

The REPORTER

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

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75¢



RAFT RACE

Otter Valley's annual homecoming raft race took place Saturday on Otter Creek, with this year's race being the first to include alumni teams.

PG. 21



GARDENING CORNER

The beautiful Monarch Butterfly is an endangered species, but Lyn Des Marais has a few tips on how to go about helping them return to glory.

PG. 11

BRANDON SELECTBOARD

The Brandon selectboard met on Monday to discuss a wide range of topics, including inclusion and equity, a new excavator, a funding request from the library, and vacancies on the Planning Commission and the Developmental Review Board.

PG. 2



CAST OFF 8'S

The Cast Off 8's kicked off their fall square dancing season recently, inviting dancers of all abilities to come and shake a leg in Pittsford.

PG. 10



SEVERAL OTTERS WERE draped all over MAV quarterback Zeke Dubois early and often in their 46-25 homecoming win on Saturday. Photo by Mat Clouser

OTTERS SMOTHER MOUNT ABE 46-25 FOR BIGTIME HOMECOMING VICTORY

BY ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — The Otter Valley football team broke open Saturday's Division III game against Mount Abraham-Vergennes with a three-touchdown second quarter on the way to a big homecoming win, 46-25. The result left both teams at 2-2.

The Otters dominated on

both sides of the ball as they took a 26-6 halftime lead. They scored on senior quarterback Caleb Whitney's first-period quarterback sneak, Whitney's second-quarter TD passes to seniors Tucker Babcock and Richard Lafontaine, and senior back Keevon Parks's eight-yard run.

The Eagles' bright spot was

a 72-yard hook-up from senior QB Zeke DuBois to towering junior wideout Ian Funke, who caught a slant pass 12 yards downfield, broke a couple of tackles, and raced to paydirt. Funke caught eight DuBois passes for 208 yards and three scores.

But DuBois spent most of the first half dodging OV rushers.

He was sacked three times and hurried many more, and the Eagles struggled to get their running game going.

Meanwhile, Parks (12 carries, 98 yards) and OV sophomore Nate Pearsons (23 attempts for 161 yards) had plenty of running room, and Whitney found time to com- (See Otter homecoming, Page 14)

Pittsford SB sees the light at the end of the West Creek culvert

BY MAT CLOUSER

PITTSFORD — The Pittsford selectboard met briefly but efficiently on Wednesday, Sept. 21, to discuss the town's survey regarding potential uses for its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the finalizing a new financial policy, the finer points of its plans to fix the village sidewalks, and to celebrate

nearing the end of the West Creek culvert project.

ARPA FUND IDEAS

The town has been surveying residents about ways to use its ARPA funds dating back to the Spring, following the full-time takeover of Town Manager Brenda-Fox Howard. Much of the online surveying responses focused on potential Recreation

Department upgrades and possible water and sewer projects—which the board said they'd like to see new surveys sent out along with specific dollar amounts attached to those projects.

Additionally, the board heard from Chad Eugair of the Highway Department on Wednesday about several potential needs. Specifically mentioned was the

need for an asphalt hot box for paving purposes that would allow the town to save money by keeping unused asphalt from paving projects warm from one (See Pittsford SB, Page 3)



Brandon SB looks to move forward on issues of inclusivity

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — A full slate of business was discussed on Monday night in Brandon, with topics ranging from the hot button to the relatively mundane.

On offer for the full house of townspeople in attendance was a presentation from the Brandon Free Public Library (BFPL) on their renovation process, the appointment of a seat on the Planning Commission, a discussion about a vacancy on the Developmental Review Board, the finer points of buying a used excavator for the highway department, and a robust public comment period which brought up issues surrounding diversity, race, and the board's commitment to inclusivity.

LIBRARY FUNDING

BFPL board member Carol Fjeld spoke for several minutes outlining the myriad services provided to the town by BFPL, as well as the challenges the building faces and its need for a more than \$2,000,000 renovation—of which a substantial amount has already been raised privately—

all of which led her to ask for a \$100,000 allotment from the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which are around \$1,000,000 in total.

Fjeld also took a moment to publicly thank the community volunteers and the Brandon Police Department for their ongoing support to secure the library during and after the events of this past summer when a mentally ill member of the community made threats against one of the librarians and lead to the temporary closure of the library.

The board expressed its admiration for the library and its role in a healthy community. However, due to a recent change in how ARPA funds can be used. "I do want to thank you for bringing this to the board," said Selectboard Chair Seth Hopkins.

"I don't anticipate that the board is going to vote to obligate ARPA money tonight," Hopkins continued, adding that because the new changes to ARPA appropriation have far fewer restrictions than they once did, the board is essentially re-starting the process of determining how to use those funds.

"I do feel like a good town deserves a good library," Hopkins went on, pointing out that he was speaking as an individual rather than for the board at large. "I can see a lot of merit in the library being a candidate for some of this [money]."

Hopkins did point out that one potential way for BFPL to make

themselves even more attractive as a potential ARPA fund recipient would be via finding some kind of fund matching grant where the town could put forth the \$100,000 as a local match—another new way that ARPA funds can be used.

"If there are state grants that require a contribution that could turn \$100,000 into \$200,000... that's usually the smartest way for Brandon to stretch the dollar."

"Awesome," responded Fjeld, adding that they would immediately take that information to their grant writer.

Vacant committee seats

The recent appointment of Ralph Ethier meant that he had to step down from his position on both the Planning Commission and the Developmental Review Board, and there were interested parties for both seats in attendance on Monday night.

After Ethier's exit, the Planning Commission had two vacancies—one of which the board has been seeking to fill for some time, and public notice was declared weeks ago. Cecil Reniche-Smith, who recently threw her hat in the ring for the selectboard seat that went to Ethier—

and had been vetted by the board during that process—recently submitted a letter of interest to join the Planning Commission and was elected by a unanimous vote, along with a smattering of applause from those in the crowd.

The Developmental Review Board seat, however, had only recently become vacant and, as the selectboard had not had time to make a formal public notice, its decision was not to fill that seat until more time had been allowed for any potentially interested parties to come forward.

EXCAVATOR PURCHASE

Town Manager Dave Atherton brought to the board's attention that the town had been approached by a local contractor looking to sell them a used '99 Case 9007B excavator for \$45,000. The excavator was said to come with several attachments, rubber tracks, 1700 work hours, and was said to be in excellent condition due to the fastidious nature of its current owner.

Atherton said that a new ma-

chine without any attachments would run \$107,000 and that the town was currently incurring excavator rental fees of about \$12,000 just on the Town Farm Road project alone, adding that the town had several other projects for which an excavator would be needed.

After some deliberation about how best to assess the value of a used excavator—for which there is no Kelley Blue Book-type guidelines—the board decided that it trusted Mr. Atherton's judgment, and a unanimous vote approved the purchase of the excavator with the funds to come out of the towns Local Option Tax dollars—of which there are currently more than \$400,000 and are replenished at a rate of about \$240,000 annually.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The selectboard meeting held on Sept. 12 was rife with tension and accusation stemming

from the process by which the all-white, all-male board elected another white man to its vacant seat despite having two qualified female candidates to choose from—a decision that further perpetuated feelings of exclusion among

segments of Brandon's female-identifying population, a population that accounts for nearly 55% of its residents.

Adding to the tension in that meeting had been the recent talk about Brandon's efforts to work towards a commitment to equity and inclusivity—efforts that the town has taken to of their own volition, going so far as to become just the second town in Vermont to sign its Declaration of Inclusion, (in Jan. 2021) which reads:

The Town of Brandon condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or disability, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of Brandon has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and

express their opinions.

Brandon resident Claire Astone, who was among the most vocal at the Sept. 12 meeting, was on hand Monday to seek

some clarification as to the exact nature and purpose of the Declaration of Inclusion. Specifically, Astone hoped to clarify whether the document was one of practice or policy, stating that she felt the document lacked "teeth."

"I'm wondering if you all have talked about [any] further pur-

poses for these words of inclusion," she said. "Because the language here just says this is a nice idea—we agree with it—but it doesn't talk about how you're going to implement it—what might change and what might be looked at by the selectboard."

"The board's direction on implementing it was to form a committee," said Mr. Hopkins, "which was made up of Bill Moore, Dave Atherton, and Sue Gage to develop additional implementation initiatives regarding the diversity statement," adding that it was the board's intention that the committee would eventually draft some materials for the board to consider."

Selectboard member Tim Guiles spoke up to say, "This Declaration of Inclusion is a declaration—it's not a policy. It doesn't prescribe anything." Guiles then read sections of the Declaration, pointing out that the language is something that the board all agrees to and supports, despite its lack of an ability to produce any specific, actionable result.

"What is the value of a [document] that seems to have no teeth to implement it to make social change and bring about equity in a town like Brandon?" asked Astone.

"Well, it was a declaration, Claire," said Hopkins. "It's like the Declaration of Independence, right? It's a statement, after which occurs—and so that action that occurs will occur when the diversity committee brings some material for the selectboard to consider."

"Well, I hope you all will take some serious time to look at Brandon and how you operate and see what other communities

are doing that might help move Brandon forward and really actualize being inclusive," said Astone.

Dave Atherton spoke on behalf of the committee, pointing out that Bill Moore and Sue Gage have been the driving forces behind the work they've done thus far, mentioning that they had recently become a part of a Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) cohort that deals with inclusivity and he thought would be critical in inform-

ing how Brandon would decide to move forward. "We're hoping that whatever we can obtain there... that we can bring it back to Brandon and make it work," he said."

Guiles, who had expressed interest in joining the committee but was not chosen for it, spoke up to ask when or if the committee would be holding meetings—meetings that the committee says are currently on hold pending direction from the VLCT.

"I certainly think it's clear that we have some work to do," said Bill Moore, adding that as a member of the community and as a member of the DEI committee, he found it alarming to read a quote from Mr. Guiles in a *Rutland Herald* article from Sept. 21 about the Sept 12. selectboard meeting in which Mr. Guiles was quoted as saying:

I'd like to say, thank you, Ralph [Ethier], for being willing to be on the select board. I think that getting lost in this conversation is that you're very qualified to do a good job despite the fact that you're a white man.

"I was flabbergasted that you would even say this at all," said Moore. "Do you want to provide any clarification on what you meant by that? It's really stark and weird to read that, and out of context, it certainly pops as something that could be construed as offensive and certainly not sensitive."

"The part of the discussion that was relevant at the time," said Guiles, "was that there were comments in the room about he shouldn't have been appointed because he was a man, and I think I was referring to that in my comment—and so yes that

(See Bradon SB, Page 3)

"The board's direction on implementing it was to form a committee, which was made up of Bill Moore, Dave Atherton, and Sue Gage to develop additional implementation initiatives regarding the diversity statement,"

— Seth Hopkins

"What is the value of a [document] that seems to have no teeth to implement it to make social change and bring about equity in a town like Brandon?"

— Claire Astone

Brandon SB

(Continued from Page 2)
was relevant at the time.”

“But with the white man piece?” asked Moore, adding that he was trying to give Mr. Guiles a chance to clarify what he felt might have been a “glib and off the cuff” statement that was a poor representation of Brandon as a community.

“The white man was including the other form of otherness—and so, yes, it wouldn’t have been the quote that I would have chosen to come away from that discussion. Agreed.”

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE BOARD:

- Heard from Town Manager Dave Atherton’s report, stating that the Newton Road Pump Station had been rebuilt and should come with substantial energy savings and that heavy rains over the past week had caused some

slight delays on the Arnold creek culvert project.

- Heard from Jack Schneider on the Rutland Regional Planning Commission’s (RRPC) report, in which Brandon was commended for being one of the first adopters of the aforementioned inclusion statement and reported that the RRPC was in good financial shape.

- Reviewed the financial costs of several ongoing and upcoming projects, such as the Arnold District culvert (\$393,935); the Union Street sidewalk project (\$594,811); Town Farm Road rebuild phase one (\$120,00); the new salt shed at DPW (\$160,00), the stormwater project at NE Woodcraft (\$292,000); the Newton Road pump station (\$250,00); and an unknown cost for a new DPW garage,

Pittsford SB

(Continued from Page 1)

application to the next, as well as the ability to recycle some of the older asphalt that was in decent enough condition. The box was said to be in the neighborhood of \$38,000.

