



### Third act

After retiring from two jobs, a Panton artist now refines her painting skills. See Arts + Leisure.



### Crunch-time

Several local high school teams were in the hunt for postseason sports titles. See Pages 1B-4B.



### Match made

Phoebe & Leo met, parted, then married seven years later. Read our Weddings special section.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 76 No. 44

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, November 3, 2022 ♦ 60 Pages

\$1.50

## ACSD looking at \$110M repair bill

### Many fixes needed for school buildings

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Addison Central School District residents during the past three years have been particularly vocal in their support of their preK-12 system, with many vowing to vigorously oppose any potential future efforts to close schools in the ACSD-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

They might soon get a chance to back up their love of local schools with their pocketbooks.

The ACSD board later this month will receive a major tutorial

on the scope of basic capital improvements needed at the district's seven elementary schools, along with Middlebury Union middle and high schools, based on a recent study of those buildings by Burlington architecture/design firm TruexCullins.

And here's a preview: The company has tentatively placed the cost of updating those nine buildings to current code standards at \$110 million. And TruexCullins officials acknowledged that number is understated, due to a major surge in inflation and construction costs since the (See ACSD repairs, Page 14A)

## Looking forward to a winter without driving

### Health care workers reflect on career

By JOHN FLOWERS

NEW HAVEN — Carla Tighe, now 72, recalled her first year as a physical therapist for Addison County Home Health & Hospice (ACHH&H). It was 1978. Jimmy Carter was president and Egypt and Israel had just signed the Camp David Accords. And there was Tighe, visiting ailing patients throughout county in an old VW bug, with no heat.

She put on layers of clothes and heavy gloves when making her rounds.

"The transmission would jump

out of gear when I hit a bump," she recalled with a chuckle.

Forty-four years later, Tighe has decided to garage her now-updated vehicle after a lengthy career of helping local residents regain mobility and health in their own homes, usually following major medical procedures.

And she's not the only one. Longtime colleague Charlene Remick, who also logged four decades with ACHH&H, has moved on, albeit to an extremely active life of volunteerism at the (See Retirement, Page 17A)



### Candy, please

A SMALL CHILD masquerading as a pumpkin learns about trick or treating during the annual Spooktacular event on Middlebury's Main Street this past Saturday afternoon. See more photos from the event on Page 16A.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Bristol looks for ways to build more housing

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol's planning commission is about to begin a deep dive into the local zoning regulations in the hopes of identifying changes that would expand housing opportunities in and around the town's village.

Options could include permitting accessory dwelling units and blended live-work housing options, as well as examining parking laws and walkability upgrades.

Over the next several months the commission will work with Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Adam Lougee to explore where existing rules can be altered to better meet Bristol's housing needs, while also preserving the (See Housing, Page 13A)

## Help sought in guiding IIsley update

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — An ad hoc committee looking for long-term fixes to the IIsley Library's space woes has identified four potential solutions that will be part of a broader public information campaign, kicking off on Nov. 16 with the first of two forums.

Members of the "IIsley 100 Project Team" will also use these forums to explain what has led to the need for either a major overhaul of the existing library at 75 Main St. or a new building nearby.

Project 100 Team members said one of those options will be necessary to properly accommodate growing public use of an institution (See IIsley, Page 13A)

## Conservation group enjoys growth spurt

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) is celebrating a healthy return from one of its top fundraising events, and is now well-positioned to bolster its environmental programming and volunteer outreach thanks to the largest supporting cast it has ever had.

Established in 1987, MALT has conserved more than 3,500 acres of land — including farms, forests, wetlands and recreational areas — around Middlebury.

MALT is perhaps best known for its stewardship of the popular Trail Around Middlebury (TAM), a 19-mile path that encircles the village. The nonprofit organization also offers environmental educational and recreational opportunities for all ages through naturalist themed-programs; year-round, nature-based youth offerings; and outdoor classrooms for area schools.

And the organization has good news about its operations that MALT Executive Director Jamie Brookside shared during a recent interview.

First, she reported last month's "TAM Trek" — an annual trail race and "Fun Run" — raised more than \$16,000, money that'll help defray the approximately \$30,000 it costs to maintain the TAM each year.

