for my literary habits by my writer friends, who went on to wax eloquently about how deeply they were moved on so many different levels by those Renaissance plays.

We were also told by several different friends, who heard that my wife and I would be in Texas in early April, that we would be there during peak wildflower season and should especially be getting a wonderful showing of the state’s famous bluebonnets. And that we should make a point of enjoying it. While it is yet to be determined whether Hamlet or Macbeth will appear on my reading list in the near future, the wildflower message sank in.

With BTV being a relatively small (though friendly) airport with limited options for connecting cities, in order for us to get to the west Texas “Hill Country” in time for a writers’ conference starting on Thursday, we had to fly down to San Antonio on Wednesday. That

provided a half-day opportunity to visit a long-lost cousin in the Austin suburbs about an hour and half north of the airport. It was along that drive that Deborah noted we were passing close to the famous Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



MATTHEW DICKERSON

dropping our rideshare off at the airport, we made an impromptu visit back there.

The experience was surprisingly moving. The center has 284 acres that are a mix of cultivated gardens (with flowers and other plants carefully arranged thematically and around regional ecosystems) and “managed natural areas” where wildflowers are actually *wild*. Or at least a little bit more wild than they would be in a garden plot or a pot on my window, and also far more numerous. Even the cultivated gardens contained plants all native to Texas — the largest such collection of native Texas plants anywhere.

Since it was the start of the peak wildflower season in Texas, the parking lot was full and the center was busy when we arrived.

Yet it never felt crowded. We could always find a quiet place to sit and look. Walking around the cultivated gardens was educational. We enjoyed learning about the various plants and their growing habits and the ecological niches they fill in various regions around Texas. It was especially enlightening (and a bit sobering) to learn how necessary many of the plants are to their ecosystems including especially to different pollinators — and therefore how threatened the pollinators are by the loss of those plants resulting from habitat degradation, climate change and invasive species.

It was also quite peaceful and beautiful. Each blossom, each cactus or succulent, each tree is a unique work of art in shape, color, form and texture. And seeing them in a place that is intentional about their preservation helped me to be more intentional in paying attention in a way that can be easy to miss when (for example) walking through the woods of Vermont on my way somewhere.

But it was the more naturally growing wildflowers out in the meadows that really moved me as we walked the quiet trails around the center away from the buildings. Wide swaths of the famous bluebonnets (a species of lupin) appeared as fragrant lakes of blossoms rippling in a late afternoon breeze, sometimes accented by some other wildflower



SWATHS OF THE famous bluebonnet flower, which is related to Vermont’s familiar lupin, greeted our outdoor columnist when he visited the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Texas this week. The center gave him an opportunity to slow down and notice the beauties of the outdoors that he sometimes misses.

Photo courtesy of Matthew Dickerson

(for example the bright red paintbrushes) in a contrasting color. And as soon as I started paying attention, I realized that wildflowers were loaded with pollinators. Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) of numerous sizes and colors flitted from blossom to blossom simultaneously feasting and spreading pollen in one of

the most wonderful examples of mutual benefit and mutual flourishing in the natural world. A closer look also revealed a variety of bees.

The beauty of the place and the emphasis on living growing things and mutual flourishing also provided a wonderful moment of peace in the midst of an anxious

world — and prior to a day that would be spent in airports and airplanes. As noted, I’m still not sure whether a Shakespearean play is calling my name, but my love of the outdoors would certainly lead me back to another wildflower center. Even the same one.

Middlebury baseball wins two of three

BOSTON — The Middlebury College baseball team won two out of three recent road games to improve to 10-4 heading into an away game set for Wednesday at Union.

The Panthers are next scheduled to host a three-game series with NESCAC rival Wesleyan this weekend. Game one is set for 4 p.m. on Friday, to be followed by a noon doubleheader on Saturday.

On March 30, the Panthers held on to defeat host RPI, 5-4. Sawyer Duarte (1-0) earned the win with five innings of one-hit baseball, striking out five; and Cole Crider pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save of the season, striking out two. RPI dropped to 10-7-1.

RPI opened the scoring in the bottom of the third, but the Panthers took a 2-1 lead in the fourth on a Lucas Flemming RBI grounder, scoring Nathan Sami, and an error that scored Sammy Smith.

In the top of the fifth, Panther Mitchell Schroeder's three-run homer scored John Collins and Kyle McCausland, who had each singled, to make it 5-1. Julian Scarpa homered for the Engineers in the bottom of the fifth, and they added two runs in the eighth to make it 5-4 before Crider shut the door.

On Sunday, the Panthers split a doubleheader with Bowdoin in games moved from Maine to the campus of UMass-Boston due to weather and field conditions. Middlebury won the opener, 1-0, but fell in the nightcap, 4-0, both in seven innings.

In the opener, Panther hurler Alex Price tossed a two-hit shutout, striking out 11. Middlebury scored the only run of the game in the first inning. Jack Stolper led off with a base hit, stole second, moved to third on an error, and trotted home on a Collins single.

In the nightcap, Kevin Murray homered and Gabe Peckler tripled and doubled and scored twice to pace the 8-5 Polar Bears. Spencer Dessart (2-2) took the loss for Middlebury, surrendering four earned runs on eight hits in 5.1 innings.

Panther softball splits pair of twin bills

Team now 10-6 after winning one and losing one at Bates and Bowdoin

MAINE — The Middlebury College softball team split a pair of NESCAC doubleheaders on the road in Maine this past weekend.

The Panthers are 10-6 overall, 4-4 against NESCAC teams, heading into two more doubleheaders scheduled for this Friday and Saturday. They will visit Union on Friday afternoon and then host league rival Amherst on Saturday at 2 p.m.

This past Saturday, the Panthers split two games at Bates, dropping the opener, 3-0, and winning the nightcap, 4-3.

In the opener, Bobcat hurler Delaney Rankin tossed a three-hit shutout, walking six but also fanning six Panthers.

Rankin also helped her cause with a solo homer in the fourth,

Sara Cooke drove in a run with an RBI fielder's choice in the third, and Cassidy Musco singled and scored on an error in the fifth.

Jewel Ashbrook (2-2) took the loss, allowing two earned runs on three hits and two walks while fanning four. Jordyn Johnson, McKenna Lont and Tori Papaleo had the Panther hits.

In game two, the Panthers took a 3-0 lead. In the second, Megan Fox homered with Lont on base, and in the third, Kristyn Carroll scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-0. The Bobcats tied the game with a run off Lont in the third and two more in the fifth.

Carroll took advantage of another wild pitch in the top of the seventh to score the game-winning run. Lont improved to 4-1, allowing three earned runs

on six hits and four walks while striking out four.

On Sunday, the Panthers won one and lost one at Bowdoin, winning the first game of a doubleheader, 3-2, and dropping the second game, 9-1, in a game shortened to five innings by the mercy rule.

In the opener, the Polar Bears scored in the first to take the lead. Middlebury tied the game in the fourth, when Papaleo's sacrifice fly plated Lizzie Hannafey.

The Panthers added their second and third runs in the fifth. Cece Ziegler opened the inning by reaching on an error. Carroll walked, and a pinch hit by Abby Santis loaded the bases. A Lont fielder's choice scored Ziegler, and a Fox groundout brought Carroll home to make it 3-1.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, the Polar Bears cut the deficit to 3-2 on a home run by Angelina Mayers. That was the only run allowed by winning pitcher Samantha Hausman (1-0), who entered in the second inning and went five innings, allowing three hits, walking none and fanning two. Ashbrook tossed a hitless seventh for the save.

In the nightcap, the Polar Bears took a 6-0 lead after two innings and roughed up three Panther hurlers — Caitlin Viola, Ashbrook and Abigail Jankowski — for nine runs on nine hits in their 9-1, five-inning victory.

Middlebury scored its run in the top of the third. The Panthers loaded the bases for Ziegler, who reached on a fielder's choice that drove in Viola.

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys' Lacrosse

4/6 Woodstock at MUHS	4:30 PM
4/6 Montpelier at OV	4:30 PM
4/8 MUHS at Rice (at BHS)	11 AM
4/10 MUHS at Burlington	4:30 PM
4/11 Mt. Abe at OV	4:30 PM
4/12 MUHS at St. Albans	4:30 PM
4/14 Spaulding at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
4/14 OV at Randolph	4:30 PM
4/15 MUHS at Woodstock	11AM

Girls' Lacrosse

4/6 VUHS at Essex	4:30 PM
4/7 MUHS at Burlington	6 PM
4/14 Mt. Anthony at MUHS	4:30 PM

Softball

4/11 OV at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
4/12 Fair Haven at MUHS	4:30 PM
4/13 Mt. Abe at Burlington	4:30 PM
4/13 OV at Burr & Burton	4:30 PM
4/15 Mt. Abe at Fair Haven	11 AM
4/15 VUHS at Williamstown	11 AM

Baseball

4/8 OV at Bellows Falls	11 AM
4/11 OV at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
4/12 Bellows Falls at OV	4:30 PM
4/12 Fair Haven at MUHS	4:30 PM
4/13 Mt. Abe at Burlington	4:30 PM
4/15 Mt. Abe at Fair Haven	11 AM
4/15 VUHS at Williamstown	4:30 PM

Girls' Tennis

4/13 Colchester at MUHS	3:30 PM
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Boys' Tennis

4/13 MUHS at Colchester	3 PM
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Track

4/10	Mt. Abe at CVU
4/11	MUHS at St. Albans
4/11	VUHS at Burlington

MUHS Ultimate

4/6 MUHS Girls at Mt. Mansfield ...	4 PM
4/7 MUHS Boys at Burlington	4 PM
4/10 Fairfax at MUHS Girls	4 PM
4/11 MUHS Girls at S. Burlington ..	4 PM
4/12 MUHS Boys at Rice	4 PM
4/14 MUHS Boys at Mill River ..	4:30 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball

4/7 Wesleyan at Midd	4 PM
4/8 Wesleyan at Midd (2)	Noon
4/12 Midd at Castleton	3:30 PM
4/14 Hamilton at Midd	4 PM
4/15 Hamilton at Midd (2)	Noon

Women's Lacrosse

4/8 Midd at Wesleyan	Noon
4/11 Midd at Plymouth St.	5:30 PM
4/15 Midd at Colby	Noon

Men's Lacrosse

4/8 Wesleyan at Midd	1 PM
4/12 Midd at St. Lawrence	4 PM
4/15 Colby at Midd	1 PM
4/16 Babson at Midd	1 PM

Softball

4/7 Midd at Union (2)	3:30 PM
4/8 Amherst at Midd (2)	2 PM
4/15 Colby at Midd (2)	Noon
4/16 Tufts at Midd (2)	11 AM

VSP handle DUI, car accidents

Troopers also join search for teen that ends in tragedy

ADDISON COUNTY — In addition to dealing with a number of traffic accidents and a driving-while-intoxicated case this past week, Vermont State Police were also helped in the search for a missing Middlebury teenager.

Middlebury police began the search efforts and on Thursday, March 30, and brought in state police, along with a state police search and rescue team, search dog and unmanned aircraft searchers. VSP's Underwater Recovery Team joined in the search effort on Friday, March 31.

As of this writing, Ball had not been found.

Anyone who has information on her whereabouts is asked to contact Middlebury police at 802-388-3191 or the Vermont State Police at 802-388-4919. Anonymous tips may be provided by visiting vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On March 29 at around 9 a.m.,

closed both lanes of Route 22A in Addison between Whitford and Gage roads due to a tractor-trailer crash. The road was closed for less than an hour, and police didn't provide any more information on the crash.

- On March 31 at around 7:15 p.m., responded to one-car crash on Route 22A near the

Vt. State Police Log

intersection with Hemenway Road in Bridport. Police said Adam Eller, 30, of New York City, was driving a 2022 Ford Explorer northbound on the highway when the SUV crossed the centerline, overturned and struck a telephone pole off the southbound lane.

No injuries were reported, but the Ford was a total loss.

Police said the vehicle was going too fast for the wet road

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PANTHER ATTACKER JANE Earley goes up against her Tufts counterpart for a draw control on Saturday. Earley's five goals and two assists helped the Panthers defeat the visiting Jumbos.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



UNDETERRED BY TWO Tufts defenders, Panther middle Caroline Messer gets ready to whip home a goal in the Middlebury women's lacrosse team's 16-9 victory over visiting Tufts on Saturday.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Lacrosse

(Continued from Page 1B)
to make it 12-7. Maggie Coughlin started the run by cutting through the fan and converting an Earley feed, and Shue, Niki Mormile and Earley completed the run.

Tufts did fight back with the first two goals of the fourth quarter in its opening two minutes. But Dion and Susan Rowley answered in the next two minutes to push the lead back to seven, and the teams traded two goals apiece the rest of the way.

With her seven-point output (five

goals, two assists), Earley, a senior, moved into seventh place in the Middlebury record books with 230 career points (178 goals including two on Sunday, and 52 assists). Earley also controlled three draws, moving her into second place in the program books with 186, including one on Sunday.

Erica Barr tied for game-high honors with six draw controls. Shue and Dion finished with three goals apiece, Rowley scored two, and three Panthers added one apiece.

Panther goalie Annie Enrietto made five saves, while Jumbo goalie Courtney Kaufman made 13. Joyce led Tufts with three goals, and Conaghan scored twice.

On Sunday, the Panthers bolted to leads of 6-0 after one period, 10-0 in the second period and 11-2 at the half in their 13-6 win at Hamilton (4-6, 1-5 NESCAC).

Coughlin (two assists), Shue, Earley, Messer and Sara Ellinghaus led eight Panther scorers with two goals apiece.

Barr's four draw controls moved her into third place in the program career record books with 184. Three Panther goalies combined for five saves, and two Continental goalies combined for 11 saves. Aine Cleary led Hamilton with a pair of goals.

Next up for the Panthers is a Saturday visit from another NESCAC challenger, Wesleyan (7-1, 3-1 in league play). Game time is at noon.

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A subscriber from Vergennes writes:

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Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



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community calendar

apr 6

THURSDAY

"BOOM & WHOA!: The Making of a Community within a Community" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 6, 5:45 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join the Yellow House Community Friends to celebrate the premiere of their short film: Movie Stars walk the red carpet at 5:45 p.m., showings at 6 and 6:30 p.m. All welcome, free. Refreshments will be served.

Recycling 101 in Orwell. Thursday, April 6, 6-7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Learn how recycling works, how to recycle properly, and where the recycling goes after the blue bin. After a presentation on the state of recycling in Addison County, there will be a Q&A session with Addison County Solid Waste Management District staff.

apr 8

SATURDAY

Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, April 8, 8-10 a.m., meet at Otter View Park parking area, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Beginning birders are welcome. Come for all or part of the walk. For information, including the latest COVID constraints, call 802-388-6019 or 802-388-1007.

New Haven Ledges Race in Bristol. Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m., Lincoln Road, downstream of Eagle Park. The New Haven River's classic run, called "The Ledges," gives you a big bang for your buck, with boulder gardens, slides and waterfalls tucked into 1.3 miles of whitewater. Kayakers navigate several drops of the ledges before the "The Toaster," (Bartlett Falls) a 15-foot drop that plunges into a pool, then sprint out, slapping a nearby buoy to stop the clock. The race is run in two heats. Registration information for participants is at facebook.com/NewHavenRace.

Spring Fest in New Haven. Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m.-noon, town green and New Haven Congregational Church. Celebrate spring with the New Haven community. Get a photo with the Easter Bunny, make bee and flower-inspired crafts, see a Waldorf-style spring puppet play, decorate Easter cookies in the church, enjoy a baby animal petting zoo on church grounds, and go on an egg hunt. Egg hunt begins at 10 a.m. on the Green; events continue until noon. Bring a bag or basket for a few goodies.

Jane Lindholm and Melody Bodette in Monkton. Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Ridge Rd. Lindholm and her "But Why?" podcast partner will give a talk.

Takeout only turkey and all the fixin's supper in Vergennes. Saturday, April 8, Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, Vergennes, (across from the Vergennes Opera House). Menu includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m., Thursday, April 6. To order and to get pick-up time call 802-877-3150.

apr 9

SUNDAY

Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, April 9, 8-10 a.m., St. Peters Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins juice, milk and coffee. \$10 adults/\$6 children 8-12/\$32 immediate family maximum. Sponsored by Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus.

Easter Egg hunt in Middlebury. Sunday, April 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., The Eddy Farm, 1815 South Street Ext. A free event open to everyone. Come hunt for Easter eggs, visit the farm, paint eggs, and take a pony ride. We will have raffle prizes and baked goods for sale. Please bring your own basket.

apr 10

MONDAY

Legislative breakfast in Orwell. Monday, April 10, 7-8:45 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School St. -8:45 Begin your week with a meal and a chat with local legislators. All are welcome. Come and ask a question about legislation. Breakfast starts at 7 a.m. and program at 7:30 a.m. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps. Sponsored by Bridport Grange, and four Addison County organizations: Farm Bureau, Economic Development Corp., Regional Planning Commission and Chamber of Commerce.

Fundraiser for Ukraine in Bristol. Monday, April 10, 6:30 p.m., Tandem, 26 Main St. What's ahead for Ukraine? Join this community fundraising event presented by the One Connected Village Foundation REMote. Beer, wine, cocktails and sweet treats. Silent auction. Welcome remarks by immunologist Zhenya Hrohul (from Kyiv) and in-person remarks by Foundation co-founder Ellen Yount (currently focused on Ukraine recovery based in Warsaw, Poland). An overview of Putin's war against Ukraine and democracy. Featuring refreshments and spirited conversation.

apr 11

TUESDAY

"This Year Get the Upper Hand: Pests and Diseases to Expect in 2023" in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 11, 1 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The Middlebury Garden Club presents this lecture by Ann Hazelrigg, director of the University of Vermont Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Find out what happened in 2022, what is coming, what to do about it.

"An American Genocide: The U.S. and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-73" lecture in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., McCardell Bicentennial Hall 220. Come hear Benjamin Madley, a historian of Native



What next for Ukraine?

TWO BOYS RECEIVE a meal in a refugee coordination center in Lviv, Ukraine. Tandem in Bristol will host a community fundraising event presented by the One Connected Village Foundation REMote in order to raise funds to aid Ukraine on Monday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Source: Depositphotos

America, the United States, and colonialism in world history and associate professor of History and a member of the American Indian Studies Program at UCLA, give this talk, based on his book of the same name. Open to the public.

apr 12

WEDNESDAY

"How Nomads Live in Mongolia Today" in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Sas Carey, who will travel to Mongolia for the twentieth time this summer, will speak on how nomads live in Mongolia in the 21st century. Having just released a book, "Marrying Mongolia," she will show slides and share stories of Mongolia, and a short film, "Gobi Children's Song," which shows a few days in the life of a nomadic family in the Gobi Desert.

Recycling 101 in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Learn how recycling works, how to recycle properly, and where the recycling goes after the blue bin. After a presentation on the state of recycling in Addison County, there will be a Q&A session with Addison County Solid Waste Management District staff.

apr 13

THURSDAY

United Nations Conference on Women's Rights presentation in Middlebury. Thursday, April 13, noon, Ilsley Public Library. Join Rachel Elion as she shares her experience attending the the March session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and what the Secretary General referred to in opening statements as "gains are being erased." Participants can expect to learn about how technology can harm women's rights and how innovation in technology will help. All ages welcome, no registration required. Summary and Q&A session included.

Gensler Symposium: "Performing Feminist Joy" at Middlebury College. Thursday, April 13, 4:30-6 p.m., Hillcrest 103. A variety of feminist scholars, activists, and artists together to help us create new worlds and new forms of resistance through pleasure. Treasure Brooks will discuss how her work co-creating the feminist media company "The Meteor" was a pursuit of creative resistance and Jae Basiliere will give a combination of performance and lecture "Does Resistance Have To Be A Drag?"

Knights In Italy spaghetti dinner in Bristol. Friday, April 14, 5-7 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. Hosted by the St. Ambrose Knights of Columbus. Meals are available for dine in or take-out menu includes spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert. Cost \$12 adults/\$6 children 12 and under/\$30 family. No pre-order necessary. All proceeds will go toward furthering the Knights' mission of aiding the community in a variety of ways including a donation of winter coats to 5-town schools.

"All's Fair In Love and Business" on stage in Ripton. Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. Come see the students of North Branch School present this year's epic theatrical production. The play is completely original. All 26 students have had a hand in devising the concept, creating the characters, and writing the story. Tickets \$10 at the door. \$3 from each ticket will be donated to

apr 14

FRIDAY

Gensler Symposium: "Performing Feminist Joy" in Middlebury. Friday, April 14, 2-5:30 p.m., Hillcrest 103. A variety of feminist scholars, activists, and artists together to help us create new worlds and new forms of resistance through pleasure. Treasure Brooks will discuss how her work co-creating the feminist media company "The Meteor" was a pursuit of creative resistance and Jae Basiliere will give a combination of performance and lecture "Does Resistance Have To Be A Drag?"

