

The REPORTER

Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland
Lake Dunmore, Leicester, Whiting, Sudbury, Goshen

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75¢

Area schools focus on student safety in light of tragedy

BY MAT CLOUSER

Following the horrific events at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, local school district faculty and staff are showing renewed vigor in reviewing safety systems, talking with area police, and reviewing school protocols to keep students safe.

While school safety and fear

of a potential school shooting have become a part of the day-to-day reality, it still weighs on school faculty, administrators and staff. Several have expressed their disbelief at finding themselves in the specter of an unending wave of school violence.

"We all were stunned and

horrified. Again. It rocks you to your core," said OVUHS principal Jim Avery. "Our kids are doing the best they can. Some have greater anxiety than others."

"We live in a world where this is an unfortunate reality," said QVUU's somber but resolute superintendent, Chris Sell. "You

*"We all were
stunned and horri-
fied. Again. It rocks
you to your core,"*

*—Jim Avery
OVUHS principal*

can't let your guard down. But we have a lot of good systems already in place. Our safety audits have happened within the last year. We feel comfortable where we are, but we're constantly trying to improve our situational awareness. It's in the back of everyone's mind—the

(See Student safety, Page 24)

Several pesky issues facing Otter Creek insect control district

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control Board met on May 19 to review their operations report and discuss the prevalent issues facing them this year and beyond, particularly regarding funding, staffing, and public outreach.

"There have been no delays due to budget concerns," said Doug Perkins, chair of the OCWICD board of trustees, addressing rumors about why spraying has started later this year than in the past.

"There are several factors at work when applying the adulticide—temperature, wind, and rain are among those," he said. "We've had an abnormal spring, and the weather conditions have to be just right for us to spray."

"CDC light boxes are another contributing factor," said Per-

kins. "They use a combination of factors to attract insects at one of 65 rotating locations. We can't just spray if we feel like it. There has to be a specific density of bugs to justify spraying."

In fact, spraying has already begun in some places, including Brandon, where OCWICD trucks rolled out this past Thursday night into Friday morning, as well as in Leicester.

Perkins acknowledged that OCWICD has been feeling a bit of a financial crunch, and he cited a lack of state funds and staffing issues as the two main culprits.

"State funding is only \$70,000. We'd have to pay a helicopter to fly up from the North Fork of Long Island to do the aerial larvicide treatment. They charge by the mile and by the acre. It would

(See Otter Creek insects, Page 3)

Brandon Rec. dials-up summer fun, replete with festive fireworks

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — "I love what I do," said Brandon's Recreation Director Bill Moore, reviewing the myriad things his office has up its sleeve this summer. "I love telling people about the best town in the state. My job's easy in that regard."

Among the items on deck for the Rec. Department this summer are the ever-popular Independence Day celebration on July 2, replete with its parade, duck race, inter-galactic Swiss Roll eating competition, and fireworks display, as well as rebranding the trivia contest at Brandon Carnival Days into the first-ever Vermont State Trivia Championship.

"Of course, there's a lot more

(See Brandon Rec., Page 5)



Century-old tradition

AFTER A PARADE down Brandon's main thoroughfare, Brandon's Flower Girls led off the town's Memorial Day services by placing flowers at the soldier's memorial statue. See inside pages for more Memorial Day photos from Pittsford, Proctor, and Brandon.

Reporter photo/Mat Clouser





Flower girls keep longstanding tradition alive



In a tradition older than Memorial Day itself, a group of Brandon-area's girls in the first grade gathers each year around the town's civil war monument to lay flowers in remembrance of the lives lost fighting in American wars.

The ceremony began in 1902 and was started by Frances "Frankie" Davenport in memory of all Brandon's fallen soldiers, including her first husband, Captain George Davenport. He, alongside fellow Brandonite Captain Charlie Ormsbee, lost their lives one week apart to injuries suffered while fighting in the 5th Vermont infantry in Northern Virginia at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864.

Ms. Davenport spent nearly a year trying to find her late husband's body before she could return it, as well as that of Captain Ormsbee, to Brandon for a dual funeral on June 5, 1865.



Photos by
Mat Clouser



In Brandon

NBM eyes a new home and new community service model

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — Beginning as soon as December 2022, the building at 6 Park Street will be getting a new façade as part of a series of renovations by its soon-to-be new tenant, The National Bank of Middlebury, as they look to open a new space that will serve as a hybrid community center in addition to its

traditional banking services.

The bank's project manager, Jamie McKenna, cited a number of reasons for the move across the street from their present location at 5 Carver Street. "Our current lease is up next year," he said, "and with the current shift toward home banking, we had to reevaluate ourselves—asking who are we and

how do we want to serve the community?"

"The space will feature a smaller more flexible teller space with the remainder functioning more broadly as a community center," said Brandon Office Manager Geoff Watson. "With fewer and fewer people coming into the physical space due to the new technologies available, we see this move as a chance to further connect with our customers, as well as an opportunity to host and participate in varying town events."

While the exact nature of what those events will look like is still a work in progress, the bank has a number of actions slated to get a better feel for the needs of the community. "We're going to be partnering with the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, we'll be sending out surveys to our existing customers, and we will be on hand at the upcoming town auction in July

to speak directly with townfolk about their needs in both the short and long-term," said Watson.

McKenna described the feel of the new concept as "warm and inviting with big glass windows and high ceilings. Of course, it will remain true to the style of the 150-year-old building where it's housed, but it will be more of an open space where we hope to deeper customer relationships as well as to increase our customer's financial livelihood."

"We hope for it to be an intersection of people and ideas," added Watson. "We see big benefits in evolving the role of a traditional bank teller and we want to place a heavier emphasis on personal interaction and financial guidance—a kind of teamwork-based model for new

banking."

"We're a local bank," added McKenna, "dating back to 1831—one of the 10 oldest banks in the country, in fact. We're shareholder-owned and many of those shareholders live in the local communities. Our goal is to remain local and to continue reinvesting in the community and to do so while retaining our small-town feel and service."

If all goes according to plan, the project should be finished in early 2023 and there is no indication that banking services will be interrupted during the move. "We will close one Friday afternoon and be open in the new space the next Monday morning," said Watson, "I'm personally very excited to make the space a first of its kind in Brandon."

Leicester's Creek Road to close June 7-Sept. 6

LEICESTER — Old Jerusalem Road, also known as Creek Road, will be closed from June 7 to September 6, 2022, so a large culvert can be replaced with a bridge over the Leicester River where it meets

the Otter Creek. Detours can be found through West Salisbury Road from Route 7 in Salisbury. Further information can be had at the Leicester Town Office.

Otter Creek insects

(Continued from Page 1)
cost us \$40,000 just to do an initial spray."

Perkins also said a dwindling supply had compounded the rising cost of mosquito treatment. "The larvicide costs about \$250 per 40-pound bag, and it's only going up. One bag will only cover four acres. We have 6,000 acres in our district. The math doesn't work," he said.

Though the towns each contribute a set amount to the budget, it hasn't been enough to cover the costs of aerial larvicide treatments for several years, mainly since the OCWICD's ability to use the Lemon Fair Insect Control District ceased the operation of its spray plane a few years back.

"We purchased an ARGO [an all-terrain amphibious vehicle] a few years back," said Perkins. "It's useful, but due to the dense

brush in certain swampy areas, it's not a 100% solution."

There has been some talk about the district purchasing a fan boat to get into some of the more challenging areas to reach, but the cost there is also prohibitive. "It's a nice idea," said Perkins, "but it's not actively being pursued."

OCWICD is working to address the funding issues, most recently in a letter addressed to Gov. Phil Scott that aims to secure additional grant monies from the Agency of Agriculture,

Food and Markets.

As for staffing, OCWICD's shortage is no different from what many employers face throughout the state and nation. "We've had as many as eight full and part-time drivers, all fully licensed by the state. At the moment, we're down to one full and three part-time drivers."

Active recruiting efforts are

underway, although the skills needed make the position somewhat challenging to fill due to the combination of driving and pesticide licenses required and a familiarity with the locations that need to be sprayed. "Absolutely, we'll work with potential new hires to assist in certification," said Perkins.

The board recently ordered a run of 1,000 informational packets they plan to distribute throughout the insect control district. "The packets are designed as handouts for the general public," explained Perkins, "so folks can learn about who we are and why we do what we do and to educate them about what they can do at home to help minimize mosquito breeding areas."

Perkins said he was unsure exactly when the packets would be available, but felt confident that it would be sometime before the board's next meeting, 7 p.m. on June 16 at the Brandon Senior Center.

"Folks have a right to spray if they want to, and they have a right not to spray if they don't want to," he said. "Our role is as a service provider, and people should know what we are doing—absolutely."

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OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

news@brandonreporter.com



More Great Events at Brandon Town Hall
and Community Center

Sunday, June 5, 1:30 pm

"Dinoman-Dinosaurs"

The dinosaurs are returning to the Brandon Town Hall! Have no fear, "Dinoman" is here. Bob Lisaius, accompanied by his raccoon, Reflex, presents all aspects of the world of paleontology. Don't miss the life size T-Rex come alive on our stage.

Tickets...Adults, \$8, Seniors and Students, \$5, Children, 5 and under FREE.

Sponsored by Tom and Carolyn Whittaker, Whittaker Real Estate, Kathy & Bob Clark, The Hanson Family in memory of Pat Hanson, Frank & Ettie Spezzano.

Saturday, June 11, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie "Robin Hood" (1922)

Jeff Rapsis makes his monthly trip to Vermont with his talented fingers playing on the keyboard. Massive sets, great action and Douglas Fairbanks Sr. in the lead, made this the top grossing film of 1922. The first of this year's 100th anniversary celebration of this blockbuster adaptation of the tales of Robin Hood and his merry men.

Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Bruce Ness and Nancy Spalding-Ness

Saturday, July 2, 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Independence Day Celebration

Come visit your Town Hall as Brandon Celebrates Independence Day! Cold drinks and snacks will be available at the upstairs concession area and the bathrooms will be available while the hall is open. Find out what's in store for the 2022 season. Bring a cushion & watch the Great Brandon Parade from the best seats in town, the front steps of the Town Hall

Saturday, July 9, 7:30 pm

"Moose Crossing" Classic Jazz Band

Traveling to the Hall from Poultney, VT, "Moose Crossing" plays youthful, energized takes on classic jazz tunes from Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington and beyond! They also perform funkier jazz-infused takes on rock and pop tunes from the Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Bruno Mars, the Doors & more.