A used roller for the roads was another idea that might also help the town save money in the long run by helping to extend the life of newly paved roads, and a 2014 model was quoted at around \$16,500 plus shipping costs.

A final item for discussion was the acquisition of a used Vallaincourt bucket truck with a 55-foot arm to be used in trimming trees and maintaining safe roadways. The truck would run approximately \$23,000.

As the board was still in the ideas phase and not ready to make any decisions, the conversation was tabled pending future survey results.

NEW FINANCIAL POLICY

The town has been hard at work updating its financial policy dating back to last month when it was made aware that the CDBG grant for the Pittsford Village Farm might potentially get hung up without a new one in place, although the board did acknowledge at that time the town was generally in need of updating it.

No details of the plan were provided during Wednesday’s meeting, and the board said that it would like to be made aware of

what changes were being made so that it could review the policies side by side before formally accepting it.

NEW SIDEWALKS

The town, which has been dealing with a number of outdated sidewalks for some time, will have to wait a little bit longer due to a “chain reaction” of delays with the bidding, road construction, and contractor availability. Ms. Fox-Howard called the delays a potential “blessing in disguise” as they would allow the town more time to find new ways to come up with the roughly \$80,000 needed to replace the old sidewalks.

WEST CREEK CULVERT

After months of delays, some of which caused tension and financial stress among residents of West Creek Road, the project is finally nearing completion. Rick Reed, who has led the construction of the project, was on hand at Ms. Fox-Howard’s request so that she could thank him for he and his crew’s hard work on the much-delayed project—delays caused primarily from bad initial plans, which the crew dealt with through no fault of their own.

“I wanted to formally thank him for all the work he did and to let him know that his crew did a great job. The state came out a let us know how thrilled they were with how it came out,” she said.

“It was a little bit hectic there for a while,” she added, saying

that the guardrails were in place and the project was completely finished except for the paving of the road—something she mentioned might happen sometime in the next two weeks.

“It kind of got off to a rocky start, but it wasn’t your fault,” added selectboard member Joe Gagnon.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed what to do with one of its spare trucks after the new one arises. “We don’t need a junkyard,” said selectboard member David Mills, adding that the town should determine which of the two older trucks is in better shape and then sell the lesser of the two.

- Heard from Ms. Fox-Howard about the state Cannabis Control Board’s template for an “ideal” retail cannabis establishment, noting the board’s desire for an open, clean, and well-lit establishment.

- Tentatively set an October 19 date for a 5:30 p.m. dog complaint hearing pending the complainant’s approval.

- Discussed potential costs (\$3-4,000) for automated speed signs and the town’s ability and desire to place them at the top of Slauson Hill near the Mobil station on route 7 and at the Route 7-Furnace Hill intersection.

- Discussed the need for repairs to a police vehicle after the catalytic converter overheated and the vehicle threw a road. The engine needs to be replaced at an estimated \$5-6,000, but otherwise, the vehicle was said to be in good shape.



Claude Monet or Vermont clouds ?

THIS DROP-DEAD SUNRISE was caught over Wood’s Pond on Sunday morning.

Photo by Renee King

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AWD, auto, loaded, 140k miles
\$8,995



2013 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER,
AWD, V6, third row seat, 143k miles
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Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1 to update Vietnam War Honor Roll in Rutland

RUTLAND — Chapter 1 of the Vietnam Veterans of America will update the Honor Roll of local veterans who served in the Vietnam War with the addition of several names in time for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The Honor Roll is located at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park in Rutland.

The list of those who served has now grown to over 300 from an initial list of about 125. The memorial also lists the names of 18 men who were killed in action during the war and was dedicated on Memorial Day 2000.

Eligible Vietnam veterans or family members are invited to submit service records for inclusion on the memorial. The Honor Roll lists the names of those

who served in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975 after entering the military from Rutland County.

Service outside Vietnam qualifies if the person's military record shows that the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) was awarded.

A military service record, Form DD 214, is required to establish eligibility for the Honor Roll. Records may be mailed to VVA Chapter 1, 15 Wales St., Rutland, VT 05701. Please submit your request by Oct. 15.

For further information, call Andy Megrath, Chapter 1 president, at 802-775-1745 or Jack Crowther, secretary, at 802-775-1182.

General information on Chapter 1 is available at www.vietnamvetschapter1.org.

Charges issued for hunting-related shooting incident

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Warden Service issued charges on Sept. 20 against Alex Gaudette, 25, of Bolton, for the hunting-related shooting of James Cameron, 35, of Fairfax, in Huntington earlier this month.

Gaudette faces felony charges of aggravated assault (13 V.S.A. § 1024) and negligent use of a gun (13 V.S.A. § 4009). He also faces a misdemeanor charge of reckless endangerment (13 V.S.A. § 1025). Gaudette will answer

to the charges in Chittenden County Court on September 22, 2022.

If convicted of aggravated assault, Gaudette could face up to 15 years of jail time, be fined up to \$10,000, and lose his hunting license for five years. Additional convictions could add up to six years of jail time and up to \$2,000 in fines.

Cameron remains at the University of Vermont Medical Center in stable condition.



In with in a bang

PROCTOR KICKED OFF autumn with fireworks during their annual Fall Festival on Saturday.

Photo by Dale Christie

Community Forums

The Vermont Women's Fund open call for applications for new council members

MIDDLEBURY — The Vermont Women's Fund, a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, is seeking up to six new council members through its first-ever open application process.

From now through October 10, the Women's Fund is accepting applications for new council members that will serve three-year terms beginning on December 9, 2022. The new process aims to encourage a broader and more diverse council as the organization advances its values of shared power, revolutionizing systems and equity for all.

"We envision a Vermont where all girls and women thrive," said Dennise Casey, Chair of the Vermont Women's Fund's Council. "To realize this vision, we fund structural change to advance gender equity and justice in Ver-

mont and convene conversations to bring about change in businesses and communities across the state. As the largest statewide organization committed to gender equity, we are excited to welcome new perspectives and fresh thinking to help us in this work."

In reviewing applications, the council will look at factors like geography, race, gender identity, age, and personal and professional experience to ensure diverse experiences are represented.

Council members lead the fund's annual grant-making process, which awards grants to Vermont nonprofits that advance economic opportunities for women and girls.

Council members also support fundraising events, convene conversations with leaders like New York Times best-selling

authors and journalists Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, and invest in organizations like the nationally recognized Change the Story VT.

"The Vermont Women's Fund recently doubled its endowment to over \$6 million and is in an incredibly strong position to speed the pace of positive change for girls and women in Vermont," added Meg Smith, director of the Vermont Women's Fund. "This is the perfect time to increase the size of the council and, with it, the strength of ideas and insight to enhance our impact and bring about lasting progress. I encourage anyone interested in this work to apply."

To learn more and view the application, visit vermontwomensfund.org/council-application.

The Reporter

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VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region offers flu and COVID shots

RUTLAND — The VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region (VNAHSR) is offering flu shots by appointment only beginning Thursday, September 29.

While the flu shot only protects against influenza and not COVID-19, health experts encourage individuals to vaccinate against the flu to mitigate the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

Appointments for individuals 18 and over can be made by visiting <https://clinics.timetap.com/#/>

To protect individuals, appointments will be staggered, and equipment will be disinfected between uses.

Additionally, staff will utilize personal protective equipment (PPE), and clinic attendees must wear masks. Attendees are asked to wear a

shirt that provides easy access to their upper arm so clinicians can administer their immunization quickly and easily.

We accept Medicare/Medicaid, MVP, and BlueCross BlueShield Insurances for payment. Please bring your card to your appointment. If you do not have a participating insurance plan, payment will be accepted by check or credit card.

(See Flu shots, Page 7)

Letters to the Editor

Why I think Stephanie Jerome deserves your vote

Please let me express my eagerness and enthusiasm for the reelection of Stephanie Zak Jerome (SZJ) as our Vermont State Representative. SZJ has provided consistent support to all her constituents, and she has certainly helped me immensely.

I am just the sign of the times regarding being like the one-in-five Vermonters over 65 years old and coping with employment and housing issues.

I first moved to Brandon

in 2019 and got to know SZJ through public events and following the news.

Last year, I was facing eviction from my apartment and was unable to find a decent job to support myself. I contacted SZJ and explained my situation. She promptly gave me moral support and directed me to contact The Homeless Prevention Center (HPC) and the Vermont Dept. of Labor, both in Rutland.

She guided me through the

bureaucratic maze, which eventually led me to live in my own apartment at The Neshobe House, and become enrolled in Advancement for Developmental Training (A4DT), where I'm currently being trained to re-enter the workforce.

I strongly encourage my fellow Brandonites to vote for Stephanie Zak Jerome in the upcoming election.

Sincerely, Wyatt Waterman

BARN OPERA urges Brandon to consider Rep. Jerome

BARN OPERA is comprised of many remarkable and active community members of varying ideologies, identities, and political affiliations, and we all work tirelessly for the common goal of bringing this type of art and music to the Rutland County audience.

In the effort of inclusion, I do not lightly write a letter of support for any political candidate—but Stephanie Jerome has gone above and beyond the call of duty, specifically regarding the cultural sector and the arts in general.

Stephanie has been a tireless advocate for BARN OPERA from the beginning: She was with us cheering along the process of Act 250 permitting; she helped us navigate thorny situations in the change of use for the barn from residence to commercial; she visited the barn multiple times while it was being built, and saw it grow from hay on the floor to the world-class performance venue it is now; She has been to every performance that we have had at the barn, and even when we were performing at Brandon Music. She has been essential in her specific support of BARN OPERA, and her work

with the legislature to earmark funds for Creative Economy grants is paramount for all of the cultural sector of Vermont's economy.

The nine million dollars of American Rescue Plan Act funding covers operational costs of businesses and non-profits that have had sustained substantial losses due to COVID. Ironically, during the height of the pandemic, what we produce, and the work we continue to do, was the most pathologically dangerous activity possible.

Because of this, we took an enormous financial hit and are just now starting to reemerge from the darkness. After three years, however, the strings holding us together are tenuous at best. While I am acutely aware of only our position, I am certain that we are not the only arts organization in the state with similar stories and concerns.

This bill, which had unanimous support in the legislature, will not only apply to performing arts but also: Film and media, literary arts, visual arts and crafts, and even specialty foods.

Not only does this help many people, but the specific target of this grant is also the group of

businesses that did not benefit from the first round of ARPA funding, with a tiered level of funding so that no organization can deplete the funds themselves—regardless of the size of the organization.

For this reason, specifically, BARN OPERA wishes to thank the leadership and support of Stephanie Jerome for constantly advocating for her constituency—especially those in the arts sector—and for being a stable and constant supporter of BARN OPERA from the beginning.

We do not wish to endorse any particular candidate for any office formally, but rather we would encourage all of our friends and neighbors during your research of candidates to consider Stephanie Jerome for her accomplishments and tireless work supporting the cultural community of our state, which keeps BARN OPERA and other arts organizations in operation and available for all of our cultural enrichment in this, the most beautiful state in the country that we are so fortunate to call home.

*Joshua Collier
Artistic Director,
BARN OPERA
September 26, 2022*



Enjoy 2022 at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center

Saturday, October 1, 7:30 pm

Michele Fay Band

Original and Americana music that brings forth a portable groove of folk, swing, and bluegrass-influenced songs. Michele Fay Band present a mix of understated originals and well chosen traditional covers. The songs are energetic, unpretentious and appeal to a wide range of audiences.

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

Sponsored by Gene & Jean Childers and Lyn & Jim DesMarais.

Saturday, October 8, 7:00 pm

8th Annual Brandon Has Talent Show

This Town Hall favorite showcases the multi-talented community members from Brandon and the surrounding areas. Singing, dancing and lots of fun for the audience as well as the performers are hallmarks of this popular event. Don't miss one of the highlights of the 2022 season with the aging but still young at heart MC!!!

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

Sponsored by Ronnie, Carolyn & Ricky of Hayes Pallets.

Sunday, October 16, 1:30 pm

No Strings Marionettes: "Dryad's Saddle"

This brand new Halloween Show will transport you to a magical place where reality and superstition mingle as one. An odd piece of scenery opens the door to an ancient realm that sends plants, goblins, humans, and spirits on a collision course for disaster. Will Halloween be saved? Come to the Brandon Town Hall and find out!