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apr 15

SATURDAY

Storytime and reuse in Middlebury. Saturday, April 15, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Addison County Solid Waste Management District staff members will read a series of children's books about recycling, composting and garbage men. After, kids will participate in a reuse activity making plant pots out of non-recyclables.

Angela Burke Kunkel in New Haven. Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. New Haven Community Library. Angela Burke Kunkel will join the library for a children's program and celebration of her newest children's non-fiction book, "Make Way: The Story of Robert McCloskey, Nancy Schön and Some Very Famous Ducklings." Kunkel's newest work for children expertly weaves the stories of two American artists and shows the impact they've had on generations of children.

"Hello Spring" fair in Granville. Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m., Granville Town Hall, Route 100. Do something nice for yourself and help out our furry, four-legged friends at this fundraiser to benefit Homeward Bound – the Humane Society in Addison County. A number of specialty vendors and craftspeople with great products for your home and for you, as well as tasty baked goodies from "Baking Memories." Free admission, but bringing something from the Homeward Bound website "wish list" (homewardboundanimals.org/get-involved/wish-list) to donate will get you entered into a raffle for a gift basket.

Veterans assistance opportunity in Middlebury. Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Bob Stock, Veterans Outreach Specialist with the South Burlington Vet Center. Stock will be available to veterans and their families to ensure that they are aware of the VA benefits available to them and to provide assistance with any VA issues that they may be experiencing.

Prize bingo in Leicester. Saturday, April 15, 1 p.m., Leicester Senior Center, Leicester Four Corners. Refreshments served, all are welcome. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory.

Advanced Directives workshop in Shoreham. Saturday, April 15, 2-4 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. What are Advanced Directives? Why are they important? What is a Healthcare Proxy? What are the Fives Wishes? What are the limitations of an Advanced Directive? What is a COLST document? Join us to answer these questions in a workshop led by End-of-Life Doula Becki Lund of La Dimora. Free and open to the public, so encourage your friends to attend as well.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, April 15, 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. Sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.

"All's Fair In Love and Business" on stage in Ripton. Saturday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. See April 14 listing.

apr 16

SUNDAY

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in Addison. Sunday, April 16, 7-11 a.m., Addison Fire Station, Junction of Routes 17 & 22A. Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice. Cost \$10 adults/\$7 kids under 12. Benefit of the Addison Volunteer Fire Department. Funds will be used to purchase equipment for the Addison Volunteer Fire Department. More info at 802-759-2237. Last breakfast until the fall.

Around TOWN



THE CHARRED SHELL of the Nicklaw home off Route 7 in Leicester stands quiet and empty after it was destroyed by fire on March 21. The community has rallied around the family with fundraisers and other support. Photo by Colleen Wright

Community rallies after home fire

By STEVEN JUPITER
Brandon Reporter

LEICESTER — It's a house we drive by every day, right on Route 7 in Leicester just north of the Brandon town line. And on a fateful Tuesday night, March 21, it went up in flames. Everyone got out safely, but everything those who lived there is gone.

The family of Rick and Bonnie Nicklaw was left homeless, and now the community is rallying to help.

Already, a GoFundMe campaign on Facebook has raised nearly \$7,000 toward a total goal of \$20,000. See the campaign online at gofundme.com/f/help-the-nicklaw-family.

There are donation boxes around Brandon and Leicester, and a "meal train" has been organized to help provide food for the Nicklaws.

Anyone who would like to donate or volunteer to help can seek out Colleen Wright on Facebook or email her directly at queentween.cw@gmail.com for more information.

Slow down for amphibians crossing

MONTPELIER — Vermont Fish and Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when travelling at night in early spring, or to take alternate routes to avoid driving on roads near ponds and wetlands that salamanders and frogs cross during their breeding season.

"One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings," says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, "is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year. The spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the 'mole salamanders,' because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and are rarely seen until the next spring."

Road crossings are also a great way to see rare or otherwise hard-to-find species, which biologists rely on for data collection. For example, the four-toed salamander is rare in Vermont, and its distribution is not



VERMONT FISH AND Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when travelling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving near ponds and wetlands where salamanders and frogs are crossing during their breeding season.

VTF&W photo by Luke Groff

well understood. This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers in road construction plans that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely across roadways.

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore their nearby roads and report amphibian road crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian

Atlas at www.vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form). If you can safely take photos of the amphibian species crossing, please include them.

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Department's work to conserve frog and salamander populations can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Authors engage in programming in New Haven

NEW HAVEN — New Haven Community Library is offering two local author events during the month of April. The library programs aim to provide local and regional community members an opportunity to engage with authors and their work in a community setting.

Meg Madden was at the library on April 5 at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation on her work as a fungi educator, author, and photographer. Her colorful, highly detailed mushroom portraits offer an intimate look into the

often-overlooked world of these extraordinary organisms. Inspired by the belief that people are more likely to take care of something they love, she finds great joy in facilitating fun and meaningful connections between humans and nature. Copies of Meg's newly published book, "This is a Book for People Who Love Mushrooms," along with Meg's greeting cards, were available for purchase at the program.

Angela Burke Kunkel will join the library for a children's program

on April 15 at 10 a.m. to celebrate her newest children's non-fiction book, "Make Way: The Story of Robert McCloskey, Nancy Schön and Some Very Famous Ducklings." Kunkel's newest work for children expertly weaves the stories of two American artists and shows the impact they've had on generations of children. A starred-review book for both Kirkus and Publisher's Weekly, copies of Angela's books will be for sale at the library during the program, courtesy of the Vermont Book Shop.

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Mount Abraham Union High School

Lily James Roberts

Mt. Abe Union High School would like to honor one of the kindest, most enthusiastic scholars, Lily James Roberts, as Student of the Week. Lily lives in Monkton with her parents, Katrina and Colby Roberts, and her sisters Nola and Rose Roberts. She also has an amazing dog, Mack.

Lily enjoys school and learning in general. Her favorite class right now is her A.R.T. theater class at the Hannaford Career Center with instructor Eric St. John. Eric creates a comfortable yet professional environment for the actors and technicians in the class. "I always feel like an aspiring professional actor and a valuable member of the company when I walk into the classroom," Lily says.


Lily is an honor roll student and revels in theater, participating in six fall musicals and four spring musicals. In the fall she played Dolly Levi in Mount Abe's "Hello Dolly." Most recently she played Janis in "Mean Girls." Lily's creativity does not end there, she also partakes in Vermont Young Playwrights and scored three wins. During the quarantine period she released an album of her original music called "The Brazen," which is streaming on all platforms.

Lily also explored sports during her high school career on the JV soccer for two years. She has achieved her silver award as a Girl Scout ambassador for collaborating on the mural that turns the walls of Mt. Abe with insightful images and messages.

Outside of school, Lily works as host/bus/run for Tourterelle in New Haven. In her spare time, she loves playing her guitar, hanging out with friends, and skiing with family.

Lily has a special message for us all to consider. "The most valuable lesson I've learned is that you don't have to be the smartest person in the room, the best public speaker, or the best writer. Everyone's journey here is different, and it is never a competition. The one thing you owe to yourself is to work hard. Effort and dedication can get you anywhere, from top of the class to captain of the soccer team. Your goals don't have to look the same as everyone else's, but having them, and working towards them will keep you moving forward and learning more and more about yourself. Find something you love and chase it, everything else will follow suit."

The Eagle Nation community wishes Lily all the best with her future goals of attending a University for the Performing Arts.



Lily James Roberts
MAUHS

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TREE SERVICE

Serving Vermont for over 42 years!

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SERVICES**

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FOR THE RIGHT JOB — TO GIVE YOU
REASONABLE RATES**

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Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.

Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts 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 vermontalananonlateen.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.

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.

Public Meetings

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

Services

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.

Services

ODD JOBS; PROPERTY clean up, junk removal, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, 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.

Services

C+I DRYWALL and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545. C+I DRYWALL and plastering. Call Joe 802-234-5545.

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. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Opportunities

BONSAI WORKSHOP: "Creating Living Sculpture with Trees". Saturday, June 3, Horsford Nursery's "Art in the Garden". Info at 978-263-8646 or twinview-barn@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF Greater Vergennes is hiring! We are looking for a Program Manager and Cook! <https://bgcvergennes.bamboohr.com/careers>

Help Wanted

FINISH CARPENTER Established company seeking experienced finish carpenters to work on new construction and renovation projects that are local. Looking for someone with attention to detail, outstanding craftsmanship and professionalism. Compensation based on experience and work performance. Possible ad-

Help Wanted

ditional benefits for the right person. Work hours are from 7 AM to 3:30 PM Monday thru Friday. Five paid holidays to start and potential to earn paid time off. To apply, please email name, contact info, applicable experience. mark@mgalebuilders.com

Help Wanted

NEW JEWELRY STORE on Main Street in Middlebury, Elli Parr Boutique, is looking to hire part-time Sales Associates starting in May, 2023. Hours can be anywhere from 8-30 per week. Very flexible schedule, great pay, exceptional employee discount. Email us at info@elliparr.com for more details.

Red Cedar Trucking



I have a tri-axle dump truck, 7-ton flatbed trailer, and a 5-ton enclosed trailer. Both trailers are 20 feet long. Give me a call if I can help you out. 802-989-8430

Help Wanted



Full-Time Lawn Care & Landscaping Positions Available

Immediate positions available working Monday - Friday and some Saturdays.

PAID HOLIDAYS, PAID SICK TIME, PARTIAL UNIFORMS & COMPETITIVE PAY.

Experience isn't necessary but having a positive attitude, loving to work outside, and being reliable is.

To apply, call 802-352-9088 or stop by at 307 Kelly Cross Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769

Help Wanted



Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL MUHS COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union High School is looking for an **Assistant Ultimate Frisbee Coach.**

Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:

Sean Farrell/Athletic Director
Middlebury Union High School
73 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753
Applications will be accepted until the positions have been filled.
E.O.E.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Full-Time Lawn Care & Landscaping Positions Available

Immediate positions available working Monday - Friday and some Saturdays.

PAID HOLIDAYS, PAID SICK TIME, PARTIAL UNIFORMS & COMPETITIVE PAY.

Experience isn't necessary but having a positive attitude, loving to work outside, and being reliable is.

To apply, call 802-352-9088 or stop by at 307 Kelly Cross Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769

Opportunities

Opportunities

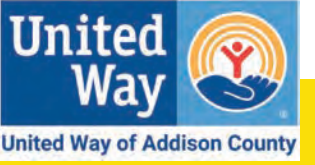

Opportunities

Opportunities


Opportunities

Charter House Coalition Volunteers

Volunteers have always been at the center of the Charter House mission. Volunteers help the meals program with food donations, meal prep, deliveries and serving meals in our dining room. We also train volunteers to take shifts in the shelter providing general oversight of the home. Helping with building & grounds and the garden are a lot of fun, too. In all these roles our volunteers engage with clients in the long-time Charter House mantra of "neighbor helping neighbor".



Please reach out to info@chcvt.org to learn more.



FT Cashier - Customer Service

Immediate Openings available. Must be able to work until 6pm Weekdays and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week. Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send Resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or Fill out Application at Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT. *Please no phone calls.*

Warehouse and Yard Worker - FT Position available

Warehouse Worker Job Purpose: Loading and Assisting with Customer Orders from the Yard, Warehouse and Store, Stocking Shelves and Filling Propane Tanks. Up to 40 hours per week.

Skills/Qualifications: Ability to lift 50lbs repeatedly throughout the day Weekends and dependability a MUST! Preferable age 18+.

Please fill out an application in person.

Middlebury Agway - 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Nursery and Greenhouse Sales and Care Associate

Middlebury Agway is seeking a highly motivated individual to assist in our Nursery and Greenhouse during our busy season. We're looking for someone to pleasantly and confidently interact with customers in a demanding, fast paced environment. Full Time or Part Time candidates will be considered but weekend availability is required. Multiple positions available.

- Ability to lift and assist in loading and unloading of plant material and in the store.
- Knowledge of Growing/Caring for/Harvesting: Vegetables, Annuals, Perennials, Trees and Shrubs
- Excellent Customer Service Skills a must plus ability to recommend and sell plant material as well as complementary products
- Must be available to work weekends
- Team oriented, co-operative and a positive attitude required.

Please send Resume along with Salary History and References to:

Middlebury Agway Farm & Garden, Attn: Jennifer Jacobs,
338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 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



MIDDLEBURY ANIMAL HOSPITAL is seeking an enthusiastic hospital custodian to join our team. This position requires 2-4 early morning hours 5 days a week. This position comes with growth potential. Any

Help Wanted

interested party can forward their resume to either Lucia Larabee or Carrie Lewis at middleburyah@gmail.com. Thank you and we look forward to meeting you.

Help Wanted



TIRED OF BEING RETIRED? Limited hours, A&W and Greg's Market. Applications available at Greg's.



**Our schools need substitute teachers.
You can help!**

Substitute Teachers

- Are essential to our schools!
- Help our schools operate at their full potential during staff vacancies and illness.
- Ensure consistency and support for all students.

This could be a great fit if you:

- Love supporting kids!
- Have and want a flexible schedule.
- Are energetic, curious, inclusive, and kind.
- Are considering a career as a teacher or paraprofessional.
- Want to get involved and support our community!

To apply:
acsdvt.org/Page/4418
or scan the QR Code:
Questions: 802-382-1281



Payscale:

Your rate of pay increases if you commit to consecutive days in a week. Substitutes are paid on half/full day basis.

Licensed Substitute Teachers and ACSD retirees:

\$160 per day for 5 days
\$150/day for 4 days
\$140/day for 3 days
\$130/day for 2 days
\$120/day for 1 day

Unlicensed Substitute Teachers:

\$150 per day for 5 days
\$140/day for 4 days
\$130/day for 3 days
\$120/day for 2 days
\$110/day for 1 day

School Nurse substitutes begin at \$140/day

Town of Orwell Animal Control Officer

The Town of Orwell is looking for an Animal Control Officer. The position is responsible for the enforcement of local and state laws governing licensing, impounding, treatment, and disposal of animals; assisting the public in locating and handling animals, and investigating complaints. The position is as needed dependent on calls for animal control. This is an hourly position where time and mileage are submitted on a timely basis for payment of services.

If interested, please send your resume to selectboard@townoforwellvt.org or call the town clerk's office at 802-948-2032.



Now offering Open Breakfast and Open Dinner Interviews!

**Breakfast Interviews Tuesdays
from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., and
Dinner Interviews Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m.**

**Sign-on Bonus, Travel Allowance, Mentor Program,
Free Meal, New Wage Bands, Shift Differentials
and Flexible Shift options.**

The Residence at Otter Creek, a premiere senior living community in Middlebury, VT is accepting applications for:

Full/Part-Time Med Techs/LPN (\$3,000 sign-on bonus)

Full/Part-Time Caregiver (\$3,000 sign-on bonus)

Sales and Marketing Director

Memory Care Director

Full/Part Time Servers

**Please inquire about per-diem shift openings
for all departments**

Applicants must be able to work weekends.
Background checks required.

Please email your resume to
Kristen LaFlam at
klaflam@residenceottercreek.com.
or use our new QR Code.



The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.residenceottercreek.com

Help Wanted

SPRAY FOAM TECHNICIAN Looking for a hard-working, physically fit individual to spray foam and cellulose on renovation and new construction projects. Will train the right individual. Starting wage \$17 an hour with room for growth. Please email your name, any relevant experience or why you are interested and available start date. contactus@middvtinsulators.com

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 8B, 9B & 10B.

For Rent



4 BEDROOM 1 1/2 BATH- House in Vergennes. This split level raised ranch has an open kitchen, living and dining room with access to a rear deck overlooking the backyard. New carpeting, laundry room with 3 cords, snow blowing and lawn maintenance included. \$2250.00 per month plus deposit (utilities not included). References required. Available April 1st. For details jrace2273@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8584

ADDISON- 3 BEDROOM 1 bathroom mobile home on private lot. water and lawn care included. No pets. No smoking. Will be available in April or May. Showings only by appointment. \$1000.00 plus security deposit. 802-735-4725

BRISTOL 2 BEDROOM house with two car garage. \$1,900 monthly plus security deposit. No Pets. No Smoking. Large yard, background checks. 802-989-2128 or 802-453-2647

Help Wanted

For Rent

CORNWALL, UPSTAIRS 2 bedroom apt., all inclusive, washer/dryer hookup, no pets, no smoking. \$1,500 per month. 802-989-2283.

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



**Addison Northwest
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

VERGENNES UNION HIGH SCHOOL COACHING VACANCIES FALL 2023

Vergennes Union High School is looking to fill the following coaching vacancies:

VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER COACH

For more information, contact Peter Maneen at (802) 877-2938 ext. 6223 or pmaneene@anwsd.org



The University of Vermont

Engaging minds that change the world

Climate Change Research Specialist

The University of Vermont is seeking a Climate Change Research Specialist to manage field-based agricultural and environmental research projects. The specialist would be responsible for coordinating and performing data collection efforts, operating and maintaining greenhouse gas monitoring field sites and other research instrumentation, and data management and analysis. This position would also contribute to both outreach and academic publications. A Bachelor of Science degree and related experience in a natural resources, engineering, agriculture, or conservation science field is required.

Please visit www.uvmjobs.com and search for Posting #S4232PO for more information.

The University is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the institution. Applicants are encouraged to include in their cover letter information about how they will further this goal. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.



**Addison County
Parent/Child Center**

Childcare Worker/Parent Educator

Join the Parent/Child Center Team

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families. Strong candidates must have knowledge of child development, family systems, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Town of Salisbury Town Clerk

Salisbury is currently looking to fill the position of Town Clerk. Duties include conducting all elections; local, state and federal, recording and management of land records, issuing licenses, permits and other official documents. Management of the town office along with customer service to our residents is an important facet of this job.

Adequate training time will be provided along with the support of a skilled assistant. Due to our current town charter, applicants must be a resident of the Town of Salisbury.

For more information regarding this position, please contact Patrick Dunn, Select Board Chair at (802) 352-4432, or Paul Vaczy, Vice Chair, at (802) 349-4514.



Town of Salisbury
25 Schoolhouse Road
P.O. Box 66
Salisbury, Vermont 05769
Phone: 802.352.4228
Fax: 802.352.9832
town.clerk@comcast.net



Addison County Community Trust
P.O. Box 256 • Middlebury, VT 05753

VERGENNES, VT Commercial space for lease

Addison County Community Trust is actively searching for the next commercial tenant for a high visibility main street location in downtown Vergennes. Located at 206 main street this location allows for excellent walk-in potential for an office or storefront. The space boasts large windows with plenty of natural light, wood floors and a large bathroom and closet. Rent includes heat, hot water, trash/recycling/compost and one off street parking space. The rent for this excellent location is a steal at \$800.00 per month!

More info <https://www.addisontrust.org> or contact Alice (802)877-2626 x 108, TDD 771 or email Alice@addisontrust.org.
Equal Housing Opportunity.

MIDDLEBURY FENCE RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



COMMERCIAL FENCE PROJECT MANAGER/ ESTIMATOR

An established company within the construction industry is looking to fill a full-time Project Manager/ Estimator in New Haven, VT. You will be responsible for reading blueprints and bidding projects. After winning the project, you become the project manager for the project. The ideal candidate will have an in-depth understanding of construction preferably with experience within the fence industry.

RECEPTIONIST / CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Middlebury Fence is looking for a Receptionist to join our team! We are looking for someone who is detail-oriented and takes pride in being highly organized with a strong ability to multitask. This position plays a key role in supporting the Middlebury Fence team and the customers we serve! This position is full time, year round.

As a full time Employee, you will be eligible for the following benefits:

- **Competitive Pay**
- Simple IRA with Company matching
- Paid Holidays and Vacation (PTO)

Job Type: Full-time

Job Pay: Regular pay, Bonus Pay, Incentive Pay

Our Company is an equal employment opportunity employer. The Company's policy is not to discriminate against any applicant or employee based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or any other basis protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws. The Company also prohibits harassment of applicants or employees based on any of these protected categories. It is also the Company's policy to comply with all applicable state and federal laws respecting consideration of unemployment status in making hiring decisions.