Tickets...Adults, \$8, Seniors and Students, \$6.

Sponsored by American Legion Post 55 Brandon, Kathy & Wayne Rosenberger, Lyn & Jim DesMarnis,

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Guns are the leading cause of children's deaths. When will we act?

BY BECCA BROWN
McKNIGHT

May 25, 2022, in Burlington, Vermont, and I just sent my 7-year-old son off to first grade with the 17 others he shares a classroom with. I'm terrified. Last night, the nation was rocked by yet another report of tiny souls being erased from the earth by preventable gun violence. Week after week, day after day, we stand by and do nothing while mass shootings unfold across the news. We're about 15 days from the last day of school, and this year I'm excited about summer break for a new reason: Once school is over, there's less risk of my kid getting killed in a shooting. Gun violence is the No. 1 killer of children and teens in America.

Number one. That means more kids are killed by guns than anything else. And still nothing. Instead, we pass laws making it easier to get guns. Imagine if, rather than researching and preventing heart disease — the leading

cause of death for adults in the U.S. — the American Heart Association encouraged smoking and high-cholesterol diets, and discouraged routine screenings, resulting in more deaths? That

is what we are doing with guns and children in this country. I've written to and called my congresspeople. To the governor. The mayor. The school superintendent. They never pick up the phone. They never write back. They never do anything. We are failing the most precious and vulnerable people in our society. I lament to my husband and friends, and all they can do is look back at me vacantly. "Yes, it's horrible," they agree. "But there's nothing we can do. We have no power. And we're still dealing with the pandemic. Who has the energy to be fired up about anything anymore?" "If Sandy Hook didn't change anything, nothing will. I just try not to think about it," they say. The

Enough with the "third rail." It's a figment of the NRA's imagination. Nothing should be off limits. As we head into campaign season, join me in pressing each and every candidate on this topic, and urging them to go further

United States is the only country in the world where this happens. The reason is clear. It isn't complicated. We have more guns per person than any other country in the world, and it is easier to get them here than anywhere else on the planet.

I've donated to organizations fighting for "sensible gun laws." Talk about an oxymoron. These organizations celebrate occasional wins, but really all they



Reflection of service

FLAGS AND FLOWERS in West Rutland's Roman Catholic Cemetery decorate the graves of those who have served. Reporter photo by Angelo Lynn

Community Forum

We must find an end to this slaughter

BY MADELEINE KUNIN

"I don't know what to say," my San Antonio cousin said to me when I called her about the shooting in nearby Uvalde, Texas. Nineteen children and two adults, murdered in Robb Elementary School around lunchtime.

"I don't know what to say, either," I replied, crestfallen.

Maybe if the bodies of the slaughtered children were shown on TV at the upcoming annual meeting of the National Rifle Association, the horror would sink in. The politicians scheduled to amplify the NRA antigun safety message would think twice.

Maybe if the NRA crowd could see the 10 bodies of Black shoppers in Buffalo, who were shot down 10 days ago, the gun safety bill that passed the House would finally be taken up by the

Senate.

I ask myself, "Do we have to see blood flowing to pass gun safety laws?"

Mass shootings are becoming so common that we are becoming immune to the terrible headlines and simply turn the page.

I know I must hold on to my capacity to grieve with the mothers and fathers who lost a child. There can be no greater loss. I am ready to probe deeper than new gun safety laws for an answer.

America is the only country where such mass murders happen frequently. We need a national conversation to dig into the source of our inbred violence. The fact that we have more guns than people is a partial answer, but not the whole answer.

Switzerland, where I was born, permits every soldier to take his

military-issued gun home, but he must account for every bullet. It is, by any measure, a peaceful country where mass murder does not happen.

America, by any measure, glorifies violence.

Can we change? We must.

We changed public behavior when we curtailed smoking. We saved lives then. Let us try to save lives now when the subject is guns.

We must find a way to start a dialogue with those who continue to deny the reality of gun violence and refuse to admit the need to find an end to this horrific slaughter.

Note: Madeleine May Kunin, the 77th governor of Vermont, serving from 1985 until 1991. She is the author of the book "Coming of Age: My Journey with the Eighties."

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Letters to the Editor

Open invitation to stand against racism

Since June 2020, members and friends of St. Thomas & Grace Episcopal Church have gathered on church grounds at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month in a Silent Vigil Against Racism. For half an hour we stand or sit in silence — some holding signs, all of us quietly thinking or praying or meditating. We believe that this time of prayer and public witness is a powerful way that we as members of a faith community can call attention to the need for change in racist policies and attitudes.

The recent mass killing in

Buffalo, N.Y. brings home the fact that racism is still very much with us in the U.S.A. today. As we embark on our third year of this social justice ministry, we want others to feel free to join us. This is an invitation to anyone in the community to show up, stand with us, pray or contemplate in silence what we can do to bring about change — as individuals and in our families, and as members of whatever organizations in which we participate.

The next Silent Vigil will be held on Sunday, June 5 from 1:00-1:30 pm on the front

lawn of the historic St. Thomas Church, located on Route 7 in Brandon just north of the center of town. Parking is available on the street or behind the red brick building on the corner of Prospect Street (our former rectory, now rented to Nifty Thrifty).

For more information about these vigils or to get email reminders, please contact Ken McFarland (540-760-9337).

*St. Thomas & Grace Church
Franci Farnsworth, Senior
Warden
The Rev. Lyn Burns,
Transition Priest*

Brandon Rec.

(Continued from Page 1)

happening than that,” he said. “We’re trying for this summer to be a kind of return to normalcy where we bring back some of the pre-COVID activities alongside the new stuff we started in the last couple years. And it’s happening all over town—not just at the rec.”

Ongoing trail projects, pick-up basketball, art, and community service-based initiatives were among the items mentioned by the ever-ebullient Moore. “I wish I had time to create a community calendar where all the town entities could have their events listed in one place,” he mused, “but I’d probably need to take about six months off to make that happen.”

Discussing the upcoming summer sports camps, Moore made a point to emphasize accessibility. “We won’t turn anyone down based on finances. We have scholarships available to any who might need them—up to 80% of the cost.”

Moore said they’d like to do a rebrand similar to the trivia event but for the town’s corn-hole competition, but cited the current lack of a commissioner as one of the main obstacles. “The game has changed a lot in the last ten years. We’ve gotten a lot better equipment than we had back then,” he said, adding with a smirk, “if you know anyone interested in being comish, let me know.”

One project that seemed to get Moore particularly excited

was an idea he’s been working on with fellow Brandonites Jim Leary and Angus Cheaney, called the Neshobe Swim Club.

“Starting in July, for a \$5 entry fee, folks can join up and get a t-shirt that reads ‘PLEDGE,’ and they’ll pledge to document swimming in the Neshobe River once a month,” he said. “The catch is that they have to do it once a month—every month—for the calendar year.”

Protect children

(Continued from Page 4)

can hope to do is nibble around the edges. Seven more days of waiting period here, one more group of people added to red flag laws there. It isn’t working. Vermont hasn’t yet played host to a mass school shooting on the scale of Sandy Hook, Stoneman Douglass, or Robb Elementary, but we are by no means immune to it. It’s a matter of when, not if. Approximately 50% of households here own a firearm (a difficult number to pin down. Why? Because we don’t have an accurate system for tracking gun ownership) and our laws on gun sales and use are middle-to-bottom of the pack in terms of stringency. Already this year, our child’s school was closed for a day due to a gun-related incident, and some parents kept their kids home on another occasion due to a nationwide school violence threat on social media. The vultures are circling. Today, I’m calling for leadership and massive, societal action. We just came together as a nation to fight Covid-19 and proved that, when we want to, we can actually change things. We can mobilize trillions of dollars, lock down entire cities, shutter entire industries. If enough leaders had the courage, we could even alter the Constitution. We need this level of action on gun control to protect our children. Enough with the “third rail.” It’s a figment of the NRA’s imagination.

Nothing should be off limits. As we head into campaign season, join me in pressing each and every candidate on this topic, and urging them to go further. Join me in becoming a single-issue voter on gun control. If you are a leader with any kind of platform to speak from, please use it to press for change on this topic. If you are an average citizen like me with ideas on how we can take action beyond the political sphere, since it has so badly failed us, please share them. To the “safe gun owners” reading this (including the many in my own extended family), yes, your gun rights may need to be restricted. Politicians might be afraid to say this out loud, but I — a mother in fear for her children’s lives — am not. We all have to make compromises for each others’ well-being sometimes. I hope you can see that children’s lives are worth it. We are sometimes described as “a nation numb to gun violence.” But are we? I don’t feel numb. I feel devastated. I feel angry. I feel scared. Let us not be numb. Let us grieve, and then let us act. We must. We must. We must.

Note: Becca Brown McKnight of Burlington, is a mother and business owner. She had never been interested in guns until having an elementary school-aged child required her to be.

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Public Forum

June 8, 2022 at 6pm

Café Provence
Downstairs at 11 Center St.
Brandon, Vt.

Sponsored by the GMNF and Moosalamoo Assoc.(MA) regarding the proposed construction of a two-story, propane-powered, year-round hut at Silver Lake (proposed by MA and the VT Huts Assoc.)

Or submit written comments to GMNF by July 11
comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-lakes-rochester@usda.gov

Paid for by Friends of Silver Lake

Obituaries

Sherry Ann Robbins, 63, Orwell

ORWELL — Sherry Ann Robbins, age 63, passed away Friday, May 27, 2022, with family members by her side at the Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Sherry was born in Randolph on June 15, 1958. She was the daughter of Theodore and Vivian (Brooks) Caswell. She grew up in Bethel where she attended Whitcomb High School, graduating in 1976.

She moved to the Brandon area in 1981 and worked at Highland Press in Middlebury as a press operator for many years. Later she worked at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center as an aide in the printing department. She also worked as a bus driver and custodian at the Career Center, retiring in 2021.

Sherry loved her home and her



SHERRY ANN ROBBINS

family and she also found much joy from the animals on their small farm.

Sherry is survived by: her husband, Kenneth Robbins Sr. of Orwell, whom she married in Hubbardton on August 18, 1984; to one stepdaughter, Deb Robbins of Hubbardton; a stepson, Kenneth Robbins Jr. of Mechanicville, N.Y.; her mother, Vivian Caswell of South Royalton; a brother, Murlan Caswell of

Middlebury; and sisters, Sonya Patch of South Royalton and Tina Therrien of Bethel. She is also survived by three beautiful granddaughters and one great granddaughter, all of whom brought her much joy in her life.