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

Sponsored by Lou & Ferne Faivre, and Harold & Jean Somerset, Shirley Markland, Tracy Holden & Kirk Thomas.

Saturday, October 22, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie: "Nosferatu" (1922)

Just in time for Halloween, the original adaptation of the Dracula story, a film that just seems to keep getting creepier as the years go by. Prepare to be scared!!! This is a repeat performance from 2013 but is our last 100th anniversary celebration of this year's movies.

Free Will Donation Event

Sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust.

Friday, November 11, 7:00 pm

Mamajamas a Cappella group

Middlebury College's co-ed a Cappella group The Mamajamas makes their debut performance at the Town Hall. Formed in 1994, the group grew and evolved, pouring their considerable passion into crafting exciting original arrangements, stretching their harmonic vocabulary, and producing killer soloists.

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

Sponsored by John & Lynn Wilson, Rowe Real Estate, Dick & Lucy Rouse and Bob & Kathy Clark, Vermont Country Store, National Bank Of Middlebury, and Bud Coolidge.

Saturday, November 19, 7:00 pm

Silent Movie: "Her Sister From Paris" (1925)

The scene: EUROPE. The Cast: RICH PEOPLE. Get swept off your feet by not one, but two privileged ladies, both played by amazing actress Constance Talmadge, opposite Ronald Coleman, in this effervescent battle-of-the-sexes comedy.

Free Will Donation Event.

Sponsored by Harold & Jean Somerset and Vermont Country Store.

Wednesday, December 7, 4:00-8:00 pm

Moonlight Madness

Part of Brandon's weeklong annual Moonlight Madness event, you'll find more than 20 diverse vendors upstairs and downstairs in the Town Hall. Anyone interested in renting an 8 x 10 space for \$25 should contact Dennis Marden at denniswarden@gmail.com or leave a message at 802-247-5420.

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Obituaries

Donna Beatrice Doty, 84, Brandon

BRANDON — Donna Beatrice Doty, age 84, passed away Saturday, September 17, 2022, at her sons' home in Brandon.

The daughter of Howard A. and Beatrice (Kirby) Foster, Donna was born in Middlebury on June 6, 1938. She grew up on the family farm in Salisbury. She received her early education in Salisbury schools and graduated from Middlebury High School, class of 1956. She earned her degree from Becker Junior College in Worcester, Ma.

Following college graduation, she began her working career at The Pentagon in Arlington, Va. She returned to Vermont, where she married Art Doty on December 23, 1958.

She and her late husband owned and operated the Credit Bureau of Rutland for over 30 years. Following their retirement, they enjoyed traveling from Nova Scotia to Florida for several years.

She was a member of the United



DONNA BEATRICE DOTY

Methodist Church of Middlebury and was very active in church affairs. In addition to traveling, she enjoyed antiquating, auctions, cooking, and baking and was an avid stamp and Beanie Baby collector.

She is survived by her son Paul Doty and his wife Jacqueline of Brandon; their children Nathan

Doty and his companion Shannon Cookson, and Emily Doty and her companion, Christian Leggett; her daughter Susan Marie Hinton of St. Johnsbury and her children Michael Alger, Christopher Alger, and William Marcoux; her great-grandchildren Benjamin Alger and Kiersten Alger; special family friends Elizabeth and Samantha; a nephew, David Dewey, and his family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Art Doty, on July 2, 2019, and by two sisters, Reta Andrews and Leta Dewey.

The memorial service "In Celebration of Her Life" will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Middlebury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her memory to Brandon Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 237, Brandon, VT 05733.

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

David James Malinowski, 58, Brandon

BRANDON—David James Malinowski, age 58, passed away Monday, September 5, 2022, at his home in Brandon.

David was born in Proctor on January 27, 1964. He was the son of Richard and Sandra (Mitchell) Malinowski, Sr.

He worked for OMYA for several years and later worked as a woodsman, logging various ar-

eas of the state. He was forced to retire due to an accident.

He is survived by a brother, Richard Malinowski, Jr of Leicester, and a sister, Dawn Malinowski of South Royalton.

Respecting his wishes, all services will be private.

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

Mary Lou Potvin, 86, Brandon

BRANDON — Mary Lou Potvin, age 86, passed away September 13, 2022, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

The daughter of Lloyd and Mildred (Hall) Roberts, Mary Lou was born in East Barre on January 31, 1936. She attended grade school in East Barre and graduated from Spaulding High School, class of 1954.

In June of 1955, she married Paul C. Potvin in Graniteville, Vt. They made their home in Worcester, Ma. and later resided in Thompson, Ct. from 1965 until moving to Brandon in 1990.

She earned a business administration and accounting degree, returning to college after her children left home.

Mary Lou's passions were gardening, painting, quilting, and researching the family genealogy. She and Paul enjoyed camping trips and made several trips to Quebec to conduct this research. Her detailed quilts and paintings will be her legacy, cherished by family and friends.

A loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-

grandmother, she is survived by her husband Paul of Brandon; daughter Michelle (and Eric) Baughman of Mansfield, Ct; six sons; Paul Jr. (and late Dede) of Neptune City, N.J., John (and Judith) of Downey, Ca., Peter (and Tracy) of Fuquay-Varina, NC., James (and Paul Costantino) of Kennebunkport, Me., Thomas (and Susan) of North Brookfield, Ma., and Donald of Imperial Beach, Ca.

She is also survived by her sister Glenna Dayney (Roberts) of Bowie, Md.; her twelve grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A private memorial, "In Celebration of Her Life," will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, 143 Maple Street, Rutland, Vt. 05701, or the Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter, 75 Talcott Road, Suite 40 Williston, Vt. 05495

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



MARY LOU POTVIN

Verna Rose Thomsen, 63, Whiting

WHITING — On a frosty, bright autumn morning, surrounded by her four close friends, Verna Rose Thomsen passed on to her next great adventure peacefully and without pain.

Verna Rose Thomsen was born March 31, 1959, to Vernon and Edna (Sholly) Bindner on her father's birthday.

Verna spent her early years growing up on a Midwest farm. She loved spring with the birth of chicks and bunnies and was always eager to start planting her garden no matter what else was

going on in her life.

Verna was employed for thirty-seven years at Porter Medical Center and its affiliate family

practice in Brandon, Vermont. The last several years of her work life were spent in the

Ambulatory Surgery Unit at Porter Medical Center.

At Porter Medical Center, she worked as a Special Care Unit nurse, Relief Nursing supervisor, and finally, among her family of co-workers in Ambulatory Surgery.

She was an office nurse for Brandon Primary Care for several years before returning to Ambulatory Surgery, where she finished her career.

Verna also studied to be a life coach through DreamBuilders. No matter what she did, whether

it was nursing, being a licensed lay minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Proctor, Vermont, or being with her friends, Verna left a mark on all with her love, compassion, and no-nonsense ways.

Verna was predeceased by her parents. She leaves behind her sisters, Donna, Barb, and Mary

and their husbands; many nieces and nephews; thirty-seven first cousins, and many more

cousins.

She is survived by her feline companions, Kit Kat, Barty, and Pepper, who have all found new, loving homes; her friends Tammy Snyder, Alice Leo, Janet Mosurick, and Annie Wilson;

her Porter Hospital family, and her church family at St. Paul's.

Many thanks to everyone who supported Verna throughout her illness. She fought hard, relentlessly optimistic that she would beat the illness that took her life.

Donations in Verna's memory may be made to the Activities Department at Helen Porter

Health and Rehabilitation and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Proctor, Vermont.

The scattering of her ashes will be held privately at a later time.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

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Obituary Guidelines

The Reporter will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family's choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Reporter offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to news@brandonreporter.com.

Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.



Legislative Report

BY STEPHANIE JEROME

A summary of new bills set to impact Vermont schools

It is nearly a month into the new school year. I thought that you might like to know about some of the major bills that were passed last legislative session that will have an impact on Vermont schools.

FREE UNIVERSAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Vermont made huge strides in combating food insecurity. With federal support, public schools provided free breakfast and free lunch to all students during the last two school years. To maintain this program, the legislature passed S.100, a bill to continue universal school meals through the 2022–2023 school year with \$29 million from the Education Fund surplus.

S.100 reduces hunger and erases stigma in schools by ensuring breakfast and a hot, nutritious lunch are available to all students. Under the old program (before the pandemic), not all food-insecure students qualified for free or reduced-price school lunches: the income limit was set at \$32,227 for a single parent with one child. During this school year, the Department of Education will collect data around the cost of universal school meals and study the potential long-term funding opportunities for this program.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on the social, emotional, and mental health of Vermont's school communities. Through S.197, \$3 million in

federal stimulus funds establishes a two-year program that will offer COVID-19 recovery support for teachers and staff (\$500,000) and provide grants to expand mental health and well-being services for children and youth (\$2.5 million).

The grants can be used for a wide variety of programs, such as expanding school-based counseling, after-school programs, or summer programs.

Grant recipients must work closely with teachers, school counselors, and staff to provide one-on-one or small-group sessions to address topics like resilience, substance abuse, suicide prevention, social isolation, and anxiety. The grants will target geographically diverse and underserved regions of Vermont.

ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY SCHOOL MASCOTS

S.139 aims to ensure that all Vermont schools offer positive and inclusive learning environments by eliminating the use of discriminatory school branding. This includes any name, symbol, or image used as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, team name, slogan, or motto.

The bill requires the Secretary of Education to work with stakeholders to develop a model policy. School boards will have until January 2023 to review their branding and adopt the model policy or to adopt one that is as comprehensive. The bill also sets up a complaint and appeal process through AOE. This bill is an important continuation of Vermont's work around equity and inclusion in our schools and

communities.

EQUITY IN OUR EDUCATION FUNDING SYSTEM

Vermont's commitment to equitable access to education is in our state Constitution. One of the equity mechanisms is "weighting," which adjusts for the varying costs of educating different categories of students, such as high school students or children who are living in poverty.

The weights acknowledge that it can be more expensive to educate high school students or children living in poverty. S.287 updates the weights to provide greater taxing capacity for some districts while creating a path for districts that will experience reduced taxing capacity. The new weights will be implemented in FY25, which gives districts time to plan and prepare.

This bill creates stronger Agency of Education oversight and district accountability—creating new standards for governance, financial management, school facilities, and English Learning statewide. No matter where we live, we are responsible for educating all our students. By updating our funding system through S.287, we take another important step toward making that promise a reality.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

*Rep. Stephanie Jerome
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us
802-683-8209*

Vt. Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets awards \$500k to increase local food access to underserved communities

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) will launch a significant program to purchase local food and support the most vulnerable.

Earlier this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) announced it had signed a cooperative agreement with Vermont under the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA). Through LFPA, VAAFAM has connected with local partners to purchase and distribute locally grown, produced, and processed food from underserved producers.

"These important investments in our farmers and producers will help grow Vermont's economy while protecting our most vulnerable," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. "This innovative approach to feeding those in need will provide healthy food while supporting those who make their living off the land."

Five projects with nonprofit partners will begin this fall:

- Abenaki Helping Abenaki: \$50,000 to purchase culturally appropriate food for distribution via partner food pantries and distribution sites across the state. Funding will also support increased staffing at one food pantry to expand open hours.

- Capstone Community Action: \$20,000 to purchase local food for use in the Community Kitchen Academy training program, associated distribution sites, and their food shelf.

- Center for an Agricultural Economy: \$50,000 to expand Produce to Pantry offerings that supply food pantries with fresh, local food.

- The Intervale Center: \$72,000 to expand offerings, especially culturally appropriate produce, at pop-up farmers' markets in historically underserved neighborhoods.

- The Vermont Foodbank: \$61,765 to partner with a new American chicken farmer and local slaughterhouse to offer halal chicken to be distributed to new Americans throughout the state. This project will also purchase and distribute African corn varieties.

In addition, the Vermont Land Trust and Feeding Chittenden are partnering to expand the purchase and distribution of goat meat to the refugee and new American communities.

These partner organizations will use the Local Food Purchase Assistance funds to expand procurement relationships with local and underserved farmers and producers

and distribute the food purchased to underserved communities.

