

The REPORTER

Brandon • Pittsford • Proctor • West Rutland
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75¢

'The gift of life'

This Thanksgiving, Mei Mei Brown has a lot to be thankful for

BRANDON — After almost four years of waiting and wondering if she would be given a new lease on life, Mei Mei Brown, who has had a Dartmouth Hitch pager with her 24-7 for the past couple of years, has a lot to be thankful for.

"I got 'the call' from Dartmouth telling me that they had a cadaver kidney for me on Tuesday, August 9," she said, recalling she and her husband Bruce had just returned home from a week in Maine the

night before.

"Timing is everything," she continued. "At the time of the call Dartmouth was almost through the screening process of my 38th potential donor. I am so very appreciative to everyone who reached out to Dartmouth to see if they were eligible to donate a kidney to me."

Mei Mei, a long-time Brandon resident and a prolific volunteer of several organizations in town, had

been seeking potential donors for the past couple of years and had ramped it up the past year as her own kidneys were reaching total failure and she would have to go on a kidney dialysis machine. Brown, who was diagnosed at 59 with polycystic kidney disease, had been on the waiting list for a kidney for the previous 44 months.

Fortunately, Mei Mei felt well enough that she never needed to go on dialysis, even though her

kidney function had dipped to as low as 7, where normal is in the mid-50s.

In a recent email exchange, Mei Mei explained the process of getting the kidney, the immediate action needed once notified, and what she has gone through since:

"Once I got the call that Tuesday, I had to take a Covid test while still at home as the timing before surgery would not give the hospital enough time to run the test



MEI MEI BROWN

at the hospital. It was negative and over the mountain we headed.

"We arrived at Dartmouth at (See Mei Mei Brown, Page 2)

After two-year hiatus Brandon gets in the holiday spirit

BY ANGELO LYNN

BRANDON — The holidays are rolling in and Brandon businesses are ready and eager to have local residents and visitors spend some time shopping, eating, drinking and making merry this holiday season, says Bernie Carr, president of the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce.

Carr noted that the special events kick off with Small Business Saturday on Saturday, Nov. 26.

"Then, starting on Monday, Dec. 5 through Friday, Dec 9, we have decided to repeat last year's success of Moonlight Madness Week to highlight local shopping and specials," Carr said. That's followed by Brandon's Moonlight Madness event, which is for shoppers looking for unique gifts, one-of-a-kind items, and exceptional customer service. "It's an experience that can't be found at the mall or over the Internet. All throughout town, there will be bargains, sales, specials, drawings, exceptional refreshments and a terrific shopping experience. Many shops offering 20% off storewide and you'll have a chance to win \$100 in Brandon Bucks."

It's a break-through year, Carr added, after several years of Covid restrictions, plus the years of downtown road construction prior to the (See Brandon holiday, Page 16)



All
shook
up

OVUHS'S WALKING STICK Theater presented a rollicking performance of All Shook Up, this past Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 17-20. Using many of the songs that made Elvis Presley a legend. Pictured are: top, from left, Jaden Grace, Eliza Norford, Andrew Kenyon, Calvin Ladd, Cebelle Hull and cast behind; bottom right, Eliza Norford and Andrew Kenyon. See more photos and story on Page 6.



Photos by Paul Gamba Photography

Bus damage leaves Sr. Center scrambling

FOREST DALE — The theft of two catalytic converters from the bus at the Brandon Senior Center has left it difficult to pick up seniors throughout the week and to bring meals to many in their homes.

"It's a real crime and a shame that someone would do this to our van; a real low blow," said senior center director Kathy Mathis, who added that they are still providing their services.

"We're still out there picking people up and delivering lunches to our seniors," Mathis said, explaining they are "just driving the van as is even though it sounds like a Mack truck! But we can't leave people at home or without contact with each other and without meals." She said they deliver about 50 meals to area seniors, host another 35-40 for regular lunches and pack dinners for them to eat at home, and cater to even more throughout the week.

Mathis said the theft occurred sometime between late Saturday and Monday, Nov. 12-14. "Someone was at the Center all day Friday and Saturday till dark. No one was there on Sunday, then the Center was open for business on Monday from 9 am to 5 p.m. and we hadn't driven the van during that time. On

(See Senior center, Page 13)



Mei Mei Brown

(Continued from Page 1)

3 p.m. and I was led straight to a bed to get settled in. Lots of pre-screening was done, along with a conversation by my surgeon. That was when I learned a bit about my donor and his kidney. He was 26 years old and died of “cardiac arrest.” The kidney was intended for another person somewhere in New England. When the kidney arrived at that facility the surgeon noticed that the kidney had two small arteries coming off it instead of the normal one. The kidney was refused.

“A notice went out to all the kidney transplant centers in New England to see if anyone wanted the kidney. Dartmouth’s transplant team studied it and said, ‘that’s Mei Mei’s kidney.’ The two arteries were close enough together that my surgeon was able to make it one artery so that it could be hooked up to my bladder.

“Surgery started at 7 p.m. and they were done by 10 p.m. I was taken to my ICU room around 11 p.m. Totally amazing.

“I had no pain. Only took Tylenol for the first 30 hours or so, then nothing.

“While in the hospital I started my anti-rejections medications im-

mediately to minimize my body rejecting the new kidney. I also received significant amounts of magnesium and Vit D3 through my IV as my body was struggling to function with those levels being so low (I’m still taking both in pill form and the numbers are improving).

“My first week home had us traveling to Dartmouth three times to check my incision with its 26 or so staples (about 6” long on the right side of my abdomen (because I received the right kidney from the donor). Blood and urine are collected for analysis each visit, and my medications are adjusted based on the results.

“For the first month I had to collect and measure my urine output 24/7, along with measuring all fluids ingested. They were supposed to come close to equaling each other but didn’t for the first month. I also had to take my temperature each morning, my blood pressure and weigh myself. Any large change from the day before required contacting my RN on the transplant team. My goal was to drink between 2-3 liters of fluids daily. (Half electrolytes, half water).

“The second week and until

the first week of October I went to Dartmouth twice a week to review my progress. Now I am on the once-a-month cycle. At the six-month mark (this coming February), I will visit every three months.

“My new kidney, who I call ‘my little man’, did not want to ‘wake up’ post-surgery. The team had concern that my body was going to reject it. The surgeon was concerned enough that by mid-September he worked his way through the Chinese wall of UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing) to be able to speak to the surgeon who implanted my donor’s other kidney to see how it was waking up. We learned that the left kidney was functioning just like mine, slow to wake up. Relief! My body wasn’t trying to reject it, it was just being lazy.

“Medications were increased and they did finally cause my blood values to improve. It was slow, and it wasn’t until the first week of October that the transplant team stopped worrying that I wasn’t going to keep the new kidney.

“My visit to Dartmouth this month had the head of the department almost jumping for joy with my progress after reviewing my labs! It has been a test of patience, but so rewarding in the long run.

“Because of the new kidney not

wanting to wake up “normally” and do its job, I am one-to-two months behind in regaining my immune system. (So I’m very vulnerable to catching any diseases or flu strains.) I received my flu shot on Nov. 4, but the team is very cautious that I will receive any benefit from it.

“In October, the team had given me permission to do limited grocery shopping, provided I went to the store during a “quiet” time, have a list and get in/out as quickly as possible. Of course, wear a mask. Bruce took that “treat” away from me a few weeks ago when the Covid, flu and RSV numbers started climbing, even with me wearing a KN95 mask.

“Except for the loss of social contact, I’m actually relieved. I am in communication with a group of people who are pre- and post-kidney transplant. One person recently lost her transplanted kidney because of the RSV virus and two others are fighting to keep theirs. Covid has been very destructive to transplanted kidneys, even those who’s transplanted kidney has been in place for more than a year.

“As I said, recovery was slow. I slept most of the days for the first month. There was no pain. My body was just so low on so many things — magnesium, calcium, protein and phosphorus, plus my

red blood cells were so low that the team contemplated giving me a transfusion, but they didn’t want to introduce another person’s DNA to my body.

“I still take a general antibiotic three times a week. For the first three months I was on medication to help prevent me from having shingles. Even though I was fully vaccinated, the immune suppressing medications pretty much negate those vaccinations.