She is also survived by a niece and nephew and many cousins. She is predeceased by her father Theodore Caswell who died in 1992, and a stepson Jimmy Robbins in 1996.

A gathering "In Celebration of Her Life" will be held at a later date; time and location to be announced. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in her memory, to The Foley Cancer Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, VT 05701.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ket-cham Funeral Home in Brandon.

Memorial service for Frank Leffler

LEICESTER — The Memorial Mass in celebration of the life of Frank Leffler, age 80, who passed away on March 21, 2022 in Sarasota, Florida, will be held on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Good Help-St. Mary's Parish, Brandon.

The Rev. Maurice Moreau,

pastor, will officiate. Private Graveside Committal Services and interment with Military Honors will take place on Tuesday at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery, Randolph.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ket-cham Funeral Home, Brandon.

Phil Scott signs \$1,000 child tax credit into law

BY LOLA DUFFORT, VDIGGER

MONTPELIER — Gov. Phil Scott signed a tax cut package into law Friday that will send \$1,000 for every child 5 and under to Vermont households making \$125,000 or

less.

With federal stimulus spending flooding the state's economy and boosting tax receipts, the Democrat-controlled Legislature and Republican governor agreed on something they are usually at odds over: cutting taxes.

Still, the parties spent months negotiating between competing visions, and a final compromise was not inked until the last day of the legislative session earlier this month.

The House initially sought to spend nearly \$50 million, almost entirely dedicated to the child tax credit alone. The Senate responded with a \$36 million package, only \$22.5 million of which would have gone to the child tax credit. Anxious that a downturn in the economy could be on the horizon, the upper chamber had also proposed sunset-ting the package's major tax breaks after three years.

The final version of H.510 will spend \$40 million, the bulk of which — \$32 million — will pay for the child tax credit, which is estimated to benefit over 30,000 children. The sunset provision has also been removed.

Families claiming the child tax credit would lose \$20 per \$1,000 over the threshold their income is.

"Tax relief has always been my priority, but instead I've had to resort to preventing efforts to raise taxes over the last six years, so I'm encouraged the Legislature agreed with me this session that Vermonters need a break," Scott said in a statement Friday.

"Although the proposals I put forward would have helped a broader cross-section of taxpayers, such as working families, low-income households, seniors on fixed incomes and students, while also helping to recruit and retain needed workers, and more, this bill is a step in the right direction," he continued.

The bill signed Friday also includes tax relief for low-income

(See *Child tax credit*, Page 8)



BAR HARBOR BANK & Trust (BHBT) presented a donation from the Bank's Casual for a Cause program to Otter Valley Activities Association, represented by Steven Keith, Activities Director at Otter Valley Union High School. Presenting the check for \$910 was Melissa Case, VP Branch Relationship Manager at BHBT.

Bar Harbor bank donates \$910 to Otter Valley Activities Assoc.

BRANDON — Bar Harbor Bank & Trust employees recently presented \$12,000 in donations from the Bank's employee-driven charitable giving program, Casual for a Cause, to five nonprofit organizations in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. In Vermont, donations were made to Otter Valley Activities Association and White River Valley Education Association in Vermont.

The Otter Valley Activities Association supports students, coaches, and school staff at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School. The donation from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust employees will be used to support athletic camps, scholarships and supplemental activities including theater and music programs.

Bank employees participating in Casual for a Cause dress casually on Fridays in exchange for a bi-weekly payroll deduction made to a pool of funds collected during each quarter. The employees then vote on the nonprofits to receive their contributions. Employees have donated more than \$160,000 to more than 70 organizations since the program launched in 2018.

Calendar of events

May

Tuesday:

Chess Club

Join us every Tuesday evening for a fun night of chess from 4:00–6:00 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer Street, Rutland.

Brandon Public Library Pins & Needles Crafting Group

The club will meet 5:30–7 p.m.

Brandon Public Library Teen Advisory Group

This advisory group meets every first Tuesday of the month from 3:30–5 p.m.

Brandon Public Library Book Discussion Group

Starting at 6 p.m., this group also meets every first Tuesday of the month.

Wednesdays:

Brandon Public Library Meditation Group

Meet us for an hour of calm from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Thursdays:

Open Mic Nights

The Clear River Inn & Tavern in Pittsfield hosts weekly open mic nights. Sign-up starts at 8:00 p.m., the show is free.

4:

Tunnel Book Workshop Chaffee Art Center

The tunnel book creates the illusion of depth and perspective. Engineered like an accordion, Tunnel books are a series of cut-paper panels placed one behind the other. The illustrated panels are lined up and viewed through a front peep-hole. Join us June 4 & 5 TO TELL YOUR STORY 10am to 4pm both days Instructor: Carolyn Shattuck, Bookmaker. No experience necessary, \$75 per person, Supply Fee \$15.00, Minimum enrollment 6 students. Please bring to the class: scissors ruler pencil erasure bone folder or dull knife special papers/ ribbons small Exacto knife

4 5:

The Middletown Springs Public Library Book Sale

The Middletown Springs Public Library is holding its annual spring Book Sale on Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5. The sale will be held at the Middletown Springs Historical Society, on the Green. There will be a wide selection of gently read books, movies, puzzles, and games; fiction, biographies, history, nature, children's books and more. The hours are Saturday 8am-3pm and Sunday 10am-2pm. On Sunday, it will be a bag sale by donation. Customers will be encouraged to fill a bag or a box and make a donation of any amount. All proceeds benefit the library. For more information, contact the library at 802-235-2435 or middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com

5:

A free showing of artwork by members and friends of the Brandon Congregational Church

"Getting to Know You," Creative Sunday- A free event open to the public. Brandon Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 1 Carver St, Brandon, VT. Join us for viewing artwork by members and friends of the congregation. Refreshments will be served!

The Next Stage Bandwagon Summer Series presents a twin bill pairing Marquise Knox and Seth Walker for a double dose of deep blues, roots, and rhythm

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Marquise Knox hails from a musical family deeply rooted in the Blues. He learned to play guitar from his grandmother Lillie, and also played with his uncle Clifford, who was a major influence in Marquise's life. For Marquise, Blues is his heritage and a way of life. He spent his early teenage years in St. Louis

mentoring under the late great Blues legend, NEA Heritage Fellowship recipient, and Grammy Award winner Henry James Townsend. Marquise's talents have earned him performing rights with some of America's most notable blues performers, including blues legends B.B. King, Pinetop Perkins, and David "Honeyboy" Edwards (the latter two also NEA Heritage Fellows). He has performed at dozens of festivals, and toured throughout Europe. Knox's debut album MANCHILD was nominated for a Blues Music Award for Best New Artist Debut. The album was recorded when he was 16, with world-renowned guitarist Michael Burks and his band. Over the last decade, Seth Walker has become recognized as one of the most revered Americana artists in the United States; a three dimensional talent who combines a gift for melody and lyric alongside a rich, Gospel-drenched, Southern-inflected voice with a true blue knack for getting around on the guitar. The Bandwagon Summer Series is a family-friendly outdoor cultural performance series running from early May through mid-October, at venues throughout Windham County.

11:

Pig Roast to benefit the Tinmouth Pond Milfoil Project.

Slow Roast Port, Creamy Macaroni and Cheese (with Grafton Cheddar Cheese), Green Salad, Coleslaw, Homemade Chewy Brownies (Gluten Free Available). Rain or Shine, Eat there or bring a takeout container. All you can eat. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. 86 West Shore Drive, Tinmouth 05773.

Artisan Market Saturdays Chaffee Art Center

Saturday's from 10am to 2pm, throughout the summer and fall. Booths change each week with artists, crafters, specialty foods and more selling their handmade items. If interested in renting a space (\$20-40 per day), visit www.chaffeeartcenter.org or info@chaffeeartcenter.org. Our Gallery Shoppe has great items as well, so come inside. Take a tour of our 1890's historic mansion, and explore the current Exhibit and Artist Member work throughout. Pre-registration is needed: 802-775-0356 or info@chaffeeartcenter.org

15:

Create a One Page Map of your Business with Nancy Shuttleworth

We'll use a tool called the Business Model Canvas to develop a one-page overview or map of your existing or future business. Are you curious about how your business creates, delivers, and captures value? We'll use a tool called the Business Model Canvas to develop a one-page overview or map of your existing or future business. At the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Business Model Canvas helps clients understand their businesses. It's a visual tool, comprised of 9 components, which can be mapped to a full Business Plan at a later time, if needed—a quick and concise method to explain your business to others and clarify your thinking for next steps and growth. Each registered participant will be emailed a blank canvas template prior to the webinar, to work on during the session.

Book Club at the Chaffee Art Center

The book to be discussed in June is The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran. Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday, 4-5 p.m. RSVP Required.

16:

Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All-Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy at Next Stage Arts

Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All-Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy at Next Stage Arts! Featured performers will

include several contest-winning and touring comedians most often seen in the Burlington area. **Jessie Baade** is a long time stand up performer, hailing from the Catskills of New York but now located in Brattleboro, VT. She performs regularly at venues throughout the Northeast, and has been featured in the Women In Comedy Festival, Boston Comedy Festival (2021 competition), Chris Fleming's "Gayle" web series, and the NY International Fringe Festival. Emma Dooley is originally from the Hudson Valley, New York and started doing comedy in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She recently returned to the Northeast to become a Farmer/Teacher at The Farm School in Athol, Massachusetts – and to bring her charming, awkward, weirdo comedic energy to the area. **Meredith Gordon** was a finalist in 2019 Vermont's Funniest Comedian Contest. She was featured at the Gilda Laugh Fest and has performed several one woman shows in Burlington with the Off Center for the Dramatic Arts and the Vermont Comedy Club. In her spare time she operates her own business, Deep Cut Creations, where she makes custom and pop culture dolls. **Jeremy Rayburn** is a Burlington-based comedian, writer and filmmaker who produces and hosts two monthly shows in his home town: Junk Island, a late night style comedy variety show, and Whale Tales, which features comedic storytelling. He also produces and hosts a weekly radio show, Tight Sixty, which blends comedy and music on 99.3 WBTV Burlington. **Gilman Seymour** hails from your typical small New England town, and brings a relatable yet punchy energy to the stage. He's studied improv, hosted radio shows (including "Sunday Spins" in Concord, NH), and competed in and won comedy contests, including the Brews Comedy Contest in Dracut, Massachusetts. **Mike Thomas** is a veteran Vermont stand up – a five (!) time finalist in Vermont's Funniest Comedian contest, he performs regularly at the Vermont Comedy Club and has opened and featured for national headliners including Wyatt Cenac, Kyle Finane and Sam Jay. **Gordon Clark** is the producer and host of the Next Stage Comedy shows, and the Director of Vermont Comedy All Stars, a non-profit dedicated to promoting the comic arts in Vermont. He also produces and hosts two monthly shows, the "Second Wednesday" Comedy Jam at the iconic Nectar's Lounge in Burlington, and the Third Thursday Stand Up Specials at Bent Nails Bistro in Montpelier. Please visit our health & safety page for current COVID protocols.