These projects will run for 18 months and vary in size and scope, but all aim to increase access to local, culturally appropriate food products and support diverse farmers and food producers.

As part of this program, VAAFAM will release a request for applications (RFA) this fall to solicit other organizations and individual farms to participate in this initiative.

Funds will be awarded to farms and organizations that demonstrate an ability to purchase and distribute local food from socially disadvantaged producers to underserved community members across Vermont.

"This opportunity will allow us to purchase food from local farmers and work with food access organizations to distribute healthy, nutritious foods to underserved communities. These investments will create new market opportunities for our agricultural producers and ensure underserved populations experience increased food security during this critical time," stated Abbey Willard, VAAFAM Director of Agriculture Development.

"USDA is excited to partner with Vermont to promote economic opportunities for farmers and producers and to increase access to locally sourced, fresh, healthy, and nutritious food in underserved communities," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "The Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement Program will improve food and agricultural supply-chain resiliency and increase local food consumption around the country."

The LFPA program is authorized by the American Rescue Plan to maintain and improve food and agricultural supply chain resiliency. Through this program, USDA will award up to \$400 million through non-competitive cooperative agreements with state and tribal governments to support local, regional, and underserved producers through the purchase of food produced within the state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination.

More information about the program is available on AMS's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program website.

More information about the Vermont LFPA program and upcoming RFA is available on the VAAFAM website.

For questions about Vermont's LFPA program, contact: Julia Scheier at julia.scheier@vermont.gov or 802-522-7042.

Flu shots

(Continued from Page 5)

The vaccine costs \$90.00 for a high dose (individuals 65 and older and those with chronic health conditions) and \$39 for a standard flu shot (individuals under 65).

RUTLAND CLINIC

Located at the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region Rutland Office in the Casella Conference Room. Parking will be indicated.

Thursday, September 29,

from noon-3 p.m.

Friday, October 7, from 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Monday, October 10, from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Thursday, October 20, from 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

CASTLETON COMMUNITY CENTER CLINIC

COVID Boosters administered by the Vermont Department of Health will be available at this location only. You must bring your COVID vacci-

nation card. Located: Castleton Community Center

Tuesday, October 18, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

PAWLET CLINIC

Located at the Pawlet Community Church

Monday, October 24, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

For more information about our Flu Clinics or if you need assistance scheduling your appointment, please call 802.775.0

Vermont hunters can now report turkeys and some deer online

MONTPELIER — Vermont hunters will be able to report turkeys and some deer they harvest this fall online through the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Turkeys may be reported online or in person at a regional big game reporting station.

Deer may be reported online or in person during the archery and muzzleloader seasons, but deer must be reported in person during the youth and novice deer hunting weekend on October 22-23 and during the regular deer season on November 12-27.

This in-person reporting requirement allows biologists to collect important information from deer during these seasons.

Bears must be reported in person at a regional big game reporting station. The hunter must also

submit a premolar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population. Envelopes for submitting teeth are available at all big game reporting stations.

Hunters are required to report deer, bear, and wild turkeys they harvest during the hunting seasons within 48 hours. Deer and bear must be field-dressed prior to reporting, and a hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a deer or bear if requested by a warden.

The online reporting link for deer and turkey, as well as a map and list of big game reporting stations, is available under "Hunt" on the left side of Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website, <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/>



7th annual Antique Apple Fest on Oct. 1

PLYMOUTH NOTCH — The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site hosts the seventh annual Plymouth Notch Antique Apple Fest on Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This harvest celebration pays special tribute to the apple via the chance to view an heirloom apple orchard and sample vintage apple varieties.

The day begins at 10 a.m. with the fourth annual Coolidge 5K that winds through and around the historic village. The race will be professionally timed. Runners will want to arrive early to receive race materials and warm up. Prizes will be awarded to top race finishers (\$100 cash prizes for the top male and female finishers).

Top finishers in each age category will also receive awards. Runners and non-runners are invited to partici-

pate in the "I Do Not Choose to Run" 1-Mile Walk, so named for Coolidge's famous and characteristically concise declaration about his intention not to seek re-election for president in 1928. The walk begins after the 5K race and will also cover key sights around the historic grounds.

To register, contact the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation, coolidgefoundation.org/coolidge-5k.

At 1 p.m., a 45-minute film entitled "Vermont is a State I love" will be shown in the Union Church. The film explores the 1927 floods and subsequent recovery that inspired President Coolidge to deliver his beloved speech about "The Brave Little State of Vermont." Following the film, President Calvin Coolidge impersonator Tracy Messer will welcome questions

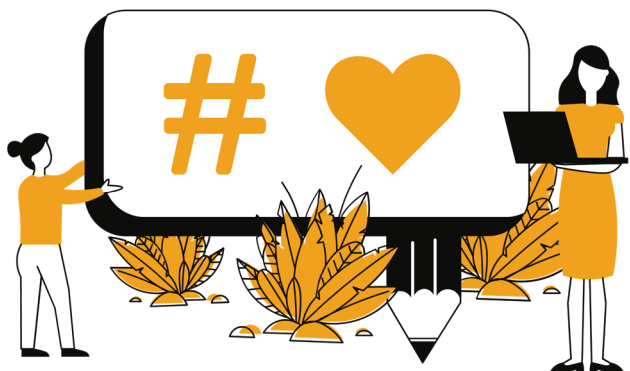
and comments from the audience.

Various activities and demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day, including cider pressing, spinning, knitting with circular sock machines, historic stenciling, lawn croquet, and self-guided tours at the Plymouth Cheese Factory.

Enjoy the music of the Springfield Springers, an old-time band offering lively music for dancing. Don't forget to bring a picnic or purchase a hot meal from the Fork in the Road food truck.

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site is open Tuesday through Sunday through October 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information and event listings, visit them online at www.historicsites.vermont.gov and on Facebook at Vermont State Historic Sites.

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IN ADDITION TO being a lover of the outdoors, Tanya Sousa is an acclaimed children's book author.

Photos provided

Tanya Sousa's children's book featured on the story walk in Rutland

RUTLAND — Vermont author Tanya Sousa's children's picture book, *Tossing Stars*, is *Come Alive Outside's* newest Trail Tale. The book will be displayed on the lower Georgetti Trail in Rutland until October 1. Kids and adults are invited to walk the trail and enjoy the book.

Tossing Stars is a tale of imagination and whimsy where a child creates new and novel ways to use a bucket of stars. Author Tanya Sousa took inspiration from artist Katie Findall for her book. "I saw a painting Katie created called *Tossing Stars*," she said. "It shows a fa-

ther with a child on his shoulders. The child is holding a bucket and tossing stars into the air. I was captivated."

"That one image started me writing," Sousa continued. "What would a child do if [they] had a bucket of stars to share?"

Katie and Tanya then worked together to create *Tossing Stars*. This is their second collaboration on a book after working on *Life is a Bowl of Cherry Pits* in 2009. "*Tossing Stars* was a totally different experience, but all good," said Sousa. "I already knew [Katie's] paintings and her style, and instead of her paintings working around my words,

I made sure my words worked around her paintings."

Since childhood, Tanya has experienced a deep connection between the outdoors and imagination, which makes her the perfect author for *Come Alive Outside's* Trail Tale. "I took so much refuge and joy in

my own creativity when I was a child," said Sousa. "I hope kids who read this book or hear it read to them understand that imagination is their greatest playground. It can be enjoyed inside or outside—with others or alone."

Come Alive Outside's executive director Arwen Turner said, "It's serendipitous how Tanya and I found each other. She wrote an excellent love letter to her town during our 'Love Letters' event last February. It was so good; she was selected as one of our winners. We talked a bit, and I discovered that she was also a children's author. After I read *Tossing Stars*, I knew immediately that I wanted to showcase her beautiful book on our Trail Tale."

Tanya has several new books in the works about the love and connection kids have to the natural world. One is called *Rescued*, the true story of how her childhood dog saved her and her older sister's life. The other, *Frogs In the Baby Carriage*, is a whimsical tale of a child who loves nature and how she uses her imagination to play gently with wild creatures.

Tossing Stars will be at Pine Hill Park's Trail Tale until October 1, 2022. Pine Hill Park is located at 2 Oak St Ext, Rutland, VT 05701, on the Lower Georgetti trail.

Visit comealiveoutside.com for more information.



TANYA SOUSA

Housing Trust of Rutland County welcomes new Director of Property and Asset Management

Rutland — Bill Ackerman has been named Director of Property and Asset Management at Housing Trust of Rutland County.

In his role, Bill will manage the existing portfolio of nearly 400 residential units across Rutland County while developing new projects and improving the existing housing stock.

"Bill brings a wealth of experience in property and facilities management as well as custom-

er service and marketing, which will be very helpful to our ongoing mission of providing housing to our most vulnerable. His commitment to our community has been widely recognized by the volunteer positions he has held and continues to hold, which include and affect a diverse cross-section of our population," said Mary Cohen, Executive Director of the Housing Trust of Rutland County.

Ackerman said, "I am proud to

be joining the Housing Trust of Rutland County. It is clearly an organization made up of people that have the energy and passion

to meet its mission of providing dignified housing for the members of our community that need assistance in making ends meet. I look forward to contributing to the mission, using my skills and experience to bring even more units to the market in the future while upgrading those al-

ready in the portfolio."

Currently, Bill is the Vice Chair of the Regional Advisory Board for Stafford Technical Center, serves on the events and marketing committees of the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region, and is a past President of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce. Bill has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Johnson State University and lives in Killington with his wife, Kasia.



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CAST OFF 8'S SQUARE DANCE CLUB CUTS A RUG IN PITTSFORD



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP right: Square dance caller Peter Tobin put the dancers through their paces; Rob Carey of Wallingford looked sharp as he showed off his moves; Rob Carey flashed more of his many moves; Rick Hoenes showed and proved as he do-si-doed with the Cast Off 8's; many dancers have found a camaraderie in the square dancing community.

Photos by Mat Clouser

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BY MAT CLOUSER

PITTSFORD — Following the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918, the world saw social dancing take off as people Charleston-ed, Shimmied, and Fox Trotted their way back into each other's lives.

Lauren Norford, one of the organizers for the Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club, says she hopes the same thing will happen following the COVID-19 pandemic. "Contemporary square dance is a great way to be active, meet new people, and get back into a lively lifestyle after these many months of restricted activity," she said following one of the group's recent free sessions at the Lothrop School in Pittsford.

The Club, which meets Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. from September through April, hosts a few free meetings—the last of which is Sept. 28 and

comes with an ice cream social—each year that are open to dancers of all stripes and levels of experience. Couples are welcomed, but so are individuals or groups of all sizes.

"In addition to our 'new dancer' classes," said Norford, "we hold seven to eight dances for dancers who can dance at the Mainstream level, meaning they have completed the classes and learned about 68 square dance movements or 'calls' such as allemande left, ladies chain, right and left grande."

"The monthly dances often have holiday themes and have a party atmosphere," she continued. "There are door prizes, refreshments, and often a 50/50 or basket raffle. For these theme-based dances [we] often hire a caller from outside the area, so that dancers gain experience dancing to other

(See Square dance, Page 19)

GARDENING CORNER



What can Brandon do to help the Monarch Butterfly?

BY LYN DES MARAIS

BRANDON — Even those who aren't bug specialists (I'm raising my hand here) can identify the Monarch butterfly. Many of us watched one hatch in a school room, which undoubtedly made a great impression on us.

is not your imagination. On the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, the number of Monarchs has fallen 80-to-90%, according to the agricultural research service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In raw numbers, the Monarch's winter population

size—a wing span of four inches and weight of less than 0.016 ounces—it is nothing short of miraculous.

HOW DO THE MONARCHS DO IT?

A single Monarch travels 25 to 30 miles a day. In its two-to-five-week lifespan, it eats, flies, mates, and lays eggs on milkweed.

The Monarch is looking for two things: milkweed and nectar-rich plants. The first three generations of the great migration live short lives, moving ever northward. But the fourth generation, the overwintering generation, hatches in the autumn, flies south, and can live up to nine months.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

The Monarch butterfly's decline directly tracks to the scarcity of milkweed plants across the United States. Great swaths of milkweed are needed for the butterflies to sustain the great migration.