In addition to being a key fundraising tool, the trek gives participants a chance to connect with friends and nature. But it also allows some to test their physical prowess and endurance. For example, local runner Jessie Donovan completed her TAM run in 2:25.40, besting her own 2021 record of 2:26:07, according to Brookside.

Mælle Remsen set a new course record of 23:31 in the 2-mile "Fun Run" segment of the trek, Brookside added.

At the same time, MALT has brought aboard more staff to help monitor all of MALT's conserved lands, network with volunteers and teach children about the ecosystem they can find beyond their school's walls.

In addition to Brookside, Education Manager (See MALT, Page 18A)



### By the way

Don't forget to turn your clocks back this weekend in line with the "fall back" directive ending Daylight Savings Time. At 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6 (or before you go to bed), turn your clocks back an hour to 1 a.m. Or remember to do it in on Sunday morning. Regardless, enjoy that extra hour of shuteye that you'll lose next March, when the clocks will "spring forward." For those of us who've grown weary of the twice-per-year clock reset, the U.S. (See By the way, Page 18A)



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PROFESSOR Emeritus Stephen Trombulak studies a crowned kinglet with students in what is now a nature sanctuary dedicated in his honor. The college's dedication of 60 acres along Otter Creek recognizes the area as an important resource, which Trombulak often used for his natural history courses. Photo courtesy of Stephen Trombulak

## New sanctuary puts learners in nature

### College honors former professor's lessons outside the classroom

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Over his three decades as an accomplished scientist and educator at Middlebury College, Steve Trombulak spent plenty of time lecturing inside under fluorescent lights, but he loved getting his students outside on the land. The emeritus professor of biology and environmental studies explained in a

2015 video that as a young man he felt empowered by getting out in nature, and looked to do the same for young people he taught.

"You can walk out the door of Bicentennial Hall and you're in an outdoor classroom," he said in the video. "I really like introducing them to the natural world, but also helping to engage (See Sanctuary, Page 20A)

### Index

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Obituaries.....         | 6A-7A          |
| Classifieds.....        | 10B-12B        |
| Service Directory.....  | 8B-9B          |
| Entertainment.....      | Arts + Leisure |
| Community Calendar..... | 6B             |
| Arts Calendar.....      | Arts + Leisure |
| Sports.....             | 1B-4B          |



7 18122 07300 9



**ENERGETIC YOUNGSTERS TAKE off** at the start of a 5K fun run / walk at the 19th annual TAM Trek, which featured races on and around the Trail Around Middlebury, or TAM, that is stewarded by the Middlebury Area Land Trust. The fundraiser garnered more than \$16,000 to maintain the trail, and MALT recently added new AmeriCorps members to its staff. Below, MALT Executive Director Jamie Brookside took part in the TAM Trek.

## MALT

(Continued from Page 1A)

Simon Schreier and Lands & Trails Manager Caleb Basa, MALT now — for the first time ever — boasts three AmeriCorps service members on its staff. They include one full-timer, Jackson Moody for an 11-month stint, and part-timers Chad Kim and Audrey Welsh, both Middlebury College students.

Moody's full-time position is being funded through the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. Kim and Welsh are both working four- to eight hours per week, with funding from a new MALT giving program through which seven local individuals are helping underwrite the organization's AmeriCorps members.

"We are deeply grateful to them," Brookside said of the

donors.

The new AmeriCorps helpers are quickly making an impression on their MALT colleagues.

"They are truly phenomenal people and remarkable human beings," said Simon Schreier, education manager for MALT.

Having three AmeriCorps members today is a far cry from 2017, when MALT had none.

Kim shared his enthusiasm for his new employer in a brief bio posted at maltvt.org.

"Having had the chance to work and play outside (in Middlebury) for the past few years, I've developed an ever-growing appreciation for the natural world as a place shared by all," he said.

*John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.*



## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

Senate this past March passed the Sunshine Protection Act. If it were to pass through the U.S. House and be signed by President Joe Biden, any state in the U.S. observing Daylight Saving Time would begin to do so year-round, starting next November.