Goings on around town



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Child tax credit

(Continued from Page 6)
 workers, caregivers, student loan payers, retirees and those receiving military pensions, although not to the extent that Scott had proposed.

In particular, the governor has long sought a full exemption on military retirement pay from state income taxes. Lawmakers ultimately opted to exempt just \$10,000 in military pensions, subject to income thresholds (\$50,000 for individuals, \$65,000 for a household.)

Vermont's new child tax credit is modeled on a federal credit that was temporarily expanded during the pandemic to send an extra \$3,600 to

most parents for every child 6 and under. The payments were widely credited with lifting millions of children out of poverty — although for only as long as the cash transfers continued.

President Biden and congressional Democrats attempted to make the tax credit expansion permanent as part of the Build Back Better package, but failed when the provision ran into opposition from U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va.

In a statement, House Speaker Jill Krowinski, D-Burlington, called the tax package “historic,” adding that it “wouldn’t have been pos-

sible without the leadership and vision” of outgoing Rep. Janet Ancel, D-Calais, the longtime chair of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

“This is a huge win for Vermonters and I’m proud we were able to pass legislation that will provide financial support to families and individuals across all 14 counties,” Krowinski wrote. “We will continue to do the work to ensure communities across the state recover from the pandemic stronger than ever and no Vermonter is left behind.”

Also on Friday, Scott signed the following bills into law:

H.515, An act relating to banking, insurance and securities

H.517, An act relating to educational benefits for members of the military and their families and eligibility for election to serve as adjutant and inspector general

H.533, An act relating to forfeited property disposition and a study assessing civil and criminal seizure and forfeiture of property in drug-related offenses

H.546, An act relating to racial justice statistics

H.551, An act relating to prohibiting racially and religiously restrictive covenants in deeds

H.559, An act relating to workers’ compensation

H.626, An act relating to the sale, use, or application of neonicotinoid pesticides

H.697, An act relating to eligibility of reserve forestland for enrollment in the Use Value Appraisal Program

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Memorial Day

Pittsford Celebration

IN PITTSFORD, THE OVUHS marching band led the way down to the town fire department where over 150 people gathered to listen to the Memorial Day Ceremony. Included in the ceremony was new Town Manager Brenda Fox-Howard, pictured; many of the town's firefighters, several dignitaries and a parade appearance by Miss Vermont.

Reporter photos/Angelo Lynn

Sports



OV'S ALICE KEITH at bat. She had two hits in Saturday's game against Fair Haven.

Reporter photo/Gene Delorenzo

Otter Valley Softball pounds Fair Haven, 21-6

BY GENE DELORENZO

FAIR HAVEN — The Otter Valley softball express continued its run through central Vermont with a resounding 21-6 rout of Fair Haven on Saturday morning, May 29, at the Slater's home field.

The game began on a beautiful, sunny morning as the Slater's honored their seniors. By the end, the rain was pouring down

and the runs were cascading in like cats and dogs.

Held scoreless for two innings, the Otters took a 4-2 lead in the third inning and then broke the game wide open with seven more runs in the top of the fourth. They would add 10 more runs combined in the sixth and seventh innings. Hitting was to all parts of the field as the Otters pounded out 13 hits and received

13 walks and two hit batters.

The usual stars carried the load as leadoff hitter Ryleigh LaPorte had two singles and three RBIs, pitcher Riley Keith had two singles, shortstop Sydney Gallo was 4 for 5 with an RBI, Alice Keith had two hits, Grace O'Connell had a booming two-run triple, and MacKenzie McKay had a single and an RBI.

Riley Keith pitched the com-

plete game and scattered the runs for the Slaters well on just eight hits. Keith avoided major problems by walking only four – including two that were intentional with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. She has progressed greatly with her control since her first start of the year versus Mt. Abraham and will almost certainly be a force to be dealt with by a first-round opponent in the

playoffs. On Saturday, she allowed only three earned runs.

OV's batting order is strong from top to bottom and the defense is very capable. The Otters finish their regular season at 10-6. They will host U-32 at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 in Brandon. U-32 started 0-4, but has won 5 of their last 6 and pounded Williamstown 19-5 in their last game.

SCOREBOARD: WEEK OF MAY 24

BASEBALL

5/24 Proctor	12	West Rutland	8
5/26 Rivendell	13	Proctor	3
5/26 Hartford	5	Otter Valley	2
		(8 innings)	
5/26 Green Mountain	14	West Rutland	2
5/28 Otter Valley	7	Fair Haven	6
5/28 Mill River	3	West Rutland	2
5/28 Mt. St. Joseph	12	Proctor	3
5/28 Poultney	9	Proctor	7

SOFTBALL

5/24 Proctor	12	West Rutland	11
5/24 Mt. Anthony	5	Otter Valley	1
5/26 Otter Valley	16	Hartford	7

5/26 Springfield	4	Proctor	2
5/26 West Rutland	3	Green Mountain	2
5/28 Bellows Falls	6	West Rutland	5
5/28 Otter Valley	21	Fair Haven	6

BOYS LACROSSE

5/24 Otter Valley	7	Stratton	6
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COLLEGE SPORTS

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

5/28 Middlebury College	18	Gettysburg	5
(NCAA Division III National Semi-Final)			
5/29 Middlebury College	13	Tufts	5

(NCAA Division III National Final)

(Middlebury wins its eighth national championship in the sport. Middlebury finishes 22-1 to join Field Hockey (21-0) and Ice Hockey (27-0) as NCAA National Champions in 2021-22).

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE (Local Teams)

5/31 Baseball	7:00 pm	Otter Valley @ Hartford
6/1 Softball	4:00 pm	U32 @ Otter Valley
6/1 Baseball	4:30 pm	W. Rutland @ Poultney
6/1 Baseball	4:30 pm	Richford @ Proctor
6/3 Softball	4:00 pm	Poultney @ W. Rutland
6/3 Lacrosse	4:30 pm	BFA Fairfax @ Otter Valley
6/3 Softball	4:00 pm	Winner @ Proctor



OV'S FRASER PIERPONT at the mound.

Reporter photo/Gene DeLorenzo

Otters lose in the eighth to Hartford, 5-2

BY GENE DELORENZO

BRANDON — It was another day of playing a really good baseball game – and another tough loss for the Otter nine as they dropped a 5-2 extra-inning defeat to the Hartford Hurricanes on Thursday, May 28 in Brandon.

The Hurricanes took advantage of a wind-blown fly ball (they are the Hurricanes, after all) and turned the misplayed fly ball into four runs in the top of the eighth to pin yet another tough defeat on the home team.

On Senior Day, Coach Mike Howe handed the ball to Fraser Pierpont and the right-hander turned in a beauty. Through seven innings Pierpont gave up one run on four hits, four walks, one hit batter, and four strikeouts. The senior only went to four three-ball counts through the first seven.

Pierpont could also be the poster child for those fans who would like to see the MLB go to a pitcher's shot clock. He is tremendous at getting the ball and just pitching, with no wasted time or energy. He gets it and throws. He must be a joy to play behind on defense.

On this day, he would cruise through the Hurricane's lineup three times, while allowing only the one

run on a single by Drew Martin.

Meanwhile, Hurricane starter Zach Johnson did likewise with the Otter lineup. He would need only 108 pitches to get through the Otter's lineup. He struck out 11, walked only three, and gave up but two hits. The first of those, a single by Andy McErnery, broke his no-hit bid in the fifth. The single was followed by a walk and a stolen base, putting runners on first and third with two out.

Then, a perfectly executed delayed double steal by Bryant and McErnery would plate the Otter's only run through the first seven innings of the game, tying the game at 1-1 and sending it to extra innings.

The overall lack of hitting has plagued the team all season, but in all fairness, the team seems to have faced the aces of the opponents' staff almost every time. Johnson proved to be another in a long lineup of pitching foes that has shown a good fastball, breaking stuff, and excellent command of his repertoire. This writer has been very impressed with virtually all of the pitching that has come through Brandon this spring.

In the fateful eighth, Pierpont walked Joey Beggs on a close 3-2 pitch and got Johnson to hit a high

pop to left. But the Otters' left fielder had trouble with the wind (do the Hurricanes bring the wind with them?) and it dropped in, advancing runners to first and second. After a flyball out to centerfield, first baseman Colin Veilleux would drive in two runs with a sharp single. Matt Hayes, Drew Martin and Noah Arsenault would all follow with singles and Pierpont's day was done.

It was an excellent performance, but throwing 111 pitches proved to be a bit too much for the senior. Caleb Whitney would come on to strike out the final batter.

Hartford's Johnson lasted into the first out of the eighth inning, before relief pitching expert Tommy Mangieri came in to get the final two outs.

Luca Polli would hit a sacrifice fly for the Otters' second run in the bottom of the eighth, but it was too little, too late for OVUHS. Hartford would close out the 5-2 win.

With the loss, Otter Valley dropped to 5-10. Hartford improved to 7-7. Otter Valley will travel to Fair Haven for a Senior Day game against their neighboring foe. Check our scoreboard for results of that game.

OV girls rally to beat Burton & Burr, 17-5

BY GENE DELORENZO

BRANDON — The Otters' softball team wasn't worried. They were playing a quality team, Burr & Burton, and trailed 5-1 in the top of the second with three runs in, runners on first and second, only one out and the BBA cleanup hitter striding to the plate.

She immediately scorched a line drive up the left-centerfield alley at Brandon's home turf last Wednesday, May 25. Enter OV's secret weapon: Grace O'Connell. And Coach Kelly Trahan.