There continues to be debate and finger-pointing about what or who is responsible for this milkweed loss, with blame meted out among the use of GMO crops and herbicides, monocultures, loss of farmland, global warming, and increasingly severe weather in both the overwintering grounds and migratory corridors.

The only thing everyone seems to agree upon is that the decline of the Monarch is directly linked to the decline in milkweed plants.

What can we do here in Brandon?

Plant native milkweed and lots of it to start. Two varieties

are recommended: The common milkweed (*Asclepias Syriaca*), which has cream-colored flowers, and the swamp milkweed (*Asclepias Incarnata*), which has a purple flower.

You can buy the plant and seeds or gather them from the milkweed pods and spread them in your garden or at the edge of your property where it touches roadsides, field edges, streams, creeks, or rivers.

I've seen it in towns now tucked into corner gardens and among coneflower and thistles. Protect butterflies from pesticides and herbicides on your land, and join neighbors and share ideas on what to grow together. You may also get involved in groups across Vermont and our country trying to save the Monarch. No one can do this alone. We must act together.

WHY MILKWEED? WON'T SOMETHING ELSE DO?

Milkweed is the only plant a Monarch will lay her eggs on and the only plant the Monarch

Caterpillars can feed on. Once hatched, the Monarch Caterpillar grows for two to three weeks feasting exclusively on milkweed. Caterpillars then form chrysalises.

After approximately two weeks, the chrysalises thin out, and you can see the butterflies within. Then the butterflies emerge.

The adult butterflies require nectar-rich food sources. They also need sun and shelter. Luckily for us in Brandon, we have plenty of plants that grow well in sun and sheltered areas.

Here is a list of sun-loving perennial and annual plants that produce nectar for Monarch butterflies: Asters, Bee Balm, Black-eye Susans, Butterfly Weed, Goldenrod, Joe Pye Weed, Liatris, Marigolds, Purple Coneflower, Phlox, Salvia, Sedum, and Zinnias.

Since Monarchs rely on nectar their entire adult lives, keep your gardens blooming!

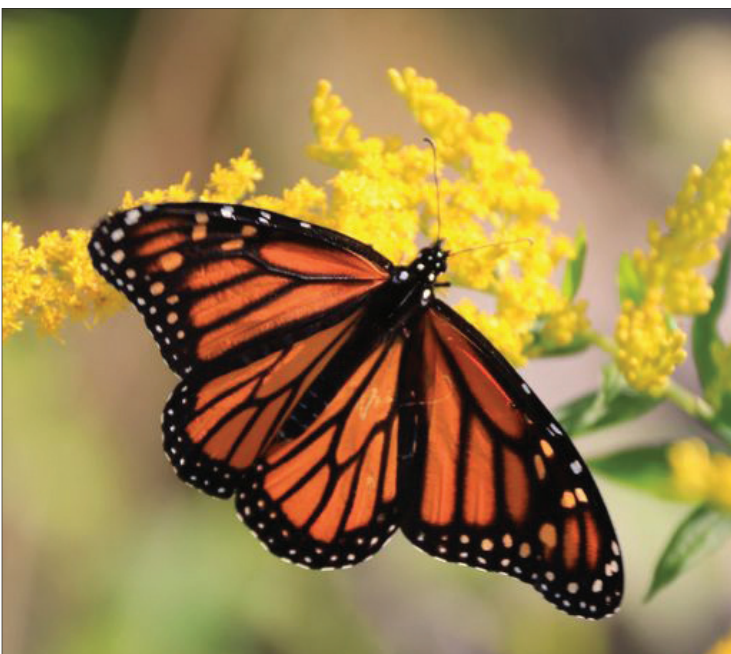


Photo by Dale Christie

Monarchs are large, beautiful, and showy against August and September greenery and clear blue skies. It has come as a shock to many of us that their numbers have dwindled so drastically that the Monarch—the State Butterfly of Vermont—has just been listed as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

If you, too, have noticed it, it

has fallen from over ten million to a few thousand between 1980 and 2021.

THE GREAT MIGRATION

The Monarch makes an impressive mass migration from Mexico or California, where they have overwintered, every spring to the Midwest and East Coast ending up here in Brandon by mid to late summer. It's a journey of up to 3000 miles. Considering the Monarch's

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1672 East Road, Benson, VT 05743

Availabilities at CobbleKnollOrchard.com, Facebook or Instagram.



Calendar of events

September

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.

Brain Club: Virtual Weekly Community Education Series

Brain Club is a weekly community education series (6–7 pm resuming July 12) where we will be joined by professionals from various fields to teach us about different ways that brains of all types navigate everyday life, followed by Q&A from the audience. Each week will have a presenter or panel about a different topic, oriented around a monthly theme. All webinars are recorded for on-demand viewing.

Wednesdays:

Brandon Public Library Meditation Group

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

Thursdays:

Summer Storytime Playgroup with Sophie

Join us at 10 am at the Maclure Library. for stories, crafts, snacks and free play!

2 January 7:

Sheldon Museum's "Artists in the Archives: Community, History, and Collage"

Local history museums and archives are vital to building healthy communities and anchoring our understanding of the world. Collage artists have unique skills that are particularly useful in our historical moment.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sheldon Stewart-Swift Research Center, an international network of collage artists was invited to engage the Sheldon archival collections. Under the curatorial direction of Kolaj Institute Director Ric Kasini Kadour and with the support of the Research Center staff, twenty-three artists from seven countries created collage prints that reflect the idea of community in the 21st-century world.

In this exhibit, artists from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Poland, Scotland, Ukraine, and several US states created collages to explore how the archival material expresses an aspect of a community. The resulting artwork offers commentary on how community ties formed around food, local industries, and social activities, how the natural environment fostered social connections and the intimate lives of women.

Artists also probed the Eurocentric character of the local community and the marginalization of people of Asian, African, and Jewish descent, largely absent from the Sheldon's collections.

28:

Cast Off 8's Square Dance at Lothrop School

Just as social dance took off after the pandemic of 1918, all forms of community participatory dance are taking off now. Contemporary square dance is a great way to be active, meet new people and get back into a lively lifestyle after these many months of restricted activity. Square dancing has evolved a great deal compared to the grade school memories people have; it is an upbeat and vibrant activity.

Interested community members can come for free square dancing this September on Wednesdays at Lothrop School. No experience necessary! Wednesday, September 28 is the last free Cast Off 8's event of the season. It will feature an ice cream social and be held at 7 p.m., at Lothrop School in Pittsford.

Try out some easy square dance calls and have a good time dancing to pop, rock, country, hip hop, and other popular music. Individuals and couples are equally welcome; there are others to dance with.

If you have a good time, you may wish to join the fall class, a low-cost activity held in 9-10 week segments. There is no pressure to join, but the benefits are a healthy body, mind, and social life.

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Check the website at www.castoff8s.com or Facebook at Cast Off 8's Square Dance Club for more information.

29:

Brandon Congregational Church; A service of remembrance and celebration of life

Starting at 6:30 p.m. the Board of Deacons of the Brandon Congregational Church wishes to invite you and your family to a special service to honor and remember those in our broader community who have passed away within the last year.

They will be asking the name of your loved one when you come into the church to be prepared to call you forward. This is a participatory service during which you will be invited to light one candle in memory of your loved one.

There will also be an opportunity to remember other family members and friends who have passed away, and there will be a special remembrance for those who have passed during the two pandemic years.

Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served after the service in the Fellowship Hall, located next to the church. If you have any questions, please contact BCC at 802-247-6121.

BARN OPERA Presents Puccini's "Tosca" at Castleton University

BARN OPERA presents a performance of Puccini's "Tosca" at Castleton University at 7 p.m. in the Casella Theater.

Set in Rome at the time of Napoleon's invasion of Italy, "Tosca" is a roller coaster story of love, lust, murder, and political intrigue. Carried on the wings of Puccini's richly romantic score, "Tosca" is one of the world's most loved operas. A tragic story of passion and jealousy, it follows the tempestuous opera singer Floria Tosca as she fights to save her lover Cavaradossi from the sadistic police chief Scarpia.

BARN OPERA strives to make the joy and beauty of opera accessible and welcoming while operating in a rural community. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and alumni and can be reserved in advance by calling the

Burlington Taiko at the Friday, September 30, and

Prepare to be mesmerized by the powerful, spellbinding, and propulsive sounds of the Taiko drums. To kick off the Mahaney Arts Center's 30th anniversary, Burlington Taiko performs two half-hour sets on the MAC's back lawn each afternoon. Come early on Friday to follow a parade from the center of campus starting at 3:30 PM. All ages. Rain

or shine. 4:30 and 5:30 p.m on Friday, Sept. 30, and 2 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the MAC plaza and back lawn. Free.

All events are subject to change. Audiences can visit the Arts at Middlebury website (www.middlebury.edu/arts), call 802-443-MIDD (6433), or email mac@middlebury.edu for updates.

Casella Box Office at (802) 468-1119 between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or purchased at the door.

30:

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network's Day of Racial Equity

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network (VSARN) is putting together a day to promote racial equity and youth activism at the Statehouse in Montpelier, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.. The morning will be complete with workshops exploring more profound anti-racism work concepts, music from a student band, and conversations with some Vermont Legislators.

A Lunch will break and feature local food trucks selling their food.

In the afternoon, there will be three speakers: Astrid Young of Stowe High School, Zoraya Hightower from the Peace and Justice Center, and the winner of the Democratic primary for US Congress, Becca Balint.

Please join us! We ask that everyone planning on attending fill out our registration form. You can find the registration form on our website <https://vsarn.org/> if you scroll down on the home page and click the register icon.

About VSARN: VSARN is a group of students from around the state working to build anti-racist schools. We endeavor to educate ourselves and others about race, power, privilege, and oppression in order to foster a more inclusive and anti-racist community, starting with our schools. We strive to disrupt the racial hierarchy of our society, starting with our own group.

October

1:

Dr. Cornell West

The Greater Burlington Multicultural Resource Center will host Dr. Cornell West as a featured speaker during the Diversity Speaker Series at the Flynn Theater in Burlington at 6 p.m. Dr. West will be joined by a community panel asking questions.

*Goings on
around town*

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...s are \$10-43 at <https://www.flynnvt.org/Events/2022/9/>
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Dead Creek Wildlife Day

...enjoy wildlife, be sure to make plans to attend the 20th
...Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison, Vermont, from 7

**Mahaney Arts Center
Saturday, October 1**



...4 p.m.

...ies at Dead Creek Wildlife Day are especially for people
...enjoy hunting, fishing, birdwatching, or learning about
...ent's diverse wildlife and ecosystems. The event will be
...t the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Dead Creek
...e Management Area (WMA) on Route 17, west of Route

...isers can begin the day with a bird banding demonstra-
...7 a.m. Two large tents at Dead Creek WMA headquar-
...open at 9:30 a.m. featuring wildlife-related exhibits and
...es such as decoy carving, building bluebird boxes, and
...crafts.

The Dead Creek Visitor Center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. featuring displays about conservation and wildlife management in Vermont. This year, enjoy a guided walk along with Visitor Center interpretive trail to learn about various features and habitats.

Live critters will include a selection of snakes, turtles, raptors, and more that visitors can see up close and learn about their ecology. New this year will be a bat house building program, and Wild Kitchen will be on the road with campfire cooking. There will be a presentation on the Eastern meadowlark and an hour of learning how to take photographs of wildlife.

This will also be the last year to see Warden Dog Crockett in action sniffing out gunpowder as he retires from the department in October. Retriever dogs will be working in the area ponds, and all of the favorite nature walks will be happening. All events are free, and a free shuttle bus will provide regular access to nearby field events throughout the day.

"We want to welcome visitors to the 20th year of the popular Dead Creek Wildlife Day," said Amy Alfieri, manager of the Dead Creek WMA. "The activities are fun, the demonstrations are very exciting, and the setting is beautiful. Visitors love to see the live animals and working dogs, and the kids love to build their own bluebird box to take home."

The festival is hosted by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Vermont.

Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Delta Waterfowl, and Otter Creek Audubon Society.

For more information and events schedule, visit Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) and check under Watch Wildlife.

1 2:

Vermont Open Studio Weekend

Vermont Open Studio Weekend celebrates its 30th Anniversary Year 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and galleries and studios in Brandon and across Vermont.

