

# The REPORTER

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

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75¢

## Young OV field hockey squad succeeds with senior sway

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — This year's OV field hockey team is a special bunch. A blend of veteran leadership and youthful enthusiasm that's had to jell quickly—they lost six seniors from last year's team—but jell they have.

Saturday's 2-1 overtime victory, in a game where they trailed Fair Haven for three quarters, brought the team's record to 10-4 and sends them into the playoffs brimming with confidence.

Not bad for a team that boasts seven freshmen out of its sixteen roster spots.

Head coach Jodie Keith described last year's outgoing seniors as being strong players and leaders but said that this year's seniors, Abigail Adamsen, Sydney Gallo, Ryleigh Laporte, Mackenzie McKay, and Casey Sue Thompson, have each played critical roles in helping mentor and develop their younger teammates an addition to playing excellently themselves.

"At the beginning of the season, there was a noticeable difference in skill level, but the younger players have worked really hard this season," said

Keith.

"[Early on], I would have said that being mentally tough was our weakness," Keith continued, "We talk about this a lot, I think these girls have really adjusted their mindset and can now overcome situations that may not be going the way they hoped. [Saturday's] game really showed that."

Keith describes the team as tight-knit and often says she finds them huddled together, talking and laughing before she arrives at practice. "They are a  
(See OV field hockey, Page 14)



THE OV FIELD Hockey team recently completed a 10-4 season thanks to a blend of youth and experience.

## Eric Grenier sentenced to two years in prison for felony firearms case

BY RILEY ROBINSON/  
VtDIGGER

BRANDON — A Brandon man accused of threatening to shoot his neighbors was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Burlington on Thursday to two years in prison followed by three years of supervised release.

Eric Grenier, 40, had agreed to a deal with federal prosecutors in June, pleading guilty to being a felon in possession of firearms. He will get credit for the 15 months he has already spent in jail.

Judge Christina Reiss described Thursday's sentence as "a felon in possession upgrading," as the circumstances surrounding the firearms charge were "much more serious" than simple possession.

According to a police affidavit written by then-Brandon Police Chief Christopher Brickell, Grenier shot several rounds from a rifle on July 1, 2021, while his neighbor Michael Shank was

doing chores in Shank's barn, which abuts Grenier's property on High Pond Road in Brandon.

Two days later, Grenier set off fireworks and explosives in his yard for about two hours,

according to testimony Shank shared with the court.

When Shank stepped outside

later that week, Grenier allegedly yelled, "I see you, you cop-calling bitch." While on the phone with police, Shank heard more gunfire or explosions, he said. Grenier allegedly threatened Shank repeatedly, yelling, "Go ahead Mike, come on over," and "die motherfucker, die," and "dead as fuck, swear to God."

According to Brickell's affidavit, Shank said he feared to leave his house, even to mow his fields or get his mail.

Shank wrote a commentary for USA Today the following month, titled, "White extremism is winning in my Vermont town. I'm selling my animal sanctuary and moving."

About 10 days later, federal and local authorities raided Grenier's home after a weeks-long investigation, seizing several guns, including two rifles and two pistols. They also found about 370 rounds of assorted ammunition from Grenier's bed-

(See Eric Grenier, Page 11)



THE RESIDENCE OF Eric Grenier at 818 High Pond Road in Brandon. File photo by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

### A peek inside:

#### OV GOLF

OV boys golf coach Greg Hughes reflects on the Otter's back-to-back D-II state championships and looks ahead to the future.

PG. 11

#### ELECTION COVERAGE

Reproductive rights are just one of many issues at stake for Vermonters as they prepare to head to the polls in the 2022 mid-term elections on Nov. 8.

PGS. 2-3

#### PITTSFORD SELECTBOARD

The Pittsford selectboard recently heard from several organizations looking to receive a portion of the town's nearly \$900,000.00 of ARPA funds.

PG. 8

#### MARBLE MUSEUM

The Vermont Marble Museum in Proctor recently held a well-attended open house as part of its ongoing fundraising campaign.

PG. 21

#### CALENDAR

Spooky season is upon us. Look inside for area Halloween festivities.

PGS. 12-13





# Balint leads six candidates vying for Vermont's lone House seat

BY ANGELO LYNN

VERMONT — Six candidates are vying for Vermont's lone congressional seat as Congressman Peter Welch, who has held that seat since 2007, makes a run for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Patrick Leahy.

Democrat Becca Balint, who was Senate Pro Temp in the Vermont Legislature for the past four years, is the best known among the candidates and is leading the race in state polls.

Republican Liam Madden has gotten ample press for his unique views and that the fact that he claims to be an Independent and chose to run as a Republican because he was more likely to have a larger platform on which to make a run. Having won the Republican primary against that party's favored candidate, the Republicans have not backed Madden as one of their own.

Madden's views are an interesting mix of liberal positions, similar to those embraced by many Democrats as well as some Libertarian ideas, along with a streak of independence from both major parties. He has been running on a platform that the nation's two-party system is "broken" and needs a healthy dose of outside thinking to right America's politics.

Libertarian Erica Redic, who lost the Republican Primary to Madden, and three other Independents are also on the ballot. The Independents are Luke Talbot, Adam Ortiz and Matt Druzba. Of the six candidates, all responded to VtDigger's questions and provided a brief biography except Druzba.

This report will sketch each candidate's bio and the brief yes-no answers to eight questions, but will not repeat each candidate's in-depth answers to six other questions because of length. We do encourage readers to log on to VtDigger to read those longer responses and learn more about what each candidate represents.

### LUKE TALBOT: INDEPENDENT

Talbot is an Island Pond resident and has been married to his wife for seven years. After his discharge from the U.S. Navy, he writes that he has been "doing inspection work in the manufacturing and power generation industry" for the past 30 years. He says he "enjoys motorcycling, snowmobiling, and is an avid gun enthusiast."

In answering Digger's yes-or-no questions, he:

- Would not support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medi-

care for All.

- Would not support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

- Would not support the federal legalization of marijuana.

- Does believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.

- Would not support legislation requiring the federal government to continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.

- Gave no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits, but in his in-depth comments he notes that congressional term limits would help break up the partisanship in Congress.



BECCA BALINT

- Would not raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

- Does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare," should be repealed.

### LIAM MADDEN, REPUBLICAN/INDEPENDENT

Madden is a Marine Corps veteran who became the leader of America's largest antiwar organization of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Afterward, Madden then

co-won M.I.T.'s Solve Award for organizations innovating climate change solutions. His work has been covered by "60 Minutes," the New York Times, and most major media. Madden was awarded the Institute for Policy Studies Human Rights Award, and he has also been a Climate Fellow for the social entrepreneurship accelerator Echoing Green.

(See House race, Page 15)

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# Rep. Peter Welch leads field of 8 in US Senate race

BY ANGELO LYNN

VERMONT — In Vermont's U.S. Senate race, Democrat Peter Welch is the only candidate with any political experience. He runs on a solid legislative record following 13 years in the Vermont Senate, including being minority leader from 1983-85, and he has served in Congress for the past 15 years. He was elected to congress in November 2006, following now-Sen. Bernie Sanders. Since 2011, he has served on the Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Agriculture committees.

Welch was born in Springfield, Mass., earned a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a juris doctor from the University of California at Berkeley. Welch's career includes working as a practicing attorney. He is married to Margaret Cheney, and the couple's home is in Norwich.

Republican Gerald Malloy is the only other of the six challengers who has an active campaign. Malloy is a Massachusetts transplant who moved to Vermont in 2020, is an avowed Trump supporter and says he supports the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on the Capitol, even though he claims not to be an election-denier.

He represents many perspectives of the national Republican Party, including avid support for ex-president Trump, championing tax reductions for the wealthy, but rejecting Medicare for All and the Affordable Care Act as programs that contribute to the national debt.

Even though the race has drawn

little statewide attention, Malloy, at least, has been campaigning and has articulated a platform based on conservative ideology.

The other candidates are: Natasha Diamondstone-Kohout, representing the Green Mountain Party; and five Independents — Dawn Marie Ellis, Mark Coester, Ms. Cris Ericson, Stephen Duke and Kerry Patrick Raheb.

In a questionnaire answer platform provided by VtDigger, none of those five candidates took the time to answer the basic questions that would provide an inkling of their political perspectives or policy platforms, nor did they provide biographies.

Only Kerry Patrick Raheb of Shelburne outlined a rough platform in his biography, which suggests he would:

- fight for term limits to put an end to the "career politician;"
- reject promoting green energy, maintaining that the nation needs to become "energy independent" and advocated for more drilling of oil and gas and the construction of more pipelines. "We need to approve, not cancel, permits (for oil and gas projects)," he said.
- support more restrictive voter ID laws, hinting he was against mail-in ballots so that the country would return to voting on a single "Election Day," which he said should be a national holiday.
- vote to stop illegal immigration and secure the nation's borders, but didn't say how or advocate for specific ideas;
- vote to "stop the unconstitutional federal mask and vaccine mandates;"
- support the 2nd Amendment rights to bear arms, without saying anything about limits.



PETER WELCH

On other issues, he supports the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade, criticizes the high cost of childcare (but doesn't offer any solutions), and would reduce the size of government. His concluding statement, of course, has God blessing America.

In short, the race to fill the seat long occupied by retiring U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy will be against Democrat Peter Welch and Republican Gerald Malloy.

In previous weeks, VtDigger posed eight yes-or-no questions to all candidates, as well as eight in-depth questions on specific topics. The responses from Welch and Malloy (again, the other candidates didn't answer them) follow:

PETER WELCH

In answering yes-or-no to eight questions, Welch answered "yes" to:

- supporting a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All;
- strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting

Rights Act;

- federal legalization of marijuana;

- having the federal government continue to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19;

- raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans; and

- continuing the operation of F-35 fighter jets out of South Burlington.

He responded "no" to:

- whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits, and whether Congress should repeal the Affordable Care Act (known as Obamacare). Obamacare, enacted in 2010, has significantly reduced medical expenses for millions of Americans, allowed children to remain on their parent's family plans until they were 26, and now prevents insurance companies from preventing millions of Americans to access health care insurance because of pre-existing conditions.

Of the eight questions Welch answered in depth, those questions and his answers follow:

**What, if anything, would you do to reform how political campaigns are funded in the U.S.?**

A: We must get dark money out of politics and strengthen our ethics laws. I strongly support a constitutional amendment to overturn the disastrous Citizens United decision and campaign finance and election reforms that will ensure our government is accountable to the people it serves, not special interests or corporations. I also strongly support public financing, which was included in H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which passed the House with my support.

How would you work within a legislative body that is starkly divided along partisan lines?

A: We're witnessing a dangerous

breakdown in what is essential to building a strong political system and strong communities, and that's trust. I believe the best way to deal with it is for each of us, individually, to treat one another with respect and civility. It's the Vermont Way. Each of us is responsible for carrying that on in our lives, and I've tried to bring that approach to Congress for 15 years.

I will continue to focus on concrete issues that are important to Vermonters — and folks across the country. I've been able to make real progress in Congress when I focus on specific issues with my Republican and Democratic colleagues. It's what I have done to help address our broadband problem in Vermont. I co-founded the bipartisan Rural Broadband Caucus, and we worked to get massive investments in broadband deployment in the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, which will bring more than \$100 million to Vermont. We are also on the verge of passing a major bipartisan bill (the Honoring our PACT Act) to help our veterans who have been exposed to toxic burn pits. I learned of the burn pit issue from Vermont veterans and their families and brought their stories to Washington and stayed on it to help make progress. It will help veterans get the health care and benefits they need to deal with the adverse impact of burn pit exposure while they were serving overseas.

Finding commonality on specific, concrete issues like broadband and burn pits is how I have always approached my work and would continue to in the U.S. Senate.

**What should Congress do to make higher education more affordable, attainable and accessible?**

(See Senate race, Page 22)

## Election coverage Much ado about mid-terms

This week marks the first of two weeks of election coverage for The Reporter in advance of the mid-term elections. There is much at stake locally and nationally for voters as they (hopefully) cast their votes this year—whether that be via mail or at the polls themselves.

By now, most Vermonters should be well aware of the Prop 5/Article 22 conversation and the gravity involved with voting for or against making reproductive liberty—and a woman's sovereign choice over her own body—a permanent feature of the Vermont Constitution.

Vermonters also have a chance to send the state's first-ever woman to congress should they choose to vote for Becca Balint, although the occasionally left-leaning independence of Republican nominee Liam Mad-

den has gained the attention of many—if not the support of the actual Republican party and its coffers.

Vermonters also have a chance at sending a woman to the state house should they vote for Brenda Siegel in the gubernatorial race vs. the incumbent Phil Scott.

Long-time US Congressman Peter Welch seeks appointment to the vacant senate seat following the retirement of Pat Leahy, where he is favored against the politically novice, avowed Trump and Jan. 6 insurrectionist-supporting Gerald Malloy.

Due to spatial limitations, this week's focus will be on the US House and Senate races, while next week's focus will be on local Vermont House and Senate candidates.

## ZOMBIES on your tail?

### Run for cover at The Bookstore!










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BRANDON REPORTER

Op Eds

Planned Parenthood supports Prop. 5

*This week's writer is Lucy Leriche, vice president of Public Affairs for the Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund in Colchester.*

As election day nears, we want Vermonters to know that Planned Parenthood of Northern New England and Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund support Proposal 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, because reproductive health care decisions should be guided by a patient's health and wellbeing, not by a politician's beliefs.

Proposal 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, appears on the first page of the ballot, and we're asking Vermonters to vote "YES" because our reproductive decisions are ours to make, without interference from politicians.

At a time when politicians in half of the states in the country are moving to ban or severely restrict abortion access, we support Proposal 5 because it will protect the full spectrum of reproductive health care, including abortion and contraception, and will ensure that important, personal health care decisions remain between patients and doctors, not politicians.

Vermonters have had this freedom for the last 50 years, and amending Vermont's constitution by passing Proposal 5 will ensure that the rights we rely on today won't change tomorrow.

Amending the constitution in Vermont takes many years, and the fact that Proposal 5 made it onto the ballot is exciting. The Reproductive Liberty Amendment was first introduced in the legislature in 2019. Since then, it has been thoughtfully considered by legislators over the course of four years, been discussed at two public hearings, and passed with overwhelming tri-partisan support by two consecutive legis-

latures.