"Kids at the younger levels don't want to play outfield. No one hits the ball out there. But we want good athletes out there. In high school, they do hit it out there," explained Trahan after the game. His words

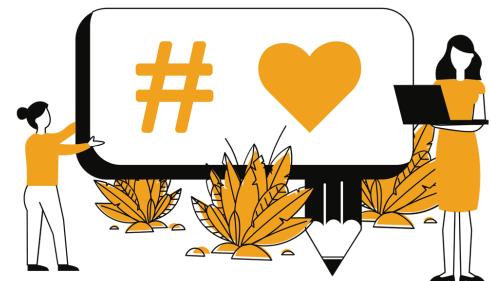
were prophetic.

Grace O'Connell, a very good athlete, sprinted after the ball, made the catch and threw a strike to second base to double off the Burr and Burton player who was already headed for third base. Instead of a two-run double and a 7-1 deficit, the Otters were still within reach.

In the bottom of that inning, the Otters were invigorated and posted seven runs, giving the team an 8-5 lead. BBA would not score again. OVUHS would add nine more runs en route to a 17-5 mercy-rule win over the DII opponent.

The pivotal bottom of the second began with walks to Grace O'Connell and Otter Valley starting pitcher MacKenzie McKay. Virgil Chapin, get-
(See OV girls rally, Page 15)

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Memorial Day

PROCTOR'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL Day parade and ceremony drew an appreciative crowd as entries marched down Route 3, across the Otter Creek bridge and into the town green where the ceremony included essays on the meaning of Memorial Day, memoriums for soldiers' service to the country, and a beautiful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner — all held under a beautiful sunny morning with mid-summer like temperatures.

Reporter photos/Angelo Lynn







OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES at the Proctor Skating Rink including free hot dogs and ice cream sundaes and music provided by Proctor-based DJ Matt Parker. Parker, pictured far left, kept the place hoppin' while hot dog master Brian Cannucci fed the hungry skaters. Among the hundred plus skaters inside and out, were, from left, Mason Brothers (Red Sox shirt), Riley Cannucci, Braden Shehe and Reagan Phelps.

Photos by Megan Cannucci



Over 100 enjoy opening day at Proctor's roller skating rink

BY ANGELO LYNN

PROCTOR — Even with temperatures in the high 80s on Memorial Day, the opening day of Proctor's Skating Rink drew a packed house with a DJ providing live music and free hot dogs and ice cream sundaes to the more than 100 skaters who filled the rink.

"It was a terrific opening day," said manager Megan Cannucci. "It was very, very busy. We served free hot dogs and ice cream sundaes provided by Stewart's (convenience stores). And even though it was hot, almost 90, the skating hut has air condition-

ing so kids and adults were able to come in and cool off."

The rink opened at noon following the town's Memorial Day parade and services. It closed at 5 p.m. on Monday. Hours will fluctuate daily depending on the weather, and will be updated frequently on the town rink's Facebook page.

Excited about the upcoming season, Cannucci said this was only the second year for the roller skating rink, noting they had big plans for the rest of the year.

"We get people from all over who come to skate here," she said, ex-

plaining the draw the rink provides, including someone who drove up from Saratoga Springs, N.Y. for the opening day. She also said they were looking to expand activities at the rink to include weekend dances and movie nights on a 15-foot screen. "We want to make the rink a year-around venue," she added, that is used by Proctor area residents and draw others to the town. The rink has long been open for ice-skating in the winter, which also draws people from throughout the region, including school groups from as far away as New York City.

Tim LaDuc wins \$5,000 at Devil's Bowl Memorial Day event

West Haven, VT – Tim LaDuc seems to like money. He backed up his season-opening \$3,000 win with a \$5,000 victory in the 2022 edition of the Northeast Crate Nationals Sunday evening with a late-race pass on Elmo Reckner in a crowd-pleasing 100-lap Memorial Weekend event.

Evan Roberts (Limited Sportsman), Steve Miller (Rookie Sportsman), Logan Dennis (500cc Mini Sprint), Chris Summer (Mini Stock), Chase Allen (Mini Stock), and Matt Tanner (Sprint Cars Of New England) also were winners in the various categories.

Elmo Reckner and Billy Lussier brought the 32-car Sunoco Sportsman Modified field to the green for the 13th edition of the Northeast Crate Nationals. Reckner would claim the lead with his East Coast Rubbish Removal number 17 and stay strong on the point holding off challenges from perennial contender Todd Stone, until the G. Stone Motors 1X suffered a flat left front and had to pit.

Defending track champion Tim LaDuc had his Hulbert Supply number 54 moving, as he climbed from his 9th starting spot to runner up and began methodically pressur-

ing for the top spot. While the veterans were out front, a pair of young guns were moving through the field. Troy Audet with his G. Stone Commercial number 13A and Johnny Bruno in his Bruno's Towing number 22 were making moves coming from 8th and 10th starting spots.

While Todd Stone charged through the field after his flat, Justin Comes rallied from 14th to 6th, and Kevin Chaffee put in work driving from 25th to 9th, it was Reckner and LaDuc who had the crowd on edge as they battled for the lead.

On lap 93 LaDuc made his move and led the final seven circuits to pick up the 100-lap Northeast Crate Nationals win worth \$5,000. Reckner, Audet, Bruno, and Todd Stone rounded out the top five.

Kevin Chaffee received Jim Spaulding Memorial Hard Charger Award presented by Ed "Elmo" Allen. Chaffee marched from 25th to 9th during the 100-lap Nationals earning him a Ben Franklin for his efforts.

In the other races, Evan Roberts earned his second O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman 25-lap feature win on Sunday evening. He's been red hot with

multiple top-five finishes. Scott Fitzgerald, Bubba McPhee, Jason Quenneville, and Justin Lilly rounded out the top five finishers.

Steve Miller scored a 20-lap Rookie Sportsman win for the old guard, and he did it in fine fashion after starting 10th in the field. Rounding out the top five Sunday night were Daryl Gebo, William Lussier Jr., Adam LaFountain, and Randy Edson.

Young Logan Dennis earned a popular win in the Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint feature event. He was followed by Chayton Young, Lane Saville, Thomas Kasuba, and Gage Provencher rounding out the top five.

Chris Summer and Chase Allen claimed victory in the dual 15-lap Mini Stock feature events, while Matt Tanner earned the Sprint Cars of New England victory in their first visit of 2022.

Next up for Devil's Bowl Speedway is another special weekly event on Saturday, June 4, featuring the Sunoco Sportsman Modifieds and the second 50-lap Enduro of the season. Pits open at 4 p.m., grandstands open at 5:30 p.m., with racing to start at 7 pm.

OV girls' rally

(Continued from Page 11)

ting a rare start in the outfield, and hitting out of the ninth spot in the order, showed the depth of the overall lineup by lining a shot up the right field alley for a two-run double to cut Burr & Burton's lead in half.

After a beautiful bunt single by Ryleigh LaPorte, a couple of walks and a groundout by Sydney Gallo, Bryn Blanchard lined a hard single up the middle for a 7-5 OV lead. An error by B&B produced another run and OV led 8-5 going into the top of the third.

O'Connell's double play in the top of the inning would prove to be the turning point of the game. Chapin would turn out to be the hitting star from the ninth spot. She would add two more hits to finish 3 for 3 with two RBIs. But the team was strong throughout: Riley Keith went 2 for 3 with 2 RBIs; Sydney Gallo was 2 for 4; Blanchard went 3 for 4 with 3 RBIs, and Alice Keith scored three runs without the benefit

of a hit.

MacKenzie McKay pitched well for the Otters. In her five innings, she gave up four hits, walked only two and all of the runs she allowed were unearned.

And here's a special shout out to Owen Thomas for the "Play of the Day." Owen Thomas? The youthful basketball player streaked from the fifth row along the first baseline on a foul pop that was headed straight for Mr. Bob LaPorte (Ryleigh's granddad) who was seated in his lawn chair. Thomas flew over the person in front of Mr. LaPorte, and batted the ball away from Mr. LaPorte just as disaster was about to strike. A great play!

Otter Valley moved to 9-6 with the win, while Burr & Burton fell to 1-14. Otter Valley will travel to Fair Haven for a Saturday morning Senior Day contest. Look for the results of that game elsewhere in THE REPORTER.

For weekly sports updates
check out our website

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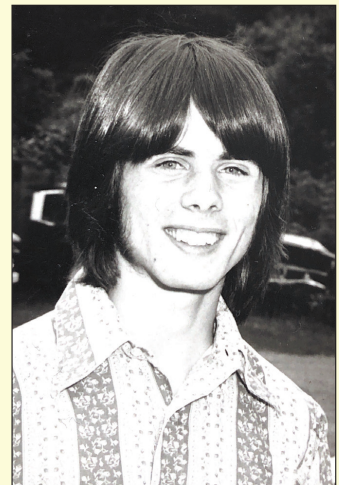


Mim's Photos

Can you identify any of the people in these vintage photos from Mim Welton's Dateline Brandon newspaper archives? Let us know!



Recognized



Nancy Rogers Harvey emailed to identify Jeff Wade as the single male in photo from the 5/18 edition of the Reporter. Nancy and Jeff both graduated from OVUHS in 1975; she says he is now an architect in the Boston area.

E-mail ads@brandonreporter.com if you can identify someone in these photos.