“During months two and three I was a bit stronger, but not by a lot. Still taking 1-2 hour naps every afternoon. I would do something productive and then take a nap for an hour or so. I couldn’t, and still can’t, lift anything heavier than 10 pounds, so Bruce has been my lifter and carrier. I can’t even pick up two of our cats!

“Post-surgery I was on 14 medications daily. I am now down to 11. I am on three anti-rejections twice a day. Hopefully before the end of year one I will be down to just one. They are tough on the body. My main medication has caused tremors in both my hands. I can barely write (and be able to read what I wrote), things were easily dropped and getting veggies like peas and corn to my mouth from a plate was a huge challenge. My lower digestive system was a mess for three months!


“For the first month the pharmacists helped me set up my pill box (meds changed at every visit). It was critical that I not miss taking a pill. My anti-rejection medications must be taken twice a day, 12 hours apart. Some meds need to be taken on an empty stomach, (See Mei Mei Brown, Page 3)



MEI MEI BROWN wears this pin “almost daily” to help spread the importance of organ donation.




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Local Lions looking to roar again

BY LION FRED POCKETTE

At the start of 2020, The Brandon/Forest Dale Lions Club would meet twice a month and have anywhere from 10 to 15 members at each meeting. This healthy membership allowed them to do multiple projects and fundraisers without burning out any of the members. But then came Covid and it decimated their numbers like it did to many other clubs.

Since 1977, the Brandon/Forest Dale Lions Club has been serving the residents of the Brandon area. Over the years they have bought hundreds of pairs of eyeglasses for those in need. They have supported the local food shelf to the tune of thousands of dollars and hundreds of pounds of food.

The Lions have also given \$40,000-plus in scholarship money to Otter Valley seniors; run an annual vision screening program that serves every child in the area from preschool to high school by administering a vision exam designed for early detection of various disorders; and they have given local children the opportunity to participate in international contests like the speak out program or the peace poster contest.

The Brandon/Forest Dale Lions club has even picked up and delivered 1,100 plus meals since 2020 as part of the federal Everyone Eats program. These are just a few of the things that the Lions have accomplished in their 45 year history.

"We were really hit hard by the pandemic," said current club

president Connie Saint George. "We were unable to go out into the community to do our fundraisers and meet with people. Only a few people could help out safely." She went on to say that over that span membership dropped and funds had dwindled.

The club didn't remain totally idle during the pandemic, though. With just a few active members they were able to hold a fundraising concert (after a couple of cancellations due to COVID-19) for Davina Landesman, a local single mother of two teenagers who had been diagnosed with Stage-3 cancer. Thanks to the sponsorship of many local businesses, they were able to raise over \$3,000 through that event.

"Knowing that money was there, where I could pay some bills and I didn't have to worry about my power, or other bills was huge," said a very grateful Landesman. "Because, at that time, it had been nearly four months since I had any income to pay any bills. It was huge. If it wasn't for the support of the community, my kids and the Lions Club, it would have been much easier to just give up."

Her daughter Morgan, who a few years earlier the club helped sponsor on an educational trip to the Galapagos islands, chipped in with total agreement. "The Lions were like our little light that we could look at and smile through the whole thing, when everything else was dark."

"The Lions are phenomenal,"

Landesman continued. "They have a heart. They really care about this community and the people in it."

This is just one recent story and it occurred when the club was suffering from a dwindled membership. Just think what would happen, Saint George said, if the club had a healthier and younger membership?

"I think there are a lot of people out there who could donate a little bit of their time to help out their neighbor," states Saint George. "I know there are. People do this all the time. We are asking people to do the same thing except on a little larger scope so that we can help all our neighbors. I highly encourage people to look inside themselves to see if they can find a little time to join the club or, if that's not possible, donate to some of our causes."

In addition to new members they are also seeking new ways to raise money. "We would really like to know what kind of events people would like to see and to get some new, fresh fundraising ideas," Saint George said.

"The Lions are looking to roar again," she said.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Brandon/Forest Dale Lions Club may contact club president Connie St. George at 802-349-9929 or show up at the Brandon American Legion around 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month when they hold their in-person meetings. Guests are welcome.

Mei Mei Brown

(Continued from Page 2)
others on a full stomach. Morning is my hardest time to get the pills ingested in an orderly and timely fashion, but I have it pretty much down pat now. Only have missed one pilling in four months. After a lecture on the potential harm this could cause, my nurse said she would forgive me that one time. I haven't missed since!

"The last month has been an awakening for me. I have stamina, I'm walking, no napping (if I do it is for 15-20 minutes), I have regained the 10-pounds I lost post-surgery and my house is finally getting clean!

"I'm hoping by February I will have a stronger immune system, will be able to have the Covid booster and have a bit more freedom to interact with people beyond Zoom!"

Asked to sum up her ordeal

and what this Thanksgiving means to her, she was humble and grateful.

"It has been an amazing ride," she said, adding jokingly, "Not sure I'd recommend it as an event for everyone!"

While thanking Dartmouth for its "excellence in care," she noted "this Thanksgiving is extra special. Both my parents died at 67, my mother from my disease, Polycystic Kidney Disease. I turned 67 two weeks after my transplant. The Transplant Team expects my transplant to add another 20 years to my life!"

"We will be celebrating all those people who stepped up to donate a kidney to me and an extra special acknowledgement to the family who lost their 26-year-old son, allowing me to receive "the gift of life."

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BRANDON REPORTER

Guest Editorial

Giving thanks this season
to Vermont farmers

As autumn winds down and our Green Mountain fields and forests prepare to rest, we give thanks for the bounty of the seasons. In the coming weeks, Vermont food will be at the center the table as many of us celebrate with family and friends. Maybe the meal will begin with an appetizer plate arranged with Vermont's award-winning cheeses, crackers, pickles, jams, and jellies; perhaps stacks of tasty local vegetables and meats grown and produced by our Vermont farmers and producers. On the table, a fresh Vermont turkey is paired with buttery mashed potatoes and many other sides. Once dinner concludes, our thoughts turn to Vermont-grown holiday trees and wreaths. We are fortunate to have so much.

While producing food and forest products, Vermont farmers keep our landscape open. Vermont would not be the state we love without our farmers; the beauty of the Green Mountain State is expressed through their stewardship of land, water, and animals. In winter, farmland sets the stage for skiing, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling. Farmers also provide vibrant habitat for hunting, with the chance to bag that buck during the fall or that turkey in the spring when Vermont turns green again. We are thankful for those contributions in every season.

We are also focused on Vermonters in need. From food banks to gleaners, restaurants to community and faith organizations, we are grateful for those who donate their time and resources at Thanksgiving and throughout the year. We are also grateful for those who will spend their day preparing and serving a locally sourced meal to those less fortunate.

Many Vermonters are vulnerable, and farmers are among them. Those who work the land are critical to our rural communities; they are stressed from unpredictable headwinds, the price of fuel, food, or fertilizer. We will continue to support them, help grow their operations, and encourage policies that make their businesses more affordable.

It takes a commitment of long hours to get products to our homes, and in addition to our farmers, we are grateful for retailers, store employees and those along the supply chain who make our Thanksgiving dinners so special. We honor all food systems stakeholders for their contributions to Vermont, the region, and the country.

We are all part of our Vermont community; we are all neighbors, supporting each other in so many ways. On this Thanksgiving Day, we raise a glass: cheers to our farmers for what they give us on this day, and every day.

Anson B. Tebbetts

Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets



Snowflakes are flying

SNOW BUNTINGS HAVE arrived in Vermont.

Photo by Sue Wetmore

Community Forum

Future political violence in the United States?

BY HAVILAND SMITH

The violent events of January 6, 2021 at the nation's capital have persuaded more than a few writers and media outlets that there is a rising chance of further, perhaps more intense political violence on our horizon. If you look carefully at the available information, a pretty good case can be made that supports this position.