In Vermont, we take amending our constitution seriously, and our legislators have shown that they take your reproductive rights just as seriously.

The decision to become pregnant can be one of the most important decisions we make. We should all have the freedom to plan our futures, and choose for ourselves whether and when to have children.

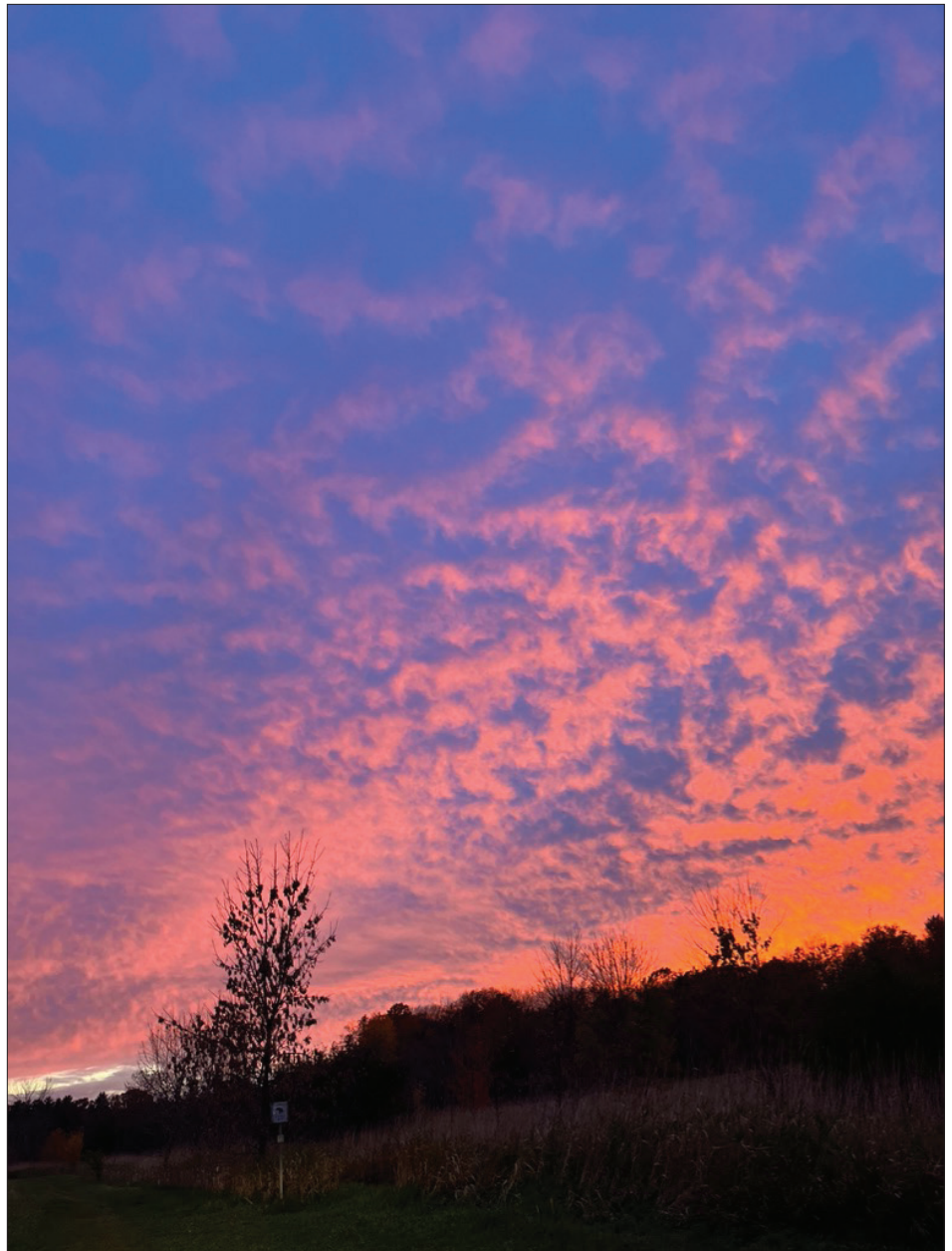
Proposal 5 would protect every Vermonter's right to make their own reproductive decisions, like whether and when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care. The amendment reads, "[Personal reproductive liberty] That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

Let's break down what this means:

- The language in the amendment is clear. It is a proposed constitutional amendment that would protect every Vermonter's right to make their own reproductive decisions. The language was intentionally inclusive so that the amendment protects the reproductive rights of all Vermonters, no matter their gender or identity.

- The right to "personal reproductive autonomy" has been defined through decades of case law to mean the right to carry a pregnancy to term, to choose or refuse contraception, to choose or refuse sterilization, and to choose abortion.

- A "compelling state interest" is a directive to the courts to use the (See Prop. 5, Page 7)



**Don't let the sun go down on me**

**AUTUMN HAS BROUGHT with it a number of stellar sunsets.**

Photo by Sepi Alavi

Community Forums

Save money, save energy, save the date

Vermont has some of the oldest housing stock in the nation and the most in need of weatherization upgrades.

Basic weatherization steps can save you money year after year. The Button Up Brandon event on November 12th (10 a.m. to noon) will provide you with About \$65 of weatheriza-

tion materials and training to get you started on annual savings of over \$100 a year.

We will also introduce you to the Efficiency VT weatherization rebate that will reimburse you another \$100 in weatherization materials you install. Annual savings from installing these materials should be hun-

dreds of dollars a year for most homes. Most older homes can use this much in weatherization materials.

At this event, you can also sign up for \$47 worth of free energy-saving light bulbs and aerators from Efficiency Vermont.

In addition, you will learn the (See Save energy, Page 8)

CURE to challenge constitutionality of Vermonters placed in private prisons

Vermont Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errant(s) (CURE) is working with Abolish Private Prisons ("APP"), a public interest law firm, to challenge the constitutionality of Vermont sending its prisoners to a private prison, in this case to Tallahatchie County Cor-

rectional Facility. The following is from Abolish Private Prisons so that you understand their mission:

"We believe that incarceration is a core function of government and that incarceration should not be turned over to a profit-oriented corporation. Those corporations make

more money when more people are incarcerated and for longer terms and when people return to prison after release. We believe that the private prison industry resembles slavery, where the few get wealthy by the incarceration of the many, (See Private prisons, Page 7)

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# Letters to the Editor

## If we lost our democracy it would be hard to recover

Recently in a New York Times poll, 70% said that they believed our democracy is at risk. Yet, the Pew Research Center found that 70% put inflation as the top priority for the upcoming election. This is short-term thinking. Inflation comes and goes, but once democracy is gone, it is very hard to get it back.

Inflation hits our pocketbooks now. We all see the consequence of increased prices at the gas station and the grocery store. But how would the loss of our democracy impact our lives? For many, it seems only theoretical, and many would say that it doesn't always work well anyway.

But let's be real. As flawed as it is—after all, democracy means the rule of the people, and we all know that people are flawed—it is the system structured to give us a voice and protect our rights.

Autocratic governments are ruled by the one or the few; the rest of us have no voice. While we don't get everything we want in a democracy, it still protects the interest of the many. Human rights, equality, and just laws matter in a democracy. If we were to lose our democracy and become an autocracy, what would it mean in your life?

Recently I heard Matthew Dowd, chief strategist for the

Bush-Cheney 2004 presidential campaign, address this question: "It's not only [a question of whether] the economy[will] flourish, it's will you have any equity in the economy? Because what happens when you lose a democracy is that the economy [is at] the service of the tribe in power... You begin to lose freedoms when you lose a democracy. So reproductive choice ... gun reform, minimum wage increases, all ... are put at risk, every single one of those things. And there's no ability for the will of the people to say, "wait a sec, wait a second."

There are so many things we

can all agree on: A good education for our children, healthcare for vets and seniors, and the need for good roads and safe streets. Without a democracy, all this will be left in the hands of a few people who might not give a damn about our needs.

Finally, Rebecca Henderson, from Harvard Business School, has a message for those who still think it is all about the economy: "I think the decline of democracy is a mortal threat to the legitimacy and health of capitalism."

Thank you,  
Jill Freeland  
1226 Arnold District Rd.  
Brandon

## Recent criticisms of the Brandon selectboard have been frustrating to read

Reading The Reporter articles regarding the criticisms of the selectboard is so frustrating each week, as are the similar articles on Front Porch Forum.

As a more than 30-year resident of Brandon, many of us know most of these selectboard members well, as we have served on boards of non-profits with them, saw them daily when we took our young children to daycare many years ago, saw them regularly at school functions and sports with our children and their children, met them in our professional work, worked with them on town projects, and the list goes on.

The actions described by those complaining recently are not actions we have witnessed in our many years of being in the community with these selectboard members and their families.

We know many of them as hard-working, family men with daughters and wives they adore and treat well, yet the women recently seem to complain and paint a picture as if these people are much different than they are.

Unfortunately, this is not painting the picture that these women are hoping to paint. Instead, it harms all women that may consider a run for the selectboard in the future and tarnishes their reputations.

Communication style, tact, and facts really do matter.

The town votes for selectboard members and has elected these members again and again because we know them, we trust them, we know how they treat people, and we appreciate their unending patience with newcomers or negative Nellies who have much to learn about how to communicate with our community members when there are conflicts in a rural town and with those that think everything should be different in some way if they mention it.

This creates drama and isn't something most Brandon folks want and will do everything to avoid. We know some newcom-

ers, men and women, have to adjust to procedures in a rural town, following state laws and rules and regulations that are different than where they come from.

The patience this selectboard has had to endure over the past few years from a few is unending and more than we, as town folk, can expect from reasonable people. The attacks have been endless, and they take every angle, pausing only to catch a breath, backing up and going at it again. They seem to recruit folks to do it with them as well.

As a long-time town member, it is tiring to see folks that we know and appreciate serving our town treated this way. We know the critics' plan is to wear down our longtime community members so they quit, and the newcomers can fill the vacancies because many would not want the attacks on their daily work.

We pray this does not happen to our selectboard that has worked through so much for US—for Brandon and its wonderful people.

Let's do better as a community and support our longtime residents, selectboard members, and others serving our community. We are tired of the complaints and attacks on people giving so much for the community; tired of the hate. We worry that the critics are harming themselves as their behavior often displays that their ability to work as a team on a board would likely be challenging for them.

Selectboard—we appreciate your patience and ask that you hang in there.

Townfolks—step up and support our selectboard and our town or be ready for a town that may change more than you may like or know.

These critics have a different kind of Brandon in mind and will treat town folks as they have treated the selectboard if they ever get themselves into a position of power.

(See frustrating criticism, Page PB)

Let's work together to keep our local small-town boards filled with people that most of us know and have known for years and for people willing to serve the locals following the policies and laws

in place. Let's work together and save our little town from these verbal attacks on our people. Let's work together to show how we should treat others, how it takes years to cultivate good relation-

ships, and how we appreciate those who serve our community.

Sharon Stearns  
Brandon

## The Declaration of Inclusion

Lately, I have read a few negative emails. They suggest people are causing problems for the selectboard. No one asked why—only to say they support the board.

Actually, the board chair is being asked questions regarding the Declaration of Inclusion [DOI], a document that all board members signed.

The Declaration of Inclusion is a document drawn up by Bob Harnish and Al Wakefield par-

tially in remembrance of Ernie Royal who owned and operated the Royal Hearthside in Rutland.

The main thrust of the DOI is that it is a public referendum on the mistreatment of marginalized citizens in our state. It specifically cries out to Vermonters who "are not fully aware of the systemic racism that is present in our majority "white" society."

Since its acceptance and

signage by Governor Scott, Al Wakefield and others have been visiting Vermont towns (246 to be exact) to discuss the DOI with town officials. Over 70 towns have signed the document. Many envision a time when all Vermont towns will have signed the Declaration, and the spirit of its contents will have been woven into the fabric of our everyday lives.

Having signed the document (See Declaration of Inclusion, Page 7)

**Re-elect**

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# Obituaries

## Eva Louise Belden, 80, Pittsford

PITTSFORD — Eva Louise Belden, age 80, passed away Sunday, October 16, 2022, at her home in Pittsford.

Eva was born in Rutland on August 28, 1942. She was the daughter of Albert and Irene (Alexander) Fish. She grew up in Pittsford, where she received her early education, and graduated from Pittsford High School, class of 1960.

On July 30, 1960, she married Richard Thomas Belden, Jr, in the St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Pittsford. Following their marriage, she was a housewife, homemaker, and mother to her three children.

After her children entered high school, she began her career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant at the Brandon Training School until the school closed in 1993. She then continued working for the State of Vermont Department of Health until she retired in 1995. She and her husband owned and operated Memory Lane Antiques in Whitehall, NY, for over 20 years.

They spent winters in Florida for the past 17 years. She enjoyed cooking, was an avid reader, and loved to travel and spend time in her gardens.

She is survived by her husband, Richard of Pittsford; their son Albert D. Belden and his wife, Pat of Rutland Town; their daughters, Andrea L. Begins and Diana L. Merritt and her husband, James,



**EVA LOUISE BELDEN**

all of Pittsford. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and several cousins, as well as her beloved dog Bella.

She was predeceased by her son-in-law, David Begins.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date in the family lot at Evergreen Cemetery in Pittsford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, Vt. 05763, or the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse & Hospice, 7 Albert Cree Drive, Rutland, Vt. 05701.

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

## Audrey M. Newton, 88, East Middlebury

EAST MIDDLEBURY — East Middlebury — Audrey Mary (Bodette) Newton, 88, of East Middlebury, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2022, at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

She was born in Middlebury on August 28, 1934, the daughter of Charles “Lee” and Katherine (Davis) Bodette. Audrey grew up in East Middlebury, where she received her early education and graduated from Middlebury High School, class of 1952.

She married Bernard Newton soon after, with whom she enjoyed 64 years of marriage until his passing in 2016. Audrey worked for many years as a Sales Clerk at the Ben Franklin Five and Dime store in Middlebury and also owned and operated a small convenience store, Newton’s Market, in East Middlebury alongside her husband for several years.

Audrey will mostly be remembered as a loving, loyal, and devoted caregiver not only to her husband and family but to many other children in her younger years and the elderly in her older years as a private caregiver and as a staff person at the Addison House, a community care home for the elderly. She will be largely remembered for her kindness, compassion, and warmth, particularly to young children, the elderly, and those with special needs.