Open Studio maps are already available at the Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center Street (Route 7), 802 247 4956. It is sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council.

Participants in Brandon:

- Judith Reilly, Studio and Gallery, Map #31
- Caleb Kenna, Photography, Map #30
- Jill Listzwan, Dancing Ear Design, Map #29
- Joan Curtis, Studio, Map #33
- Brandon Artists Guild gallery, Map E: Featured show "Common Threads: Uncommon Art in Fabric and Fiber," Judith Reilly and Althea Bilodeau Lamb, as well as guild members' artwork throughout the gallery.
- Vermont Gallery of Folk Art, Map #34: Medana Gabbard, Robin Kent, and Warren Kimble

2:

Brandon Harvest Fest

Fall Fun in Brandon! Hay Rides, Petting Zoo, Music, Vendors, "Mac Down" macaroni and cheese competition, Food by Dallas. Buy your scarecrow, face painting, games, books, and more, as there are many ways to enjoy a beautiful fall afternoon! Free admission, free entertainment!

Estabrook Park in Brandon, from, 1-4 p.m.! Brought to you by the Allie Mae Foundation, Neshobe PTO, the Brandon Area Toy Project, and Brandon Rec.

Howard Coffin at the Maclure Library in Pittsford

Starting at 6 p.m.. join Howard Coffin's presentation of "1800 and Froze to Death: The Cold Year of 1816." 1816 has long been known as the year without summer. This talk includes scores of anecdotes about the dark year of failed crops, scarce food, and religious revival.

Sponsored by Maclure Library.

5:

Song Circle at Godnick Adult Center

A song circle will be held at the Godnick Adult Center in Rutland from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. The song circle welcomes singers, players of acoustic instruments, and listeners. Admission is free.

Those taking part will need to fill out a form with basic information once a year. For further information, call Jack Crowther at 775-1182. You may also email Gus Bloch, song circle leader, at gusbloch@gmail.com.

7:

Sheldon Museum "Bop-by-the-Barn" and auction

You are invited to a lovely fall evening party in the Sheldon Museum's Garden and Barn with music by Atom and the Orbits, a fall barbecue buffet provided by Lucky Star Catering, and an onsite bar with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks, including refreshments donated by Aqua Vitae and Shacksbury Cider.

Event runs from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets include access to a fun, live auction featuring local products and art and entry into a drawing for a "Vermont local" gift basket. Attendees must purchase tickets in advance for this event. Tickets are \$50 per person and are Will Call only.

Bop by the Barn & Auction benefits the Sheldon's general operating costs. <https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/bop-by-the-barn>

The poetry of Major Jackson and Didi Jackson, Saturday, October 1 at 6 p.m.

Rochester Public Library will have an evening of poetry with two guests, Major Jackson, and Didi Jackson, on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m.

Major Jackson and Didi Jackson will read and selected poems from their latest volumes inspired by Vermont's landscape and seasons. The authors are Rochester residents and Vanderbilt University Professors.

Major Jackson is the author of Moon Jar (Red Hen Press, 2020). Her poems have been published in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, New England Re-Ploughshares, and elsewhere. Didi Jackson's poems have been selected for the Best American Poetry Series and read at the Robert H. Winner Memorial Day by the Academy of American Poets. She is the recipient of the Robert H. Winner Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. She is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Vanderbilt University.

Major Jackson is the author of five books of poetry, most recently The Absurd (Vanderbilt University Press, 2020). A recipient of awards from the Guggenheim



MAJOR JACKSON

Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, Major has been awarded a Pushcart Prize and a Whiting Writers' Award.

He is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in the Humanities



DIDI JACKSON

at Vanderbilt University. He serves as the Poetry Editor of The Harvard Review.

The evening is co-sponsored by The Bookery, and copies of the Jackson's books will be available for purchase.

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Jim & Liz McRae



THE OTTERS CELEBRATE with first-year head coach Jordan Tolar after scoring an early touchdown on Saturday.

Photos by Mat Clouser

Otter homecoming

(Continued from Page 1)

plete 11 of 15 passes for 161 yards.

First-year OV Coach Jordan Tolar said Saturday's success began with the work of the OV lines, both in attitude and execution.

"Football is won and lost in the trenches," Tolar said. "You've got to get after them, get physical, and be a disciplined group. We talked about being the more disciplined group today, understand our assignment, and just executing our job."

Tolar spread the credit around.

"It was another total team effort by the guys," Tolar said. "It was a great week of practice, and they were locked in for game day."

MAV Coach Jeff Stein was less pleased after the game, especially with the first half.

"I'm not sure what took place or what happened, but I told the guys we spotted them 20 points right there in warmups," Stein said. "You can't come out flat and expect to do well against a team that is comparable or better than you."

His offensive line played better and gave DuBois more time in the second half, and more

use of an empty backfield set helped the Eagles move the ball more effectively.

DuBois finished 14 of 32 for 238 yards, numbers that could have been better if not for a few drops.

"We had empty put-in even at the beginning, and we knew we could get numbers in the box like we wanted, and then that gave us the ability to get Ian out wide one-on-one without help over the top," Stein said. "We used it more (in the second half). We had it in the first half, we just weren't executing it."

The Otters moved well on their first drive, but a fumble recovered by Eagle senior Lucas Allen ended it. No matter: They scored on four of their next five possessions in the half.

A 33-yard toss from Whitney to his sophomore brother Isaac Whitney (six catches for 96 yards) helped set up Caleb Whitney's 1-yard sneak at 4:30 of the opening quarter. Luca Polli tossed a conversion pass to Caleb Whitney to make it 8-0.

Whitney's 15-yard pass to Babcock at 11:10 of the second quarter capped a 75-yard march. Next, Noah Drew picked off DuBois, and OV

took over at its own 32 and marched 68 yards to make it 20-0, scoring on Whitney's 6-yard pass to LaFontaine.

After Funke scored to make it 20-6, another fumble, which Eagle Ryan Wright recovered, stalled OV. But Pearsons soon picked off DuBois on the MAV 23. Three plays later, Parks bulled in from the 8, and it was 26-6 at the half.

The teams traded scores in the second half. Pearsons ran wide left to make it 33-6. The Eagles responded with a 58-yard drive with the empty backfield look. DuBois completed passes to Wright and Funke and ran three times for 34 yards on the march, including a 4-yard TD at 6:18 of the third, and it was 33-12.

In the fourth, the Otters capped a 70-yard drive with an 8-yard Whitney-to-Whitney TD pass. Funke, doing it all, blocked the point after and then caught a 15-yard TD pass from DuBois, and the two scores made it 39-18.

Later in the quarter Pearsons ran untouched wide right to make it 46-18. With 1:40 to go, Funke outjumped three defenders for a long DuBois pass, shrugged off their efforts to drag him down, and waltzed into the end zone for a 49-yard

TD. Funke kicked the point-after to further pad his résumé.

DuBois rushed eight times for 45 yards, and Jamison Couture added seven attempts for 44.

Stein said the Eagles were missing two defensive starters due to injuries, and the Eagles lacked an edge to their defense on Saturday after limiting their opponents to 14 points or fewer.

"I told our guys we didn't come out and play aggressive. It was like we were letting them come to us rather than going to them," he said. "We've been able to control the line of scrimmage defensively, and today we weren't getting the push we're used to."

Stein said the injured players should return to help for this week's Saturday home game vs. Fairfax (2-1), and he pledged his team would work hard to bounce back.

"We're going to focus on some hard-nosed play because that's what we're going to get from Fairfax," Stein said. "We're just going to have to get more aggressive."

Tolar said the Otters' road ahead would be challenging, starting with a Saturday afternoon visit to undefeated de- (See Otter homecoming, Page 15)



THE STUDENT SECTION did their best to keep the Otters' energy running high.



OTTERS' QB CALEB Whitney broke loose for one of several big plays in the Otter's dominant homecoming win.
Photos by Mat Clouser



THE OTTER'S MASCOT had a lot to pom-pom about as OV pummeled the Eagles.

Otter homecoming

(Continued from Page 14)
fending D-III champion Windsor.

"It's not going to be as easy. But, you know, it's all about preparation and getting after it," he said. "And then executing on Saturday."

Tolar said the Otters are following their leaders' motiva-

tion to improve their play after D-III semifinal losses the past two seasons.

"They've really been coming along great. I've got to tip my cap to the leaders of this group, the seniors and juniors," Tolar said. "Those guys are buying into it, and it's showing."

OVUHS sports round up

BRANDON — In addition to the football team's big win, OV had a successful homecoming weekend with the field hockey, boys', and girls' soccer teams all picking up nice wins

FIELD HOCKEY
The Otters knocked off winless Springfield, 7-0. Ryleigh LaPorte (three goals and an assist) led the OV attack. Also scoring were Charlotte Newton (two goals, assist), Mackenzie McKay (goal, assist), and Matelin LaPorte (goal), while Sydney Gallo chipped in two assists. Goalie Lily Morgan made one save. Otter Valley (5-2) is set to entertain Fair Haven on Wednesday.

GIRLS SOCCER

OV won 1-0 on a penalty kick scored by Elena Politano in the second half. A great game was played by the OV girls (vs. MSJ on Monday night), who showed strength and physicality, applying pressure all game to net a two-game winning streak and improve to 2-4 on the season.

BOYS SOCCER

The Otter boys squad also kept it rolling over the weekend, displaying nifty passing throughout their 2-0 win against Fair Haven thanks to goals from Logan Letourneau and Drew Pelkey and a few big saves from goalie Isaiah Wood.

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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



Sally McBeth of Denver, Colorado called to recognize her son, Malcolm Tassi. Sally said this is a photo from 1988 or 1989. The children were winners in a contest and the prize was "My Pet Monster." Malcolm and his family lived on Carver Street in Brandon at the time the photo was taken. Malcolm is now 37 years old.

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

Or call us at 247-8080

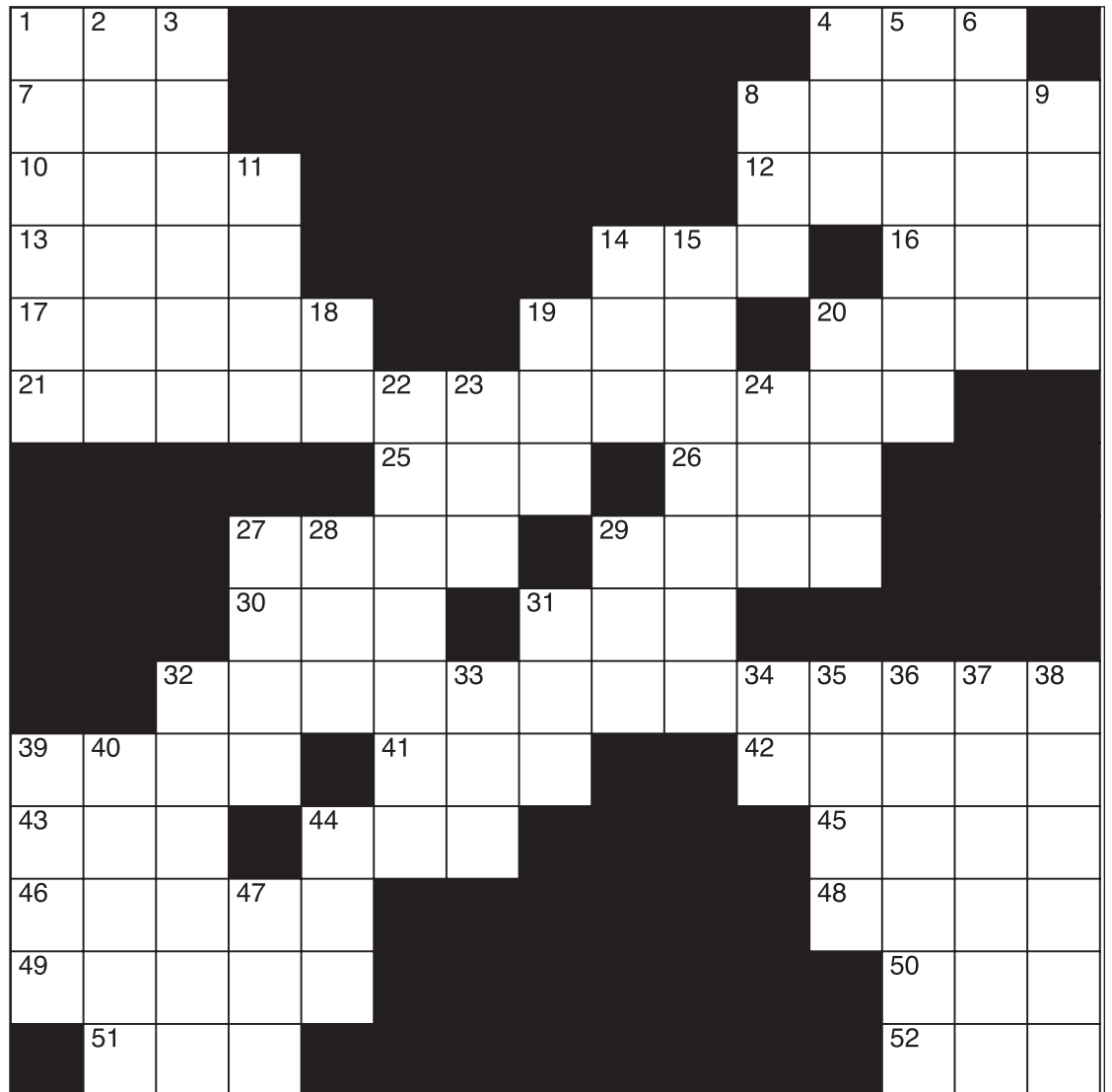
Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxi
4. Cattle disease (abbr.)
7. Before the present
8. They burn in a grill
10. Enough (archaic)
12. "A Doll's House" playwright
13. Long loop of cloth worn around the waist
14. Napoleonic Wars battle
16. Chinese surname
17. Fragrant essential oil
19. Follows sigma
20. Model
21. A place with many dining options
25. BBQ dish
26. Corn comes on it
27. A sheep in its second year
29. Triad
30. They ___
31. Actor DiCaprio
32. TV's "Edith Bunker"
39. Sustenance
41. Man who behaves dishonorably
42. Cause a loud, harsh sound
43. A way to take in liquids
44. Gene type
45. The Miami mascot is one
46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
48. Casino machine
49. Contains cerium
50. Something with a letter-like shape
51. Handwoven Scandinavian rug
52. Legendary actress Ruby