Further, it is clear that the situation began to develop with the 2016 election of Donald Trump to the presidency and his subsequent, constant anger and use of vitriol against the U.S. government, its employees and American civilization in general.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that so far this year there have been over 1,000 threats made to election workers. In addition, in the more sensational, publicized world, we have the attack on the Pelosi home in California, the plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Whitmer and the incident involving Supreme Court Judge Kavanaugh, as well as an armed attack on an FBI field office.

The threats have become so bad that several national level politicians have hired personal protec-

tion at their own expense.

Violence is committed by both conservative and liberal American, but not in equal terms. The attack on Representative Steve Scalise, for example, was run by a supporter of liberal Senator Bernie Sanders. In addition, conservatives assert that the violence perpetrated by Black Lives Matter after the Floyd incident was in effect political rather than what clearly was racial violence.

Nevertheless, the violence we have seen breaks down rather clearly and sharply. The Anti-Defamation League states clearly that 90% of all such violence is perpetrated by the far right, with only the remaining 10% from the far left. Even now, polls indicate that close to one in three Republicans and one in ten of Democrats endorse the use of violence to reach political goals.

It is useful here to remember that Donald Trump has enjoyed the support of something on the order of 30% of the voting population. If you even partially tie that together with the proclivity of conservatives to support political violence, you will better understand the issue of the likelihood of future political

violence in this country.

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, despite what the NRA and other fervent, gun-owning supporters have to say, is very explicit. It reads that "A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". What that says is that you can keep and bear arms only if in doing so you are in support of the security of the US Government. Numerous court proceedings have left us right now with very liberal interpretations of that amendment. This allows Americans to keep and bear virtually any kind of pistol, rifle, shotgun or automatic weapon without establishing either their bona fides or that their motivation is the security of our country.

That simple fact is almost certainly why so many Americans so vigorously support the Second Amendment as it is now interpreted. It gives them the right to own the weapons that would be required if they decided to try to overturn the existing government.

It would seem that our present situation as well as the direction (See *Vermonters/balance*, Page 5)

The Reporter

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Letters to the Editor

Gratitude for 'Button Up Brandon' support

Brandon has once again proven it is a special community. Not only do we all have an inherent desire to help others, many demonstrated the courage to welcome the support that was offered at this first Button Up Brandon event.

This event reached over 60 residents, and with seventeen Energy Committee and SolarFest members, volunteers and presenters we filled the hall quite well. Not only are over 50 homes in Brandon headed for a more comfortable and affordable winter, over half of attendees signed up for Energy Audits with Heat Squad at their discounted price and more signed up for Efficiency Vermont free energy kits and services.

I am writing to thank the presenters, the volunteers and the funders who made this inaugural event so special:

First, what launched this event

was the planning of the Brandon Energy Committee's Conservation Working Group.

What made it real was the financial support that came forward from Carr's Gifts, Nancy Leary Design, St. Paul's Mason Lodge of Brandon, Brandon Lumber and Millworks - Ace Hardware, Blue Seal Feed of Brandon, Hannaford of Brandon.

What made this event especially affordable were the grants we received the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Grass Roots Fund.

What made this event successful was the community support in getting our announcements of the event out, including The Brandon Chamber of Commerce, BrandonVTBuzz, Neshobe and Otter Valley School E-Newsletters, Front Porch Forum, and the Reporter.

What made this event unique were the succinct, helpful pre-

sentations by Melanie Paskevich of Heat Squad, Bekah Kuster of Efficiency Vermont, Darrell Green of BROCC and Joanne Coons of SolarFest and the Conservation Working Group. In addition there were ample opportunities to sign up for services and get individual questions answered.

Finally, what made this event especially workable was the creative ideas, supportive energy, and willingness to get things done that Mike Bailey of SolarFest demonstrated week after week of preparation.

It has been an honor to work with such a supportive group of folks and more will be coming in the future. Please keep an eye out for our upcoming events and thank you Brandon for showing up so admirably.

Jim Emerson, for the Brandon Energy Committee

Political violence

(Continued from Page 4)

in which we are moving as a nation would support political violence. There certainly seems to be acknowledgement of that premise in the US Government, where, for example, the FBI has tripled its domestic counterterrorism budget and where almost half of Americans believe that violence is an acceptable way to gain political advantage.

Our future depends in a large measure, as it has since 2016, on Donald Trump and his own proclivity toward verbal and even physical violence (his behavior around the January 6, 2021 events). In that context, the influence that the 2022 mid-term election results will have on the issue of future political violence is unclear. It could go either way, but what Trump has done is establish an environment in which violence of all sorts appears to be increasingly acceptable in the general population.

Certainly, with Trump as a newly announced candidate for the 2024 presidential primaries, the move toward potential political violence has been ramped up yet another notch.

Haviland Smith is a retired CIA operations officer and Station Chief who worked primarily against the Soviet Union and East European countries and had a tour as CIA's first chief of counterterrorism.



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Jim & Liz McRae

All shook up



'All shook up' had the audiences laughing and singing along!

Under the direction of OVUHS's award-winning theater director Jeff Hull, the school's Walking Stick Theater put on the raucous and rebellious musical, All Shook Up on Nov. 17-

20, featuring the songs of rock and roll legend Elvis Presley.

A 2004 American jukebox musical, it is literally a Presley songbook featuring hits like "Jailhouse Rock," "Love Me Tender," "Heartbreak Hotel," "One Night With You," "It's Now Or Never," "Blue Suede Shoes" and many others.

Playing the leading role was Andrew Kenyon as Chad, who stars as the rebellious roust-

about and whose love interest, Natalie, was played by Eliza Norford. Both delivered powerful performances capturing the flavor of the 1950s and 1960s.

Dennis, the young, quirky aspiring dentist who is also in love with Natalie, was played wonderfully by Calvin Ladd, backed up by Natalie's widowed father, Jim, played by Jaden Grace.

Lorraine, the other lead role as Sylvia's 16-year-old daughter, was played expertly by Cebelle Hull.

Other key roles in the musical were: Sylvia, played by Pajua Gamba; Miss Sandra, played by Adia Polli; Mayor Matilda Hyde, played by Mogan White and Sheriff Earl, played by Bryce Cannaghton; and Dean Hyde, played by Ian Miner.

Sixteen seniors gave their final performances with the Walking Stick Theater, adding to the total cast and production crew of over 30 students.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE LEFT from right, Dillon Ladd (Statue), Eliza Norford, Adia Polli; The company of All Shook Up; Eliza Norford, Andrew Kenyon; Andrew Kenyon, Jaden Grace, Adia Polli; Eliza Norford, Adia Polli, Andrew Kenyon, Calvin Ladd.

Obituaries

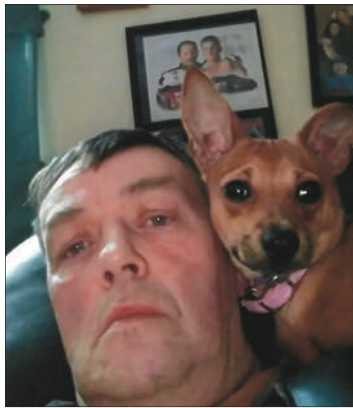
Dennis Richard Duby Sr., 61, Pittsford

PITTSFORD — Dennis Richard Duby Sr., age 61, passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022, at his home in Pittsford.

Dennis was born in Rutland on Feb. 1, 1961. He was the son of Donald and Eldora (Slason) Duby. Dennis grew up in Rutland, where he received his education. He worked as an automotive mechanic in his earlier years. He also drove trucks for A1 Sewer & Drains in West Rutland. Dennis was employed as a driver for The Bus for many years and was preparing for work when he passed.

He was a firefighter most of his life, and belonged to the Pittsford Fire Department for several years. Dennis was a family man, he enjoyed spending time with his sons, wife and grandchildren. He spent his free time four wheeling, camping and working on cars. He was an Ace Barbeque man.

He is survived by his wife;



DENNIS RICHARD DUBY

Harriett Duby of Pittsford, whom he married in Brandon on June 9, 2011; four sons, Dennis Duby Jr. of Pittsford, Christopher Duby of Daytona, Fla., Justin Duby of Pittsford and Adam Duby of Forest Dale; a stepdaughter, Rebecca Blackmer of Londonderry; and two stepsons, Danny Taylor of Springfield and Donald Taylor of Pittsford; two brothers, Daniel Duby of White-

hall, N.Y. and Ronald Duby of Sweden. Sixteen grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him. He was predeceased by his parents and a sister, Linda Farrell.