When Audrey went grocery shopping in town, it was never a short trip—but one where she smiled and stopped for chats with other shoppers, offered encouragement to staff, and collected shopping carts from the parking lot.

Her sense of loyalty, commitment, respect for others, empathy, and sense of obligation for those in need served as a pillar of her family, and provided her children with a strong role model to “do unto others...” and also instilled a strong value of the importance of community.

In her younger years, Audrey enjoyed attending high school class reunions and enjoyed bringing home all of her classmate’s updates to her children at home. Audrey was an avid reader who frequented



**AUDREY M. NEWTON**

the Sarah Partridge Library in East Middlebury, where she also enjoyed leading the children’s story time for several years.

Audrey instilled a love of nature in her children and taught them to identify a wide variety of birds and local plants in the woods of Vermont. Audrey and her children enjoyed searching for running pine in the woods every fall to make their yearly Christmas wreaths by hand and even discovered a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree one year on one of their excursions.

Audrey also had a penchant for animals, particularly dogs and cats, and enjoyed leaving treats on her back porch for the neighborhood cats.

Although her friends and family will greatly miss her, she leaves behind a lasting legacy of thoughtfulness, generosity, love, and kindness that will continue to serve as an inspiration and one that will never be forgotten.

Audrey was predeceased by her loving husband of 64 years, Bernard E. Newton.

She is the loving mother of Michael Newton and his wife Elaine of East Middlebury, Dennis Newton and his wife Jolene of East Middlebury, Cory Newton and his wife Mystie of Leicester, and Lisa Newton and her husband Albert Solomon of Lexington, Ma.

Audrey is survived by six grandchildren; Joshua Newton (Stephni), Jennifer Larocque (Tim), Reed and Rachel Solomon, and Brian and Maeve Newton; and five great-grandchildren; Christopher Ewell,

Aisling and Finley Newton, and Caroline and David Larocque.

She is also survived by her brothers, Davis Bodette and Bruce Bodette (Jeannine); brother-in-law, William Newton (Carolyn Pallescki); and many nieces and nephews.

Audrey was predeceased by her parents, Katherine and Charles “Lee” Bodette; sister-in-law, Eileen Bodette; half-sister Jackie (Bodette) Severance and brother-in-law, Nelson Severance; and half-brother Chet Bodette and sister-in-law, Rhea (Larocque) Bodette.

The family would like to thank the staff of the Memory Care Unit at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation, who provided loving care to Audrey for the last several years of her life.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, October 28, from 4-6 at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

The funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 29, at 10 a.m. at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. The graveside committal service and burial will follow at the family lot at Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made in her memory to Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society, 236 Boardman St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. [www.millerandketchamfuneralhome.com](http://www.millerandketchamfuneralhome.com).

### 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](mailto:news@brandonreporter.com). Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Monday for publication in the Wednesday paper.

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# Private prisons

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
and that the private prison industry is an obstacle to criminal justice reform. We also believe that the private prison's profit incentive is in conflict with the public interest and personal liberty. Therefore, our goal is to eradicate the industry through court decisions. Our ultimate goal is to get the US Supreme Court to rule that prison privatization is unconstitutional and must be abolished throughout the United States. It will take years to accomplish this goal, there is no guarantee that we will win, and we have to start somewhere. At this time, we do not take on cases concerning public prisons or prison conditions.

If you wish to be considered as a possible plaintiff in a future lawsuit through APP because you or someone you know is in a private prison, we will need to speak with you first or arrange for someone local to speak with you. You may initially state your interest by mail to CURE or APP.

As you may know, in general, people who are incarcerated must first go through their state corrections agency's grievance procedure before they can go to court.

A person needs to know their own state's requirements. We can provide general information, but we would have to arrange local counsel or other advocacy for any direct legal services that may be requested. The enclosed grievance form contains an example of grievance language for this purpose.

To be considered for legal services, a person's request must fall within APP's priorities, and local counsel must be on board before APP will undertake formal representation. We can start the consideration process through an initial phone call or letter. If you have a family member or friend on the "outside" who can coordinate with CURE or APP, these would be possible options.

To be certain, APP's lawyers cannot represent you now in states other than Arizona and Oklahoma, but they can start the process of looking into local counsel after our initial conversation if you decide to talk to APP further."

*Timothy R. Burgess,  
VT-Citizens for the Rehabilitation  
of Errant State Leader*



## Operatic Diva

THIS YELLOW THROATED warbler was spotted on Hollow Road in Brandon.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

# Prop. 5

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
highest standard of review in order to prevent interference or restrictions on personal reproductive autonomy. Legally, a compelling state interest is the strongest protection we have to protect reproductive rights.

Nationally, reproductive health care is under threat. This makes state-level protections like the Reproductive Liberty Amendment even more critical. Together, Ver-

mont voters can protect reproductive freedom for ourselves, our neighbors, and future generations. If you are planning to vote by mail, send your ballot by Friday, Oct. 28. You can also bring your ballot to your town clerk's office or vote in person on Tuesday, Nov. 8, until 7 p.m.

Vermont can set an example of what is possible. Please vote YES on Proposal 5, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment.

# Declaration of inclusion

*(Continued from Page 5)*  
early on, the Brandon Selectboard seems now to be faced with the reality of its message. Whether one attends a meeting in Arlington, Bennington, the Northeast Kingdom, Rutland, Barre, or Brandon, the selectboard everywhere is facing similar situations.

One discussion at a Barre

meeting involved a member who was asked to leave the board because of a statement he made that was considered anti-women.

In order to create fair and inclusive Vermont communities, micro-aggressions such as this, made by a public servant, can no longer be tolerated.

I commend the Brandon Selectboard for their willingness to

listen to questions and comments concerning the DOI and other policies. I support their willingness to readdress poorly stated comments and incomplete procedures, especially to those who are making an effort to reframe their language to be inclusive and fair.

*Sandy Mayo, Ph.D  
Brandon*

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# Save energy

(Continued from Page 4)  
ins and outs of Heat Squad's energy audits and be given a chance to sign up for a standard \$150 fee.

Many Brandon and Forest Dale residents will qualify for the energy savings upgrades BROC offers. Their program includes grants (up to an average of \$8,500 for those who qualify) and zero-interest or low-interest loans that can potentially be paid by energy savings alone.

You will also have a chance to

get your questions answered by Heat Squad, Efficiency Vermont, BROC, and the Brandon Energy Committee at this event.

Save \$100 to \$300 at this event, and \$100's on your home energy bills every year. Join us on November 12.

Note: this event is free to Brandon and Forest Dale residents.

Register at [www.solarfest.org/brandon](http://www.solarfest.org/brandon)

Jim Emerson,  
for the Brandon Energy Committee

*Many Brandon and Forest Dale residents will qualify for the energy savings upgrades BROC offers. Their program includes grants (up to an average of \$8,500 for those who qualify) and zero-interest or low-interest loans that can potentially be paid by energy savings alone.*

# Bar Harbor Bank & Trust pledges \$10k to the Brandon Free Public Library

BRANDON — Bar Harbor Bank & Trust has pledged \$10,000 to support the Brandon Free Public Library's (BFPL) capital campaign to make significant upgrades and improvements to the library, including increased accessibility for all persons to all library spaces, expanded usable space, improved energy efficiency, compliance with safety standards, and preservation of the historic integrity of the building.

The Bank recently presented the first \$5,000 installment of the pledge to the library and will deliver the remaining amount in 2023.

"The Brandon Free Public Library is such an important part of our community as it offers free resources to expand the mind, fosters a lifelong love of read-

ing, and provides a place for us to gather with our friends and neighbors," said Melissa Case, VP Branch Relationship Manager at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. "We are honored to support the library's capital campaign so that all residents can enjoy its wonder for generations to come."

The mission of the BFPL is to provide a friendly and safe atmosphere in which patrons of all ages and backgrounds may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The library was established in 1827 and moved to its current location in 1902. The building has not undergone any significant updates since the 1960s. With the money raised through the capital campaign, the BFPL will make a number of improvements, including reno-

vating the building to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enlarging the children's reading area, and expanding space for meetings, tutoring, and educational programming.

"The Brandon Free Public Library has been working hard for the last few years to plan and fundraise for our accessibility renovation," said Molly Kennedy, Brandon Free Public Library Director. "We appreciate each and every one of our donors, and we wouldn't be where we are without their support. The generous donation from Bar Harbor Bank & Trust moves us closer to meeting our need for this exciting project."

Learn more about the BFPL at [www.brandonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brandonpubliclibrary.org).

# Pittsford selectboard hears new ARPA funding requests

BY MAT CLOUSER

PITTSFORD — The Pittsford selectboard convened on Oct. 19 to cover a wide variety of topics, including the ongoing research into potential uses of its nearly in \$900,000 American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds.

In particular, the board heard new presentations from representatives of the Pittsford Historical Society and the Maclure Library as part of the ongoing process to compile a list of requests and prioritize potential usage of the funds.

Anne Pelkey was on hand representing the Pittsford Historical Society in their total request of an estimated \$21,500 to go towards a new paint job, replacement of the emergency stairs, and replacement of the existing storage shed. The paint was estimated at \$20,000 (versus the \$7,750 cost for painting back in 2012), the stairs were estimated at \$500.00, and the shed at \$1,000.00

As the board is still in the research phase, no decision was made positively or negatively. Board chair Alicia Malay stated that the board would consider the request as they continued working on a bullet priority list for the expenditure of the total funds.

The board also heard from Judi Tompkins on behalf of the Maclure Library in their ARPA fund request. Ms. Tompkins presented a handout to the members,

explaining the library's need to fix several items, including the need to repair the slate roof, as it has been leaking for the better part of 50 years.

According to Tompkins, The Vermont Roofers have recommended removing the slate to assess the damage, make any necessary repairs, and install a water barrier before replacing the slate at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Library board chair Steve Bilcher also stated that the recent repairs to the Reading Room had experienced damages from the water leaks.

Among the additional repairs, Pelkey mentioned a proposed window project for which five-of-six matching grants have been received. The window project would replace the remaining storm windows at the back of the building that did not get replaced as part of this summer's window project.

The library's parking was also said to need resurfacing, and a section of curb could be removed for ease of maneuverability; a potential new handrail may need to be installed as the current handrail needs repair—a welder has been contacted, and the Library hopes that it can be repaired rather than replaced. The library's front door was also said to need restoration. The total request for ARPA funding was \$100,000.

Additionally, the Library also

mentioned its desire to see an increase to its annual allocation by \$20,000 to help them cover the costs of services offered at the library, including a Community Center, which is available for meetings and programming; book lending; an OV bus stop for students to utilize services; disaster shelter space for area residents, such as those in Village Manor; as well as the recent hiring of a new Children's Services Librarian.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed its Coin Drop Policy and although no formal changes were adopted, the board discussed changing the date to October 1 instead of its current stated end date of Indigenous People's weekend, and it was also proposed that the applicable dates run from May 1 to October 15 with a maximum of five dates per year. Liability issues were also discussed, as the town does not currently supply traffic vests. Benefitting organizations would need to coordinate signage and safety with the Fire Department.

- Discussed a bid for carpet cleaning in the sum of \$585, and it was agreed that the town offices would close at 1 p.m. on October 28 to prep the building.

- Heard from Chad Eugair of the Highway Department an offer to sell the 1994 Ford 6640 mower and tractor to the town of Leicester for \$8,000. Select- (See Pittsford selectboard, Page 10)



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# Brandon Votes



LAST WEEK MEMBERS of the Brandon Board of Civil Authority, the Brandon Selectboard, and Brandon's Justices of the Peace came together to certify potential election workers and test the voting tabulation machines ahead of the critical mid-term elections to be held on November 8. Above, from left to right: Wendy Rowe Feldman, Brian Coolidge, Sue Gage, Marge Munger, Bob Clark, Bill Moore, Bruce Blanch, and Kathy Clark. Right, Marge Munger and Laura Peterson test the voting tabulators.

Photos by Mat Clouser, and Sue Gage

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# Pittsford selectboard

(Continued from Page 8)  
board member David Mills inquired if there had been any research done as to the value of the equipment, and Eugair stated that there had been research done, however, he had only found information on 2-wheel drive units as opposed to the 4-wheel drive unit the town currently owns and it was discussed that the town should seek out additional bids.

• Heard the Town Manager's report in which Ms. Fox-Howard detailed a recent episode involving a new OMYA truck driver who was terminated by his employer and heavily ticketed by

the town after a series of driving mishaps tied up Pittsford emergency services for around eight hours. According to Fox-Howard, the driver first became stuck under the railroad tracks at the trestle of West Creek Road (requiring state and railroad engineers to assist) and later "ripped some wires off the GMP poles at the Mobil station" before dropping his load and becoming stuck across Route 3. Not to be outdone, the driver then went off the road and onto the curbing near the Sunoco station on his way out of town.



**BAT HOUSES ARE** a great alternative for bats you need to evict from your home, but they do require some maintenance in the late fall or winter to clean out abandoned wasp nests and repair any leaks. VTF&W photos

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## Bats are on the move, with a reputation to improve

MONTPELIER — The onset of fall sends Vermont's bats into motion, which makes it an important time for conservation-minded Vermonters to learn about, and help conserve our nine native bat species.

If you have noticed bats roosting in your attic, barn, or office over the summer, fall is the perfect time to safely evict these uninvited guests from your property. This is because summer groups of bats that roost in buildings begin to scatter in the fall, in preparation for migration or hibernation. You can learn how to safely evict bats from your building at the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's best management practices page.

You can also help bat conservation efforts by reporting large colonies of bats living in structures to the department's website. Locations with rare colonies of endangered little brown bats are eligible for free bat houses from Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Bat houses provide an alternative location for safely evicted bats to remain in your yard and continue eating huge quantities of insects that may be forest, agricultural, or human pests. Bat houses can be put up any time of year but do require some simple maintenance. Late fall or winter is the time to look up inside your bat house and make sure all the bats have left before cleaning out any abandoned wasp nests and planning any needed caulking or repainting.

"Fall also means Halloween,

and scary images of bats, but this presents an opportunity to bring positive attention to bats as well," said Vermont Fish and Wildlife Small Mammals Biologist Alyssa Bennett. "So, we celebrate 'Bat Week' in the days leading up to Halloween."