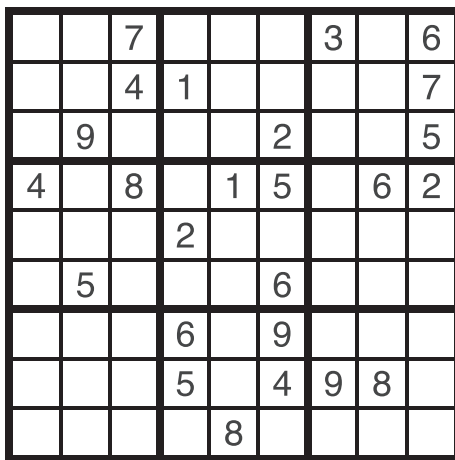
CLUES DOWN

1. Conqueror
2. Kin relation
3. Increases the value of
4. Pack
5. Popular nut
6. Dogs' enemies
8. Former OSS
9. Unpleasant person
11. Come again?
14. Beverage container
15. Rock formation
18. Dorm official
19. The bill in a restaurant
20. Type of jug
22. Importance requiring swift action
23. Outfit
24. Small Eurasian deer
27. Weight used in China
28. A major division of geological time
29. Popular beverage
31. Confined condition (abbr.)
32. Practical joking
33. Pouchlike structure
34. Pound
35. Lilly and Manning are two
36. Stopped discussing
37. Baltimore ballplayer
38. Candymaker
39. One thousandth of a second (abbr.)
40. Northern sea duck
44. Partner to cheese
47. Cannot be found



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

October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month

Are you thinking about adding a dog to your family? The Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) would like to remind you that October is Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog Month! We have many wonderful dogs waiting to find their forever homes. Dogs make terrific pets and will keep you warm during the cold months ahead! To find out what dogs are currently available for adoption please call RCHS at 802.483.6700 or visit our website at www.rchsvt.org.

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



MEET COCOA - 1-YEAR-OLD. MALE. AUSSIE MIX. BLACK AND TAN.

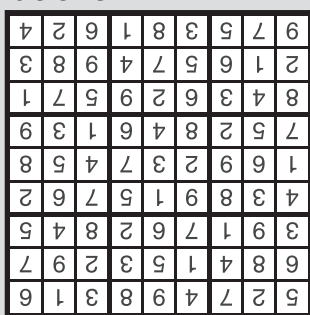
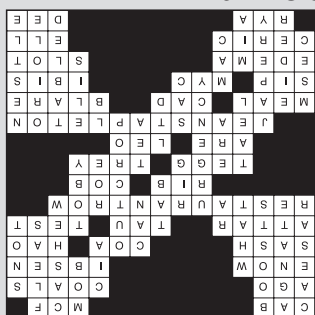
Cocoa is a very energetic and silly pup. He is very sweet and loves people. He has lived with another dog and did fine. He needs to work on his normal puppy behavior and he does do submissive peeing when he is excited to nervous. He can be vocal at times, but he just has a lot of energy he wants to use. Cocoa will need a family who is patient and is willing to work on basic puppy manners and skills.

MEET GREYSON - 5-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR.

Grey and White. Grayson is very social and affectionate with people and cats. Grayson lived most of his life as a stray, so most things are very new to him. He seems to be enjoying the comfort of it. He is vocal and purrs most of the time he is around people. He loves to give kisses and is very playful with toys. He isn't sure about dogs and is doing well with cats. He needs a little time to warm up to new ones and be a little shy at first.



Puzzle solutions



RUTLAND COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

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ADOPTION CENTER OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

Adult Fiction:

"Valley of Shadows", by Rudy Ruiz

Set along the US-Mexican border in the 1870s, "Valley of Shadows" tells the story of widower Solitario Cisneros. Following a string of gruesome murders in his home town, Solitario finds inspiration and support in an Apache-Mexican seer as they work together to confront the evil that has invaded their town. A tale of magical realism, mystery, and horror.

"A Very Typical Family: A Novel", by Sierra Godfrey

Three estranged siblings, upon the death of their mother, learn they must come together in order to claim and inherit their family's historic Santa Cruz home. But one sibling has gone missing. A warm-hearted, messy, and darkly humorous story of a family trying to put itself back together.

"Lungfish" by Meghan Gillis

Slow to understand the circumstances that have driven her family to an uninhabited island off the coast of Maine,

Did you know?

We're hosting a seed-saving workshop on **October 8th, 10:30 am.** Master seed saver **Sylvia Davatz** will highlight the importance of local food systems.

Tuck finds herself squatting at the former home of her deceased grandmother where she once spent her childhood summers. She must care for her spirited young daughter, and detoxing husband, while trying to scrape together enough money to leave before winter arrives—or before they are found out. Relying on what they can find for food on the island—crabs, rosehips and other plants—Tuck struggles to find answers to the lies she's been told, and those she's told herself.

Junior Fiction:

"Everyday Hero Machine Boy", by Irma Kniivila.

When Machine Boy falls from the sky into the domed

city of Mega 416, he leaves a wake of destruction in his path... until Karate Grandpa is able to turn on his heart. Now, Machine Boy wants nothing more than to become a hero! But when his heart begins to interact dangerously with other debris from space, Machine Boy wonders if he can be a power for good after all.

"Odder" by Katherine Applegate

Odder the sea otter spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning quirky stories. She's fearless and curious. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself—and about the humans who hope to save her.

Inspired by the true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers, this poignant and humorous tale told in free verse examines bravery and healing through the eyes of one of nature's most beloved and charming animals.

Downtown trio lost, then found with aid of BPD

BRANDON — Police began the week on Sept. 19 with a welfare check on an elderly resident living on Franklin Street. A relative of the woman called to report that a family member visiting the home heard a suspicious sound inside the residence and believed there might be an intruder. The responding officer checked the residence but did not locate anyone inside.

In the afternoon, a New Road resident called about a potentially neglected dog that wandered onto the front steps of the Wintergreen Nursing Home and wanted to have an officer check on its well-being. Officers found that the dog was recently rescued by the new owners several days prior. The owners said the dog was now well taken care of and had upcoming vet appointments to address any medical issues before adoption.

At around 8 p.m., police assistance was requested by the Vermont State Police in New Haven in locating a black Volkswagen that was involved in an incident in Leicester on Route 7. Allegedly, a female passenger was pushed out of the vehicle and struck by a passing car. Officers checked the area of Route 7/Grove Street but could not locate the vehicle in question.

In the afternoon of Sept. 20, officers were dispatched to Union Street, where an individual was trying to cause self-harm. The subject, who had been injuring himself by scratching his face with his fingernails, was calmed

Brandon Police Report

down by the officers and then safely transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center by Brandon Area Rescue without any further issues.

Soon afterward, a male called in, saying that his ex-girlfriend assaulted him in front of their children, told him she was going to kill herself and drove off. Police are conducting further investigations into the incident.


Domestic issues cropped up again on Sept. 21 when police responded to a Union Street residence, where an out-of-control juvenile was threatening family members with a knife and hammer. The responding officers took the child into custody under a CHINS Petition and for the delinquent act of first-degree aggravated domestic assault. The child was later remanded to the Vermont Department of Children and Families custody until a hearing could be held.

On Sept. 24, police assisted a father and son who had an argument while driving on Franklin Street when one of the parties got out of the car and took the wrong wallet with him. The wallets were returned to their proper owners without further incident.

Officers responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in Conant Square on Sept. 25. Upon arrival, officers determined that it was a
(See Police report, Page 19)

 **SUBMIT YOUR BIRTH, ANNIVERSARY, OR WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**
news@brandonreporter.com

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



LEO July 23-Aug. 23
The planets are trying to tell you to slow down and take a day off, Leo. You just have to listen more closely or you could run the risk of burnout in the days to come.

VIRGO Aug. 24-Sept. 22
It seems that you have been tasked with moving from one difficult situation into another one, Virgo. Find ways to set aside time strictly to unwind.

ARIES March 21-April 20
Aries, others are counting on you this week, so you'll need to direct all of your attention toward a special project. Don't let distractions get in the way.

TAURUS April 21-May 21
Taurus, rather than wishing for something to happen, figure out a plan to make it happen. Before taking action, consult with a few close friends for guidance.


GEMINI May 22-June 21
Someone may come to you this week with a problem asking for your advice, Gemini. It's tempting to react right away. However, take a few hours to mull things over.

CANCER June 22-July 22
Someone at work may not agree with your point of view lately. Rather than cause friction, try to look at things through this person's perspective.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Capricorn, let another person lead a team or spearhead a project at work, even if you have an urge to take control. You can use a break from your responsibilities.

AQUARIUS Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Aquarius, hands-on work not only helps save you some money, but also strengthens your skills. Think about a more DIY approach with your next project.

PISCES Feb. 19-March 20
Pisces, if life has been tedious and filled with analytical requirements as of late, take on a creative project that will work your brain in new ways.



FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 29 Kevin Durant, basketball player, (34)
Sept. 30 Virgil Abloh, fashion designer (42)
Oct. 1 Michaela Coel, actress & screenwriter (35)
Oct. 2 Brittany Howard, musician (34)
Oct. 3 Stevie Ray Vaughn, musician (d)
Oct. 4 Buster Keaton, actor and filmmaker (d)
Oct. 4 Kate Winslet, actor (47)

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Police report

(Continued from Page 18)
 verbal-only disturbance caused due to a childcare issue over an unchanged diaper.

Not long afterward, officers responded to Hack's Saw Mill Road, where a male was having a mental health crisis and causing self-harm. He was subsequently transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center for an evaluation.

When the third party of a trio went missing in downtown Brandon later in the afternoon, police aided the two individuals in locating the missing female, who was later found safe and sound in the area of the gazebo on Park Street.

At close to 11 p.m. that night, police investigated the possible abuse of a vulnerable adult after an elderly male called the police from a residence on Carver Street. After an investigation was conducted, it was found that no abuse had taken place.