Please send resume to sales@middleburyfence.com or call 802-388-2225 to discuss.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

LINCOLN: Senior woman who enjoys the New York Times, classical music, & creating artwork. \$200/mo. (and small utils. contribution) plus occas. meal-prep, driving, & light help around the house. (802) 863-5625 HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, bg check req. EHO.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/ no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

WEYBRIDGE: \$550/ month, plus small utils. share. Spacious living area with private BA & kitchen. Comfortable home shared with senior woman who enjoys opera, film, and theater. Must be dog-friendly! (802) 863-5625 homeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, bg check req. EHO.

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

Help Wanted

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.

Animals

RED AND BLUE HEELER puppies for sale; had all shots. \$600. each. Will take trades. 518-569-0957.

Att. Farmers

WEST HAVEN: Custom sawed lumber, sawdust, dry and fresh sawed. \$0.30 per cubic foot. 802-265-3675.

WEST HAVEN: Hay; small square bales. \$5 per bale. 802-265-8165. Please call after 6:30pm.

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

Help Wanted

RSVP Addison County is seeking a part-time (hybrid remote option) Program Coordinator responsible for recruiting, placements, program management and providing support to volunteers/community partners, outreach, and community events. Skills needed: Human Service background, strong computer skills, grant/fundraising knowledge, communication skills, team player, and ability to work independently. Send resume to maryesarsvp@gmail.com or call (802) 468-7056.



ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MAINTENANCE STAFF

Addison Central School District is seeking a **Grounds Technician and Custodians.**

Requirements of the Grounds Technician position are being able to work outside in all weather conditions, must be able to operate a variety of manual and power equipment/tools, climb ladders, and lift 80 lbs. unassisted.

Custodian positions are full or part-time and day or night shifts.

These positions are full-year positions. Addison Central School District offers competitive wages.

Employee benefits include:

- Health, Dental, Life AD&D, Long Term Disability coverage
- Contribution to up to a family health insurance plan contribution to a Health Savings Account or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement
- Access to a flexible spending account
- Single dental insurance plan funded by the school district with the option to purchase dependent coverage
- Long-term disability plan with a 90-day elimination period, benefit pays 66 2/3% of salary, funded by the school district
- Life insurance valued at \$30,000, funded by the school district

Other Benefits

- Paid time off
- Retirement annuity match of up to 5% of salary
- Employee Assistance Program

Apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, and three current reference letters via School Spring or by sending a hard copy to:

Peter Burrows, Superintendent
Addison Central School District
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. E.O.E.

Att. Farmers

SMALL SQUARE BALES, \$3.50. Call 802-377-5455.

Wanted

OLD & USED GUNS WANTED

Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns
Top prices paid.
P: 802-775-2859
C: 802-236-7213

Help Wanted

minifactory

Bristol's Minifactory is hiring an experienced coffee and service professional - a general beverage aficionado - to bring creativity, structure, and flavor to our beverage offerings; from morning shakes to in-house tea blending, wine-list building, and cocktail creation that harnesses V Smiley Preserves and celebrates seasonality.

You bring a love for teaching/training staff, maintaining standards, creativity, organization, a point of view on flavor and food and a strong sense for hospitality that balances our role as a community hub.

This is a full time position.
Pay of base rate & tips.
\$25-29/hour DOE.

Apply at
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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing

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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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Middlebury, VT 05753
WAYBURYINN.COM

EastView AT MIDDLEBURY

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Are You Seeking People-Centered Work That Makes a Difference?

Check out EastView at Middlebury - Senior Living in the Heart of Middlebury

<http://www.eastviewmiddlebury.com/join-our-team/>

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

Act 250 (1)
Adams-Kent Cemetery (1)
Addison (1)
Addison Central School District (1)
Addison County Courthouse (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)
Cornwall (1)
Ferrisburgh (1)
Gage Cemetery Association (1)
Green Mountain Power (1)
Lemon Fair Insect Control District (1)
Lincoln School District (1)
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Mountain View Cemetery Association (1)
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (2)
Starksboro (1)
State of Vermont (1)
Vergennes (2)
Whiting (1)
Wright Memorial Library Board (1)

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the City of Vergennes that the City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 5:45 P.M. for discussion of the final draft of the revised Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

This public hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, remotely through Zoom, or by phone. To join the hearing remotely through Zoom by computer: <https://zoom.us/j/561577976>. To join through Zoom by phone, dial: 1 (312) 626-6799. The hearing ID is: 561 577 976, and the hearing password is 1234. The in-person hearing will be held at the Fire Station in the basement conference room.

For participants joining by phone:
· To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9
· To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing the Zoom meeting, contact City Manager Ron Redmond at 802-238-5598.

Statement of Purpose:
The Vergennes City Council adopted the municipal development plan for the City of Vergennes on March 10, 2020, and amended Zoning and Subdivision Regulations on January 10, 2023. The purpose of the proposed amendment to the zoning and subdivision regulations is to bring them into conformance with the municipal development plan and make other minor amendments.

Geographic Area Affected
The Historic Neighborhood District.

Table of Contents of Proposed Amendments – There is no change in the Table of Contents.

ARTICLE XVI, Section 1603 (D): MODIFIES DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MINIMUM LOT SIZE FOR ONE HOUSEHOLD USE FROM 7500 SQUARE FEET PER UNIT TO 7000 SQUARE FEET PER UNIT.

A copy of the full text of the final revised version of the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations is available for public review by contacting Peter Garon at pgaron@vergenes.org. Copies are also available for review at the office of the City Clerk, or on the City website at www.vergenes.org.

April 4, 2023

Chris Bearor, Mayor
City of Vergennes City of Vergennes

MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION ORWELL, VT.

Mountain View Cemetery Association is requesting bids for the 2023 mowing season of Mountain View and three smaller cemeteries. For further information call Diane Jackson at 802-948-2446.

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

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT PROBATE DIVISION DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-00056 IN RE ESTATE OF: MADELINE ABAJIAN NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Madeline Abajian, late of North Ferrisburgh, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent, or the estate must present their claims in writing within (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 03/30/2023

Executor/Administrator: Andrew H. Montroll, Esq.
PO Box 1045
Burlington, VT 05402
802-540-0250
amontroll@mblawoffice.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 04/06/23
Address of Probate Court:
Addison Unit, Probate Court
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

More Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Page 12B.

ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION #4A0100-2
10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111

On March 17, 2023, Mechanical Advantage, LLC filed application #4A0100-2 for a project generally described as construction of the following improvements: (1) a ±6,840 square-foot building addition to the existing business to accommodate an expansion of manufacturing and up to 20 employees; (2) a ±1,200 square-foot accessory shed primarily for storage of materials and equipment; and (3) a full-depth reconstruction and expansion of the existing parking area. The project is located at 2160 U.S. Route 7, Middlebury, Vermont. This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database here: <https://anweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=4A0100-2>.

No hearing will be held and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Wednesday, April 26, 2023, a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) (E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://nrb.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 9 Office at: NRB.Act250Barre@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact the district coordinator listed below.

Josh Donabedian
District 9 Coordinator
Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov
Mail: 10 Baldwin Street, Montpelier VT 05633-3201
Physical: 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84680476780>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)

Webinar ID: 846 8047 6780

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

AGENDA

7:00

1. **Call to Order

2. *Approval of Agenda

3. *Approval of Consent Agenda

3.a. Approval of Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Special Selectboard Meeting & March 28, 2023 Selectboard Retreat

3.b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

3.c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits and Entertainment Permits

3.d. Approval of Middlebury College's annual request for a 'blanket approval' for serving alcohol at catered events at Middlebury College from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

3.e. Appointment of Delegate and Alternate(s) to the Maple Broadband Governing Board

3.f. Middlebury Airport: Letter to Vermont Agency of Transportation Requesting Information for Middlebury and East Middlebury Water Systems' Source Protection Plans

3.g. Town Manager's Report

Amendment of Charter to provide for the Appointment of a Town Treasurer is now pending before the Legislature as H.495

4. *Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]

4.a. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award Presentation by Middlebury American Legion Post 27

7:10

5. *Nominations to Appointed Boards, Committees, Commissions & Official Positions

7:20

6. *Applications for Public Assemblage Permits

6.a. *John Barstow, President, Addison County Community Trust, Annual Community Celebration in September

6.b. *Nanette Carpenter, Midd Summer Market, throughout the summer

7:30

7. *Bill Kernan, Director of Public Works-Operations with updates & recommendations from the April 6, 2023 Infrastructure Committee Meeting

7.a. *Letter of Intent for Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program for Funding for Construction of Water Storage Tank

7.b. *Wastewater Treatment Facility Engineer's Agreement

7.c. *Award of Contract for Construction of South Street Waterline from Porter Field Road to Main Street

7.d. Class 2 Highway Grant/Structures Grant

7.e. *Award Crack Sealing Bid

7.f. *Award Mowing Bid

7.g. *Award Bid for Electric Mower

7.h. *Award Bid for Line Painting

7.i. **Boardman Street Intersection Presentation

7.j. **Vermont Agency of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Awarded for Stormwater Feasibility Study

7.k. *Other Project Updates

8:00

8. *Approval of the Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways and Town Road Standards

8:05

9. *Dana Hart, Library Director, and Joe McVeigh, Ilsley 100 Project Team, with updates on their work and requests for approval for:

9.a. *Award Contract for Conducting a Fundraising Feasibility Study to GPG Enterprises, Inc.

9.b. *Letter of Intent for Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program for Funding for the Ilsley Library Renovation & Expansion Project

8:15

10. *Phyllis Stinson, Middlebury Skatepark Project, requesting a letter of support from the Town to support their upcoming grant applications

8:25

11. *Adoption of Selectboard Policy on Permitting Exemptions to the Ordinance for the Regulation of Noise

8:35

12. *Approval for Participation in New National Opioid Settlement - Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens & Walmart

8:40

13. **Laura Asermily, Report on the 2023 Town Meeting Poll

8:45

14. *Follow-up to Board Retreat of March 28, 2023, including Appointments of Selectboard Subcommittee & Board Representatives

15. *Agenda Placeholder

16. *Agenda Placeholder

8:55

17. *Approval of Check Warrants

18. **Board Member Concerns

19. *Executive Session - Anticipated - Contracts & Real Estate

20. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session

9:05

21. *Adjourn

* Decision Item

** Possible Decision

LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: TRANSPORTATION
(Regular, Special Needs, Field Trips)

Lincoln School District, hereinafter known as the "District", invites sealed Requests for Proposal for the service of:
Contracted Transportation Services for FY 24 and FY 25

For the regular education, the special needs and the field trip runs for Lincoln School District (students at Lincoln Community School and Mt. Abraham Middle and High School) for a 2-year period to run from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Proposals are to be submitted on the bid form provided and will be signed and sealed, with a notation on the outside of the envelope stating: Lincoln School District (Contracted Transportation Services Sealed Bid) and will be accepted on or before May 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Please submit bids to: Superintendent's Office
Lincoln School District
62 Quaker Street
Lincoln, Vermont 05443

If you have any questions, please contact Madelyn Crudo Burke at 802-558-1828 cell.

ANWSD BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS
APRIL 2023

The following schedule of the Board of School Directors' meetings is announced for the month of April 2023:

Wednesday, April 5	6:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Meeting Virtual only
Friday, April 7	7:30 AM	Facilities Committee Meeting ANWSD Conference Room
Monday, April 10	4:50 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting - SPECIAL Student Hearing
	6:30 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUHS Library
Tuesday, April 11	4:50 PM	Policy Committee Meeting VUHS Library
Monday, April 17	5:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting VUHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUHS Library
Wednesday, April 19	6:00 PM	Community Engagement Committee Meeting VUHS Library

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CORNWALL
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Cornwall Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 7 pm.

The hearing will be held by Zoom and in person at the Town Hall. An online meeting link and a dial in number will be published on the agenda for the meeting, so that Board members, the applicants, and interested members of the public may participate electronically or by telephone. The agenda will be posted at least 48 hours before the hearing at the Town Hall and the Town Garage, and on the Town's website. Persons attending at the Town Hall are requested to wear a mask.

Purpose of the hearing:
To hear an appeal brought by Randy Martin and Mary Martin from a decision of the Cornwall Zoning Administrator (ZA) dated March 8, 2023, in which the ZA declined to confirm that the Appellants' property located at 1967 Route 74 in Cornwall exists as two lawfully subdivided parcels.

Electronic copies of this application are available to the public on the Town's website, www.cornwallvt.com. The application is also available to the public at the Cornwall Town Clerk's office, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, Vermont. You are free to review the file for any additional information concerning this particular matter.

Persons wishing to be heard at this public hearing, or their representatives (a licensed Vermont Attorney or an authorized agent), may participate in the hearing by using the online meeting link or the dial in number, or in person. Please note that in accordance with Chapter 117, Section 4464, of the Vermont statutes, participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to make subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will meet on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Addison Town Clerk's Office to address the following applications:

- Application (#22-11) from Richard Thurber requesting Board's approval for a sketch plan for a 3-lot subdivision (BLA) located on Lake Street, Addison, VT. The sketch plan will show no plans for development at this time, only wants to subdivide for an easier transfer of the property to a relative later. They have met the road frontage requirements & ROW for Section 3.7, (tax map ID# 4-02-21). Need to present final mylar.
- Application (#22-12) Richard Thurber for Board's approval for a new home construction (Variance) on the property located at 40 Van Ornum Drive, Addison, VT (tax map ID# 4-01-35).
- Application (#23-02) Jim & Nancy Larrow for the Board's approval for construction of and Conditional-use for 20' X 30' 1 ½ story garage with boundary-line adjustment. The garage will be constructed on the property located at 191 Algonquin Drive, Addison, VT, (Tax map ID# 13-9 Parcel ID: AL0191).
- Application (#23-03) Scott and Howard Grant for the Board's approval of a two (2) lot subdivision of the existing 78 +/- acres parcel located at 1681 VT RTE 17E. They are purposing to subdivide the property & create (1) 5 acres residential lot and (1) 73 acres parcel (Tax Map ID# 6-02-34).
- The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.
- N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Spencer, Chair
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary
Michael Wojciechowski, Zoning Administrator

Adams-Kent Cemetery Association
MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Adams-Kent Cemetery Association will be held Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:30pm at the Panton Town Hall.

GAGE CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Ferrisburgh Town Offices
3279 Route 7

The Town of Addison and the City of Vergennes
PUBLIC NOTICE - 2023 HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The above-mentioned municipalities have requested from the Secretary of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ultra (Triclopyr), Oust Extra (Sulfometuron) and Rodeo (Glyphosate) to control unwanted vegetation along town and city owned highways. Selective spray operations will start approximately May 20th. The applications will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand control methods. Residents along the right-of-way are encouraged to protect sensitive environmental areas, organic farmland, and water supplies from spray. It is the resident's responsibility to notify the town of the existence of these situations adjacent to the town right-of-way. Citizens wishing to inform the town are urged to contact the contact person for their town or city as follows:

Addison - Bryan Nolan 802-759-2570.
Vergennes - Matt Crowley 802- 877-3585.

The appropriate place to contact with comments, other than the town is the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Agriculture Resource Management and Environmental Stewardship, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, Telephone 802-828-2431. Their web page that would describe the town's spray permit request can be found at www.VermontAgriculture.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY
MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

Local mosquito control districts may be making ground and aerial applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI)*, *Bacillus sphaericus (BS)*, spinosad and (S)-Methoprene to surface waters where mosquito larvae are present. These applications will occur in the towns of Cornwall, Bridport, and Weybridge. Pesticide applications will begin on or after April 15, 2023.

Further information or comments about the larviciding activities or application exclusion requests can be obtained from:

Lemon Fair Insect Control District
David Dodge, Chair
802-462-3898

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture oversees the permitting of these mosquito larvicides and can be reached at 802-828-3473.

For more information see the following websites.
<http://www.lfiod.org/>
<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/plant-health-and-pest-management/mosquitoes>

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).

Reach Up Eligibility Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 23P006
AGENCY: Agency of Human Services
CONCISE SUMMARY: The Reach Up program provides cash assistance and support services to low income families. The Reach Up Eligibility rules govern the eligibility criteria for the Reach Up program. The proposed rule reorganizes and rennumbers the rules to conform to a standard outline format, updates terminology, updates statutory references, and replaces deficit-based language with strengths-based language (for example, using the term "engagement" instead of "compliance"). Substantive changes to the content of the rule include:(1) allowing temporary absences to be approved when a child is voluntarily placed outside of the home (rule 2228.2); (2)removing the requirement that participants with over 60 months of assistance must complete a two-week period of compliance before benefits are approved and eliminating the two-month break in benefits for such participants (rule 2234.2); and (3) allowing pregnant individuals with substance use disorders to qualify for benefits under the high-risk pregnancy criteria (rule 2235).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Heidi Moreau, Department for Children and Families, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201 Tel: 802-595-9639 Email: heidi.moreau@vermont.gov. URL: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/laws-rules/proposed>.

FOR COPIES: Erin Oalican, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division 280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201 Tel: 802-585-4621 Email: erin.oalican@vermont.gov.

Reach Up Services Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 23P007
AGENCY: Agency of Human Services
CONCISE SUMMARY: The Reach Up program provides cash assistance and support services to low income families. The rule governs participation requirements for families receiving Reach Up assistance. The proposed rule reorganizes the rules to conform to a standard outline format, updates terminology, updates statutory references, and replaces deficit-based language with strengths-based language. The proposed rule eliminates the independent medical review process as required by Act 133 of 2022. Additional changes to the content of the rule include:(1) Adding language to the good cause rule giving the Department discretion to determine good cause for non-engagement (i.e. non-participation with program requirements) (rule 2331.2);(2) Allowing households that have received 60+ months of assistance to participate in conciliations (a process to re-engage participants)(rule 2332.1); and (3) Removing the one- time-per-year limit on conciliations and allowing participants to utilize the conciliation process for each instance of non-engagement(rule 2332.1).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Heidi Moreau, Department for Children and Families, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201 Tel: 802-595-9639 Email: heidi.moreau@vermont.gov. URL: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/laws-rules/proposed>.

FOR COPIES: Erin Oalican, Department for Children and Families, Economic Services Division 280 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1201 Tel: 802-585-4621 Email: erin.oalican@vermont.gov.


10 V.S.A. Appendix § 141 Batfish Regulation.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 23P008
AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
CONCISE SUMMARY: The purpose of the batfish rule is to protect Vermont waters from invasive species and diseases that would adversely impact fisheries and aquatic ecosystem. The proposed rule amendments revise the terminology describing the waters where batfish is "restricted" and specifically cannot be used or transported. The rule also amends the list of bait restricted waters to protect the fisheries in the appropriate waterbodies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Catherine Gjessing, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3208 Tel: 802-595-3331 Fax: 802-828-1250 Email: catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.

FOR COPIES: Eric Palmer, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3208 Tel: 802-535-7635 Fax: 802-828-1250 Email: eric.palmer@vermont.gov.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 3/31/23 & 4/3/23

			COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Nop Bros & Sons	1565	1.12	\$1760.63	
Cornestone Dairy	1920	1.10	\$2112.00	
Woodnotch	1290	1.10	\$1419.00	
H. Veldman	1940	1.06	\$2056.40	
Blue Spruce Farm	1835	1.03	\$1890.05	
M+L Quesnel	1490	1.00	\$1490.00	

		COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
H. Sunderland	104	3.30	\$343.20
Champlainside Farm	98	3.10	\$303.80
Barnes Bros	95	3.00	\$285.00
P. Livingston	92	3.00	\$276.00
J. Allen	89	2.80	\$249.20

Total Beef - 175 Total Calves - 269

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.

call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

WRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD REQUEST FOR BIDS

Wright Memorial Library Board is soliciting proposals for painting of the Orwell, VT library building's exterior by qualified painters. Project includes scraping and caulking where required. For complete details, interested parties may call 802-948-2054.

Bids may be submitted to: Wright Memorial Library Board, PO Box 25, Orwell, VT 05760. Submission deadline is April 15, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15th, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), Bacillus sphaericus (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

Exclusion requests need to be renewed annually. Please send a written request to the OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has obtained a permit to conduct larvicide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from: Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
https://ocwicd.com

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to: Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov


PUBLIC NOTICE INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDES

Green Mountain Power Corporation, 2152 Post Rd Rutland, Vermont 05701 has applied for a permit from the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture to apply herbicides. Herbicides will be applied by ground-based, hand-held equipment. This notice constitutes a warning to residents along the right-of-way that potable water and other environmentally sensitive areas near the right-of-way should be buffered and that it is the resident's responsibility to notify the permit applicant of the existence of a potable water source near the right-of-way. The contact person at GMP is Jarod Wilcox, Transmission Arborist, (802) 770-3231. Further information may also be obtained from Plant Industry Division, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, 116 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901, telephone (802) 828-2431.