Bennett added that learning about the importance of bats in our ecosystems does not mean the public should overlook the department's guidance on safety in cases of contact with wild animals.

"We ask the public let wildlife be wild and not handle bats, even though the incidence of rabies is less than 1% in the natural population," said Bennett. "If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, you find one in a room with a sleeping person or an unattended child, or your pet has had direct contact with a bat, please call the Rabies Hotline at 1-800-4-RABIES to find out if the bat should be tested."

Bat Week takes place October 24-31 and aims to raise awareness about the vital ecological function of bats and to dispel the many myths and misinformation about them.

This year, Bennett will be giving a public talk about Ver-

mont's nine native bat species at the Hannaford Career Center in Middlebury on Wednesday, Oct 26, from 6-7:00 pm. You can register for the talk on the department's events web page at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/event/got-bats>

Anyone interested in learning more can visit the official Bat Week website at <https://batweek.org/> or email [alyssa.bennett@vermont.gov](mailto:alyssa.bennett@vermont.gov) for more information about what they can do right here in Vermont to promote bat conservation.

"Vermont is home to several species of threatened and endangered bats that we are working to conserve and recover—we hope Vermonters will support these efforts and come to enjoy seeing bats in their natural environment," said Bennett. "Bats are a very important part of our natural world, and now, more than ever, they need our help."





# Sports

## Head Coach Greg Hughes reflects on OV's second-straight D-II golf title

BY MAT CLOUSER

BRANDON — Following their second-consecutive Division II Golf title on October 13 in Orleans, *The Reporter* “sat down” with head coach Greg Hughes via an e-mail exchange to discuss the team, the season, and the sweet taste of victory.

The following is an excerpt from that exchange, with some answers edited for clarity:

**What’s it been like to coach this team?**

A: Coaching these guys has been very interesting and not comparable to other sports. Lucas and Thomas are dual sport athletes, so we didn’t practice together as a team often, but when they get together... they become so focused and amped up to be the best they can be.

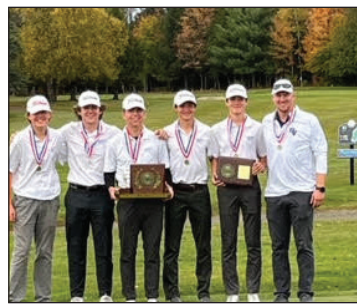
**How did the championship tournament unfold?**

A: [The championship is] awkward as a coach because I am getting an update from other coaches and parents when the course allows us to cross paths... as to the ins and outs of how it unfolded, I found out last coming into the clubhouse. We were unsure of the results at that point, so there was excitement in the air in anticipation. I knew it had been down to us and Hartford, which it had been the whole year—so we knew it was going to be close.

**The team called their shot and predicted a state title last season; how was their confidence this time?**

A: We barely beat Hartford for [the Southern Vermont League title] ... they beat us in sectionals—which was at our home

course—so it has become a rivalry. With that being said, they knew they had to show up to win... just because we won last year didn’t mean it was going to



**FROM LEFT TO right: Freshmen Jackson Howe (95), Senior Jordan Beayon (101), Senior Matthew Bryant (93), Senior Thomas Politano (84), and sophomore Lucas Politano (77) were a part of OV's second straight Division II golf championship on October 13.**

be easy.

Our guys were confident—nervous but mostly excited to get the opportunity to go back to back. Lucas was very excited to get the chance to redeem himself for coming in second last year. Second in D-II was great in our eyes as a freshman, but he plays high-quality golf and expects to show it.

**How much has Lucas meant to this team?**

A: Lucas has been an integral part of this team. Obviously, he is our best scorer, but with that, he brings inspiration and confidence in his teammates that they have a solid leader to follow golf-wise.

Our three seniors are great leaders as well in setting [their]

sights on more and wanting to create memories. This is a special group that has all gained a strong desire for the game of golf through their success.

I think our trip to Pinehurst last year for nationals was eye-opening into the real world of golf and not just Otter Valley in Vermont golf.

Lucas... plays in big tournaments all year round, and it shows... to see his experience rub off on the rest of the team is pretty cool.

**What are some of the struggles the team faced this year?**

A: Thomas battled a shoulder injury early on in the season, and not traveling as a full team was somewhat of a struggle throughout—but [with] each little improvement along the way, [we] gained more and more confidence.

**How do you feel about next year’s outlook?**

A: Next year should look good; we have Lucas returning and our freshman Jackson Howe who had a big role for us already. We have a few golfers who didn’t get a lot of match experience but are very interested in the game, and hopefully, next year, we can compete again.

**Is there anything else you want the community to know about this team?**

A: I know [the] team and I am very grateful for our community’s support. The trip to nationals last year wouldn’t have happened without them. I know our success is sparking more interest in the game, and hopefully, that continues.

## Eric Grenier

(Continued from Page 1)  
room, Reiss said during Thursday’s sentencing.

This latest sentencing marks Grenier’s 18th conviction, including his fourth for a felony. His prior felony convictions were for burglary and cultivating marijuana.

He is also facing four pending state cases in Rutland County: attempted burglary, leaving the scene of a crash, assault, and multiple counts of criminal threatening, the latter related to the episodes with Shank and other neighbors.

Reiss read sections of affidavits related to those cases aloud during Thursday’s hearing. One passage described an interaction between Grenier and Brandon police in February 2021 after Grenier allegedly left the scene of a parking lot collision. When officers approached Grenier’s home, according to the affidavit, he answered the door in body armor. As the situation escalated, Grenier showed one of the officers a swastika tattoo on his wrist and called the officer a “fucking (n-word) fucking lover.”

Reiss read aloud other quotes during the hearing, which repeatedly referred to Grenier using racist slurs.

The federal firearms charge carried a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison. Grenier’s attorney, William Vasiliou II, asked Reiss to release Grenier into the community immediately, under supervision.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Waples suggested a three-year sentence. He argued the court should impose a longer sentence than federal guidelines suggested, as they failed to account for the full breadth of Grenier’s criminal history.

At the start of the hearing, Vasiliou requested the court escort any victims from the room, as he was about to disclose private information about Grenier, not included in written court records, which Vasiliou argued his neighbors should not hear. Reiss rejected this request, stating that victims, as well as members of the public, have a right to attend court proceedings.

Vasiliou argued Grenier’s history of childhood trauma and

mental illness should be considered as mitigating factors. Grenier, who had been sexually abused as a child, first attempted suicide around third or fourth grade, and by seventh grade, Vasiliou said, was using “relatively hard narcotics.”

“At that point, intervention was needed but wasn’t given,” Vasiliou said.

He said Grenier had been diagnosed with depression and ADHD, and had suffered paranoia as a side effect of medication. He asked the court for an updated mental health assessment.

The judge agreed with Vasiliou that Grenier had conducted himself well in jail for the past several months as he engaged with corrections programs and substance abuse treatment, calling his behavior “impressive.”

But “it cuts both ways,” Reiss said, stating that the defendant’s good behavior in jail showed that he had the ability to control himself. “He can, and yet he has not,” she said.

Grenier stood to read a written statement to the court, where he apologized and expressed regret for how he interacted with his neighbors. He acknowledged his decades-long criminal history: “Yes, it does look bad,” he said.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, “I lost my job, my self-worth,” he said. His voice breaking, he said he feared he had failed his children and didn’t want to be absent from their lives. He’s in the longest stretch of sobriety in his life, he said, and he hoped to soon start college to study environmental science. He closed his statement with a Bible verse. His lawyer passed him a box of tissues.

Toward the end of the hearing, Reiss agreed with the defense that Grenier’s mental health had played a role in his actions but didn’t fully explain or excuse his crimes. She said if it weren’t for his good behavior while in jail the past several months, she would have agreed with the prosecution’s suggested higher sentence. Reiss rejected the prosecution’s request to include Grenier’s past marijuana cultivation as a reason for a longer sentence.

## OV FB runs roughshod over winless Missisquoi to end season on high note

BRANDON — The Otter Valley football team demolished winless Missisquoi at home this past Saturday, 60-6.

The Otters concluded the regular season at 4-4 but dropped to No. 7 in the Division III quality points rankings

despite the victory. They will open the D-III playoffs at No. 2 Fairfax-Lamoille on Saturday at 1 p.m. In their regular season meeting, the Bullets defeated the visiting Otters, 24-6, on Oct. 15.

The OV rushing game

racked up seven touchdowns, led by two from Kevon Parks. Otters Noel Pearsons, Caleb Whitney, Luca Polli, Chase Razanouski, and Tucker Babcock added one apiece.

Call 247-8080 for details.

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# Calendar of events

## October

### Wednesdays

#### Ping Pong

The Green Mountain Table Tennis Club would like to announce the beginning of its new season!

The club has begun play on Wednesday evenings starting at 7 p.m. It will meet nearly every Wednesday year-round in the gym at the Rutland Area Christian School in Rutland, located at the corner of Melrose Ave. and Lincoln Ave. in Rutland, a block from the intersection of Route 7 and Melrose Ave. (110 Lincoln Ave., Rutland, VT 05701).

Being a part of this unique and exciting club offers a variety of activities, including regular practice, a challenge board, clinics for beginner and advanced play, singles and doubles, inter-club events with other table tennis clubs, and even tournaments.

If you are interested in table tennis as a recreational or athletic activity, we're interested in you! There is a modest membership fee of only \$30, although you can come twice free as our guest. Bring your sneakers and paddle (or use ours) and have some fun playing a great game of "Pong!"

For further information about the Green Mountain Table Tennis Club, call club representative Ronald Lewis at 802-247-5913, or visit our club's website at [www.gmttc.com](http://www.gmttc.com).

### 27:

#### Bees Besieged: A History of Beekeeping

"The bees are the color; everything else is black and white," said Bridport beekeeper Kirk Webster. Beekeeping goes back 10,000 years, but bees have been much in the news recently as a multi-pronged scourge has devastated many of the nation's 2.5 million colonies. Meanwhile, hobby beekeeping has grown exponentially.

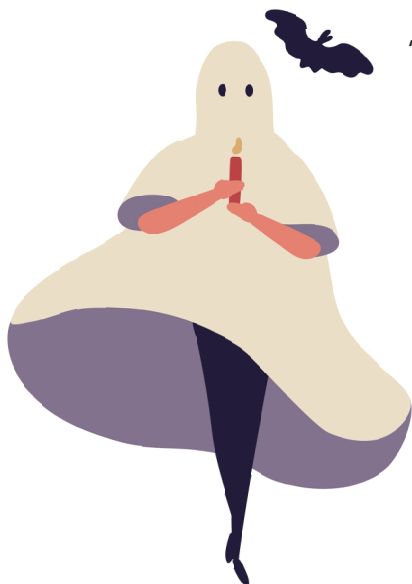
Bill Mares, writer, and beekeeper for 45 years, will tell of the origins and evolution of beekeeping, sometimes referred to as "farming for intellectuals," with a particular emphasis on his research in Vermont.

This talk is free, open to the public, and accessible to those with disabilities.

Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St., Salisbury, Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 7 p.m.

Hosted jointly by the Salisbury Historical Society and the Salisbury Conservation Commission

Bees Besieged: A History of Beekeeping is a Vermont Humanities program supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



**"Adulthood: Trick or Treat?: How Young Adults Stole Halloween Just as Adulthood was Stolen from Them"**  
At 7 p.m. the Sheldon Museum presents "Adulthood: Trick or Treat?: How Young Adults Stole Halloween Just as Adulthood was Stolen from Them," a talk by Dr. Linus Owens, Middlebury College Professor of Sociology.  
Dr. Owens will

### Spooky Night at the Sheldon Museum, Oct. 28

On October 28 from 5-7:30 p.m., The Sheldon Museum will host Spooky Night at the Museum, an evening of pre-Halloween entertainment. The event is free and open to the public.

The night will offer a range of spirit-inspired activities: Tarot card readings, group psychic readings, a murder scene dollhouse, and live spooky music.

Take a selfie with one of the spirit photographs from the Museum's collection acquired by Solomon Wright Jewett (1808-94), a successful merino sheep farmer and avid spiritualist collector.

If you have had an encounter with the spirit world or perhaps once lived or now live in a haunted house, come tell your story!

The centerpiece of the evening will be a MOTH-style program with ghost stories told by members of the community.

If you'd like to share your ghost story (up to five minutes), contact the Sheldon at [henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:henrysheldonmuseum@gmail.com), and you'll be added to the program.

Costumes are optional but welcome. For more information: 802/388-2117 or visit: [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org).



examine how Halloween reflects young adults' responses to contemporary challenges and opportunities. Traditionally a night for children, Halloween has recently become a major holiday for young adults. It provides a powerful lens for studying how emerging adults respond to the shifting economic and cultural constraints and opportunities facing young people.

Free and open to the public. The talk takes place at the Ilsley Public Library. For more information, go to [www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events](http://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events) or call 802-388-2117

### 27 29:

#### Middlebury College Theatre Department presents Rhinoceros by Eugene Ionesco

The Middlebury College Department of Theatre will present Martin Mooney's adaptation of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, directed by Jay Dunn. It is the first offering in a season dedicated to examining the stories we tell in order to survive.

Written by Eugene Ionesco as a thinly-veiled clap-back at the rise of fascism in Europe, this quasi-allegorical dark satire about a political pandemic stretches towards its bookend a century later as the rise of authoritarianism and post-fascism again rears its ugly head in our global political systems.

An outbreak of rhinocerotis stampedes through Anytown, USA, quickly becoming a pandemic that turns its citizenry into a savage herd of "rhinoceri." All of them, that is, except for Béranger, who refuses to relinquish his humanity.

In this dire comic vision of civilization run amok, Ionesco depicts the struggle of the individual to maintain integrity and dignity alone in a world where all others have succumbed to the primal thrill of brute force and the mindlessness of the mob.

A play and playwright typically described as absurdist, *Rhinoceros* finds a new, terrifying resonance in our collective experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the story of an ideology defeated decades ago finds its historical rhyme in a contagious, deadly virus killing millions right now.

While once contemporary audiences could comfortably watch a comedy about other people in another time, *Rhinoceros* in 2022 reflects the horror of nature, and our own natures, clawing modern humanity back onto the food chain.