The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, at 10 a.m., at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. Rev. Bob Bove, pastor of the Brandon Baptist Church will officiate. The graveside committal service and burial will follow in Forest Dale Cemetery.

Following the ceremony the family will receive friends at Brandon American legion, for a time of remembrance.

Friends may call at the funeral home on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, from 2-4 p.m.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; Pittsford Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 559, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Stephen Earl Ketcham, 75, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Stephen Earl Ketcham, 75, of Middlebury, passed away at home on Nov. 8, 2022, after a six-month illness.

Steve was born July 12, 1947, and grew up on the family farm in Whiting until age 14, when his family moved to Brandon. Steve graduated from Otter Valley Union High School and attended Bucknell University and Trinity College. He felt a strong connection to the Vermont landscape, and spent many days skiing or hiking in the Green Mountains. In later years, he enjoyed views of Lake Champlain from South Hero.

For more than 35 years, Steve worked as a lineman and installer for the telephone company. He was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. After retir-



STEPHEN EARL KETCHAM

ing from the phone company, he served as a physical education teacher at St. Mary's School. He loved being part of the St. Mary's community.

Steve was devoted to his community and family. He was an active member of service

organizations including the Lion's Club, Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association, and the Knights of Columbus. Many knew him as "Coach Ketcham," as he coached generations of Middlebury-area youth. He was particularly grateful to be inducted into the Vermont Hall of Fame by U.S. Lacrosse Hall for his dedication to youth lacrosse. He was a loving and faithful son to both his parents, especially as they aged and required care, and he was his grandchildren's number one fan.

Steve loved tropical vacations, golf, jigsaw puzzles, and the Red Sox, and we will miss him holding court at the dinner table with his animated conversation.

Steve is survived by his true love and wife of 34 years, (See Stephen Ketcham, Page 13)

Ronald James Germond Sr., 79, formerly of Brandon

FLORENCE, S.C. — Ronald James Germond Sr., born May 3, 1943, passed away Oct. 9, 2022, at home in Florence, S.C. Ron was retired from the U.S. Navy after 29.5 years as an E8. He loved serving his country. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle.



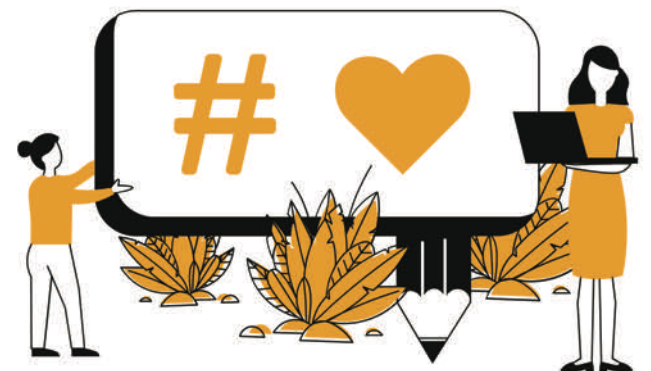
RONALD GERMOND SR.

Ron is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elsie. He is also survived by his sons, Ronald Jr. (Emily) of Vermont, Robert Sr. (Tina) of Pennsylvania, and Scott (Marie) of South Carolina; his sister, Charlene Germond of

Florida; seven grandchildren, Robby, Steven, Summer, Josh (Jordan), Andrew and Avri; two great-grandchildren, Maycee Lake and Emma; sister-in-law Mary Jenkins; nieces Barbara and Beth Jenkins and Hope (Rob) Woodhead; and cousins Stevie Curtis, Doreen O'Mara and Janice Lages.

To celebrate Ron's life a gathering of family and friends will take place at the Germond camp in Sudbury in the summer of 2023 at a date to be determined.

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BARNARD FUNERAL HOME INC.

3186 U.S. Route 7 Pittsford • www.barnardfuneralhome.com

(802) 483-2811 Christopher Book/Director

For five generations the Barnard family has assisted families in Pittsford, Proctor, Chittenden and the surrounding area getting through one of life's most difficult times.

Also operating the Birch Grove Crematory

Calendar of events

November

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.

Trouble with math? Free tutoring is offered!

Free math tutoring is available in downtown Brandon on Wednesday afternoons from 2:45-4 p.m. at Fellowship Hall — the smaller brick building next to the Brandon Congregational Church.

Larry Rowe is offering help to any Otter Valley students who have questions or difficulties with mathematics or would like help with their math homework. Rev. Sara Ros-

sigg will be in her office — 20 feet away from the worktable — during these sessions to ensure everyone feels comfortable and is safe.

Call 802-236-9130 for more information.

(Please note that Wednesday, Nov. 23 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 are days Larry has other commitments and will not be available.)

Wednesday 23:

Annual Gingerbread Contest Entries Due at Chaffe Arts Center

Interested bakers, schools, businesses, organizations, families, individuals, and young people are invited to submit their imaginative gingerbread creations.

The gingerbread designs will be on display in our historic 1890's mansion starting at the Gingerbread Showcase on December 3rd from Noon to 2 PM, until December 23rd.

\$10 per entry.

Details, rules, and entry form at www.chaffeeartcenter.org
Pre-registration appreciated.

Awards: People's Choice in all categories

Drop Off: November 22 (3 p.m. – 5 p.m.) or November 23 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Happy Baking!

Thursday 24:

Neshobe Pie Gobbler-

Fun Run

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

This a low-key fun run/walk that traverses 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 or in person starting at 7 a.m. at Neshobe's clubhouse. 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 registration fee.

Questions can be directed to Sue Hoxie, Race Director, maplerunmarketing@gmail.com.

Annual Audubon Seed Sale, December 3 and 4



Stock up on birdseed and save some dough. Garland's Farm and Garden at 70 Park Street. 9 am to 2pm.

Membership in Audubon not required, but you can join at the sales. Cash or check only. Learn more about feeding birds and how you can help protect them. More info at birding@rutland-county-audubon.org

Friday 25 Saturday 26:

Holiday craft fair in Bridport, Vt.

Join us from from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall on Middle Road. Over 50 crafters with handcrafted, quality merchandise at country prices.

Friday 25 Sunday 27:

44th Annual Putney Craft Tour

Putney, VT celebrates Thanksgiving with a "Week-end of Arts" on Nov 25, 26, & 27 (10-5) highlighted by the Putney Craft Tour and late day and evening events at Sandglass Theater and Next Stage Arts. Meet 20 of Vermont's most prominent makers—glass blowers, potters, jewelers, woodworker, painters and even artisan cheese and

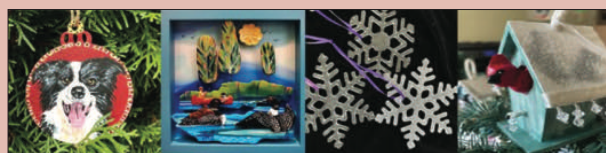
wine makers. Find that one-of-a-kind gift and buy direct from the artisan who made it. Part of the fun is meandering through the beautiful Vermont countryside, following the map to find these prominent craftspeople and view the works where they are conceived and created. Many artisans do demos. Visitors may start at Putney Mountain Winery, 8 Bellows Falls Rd. for a preview exhibition of the artisans' works and to pick up maps and brochures. After touring during the day, plan to attend a performance at Sandglass Theater, and/or gallery opening at Next Stage Arts. Details: www.putneycrafts.com, facebook.com/Putney-Craft-Tour; www.sandglasstheater.org; www.nextstagearts.org

Sunday 27:

Sap-Bucket Tree Lighting

Join us at Pittsford Village Farm from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. as we celebrate our maple sugaring history and the holidays,

on Sunday, November 27. This is our Second Annual Sap-Bucket Tree Lighting—and last year was loads of fun! We will have Free hot chocolate and cookies, the Lothrop School Choir will sing at 5, and a very special guest will



Shop the Guild this holiday season through January 29, 2023

Share the spirit of the season with affordable, giftable, one-of-a-kind art and craft pieces from our annual holiday shop in the Gallery. You'll find handcrafted wonders for everyone on your list: practical pottery, glowing stained glass, distinctive jewelry, glorious photography, precious ornaments and eccentric dolls plus a delightful selection of fine artwork by more than 30 Vermont artists. The fabulous Ornament Tree will be loaded with keepsake treasures, too.