Maintenance will be conducted on the following transmission lines in the following towns:

LINES: Huntington Falls-Florence

TOWN(S): Weybridge, New Haven, Middlebury, Salisbury, Leicester, Brandon, Pittsford
Salisbury, Brandon, Leicester
Salisbury, Leicester
Salisbury
Middlebury, Salisbury
Middlebury
Middlebury, Weybridge
Weybridge, New Haven
New Haven, Bristol
Middlebury
Salisbury
Salisbury
Vergennes, Ferrisburg
Middlebury



Green Mountain Power
2152 Post Rd Rutland, VT 05701

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1st, 2023, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease 4-4 (a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide) and Fyfanon (in the malathion family) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease 4-4 or Fyfanon. Spray routes can be viewed at: https://ocwicd.com/route-maps. At least six hours in advance of spraying, specific route information will be posted to https://ocwicd.com/public-notice.

The OCW call center phone number is (802) 247-6779; the call center will take requests for treatment during the season.

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone numbers, the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from: Doug Perkins, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwicd@gmail.com
https://ocwicd.com

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to: Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901
(802) 522-6973
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PLANNING COMMISSION MARCH 19TH, 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, April 19th, 2023, beginning at 7pm to consider the following applications and other business:

1. Application: 23-014 Preliminary Plat review for a two (2) lot Planned Unit Development (PUD); 189 Four Winds Road; applicant(s): Brenna Mead & Sarah Richardson; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) district; tax id no. 05/02/11.3

2. Application 23-015 Boundary Adjustment; 462 Monkton Road; applicant(s): Peter & Lis Markowski; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) district; tax id no. 15/02/37.3

3. Application: 23-016 Sketch Plan Review for a two (2) lot Subdivision; applicant(s) Bradley Jerger & Sarah Teitel; 731 Shellhouse Mountain Rd, Rural Residential (RR-2) district; tax id no. 10/01/34

4. Application 23-020 Sketch Plan Review for a two (2) lot Subdivision; applicant(s) Roy & Cheryl Shea; 21 Button Bay Road; Rural Residential (RR-2) district; tax id no. 13/01/51.2

5. Application 23-021 Boundary Adjustment; applicant(s) Jeff Blasius; Tupper Crossing (Lot 4); Industrial District (IND-2); tax id no. 15/01/64

6. Application 23-0025 Sketch Plan Review for a three (3) lot Subdivision; applicant(s): Amine Zhagdoud; 0 US-7 (Vacant Land); Rural Agricultural (RA-5) district; tax id no. 05/01/89.1

Other Business: Open Space Agreements - Report from Jean and Bonnie

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

April is screening month for preschool children from Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge!

The ACSD Early Education Program provides services to children identified as having disabilities or delays in meeting developmental milestones. We also collaborate with area preschool and childcare programs to address the needs of our local preschool children. Screenings help to identify children who would benefit from additional support before entering kindergarten.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's developmental progress, your district early education program is offering screening for children ages 3-5 who are not enrolled in kindergarten. Screening is conducted in a playful environment, and provides information on your child's speech and language development, motor, social and early academic skills.

The screening will take place at the Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Drive, in Middlebury and will happen on April 7, 14, and 21, 2023.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Deb Martin at 802-382-1761.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Addison Co. Community Trust Mobile Home Parks, LLC (ACCT) and Mary Brace have submitted a conditional use and site plan application (23-300) for review of floodplain restoration and associated work within the Flood Hazard Overlay (FHO) zone of property located at 384 Sugarhouse Lane in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed project is for floodplain restoration and excavation in the Low Density Residential and Commercial and Forest Conservation Districts in the FHO. The hearing on this application will be held per Sec. 282A and 425 of the Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations (SLUDR).

Peter and Marguerite Gregory have submitted an application (23-400) for a minor subdivision of property located at 4428 Ireland Road in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed project is for the creation of a two-lot residential subdivision in the Low Density Residential and Commercial and Forest Conservation Districts. The hearing on this application will be held per Sec. 426 of the SLUDR.

The Starksboro Development Review Board will conduct these hearings on **April 27, 2023, starting at 7 p.m.** at the Starksboro Town Office with remote access (info below). The applications are available to review 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.

Access via Zoom: Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793 · Passcode: Stk@drb1
Phone: 1-929-436-2866 · Passcode: 44885153

Zoning Administrator
Starksboro, Vermont
4/4/2023

TOWN OF WHITING – NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and nonresident owners, lien holders and mortgages of lands in the Town of Whiting in the County of Addison are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such town for the year 2022 remain either in whole or part, unpaid on the following described lands in such town, to wit:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES TO BE SOLD:

Property no. 1:
4.13 acres on the West side of VT Route 30 Parcel #004.032 Andrew Baife, Book 35, pages 493-495.

Pursuant to 32 VSA 5254, so much of such property will be sold at public action in the Town of Whiting office, a public place located at 29 South Main Street, Whiting, VT on the 8th day of May 2023 at 3:00 PM, as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with cost unless previously paid.

Dated at Whiting, Vermont the 15th day of March 2023.
Rani Fallon
Collector of Delinquent Taxes

City police respond to alleged juvenile violence

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on March 31 cited a 17-year-old for allegedly assaulting his mother in a Main Street apartment that day.

Police allege the teen punched his mother in the eye, neck and back. He was cited for domestic assault and assault in the presence of a child. Police said he was placed into the custody of the Department for Children & Families.

The second case that same day involved an alleged juvenile assault at Vergennes Union High School that remains under investigation. Police said one female student allegedly attacked another female student from behind in a school hallway. Police on Tuesday said they were reviewing cellphone video and Porter Hospital records, while interviewing witnesses in an investigation that could soon yield a citation, most likely for simple assault.

Also between March 27 and April 2, Vergennes police conducted 17 patrols, 16 in cruisers and one on foot; conducted 10 traffic stops; responded to one false alarm; fingerprinted nine job applicants; and:

On March 27, heard a complaint from a Main Street tenant that work being done to her apartment was performed without respecting her

schedule and was also threatening her family's health. Police advised her to contact a lawyer if she wished to take action on what is a civil issue.

On March 28, heard an allegation that a client who had voluntarily left the Valley Vista addiction treatment program and had taken a ride home to southern Vermont with a delivery driver had allegedly been coerced into a sex act in exchange for the ride. Police determined the allegation was based in Brandon, but eventually the case was referred to the Addison County Unit for Special Investigations, based in Middlebury.

On March 29:

- Broke up a fight in the Champlain Farms parking lot on Main Street and calmed the two male combatants. Two days later, police issued a no-trespass order to one of the men involved on behalf of the business.
- Heard a complaint from a teenage employee of a local business that an older man was harassing her, including asking her if she wanted to go for a ride in his car. Police advised the victim how to get a no-stalking order, an action they reported she and her family were considering.

On March 30, conducted a number of stops on commercial trucks, putting one vehicle out of service because its driver had an invalid license.

Vergennes Police Log

Middlebury man cited for assault

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Kenneth Gilbert, III, 47, of Middlebury for aggravated assault and unlawful trespass, following an incident at a North Pleasant Street home shortly before 5 a.m. on March 27.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Investigated a disorderly conduct complaint filed by a local man on March 27.
- On March 27, followed up on a report of small plastic bag recently found in a Case Street mailbox. Police determined it didn't contain anything suspicious.
- Received a report of a vehicle hitting a mailbox on South Munger Street on March 27.
- Investigated a report of a woman allegedly causing a disturbance in the parking lot at the Tenney Brook gas station off Court Street on March 27.
- Responded to a report of a man using narcotics in the parking lot of a gas station off Court Street on March 27. Police said they took the man to Porter Hospital for addiction treatment.
- Investigated a report of children allegedly throwing rocks at a passing vehicle on Schoolhouse Hill Road in East Middlebury on March 28.
- Investigated a trespassing complaint in the Maeclyff Court area on March 28.
- Gave advice to a local person

who had voiced concerns about an "increasingly volatile domestic partner" on March 28.

- Received information on March 29 about potential drug activity on the North Pleasant Street area.
- Investigated a reported disturbance at a house development off Woodbridge Lane on March 29.
- Responded to a report of an unresponsive and potentially heavily intoxicated person inside a Main Street business on March 29.
- Checked the welfare of a woman and her children at a Route 7 South home on March 29, on behalf of the Vermont Department for Children & Families (DCF).
- Performed a welfare check on March 29 on a father and his children at North Branch Road home, on behalf of Vermont DCF.
- Received a report about a "severely intoxicated" man acting erratically downtown on March 29.
- Served court paperwork on a local man on March 29.
- Returned a loose dog to its home on March 29.
- Received a request for assistance on March 29 from New York State Police in locating a potentially suicidal woman

Middlebury Police Log

whose phone had been located in Middlebury. Police said they were unable to find the woman.

- Helped with a juvenile issue at Middlebury Union Middle School on March 29.
- Assisted a local woman with an out-of-control juvenile at a Court Street home on March 29.
- Investigated a report of a potentially intoxicated person needing attention off Court St Extension on March 30.
- Arrested Timothy G. Farr, 69, of Middlebury for violating the conditions of his release in the Court Street area, following a 911 call from a local resident on March 30.
- Responded to a report of a woman threatening self-harm in the College Street area on March 30. Police said the woman was taken to Porter Hospital.
- Initiated a search for Rebecca Ball, 17, of Middlebury, who had last been seen at about 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29, near the southern end of Wright Park, at the Trail Around Middlebury trailhead. The search for Rebecca Ball was still underway on Monday, April 3 (follow this story online at addisonindependent.com).
- Investigated a report of a potential break-in at a home off Lemon Fair Road in Cornwall on

March 31. Police said they found the home to be secure.

- Assisted Brandon police with a sexual assault investigation on March 31.
- Responded to a Main Street apartment building shortly before 9:30 p.m. on April 1 after getting a report about a drunken person in the entryway. Police identified the man as Kenneth Gilbert, 47, of Middlebury, whom police allege violated multiple conditions for his release.
- Responded to the Cross Street Bridge on April 1 on a report of a man who appeared to be preparing to jump off the span. Police spoke with the man, who said he wasn't planning to jump and didn't need assistance.
- Investigated a noise complaint at 59 Short Shannon St. at around 6:13 p.m. on April 1.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a rescue call on Route 7 South on April 1.
- Responded to a family argument at a Weybridge Street home on April 2.
- Investigated a theft from a vehicle that was parked at the Abbey Pond trailhead off Case Street on April 2. Police said the culprit(s) broke a window to get inside the vehicle and steal some "ski items."
- Helped Vermont State Police at the scene of a vehicle crash on Route 7 in New Haven on April 2.

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

April 6, 2023



Jim Westphalen's ongoing effort to chronicle the nation's aging rural structures — such as the one depicted behind him in this photo — take centerstage in a new film called "Vanish" that will premiere at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater this Saturday, April 8.

PHOTO COURTESY JIM WESTPHALEN

On the way out: Film chronicles our disappearing barns

Photographer Jim Westphalen has spent more than two decades driving backcountry roads capturing rural structures of a bygone era. Farmhouses, silos, corn cribs, barns, old schoolhouses and historic churches have all "posed" for his vintage 4x5 view camera.

BY JOHN

FLOWERS

Some of his photos are framed and sold as fine art; others

make it into what he calls his "big book," a catalogue of vintage buildings that he wants to prevent from fading from our collective conscience.

But time is taking its toll on the structures he continues to creatively inventory. "I always feel like I'm in this race against time," Westphalen said. "I'm always working against the elements and time to visually preserve these structures, so they're not just forgotten and the people

"I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I'M IN THIS **RACE AGAINST TIME.**"

— Jim Westphalen

who built them are not forgotten."

Westphalen has now taken his crusade from two-dimensional artwork to moving pictures and dialogue. It's a new film called "Vanish — Disappearing Icons of Rural America." The film, four years in the making, showcases Westphalen's ongoing quest to photograph the decaying, iconic structures that dot rural America, enriched with stories from the current stewards of those properties.

"Vanish" will premier this Saturday, April 8, at 6 p.m. at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, with a

reception to follow at Edgewater Gallery. It's a feature-length (90 minutes) film during which Westphalen and his crew of three assistants captured the visual and narrative essence of a variety of rural structures from the Green Mountains of Vermont to "Big Sky" territory in Montana, with additional forays down South.

Westphalen's love of photography dates to his childhood, but it wasn't until high school in his native Long Island, N.Y., that his affinity for cameras and beautiful imagery crystallized. He got his first single-lens reflex camera in 12th grade. "That's when I got hooked," he recalled.

He joined his school's photo club, but still thought he was destined for a career in marine biology. Until college.

"I got more serious (about photography)," he said. "I took my camera everywhere. I decided after two years of college that the

SEE VANISH ON PAGE 3



ART ON EXHIBIT

Art on Main opens 3D exhibit of member artists

Bristol's downtown gallery Art on Main will open a new exhibit on April 7. "3D On and Off the wall" features diverse works by member artists Gail Martin, John Arthur, Scott Crocker and Robin Kent, exploring scale and the third dimension in metal, wood and collage.

unique way. Martin and Kend draw the delighted viewer in for a closer look with their whimsical, small pieces. Crocker and Arthur give us the natural world from carved wood and rendered in shimmering metals full of energy and life.

Each of the four member-artists explore the third dimension in a

An opening reception will be held on April 7, from 5-7 p.m., when artists will speak about their work. The exhibit will be on view through May 15.

For more info call 802-453-4032.



ROBIN KENT



GAIL MARTIN



JOHN ARTHUR



SCOTT CROCKER

NAVALNY

THURSDAY, APR 13

7PM

TOWN HALL THEATER

MNFF
SELECTS

GET TICKETS &
WATCH TRAILERS

middfilmfest.org



MNFF9

SAVE THE DATES!
WED-SUN
AUGUST
23-27, 2023

MNFF SELECTS SPONSORED BY



VANISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

photography bug had bitten me, and I wanted to do something with it."

His first paid gig was in 1980, at a commercial photography lab. He earned his stripes through the years and is now a nationally renowned photographer. His evocative, large-scale photos of rural structures — including aging farmhouses and barns — are collected worldwide and exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the U.S. It's subject matter he learned to love and appreciate as a youngster during visits to his grandmother in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

"That was like heaven to me," he said. "A whole new world opened up to me. The Pennsylvania countryside was dotted with farms and barns. There was something mystical about them. I wondered, 'Who built that barn, how old is it and how is it being used?'"

In 1996, he and his family moved to a different slice of heaven — Vermont, where Westphalen has no shortage of historic barns, farmhouses and other vestiges of rural Americana to immortalize.

What qualities must a structure possess to capture Westphalen's eye and camera lens? "It has to speak to me in some way, on an emotional level," he said.

Westphalen then determines if it's subject matter that could become fine art — a photo someone would want to frame and hang on their wall. If it's not, Westphalen will still capture it on film if he believes the structure in question has an interesting story to tell.

"There's the art side and the editorial side," he explained. "Not every piece that I photograph becomes a work of art, but it all goes into the 'big book,' which is the ever-growing locations I have photographed, and I make every effort to get the backstory and history on everything I shoot."

His creative travels often take him to Addison County, which he said hosts "a treasure trove" of stunning agricultural edifices. Westphalen marveled at the plethora of materials used in making rural buildings in Addison County, citing the example of silos made from wood, cement, metal and tile.

"Addison County has an abundance of all that, and old farmhouses," he said. "And wherever you find an old farm, you're going to find the structures that go with it, whether it be cow barns, farmhouses, outbuildings, corn cribs — you name it."

Those who seek out Westphalen's prints often



This 140-year-old barn in Orwell (left) or this barn in Salisbury (right) are prime examples of the kinds of captivating, aging buildings that Jim Westphalen is immortalizing through his photography and a new film called "Vanish," to be screened this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater.

PHOTOS COURTESY JIM WESTPHALEN

want more info on photos' subject matter. Fortunately, he always asks property owners for the origin stories of the structures he photographs. "If they didn't know a lot about (the structure), they know that 'Joe down the road' has information," he said.

Westphalen is amazed by the stream of facts and colorful stories that his inquiries often trigger from those connected to the buildings he shoots. "I'll sit down in people's living rooms and they'd show me old photographs and I'll hear, 'This farmhouse was my great-great-grandfather's homestead,'" he said. "There were all these cool stories."

At some point, Westphalen saw himself not only as someone perpetuating the memory of beautiful, utilitarian buildings that were key to an essential, homespun industry, but also as an archivist for the backstories of those structures. "Vanish" is yet another way of perpetuating those backstories.

Some local sites are featured prominently in "Vanish," including Cornwall's Glen Dale Farm, an old Bridport schoolhouse and, of course, footage of the recent relocation of the former New Haven train depot from Route 7 to a new home next to the town library.

The nomadic film crew found that no matter where they went, each state was contending with the same, gradual deterioration and loss of long-cherished buildings. Mother Nature and time are now taking their toll on anything built 100-or-more years ago that hasn't been treated with TLC, Westphalen noted. That deterioration is often expedited by failing roofs. Property owners unable to invest in those structures have little choice but to surrender them to the elements. And that's where "Vanish" comes in.

"I want to create this awareness of what we have in this brief moment in history," Westphalen said. "I want people to sit up and notice there really is tremendous beauty in these old

structures... and also to think about the history of the land, where we live and the people who built their lives around these structures."


Once "Vanish" disappears from THT, Westphalen will work on getting it a wider audience. "I think there's enough Americana, enough history and pretty visuals that it can gain some traction," he said.

Westphalen vowed to enter "Vanish" into some film festivals and look for a streaming service — maybe even the History Channel — to carry the film. "If that doesn't help, PBS will be my first stop," he said, with YouTube a potential, eventual landing spot.


Next on Westphalen's photo odyssey: A trip through the Southwest to see what dusty gems its countryside has to offer. Might that trip produce a sequel to "Vanish"?

"I still need the dust to settle in my brain before I start considering that," he said with a chuckle. "It is sort of an ongoing, never-ending project."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



The Westerlies

Theo Bleckmann, Vocals

April 7 ■ 7:30 PM ■ \$25/20/15/10/5
Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall; or stream from home

802-443-MIDD (6433) ■ go.middlebury.edu/pas

THE MONTH IN POETRY



Susan Jeffs is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks and the Middlebury, Vt., area. Her poetry book, *Breathing Lessons*, is forthcoming this summer from Shanti Arts press in Maine. Her poems have been published in the anthologies *A Slant of Light*, *Quiet Diamonds*, *Birchsong*, *Best of Burlington Writers*, *Poems in the Time of Covid*, and *Every Drop of Water*, and in the journals *BlueStone Review*, *Blue Line*, *Parnassus*, *Big City Lit*, *Zig Zag*, *The Literary Gazette*, and *Fired Up*, among others. She is currently taking new clients for editing of manuscripts and individual works.

I like poems that start with something small and unassuming and go in unexpected directions. This one by Alice B. Fogel starts out with small stones held in the palm, and before long we have rushing atoms, boulders and grains. A planet, a whole galaxy, almost. Each letter and word, an arrangement of particles. There's a story evolving and the poet brings us a little closer to it, without telling us everything.

The poem plays with the concepts of lightness and heaviness. Small stones don't weigh much, but in this case they seem to: *sometimes the smallest things weigh us down*. Why is that, we might wonder. An element of mystery is added in the second stanza with the vein of light in one small stone. Lightness now takes on degrees of brightness, rather than weight, set against *the heavy gray dome of its sky*.

And like in a good poem, there is the unexpected. What does the speaker mean by *there is happiness at stake*? This seems to have come from nowhere, but we sense that it will begin to take on meaning as the poem moves on. There's a feeling of uncertainty and even discomfort for a moment. The poem seems to be taking us somewhere new.

The poem's turn, or volta, appears in the next to last stanza. The speaker moves away from grains and dust and the abstract, to the world of relationship and the suggestion of domesticity. Suddenly there's a you and I — a We. *I could be living somewhere with you...* she writes. The idea of heaviness and lightness are turned on their heads. What is heavy and weighted can be desired, even freeing. What is light and small can feel heavy. We sense the whole poem

has been building to this place that feels very different from where it began, with a new set of questions, musings, and mystery.

A FEW SMALL STONES

NO LESS

It was twilight all day.

*Sometimes the smallest things weigh us down,
small stones that we can't help
admiring and palming.*

*Look at the tiny way
this lighter vein got inside.
Look at the heavy gray dome of its sky.*

*This is no immutable world.
We know less than its atoms, rushing through.*

*Light, light. Light as air, to them,
for all we know. Trust me on this one,
there is happiness at stake.*

*Boulder, grain. Planet, dust:
What fills the stones fills us.*

*I remember, or I have a feeling,
I could be living somewhere with you,
weighted down the way we aren't now.*

*Often the greatest things,
those you'd think would be the heaviest,
are the very ones that float.*

— Alice B Fogel

THE STRAGGLERS

**LIVE at the
Vergennes Opera House
Saturday, April 15, 7:30pm**

Playing originals plus country, classic rock, Dead covers and a wide range of old-time music and classic Bluegrass.