*Rhinoceros* will be performed on Thursday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 29 at 2 p.m. in the Seeler Studio Theatre in the Mahaney Arts Center on the campus of Middlebury College.

The production is open to the public, and spectators must be vaccinated. Please join us for a post-show discussion following the Friday evening performance. The show runs approximately 100 minutes with one intermission.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$10 for Middlebury College faculty, staff, alums, emeriti, and other ID card holders; \$8 for youth (under 21); and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call (802) 443-6433 or go to <https://middlebury.universitytickets.com/>.

### 28:

#### Halloween Wildlife Festival and Jack-O'-Lantern Hike at Kehoe Education Center

Looking for a "wild" family adventure for Halloween this year? The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is inviting families to attend its annual Halloween Wildlife Festival and Jack-O'-Lantern Hike at the Kehoe Education Center on Point of Pines Road in Castleton on Friday, October 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.

The festival features a fun and educational Halloween campfire show led by students from Castleton University. Kids will learn about the creepy, crawly critters that reside in

### Area 802 in Rutland Features Alien-Themed Mystery Trail

Come Alive Outside and Partners for Prevention have created an out-of-this-world trail walk and community party at Pine Hill Park this Halloween season. The alien-themed event called "Area 802" begins with trick-or-treating and spooky stories for kids at 4 p.m. At 6 p.m., the spooky trail for teens and adults begins.

This year, the trail centers around a real-life mystery in Pine Hill Park. In the 1930s, F.B.I. were spotted in the area, leading some to question what the G-men were doing there. Rumors began to fly about gangsters, kidnappings, and extortion plots, yet residents were never told why the FBI had come to their town. Reflecting on the case, some modern-day sleuths think that perhaps their presence was related to U.F.O.s.

"This historical mystery of the F.B.I. was the inspiration for our spooky trail," says manager Haley Rice. "When the F.B.I. discovered extraterrestrial activity in Pine Hill Park? What if the sightings were all great ideas to explore? We put together our story."

More community parties are on hand to celebrate the Halloween season with giveaways, raffles, and candy. "We're creating a spooky atmosphere before and after Halloween. There's a little something for everyone," said Come Alive Outside Executive Director Arwen T. Rice.

This free event is at Pine Hill Park in Rutland, Vermont, on October 28. The non-spooky trail for children and scared adults begins at 4 p.m. The spooky trail and community party begins at 6 p.m.

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ent and have a chance to get decked out in their costumes  
the traditional trick-or-treat night.  
activities include a nature hike along a trail lit by carved  
kins, wildlife-related activities, face painting, and a campfire.  
s will include apple cider, caramel apples, and other seasonal

er is a perfect time to highlight the fun of Halloween while  
ng on the critters that make it so special," said Education  
list Corey Hart. "This event gives families a chance to enjoy  
ason in a fun way and to learn that these animals may not be  
y after all."

sion and activities are free and open to the public, and  
s are welcome. No registration is required. Costumes are  
raged but not required.

Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp is oper-  
y the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. This event is  
ored by the department and Castleton University.

ore information about the event, contact Corey Hart at corey.  
vermont.gov or 802-265-2279. Organizers are seeking dona-  
f pumpkins for the event, so anyone with spare pumpkins is  
to please get in touch with Hart.

ections to the Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conserva-  
amp, visit <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

## 29:

### Kampersville Haunted House

Kampersville Haunted House will be held on October 28 and  
each show will start at 7 p.m. and run until the last ticket hold-  
through the house.

seats are limited for each time slot—7, 8, 9, and 10 p.m.  
Proceeds go to the Salisbury Fire Department. The event is or-  
d by seasonal campers at Kampersville looking to give back  
beautiful community they love.

There will be goulash, chili, hot dogs, popcorn, and desserts to  
while you wait to enter the haunted house. Hot chocolate  
water will also be available.

6 rooms and scares to be spooked by, this is a once in a life  
haunted house! This house might not be suitable for all, but  
to each individual's discretion. An adult must accompany  
ees under the age of 18.

seats are available at the Kampersville store and can be pur-  
d directly from Dan Cioffredi, Natashua Seagren, and Kayla  
r. Tickets are \$12.

# November

## Spooks, Abductions, Oct. 28

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Halloween  
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October 28.  
r kids and  
p.m. The  
unity party

begins at 6 and lasts until 9 p.m.  
A reservation is requested. The  
trail contains dips, rocks, and roots.  
Though it will be lit, patrons are  
cautioned that there is a risk of in-  
jury on the trail. For more informa-  
tion, visit <https://comealiveoutside.com/events/> or email [admin@comealiveoutside.com](mailto:admin@comealiveoutside.com).

## Choral Chameleon Presents a "Sound Bath," an immersive experience designed to heal, soothe, and energize, Oct. 29

Imagine yourself sitting comfort-  
ably in a calm room, with a soft  
mask over your eyes and the soothing  
sounds of beautiful voices all around  
you. This is what New York City-  
based vocal ensemble Choral Cha-  
meleon calls a "sound bath"—and it's  
coming to Middlebury.

The Middlebury Performing Arts  
Series will present Choral Chame-  
leon's healing sound bath on Saturday,  
October 29, in Mahaney Arts Center's  
Robison Hall. Collaborating with cer-  
tified sound healers, the singers will  
surround the audience and "bathe" at-  
tendees in the layered sounds of voi-  
ces, Tibetan singing bowls, chimes,  
gongs, and more. This intensive  
sound experience is designed to wash  
over the body for healing, peace, and  
restorative contemplation.

"Choral Chameleon has developed  
a great reputation for innovative pro-  
gramming—our students have taken  
notice," says Performing Arts Series  
Director Allison Coyne Carroll, "and  
we have an alumna in the ensemble:  
Annie Beliveau '18." As for why  
she's presenting this event now, Car-  
roll said, "It feels like the right time for  
something healing—a new, shared ex-  
perience as we move out of isolation."

Because of the unique audience  
seating configuration designed for  
this concert experience, capacity will

be limited—this event is expected to  
sell out in advance.

The concert is open to on- and off-  
campus audiences and will also be  
streamed (audio-only; we recommend  
wearing headphones for the best ex-  
perience.)



### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Choral Chameleon's semi-profes-  
sional chorus of more than 50 voices  
meets weekly in Manhattan, with its  
smaller performing group, the Ensem-  
ble, at its core. Bringing together both  
seasoned professional singers and  
experienced avocational singers, the  
larger Chorus welcomes new music,  
genres, and approaches that advance  
vocal music and address the unique  
expressions of music in the world.

Please note that Choral Chame-  
leon's smaller Ensemble will also  
return to the MAC in the spring for

a more traditional concert as an "en-  
core" to this month's sound bath  
event.

### PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Choral Chameleon's Sound Bath  
will take place live at the Mahaney  
Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Con-  
cert Hall on Saturday,  
October 29, 2022, at 4  
p.m. Tickets (with as-  
signed seating) are \$25  
for the general public,  
\$20 for Middlebury  
faculty/staff and alum-  
ni, \$10 for youth, and  
\$5 for Middlebury Col-  
lege students.

Vaccinations and  
boosters (or valid medi-  
cal or religious exemp-  
tions) are required; masks are optional  
(except under certain circumstances)  
but welcome.

The concert will also be streamed  
and will remain available online for  
a 48-hour window. Audio streaming  
tickets are \$10, or \$5 for students  
(and all in-person tickets include ac-  
cess to the stream.) For tickets, health  
and safety protocols, and information,  
call (802) 443-MIDD (6433) or go to  
<http://www.middlebury.edu/arts>.

## 2:

### Wildwood Song Circle

There will be a song circle on Wednesday, November 2, from  
7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Godnick Adult Center in Rutland.

Music lovers, singers, play-  
ers of acoustic instruments,  
and listeners are welcome.

There is no charge for  
attending or performing,  
but the Center likes you  
to register by completing  
a simple form annually. For  
further information, call  
Jack Crowther at 775-1182  
or e-mail Gus Bloch, song  
circle leader, at [gusbloch@gmail.com](mailto:gusbloch@gmail.com).

## 12:

### Foley Brothers' Chili Fest

Foley Brothers Brewing 10-  
Year anniversary celebra-  
tion and Chili Fest featur-  
ing their 10th Anniversary  
Ale release (a wine barrel  
aged golden sour ale) and  
chili fest featuring local  
restaurants, music, games,  
and more!

Proceeds will be donated  
to the local American  
Legion Veterans fund.

The event will be held from  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at  
Central Park in downtown  
Brandon.

## Goings on around town

### Neshobe Pie Gobbler Fun Run Returns Nov. 24

After a two-year hiatus, the Neshobe  
Pie Gobbler Fun Run is back. Runners and  
walkers will toe the starting line on Thank-  
sgiving morning at 8 a.m. This is an equal-  
opportunity event where speed doesn't  
matter—every 10th finisher, plus the win-  
ning male and female, will receive a freshly  
made pie donated by a Brandon-area resi-  
dent or business.

This a low-key fun run/walk that traver-  
ses approximately three miles of Neshobe  
Golf Course's cart paths. It's self-timed and  
will be held rain, shine, or snow. Bring your  
visiting friends and family and create a new  
Thanksgiving morning tradition. Later in  
the day, pie winners can share their baked  
goods at the holiday dinner table.

"We held this event the first time in 2019,  
and we've been looking forward to hosting  
it again. More than 50 runners and walkers  
participated on a cold, windy, and wet day,"  
said Bill Moore, Brandon's Recreation  
Director. "Sure, there's a little elbowing,  
speeding up, or slowing down at the finish  
line in an effort to be the next pie winner,  
but it's all in good fun."

Participants can register in advance at



[www.RunReg.com/neshobe-pie](http://www.RunReg.com/neshobe-pie) or in per-  
son starting at 7 a.m. at Neshobe's club-  
house. There is a registration fee of \$20 for  
18 and under, \$25 for 19 to 64, and free for  
seniors 65-plus.

Proceeds benefit Brandon's Recreation  
Department. The first 100 participants will  
receive a giveaway as part of their registra-  
tion fee.

Questions can be directed to Sue Hoxie,  
Race Director, [maplerunmarketing@gmail.com](mailto:maplerunmarketing@gmail.com).



# OV field hockey

(Continued from Page 1)

great group of kids; they work as a team, support each other, and really enjoy playing together,” said Keith, who describes the team’s best strength as its determination.

The team knows that playoff success won’t come easy, and they have lost in the quarterfinals each of the past two years. And yet, after Saturday’s come-from-behind win and a 7-0 shellacking of Windsor in their game before that, Keith says the energy on the team is high despite the overall strength of teams in D-II field hockey this year.

“It could be argued that [D-II] is possibly the toughest division in field hockey this year,” said Keith. “Woodstock, Hartford, Spaulding, and U32 have played very well this season, but... if we play our best game, we are as strong as they are.”

Keith had great things to say about a number of players on the roster who’ve contributed to the team’s success—players like junior goalie Lily Morgan who’s been in net since her freshman season, and defenders like junior Elizabeth Atherton and sophomore Matelin Laporte whom

wrote about each of them prior to their 7-0 victory of Windsor on October 19—which just so happened to be senior night.

Here is what Keith had to say: **ABIGAIL ADAMSEN**

“Abi began her field hockey career as a forward in middle school but was moved to defense when she joined the varsity team. Not only did her position change, but we also changed the formation of players on the field during her sophomore year, and Abi began playing sweeper.

“She took the change in stride and was 100% confident being the last defensive player on the field in front of the goalie.

“Abi is a very positive player and is always smiling, but is very serious at game time. She has worked tirelessly to improve her field hockey skills over the last four years. Her confidence when approaching the opposing team to make a tackle has improved exponentially since the first year she played on varsity. Her drives and strong clears out of the circle have definitely had an impact on the outcome of games this year.”

**SYDNEY GALLO**

“Sydney was a little bit of a late bloomer when it comes to



**SENIOR TEAM MEMBERS, from left: #27 Casey Sue Thompson, #6 Sydney Gallo, #34 Mackenzie McKay, #24 Ryleigh Laporte, #19 Abigail Adamsen.**

the younger players, and mentoring them throughout this season. Sydney has embraced her role as a captain and really provided that support for the younger players.

**RYLEIGH LAPORTE**

“Ryleigh has been an offensive threat for Otter Valley since she joined the Varsity team as a freshman. She has incredible speed and an eye for the open field. Multiple times throughout our season, she has received the ball from the defense and carried it the entire length of the field, dodging the defense and putting pressure on the goalie.

“Ryleigh has played multiple positions throughout her four years on Varsity, but I think she truly shines as a forward.

“As a team captain, she leads by example. She never expects something from her teammates that she does not expect from herself. She pushes herself to improve at every practice, gives 110% effort in every game, and reflects on where she can make improvements.

“Her aggressiveness on the field and drive to win are something that cannot be taught; it is just part of who she is.”

**MACKENZIE MCKAY**

“Mackenzie has played field hockey at Otter Valley since the seventh grade and was voted captain by her team this season. She has earned the respect of her peers by working hard and setting high standards for the team this season.

“Mackenzie has shown tremendous growth from her 11th-grade season to her senior season. Her ability to carry the ball down the right side of the field while being pressured by the defense has had a huge impact on our offense this season. Her

hard drives across the circle have also created huge scoring opportunities for her teammates.

“One of the reasons she has become a successful field hockey player is because she is a very coachable athlete. She is able to accept the feedback given to her, adjust her skills and increase her knowledge of the game.”

**CASEY SUE THOMPSON**

“Casey Sue is a versatile player and has played multiple positions each season on varsity. She typically plays sweeper or half-back but has spent a fair amount of time at midfield and has even seen some time as a forward. I think the only position she has not played is goalie.

“Her unselfishness and will-

ingness to do what is best for the team are what makes Casey Sue such a special player.

“Casey Sue tends to be quiet and pretty reserved off the field, but when she steps onto the field,

*“It could be argued that [D-II] is possibly the toughest division in field hockey this year,”*

—Jodie Keith

you can see that she is very competitive and will give everything she has to help her team win.

“As a sweeper, you often feel a lot of pressure when

the offense is approaching, and you are the only person left on defense besides the goalie.

“The pressure never seems to get to Casey Sue; she stays calm and poised in those situations and has been a great role model for her younger teammates.”



Keith says have helped lead the defense this year.