The holiday shop in the Gallery is open from November 11, 2022 – January 29 2023. Join us for a festive opening reception, free and open to all, to meet the artists and celebrate the season on Friday November 11 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Gallery is open Mon – Sat 10-4pm and Sunday from 11-4pm in the heart of downtown Brandon.

L-R: Joan Drew, Border Collie ornament; Ashley Wolff, Family Picnic on the Lake; Hallie Monroe glittery glass snowflake ornaments; Catherine Palmer Birdhouse ornament.

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Elm Street, Pittsford, VT.

Tuesday 29:
Chess Club, Drop-in - No Fee -
Pittsford Adult Center

If you are new to the game or have you been playing for years?
This is an opportunity for players of all levels and ages to play
from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Bring your own chess set if you are able, some sets will be
available. For more information contact club organizer Gregory
at gawchess802@gmail.com

December

Monday

Decorated bridge
tour
Saturday morn-
ing 8 covered
bridges in Rutland
County will be deco-
rated in Yuletide
spirit. Starting at
10:00 a.m. at Sanderson
Decorated Bridge in
Brandon, wreaths or
snow sprays will
be hanging to greet
visiting travelers.

Brandon we'll
be heading to Pittsford
to see the De-
corated Bridge in
Brandon, and
then to Twin
Brook in Pittsford
and Kingsley in
Clarendon
County, but in no
order. In East, Brown
Decorated Bridge in
Brandon. We ex-
pect to be at Brown
Decorated Bridge
from noon and
up to 4 p.m.

Event has
been organized
by Rutland
County of Vermont
Decorated Bridge
Club. Volunteer
has been
organized by Brandon
Decorated Bridge
Club and Sun-
day School in Rutland.
Contributions
were collected
at the Middlebury
Craft
Fair on November
12 and we thank
everyone.

Sheldon Museum
presents a virtual
Annual Meeting
with Christopher
Kaufman Ilstrup,
Vermont Hu-
manities Executive
Director for The Henry
Sheldon Museum

invites the public and Sheldon Museum members to our
virtual Annual Meeting featuring special guest speaker
Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Vermont Humanities'
executive director.

The free event is 2 via Zoom. The business meeting will
begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by Ilstrup's talk
titled "Humanities in the Heart of Community." Please
register online at www.henrysheldonmuseum.org.

Ilstrup will address how for too long, our cultural institu-
tions have been thought of as nice but limited tourist at-
tractions, or places for kids to go on field trips, or, worse,
as a drag on economic development strategies that
should focus only on supporting private sector business,
tech, or manufacturing. He believes we would do well
to reconsider the contributions that the creative and cul-
tural sectors make in building strong and resilient com-
munities – communities that attract and retain young
people and entrepreneurs, support excellent schools,
protect our environment, and build understanding



Free Streaming Presentation from the Middlebury Performing Arts Series Manual Cinema Reinvents “A Christmas Carol” December 9–11

Middlebury, VT—Following up on their
smash 2019 presentation at Middlebury,
the interdisciplinary performance collective
Manual Cinema takes on Charles Dickens's
holiday classic “A Christmas Carol” with a
visually inventive adaptation made for the
screen. This production draws on hundreds
of paper puppets, miniatures, silhouettes,
and an original score to create an imagina-
tive reinvention of a cherished holiday tra-
dition.

The Middlebury Performing Arts Series
will present this streaming-only event De-
cember 9–11, with free streaming tickets
available to all. Watch from home and cre-
ate your own holiday memories!

In this version, avowed holiday skeptic
Aunt Trudy has been recruited to channel her
late husband Joe's famous Christmas cheer.
From the isolation of her studio apartment,
she reconstructs his annual Christmas Car-
ol puppet show—over a Zoom call, while
the family celebrates Christmas Eve under
lockdown. But as Trudy becomes more ab-
sorbed in her own version of the story, the
puppets take on a life of their own, and the
family's call transforms into a stunning cin-
ematic adaptation of Dickens's classic ghost
story.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Using vintage overhead projectors, mul-
tiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed
cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a
live music ensemble, Manual Cinema trans-
forms the experience of attending the cin-
ema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity,
and theatricality. The company was named
Chicago Artists of the Year in 2018 by
the Chicago Tribune, and was awarded an
Emmy in 2017 for “The Forger,” a video
created for the New York Times. In 2020
they were included in 50 of Chicago the-
ater “Rising Stars and Storefront Stalwarts”
(Newcity). Their shadow puppet anima-
tions were featured in the 2021 film remake
of Candyman, directed by Nia DaCosta and
produced by Jordan Peele's Monkeypaw
Productions.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

The Middlebury Performing Art Series'
free virtual presentation of Manual Cine-
ma's “A Christmas Carol” will begin on Fri-
day, December 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM ET, and
will be available for viewing through Sun-
day, December 11. Attendees should reg-
ister in advance for free streaming tickets.
For tickets or information, call (802) 443-
MIDD (6433) or go to <http://www.middlebury.edu/arts>.

Barn Opera: December Offerings (Something for Everyone!)

BARN OPERA is thrilled
to announce its Holiday
schedule for 2022, with
shows ranging from Ballet
to Celtic Folk Christmas Mu-
sic, to a new adaptation of an
opera, and a riotously good
time on New Years Eve - and
the 4th annual production of
Amahl & The Night Visitors
at Salisbury Congregational
Church - there is something
for EVERYONE and every
age this December at BARN
OPERA!

Tickets available at <http://www.barnopera.com/tickets>

DECEMBER 3:

Family-friendly filmed
screening of the Nutcracker
- complete with hot cocoa
and cookies, kids of any age
welcome to dance along with
the film on the stage of the
BARN! (Only 110 spaces
available and doors open at
11a for a 12:00p showing!) -
\$5 suggested donation.

DECEMBER 4:

Seamus Egan Project per-
forms a beautiful program
of acoustic, Celtic, holiday-
themed, music in the intimate
setting of the BARN. There
will be 2 showings (3:30 &
7p), and filmed live for re-
lease at a later date. Come see
the only unamplified perfor-

mance of the SEP this season.

DECEMBER 16 & 17:

BARN OPERA's produc-
tion of "The Letters of Char-
lotte" based on the Massenet
opera "Werther." A tragically
romantic, and phenomenally
beautiful opera, with a dis-
tinct Collier-ian treatment.

DECEMBER 22 & 23:

The return of the holiday
favorite opera, demonstrating
the power of generosity and
the human spirit, Amahl and
the Night Visitors is an annu-
al tradition collaboration with
Salisbury Congregational
Church. The 45 minute opera
will be performed twice each
day, and is family-friendly!

DECEMBER 31:

Your BARN OPERA
rounds out the season and
bids adieu to 2022 with an-
other rollicking gala pro-
duction of The Pirates of
Penzance. Anyone who was
with us last year for HMS
Pinafore knows how much
fun the event was, with party-
ing, eating, and dancing, with
an opera in the middle of it!

We hope to see you for
one, or all of the events at the
BARN this December, and
stay tuned for all things com-
ing in 2023!

across difference in a polarized world. This conversation will
build on the Sheldon's prior work reinterpreting their collec-
tions and outreach strategies for the current moment and will
help contextualize our understanding of the role of the arts
and humanities in community development and social justice.

Christopher is a native of Addison County and became
Vermont Humanities' third executive director in August 2018.
He previously served as a Senior Philanthropic Advisor at
the Vermont Community Foundation for 10 years. He has
held leadership roles at the Flynn Center for the Performing
Arts, Outright Vermont, and Rural Vermont, and was the first
Executive Director of the Pride Center of Vermont. He holds
an undergraduate degree in Dance and Drama from Kenyon
College and an MSc in Development Studies from the London
School of Economics. He is a member of the steering commit-
tee for the Vermont Creative Network, winner of the 2022 Plan
of the Year awarded by the Vermont Planners Association.