Come shake the mud off your boots!
Doors & cash bar open 6:30pm
Tix at VergennesOperaHouse.org

Located at 120 Main Street, 2nd fl of City Hall
802.877.6737



Alice B Fogel, originally from New York State's Hudson Valley, served as the New Hampshire poet laureate from 2104 through 2019. Her latest of six poetry collections is *Nothing But*, a series of poems responding to Abstract Expressionist art and its effect on our consciousness. Her previous books include *A Doubtful House*; *Interval: Poems Based on Bach's "Goldberg Variations"* which won the Nicholas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature and the N.H. Literary Award in Poetry, and *Be That Empty*, a national poetry bestseller. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, among other awards, she is also the author of *Strange Terrain*, a guide to appreciating poetry even if you don't "get" it. She works one-on-one with neurodiverse learners at Landmark College in Putney, Vt., and hikes mountains whenever possible.

ART ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Just Minding My Business Picking Your Flowers"

features a collection of abstract mixed media paintings by new Edgewater artist Mel Rea. Mel Rea describes her paintings as assemblies of line and shape intersecting in multiple sheer layers. Any reference to landscape or botanical form is deconstructed in the studio as she explores form, varied application of paint, texture, line and color relationships. Her palette is bright and bold. The elements of her composition shift gracefully, punctuated by line, color and unexpected brushwork that add a playfulness and warmth to each piece. On view through April 18.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Earth's Materials: Perennial Perspectives in the Arts," a group exhibit represents diverse responses from artists working in a variety of media that reflect, respond and rejoice in the earth, our roots, and our relationships. Participating artists include: Matt Burke, Paul Dahm, Cameron Davis, Judy Dow, Janet Fredericks, Kate Gridley, Gerald Hoffman, Caleb Kenna, Nancy Winship Milliken, Meghan Rigali, Danielle Rougeau, and Joan Watson. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 7, from 5-7 p.m., including a panel discussion from 6-7 p.m., that evening. The event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be on view through April 15.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions.

"Urban Cadence: Street Scenes from Lagos and Johannesburg" features work by Akinbode Akinbiyi, Akintunde Akinleye, Kelechi Amadi-Obi, Jude Anogwih, Jodi Bieber, Donna Kukama, Sabelo Mlangeni, Uche Okpa-Iroha, and Jo Ractliffe. This exhibit tells the multifaceted stories of two urban environments — Lagos, Nigeria and Johannesburg, South Africa — experienced through the artistic expressions of photography and video. On view through April 23.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Botanical," features 35 photographs exhibited at
SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, your emotions may cloud your judgement in the days to come. It's better to seek the advice of a third party who can guide you without the added drama.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Messages from the universe could come across as confusing or vague, Taurus. You might need someone with cosmic intuition to help you sort out what is going on.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. A stagnant energy has been surrounding you lately, Gemini. Fortunately, you are able to brush that away soon enough and feel rejuvenated.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, if you haven't devoted enough time lately to taking care of yourself you might awaken this week with a foggy head. Take care of yourself.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Responsibilities could have you feeling overburdened, Leo. The trick is to ask others to lighten your load. There are bound to be several volunteers willing to lend a hand.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, try not to compare yourself to others this week. Everyone is unique, with his or her own strengths and weaknesses. An unfair comparison could dampen your spirits.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. You might find it challenging to articulate your feelings to a romantic partner, Libra. If you stumble over saying the words, why not write them down, instead?

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Sometimes your pragmatic side gets into a tussle with your optimism, Scorpio. Being a realist doesn't have to mean you give up hope. There are many things that can go your way.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, while you may feel like sleeping the week away, awaken to the possibilities before you. Numerous opportunities await, so answer the door when they knock.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. It is alright to feel uncertain about what the heart wants, Capricorn. Not everyone has things all figured out. Ponder your likes and dislikes to determine your path.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, messy work and small mistakes can sabotage all of your hard work thus far. Buckle down and focus on the details. Have someone check that everything is perfect.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. People around you may be more temperamental than usual, Pisces. Avoid offering any unsolicited advice until things quiet down.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 6— Virginia Hall, WWII secret agent (d)
APRIL 7— Ravi Shankar, musician (d)
APRIL 8 — Mary Pickford, silent film actor (d)
APRIL 9 — Paul Robeson, singer (d)

APRIL 10 — Cosimo di Medici, Renaissance banker, patron of the arts, (d)
APRIL 11 — Ethel Kennedy, advocate, Robert F. Kennedy's widow (94)
APRIL 12 — David Letterman, TV host (76)

CALENDAR

APRIL 6-15
2023



THURSDAY, APRIL 6

"BOOM & WHOA!: THE MAKING OF A COMMUNITY WITHIN A COMMUNITY" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 6, 5:45 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join the Yellow House Community Friends to celebrate the premiere of their short film: Movie Stars walk the red carpet at 5:45 p.m., showings at 6 and 6:30 p.m. All welcome, free. Refreshments will be served.

"SOMEWHERE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Middlebury College Theatre Department presents this moving eco-drama by Marisela Treviño Orta, which reveals the power of community and kinship, including that of our non-human environment, to thrive amid climate crises. Treviño Orta imagines a new world for the survival of our planet and invites us to journey there. Tickets \$15 the general public/\$10 Middlebury College faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, and other ID card holders/\$8 for youth/\$5 Middlebury College students. More info at 802-443-6433 or middlebury.universitytickets.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

ART OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 7, 5-7 p.m., Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. "Earth's Materials: Perennial Perspectives in the Arts," is a group exhibit of curated art, representing diverse responses from artists working in a variety of media that reflect, respond, and rejoice in the earth, our roots, and our relationships. Come celebrate the artists and their work. The evening includes a panel. Free and open to the public.

ART OPENING IN BRISTOL. Friday, April 7, 5 p.m., Art on Main, 25 Main St. Come to the opening for "3D:On/Off the Wall," a show of diverse works by member artists Gail Martin, John Arthur, Scott Crocker and Robin Kent exploring scale and the third dimension in metal, wood and collage. Artists will speak briefly about their work at the opening. Show runs through May 15. For info call 802-453-4032.

THE WESTERLIES AND THEO BLECKMANN IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Road. Come hear The Westerlies, an innovative brass quartet of trumpet and trombone players who skirt the boundaries of jazz, classical and pop. They team up with composer and vocalist Theo Bleckmann to create a contemporary concert called "This Land," with cleverly arranged protest songs by Bertolt Brecht, Joni Mitchell, Woody Guthrie, Agha Shahid Ali, and many others. Tickets \$25/20/10/5; streaming tickets \$15/5, available at middlebury.universitytickets.com.

"SOMEWHERE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 7, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See April 6 listing.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 8, 8-10 a.m., meet at Otter View Park parking area, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Beginning birders are welcome. Come for all or part

of the walk. For information, including the latest Covid constraints, call 802-388-6019 or 802-388-1007.

NEW HAVEN LEDGES RACE IN BRISTOL. Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m., Lincoln Rd, downstream of Eagle Park. The New Haven River's classic run, called "The Ledges," gives you a big bang for your buck, with boulder gardens, slides and waterfalls tucked into 1.3 miles of whitewater. Kayakers navigate several drops of the ledges before the "The Toaster," (Bartlett Falls) a 15-foot drop that plunges into a pool, then sprint out, slapping a nearby buoy to stop the clock. The race is run in two heats. Registration information for participants is at facebook.com/NewHavenRace.

"SOMEWHERE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 8, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theater, Mahaney Arts center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See April 6 listing.

"VANISH — DISAPPEARING ICONS OF A RURAL AMERICA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 8, 6 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Fine art photographer Jim Westphalen's film "Vanish" chronicles his "visual preservation" adventures as he travels across the country seeking out and creating stunning imagery of America's disappearing rural structures. Tickets \$12, available at townhalltheater.org.

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL. Saturday, April 8, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Mary Wesley will be calling, with music by Red Dog Riley. Wear a mask for dancing. \$5-10, or pay what you can.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.					
MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, April 7 Public Affairs - Overnight 4 a.m. Senator Peter Welch - Healthcare Roundtable Discussion 5:22 a.m. Governor's Press Conference 6:34 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7:30 p.m. The News Project 8:30 p.m. Sen. Welch 10 p.m. Green Mountain (GM) Care Board Saturday, April 8 Public Affairs - Overnight 7:30 a.m. Governor's Press Conference 8:34 a.m. Sen. 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 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. Sen. Welch Sunday, April 9 Public Affairs - Overnight 7:30 a.m. Sen. Welch 9:00 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. The News Project 10 a.m. Energy Week		11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 2:30 p.m. Sen. Welch 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs Monday, April 10 Public Affairs - Overnight 5 a.m. Sen. Welch 6:22 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 8 a.m. The News Project 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. GM Care Board Tuesday, April 11 Public Affairs - Overnight 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Wednesday, April 12 Public Affairs - Overnight 5 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 5 p.m. Energy Week		7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, April 13 Public Affairs - Overnight 6:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 8 a.m. Congregational Service 11 a.m. The News Project 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7:30 p.m. The Juxtaposition: Repairing the Damage 8 p.m. Energy Week 9 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Legislative Breakfast MCTV Channel 1091 Friday, April 7 4:30 a.m. Town Bands In Vermont 6:01 a.m. Music in the Morning 6:53 a.m. The Life and Death of the Russian Avant Garde 8:02 a.m. At The Ilsley - AAUW Talk - Conflict Resolution 9:30 a.m. The Face of Abraham Lincoln 10:44 a.m. Painter Tara Goreau 11:30 a.m. School Board Meeting(s) 3:30 p.m. Thomas Jefferson and the American Maple Sugar Industry 4:43 p.m. NEKHS - Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 6:06 p.m. Sugar Houses of West Windsor 6:37 p.m. The Making of West Danville 8:01 p.m. Conflict Resolution 9:30 p.m. NEKHS 09:47 p.m. The Medicinal Garden		10:49 p.m. At the Ilsley -Meg Madden – Mushrooms Saturday, April 8 4:30 a.m. West Danville 5:54 a.m. Music in the Morning 7 a.m. NEKHS 7:18 a.m. Dr. Campbell 8 a.m. Conflict Resolution 9:22 a.m. School Board Meeting(s) 3:30 p.m. Sugar Houses of West Windsor 3:01 p.m. Jefferson & Maple Sugar 3:56 p.m. The Medicinal Garden 5:00 p.m. All Things LGTQ 7:30 p.m. Sugar Houses of West Windsor 8:01 p.m. Conflict Resolution 9:30 p.m. The Russian Avant Garde 10:39 p.m. Painter Tara Goreau Sunday, April 9 5 a.m. Music in the Morning 6:30 a.m. Author Talks & Interviews 10 a.m. Sugar Houses of West Windsor 10:31 a.m. West Danville 11:57 a.m. Richmond Conservation Trails 1:54 p.m. Jazz Pianist David Childs 3 p.m. Conflict Resolution 4:22 p.m. Painter Tara Goreau 5 p.m. All Things LGTQ 6 p.m. Richmond Conservation Trails 8 p.m. All Things LGTQ - Interviews 9 p.m. Upper Conn. River Valley		Monday, April 10 5 a.m. Yoga 6 a.m. Recent School Board Meetings 12 p.m. St. J. Atheneum Art & Culture Series 4 p.m. The Face of Abraham Lincoln 5:15 p.m. Poets and Authors 8 p.m. St. J. Atheneum Art & Culture Tuesday, April 11 6 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. Upper Conn. River Valley 12:45 p.m. The Russian Avant Garde 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. At the Ilsley 8 p.m. St. J. Atheneum Art & Culture Wednesday, April 12 5:45 a.m. Pot Luck Kitchen 6:30 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7:30 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. St J Atheneum - Nonfiction Comics In the English Classroom 2:12 p.m. Upper Conn. River Valley 6 p.m. Nonfiction Comics 10 p.m. Town Bands In Vermont Thursday, April 13 9 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. School Board Meetings 4:30 p.m. Yoga for Kids 4:45 p.m. Festival On the Green 6 p.m. Town Bands In Vermont 7:03 p.m. Nonfiction Comics	

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

"THIS YEAR GET THE UPPER HAND: PESTS AND DISEASES TO EXPECT IN 2023" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, April 11, 1 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The Middlebury Garden Club presents this lecture by Ann Hazelrigg, director of the University of Vermont Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Find out what happened in 2022, what is coming, what to do about it.

BIXBY BOOK CLUB IN VERGENNES. Tuesday, April 11, 6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Discuss the book "The Bean Trees" by Barbara Kingsolver. This tale of rural Kentucky follows Taylor Greer and a three-year-old Native American girl named Turtle as they search for new life from Oklahoma to Arizona. This is a story of discovery, love and friendship, abandonment and belonging.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

ESPEJOS BRILLANTES; AN ART EXHIBIT BY KAI VELÁZQUEZ IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Main Hall, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come see the extraordinary work of Kai Velazquez and hear the story telling of lives from our community through portraits. Espejos brillantes aims to expand and provide free portrait photography to low-income, BIPOC, queer, and disabled Middlebury community members. This first exhibition features portraits designed by Middlebury student participants from January-March 2023. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

"NAVALNY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 13, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Presented by MNFF selects, this enthralling and intimate, Oscar-winning film unfolds with the pace of a thriller as it follows Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny in his quest to identify the men who poisoned him in August 2020. Filmed in Germany as the story unfolded and offering extraordinary access to the investigation, "Navalny" is a fly-on-the-wall documentary that is also a study of Navalny the man — a portrait of a leader intent on reform who will not be cowed by anything, including his own poisoning. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 at the door, available at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

THE CHOIR OF CLARE COLLEGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the town green. The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge UK in a performance of 20th- and 21st-century choral works. This stellar vocal ensemble will perform pieces by composers including Benjamin Britten, Leonard Bernstein, Herbert Howells, Arvo Pärt, and Eric Whitacre. The choir will perform under the direction of Graham Ross with accompaniment from Organ Scholars Samuel Jones and Daniel Blaze. Tickets \$20 adults/\$15 students, available at townhalltheater.org

INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. IF4 is the world's leading fly-fishing film event, consisting of films produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe

TOP PICK

SHAKE YOUR SPRING SOCKS AT THE CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL ON SATURDAY EVENING. MUSIC BY RED DOG RILEY WITH CALLING BY MARY WESLEY. BRING YOUR MASK.

and showcasing the passion, lifestyle, and culture of fly fishing. Tickets \$15. More info at townhalltheater.org or flyfilmfest.com.

"ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND BUSINESS" ON STAGE IN RIPTON. Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. Come see the students of North Branch School present this year's epic theatrical production. The play is completely original. All 26 students have had a hand in devising the concept, creating the characters, and writing the story. Tickets \$10 at the door. \$3 from each ticket will be donated to a children's relief fund in Ukraine. More info at 802-388-3269, or northbranchschool.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

"HELLO SPRING" FAIR IN GRANVILLE. Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m., Granville town Hall, Route 100. Do something nice for yourself and help out our furry, four-legged friends at this fundraiser to benefit Homeward Bound — the Humane Society in Addison County. A number of specialty vendors and craftspeople with great products for your home and for you as well as tasty baked goodies from "Baking Memories." Free admission, but bringing something from the Homeward Bound website "wish list" (homewardboundanimals.org/get-involved/wish-list) to donate will get you entered into a raffle for a gift basket.

NEW DIRECTIONS SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 15, 2-8:30 p.m., Mahaney arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. An interdisciplinary

event featuring new works of theatre, dance, studio art and music. Middlebury College junior arts faculty will share their professional arts practice with local audiences in this day-long event. Audiences can join an afternoon or evening "loop" and move throughout each of the spaces in the Mahaney Arts Center, following a journey from one arts event to the next. Meet and greet in between performances from 4:30-5:30 p.m. More info at go/newdirections.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, April 15, 6:30 p.m. Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. A sandwich supper followed by an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 15, 7 p.m., Havurah House, 56 North Pleasant St. A concert entitled "Whispers From the Past" performed by Temple Trio, musicians from the Vermont Symphony Orchestra: Laura Markowitz, violin; Ana Ruesink, viola; and John Dunlop, cello. Musician/teacher and child of Holocaust survivor, Berta Frank, will host the event. Besides music of composers who perished in the camps, there will be music of composers who lived through the Holocaust, as well as some Yiddish songs. The commemoration will also include memorial prayers and a candle lighting ceremony. Free.

THE STRAGGLERS IN VERGENNES. Saturday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Get ready for some toe-tapping irresistible music with this Americana/Bluegrass string band. Performing originals composed in a variety of styles along with a liberal helping of vintage country, classic rock, Dead covers, and a wide range of old-time music and classic Bluegrass the Stragglers truly have something for everyone in each and every performance they give. Tickets \$15, general seating, available at vergennesoperahouse.org. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m.

"ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND BUSINESS" ON STAGE IN RIPTON. Saturday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. See April 14 listing.

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The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge U.K. will perform at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury on Friday, April 14.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Choir of Clare College comes to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Next Friday, April 14, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will present the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge U.K., in a performance of 20th and 21st century choral works at the Middlebury church. This stellar vocal ensemble will perform pieces by composers including Benjamin Britten, Leonard Bernstein, Herbert Howells, Arvo Pärt, and Eric Whitacre. The choir will perform under the direction of Graham Ross with accompaniment from Organ Scholars Samuel Jones and Daniel Blaze.

Since the founding of a mixed voice choir in 1972, the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge has gained an international reputation as one of the world's leading university choirs. In addition to its primary function of leading services in the College chapel, the Choir keeps an active schedule recording, broadcasting and performing. Former directors have

included John Rutter and Timothy Brown. Under the direction of Graham Ross, Director of Music since 2010, it has been praised for its consistently thrilling and outstanding performances worldwide.

In addition to live performances, the Choir has produced an impressive discography of more than 50 recordings. Under the direction of Graham Ross, their recordings on the Harmonia Mundi label have been released to great critical acclaim, earning praise for exceptional singing and immaculate performances. The Choir's nine-disc series of Music for the Church Year has received numerous five-star reviews in the national and international press.

The Choir has toured widely, including in Europe, the U.S., Australia, Japan, Mexico,

China, Singapore, Malaysia, Russia, the Middle East, and Iceland. It has collaborated with the Academy of Ancient Music, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and with many other ensembles. The Choir performs a wide range of repertoire throughout the year, and has commissioned and premiered works by many composers, including John Rutter, Herbert Howells, Andrew Carter, John Tavener and Graham Ross.

The concert will be held on Friday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. in Middlebury. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students, available from the box office of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. Call 802-382-9222, email tickets@townhalltheater.org or visit townhalltheater.org.

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Celebrating Our Children

*Addison County Guide
to Early Education*

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**Register
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Report shows the state of Addison County's Children

Fewer kids in poverty, but families still struggle

By DARLA SENECA

Building Bright Futures Regional Manager for Bennington, Rutland, and Addison Counties

Each year, Building Bright Futures and Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center release a report on the well-being of young children and families in Vermont. "The State of Vermont's Children: 2022 Year in Review" includes data specific to Addison County as well as a wealth of information on the demographics, basic needs, health, well-being, development and education of Vermont's young children. The report also includes the 2023 Policy Recommendations of the Vermont Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network.

The number of young children in Addison County has decreased in recent years, as has the percentage of children living in poverty. In 2021, there were 3,116 children under age 10 living in Addison County, down from 3,328 in 2016. In 2020 (the most recent year for which this data was available), 22.5% of Addison County's children under 12 were living in poverty, a decrease from 35.3% in 2015. State-level data also show a decrease in the percent of Vermont families with children under 12 living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), from 17% in 2015 to 13% in 2020.

The reality, however, is that the federal poverty level is not an accurate measure of family economic well-being. Many Vermonters earning well above the FPL struggle to cover the cost of basic needs such as housing, transportation and healthcare. This was especially true in 2022. On average, Vermont households paid \$603, or 11%, more per month for goods such as food, shelter, transportation and energy in total inflation costs in September 2022 compared to January 2021. As more and more pandemic-era

assistance programs are rolled back or eliminated, the financial pressures on Addison County families are expected to continue to increase.

One area the report highlights is the increased need for children's mental health services. Between 2018 and 2021, the rate of children ages 3 to 8 with behavioral or conduct problems, anxiety and/or depression in Vermont rose from 8.7% to 13.8%, while overall U.S. rates remained stable at 8%. In 2021, the number of Vermont children accessing routine mental health services reached its lowest level since 2012, while the number of children accessing crisis services increased. Access to routine mental health care can help decrease the need for crisis services.