Or call us at 247-8080

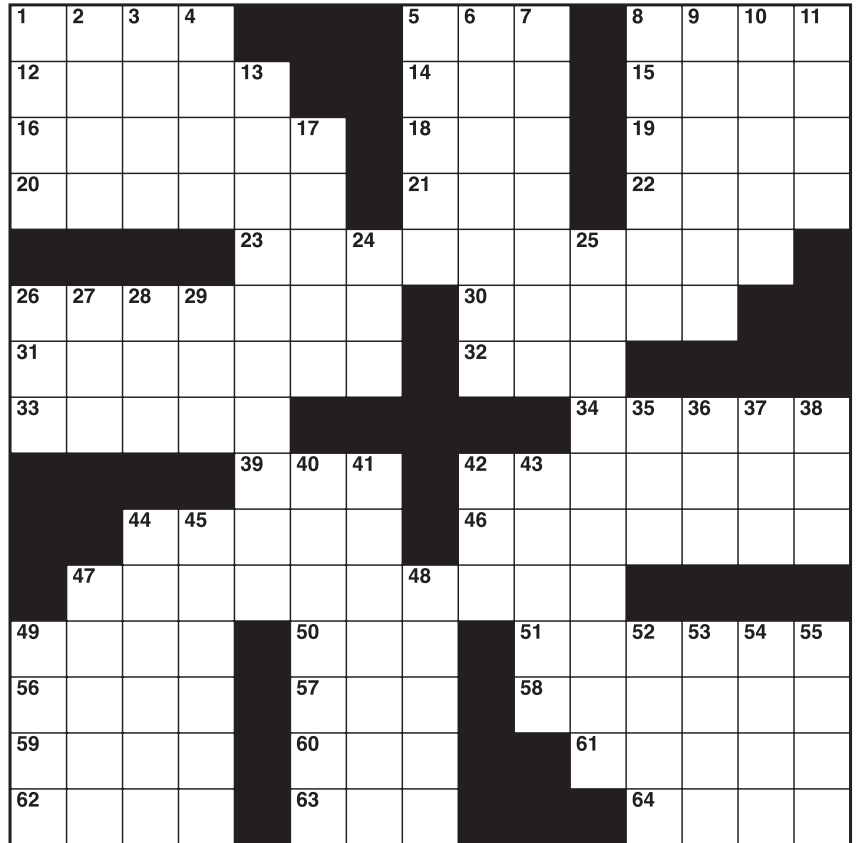
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Orator's podium
5. UK-Netherlands gas pipeline
8. Partner to "oohs"
12. African antelope
14. Indigenous Thai person
15. Monetary unit of Angola
16. Becomes less intense
18. Insurance mascot
19. Tech hub ___ Alto
20. Actress Tomei
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Type of smart watch
23. Natives
26. Incompetent person
30. Rare Hawaiian geese
31. Unspoken relationships
32. Passports and licenses are two
33. Claw
34. Status quo
39. Mimic
42. Fur-lined cloak
44. Ancient foreigner
46. In an angry way
47. Ill-intentioned
49. Monetary unit of Serbia
50. S. American plant
51. One or the other
56. An alias for Thor
57. Gratuity
58. In a painful way
59. French commune
60. Promotional materials
61. Greek city
62. Assistant
63. Confederate general
64. Former NJ governor

CLUES DOWN

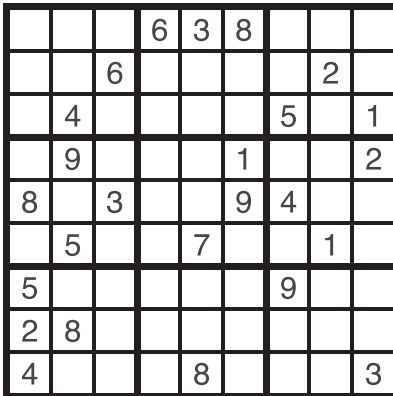
1. Used by gymnasts
2. "Luther" actor Idris
3. Broad volcanic crater
4. Not for
5. Blur
6. Tots
7. Acted leisurely
8. About the Alps
9. Gets out of bed
10. Town in "The Iliad"
11. Welsh given name
13. Remove salt
17. Calvary sword
24. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
25. Keeps a house cozy
26. Ballplayer's accessory
27. Southwestern Russian city
28. Pro sports league
29. Congress investigative body (abbr.)
35. Stop standing
36. Utilize
37. Sign language
38. Famed ESPN broadcaster Bob
40. Being of central importance
41. Ruin environment
42. Dessert dish
43. Sea eagles
44. Fertilized
45. Jerry's friend Benes
47. Indian river
48. Pass into a specified state or condition
49. Nocturnal rodent
52. A way to travel
53. Iron-containing compound
54. Ancient Greek City
55. NFL signal caller Matt



Sudoku

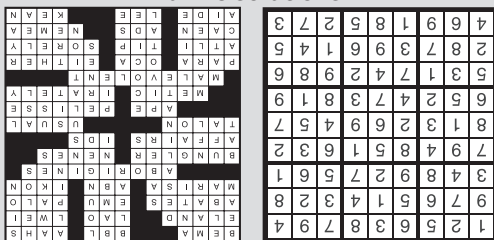
Here's how a sudoku puzzle works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku every row, every column and every box must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Each number must appear only once in each row, column and box. Figure out where to fill in the missing numbers by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers that are filled in, the easier it gets to solve.



Level: Intermediate

Puzzle solutions



RCHS Duck Derby – Adopt a (Plastic) Duck or Two!

It's time to adopt (plastic) ducks for Rutland County Humane Society's 16th annual Duck Derby to raise needed funds for the homeless animals in Rutland County! On Thursday, September 22th at 5:30 pm, adopted ducks will be launched into the stream at the Pittsford Recreation Area. The first 4 ducks to reach the finish line win cash prizes. We'll also have a cash prize for the last duck! Ducks are available for adoption online at rchsvt.org, or you can adopt ducks at the RCHS shelter in Pittsford. You can adopt a single duck for \$3, a Quack-Pack (4 ducks) for \$10 or a 6-Quack (6 ducks) for \$15. Ducks can be adopted at the event, as well! You do not need to be present to win, but if you want to, come on down and cheer on your ducks! The ducks are in training and are hoping to beat last year's record of 3,000 ducks! For more information contact the RCHS Business Office at 802.483.9171.

I COULD BE THE NEW FRIEND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

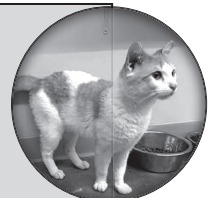


PRECIOUS - 1.5-YEAR-OLD, SPAYED FEMALE, LAB MIX, WHITE WITH TAN.

I am a very sweet lady and I can't wait to go on adventures with my new family! I love belly rubs, ear scratches...Oh! Especially walks! I think an active family would be good for me as I am still young and love to run around. I have no known history with other dogs, cats, or children. If you are looking for a fun, on-the-go gal, I'm your girl!

JC - 2-YEAR-OLD, NEUTERED MALE, DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR, ORANGE TABBY.

Hi, new friend! My name is J.C. and I've got all the qualities of your new best friend. I'm polite, inquisitive, and I'll stick right by your side. I'm looking for a family to love on, because I love to give and receive love. I've gotten along well with cats here, although I'd do just as well as an only-cat. I don't have experience with dogs, but with a slow and careful introduction, it's possible that I'll adjust well. I'm just a pretty pleasant guy!



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Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Adult Fiction

Deep Water by Emma Bamford

When a Navy vessel comes across a yacht in distress in the middle of the vast Indian Ocean, Captain Danial Tengku orders his ship to rush to its aid. On board the yacht is a British couple: a horribly injured man, Jake, and his traumatized wife, Virginie, who breathlessly confesses, "It's all my fault. I killed them." Now, it's up to Danial to determine just how much truth there is in Virginie's alarming tale.

The Favor by Nora Murphy
Leah and McKenna have never met, though they have parallel lives. They don't—ever—find themselves in the same train carriage or meet accidentally at the gym or the coffee shop. They don't—ever—discuss their problems and find common ground. They don't—ever—acknowledge to each other that although their lives have all the trappings of success, wealth and happiness, they are, in fact, trapped. Leah and McKenna have never met. But they will.

Picture Books

Meow by Chris Raschka

A girl and her cat, Marigold, are best friends. When the

Did you know?

Join us on Tuesday
June 7 at 6 p.m. for our next book discussion!
We'll be discussing "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We have copies available, stop by and grab one!

girl accidentally steps on Marigold's tail, the surprised and hurt cat runs for cover. But after some time apart and an apology, all is forgiven, and Marigold and the girl are friends again.

The Queen in the Cave by Júlia Sardà

It's a story of three sisters who explore a nearby forest in pursuit of a dream. As they go deeper, the forest gets darker and its magical secrets come to life. Stunning and stylish, The Queen in the Cave is a riot of a book packed with smart little details to pore over. It's one for kids and grown-ups too, a riveting and atmospheric picture book that will surprise and enthrall young readers and dreamers of all ages.

DVDs

The North Water

1859: Hoping to escape the horrors of his past, disgraced ex-army surgeon Patrick Sumner signs up as the ship's doctor on an ill-fated Arctic whaling expedition. When Sumner and his crewmates are left stranded on the merciless Arctic wasteland, he discovers just how far he's prepared to go against the savagery of nature and man.

Death on the Nile

Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot's Egyptian vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search for a murderer when a picture-perfect couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short.

The Batman

When a sadistic serial killer begins murdering key political figures in Gotham, Batman is forced to investigate the city's hidden corruption and question his family's involvement.

The following Large Print books were donated by Brenda Whittaker: "Nightwork"

by Nora Roberts in memory of Hilda S. Crosby

Nuisance turkey at Maple & Pearl Sts. requires police attention

BRANDON — A holiday weekend coinciding with participation in the Governor's Highway Safety Program meant a high volume of traffic stops for the Brandon police. More than 45 stops resulted in the issuance of 25 warnings and 11 tickets, the majority for speeding.

Prior to the weekend, police were asked on May 23 to check on a male threatening suicide at a residence on Union Street. The subject left prior to the officer arriving on the scene and was later reported in the area of Upper Plains Road in the town of Sudbury armed with a machete and having a mental health crisis. The Vermont State Police were dispatched and responded to that area to deal with the subject.

Animal incidents also cropped up. On May 25 police responded to a farm on Union Street where two pit bulls had attacked two donkeys in a paddock, later causing one of the animals to have to be euthanized due to the extent of the injuries. The investigation was forwarded to the Brandon Animal Control Officer for further follow-up.

A nuisance turkey in the area of Maple Street and Pearl Street required attention on May 27. After discussing the matter with Vermont Fish and Game, the responding officer "relocated" the animal so that it would not bother the people in the area. The turkey was released behind the police station without further issue.

In other activity, Brandon police:

On May 23

- Cited Craig Frasier, 32, of

Brandon Police Report

Brandon, for petit larceny. He is to appear before the Rutland Superior Court on July 11 at 11 a.m.

- Investigated a report of aggressive driving where a vehicle was almost run off Franklin Street in the area of Rydon Acres. The suspected vehicle was described as a white van with an unknown Vermont registration. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle in question.

- Responded to a late reported hit-and-run motor vehicle crash in the Hannaford supermarket parking lot. The incident is under investigation.

- Conducted a directed speed patrol on Grove Street and stopped five vehicles.

- Made four traffic stops on Grove Street for speeding and issued four warnings and one ticket. One traffic stop was made on Franklin Street for speed, where the operator was issued a warning.

- Conducted routine property watches at Brandon Fire Department on Franklin Street, 802 Spirits in Conant Square, Celebration Rentals on Park Street, and Union Street Grocery on Union Street. All were secure.

May 24

- Assisted Brandon Fire with a lift assist at a residence on Fox Road.