The Sheldon Museum is located at One Park Street in down-
town Middlebury across from the Ilsley Library. For more
information, hours, current and upcoming exhibits and events
visit www.HenrySheldonMuseum.org or call the Sheldon, 802-
388-2117.

Sunday 11:

Brandon Festival Singers Christmas Concert

After a two year pandemic hiatus, the Brandon Festival Singers
are thrilled to finally present their 40th Anniversary Christmas
Concert! The concert will begin at 3:00 p.m. on December
11th at the Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. in
Brandon. Gene and Jean Childers are the director and accom-
panist. There is a free will offering and mask wearing at your
discretion.



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 if you can identify someone in these photos.
Or call us at 247-8080

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. India's "City of Lakes"
7. Large marine mammals
13. Used to carry belongings when traveling
14. Rechristens
16. Equally
17. Heavy plant-eating mammals
19. Millihenry
20. Japanese immigrant to N. America
22. Deep, red-brown sea bream
23. Norse gods
25. Peppermint and pekoe are two
26. Auguste ____, founder of positivism
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. High-resolution microscope (abbr.)
30. Wide metal vessel used in cooking
31. V-shaped open trough
33. People of southern Benin
34. People of southern Ghana
36. It's a significant creed
38. Period between eclipses
40. Furies
41. Emerged
43. Philippine Island
44. Where wrestlers battle
45. Unhappy
47. Central European river
48. Language
51. Semitransparent gemstone
53. Forming in a bottom layer
55. Distinct region
56. Broad blades
58. Leavened bread
59. Influential cosmetics exec
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Era free of war
64. One who helps professors
65. Idealistic
67. Ornamental plants
69. Grouped
70. Kids love this street

CLUES DOWN

1. Beloved hound
2. Equal to 100 grams
3. S-shaped moldings
4. Hawaiian cliff
5. Everyone has one
6. Subatomic particle
7. Ghost
8. Adult female bird
9. Greek temple pillars
10. Emits coherent radiation
11. Measures the width of printed matter
12. Musical interval
13. Tantalizes
15. Places of worship
18. An unskilled actor who overacts
21. One who volunteers to help
24. Precaution
26. Beverage holder
27. Very long period of time
30. Bullfighting maneuvers
32. More critical
35. Sends packing in a boxing match
37. Taxi
38. Decorative Russian tea urn
39. North American Great Plains natives
42. Seize
43. A passage with access only at one end
46. Cut a rug
47. Devil rays
49. Bubble up
50. Veranda
52. Outcast
54. Car mechanics group
55. Realm
57. A place to get off your feet
59. Popular music awards show
62. Consumed
63. A way to make cooler
66. Thus
68. Indicates it's been registered

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17				18						19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35						36		37			
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

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.

	5		3	6				
4		3						
6				2		4		
	4			8	5		1	
	9		2					3
				7				
	2							
9	6							5
			6	7		9		8

Level: Intermediate

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

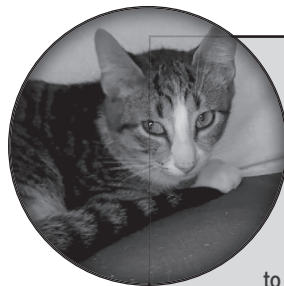
E	M	S	E	S	D	E	R	S	O	S	R			
H	I	N	V	A	V	E	L	V	E	S	S	O	R	
V	T	E	M	I	T	C	E	A	V	E	P	E	H	V
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L	S	V	U	M	C	V	A	D	S	I	V	M		
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S	S	A	L	E	M	A	L	P	A	L	H	A		

8	4	9	2	7	6	5	3	1						
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2	1	7	1	5	8	6	9	3						
6	3	4	2	1	5	8	7	9						
9	2	5	8	6	7	3	4	1						
6	9	2	5	8	6	7	3	4						
2	5	9	3	6	4	1	8	7						

Giving Tuesday is coming!

Mark your calendars! November 29th is Giving Tuesday — a global day of generosity. The Rutland County Humane Society would like to say thank you to all of our donors and supporters. You have helped make a difference for almost 1,000 animals this year. Your donation helps us provide a warm, safe environment for an animal in need. We are able to spay/neuter, vaccinate, treat fleas, and microchip the animals before we adopt them out. Your gift on Giving Tuesday will help us continue to provide for homeless animals in Rutland County. Join us on November 29th and donate! Adoption Center at 802.483.6700.

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



MEET MELACHI - 9-YEAR-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. PITBULL TERRIER MIX.

BRINDLE WITH WHITE. Can you believe Melachi is 9 years old?! He doesn't look or act like he is. He is a very gentle and sweet boy, but his age doesn't slow him down. He is mature enough to entertain himself all day but really loves to spend his time with people. He does like to play with other dogs, is good with kids, and loves to swim. He is a very social dog who would be a great companion for someone who enjoys bringing along their k9 to social events. He does have some skin allergies, and will probably need to continue meds to keep his allergies controlled. If he sounds like the perfect addition to your family, please call us at 802.483.6700 to set an appointment up to see him.

MEET ELM - 4-MONTH-OLD. NEUTERED MALE. DOMESTIC SHORT HAIR. BROWN

TIGER WITH WHITE. If you are looking for an energetic ball of energy, please consider checking out our kittens. They are goofy and playful and ready to keep you entertained. They have all been spayed/neutered, and have received their age-appropriate vaccines. It will be important to get them into your vet shortly after adoption to ensure they stay up to date on their vaccines. They are all using the litter box well at the shelter. They play with toys and their friends' tails! They enjoy being handled and are anxious to find their forever homes.



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Off the Shelf

New books at the Brandon Free Public Library

This week we're doing staff picks!

First up from Molly:

"Exit West" by Mohsin Hamid. A country on the brink of civil war, and a couple beginning a love affair. As the violence around them escalates into checkpoints around every corner and increasing violence, they begin to hear whispers of a door that can whisk them away to another country. When they go through the mysterious door in search of a place to belong, they start a journey through many lands to find a place they belong.

Joni's pick:

"The MurderBot Diaries" by Martha Wells. A deadly security bot for scientists on a distant planet hacks its programming and decides watching TV is better than murder. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, the Murderbot and its scientist wards must get to the truth of what's happened. A four-part series about a former Murderbot who just wants to be left alone in an intergalactic mystery.

Eva's choice:

"True Biz" by Sara Novic. The lives of two deaf students and their hearing headmistress intertwine at the River Valley

Did you know?

The library will be closed Thursday, Nov 24, and Friday, Nov 26. Our holiday auction is coming up on 12/4. See our Facebook page for more info.

School for the Deaf- Charlie, a transfer who's never met another deaf person; Austin, whose life is upended when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the headmistress and the child of deaf parents struggling to keep her school open. It is a journey into the Deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection.

Carey's current read:

"Fairy Tale", by Stephen King (audio version highly recommended). A chance encounter leads Charlie Reed on an adventure that will change his life forever. Charlie's a good kid who carries the heavy burden of losing his mother in a tragic accident when he was ten, and nearly losing his father to alcoholism. One afternoon, Charlie hears the frantic barking of a neighbor's dog and goes to investigate. There he finds Mr. Bowditch on the

ground, leg broken after falling while cleaning his gutters. Charlie starts doing jobs for Mr. Bowditch, caring for him while he convalesces, and loses his heart to Radar, Bowditch's failing German Shepard. Then, when Bowditch dies, he leaves Charlie a cassette tape telling a story no one would believe. What Bowditch knows, and has kept secret all his long life, is that inside the shed is a portal to another world. With Radar's health quickly failing, Charlie makes the decision to find the magic that will turn back time for his dog, leading him to a fairy tale of his own with the fate of two worlds in the balance.

Other BFPL notes:

Our publishing club resumes on 11/30 with Covers, Images and Image-Based Design Software. Previous attendance not required.

We also have Storytime on Thursdays at 11 am with Marty. Our Holiday Auction returns at the Library on Dec 4th! Preview starts at 1:30, auction begins at 2 pm.

Dec 6 at 5:30 pm we have a presentation on decoding Medical Bills- more information coming soon!