The accessibility of routine care is exacerbated by the mental health workforce crisis. In October 2022, the vacancy rate was 18.1% at Vermont's Designated Mental Health Agencies and Specialized Service Agencies, key providers of mental health services. In an ideal world, Vermont's children would receive preventative mental health care before problems develop, but Medicaid and the Mental Health Block Grant, two critical federal resources, cannot be used for prevention and promotion of mental health activities.

As we observe The Week of the Young Child, I encourage parents, educators and anyone else who is invested in the well-being of Vermont's children to check out "The State of Vermont's Children: 2022 Year in Review," along with the many other early childhood resources at buildingbrightfutures.org. If you'd like to learn more or to connect with the Addison County Building Bright Futures Regional Council, feel free to contact me at 802-377-0119 or dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org.

In 2020, 22.5% of Addison County's children under 12 were living in poverty, a decrease from 35.3% in 2015. The reality, however, is that the federal poverty level is not an accurate measure of family economic well-being.



WE HAVE A very active community of daycare and early education providers in Addison County, with more than three dozen caring providers educating and helping raise our young children.


Photo courtesy of Otter Creek Child Center

"Celebrating Our Children: Addison County Guide to Early Education" was funded in part by grants from the Vermont Association of Education for Young Children, Addison Building Bright Futures, and Defending the Early Years.



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Young brains need support

Early years are crucial to your child's developing brain

By DR. JOHANA "JODY"
BRAKELEY
Developmental-Behavioral
Pediatrician, retired

In the last few decades there has been an explosion in what we know and how we understand early brain development. In celebration of the *Week of the Young Child*, this is a review of some of the most current and relevant information about brain development in the early years. It may change how you view children and adults alike.

Young children make more than 1 million new brain cell connections every second — IF their living situation(s) allow.

In a nod to sugaring season, think of a maple tree as a metaphor for a brain cell. The "roots" of one cell connect with the "leaves" of the next cell...that's what we mean by "a brain cell connection." Brain pathways for all types of development (motor, sensory, speech, thinking and reasoning) all begin with a couple of little brain cells connecting. Through repetition, rehearsal, and practice more and more cells connect until millions of strong, fast, efficient brain cell pathways are created. It may take 25 years or more before an individual's brain is fully mature. In the meantime, children's brains need a lot of support and proper ecological/environmental conditions for development.

In addition to nutritious food, proper

clothes and shelter, and appropriate amounts of sleep and exercise, all children need stable, responsive, nurturing relationships with consistent, protective, interactive adults. Without these crucial personal relationships, brains cannot not develop their fullest abilities.

What is brain development? It is every little baby-step or milestone a parent can think of. A baby rolling over, sitting up, walking independently, self-feeding, coloring, writing etc., are examples of motor skills; they help us navigate and manipulate our environments. Seeing, hearing, sense of smell, taste and touch are sensory skills and are important for interacting with the world around us. Speech and other forms of communication help us share our thoughts, wants and needs.

Last to fully develop are our thinking and reasoning skills. In this category "Executive Skills" (ES) are a key component. ES are brain-based skills that help individuals complete tasks and become independent. Babies are not born with mature executive skills; they develop little by little over time. Examples of executive skills are: a) the ability to wait and be patient, b) being able to remain focused and pay attention, c) having mental flexibility to change one's mindset depending on circumstances, d) emotional regulation; being able to remain calm,

(See Brain, Page 9B)



A YOUNG CHILD who is feeding themselves is also developing their brain by developing motor skills, which helps them navigate and manipulate their environment.



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Early education lays a strong foundation

By BRIANNA HELLER

When asked what I do for a living I respond, “I am a teacher.” When asked which grade I teach, I contemplate changing the topic because I know that when I declare that I teach preschoolers, I am likely to hear, “Oh, so you’re not a REAL teacher.” My teaching license, the students I teach and the families I serve say differently.

Early education is an incredibly undervalued profession, and is largely looked down upon by society. Ask any early educator; We have all heard it countless times. “You aren’t a real teacher.” “You’re just a babysitter,” or “Oh, that’s just daycare.” The younger the children in your classroom, the less respect you will receive. You teach in a play-based child-led program? You best come prepared to wax lyrical on the power of play, the importance of engaging children in their learning, and best practice in Early Education. We learn to censor ourselves, switching to “Child Care” instead of daycare, using Pre-K instead of preschool, putting emphasis on Early EDUCATOR just so we can be taken seriously by our loved ones, our

professional counterparts in grades K-12 and special education, college programs, and the community at large.

I am a proud Early Educator. Since the Orwell Early Education Program opened seven years ago, I have been teaching at an amazing child-led, play-based program where I serve a close knit community. My first group of preschoolers to go through the OEEP are now in fifth grade. This year, they are returning to my classroom as “reading buddies”; pairing up with one of my current students, reading to them and planning play-based activities that coincide with the book they read. I can see first-hand the effects of their

early education experience through their confidence, creativity, kindness and respect.

Early care and education lays the foundation for children to be able to succeed in school. We as early educators help children learn to identify and manage the emotions faced throughout the day. We help them embrace their excitement and joy, cope with feelings of sadness and loss, and work through feelings of frustration. We teach social interactions and help students develop negotiation

and mediation skills. We help children to develop kindness and respect for their peers, their community, and the world we live in. Thanks to early educators, children learn that they do not need to be everyone’s friend but we do need to be kind to everyone. We instill a love of learning in children from an early age. We do all of this through play, allowing children to learn through activities that are intrinsically motivating, freely chosen and individualized to the student.

So many of our grown up problems, whether within our family and friend groups, our communities, our workplaces or within a political context could be solved or eased if we all had learned to handle our emotions, respect ourselves, others and the environment, learned mediation and negotiation skills at a young age and valued learning enough to never stop studying and evolving.

But alas, our society does not value early education. The high turnover among early educators, poor pay and benefits, high tuitions and limited funding to offset tuitions, lack of access to quality care in underprivileged areas and the rhetoric that kids are only “playing” and we are babysitters shows how undervalued it really is. And so, it is our responsibility as educators to not only educate our children but those in our communities and our states at large.

In Vermont, we have state funded-Universal Pre-K where three- to five-year-old children receive 10 free hours



BRIANNA HELLER

of preschool a week. Although this is a good first step, that is all it should be — a first step. It is proven that quality early childhood education sets students up for success and we need to call on our lawmakers to make this accessible for all families.

Early care and education is a passion for me and I remain in my position because of the love I have for working with young children and their families. I know this is true of many of my fellow early educators. That does not mean we do not deserve to be respected and valued. Our passion should not be thrown in our faces. We should be paid and have access to the same benefits of our K-12 counterparts and it should not fall on the families in our programs. Our families deserve access to affordable early education as much as we

(See Heller, Page 8)

“We are not babysitters. We are teachers. We are early educators. We are the foundation our future is built on.”

— Brianna Heller



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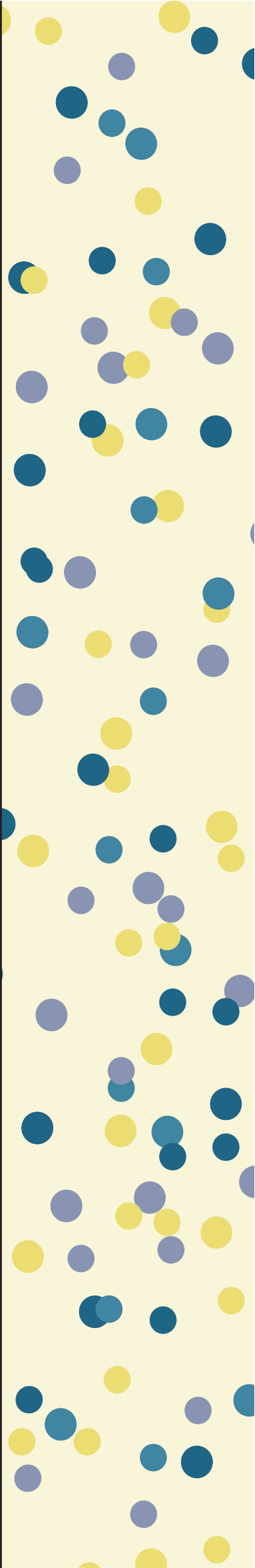
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Addison County Daycare Providers					
Name	Ages	Schedule	PreK partner	Town	Contact Info
Quarry Hill School	3-5	School Year/school day	Yes	Middlebury	www.quarryhillschool.org office@quarryhillschool.org
Otter Creek Child Center	6 wks-5 yrs	M-F Year Round	Yes	Middlebury	www.ottercreekcc.org office@ottercreekcc.org
College Street Children's Center	6 wks-3 yrs	M-F Year Round	No	Middlebury	cscddirector228@gmail.com
Evergreen Preschool	3-5	School year/half day and full day	Yes	Vergennes	Evergreenpreschoolvt@gmail.com
MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School year. 10 hour/week program	Yes	Bristol	lindsay.hance@mausd.org
MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School year. M-F 8-5	Yes	Bristol	heidi.bullock@mausd.org
Wren's Nest Forest Preschool	3-5	School Year M-F 8:00-4:30	Yes	Bristol	wrensnestvt@gmail.com
Carolyn Fogg *	Birth-12	School year M-F 7-4:30	No	Monkton	cfogg1979@gmail.com
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool	3-5	School year & summer program half day & full day	yes	Starksboro	starkcoop@gmail.com
Aurora Preschool	3-5	Year Round 7:30-5	No	Middlebury	auroralearningcentervt@gmail.com
Bristol Family Center	6 wks-6 yrs	M-F Year Round	Yes	Bristol	www.bristolfamilycenter.org, awhitcomb@bristolfamilycenter.org
Addison County Parent Child Ctr.	0-5 yrs	M-F, 8-4	yes	County in Middlebury	dbailey@addisoncountynypcc.org
Bridge School Preschool	3-5	full year 8-3:30	yes	Middlebury	emilylambert@bridgeschoolvermont.org
Mountain Road Preschool *	0-5	Full year 7:15-4:45 M-TH	yes	Addison	mountainroadpreschool@yahoo.com
Misty Scott *	6wks - 12yrs	Full Year, M - F 7:00a - 5:00p	No	Vergennes	ckcc@comcast.net, 802-877-6977
Evelyn Burlock *	6wks - 12 yrs	Full Year, M-F 7:00-5:00	No	Vergennes	eburlock27@yahoo.com 802-877-2506
Mary Johnson Children's Center	3 mo-5yrs	Full Year	Yes	Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org/www.mjcvt.org
Midd. Cooperative Nursery School	3yr-5 yrs	Full Year	Yes	E.Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org/www.mjcvt.org
Orwell Early Education (MJCC)	3yrs-5yrs	School year	Yes	Orwell	office@mjcvt.org/www.mjcvt.org
MJCC's Midd. Afterschool Program	K-5th grade	Afterschool School Year Summer full time	No	Middlebury	school-age@mjcvt.org/www.mjcvt.org
Heather Armell *	6 wks-5yrs	Full Year, M-F 7:15-4:30	No	Monkton	littletykes2007@yahoo.com
Bethany Hallock *	Birth to 12	Full year, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm	No	Ferrisburgh	gbthallock@juno.com
Donna Meacham *	Birth to 12	Full year, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm	No	New Haven	dondamea@gmavt.net 802-453-5383
Lincoln Cooperative Preschool	3yrs-5yrs	7:30-3:00 some aftercare available	Yes	Lincoln	preschool@gmavt.net
Sunshine Childcare *	Birth-5yrs	Full year, M-F, 7:00a-5:00p	No	Addison	sunshinecc21@gmail.com
Jennifer Cyr Family Child Care *	Birth-4 yrs	Year Round, Monday-Thursday	No	Middlebury	jennifercyr2@gmail.com
Addison County Early Learning Ctr.	16 m.-5yrs	year round, both M-F 8-2pm	Yes	New Haven	psutlive@cvoeo.org, Peg Sutlive
ANWSD Early Education Program	3-5 yrs	School Year only 8:15am-1:15pm Extended Care 1:15pm-4:30pm	Yes	Ferrisburgh	mtierney@anwsd.org, Marcie Tierney
Laura Weber *	Birth-12 yrs	Year round, M-F, 7:00 - 4:30	No	Hancock	lmw15vt@yahoo.com
The Ark Preschool/Kindergarten	3yrs-kinder & 3-10 years	M-F, 7:30-5:00	No	Waltham	arkdirector@victoryvt.org
Cornerstone Preschool	Ages 3-5	School year M-F 7:30-5:00	No	Vergennes	office@cornerstone-prek.com
Bridport Central School Preschool	Ages 3-5	School year M-Th 7:45 am - 2:45 pm	Yes	Bridport	Heather Adams, at 802-758-2331 or hadams@acsdvt.org
Mary Hogan Preschool	Ages 3-5	School year M-Th 8:15 am - 2:15 pm	Yes	Middlebury	Kim Forbes, at 802-382-1438 or kforbes@acsdvt.org
A.R.K. Child Care at Whiting	6 wks - 5 yrs	M - F Year round 7:30 - 5pm	No	Whiting	Rebecca Kerr, 802-623-7991 arkchildcare2018@gmail.com
Muffy's Family Program *	2 - school age	M - F Year round 8 - 4:30	Yes	Orwell	muffykgart@gmail.com 802-948-2561 (Leave a message)
Discovery Hill *	Infant to School age	Year Round - 7-4:30	Yes	Bristol	kidsfirstdhfcc@yahoo.com 802-989-1225
Stacey Rheaume *	6 wks - 12 yrs	M-F Year Round 7:00 to 4:30	no	Salisbury	rrheaume5@yahoo.com 802-349-5082
Bristol Preschool*	Ages 3-5	School year T,W,Th 8:00-3:30	Yes	Bristol	jankowski43@yahoo.com 802-453-4071
* = Home provider					





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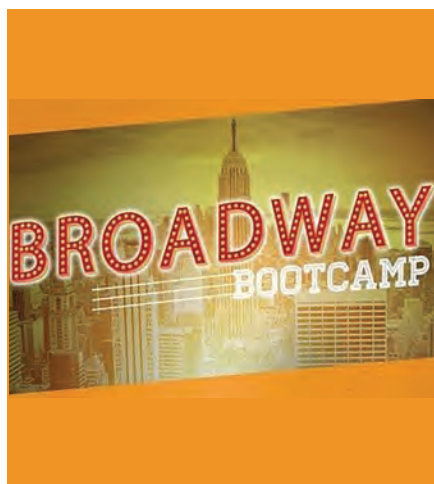
Matilda

July 5-23, Mon-Fri 1-4
Ages 12 and up
Tuition \$285



Tempest Toss'd

July 24-28, Mon-Fri 10-12
Ages 9 to 13
Tuition \$150



Broadway Bootcamp

July 10-14, Mon-Fri 9-12
Ages 12 to 16
Tuition \$150



Young Company Classical

Arms and the Man

July 31-Aug 19, Mon-Fri 9-12
Ages 12 and up
Tuition \$285

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Playgroups! Storytimes! Open gyms! It's all happening. Here's a roundup of the recurring baby/toddler programming in our area. All these events are free.

Mondays

Playgroup at **Ilsley Public Library** (10 a.m.)
Storytime at **Lawrence Memorial Library** (10:30 a.m.)

Tuesdays

Playgroup at the **Congregational Church of Middlebury** (9:30 a.m.)
Storytime at **Sarah Partridge Library** in East Middlebury (9:30 a.m.)
Storytime at **New Haven Community Library** (10:30 a.m.)
Storytime/playgroup at **Salisbury Free Public Library** (10:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays

Storytime at **Ilsley Library** (9 a.m.)
Playgroup at **Bristol Federated Church** (9:30 a.m.)
Open gym at **Middlebury Rec Center** (10 a.m.)

Thursdays

Playgroup at **Platt Memorial Library** (9 a.m.)
Playgroup at **Vergennes Congregational Church** (9:30 a.m.)
Open gym at **Middlebury Rec Center** (10 a.m.)
Storytime at **Vergennes Congregational Church** (10:30 a.m.)
Storytime at **Lawrence Memorial Library** (10:30 a.m.)

Fridays

Playgroup at **Mary Hogan School** (8:30 a.m.)
Storytime at **Lincoln Library** (10:30 a.m.)
Homeschoolers open gym at the **Middlebury Rec Center** (12:30 p.m.)

Saturdays

Playgroup at **Vergennes Congregational Church** (9:30 a.m.)

Note: Most of these events follow the school calendar. If school is closed for a snow day, in-service day or holiday, so is playgroup.

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Universal childcare is here

Addison County has several options available

By **MEG BAKER**

In a high-quality preschool classroom, you might see a teacher kneeling on the floor to listen to a child's story from their weekend or helping two children negotiate over sharing a toy. Children busily put their items in their cubbies, independently wash their hands, and sign up for a classroom job—carefully finding or printing the letters in their name. A family stops to talk with the teacher on their way out the door and has a brief conversation that will be picked up at a conference next week. Perhaps a teacher notices that many children are building barns for their animals in the block corner and chooses a book about farm animals for morning circle and adds corn and toy tractors to the sensory table to extend the play. Children excitedly chatter to one another over a shared meal and get their coats on to go outside. A high-quality preschool is building the skills that children need throughout their lives: communication and physical skills; social-emotional skills like taking turns, coping with strong emotions, and negotiating with friends; developing independence with classroom routines and self-care; learning about the world; and early reading and math skills. Communities that invest in early childhood see the payoff in later years academically and socially.

Universal PreK (UPrE) through Act 166 is designed to help all Vermont families access high-quality preschool. Through UPrE, public school district funding pays preschool tuition for 10 hours/week, 35 weeks/year at many qualified community preschools. This makes those 10 hours/week FREE to all preschool families and expands the number of children who can access high quality preschool.

This school year, the three primary Addison County school districts — Addison Central SD, Addison Northwest SD and Mount Abraham USD — are serving a total of about 425 preschoolers aged 3-5 (not enrolled in kindergarten). Over 300 children, or roughly 76%, are enrolled in the UPrE program in 36 community partner sites around our region (2 registered homes and 34 center-based preschool programs). These children are enrolled as public school students

for those 10 hours and included in pupil census counts in local district budgets.

One benefit to this mixed delivery system for preschool is that families have some choice in preschool schedule, location and philosophy. For example, working families may need full-time care or a location convenient to their workplace. Some children may benefit from the specific supports offered by local programs including free meals or therapeutic care. Families may prefer a program that has smaller groupings or more outside time. Having family choice in preschool programming means fewer transitions for children needing full-time care and more flexibility in meeting child and family needs. With limited school capacity and hours, UPrE also increases access to high-quality programs.

All preschool programs must meet certain quality standards to partner with school districts, including having a teacher with a Vermont endorsement in Early Childhood Education (ECE) or Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE); aligning their curriculum with Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS); providing inclusive accommodations and supports for all children; and having 3 STARS or higher in Vermont's Quality Rating Scale. In addition, programs agree to conduct child progress assessments and hold twice yearly parent-teacher conferences. Local data on child progress shows that our quality preschool programs — public and private — are making a positive difference in children's development and learning.

Families who are interested in prequalified community preschools first enroll with the preschool program and then complete enrollment paperwork for tuition funding. Some families are also eligible for additional child care tuition assistance through the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.

For more information about Universal PreK, including how to choose a quality preschool program, locate a local prequalified partner program, or enroll in UPrE please visit: <https://mbaker61.wixsite.com/uprek>.

Heller

(Continued from Page 5)
deserve to be shown our value.

We are not babysitters. We are teachers. We are early educators. We are the foundation our future is built on. I challenge all of my fellow educators, our families and our community members to become champions and advocates for Early Education.

This piece is from Brianna Heller's acceptance speech in response to winning two national awards in 2022, the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Teacher Award and the Helene Marks Teacher of the Year Award in 2022. Brianna teaches at the Orwell Early Education Program, a program of Mary Johnson Children's Center.

Here's help in your hunt for child care

How do I find child care? How can I pay for childcare once I find it? These are two huge questions parent and guardians frequently ask.

Fortunately, there is an agency in Addison County that can provide help for you — it's called Child Care Services at Mary Johnson Children's Center in Middlebury. Child Care Services provides help and information for all Addison County residents.