You have a local opportunity to add your voice to international condemnation of Iran's recent crackdown on women's and human rights. Middlebury College students have organized a rally in support of Iranian women on Friday, Nov. 4, from 2-4 p.m., at the Feminist Resource Center at Chellis House at 56 Hillcrest Road. Participants will have a chance to cut their hair in solidarity with women in Iran, starting at 2 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., participants will march to Mead Chapel and will proceed to Twilight Hall. Signs will be provided. You are welcome to bring/make your own sign, but please ensure that your words and/or imagery are in no way offensive to women who choose to wear a hijab.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation is again inviting Vermont schoolchildren to name the state's big orange snowplows. Last year, participating public and private schools, homeschooling students, and nursery schools named 163 of the state's fleet of full-sized plow trucks. This year, VTTrans is asking students to name the remaining 87 trucks. Each school may submit only one name. This is not a contest; every school that submits a name will participate, though it'll be first come, first served to name the 87 trucks. Schools that participated last year may not submit another name. The trucks that they named last year will keep the same names this year. The school principal/director should review the name to ensure it's appropriate and not already in use. The list of 2021 plow names is at vttrans.vermont.gov/name-a-plow. The deadline to submit a name is Nov. 9. Plans call for VTTrans plow operators to visit the schools that name a truck this year on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 9

a.m. to celebrate the second annual Vermont Plow Day. Schools will be invited to take photos of their students and staff with the plow truck and name sign.

Mary Hogan Elementary School has embarked on its November literacy drive. Families are encouraged to spend extra time reading this month, coinciding with related special events planned at the school. One such event is a two-day free book giveaway on Nov. 17 and 18. The school's goal is for every child to bring home at least one new book to read. If you'd like to donate new books (or very gently used books) to this effort, please drop off your donation in the front lobby of Mary Hogan School. Currently, the most popular books among Mary Hogan students include those written by Raina Tegelmeier (Smile, Sisters); Dav Pilkey (Dog Man); Aaron Blabey (The Bad Guys); Minecraft guides; Who Would Win?; Bad Kitty books by Nick Bruel; and nonfiction books about cats and dogs. If you'd like to make a monetary donation in support of the Readathon, go to acsdvt.org/Page/5224.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have risen 15.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.91 per gallon on Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 626 stations in Vermont. Prices in Vermont are 27.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 52.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest gasoline in Vermont was \$3.35 per gallon, while the most expensive was \$4.10 per gallon — a difference of 75 cents. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.7 cents per gallon during the last week, averaging \$3.72 per gallon as of Monday. The national average is down 3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 34.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

# If you're not sleeping, maybe you're doing it wrong.

Simmons Beautyrests are designed to bring you better quality sleep — so you'll have more energy the next day.











All Simmons® mattresses are built so well you never have to flip them for the life of the mattress.



THE GOLD STANDARD IN UNDISTURBED REST. 170

|  |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>MAUI™<br>MEDIUM              | Twin Set ..... \$849<br>Full Set ..... \$949<br>Queen Set ..... \$999<br>King Set ..... \$1399 | <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>CAYMAN™<br>EXTRA FIRM   | Twin Set ..... \$895<br>Full Set ..... \$1095<br>Queen Set ..... \$1299<br>King Set ..... \$1699 | <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>BLACK™<br>C-CLASS™<br>FIRM                                     | Twin Set ..... \$3199<br>Full Set ..... \$3599<br>Queen Set ..... \$3899<br>King Set ..... \$4799 | <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>BLACK™<br>L-CLASS™<br>MEDIUM | Twin Set ..... \$2599<br>Full Set ..... \$3099<br>Queen Set ..... \$3299<br>King Set ..... \$4099 | <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>BLACK™<br>L-CLASS™<br>PILLOW TOP  | TWIN XL SET ..... \$2999<br>FULL SET ..... \$3299<br>QUEEN SET ..... \$3599<br>KING SET ..... \$4399 |
| <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>BLACK™<br>C-CLASS™<br>MEDIUM |  | Twin Set ..... \$3199<br>Full Set ..... \$3599<br>Queen Set ..... \$3899<br>King Set ..... \$4799 |  |  |   | <b>Beautyrest.</b><br>BLACK™<br>L-CLASS™<br>FIRM   |   | Twin Set ..... \$2299<br>Full Set ..... \$2799<br>Queen Set ..... \$2999<br>King Set ..... \$3799 |  |

**1-800-261-WOOD**  
**802-388-6297**

New Horizons Club

**www.woodwarevt.com**

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT • Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

- **FREE** Delivery
- **FREE** Set-up
- **FREE** Removal