- Attended Otter Valley's Varsity Lacrosse game as part of the police department's Com- (See Police report 19)

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23

Energy will be intense this week, Leo. Use it to your advantage to sail effortlessly through your list of chores or professional responsibilities. You'll have extra fuel for fun as well.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, try to stay the course as best as possible even when others are throwing distractions your way left and right. Simply keep your head down and plow through.

LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, you are not one to rock the boat, but don't be afraid to get a little loud and rowdy in the name of a good time this week. Self-expression can be a good thing.

SCORPIO Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Scorpio, lay some ground rules at home, especially for when you are working out of your home office. Others have to know there are limits to interruptions.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Don't worry if you feel disorganized or preoccupied right now, Sagittarius. By the end of the week, you'll be back into the groove and things will move along smoothly.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You don't need permission to treat yourself to a little luxury and indulgence, Capricorn. This week you can book a spa visit or maybe a spending spree to spruce up your wardrobe.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, try not to grow impatient this week and expect immediate results on something you started. It could take some time before all of the pieces fall into place.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20

It's time to make peace with any issues with which you have been struggling, Pisces. Friends can help if you let them.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- June 2 Abby Wambach, soccer player (42)
- June 3 Rafael Nadal, tennis player (36)
- June 4 Alexei Navalny, lawyer, Russian opposition leader (46)
- June 5 Laurie Anderson, artist, musician (75)
- June 6 A'Leia Walker, businesswoman (d)
- June 7 Nikki Giovanni, poet, writer (79)
- June 8 Scott Adams. Dilbert creator (65)

ARIES March 21-April 20

Warm and fuzzy feelings are the name of the game this week, Aries. Real world and online friends are sending love and support your way, and this helps you in any endeavor.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Taurus, try reaching out to colleagues you admire in the days to come. They can be an important network of people who help you make smart decisions regarding your career.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Don't be afraid to speak your dreams to the universe, Gemini. This week you just may find out that the cosmic climate is ready to provide for you and make things happen.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Cancer, concerns within your circle of friends that you thought were over and done with may resurface. Don't let them adversely affect your happiness.

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Police report cont.

(Continued from Page 18)

munity Policing initiative. (Officers won, 7-6!)

- Assisted a parent on Mulcahy Drive with a 7-year-old youth who was misbehaving and having anger issues. The child was settled down upon the arrival of the officer and no further action was taken.

- Received an accidental 911 call from a Conway terrace homeowner.

- Responded to Mulcahy Drive for a report of a male that had fallen off his bicycle in traffic earlier on Union Street and sustained considerable injuries as a result. The male was able to walk his bicycle back home to Mulcahy Drive, at which point he contacted the police to report the incident.

On May 25

- Responded to an accident on Champlain Street, where a motor vehicle left the roadway and became submerged in Otter Creek. The vehicle was towed out of the river and the operator was uninjured.

- Documented a disabled vehicle parked in the Cattails parking lot on Grove Street with numerous defects. Attempts were made to contact the owner with no luck.

- Stopped two dirt bikes traveling on Country Club Road. The officer spoke with the two juveniles and their father regarding the matter without further issue.

- Made two traffic stops on Franklin Street. One vehicle was stopped for a cell phone violation. The operator was found to be underage and in possession of marijuana. The operator was issued tickets for both violations. The other was stopped for speeding and issued a warning.

- Conducted directed traffic enforcement at the intersection of McConnell Road and Wood Lane for ongoing traffic complaints in the area.

- Conducted directed traffic enforcement in the area of Park Street and downtown Brandon. Two vehicles were stopped. One operator was issued a ticket for cell phone use.

- Received a found wallet and contacted the owner, who will pick it up.

- Received a report from a Franklin Street resident that a suspicious, dark-colored Buick drove back and forth between her residence and the Brandon Inn earlier in the morning and that the driver slowed down and looked at both her and her daughter.

- Investigated a report that a woman with red/purple hair was stepping out into traffic on Center Street and was attempting to touch cars as they passed by and almost caused an accident. The complainant said that the woman appeared to be "disturbed." The responding officer checked the area but was unable to locate the individual in question.

On May 26

- Charged Tanya M. Brace, 29, of Leicester, with Violation of Conditions of Release. Brace is to be arraigned at the Rutland Superior Court, Criminal Division on June 1 at 12:30 p.m. to answer the charge.

- Responded to an alarm activation at a residence on West Seminary Street. The residence was checked and appeared to be secure.

- Received a complaint of a vehicle dangerously passing other cars and almost colliding with oncoming traffic on Grove Street. An officer checked the area but was unable to locate the vehicle in question.

- Responded to a complaint of a juvenile on a yellow dirt bike riding on prohibited property and roadways in the area of the Neshobe Elementary School on Neshobe Circle. The juvenile was identified and his parent was notified of the complaint.

- Responded to a 911 hang-up call on Carver Street. The responding officer was able to determine that there had been a verbal domestic dispute at the residence earlier between the homeowners and their teenage son and that he had left prior to the arrival of the police. No further action was taken.

- Investigated a rear-end accident reported at the Citgo Gas Station on McConnell Road.

- Made a motor vehicle stop on Wood Lane for defective equipment and issued a warning.

- Conducted routine property watches at Thunder Towing & Recovery on Paint Works Road, Brandon Florist Shoppe on Grove Street, Brandon Fire Department on Franklin Street, Neshobe Golf Club on Town Farm Road, St. Mary's Church on Carver Street, Jiffy Mart on Grove Street, Heritage Family Credit Union on West Seminary Street and 802 Spirits on Conant Square. All were secure.

On May 27

- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on River Street. The officer was able to determine that the argument was over alleged cheating by

the complainant's spouse. The complainant was not cooperative with the responding officers regarding what actually happened.

- Investigated a report of two males walking in the area of Grove Street and Arnold District Road who appeared to be intoxicated. The responding officer was able to determine that neither party was intoxicated.

- Responded to a resident from Mulcahy Drive who requested to speak with an officer about an ongoing court case out of Addison County in which he was the defendant. The subject was told to address his concerns with his attorney and was also advised to abide by his court conditions regarding the matter to avoid any further legal problems.

- Made traffic stops on Franklin Street, West Seminary Street, Grove Street, Union Street, Center Street, Conant Square, Park Street and Route 7.

- Conducted routine business checks at Champlain Farms on Grove Street and the State of Vermont AOT Garage on Robert Wood Drive.

On May 28

- Responded to a domestic disturbance on Mulcahy Drive.

- Responded to a complaint of barking dogs on Church Street and referred the complainant to the Animal Control Officer.

- Received report of a citizen dispute on Mt. Pleasant Drive concerning a speeding vehicle.

- Made traffic stops on Forest Dale Road, Park Street, Marble Street, Grove Street, and Franklin Street.

- Conducted routine business checks at the Brandon Library on Franklin street and Brandon Lumber on Grove Street. All was secure.

On May 29

- Responded to a noise disturbance involving fireworks going off in the area of Church Street and Carver Street. The source of the disturbance was not located.

- Received a noise complaint concerning a loud party on Pearl Street; citizens advised.

- Received a complaint that a box truck was reportedly struggling to maintain its lane on Route 7. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was determined to be safe to drive to his destination.

- Responded to a call of a subject on Spellman Way illegally operating an ATV. The of-

(See Police report 22)

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BRANDON REPORTER

State news



MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL seen in June 2019. Montpelier Police Chief Brian Peete said Wednesday afternoon that they have seized firearms but made no arrests during an investigation that started more than a week ago into a “potential threat” made to the school. School officials said one student’s threats were overheard by others.

File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

Montpelier police seize weapons in ‘potential threat’ to high school

BY ALAN J. KEAYS AND PETER D’AURIA, VTDIGGER

MONTPELIER — Montpelier police said they have seized firearms but made no arrests during an investigation that started more than a week ago into a “potential threat” made to Montpelier High School.

School officials said threats had been made by a student.

“The (Montpelier Police Department) was contacted and took swift action,” Bonesteel wrote in the letter. “After a protective order was issued, the MPD confiscated two weapons and ammunition from the home. The student in question will not return to (Montpelier High School) this school year and is cooperating with officials. We did not announce this event publicly in the hopes that we could protect the people who came forward with information.”

In an interview, Bonesteel said that the threat was made verbally at school. The student has been out of school since last week, she said.

School officials had declined to publicize the incident to protect the people who had tipped them off, she said. Police made the decision to announce the investigation Wednesday.

Asked why he waited more than a week to distribute the release, Peete replied, “The investigation is still ongoing and we were at a point where we feel that we could

release some information and keep the community informed, but at the same time not compromise any investigation, any further acts, as well as protecting the folks who provided the information.”

Bonesteel said no scheduling or program changes are planned for the coming days.

“I think that administrators will come in and teachers will come in tomorrow and see what the situation requires for our kids,” she said.

In a Wednesday email to Montpelier High School students, principal Renée DeVore urged students not to treat such threats as a joke.

“In my time as an administrator, I have heard a thousand times that ‘it was just a joke’ when someone is caught saying/doing the wrong thing,” DeVore wrote. “This is the response we received in this situation as well.”

It was unclear whose response she was referring to.

“There is nothing funny when talking about guns or making threats at school (or anywhere for that matter), just as there’s nothing funny about making a derogatory remark toward another person,” DeVore wrote. “Words matter. And in this case, we have landed in a space where people are scared, anxious, and nervous because a student wanted to gain attention for the wrong reasons.”

Mia Moore, the vice chair of the district’s board of school directors, said she did not know what she was authorized to share and declined further comment.

Peete declined to reveal the nature of the threat. He said the firearms were seized off-campus, but would not specify where.

“At this particular point in time, it’s just one individual,” Peete said.

Washington County State’s Attorney Rory Thibault said late Wednesday afternoon that his office applied for and was granted an Extreme Risk Protection Order — the terminology to describe Vermont’s red flag law — in Washington County Superior family court.

“What this allows for is for a state’s attorney to petition on information or report from law enforcement that an individual poses a risk of harm to themselves or others,” Thibault said.

If granted, he said, a person can be ordered to relinquish firearms they possess.

Republican Gov. Phil Scott signed the red flag law in 2018 after authorities uncovered a student’s plot to shoot up his school Fair Haven.

The order in this case has been issued on a temporary basis pending a final hearing, Thibault said.

Even with historic turnover, some state races have little competition

BY SARAH MEARHOFF, VTDIGGER

MONTPELIER — In an election cycle where Vermonters will elect a historic number of new statewide officeholders, some primary races will see remarkably little competition come August, while others will be heated.