Paying for Child Care in Addison County

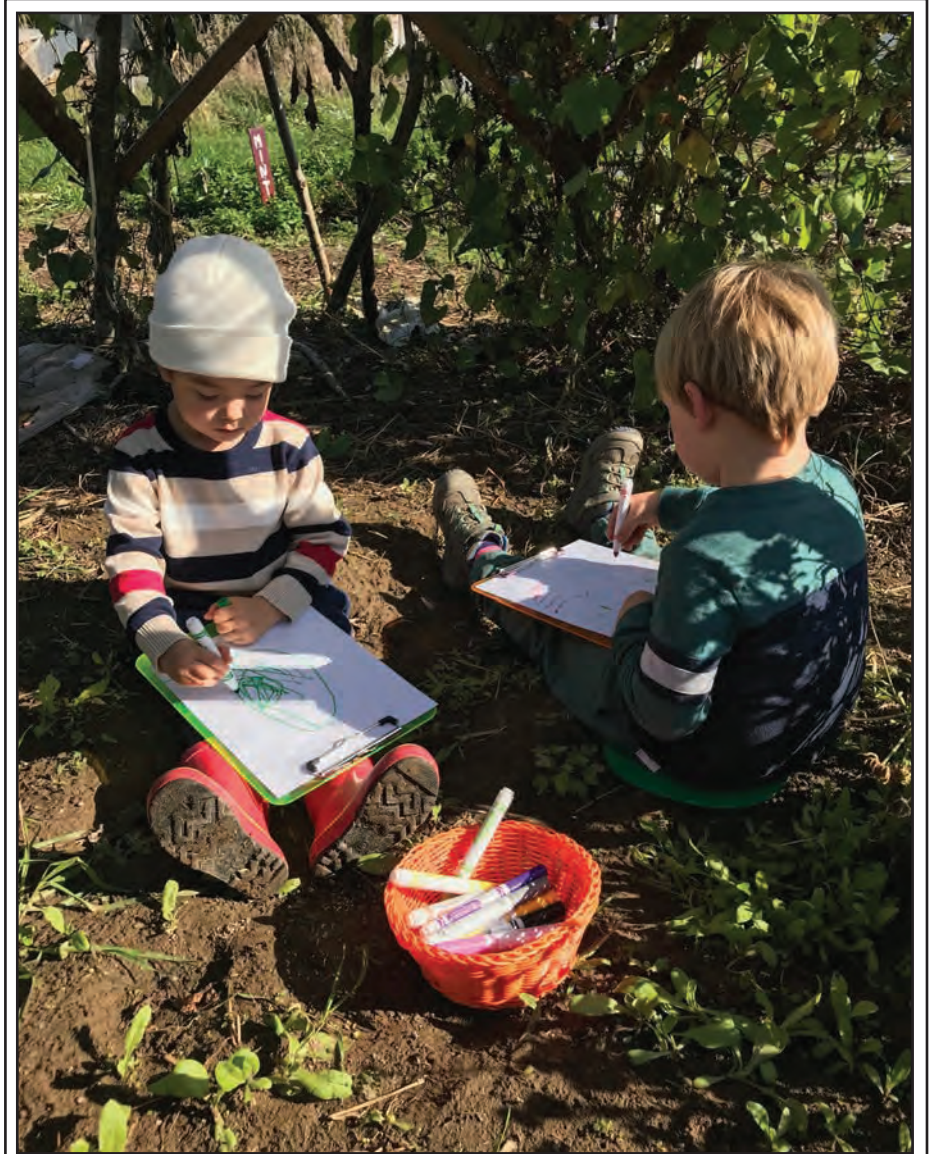
Addison County's Child Care Financial Assistance Program, also referred to as subsidy, helps eligible families and guardians pay for child care. Families may qualify based on gross income, family size and their need for service. MJCC's Eligibility Specialist assists families through the process of eligibility, including application completion, and determine whether families qualify and how much assistance may be provided.

Current Vermont eligibility guidelines can be found online here: dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfa.

Finding Child Care in Addison County

Referral Specialist for Addison County Ginny Sinclair has up-to-date information regarding the different child care programs in the county, including available spaces. This referral support is free and helps connect families with programs that have openings and match their needs. The referral program also provides parents with information on how to locate a quality child care program, questions to ask providers when they call or visit them, and ways to build a successful partnership with their child care provider.

You can reach Referral Specialist Ginny Sinclair at referral@mjcvt.org, and Eligibility Specialist Rebecca Warner may be reached at subsidy@mjcvt.org. Both can be reached at 802-388-4303.



Brain

(Continued from Page 4)

cool and collected, e) time management; being/doing things on time, and f) stress tolerance. These skills, along with judgment, social language, decision making, and more, all develop in the frontal lobes of the brain, located behind the eyebrows. And, like everything else in the brain, they require nurturing support and a lot of time.

When children and their families/caregivers experience "stress" that is chronic, recurrent, unrelieved and unbuffered (that means no one is present in your life to help you) it affects us in unhealthy ways. Brains and bodies do not develop optimally when the stress response is constantly activated.

We must keep in mind that every experience in a child's day is a learning experience. Learning is not confined

to "school" hours. Some experiences are truly great and others may be less helpful or even harmful. It is up to adults to ensure that all children grow in safe, stable and nurturing living/learning environments. They need consistency, routine and a healthy balance of stress. And, by the way, parents and caregivers need the same.

Children need time to talk and to be heard. They benefit from singing, reading, laughing and playing. All children need at least one, caring supportive adult in their lives — the more the better.

Whenever you look at a child, you should be filled with wonder and curiosity. One million brain cell connections form every second. What's going on inside that little head? As a community, we must do everything possible to nurture and support every child's tremendous potential.



AMONG THE MANY abilities that a child develops are their "executive skills" — brain-based skills that help individuals complete tasks and become independent. Being able to remain focused and pay attention is a key executive skill.

Photo courtesy of ANWSD Early Education Program



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Little kids can use sharp tools

By IAN GRAMLING

Vermont Youth Development Corps

We all know what happens if we give a mouse a cookie or what happens when we give a pigeon a bus. But what happens if we give a preschooler a sharp hatchet? Nothing but disaster... right?

Letting small children use sharp or supposedly “dangerous” hand tools isn’t anything new, and not something I invented. At first glance many would see it as crazy, dangerous or even negligent. I would argue that, with close supervision and instruction, it is exactly what many young kids need, and there’s a method to the madness.

I am in my third term of service with the Willowell Foundation as an AmeriCorps member, giving back to the folks that gave me an awesome high school education, and sharing my passion for the outdoors with local youth. In the years I’ve spent there, most of my service has been at Wren’s Nest Forest Preschool, which serves kids ages 3-5 and emphasizes nature based exploration and hands-on learning, much like Willowell’s other

programs.

My service has given me a venue to teach young children to use sharp bushcraft tools like knives, saws, axes, hatchets, machetes, pruners and hand drills, as well as fire lighting methods like lighters, matches and ferrocerium rods. As adults, we naturally want to keep these tiny bundles of chaos safe, but sometimes overdo it. I believe that the novelty of using a tool can be exciting

and empowering for young children, and it gives them a huge sense of agency and awareness of their own safety. Small children are far more competent and capable than many people give them credit for, and using tools is one way of helping children explore their potential.

This doesn’t mean you should

let your 11-month-old infant run a chainsaw. When using tools with kids, an adult needs to take into account the developmental levels of the children, and the type of tool being used. Using tools that are proportionally appropriate, if not outright designed for children, will make things far less frustrating for

(See Tools, Page 14)

The repetitive motions, using one’s muscles, the texture of wood, and the sound of sawing or chopping will satisfy many children’s urge for something tangible. Even the act of making a mess can be fun.



GIVING KIDS THE opportunity for supervised use of tools is a great sensory activity that allows them to use their hands. But this requires one-on-one time with a focused adult in a safe area.



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Mix nature and kids, you'll get joy and wonder



By SUSAN PARE

Here in Addison County, outdoor play is a regular part of our dynamic, inquiry-based, joy-and-wonder-filled early childhood programs. Research tells us that outdoor play from birth to age five produces developmental outcomes that simply can't be achieved indoors. Outside, there is space for active movement, with limitless opportunity for learning by observing, experiencing, trying and doing. Addison County's early educators are lovers of sunlight and fresh air, have a true respect and for and honest appreciation of young children, and relish diving headfirst into experiential learning. Learn more about a few of our programs below!

Nature is an invaluable partner in our therapeutic work with children here at the **Addison County Parent Child Center**. Immersion in the natural world, coupled with nurturing human relationships, soothes anxiety, decreases aggression and fosters resilience, self-regulation, physical development, attention and social skills.

The **Lincoln Cooperative Preschool** is an outdoor-oriented school. Our outdoor classroom allows us to eat outdoors in any weather, and have rest time outside in sleeping bags on mats for most of the school year. Outdoor free play; sledding; riding strider bikes; sand, water and mud play; gardening; outdoor block building;

(See Nature, Page 15)



Help us piece together our past. Join the MJCC History Project!



In 2020 MJCC had a **50th birthday!** We are looking for memories, stories, pictures and all interesting tidbits for our Center history and timeline.

You can help! Did you or your child attend MJCC? Were you involved in our programs or community events? Did you work for MJCC? Chances are you have a story to share!

Can you name the "founding mothers" from 1970? Or the Directors who have made MJCC what it is today? Do you remember "Middlebury Day Care Center" in its first location in a church basement? Or the purchase of the old Otis farmhouse on Water Street in the late 1970's which we still call home?

Send your thoughts and ideas to history@mjcvt.org, or leave a message at the Center (802-388-2853) and we will be in touch.

Kool with a "K"

By
CAROLYN
FOGG and
COOKIE DANYOW

As parents, our children are our priority, and this includes their education. We dedicate endless hours to teach them new skills and techniques so they can be ready for life! As you repeat a new skill, often multiple times in one sitting, your precious child looks at you with those adoring eyes, going through the motions, probably thinking about when it will end so they can watch "Paw Patrol" or play outside.

Each day or weekend you set aside time to work on teaching that skill and it seems like they're just not picking it up. Then an older cousin or friend comes over to play for the afternoon, happens to show them the same skill during "play time" and BOOM, they've got it! As parents and providers, we would love to think it's all the hard work and dedication we've put in but we have to wonder why they didn't pick it up sooner, like when we were working with them. What does this older child have that we don't have? It's the power of play in a multi-age group — in other words, you get to play with the cool older kid and learn at the same time.

According to research by Dr. Karyn Purvis, "Scientists have discovered that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain, unless it is done in play, in which case it only takes 10 to 20 repetitions. Whether it be board games, crafts, puzzles or imaginative games, a child is always learning." (Oaktrekids.com/blog). The play (a.k.a.

learning) in a mixed age classroom setting is often more complex. Older kids become the teachers, helping them practice executive skills and empathy (leadership with less conflicts) and the younger kids rise to the expectations of the older kids, quickly absorbing these new skills and demonstrating them proudly for all to see!

So what does this look like in a home childcare setting, in which the ages can range from birth to 12 years old? For example, in one area, the toddlers are playing together and trying to establish who's in control with a fun game of "that's mine!" Meanwhile the preschoolers are at the play kitchen setting up their restaurant. Since they ALL want to work in the restaurant, they quickly realize there are no customers to serve. They head over to the arguing toddlers and ask if they want to play. With an astounding "YES," the group goes over to the table.

The toddlers sit next to each other, and are served drinks and asked what they want to eat. The preschoolers write down their orders, go over to the kitchen, cook the food using their own special recipe and serve it to ravenous toddlers. Throughout this game, the toddlers are learning social skills, practicing fine motor skills, developing communication and learning what happens at a restaurant. The preschoolers are learning the same skills just at an elevated level. The toddlers are happy to be included and the preschoolers are overjoyed to play while being in charge and they are all learning! After a fashion, and in true toddler style, they get bored and notice the babies crawling around. They get on their hands and knees and crawl over to the babies. And just like that, the

The power of multi-age, play-based learning in a single classroom setting



WHEN YOUNGER CHILDREN play with the older "cool kids," there is learning going on that is faster than when children simply drill skills with adults.

toddlers become the older cool kids and the babies are happily following them working on their gross motor skills, social and emotional learning and spatial awareness!

As the day progresses, school age kids arrive, making them the incredibly cool older kids! As everyone eats snack, they talk about the events of their day, things that are happening later and build relationships that will last for years to come.

This shift in dynamics happens multiple times throughout the day in a home childcare environment. The smaller group size in a home childcare provides a more intimate, family-like learning space where kids have the consistency of one

provider and the same friends there for a longer period of time, ultimately leading to strong bonds being formed. Our role as adult educators is to gently guide play and learning so that there are as few upsets as possible along with introducing new techniques and skills to scaffold their play and learning to keep them engaged. But the deep learning and mastering comes from play and unscripted reinforcement by the "older Einsteins" as THIS is the secret educational weapon of a home childcare mixed age setting.

So the next time you're wondering why your child just isn't understanding a skill, ask an older cool kid for help!

Challenges of providing childcare



BRISTOL FAMILY CENTER Lead Teacher Abigail Gendreau reads to a child on a cold day this winter. Educators like Gendreau every day must balance their responsibilities to their charges, their educational requirements and their own sustenance.

By ABIGAIL GENDREAU
Lead Teacher, Bristol Family Center

As an early educator for the past 10 years in a medium-size, non-profit childcare program, the hurdles and challenges I have faced are immense. You wake each day to bust your butt knowing you are doing what is essential for your community. As many have likely heard, early educators do not make nearly what they deserve for the work that they put in. We have a responsibility to not only each child we serve, but we also have a responsibility to each of the families we serve, and that is a lot of pressure.

Each year when annual raises approach, I am always so hesitant to face my employer to see what she has to offer me. Now that might sound crazy, but for me I receive health insurance through the state of Vermont and any increase in income results in an increase in my health insurance premiums. I have been faced with questioning if I should deny my annual raise that I know I deserve. It is unnerving thinking that a little raise might tip my budget.

I personally believe that those who are educating and teaching others should be continuous learners themselves. Licensing and STARS regulations require educators to engage in 30 hours of professional

development/training hours each year. This is something I far exceed every year. It also means I have to spend personal dollars out of pocket to pay for training and use my own personal time to ensure I am continuing with my professional development. I have spent countless hours writing and applying for grants and scholarships to access as many funding sources as possible to continue my education.

The Northern Lights Career Ladder is a nice incentive to pursue higher education as well as the fact that with higher education you qualify to make more money but this still doesn't solve the issue of the fact that my health insurance is going to increase.

In 2022 I walked across the stage with my Associate's Degree as a first time college graduate in my family. It was at that point that I told myself I need to keep going. This is the field that holds my heart, these are the children of our future, and I will continue to advocate and educate those around Early Education. I am planning to receive my Bachelor's Degree and Teaching license in the spring of 2024, and until then I balance full-time schooling and a full-time job as a Lead teacher working 40-plus hours a week while also coaching a varsity cheerleading team.



Tools

(Continued from Page 11)
them. At first I gave them an adult size forest ax to split wood. Not only was it too heavy for some of them, and most simply didn't have the upper body strength to use it effectively. Over time, I scaled down the tools I had them use, and now they are having a much easier time with an old Boy Scout hatchet, or simply using a knife to baton firewood into kindling.
There is no such thing as being overkill with safety, and this requires one-on-one time with a focused adult in a safe area. I like to follow a certain protocol every time I hand a tool to one of the kids: They have to create a safety circle and announce to everyone they're using a sharp tool. There is zero room for mistakes, and an adult supervising needs to be watching the child, stepping in as necessary to adjust posture or hold the tool with the child while they work. Situational awareness helps make sure no one else enters the

work zone. It is essential teachers who want to undertake this should be caught up on their first aid, and I strongly advocate for carrying medical supplies on your person and knowing how to deal with an injury should one arise.
Finally, tool use is a great sensory activity that allows kids to use their hands. The repetitive motions, using one's muscles, the texture of wood, and the sound of sawing or chopping will satisfy many children's urge for something tangible. Even the act of making a mess can be fun enough. When I asked a student of mine why he liked using tools so much, he simply replied "I like the sawdust."

Writer's note: Many thanks to my fellow educators and the parents at Wren's Nest Forest Preschool for support and photos, Jon Turner for the use of his farm as our classroom, and the neighbors for the use of their forests. Also, to Su White of the nearby Quarry Hill Preschool for her additional photos.



Nature

(Continued from Page 12)

swinging; and imaginary play climbing in the trees are all part of our afternoons.

At **Otter Creek Child Center**, we emphasize nature and outdoor experiences while focusing on the importance of play. We have two outdoor classrooms; one for infants and toddlers and one for the preschoolers. Both outdoor classrooms were designed and developed with the support of the administrative staff, teachers, children and their families, and are wonderful learning spaces.

Quarry Hill School offers authentic opportunities to explore the natural world, providing children with limitless ways to move and observe. Being in the natural world grows the connection between children and the land. Observing, exploring and adventuring through the seasons helps us understand our outdoor spaces, and is a part of our evolving curriculum.

At **Starksboro Cooperative Preschool**, the majority of each preschool morning is spent outdoors — moving, exploring and learning through play. Our day includes morning meetings in the garden, adventure walks in and around the fields

of Lewis Creek, and regular garden-growing activities. We build strong muscles and cultivate both resiliency and a deep respect for nature. There is always time to listen to bird calls, dig for worms, follow tracks, find sticks and ask “why?”

Wren’s Nest is a nature-based program for preschool-age children, with a holistic, interdisciplinary, and sensory-based approach to learning. Children come away with a deep level of comfort and love for the land they play and learn on. Above all, Wren’s Nest creates a space for children to cultivate their natural sense of awe and wonder.

Bristol Family Center teachers believe in the importance of spending time outside each day. Outdoor play is an integral component of learning at BFC, as it allows children uninterrupted time to learn more about themselves through their active curiosity, problem-solving and wondering. BFC is blessed with large open playgrounds where children can safely test their own strengths and take risks, building confidence and making genuine connections to math, science, literacy and social studies, always with teacher support.



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Playgroups! Storytimes! Open gyms! It's all happening. Here's a roundup of the recurring baby/toddler programming in our area.

All these events are free.

MONDAYS: playgroup at **Ilsley Public Library** (10 a.m.); storytime at **Lawrence Memorial Library** (10:30 a.m.)

TUESDAYS: playgroup at the **Congregational Church of Middlebury** (9:30 a.m.); **Sarah Partridge** storytime in East Middlebury (9:30 a.m.); storytime at **New Haven Community Library** (10:30 a.m.); storytime/playgroup at **Salisbury Free Public Library** (10:30 a.m.)

WEDNESDAYS: storytime at **Ilsley Library** in Middlebury (9 a.m.); playgroup at **Bristol Federated Church** (9:30 a.m.); open gym at **Middlebury Rec Center** (10 a.m.)

THURSDAYS: playgroup at **Platt Memorial Library** in Shoreham (9 a.m.); playgroup at **Vergennes Congregational Church** (9:30 a.m.) with the Bixby-sponsored storytime at the church in Vergennes (10:30 a.m.); open gym at **Middlebury Rec Center** (10 a.m.); storytime at **Lawrence Memorial Library** in Bristol (10:30 a.m.)

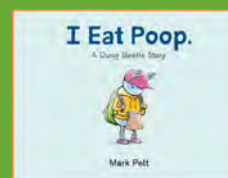
FRIDAYS: playgroup at **Mary Hogan School** in Middlebury (8:30 a.m.); storytime at **Lincoln Library** (10:30 a.m.); homeschoolers open gym at the **Middlebury Rec Center** (12:30 p.m.);

SATURDAYS: playgroup at **Vergennes Congregational Church** (9:30 a.m.)

There is also a new session of Music Together starting up at **Middlebury Community Music Center** this week (Sun, Mon, Thurs & Sat sessions). That one's not free, but it's another great option for getting out and about with your little one!

Note: Most of these events follow the school calendar.

We know kids!



Our bestselling picture book of 2022-2023 is proof enough, we think!

I Eat Poop: A Dung Beetle Story, by Mark Pett



But for those who prefer something more dignified, might we recommend?