Even the freshmen starters Marissa Dick, Breanna Bovey, and Micheala Hobbs have made huge contributions, making the jump from middle school to high school varsity look easy. “The speed of the game, the physicality of the play, and skill level are very different, but these three were up to the challenge and quickly adapted to the Varsity level,” said Keith.

Of course, none of that would have mattered much without the sagacity and strong play of the team’s five senior stars, each of whom has contributed up and down the field, contributions that Keith knows all too well, as she

field hockey. She began playing in ninth grade. When I first saw her play, I was shocked that she had never played before. She is a natural athlete and has provided stability for our team as a midfielder. She was voted as captain this year and has been a wonderful leader for this team.

“Sydney has a positive attitude, always works hard, and never gives up even when things are not going our way. Numerous times I have heard Sydney reminding her teammates that they are in this together, win or lose; they are a team and need to support one another.

“We have a young team, and I tasked the captains with keeping an open mind, being patient with





# House race

(Continued from Page 2)

Madden attended Northeastern University and focused his studies on policy and science pertaining to energy, economics, food systems and the environment. He is currently the Solar Energy Director at a Vermont home energy company.

He lives in his hometown of Bellows Falls with his wife, Lauren, and young sons June and Winn. Madden's campaign for Congress is centered around what he terms Rebirthing Democracy — a set of technological and structural innovations to dramatically improve the problem-solving processes of government.

In responding to Digger's yes-no questions, his answers are in sync with most Vermont Democrats. He:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Does not believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would support legislation having the federal government continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatments for COVID-19.
- Does believe members of Congress should be subject to term limits, suggesting 10 years as the sweet spot.
- Agrees taxes should be raised on the wealthiest Americans.
- Does not believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare," should be repealed.

## ERICKA REDIC, LIBERTARIAN

"Being born and raised in Vermont, I was taught values like hard work, perseverance, and acceptance," writes Redic. "With a Bachelor's in accounting from Champlain College, I have spent much of the last 2 years helping individuals and businesses achieve their goals and dreams. I've always had a heart for the underdog and public service."

"In a representative republic," she continues, "it is our duty to be honest and take care of the vulnerable. Through work with organizations like the Women's Rape Crisis Center, I've helped influence policy changes at the local and state level. I call myself a Conservative because I believe in the liberal values established by the Constitution. I trust Americans to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. In order to maintain a civil and just society, we all must demonstrate a real tolerance of others and their viewpoints. We do this by conserving Constitutional Rights and Values."

In her yes-no responses, Redic said she:

- Would not support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would not support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Does believe F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would not support legislation

directing the federal government continue to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.

• Gave no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits.

• Would not raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans?

• Does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare," should be repealed.

## ADAM ORTIZ, INDEPENDENT

"I'm a workaholic," Ortiz says. "I believe in dotting every 'I,' crossing every 'T,' and checking every box. Big things are only a bunch of small things put together. I'm smart enough to know I don't know everything and sometimes it's best to find a subject matter expert and take a supporting role. I understand how important teamwork is." Ortiz lives in Rutland.

In his yes-no responses, Ortiz:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Believes F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Supports the federal government continuing to fund free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.
- Had no response to whether members of Congress should be subject to term limits.
- Does not believe taxes should be raised on the wealthiest Americans.
- And does believe that the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare," should be repealed.

## BECCA BALINT, DEMOCRAT

Balint introduces herself as "a former public-school teacher, mom, and President of the Vermont Senate. I was first elected to the Vermont State Senate in 2014, later becoming Senate Majority leader." She is quick to add that she is the "first woman and first openly gay person to serve as President Pro Tempore of the State Senate."

In the Senate, Balint says she "led the charge to pass the first gun safety laws in Vermont history, the strongest reproductive rights in the nation, and the largest investment in affordable housing in a generation." That's partly true, though she was part of a supermajority of Democrats in the Legislature, those pieces of legislation were marshalled through via their respective committees, and Republican Gov. Phil Scott was also leading the way on those same issues.

Balint says she is "running for U.S. Congress because I know Vermont alone can't solve the problems we face. I know Vermont has long

been a place that moves the rest of the country to think differently, to imagine a better future and a brighter world. That's what moved me to join this race."

In her yes-no responses, Balint hoes to the Democratic positions. She:

- Would support a comprehensive national health care program, commonly known as Medicare for All.
- Would support strengthening federal voting rights protections, including those described in the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.
- Would support the federal legalization of marijuana.
- Believes F-35 fighter jets should continue operating out of South Burlington.
- Would support legislation authorizing the federal government to continue funding free testing, vaccination and treatment for COVID-19.
- Does believe members of Congress should be subject to term limits.

its.

• Would support raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans.

• Would not support any effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare."  
**MATT DRUZBA, INDEPENDENT**

Druzba, 58, did not fill out the VtDigger questionnaire, but did contribute to a brief candidate profile in Seven Days. He's a resident of Burlington and is the chief operating officer in a financial industry business.

Druzba says he is a left-leaning Independent and moderate (with conservative undertones) and says in his interview with Seven Days that he will "never be beholden to any political party or special interest group."

More information can be found on Druzba's website, MattDVT.com, or in Seven Days Election Guide.

Visit our website

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Thu-Sat 10-5



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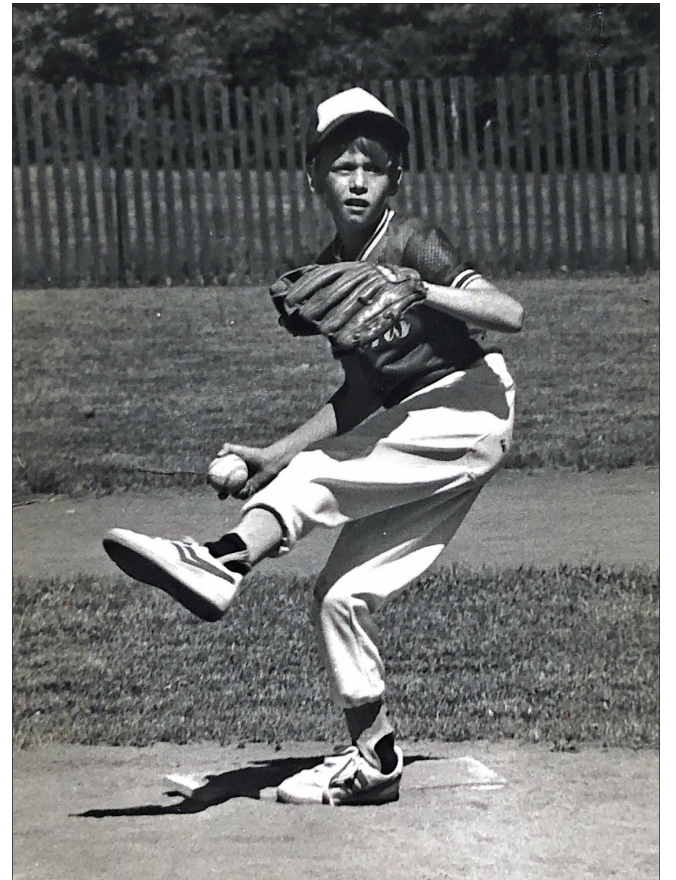
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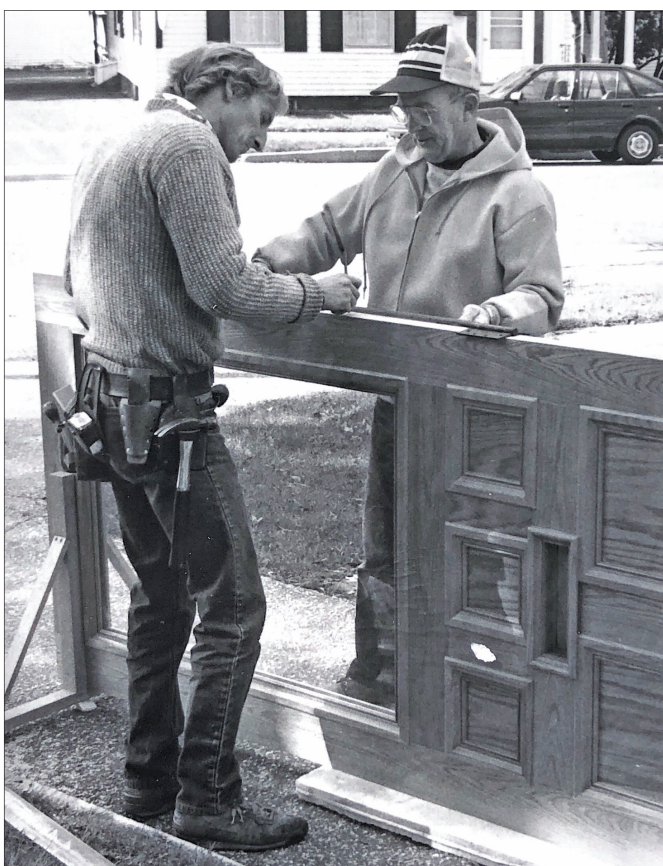


# Mim's Photos

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



E-mail [ads@brandonreporter.com](mailto:ads@brandonreporter.com)  
if you can identify someone in these photos.  
Or call us at 247-8080



# Recognized



Val Zimmer recognized this group from St. Mary's Catholic Church, classes of '92 and '93. From left to right: Steve Williams, Cheryl Carrara, unknown, Todd Howland, Terra Shortsleeves, Krista Swahn, Jaime Nichols, Eric Kearns, Ginny Memoe, Marie Hogan (in the OV jacket), Matt LaDuke, Val Zimmer, Jennifer Carrara, Donna Brutkoski, Shelly Dutil, and Beth Parmalee.



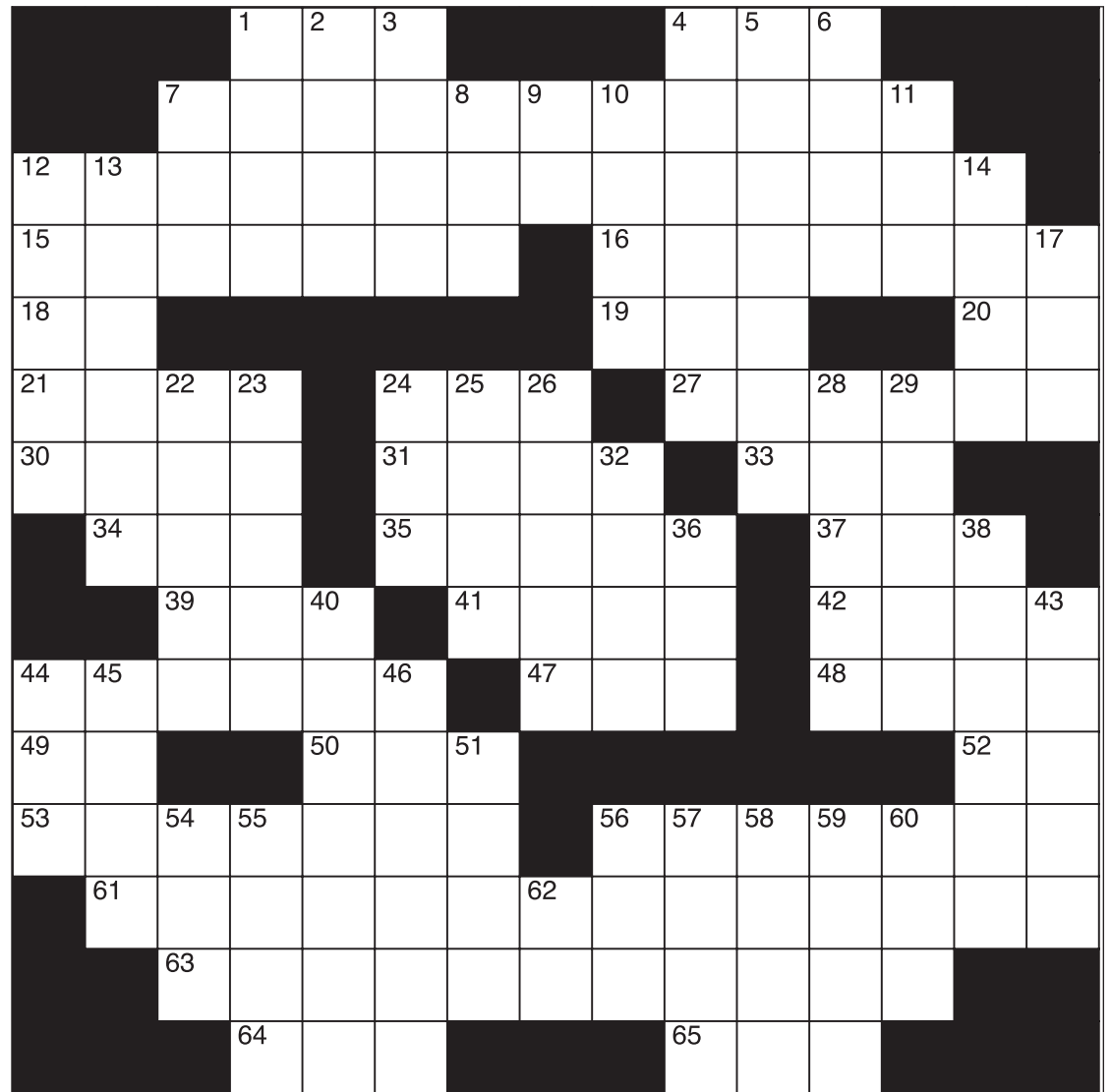
# Crossword

## CLUES ACROSS

1. Unhappy
4. Clairvoyance
7. One who works under you
12. What happens there stays there
15. Not ingested
16. Got the picture
18. One thousandth of a gram
19. Breakfast item
20. About
21. Tall deciduous trees
24. Safe keeping receipt
27. Cowardly
30. Pueblo people of New Mexico
31. Herring-like fish
33. A very large body of water
34. Angle (abbr.)
35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
37. White clerical vestment
39. Cool!
41. Matchstick games
42. Thick piece of something
44. A state that precedes vomiting
47. Burned item residue
48. Jaguarundi
49. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
50. The home of "60 Minutes"
52. Dorm official
53. Give cards incorrectly
56. One who is learning the job
61. Popular R.L. Stevenson novel
63. Attentively
64. CNN's founder
65. Criticize