Thursday marked the Secretary of State’s Office’s filing deadline for primary candidates. In two open races for attorney general and secretary of state, perennial candidate H. Brooke Paige is the only Republican candidate vying for the party’s nomination.

And Democrats won’t see primaries for their party’s nominations for the gubernatorial election, nor for state treasurer.

Charity Clark, the former chief of staff for Attorney General TJ Donovan, and Washington County prosecutor Rory Thibault will face off in the Democratic primary for attorney general.

Paige is unopposed for the Republican nomination, as is Elijah Bergman (uncertified) for the Progressive.

Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas, D-Bradford, Montpelier City Clerk John Odum and Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters will duke it out for the Democratic nomination for secretary of state.

On the Republican side, only Paige has declared, and Robert Millar is the only Progressive to have declared (uncertified).

The open race for lieutenant governor is crowded. While the position is largely ceremonial, it’s seen as a statewide stepping stone to higher office. Rep. Charlie Kimbell, D-Woodstock, nonprofit executive Patricia Preston, former legislator Kitty Toll and former lieutenant governor David Zuckerman are slated to compete for the Democratic nomination. None of their candidacies were certified as of Thursday evening.

Sen. Joe Benning, R-Caledonia, and Gregory Thayer will compete for the Republican nomination. Cindy Weed is alone in her bid for the Progressive nomination (uncertified).

Republican Gov. Phil Scott is one of only two statewide office holders who intends to run for reelection. Two challengers have stepped up for the party nomination: Stephen Bellows (whose candidacy is not yet certified by the Secretary of State’s Office) and Peter Duval of Underhill.

Across the aisle, activist Brenda Siegel faces no Democratic primary opponents. Susan Hatch Davis (uncertified) will appear on the Progressive gubernatorial primary ballot.

Auditor Doug Hoffer is unopposed in his Democratic primary bid to keep his seat. Paige is the only Republican to declare his candidacy for the role, and Marielle Blais (uncertified) is the only Progressive.

Vermonters have known for months that Sen. Becca Balint, D-Windham, former congressional staffer Sianay Chase Clifford, Lt. Gov. Molly Gray, physician Louis Meyers and Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, D-Chittenden, would face off in the Democratic primary for the U.S. House. (Ram Hinsdale’s candidacy is not yet certified.)

What voters may not have known is that Liam Madden — a self-identified independent whose website declares that “the two party system prevents us from solving our problems” — has filed his (uncertified) petition to appear on the Republican ballot for the U.S. House.

Ericka Redic, a host of a conservative internet talk show, and Anya Tynio of Charleston will also compete with Madden in the U.S. House Republican primary. Barbara Nolfi is unopposed for the Progressive nomination (uncertified).

For Vermont’s open U.S. Senate race, U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., will compete with Isaac Evans-Frantz of Brattleboro and Niki Thran of Warren for the Democratic nomination.

Former U.S. Attorney Christina Nolan, Gerald Malloy of Weathersfield and Myers Mermel of Manchester are vying for the Republican nomination. Martha Abbott (uncertified) is unopposed in her bid for the Progressive nomination.

Classifieds

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Please email resume and letters of reference to dylan@mjcvt.org

or send via mail to Mary Johnson Children's Center at 81 Water Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

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Police

(Continued from Page 19)

ficer later identified and issued/mailed tickets to the individual since he could not stop him at the time of the incident.

- Received a report of a car off of the roadway on Birch Hill Road. The vehicle was later assisted by a town truck and pulled back out onto the road.

- Responded to a report of possible vandalism to some flowers on a headstone at the Pine Hill Cemetery on Grove Street.

- Conducted speed enforcement on Champlain Street and Franklin Street.

- Made traffic stops on Franklin Street, Grove Street and Champlain Street.

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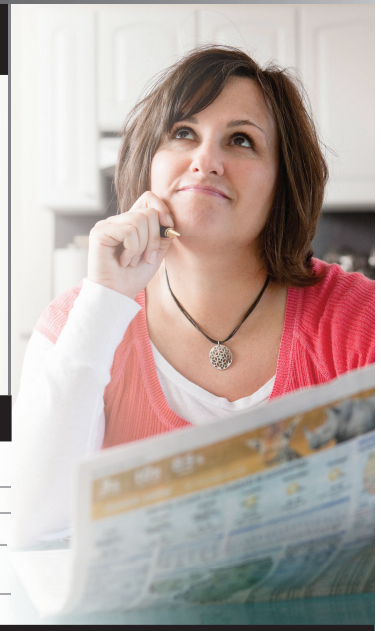
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** No charge for these ads



A June 8 hearing slated to consider year-around hut near Silver Lake

BRANDON — A public hearing on the construction of a hut near Silver Lake in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area is set for next Wednesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. in the downstairs area of Cafe Provence. The meeting is being hosted by the Moosalamoo Association and the Vermont Hut Association, the two nonprofit organizations proposing the year-around hut.

The hut will sleep up to 10 people and be available for year-around use via bookings through the Vermont Hut Association. It will include a modest propane heating stove to make winter camping more feasible.

The hut would complement VHA's other huts as part of its

statewide hut-to-hut system similar to those in Maine and New Hampshire. Its location within the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area is near a similar hut constructed at Chittenden Brook Campground two years ago, and others being built along the spine of the Green Mountains.

According to the Forest Service information on the project, "the hut would provide a unique four season camping and recreation opportunity that is not otherwise available in the (M NRA). The provision of an indoor, heated, facility with sleeping and cooking amenities provided would enable segments of the population currently unable to enjoy

an overnight experience at Silver Lake the opportunity to do so. A similar backcountry hut design was recently approved for construction and operations at Grout Pond located on the GMNF on the Manchester Ranger District."

According to the VHA, its mission is "to provide an enriching and immersive outdoor experience for everyone. By collaborating with our partners in recreation, we are creating a four-season hut network across the Green Mountain State to strengthen local communities and foster a deeper appreciation of our natural environment." The VHA mission aligns in support of the GMNF Plan's recreational goals, desired future conditions, and the Moosalamoo area's purposes and values. The new hut being proposed would be owned and operated by the VHA in a partnership with the Moosalamoo Association.

The public is invited to learn more about the project and to offer public comment at this hearing during a 45-day public comment period. According to Sue Hoxie, executive director of the Moosalamoo Association, a Zoom meeting, for those who can't attend the in-person June 8 meeting, will be held in the near future.

Area students receive college honors

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE NAMED TO UVM'S DEAN'S LIST FOR SPRING 2022:

- Benjamin Hamilton, a biochemistry major from North Chittenden, is in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Maxfield Lovko, a biology major from West Rutland, is in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Maddison McGuiness, a biological science major, from West Rutland, is in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Anoushka Pschorr, a Community-Centered Design major, from Leicester, is in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.
- Payton Thurston, a psy-

chological science major from Whiting, is in the College of Arts and Sciences.

• Emelia Tooley, a professional nursing major, from Proctor, is in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Kyla Dodge-Goshea, from Brandon, VT graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Communication & Promotion from Lasell University in Newton, Mass. on Saturday, May 14.

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The 2021 Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2021 as reported in 2022 is now available to all Pittsford and Florence, VT municipal water users. Copies of the report have been mailed out to every user. If you did not receive a report, copies are available at the Town Office located at 426 Plains Road, Pittsford, VT or by phoning (802) 483-6500 Ext. 13. Legal notices have been posted at the Town Office, Pittsford Post Office, Keith's Country Store and the Maclure Library.

The reports can also be viewed on the Town's website www.pittsfordvermont.com.

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Student safety

(Continued from Page 1)
is the state of education today.”

Vermont’s Student Safety Liaison Officer Rob Evans said his office has been fielding calls from educators since the Texas shooting, but also made a point to laud them for being proactive. “Prior to the tragedy, many had already reached out to engage in safety audits. Vermont has been good about outreach,” he said.

Evans discussed several areas of focus, highlighting the importance of the “See Something/Say Something” campaign and its role in behavioral threat assessment.

“We know that prior to these kinds of incidents, there’s leakage,” Evans said. “In most cases, some-

body is talking. Hopefully, we can encourage people who hear things to speak up, and we can stop things in advance.”

Evans said his office had asked schools to reach out to the first responders in their communities to re-establish training exercises that may have been put on hold due to COVID restrictions.

“These are life skills,” she said. “It’s an unfortunate part of society, but we have to work with the community and the police to identify potential threats. What plays out in schools starts out in the world.”

—Jeanne Collins
RNESU Superintendent

“We have over 300 school safety partners, including law enforcement and guidance and mental health counselors, and ongoing training that will stretch into the fall and beyond,” he explained.

RNESU Superintendent Jeanne Collins said she was awaiting a meeting with Brandon Chief of Police David Kachajian to discuss any new

adjustments, but ongoing facility response measures.

Among those is a recent security card system—in place since the 2019-20 school year—that restricts access to approved individuals; regular safety audits and drills above and beyond standard fire drills; and preventative measures such as partnering with Rutland Mental Health Center and Counseling Services of Addison County—who bring their clinicians into the schools to offer direct access to students in need.

In particular, Collins emphasized the Run/Hide/Fight training received by all students and staff, pointing out that the tools gained there extend beyond the

classroom. “These are life skills,” she said. “It’s an unfortunate part of society, but we have to work with the community and the police to identify potential threats. What plays out in schools starts out in the world.”

“Like all small towns, everything stops and starts at the school,” he added. “We want to make ourselves available to the community and the students. It’s on all of us to take care of the kids. And we will.”

—Jay Slenker
West Rutland School Principal

delicacy in discussing the recent shooting with his students in grades K-12. “We take age into account. Most of our faculty are parents too. We all take ownership of the kids, and it helps in times of crisis.”

“Like all small towns, everything stops and starts at the

school,” he added. “We want to make ourselves available to the community and the students. It’s on all of us to take care of the kids. And we will.”

Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French has urged anyone looking for more information or ways that they can be proactive in the ongoing safety efforts to head to <https://school-safety.vermont.gov/> to learn more about what initiatives are in place as well as different ways individuals may participate in reviewing the existing systems with their local schools.

Anyone with information about a potential threat can register an anonymous tip online at <http://safe4vt.org/>, call the anonymous tip line at (844) 723-3488, or TEXT 274637 with the keyword SAFE4VT followed by their information.

The Vermont Department of Mental Health offers resources for discussing traumatic events with children and resources for anyone dealing with fear and anxiety stemming from these or other traumatic events via their website: <https://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/>.

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