Beast of Burden for the BPD

Brandon Police Report

BRANDON — Multiple Animal incidents required Brandon Police's time this past week. Police received a call on Nov. 6 concerning the welfare of some beef cows located at a farm on Wheeler Road. The complainant felt that the cows didn't have adequate shelter. Upon investigation by police and a livestock investigator from the Vermont Department of Agriculture the animals were determined to be well cared for, in good health, and more than adequately sheltered from the elements.

On Nov. 20 a runaway German Shepard was found and returned to its owner. In a less happy incident two dogs at large killed livestock on River Street. The dogs were secured and Animal Control notified.

A Carver Street resident called on Nov. 17 to report that he had been the victim to an on-line scammer. Police advise residents to be alert to a scam that causes your computer screen to freeze. On your screen, a message pops up that requests you call a phone number to free your computer. The scammer will request you wire them money or purchase gift cards to fix a transaction that had occurred on your bank account. The scammer will also ask you to provide the numbers/pin on the gift cards as a way to fix the false transaction. Be advised, your bank will never ask you to purchase gift cards to fix any issues with your funds.

In other police activity:

On Nov. 14

- Took fingerprints for school employment, nursing license and medical license.
- Responded to an alarm activation at the American Legion building on Franklin Street that was determined accidental.
- Enforced traffic in the downtown area near Franklin Street and Park Street.
- Assisted students at Otter Valley who were blocked in the parking lot by other vehicles.
- Made traffic stops on Grove Street and Franklin Street for speeding and issued three warnings.
- Enforced speed limit on Grove Street and Champlain Street and made one stop for speeding.

On Nov 15

- Made a welfare check on a Community Health Brandon patient on North Birch Hill Road
- Took fingerprints for nursing license and school employment.
- Received a call about a

UPS truck operating without headlights on Grove Street.

- Received an accidental 911 call.
- Enforced speed on Grove Street and Franklin Street and stopped one car.
- Made business checks on Hawk Hill Bait and Tackle on Franklin Street, Union Street Grocery on Union Street, and Mallory's Automotive on Forest Dale Road.

On Nov 16

- Received a 911 text from a residence on Sandy Meadow Drive, that was later determined not to be urgent.
- Were notified of two separate instances of vehicles sliding off the road on McConnell Road and North Birch Hill Road
- Investigated an animal welfare concern on Wheeler Road.
- Patrolled Center Street, Franklin Street and Park Street for traffic violations.
- Responded to a report of a domestic disturbance on Carver Street between an elderly male and his live-in caretaker.

On Nov 17

- Served a subpoena on a witness who is a River Street resident.
- Investigated a suspicious person complaint.
- Responded to a 3-car crash on Franklin Street.
- Took fingerprints for nursing licenses, school employment and teacher license.
- Received a report of an on-line scam.
- Stopped a vehicle for speeding on Franklin Street, issued warning for speeding and a ticket for defective equipment.

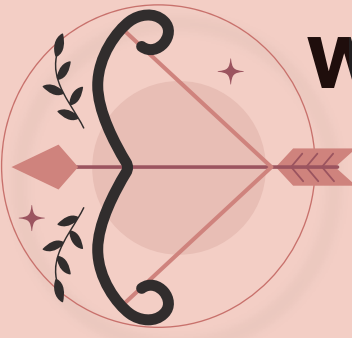
On Nov 18

- Received an accidental 911 call.
- Investigated a report of unsafe driving near Townline drive and stopped a different vehicle for speeding at the intersection of Forest Dale Road and North Street.
- Made traffic stops on North Street and Franklin Street and issued two warnings and a ticket.

On Nov 19

- Aided with traffic for a memorial service on Franklin Street.
- Made a welfare check on a Franklin Street resident.

(See Police report, Page 15)



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

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.

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 further this week to make up for lost time,

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. 24 **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, artist (d)**
 Nov. 25 **Percy Sledge, singer (d)**
 Nov. 26 **Tina Turner, singer (83)**
 Nov. 27 **Kathryn Bigelow, film director (71)**
 Nov. 28 **Jon Stewart, comedian (50)**
 Nov. 29 **Chadwick Bozeman, actor (d)**
 Nov. 30 **Shirley Chisholm, politician (d)**



Killington Resort opens for the '22-'23 season

KILLINGTON – Vermont’s Killington Resort, the largest ski and snowboard destination in Eastern North America, and part of POW-DR, kicked off the 2022-23 winter season on Thursday, November 17, 2022, becoming among the first Eastern resorts to open for skiing and snowboarding.

The first turns of the season on November 17 was reserved exclusively for Killington Season Pass, Beast 365 and Ikon pass holders.

The resort opened to the general public on Friday, November 18.

“Another season of skiing and riding is upon us! Mother Nature made us wait a bit this year, but we’re thrilled to be able to kick off the longest season in the East once again,” says Mike Solimano, president and general manager of Killington Resort and Pico Mountain. “The prolonged warm temperatures were good news for the crews hard at work on the new K-1 Lodge, and

while it won’t be open for Day One, it is coming along nicely. We are excited to welcome the public inside for the first time over World Cup weekend.”

Remaining a longstanding tradition, season pass holders were invited to enjoy free lunch on Opening Day at the Peak Lodge, or the Subie Shack located at the bottom of the North Ridge Quad as a show of gratitude for their commitment to Killington Resort

Senior center

(Continued from Page 1)

Tuesday, when the bus driver started the bus to pick up folks for the dinner, he noticed a loud noise coming from underneath — sounding like the muffler had fallen off. The bus driver, as well as a couple of the dinner volunteers, took a flashlight to underneath the bus and noticed that someone had sawed off the catalytic converters from under the bus!

“We figured this must have occurred on Sunday, as no one was around the Center on that day. We

picked up everyone anyway on Tuesday to bring them to the Center (sounding like a race car revving its engine the whole time.) The Board President called the police to report the theft and gave them a detailed description, called the insurance agency (who said the bus wasn’t covered as we only had comprehensive), and Green Mountain Garage for an appointment to fix the bus.

“The next morning (Wednesday), the driver took the bus to an area service center and we were told that the bus could not be fixed... With the rust forming under the carriage,

it wouldn’t be worth the thousands it would cost to fix it. They suggested junking it.”

Mathis said the Brandon Police Department is working on all leads and have continuously been in contact with the Senior Center, “but we’re not holding out any hope,” she said. “This means we are in the market for another bus as it is a source of transportation to those seniors who no longer can drive. Coming to the Center not only helps them nutritionally, but socially, which is so important for our elders.”

“Buy LAND – They’re not making it anymore.”

– Mark Twain

OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS will appreciate this Edge of Wilderness, 10-acre end-of-the-road parcel. The generally level terrain borders the National Forest. The owner brags about the excellent hunting and trout caught from the parcel’s brook. A view from the proposed private house site nearby utility service. Only minutes from Brandon services. A rare combination of features. Asking \$128,000.

ROCK CLIMBERS TAKE NOTICE: This 2-acre parcel at the end of a town road offers a level building site at the base of a 120-foot vertical cliff! A future house would have a one-of-a-kind view of the cliff and the monster boulders at its base. The woody setting offers privacy from neighbors; soil tested for septic system. Convenient to Brandon village. Truly unique! \$49,000

TERRIFIC CENTRAL LOCATION to Rutland, Killington & National Forest is a feature of this 9-acre Chittenden lot. Secluded home site; soils tested; may be subdivided. \$89,500.



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Stephen Ketcham

(Continued from Page 7)

Christine Mobley Ketcham; his son Peter Antos-Ketcham and daughter-in-law Katie; son Seth Mobley and daughter-in-law Katie; four grandchildren, Bailey and Carter Antos-Ketcham and Oliver and Sylvia Mobley; his sister Laurie Rudloff and brother-in-law Robert; three nephews; and many cousins and friends.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, Gordon and Viola (Mary) Ketcham; his first wife Cynthia Ketcham; and daughter Sarah Anne Ketcham.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Village Health, including Laura

Wilkinson and Wendy Leeds, as well as Addison County Home Health and Hospice, especially Jenn Quinn.