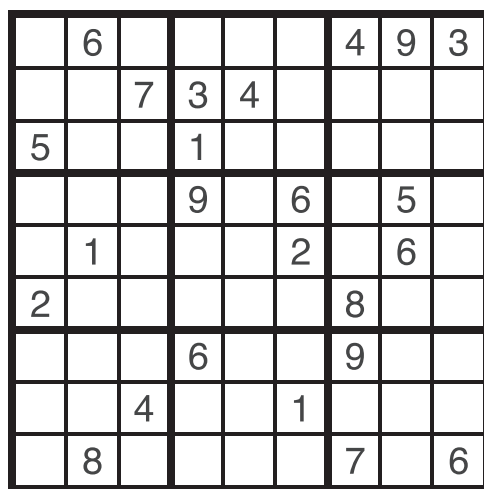
## CLUES DOWN

1. Fijian capital
2. Assist
3. Elected lord in Venice
4. The capacity of a physical system to do work
5. People of the wild
6. Parent-teacher groups
7. Midway between south and southeast
8. Moved quickly on foot
9. Handheld Nintendo console
10. "Top of the Stairs" playwright
11. Electronic data processing
12. "Dog Day Afternoon" director
13. Leaned
14. About aviation
17. Mountain is a popular type
22. Lake along Zambia and Congo border
23. Heroic tales
24. Soviet Socialist Republic
25. "Star Trek" villain
26. Hand gesture popular on social media
28. Renters have one
29. Tubular steel column
32. Database management system
36. Similar
38. Providing no shelter or sustenance
40. Death
43. What a sheep did
44. Midcentury Asian battleground
45. Horizontal passage into a mine
46. Mortified
51. Improper word
54. No seats available
55. Financial obligation
56. It can be hot or iced
57. Tough outer skin of a fruit
58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
59. Misfortunes
60. Negative
62. Camper



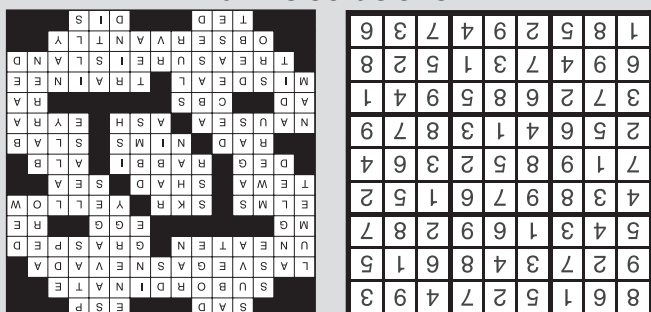
# Sudoku

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



Level: Intermediate

## Puzzle solutions



# Halloween Safety for Pets

Rutland County Humane Society (RCHS) wants to pass along a few pet safety tips this Halloween season so everyone is safe and happy! Trick or treaters can make your pet nervous or overly excited. It also gives him/her more opportunity to run out the door. A secure space in another part of the house will ensure that your pet is less stressed. Please keep in mind that chocolate is toxic to dogs and cats and artificial sweeteners, xylitol specifically, is highly toxic to dogs and cats. If your pet is a counter surfer, make sure to put candy where he/she can't get to it! Have a happy and safe Halloween!

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

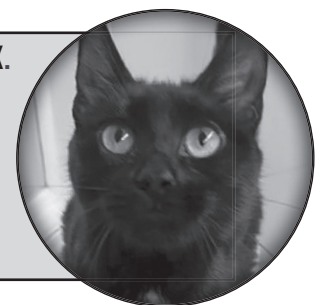


### MEET JAKE - 2 YEARS OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PITBULL MIX. BLACK AND WHITE.

Jake is a handsome boy who would make a loving, spirited companion. He would be a perfect match for any home that allows him to exercise his body and mind regularly. One of his favorite things to do is smell all of the bushes along the way on his longer walks. He loves walks in the woods, where he can smell even more! He gets along beautifully with every person he has met so far and loves back rubs. He has gotten along well with other dogs here as well, and he would likely get along well with children.

### MEET COCOA - 1-YEAR-OLD. SPAYED FEMALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BLACK.

Cocoa is as sweet as she is pretty! This little love came to us on August 31 because her previous owner was unable to continue to care for her. She is a sweet and social lady. She has done well in our Community Cat rooms where she can socialize with various other personalities of cats. She is one of the first ones to greet you when you enter the room. She is patiently waiting for you to adopt her so she can have a forever home on your lap!



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# Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

This week received a bunch of new large print books donated by Brenda Whittaker

**"Righteous Prey" by John Sandford, in memory of Arthur E. Sawyer**

"We're going to murder people who need to be murdered." Virgil Flowers and Lucas Davenport are sent to investigate a mysterious group known as The Five. A group of super rich, vigilante killers who have decided to target society's worst criminals. Flowers and Davenport will have their hands full with these virtually untraceable murders.

**"Endless Summer" by Elin Hilderbrand, in memory of Florence LaRock**

Nine short stories with familiar characters from Hilderbrand's other books. Includes: "The Sixth Wedding". Three years after Mallory Blessing's death (in 28 Summers), her friends gather for another eventful Labor Day celebration on Nantucket. In "The Surfing Lesson" the marriage at the heart of "Beautiful Day" enters

## Did you know?

If you missed the first meeting of the Brandon Publishing Club- don't worry! Future meetings are being planned now- email [chandler@brandonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:chandler@brandonpubliclibrary.org) to get on our contact list.

uncertain territory when Margot Carmichael encourages her husband to reunite with his ex-girlfriend in "The Surfing Lesson."

**"Long Shadows" by David Baldacci, in memory of "Judge" Chet Ketcham**

Detective Amos Decker returns with a new partner, this time to solve the murder of a federal judge and her bodyguard. What seems at first to be an open and shut case, the investigation reveals that both the judge and bodyguard had more enemies than he can count, and witnesses that keep disappearing.

**"The Maze" by Nelson DeMille, in memory of Charles H. Whittaker**

NYPD Homicide Detec-

tive John Corey is back and languishing in forced retirement. When his former love, Detective Beth Penrose offers him a job- it's an offer he can't really refuse. Together they're hunting down a serial killer with help from the local police, and what at first seemed like incompetence may be something far more sinister.

## New in YA

**"Maybe an artist : A Graphic Memoir" by Liz Montague**

When Liz Montague was a senior in college, she wrote to the New Yorker, asking them why they didn't publish more inclusive comics. The New Yorker wrote back asking if she could recommend any. She responded: yes, me.

Those initial cartoons in the New Yorker led to this memoir of Liz's youth, from the age of five through college--how she navigated life in her predominantly white New Jersey town, overcame severe dyslexia through art, and found the confidence to pursue her passion. Funny and poignant, Liz captures the age-old adolescent questions of "who am I?" and "what do I want to be?" with pitch-perfect clarity and insight.

# Mental health cases continue to plague Brandon, BPD

## Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Police began their week with a standoff with a Mulcahy Drive resident on Oct. 17. Shortly after 9 p.m., police received a report of a man who had fired several gunshots at two women as they got out of a car parked in the apartment building parking lot. Aided by Vermont State Police and the Pittsford Police department, officers were able to diffuse the situation after a brief standoff, convincing the suspect to surrender peacefully.

The shooter, later identified as 78-year-old Kenneth Dukette of Brandon, was taken into custody and transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for a mental health evaluation. Dukette was cited to appear in the Rutland County Superior Court-Criminal Division on Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. for arraignment on two counts of Reckless Endangerment. Additional charges may follow, pending the outcome of the investigation.

The next day police received a report of a damaged traffic sign in the Center and Park Streets area. Tire marks in the grass on the village green indicate that the vehicle that struck and damaged the street sign was most likely a large truck or a tourist-style vehicle.

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) contacted Brandon Police on Oct. 19 to help them locate the registered owner of a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run accident in Orlando, Fla. FHP believed the registered owner lived on Basin Road. Still, the responding officer determined that the subject no longer lives in Brandon and has moved to Florida. A family member provided contact information to the officer to give to the Highway Patrol for follow-up.

A complaint was made the following day concerning a neighbor dispute involving threats over the treatment of a dog at a residence on Mulcahy Drive. The complainant was advised to avoid contact with the neighbor and contact the police should any further threats occur.

A few hours later, a caregiver for an elderly male on Carver Street asked to speak with an officer concerning the ongoing verbal abuse she was receiving from her client. The caller was provided with recommendations on how to deal with her situation and provided contact information for social/mental health services.

Incidents ramped up on Friday, October 21. In the morning, police assisted Brandon Area Rescue with a report of a male having a mental health crisis at

an apartment on Mulcahy Drive. According to a family member, he had allegedly destroyed his apartment and damaged some of his personal belongings dual. He was subsequently transported to the Rutland Regional Medical Center for evaluation and treatment.

In the early afternoon, Police were called to Union Street, where two young children were walking unattended in the middle of the roadway without shoes on. Police escorted the children, ages 5 and 11, back to their residence. Both children had wandered off while their 12-year-old sister was babysitting them. The matter was forwarded to DCF for follow-up.

An hour or so later, police responded to a report of a male trying to commit suicide by jumping in front of -traffic in the area of McConnell Road. Officers attempted to calm the man, who kept yelling that he wanted them to "shoot him." The subject is said to have fled across an open field towards McConnell Road. The officers pursued the male, who is said to have stopped and turned aggressively toward them just a short distance from the roadway. The officers displayed a Taser and pepper spray and subdued the subject without further incident. Officers claim to have found a large folding knife during a pat down. Ultimately, neither the subject nor the officers were harmed, and the subject was transported to Rutland Regional Medical Center for an evaluation.

Close to 10 p.m. that night, police arrested Bradley Helenhouse, 37, of Leicester, for DUI following a single-vehicle crash on Franklin Street and Country Club Road with multiple children inside the vehicle. The passengers sustained minor injuries. Helenhouse was released on a citation to appear before the Rutland County Superior Court, Criminal Division on Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.

In other activities, police:

### On OCT. 17

- Stopped a motor vehicle on Franklin Street for speeding and issued a ticket.
- Made property checks at Junction Deli on Forest Dale Road and property on Frog Hollow Road.
- Received a report of vandalism (See Police report, Page 19)

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



further this week to make up for lost time, Cancer. Hunker down and get things done. There's rest to have on the other side of the effort.

### LEO July 23–Aug. 23

Turning a blind eye to a certain situation will not make it go away, Leo. It will only postpone the inevitable, which is getting it handled. Don't procrastinate any longer.

### VIRGO Aug. 24–Sept. 22

Others may not want to hear the truth, but you're still going to offer it up, Virgo. Forge ahead even if you may lose some friends in the process.

### LIBRA Sept. 23–Oct. 23

Think twice before you act this week, Libra. It's easy to take the path ahead right now, but there may be some other way to go that could prove more rewarding in the long run.

### SCORPIO Oct. 24–Nov. 22

Scorpio, you are looking for a change but you don't know what that should be just yet. You may have to try on a few different shoes before you find the right fit.

### SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23–Dec. 21

Sagittarius birthday season is in full

swing right now, so you are in a festive mood. That will continue right into the holidays, when you may be the life of the party.

### CAPRICORN Dec. 22–Jan. 20

Capricorn, you can change if you want to. It just requires a little effort right now to figure out the path you want to take. Brainstorm a few ideas and you can find a goal.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21–Feb. 18

Keeping secrets will only work for so long. Aquarius. Sooner or later the truth will be revealed and you will need to come clean. Take the high road from the start.

### PISCES Feb. 19–March 20

After a few bumps, you find your groove, Pisces. Supervisors will recognize your efforts and perhaps give you the notice you deserve.

## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 27 Bill Nye, Science Guy (67)
- Nov. 28 Karen Gillan, Actress (35)
- Nov. 29 Russell Wilson, Football QB (34)
- Nov. 30 Ben Stiller, Actor (57)
- Dec. 1 Robert Irwin, Reality Star (19)
- Dec. 2 Britney Spears, Singer (41)
- Dec. 3 Ozzy Osbourne, Singer (74)

### ARIES March 21–April 20

This week no one can help you but yourself, Aries. You have to figure out a way to get to the bottom of a problem on your own. But then the reward will be twice as sweet.

### TAURUS April 21–May 21

There are a few obstacles in your path this week, Taurus. But nothing you can't get around. If you have a few people help you out, your work will be even easier to manage.

### GEMINI May 22–June 21

Gemini, when a current plan of attack isn't working out quite right, you may have to approach it from a different direction. A new angle can bring with it a new perspective.

### CANCER June 22–July 22

You may need to push yourself a little



# Police report

(Continued from Page 18)

ism to a commercial cannabis growing business on McConnell Road, where a fence and vehicle were damaged.

- Took fingerprints for nursing licensing and school employees.

- Assisted a Basin Road resident with another resident's child making threatening comments toward her.

- Assisted Pittsford Police in serving a Diversion Ticket on a juvenile at a residence on Newton Road in Forest Dale.

- Enforced speed limit on Franklin Street near the intersection of Wood Lane.

- Responded to an accident on Champlain Street in which a car and deer collided. The deer was killed. The driver was unhurt, and the vehicle sustained minor damage.

- Responded to a report of gunshots at an apartment building on Mulcahy Drive.

## On OCT. 18

- Investigated a damaged street sign around Center Street/Park Street.

- Took fingerprints for a nursing license, school volunteer, and school employment.

- Received report of an operator driving a black Chevy truck braking erratically and failing to maintain lanes in the area of Conant Square. The vehicle was not located.

- Made a routine business check at the Brandon Fire Department building on Franklin Street.

## On OCT. 19

- Patrolled Center Street on foot.

- Assisted the Florida Highway Patrol in locating the registered owner of a vehicle involved in a hit-and-run accident in Orlando, Florida.

- Took fingerprints for a traveling nurse.

- Assisted Brandon Area Rescue on Spring Pond Road with a medical assist call.

- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street, stopping two drivers.

- Made motor vehicle stops on Franklin Street and Grove

Street for speeding and issued two warnings.

- Directed high visibility patrol in the Park Village area on Mulcahy Drive.

## On OCT. 20

- Responded to a neighbor dispute on Mulcahy Drive.

- Took fingerprints for medical licensing, school employment, and bank employment.

- Assisted with traffic control for a funeral procession leaving Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home on Franklin Street.

- Advised a caregiver on how to deal with a verbally abusive client.

- Made a traffic stop for speeding on Grove Street and a moving violation on Champlain Street.