In other activities, Brandon Police:

On Sept. 19

- Responded to a residence on Marshall Phillips Road for a report of a glass break alarm activation. The home was checked and appeared to be secure

- Attempted to serve a subpoena at a residence in Conant Square. The defendant was found not to reside at the address.

- Attempted subpoena service at a residence on Pearl Street. The defendant was found not to reside at the address.

- Took fingerprints for school employment, school chaperones, school volunteer, and teacher licensing.

On Sept. 20

- Took fingerprints for a school chaperone

- Made a welfare check on an elderly resident living on Franklin Street.

- Responded to a complaint from a resident on Carver Street concerning a loud exhaust pipe located at a business next door to his home. It was determined that this was not a police matter and that the complaint was more of a possible zoning issue.

- Responded to an animal incident complaint on New Road.

- Investigated alleged suspicious activity on Carver Street, where a complainant recently obtained a temporary relief from abuse order from a male and had seen members of his family walk by her residence. The complainant found it to be suspicious and wanted the incident documented.

- Assisted the Vermont State Police-New Haven in locating a black Volkswagen involved in an incident in Leicester on Route 7.

On Sept. 21

- Took fingerprints for DMV employment, school employment, teacher licensing, and nursing license.

- Responded to a report of a telephone wire sagging in the roadway on Wheeler Road. The phone company was advised about the issue by dispatch.

- Responded to a mental health issue on Union Street.

- Received report of domestic assault on Basin Road.

On Sept. 22

- Investigated a report of someone shining flashlights into apartments on Mulcahy Drive. The responding officers did not locate anyone in the area.

- Patrolled Center Street on foot. Door checks were conducted on the businesses in the area.

- Conducted quarterly sex offender registry checks.

- Received a report of a tree down at the intersection of Florence Road and Bronto Lane blocking half of the roadway. Brandon Highway Department was notified.

- Received report of tree branches down in the roadway on Birch Hill Road. The limbs were subsequently removed.

- Responded to a residence for a report of an out-of-control juvenile.

On Sept. 23

- Received a hang-up call from a residence on Sunset Drive. Contact was made with the caller, who said she dialed 911 by accident.

- Made motor vehicle stops at the intersection of Wheeler Road and Forest Dale Road and at the intersection of Champlain Street and Grove Street (two times) for stop sign violations. Warnings were issued to the operators.

- Made a motor vehicle stop on Champlain Street near the intersection of Hollow Road for speeding and a defective equipment violation and for driving while using a cell phone at the intersection of Champlain Street and Grove Street. Warnings were issued.

- Patrolled Center Street and downtown on foot.

On Sept. 24

- Made a motor vehicle stop in Conant Square for speeding and issued a warning.

- Responded to a two-car accident on Forest Dale Road. No injuries.

- Received a motor vehicle complaint on Route 7 of an erratic operator coming into Brandon from Pittsford. Officers patrolled the area but were unable to locate the vehicle.

- Responded to a report of a suspicious male hiding out behind Otter Valley Union High School on Franklin Street. No one was found.

- Enforced speed on Franklin Street.

- Assisted a father and son who had an argument while driving on Franklin Street.

On Sept. 25

- Responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence in

Conant Square.

- Responded to a mental health issue on Hack's Saw Mill Road.

- Assisted two individuals in locating a missing person.

- Assisted Vermont State Police in processing a male arrestee at the Brandon Police Department.

- Assisted citizens with a late reported motor vehicle accident in which there was more damage than initially reported.

- Made a traffic stop for speeding on Franklin St.

- Patrolled Center Street.
- Investigated a possible abuse of a vulnerable adult on Carver Street.

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Square dance

(Continued from Page 10)
 callers."

Norford also says the club members are close, regularly celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. "When members are sick or experiencing hardship, club members pull together to support that person," she said. "So, members are a community that in some ways goes beyond just the physical and social aspects of dancing."

One thing club members say that many don't know is that modern square dancing is mis-

understood. People often think back to barn dances or elementary school square dancing, but things are done differently today.

The caller makes up calls as he goes along, and the dancers have to listen and follow the calls—the dance isn't memorized," said Norford. "In that way, it's fun because the dancer never knows what the caller will call next—it's like being in a walking puzzle."

"For folks who like a mental challenge, square dancing is awesome; it keeps you thinking

and figuring out how to carry out the calls as a team," added Northrop. "The music is also contemporary and is really fun to dance to. The caller, Peter Tobin, picks songs that are accessible to dancers but have a great beat."

"New and interested dancers can still come to try it out for free on Wednesday, Sept. 28," she continued. "This will be the first night of the class for this year. Dancers can try it for one night or sign up in 8-10 week blocks for a discount (the full fee is \$7)."

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TOP LEFT: FROM left, Jaden Grace (12th), Hayden Fisher (12th), Copper Rubright (8th), and Jack Rawles (8th) piloted their vessel "The Ian"; top right: team Vermont Boys took home the victory for the second year in a row in a time of 32 minutes, from left: Ben Eugair (8th), Quinn Quinneville (8th), Peyton Quinneville (6th), and Caleb Woodward (6th); center: team "Unsinkable, from left, Sophie Moore, Brendan McLoughlin, Calvin Ladd, Oliver Lavelle, and Emiliano Dardozzi; bottom left, the lone alumni team in this year's field, team "Barrel Chicks," consisted of sisters Lisa Kenyon, left, and Emma Page.

Photos by Rachel Valcour

Floating Otters battle to out-paddle each other in annual homecoming raft race

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — For the better part of 40 years, OVUHS has hosted a raft race during homecoming weekend. Each year, the race features a flotilla of homemade rafts crafted by middle and high school students with an eye on battling to out-paddle each other down Otter Creek.

Though it was canceled in 2020 due to COVID and featured just two rafts in last year's edition, there is still a strong contingent that would like to see the race return to its former glory. "It used to be one of the highlights of homecoming

weekend," said OV teacher and race organizer Rachel Valcour. "After the race last year, I heard many voices wanting to rebuild the event to what it once was."

Valcour says she worked hard to spread the word and raise awareness for the race—even going so far as getting Mitchell T's in Pittsford and OMYA on board as sponsors.

This year's race—which began along Route 73 between Sudbury and Brandon and ended with a free BBQ at the access area off of Willowbrook Road—featured five total rafts, four from student teams across all grades and one alumni

team (alumni were allowed to participate for the first time this year as part of the effort to return the pontoon contest to prominence).

Valcour said that nearly 50 people showed up to cheer on the junior (and some less junior) mariners as they roared and oared their way to the finish.

Though many tried to scull, pole, and propel their slap-dash river crafts across the line first, in the end, team Vermont Boys slapped and dashed the fastest for the second year in a row, taking home a bit of Otter immortality along the way.

Classifieds

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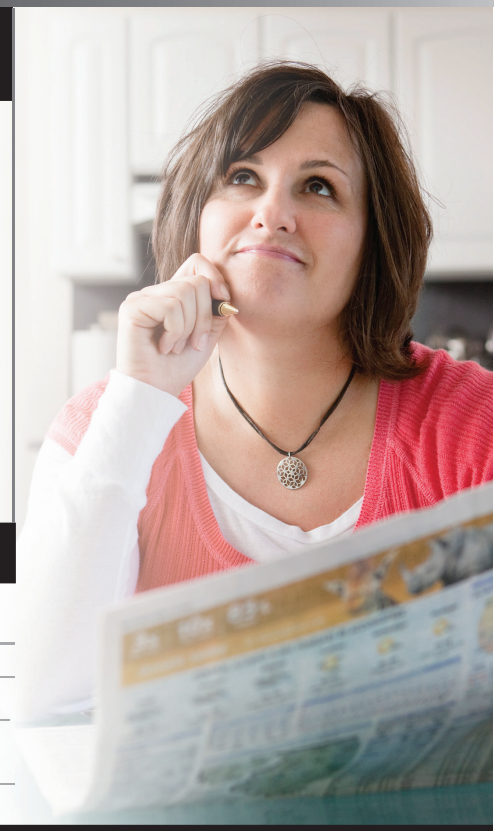
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Sandy Korda of Orwell is Vermont's Emergency Management Director of the Year

WATERBURY — An Orwell resident with more than 50 years of experience in emergency response, Sandy Korda, has been recognized as Vermont's Emergency Management Director of the Year. Korda was recognized for his commitment and excellence during the annual Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference on September 20.

Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) are the key coordination link between residents, local governments, first responders, and the state. These individuals have direct responsibility for the organization and administration of emergency management resources in their community and county. This requires diligent work before, during, and after emergencies.

"EMDs work hard to ensure their community's emergency response capabilities are strong, often on a voluntary basis," said Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann. "Sandy is a dedicated EMD who truly cares about his community," Bornemann continued. "During the COVID pandemic, he spearheaded several initiatives to help his community, including organizing welfare checks for those in need of as-

sistance and a volunteer effort to deliver medicines and essentials to those who were homebound."

Korda is also noted for his efforts to communicate with townspeople ahead of, during, and after emergencies. He utilizes social media and Vermont Alert to provide hazardous weather warnings and safety messages. He also works closely with the state and regional planning commission to provide prompt and reliable damage reporting following a storm to help expedite possible assistance.

His nomination appropriately noted, "Sandy's efforts have undoubtedly kept Orwell, and all of Addison County informed and reassured during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be an important resource for hazard planning and responses that arise in the community in the future."

Certified Emergency Management Directors

Four individuals were also recognized at the conference for completing the state Certified Emergency Management Director program. The designation provides leaders within emergency management organizations with the fundamental knowledge and skills to effectively manage disasters. Through 70 hours of



VERMONT PUBLIC SAFETY Commissioner Jennifer Morrison, left; Sandy Korda, center; and Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann, right.
Photo provided

training, which is a blend of on-line training, instructor-led training, and practical application. Those leaders recognized for this commitment to excellence included:

- Chance Payette, Vermont

Emergency Management

- Harry Schoppmann, Vermont Emergency Management
- Jonathan Scott, Central Vermont Medical Center
- Michael DesRosiers, St. Michael's College

The conference was held on September 20 and 21 in Killington. Presentations from the event are posted on Vermont Emergency Management's YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/VTDEMHS>.

Homeward Bound launches PetFIX for Addison County pets

MIDDLEBURY — Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, is pleased to announce the launch of PetFIX: Affordable Spay/Neuter for Addison County and the town of Brandon.

PetFIX is a program expansion enabled by the surgery suite the shelter built in 2021.

Over the past year, Homeward Bound's on-site spay and neuter ability has facilitated the sterilization of shelter animals and feral cats and provided a way for Addison County pet owners enrolled in the shelter's income-eligible support program, PetCORE, to access truly affordable spay/neuter services.

The income threshold for pet owners to enroll in PetCORE is 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and there are currently



WINNIE, THE FIRST animal to be spayed through Homeward Bound's PetFIX program, gets weighed by Surgical Technician Chelsey Berlic.

80 active clients.

Executive Director, Jess Danyow, explains, "As word of our ability to provide spay/neuter has filtered into the community, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of public calls and emails we receive asking for help finding affordable spay/neuter. These pet owners are solidly above the PetCORE income threshold but still find themselves challenged by an expense that is the ethically right thing to do, but is neither required by law nor harmful to the pet if left undone."

"Providing an affordable way for pet owners to take care of a fundamental responsibility to their pets will not only support a healthy community through a more stable human-animal bond but also enable

households throughout the region more flexibility in their disposable income," Danyow continued.

PetFIX is specifically for dogs and cats and will operate by appointment.

The Middlebury Vermont Rotary Club recently awarded

the shelter a grant that is making possible a 50% discount to the first 25 pet owners who schedule an appointment. This discount is limited to one pet per family. For pricing and program details, visit <https://www.homewardboundanimals.org/programs-services/petfix/>.



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Sharpen your mind with our puzzles. See page 17



Do it for the glory

The 7th annual Brandon Fire Benefit Cornhole Tournament was a big success bringing in more than \$3,000 for the Dunmore Hose Co. despite the rain causing wet boards and soggy bags. From left, competitors braved the rain for this year's tournament, team "Bags Deep," comprised of Scotty Graham, left, and Justin Wood ran undefeated through this year's competition to take home the title.

Photos by Mat Clouser

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