There will be a Catholic Mass to celebrate Steve’s life on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Steve’s memory to Middlebury Youth Lacrosse, c/o Jamie Northrup, 203 Hamilton Rd, Weybridge, VT 05753.

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

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Police Report

(Continued from Page 12)

- Attempted to assist a resident who called in requesting information about No Stalking Order application. The resident was later found to be belligerent and verbally abusive to officers.
- Patrolled Center Street on foot.
- On Nov 20
- Patrolled Conant Square and Union Street and Franklin Street. Stopped four vehicles, issued one warning and two tickets.
- Made motor vehicle stops on Pearl Street, Grove Street, Church Street and Franklins Street. Two warnings and one ticket issued for stop sign violations and one ticket for speeding.
- Received report from Grove Street of a possible Violation of Court Order. That investigation is ongoing.
- Returned a dog found on Franklin Street to its owner.
- Responded to two dogs killing livestock on River Street.

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PUBLIC NOTICES/ HELP WANTED

TOWN OF GOSHEN - INVITATION TO BID

BIDS DUE: December 9, 2022

The Goshen Selectboard is seeking bids for the purchase and complete installation of a heat pump for the town office, roughly 600 SQ. FT broken into two rooms.

Include breakdown of material cost, labor, any current rebates from the manufacturer, Efficiency Vermont and/or GMP, and manufacturer warranties included/options.

Please mail or drop off Sealed Bids no later than December 9th, 2022 to:
 Town of Goshen, 50 Carlisle Hill Road, Goshen, VT 05733

For more information or to schedule a walk-through, contact tmagoon@goshenvt.org.

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF PERSONNEL RECORDS

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting (RNESU, Otter Valley & Barstow Unified Union School Districts)

Let this serve as notice that Personnel Records of employees who were employed at Barstow Memorial School, Lothrop Elementary School, Neshobe School, Otter Creek Academy (formally known as Leicester Central, Sudbury County and Whiting Elementary Schools), or Otter Valley High School prior and up to the 1992 school year are being destroyed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Guidelines.

Anyone who would like their record should call Pam Reed at the RNESU Office at (802)247-5757 prior to December 31, 2022 to make arrangements to pick it up.
 Brooke Dahlin
 Human Resources Coordinator



DENTON & SON IS HIRING!

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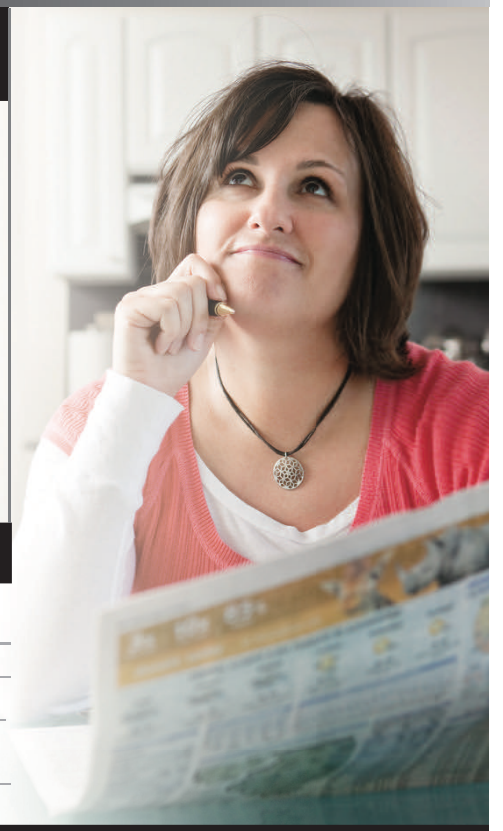
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Brandon holiday

(Continued from Page 1)
pandemic.

“After 2-plus years of restricted activities, gatherings and comfort in shopping, socializing and dining in any sizeable group due to covid, the feel in Brandon has finally allowed us to start to normalize our traditions and habits in our lives,” Carr said.

“Folks have been so supportive of all the great businesses in the Brandon area over the course of this dramatic event and the Chamber recognizes and appreciates all their efforts in keeping Brandon a thriving and caring community,” he added.

“One positive from the pan-

demic was the amount of travelers who visited our village and fell in love with the people and our beautiful new streetscape and vibe. A lot of that reflects the strong response that all Vermonters showed in taking the pandemic seriously and doing all we could to prevent and slow the spread of the virus. That effort paid off in encouraging travelers to come up this way to

a safe environment and enjoy the great things our town and state have to offer.”

Carr noted that Brandon has been lucky to have been the only town that actually saw population growth since the last census.



“The renaissance we all can see from the recent construction project, and the fact we had commercial building sales during that time and many new business start-ups, reflect the optimism and confidence that the community feels for ourselves and others want to be a part of now,” Carr said. “There’s a great vibe in town and an energy that is palpable. We’re all hoping this leads to a busy and profitable holiday season for the many businesses that worked so hard and supported each other through the tough construction and pandemic that followed.”

Here's a look at the upcoming Holiday activities:

NOV. 24 PIE GOBBLER RACE AT NESHOBIE GOLF COURSE

7 a.m. Get out early and build up an appetite for that tasty turkey and fixins! Brandon Rec. Register at brandonvt.myrec.com

NOV. 26 - SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

This celebratory day was founded to encourage consumers across the country to support local, small businesses within their hometowns.

NOV. 27 - MEMORY TREE LIGHTING

Join us in front of the Town Hall to see our pair of beautiful trees, donated by Steve & Elsie Sherrill, lit up to remind us of our loved ones who have passed. Catch the magic of the season at 3:30 p.m. with carol singing by the Brandon Festi-

val Singers. At 4 p.m., the Memory Trees are lit for the season.

DEC. 4 - BRANDON LIBRARY HOLIDAY AUCTION

Join the Brandon Free Public Library for an entertaining and philanthropic afternoon at their annual holiday auction. Dozens of local patrons and artists donate holiday wreaths, decor, artwork, gift certificates, and treasures for the event. Wine, cheese, and door prizes, plus lots of fun! Preview at 1:30 p.m.; auction at 2 p.m.

MOONLIGHT MADNESS WEEK IN BRANDON! MONDAY, DEC. 5 THROUGH FRIDAY, DEC. 9

Shops will once again have a Moonlight Madness Week of savings and specials. Go to Brandon.org to see offers and hours; some stores open till 8 p.m. on Wednesday the 7th. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at info@brandon.org or 802-247-6401 for more info.

DEC. 11 - BRANDON FESTIVAL SINGERS

This annual tradition features wonderful holiday music directed by Gene Childers and featuring pianist Jean Childers. Congregational Church at 3 p.m. The season would not feel the same without this performance. Free will offering.

DEC. 11 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 1 P.M.

Register with Crystal Eastman-Ketcham at ceastman88@aol.com. Public invited to attend, \$10 per

person! Yankee Swap, raffles, and more. Benefit of Operation Christmas for troops and Silver Bells. Brandon Town Hall

DEC. 18 - REVERSE HOLIDAY PARADE! 5-6 P.M.

Brandon is home to this very inventive and fun event! This is a parade where the floats (home and street displays) are stationary, and the people viewing the parade drive thru! Park St to High St and Center Parking Lot. Come and see multiple Santa's, Elves, gorgeous lights. All sorts of fun things from the warmth of your car! And then continue on the route to check out some of the beautifully decorated houses in Brandon! Do you want to be part of the action? Contact Colleen Wright at cwright@townofbrandon.com for details.

DEC. 18 - CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

It's time to string up some lights and jump into the festivities. Judges will be on the streets on Sunday, Dec 18th starting at 5 p.m. Be sure to have your lights on. There will be 4 categories: residential traditional, residential whimsical (to include blow-ups), civic and commercial. Be sure to call in your own place or someone else's to be sure they see the town has you on the list to view. Judges will be at liberty to nominate their favorite picks. For more info, contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or by email — info@brandon.org.

Which vehicle will be the fullest by December 6? Ford F-150 or Jeep Gladiator?



Join the friendly employee competition at Stone CDJR and G. Stone Motors! Stop in at either dealership with toy donations for the HOPE Toy Drive for local children!



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2149 Rt 7 South,
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