- Made a DUI arrest on Center Street.

- Responded to a motor vehicle crash on Park Street, where a vehicle collided with a parked vehicle. Both cars were towed due to their disabling damage. No injuries were reported.

## On OCT. 21

- Responded to a male having a mental health crisis at an apartment on Mulcahy Drive.

- Verified a VIN for a motorcycle at a residence on Carver Street.

- Responded to a juvenile issue on Union Street.

- Made a welfare check on a reportedly suicidal man on McConnell Road.

- Enforced speed limit on Franklin Street.

- Stopped a vehicle for speeding on Grove Street and issued a ticket

- Made a DUI arrest on Franklin Street near Country Club Road Road.

## On OCT. 22

- Issued a ticket for littering on Syndicate Road.

- Assisted Brandon Rescue with entry into a locked apartment for a woman experiencing a medical emergency.

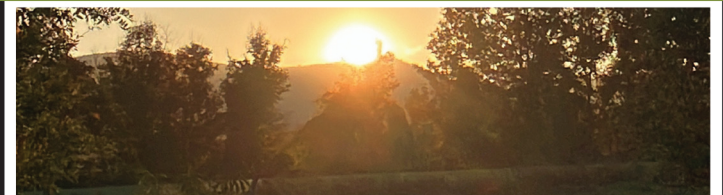
## On OCT. 23

- Stopped a vehicle for speeding on Franklin Street, near the downtown area, and issued a ticket.

- Helped a female get her child and belongings from her residence after a recent break-up with her boyfriend.

# REAL ESTATE

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**POET AND PUBLISHER Ben Pease addressed a packed house at BFPL during the first meeting of the Brandon Publishing Club.**  
 Photo by Carey Bunker

## Brandon Publishing Club

Dozens of prospective authors gathered last Wednesday at the Brandon Free Public Library for an information session of the newly formed Brandon Publishing Club. The club will feature

tips, training, one-on-one mentorship, and community resources for anyone interested in making their self-publishing dreams come true.



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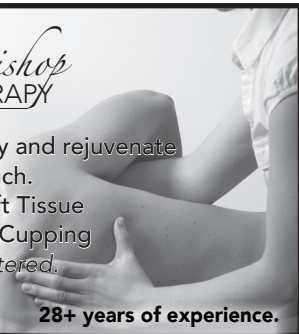
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OVER 150 PEOPLE attend the Vermont Marble Museum's open house and fundraiser on October 15.

Photos provided

## Vermont Marble Museum open house a huge success

PROCTOR — On Saturday, October 15, over 150 people attended a Vermont Marble Museum Open House and exhibition opening, “Carver with a Ripped Apron.” The event kicked off the Vermont Marble Museum board’s \$300,000 fundraising campaign to renovate its museum space and hire an executive director.

The Vermont Marble Museum (VMM) hosted the event, highlighted by “Carver with a Ripped Apron,” co-curated by Anne Tait and Dennis Montagna. The doors were opened to the community to celebrate the history of the museum’s existing exhibits and to gain input on the future of the museum, which will remain located in the historic Vermont Marble Company finishing mill at 52 Main Street, Proctor. The mill building was recently purchased by Zion Growers of St. Johnsbury.

“We were excited to host this event and invite the public to the museum! We were heartened to see the incredible number of people who attended, sharing their enthusiasm with us throughout the event. Clearly, people care deeply about the museum and its future,” shared Robert and Victoria Young, co-chairs of the Vermont Marble Museum board.

Many people associated with the marble industry attended, including Renzo Palmerini and

Michael Fannin, the last two carvers for the Vermont Marble Company, as well as Art Bemis,

former art director of the Vermont Marble Company.

Mr. Bemis talked about the

Marble Museum later this year.

Also in attendance were Ben Doyle, President of the Preserva-



creation of the 1984 film *Men, Marble & Machines*, which he produced with Ken Resnick. The film will be featured as the fourth program hosted by the Vermont

Trust of Vermont, and Travis Samuels, the CFO of Zion Manufacturers. Doyle welcomed the community and expressed PTV’s



ongoing support for the Vermont Marble Museum as well as the collection that they steward.

Samuels discussed the important relationships they see with the Proctor community as well as the long tradition of hemp rope manufacturing in the agricultural history of Vermont, stretching back to the 19th century.

Michael Ramey, Town Manager of Proctor, added, “People in town have expressed a lot of excitement and interest to see new industry supporting cultural preservation at the site. I was amazed by how much effort was put into the successful launching of this exhibition and

the open house and can’t wait to see what the future holds for the former Marble Company complex.”

A survey is available online for those who are interested in offering their feedback, hopes, and memories as the new museum plans its role as a cultural institution for the region and beyond through in-person and virtual programming at <https://forms.gle/CVtgfu2XP2VQvJfu5>

For more information or to talk with one of the Vermont Marble Museum’s board members, please, contact [info@vermont-marblemuseum.org](mailto:info@vermont-marblemuseum.org) or call (802) 552-0889.



# Senate race

(Continued from Page 3)

A: What was once a gateway to the middle-class has become a crushing financial burden on Americans trying to achieve the

American Dream of a better life. We must reduce the burden of student debt.

I support canceling some student loan debt for certain borrow-

ers, loan forgiveness for graduates employed in public service and frontline healthcare jobs. I've also cosponsored the Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act to double the Pell Grant award and tie grants to the inflation rate.

We must also make college more affordable. One way to do that is through the Debt Free College Act, which I have cosponsored. It would incentivize states to achieve debt free college by unlocking matching federal funds. Expanding access to community and public colleges is also critical. I am a strong supporter and cosponsor of the College for All Act to waive tuition and fees for every community college student and qualifying students at public colleges and universities.

**What would you do to address the rising costs of food, fuel and other goods?**

A: The rising cost of fuel and goods is brutal for working families. We can and must

relieve the pressure working families are feeling at the pump in the short term, while we work towards a more affordable future. It starts with addressing the Big Oil rip off. They are price-gouging during a time of instability around the world and we need to hold them accountable for profiteering and keeping production low to boost prices at the pump. The cost of gas is hurting Vermont families, while the oil companies are raking in record profits. This is outrageous and unacceptable. Congress must pass a windfall profits tax to stop this and bring down the cost of gas.

I also supported the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act, which passed the House and would help combat price gouging by the oil industry by giving federal regulators more authority to go after profiteering during this crisis.

We also need to pass the COMPETES Act, which will help address supply chain issues and make sure we're making the products we need in this country.

In the long term, we need to be doing everything we can to fight the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and lower the cost of childcare and housing. We addressed these affordability challenges in the Build Back Better Act, which passed the House with my support, but has since stalled in the Senate.

**How would you work to restore public trust in elections?**

A: I was in the House chamber on January 6th and heard the shot

fired and saw the insurrectionists try to break down the doors to get to the House floor. It was a violent and terrible day, but what was even more shocking was that after the violence occurred 147 of my Republican colleagues voted against certifying Joe Biden as

*"Rural Vermont and our farmers help make Vermont such a special place. The beautiful scenery, the hard-working people, and the culture of community and care is core to our rural state..."*

—Peter Welch

the duly elected President of the United States. And what has happened since then is that Trump-aligned state legislatures across the country are rolling back voting and election protections in an attempt to undermine the next election.

It is critical that Congress take steps to protect the right of all Americans to vote and ensure the certification process is done without interference from politicalized state legislatures.

Vermont has been leading the country in making it easier to vote, not harder. But that fight is raging outside of our state and a threat to anyone's right to vote is a threat to us all.

Congress needs to act now to address and prevent these attacks taking place all across the country. We must pass the Freedom to Vote Act, the For the People Act, and

the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. I cosponsored and helped pass these bills in the House, but they have stalled in the Senate because of the filibuster. It is another reason we need to abolish the filibuster.

**What actions would you take to support rural areas and farmers?**

A: Rural Vermont and our farmers help make Vermont such a special place. The beautiful scenery, the hard-working people, and the culture of community and care is core to our rural state... (Farmers) must play a role in our future local food system, the fight against climate change, and our state economy. I have been a fierce advocate my entire career in Congress for our dairy farmers, working to strengthen the dairy safety net with the Margin Protection Program, protect our trade agreements to ensure Vermont dairy has access to international markets, and instituting a supply management system.

I'm working to end The Renewable Fuel Standard, an artificial corn ethanol subsidy that raises the cost of food prices, makes it more expensive for our farmers to buy feed, damages small engines, and harms the environment. I've fought to help Vermont families and children get access to affordable, nutritious meals that include locally sourced food products. This includes working to expand SNAP benefits, achieve universal school meals, increase funding for food banks, and help Vermonters in need.

Would you support new federal restrictions on the sale and use of firearms? If so, to what extent?

A: Yes. Enough is enough. We must enact gun safety reforms to address the epidemic of gun violence... I support banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, universal background checks, and closing loopholes in the federal background check law. Parents should not have to worry about the safety of their children when they are at school. Kids should not have to fear for their lives when they walk into their classroom. And teachers should not be required to be a security force on top of everything we ask them to do for our children and communities.

**Under what conditions should the U.S. engage in the use of military force?**

A: Diplomacy should always be the focus of our international engagement and approach to conflict. But there are times when the United States must engage militarily to protect our allies, national security, or address a humanitarian crisis. A major step in that process has to be Congressional engagement. The Constitution gives Congress the authority to declare war and far too often in recent decades, Congress

(See Senate race, Page 23)

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# Senate race

(Continued from Page 22) has abdicated that authority to the President. We have seen wars expand into new territory and last too



**GERALD MALLOY**

long with devastating consequences in the Middle East without Congressional involvement. Congress must be engaged by debating and voting on the Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) when the United States sends our brave servicemembers to fight a foreign war.

\*\*\*\*\*

GERALD MALLOY was born in Boston and became a West Point graduate. He spent 22 years on active duty as Field Artillery Officer with duty in Germany, Korea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Kuwait. He used that experience to work in the federal government with defense contracts, and then used that experience to work in the private sector, primarily with defense and intelligence contracts.

He moved to Vermont in 2020 from Massachusetts, and now lives in Windsor County. He's married with four children, three in Vermont schools. He's never run for

political office before at any level.

In answering VtDigger's 8 yes-or-no questions, Malloy said:

- "no" to supporting a comprehensive health care program known as Medicare for all;
- "no" to strengthening federal voting rights protections;
- "no" to the federal legalizing of marijuana;
- "no" to raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans;
- "no" to continued federal funding for free testing and vaccination and treatment of COVID-19; and
- "no" to term limits on members of Congress.

He dodged the question on whether to support the continued operation of F-35 fighter jets out of South Burlington by writing "no response."

He responded "yes" to repealing the Affordable Care Act.

His in-depth answers follow as written with editing only when needed for clarity:

What, if anything, would you do to reform how political campaigns are funded in the U.S.?

A: I am interested in reform, but do not have specifics developed.

**How would you work within a legislative body that is starkly divided along partisan lines?**

A: Find the Tip O'Neill types.

**What should Congress do to make higher education more affordable, attainable and accessible?**

A: Stop overspending on stimulus and pork in omnibus actions; start making tough decisions to spend on important areas for future of USA, like Education. Mandate a percentage to go to Education.

**What would you do to address the rising costs of food, fuel and**

**other goods?**

A: Overturn Oil/Gas Executive Orders; promote regaining independence and trade surplus. Promote farming/agriculture in U.S. for food independence. Implement real sanctions on countries USA should not be trading with, like Communist China. Made in USA, Made in Vermont.

**How would you work to restore public trust in elections?**

A: State-level reforms - paper only/no electronics, ID, dump rolls and complete redo, in person voting only with very limited exceptions; voting Holiday. Amend the Constitution so that there is no question that the VP/President of the Senate does in fact have the right to call for investigation if there is 25% of Congress vote of perception of impropriety, BEFORE certification.

**What actions would you take to support rural areas and farmers?**

A: I intend to seek to work on Senate Agriculture committee to support and grow Vermont farming, dairy, agriculture.

**Would you support new federal restrictions on the sale and use of firearms? If so, to what extent?**

A: No.

Under what conditions should the U.S. engage in the use of military force?

When diplomacy fails and there are compelling needs to use force; last resort and only upon agreement and support from military leadership. (I am a combat Veteran).

*Editor's note: As indicated, candidate Q+As were provided by VtDigger.org.*



## Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator Town of Brandon, VT

The Town of Brandon is seeking a Highway Maintenance/Equipment Operator. This job is under the direct supervision of the Highway Foreman, who is in turn supervised by the Town Manager.

### JOB SKILLS:

- Must be able to perform the duties of the job, under supervision or independently as set forth in the job description, under adverse conditions (weather, traffic, etc.).
- Must be able to operate equipment efficiently, effectively and to the skill level satisfactory to the Highway Foreman and/or the Public Works Superintendent within safe operating limits.
- Must be able to recognize maintenance and repair problems as they develop in order to prevent further damage or the need for extensive repairs to Town facilities and equipment.
- Must have a good general knowledge of proper public works highway maintenance procedures.

### QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

- Must be a high school graduate, hold an equivalency certificate or be able to demonstrate sufficient equivalent additional experience in the area of public works in lieu of a high school education.
- Must have experience in either highway maintenance, construction procedures and methods, equipment operation or a related field.
- Must have the ability to keep abreast of the latest technological innovations, maintenance procedures and the like through personal development and continuing education.
- Must possess a valid State of Vermont Commercial Driver's license and Flagger Certification.
- Must have adequate physical strength, dexterity and vision, as well as endurance to operate public works equipment for long hours under adverse weather conditions.

Please send a resume or letter of interest to:  
Town of Brandon, 49 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733  
c/o David Atherton, Town Manager

## Classifieds

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CORNWALL: - 5 miles to

Middlebury! Share a spacious rural home w/ senior couple who enjoy nature, theater & community involvement. \$400/mo. plus help w/ snow removal, cooking 2x/wk, & occas. errands. Bedroom, sitting room, private BA. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, refs, bg check req. EHO.

HOUSING IN EXCHANGE - for live in care giving. Located 15 minutes from Middlebury. Two private rooms and bath. Live in care assist for 80 year old somewhat active woman. Cats okay, laundry, parking, storage. email [lincolnextpress@comcast.net](mailto:lincolnextpress@comcast.net)

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