Farmhouse, by Sophie Blackall



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Peekaboo Bear, by Camilla Reid and Ingela P. Arrhenius

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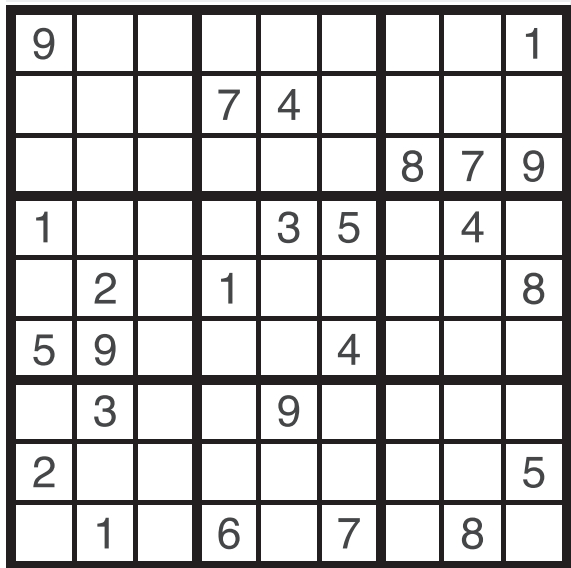
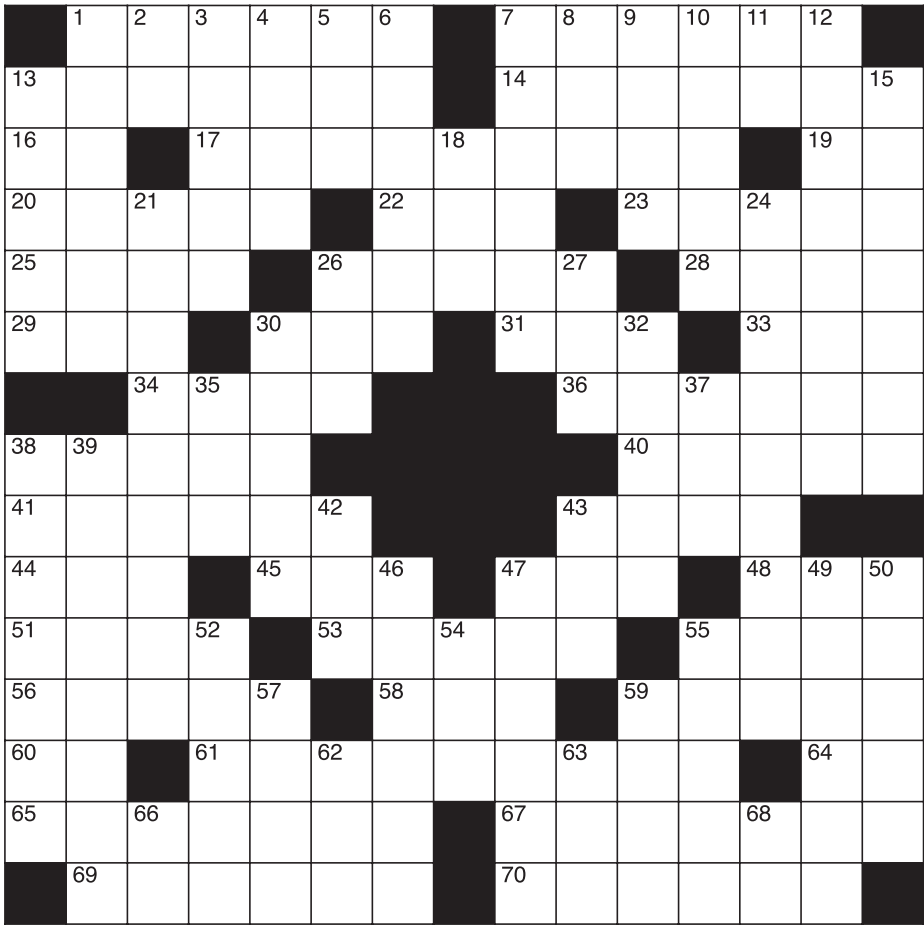
- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist

- Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar

- month
- 56. Author Gore __
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice



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

- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulpit
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.



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FILM SCREENING

Town Hall Theater hosts red carpet film screening for the Yellow House Community

On Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater will be rolling out the red carpet for The Yellow House Community, at their film screening "Boom & Whoa — The Making of a Community Within a Community."

Yellow House Community celebrates the idea of interdependence — that individuals can depend on and support one another as they strive to be their healthiest, happiest selves. Residents and staff dedicate time to caring for themselves, each other, their home, and

their community, while developing skills and pursuing meaningful vocation, interests and relationships. Founded in 2019 by two families planning for the future of their adult children with special needs, YHC has become an opportunity to design a future for these young adults, and others in the community, that is full of love, joy, and purpose and that extends beyond what families can offer in their homes and after they are no longer alive.

Come together, this Thursday evening to



The Yellow House Community's film "Boom & Whoa — The Making of a Community Within a Community" will screen for free at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Thursday, April 6.

learn more and watch a short film about this wonderful local organization. Movie stars will walk the red carpet at 5:45 p.m., screenings of the film will occur at 6 and 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Vermont premiere of 'Navalny' screens in Middlebury, April 13

The documentary feature "Navalny," from director Daniel Roher, has won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. Congratulations to MNFF alum Daniel Roher on this incredibly well deserved award. MNFF Selects is thrilled to present the Vermont premiere of Navalny on Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

Enthralling and intimate, director Roher's "Navalny" unfolds with the pace of a thriller as it follows Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny in his quest to identify the men who poisoned him in August 2020. Shot in Germany as the story unfolded and offering extraordinary access to the investigation, Navalny is a fly-on-the-wall documentary that is also a study of Navalny the man — a portrait of a leader intent on reform who will not be cowed by anything, including his own poisoning.

As *New York Times* film critic Ben Kenigsberg observed, Navalny "plays like a crowd-pleaser, a profile of a politician with the unflagging courage to swim against a rising totalitarian tide. It helps that Navalny has a movie star's charisma and wit. In the first moments, Navalny implores director Roher to make the film a thriller. If he's killed, Navalny explains, then Roher has permission to make a boring memorial."

An unforgettable portrait of a true larger than life political figure who represents an ongoing, formidable and populist threat to



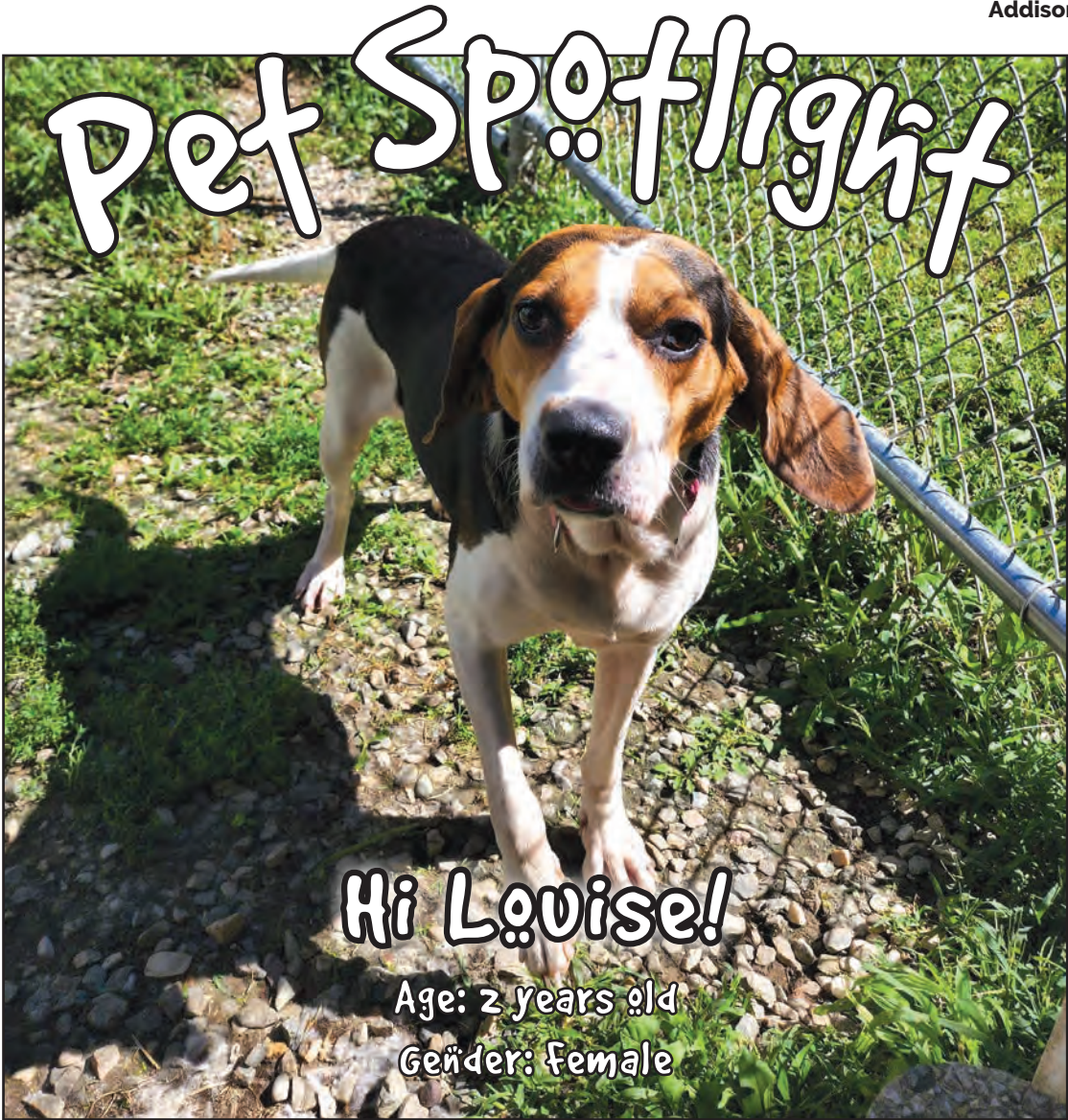
MNFF Selects continues its Larger Than Life series in April with the Vermont premiere of "Navalny" screening, Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

the power of Vladimir Putin and the Russian oligarchy, "Navalny" is bold, courageous filmmaking and, now, an Oscar winner.

Matthew Walker, Assistant Professor of Russian at Middlebury College, will be leading the discussion following the "Navalny" screening in Middlebury. Walker teaches courses on Russian language and literature, as well as on Putinism and the politics of contemporary Russian culture. Before going into academia,

he worked as an editor and assistant producer for NBC News Moscow bureau, and over the years he has travelled extensively in Eastern Europe.

Tickets for the Vermont premiere of "Navalny" are available through Town Hall Theater's website (townhalltheater.org) for \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door (plus fees). For more details and info about MNFF Selects visit middfilmfest.org/selects-2022-23.



Louise is one of our Diamond in the Ruff dogs. These dogs are selected because of special ownership requirements. Louise came to the shelter as a stray. She is a 2-year-old who loves playing with squeaky toys and balls. The toys are even more interesting than her breakfast some mornings. She is the biggest snuggle bug in history and a lap dog expert. Louise gets nervous in new situations but has come a long way since she first stepped her paws into the shelter. She needs extra time to warm up to new people, but once she does she is the most affectionate pup you will ever meet.

Louise is afraid of strangers and it is important for a possible adopter to follow the training protocol the staff will provide. She enjoys the company of other dogs and has shared a foster home with a cat and another dog. During Louise's time in foster, she has become housetrained and has learned to sit on command! Louise is excellent at solving difficult puzzle toys and loves treats.

For questions about Louise, please call Homeward Bound, 802-388-1100, extension 227, or email canine@homewardboundanimals.org.





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 **Louise**


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 **Squish and Squash**


Squish and Squash are brothers who came to the shelter together. They are 4-month-old Red Heeler/Hound/Pitbull mixes and are affectionate, friendly, energetic, and very playful as most pups are. They can be adopted separately or together. Squish and Squash need homes where they will be given a lot of love and training to become happy, larger dogs with good manners. They both have had positive interactions with young children. Squish and Squash are not housetrained yet.




 **Chaka**

Chaka is our longest-residing cat at the shelter coming to us over 200 days ago! Even though this 6-year-old is ridiculously cute, her shyness has caused her to be overlooked. She was placed in a foster home to decompress and for her personality to be assessed in a home setting. Chaka's foster mom spent a lot of time with her and said that she is very sweet and loves to watch the world from the windows. She will snuggle up on your lap for a nap! Chaka does not enjoy cat company at all and would probably tolerate a dog that mostly ignores her. She would do best in a low-energy household with people who can appreciate her mellow but sweet nature.



 **Lacey**

Lacey is a sweet, but shy, 3-year-old who would love a home where she is shown patience to reach her full, loving potential. She may greet people with a hiss, but it is all for show. Lacey takes some time to warm up but enjoys being petted once she trusts you. Rolling in catnip is her favorite pastime. She has no experience with cats or dogs and we are unsure how she would be with them.



Want to learn more?

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THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

Country-living in Waltham near the creek

This lovely property — conveniently located on the outskirts of Vergennes — is comprised of a 10 acre parcel, which offers all the joys of country living. It features a stone-walled patio with a beautiful view of the creek. The house boasts a tiled entry, modern kitchen, and spacious living room. The main floor is made of hardwood flooring, which leads to the primary bedroom suite with a walk-in closet and private bath. The guest bedroom and main bathroom also occupy the main floor. The lower-level features an office and laundry space as well as an additional bedroom and bathroom. The large 2-car garage is a further bonus of this comfortable family home.


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3 BD | 1.5 BA | 2307 SF | 11.10 AC

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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the Middlebury gallery and 40 more for the online gallery. The exhibit was juried by Lee Anne

White. Artists submitted images created in the landscape, garden or studio that capture the spirit and character of plants, as well as our intimate connection to the plant world. On view March 30-April 28.

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 U.S. states created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. On view through summer 2023.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

52 Main Street, Middlebury
Visit sparrowartsupply.com or call 802-989-7225 or more info.
"A Celebration of Trees," features an authentic, sentimental, and heartfelt appreciation for trees, with work by 80 local artists across all mediums, there are trees for every season in this exhibition. There will be an educational display in the gallery as well, put together by the Middlebury Tree Committee. On view March 24-May 13.

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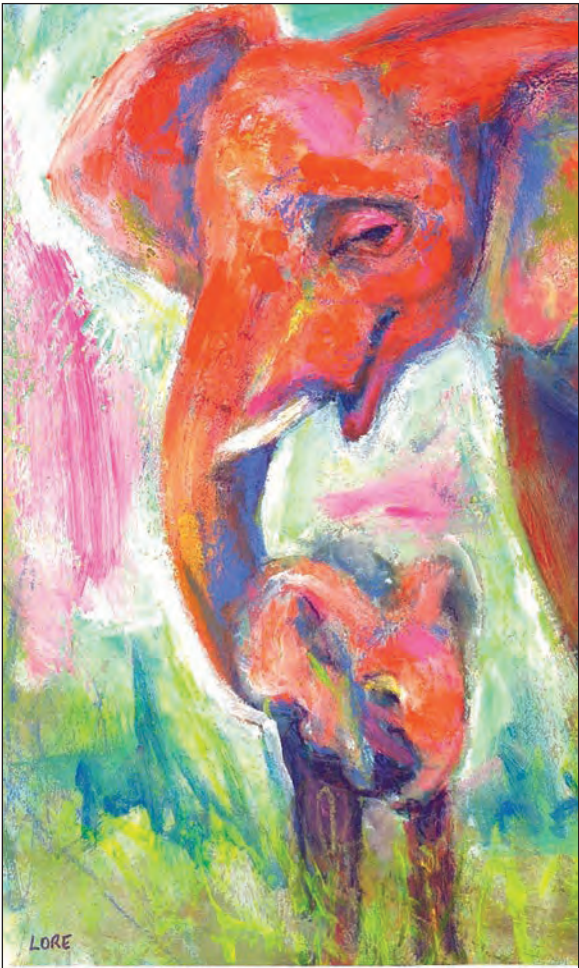
WomenSafe holds annual Card Fundraiser

WomenSafe is excited to announce this year's art for their annual Card Fundraiser. The 2023 card was made by Jacqueline Lore. The title of the image is "Tenderness."

Lore is a survivor and WomenSafe service user. Based in Middlebury, Lore is entirely self-taught and expresses herself artistically across multiple media. Her artistic expression and style revolves around the idea that art surrounds us, provides an avenue for community connection, and supports journeys of healing and self-discovery.

In the creation of "Tenderness," Lore was inspired by the concept of "Elephant Parenting," a collaborative, community-based and multigenerational style of caregiving that focuses on nurturing emotional security and connection. This piece is an expression of the joy and healing that parents and caregivers experience, and a celebration of receiving love from those who care for us.

As a newcomer to the area, "Tenderness"



"Tenderness" by Jacqueline Lore.

conveys Lore's gratitude to WomenSafe and to our community, both of which have empowered her with resources, a safe home, and opportunities to give back to the community. WomenSafe is honored to partner with Lore, and share her vibrant, evocative art with our supporters.

Donations to WomenSafe during their annual Card Fundraiser is twofold: 1) honoring the caring figures in your own life, and 2) supporting survivors in the community. WomenSafe will acknowledge gifts by sending honoree(s) this heartfelt card.

- To participate:
- Mail a donation to WomenSafe at P.O. Box 67, Middlebury, VT 05753, along with your information and the names(s) and address(es) of your chosen honoree(s).
 - Visit WomenSafe's website at [womensafe.net/cardfundraiser](https://www.womensafe.net/cardfundraiser) to fill out the webform and submit your donation online.
 - Email jc@womensafe.net with the names/addresses of your honoree(s).

Mother's Day Cards will be sent by Friday, May 5, and Father's Day Cards will be sent by Friday, June 9.

Happy Easter and Passover to Everyone!



FAIRFAX, VT

This modern-style ranch home features a spacious kitchen with stainless appliances and quartz countertops. The primary bedroom boasts a walk-in closet. There are also two additional bedrooms as well as a full bath.

MLS: 4942334



WALTHAM, VT

This lovely property boasts a tiled entry, modern kitchen, and a spacious living room. The main floor leads to a primary bedroom suite with a private bath as well as a guest bedroom. There is also a 2-car garage and over 400 feet of frontage on Otter Creek.

Price: \$589,000

MLS: 4947418



MIDDLEBURY, VT

Enjoy all of the conveniences and cultural events associated with living in a small college town. This split level three bedroom home has a separate game room or office if you choose to work from home or cozy up by the gas stove in the living room.

Price: \$365,000

MLS: 354744



ADDISON, VT

This magnificent home features a 1st floor primary suite, which offers 2 rooms for separate sleeping areas. There is also a primary suite on the second floor with its own sitting area. There are extra rooms on the 2nd floor as well.

Price: \$949,000

MLS: 4926527



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Town Hall Theater & Edgewater Gallery Present

Vanish- Disappearing Icons of Rural America

A film by Jim Westphalen
Saturday, April 8th at 6pm

A remarkable story of past and present, Vanish chronicles the “visual preservation” adventures of fine art photographer, Jim Westphalen, as he travels across the country seeking out and creating stunning imagery of America’s disappearing rural structures. Equal parts art, history and seat of the pants storm chasing, road-trip with Westphalen as he races against time and the unrelenting elements to capture the extraordinary beauty of aging barns, one room schoolhouses, grain elevators, prairie churches and all the classic structures that our country’s rural heritage was built upon. Though many of these evocative relics will eventually surrender to the elements, the film captures firsthand the passionate people who strive and struggle to save these gems, revealing stories of dreams, loss and hope.

More about Jim Westphalen

Largely self taught and working as a successful commercial photographer for decades, Jim Westphalen now devotes his time fully to his fine art . His evocative large scale photographs are collected world wide and exhibited in galleries and museums across the United States. His style is compared to such painters as Andrew Wyeth, Edward Hopper and Eric Sloane, Jim travels



the country with his vintage 4x5 view camera, seeking out those vanishing rural structures that our country’s heritage was built upon.

Born and raised on Long Island, New York, in 1996 he moved to Vermont to be closer to the rural landscape that he loves. Jim has three children and lives in Shelburne, Vermont with his wife, Kendra where he also runs his studio.

Director Statement

“I’ve always had an affinity for the fading rural structures of the American landscape and for more than a decade now, I’ve traveled the country photographing these gems (e.g. barns, coal sheds, grain elevators, one room schoolhouses, prairie churches etc.) as they rapidly disappear. In my wanderings, I inevitably encounter or seek out the people who own these evocative treasures, all with their own stories to tell. As my body of images grew and I began to knit them together with these rich histories, I realized there was an important story of past and present that needed to be told. This is how the Vanish film was born.”

Upcoming Events:

Boom and Whoa

The Making of a Community
Within a Community
Presented by Yellow House
April 6th @ 5:30pm

**New Perennials
Project**

Gallery Opening
and Reception
April 7th @ 5pm

Navalny

Presented by MNFF
Selects
April 13th @ 7pm

**International Fly
Fishing Film Festival**

Presented by Green
Mountain Adventures
April 14th @ 7:30pm

Champion

Presented by
METOpera HD
April 29th @ 1pm

Sponsored by  IPJ Real Estate

Tickets: townhalltheater.org ▪ 802-382-9222 ▪ 68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury, VT 05753

Follow us on IG @thtmidd and FB @townhalltheatervt.

We would like to thank our sponsors Langrock, Sperry & Wool and IPJ for their support.